Predicting the light-front holographic TMDs of the pion

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We predict the twist-2 transverse momentum dependent parton distribution functions (TMDs) of the pion, namely the unpolarized quark TMD, $f_1(x, k_{\perp})$, and the transversely polarized quark TMD, also known as the Boer-Mulders function, $h_1^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp})$, using a holographic light-front pion wavefunction with dynamical spin effects. These spin effects, in conjunction with gluon rescattering, are crucial to predict a nonzero holographic Boer-Mulders function. We investigate the use of a non-perturbative SU(3) gluon rescattering kernel, thus going beyond the usual approximation of perturbative U(1) gluons. We also predict the generalized Boer-Mulders shifts in order to compare with the available lattice data.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Transverse momentum dependent parton distributions functions (TMDs) contain important information on the three-dimensional internal structure of hadrons, especially the spin-orbit correlations of quarks within them [1]. For the pion, there are two twist-2 TMDs: the unpolarized quark TMD, $f_1(x, k_{\perp})$, and the polarized quark TMD, $h_1^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp})$, also known as the Boer-Mulders function [2,3]. $f_1(x, k_{\perp})$ describes the momentum distribution of unpolarized quarks within the pion while $h_1^{\perp}(x, k_{\perp})$ describes the spin-orbit correlations of transversely polarized quarks within the pion. The Boer-Mulders function is naively a T-odd distribution and such distributions were initially thought to vanish due to the time reversal invariance of QCD [4] but later it became apparent that they can be dynamically generated by initial or final state interactions [5,6]. More formally, T-odd distributions do not vanish due to the nontrivial gauge link that guarantees the color gauge invariance of their field-theoretic definitions

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[7–9]. At the same time, the gauge link makes these distributions process-dependent, flipping their sign from semi-inclusive deep inelastic scattering (SIDIS) to Drell-Yan (DY) scattering.

In conjunction with their nucleon counterparts, the pion unpolarized TMD and the Boer-Mulders function are inputs in the theoretical predictions of the cross sections and azimuthal asymmetries for unpolarized pion-induced DY scattering [10,11] which have both been measured [12–14]. The azimuthal asymmetry has been observed to be large and a better theoretical understanding of the pion Boer-Mulders function may help to explain this observation. Otherwise, little is known from experiment on the pion TMDs although this situation is likely to change with the new COMPASS collaboration program of pion-induced DY scattering [15,16].

On the theory side, the pion Boer-Mulders function has been predicted in the antiquark spectator model [17,18], in the light-front constituent quark model [10,11,19,20], in the MIT bag model [21] and in the Nambu-Jona-Lasinio model [22,23]. In all cases, the physical mechanism generating the Boer-Mulders function is perturbative gluon rescattering. A notable attempt to go beyond this perturbative approximation has been made by Gamberg and Schlegel [24] within the antiquark spectator framework. The pion TMDs have also been studied on the lattice [25,26].

Our goal in this paper is to predict the pion TMDs using the spin-improved holographic pion light-front wave function [27,28]. We shall generate the holographic

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Boer-Mulders using the nonperturbative kernel of Ref. [24] as well as its perturbative limit. Finally, we shall predict the so-called generalized Boer-Mulders shifts in order to compare with the lattice data of Ref. [26].

II. HOLOGRAPHIC LIGHT-FRONT WAVE FUNCTIONS

The holographic pion wave function is obtained by solving the holographic Schrödinger equation for mesons [29–31]:

$$\left(-\frac{\mathrm{d}^2}{\mathrm{d}\zeta^2} - \frac{1 - 4L^2}{4\zeta^2} + U_{\mathrm{eff}}(\zeta)\right)\phi(\zeta) = M^2\phi(\zeta), \quad (1)$$

with

$$\boldsymbol{\zeta} = \sqrt{x\bar{x}b} \qquad (\bar{x} \equiv 1 - x), \tag{2}$$

where b is the transverse separation of the quark and antiquark and x is the light-front momentum fraction carried by the quark, and

$$U_{\rm eff}(\zeta) = \kappa^4 \zeta^2 + 2\kappa^2 (J-1), \qquad (3)$$

where J = L + S. Solving Eq. (1) yields the meson mass spectrum

$$M^2 = 4\kappa^2 \left(n + L + \frac{S}{2} \right),\tag{4}$$

and the wave functions

$$\phi_{nL}(\zeta) = \kappa^{1+L} \sqrt{\frac{2n!}{(n+L)!}} \zeta^{1/2+L} \exp\left(\frac{-\kappa^2 \zeta^2}{2}\right) L_n^L(\kappa^2 \zeta^2).$$
(5)

As can be seen from Eq. (4), the lightest bound state, with n = S = L = 0, is massless and is naturally identified with the pion. In holographic light-front QCD, the massless pion is a consequence of the unique form of the holographic confining potential given by Eq. (4). The harmonic term, $\kappa^4 \zeta^2$, of the confining potential is obtained by the de Alfaro, Furbini and Furlan (dAFF) [32] mechanism which enables a mass scale κ to appear in the equations of motion while conformal symmetry is still preserved in the underlying action. Then, the spin term, $2\kappa^2(J-1)$, results from the holographic mapping between massless light-front QCD and a string theory in the higher dimensional anti-de Sitter (AdS) space. In this gauge/gravity duality, the radial lightfront variable ζ maps onto the fifth dimension in AdS space and the mass scale κ emerging from the dAFF mechanism governs simultaneously the strength of the confining harmonic potential in physical spacetime and that of the dilaton field which breaks conformal invariance in AdS space. Hence, we refer to κ as the AdS/QCD mass scale. As can be seen from Eq. (4), the AdS/QCD scale κ fixes the slope of the experimentally observed Regge trajectories and can thus be extracted from spectroscopic data. A simultaneous fit to the Regge slopes of mesons and baryons gives $\kappa = (523 \pm 24)$ MeV [33] which we refer to as the universal AdS/QCD scale.

The holographic light-front Schrödinger Equation only gives the radial part of the meson light-front wave function. The complete wave function is given by [34]

$$\Psi(x,\zeta,\varphi) = \frac{\phi(\zeta)}{\sqrt{2\pi\zeta}} X(x) e^{iL\varphi},\tag{6}$$

where $X(x) = \sqrt{x\overline{x}}$ as obtained by a precise mapping of the electromagnetic form factor in AdS and in physical spacetime [35]. The normalized holographic light-front wave function for the pion is then given by

$$\Psi(x,\zeta^2) = \frac{\kappa}{\sqrt{\pi}}\sqrt{x\bar{x}}\exp\left[-\frac{\kappa^2\zeta^2}{2}\right].$$
 (7)

So far, the quark masses have been neglected and their spins ignored. Assuming that there is no spin-orbit correlation in the pion, it is straightforward to restore independently the dependence of the wave function on the quark masses and helicities:

$$\Psi(x,\zeta^2) \propto \sqrt{x\bar{x}} \exp\left[-\frac{\kappa^2 \zeta^2}{2}\right] \exp\left[-\frac{m_f^2}{2\kappa^2 x\bar{x}}\right] \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} h \delta_{h,-\bar{h}}.$$
(8)

We have shown in previous papers [27,28] that it is possible to achieve a very successful pion phenomenology by allowing for dynamical spin effects (i.e. spin-orbit correlations) in the pion. We do so by using a spinimproved holographic wave function given, in momentum space, by

$$\Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = \Psi(x,\mathbf{k})S_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}), \qquad (9)$$

where

$$S_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\bar{u}_h(x,\mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{\bar{x}}} \left[\frac{M_{\pi}}{2P^+} \gamma^+ \gamma^5 + B\gamma^5 \right] \frac{v_{\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})}{\sqrt{x}}, \quad (10)$$

and

$$\Psi(x, \mathbf{k}) = \mathcal{N} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x\bar{x}}} \exp\left[-\frac{k_{\perp}^2 + m_f^2}{2\kappa^2 x\bar{x}}\right]$$
(11)

is the two-dimensional Fourier transform of the holographic pion wave function given by Eq. (7). Here $k_{\perp} = |\mathbf{k}|$: in this paper, we use the notation $a_{\perp} = |\mathbf{a}|$ where **a** is any 2-dimensional momentum. \mathcal{N} is a normalization constant fixed using

$$\sum_{h,\bar{h}} \int dx \frac{d^2 \mathbf{k}}{16\pi^3} |\Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})|^2 = 1.$$
 (12)

We refer to *B* as the dynamical spin parameter: $B \rightarrow 0$ means no spin-orbit correlations as in the original holographic wave function, while, on the other hand, $B \ge 1$ corresponds to a maximal spin-orbit correlations. The resulting spin-improved holographic wave function is then given by

$$\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = \left[(M_{\pi}x\bar{x} + Bm_f)h\delta_{h,-\bar{h}} - Bk_{\perp}e^{-ih\theta_{k_{\perp}}}\delta_{h,\bar{h}} \right] \\ \times \frac{\Psi(x,k_{\perp}^2)}{x\bar{x}}$$
(13)

which we can rewrite as

$$\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = [\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})]^{L_z=S_z=0} + [\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})]^{L_z=-S_z}$$
(14)

where

$$[\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})]^{L_z=S_z=0} = (M_{\pi}x\bar{x} + Bm_f)h\delta_{h,-\bar{h}}\frac{\Psi(x,k_{\perp}^2)}{x\bar{x}} \quad (15)$$

and

$$[\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})]^{L_z=-S_z} = -(Bke^{-ih\theta_{k_\perp}}\delta_{h,\bar{h}})\frac{\Psi(x,k_\perp^2)}{x\bar{x}} \quad (16)$$

to highlight the fact that dynamical spin effects are accounted for by two corrections to the original holographic wave function: a term proportional to the quark mass (which therefore vanishes in the chiral limit) and a new ($L_z = \pm 1, S_z = \mp 1$) component which allows for the spins of the quarks to be aligned and which actually survives in the chiral limit. We shall see that the latter is directly responsible for a nonzero Boer-Mulders function.

With $B \ge 1$, $m_{u/d} = 330$ MeV and $\kappa = 523$ MeV, we successfully predict simultaneously the pion decay constant, charge radius, EM and transition form factors [27] as well as the pion PDF after taking into account perturbative QCD evolution [28]. We shall use our spin-improved pion holographic wave function, without any further adjustment of its parameters, in order to predict the twist-2 pion TMDs. Recently, in Ref. [36], the unpolarized pion TMD, $f_1(x, k_{\perp})$, was predicted using the original pion holographic wave function (i.e. to which our spin-improved wave function reduces when B = 0). Here, we go beyond the analysis in Ref. [36] by also predicting the holographic Boer-Mulders function (which indeed vanishes if B = 0).

III. TMDS

The pion TMDs are derived from the quark correlation function

$$\Phi_{ij}^{[\Gamma]}(x,\mathbf{k}) = \int \frac{dz^{-}d^{2}z_{\perp}}{2\pi(2\pi)^{2}} e^{iz\cdot k} \langle \pi | \bar{\Psi}_{j}(0) \Gamma \mathcal{L}^{\dagger}(\mathbf{0}|n) \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{z}|n) \Psi_{i}(z) | \pi \rangle_{z^{+}=0}$$
(17)

where

$$\mathcal{L}_{A^{+}=0}(\mathbf{z}_{\perp}|n) = \mathcal{P}\exp\left(-ig\int_{\mathbf{z}_{\perp}}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}\eta_{\perp} \cdot \mathbf{A}_{\perp}(\eta^{-}=n\cdot\infty,\mathbf{z}_{\perp})\right) \quad (18)$$

is the gauge link (in the light-front gauge, $A^+ = 0$) which guarantees colour gauge invariance and n = (0, +1(-1), 0)in SIDIS (DY). The unpolarized TMD and Boer-Mulders function are given by [10]

$$f_1(x,k_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr}(\Phi^{[\gamma^+]})$$
(19)

and

$$h_1^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp}) = \frac{\epsilon^{ij} \mathbf{k}^j M_{\pi}}{2k_{\perp}^2} \operatorname{Tr}(\Phi^{[i\sigma^{i+}\gamma_5]})$$
(20)

respectively.

Ignoring the gauge link,

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\Phi^{[\Gamma]}) = \sum_{h,\bar{h},h'} \frac{1}{16\pi^3 k^+} \Psi^*_{h'\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) \Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) \\ \times \bar{u}_{h'}(k^+,\mathbf{k}) \Gamma u_h(k^+,\mathbf{k}).$$
(21)

Using the light-front matrix element [37]

$$\bar{u}_{h'}(k^+,\mathbf{k})\gamma^+u_h(k^+,\mathbf{k}) = 2k^+\delta_{hh'},\qquad(22)$$

it follows that

$$f_1(x,k_{\perp}) = \frac{1}{16\pi^3} \sum_{h,\bar{h}} |\Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k})|^2.$$
(23)

Thus the ordinary PDF

$$f(x) = \int \mathrm{d}^2 \mathbf{k} f_1(x, k_\perp), \qquad (24)$$

satisfies the normalization condition

$$\int \mathrm{d}x f(x) = 1. \tag{25}$$

This embodies the assumption that our holographic distributions are valid at a low hadronic scale where there are only valence quarks and no sea quarks and gluons in the pion. In Ref. [28], we evolved the holographic PDF perturbatively in order to fit the reanalyzed E615 data [38].

On the other hand, using the light-front matrix element,

$$\bar{u}_{h'}(k^+, \mathbf{k})\epsilon^{ij}k^j\sigma^{i+}\gamma^5 u_h(k^+, \mathbf{k}) = 2k^+h'\delta_{-h'h}k_\perp e^{-ih'\theta_{k_\perp}}$$
(26)

in Eq. (21), we deduce that the Boer-Mulders function vanishes. This is because

$$\sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi^*_{-h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) h k_{\perp} e^{ih\theta_{k_{\perp}}} \Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = 0, \qquad (27)$$

as can be readily verified using our spin-improved holographic wave functions. To generate a nonzero Boer-Mulders function, we need to take into account the gauge link. Physically, this is equivalent to taking into account initial or final state interactions of the active quark with the target remnant, which we refer collectively as gluon rescattering. We assume that this physics is encoded in a gluon rescattering kernel $G(x, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')$ such that

$$\operatorname{Tr}(\Phi^{[\Gamma]}) = \sum_{h,\bar{h},h'} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^2 \mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^3 k'^+} G(x,\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}') \Psi^*_{h'\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}')$$
$$\times \Psi_{h\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) \bar{u}_{h'}(k'^+,\mathbf{k}') \Gamma u_h(k^+,\mathbf{k}).$$
(28)

Using the fact that

$$\bar{u}_{h'}(k'^+, \mathbf{k}')i\epsilon^{ij}k^j\sigma^{i+}\gamma^5 u_h(k^+, \mathbf{k}) = 2ik'^+h'\delta_{-h'h}k_\perp e^{-ih'\theta_{k_\perp}}$$
(29)

it follows that

$$\frac{1}{2} \operatorname{Tr}(\Phi^{[i\sigma^{i+}\gamma_{5}]}) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}} iG(x,\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}') \\
\times \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi^{*}_{-h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}')hk_{\perp}e^{ih\theta_{k_{\perp}}}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}),$$
(30)

and therefore Eq. (20) yields

$$k_{\perp}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp}^{2}) = M_{\pi} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}} iG(x,\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{k}')$$
$$\times \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi^{*}_{-h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}')hk_{\perp}e^{ih\theta_{k_{\perp}}}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}). \quad (31)$$

Defining $\mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'$, we can rewrite Eq. (31) as

$$k_{\perp}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp}^{2}) = M_{\pi} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{q}}{16\pi^{3}} iG(x,q_{\perp})$$
$$\times \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi_{-h,\bar{h}}^{*}(x,\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})hk_{\perp}e^{ih\theta_{k_{\perp}}}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}),$$
(32)

where we have assumed that $G(x, \mathbf{q}) = G(x, q_{\perp})$. To proceed, we must specify the form of the gluon rescattering kernel $G(x, q_{\perp})$.

IV. THE GLUON RESCATTERING KERNEL

The simplest approach is to assume that [5,6]

$$\Im m G^{\text{pert}}(x, q_{\perp}) \propto \frac{C_F \alpha_s}{q_{\perp}^2},$$
 (33)

referred to as the perturbative Abelian gluon rescattering kernel since it can be derived by working with perturbative Abelian gluons, followed by the replacement $g^2 \rightarrow 4\pi C_F \alpha_s$. By hypothesis, the coupling is weak, i.e. $g^2 \ll 1$ which implies that $\alpha_s \ll 0.95$. Yet, there is no consensus in the literature on what value of α_s should be used in Eq. (33). For instance, while Ref. [39] uses $\alpha_s = 0.3$, other authors prefer to use much larger values of α_s : $\alpha_s = 0.911$ in Ref. [11], and $\alpha_s = 1.2$ in Ref. [10]. Strictly speaking, using such large values of α_s contradicts the weak coupling hypothesis leading to Eq. (33). However, taking $\alpha_s \sim 1$ in the perturbative kernel may perhaps be considered as a phenomenological way to account, at least to some extent, for nonperturbative effects.

Having said that, it is still clear that Eq. (33) has the shortcoming of diverging as $q_{\perp} \rightarrow 0$. While this divergence may be regulated when computing the Boer-Mulders function, it remains true that the perturbative kernel might not capture accurately the dynamics of soft gluons which are primarily responsible for generating a nonperturbative quantity like the Boer-Mulders function. In addition, the prescription $g^2 \rightarrow 4\pi C_F \alpha_s$ in an Abelian theory neglects the contribution of crossed gluon ladder diagrams in QCD although the latter are subleading only in a large N_c approximation. An exact nonperturbative computation gluon rescattering kernel is yet not available and, in practice, some approximation scheme is necessary. In Ref. [24], Gamberg and Schlegel obtained the so-called QCD lensing function [40] from the eikonal amplitude for quark-antiquark scattering via the exchange of both direct and crossed ladder diagrams of non-Abelian soft gluons. In their antiquark spectator framework, the lensing function, $I(x, q_{\perp})$, connects the first moment of the Boer-Mulders function with the chiral-odd pion generalized parton distribution (GPD):

$$M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{q}}{2(2\pi)^{2}} q_{\perp}I(x,q_{\perp})\mathcal{H}_{1}^{\pi}\left(x,-\left(\frac{q_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\right)^{2}\right)$$
(34)

where the first moment of the Boer-Mulders function is

$$2M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = \int d^{2}\mathbf{k} k_{\perp}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp}^{2})$$
(35)

and the chiral-odd pion GPD is given by

$$\mathcal{H}_{1}^{\pi}(x,-\Delta_{\perp}^{2}) = \frac{\epsilon^{ij}\Delta^{i}M_{\pi}}{2\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}z^{-}}{2\pi} e^{ik^{+}z^{-}} \langle P^{+}, \mathbf{\Delta} | \bar{\Psi}(0) \sigma^{i+}\gamma_{5}\Psi(z) | P^{+}, \mathbf{0} \rangle_{z^{+}=0}$$
(36)

with $\Delta = -\mathbf{q}/\bar{x}$. As noted in Ref. [24] and proved in Ref. [18], Eq. (34) is not model-independent. Thus, to be able to use the lensing function of Ref. [24], we must first demonstrate that a factorization of the type given by Eq. (34) also holds in the overlap representation with our spin-improved holographic light-front wave functions.

Inserting Eq. (31) in Eq. (35) and changing variable $\mathbf{k} \rightarrow \mathbf{q} = \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'$, we obtain

$$M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = \frac{M_{\pi}}{2} \int d^{2}\mathbf{q}iG(x,q_{\perp}) \int \frac{d^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}} \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi_{-h,\bar{h}}^{*}(x,\mathbf{k}')h(q_{\perp}e^{ih\theta_{q_{\perp}}} + k_{\perp}'e^{ih\theta_{k_{\perp}'}})\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q}),$$
(37)

which can be reexpressed as

$$M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = \frac{M_{\pi}}{2} \int d^{2}\mathbf{q}iG(x,q_{\perp})[q_{\perp} + F(x,q_{\perp})] \int \frac{d^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}} \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi_{-h,\bar{h}}^{*}(x,\mathbf{k}')he^{ih\theta_{q_{\perp}}}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q}),$$
(38)

where the function

$$F(x,q_{\perp};\alpha) = \frac{\int d^2 \mathbf{k}' \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi^*_{-h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}') h k'_{\perp} e^{ih\theta_{k'_{\perp}}} \Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q})}{\int d^2 \mathbf{k}' \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi^*_{-h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}') h e^{ih\theta_{q_{\perp}}} \Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q})}$$
(39)

depends, à *priori*, on x and q_{\perp} as well as α , the set of parameters appearing in the wave functions (here $\alpha = {\kappa, m_f}$). However, it turns out that an explicit evaluation of Eq. (39) using our spin-improved holographic wave functions, yields

$$F(q_{\perp}) = -\frac{q_{\perp}}{2}.\tag{40}$$

Hence, we can write

$$M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{q}}{2} \frac{iG(x,q_{\perp})}{2} q_{\perp} \bigg[M_{\pi} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}} \sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi_{-h,\bar{h}}^{*}(x,\mathbf{k}') h e^{ih\theta_{q_{\perp}}} \Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q}) \bigg], \tag{41}$$

where the quantity in the square brackets is essentially the overlap representation of the chiral-odd pion GPD. Indeed, using Eq. (36), we are able to show that

$$\frac{q_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\mathcal{H}_{1}^{\pi}\left(x,-\left(\frac{q_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\right)^{2}\right) = -M_{\pi}\int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{k}'}{16\pi^{3}}\sum_{h,\bar{h}}\Psi_{-h,\bar{h}}^{*}(x,\mathbf{k}')he^{ih\theta_{q_{\perp}}}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}'+\mathbf{q}).$$
(42)

Thus, we can rewrite Eq. (41) as

$$M_{\pi}^{2}h_{1}^{\perp(1)}(x) = -\int \frac{\mathrm{d}^{2}\mathbf{q}}{2} \frac{iG(x,q_{\perp})}{2} \frac{q_{\perp}^{2}}{\bar{x}} \mathcal{H}_{1}^{\pi}\left(x, -\left(\frac{q_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\right)^{2}\right).$$
(43)

We have thus shown that the first moment of our holographic Boer-Mulders function can indeed be expressed as a convolution of the chiral odd pion GPD with the gluon rescattering kernel: a factorization analogous to Eq. (34). This allows us to compare Eqs. (43) and (34) and deduce that

$$iG(x,q_{\perp}) = -\frac{2}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\bar{x}I(x,q_{\perp})}{q_{\perp}}.$$
(44)

V. THE LENSING FUNCTION

In Ref. [24], the lensing function is derived for final state rescattering by soft U(1), SU(2) and SU(3) gluons. In all three cases, the lensing function is negative and its magnitude increases with N_c . In impact space, the lensing function is given by

$$\mathcal{I}(x, b_{\perp}) = \frac{\bar{x}}{2N_c} \frac{\chi'}{4} C\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right)$$
(45)

where

$$C\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right) = \operatorname{Tr}\left\{\operatorname{\mathfrak{Smf}}'\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right) + \frac{1}{2}\left[\operatorname{\mathfrak{Sm}}f'\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right)\operatorname{\mathfrak{Re}}f\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right) - \operatorname{\mathfrak{Sm}}f\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right)\operatorname{\mathfrak{Re}}f'\left(\frac{\chi}{4}\right)\right]\right\}$$
(46)

is a color function and

$$\chi\left(\frac{b_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\right) = \frac{g^2}{2\pi} \int \mathrm{d}k_{\perp} k_{\perp} J_0\left(\frac{b_{\perp}}{\bar{x}} k_{\perp}\right) \mathcal{D}_1(-k_{\perp}^2) \quad (47)$$

is the eikonal phase with $\mathcal{D}_1(-k_{\perp}^2)$ being the gaugeindependent part of the gluon propagator. The momentum space lensing function is given by the inverse Fourier transform of Eq. 17 in Ref. [24], i.e.

$$I(x, q_{\perp}) \frac{\mathbf{q}^{i}}{q_{\perp}} = -\frac{i}{\bar{x}^{3}} \int d^{2}\mathbf{b} \exp\left(-i\frac{\mathbf{q}\cdot\mathbf{b}}{\bar{x}}\right) \mathcal{I}(x, b_{\perp}) \frac{\mathbf{b}^{i}}{b_{\perp}}.$$
(48)

The real and imaginary parts of $f(\chi/4)$ in Eq. (46) originate from the real and imaginary parts of the eikonal amplitude for quark-antiquark scattering via the exchange of generalized infinite ladders of gluons. As can be seen, it is the imaginary part of the eikonal amplitude that is responsible for a nonvanishing lensing function. There is also a contribution from the real part of the eikonal amplitude, although, as we shall see, it is subleading in the perturbative limit.

For U(1) gluons,

$$\Re e f^{\mathrm{U}(1)} = \cos \chi - 1 \tag{49}$$

and

$$\Im m f^{\mathrm{U}(1)} = \sin \chi \tag{50}$$

while for SU(3) gluons,

$$\Re e[f_{\alpha\beta}^{SU(3)}](a) = \delta_{\alpha\beta}(-c_2a^2 + c_4a^4 - c_6a^6 - c_8a^8 + \cdots)$$
(51)

$$\Im m[f_{\alpha\beta}^{SU(3)}](a) = \delta_{\alpha\beta}(c_1 a - c_3 a^3 + c_5 a^5 - c_7 a^7 + \cdots)$$
(52)

where $a \equiv \chi/4$ and c_i are numerical coefficients given in Ref. [24]. Equation (49) to Eq. (52) reveal that the real part of $f(\chi/4)$ is subleading for perturbative gluons (since $g^2 \ll 1$ and $\chi \ll 1$).

We can now find the lensing function for perturbative Abelian gluons. To leading g^2 , the color function becomes

$$C_{\mathrm{U}(1)}^{\mathrm{pert}}(\chi) = 4\cos\chi. \tag{53}$$

Now, using the perturbative Feynman gluon propagator,

$$\mathcal{D}_1(-k_{\perp}^2) = \frac{1}{k_{\perp}^2}$$
(54)

in Eq. (47), we find that

$$\chi'\left(\frac{b_{\perp}}{\bar{x}}\right) = -\frac{g^2}{2\pi}\frac{\bar{x}}{b_{\perp}}.$$
(55)

Using Eqs. (55) and (53) in Eq. (45), we find that

$$\mathcal{I}_{U(1)}^{\text{pert}}(x, b_{\perp}) = -\frac{g^2}{4\pi} \frac{\bar{x}^2}{b_{\perp}}$$
(56)

so that Eq. (48) yields

$$I_{U(1)}^{\text{pert}}(x, q_{\perp}) = -\frac{g^2}{2} \frac{\bar{x}}{q_{\perp}}.$$
 (57)

Equation (44) then tells us that

$$iG_{U(1)}^{\text{pert}}(x,q_{\perp}) = \frac{g^2}{4\pi^2} \frac{1}{q_{\perp}^2}.$$
 (58)

After the replacement $g^2 \rightarrow 4\pi C_F \alpha_s$, we obtain

$$iG^{\text{pert}}(q_{\perp}) = \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{\pi q_{\perp}^2} \tag{59}$$

which is consistent with Eq. (33). Equation (59) is our perturbative kernel.

For nonperturbative SU(3) gluons, both the real and imaginary parts of $f_{\alpha\beta}^{SU(3)}(\chi/4)$ contribute to the color function. To compute the eikonal phase χ , we follow Ref. [24] in using a nonperturbative Dyson-Schwinger gluon propagator given by

$$\mathcal{D}_{1}(k_{\perp}^{2}, \Lambda_{\rm QCD}^{2}) = \frac{1}{k_{\perp}^{2}} \left(\frac{\alpha_{s}(k_{\perp}^{2})}{\alpha_{s}(\Lambda_{\rm QCD}^{2})} \right)^{1+2\delta} \\ \times \left(\frac{c(k_{\perp}^{2}/\Lambda^{2})^{\kappa} + d(k_{\perp}^{2}/\Lambda^{2})^{2\kappa}}{1 + c(k_{\perp}^{2}/\Lambda^{2})^{\kappa} + d(k_{\perp}^{2}/\Lambda^{2})^{2\kappa}} \right)^{2}$$
(60)

with

$$\alpha_s(\mu^2) = \frac{\alpha_s(0)}{\ln[e + a_1(\mu^2/\Lambda^2)^{a_2} + b_1(\mu^2/\Lambda^2)^{b_2}]} \quad (61)$$

where all parameters are taken from Ref. [41] and are explicitly given in Ref. [24].

In Fig. 1, we compare the perturbative Abelian kernel to the nonperturbative SU(3) kernel. As can seen, the two kernels are very different in the $q_{\perp} \leq 1$ GeV region where the nonperturbative kernel offers the advantage of being infrared finite while peaking at low q_{\perp} . A notable feature of the nonperturbative kernel is that it is not symmetric under $\bar{x} \leftrightarrow x$: its maximum decreases with increasing x. On the other hand, the perturbative kernel has no x dependence and, as we noted before, diverges as $q_{\perp} \rightarrow 0$.

VI. HOLOGRAPHIC TMDS

Having specified both the light-front wave functions and the gluon rescattering kernel, we are now in a position to find explicit expressions for the holographic pion TMDs. We start with the Boer-Mulders function. The overlap appearing in Eq. (32) is given by



FIG. 1. Solid curves: the nonperturbative SU(3) kernel at different values of *x*: x = 0.1 (blue), x = 0.3 (red), x = 0.5 (orange) and x = 0.7 (purple). Dashed black curve: the perturbative kernel with $\alpha_s = 0.3$.

$$\sum_{h,\bar{h}} \Psi_{h,\bar{h}}^*(x,\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})he^{ih\theta_k}\Psi_{h,\bar{h}}(x,\mathbf{k}) = 2B(M_\pi x\bar{x}+Bm_f)q_\perp \cos(\theta_{q_\perp}-\theta_{k_\perp})\frac{\Psi(x,(\mathbf{k}-\mathbf{q})^2)\Psi(x,\mathbf{k}^2)}{(x\bar{x})^2}$$
(62)

where

$$\Psi(x, (\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{q})^2)\Psi(x, \mathbf{k}^2) = \frac{\mathcal{N}^2}{x\bar{x}} \exp\left(-\frac{k_\perp^2 + m_f^2}{\kappa^2 x\bar{x}}\right) \exp\left(-\frac{q_\perp^2}{2\kappa^2 x\bar{x}}\right) \exp\left(\frac{q_\perp k_\perp \cos(\theta_{q_\perp} - \theta_{k_\perp})}{\kappa^2 x\bar{x}}\right).$$
(63)

Inserting Eq. (62) in Eq. (32), and integrating over θ_{q_1} , we find that

$$h_{1}^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp}) = B \frac{M_{\pi} x \bar{x} + B m_{f}}{(x\bar{x})^{3}} \mathcal{N}^{2} \frac{M_{\pi}}{k_{\perp}} \exp\left(-\frac{k_{\perp}^{2} + m_{f}^{2}}{\kappa^{2} x \bar{x}}\right) \int \frac{\mathrm{d}q_{\perp}}{4\pi^{2}} q_{\perp}^{2} i G(x,q_{\perp}) \exp\left(-\frac{q_{\perp}^{2}}{2\kappa^{2} x \bar{x}}\right) I_{1}\left(-\frac{k_{\perp} q_{\perp}}{\kappa^{2} x \bar{x}}\right)$$
(64)

where I_1 is the modified Bessel function of the first kind. If we use the perturbative gluon rescattering kernel in Eq. (64), we can obtain an analytic form for the holographic Boer-Mulders function:

$$h_1^{\perp \text{pert}}(x,k_{\perp}^2) = \alpha_s B C_F \frac{M_\pi \mathcal{N}^2}{4\pi^3} \frac{M_\pi x \bar{x} + B m_f}{(x\bar{x})^2} \left(\frac{\kappa}{k_{\perp}}\right)^2 \times \exp\left(-\frac{k_{\perp}^2 + 2m_f^2}{2\kappa^2 x \bar{x}}\right) \left(1 - \exp\left(-\frac{k_{\perp}^2}{2\kappa^2 x \bar{x}}\right)\right). \tag{65}$$

As expected, if $B \to 0$, the holographic Boer-Mulders function vanishes. On the other hand, for $B \ge 1$, it is hardly sensitive to the value of *B* since the wave function normalization constant $\mathcal{N} \sim 1/B^2$ for $B \ge 1$.

In Fig. 2, we illustrate the differences between the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated by the perturbative and nonperturbative kernels. As can be seen, a simple rescaling of the normalization of the perturbative kernel, say by increasing α_s , cannot fully

capture the nonperturbative effects. This is because the difference between the two holographic Boer-Mulders functions is x-dependent: at low x, the size of the nonperturbatively generated function is larger than that of the perturbatively generated one while the opposite is true at large x.

Let us now give an explicit form for our holographic unpolarized TMD. Using our spin-improved holographic wave functions in Eq. (23), we find that



FIG. 2. Solid black curves: the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated by the nonperturbative kernel (solid curves) at different values of x: x = 0.1 (upper left), x = 0.3 (upper right), x = 0.5 (lower left) and x = 0.7 (lower right). Dashed red curves: the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated by the perturbative kernel with $\alpha_s = 0.3$.

$$f(x,k_{\perp}) = \frac{2}{16\pi^3} \frac{(M_{\pi} x \bar{x} + Bm_f)^2 + B^2 k_{\perp}^2}{(x\bar{x})^3} \times \mathcal{N}^2 \exp\left(-\frac{k_{\perp}^2 + m_f^2}{x\bar{x}\kappa^2}\right).$$
(66)

Contrary to the holographic Boer-Mulders function, our holographic unpolarized TMD does not vanish as $B \rightarrow 0$. Instead, it reduces to the original holographic TMD derived in Ref. [42] with a purely Gaussian dependence on transverse momentum.

In Fig. 3, we show the 3-dimensional plots of the holographic unpolarized TMD and the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated with the perturbative kernel. The plots reveal a double-humped structure about x = 0.5 for both holographic TMDs. This feature is inherited from the *x*-dependence of our spin-improved holographic wave functions. We note that it does not survive in the holographic Boer-Mulders generated by the nonperturbative

kernel since, as we mentioned before, the latter is not symmetric about x = 0.5.

A model-independent theory constraint on our holographic TMDs is the positivity bound [42]:

$$P(x,k_{\perp}) \equiv f_1(x,k_{\perp}) - \frac{k_{\perp}}{M_{\pi}} |h_1^{\perp}(x,k_{\perp})| \ge 0.$$
 (67)

In Fig. 4, we show that this constraint is safely satisfied when the holographic Boer-Mulders function is generated by the perturbative kernel with $\alpha_s = 0.3$. This is not the case if we use $\alpha_s > 0.3$, although the violation only occurs for large k_{\perp} . This is also the case when the holographic Boer-Mulders is generated by the nonperturbative kernel. As can be seen in Fig. 4, this violation becomes somewhat more pronounced (i.e. happening for smaller k_{\perp}) for small *x*. Similar violations of the positivity constraint have been reported in the literature [10,11], albeit with the perturbative kernel. They seem to indicate a limitation of



FIG. 3. Left: the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated by the perturbative kernel with $\alpha_s = 0.3$. Right: the holographic unpolarized TMD. The numbers on the vertical axis are in units of GeV⁻² and k_{\perp} is in GeV.



FIG. 4. $P(x, k_{\perp})$ at x = 0.1 (upper left), x = 0.3 (upper right), x = 0.5 (lower left) and x = 0.7 (lower right) with the holographic Boer-Mulders function generated by the perturbative kernel (red dashed curves) and the nonperturbative kernel (solid black curves).

TABLE I. Our predictions, in GeV, for the generalized Boer-Mulders shifts given by Eq. (68) at different values of b_{\perp} in fm. The two sets of lattice data are from Ref. [26]. Our predictions are computed using the nonperturbatively and perturbatively generated holographic Boer-Mulders functions. The "perturbative" predictions are given at two values of α_s .

			Non	Pert.	Pert.
b_{\perp}	Lattice 1	Lattice 2	Pert.	$[\alpha_s=0.3]$	$[\alpha_s = 0.9]$
0.27	-0.138(28)	-0.133(19)	-0.0663	-0.0424	-0.1273
0.34	-0.128(29)	-0.121(16)	-0.0645	-0.0423	-0.1268
0.36	-0.145(25)	-0.148(15)	-0.0639	-0.0422	-0.1267

current nonperturbative models to accurately capture the large k_{\perp} behavior of the TMDs.

VII. COMPARISON TO LATTICE

The generalized Boer-Mulders shifts of the pion TMDs have also been predicted from first principles in lattice QCD at a scale of 2 GeV and using a pion mass, $M_{\pi} = 518$ MeV [26]. In order to compare with the lattice predictions, we compute the shifts defined as

$$\langle k_{\perp} \rangle_{UT}(b_{\perp}^2) = M_{\pi} \frac{\tilde{h}_{1,\pi}^{\lfloor 1 \rfloor(1)}(b_{\perp}^2)}{\tilde{f}_{1,\pi}^{[1](0)}(b_{\perp}^2)},$$
(68)

where the generalized TMD moments are given by

$$\tilde{f}^{[m](n)}(b_{\perp}^{2}) = \frac{2\pi n!}{M_{\pi}^{2n}} \int \mathrm{d}x x^{m-1} \int \mathrm{d}k_{\perp} k_{\perp} \left(\frac{k_{\perp}}{b_{\perp}}\right)^{n} \\ \times J_{n}(b_{\perp}k_{\perp}) f(x,k_{\perp}^{2}).$$
(69)

The $b_{\perp} \rightarrow 0$ limit of Eq. (68) is a measure of the quark's average transverse momentum in a direction perpendicular to its polarization. Our results are shown in Table I. As can be seen, it is possible to fit the lattice data by using a large α_s with the perturbative kernel. However, as we mentioned earlier, $\alpha_s = 0.9$ is perhaps not consistent with the weak coupling hypothesis $g^2 \ll 1$. We prefer to consider the predictions with $\alpha_s = 0.3$ as a more realistic prediction with the perturbative kernel. Then, it becomes apparent that the nonperturbative kernel does a better job, bringing our

predictions closer to the lattice data. It might be possible to improve upon these predictions by using a different nonperturbative gluon propagator than the one given by Eq. (60) or a different set of fitted parameters in Eq. (60) itself. Thus the nonperturbative kernel offers a more promising way to fit the lattice data.

We should also emphasize that our predictions are at a low hadronic scale and are obtained using the physical pion mass while the lattice predictions are at a scale of 2 GeV and are obtained using a pion mass of 518 MeV. We have checked that our predictions do not change much if we use the larger pion mass. On the other hand, we have not attempted to address here the more delicate issue of evolving our holographic TMDs to a higher scale. Indeed, the evolution of TMDs are likely to be driven both by perturbative and nonperturbative physics [43–46] and are not yet fully known [47]. The approximate evolution of the original holographic unpolarized TMD up to 5 GeV, has been carried out in Ref. [36], revealing a substantial change in its width as well as the *x*-dependence of the latter.

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

We have predicted the two leading twist pion TMDs using the spin-improved holographic light-front wave function for the pion. To predict the holographic Boer-Mulders function, we used both a perturbative and a nonperturbative gluon rescattering kernel. We find that the nonperturbative kernel offers a more promising way to describe the available lattice data on the generalized Boer-Mulders shifts. A more precise comparison to the lattice data may be possible when the evolution of our holographic pion TMDs are taken into account and if lattice data become available at the physical pion mass.

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