

# Nucleon transverse quark spin densities

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We present a calculation of the Mellin moments of the nucleon transverse quark spin densities extracted from the unpolarized and transversity generalized form factors. We use three  $N_F = 2 + 1 + 1$  ensembles of twisted mass fermions with quark masses tuned to their physical values and lattice spacings  $a \sim 0.08$  fm,  $a \sim 0.07$  fm and  $a \sim 0.06$  fm and extrapolate the form factors to the continuum limit. Besides isovector densities we also include results for the tensor charge for each quark flavor using the ensemble with  $a \sim 0.08$  fm for which we include the disconnected contributions.

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### 1. Introduction

Understanding the 3D-structure of the nucleon from its fundamental constituents, the quarks and the gluons is a major goal of nuclear physics and a key aim of current and future major experiments. Significant progress has been made in revealing the longitudinal spin structure of the proton. However, the transverse spin structure is much less known and will be the focus of the experimental programs of Jefferson Lab and the future Electron Ion Collider(EIC) being built at Brookhaven [1]. Although recently techniques to compute the generalized parton distributions (GPDs) using lattice QCD are being developed, computation of moments of GPDs is at a more mature stage. In particular, lower moments are readily accessible from lattice QCD by computing matrix elements of local operators. Although the computation of the low Mellin moments has a long history [2], it is only recently that results directly at the physical point are emerging (i.e. using ensembles generated with pion mass at the physical point defined as  $m_{\pi} = 135 \pm 10$  MeV). To determine the transverse spin densities, one needs to compute the twist-two chiral-even unpolarized and chiral-odd transversity GPDs.

## 2. Nucleon matrix elements

The transverse spin density is defined as [3]

$$\rho(x, \mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \mathbf{s}_{\perp}, \mathbf{S}_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ H(x, b_{\perp}^2) + \frac{\mathbf{b}_{\perp}^J \epsilon^{ji}}{m_N} \left( \mathbf{S}_{\perp}^i E'(x, b_{\perp}^2) + \mathbf{s}_{\perp}^i \bar{E}_T'(x, b_{\perp}^2) \right) + \mathbf{s}_{\perp}^i \mathbf{S}_{\perp}^i \left( H_T(x, b_{\perp}^2) - \frac{\Delta_{b_{\perp}} \tilde{H}_T(x, b_{\perp}^2)}{4m_N^2} \right) + \mathbf{s}_{\perp}^i (2\mathbf{b}_{\perp}^i \mathbf{b}_{\perp}^j - \delta^{ij} b_{\perp}^2) \mathbf{S}_{\perp}^j \frac{\tilde{H}_T''(x, b_{\perp}^2)}{m_N^2}, \quad (1)$$

where the generalized parton distributions  $H, E, H_T, E_T$  and  $\tilde{H}_T$  in Eq. (1) are given in impact parameter space for zero skewness. They are obtained by a Fourier transformation,  $\Delta_{\perp} \rightarrow \mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \Delta_{\perp}$ is the transverse momentum transfer and  $-Q^2 \equiv \Delta^2$ .  $m_N$  is the nucleon mass, x is the longitudinal momentum fraction,  $\mathbf{s}_{\perp}$  is the transverse quark spin,  $\mathbf{b}_{\perp}$  the transverse vector from the center of momentum of the nucleon, and  $\mathbf{S}_{\perp}$  the transverse spin of the nucleon,  $\epsilon_{ij}$  is the antisymmetric tensor, the derivatives are denoted as  $F' \equiv \frac{\partial F}{\partial b_{\perp}^2}$  and  $\Delta_{b_{\perp}}F \equiv 4\frac{\partial}{\partial b^2} \left(\mathbf{b}_{\perp}^2\frac{\partial}{\partial b^2}\right)F$  and the GPD  $\bar{E}_T = E_T + 2\tilde{H}_T$ . The moments of  $\rho$  given by

$$\langle x^{n-1} \rangle_{\rho}(\mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \mathbf{s}_{\perp}, \mathbf{S}_{\perp}) \equiv \int_{-1}^{1} dx \, x^{n-1} \rho(x, \mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \mathbf{s}_{\perp}, \mathbf{S}_{\perp}), \qquad (2)$$

are related to generalized form factors (GFFs), e.g.  $A_{Tn0} = \int_{-1}^{1} dx \, x^{n-1} H_T$ ,  $B_{Tn0} = \int_{-1}^{1} dx \, x^{n-1} E_T$ ,  $\widetilde{A}_{Tn0} = \int_{-1}^{1} dx \, x^{n-1} \widetilde{H}_T$ . The relevant GFFs are determined from the two lowest Mellin moments by considering the nucleon matrix elements of the following operators:

• Tensor operator, yielding the first Mellin tensor GFFs

$$\langle N(p',s')|\bar{q}\sigma^{\mu\nu}q|N(p,s)\rangle = \bar{u}_N(p',s') \left[\sigma^{\mu\nu}A^q_{T10}(Q^2) + i\frac{\gamma^{[\mu}\Delta^{\nu]}}{2m_N} B^q_{T10}(Q^2) + \frac{\overline{P}^{[\mu}\Delta^{\nu]}}{m_N^2} \widetilde{A}^q_{T10}(Q^2) \right] u_N(p,s),$$

$$(3)$$

ensemble name	$(L/a)^3.T/a$	<i>a</i> (fm)	$m_{\pi}$ (MeV)	L (fm)	$m_{\pi}L$
cB211.072.64	$64^3 \cdot 128$	0.07961 (13)	140.2 (2)	5.09	3.62
cC211.060.80	$80^{3} \cdot 160$	0.06821 (12)	136.7 (2)	5.46	3.78
cD211.054.96	$96^{3} \cdot 192$	0.05692 (10)	140.8 (2)	5.46	3.90

**Table 1:** The first column gives the ensemble name, the second the lattice volume, the third the lattice spacing, the fourth the value of the pion mass  $m_{\pi}$ , the fifth the spatial length in fm and the last  $m_{\pi}L$ .

where with [...] we denote antisymmetrization over the indices and  $\bar{P}^{\mu} = \frac{p'^{\mu} + p^{\mu}}{2}$ . In the forward limit,  $A_{T10}(0)$  gives the tensor charge  $g_T$ , while  $\bar{B}_{T10}^q(0) \equiv B_{T10}^q(0) + 2\tilde{A}_{T10}^q(0)$  is the anomalous tensor magnetic moment  $\kappa_T$ , which is related to the Boer-Mulders function  $h^{\perp} \sim -\kappa_T$ .

• Vector one-derivative operator  $O_V^{\mu\nu} = \bar{q}\gamma^{\{\mu}iD^{\nu\}}q$ , yielding the unpolarized second Mellin GFFs

$$\langle N(p',s')|O_{V}^{\mu\nu}|N(p,s)\rangle = \bar{u}_{N}(p',s') \Big[ A_{20}(Q^{2})\gamma^{\{\mu}\overline{P}^{\nu\}} + B_{20}(Q^{2})\frac{i\sigma^{\{\mu\alpha}q_{\alpha}\overline{P}^{\nu\}}}{2m_{N}} + C_{20}(Q^{2})\frac{q^{\{\mu}q^{\nu\}}}{m_{N}} \Big] u_{N}(p,s),$$

$$(4)$$

where with {...} we denote symmetrization over the indices and subtraction of the trace. In the forward limit,  $A_{20}(0)$  gives the quark momentum fraction  $\langle x \rangle_q$  and the total quark spin is  $J_q = \frac{1}{2} [A_{20}(0) + B_{20}(0)].$ 

• Tensor one-derivative operator  $O_T^{\mu\nu\rho} = i \bar{q} \sigma^{[\mu\{\nu]} i D^{\rho\}} q$ , yielding the second Mellin tensor GFFs with the transversity moment  $\langle x \rangle_{\delta q} = A_{T20}^q(0)$ .

$$\langle N(p',s')|O_T^{\mu\nu\rho}|N(p,s)\rangle = u_N(p',s') \left[ i\sigma^{\mu\nu}\overline{P}^{\rho} A_{T20}(Q^2) + \frac{\gamma^{[\mu}\Delta^{\nu]}}{2m_N}\overline{P}^{\rho} B_{T20}(Q^2) + i\frac{\overline{P}^{[\mu}\Delta^{\nu]}}{m_N^2}\overline{P}^{\rho} \widetilde{A}_{T20}(Q^2) + \frac{\gamma^{[\mu}\overline{P}^{\nu]}}{m_N}\Delta^{\rho} \widetilde{B}_{T21}(Q^2) \right] u_N(p,s).$$

$$(5)$$

## 3. Results

We illustrate our analysis by considering the extraction of  $g_T$  for the three  $N_f = 2+1+1$  twisted mass clover-improved fermion ensembles simulated by the Extended Twisted Mass Collaboration (ETMC) using physical values of the two light, the strange and the charm quark masses. The parameters of the ensembles are listed in Table 1. In Fig. 1, we show the extraction of the isovector  $g_T^{u-d}$  using three physical listed in Table 1. As can be seen, there are large excited state contributions that would require  $t_s > 2$  fm to eliminate in the ratio [4]. However, including a the first excited state, the results converge rapidly yielding the nucleon matrix element. This is confirmed by including the second excited state in the fit. Note that having approximately the same statistical error as we increase  $t_s$  is important for identifying clearly the nucleon matrix element. The summation method, on the other hand, shows slow convergence, but eventually converges to the chosen value from the two-state fit. In Table 2 we give the statistics used.

Using the results for the three physical mass point ensembles we extrapolate to the continuum limit avoiding any chiral extrapolations that may introduce unquantified systematic errors. We



**Figure 1:** We show the analysis of the ratio from which we extract  $g_T^{u-d}$ . The left panels show the ratio versus the insertion time  $t_{ins}$  shifted by half the source-sink time  $t_s/2$ . The middle panels show the values extracted when fitting the ratio on the left with a constant leaving 8*a* time separation from the source and sink, or the value of the central point when not enough values of  $t_s$  are available. In the right panel, we show the values obtained when we perform a two state-fit (red circles), a three-state fit (blue triangles) and the summation method (green circles), as we vary the lower fit range,  $t_{s,min}$  used in the fits. The open symbol shows the value we take and the red band in the middle panels shows the prediction of the plateau values for a given  $t_s$  value using the selected parameters determined by the open symbols. Results are shown for the cB211.072.64 (top), cC211.060.80 (middle) and cD211.054.96 (bottom) ensemble. For the latter, we are still increasing statistics for the three largest values of  $t_s$ , see Table. 2.

obtain a value of  $g_T^{u-d} = 0.924(54)$  [5]. In Fig. 2, we compare our result with those from other lattice QCD collaborations, all of which have used ensembles simulated with larger than physical pion mass and chirally extrapolated the results to the physical point. As can be seen, the lattice QCD results are in agreement and more accurate than the values extracted from phenomenology, demonstrating that lattice QCD can provide a precise determination.

For the cB211.072.64 ensemble, we also calculate the tensor charge for the each quark flavor. This requires the computation of disconnected contributions. We use hierachical probing to improve

cB211.072.64		] [	cC211.060.80			cD211.054.96				
750 configurations				400 configurations				500 0	tions	
$t_s/a$	$t_s$ [fm]	n <sub>src</sub>		$t_s/a$	$t_s$ [fm]	n <sub>src</sub>		$t_s/a$	$t_s$ [fm]	n <sub>src</sub>
8	0.64	1		6	0.41	1		8	0.46	1
10	0.80	2		8	0.55	2		10	0.57	2
12	0.96	4		10	0.69	4		12	0.68	4
14	1.12	6		12	0.82	10		14	0.80	8
16	1.28	16		14	0.96	22		16	0.91	16
18	1.44	48		16	1.10	48		18	1.03	32
20	1.60	64		18	1.24	45		20	1.14	64
Nucleon 2pt 264			20	1.37	116		22	1.25	16	
<u> </u>	_	1	J	22	1.51	246		24	1.37	32
			Nucle	eon 2pt	650		26	1.48	64	
						1	J	Nucleon 2pt		368

**Table 2:** Statistics for computing the isovector matrix element of the tensor charge for the cB211.072.64 (top), the cC211.060.80 (middle) and the cD211.054.96 (bottom) ensemble. The third column gives the number of source positions used. For the cD211.054.96 ensemble, we are increasing statistics for  $t_s/a = 22$ , 24 and 26.



**Figure 2:** We show lattice QCD results (green symbols for  $N_f = 2 + 1 + 1$  and yellow for  $N_f = 2 + 1$  ensembles) for  $g_T^{u-d}$  from ETMC [5, 6] using only physical mass point ensembles; PNDME [7];  $\chi$ QCD [8]; NME [9]; and CLS-Mainz [10]. Open green and yellow symbols denote lattice QCD results without continuum extrapolation. Results from phenomenology are shown with the black circles [11–14].

the signal and 600 thousand two-point functions. For the light quark loops we use, in addition, deflation of the 200 lowest modes. The resulting values are given in Table 3.

The second Mellin GFFs are extracted by performing a similar analysis. As an example, we show in Fig. 3 the extraction of the isovector tensor moment  $\langle x \rangle_{\delta u - \delta d} = A_{T20}^{u-d}(0)$  for the cC211.060.80 ensemble. Having results for the three ensembles with different lattice spacings, we can perform a continuum extrapolation linearly in  $a^2$ . For the GFFs the continuum extrapolation is done at a fixed value of  $Q^2$  interpolating the  $Q^2$  of two of the ensembles to match the third one. The continuum extrapolations are shown in Fig. 4. We fit the  $Q^2$ -dependence of the isovector GFFs after taking the continuum limit using the form  $F(Q^2) = \frac{F(Q)}{1+Q^2/m^2)^p}$ , where F(0), *m* and *p* are fit



**Table 3:** We give our values for  $g_T$  extracted using the cB211.072.64 ensemble: first column for  $g_T^{u-d}$  and the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> for  $g_T^u$ ,  $g_T^d$ ,  $g_T^s$ ,  $g_T^c$ , respectively [6]. The values are given in the  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  scheme at 2 GeV.



**Figure 3:** Excited states analysis of the ratio to extract  $A_{T20}$  for the cC211.060.80 ensemble. The notation is the same as that of Fig. 1



**Figure 4:** Left: We show the continuum extrapolation of the isovector GFFs for  $Q^2 = 0$ . Right: We show the fits of the  $Q^2$ -dependence of the GFFs after extrapolated to the continuum limit.  $A_{T10}(0) = g_T^{u-d}$ ,  $A_{20}(0)$  is the isovector momentum fraction and  $A_{T20} = \langle x \rangle_{\delta u - \delta d}$ .

parameters. We Fourier transform into impact parameter with the function [3]

$$F(b_{\perp}^{2}) = \frac{m^{2}F(0)}{2^{p}\pi\Gamma(p)}(mb_{\perp})^{p-1}K_{p-1}(mb_{\perp}),$$
(6)

where  $\Gamma(x)$  is the Euler gamma function,  $K_n(x) = K_{-n}(x)$  the modified Bessel functions and  $b_{\perp} = \sqrt{b_{\perp}^2}$ . This then allows us to compute the first and second moments of the transverse density distributions, shown in Figs. 5 and 6.

We observe a sizeable deformation for the first moment. We consider four cases: i) Transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon, where we observe a mild distortion because in the



**Figure 5:** Contours of  $\int_{-1}^{1} \rho(x, \mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \mathbf{s}_{\perp}, \mathbf{S}_{\perp}) = \langle 1 \rangle_{\rho}$  [fm<sup>-2</sup>] as a function of  $b_x$  and  $b_y$ . Top-left: transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon; top-right: unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon; bottom-left: transversely polarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon; and bottom-right: transversely polarized quarks in a perpendicularly polarized nucleon.



**Figure 6:** We show  $\int_{-1}^{1} dx x \rho(x, \mathbf{b}_{\perp}, \mathbf{s}_{\perp}, \mathbf{S}_{\perp}) = \langle x \rangle_{\rho}$  [fm<sup>-2</sup>]. The notation is the same as in Fig. 5.

isovector combination the  $\bar{B}_{T10}(b_{\perp}^2)$  term has a milder  $Q^2$ -dependence; ii) Unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon, where we observe a large distortion towards the positive  $b_y$ direction. This can be traced back to the GFF  $B_{10}$ , contributing to the term for E' that, as seen in Fig. 4, is rapidly decreasing resulting in a large distortion. The origin of this behavior is related to the Sivers effect [16], a connection that was made in Ref. [15]; iii) Transversely polarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon, where all the terms in Eq. (1) contribute leading to a significant deformation of the density; and iv) Transversely polarized quarks in a perpendicularly polarized nucleon, where the third term in Eq. (1) drops out and the fourth one creates a significant impact, leading to a large distortion in the  $b_x$  direction. For the second moment  $\langle x \rangle_{\rho}$  the distortion in all cases is reduced.

### 4. Conclusions

We show that the moments of PDFs can be extracted precisely and directly at the physical pion mass. Taking the continuum limit at fixed physical pion mass removes any uncontrolled errors due to the chiral extrapolation. The value of the isovector tensor charge of the nucleon provides valuable input to phenomenological analysis, as demonstrated e.g. by the the recent analysis by the JAM collaboration [17], which with lattice input can improve their determination of transverse spin asymmetries. The calculation of sea quark contributions is feasible using physical pion mass ensembles providing, as demonstrated in this work, the tensor charge for each quark flavor. Although the disconnected contributions are small, they are non-zero for the light, strange and charm quark flavors. Using the computation of the unpolarized and transversity GFFs in the continuum limit, one can determine the moments of the transverse quark spin density. We find large deformation for the first moment showing a sizeable Sivers effect. We determine the anomalous magnetic moment  $\kappa_T \equiv \bar{B}_{T10}(0) = 1.051(94)$ , a fundamental quantity that describe the deformation of the transverse polarized quark distribution in an unpolarized nucleon. First lattice results on  $\kappa_T$  were presented by the QCDSF/UKQCD collaboration [18]. Since  $\kappa_T \sim -h_1^{\perp}$  [19], our value confirms that the Boer-Mulders function,  $h_1^{\perp}$ , is negative and sizeable and corroborates the result found in the lattice QCD study of Ref. [20] for the transverse momentum dependent PDFs.

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