Gravitational form factors within light-cone sum rules at leading order

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We develop an approach based on the light-cone sum rules at the leading order of α_S to calculate the gravitational form factors A(t) and B(t) for the valence quark combinations in a nucleon. Within the proposed model, the predictions for the gravitational form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ (D-term contributions) have been presented. Comparison with the experimental data and with the results of different models is discussed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

It is well known that the hadron matrix element of energy-momentum tensor (EMT) can provide information on fundamental characteristics of particles such as mass and spin [1-5]. Especially, efforts have been made to establish the relations between the gravitational form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$ which parametrize the hadron matrix element of EMT and the Mellin x-moment of generalized parton distributions $H(x, \xi, t)$ and $E(x, \xi, t)$ also known as Ji's sum rules. There is an opinion that such relations can help us to make a progress in understanding the hadron spin problem (see, e.g., comprehensive reviews [4,5]). Besides, one of the EMT form factors has been related to the socalled *D*-term [6] which is considered as the last unknown fundamental hadron characteristic determining the spatial deformations as well as defining the mechanical properties of hadrons [1-3]. The analogy of *D*-term with the vacuum cosmological constant has been observed in [7]. Also, the D-term has been calculated using dispersion relations giving the good agreement with the chiral quark-soliton model [8]. Recently, the results of [2] have been extended to the different frames where the nucleon has the nonvanishing average momentum [9].

The energy-momentum tensor plays the role in the interplay between the gravitation as an external field and the matter fields in the similar manner as the gauge field (photons, gluons) interacts with fermions or other particles by means of the corresponding electromagnetic current. In this connection, we shall adopt the technique of lightcone sum rules (LCSRs) developed for the different nucleon electromagnetic form factors in [10–12].

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In the present paper, we develop the light-cone sum rules for the purpose of computing the nucleon gravitational form factors. In [13,14], the pion gravitational form factors have been studied using the hadron tomography and effective chiral quark model. The obvious preponderance of LCSRs is that it provides a possibility to calculate the soft contributions to the different form factors as an expansion in terms of hadron distribution amplitudes (DAs) of increasing twist with the help of dispersion relations and quark-hadron duality [15–18]. Indeed, within the LCSRs formalism, the soft contributions to the form factors can be calculated in terms of the same DAs that enter the factorization theorem and/or pQCD calculations. More importantly, it has been proven that there is no double counting (see, e.g., [15]). Thus, the LCSRs provide one with the most direct relation of the hadron form factors and DAs that is available at present, without requiring other nonperturbative parameters.

In the frame of the approach that we develop based on the light-cone sum rules at the leading order of α_S , we compute the gravitational form factors A(t) and B(t) and estimate the gravitational form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$. We emphasize that the gravitational form factors A(t) and B(t) can be calculated directly with the help of the sum rules extracted from the plus-plus light-cone projection of EMT for sufficiently large Euclidian $t \gtrsim 1 \text{ GeV}^2$. The plus-plus light-cone projection of EMT can be associated with the plus light-cone projection of electromagnetic current. Unfortunately, as explained in this paper, the full information on the gravitation form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ (*D*-term form factor) cannot be obtained within the LCSRs due to the lack of the sum rules that use the minus and perpendicular lightcone projections of electromagnetic current. Instead, for the estimation of $\mathbb{D}(t)$, we study the valence quark contributions in nucleon that stem from the leading collinear twist-2 combination of the electromagnetic current.

In order to approach the small t region, where the LCSRs approach is actually useless, we first approximate the form factors derived for the large t region by the appropriate

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multipole functions and, then we do the analytical continuations of fitted form factors to the small t region. With the calculated form factors, we present the result for the Mellin x-moment of GPDs combination $H(x, \xi, t) + E(x, \xi, t)$. Our final predictions demonstrate reasonably good agreements with the first experimental data [19,20], the chiral quark-soliton and Skyrme model results for D-term contributions [2].

The presentation is organized as follows. Section II contains the necessary definitions and explanations of our notations. Section III includes the description of the general structure of LCSRs approach, the leading-order sum rules and the results concerning the gravitational form factors and their applications for the description of the so-called mechanical properties of nucleon. Section IV is reserved for conclusions. In the Appendix we give the introductory material about the geometrical and collinear twists.

II. ENERGY-MOMENTUM TENSOR

Let us introduce the Sudakov expansion of an arbitrary vector as

$$a^{\mu} = a^{+}p^{\mu} + a^{-}n^{\mu} + a^{\mu} \equiv a^{\mu,+} + a^{\mu,-} + a^{\mu}$$
 (1)

with

$$p^2 = n^2 = 0, p \cdot n = 1.$$
 (2)

Throughout the paper, for the sake of simplicity, we assume all Lorentz indices to be contravariant ones irrespective of its positions in our formulas unless it is specified otherwise, i.e.,

$$A_{\alpha}B_{\alpha} \equiv A_{\alpha}B^{\alpha} = A^{+}B^{-} + A^{-}B^{+} - \vec{\mathbf{A}}_{\perp}\vec{\mathbf{B}}_{\perp}. \tag{3}$$

For the quark contribution, the Belinfanté improved energy-momentum tensor is nothing but the local geometrical twist-2 operator which reads

$$\Theta_q^{\mu\nu}(0) = \frac{i}{2} \mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu} \tag{4}$$

and it can be expressed through the nonlocal operator as (cf. [21])

$$-2i\Theta_{q}^{\mu\nu}(0) = \lim_{y \to 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{\nu}} \int_{0}^{1} du \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{\mu}} [\bar{\psi}(0)\hat{y}[0; uy]_{A} \psi(uy)] - (\text{trace}), \tag{5}$$

where $y = (y^+, y^-, \vec{\mathbf{y}}_\perp)$. From now on, we do not show the trace subtractions. In Appendix, we briefly provide the necessary descriptions regarding the collinear and geometrical twists

In addition, for our further purposes, we also introduce the local geometrical twist-2 operator defined as

$$\begin{split} \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu} &= \lim_{y\to 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{\nu}} \int_{0}^{1} du \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{\mu}} [\bar{\psi}(0) y_{\alpha} \gamma^{\alpha,+} [0; uy]_{A} \psi(uy)] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{\mu,+} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\nu} \psi(0) + \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{\nu,+} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\mu} \psi(0)) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} (g^{\mu-} \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{+} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\nu} \psi(0) + g^{\nu-} \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{+} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\mu} \psi(0)) \end{split}$$
(6)

which differs from the operator $\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu}$. However, it is important to note that

$$\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau-2}^{++} = \mathcal{R}_{\tau-2}^{++}.$$
 (7)

The reason for the introduction of $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu}$ is the following: it is well known [17] that for the electromagnetic form factors the LCSRs can be established self-consistently only for the plus light-cone projection of electromagnetic current, $J_{\rm em}^+(0)$, which corresponds to the twist-2 operator combination of the current. Having kept only the plus light-cone projection of the nonlocal operator, we are able to develop LCSRs for the gravitational form factors by means of appropriate adoption of our preceding calculations implemented for the electromagnetic form factors [10] [see Eqs. (5) and (6)]. As a result, we are limited by the bilinear quark combinations with the spin projection $s_a = +1$, i.e., we deal with the collinear twist-2 quark combination $[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]$ of $\mathcal{R}^{\mu\nu}_{\tau=2}$. For example, excluding the trivial case of the plus-plus projection presented in Eq. (7), we consider $\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{+-}$ which is

$$\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{+-} = \frac{1}{2} (\bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{+} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{-} \psi(0) + \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{-} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{+} \psi(0))$$
$$= \tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau=2}^{+-} + \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^{-} \vec{\mathcal{D}}^{+} \psi(0). \tag{8}$$

Here, the first term with $[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]$ -combination is traded for $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau=2}^{+-}$ while the second term with $[\bar{\psi}_-\psi_-]$ -combination is kept intact and it is beyond the direct computations within our approach.

Notice that the $[\bar{\psi}_-\psi_-]$ and $[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_-]$ contributions to Θ^{+-} and $\Theta^{+\perp}$ remain unavailable for the explicit LCSRs calculations, because they are given by "bad" projections $J_{\rm em}^-(0)$ and $J_{\rm em}^\perp(0)$. Indeed, in this case we are forced to deal with the amplitudes generated by the vacuum-nucleon matrix element of T-product involving the Ioffe interpolation current η [see Eq. (13)] and operator $\bar{\psi}\gamma^{-(\perp)}\vec{\mathcal{D}}^+\psi$, i.e., $\langle 0|T\eta(0)[\bar{\psi}(x)\gamma^{-(\perp)}\vec{\mathcal{D}}^+\psi(x)]|P\rangle$, which, in turn, are related to the useless amplitude with $\langle 0|T\eta(0)J_{\rm em}^{-(\perp)}(x)|P\rangle$.

However, we can still make several estimations for this kind of contributions.

III. GRAVITATIONAL FORM FACTORS WITHIN THE LO LCSR

Before we move on to the detailed analysis, let us draw the main stages of our approach based on the leading order LCSRs. First, we begin with the quark contribution to the hadron matrix element of the Belinfanté improved energymomentum tensor operator which is (see, for instance, [3])

$$\langle P'|\Theta_{\mu\nu}^{(q)}(0)|P\rangle = \bar{N}(P') \left[\mathbb{A}(t) \frac{\bar{P}_{\mu}\bar{P}_{\nu}}{m_{N}} + i\mathbb{J}(t) \frac{\bar{P}_{\{\mu}\sigma_{\nu\}\Delta}}{m_{N}} + \mathbb{D}(t) \frac{\Delta_{\mu}\Delta_{\nu} - g_{\mu\nu}\Delta^{2}}{4m_{N}} + g_{\mu\nu}m_{N}\bar{\mathbb{C}}(t) \right] N(P),$$

$$(9)$$

where

$$\mathbb{J}(t) = \frac{1}{2} (\mathbb{A}(t) + \mathbb{B}(t)), \qquad a_{\{\mu} b_{\nu\}} = \frac{1}{2} (a_{\mu} b_{\nu} + a_{\nu} b_{\mu}),$$
$$\bar{P} = \frac{1}{2} (P' + P), \qquad \Delta = P' - P, \qquad \Delta^2 = -t. \quad (10)$$

Notice that the Belinfanté improved energy-momentum or angular momentum tensor includes the contribution from the spin momentum tensor.

As usual, the hadron momenta can be expanded over the light-cone basis as [10]

$$P = p + \frac{m_N^2}{2}n, \qquad \Delta = P \cdot \Delta n + \Delta_{\perp}.$$
 (11)

As shown below, the projection $\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{++}$ is enough to calculate only the form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$.

Regarding the form factor $\bar{\mathbb{C}}(t)$, based on the QCD equations of motion it can be expressed through the nucleon matrix elements of the quark-gluon operator (for the quark contribution) or the gluon-gluon operator (for the gluon contribution) [22]. Therefore, the calculation of $\bar{\mathbb{C}}(t)$ is not available at the leading order. Moreover, this form factor meets the condition $\sum_a \overline{\mathbb{C}^a}(t) = 0$ which shows that the total (quark and gluon) EMT is conserved. So, at the moment, the consideration of $\bar{\mathbb{C}}(t)$ is not presented in the present paper and is postponed to the forthcoming work.

To calculate the form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ one needs a projection such as $\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{+-}$. In the present paper, our exact computations are restricted by the consideration of $[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]$ —combinations. Hence, we are dealing with the corresponding projections of $\tilde{\mathcal{R}}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu}$ rather than the projections of $\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\nu}$. Regarding the $[\bar{\psi}_-\psi_-]$ —combinations, we propose a reliable recipe for estimations of these contributions, see the Sec. III B.

In analogy with the nucleon electromagnetic form factors, we define the amplitude which corresponds to the hadron matrix element of the energy-momentum tensor as

$$T_{\mu\nu}(P,\Delta) = \lim_{y\to 0} \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{\nu}} \int_{0}^{1} du \frac{\partial}{\partial w_{\mu}} \int (d^{4}z) e^{-i\Delta \cdot z} \langle 0| T\eta(0)$$

$$\times \left[\bar{\psi}(w+z) w^{\alpha} \gamma^{\alpha,+} [w+z; -w+z]_{A} \right]$$

$$\times \psi(-w+z) |P\rangle \tag{12}$$

where w = uy. $\eta(0)$ stands for the Ioffe interpolation current defined as

$$\eta(0) = \varepsilon^{ijk} [u^i(0)C\gamma_\alpha u^j(0)]\gamma_5\gamma_\alpha d^k(0). \tag{13}$$

Below, the color indices i, j, k, ... are omitted.

As mentioned above, we adhere to the computation procedure applied first to the case of electromagnetic form factors [10]. After the replacement $z \rightarrow z + w$, the amplitude (12) takes the general form of

$$T_{\mu\nu}(P,\Delta) = \mathcal{P}^{(\eta)} \int (d^4z) e^{-i\Delta \cdot (z+w)} \int [dx_i] e^{-ix_i P \cdot z}$$

$$\times \{ \mathbb{V}_1(x) (\hat{P}C) \gamma_5 N(P) + \cdots \}$$

$$\otimes \left[\int (d^4k) e^{+ik \cdot (z+2w)} S(k) \bar{\mu} \, \hat{n} \right]$$
(14)

where $w^{\alpha}\gamma^{\alpha,+} = \bar{\mu} \,\hat{n}$, $\mathcal{P}^{(\eta)}$ implies the Ioffe interpolation current projection operator and different $\mathbb{V}_i(x)$ denote the corresponding DAs. For the sake of shortness, we here use the shorthand notation:

$$\mathcal{P}^{(\eta)}\{\mathbb{V}_1(x)(\hat{P}C)\gamma_5N(P)+\cdots\}\otimes[S(k)\hat{n}], \quad (15)$$

which, in the case of d-quark contribution, is equal to

$$V_1(x)\operatorname{tr}[C\gamma_{\alpha}\hat{P}C]\gamma_5\gamma_{\alpha}S(k)\hat{n}\gamma_5N(P) + \cdots. \tag{16}$$

The extension to the other flavors is straightforward.

Notice that our DAs are, generally speaking, schemeand scale-dependent. In calculations of any physical observables this dependence is canceled by the corresponding dependence of the coefficient functions. Although the μ^2 -dependence of DAs is not shown, we always keep in mind this dependence. Moreover, our DAs can be expanded in the set of orthogonal polynomials $\mathcal{P}_{nk}(x_i)$ defined as eigenfunctions of the corresponding one-loop evolution equation. In our previous study [10], the different parameter dependences of DAs have been thoroughly investigated. We extend this analysis to our present work.

A little algebra, using integration by parts, leads to the following result

$$T_{\mu\nu}(P,\Delta)$$

$$= \frac{i}{2} \frac{(-i)}{4} \mathcal{P}^{(\eta)} \int \mathcal{D}x_i \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1} [2x_1 P + \Delta]_{\mu} [2x_1 P + \Delta]_{\nu} \right)$$

$$\times \{ \mathbb{V}_1(x) (\hat{P}C) \gamma_5 N(P) + \cdots \} \otimes [S(x_1 P + \Delta) \bar{\mu} \, \hat{n}].$$
(17)

To extend the preceding calculations performed for electromagnetic form factors to the case of gravitational form factors we have to weight the electromagnetic form factors with the certain tensor structure, see (17). Indeed, in the schematic form, the correspondence reads

$$\begin{split} &\{\text{Grav FFs}\}_{\mu\nu} \\ &= (2p_{\mu}[2x_{i}P + \Delta]_{\nu} + (\mu \leftrightarrow \nu)) \otimes \{\text{Elec Mag FFs}\} \end{split} \tag{18}$$

The exact expression for the amplitude for d-quark contribution is given by

$$T_{\mu\nu}^{(d)}(P,\Delta) = \frac{1}{8} \int \mathcal{D}x_i (2p_{\mu}[2x_1P + \Delta]_{\nu} + (\mu \leftrightarrow \nu)) T_{\text{em}}^{(d)+}(x_i; P, \Delta),$$
(19)

where

$$T_{\text{em}}^{(q)+}(x_i; P, \Delta) = \{ m_N \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+(q)}(x_i; \Delta^2, P'^2) + \hat{\Delta}_{\perp} \mathcal{B}_{\text{em}}^{+(q)}(x_i; \Delta^2, P'^2) \} N^+(P),$$

$$N^{\pm}(P) = \Lambda^{\pm} N(P), \qquad \Lambda^+ = \frac{\hat{p} \, \hat{n}}{2 \, p n},$$

$$\Lambda^- = \frac{\hat{n} \, \hat{p}}{2 \, p n}, \qquad (20)$$

and $\mathcal{A}_{em}^{+(q)}$, $\mathcal{B}_{em}^{+(q)}$ have been taken from [10,23].

From Eq. (19), we conclude that the tensor structure of the amplitude (12) is entirely determined by the tensor

$$2p_{\mu}[2x_{i}P + \Delta]_{\nu} + (\mu \leftrightarrow \nu). \tag{21}$$

Since the Ioffe current $\eta(0)$ has been used as the interpolation current, we focus on the valence quark contributions to nucleon. Notice that all amplitudes and form factors should be understood as the objects where the summation over u- and d-flavors have been implemented: $T_{\mu\nu} = T_{\mu\nu}^{(u)} + T_{\mu\nu}^{(d)}$ etc.

A. Plus-plus light-cone projections of the amplitude: Form factors A(t) and B(t)

We are now in a position to discuss the LCSRs which stem from the different light-cone projections. To begin with, we dwell on the plus-plus light-cone projection of the amplitude which is given by

$$n_{\mu}n_{\nu}T^{\mu\nu}(P,\Delta) = T^{++}(P,\Delta)$$

= $[m_{N}A^{++}(P,\Delta) + \hat{\Delta}_{\perp}B^{++}(P,\Delta)]N^{+}(P).$ (22)

Making use of the Borel transforms one obtains the sum rules

$$A(t) = \frac{1}{2} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \{ A_{\text{QCD}}^{++}(\Delta^2, s) \}$$
 (23)

$$\mathbb{B}(t) = -\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \{ \mathcal{B}_{\text{QCD}}^{++}(\Delta^2, s) \}, \tag{24}$$

where, for the sake of shortness, we introduce the convenient notation

$$\int \hat{d}\mu(s)\{\mathcal{F}\} = \frac{1}{\lambda_1 \pi} \int_0^{s_0} ds \, e^{(m_N^2 - s)/M^2} \operatorname{Im}\{\mathcal{F}(s, t)\}. \quad (25)$$

In Eq. (25), $s_0 \simeq (1.5 \text{ GeV})^2$ implies the interval of duality (also called continuum threshold) and λ_1 parametrizes the vacuum-nucleon matrix element of the interpolation current η , $\langle 0|\eta(0)|P\rangle = \lambda_1 m_N N(P)$.

In contrast to the other gravitational form factors, these form factors can totally be calculated in QCD with a help of the factorization theorem for sufficiently large Euclidian $t \gtrsim 1~{\rm GeV^2}$. The leading order expressions for \mathcal{A}^{++} and \mathcal{B}^{++} are available from [10] provided the fraction integrations are weighted with the corresponding x_i -variables. That is, we should add x_3 or x_2 in the integration measures for d- or u-quark contributions of \mathcal{A} - and \mathcal{B} -amplitudes.

In [10], for consistency with our next-to-leading calculation we rewrite the leading order results in the form where all kinematic factors have been expanded in powers of m_N^2/t . Here, we also follow this method and keep all corrections $O(m_N^2/t)$ while the terms $O(m_N^4/t^2)$ have been neglected. This is consistent with taking into account the contributions of twist-three, -four, -five (and, partially, twist-six) in the operator product expansion. Notice that the most higher twist contributions are presented by the Wandzura-Wilczek approximation, except the twist-four DAs where the "genuine" twist-four has been involved. The genuine twist-five and twist-six distribution amplitudes are not known and, in our analysis, these contributions are neglected. This is consistent with neglecting four-particle nucleon DA terms with the additional gluon.

Therefore, according to this strategy, the gravitational form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$ are not reachable for the region of small t within LCSRs approach. However, we can do approximate fits for these form factors in the region of large t and, then, perform an analytical continuation of the obtained fitting functions to the region of small t.

The computation results for A(t) and B(t) are presented in Figs. 1 and 2, respectively. It turns out that the gravitational form factor A(t) can be sufficiently described by the multipole function defined as

$$A^{\text{fit}}(t) = \frac{\kappa}{(1+at)^b}, \qquad \kappa = 1.01 \pm 0.13,$$

$$a = 0.7 \pm 0.05 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \qquad b = 2.95 \pm 0.05,$$

$$A^{\text{fit}}(0) = -2.1, \qquad (26)$$

while the gravitational form factor $\mathbb{B}(t)$ can be approximated with the function given by

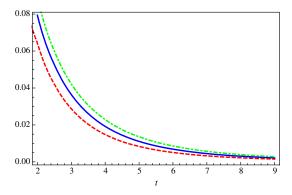


FIG. 1. The gravitational form factor $\mathbb{A}(t) = \mathbb{A}^{(u)}(t) + \mathbb{A}^{(d)}(t)$ for the region of large t. Notations: the solid blue line corresponds to ABO1; the dashed red line corresponds to ABO1; the dot-dashed green line corresponds to BLW [10].

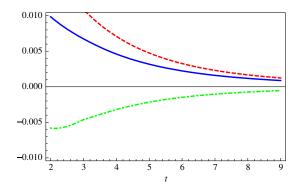


FIG. 2. The gravitational form factor $-\mathbb{B}(t) = -\mathbb{B}^{(u)}(t) - \mathbb{B}^{(d)}(t)$ for the region of large t. Notations: the solid blue line corresponds to ABO2; the dashed red line corresponds to ABO1; the dot-dashed green line corresponds to BLW [10].

$$\mathbb{B}^{\text{fit}}(t) = \frac{kt}{(1+ct)^d}, \qquad k = 0.073 \pm 0.003,$$

$$c = 0.45 \pm 0.02 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \qquad d = 4.1 \pm 0.2 \tag{27}$$

both for ABO2-parametrization of [10].

As in Ref. [10], main nonperturbative input in the LCSR calculation of form factors is provided by normalization constants and shape parameters of nucleon DAs: $\{\varphi_{10}, \varphi_{11}, \varphi_{12}, \varphi_{13}, \varphi_{14}, \varphi_{1$ $\varphi_{20}, \varphi_{21}, \varphi_{22}$ }—for twist-3 and $\{\eta_{10}, \eta_{11}\}$ —for twist-4. The nucleon coupling to the (Ioffe) interpolation current λ_1 simultaneously determines the normalization of twist-four DAs so that the LCSRs effectively only involve the ratio of twist-three and twist-four couplings, f_N/λ_1 . All parameters are rescaled to $\mu^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$ using one-loop anomalous dimensions. The other parameters that enter LCSRs are the interval of duality (continuum threshold) s_0 and Borel parameter M^2 . We do separate the results for $M^2 =$ 1.5 GeV² and $M^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$ that are referred in what follows as ABO1 and ABO2, respectively. In the similar manner, the parameter set denoted as BLW [17] has been determined.

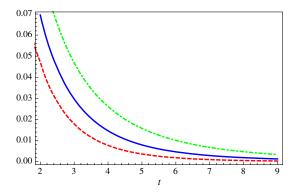


FIG. 3. The sum of gravitational form factors A(t) and B(t) which gives the first moment of $H(x, \xi, t) + E(x, \xi, t)$ for the region of large t. Notations: the solid blue line corresponds to ABO2; the dashed red line corresponds to ABO1; the dot-dashed green line corresponds to BLW [10].

The Borel parameter M^2 corresponds to the inverse imaginary time (squared) at which matching of the QCD calculation is done to the expansion in hadronic states. Usually, we can try to take M^2 as small as possible in order to reduce sensitivity to the contributions of higher-mass states, which is the main irreducible uncertainty of the LCSRs method. Thus, despite our analysis being limited by the leading order, in this work as in Ref. [10], we take $M^2 = 1.5 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $M^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$ as two acceptable choices.

As is well known, the gravitational form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$ define the Mellin moment of generalized parton distributions as

$$\int_{-1}^{1} dx x \left(H(x, \xi, t) + E(x, \xi, t) \right) = \mathbb{A}(t) + \mathbb{B}(t) = 2\mathbb{J}(t)$$
(28)

which directly relates to the total nucleon spin. Our results for the sum of A(t) and B(t) with the valence quark combinations are depicted in Fig. 3.

The normalization condition given by

$$\sum_{a=q,q,\dots} \mathbb{A}^a(0) = 1 \tag{29}$$

takes place provided one sums over all parton contributions inside the nucleon including the valence, sea and other contributions to form the nucleon spin [24]. Our LCSR calculations show that the fitting parameter κ of (26) is close to 1. It means that for more comprehensive analysis it is necessary to take into account the next-to-leading-order corrections to the LCSRs together with the gluon and sea quark contributions. We plan to study this in the future works.

B. Plus-minus light-cone projections of the amplitude: Estimated form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$

We are now going over to the plus-minus light-cone projection of the amplitude which is $T^{+-}(P,\Delta)$. Introducing the combination and the notations given by

$$\mathbb{F}(t) = 2m_N \left(m_N \bar{\mathbb{C}}(t) - \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^2}{4m_N} \mathbb{D}(t) \right),$$

$$T_{1(4)[\bar{\psi}_+ \psi_+]}^{+-} = \bar{T}_{1(4)[\bar{\psi}_+ \psi_+]}^{+-} N^+(P), \tag{30}$$

the first type of amplitudes yields

$$\frac{\lambda_{1} m_{N}}{m_{N}^{2} - P^{\prime 2}} \left(m_{N}^{2} \mathbb{A}(t) + \left[\frac{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}}{4} + P \cdot \Delta \right] \mathbb{A}(t) + \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}}{4} \mathbb{B}(t) + \mathbb{F}(t) \right) N^{+}(P)$$

$$= m_{N} (\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+-} + \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-}) N^{+}(P) \tag{31}$$

where

$$\begin{split} & m_{N}(\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+-} + \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-}) \\ &= m_{N}\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} + \frac{m_{N}}{\pi} \int_{0}^{s_{0}} \frac{ds}{s - P'^{2}} \\ &\times \operatorname{Im} \left\{ \frac{m_{N}^{2}}{4} \mathcal{A}^{++}(s, t) + \frac{P \cdot \Delta}{4} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+}(s, t) \right\}. \end{split}$$
(32)

For the second type of amplitudes, we can write the following

$$\begin{split} &\frac{\lambda_{1}}{m_{N}^{2}-P'^{2}}\bigg(\frac{m_{N}^{2}}{2}\mathbb{A}(t)-\frac{P\cdot\Delta}{2}\mathbb{B}(t)+\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{F}(t)\bigg)\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}N^{+}(P)\\ &=\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}(\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+-}+\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-})N^{+}(P) \end{split} \tag{33}$$

where

$$\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}(\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+-} + \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-})$$

$$= \hat{\Delta}_{\perp}\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} + \frac{\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}}{\pi} \int_{0}^{s_{0}} \frac{ds}{s - P'^{2}}$$

$$\times \operatorname{Im}\left\{\frac{m_{N}^{2}}{4}\mathcal{B}^{++}(s, t) + \frac{P \cdot \Delta}{4}\mathcal{B}_{em}^{+}(s, t)\right\}. \tag{34}$$

Unlike the plus-plus light-cone projection, the Eqs. (31) and (33) do not form the closed system of equations. Hence, there is no way to compute the form factors $\mathbb{D}(t)$ directly. Instead, we shall try to estimate the form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$.

The next step is to perform the Borel transforms of Eqs. (31) and (33). Afterwards using Eq. (23), we derive the first sum rules which read

$$\mathbb{F}(t) = \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} - \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{m_N^2}{4} \mathcal{A}^{++} - \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^2}{4} \left(\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^{++} + \mathcal{B}^{++} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right) \right\}$$
(35)

and the second sum rules which are

$$\mathbb{F}(t) = 2\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} - \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{m_N^2}{2} (\mathcal{A}^{++} - \mathcal{B}^{++}) - \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^2}{4} (2\mathcal{B}^{++} - \mathcal{B}_{em}^{+}) \right\}.$$
(36)

Equations (35) and (36) yield the following integral relation:

$$\left(1 + \frac{2m_N^2}{\Delta_\perp^2}\right) \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{\frac{A^{++}}{2} - B^{++}\right\}
= \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{\frac{A_{\text{em}}^+}{2} - B_{\text{em}}^+\right\} + \frac{4}{\Delta_\perp^2} \bar{T}_{41[\bar{\psi}_-\psi_-]}^{+-}$$
(37)

where, by definition,

$$\bar{T}_{41[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} = 2\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} - \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-}.$$
 (38)

Based on the relation (37), it is instructive to analyze the functions $R_1(t)$ and $R_2(t)$ given by

$$R_1(t) = \frac{\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \{\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^{++} - \mathcal{B}^{++}\}}{\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \{\frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^{+}_{em} - \mathcal{B}^{+}_{em}\}} \left(1 + \frac{2m_N^2}{\Delta_\perp^2}\right) - 1$$
 (39)

and

$$R_{2}(t) = \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{A}^{++}}{2} - \mathcal{B}^{++} \right\} \left(1 + \frac{2m_{N}^{2}}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \right) - \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{\mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+}}{2} - \mathcal{B}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right\}.$$
(40)

The behavior of R_1 and R_2 as functions of t has been presented in Fig. 4. The numerical analysis shows that R_1 and R_2 scale approximately -0.8 and -0.02, respectively. If we reckon that $R_2 \approx 0$ and $R_1 \approx -1$, we are able to estimate the unknown LCSRs contributions as

$$2\lim_{t \to \infty} \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} \approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} \tag{41}$$

and

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{4}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} (2\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-} - \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-})$$

$$\approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \mathcal{B}_{\text{em}}^{+} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right\}. \tag{42}$$

Our numerical analysis shows that these estimations work with a good precision for $t \ge 2 \text{ GeV}^2$.

Since the amplitudes of \mathcal{A} - and \mathcal{B} -types are nothing but the invariant amplitudes of T_1 - and T_4 -types [see Eqs. (32) and (34)], from Eqs. (37), (41), and (42) we group together the \mathcal{A} (\mathcal{B})-type of form factors for T_1 (T_4)-type of amplitude and, therefore, we impose that

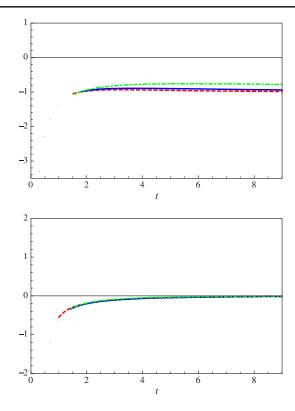


FIG. 4. The functions $R_1(t)$ (the upper panel) and $R_2(t)$ (the lower panel). Notations: the solid blue line corresponds to ABO2; the dashed red line corresponds to ABO1; the dot-dashed green line corresponds to BLW [10].

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{4}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-}$$

$$\approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B}_{em}^{+} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B}^{++} \left(1 - \frac{2m_{N}^{2}}{t} \right) \right\}$$

$$\approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B}_{em}^{+} \right\}$$
(43)

and

$$\lim_{t \to \infty} \frac{4}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{-}\psi_{-}]}^{+-}$$

$$\approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} - \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^{++} \left(1 - \frac{2m_{N}^{2}}{t} \right) \right\}$$

$$\approx \lim_{t \to \infty} \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right\}$$
(44)

provided $|\mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{em}}^+| \gg |\mathcal{B}^{++}(1-2m_N^2/t)|$ and $|\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{em}}^+| \gg |\mathcal{A}^{++}(1-2m_N^2/t)|$ which are not at odds with the numerical analysis. Indeed, even for the region of moderate t, i.e., $t \in [7,10]$ GeV², we have $|\mathcal{B}_{\mathrm{em}}^+|/|\mathcal{B}^{++}(1-2m_N^2/t)| \sim 0.3$ while $|\mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{em}}^+|/|\mathcal{A}^{++}(1-2m_N^2/t)| \sim 0.1$.

We now analyze the *D*-term contributions. Neglecting $\bar{\mathbb{C}}$ -term from \mathbb{F} -combination at the large t, we first derive

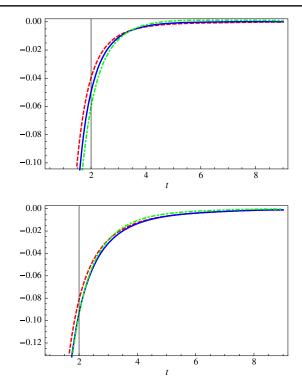


FIG. 5. The gravitational form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ for the region of large t: $\frac{5}{4}\mathbb{D}_{4[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]}(t)$ (the upper panel) and the estimated total $\frac{5}{4}\mathbb{D}(t)$ (the lower panel). Notations: the solid blue line corresponds to ABO2; the dashed red line corresponds to ABO1; the dot-dashed green line corresponds to BLW [10].

the $[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]$ -contribution to the *D*-term form factor. For example, from Eq. (36), we have

$$-2\mathbb{D}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]} \approx \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ 2\mathcal{B}^{++} - \mathcal{B}_{em}^{+} - \frac{2m_{N}^{2}}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} (\mathcal{A}^{++} - \mathcal{B}^{++}) \right\}. \tag{45}$$

On the other hand, inserting Eq. (43) into Eq. (36) or Eq. (44) into Eq. (35), we estimate the form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ by

$$\mathbb{D}(t) \approx -\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B}^{++} + \frac{m_N^2}{t} \mathcal{A}^{++} \right\}. \tag{46}$$

We emphasize that the form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ is independent one. Equation (46) merely tells us that the estimated $\mathbb{D}(t)$ as a function of t behaves like a combination of the form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$. The results of the calculations for the estimated $\frac{5}{4}\mathbb{D}$ and $\frac{5}{4}\mathbb{D}_{4[\bar{\psi}_+\psi_+]}$ have been demonstrated in Fig. 5. It is important to note that the sign of D-term form factor is mostly determined by the sign of $\mathbb{A}(t)$ rather than by sign of $\mathbb{B}(t)$ in the region where t is relatively moderate one.

In the same manner as in the case of the form factors \mathbb{A} and \mathbb{B} , the estimated $\mathbb{D}(t)$ can be approximated by (cf. [22])

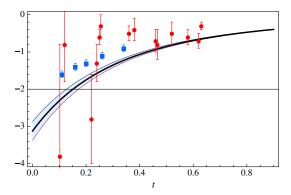


FIG. 6. The gravitational form factor $\frac{5}{4}\mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t)$ which is analytically continued to the region of small t. The experimental data: the blue squares—the Jefferson Lab [20], the red bullet points—the lattice QCD [19].

$$\mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t) = \frac{D}{(1+et)^n}, \quad D = -2.5 \pm 0.2,$$

$$e = 0.93 \pm 0.03 \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad n = 3.4 \pm 0.025. \quad (47)$$

In the small *t*-region, for all sets of LCSR-parametrizations, this approximating function matches, see Fig. 6, with the first experimental data [19,20] together with the results of the chiral quark-soliton and Skyrme models presented in [2]. Our function $\mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t)$ lies below than the quark-soliton prediction and above than the result of Skyrme model.

C. Mechanical properties of nucleon

Having calculated the form factors $\mathbb{D}(t)$ and $\mathbb{A}(t)$, one computes the pressure, the energy density in the center of nucleon and the hadron mechanical radius [2]. We have

$$p_0 = -\frac{1}{24\pi^2 m_N} \int_0^\infty dt t \sqrt{t} \mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t)$$

$$= 0.84 \text{ GeV/fm}^3 [\text{cf.} p_0^{[2]} = 0.23 \text{ GeV/fm}^3]$$
 (48)

for the pressure, and

$$\mathcal{E} = \frac{m_N}{4\pi^2} \int_0^\infty dt \sqrt{t} \left(\mathbb{A}^{\text{fit}}(t) + \frac{t}{4m_N^2} \mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t) \right)$$
$$= 0.92 \text{ GeV/fm}^3 [\text{cf.} \mathcal{E}^{[2]} = 1.7 \text{ GeV/fm}^3] \quad (49)$$

for the energy density, and

$$\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}} = 6D \left[\int_0^\infty dt \, \mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(t) \right]^{-1} = 13.4 \text{ GeV}^{-2} \quad (50)$$

for the mechanical radius.

Moreover, following [2], we present the result, see Fig. 7, for the pressure p(r) as a function of $r = |\vec{\mathbf{r}}_{\perp}|$ given by

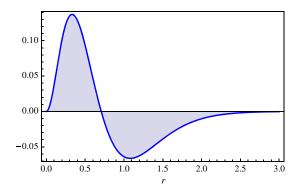


FIG. 7. The normalized pressure $4\pi m_N r^2 p(r) [\text{GeV/fm}]$.

$$p(r) = \frac{1}{6m_N} \frac{1}{r^2} \frac{d}{dr} r^2 \frac{d}{dr} \tilde{\mathbb{D}}^{\text{fit}}(r),$$

$$\tilde{\mathbb{D}}^{\text{fit}}(r) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \int d^2 \vec{\Delta}_{\perp} e^{-i\vec{\mathbf{r}}_{\perp} \vec{\Delta}_{\perp}} \mathbb{D}^{\text{fit}}(\vec{\Delta}_{\perp}^2). \tag{51}$$

One can see that the normalized pressure $4\pi m_N r^2 p(r)$ has zero at r=0.7 fm. The computed function p(r) meets the von Laue condition, i.e.,

$$\int_0^\infty dr \, r^2 p(r) = 0,\tag{52}$$

which is a consequence of the EMT conservation and it shows how the internal forces balance inside a composed particle [1,2]. In addition, the spherical shell of radius r in the nucleon are undergoing the normal and tangential forces: F_n and F_t , respectively. With the obtained $\tilde{\mathbb{D}}^{\text{fit}}(r)$, we can readily calculate these forces:

$$F_n = 4\pi m_N r^2 \left(p(r) + \frac{2}{3} s(r) \right),$$

$$F_t = 4\pi m_N r^2 \left(p(r) - \frac{1}{3} s(r) \right)$$
(53)

where the shear forces s(r) reads

$$s(r) = -\frac{1}{4m_N} r \frac{d}{dr} \frac{1}{r} \frac{d}{dr} \tilde{\mathbb{D}}^{\text{fit}}(r). \tag{54}$$

Figure 8 shows us that the estimated normal and tangential forces which correspond to the valence quark combination are considerably small. This is fairly concordant with the chiral quark-soliton model as well.

D. Plus-perp light-cone projections of the amplitude

The last stage is the consideration of the plus-perp lightcone projection of the amplitude, $T^{+\perp}(P, \Delta)$, it gives us

$$\frac{\lambda_1 m_N \Delta_{\perp}^2}{m_N^2 - P'^2} \mathbb{A}(t) N^+(P) = m_N (\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_+ \psi_+]}^{+\perp} + \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_+ \psi_-]}^{+\perp}) N^+(P)$$
(55)

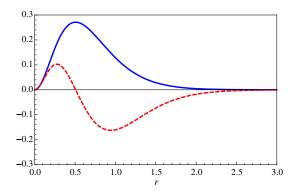


FIG. 8. The normal forces F_n (the solid line) and tangential forces F_t (the dashed line) in [GeV/fm].

where

$$m_{N}(\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+\perp} + \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp})$$

$$= m_{N}\bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp} + \frac{m_{N}}{\pi} \int_{0}^{s_{0}} \frac{ds}{s - P'^{2}} \operatorname{Im} \left\{ \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}}{4} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right\}$$
 (56)

and

$$\frac{\lambda_{1}}{m_{N}^{2} - P^{\prime 2}} \left(P \cdot \Delta \mathbb{J}(t) + \frac{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}}{4} \left[\mathbb{A}(t) - \mathbb{B}(t) \right] \right) \hat{\Delta}_{\perp} N^{+}(P)$$

$$= \hat{\Delta}_{\perp} (\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+\perp} + \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp}) N^{+}(P) \tag{57}$$

where

$$\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}(\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{+}]}^{+\perp} + \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp})
= \hat{\Delta}_{\perp}\bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp} + \frac{\hat{\Delta}_{\perp}}{\pi} \int_{0}^{s_{0}} \frac{ds}{s - P'^{2}} \operatorname{Im}\left\{\frac{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}}{4}\mathcal{B}_{em}^{+}\right\}.$$
(58)

After the Borel transforms and using Eq. (23), we obtain

$$\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{A}^{++} \right\} = \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{A}_{\text{em}}^{+} \right\} + \frac{4}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \bar{T}_{1[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp}, \tag{59}$$

$$\int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{B}^{++} \right\} = \int \hat{d}\mu(s) \left\{ \frac{1}{4} \mathcal{B}_{em}^{+} \right\} + \frac{4}{\Delta_{\perp}^{2}} \bar{T}_{4[\bar{\psi}_{+}\psi_{-}]}^{+\perp}. \tag{60}$$

These sum rules allow us to calculate the contributions of $\bar{T}_{1,4|\bar{\psi}_{\perp}\psi_{-}|}^{+\perp}$ explicitly.

IV. CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

The main challenge in the QCD description of any form factors is the calculation of soft contributions which correspond to the Feynman mechanism to transfer the rather large momentum. As demonstrated in many papers (see, e.g., [15–18]) the LCSRs approach is attractive due to the fact that the soft contributions are calculated in terms of the same DAs that the pQCD calculations include. Thus, the LCSRs can be positioned as one of the most direct relations of the different kind of form factors and hadron DAs that is available at present.

In the paper, we have presented the first calculations and several estimations for the gravitational form factors implemented due to the LCSRs techniques at the leading order.

We have shown that the essential contributions to the gravitational form factors can be computed owing to the suitable adoption of the LCSRs designed for the electromagnetic form factors. Within the developed approach, focusing on the valence quark content of nucleon, we have directly computed the gravitational form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$ for sufficiently large Euclidian $t \gtrsim 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ where the LCSRs approach is reliable. For this region, we have approximated the obtained form factors by the multipole functions $\mathbb{A}^{\text{fit}}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}^{\text{fit}}(t)$ and, then, have analytically continued to the small t region. With the calculated form factors, we have presented the result for the Mellin x-moment of GPDs combination $H(x, \xi, t) + E(x, \xi, t)$.

Also, the several estimations and predictions for the valence quark contributions to the gravitational form factor $\mathbb{D}(t)$ have been done. To the large t region where the LCSRs approach can be used, we have found that the estimated form factor \mathbb{D} as a function of t has the similar behavior as the suitable combination of the form factors $\mathbb{A}(t)$ and $\mathbb{B}(t)$. Regarding the small t region, where the first experimental data are available [19,20], the estimated $\mathbb{D}(t)$ can be approximated by the fitting multipole function $\mathbb{D}^{\mathrm{fit}}(t)$. With the estimated $\mathbb{D}^{\mathrm{fit}}(t)$, a few quantities characterizing the so-called mechanical properties of the nucleon have been calculated. We emphasize that all our results are *not* at odds with the experimental data as well as with the results of the chiral quark-soliton and Skyrme models presented in [2].

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APPENDIX: COLLINEAR AND GEOMETRICAL TWISTS

For pedagogical reasons, we recall briefly the main items from the theory of collinear and geometrical twists. We begin with the nonlocal gauge-invariant quark operator which can be expanded as

$$\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\mu}[0;z]_{A}\psi(z) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n!} z_{\alpha_{1}} \dots z_{\alpha_{n}} \mathcal{O}^{\mu\alpha_{1}\dots\alpha_{n}}(0), \quad (A1)$$

where $(\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\alpha} = \vec{\partial}^{\alpha} - igA^{\alpha})$

$$[0;z]_A = \mathbb{P} \exp \left\{ ig \int_z^0 d\omega_\nu A^\nu(\omega) \right\}$$
 (A2)

and

$$\mathcal{O}^{\mu\alpha_1...\alpha_n}(0) = \bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\mu}\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\alpha_1}...\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\alpha_n}\psi(0). \tag{A3}$$

Here, all of the Lorentz indices are free and $\mathcal{O}^{\mu\alpha_1...\alpha_n}$ does not belong to the irreducible representation SO(3,1). The Lorentz rank-(n+1) tensor can be decomposed over the irreducible representations with a help of the Young tableaux (see, e.g., [4]).

To describe the hard inclusive and exclusive processes, it is instructive to distinguish the geometrical and collinear twists:

geom twist
$$\tau = \text{dimension } d - \text{spin } s$$
,

coll twist
$$t = \text{dimension } d - \text{spin projection } s_a$$
. (A4)

Notice that the definite Lorentz spin s can be associated with the local operators only, while the certain Lorentz spin projection s_a can be related to for both the local and nonlocal operators. Indeed, the certain spin projection, say, $s_a = +1$ can be corresponded to many values of spin: s = +1, +2, +3 etc.

Despite the fact that the irreducible representations of the Lorentz group and its collinear subgroup can only be realized with the local quark-gluon operators, in many cases (e.g., in the exclusive process case) it is convenient to introduce the collinear twist for the subjects which are not forming the irreducible representations. For instance, the individual light-cone spinors $\psi_{\pm}(0)$ have the collinear twists t=1 for the plus projection and t=2 for the minus projection, and $\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\pm}\psi(z)$ and $\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\perp}\psi(z)$ correspond to the collinear twists t=2(4) and t=3, respectively, and so on. We recall that, on the basis of the Weyl representation, the (anti)quarks belong to the spinorial representations, $(\frac{1}{2}, 0)$ or $(0, \frac{1}{2})$, while the Lorentz vectors form the vector representations, $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2})$.

Thus, the geometrical twist-2 operators is defined as

$$\mathcal{R}_{\tau=2}^{\mu\alpha_{1}...\alpha_{n}} = \mathbf{S}_{(\text{all})}\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\mu}\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\alpha_{1}}...\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\alpha_{n}}\psi(0)$$
$$\equiv \mathcal{O}^{\{\mu\alpha_{1}...\alpha_{n}\}}(0) - \text{trace}, \tag{A5}$$

where we introduce the symmetrization symbol which acts, for instance, on the rank-2 local operator as

$$\mathbf{S}_{(\mu\nu)}\mathcal{O}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2!} \left(\mathcal{O}^{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{O}^{\nu\mu} - \frac{1}{2} g^{\mu\nu} g_{\alpha\beta} \mathcal{O}^{\alpha\beta} \right). \tag{A6}$$

It is easy to show that the symmetrization procedure can be presented in the following form:

$$\mathcal{O}^{\{\mu\alpha\}}(0) = \frac{1}{2} \lim_{z \to 0} \frac{\partial^2}{\partial z^{\mu} \partial z^{\alpha}} [\bar{\psi}(0)\hat{z}\psi(z)]$$
 (A7)

where $z = (z^+, z^-, \vec{z}_{\perp})$.

Let us now consider the nonlocal operator $O^+(0,z) = \bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^+\psi(z)$ where $z=z^\perp$ or $z=z^-$. As above-mentioned, this operator has the definite collinear twist-2 (with a spin projection $s_a=+1$) and has no any definite geometrical twist. On the other hand, after decomposition [see Eq. (A1)], the local operators which form the given expansion can have the certain geometrical twists (and, therefore, the certain collinear twists):

$$\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\alpha}\psi(0)$$
 with $\tau = 2$, (A8)

corresponding to the Lorentz spin s = 1, and

$$\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{\alpha}\vec{\mathcal{D}}^{\beta}\psi(0)$$
 leads to $\tau = 2, 3, 4$ (A9)

corresponding to the Lorentz spin s = 2, 1, 0 and so on. Indeed, one can write down that

$$\mathcal{O}^{\alpha\beta} = \mathbf{S}_{(\alpha\beta)} \mathcal{O}^{\alpha\beta} + \mathcal{O}^{[\alpha\beta]} + \frac{1}{4} g^{\alpha\beta} g_{\mu\nu} \mathcal{O}^{\mu\nu}$$

$$\equiv \mathcal{O}_{\{\tau=2\}} + \mathcal{O}_{\{\tau=3\}} + \mathcal{O}_{\{\tau=4\}}. \tag{A10}$$

In a similar way we can treat any Lorentz high-rank tensors. Moreover, to explain how the geometrical and collinear twists work, we consider the first two terms in the decompositions of $O^+(0, z^\perp)$ and $O^+(0, z^-)$. We have

$$\underbrace{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}\psi(z^{\perp})}_{t=2,\text{no }\tau\text{-tw.}} = \underbrace{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}\psi(0)}_{t=2\text{ from }\tau=2} + z^{\perp}\underline{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}}\overrightarrow{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}\psi(0) + \cdots$$

$$\underbrace{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}\psi(z^{-})}_{t=2,\text{no }\tau\text{-tw.}} = \underbrace{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}\psi(0)}_{t=2\text{ from }\tau=2} + z^{-}\underline{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}}\overrightarrow{\mathcal{D}}^{+}\psi(0) + \cdots$$

$$\underbrace{t=2\text{ from }\tau=2}_{t=2\text{ from }\tau=2} + z^{-}\underline{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}}\overrightarrow{\mathcal{D}}^{+}\psi(0) + \cdots$$

$$\underbrace{(A11)}_{t=2,\text{no }\tau\text{-tw.}} = \underbrace{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}\psi(0)}_{t=2\text{ from }\tau=2} + z^{-}\underline{\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^{+}}\overrightarrow{\mathcal{D}}^{+}\psi(0) + \cdots$$

Here, in the second terms the local operators of t=3 and t=2 receive the contributions from the local operators of $\tau=2$, 3 and $\tau=2$, respectively [see Eq. (A10)]. From Eq. (A11), it has been seen that the collinear twist of the left-hand side and right-hand side conserves if we take into account the collinear twist of z^{\perp} with t=-1 and z^{-} with t=0.

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