Form factors of light pseudoscalar mesons from the perturbative QCD approach

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Form Factors

2 The perturbative QCD approach

- Three scale factorization
- The soft-transversal dynamics

3 $\pi, K, \eta^{(\prime)}$ form factors

- \bullet Electromagnetic form factor of π and K
- \bullet Transition form factor of π and $\eta^{(\prime)}$

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Form Factors

"In elementary particle physics and mathematical physics, in particular in effective field theory, a **form factor** is a function that encapsulates the properties of a certain interaction without including all of the underlying physics, but instead, providing the momentum dependence of a suitable matrix elements. Its further measured experimentally in confirmation or specification of a theory."

Momenta Redistribution

 \Downarrow QCD is believed to exhibit confinement

hadron structures \otimes hard scattering

 \Downarrow decoupling of LD and SD interactions

factorisation theorem, EFT; CKM, g-2, B anomalies

Form Factors

PION is the lightest Glodstone boson and one of the most simplest hadrons, hence the ideal probe to extremely rich QCD dynamics.

- (spacelike) electromagnetic form factor $\langle \pi^{-}(p_2)|J^{em}_{\mu}|\pi^{-}(p_1)\rangle = e_q(p_1 + p_2)_{\mu}F_{\pi}(Q^2)$
- the interaction distance of J^{em}_{μ} is decided by the external reason Q^2 .
- Separate the hard partonic physics out of the hadronic physics (soft, nonperturbative objects) in exclusive processes **Factorization**

$$\stackrel{\gamma^{*} \stackrel{\gamma^{*}}{\underset{k_{1}}{\overset{\varphi}{\underset{(a)}}}}{\pi} \pi}{\xrightarrow{\pi}} \xrightarrow{\psi} - \stackrel{\varphi}{\underbrace{\pi_{u}}}{\overset{\varphi}{\underset{(b)}}} \xrightarrow{\varphi} - \stackrel{\varphi}{\underbrace{\pi_{u}}}{\overset{\varphi}{\underset{(b)}{\overset{\varphi}{\underset{(c)}}}} \xrightarrow{\varphi}} \xrightarrow{d\sigma} - \stackrel{d\sigma}{\underbrace{d\sigma}} = \int_{u}^{1} \frac{d\zeta}{\zeta} \mathcal{H}^{(t)}(\zeta) \psi^{(t)}(\frac{u}{\zeta})$$

- The universal nonperturbative objects, studied by QCD-based analytical (QCDSRs, χ PT, DSE, instanton) and numerical approaches (LQCD)
- also by data-driven method

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• end-point singularities appear in exclusive QCD processes $m_{1,2}^2 \ll Q^2$, light-cone coordinate $p_1 = (\frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}}, 0, 0_{\rm T}), p_2 = (0, \frac{Q}{\sqrt{2}}, 0_{\rm T}),$ (anti-)valence quarks: $k_1 = x_1 p_1, \bar{k}_1 = \bar{x}_1 p_1$



 $\begin{array}{l} \phi \propto u(1-u), \quad m_0^{\pi} \phi^{P,\sigma} \propto 1 \\ \propto \sum_t \int du_1 du_2 \kappa_t(u_i) \frac{\alpha_s(\mu) \phi_1^t(u_1) \phi_2^t(u_2)}{(u_1 u_2 Q^2)(u_2 Q^2)} \end{array}$

• pick up k_T in the internal propagators

$$\mathcal{M} \propto \sum_{t=2,3,4} \int du_1 du_2 dk_1 T dk_2 T K_t(u_i) \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)\phi_1^*(u_1)\phi_2^*(u_2)}{[u_1 u_2 Q^2 - (\Delta k_T)^2][u_2 Q^2 - k_{2T}^2]}$$

end-point singularity at leading and subleading powers

$$\mathcal{H} \propto \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{u_1 u_2 Q^2 - k_T^2} \sim \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{u_1 u_2 Q^2} - \frac{\alpha_s(\mu) k_T^2}{(u_1 u_2 Q^2)^2} + \cdots$$

• the power suppressed TMD terms becomes important at the end-points

 k_T Factorization Soft+colinear divergence appears double logarithmic term $\alpha_s ln^2(Q/k_T)$



consider contribution from the iTMD

$$\begin{split} \frac{f_{\pi}m_0^{\mathcal{P}}}{2\sqrt{6}}\phi^p(u,\mu) &= \int \frac{d^2\vec{k}_T}{16\pi^3}\phi_{2p}^p(u,\vec{k}_T) + \int \frac{d^2\vec{k}_{T1}}{16\pi^3}\frac{d^2\vec{k}_{T2}}{4\pi^2}\phi_{3p}^p(u,\vec{k}_{T1},\vec{k}_{T2}).\\ \psi_{2p}^p(u,\vec{k}_T) &= \frac{f_{\pi}m_0^{\mathcal{P}}}{2\sqrt{6}}\phi_{2p}^p(u,\mu)\Sigma(u,\vec{k}_T),\\ \psi_{3p}^p(u,\vec{k}_{1T},\vec{k}_{2T}) &= \frac{f_{\pi}m_0^{\mathcal{P}}}{2\sqrt{6}}\eta_{3\pi}\phi_{3p}^p(u,\mu)\Sigma'(\alpha_i,\vec{k}_{1T},\vec{k}_{2T}). \end{split}$$

The soft-transversal dynamics

Two-particlie Fock state

 $\Sigma\left(u,\mathbf{k}_{T}\right) = 16\pi^{2}\beta^{2}g(u)\operatorname{Exp}\left[-\beta^{2}k_{T}^{2}g(u)\right], g(u) = 1/(u\bar{u})$

$$\int \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{16\pi^3} \Sigma(u, \mathbf{k}_T) = 1$$

$$\beta_{\pi}^2 = \frac{1}{8\pi^2 f_{\pi}^2 \left(1 + a_2^{\pi} + a_4^{\pi} + \cdots\right)}$$

$$\psi\left(u,\mathbf{b}_{T}\right) = \frac{f_{\pi}}{2\sqrt{6}}\varphi(u,\mu)\hat{\Sigma}\left(u,\mathbf{b}_{T}\right), \hat{\Sigma}\left(u,\mathbf{b}_{T}\right) = 4\pi\operatorname{Exp}\left[-\frac{b_{T}^{2}}{4\beta^{2}g(u)}\right]$$

Three-particle Fock state

$$\psi_{3p}\left(u,\mathbf{k}_{1T},\mathbf{k}_{2T}\right) = \frac{f_{\pi}m_{0}^{\mathcal{P}}}{2\sqrt{6}}\varphi_{3p}(u,\mu)\int_{0}^{u}d\alpha_{1}\int_{0}^{\overline{u}}d\alpha_{2}\frac{\Sigma'\left(\alpha_{i},\mathbf{k}_{1T},\mathbf{k}_{2T}\right)}{1-\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2}}$$

three-particle iTMD Gaussian function is: $\Sigma' (\alpha_i, \mathbf{k}_{1T}, \mathbf{k}_{2T}) = \frac{64\pi^3 \beta'^4}{\alpha_1 \alpha_2 (1-\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)} \operatorname{Exp} \left[-\beta'^2 \left(\frac{k_{1T}^2}{\alpha_1} + \frac{k_{2T}^2}{\alpha_2} + \frac{(k_{1T} + k_{2T})^2}{1-\alpha_1 - \alpha_2} \right) \right]$ $\hat{\Sigma}' (u, \mathbf{b}_1, \mathbf{b}_2) = 4\pi \operatorname{Exp} \left[-\frac{2\alpha_3 (b_1^2 + b_2^2) + (\alpha_1 + \alpha_2)(b_1 - b_2)^2}{16\beta'^2} \right]$

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Background and Motivation of π

Measurements of F_{π} in different energy regions

- Spacelike data is available in the narrow region $q^2 \in [-2.5, -0.25] \text{GeV}^2$ Jefferson Lab 2006,2008, ..., NA7 1996, CLEO 2005
- Timelike data is dominated by the resonant states, have not extend to large momentum transfers (perturbative QCD available)



Whole region of momentum transfers for electromagnetic form factor

- Mismatch between the QCD based calculation and the available data
- could be restored by employing the dispersion relation
- pQCD prediction at large $|q^2|$ is indispensable

Dispersion Relation

- spacelike data is available in the narrow region $q^2 \in [-2.5, -0.25] {\rm GeV}^2$
- the mismatch destroys the direct extracting programme from $F_{\pi}(q^2 < 0)$
- timelike data $F_{\pi}(q^2 > 0)$ provides another opportunity

Standard dispersion relation:

$$\mathcal{F}_{\pi}^{pQCD}(q^2) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{s_0}^{\infty} ds \frac{\mathrm{Im}\mathcal{F}_P(s)}{s - q^2 - i\epsilon}, \quad q^2 > s_0$$

modulus squared dispersion integral:

[Š. Cheng, A. Khodjamirian and A. V. Rusov, PRD 102 (2020) 074022
J. Chai, S. Cheng and J. Hua, EPJC 83 (2023) no.7, 556.]

$$\mathcal{F}^{\rm pQCD}_{\pi}(q^2) = \exp\left[\frac{q^2\sqrt{s_0-q^2}}{2\pi}\int\limits_{4m_{\pi}^2}^{\infty}ds\frac{\ln|\mathcal{F}_{\pi}(s)|^2}{s\,\sqrt{s-s_0}\,(s-q^2)}\right]\,.$$

$$|\mathcal{F}_{\pi}(s)|^{2} = \Theta(s_{\max} - s) |\mathcal{F}_{\pi,\text{Inter.}}^{\text{data}}(s)|^{2} + \Theta(s - s_{\max}) |\mathcal{F}_{\pi}^{\text{pQCD}}(s)|^{2}$$

Pion LCDAs

- Three sources of high twist LCDAs
 - "bad" components in WFs in particular of those with " wrong" spin projection
 - transversal motion of $q(\bar{q})$ in the leading twist components
 - given by the integrals with additional factors of k_{\perp}^2
 - † higher Fock states with additional g and $q\bar{q}$ pairs
- higher twist contributions to exclusive QCD processes are commonly power suppressed $\mathcal{O}(1/Q)$
- but twist 3 contribution are dominate in the π , K evolved processes due to chiral enhancement $\mathcal{O}(m_0/(x_i Q))$



Electromagnetic form factor of π



- the precise pQCD calculation
- ullet modular dispersion relation with e^+e^- annihilation data
- a comprehensive description of $F_{\pi}(q^2)$ in the whole kinematics



• the slight derivation is still there despite its sensitive to iTMD in the small q^2



- **Pion Consistency:** Pion EMFF from standard and modular methods match, confirming GS/KS models explain the imaginary part and supporting the "no zeros in complex plane" assumption for pion form factor.
- Kaon Discrepancy: Modular kaon result is larger than standard. With SU(3) breaking, it nears pion's value. This shows: BaBar's model may miss kaon's imaginary part, and modular relation might not fit kaon (due to S- wave near f_0 resonance).
- Kaon Analysis Approach: Avoid dispersion relations for kaon EMFF. Adapt pQCD calculations to the data in $10 \le q^2 \le 60 \, GeV^2$



† $m_0^K(1 \, GeV) = 1.90 \pm 0.09 \text{GeV}$ is well-known from the CHPT relation

- \dagger fit the transversal-size parameter $\beta_K^2=0.30\pm0.05\,GeV^{-2}$ from timelike data settle for the second best and take $\beta_K^2=\beta_K'^2$
- [†] the iTMDs is indispensable to explain the data in the intermediate q^2
- † iTMDs-improved pQCD result of spacelike FF is small than the lattice data
 - ‡ agrees with results obtained from the DSE approach and the collinear QCD factorization
 - \ddagger large SU(3) flavor breaking emerges an additional term proportional to m_s in the twist-three LCDAs

 $F_{\pi\gamma\gamma^{\star}}$ is the theoretically most clean observable $\varpropto a_n^{\pi}$



- Model-I [Brodsky, Teramond 0707.3859, RQCD 1903.08038]
- Model-II [SC, Khodjamirian, Rosov 2007.05550]
- Model-III [Mikhailov, Pimikov, Stefanis 1604.06391]

† NLO pQCD calculation with the iTMD contribution, modification in the small and intermediate regions is significant



Transition form factors of $\eta^{(\prime)}$

 $F_{n^{(\prime)} \gamma \gamma^{\star}}$ serves as an sensitive probe for investigating flavor structure

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{F}_{\eta\gamma\gamma^*} &= \cos\phi \frac{e_u^2 + e_d^2}{\sqrt{2}} \mathcal{F}_{\eta_q\gamma\gamma^*} - \sin\phi e_s^2 \mathcal{F}_{\eta_s\gamma\gamma^*} - 0.006 e_c^2 \mathcal{F}_{\eta_c\gamma\gamma^*}, \\ \mathcal{F}_{\eta'\gamma\gamma^*} &= \sin\phi \frac{e_u^2 + e_d^2}{\sqrt{2}} \mathcal{F}_{\eta_q\gamma\gamma^*} + \cos\phi e_s^2 \mathcal{F}_{\eta_s\gamma\gamma^*} - 0.016 e_c^2 \mathcal{F}_{\eta_c\gamma\gamma^*}. \end{split}$$

inputs from [Feldmann:1998vh Escribano:2005qq,Escribano:2013kba Cao:2012nj Bali:2021qem,Hatton:2020qhk] Decay constants, mixing angles, mass and gegenbauer. The default scale is 1GeV for η_q and η_s , while 3GeV for η_c



Transition form factor of $\eta^{(\prime)}$

- $\eta^{(\prime)}$ are dominated by η_q component, while a sizable η_s component in η'
- The η_c component contribution is negligible in magnitude and therefore plays no significant role in explaining the experimental data.
- iTMD-improved pQCD predictions favor the small ϕ , the large f_{η_s} , f_{η_q} and the small m_{η_q} , m_{η_s}
- In the perturbative QCD limit, $\mathcal{F}_{\eta_q\gamma\gamma^*} = \mathcal{F}_{\eta_s\gamma\gamma^*} = \mathcal{F}_{\eta_c\gamma\gamma^*} = \mathcal{F}_{\pi\gamma\gamma^*}$

$$\begin{split} \delta \mathcal{F} &\equiv \mathcal{F}_{\eta \gamma \gamma^*} - \mathcal{F}_{\eta' \gamma \gamma^*} \xrightarrow{Q^2 \to \infty} (0.071 \pm 0.032) \sqrt{2} f_{\pi} = 0.013 \pm 0.006 \text{ mainly the mixing angle} \\ \delta \mathcal{F}(Q^2 = 112 \,\text{GeV}^2) &= 0.25^{+0.02}_{-0.02} - 0.23^{+0.03}_{-0.03} = 0.02 \pm 0.02 \text{[BaBar, PRD 84. 054001]} \end{split}$$

Besides, we can study the mixing of $\eta^{(\prime)}$ in $e^+e^- \rightarrow \eta \phi$ decays [Belle:2022fh]



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- pQCD is a powerful approach to study an exclusive QCD process
- the LCDAs description of hadron oversights the soft transversal dynamics
- the universal soft function is actually a product of LCDAs and iTMDs
- we study the electromagnetic and transition form factors of light pseudoscalar mesons in the iTMDs-improved pQCD approach
- \bullet find the better agreements with the data and improve the prediction power down to a few ${\rm GeV}^2$
- highly precise measurements are highly anticipated

Thank you for your patience...