

Partonic quasi-distributions of the pion in chiral quark models

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The evaluation of partonic distributions presents a challenge for QCD, and in particular for its Euclidean lattice realization. Recently, objects called quasi-distributions (which become standard distributions in a limit of the longitudinal momentum of the target hadron going to infinity) have been proposed. We present a non-perturbative, dynamical evaluation of the quark quasi-distribution amplitude (QDA) of the pion in the framework of chiral quark models (the Nambu–Jona-Lasinio model and the spectral quark model). We arrive at simple but nontrivial analytic expressions, where the dependence on the longitudinal momentum, the momentum fraction, or the transverse-momentum (for the unintegrated objects) can be explicitly assessed. For the parton distribution amplitude (PDA), we carry out the necessary QCD evolution from the constituent quark model scale to higher scales accessible on the lattice, and compare favorably to the LaMET data.

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This talk presents a follow up of [1], where more details of our approach can be found. Techniques used in this work were also recently reported in [2]. The relevant lattice studies of the quasi-distributions in the pion were published in [3]. The cousin problem of the Euclidean lattice extraction of the partonic quasi-distributions [4] in the nucleon attracted a lot of attention from the simulation side [5–8] as well as in theoretical developments [9–25]. A community white paper has also just appeared [26]. For brevity, we present here the distribution amplitudes only, however, the results are analogous for the distribution functions [1].

The definition of the pion quasi-distribution amplitude (QDA) [4] is given by the matrix elements of the bilocal quark operators,

$$\tilde{\phi}(y, P_3) = \frac{i}{f} \int \frac{dz_3}{2\pi} e^{-i(y-1)z_3 P_3} \langle \pi(P) | \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^3 \gamma_5 U(0, z) \psi(z) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{z_0=0, z_T=0}. \quad (1)$$

Similarly, the pion light-cone wave function (LCWF) is

$$\Psi(x, \mathbf{k}_T) = \frac{i}{f} \int \frac{dz_-}{2\pi} e^{i(x-1)z_- P_+} \int \frac{d^2 z_T}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-iz_T \cdot \mathbf{k}_T} \langle \pi(P) | \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^+ \gamma_5 U(0, z) \psi(z) | 0 \rangle \Big|_{z_+=0}. \quad (2)$$

Above, z denotes the spatial separation of the quark operators (isospin indices are suppressed for brevity), P^μ is the four-momentum of the pion, $y \in (-\infty, \infty)$ is the fraction of P_z , and $x \in [0, 1]$ is the fraction of the light-cone momentum P_+ carried by the valence quark. The gauge link operator $U(0, z)$ is neglected in chiral quark models.

Following the Lorentz covariance of the matrix elements of the quark bilinears, Radyushkin [27] derived an important relation

$$\tilde{\phi}(y, P_3) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk_1 \int_0^1 dx P_3 \Psi(x, k_1, (x-y)P_3). \quad (3)$$

Thus, QDA can be obtained from LCWF via a straightforward double integration. From rotational symmetry, $\Psi(x, \mathbf{k}_T) = \Psi(x, k_T^2)$. A similar methodology, also based entirely on the Lorentz covariance, was used in [28–31] to derive the *transversity relations* between the light-cone and equal-time wave functions (Bethe-Salpeter amplitudes) of the pion.

The standard parton distribution amplitude (PDA) of the pion is obtained as the limit [4] $\phi(x=y) = \lim_{P_3 \rightarrow \infty} \tilde{\phi}(y, P_3)$, where the support $x \in [0, 1]$ is regained. Other pertinent quantities are related to the above definitions via Fourier transforms. The *pseudo-distribution amplitude* (pseudo-DA) [27] is given by the Fourier transform of the LCWF and noticing that from rotation invariance it depends in general on $|\mathbf{z}|$:

$$\mathcal{P}(x, |\mathbf{z}|) = \int d^2 k_T e^{i \mathbf{z}_T \cdot \mathbf{k}_T} \Psi(x, \mathbf{k}_T), \quad (4)$$

where $|\mathbf{z}| = z_T$. In particular, in the frame $P = (E, 0, 0, P_3)$ we may chose $z = (0, 0, 0, z_3)$, where x is the Fourier conjugate variable of $P \cdot z = -P_3 z_3$. Next, the *Ioffe-time distribution amplitude* (IDA) [27, 32] is simply related to the pseudo-DA:

$$\mathcal{M}(\nu, |\mathbf{z}|) = \int_0^1 dx e^{i(x-\frac{1}{2})\nu} \mathcal{P}(x, |\mathbf{z}|) \quad (5)$$

Table 1: Analytic formulas for various objects describing the valence quark distribution in the pion, evaluated in the NJL and SQM chiral quark models at the quark model scale and in the chiral limit, $m_\pi = 0$.

Name Symbol	NJL	SQM
DA $\phi(x)$	$\theta[x(1-x)]$	$\theta[x(1-x)]$
QDA $\tilde{\phi}(y, P_3)$	$\frac{N_c M^2}{4\pi^2 f^2} \text{sgn}(y) \ln \frac{P_3 y + \sqrt{M^2 + P_3^2 y^2}}{M} \Big _{\text{reg}}$ $+ (y \leftrightarrow 1-y)$	$\frac{1}{\pi} \left[\frac{2m_\rho P_3 y}{m_\rho^2 + 4P_3^2 y^2} + \arctg \left(\frac{2P_3 y}{m_\rho} \right) \right]$ $+ (y \leftrightarrow 1-y)$
LCWF $\Psi(x, k_\perp)$	$\frac{N_c M^2}{4\pi^2 f^2} \frac{1}{k_T^2 + M^2} \Big _{\text{reg}} \theta[x(1-x)]$	$\frac{6m_\rho^3}{\pi (4k_\perp^2 + m_\rho^2)^{5/2}} \theta[x(1-x)]$
pseudo-DA $\mathcal{P}(x, \mathbf{z})$	$\frac{N_c M^2}{4\pi^3 f^2} K_0(M \mathbf{z}) \Big _{\text{reg}} \theta[x(1-x)]$	$\frac{1}{2} e^{-\frac{m_\rho \mathbf{z} }{2}} (m_\rho \mathbf{z} + 2) \theta[x(1-x)]$
IDA $\mathcal{M}(\nu, \mathbf{z})$	$\frac{N_c M^2}{2\pi^3 f^2} \frac{\sin(\frac{\nu}{2})}{\nu} K_0(M \mathbf{z}) \Big _{\text{reg}}$	$\frac{\sin(\frac{\nu}{2})}{\nu} e^{-\frac{m_\rho \mathbf{z} }{2}} (m_\rho \mathbf{z} + 2)$
VDA $\Phi(x, \mu)$	$\frac{N_c M^2}{4\pi^2 f^2} \mu e^{-\mu M^2} \Big _{\text{reg}} \theta[x(1-x)]$	$\frac{\mu^{5/2} m_\rho^3 e^{-\frac{1}{4}\mu m_\rho^2}}{4\sqrt{\pi}} \theta[x(1-x)]$

(we shift x by $\frac{1}{2}$ to get real expressions). Finally, the *virtuality distribution amplitude* (VDA) [33] is defined via (for simplicity of the resulting expressions we take a real Laplace transform)

$$\Psi(x, k_\perp) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty \frac{d\mu}{\mu} e^{-k_\perp^2 \mu} \Phi(x, \mu). \quad (6)$$

In chiral quark models, the evaluation of the valence quark distributions in the leading- N_c order amounts to computing a one-quark-loop integral (for a review of techniques see, e.g., [34]). For the pion LCWF we get [35]

$$\Psi(x, k_T^2) = \frac{N_c M^2}{4\pi^2 f^2} \frac{\theta[x(1-x)]}{k_T^2 + M^2 - m_\pi^2 x(1-x)} \Big|_{\text{reg}}. \quad (7)$$

The expression in Eq. (7) must be properly regularized (i.e., in a way conserving the proper symmetries). For the NJL model we use the Pauli-Villars regularization (see [36]). The value of the cut-off is chosen in such a way that at a given value of the constituent quark mass M (we use $M = 300$ MeV) a proper value for the pion decay constant f follows. In SQM, the regulator is imposed via a spectral integration over the quark mass along a suitably-chosen complex

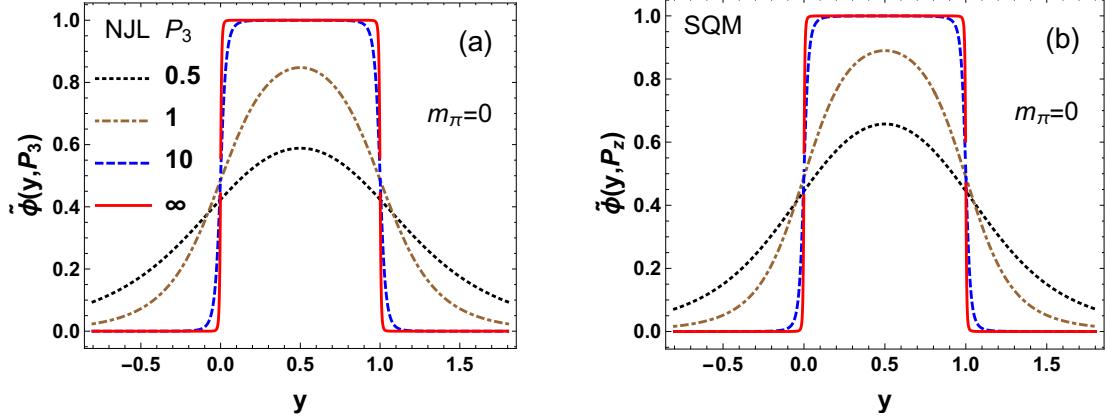


Figure 1: Valence quark quasi-distribution amplitude (QDA) of the pion in (a) NJL and (b) SQM models, obtained at the constituent quark scale μ_0 with $m_\pi = 0$ at various values of the longitudinal momentum P_3 , plotted as a function of the longitudinal momentum fraction y .

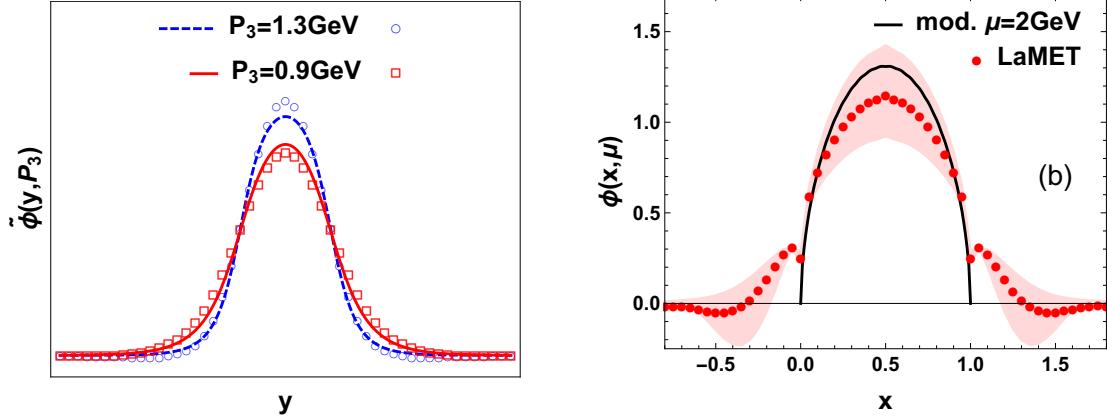


Figure 2: (a) Quark quasi-distribution amplitude (QDA) of the pion in the NJL model at the constituent quark scale μ_0 , plotted as functions of the longitudinal momentum fraction y , evaluated for $P_3 = 0.9$ and 1.3 GeV, and compared to the lattice data at $\mu = 2$ GeV from the LaMET Collaboration at $m_\pi = 310$ MeV [3]. (b) The distribution amplitude (PDA) of the pion, obtained from the NJL model and evolved to $\mu = 2$ GeV, compared to the extraction from the LaMET data [3].

contour [37, 38]. The prescription reproduces the phenomenological monopole shape of the pion electromagnetic form factor, $F(t) = 1/(1 - t/m_\rho^2)$, where m_ρ is the mass of the ρ meson.

We note from Eq. (7) that the longitudinal-transverse factorization at the quark model scale $\mu_0 \simeq 320$ MeV [34], i.e., the factorization between the x and k_T variables, holds only in the strict chiral limit.

The results for the NJL and SQM models are analytic, but they are particularly simple in the chiral limit of $m_\pi = 0$. They are collected in Table 1. The QDAs in the chiral limit at various values of P_3 are plotted in Fig. 1. We note almost identical results from both models. Comparison to the LaMET data [3], very favorable taking into account the simplicity of the model, is made in Fig. 2.

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