

# *LFWFs from large momentum effective theory (LaMET)*

*Yizhuang Liu , Jagiellonian University*

---

The talk is based on the recent theoretical work in :

*Computing Light-Front Wave Functions Without Light-Front Quantization: A Large-Momentum Effective Theory Approach*, Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu (Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022), reprint 2106.05310)

For a review of LaMET, see the review article

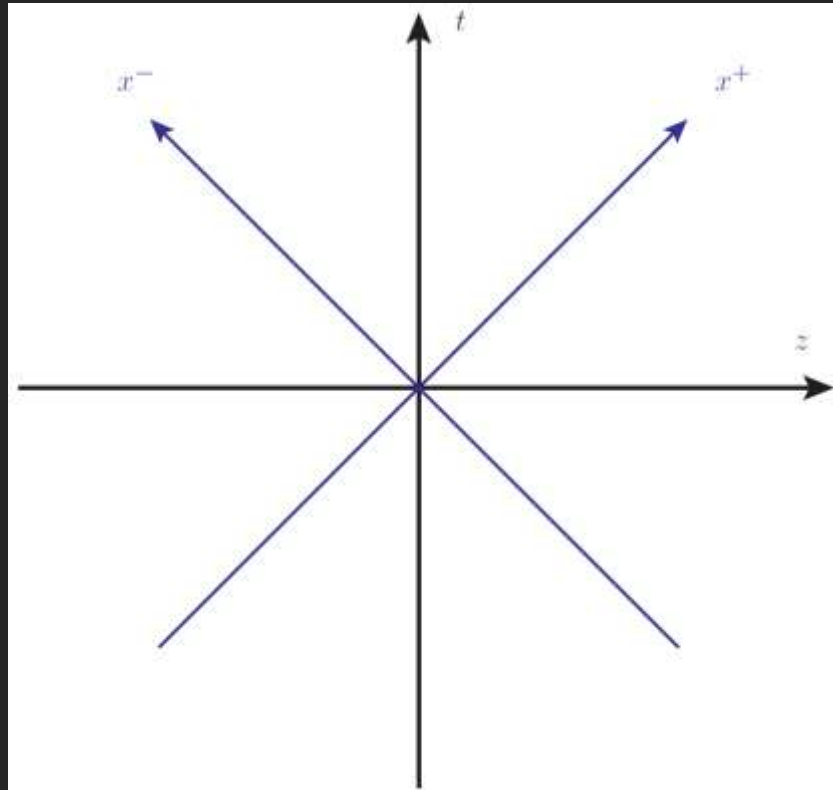
*Large-momentum effective theory*, Rev. Mod. Phys. 93 (2021)

# Outline

---

- Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front
- Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT
- LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization
- LaMET formulation of LFWF amplitudes
- Example: leading LFWF of pseudo-scalar mesons.

# Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front



- Basic information on QFT on LF .
  1. Equal time QFT: **time-like** time  $t$ , **space like** space  $z$ .
  2. QFT on the LF: **light-like** time  $x^+ = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(t + z)$  and **light-like** space  $x^- = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(t - z)$  .
  3. Discovered by Dirac as early as 1940s\*.

\*P. A. M. Dirac, Rev. Mod. Phys. 21, 392 (1949)

# Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front

---

## High energy limit of QFT $\rightarrow$ QFT on the LF!

1. Large rapidity gap sources the light-cone structure.
2. Natural realization of the IMF for Feynman's parton model.
3. Formal infinite momentum limit in old-fashioned perturbation theory. Simplification occurs: vanishing of backward-moving diagrams.
4. Factorization conjecture: PDFs, DAs are naturally expressed as LF correlators.

S. J. Brodsky, H.-C. Pauli, and S. S. Pinsky, Phys. Rept. 301, 299 (1998)

# Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front

## ■ Many body Hamiltonian for LF quantization:

1.  $P^-|P^+\rangle = \frac{m^2}{2P^+}|P^+\rangle$ :  $P^-$  is LF Hamiltonian and  $P^+$  is LF momentum.
2.  $P^- \equiv H_{LF} = H_{LF}^0 + V$ , expressed in terms of LF free-fields.
3.  $k^+$  is supported in  $[0, \infty]$   $\rightarrow$  vanishing of vacuum diagrams  $\rightarrow$  **formal equality** between interacting and free vacuum  $|0_{int}\rangle = |0_{free}\rangle$ .
4. Partons ( $k^+ > 0$ ) well separated from zero modes ( $k^+ = 0$ ).

# Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front

## ■ Expansion in the free Fock-basis:

$$|P^+\rangle = \sum_{N=0}^{\infty} \int d\Gamma_N \psi_N(k_i^+ = x_i P^+, k_{i\perp}) \prod a^\dagger(k_i^+, k_{i\perp}) |0\rangle.$$

1. The  $\psi_N(x_i, k_{i\perp})$  is called **LFWF amplitudes**.
2. They can be expressed as matrix elements  
 $\psi_N(k_i^+ = x_i P^+, k_{i\perp}) \sim \langle 0 | \prod a(k_i^+, k_{i\perp}) | P^+ \rangle.$
3. **Formal** normalizability:  $\sum_N \int d\Gamma_N |\psi_N|^2 = 1.$
4. LF gauge  $A^+ = 0$  for gauge theory.

S. J. Brodsky, H.-C. Pauli, and S. S. Pinsky, Phys. Rept. 301, 299 (1998)

# Outline

---

- Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front
- Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT
- LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization
- LaMET formulation of LFWF amplitudes
- Example: leading LFWF of pseudo-scalar mesons.



# Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT

---

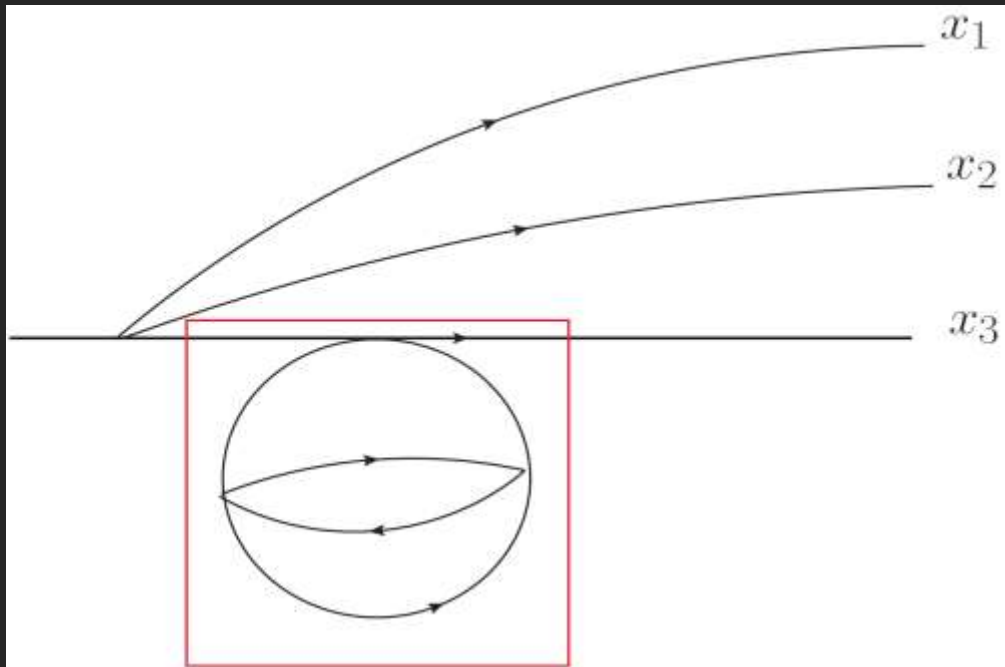
**Non-Euclidean** high energy limit of QFT is already not easy

1. Above threshold, the formidable sign problem.
2. Below threshold, rapidity logs are hard (space-like sudakov form factor). Lack of systematic multi-scale analysis in rapidity space.
3. Below threshold without rapidity logs ( $F(x_B, \frac{Q^2}{m^2})$ ) when  $x_B > 1$ ).  $\ln \frac{Q^2}{m^2}$  is easy but  $\ln \frac{Q^2}{\mu^2} + \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m^2}$  is hard.

LF QFT in Hamiltonian formalism can only be more challenging.

# Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT

1. The **zero-mode problem**:  $k^+ = 0$  modes fail to decouple completely. Vacuum is not trivial at all!
2. Exists even in 2-D scalar field theory. Partially solved in Discrete LF quantization for 2-D models\*\*.



- The part in the red blob can not be calculated in naïve implementation of LFPT\*.
- Corresponds to vacuum condensate  $\langle 0 | \phi^2 | 0 \rangle$ .

\*J. Collins, (2018), arXiv:1801.03960

\*\*H. C. Pauli and S. J. Brodsky, Phys. Rev. D32, 2001(1985)

# Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT

---

3. Besides the zero-mode problem, there are additional **LF divergences** of LF PT when  $k^+ \rightarrow 0$ . Caused by phase space measure + polarization enhancement+ instantaneous diagram.
4. In 4D gauge theory, the divergence can be **more than logarithmic** and splits over many different diagrams. No simple pattern.
5. **Very hard to regulate** in a way consistent with gauge invariance and Lorentz invariance. No consistent regulator known up to now.
6. UV divergence usually become more complicate. Example: the benign 2D massive Gross-Neveu.

# Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT

---

- Why such difficulties ? Because QFT on LF is an effective theory in the non-trivial large rapidity (large momentum/LF) limit.
- More transcendental than  $\xi = \frac{1}{m} \rightarrow \infty$ . LF QFT  $\neq$  Euclidean QFT.
- Constructing LF QFT from Euclidean QFT:
  1. Rapidity renormalization: remove small  $k^+$  contribution causing LF divergence.
  2. UV matching: hard scale induced by the large rapidity limit.

# Outline

---

- Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front
- Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT
- **LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization**
- LaMET formulation of LFWF amplitudes
- Example: leading LFWF of pseudo-scalar mesons.

# LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization

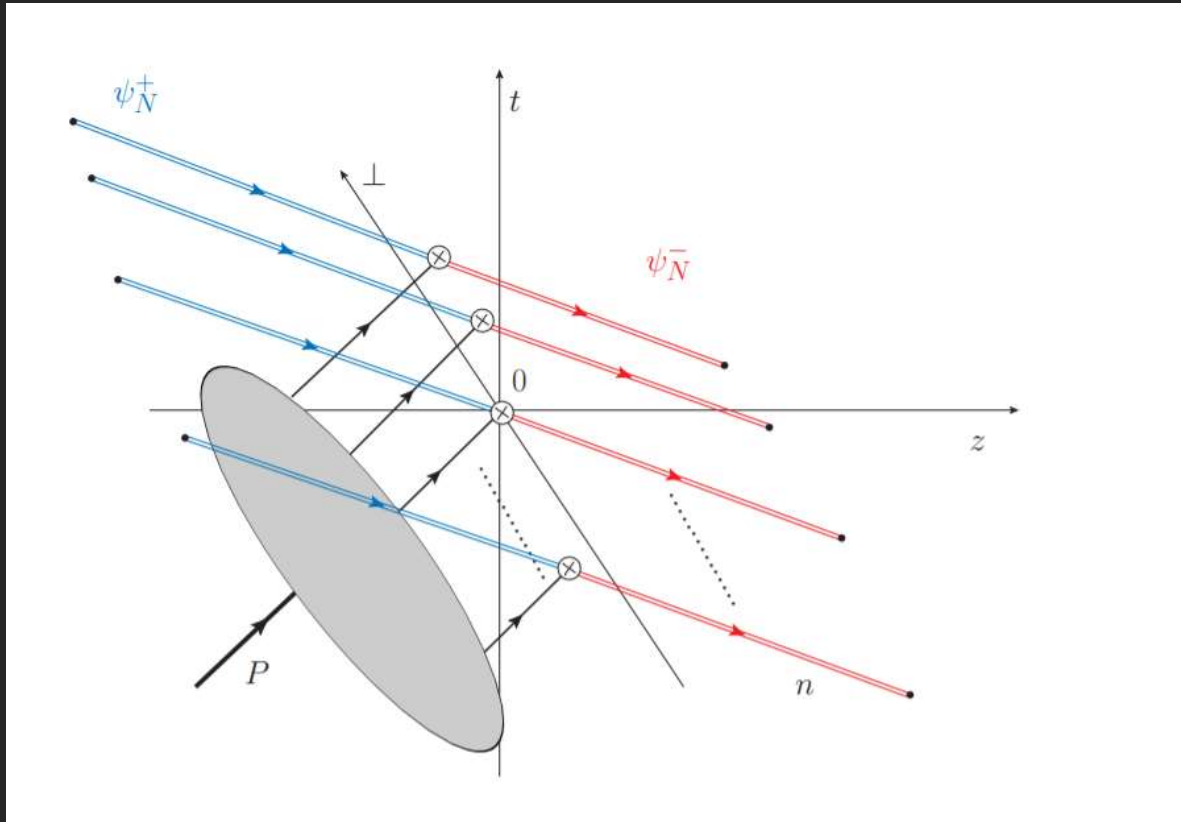
---

- LFWF amplitudes as LF correlation functions.

$$\psi_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu) = \int \prod d\lambda_i e^{i\lambda_i x_i} \langle 0 | P_N \prod \Phi_i^\pm(\lambda_i n + b_{i\perp}) | P \rangle$$

1.  $\Phi_i^\pm(\xi) = P \exp \left[ -i \int_0^{\pm\infty} d\lambda \, n \cdot A(\lambda n + \xi) \right] \phi_i(\xi)$ . Gauge invariant fields with **light-like gauge links** attached.
2. **Equivalent to  $A^+ = 0$  gauge** without gauge links.
3. Transverse gauge link at infinity required in singular gauges.

# LFWF without LF quantization



Rapidity divergences of the form  $\int \frac{dk^+}{k^+}$ . Non-cancelling LF divergence.

The LFWFs  $\psi_N^+$  (blue) and  $\psi_N^-$  (red). The gauge links disappear in  $A^+ = 0$  gauge.

# LFWF without LF quantization

1: Nucl. Phys. B193, 381 (1981), J.C. Collins and D

2: Phys. Rev. D 71, 034005(2005), X.D Ji, J.P. Ma,

- **Rapidity divergences** for infinitely long gauge links. Regulator needed.
- **Off light-cone (1,2)** :  $n \rightarrow n \pm e^{-2Y} p$ . Gauge link tilted away from LF. Approaches LF as  $Y \rightarrow \infty$ .
- **On light-cone** : Gauge link along light-cone.
  1. The **delta-regulator (a)** :  $e^{i \int dx^- A^+(x^-)} \rightarrow e^{i \int dx^- A^+(x^-)} e^{-\delta^- |x^-|}$ .
  2. The **LF length regulator (b)** :  $e^{i \int dx^- A^+(x^-)} \rightarrow e^{i \int_0^{L^-} dx^- A^+(x^-)}$ .
  3. The **exponential regulator (c) and many others**. Defined through final-state cuts, not applicable for LFWFs.

a: Phys. Rev. D 93, 011502 (2016). M.G. Echevarria, I.Scimemi, and A. Vladimirov

b: Phys. Rev. Lett. 125, 192002 (2020), A. Vladimirov

c: Nucl. Phys. B 960, 115193 (2020), Y.Li, D.Neill, and H.X.Zhu



# LFWF without LF quantization

- Rapidity divergence **factorizes\***:  $\exp[K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu) \ln \frac{p^{+2}}{\mp \delta^+ \delta^- - i0}]$ .
  1.  $K_N$ : generalized Collins-Soper kernels or rapidity anomalous dimensions. Known to order  $\alpha_s^2$  for  $N = 2$  (double-parton)\*\*.
  2. Constant part is **scheme dependent**. Must be renormalized in a scheme independent way.
  3. For  $N = 1$ , reduces to the case of TMDPDFs\*\*\*.

\*A. Vladimirov, JHEP 04, 045 (2018)

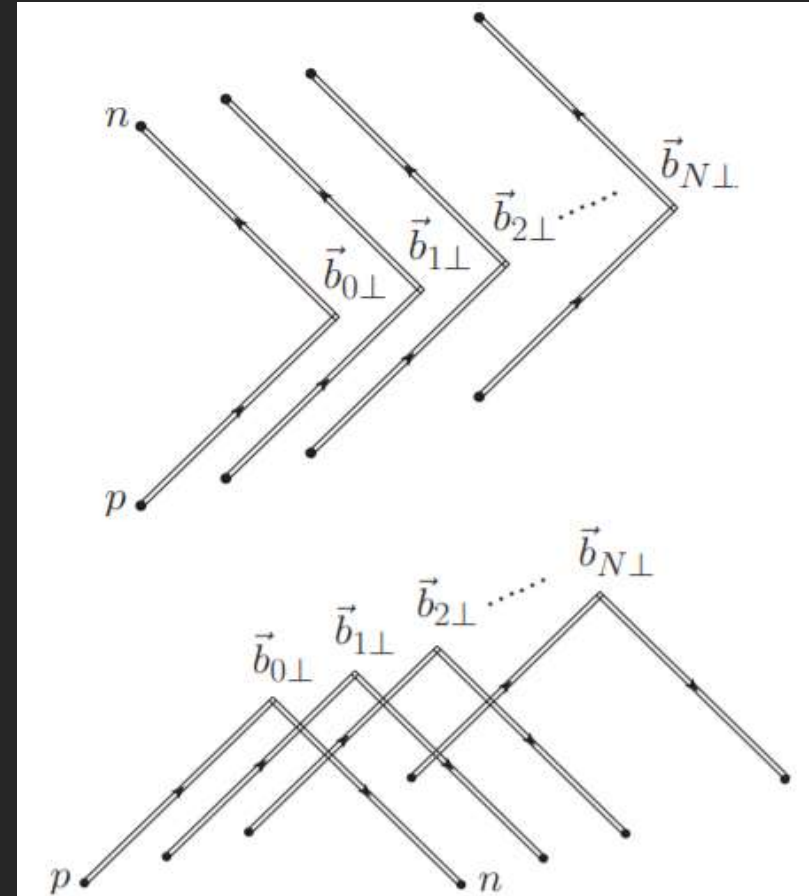
\*\*A. Vladimirov, JHEP 12, 038 (2016)

\*\*\*J. C. Collins and D. E. Soper, Nucl. Phys. B193 (1981)

# LFWF without LF quantization

A. Vladimirov, JHEP 12, 038 (2016)  
Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu  
(2106.05310)

- One needs **generalized soft functions** to renormalize the rapidity divergence.
- $S_N^\pm(b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^+, \delta^-) = \langle 0 | \mathcal{T} \prod \mathcal{C}^\pm(b_{i\perp}, \delta^+, \delta^-) | 0 \rangle$  defined with  **$N + 1$  Wilson-line cusps**.
  - See the figure for the Shape of  $\mathcal{C}^+$  (upper) and  $\mathcal{C}^-$  (lower).



# LFWF without LF quantization

Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu  
(2106.05310)

- With the help of generalized soft function  $S_N^\pm$ , one can define the rapidity renormalized LFWF amplitudes.

$$\psi_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_i) = \lim_{\delta^- \rightarrow 0} \frac{\psi_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^-)}{\sqrt{S_N^\pm(b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^- e^{2y_n}, \delta^-)}}.$$

1. Rapidity divergence cancels. **Scheme independent.**
2. The **rapidity scales**  $\zeta_i = 2x_i^2 P^{+2} e^{2y_n}$  as a result of rapidity renormalization.
3. Rapidity evolution in  $\zeta_i$  is controlled by  $K_N$  again.

# Outline

---

- Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front
- Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT
- LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization
- **LaMET formulation of LFWF amplitudes**
- Example: leading LFWF of pseudo-scalar mesons.

# LaMET formulation of LFWFs

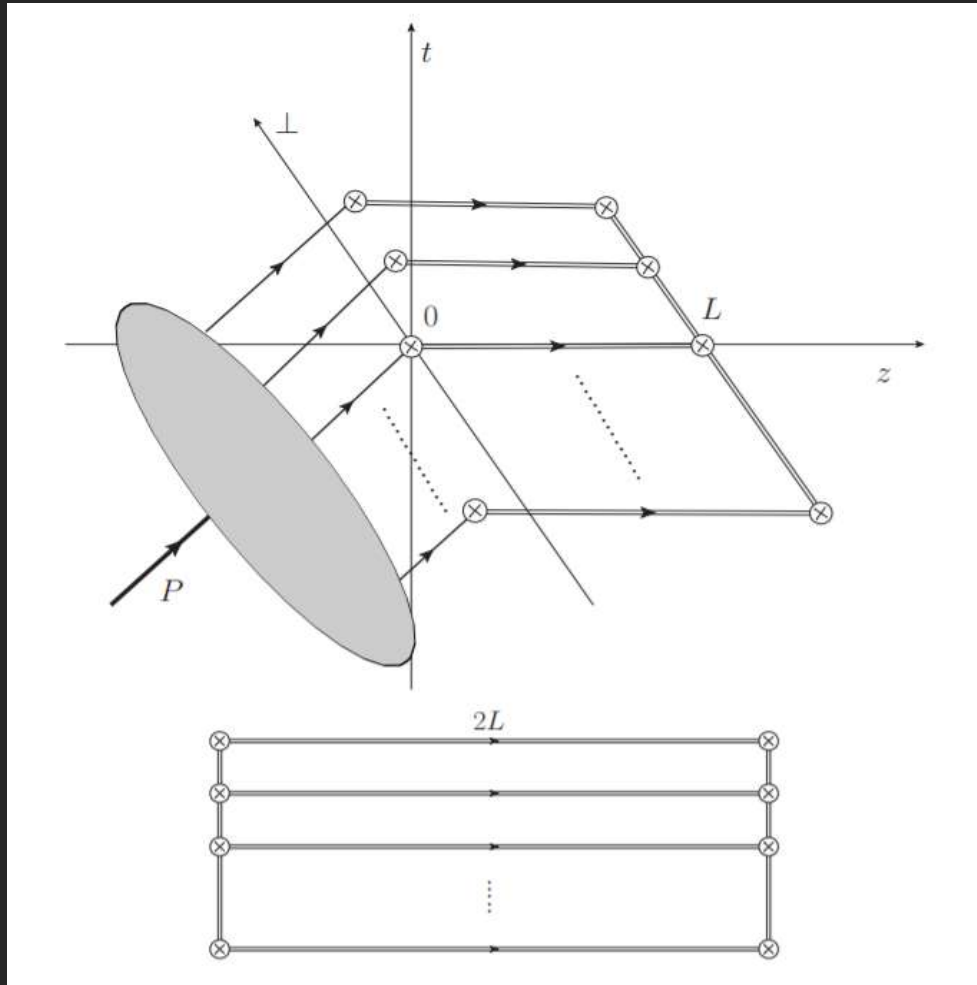
Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu  
(2106.05310)

- Similar to the TMDPDFs, we define the quasi-LFWF amplitudes.

$$\widetilde{\psi}_N^{\pm}(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_{z,i}) = \lim_{L \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\int \prod d\lambda_i e^{-i\lambda_i x_i} \langle 0 | P_N \prod \Phi_i^{\pm}(\lambda_i n_z + b_{i\perp}; L) | P \rangle}{\sqrt{Z_E(2L, b_{i\perp}, \mu)}}.$$

1.  $\Phi_i^{\pm}(\xi; L) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left[ ig \int_0^{\mp L - \zeta^z} A^z(\xi + \lambda n_z) d\lambda \right] \phi_i(\xi)$  with gauge link along space -like direction  $n_z = (0, 0, 0, 1)$ .
2.  $Z_E$ : expectation value of  $N + 1$  Wilson-lines. Removes large  $L$  divergence.
3. Rapidity scales  $\zeta_{z,i} = 4x_i^2 P_z^2$  generated.

# LaMET formulation of LFWFs



The quasi-LFWF amplitude  $\widetilde{\psi}_N^-$  (upper) and  $Z_E$  (lower).

# Rapidity evolution of quasi-LFWFs

- One can show \*\* that  $\widetilde{\psi}_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_{z,i})$  satisfies the rapidity evolution equation:

$$\frac{d}{d \ln p^z} \ln \widetilde{\psi}_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_{z,i}) = K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu) + \sum_i G(\zeta_{z,i}, \mu) .$$

1. Non-perturbative part: Collins-Soper kernel  $K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu)$ .
2. Perturbative part:  $G(\zeta_{z,i}, \mu)$ .  $K_N + \sum_i G$  is RG invariant.
3. Collins-Soper kernel can be extracted from ratios.\*\*\*

\*\* Ji, Sun, Xiong, and Yuan, arXiv:1405.7640.

\*\*\*Ebert, Stewart, and Zhao, arXiv:1811.00026.

\*\*\*Shanahan, Wagman, and  
Zhao, arXiv:2003.0606.

# Factorization of quasi-LFWF amplitudes

Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu  
(2106.05310)

- At large  $P^Z$ , the quasi-LFWF factorizes

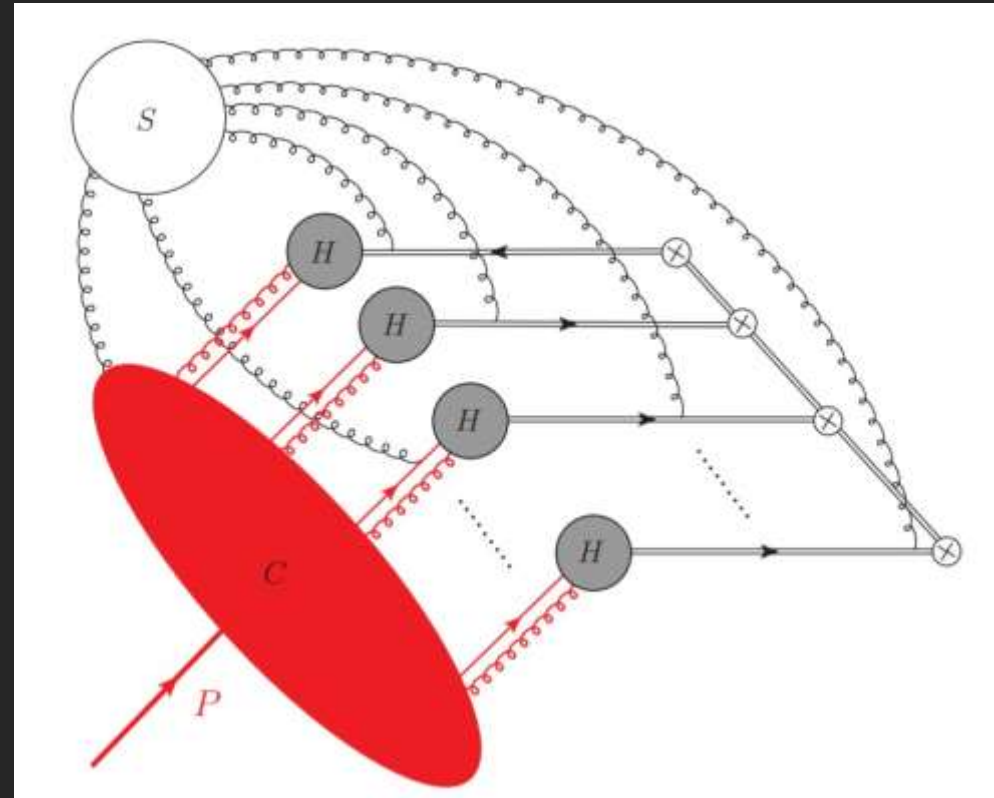
$$\widetilde{\psi}_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_{z,i}) \sqrt{S_{rN}(b_{i\perp}, \mu)} = e^{\ln \frac{\mp \zeta_{z,i} - i0}{\zeta_i} K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu)} H_N^\pm\left(\frac{\zeta_{z,i}}{\mu^2}\right) \psi_N^\pm(x_i, b_{i\perp}, \mu, \zeta_i)$$

- A. The  $e^{\ln \frac{\mp \zeta_{z,i} - i0}{\zeta_i} K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu)}$  is due to  $K_N$  term of rapidity evolution of  $\widetilde{\psi}_N$ .
- B. The perturbative kernel  $H_N^\pm\left(\frac{\zeta_{z,i}}{\mu^2}\right)$  is due to  $G$  term of rapidity evolution.
- C. The  $\psi_N^\pm$  is the targeting LFWFs.
- D. The factor  $S_{rN}(b_{i\perp}, \mu)$  is the **generalized reduced soft function**.



# Factorization of quasi-LFWF amplitudes

- The reduced diagram.
  1. Hard (H), collinear (C) and soft (S) sub-diagrams.
  2. Hard cores are disconnected with each other: **no convolution**.
- Can also be derived in soft-collinear effective theory.



# The reduced soft function

Xiangdong Ji, Yizhuang Liu  
(2106.05310)

- The reduced soft function can be defined in two ways.

1. In on-light-cone schemes, it is defined as a ratio

$$S_{rN}(b_{i\perp}, \mu) = \lim_{\delta^+, \delta^- \rightarrow 0} \frac{S_N^-(b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^+, \delta^-)}{S_N^-(b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^+, n_z) S_N^-(b_{i\perp}, \mu, \delta^-, n_z)}$$

2. In off-light-cone scheme, generalized soft function at large rapidities

$$S_N^\pm(b_{i\perp}, \mu, Y, Y') = \exp[K_N(b_{i\perp}, \mu) \ln[\mp e^{Y+Y'} - i0] + \mathcal{D}_N(b_\perp, \mu)].$$

3.  $S_{rN}(b_{i\perp}, \mu) = \exp[-\mathcal{D}_N(b_\perp, \mu)]$  is the rapidity independent part.

4. Can be simulated through **form-factors**.

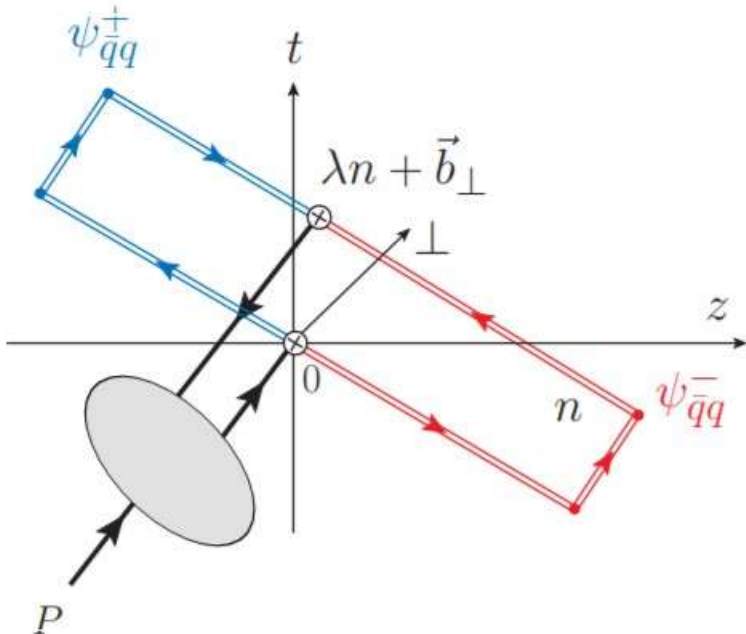
# Outline

---

- Introduction to QFT on the Light-Front
- Conceptual difficulties of LF formulation of QFT
- LFWF amplitudes without LF quantization
- LaMET formulation of LFWF amplitudes
- Example: leading LFWF of pseudo-scalar mesons.

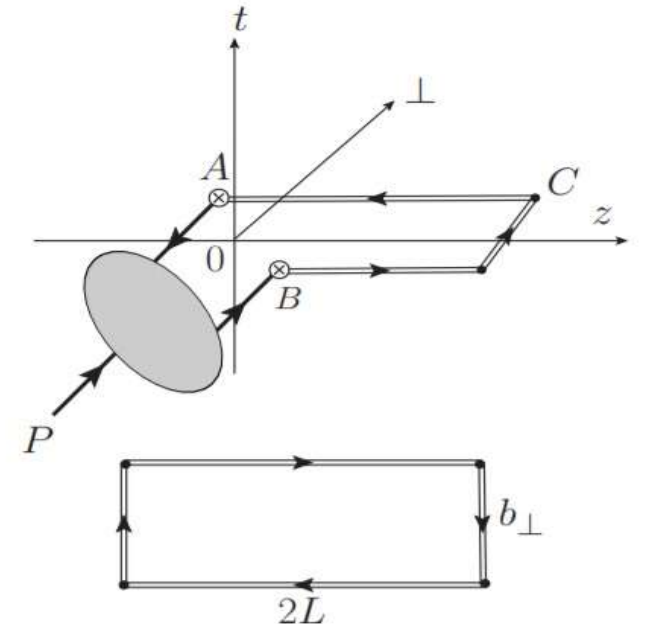
## Example: leading LFWF for a pseudo-scalar meson

- The LFWF is defined with the same operator as TMDPDFs.
- The quasi-LFWF is defined with the same operators as quasi-TMDPDFs.
- Same anomalous dimensions, rapidity evolutions as TMDPDFs.



LFWF (left).

Quasi LFWF and  $Z_E$  (right).



## Example: leading LFWF for a pseudo-scalar meson

- The matching formula reads

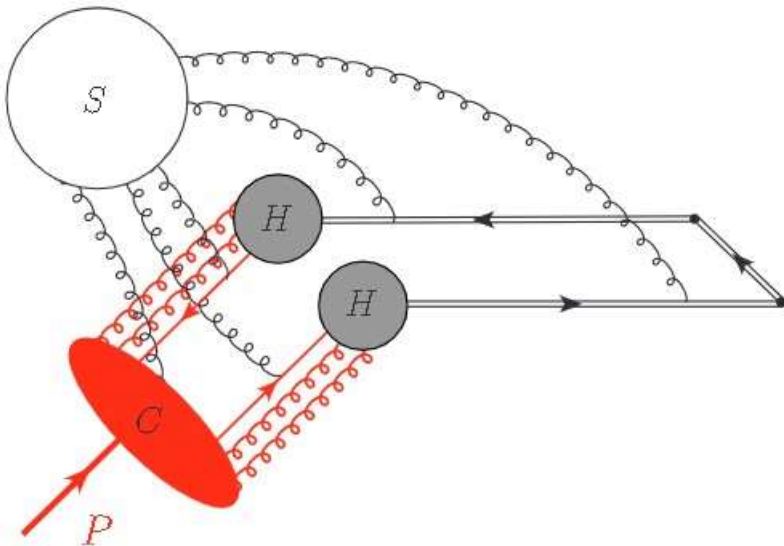
$$\widetilde{\psi}_{\bar{q}q}^{\pm}(x, b_{\perp}, \mu, \zeta_{z,i}) \sqrt{S_{r1}(b_{\perp}, \mu)} = e^{\ln \frac{\mp \zeta_{z,i} - i0}{\zeta_i} K_1(b_{\perp}, \mu)} \prod H_1^{\pm} \left( \frac{\zeta_{z,i}}{\mu^2} \right) \psi_{\bar{q}q}^{\pm}(x, b_{\perp}, \mu, \zeta_i)$$

1. Two rapidity scales  $\zeta_z = 4x^2(P^z)^2$  and  $\bar{\zeta}_z = 4\bar{x}^2(P^z)^2$ .  $x + \bar{x} = 1$ .
2. The hard kernel relates to TMDPDF cases through:  $H_{TMD}(\frac{\zeta_z}{\mu^2}) = \left| H_1^{\pm} \left( \frac{\zeta_z}{\mu^2} \right) \right|^2$ .
3. The  $S_{r1}(b_{\perp}, \mu)$  the same as the case of TMDPDFs.
4. **Imaginary part non-vanishing**. Required by analyticity. Scale-invariant at 1-loop.

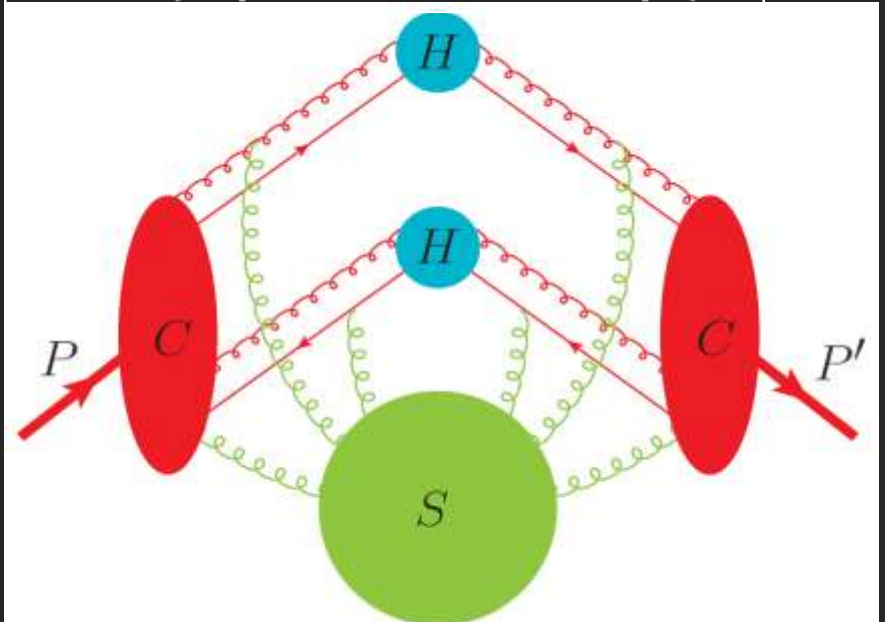
## Example: leading LFWF for a pseudo-scalar meson

- The reduced soft function can be obtained through a space-like form-factor.
- Preliminary lattice results of  $S_{r1}$  exists.

The reduced diagram of the quasi LFWV  $\widetilde{\psi_{\bar{q}q}}(x, b_{\perp}, \mu, P)$ .



The reduced diagram of the form factor  $\langle P' | \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(b_{\perp}) \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(0) | P \rangle$ .



# The light-meson formalism of $S_{r1}$

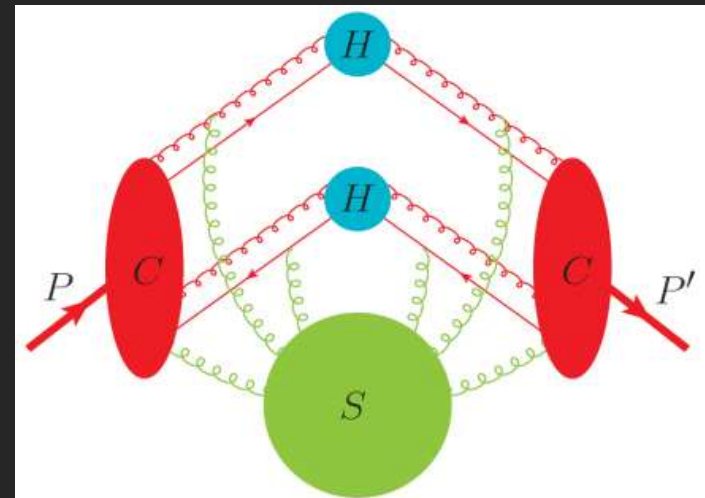
Ji, Y. Liu, and Y.-S. Liu, arXiv:1910.11415.  
Ji, Liu, Liu, Zhang, and Zhao, arXiv:2004.035

- A. Form factor allows form factors factorization into **LFWFs**.
- B. Quasi LFWF factorize into LFWV and  $S_{r1}$ .
- C. Therefore,

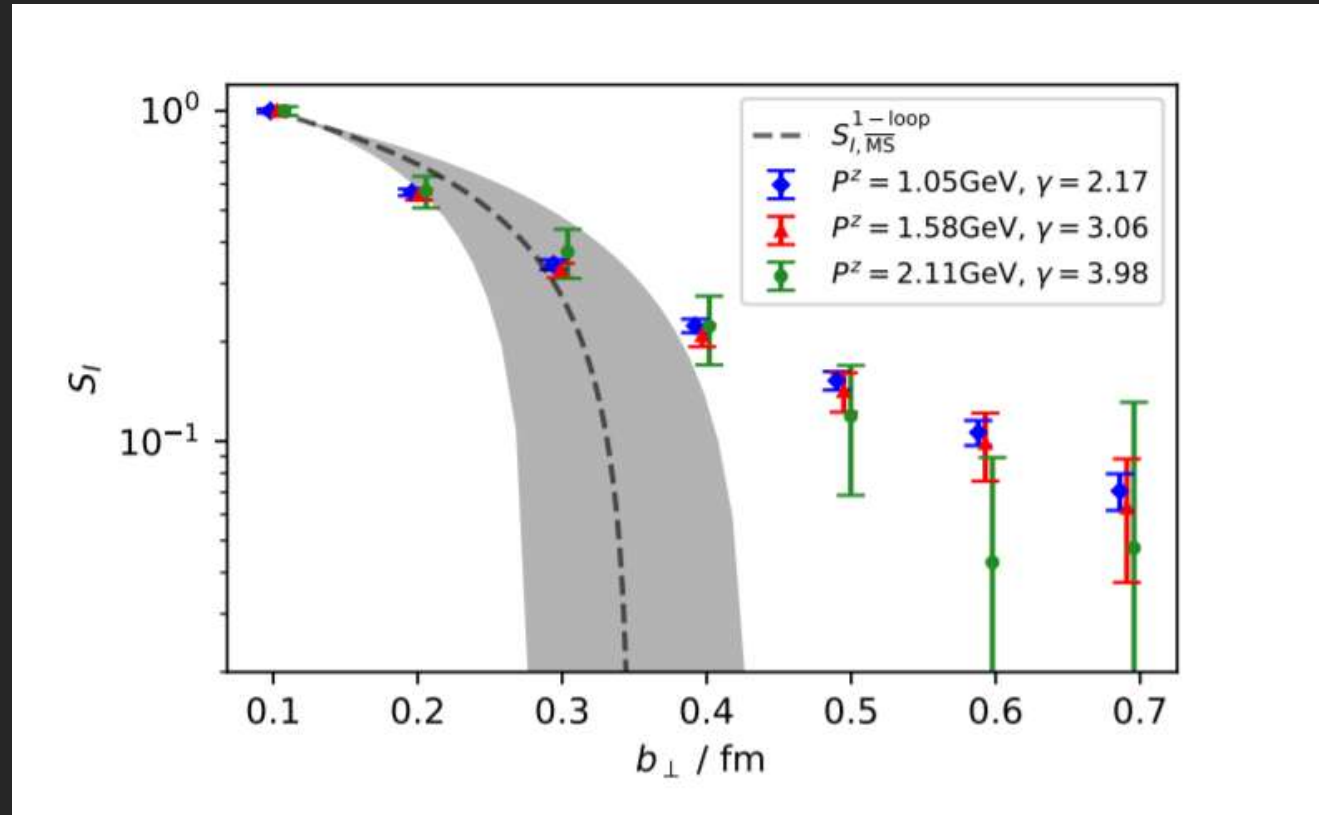
$$S_r(b_\perp, \mu) = \frac{\langle P' | \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(b_\perp) \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(0) | P \rangle}{\int dx dx' H(x, x') \tilde{\psi}^\dagger(x', b_\perp, \mu, P') \tilde{\psi}(x, b_\perp, \mu, P)}$$

PQCD

The reduced diagram of the form factor  $\langle P' | \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(b_\perp) \bar{\psi} \Gamma \psi(0) | P \rangle$ .



# The light-meson formalism of $S_r$ Lattice Parton Collaboration, arXiv:2005.14572



$\beta$	$L^3 \times T$	$a$ (fm)	$c_{sw}$	$\kappa_l^{\text{sea}}$	$m_\pi^{\text{sea}}$ (MeV)
3.34	$24^3 \times 48$	0.098	2.06686	0.13675	333
			$N_{cfg}$	$\kappa_l^v$	$m_\pi^v$ (MeV)
			864	0.13622	547

CLS A654

Preliminary results of  $S_r$  by LPC . Only tree-level matching.



# The light-meson formalism of $S_r$ Yuan Li and others, arxiv:2106.13027

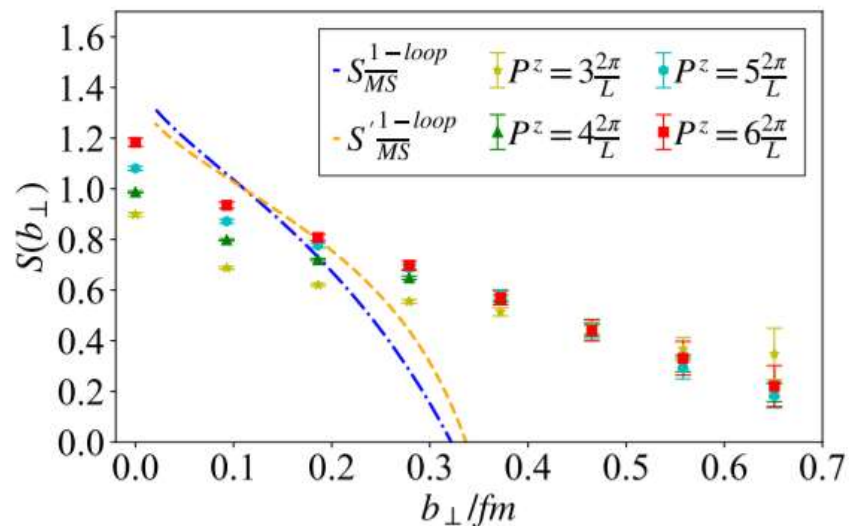


Figure 2. The lattice results of  $S(b_\perp)$  for various momenta, together with the one-loop perturbative result  $S_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{1\text{-loop}}$  and its variant  $S_{\overline{\text{MS}}}^{\prime 1\text{-loop}}$  with  $\alpha_s$  including up to 4 loops. The scale  $\mu$  in Eq. (17) is set as  $\mu = 2$  GeV.

$(L/a)^3 \times T/a$		$a$ (fm)		$a\mu_{sea}$		$m_{sea}^\pi$		$N_{conf}$	
$24^3 \times 48$		0.093		0.0053		350		126	
$a\mu_{v0}$	$m_{v0}^\pi$	$a\mu_{v1}$	$m_{v1}^\pi$	$a\mu_{v2}$	$m_{v2}^\pi$	$a\mu_{v3}$	$m_{v3}^\pi$		
0.0053	350	0.013	545	0.018	640	0.03	827		

Table I. Parameters of the ensemble used in this work. We list the spatial and temporal extents,  $L/a$  and  $T/a$ , the lattice spacing  $a$ , the sea quark mass  $\mu_{sea}$ , the pion mass  $m_{sea}^\pi$ , the number of configurations used,  $N_{conf}$ , and four valence quark masses  $\mu_{vi}$  for  $i = 0, 1, 2, 3$  together with the associated pion masses  $m_{vi}^\pi$ . All the pion masses are given in units of MeV.

ETMC configuration

Preliminary results of  $S_r$ . Only tree-level matching.

# *Summary and Outlook*

---

- QFT on LF is an effective theory in the infinite rapidity limit.
- LFWF amplitudes can be defined as LF correlators without LF quantization.
- LaMET provides a natural Euclidean formulation of LFWF amplitudes.
- Implementation of one-loop matching for lattice calculation.
- Better understanding of LF limit, scheme dependence.