Spin asymmetries for *C*-even quarkonium production as a probe of gluon distributions

Nanako Kato[®], ^{1,2,*} Luca Maxia[®], ^{3,†} and Cristian Pisano[®] ^{1,2,‡}

¹Dipartimento di Fisica, Università di Cagliari, Cittadella Universitaria, I-09042 Monserrato (CA), Italy ²INFN, Sezione di Cagliari, Cittadella Universitaria, I-09042 Monserrato (CA), Italy ³Van Swinderen Institute for Particle Physics and Gravity, University of Groningen, Nijenborgh 4, 9747 AG Groningen, The Netherlands

(Received 5 April 2024; accepted 25 July 2024; published 30 August 2024)

Within the framework of transverse momentum dependent factorization in combination with nonrelativistic quantum chromodynamics (QCD), we study charmonium and bottomonium production in hadronic collisions. We focus on quarkonium states with even charge conjugation, for which the color-singlet production mechanism is expected to be also dominant in the small transverse momentum region, $q_T^2 \ll 4M_{c,b}^2$. It is shown that the distributions of linearly polarized gluons inside unpolarized, longitudinally, and transversely polarized protons contribute to the cross sections for scalar and pseudoscalar quarkonia in a very distinctive, parity-dependent way, whereas their effects on higher angular momentum states are strongly suppressed. We derive analytical expressions for single and double spin asymmetries, which would allow for the direct extraction of the gluon transverse momentum dependent distributions, mirroring the phenomenological studies of the Drell-Yan processes aimed at the extraction of their quark counterparts. By adopting Gaussian models for the gluon transverse momentum dependent distributions, which fulfill without saturating everywhere their positivity bounds, we provide numerical predictions for the transverse single-spin asymmetries. These observables could be measured at LHCSpin, the fixed target experiment planned at the LHC.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.110.034038

I. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that bound states of heavy quarks (quarkonia) produced in proton-proton collisions can be considered as direct probes of the gluon content of the proton, providing detailed information about gluon momentum distributions and in particular their transverse momentum dependence. Here we will focus on those quarkonium states which are produced by the fusion of two gluons in a $2 \rightarrow 1$ partonic reaction at leading order in the strong coupling constant α_s , with no additional gluon emission in the final state. Thus, in analogy to the Drell-Yan processes, the kinematics are very simple, with gluon momentum fractions directly related to the rapidity of the observed quarkonium state Q. Furthermore, the charm and bottom masses are large enough to justify the use of perturbative QCD even when the transverse momentum

*Contact author: nanako.kato@ca.infn.it †Contact author: l.maxia@rug.nl †Contact author: cristian.pisano@unica.it

Published by the American Physical Society under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license. Further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the published article's title, journal citation, and DOI. Funded by SCOAP³. q_T of the quarkonium state is small, namely $q_T^2 \ll M_O^2$. In this kinematic region transverse momentum dependent (TMD) factorization is expected to be applicable. In particular, we consider scalar and pseudoscalar C-even quarkonia, *i.e.* states with definite total angular momentum J, parity P and charge conjugation $J^{PC} = 0^{\pm +}$. Namely, using the alternative spectroscopic notation ${}^{2S+1}L_I$, with S being the spin and L the orbital angular momentum, we study the 1S_0 states η_c , η_b and the 3P_0 states χ_{c0} , χ_{b0} . The 3P_2 (2⁺⁺) χ_{c2} and χ_{b2} states will be investigated as well. Although we will refer to such states collectively as C-even quarkonia, we note that charge parity at no point enters in our analysis and no underlying assumption based on this property will be made. On the other hand, χ_{c1} and χ_{b1} states would require a different treatment because they suffer from the same problem as other vector states, such as the J/ψ meson: due to the Landau-Yang theorem, their production from two on-shell gluons requires the emission of an additional gluon.

As pointed out in Refs. [1,2], another advantage of dealing with $0^{\pm +}$, 2^{++} quarkonia is that they suffer neither from large QCD corrections nor from the many open theoretical issues affecting the predictions for J/ψ and Υ production rates and polarization [3–5]. The latter statement can be understood by employing the effective field theory approach of nonrelativistic QCD (NRQCD) [6], according to which quarkonium production in proton-proton

collisions is described in terms of a double power series expansion in α_s and the relative velocity v of the heavy quark-antiquark pair in the quarkonium rest frame, with $v \ll 1$. The magnitude of the velocity is given by $v^2 \simeq 0.3$ for charmonium and $v^2 \simeq 0.1$ for bottomonium. Within this framework, a heavy quark-antiquark pair can be produced at short distances not just as a color-singlet, but also in a coloroctet configuration, which subsequently evolves into a physical quarkonium state by radiating soft gluons. The hadronization of the pair is encoded in universal longdistance matrix elements (LDMEs), which are expected to scale with a definite power of v. These matrix elements are not calculable perturbatively and have to be extracted from data. For S-wave quarkonia, in the limit $v \to 0$ the heavy quark-antiquark pair is produced directly with the same quantum numbers of the observed bound state and the traditional color-singlet model (CSM) [7–9] is recovered. While the CSM fails to describe the large transverse momentum spectra of the vector states J/ψ , $\psi(2S)$ and Υ , that should not be the case for the quarkonium states under investigation here, for which NRQCD shows that color-octet contributions are (at least) order v^2 suppressed with respect to the color-singlet ones [6]. This is confirmed by the study of the low transverse momentum part of the spectrum of $\chi_{c1,2}$ [10]. More recently, it has been found that the CSM provides an excellent description of the LHCb data on inclusive η_c production [11], probed through the $p\bar{p}$ decay channel [12]. Furthermore, according to Ref. [2], color-octet contributions can certainly be neglected for C-even bottomonium, in agreement with the analysis on η_b mesons of Ref. [13].

Based on the above considerations, in this paper we employ the CSM in combination with TMD factorization to study the effects of gluon distributions on $0^{\pm+}$ and 2^{++} quarkonia produced in proton-proton collisions, with one or both protons being polarized. Following the same approach, in Ref. [1] the distribution of linearly polarized gluons inside an unpolarized proton, named $h_1^{\perp g}$, has been investigated. This function corresponds to an interference between +1 and -1helicity gluon states that would be suppressed without transverse momentum. It has been shown that it modifies the unpolarized cross sections for the production of scalar and pseudoscalar scalar quarkonia in different ways, while its effect on higher angular momentum states is strongly suppressed. Similarly, here we show how single and double spin asymmetries arise from other helicity-flip distributions of linearly polarized gluons inside transversely polarized protons $(h_1^g, h_{1T}^{\perp g})$ and longitudinally polarized protons $(h_{1L}^{\perp g})$. Furthermore, the Sivers function [14,15] needs to be taken into account, which describes the transverse momentum distribution of unpolarized quarks and gluons inside a transversely polarized proton, where the transverse momentum forms a $\sin \phi$ distribution around the transverse spin direction. Using the NRQCD approach together with TMD factorization, it has indeed been shown that the gluon Sivers function generates a single spin asymmetry only in the CSM in proton-proton collisions, and only in the color-octet model in lepton-proton collisions [16].

Because of their gauge link dependence, TMDs are not universal. For the processes under study, gauge links are exclusively past pointing, [-,-], as for Higgs [17–20] or photon pair production [21] in hadronic collisions. About quarkonium final states at the LHC, the same gauge-link structure holds for J/ψ -photon [22] and double- J/ψ [23,24] production as well, assuming the dominance of the color-singlet quarkonium formation mechanism. A global analysis of gluon TMDs from the above reactions would have the advantage of mapping out their scale dependence. On the other hand, their universality properties can be tested by relating the [-,-] gluon TMDs to the [+,+] ones, with two future-pointing gauge links, contributing for instance to dijet, open heavy-quark pair [25], inclusive J/ψ [26,27], J/ψ -jet [28,29] and J/ψ -photon [30] production in electron-proton collisions, which are in principle accessible at the future Electron-Ion Collider (EIC). The [-,-] gluon TMDs investigated in this paper correspond to the Weiszäcker-Williams (WW) distributions at small x. It turns out that, unlike the [+, -] or dipole ones, which have one future and one past pointing gauge link, the WW gluon TMDs for a transversely polarized proton are suppressed with respect to the unpolarized gluon distribution by a factor of x [31]. This implies that the transverse spin asymmetries under study will become suppressed in the small-x limit.

The proposed measurements require the observation of C-even quarkonium states with small transverse momentum, resulting from the transverse momenta of the partons initiating the $2 \rightarrow 1$ reactions. At collider facilities like the LHC, forward detectors such as LHCb are needed, together with powerful particle identification for a complete study of the different quarkonium states through their decay channels. Moreover, the possibility of having a polarized gas target in front of the LHCb spectrometer, the so-called LHCSpin experiment [32], will offer the unique opportunity to probe polarized gluon TMDs through the analysis of single-spin asymmetries (SSAs).

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II we recall the definition of the gluon correlator and the leading twist TMD distributions in terms of QCD operators. Details of the calculation of the cross sections of interest, together with the analytic results for the azimuthal modulations, are presented in Sec. III. The Fourier transforms in transverse position space of the expressions for the gluon correlator and the convolutions of TMDs contributing to the azimuthal asymmetries are listed in the Appendix. Our numerical estimates of the transverse single-spin asymmetries obtained by adopting Gaussian

models for the gluon densities can be found in Sec. IV. Finally, Sec. V contains our summary and conclusions.

II. TRANSVERSE MOMENTUM DEPENDENT GLUON DISTRIBUTIONS

Transverse momentum dependent gluon distribution functions in a spin-1/2 hadron are defined through a matrix element of a correlator of the gluon field strengths $F^{\mu\nu}(0)$ and $F^{\nu\sigma}(\xi)$, evaluated at fixed light-front (LF) time $\xi^+ = \xi \cdot n = 0$, where n is a lightlike vector conjugate to the four-momentum P of the parent hadron. Decomposing the gluon momentum as $p = xP + p_T + p^-n$, the correlator is given by [33–35]

$$\Gamma_g^{[U,U']\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_T) = \frac{n_\rho n_\sigma}{(p\cdot n)^2} \int \frac{\mathrm{d}(\xi\cdot P)\mathrm{d}^2\xi_T}{(2\pi)^3} \times e^{ip\cdot\xi} \langle P, S|\mathrm{Tr}[F^{\mu\rho}(0)U_{[0,\xi]}F^{\nu\sigma}(\xi)U'_{[\xi,0]}] \times |P,S\rangle|_{\mathrm{LF}}, \tag{1}$$

where S is the hadron spin vector, while $U_{[0,\xi]}$ and $U'_{[0,\xi]}$ are process-dependent gauge links, which make the correlator gauge invariant. For the process under study, $U_{[0,\xi]}$ is a staple-like Wilson line running from 0 to ξ , namely $U^{[-]}_{[0,\xi]} = U^{[n]}_{[0,-\infty]} U^T_{[0,\tau,\xi]} U^{[n]}_{[-\infty,\xi]}$, while $U'_{[\xi,0]}$ runs from ξ to 0 and is given by $U^{[-]}_{[\xi,0]} = U^{[-]\dagger}_{[0,\xi]}$, as illustrated in Fig. 1. Henceforth, the explicit dependence on the gauge links will be omitted.

According to the hadron spin, the correlator can be split into three parts: the unpolarized (U), the longitudinal polarized (L), and the transversely polarized (T) components,

$$\Gamma_g^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_T) = \Gamma_{gU}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_T) + \Gamma_{gL}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_T) + \Gamma_{gT}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_T). \tag{2}$$

At leading twist, the correlator for an unpolarized hadron can be parametrized in terms of two gluon TMDs as follows:

$$\Gamma_{gU}^{\mu\nu}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}) = \frac{1}{2x} \left\{ -g_{T}^{\mu\nu} f_{1}^{g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) + \left(\frac{p_{T}^{\mu} p_{T}^{\nu}}{M_{h}^{2}} + g_{T}^{\mu\nu} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}}{2M_{h}^{2}} \right) h_{1}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) \right\}, \quad (3)$$

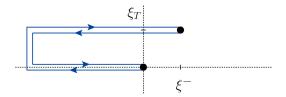


FIG. 1. Illustration of the [-,-] gauge link structure. The horizontal axis corresponds to the light-cone direction n_- , while the vertical one represents the two transverse directions. The two dots denote the points 0 and ξ .

where $p_T^2 = -p_T^2$, M_h is the hadron mass and the symmetric transverse projector $g_T^{\mu\nu}$ is defined as $g_T^{\mu\nu} = g^{\mu\nu} - P^\mu n^\nu/P \cdot n - n^\mu P^\nu/P \cdot n$. Furthermore, in Eq. (3) f_1^g and $h_1^{\perp g}$ are the T-even unpolarized and linearly polarized gluon distributions, respectively. In order to write the other two correlators in a convenient form, we define the longitudinal and transverse components of the hadron spin through the Sudakov decomposition

$$S^{\mu} = \frac{S_L}{M_h} \left(P^{\mu} - \frac{M_h^2}{P \cdot n} n^{\mu} \right) + S_T^{\mu}, \tag{4}$$

with $S_L^2 + S_T^2 = 1$. Hence, the correlator for a longitudinally polarized hadron can be written as

$$\Gamma_{gL}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_{T}) = \frac{1}{2x} S_{L} \left\{ i \epsilon_{T}^{\mu\nu} g_{1L}^{g}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}) + \frac{\epsilon_{T}^{p_{T}} \{\mu p_{T}^{\nu\}}\}}{M_{h}^{2}} h_{1L}^{\perp g}(x,\boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}) \right\},$$

$$(5)$$

where we have introduced the antisymmetric transverse projector $\epsilon_T^{\mu\nu}=\epsilon_T^{\alpha\beta\mu\nu}P_\alpha n_\beta/P\cdot n$, with $\epsilon_T^{12}=+1$, as well as the notations $\epsilon_T^{ab}\equiv\epsilon_T^{a\beta}a_\alpha b_\beta$ and $a^{\{\mu}b^{\nu\}}\equiv a^\mu b^\nu+a^\nu b^\mu$. In Eq. (5) g_{1L}^g is the T-even helicity distribution, whereas $h_{1L}^{\perp g}$ is the T-odd distribution of linearly polarized gluons inside a longitudinally polarized hadron. Finally, for a transversely polarized hadron

$$\Gamma_{gT}^{\mu\nu}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}) = \frac{1}{2x} \left\{ g_{T}^{\mu\nu} \frac{\epsilon_{T}^{p_{T}S_{T}}}{M_{h}} f_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) + i\epsilon_{T}^{\mu\nu} \frac{p_{T} \cdot S_{T}}{M_{h}} g_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) - \frac{\epsilon_{T}^{p_{T}\{\mu} S_{T}^{\nu\}} + \epsilon_{T}^{S_{T}\{\mu} p_{T}^{\nu\}}}{4M_{h}} h_{1}^{g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) + \frac{4(p_{T} \cdot S_{T})\epsilon_{T}^{p_{T}\{\mu} p_{T}^{\nu\}} + \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2} \left[\epsilon_{T}^{p_{T}\{\mu} S_{T}^{\nu\}} + \epsilon_{T}^{S_{T}\{\mu} p_{T}^{\nu\}}\right]}{8M_{h}^{3}} h_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) \right\}.$$
(6)

Note that the symmetric part of the correlator, $(\Gamma_T^{\mu\nu} + \Gamma_T^{\nu\mu})/2$, is parametrized in terms of three T-odd distributions, namely the Sivers function $f_{1T}^{\perp g}$ and the two helicity-flip distributions h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$. On the other hand, the TMD distribution $g_{1T}^{\perp g}$ is T-even.

Because of the lack of data on processes that could be used for extractions, our current knowledge of gluon TMDs is still very limited. Recently a small set of LHCb data on double- J/ψ production at 13 TeV [36] has been used to perform a first fit of f_1^g , assuming a simple Gaussian dependence on the parton transverse momentum [23]. Theoretical computations of gluon TMDs within the color glass condensate (CGC) framework [25,37,38] and spectator models [39–42] have also been carried out.

III. AZIMUTHAL MODULATIONS AT SMALL TRANSVERSE MOMENTUM

We consider the inclusive scattering process

$$p(P_A, S_A) + p(P_B, S_B) \to Q\bar{Q}[^{2S+1}L_J^{(1)}](q) + X,$$
 (7)

where the two colliding protons or, more in general, two spin-1/2 hadrons have four-momenta P_A and P_B and spin vectors S_A and S_B , such that $S_A^2 = S_B^2 = -1$ and $S_A \cdot P_A = S_B \cdot P_B = 0$. We assume that a heavy quarkantiquark pair $(Q\bar{Q})$ is produced in an intermediate Fock state with four-momentum q, spin S, orbital angular momentum L, total angular momentum J and in a colorless configuration, specified by the superscript (1). The squared invariant mass of the resonance is $M^2 = q^2$, with M twice the heavy quark mass up to small relativistic corrections. According to the CSM, these quantum numbers match the ones of the outgoing observed quarkonium. Hence, smearing effects in the hadron formation process encoded in the so-called TMD shape functions [43,44] are expected to be suppressed [17,45] and will therefore be neglected. At the lowest order in perturbative QCD, one only has to consider the gluon-gluon fusion process

$$g(p_a) + g(p_b) \to Q\bar{Q}[^{2S+1}L_J^{(1)}](q),$$
 (8)

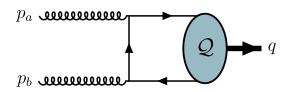


FIG. 2. Leading order diagram for the process $gg \to \mathcal{Q}$, where \mathcal{Q} is a heavy quark-antiquark bound state with quantum numbers $^{2S+1}L_J^{(1)}$. The crossed diagram, in which the directions of the arrows in the fermionic lines are reversed, is not shown.

which is described by the Feynman diagram depicted in Fig. 2.

In the kinematic region where the transverse momentum q_T of the produced quarkonium state is much smaller than its invariant mass, namely $q_T \ll M$, TMD factorization is expected to be applicable and the cross section for the process in Eq. (7) can be written as

$$d\sigma = \frac{1}{2s} \frac{d^{3}\boldsymbol{q}}{(2\pi)^{3} 2q^{0}} \int dx_{a} dx_{b} d^{2}\boldsymbol{p}_{aT} d^{2}\boldsymbol{p}_{bT} (2\pi)^{4}$$

$$\times \delta^{4}(p_{a} + p_{b} - q) \overline{\sum_{\text{colors}}} \Gamma_{g}^{\mu\nu}(x_{a}, \boldsymbol{p}_{aT})$$

$$\times \Gamma_{g}^{\rho\sigma}(x_{b}, \boldsymbol{p}_{bT}) \mathcal{A}_{\mu\rho} (\mathcal{A}_{\nu\sigma})^{*}$$
(9)

where $s=(P_A+P_B)^2$ is the total energy squared in the hadronic center-of-mass frame, Γ_g is the gluon correlator parametrized in Eqs. (2), (3), (5), (6) and \mathcal{A} is the scattering amplitude for the specific partonic process $gg \to \mathcal{Q}$. We note that the partonic momenta fulfill the relation $p_a^-=p_b^+=0$ in our calculation. Moreover, for the proton with momentum P_B the role of the forward and backward lightcone directions is exchanged as compared to the other proton with momentum P_A , hence in Eqs. (5) and (6) the epsilon tensor should be taken with opposite sign: $\epsilon_T^{\mu\nu} \to -\epsilon_T^{\mu\nu}$.

It turns out that the only nonzero scattering amplitudes correspond to the 1S_0 (η_Q) and $^3P_{0,2}$ $(\chi_{Q0,2})$ states, where Q=c,b [1]:

$$\begin{split} \mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}[^{1}S_{0}^{(1)}](p_{a},p_{b};q) &= 2i\frac{\delta^{ab}}{\sqrt{N_{c}}}\frac{g_{s}^{2}}{\sqrt{\pi M^{5}}}R_{0}(0)\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}p_{a\rho}p_{b\sigma},\\ \mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}[^{3}P_{0}^{(1)}](p_{a},q) &= -2i\frac{\delta^{ab}}{\sqrt{N_{c}}}\frac{g_{s}^{2}}{\sqrt{\pi M^{3}}}R_{1}'(0)\left[-3g^{\mu\nu}+\frac{2}{M^{2}}q^{\mu}p_{a}^{\nu}\right],\\ \mathcal{A}^{\mu\nu}[^{3}P_{2}^{(1)}](p_{a},q) &= -2i\frac{\delta^{ab}}{\sqrt{N_{c}}}\sqrt{\frac{3}{\pi M^{3}}}g_{s}^{2}R_{1}'(0)\epsilon_{J_{z}}^{\rho\sigma}(q)\left[\frac{4}{M^{2}}g^{\mu\nu}p_{a\rho}p_{a\sigma}-g_{\rho}^{\mu}g_{\sigma}^{\nu}-g_{\rho}^{\nu}g_{\sigma}^{\mu}\right], \end{split} \tag{10}$$

with N_c being the number of colors, g_s the QCD coupling and ϵ_{J_z} the polarization vector of the J=2 bound state. Furthermore, $R_L(r)$ is the radial wave function of the quarkonium state with orbital angular momentum L and $R'_L(r)$ its first derivative, in terms of which the NRQCD LDMEs are given by

$$\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle = \frac{N_{c}}{2\pi}|R_{0}(0)|^{2}[1+\mathcal{O}(v^{4})],$$

$$\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}J}}(^{3}P_{J})|0\rangle = \frac{3N_{c}}{2\pi}(2J+1)|R'_{1}(0)|^{2}[1+\mathcal{O}(v^{2})],$$
(11)

with J = 0, 1, 2 and v being the relative velocity of the heavy quark-antiquark pair in the quarkonium rest frame. We point out that for these quarkonium states TMD factorization has been proven at one loop level [46,47].

The differential cross section in Eq. (9) for the production of a generic C = +1 quarkonium state, in a frame where its azimuthal angle is zero, namely $\phi_T = 0$, can be written as

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma[\mathcal{Q}]}{\mathrm{d}y\mathrm{d}^{2}\boldsymbol{q}_{T}} = F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}} + F_{UL}^{\mathcal{Q}}S_{BL} + F_{LU}^{\mathcal{Q}}S_{AL} + F_{UT}^{\mathcal{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}}|\boldsymbol{S}_{BT}|\sin\phi_{S_{B}} + F_{TU}^{\mathcal{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{A}}}|\boldsymbol{S}_{AT}|\sin\phi_{S_{A}}
+ F_{LL}^{\mathcal{Q}}S_{AL}S_{BL} + F_{LT}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos\phi_{S_{B}}}S_{AL}|\boldsymbol{S}_{BT}|\cos\phi_{S_{B}} + F_{TL}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos\phi_{S_{A}}}|\boldsymbol{S}_{AT}|S_{BL}\cos\phi_{S_{A}}
+ |\boldsymbol{S}_{AT}||\boldsymbol{S}_{BT}|(F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}-\phi_{S_{B}})}\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}-\phi_{S_{B}}) + F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}+\phi_{S_{B}})}\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}+\phi_{S_{B}})), \tag{12}$$

with y and q_T being the rapidity and the transverse momentum of the outgoing quarkonium, respectively. Furthermore, ϕ_{S_A} (ϕ_{S_B}) is the azimuthal angle of the spin vector S_A (S_B). The subscripts of the structure functions F^Q refer to the polarization of the incoming protons. Each structure function in Eq. (12) can be factorized in a hard part H^Q , which is calculable as a perturbative expansion in α_s ,

$$H^{\mathcal{Q}} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{\pi}\right)^n H_n^{\mathcal{Q}},\tag{13}$$

and a nonpertubative part, given by one or more convolutions of gluon TMDs multiplied by one of the LDMEs in Eq. (11). In momentum space, these convolutions are defined as

$$C[wf_1^g f_2^g] \equiv C[w(\boldsymbol{p}_{aT}, \boldsymbol{p}_{bT}) f_1^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{p}_{aT}) f_2^g(x_b, \boldsymbol{p}_{bT})]$$

$$= \int d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_{aT} d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_{bT} w(\boldsymbol{p}_{aT}, \boldsymbol{p}_{bT}) f_1^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{p}_{aT})$$

$$\times f_2^g(x_b, \boldsymbol{p}_{bT}) \delta^2(\boldsymbol{p}_{aT} + \boldsymbol{p}_{bT} - \boldsymbol{q}_T), \tag{14}$$

where f_i , with i=1, 2, are the gluon TMDs and $w(\boldsymbol{p}_{aT},\boldsymbol{p}_{bT})$ is a proper weight function that depends on the particular gluon distributions involved. Neglecting terms suppressed by powers of \boldsymbol{q}_T/M , for the process under study the light-cone momentum fractions are given by

$$x_a = \frac{M}{\sqrt{s}} e^y, \qquad x_b = \frac{M}{\sqrt{s}} e^{-y}. \tag{15}$$

In the following we provide the explicit expressions of the structure functions in Eq. (12) at the order α_s^2 , as obtained from the evaluation of diagrams like the one

in Fig. 2. We note that higher-order corrections will not modify the TMD convolutions involved, but more terms will have to be included in the α_s -expansion in Eq. (13). In particular, the fully unpolarized structure functions F_{UU}^Q for J=0 and J=2 quarkonia read

$$\begin{split} F_{UU}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}} &= H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(\mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g}f_{1}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle, \\ F_{UU}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}} &= H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(\mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g}f_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(^{3}P_{0})|0\rangle, \\ F_{UU}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}} &= H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}\mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g}f_{1}^{g}]\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle, \end{split} \tag{16}$$

with

$$H_0^{\eta_Q} = \frac{2\pi^3 \alpha_s^2}{9M^3 s},$$

$$H_0^{\chi_{Q0}} = \frac{8\pi^3 \alpha_s^2}{3M^5 s},$$

$$H_0^{\chi_{Q2}} = \frac{32\pi^3 \alpha_s^2}{9M^5 s},$$
(17)

and the weight function being given by

$$w_{UU}^{h} = \frac{1}{4M_{p}^{4}} [2(\mathbf{p}_{aT} \cdot \mathbf{p}_{bT})^{2} - \mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} \mathbf{p}_{bT}^{2}]$$

$$= \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} \mathbf{p}_{bT}^{2}}{4M_{p}^{4}} \cos[2(\phi_{a} - \phi_{b})], \qquad (18)$$

with ϕ_a and ϕ_b being the azimuthal angles of \boldsymbol{p}_{aT} and \boldsymbol{p}_{bT} , respectively. The results in Eq. (16) are in agreement with Ref. [1] and, upon integration over \boldsymbol{q}_T , with Ref. [9]. Hence, we confirm all the features discussed in Ref. [1], and in particular the sign difference in the term $\mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^h h_1^{\perp g} h_1^{\perp g}]$ for opposite parities of the J=0 quarkonium states, and its absence for χ_{Q2} . Indeed, a nonzero contribution from linearly polarized gluons for J=2 states would require

a four-unit helicity flip, which is strongly suppressed. Hence, at leading order in v^2 , the ratio of the cross sections for χ_{Q0} and χ_{Q2} can be used as a direct probe of the quantity $\mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^h h_1^{\perp g} h_1^{\perp g}]/\mathcal{C}[f_1^g f_1^g]$. Note that both the uncertainties from the unpolarized gluon TMD and the hadronic matrix elements cancel out in this ratio, see Eq. (11).

To the best of our knowledge, the explicit expressions of the other structure functions in Eq. (12), depending on single and double polarization effects of the initial protons, are presented here for the first time. Due to parity conservation, for the single-longitudinally polarized contributions one has

$$\begin{split} F_{UL}^{\eta_Q} &= F_{LU}^{\eta_Q} = 0, \\ F_{UL}^{\chi_{Q0}} &= F_{LU}^{\chi_{Q0}} = 0, \\ F_{UL}^{\chi_{Q2}} &= F_{LU}^{\chi_{Q2}} = 0. \end{split} \tag{19}$$

Therefore, only the transverse polarization is relevant in the single polarization case. We find

$$F_{UT}^{\eta_{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = H^{\eta_{Q}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{f}f_{1}^{g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{Q}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{UT}^{\chi_{Q0},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = H^{\chi_{Q0}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{f}f_{1}^{g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{Q0}}(^{3}P_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{UT}^{\chi_{Q2},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = -H^{\chi_{Q2}}\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{f}f_{1}^{g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}]\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{Q2}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle,$$

$$(20)$$

with

$$w_{UT}^{f} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{M_{p}} \cos \phi_{b},$$

$$w_{UT}^{h} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} |\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{4M_{p}^{3}} \cos(\phi_{b} - 2\phi_{a}),$$

$$w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} |\mathbf{p}_{bT}|^{3}}{8M_{p}^{5}} \cos(3\phi_{b} - 2\phi_{a});$$
(21)

and

$$\begin{split} F_{TU}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}},\sin\phi_{S_{A}}} &= H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}} (\mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{f} f_{1}^{g} f_{1T}^{\perp g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{h} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{h_{\perp}} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1T}^{\perp g}]) \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}} (^{1}S_{0}) | 0 \rangle, \\ F_{TU}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{0}},\sin\phi_{S_{A}}} &= H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{0}}} (\mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{f} f_{1}^{g} f_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{h} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{h_{\perp}} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1T}^{\perp g}]) \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{0}}} (^{3}P_{0}) | 0 \rangle, \\ F_{TU}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{2}},\sin\phi_{S_{A}}} &= H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{2}}} \mathcal{C}[w_{TU}^{f} f_{1}^{g} f_{1T}^{\perp g}] \langle 0 | \mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}_{2}}} (^{3}P_{2}) | 0 \rangle, \end{split}$$

where the weight functions in Eq. (22) can be obtained from the ones in Eq. (21) with the replacements $U \leftrightarrow T$ and $a \leftrightarrow b$. Analogously to $F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}}$, the structure functions in Eqs. (20) and (22) for the $\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}$ mesons receive a contribution solely from unpolarized gluon distributions, namely f_1^g and $f_{1T}^{\perp g}$. Moreover, the convolutions involving distributions of linearly polarized gluons, $\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}h_1^{\perp g}h_1^{dg}]$ and $\mathcal{C}[w_{UT}h_1^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{dg}]$, enter the structure functions for J=0 states with a sign depending on the quarkonium parity. As will be further discussed in Sec. IV, in principle a combined analysis of these observables could allow to probe the gluon TMDs $f_{1T}^{\perp g}$, h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$.

The double-longitudinally polarized structure functions read

$$F_{LL}^{\eta_{Q}} = H^{\eta_{Q}} (\mathcal{C}[g_{1L}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{LL}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1L}^{\perp g}]) \langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{Q}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{LL}^{\chi_{Q0}} = H^{\chi_{Q0}} (\mathcal{C}[g_{1L}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{LL}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1L}^{\perp g}]) \langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{Q0}}(^{3}P_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{LL}^{\chi_{Q2}} = -H^{\chi_{Q2}}\mathcal{C}[g_{1L}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}] \langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{Q2}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle,$$
(23)

with

$$w_{LL} = 4w_{UU}^{h} = \frac{1}{M_{p}^{4}} [2(\mathbf{p}_{aT} \cdot \mathbf{p}_{bT})^{2} - \mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} \mathbf{p}_{bT}^{2}]$$

$$= \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2} \mathbf{p}_{bT}^{2}}{M_{p}^{4}} \cos[2(\phi_{a} - \phi_{b})]. \tag{24}$$

We note that they turn out to be very similar to F_{UU} , with the role of the unpolarized gluon TMD taken by the helicity distribution g_{1L} . Since the magnitude of the collinear g_{1L} gluon distribution is much smaller than the unpolarized one, as suggested in Refs. [48–52], we expect that the same is valid also for its transverse momentum dependent counterpart. Hence, measurements of observables related to these convolutions are expected to be challenging.

Moving to the mixed double-polarized structure functions, we obtain

$$F_{LT}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}},\cos\phi_{S_{B}}} = H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{h}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{LT}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0},\cos\phi_{S_{B}}} = H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{h}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1L}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(^{3}P_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{LT}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2},\cos\phi_{S_{B}}} = H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}\mathcal{C}[w_{LT}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}g_{1L}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}]\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle,$$
(25)

with

$$w_{LT}^{f} = w_{UT}^{f} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{M_{p}} \cos \phi_{b},$$

$$w_{LT}^{h} = 2w_{UT}^{h} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2}|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{2M_{p}^{3}} \cos(\phi_{b} - 2\phi_{a}),$$

$$w_{LT}^{h^{\perp}} = 2w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}} = \frac{\mathbf{p}_{aT}^{2}|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|^{3}}{4M_{p}^{5}} \cos(3\phi_{b} - 2\phi_{a});$$
(26)

and

$$F_{TL}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}},\cos\phi_{S_{A}}} = H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}g_{1L}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{h}h_{1}^{g}h_{1L}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{h}h_{1T}^{\perp g}h_{1L}^{g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{TL}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0},\cos\phi_{S_{A}}} = H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(-\mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}g_{1L}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{h}h_{1}^{g}h_{1L}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{h}h_{1T}^{\perp g}h_{1L}^{g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}0}}(^{3}P_{0})|0\rangle,$$

$$F_{TL}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2},\cos\phi_{S_{A}}} = H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}\mathcal{C}[w_{TL}^{g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}g_{1L}^{g}]\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}2}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle,$$

$$(27)$$

where the weight functions in Eq. (27) can be obtained from Eq. (26) performing the substitutions $T \leftrightarrow L$ and $a \leftrightarrow b$. The double-transverse polarization completes the picture. In this case, we find two separate structure functions corresponding to two different azimuthal modulations. Explicitly, these are

$$F_{TT}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}},\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}-\phi_{S_{B}})} = H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle (-\mathcal{C}[w_{TT}f_{1T}^{\perp g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}g_{1T}^{\perp g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}h_{1}^{h}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] + \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}h_{1}^{e}] - \mathcal{C}[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{e}h_{1$$

with

$$w_{TT} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}||\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{2M_{p}^{2}}\cos(\phi_{a} - \phi_{b}),$$

$$w_{TT}^{h} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}||\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{4M_{p}^{2}}\cos(\phi_{a} - \phi_{b}),$$

$$w_{TT}^{h^{\perp}} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}|^{3}|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|^{3}}{16M_{p}^{6}}\cos[3(\phi_{b} - \phi_{a})];$$
(29)

and

$$F_{TT}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}},\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}+\phi_{S_{B}})} = H^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\eta_{\mathcal{Q}}}(^{1}S_{0})|0\rangle (\mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}f_{1T}^{\perp g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}g_{1T}^{\perp g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1}^{g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] + \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{g}] - \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{hg}] - \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh}h_{1T}^{hg}]),$$

$$F_{TT}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}^{2}},\cos(\phi_{S_{A}}+\phi_{S_{B}})} = H^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}^{2}}}(\mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{f}f_{1T}^{\perp g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}] - \mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{g}g_{1T}^{\mu g}g_{1T}^{\perp g}])\langle 0|\mathcal{O}_{1}^{\chi_{\mathcal{Q}^{2}}}(^{3}P_{2})|0\rangle, \tag{30}$$

with

$$\bar{w}_{TT} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}||\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{2M_{p}^{2}}\cos(\phi_{a} + \phi_{b}),$$

$$\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}||\mathbf{p}_{bT}|^{3}}{8M_{p}^{4}}\cos(3\phi_{b} - \phi_{a}),$$

$$\bar{w}_{TT}^{h^{\perp}h} = \frac{|\mathbf{p}_{aT}|^{3}|\mathbf{p}_{bT}|}{8M_{p}^{4}}\cos(3\phi_{a} - \phi_{b}).$$
(31)

Unlike the previously discussed structure functions, $F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos(\phi_{S_A}+\phi_{S_B})}$ and $F_{TT}^{\mathcal{Q},\cos(\phi_{S_A}-\phi_{S_B})}$ for χ_{Q2} production involve two different TMD convolutions. However, since we expect to extract the gluon Sivers function from (transverse) SSAs, a measurement of the double-polarized structure functions for J=2 could be useful to isolate the contribution from $g_{1T}^{\perp g}$. Interestingly, the two structure functions for the J=0 states provide complementary information: $F_{TT}^{\cos(\phi_{S_A}-\phi_{S_B})}$ is mainly sensitive to the magnitude of the distributions since it always involves the convolutions of the "square" of two gluon TMDs, whereas $F_{TT}^{\cos(\phi_{S_A}+\phi_{S_B})}$ could probe the relative sign of h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$ because it contains the convolutions of these two TMDs.

We note that the convolutions in Eqs. (16)–(30) are calculated in momentum space. In the Appendix we present instead, for a general spin-1/2 hadron, all the above convolutions in b_T -space [see Eqs. (A6)–(A22)], where b_T is the Fourier conjugate of q_T . Such expressions are particularly useful for future implementations of TMD evolution, which is multiplicative in b_T -space. To this aim, a thorough calculation at the one-loop level of the so-called matching coefficients for all leading-twist gluon TMDs is underway [53].

IV. ESTIMATE OF THE UPPER BOUNDS OF THE TRANSVERSE SINGLE-SPIN ASYMMETRIES

The angular modulations of the cross section for the process $pp \to QX$, presented in Eq. (12), can be singled out by taking average values of appropriate circular functions of ϕ_{S_A} and ϕ_{S_B} , denoted as $W(\phi_{S_A}, \phi_{S_B})$,

$$\langle W(\phi_{S_A}, \phi_{S_B}) \rangle = \frac{\int d\phi_{S_A} d\phi_{S_B} W(\phi_{S_A}, \phi_{S_B}) d\sigma}{\int d\phi_{S_A} d\phi_{S_B} d\sigma}, \quad (32)$$

where we have used the notation $d\sigma = d\sigma/(dyd^2q_T)$. In the following we focus on the specific configuration where only the proton with momentum P_B is transversely polarized, whereas the proton with momentum P_A is

unpolarized, see Eq. (7). Such processes could be in principle accessible at LHCSpin, the fixed target experiment planned at the LHC. In this case, we can define the azimuthal moments as

$$\begin{split} A_{N}^{\mathcal{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} &= 2\frac{\int \mathrm{d}\phi_{S_{B}}\sin\phi_{S_{B}}[\mathrm{d}\sigma(\phi_{S_{B}}) - \mathrm{d}\sigma(\phi_{S_{B}} + \pi)]}{\int \mathrm{d}\phi_{S_{B}}[\mathrm{d}\sigma(\phi_{S_{B}}) + \mathrm{d}\sigma(\phi_{S_{B}} + \pi)]} \\ &= \frac{F_{UT}^{\mathcal{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}}}{F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}}} = 2\langle\sin\phi_{S_{B}}\rangle, \end{split} \tag{33}$$

where we have assumed that the initial proton is fully polarized, namely $|S_{BT}|=1$, while $F_{UU}^{\mathcal{Q}}$ and $F_{UT}^{\mathcal{Q},\sin\phi_{S_B}}$ are given in Eqs. (16) and (20), respectively.

In order to provide an estimate of the upper bounds of the SSAs, we assume that the unpolarized gluon TMD has the following Gaussian form [18,23],

$$f_1^g(x, \mathbf{p}_T^2) = \frac{f_1^g(x)}{\pi \langle p_T^2 \rangle} \exp\left[-\frac{\mathbf{p}_T^2}{\langle p_T^2 \rangle}\right],\tag{34}$$

with $f_1^g(x)$ being the collinear gluon distribution. The width $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$ could in principle depend on the energy scale, which is set by the quarkonium mass M. Furthermore, we take $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$ to be independent of x. The effect of the other unknown TMDs will be maximal when they saturate the following, model-independent, positivity bounds [33]

$$\begin{split} |f_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2})|, |h_{1}^{g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2})| &\leq \frac{M_{p}}{|\boldsymbol{p}_{T}|} f_{1}^{g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}), \\ &\frac{1}{2} |h_{1}^{\perp g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2})| \leq \frac{M_{p}^{2}}{\boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}} f_{1}^{g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}), \\ &\frac{1}{2} |h_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2})| \leq \frac{M_{p}^{3}}{|\boldsymbol{p}_{T}|^{3}} f_{1}^{g}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_{T}^{2}). \end{split} \tag{35}$$

These bounds are always fulfilled, although not everywhere saturated, if we take, along the lines of Refs. [1,18],

$$f_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) = \mathcal{N}_{0}(x) \frac{f_{1}^{g}(x)}{\pi \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{3/2}} M_{p} \sqrt{\frac{2(1 - \rho_{0})}{\rho_{0}}} \exp\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_{0}} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right],$$

$$h_{1}^{g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) = \mathcal{N}_{1}(x) \frac{f_{1}^{g}(x)}{\pi \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{3/2}} M_{p} \sqrt{\frac{2(1 - \rho_{1})}{\rho_{1}}} \exp\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_{1}} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right],$$

$$h_{1}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) = 2\mathcal{N}_{2}(x) \frac{f_{1}^{g}(x)}{\pi \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{2}} M_{p}^{2} \frac{(1 - \rho_{2})}{\rho_{2}} \exp\left[1 - \frac{1}{\rho_{2}} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right],$$

$$h_{1T}^{\perp g}(x, \mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}) = 2\mathcal{N}_{3}(x) \frac{f_{1}^{g}(x)}{\pi \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{5/2}} M_{p}^{3} \left[\frac{2(1 - \rho_{3})}{3\rho_{3}}\right]^{3/2} \exp\left[\frac{3}{2} - \frac{1}{\rho_{3}} \frac{\mathbf{p}_{T}^{2}}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right],$$

$$(36)$$

where the free parameters ρ_i are such that $0 < \rho_i < 1$ and

$$\mathcal{N}_i(x) = N_i x^{\alpha_i} (1 - x)^{\beta_i} \frac{(\alpha_i + \beta_i)^{\alpha_i + \beta_i}}{\alpha_i^{\alpha_i} \beta_i^{\beta_i}}, \qquad (37)$$

with $|N_i| \le 1$. The functions $\mathcal{N}_i(x)$ account for a different x-dependence of the gluon TMDs in Eq. (36) with respect

to the unpolarized one. Since in this section we aim at providing only the upper bounds of $A_N^{\sin\phi_{S_B}}$, we take $\mathcal{N}_i(x)=1$ and let the *x*-dependence saturate the positivity bounds. Moreover, we note that all TMDs are taken to be positive.

Hence, the ratios of TMD convolutions entering the SSAs are given by

$$R_{UU} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UU}^{h} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1}^{\perp g}] / \mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g} f_{1}^{g}]$$

$$= \frac{1}{16\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{2}} \frac{(1 - \rho_{2})^{2}}{\rho_{2}} (\boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{4} - 8\rho_{2}\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle \boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{2} + 8\rho_{2}^{2}\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{2}) \exp\left[2 - \frac{1 - \rho_{2}}{\rho_{2}} \frac{\boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{2}}{2\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right], \tag{38}$$

$$R_{UT}^{f} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{f}f_{1}^{g}f_{1T}^{\perp g}]/\mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g}f_{1}^{g}]$$

$$= \frac{2}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{1/2}} \sqrt{\frac{2(1-\rho_{0})}{\rho_{0}}} \left(\frac{\rho_{0}}{1+\rho_{0}}\right)^{2} |\boldsymbol{q}_{T}| \exp\left[\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1-\rho_{0}}{1+\rho_{0}} \frac{\boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{2}}{2\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle}\right], \tag{39}$$

$$R_{UT}^{h} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}]/\mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g}f_{1}^{g}]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\langle p_{T}^{2}\rangle^{3/2}}\sqrt{\frac{2(1-\rho_{1})}{\rho_{1}}}(1-\rho_{2})\frac{\rho_{1}^{2}\rho_{2}^{2}}{(\rho_{1}+\rho_{2})^{4}}|\mathbf{q}_{T}|(\mathbf{q}_{T}^{2}-2(\rho_{1}+\rho_{2})\langle p_{T}^{2}\rangle)\exp\left[\frac{3}{2}-\frac{2-\rho_{1}-\rho_{2}}{\rho_{1}+\rho_{2}}\frac{\mathbf{q}_{T}^{2}}{2\langle p_{T}^{2}\rangle}\right], \quad (40)$$

$$R_{UT}^{h^{\perp}} = \mathcal{C}[w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}} h_{1}^{\perp g} h_{1T}^{\perp g}] / \mathcal{C}[f_{1}^{g} f_{1}^{g}]$$

$$= \frac{1}{\langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{5/2}} \left[\frac{2(1 - \rho_{3})}{3\rho_{3}} \right]^{3/2} (1 - \rho_{2}) \frac{\rho_{2}^{2} \rho_{3}^{4}}{(\rho_{2} + \rho_{3})^{6}} |\boldsymbol{q}_{T}| (\boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{4} - 6(\rho_{2} + \rho_{3}) \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle \boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{2} + 6(\rho_{2} + \rho_{3})^{2} \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle^{2})$$

$$\times \exp \left[\frac{5}{2} - \frac{2 - \rho_{2} - \rho_{3}}{\rho_{2} + \rho_{3}} \frac{\boldsymbol{q}_{T}^{2}}{2 \langle p_{T}^{2} \rangle} \right], \tag{41}$$

with each of them varying between zero and one. Note that, while $R_{UU} \neq 0$ at $q_T = 0$, $R_{UT} = 0$ independently of the convolution considered. The azimuthal moments in Eq. (33) can therefore be rewritten as

$$A_{N}^{\eta_{Q},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = \frac{-R_{UT}^{f} + R_{UT}^{h} - R_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}}{1 - R_{UU}},$$

$$A_{N}^{\chi_{Q0},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = \frac{-R_{UT}^{f} - R_{UT}^{h} + R_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}}{1 + R_{UU}},$$

$$A_{N}^{\chi_{Q2},\sin\phi_{S_{B}}} = -R_{UT}^{f}.$$
(42)

In the following numerical study we focus on charmonium production. From existing phenomenological analyses, the value $\langle p_T^2\rangle=1~{\rm GeV^2}$ turns out to be a reasonable choice for the Gaussian width of the unpolarized gluon TMD at the scale $\mu^2=4M_c^2$ [54–56]. Because of TMD evolution of the gluon densities, larger values of $\langle p_T^2\rangle$ are expected for bottomonium production. Moreover, we show our prediction for $q_T\leq 2~{\rm GeV},$ to guarantee that our

analysis is restricted in the kinematic region where TMD factorization is expected to be applicable.

In Fig. 3 the ratio R_{UU} , contributing to the transverse momentum spectrum of the unpolarized cross section and the denominators of the SSAs for (pseudo)scalar quarkonia, is shown as a function of q_T and for different values of the parameter ρ_2 , in the range $0.1 < \rho_2 < 0.9$. Moreover, for comparison, we have shown the ratio R_{UU} derived by allowing $h_1^{\perp g}$ to saturate its positivity bound in Eq. (35) for every q_T . Note that for certain values of q_T , due to the modulation of the Bessel functions, the ratio involving the saturated TMDs may be smaller than that in Eq. (38), employing the Gaussian parametrization. Similarly, R_{UT}^{J} , R_{UT}^{h} and $R_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}$, appearing in the numerators of the SSAs (the last two only for η_Q and χ_{Q0}) are presented in Fig. 4 for several values of ρ_0 , ρ_1 , ρ_2 , ρ_3 , as described in the caption. The same ratios, calculated with the TMDs saturating their positivity bounds, are presented as well. These quantities measure the relative magnitude of the linearly polarized distributions and the Sivers function to the unpolarized

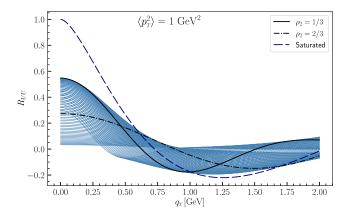


FIG. 3. The ratio R_{UU} as a function of q_T . The gluon TMDs $h_1^{\perp g}$ and f_1^g are evaluated according to a Gaussian ansatz, with the average of the transverse momentum squared set at $1~{\rm GeV^2}$. Different blue lines are obtained by varying the parameter ρ_2 in Eq. (38) from 0.1 to 0.9 with steps of 0.01. We have highlighted the ratios obtained with two specific values of ρ_2 , namely $\rho_2 = 1/3$ (solid black line) and $\rho_2 = 2/3$ (dash-dotted line). Finally, for illustration, a dashed line is also shown, which has been obtained by letting $h_1^{\perp g}$ saturate its positivity bound in Eq. (35).

gluon TMD. We note that our predictions are rather stable with respect to the choice of $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$: the curves are shrunk to lower values of q_T as $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$ decreases, while they broaden as $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$ increases, with the size of the ratios staying practically unchanged.

Our main results on the upper bounds of the azimuthal moments in Eq. (42) for the J=0 and J=2 charmonium states are shown in Fig. 5 as a function of q_T . The parameters ρ_i have been chosen in order to maximize the asymmetries in the TMD region. The red full lines indicate the SSAs for χ_{Q2} production, which are entirely driven by the gluon Sivers function. By comparing the SSAs for η_Q (green dashed lines) and χ_{Q0} states (blue

dash-dotted lines) with those for χ_{O2} it would be possible, in principle, to assess the relevance of the combined effects of the linearly polarized gluon TMDs. The additional modulations in the asymmetries for (pseudo)scalar mesons as compared to the ones for spin-2 states are due to the presence of h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$ in the numerators, but also of $h_1^{\perp g}$ in the denominators. For this reason, we also present the former asymmetries with $h_1^g = h_{1T}^{\perp g} = 0$, corresponding to the pink dashed (η_O) and gray dash-dotted (χ_{O2}) lines in Fig. 5. A comparison between either the pink and green dashed lines for η_O or the gray and blue dash-dotted lines for χ_{O0} displays that the effect from h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$ may still be experimentally accessible, in case the data will show modulations exceeding the ones expected from $h_1^{\perp g}$. Moreover, according to our Gaussian model, the maximized impact of h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$ is significantly large in the kinematic region $q_T \le 1$ GeV, which is therefore expected to play an important role in accessing these completely unknown gluon TMD distributions.

Finally, the asymmetries presented in Fig. 5 have also been calculated at a different value of $\langle p_T^2 \rangle$. In particular, in Fig. 6 we have taken $\langle p_T^2 \rangle = 3 \text{ GeV}^2$, which we consider a reasonable choice for the bottomonium production since the energy scale of this process would be similar to that explored in di- J/ψ production in Ref. [23]. At variance with the previous figure, we show our results up to $q_T = 3$ GeV, since the transverse momentum region where TMD factorization is applicable becomes wider for higher scales. From a direct comparison between Figs. 5 and 6, we see that the predictions driven by the Gaussian parametrizations of the TMDs are completely analogous to each other and present the same features, but at different values of q_T . More specifically, the SSAs at $\langle p_T^2 \rangle = 3 \text{ GeV}^2$ are broader in q_T , as expected from the nature of the Gaussian parameterizations employed.

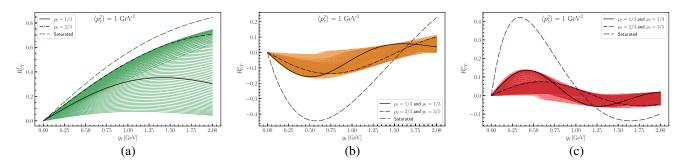


FIG. 4. The three ratios contributing to the numerators of the transverse SSAs as a function of q_T . The TMDs are evaluated according to a Gaussian ansatz, with the average of the transverse momentum squared set at 1 GeV². Different curves are drawn by varying each parameter in its space. In particular: in (a) the green lines correspond to $0.1 < \rho_0 < 0.9$ with steps of 0.01; in (b) the thicker orange lines are obtained by taking $\rho_2 = 1/3$ and $\rho_2 = 2/3$ and varying $0.1 < \rho_1 < 0.9$ with steps of 0.01, while for the thinner ones we have varied both ρ_2 and ρ_1 independently with larger steps (for visualization reasons); in (c) thicker and thinner red lines are evaluated as in (b), but with ρ_3 replacing ρ_1 . In each of the three panels we have highlighted two curves in black that correspond to the ratios obtained with two specific choices of the parameters (see the legend boxes in each figure). In addition, the dashed lines are obtained by letting the TMDs saturate their positivity bounds in Eq. (35).

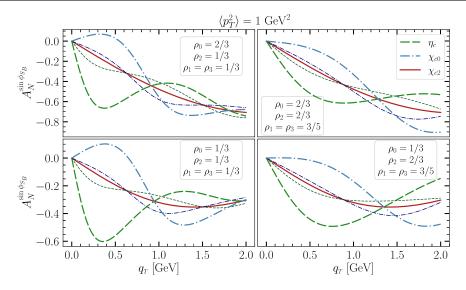


FIG. 5. SSAs for different C-even quarkonia as a function of q_T . More specifically, the red solid line corresponds to χ_{Q2} , the green long-dashed line to η_Q , and the blue dash-dotted line to χ_{Q0} states. The gluon TMDs are evaluated according to Eqs. (34) and (36) for different values of their parameters ρ_i (check the text boxes in each panel for more details). The dark blue dashed and dark green dash-dotted thin lines represent the SSAs of η_Q and χ_{Q0} , respectively, with the TMDs h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$ set to 0.

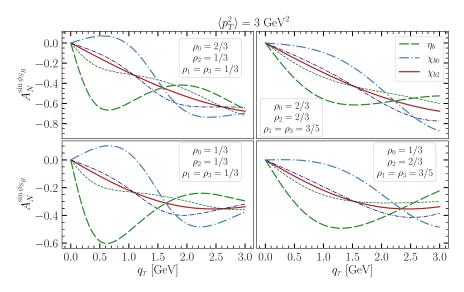


FIG. 6. Same as in Fig. 5, but for $\langle p_T^2 \rangle = 3 \text{ GeV}^2$.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we have investigated the production of *C*-even quarkonium states in (un)polarized proton-proton collisions within the framework of TMD factorization. Supported by NRQCD arguments, we have adopted the color-singlet model to describe the quarkonium formation mechanism. We have derived the analytical expressions for the azimuthal modulations of the cross sections, arising from the convolutions of different leading-twist gluon TMDs. We therefore suggest that a phenomenological investigation of these quantities would provide direct access to the WW-type gluon distributions, in strong

analogy with the studies of the Drell-Yan processes for the extraction of quark TMDs [57].

A striking, model-independent feature of our results is that all the linearly polarized gluon TMDs inside unpolarized, longitudinally and transversely polarized protons, namely $h_{1L}^{\perp g}$, $h_{1L}^{\perp g}$, h_{1L}^{g} , and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$, contribute to the production of parity-odd η_Q states with opposite signs with respect to the parity-even $\chi_{c,b0}$ states. On the other hand, their effects on higher angular momentum quarkonia like χ_{Q2} are strongly suppressed. As a consequence, as already pointed out in Ref. [1], by only looking at unpolarized scattering, the χ_{Q2} cross section could be used to probe the distribution

of unpolarized gluons f_1^g , while a combined study of η_Q and χ_{Q0} would shed light on $h_1^{\perp g}$.

Moreover, by employing simple Gaussian parameterizations for the gluon TMDs, which fulfill without saturating everywhere the well-known positivity bounds, we have estimated the maximal values of the transverse single-spin asymmetries, showing that they could be measured in principle at LHCSpin, the fixed target experiment planned at the LHC. Such observables for χ_{Q2} are driven by the gluon Sivers function $f_{1T}^{\perp g}$. Once this is known, SSAs for η_Q and χ_{Q0} can be used to determine h_1^g and $h_{1T}^{\perp g}$. Measurements of other observables, such as transverse and longitudinal double-spin asymmetries would be needed to have a full knowledge of the gluon distributions of the proton.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We would like to thank Tomaso Pitzalis for his fundamental contribution during the early stages of this project.

C. P. is indebted to Miguel Echevarria, Jean-Philippe Lansberg, Marc Schlegel and Andrea Signori for useful discussions. We also thank Jelle Bor for the useful comments. This work is supported by the European Union "Next Generation EU" program through the Italian PRIN 2022 Grant No. 20225ZHA7W and by Fondazione di Sardegna under the project "Matter-antimatter asymmetry and polarization in strange hadrons at LHCb," Project No. F73C22001150007 (University of Cagliari).

APPENDIX: TMD CONVOLUTIONS IN FOURIER b_T -SPACE

In this appendix we present the gluon correlator and the convolutions of TMDs in b_T -space, with b_T being the Fourier conjugate of the transverse momentum p_T . The Fourier transform of the correlator is defined as

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_g^{\mu\nu}(x, \boldsymbol{b}_T) \equiv \int d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_T e^{i\boldsymbol{b}_T \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_T} \Gamma_g^{\mu\nu}(x, \boldsymbol{p}_T), \tag{A1}$$

which leads to [35,58]

$$\begin{split} 2x\tilde{\Gamma}_{gU}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}) &= -g_{T}^{\mu\nu}\tilde{f}_{1}^{g}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) - \frac{1}{2}M_{h}^{2}\bigg(b_{T}^{\mu}b_{T}^{\nu} + g_{T}^{\mu\nu}\frac{\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}}{2}\bigg)\tilde{h}_{1}^{\perp g(2)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \\ 2x\tilde{\Gamma}_{gL}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}) &= S_{L}\bigg\{i\epsilon_{T}^{\mu\nu}\tilde{g}_{1L}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) - \frac{M_{h}^{2}}{2}\epsilon_{T}^{b_{T}\{\mu}b_{T}^{\nu\}}\tilde{h}_{1L}^{g(2)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2})\bigg\}, \\ 2x\tilde{\Gamma}_{gT}^{\mu\nu}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}) &= iM_{h}g_{T}^{\mu\nu}\epsilon_{T}^{b_{T}S_{T}}\tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) - M_{h}(S_{T}\cdot\boldsymbol{b}_{T})\tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) - iM_{h}\frac{b_{T\rho}\epsilon_{T}^{\rho\{\mu}S_{T}^{\nu\}} + S_{T\rho}\epsilon_{T}^{\rho\{\mu}b_{T}^{\nu\}}}{4}\tilde{h}_{1}^{g(1)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) \\ &- iM_{h}^{3}\frac{4(b_{T}\cdot S_{T})\epsilon_{T}^{b_{T}\{\mu}b_{T}^{\nu\}} + b_{T}^{2}[\epsilon_{T}^{b_{T}\{\mu}S_{T}^{\nu\}} + \epsilon_{T}^{S_{T}\{\mu}b_{T}^{\nu\}}]}{42}\tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x,\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \end{split} \tag{A2}$$

where we recall that M_h is the mass of a general spin-1/2 hadron ($M_h = M_p$ for protons). Furthermore, we have introduced the Fourier transform of the generic TMD f

$$\tilde{f}(x, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \equiv \int d^2 \boldsymbol{p}_T e^{i\boldsymbol{b}_T \cdot \boldsymbol{p}_T} f(x, \boldsymbol{p}_T^2) = 2\pi \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{p}_T| |\boldsymbol{p}_T| J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{p}_T|) f(x, \boldsymbol{p}_T^2), \tag{A3}$$

and its derivatives with respect to b_T^2

$$\tilde{f}^{(n)}(x, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \equiv n! \left(-\frac{2}{M_h^2} \frac{\partial}{\partial \boldsymbol{b}_T^2} \right)^n \tilde{f}(x, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) = \frac{2\pi n!}{(M_h^2)^n} \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}|\boldsymbol{p}_T| |\boldsymbol{p}_T| \left(\frac{|\boldsymbol{p}_T|}{|\boldsymbol{b}_T|} \right)^n J_n(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{p}_T|) f(x, \boldsymbol{p}_T^2). \tag{A4}$$

Moreover, J_n in the above equations is the Bessel function of the first kind of order n, defined as

$$J_n(z) = \frac{1}{2\pi i^n} \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\varphi e^{in\varphi} e^{iz\cos\varphi}.$$
 (A5)

By means of Eqs. (A3) and (A4), we find the following convolutions in b_T -space

$$C[f_1^g f_1^g] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T| J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{f}_1^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{f}_1^g(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A6}$$

$$C[w_{UU}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_{h}^{4}}{32\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} d|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{b}_{T}|^{5} J_{0}(|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{q}_{T}|) \tilde{h}_{1}^{\perp g(2)}(x_{a}, \boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) \tilde{h}_{1}^{\perp g(2)}(x_{b}, \boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \tag{A7}$$

$$C[w_{UT}^f f_1^g f_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_h}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| \boldsymbol{b}_T^2 J_1(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{f}_1^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A8}$$

$$C[w_{UT}^{h}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1}^{g}] = -\frac{M_{h}^{3}}{16\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} d|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{4}J_{1}(|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{q}_{T}|)\tilde{h}_{1}^{\perp g(2)}(x_{a},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2})\tilde{h}_{1}^{g(1)}(x_{b},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \tag{A9}$$

$$C[w_{UT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_h^5}{192\pi} \int_0^{\infty} \mathrm{d}|\boldsymbol{b}_T|\boldsymbol{b}_T^6 J_1(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{h}_1^{\perp g(2)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A10}$$

$$C[g_{1L}^g g_{1L}^g] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T| J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{g}_{1L}^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{g}_{1L}^g(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A11}$$

$$C[w_{LL}h_{1L}^g h_{1L}^g] = \frac{M_h^4}{8\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T^5| J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{h}_{1L}^{g(2)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{h}_{1L}^{g(2)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A12}$$

$$C[w_{LT}^g g_{1L}^g g_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_h}{2\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| \boldsymbol{b}_T^2 J_1(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{g}_{1L}^g(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A13}$$

$$C[w_{LT}^h h_{1L}^g h_1^g] = -\frac{M_h^3}{8\pi} \int_0^\infty \mathrm{d}|\boldsymbol{b}_T| \boldsymbol{b}_T^4 J_1(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{h}_{1L}^{g(2)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{h}_1^{g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A14}$$

$$C[w_{LT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1L}^{g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_{h}^{5}}{96\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} d|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{6}J_{1}(|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{q}_{T}|)\tilde{h}_{1L}^{g(2)}(x_{a},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2})\tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x_{b},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \tag{A15}$$

$$C[w_{TT}^f f_{1T}^{\perp g} f_{1T}^{\perp g}] = -\frac{M_h^2}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T|^3 J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A16}$$

$$C[w_{TT}^g g_{1T}^{\perp g} g_{1T}^{\perp g}] = -\frac{M_h^2}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T|^3 J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A17}$$

$$C[w_{TT}^{h}h_{1}^{g}h_{1}^{g}] = -\frac{M_{h}^{2}}{8\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} d|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{b}_{T}|^{3}J_{0}(|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{q}_{T}|)\tilde{h}_{1}^{g(1)}(x_{a},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2})\tilde{h}_{1}^{g(1)}(x_{b},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}), \tag{A18}$$

$$C[w_{TT}^{h^{\perp}}h_{1T}^{\perp g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}] = -\frac{M_h^6}{1152\pi} \int_0^{\infty} d|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{b}_T|^7 J_0(|\boldsymbol{b}_T||\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A19}$$

$$C[\bar{w}_{TT}^f f_{1T}^{\perp g} f_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_h^2}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T|^3 J_2(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{f}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A20}$$

$$C[\bar{w}_{TT}^g g_{1T}^{\perp g} g_{1T}^{\perp g}] = \frac{M_h^2}{4\pi} \int_0^\infty d|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{b}_T|^3 J_2(|\boldsymbol{b}_T| |\boldsymbol{q}_T|) \tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_a, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2) \tilde{g}_{1T}^{\perp g(1)}(x_b, \boldsymbol{b}_T^2), \tag{A21}$$

$$\mathcal{C}[\bar{w}_{TT}^{hh^{\perp}}h_{1}^{g}h_{1T}^{\perp g}] = -\frac{M_{h}^{4}}{96\pi} \int_{0}^{\infty} \mathrm{d}|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{b}_{T}|^{5} J_{2}(|\boldsymbol{b}_{T}||\boldsymbol{q}_{T}|) \tilde{h}_{1}^{g(1)}(x_{a},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}) \tilde{h}_{1T}^{\perp g(3)}(x_{b},\boldsymbol{b}_{T}^{2}). \tag{A22}$$

- [1] D. Boer and C. Pisano, Phys. Rev. D 86, 094007 (2012).
- [2] S. J. Brodsky, F. Fleuret, C. Hadjidakis, and J. P. Lansberg, Phys. Rep. 522, 239 (2013).
- [3] N. Brambilla et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 71, 1534 (2011).
- [4] A. Andronic et al., Eur. Phys. J. C 76, 107 (2016).
- [5] J.-P. Lansberg, Phys. Rep. 889, 1 (2020).
- [6] G. T. Bodwin, E. Braaten, and G. P. Lepage, Phys. Rev. D 51, 1125 (1995); 55, 5853(E) (1997).
- [7] J. H. Kuhn, J. Kaplan, and E. G. O. Safiani, Nucl. Phys. B157, 125 (1979).
- [8] B. Guberina, J. H. Kuhn, R. D. Peccei, and R. Ruckl, Nucl. Phys. B174, 317 (1980).
- [9] R. Baier and R. Ruckl, Z. Phys. C 19, 251 (1983).
- [10] G. T. Bodwin, E. Braaten, and J. Lee, Phys. Rev. D 72, 014004 (2005).
- [11] M. Butenschoen, Z.-G. He, and B. A. Kniehl, Phys. Rev. Lett. 114, 092004 (2015).
- [12] R. Aaij et al. (LHCb Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C 75, 311 (2015).
- [13] F. Maltoni and A. D. Polosa, Phys. Rev. D 70, 054014 (2004).
- [14] D. W. Sivers, Phys. Rev. D 41, 83 (1990).
- [15] D. Boer, C. Lorcé, C. Pisano, and J. Zhou, Adv. High Energy Phys. 2015, 371396 (2015).
- [16] F. Yuan, Phys. Rev. D 78, 014024 (2008).
- [17] P. Sun, C. P. Yuan, and F. Yuan, Phys. Rev. D 88, 054008 (2013).
- [18] D. Boer, W. J. den Dunnen, C. Pisano, M. Schlegel, and W. Vogelsang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 108, 032002 (2012).
- [19] M. G. Echevarria, T. Kasemets, P. J. Mulders, and C. Pisano, J. High Energy Phys. 07 (2015) 158; 05 (2017) 073(E).
- [20] D. Gutierrez-Reyes, S. Leal-Gomez, I. Scimemi, and A. Vladimirov, J. High Energy Phys. 11 (2019) 121.
- [21] J.-W. Qiu, M. Schlegel, and W. Vogelsang, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 062001 (2011).
- [22] W. J. den Dunnen, J. P. Lansberg, C. Pisano, and M. Schlegel, Phys. Rev. Lett. 112, 212001 (2014).
- [23] J.-P. Lansberg, C. Pisano, F. Scarpa, and M. Schlegel, Phys. Lett. B 784, 217 (2018); 791, 420(E) (2019).
- [24] A. C. Serri, J. Bor, D. Boer, and J.-P. Lansberg, Proc. Sci. EPS-HEP2023 (2024) 272 [arXiv:2403.00640].
- [25] D. Boer, P. J. Mulders, C. Pisano, and J. Zhou, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2016) 001.
- [26] A. Mukherjee and S. Rajesh, Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 854 (2017).
- [27] A. Bacchetta, D. Boer, C. Pisano, and P. Taels, Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 72 (2020).
- [28] U. D'Alesio, F. Murgia, C. Pisano, and P. Taels, Phys. Rev. D 100, 094016 (2019).
- [29] R. Kishore, A. Mukherjee, and S. Rajesh, Phys. Rev. D 101, 054003 (2020).
- [30] D. Chakrabarti, R. Kishore, A. Mukherjee, and S. Rajesh, Phys. Rev. D 107, 014008 (2023).
- [31] D. Boer, M. G. Echevarria, P. Mulders, and J. Zhou, Phys. Rev. Lett. 116, 122001 (2016).

- [32] C. A. Aidala et al., arXiv:1901.08002.
- [33] P.J. Mulders and J. Rodrigues, Phys. Rev. D 63, 094021 (2001).
- [34] S. Meissner, A. Metz, and K. Goeke, Phys. Rev. D 76, 034002 (2007).
- [35] D. Boer, S. Cotogno, T. van Daal, P. J. Mulders, A. Signori, and Y.-J. Zhou, J. High Energy Phys. 10 (2016) 013.
- [36] R. Aaij *et al.* (LHCb Collaboration), J. High Energy Phys. 06 (2017) 047.
- [37] A. Metz and J. Zhou, Phys. Rev. D 84, 051503 (2011).
- [38] F. Dominguez, J.-W. Qiu, B.-W. Xiao, and F. Yuan, Phys. Rev. D 85, 045003 (2012).
- [39] A. Bacchetta, F. G. Celiberto, M. Radici, and P. Taels, Eur. Phys. J. C 80, 733 (2020).
- [40] D. Chakrabarti, P. Choudhary, B. Gurjar, R. Kishore, T. Maji, C. Mondal, and A. Mukherjee, Phys. Rev. D 108, 014009 (2023).
- [41] H. Yu, Z. Hu, S. Xu, C. Mondal, X. Zhao, and J. P. Vary, Phys. Lett. B 855, 138831 (2024).
- [42] A. Bacchetta, F. G. Celiberto, and M. Radici, Eur. Phys. J. C 84, 576 (2024).
- [43] M. G. Echevarria, J. High Energy Phys. 10 (2019) 144.
- [44] S. Fleming, Y. Makris, and T. Mehen, J. High Energy Phys. 04 (2020) 122.
- [45] D. Boer, J. Bor, L. Maxia, C. Pisano, and F. Yuan, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2023) 105.
- [46] J. P. Ma, J. X. Wang, and S. Zhao, Phys. Rev. D 88, 014027
- [47] J. P. Ma, J. X. Wang, and S. Zhao, Phys. Lett. B 737, 103 (2014).
- [48] B. I. Abelev *et al.* (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 97, 252001 (2006).
- [49] L. Adamczyk *et al.* (STAR Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 115, 092002 (2015).
- [50] A. Adare *et al.* (PHENIX Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 91, 032001 (2015).
- [51] U. A. Acharya *et al.* (PHENIX Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 102, 032001 (2020).
- [52] Y. Zhou, N. Sato, and W. Melnitchouk (Jefferson Lab Angular Momentum (JAM) Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D **105**, 074022 (2022).
- [53] A. Alvaro, N. Kato, B. Pasquini, C. Pisano, and S. Rodini (to be published).
- [54] U. D'Alesio, F. Murgia, C. Pisano, and P. Taels, Phys. Rev. D 96, 036011 (2017).
- [55] U. D'Alesio, F. Murgia, C. Pisano, and S. Rajesh, Eur. Phys. J. C 79, 1029 (2019).
- [56] U. D'Alesio, L. Maxia, F. Murgia, C. Pisano, and S. Rajesh, Phys. Rev. D 102, 094011 (2020).
- [57] S. Arnold, A. Metz, and M. Schlegel, Phys. Rev. D 79, 034005 (2009).
- [58] D. Boer, L. Gamberg, B. Musch, and A. Prokudin, J. High Energy Phys. 10 (2011) 021.