

Quasi-Parton distributions and the Gradient Flow

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INTRODUCTION

- Goal: Compute properties of hadrons from first principles
 - Parton distribution functions (PDFs)
- Lattice QCD calculations is a first principles method
 - For many years calculations focused on Mellin moments
 - Can be obtained from local matrix elements of the proton in Euclidean space
 - Breaking of rotational symmetry → power divergences
 - only first few moments can be computed
- Recently direct calculations of PDFs in Lattice QCD are proposed
- First lattice Calculations already available

X. Ji, Phys.Rev.Lett. 110, (2013)

Y.-Q. Ma J.-W. Qiu (2014) 1404.6860

H.-W. Lin, J.-W. Chen, S. D. Cohen, and X. Ji, Phys.Rev. D91, 054510 (2015)

C. Alexandrou, et al, Phys. Rev. D92, 014502 (2015)

QUASI-PARTON DISTRIBUTIONS

- Defined as non-local (space), equal time matrix elements in Euclidean space
- Equal time: rotation to Minkowski space is trivial
- PDFs are obtained in the limit of infinite proton momentum
- Matching to the infinite momentum limit can be obtained through perturbative calculations

X. Xiong, X. Ji, J. H. Zhang, Y. Zhao, Phys. Rev. D 90, no. 1, 014051 (2014)

T. Ishikawa et al. arXiv:1609.02018 (2016)

QPDFS: DEFINITION

Light-cone PDFs:

$$f^{(0)}(\xi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{d\omega^-}{4\pi} e^{-i\xi P^+ \omega^-} \left\langle P \left| T \bar{\psi}(0, \omega^-, \mathbf{0}_T) W(\omega^-, 0) \gamma^+ \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \psi(0) \right| P \right\rangle_{\text{C}}.$$

$$W(\omega^-, 0) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[-ig_0 \int_0^{\omega^-} dy^- A_{\alpha}^+(0, y^-, \mathbf{0}_T) T_{\alpha} \right] \quad \langle P' | P \rangle = (2\pi)^3 2P^+ \delta(P^+ - P'^+) \delta^{(2)}(\mathbf{P}_T - \mathbf{P}'_T)$$

Moments:

$$a_0^{(n)} = \int_0^1 d\xi \xi^{n-1} \left[f^{(0)}(\xi) + (-1)^n \bar{f}^{(0)}(\xi) \right] = \int_{-1}^1 d\xi \xi^{n-1} f(\xi)$$

Local matrix elements:

$$\left\langle P \left| \mathcal{O}_0^{\{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n\}} \right| P \right\rangle = 2a_0^{(n)} (P^{\mu_1} \dots P^{\mu_n} - \text{traces}) \quad \mathcal{O}_0^{\{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n\}} = i^{n-1} \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{\{\mu_1} D^{\mu_2} \dots D^{\mu_n\}} \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \psi(0) - \text{traces}$$

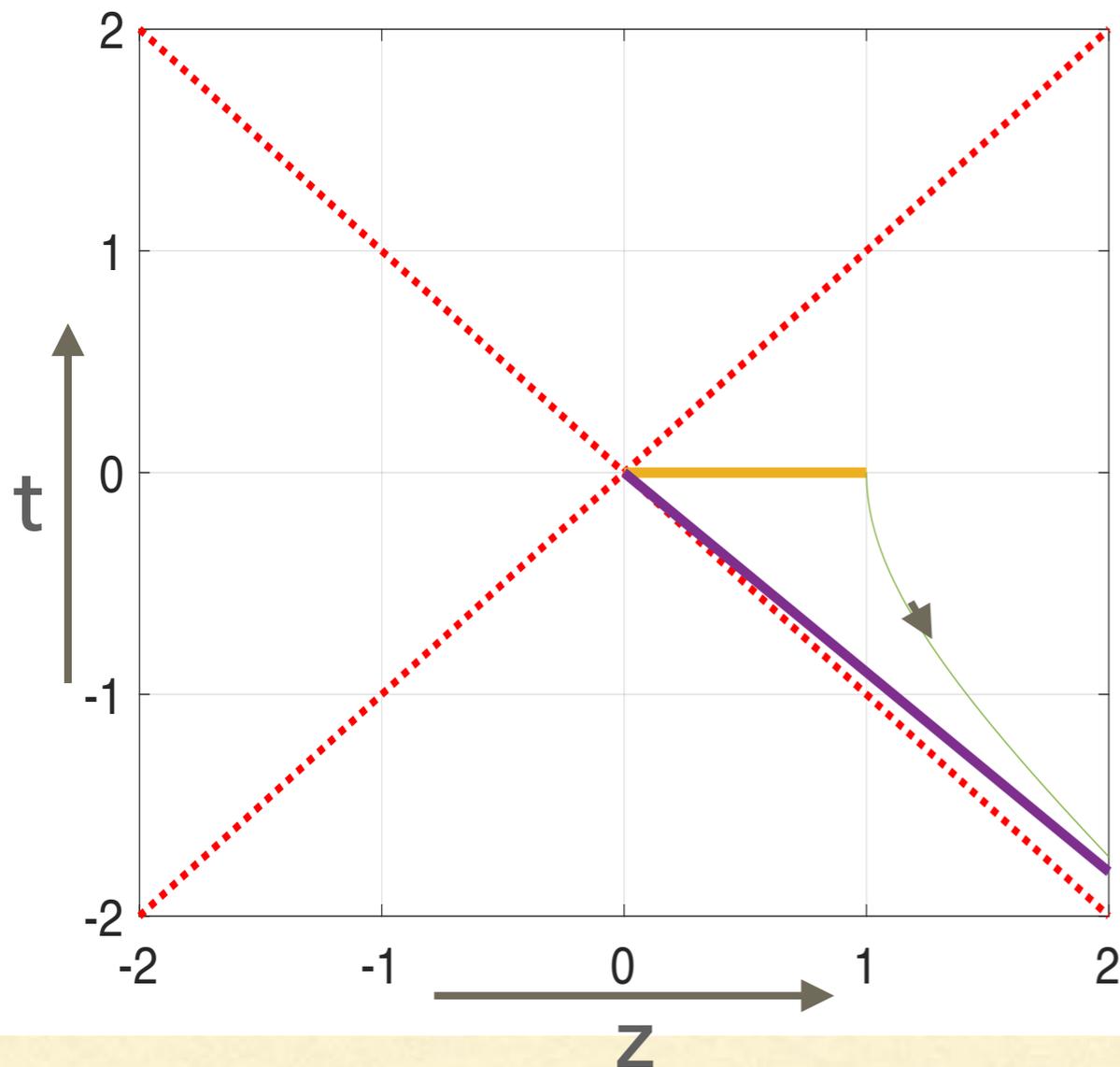
QPDFS: DEFINITION

$$h^{(0)}(z, P_z) = \frac{1}{2P_z} \left\langle P_z \left| \overline{\psi}(z) \mathbf{W}(0, z; \tau) \gamma_z \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \psi(0) \right| P_z \right\rangle_{\mathbb{C}}$$

$$\mathbf{W}(z, 0) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[-ig_0 \int_0^z dz' A_\alpha^3(z' \mathbf{v}) \mathbf{T}_\alpha \right], \quad \mathbf{v} = (0, 0, 1, 0)$$

$$q^{(0)}(\xi, P_z) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dz e^{i\xi z P_z} h^{(0)}(z, P_z)$$

QPDFS: MAIN IDEA



$$\lim_{P_z \rightarrow \infty} q^{(0)}(x, P_z) = f(x)$$

X. Ji, Phys.Rev.Lett. 110, (2013)

Euclidean space time local matrix element is equal to the same matrix element in Minkowski space

$$q(x, P_z) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} \tilde{Z}\left(\frac{x}{\xi}, \frac{\mu}{P_z}\right) f(\xi, \mu) + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}/P_z, M_N/P_z)$$

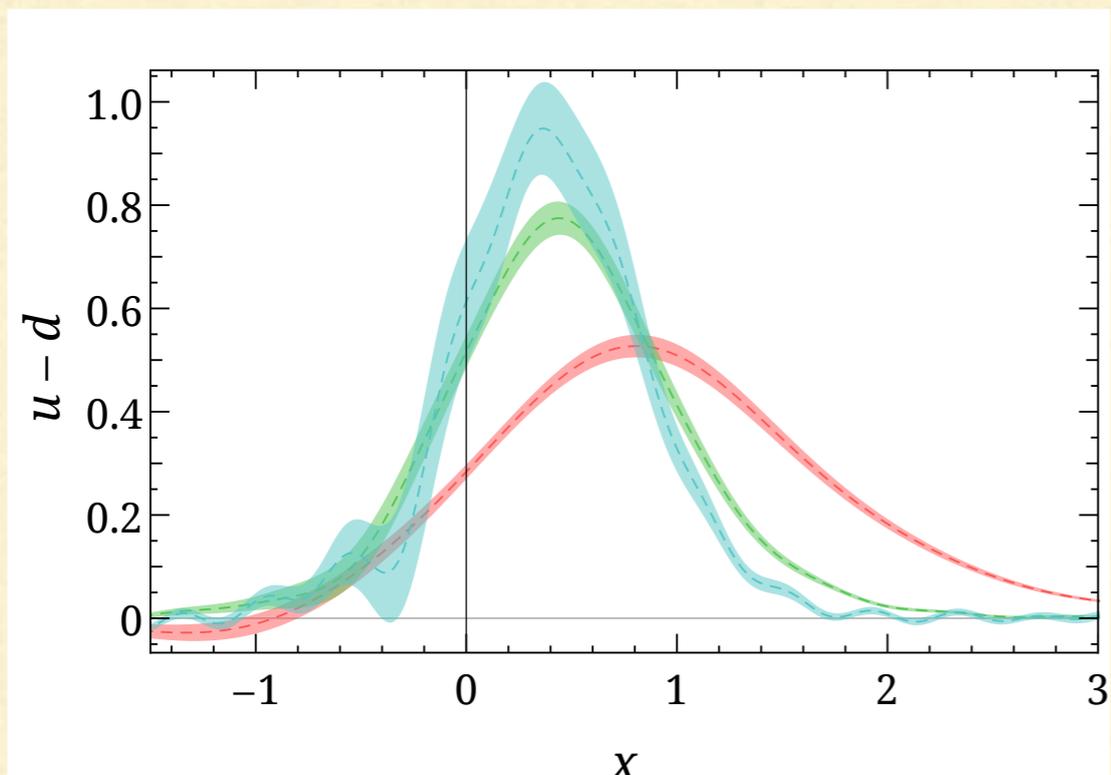
The matching kernel can be computed in perturbation theory

X. Xiong, X. Ji, J. H. Zhang, Y. Zhao, Phys. Rev. D 90, no. 1, 014051 (2014)

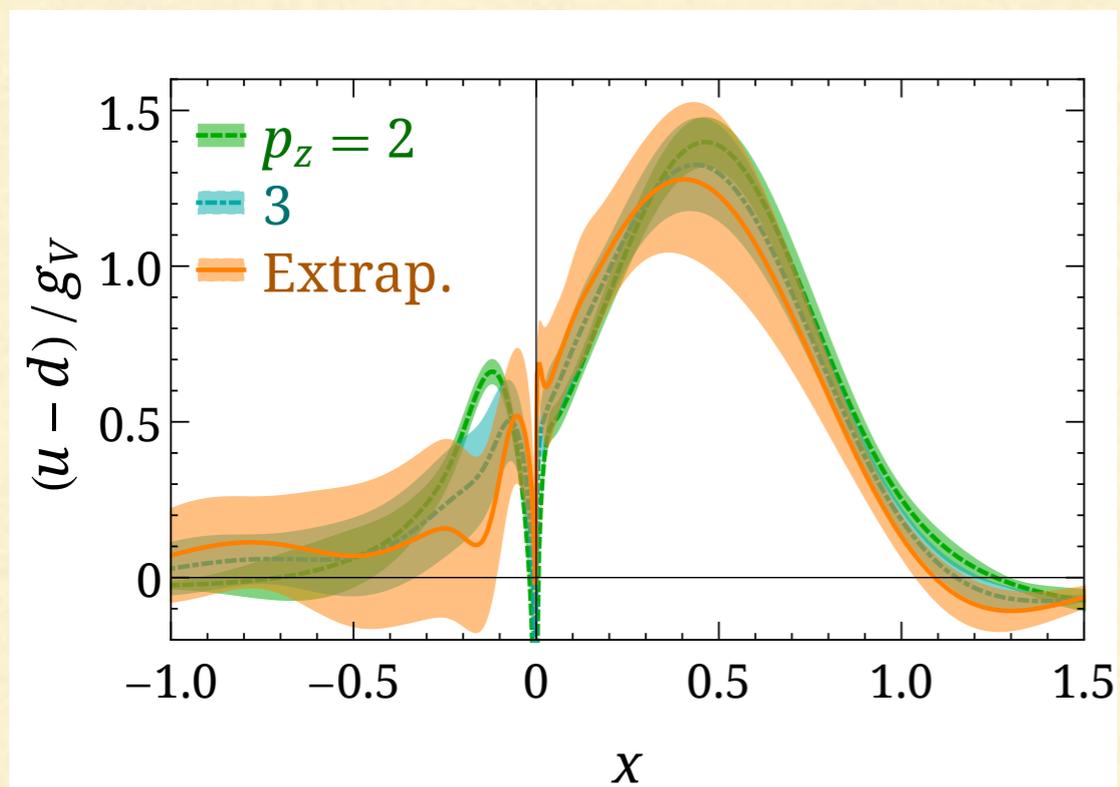
T. Ishikawa et al. arXiv:1609.02018 (2016)

- Practical calculations require a regulator (Lattice)
 - Continuum limit has to be taken
 - renormalization
 - Momentum has to be large compared to hadronic scales to suppress higher twist effects
 - Practical issue with LQCD calculations at large momentum ... signal to noise ratio
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First Lattice results (Chen et. al)



Convergence with momentum extrapolation



Including the 1-loop matching kernel

Plots taken from: [Chen et al. arXiv:1603.06664](https://arxiv.org/abs/1603.06664)

Similar results have been achieved by Alexandrou et. al (ETMC)

A more general point of view:

Y.-Q. Ma J.-W. Qiu (2014) 1404.6860

$$\sigma(x, a, P_z) \xrightarrow{a \rightarrow 0} \tilde{\sigma}(x, \tilde{\mu}^2, P_z)$$

Minkowski space factorization:

$$\tilde{\sigma}(x, \tilde{\mu}^2, P_z) = \sum_{\alpha=\{q, \bar{q}, g\}} H_\alpha \left(x, \frac{\tilde{\mu}}{P_z}, \frac{\tilde{\mu}}{\mu} \right) \otimes f_\alpha(x, \mu^2) + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{\tilde{\mu}^2} \right)$$

H_α computable in perturbation theory

K-F Liu Phys.Rev. D62 (2000) 074501

Related ideas see:

Detmold and Lin Phys.Rev.D73:014501,2006

PROCEDURE OUTLINE

- Compute equal time matrix elements in Euclidean space using Lattice QCD at sufficiently large momentum in order to suppress higher twist effects
 - Take the continuum limit (renormalization)
 - Equal time: Minkowski – Euclidean equivalence
 - Perform the matching Kernel calculation in the continuum
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GRADIENT FLOW SMEARING

Is a way to obtain a finite matrix element in the continuum that can then be used to obtain the light cone PDFs

Issues related to the continuum limit
have been also discussed in :

[T. Ishikawa et al. arXiv:1609.02018 \(2016\)](#)

[Chen et al arXiv:1609.08102 \(2016\)](#)

GRADIENT FLOW

Luscher ['10,'13]

It is a suitably chosen map of the fields to new fields that have UV fluctuations suppressed

$$A_\mu \rightarrow B_\mu[A_\mu]$$

$$\bar{q} \rightarrow \bar{\Psi}[\bar{q}, q, A_\mu]$$

$$q \rightarrow \Psi[\bar{q}, q, A_\mu]$$

Can be defined in the continuum as well as on the lattice

Correlation functions of the new fields can be studied perturbatively or non-perturbatively and used as probes of the underlying QFT.

Diffusion equations (lattice version):

$$\partial_s V_\mu(x, s) = -g_0^2 \partial_{V_\mu(x, s)} S_w V_\mu(x, s)$$

$$\partial_s \psi(x, s) = \overrightarrow{\Delta} \psi(x, s)$$

$$\partial_s \bar{\psi}(x, s) = \bar{\psi}(x, s) \overleftarrow{\Delta}$$

S_w is the Wilson gauge action

Δ is the lattice covariant laplacian

s is the flow time

$s=0$ the fields take the value of the original fields in the path integral

Integrate these equations for some time s resulting damping
of the UV fluctuations down to scale

$$\mu = 1/\sqrt{s}$$

Solutions to the flow equations (leading order in coupling constant)

$$\psi(x, s) = \int K(x - y, s) q(y) d^4 y + \dots$$

$$B_\mu(x, s) = \int K(x - y, s) A_\mu(y) d^4 y + \dots$$

The "heat kernel" K is:

$$K(x, s) = \frac{e^{-x^2/4s}}{(4\pi s)^2}$$

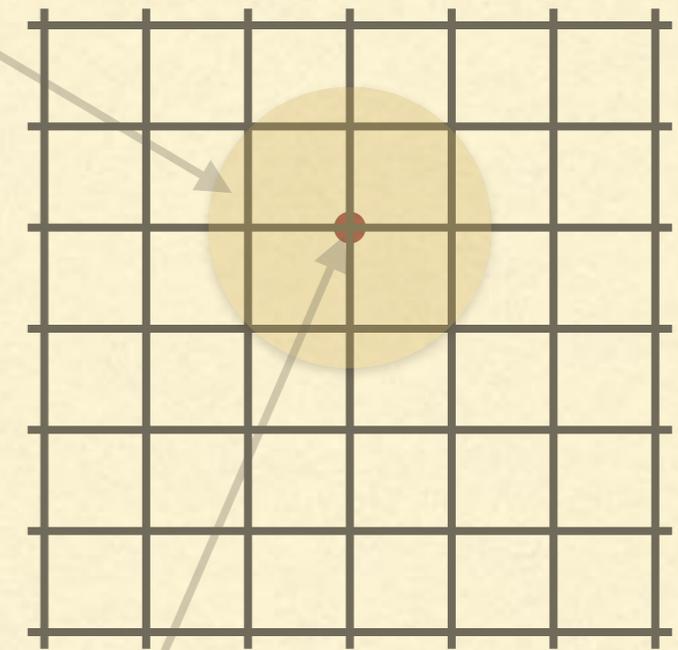
Hence the exponential damping of UV fluctuations to scales:

$$\mu = 1/\sqrt{s}$$

Notable results (Luscher):

- Correlation functions of "smeared" gauge fields are finite if the underlying theory is renormalized (BRST symmetry)
- Correlation functions of "smeared" fermion fields are finite if an additional wave function renormalization is included
- Fermion wave function renormalization can be removed using the "ringed" smeared fermion fields

Smeared field



Local field

- [H. Makino and H. Suzuki, PTEP 2014, 063B02 \(2014\), 1403.4772.](#)
- [K. Hieda and H. Suzuki \(2016\), 1606.04193](#)

Ringed smeared fermions

$$\hat{\chi}^{\circ}(\tau, x) = \sqrt{\frac{-2 \dim(R) N_f}{(4\pi)^2 \tau^2 \left\langle \bar{\chi}(\tau, x) \overleftrightarrow{D} \chi(\tau, x) \right\rangle}} \chi(\tau, x),$$

$$\hat{\bar{\chi}}^{\circ}(\tau, x) = \sqrt{\frac{-2 \dim(R) N_f}{(4\pi)^2 \tau^2 \left\langle \bar{\chi}(\tau, x) \overleftrightarrow{D} \chi(\tau, x) \right\rangle}} \bar{\chi}(\tau, x)$$

Ringed fermion correlation functions require no additional renormalization

- H. Makino and H. Suzuki, PTEP 2014, 063B02 (2014), 1403.4772.
- K. Hieda and H. Suzuki (2016), 1606.04193

SMEARED QUASI-PDFs

$$h^{(s)}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{\tau}}, \sqrt{\tau}P_z, \sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau}M_N\right) = \frac{1}{2P_z} \left\langle P_z \left| \bar{\chi}(z; \tau) \mathcal{W}(0, z; \tau) \gamma_z \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \chi(0; \tau) \right| P_z \right\rangle_{\underline{C}}$$

τ is the flow time

χ is the ringed smeared quark field

\mathcal{W} is the smeared gauge link

$$q^{(s)}(\xi, \sqrt{\tau}P_z, \sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau}M_N) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{dz}{2\pi} e^{i\xi z P_z} P_z h^{(s)}(\sqrt{\tau}z, \sqrt{\tau}P_z, \sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau}M_N),$$

At fixed flow time the quasi-PDF is finite in the continuum limit

Using the previous definitions we have

$$\left(\frac{i}{P_z} \frac{\partial}{\partial z}\right)^{n-1} h^{(s)}\left(\frac{z}{\sqrt{\tau}}, \sqrt{\tau} P_z, \sqrt{\tau} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau} M_{\text{N}}\right) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\xi \xi^{n-1} e^{-i\xi z P_z} q^{(s)}(\xi, \sqrt{\tau} P_z, \sqrt{\tau} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau} M_{\text{N}})$$

By introducing the moments

$$b_n^{(s)}\left(\sqrt{\tau} P_z, \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{P_z}, \frac{M_{\text{N}}}{P_z}\right) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} d\xi \xi^{n-1} q^{(s)}(\xi, \sqrt{\tau} P_z, \sqrt{\tau} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau} M_{\text{N}})$$

Taking the limit of z going to 0 we obtain:

$$b_n^{(s)} \left(\sqrt{\tau} P_z, \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{P_z}, \frac{M_N}{P_z} \right) = \frac{c_n^{(s)}(\sqrt{\tau} P_z)}{2P_z^n} \left\langle P_z \left| \left[\bar{\chi}(z; \tau) \gamma_z (i \overleftarrow{D}_z)^{(n-1)} \frac{\lambda^a}{2} \chi(0; \tau) \right]_{z=0} \right| P_z \right\rangle_{\text{C}}.$$

i.e. the moments of the quasi-PDF are related to local matrix elements of the smeared fields

These matrix elements are not twist-2. Higher twist effects enter as corrections that scale as powers of

$$\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{P_z}, \frac{M_N}{P_z}$$

after removing M_N/P_z effects

[H.-W. Lin, et. al Phys.Rev. D91, 054510 (2015)]

$$b_n^{(s)} \left(\sqrt{\tau} P_z, \sqrt{\tau} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \right) = c_n^{(s)}(\sqrt{\tau} P_z) b_n^{(s, \text{twist}-2)} \left(\sqrt{\tau} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \right) + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{P_z^2} \right)$$

Small flow time expansion:

Luscher ['10,'13]

$$b_n^{(s,\text{twist}-2)}(\sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}) = \tilde{C}_n^{(0)}(\sqrt{\tau}\mu)a^{(n)}(\mu) + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$$

$a^{(n)}(\mu)$ are the moments of the PDFs

The quasi-PDF moments then are:

$$b_n^{(s)}(\sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}) = C_n^{(0)}(\sqrt{\tau}\mu, \sqrt{\tau}P_z)a^{(n)}(\mu) + \mathcal{O}\left(\sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{P_z^2}\right)$$

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, M_N \ll P_z \ll \tau^{-1/2},$$

Introducing a kernel function such that:

$$C_n^{(0)}(\sqrt{\tau}\mu, \sqrt{\tau}P_z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dx x^{n-1} \tilde{Z}(x, \sqrt{\tau}\mu, \sqrt{\tau}P_z)$$

We can undo the Mellin transform:

$$q^{(s)}(x, \sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \sqrt{\tau}P_z) = \int_{-1}^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} \tilde{Z}\left(\frac{x}{\xi}, \sqrt{\tau}\mu, \sqrt{\tau}P_z\right) f(\xi, \mu) + \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{\tau}\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$$

Therefore smeared quasi-PDFs are related to PDFs if

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, M_N \ll P_z \ll \tau^{-1/2}$$

CONCLUSIONS

- Quasi-PDFs provide a novel way to study hadron structure in Lattice QCD
 - Lattice calculations from several groups are on the way
 - Several ideas for dealing with the continuum limit are now developing
 - Here I presented gradient flow as a tool that allows us to obtain continuum quasi-PDFs that can then be related to PDFs via a convolution to a perturbatively calculable kernel function.
 - Lattice calculations to understand the effectiveness of this approach are underway
 - Analytic calculations for obtaining the matching kernel are also being developed
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