Transverse Momentum Dependent Parton Distributions and Opportunities at EicC

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Nucleon Spin Structure

Proton spin puzzle

$$\Delta \Sigma = \Delta u + \Delta d + \Delta s \sim 0.3$$

Spin decomposition

$$J = \frac{1}{2}\Delta\Sigma + \Delta G + L_q + L_g$$



JAM17: $\Delta\Sigma=0.36\pm0.09$

JAM Collaboration, PRL 119, 132001 (2017).

Quark spin only contributes a small fraction to the nucleon spin.

J. Ashman et al., PLB 206, 364 (1988); NP B328, 1 (1989).



Gluon spin from LQCD: $S_g = 0.251(47)(16)$

50% of total proton spin Y.-B. Yang *et al.* (χQCD Collaboration), PRL 118, 102001 (2017).





Wigner Rotation Effect

Melosh-Wigner rotation

quark spin in a rest proton \neq quark spin in a moving proton

If applying a kinetic boost, one may relate the spin states in *proton rest frame* to the spin states in *infinite momentum frame*

$$\chi_T^{\uparrow} = w \left[\left(k^+ + m \right) \chi_F^{\uparrow} - \left(k^1 + ik^2 \right) \chi_F^{\downarrow} \right] \qquad \qquad k^+ = k^0 + k^3$$
$$\chi_T^{\downarrow} = w \left[\left(k^+ + m \right) \chi_F^{\downarrow} + \left(k^1 - ik^2 \right) \chi_F^{\uparrow} \right] \qquad \qquad w = \left[2k^+ \left(k^0 + m \right) \right]^{-1/2}$$

E.P. Wigner, Ann. Math 40 (1939) 149; H.J. Melosh, Phys. Rev. D 9 (1974) 1095.

The effect on quark polarization

$$\Delta q = \int \mathrm{d}^3 \mathbf{k} \mathscr{M} \left[q^{\uparrow}(k) - q^{\downarrow}(k) \right] \qquad \qquad \mathscr{M} = \frac{(k^+ + m)^2 - k_T^2}{2k^+(k^0 + m)}$$

B.-Q. Ma, J. Phys. G 17 (1991) L53-L58; B.-Q. Ma, Q.-R. Zhang, Z. Phys. C 58 (1993) 479.

It predicts decreasing polarization with k_T , which should be tested by data. This interpretation is based on a kinetic boost, but a complete boost including QCD dynamics is challenging.



Lepton-Hadron Deep Inelastic Scattering

Inclusive DIS at a large momentum transfer: $Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{OCD}}$

- dominated by the scattering of the lepton off an active quark/parton
- not sensitive to the dynamics at a hadronic scale ~ 1/fm
- collinear factorization:

 $\sigma \propto H(Q) \otimes f_{i/P}(x,\mu^2)$

- overall corrections suppressed by $1/Q^n$
- indirectly "see" quarks, gluons and their dynamics
- predictive power relies on
- precision of the probe
- universality of $f_{i/P}(x, \mu^2)$

Modern "Rutherford" experiment.





Semi-inclusive Deep Inelastic Scattering

Semi-inclusive DIS: a final state hadron (P_h) is identified

- enable us to explore the emergence of color neutral hadrons from colored quarks/gluons
- flavor dependence by selecting different types of observed hadrons: pions, kaons, ...
- a large momentum transfer *Q* provides a shortdistance probe
- an additional and adjustable momentum scale P_{hT}
- multidimensional imaging of the nucleon







SIDIS Kinematic Regions

Sketch of kinematic regions of the produced hadron



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Structure Functions of SIDIS

SIDIS differential cross section in terms of 18 structure functions $F_{ABC}(x_{B}, z, P_{hT}^{2}, Q^{2})$ A: lepton polarization P_h B: nucleon polarization C: virtual photon polarization ϕ_S $\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}x_{B} \mathrm{d}y \mathrm{d}z \mathrm{d}P_{hT}^{2} \mathrm{d}\phi_{h} \mathrm{d}\phi_{S}}$ $= \frac{\alpha^2}{x_B y Q^2} \frac{y^2}{2(1-\epsilon)} \left(1 + \frac{\gamma^2}{2x_B}\right)$ $\times \left\{ F_{UU,T} + \epsilon F_{UU,L} + \sqrt{2\epsilon(1+\epsilon)} F_{UU}^{\cos\phi_h} \cos\phi_h + \epsilon F_{UU}^{\cos2\phi_h} \cos2\phi_h + \lambda_e \sqrt{2\epsilon(1-\epsilon)} F_{LU}^{\sin\phi_h} \sin\phi_h \right\}$ $x_B = \frac{Q^2}{2P \cdot a}$ $+S_{L}\left[\sqrt{2\epsilon(1+\epsilon)}F_{UL}^{\sin\phi_{h}}\sin\phi_{h}+\epsilon F_{UL}^{\sin2\phi_{h}}\sin2\phi_{h}\right]+\lambda_{e}S_{L}\left[\sqrt{1-\epsilon^{2}}F_{LL}+\sqrt{2\epsilon(1-\epsilon)}F_{LL}^{\cos\phi_{h}}\cos\phi_{h}\right]$ $y = \frac{P \cdot q}{P \cdot l}$ $+S_T \left[\left(F_{UT,T}^{\sin(\phi_h - \phi_S)} + \epsilon F_{UT,L}^{\sin(\phi_h - \phi_S)} \right) \sin(\phi_h - \phi_S) + \epsilon F_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_h + \phi_S)} \sin(\phi_h + \phi_S) \right]$ $z = \frac{P \cdot P_h}{P \cdot a}$ $+\epsilon F_{UT}^{\sin(3\phi_h-\phi_S)}\sin\left(3\phi_h-\phi_S\right) + \sqrt{2\epsilon(1+\epsilon)}F_{UT}^{\sin\phi_S}\sin\phi_S + \sqrt{2\epsilon(1+\epsilon)}F_{UT}^{\sin(2\phi_h-\phi_S)}\sin\left(2\phi_h-\phi_S\right)$ $\gamma = \frac{2x_BM}{Q}$ $+ \lambda_e S_T \left[\sqrt{1 - \epsilon^2} F_{LT}^{\cos(\phi_h - \phi_S)} \cos\left(\phi_h - \phi_S\right) \right]$ $+\sqrt{2\epsilon(1-\epsilon)}F_{LT}^{\cos\phi_{S}}\cos\phi_{S}+\sqrt{2\epsilon(1-\epsilon)}F_{LT}^{\cos(2\phi_{h}-\phi_{S})}\cos\left(2\phi_{h}-\phi_{S}\right)\right\}$



Leading Twist TMDs





Longitudinal Double Spin Asymmetry

Longitudinal DSA in SIDIS

$$A_{LL} \equiv \frac{\sigma_{++} - \sigma_{+-} + \sigma_{--} - \sigma_{-+}}{\sigma_{++} + \sigma_{+-} + \sigma_{--} + \sigma_{-+}} = \frac{\sqrt{1 - \varepsilon^2} F_{LL} \left(x, z, P_{hT}^2, Q^2 \right)}{F_{UU} \left(x, z, P_{hT}^2, Q^2 \right)}$$

In TMD region:
$$F_{LL}\left(x, z, P_{hT}^2, Q^2\right) \sim g_{1L}(x, k_T^2) \otimes D_1(z, p_T^2)$$
$$F_{UU}\left(x, z, P_{hT}^2, Q^2\right) \sim f_1(x, k_T^2) \otimes D_1(z, p_T^2)$$



Several global analyses of collinear helicity but no extraction of TMD helicity before!

 P_{hT} dependent DSA measurements

HERMES: proton (H_2) and deuteron (D_2) targets

HERMES Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 99 (2019) 112001.

JLab CLAS: proton (NH₃) target

CLAS Collaboration, Phys. Lett. B 782 (2018) 662.



First Extraction of TMD Helicity

NLO+NNLL analysis results



Nonzero signals for *u* and *d* quarks, while sea quarks and gluons are loosely constrained.

K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

Compare with HERMES data



K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

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K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

 $e^{\pm}p \rightarrow e^{\pm}\pi^{+}X$

0.14 < x < 0.2

 $e^{\pm}p \rightarrow e^{\pm}\pi^{-}X$

 $e^{\pm}d \to e^{\pm}\pi^+X$

 $e^{\pm}d \rightarrow e^{\pm}\pi^{-}X$

 $e^{\pm}d \to e^{\pm}K^+X$

 $e^{\pm}d \rightarrow e^{\pm}K^{-}X$

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Compare with HERMES data





K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

Compare with HERMES data



K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

Compare with CLAS data



K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.



Transverse Momentum Dependent Polarization



 $g_{1L}(x, k_T^2)$ gives the absolute number density difference between spin-parallel and spin-antiparallel quarks.

The ratio $g_{1L}(x, k_T^2)/f_1(x, k_T^2)$ measures the polarization rate of quarks.

- At large x, where valence components dominate, the polarization decreases with increasing k_T
 Qualitatively consistent with kinetic Wigner rotation effects
- At low *x*, where the valence component is no longer adequate, distributions are highly driven by complex QCD dynamics The polarization is found increasing with *k*_T

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K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. Lett. 134 (2025) 121902.

Transversity Distribution

Transversity distribution

$$h_1$$
 (Collinear & TMD)

A transverse counter part to the longitudinal spin structure: helicity g_{1L} , but NOT the same.

Phenomenological extractions



Z.-B. Kang, A. Prokudin, P. Sun, F. Yuan, PRD 93, 014009 (2016).

Chiral-odd:

No mixing with gluons Valence dominant Couple to another chiral-odd function.

Effect in SIDIS:

transverse single spin asymmetry (Collins asymmetry)

$$A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_h+\phi_S)} \sim h_1(x,k_T^2) \otimes H_1^{\perp}(z,p_T^2)$$



JAM Collaboration, PRD 104, 034014 (2022).

Complementary Process

Semi-inclusive e^+e^- annihilation: $e^+e^- \rightarrow h_1h_2X$



$$\frac{d^5\sigma}{dz_1 dz_2 d^2 \boldsymbol{P}_{h\perp} d\cos\theta}$$

= $\frac{3\pi\alpha^2}{2Q^2} z_1^2 z_2^2 \Big[(1 + \cos^2\theta) F_{UU}^{h_1 h_2} + \sin^2\theta \cos(2\phi_0) F_{Collins}^{h_1 h_2} \Big]$

In TMD region: h_1 and h_2 are near back-to-back, $P_{hT} \ll Q$ $F_{\text{Collins}}^{h_1h_2} \sim H_1^{\perp h_1} \otimes H_1^{\perp h_2}$

Experimental measurements:

Belle: $\sqrt{s} = 10.58 \text{ GeV}$ BaBar: $\sqrt{s} = 10.6 \text{ GeV}$ BESIII: $\sqrt{s} = 3.68 \text{ GeV}$

Phys. Rev. D 78 (2008) 032011; 86 (2012) 039905(E). Phys. Rev. D 90 (2014) 052003; Phys. Rev. D 92 (2015) 111101. Phys. Rev. Lett. 116 (2016) 042001.



Sea Quark Transversity

First determination of sea quark transversity, including TMD evolution



New COMPASS Data

SIDIS on transversely polarized deuteron target



COMPASS Collaboration, Phys. Rev. Lett. 133 (2024) 101903.



Transversity Distributions



New COMPASS data have significant impact on d and \overline{d} distributions.

C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, arXiv:2412.18324

Tensor Charge

Tensor charge

$$\langle P, S | \bar{\psi}^q i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 \psi^q | P, S \rangle = g_T^q \bar{u}(P, S) i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma_5 u(P, S)$$

$$g_T^q = \int_0^1 [h_1^q(x) - h_1^{\bar{q}}(x)] \, dx$$

- A fundamental QCD quantity: matrix element of local operators.
- Moment of the transversity distribution: valence quark dominant.
- Calculable in lattice QCD.



Larger uncertainties when including anti-quarks (less biased) Compatible with lattice QCD calculations C. Zeng, H. Don

C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, arXiv:2412.18324



Electron-ion Collider in China



- energy in c.m.: $15 \sim 20 \text{ GeV}$
- luminosity: $\geq 2 \times 10^{33} \text{ cm}^{-2} \cdot \text{s}^{-1}$
- electron beam: 3.5 GeV, polarization $\sim 80\%$
- proton beam: 20 GeV, polarization $\sim 70\%$
- other available polarized ion beams: d, ³He⁺⁺
- available unpolarized ion beams: ⁷Li³⁺, ¹²C⁶⁺, ⁴⁰Ca²⁰⁺, ¹⁹⁷Au⁷⁹⁺, ²⁰⁸Pb⁸²⁺, ²³⁸U⁹²⁺

EicC White Paper and CDR

EicC White paper



Published in 2021 (Chinese version in 2020)

Conceptual Design Report

Volume I: Accelerator

Volume II: Physics and Detectors

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To be published in 2025



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Physics Highlights

Partonic structure and three-dimensional landsc

 $\Delta \overline{u}(x, O)$



Partonic structure of nuclei



Exotic hadronic states













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Complementarity of EicC and EIC-US



Nucleon spin:

EicC is optimized to systematically explore the gluon and sea quarks in moderate *x* regime At a crucial place between JLab and EIC-US

Proton mass / quarkonium production:

Systematic investigation of Υ near threshold production Complementary kinematic coverage to EIC-US Combine with J/ ψ production at JLab

Exotic hadron states:

¹ Independent confirmation of hidden-charm pentaquarks and search for hidden-bottom analogues Exotic hadron production: final particles in mid-rapidity

gluon dominates gluon + sea quarks valence dominates



R.G. Milner and R. Ent, Visualizing the proton 2022

Partonic structure in nuclear environment:

Parton distribution in nuclei at moderate *x*

Fast parton/hadron interaction with cold nuclear matter



EicC Impact on TMD Helicity



EicC can significantly improve the precision of TMD helicity distributions, especially for sea quarks.



EicC Impact on Transversity



EicC can significantly improve the precision of transversity distributions, especially for sea quarks.

C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, PRD 109 (2024) 056002.

The Sivers Function

Sivers TMD distribution function

$$\frac{\epsilon_{ij}k_T^i S_T^j}{M} f_{1T}^{\perp}(x, k_T^2) \quad \textcircled{\bullet} - \bigodot_{\bullet}$$

A naive T-odd distribution function

Transverse momentum distribution distorted by nucleon transverse spin



Effect in SIDIS:

transverse single spin asymmetry (Sivers asymmetry)

$$A_{UT}^{\sin(\phi_h - \phi_S)} \sim f_{1T}^{\perp} \otimes D_1$$

sizable Sivers asymmetry observed by HERMES, COMPASS, JLab

0

 x_F

Sign change prediction:

 $f_{1T}^{\perp}(x, k_T^2)|_{\text{SIDIS}} = -f_{1T}^{\perp}(x, k_T^2)|_{\text{DY}}$



0.5

EicC Impact: Sivers function



C. Zeng, T. Liu, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, Phys. Rev. D 106 (2022) 094039.

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EicC Impact: Sivers function



C. Zeng, T. Liu, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, Phys. Rev. D 106 (2022) 094039.

Double Spin Asymmetry and Worm-gear

Trans-helicity worm-gear distribution



Effect in SIDIS: A longitudinal-transverse double spin asymmetry

- Longitudinally polarized quark density in a transversely polarized nucleon
- Overlap between wave functions differing by one unit of orbital angular momentum

Phenomenological extraction





K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. D 110 (2024) 034036.



EicC Impact on Trans-helicity Distributions



K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, arXiv:2403.12795, PRD (2024).

Summary

- Spin always surprises since its discovery nearly 100 years ago
- Nucleon spin structure is still not well understood
- Rich information is contained in TMDs
 - helicity: quark polarization has nontrivial dependence on transverse momentum;
 - transversity: sea quarks may have nonzero transverse polarization, suggest intrinsic sea;
 - Sivers: quark transverse momentum is distorted by the nucleon transverse spin;

- ...

- SIDIS with polarized beam and target is a main process to study polarized TMDs
- Electron-positron annihilation is an important complementary reaction to constrain TMDs and to understand the role of spin in hadronization process
- There are still challenges on the theoretical side
 - power correction, radiative correction, target fragmentation, ...
- Opportunities from existing experiments at JLab12, BESIII, BelleII, and future facilities, EIC, EicC, STCF, to understand nucleon spin structures and fragmentation functions.

Thank you!







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TMD Evolution

Evolution equations

$$\mu^{2} \frac{dF(x,b;\mu^{2},\zeta)}{d\mu^{2}} = \frac{\gamma_{F}(\mu,\zeta)}{2} F(x,b;\mu^{2},\zeta) \qquad -\zeta \frac{d\gamma_{F}(\mu,\zeta)}{d\zeta} = \mu \frac{d\mathscr{D}(\mu,b)}{d\mu} = \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\mu)$$

$$\zeta \frac{dF(x,b;\mu^{2},\zeta)}{d\zeta} = -\mathscr{D}(\mu,b)F(x,b;\mu^{2},\zeta) \qquad \gamma_{F}(\mu,\zeta) = \Gamma_{\text{cusp}}(\mu) \ln \frac{\mu^{2}}{\zeta} - \gamma_{V}(\mu)$$

$$F\left(x,b;\mu_{f},\zeta_{f}\right) = \exp\left[\int_{P}\left(\gamma_{F}(\mu,\zeta)\frac{d\mu}{\mu} - \mathscr{D}(\mu,b)\frac{d\zeta}{\zeta}\right)\right] F\left(x,b;\mu_{i},\zeta_{i}\right)$$

 ζ -prescription

equipotential lines: $\frac{d \ln \zeta_{\mu}(\mu, b)}{d \ln \mu^{2}} = \frac{\gamma_{F}\left(\mu, \zeta_{\mu}(\mu, b)\right)}{2\mathscr{D}(\mu, b)}$ $\mathscr{D}\left(\mu_{0}, b\right) = 0, \quad \gamma_{F}\left(\mu_{0}, \zeta_{\mu}\left(\mu_{0}, b\right)\right) = 0$ $F\left(x, b; Q, Q^{2}\right) = \left(\frac{Q^{2}}{\zeta_{Q}(b)}\right)^{-\mathscr{D}(Q,b)} F(x, b), \quad \mu_{f}^{2} = \zeta_{f} = Q^{2}$



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Trans-helicity Worm-gear Distributions



K. Yang, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, B.-Q. Ma, Phys. Rev. D 110 (2024) 034036.

Collins Fragmentation Functions



Extracted Collins FFs:

C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, PRD 109 (2024) 056002.

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Sivers Functions

Global analysis of SIDIS, Drell-Yan, W^{\pm}/Z^{0} production data



C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, arXiv:2412.18324

Sivers Functions

Global analysis of SIDIS, Drell-Yan, W^{\pm}/Z^0 production data



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Transversity Distributions



C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, arXiv:2412.18324

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Collins Fragmentation Functions



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Collins Fragmentation Functions



C. Zeng, H. Dong, TL, P. Sun, Y. Zhao, arXiv:2412.18324

HIAF in Huizhou (惠州)





High Intensity heavy-ion Accelerator Facility

- a national facility on nuclear physics, atomic physics, heavy-ion applications ...
- open to scientists all over the world
- provide intense beams of primary and radioactive ions
- beam commissioning is planned in 2025

