Hadron tomography by generalized distribution amplitudes in pion-pair production process $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$ and gravitational form factors for pion

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(Dated: December 23, 2017)

Hadron tomography can be investigated by three-dimensional structure functions such as generalized parton distributions (GPDs), transverse-momentum-dependent parton distributions, and generalized distribution amplitudes (GDAs). Here, we extract the GDAs, which are $s$-$t$ crossed quantities of the GPDs, from cross-section measurements of hadron-pair production process $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$ at KEKB. This work is the first attempt to obtain the GDAs from the actual experimental data. The GDAs are expressed by a number of parameters and they are determined from the data of $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$ by including intermediate scalar- and tensor-meson contributions to the cross section.

Our results indicate that the dependence of parton-momentum fraction $z$ in the GDAs is close to the asymptotic one. The timelike gravitational form factors $\Theta_1$ and $\Theta_2$ are obtained from our GDAs, and they are converted to the spacelike ones by the dispersion relation. From the spacelike $\Theta_1$ and $\Theta_2$, gravitational densities of the pion are calculated. Then, we obtained the mass (energy) radius and the mechanical (pressure and shear force) radius from $\Theta_2$ and $\Theta_1$, respectively. They are calculated as $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}} = 0.56 \sim 0.69$ fm, whereas the mechanical radius is larger $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}} = 1.45 \sim 1.56$ fm. This is the first report on the gravitational radius of a hadron from actual experimental measurements. It is interesting to find the possibility that the gravitational mass and mechanical radii could be different from the experimental charge radius $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{charge}}} = 0.672 \pm 0.008$ fm for the charged pion. For drawing a clear conclusion on the GDAs of hadrons, accurate experimental data are needed, and it should be possible, for example, by future measurements of super-KEKB and international linear collider. Accurate measurements will not only provide important information on hadron tomography but also possibly shed light on gravitational physics in the quark and gluon level.

PACS numbers: 13.66.Bc,13.40.-f,12.38.-t

I. INTRODUCTION

Internal structure of hadrons has been investigated in terms of form factors and parton distribution functions (PDFs). Now, the field of hadron tomography, namely hadron-structure studies by three-dimensional (3D) structure functions, is one of fast developing areas in particle and nuclear physics. The 3D structure functions contain information on both the form factors and the PDFs, and they are ultimate quantities for understanding the nature of hadrons from low to high energies. Furthermore, it is essential to investigate the 3D structure of the nucleon for understanding the origin of nucleon spin because orbital angular momenta of partons could play an important role. The 3D structure functions could be also useful for clarifying internal quark-gluon configurations of exotic-hadron candidates.

Among the 3D structure functions, generalized parton distributions (GPDs) and transverse-momentum-dependent parton distributions (TMDs) have been investigated extensively in recent years. We now have some crude idea on these distributions. There are also generalized distribution amplitudes (GDAs) as one of the 3D structure functions, and it is rather an unexplored field in comparison with the GPD and TMD studies. The GDAs can be obtained theoretically by the $s$-$t$ crossing of the GPDs. Here, $s$ and $t$ are Mandelstam variables. Therefore, the GDA studies should also be valuable for the GPD understanding. In particular, both GPDs and GDAs can be expressed by common double distributions (DDs) with different Radon transforms as discussed later in Sec. II.E Therefore, the GDA studies are valuable also for understanding the GPDs through the DDs and simply by the $s$-$t$ crossing.

The GDAs are key quantities for probing 3D structure of hadrons by timelike processes. In addition, one
of the other important advantages of the GDAs is that 3D tomography is possible in principle for exotic-hadron candidates because they can be produced in a pair in the final state, whereas no stable exotic hadron exists as a fixed target for measuring their GPDs and TMDs. The constituent counting rule can be used for identifying the number of elementary constituents in exotic hadron candidates at high energies. We should be able to distinguish exotic multiquark states from the ordinary $q\bar{q}$ and $qqq$ ones by the counting rule. Furthermore, form factors contained in the GDAs should provide information whether exotic hadron candidates are diffuse molecular states or compact multiquark ones.

Another advantage is that the GDAs and GPDs contain information on form factors of the energy-momentum tensor so that the gravitational-interaction radius can be investigated. Although the root-mean-square charge radii are well known for the nucleons, the gravitational radius has never been measured experimentally. We try to extract the gravitational-interaction sizes, namely mass and mechanical radii, from existing experimental data in this work. Of course, the gravitational interactions are too weak to be measured directly for hadrons and elementary particles, such as quarks and gluons, “usually” in accelerator experiments, and there is no reliable quantum theory for the gravitational interactions at this stage. Nonetheless, it is interesting that the hadron tomography studies can access the gravitational information in hadrons through the energy-momentum tensor.

Fortunately, the Belle collaboration recently reported the cross sections for the pion-pair production in two-photon process $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ at KEKB with various kinematical conditions. It is our research purpose of this paper to extract the pion GDAs from the Belle measurements. Our studies should be the first attempt to extract any hadron GDAs from actual experimental measurements. Now, other hadron production processes $\gamma^*\gamma \to h\bar{h}$ are being analyzed in the Belle collaboration, so that other GDAs can be extracted in future. Furthermore, the KEKB accelerator has just upgraded and accurate measurements are expected in future for the two-photon processes. The two-photon processes have been used for investigating existence and properties of new hadrons in electron-positron annihilation reactions. The same two-photon processes should be possible at the future international linear collider, and the GDAs will be investigated in the PANDA project. This work is merely the first step for determining the GDAs; however, much progress is expected in the near future.

In this article, the generalized TMD (GTMD) or the Wigner distribution is explained first as a generating function for the 3D structure functions in Sec. II. Then, the GPDs and GDAs are introduced, and the form factors of energy-momentum tensor in the GDAs are explained in connection with the gravitational radii. Next, our theoretical formalism is developed for the $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ cross section and the pion GDAs in Sec. III. The cross section of $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ is expressed in terms of the GDAs. For extracting the GDAs from the experimental data, we introduce a parametrization of the GDAs, which are then determined by the analysis of the Belle measurement. Our analysis method is described in Sec. III, results are shown in Sec. IV, and final remarks are made in Sec. V. Finally, our studies are summarized in Sec. VI.

II. THREE-DIMENTIAL STRUCTURE FUNCTIONS OF HADRONS

The 3D structure of hadrons becomes one of hot topics in hadron physics, and it can be investigated by the GPDs, TMDs, and GDAs. First, we explain the Wigner phase-space distribution and the GTMD in Sec. IIA as generating functions for form factors, PDFs, and the 3D structure functions. Then, we discuss the details of the GPDs and GDAs which are relevant to our studies including their relations in Secs. IIB, IIC, and IID. Both GPDs and GDAs are expressed by double distributions through Radon transforms as explained in Sec. IIE. The GDAs are related to the timelike form factors of the energy-momentum tensor, and then the spacelike gravitational form factors and radii are explained in Sec. IIIE.

A. Wigner distribution and three-dimensional structure functions

The 3D structure functions originate from the generating function, called the Wigner distribution, which is a phase space distribution $W(\vec{r}, \vec{k})$ expressed by the space coordinate $\vec{r}$ and momentum $\vec{k}$. In the classical limit of $\hbar \to 0$, it becomes the $\delta$ function $\delta(H(\vec{r}, \vec{k}) - E)$, which is the classical trajectory in the phase space. Therefore, its delocalization indicates quantum effects, and the Wigner function contains full information for describing quantum systems.

For the nucleon, the Wigner distribution was originally defined in Ref. as the 6-dimensional phase-space distribution $W(x, \vec{k}_T, \vec{r})$, where $x$ is the Bjorken scaling variable and $\vec{k}_T$ is the transverse momentum. However, it was defined in a special Lorentz frame, so that a new definition was proposed in the infinite momentum frame to express it by 5-dimensional phase-space distribution $W(x, \vec{k}_T, \vec{r}_T)$. It is equal to the $\Delta^{-} = 0 (\xi = 0)$ limit of the generalized transverse-momentum-dependent parton distribution (GTMD).

In Fig. I relations of the GTMD and the Wigner distribution to the form factor, PDF, and 3D structure functions are shown by integrating the GTMD by various kinematical variables. The form factors and the PDFs have been investigated until recently, and now the nucleon-structure studies focus on 3D structure functions, the GPDs and TMDs. However, there are few recent research activities on the GDAs which have a close
B. Generalized parton distributions

The GPDs have been investigated by deeply virtual Compton scattering (DVCS) process as shown in Fig. 2 and also by meson and lepton-pair production processes \cite{14,15}. In addition, there are possibilities to study them at hadron-beam facilities, for example, by

\[ \int dx d^3k \left[ d^3k, \Delta \to 0 \right] W(x, k, \Delta) \to \text{Wigner W}(x, k, \Delta) \]

FIG. 1. Wigner distribution, GTMD, and 3D structure functions.

connection to the GPDs by the $s$-$t$ crossing.

The lightcone notation is given by $a = (a^+, a^-, \vec{a}_\perp)$ with $a^\pm = (a^0 \pm \alpha^3)/\sqrt{2}$ and the transverse vector $\vec{a}_\perp$. Then, the momenta are expressed as

\[ p \simeq \left(p^+, 0, \vec{0}_\perp\right), \quad p' \simeq \left(p'^+, 0, \vec{0}_\perp\right), \]
\[ q \simeq \left(-x p^+, \frac{Q^2}{2x p^+}, \vec{0}_\perp\right), \quad q' \simeq \left(0, \frac{Q^2}{2x p^+}, \vec{0}_\perp\right), \]

by using the relation $(p^+)^2, Q^2 \gg M^2, |t|$. The scaling variable $x$ is the lightcone momentum fraction carried by a quark in the nucleon, whereas the skewness parameter $\xi$ or the momentum $\Delta$ indicates the momentum transfer from the initial nucleon to the final one or the momentum transfer between the initial and final quarks. The cross section of the DVCS $\gamma^* h \to \gamma h$ can be factorized into the hard part of quark interactions and the soft one expressed by the GPDs as shown in Fig. 2 if the kinematical condition

\[ Q^2 \gg |t|, \Lambda_{QCD}^2, \]

is satisfied. Here, $\Lambda_{QCD}$ is the QCD scale parameter.

The GPDs for the nucleon are defined by off-forward matrix elements of quark and gluon operators with a lightcone separation, and quark GPDs are defined by

\[ \int \frac{dy}{4\pi} e^{ixP^+y} \left\langle N(p') \left| \bar{q}(y/2)\gamma^+ q(y/2) \right| N(p) \right\rangle \bigg|_{y^+ = 0} = \frac{1}{2P^+} \left[ H_q(x, \xi, t) \gamma^+ + E_q(x, \xi, t) \gamma^\perp \right] \frac{i\sigma^{\alpha\beta} \Delta_{\alpha\beta}}{2M} u(p). \]

The advantages of the GPDs are that they contain both longitudinal momentum distributions for partons and transverse form factors. In fact, the GPDs $H_q(x, \xi, t)$ become unpolared PDFs for the nucleon in the forward limit ($\Delta, \xi, t \to 0$):

\[ H_q(x, 0, 0) = \theta(x) q(x) - \theta(-x) \bar{q}(-x), \]

where $\theta(x)$ is the step function, $\theta(x) = 1$ for $x > 0$ and $\theta(x) = 0$ for $x < 0$. Their first moments become Dirac and Pauli form factors $F_1(t)$ and $F_2(t)$, respectively,

\[ \int_{-1}^{1} dx H_q(x, \xi, t) = F_1(t), \quad \int_{-1}^{1} dx E_q(x, \xi, t) = F_2(t), \]

If the kinematical condition $Q^2 \gg |t|$ is satisfied, the skewness parameter is expressed by the lightcone-coordinate expression as

\[ \xi = \frac{x + x t/(2Q^2)}{2 - x + x t/Q^2} \simeq \frac{x}{2 - x} = \frac{-\Delta^+}{2P^+} \text{for } Q^2 \gg |t|. \]
Another important feature, actually the most important for high-energy spin physicists, of the GPDs is that a second moment indicates a quark orbital-angular-momentum contribution \((L_q)\) to the nucleon spin:

\[
J_q = \frac{1}{2} \int dx \left[ H_q(x, \xi, t = 0) + E_q(x, \xi, t = 0) \right] \nonumber
= \frac{1}{2} \Delta q^+ + L_q, \tag{9}
\]

because we know the quark contribution \(\Delta q^+ = \Delta q + \Delta \bar{q}\) from polarized charged-lepton DIS measurements.

The GPDs have been mainly investigated for the nucleon. However, since the pion GPDs are investigated in this work and they are related to the pion GPDs by the \(s-t\) crossing, we also show the definition of the pion GPDs in the same way with Eq. (9) for the nucleon [20]:

\[
\int \frac{dy}{4\pi} e^{ix\cdot P' y} \left\langle \pi(p') \left| \overline{\gamma}(-y/2) \gamma^+ q(y/2) \right| \pi(p) \right\rangle \bigg|_{y^+ = y_\perp = 0} = H_q^x(x, \xi, t). \tag{10}
\]

The pion is a scalar particle, so that the function \(E_q(x, \xi, t)\) does not exist.

In comparison with PDF parametrizations, such studies are still premature for the GPDs due to the lack of experimental information. The simplest idea is to use the factorized form into the longitudinal PDF \(q(x)\) and the transverse form factor \(F_T(t, x)\) at \(x \geq 0\). For example, it is expressed as

\[
H_q(x, \xi = 0, t) = q(x) F_T(t, x), \tag{11}
\]

at \(\xi = 0\) for \(x > 0\). Namely, the GPDs contain information on both the PDFs and the form factors as already shown by the sum rules in Eqs. (7) and (8).

\[\text{C. Generalized distribution amplitudes}\]

If we exchange the \(s\) and \(t\) channels in the Compton scattering in Fig. 2, it becomes the two-photon process \(\gamma^* + \gamma \rightarrow h + \bar{h}\) in Fig. 3. The initial photon momenta are denoted as \(q\) and \(q'\), the final hadron momenta are \(p\) and \(p'\), and \(P\) is their total momentum. \(k\) and \(k'\) are quark and antiquark momenta. One of the photons is taken as a real one with \(q^2 = 0\), and another one should satisfy the condition

\[
Q^2 = -q'^2 \gg \Lambda_{QCD}^2, W^2 \tag{12}
\]

so that the two-photon process is factorized into a hard part and a soft one in terms of the GPDs as shown in Fig. 3 [27]. Here, \(W^2\) is one of the variables in the GPDs, and it is the invariant-mass squared \(W^2\) of the final-hadron pair. It is also equal to the center-of-mass (c.m.) energy squared \(s\):

\[
W^2 = (p + p')^2 = (q + q')^2 = s. \tag{13}
\]

The second variable \(\zeta\) indicates the lightcone momentum fraction for one of the final hadrons in the total momentum \(P\) as shown in Fig. 3

\[
\zeta = \frac{p \cdot q'}{P \cdot q'} = \frac{p^+}{P^+} = \frac{1 + \beta \cos \theta}{2}. \tag{14}
\]

Here, \(\theta\) is the scattering angle in the c.m. frame of the final hadrons with the momentum assignments:

\[
q = (q^0, 0, 0, |\vec{q}|), \quad q' = (|\vec{q}|, 0, 0, -|\vec{q}|), \nonumber
p = (p^0, |\vec{p}| \sin \theta, 0, |\vec{p}| \cos \theta), \nonumber
p' = (p^0, -|\vec{p}| \sin \theta, 0, -|\vec{p}| \cos \theta), \tag{15}
\]

and \(\beta\) is the hadron velocity defined by

\[
\beta = \frac{|\vec{p}|}{p^0} = \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{W^2}}, \tag{16}
\]

with the final-hadron mass \(m_h\). The third variable \(z\) is the lightcone momentum fraction for a quark in the total hadron-pair momentum \(P\), and it is defined by

\[
z = \frac{k \cdot q'}{P \cdot q'} = \frac{k^+}{P^+}. \tag{17}
\]

The GPDs are expressed by these three variables, \(z, \zeta, \text{and } W^2 = s\).

The quark GPDs are defined by the matrix element of the same operators used in defining the GPDs in Eq. (9) between the the vacuum and the hadron pair:

\[
\Phi_q^{hh}(z, \zeta, W^2) = \int \frac{dy^-}{2\pi} e^{i(2\pi - 1) P^+ y^-/2} \times \left( \langle h(p) \bar{h}(p') \left| \overline{\gamma}(-y/2) \gamma^+ q(y/2) \right| 0 \right) \bigg|_{y^+ = y_\perp = 0}. \tag{18}
\]
We use the notation $\Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}}$ for one specific quark ($q$) without the summation over the quark flavor. Here, the kinematical range of $z$ is $0 \leq z \leq 1$, whereas the variable $z' = 2z - 1$ is often used with the same notation $z$ (or $x$) in the range $-1 \leq z' \leq 1$ for the distribution amplitude as explained in Ref. [18]. However, because many articles of the GDAs use the notation $z$ in the range $0 \leq z \leq 1$, we follow this convention in this work. The expression $e^{izP^+y/2} \langle h(p)\bar{h}(p') | \bar{\psi}(-y/2)\gamma^+ \psi(y/2) | 0 \rangle$ is sometimes written by the equivalent one as $e^{-izP^+y^-} \langle h(p)\bar{h}(p') | \bar{\psi}(y)\gamma^+ \psi(0) | 0 \rangle$. Furthermore, the gauge link should be introduced in the nonlocal operator to satisfy the color gauge invariance; however, it is simply neglected in this paper. There are sum rules for the quark GDAs of the isospin $I = 0$ two-meson final states $[23, 24]$

\[
\int_0^1 dz \Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}(I=0)}(z, \zeta, W^2) = 0,
\]
\[
\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}(I=0)}(z, \zeta, 0) = -4 M_{2q}(h) \zeta (1 - \zeta),
\]
(19)

where $M_{2q}(h)$ is the momentum fraction carried by flavor-$q$ quarks and antiquarks in the hadron $h$ (note: total quark fraction $\sum_q M_{2q}(q)$). As shown in Eq. (14), this integral is expressed by the energy-momentum tensor of a quark, so that the right-hand-side of Eq. (19) should be described by the form factors of the energy-momentum tensor at finite $W^2$ [28]. There are recent theoretical studies on the energy-momentum tensor for the nucleon [24] and on its lattice QCD estimate [31]. In general, there are two energy-momentum tensor form factors for the pion [31, 32], and they are explained in Secs. IIII and IIIH.

Since the GDAs contain intermediate-meson contributions as explained in Sec. IIII, the second sum of Eq. (19) should be a complex value at finite $W^2$. There are resonance terms and the continuum one which contains a quark part of the form factor $F_{q}^{h}(W^2)$ defined in Eq. (13). The explicit expression is shown later in Eqs. (21) and (25) for analyzing actual experimental data. Therefore, our studies can suggest the optimum form factor $F_{q}^{h}(W^2)$ of the energy-momentum tensor for the continuum part of the hadron $h$, and they are related to the size of gravitational interaction. The gravitational radii of a hadron are discussed in more details in Sec. III H. The sum rule of Eq. (19) was derived for the kinematical point of $W^2 = 0$ [23, 24], and then it was considered even at finite $W^2$ as the form of form factor of the energy-momentum tensor [28]. However, since there are two gravitational form factors for the pion in general, a relation between the GDAs and the form factors is newly derived in Sec. IIIH of this article.

The GDAs are defined for the hadron-antihadron system, so that they satisfy the charge-conjugation invariance [2]:

\[
\Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}}(1 - z, \zeta, W^2) = -C \Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}}(z, \zeta, W^2) = -\Phi_{q}^{h\bar{h}}(z, 1 - \zeta, W^2),
\]
(20)

where $C$ is the charge-conjugation operator. We may note that the gluon GDA should satisfy the condition

\[
\Phi_{g}^{h\bar{h}}(z, \zeta, W^2) = \Phi_{g}^{h\bar{h}}(1 - z, \zeta, W^2) = \Phi_{g}^{h\bar{h}}(z, 1 - \zeta, W^2),
\]
(21)

due to the translational invariance in defining the gluon GDA and $C$ invariance. As shown in Fig. 4, the gluon GDA contributes to the two-photon cross section as a next-to-leading order term [24, 25], so that it is neglected in our current leading-order analysis.

### Generalized distribution amplitudes for pions

The pion GDAs are investigated in this work, and there are two notation types for them. One is the representation based on the $C$-parity eigenstates, and the other is by the isospin. In order to avoid confusion, we explain them here in details.

First, we consider possible two-pion states. Denoting $I$ for the isospin, we have the $I = 1$ $\pi\pi$ state which is antisymmetric under the exchange of the pions. On the other hand, the $I = 0$ and $I = 2$ $\pi\pi$ states are symmetric:

\[
|0\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} (\pi^+\pi^- + \pi^-\pi^+ - \pi^0\pi^0),
\]
\[
|2\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} (\pi^+\pi^- + \pi^-\pi^+ + 2\pi^0\pi^0).
\]
(22)

Since the $C$ parity of $\gamma^*\gamma$ is even, the $\pi\pi$ state needs to satisfy $C = (-1)^{L+S} = (-1)^L + 1$ with $S = 0$. Therefore, $L$ should be even. The Pauli principle indicates

\[
(-1)^L (-1)^I (-1)^S = 1,
\]
(23)

so that the isospin states should be $I = 0$ or 2. The GDAs are defined in Eq. (13) by the the matrix element of the vector-type nonlocal operator. Since the isospin of $\bar{q}q$ is 0...
or 1, the only possible choice for the $\pi\pi$ isospin is $I = 0$. In this way, only the $\pi\pi$ states allowed in the $\gamma^*\gamma$ process should have $I = 0$ with $L = \text{even numbers} (0, 2, \cdots)$.

For the actual pion GDAs which are investigated in this work, we may express them as $C$-parity eigenstates

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_{q}(z, \zeta, W^2) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_{q}(z, \zeta, W^2) \pm \Phi^{\pi\pi-}_{q}(z, 1 - \zeta, W^2) \right].
$$

(24)

where $(\pm)$ indicates the $C$ parity. Therefore, the $\pi^+\pi^-$

GDAs are given by

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_{q}(\pi\pi) = \Phi^{\pi\pi-}_{q}(\pi\pi) + \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_{q}(\pi\pi),
$$

and the $C$-even part satisfies

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi+}_{q}(\pi\pi, \zeta, W^2) = -\Phi^{\pi\pi+}_{q}(\pi\pi, 1 - \zeta, W^2).
$$

The $\pi^0\pi^0$ GDAs contain only the $C$-even function:

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_q(z, \zeta, W^2).
$$

(25)

Then, the isospin invariance leads to the relations between the $u$- and $d$-quark GDAs as

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_q(z, \zeta, W^2)
$$

and

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi-}_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = -\Phi^{\pi\pi-}_q(z, 1 - \zeta, W^2).
$$

(26)

On the other hand, the isospin decomposition of the pion GDAs is discussed in Ref. \[23\] first by defining them as the twist-2 chiral-even amplitudes by

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = \int \frac{d \gamma}{2\pi} e^{i(2z-1)\gamma t} \langle \psi(y/2) | \gamma^+ \bar{T} \psi(y/2) | 0 \rangle |_{y^+=y^-=0},
$$

(26)

where $\psi$ is the quark field with $u$ and $d$ quark components $\psi = \begin{pmatrix} u \\ d \end{pmatrix}$, $\bar{T}$ is the flavor matrix: $\bar{T} = \hat{I}/2 (\bar{T} = \bar{T}^\dagger/2)$ for the isosinglet (isovector) GDA. The notation $\hat{I}$ is the identity matrix. They are expressed by the isoscalar and isovector GDAs as

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = \delta^{ab} \text{Tr}(\bar{T}) \Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0) + \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[ \begin{pmatrix} u^a \\ d^b \end{pmatrix} \bar{T} \right] \Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=1).
$$

(27)

They satisfy the symmetry relations due to the charge conjugation:

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0)(z, \zeta, W^2) = -\Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0)(1 - z, \zeta, W^2),
$$

(28)

where $I$ is the isospin-symmetry relations. The following relations are satisfied for the pion GDAs, the isosinglet and isovector GDAs are related to the $C$ even and odd GDAs as

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0) = \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_u = \Phi^{\pi\pi+}_d,
$$

and

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=1) = \Phi^{\pi\pi-}_u = -\Phi^{\pi\pi-}_d.
$$

(29)

In this work of the $\pi^0\pi^0$ production process, only the following isoscalar or C-even GDAs are involved in the cross section $\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0$:

$$
\Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0)(z, \zeta, W^2) = \Phi^{\pi\pi}(I=0)(z, \zeta, W^2)\]

(30)

where $q$ indicates $u$ or $d$. This function is parametrized and used for the analysis of $\pi^0\pi^0$ production data later by using Eq. (\[29\]).

D. Relation between GPDs and GDAs

As obvious from the diagrams of the DVCS and two-photon process in Figs. 2 and 3, respectively, the GPDs and GDAs are related with each other by the $s$-t crossing as long as the factorization conditions are satisfied. Namely, the scale $Q^2$ should be large enough for the factorization: $Q^2 \gg W^2$, $\Lambda^2_{\text{QCD}}$ in $\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow h\gamma$; $Q^2 \gg \Lambda^2_{\text{QCD}}$ in $h\gamma \rightarrow \gamma h$. By the $s$-t crossing, the final hadron $h$ with the momentum $p'$ becomes the initial hadron $h$ with $p$, which indicates the momentum changes from $p$ and $p'$ in the GDAs to $p'$ and $-p$ in the GPDs. It means that both variables are related by the relations [1, 24].

$$
z' \leftrightarrow \frac{1 - x/\xi}{2}, \quad \zeta \leftrightarrow \frac{1 - 1/\xi}{2}, \quad W^2 \leftrightarrow t,
$$

(31)

and then the GDAs are GPDs are related to each other by

$$
\Phi^{h\bar{h}}(z', \zeta, W^2) \leftrightarrow H^h_{\bar{q}} \left( x = \frac{1 - 2z'}{1 - 2\zeta}, \xi = \frac{1}{1 - 2\zeta}, t = W^2 \right).
$$

(32)

The physical regions of the kinematical variables are

$$
0 \leq z \leq 1, \quad |1 - 2\zeta| \leq 1, \quad W^2 \geq 0, \quad |x| \leq 1, \quad |\xi| \leq 1, \quad t \geq 0.
$$

(33)

However, the relation of Eq. (32) indicates that the physical GDAs do not necessary correspond to the physical regions in Eq. (\[33\]) of the GPDs:

$$
0 \leq |x| < \infty, \quad 0 \leq |\xi| < \infty, \quad |x| \leq |\xi|, \quad t \geq 0.
$$

(34)

Namely, the GDAs could lead to the unphysical kinematical regions, $|x| > 1$, $|\xi| > 1$, and $t > 0$, of the GPDs. Equation (32) also indicates the relation $|\xi| \geq |x|$, which is called as the Efremov-Radyushkin-Brodsky-Lepage (ERBL) region. The ERBL region of the GPDs can be investigated, for example, by the hadronic reaction $N + N \rightarrow N + \pi + B$ [16]. However, GDA studies will provide another information on the ERBL GPDs although it is in the unphysical region of $t > 0$.  

6
E. Radon transforms for GPDs and GDAs by using double distributions

We explained definitions and basic properties of the GPDs and GDAs. They are related with each other by the $s$-$t$ crossing. The studies of the GDAs should be valuable for the GPD studies and vice versa. In fact, both GPDs and GDAs are expressed by the common double distributions (DDs) by different Radon transforms. The Radon transform is defined in $n$ dimensions for an arbitrary function $f(x)$ by

$$\tilde{f}(p, \xi) = \int d^n x \, f(x) \, \delta(p - \xi \cdot x), \quad (35)$$

where $x$ is the $n$-dimensional space coordinate $[x = (x_1, x_2, \cdots, x_n)]$ and $\xi$ is the unit vector in $n$ dimensions $[\xi = (\xi_1, \xi_2, \cdots, \xi_n)]$. Because of the $\delta$ function, the integral is over the $n-1$-dimensional plane constrained by $p = \xi \cdot x$.

Using this Radon transform, we can express the GPDs and GDAs in terms of double distributions (DDs), $F_q(\beta, \alpha, t)$ and $G_q(\beta, \alpha, t)$, defined by the matrix element \[ [1] [20] \]

$$\langle h(p') \mid q(-y/2) \not{y} q(y/2) \mid h(p) \rangle_{y^2=0} = 2P \cdot y \int d\beta d\alpha e^{-i\beta p' y + i\alpha \Delta y/2} F_q(\beta, \alpha, t)$$

$$- \Delta \cdot y \int d\beta d\alpha e^{-i\beta p y + i\alpha \Delta y/2} G_q(\beta, \alpha, t), \quad (36)$$

for the scalar hadron $h$ like the pion. The kinematical support region is given by $|\beta| + |\alpha| \leq 1$ for the DDs. Using the Radon transform, we can express the GPDs in terms of these DDs as

$$H_q(x, \xi, t) = \int d\beta d\alpha \, \delta(x - \beta - \xi \alpha)$$

$$\times [F_q(\beta, \alpha, t) + \xi G_q(\beta, \alpha, t)]. \quad (37)$$

Namely, the GPDs are obtained by integrating the DDs over the slight line $x = \beta + \xi \alpha$ as shown in Fig.5.

The parton distribution functions (PDFs) are obtained as a special case of this integral over the vertical line in Fig.4 with the constraint of the forward limit ($t = 0$), and they are expressed as

$$q(x) = \int_{-1+x}^{1-x} d\alpha \, F_q(\beta, \alpha, t = 0). \quad (38)$$

There are similar relations of the gluon DD to the gluon GPDs and PDF [1].

As just an example, we introduce a simple parametrization for the DDs $F_q(\beta, \alpha)$, which are expressed by the corresponding PDF $q(\beta)$ multiplied by a profile function $h_q(\beta, \alpha)$ as \[ [33] \]

$$F_q(\beta, \alpha) = h_q(\beta, \alpha) \cdot q(\beta). \quad (39)$$

![Fig. 5. Kinematical support region of the double distributions and integral paths for obtaining the GPDs, GDAs, and PDFs.](image)

The profile function may be expressed as

$$h_q(\beta, \alpha) = \frac{\Gamma(2b+2)}{2^{2b+1} \Gamma(b+1)^2} \frac{[(1 - |\beta|^2 - \alpha^2)^b}{(1 - |\beta|)^{2b+1}}. \quad (40)$$

if the GPDs become the $\xi$-independent ones $H_q(x, \xi) = \theta(x) q(x) - \theta(-x) \bar{q}(-x)$ in the limit $b \to \infty$.

The matrix element associated with the GDAs is also expressed in the same way by the DDs as \[ [1] [20] \]

$$\langle h(p') \not{h}(p') \mid q(-y/2) \not{y} q(y/2) \mid 0 \rangle_{y^2=0} = (p - p') \cdot y \int d\beta d\alpha e^{-i\beta(p' - p) y + i\alpha(p + p') y/2}$$

$$\times F_q(\beta, \alpha, W^2)$$

$$- (p + p') \cdot y \int d\alpha e^{i\alpha(p + p') y/2} D_q(\alpha, W^2). \quad (41)$$

Then, the GDAs can be expressed by the DDs as

$$\Phi^h_q(z, \zeta, W^2) = -2(1 - 2\zeta) \int d\beta d\alpha$$

$$\times \delta(1 - 2z - (1 - 2\zeta) \beta + \alpha) F_q(1 - 2z, \alpha, W^2)$$

$$- 2D_q(x/\xi, W^2), \quad (42)$$

which indicates that the GDAs are obtained by the Radon transform along the different line $1 - 2z - (1 - 2\zeta) \beta + \alpha = 0$ as shown in Fig.5.

We found that both GPDs and GDAs can be expressed by the DDs. Therefore, experimental measurements of the GDAs should be valuable also for the GPD studies through the determination of the DDs and vice versa. In particular, the GDAs correspond to specific kinematical regions of the GPDs as explained in Sec.[11D] These investigations from the direction of the GDAs could be supplementary to the direct GPD studies. Furthermore, it is the advantage of the GDAs that exotic hadron GDAs
can be measured in future, whereas their GPDs cannot be studied experimentally because there is no stable exotic-hadron target. Considering these merits, we believe that our GDA project should be important for future developments on hadron tomography not only for ordinary hadrons such as the nucleons and pions but also for exotic-hadron candidates.

F. Timelike form factors of energy-momentum tensor and gravitational-interaction radii

The GPDs and GDAs are measured in the DVCS and two-photon processes which are, of course, electromagnetic interaction processes. However, their studies could also probe an aspect of gravitational interactions with quarks and gluons. In order to understand this fact, we explain it by taking the quark GPD and GDA definitions. As given in Eqs. (6) and (18), the GPDs and GDAs are defined by the same non-local vector operator. For the GDAs, its moments multiplied by the momentum factor $2(P^+/2)^n$ are expressed by the derivatives as [1]

$$2(P^+/2)^n \int_0^1 dz \frac{dy}{2\pi} e^{i(2z-1)P^+ y - i y} \times g(-y/2) \gamma^+ q(y/2) = \overline{q}(y) \gamma^+ \left( i \frac{\partial}{\partial \overline{y}} \right)^{n-1} q(0). \quad (43)$$

where the derivative $\frac{\partial}{\partial \overline{y}}$ is defined by $f_1 \frac{\partial}{\partial y} f_2 = [f_1 (\partial f_2) - (\partial f_1) f_2]/2$. For $n = 2$, this operator is the energy-momentum tensor of a quark, and it is a source of gravity, whereas it is the vector-type electromagnetic current for $n = 1$.

As shown in Fig. 6 (a) the electromagnetic interaction is described by the vector current $\overline{q}\gamma^\mu q$, (b) the weak interaction is characterized by the vector minus axial-vector current $\gamma^\mu (1 - \gamma_5)$, and (c) the gravitational one is by the tensor interaction given by $\overline{q}\gamma^\mu \partial^\nu q$ for a quark. In Eq. (43), the GPDs and GDAs contain this factor as the energy-momentum tensor of a quark. The charge radius of the proton is measured by elastic electron scattering in the form of the electric form factor through the photon exchange process (a). In the similar way, the gravitational radius should be measured by the graviton exchange process (c) in principle. However, it is impossible to do an actual scattering experiment directly at accelerator facilities for the gravitational interaction due to the ultra-weak interaction nature. On the other hand, it is possible to access such physics through the GPDs and GDAs. Therefore, the gravitational radii of hadrons are measurable quantities, although it may be somewhat surprising that a different physics aspect can be investigated through the electromagnetic processes.

In this way, the following integral of the quark GDAs over the variable $z$ is related to a matrix element of the quark energy-momentum tensors $T_\mu^\nu_q$ [22, 23, 28]:

$$\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_q^{\pi^0\pi^0}(z, \zeta, W^2) = \frac{2}{(P^+)^2} \langle \pi^0(p) \pi^0(p') | T_\mu^\nu(0) | 0 \rangle, \quad (44)$$

and there is a similar equation on the gluon matrix element. The quark energy-momentum tensor is given by

$$T_\mu^\nu(x) = \overline{q}(x) \gamma^\nu (\mu \partial^\rho) q(x), \quad (45)$$

where $D^\mu$ is the covariant derivative $D^\mu = \partial^\mu - igA^\mu A^{\nu\mu}/2$ defined by the QCD coupling constant $g$ and the SU(3) Gell-Mann matrix $\lambda^a$. The notation $X^{\mu\nu}(x)$ is given by the symmetric combination $X^{\mu\nu}(x) = (X^{\nu\mu}(x) + X^{\mu\nu}(x))/2$. Here, $T_\mu^\nu$ indicates the lightcone $++$ components as expressed in Eq. (43), so that it is specifically given by $T_\mu^\nu(\mu = 0) = (T_\mu^{00} + T_\mu^{03} + T_\mu^{30} + T_\mu^{33})/2$. These equations indicate that the GDAs probe the energy-momentum tensors of quarks and gluons, in the same way as the GPDs, in the timelike process.

In an isolated system, the energy-momentum tensor is conserved $\partial_\mu T_\mu^\nu = 0$. However, if there is an external force and gravity, it satisfies [35]

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{-g}} \partial_\mu \left( \sqrt{-g} T_\mu^\nu \right) = G_\nu^\nu - \Gamma^\nu_{\mu\lambda} T_\mu^\lambda, \quad (46)$$

where $G_\nu^\nu$ is the energy-force density, $g$ is defined by the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu} = \det(g_{\mu\nu})$, and $\Gamma^\nu_{\mu\lambda}$ is the affine connection tensor. The second term on the right-hand side is the gravitational-force density. As the electromagnetic interaction and weak interaction are characterized theoretically by the vector and vector minus axial-vector operators, $\overline{q}\gamma^\mu q$ and $\overline{q}\gamma^\mu(1 - \gamma_5)q$, respectively for quarks, the gravitational interaction is characterized by the energy-momentum tensor $T_\mu^\nu$. Namely, the energy-momentum tensors of quarks and gluons are sources of gravitational interactions. Now, the 3D structure-function studies are getting popular in hadron physics, and this tensor appears in the 3D structure functions, in particular in the GPDs and GDAs as illustrated in Fig. 6. For example, the GDAs probe the 3D structure of a hadron in the form of the timelike form factors. The GDAs are related to the energy-momentum tensor in Eq. (44), so that they probe the gravitational interaction, for example, as the form factors of energy momentum tensor. These form factors are explicitly defined later in Eqs. 77 and 110.
The GPDs and GDAs contain information on spacelike and timelike form factors, respectively. For example, the simple parametrization of the GPDs is given in Eq. (11) expressed as the longitudinal PDF multiplied by the two-dimensional transverse form factor. In general, the two-dimensional transverse charge density \( \rho_T^h(r_\perp) \) is given by the Fourier transform of the spacelike electric form factor of a hadron \( h \) as

\[
\rho_T^h(r_\perp) = \int \frac{d^2q_\perp}{(2\pi)^2} e^{-i\vec{q}_\perp \cdot \vec{r}_\perp} F_T^h(q_\perp)
\]

\[
= \int_0^\infty dq_\perp \frac{q_\perp J_0(q_\perp r_\perp)}{2\pi} F_T^h(q_\perp),
\]

(47)

where \( J_0 \) is the Bessel function. The two-dimensional transverse root-mean-square (rms) radius is then given by

\[
\langle r_{\perp}^2 \rangle_h = \int d^2 r^2 r_{\perp}^2 \rho_T^h(r_\perp) = -4 \frac{dF_T^h(q_\perp)}{dq_\perp^2} \bigg|_{q_\perp \to 0}.
\]

(48)

The transverse form factors of the energy-momentum tensor are calculated by using a simple parametrization for the GPDs of the proton, and the results indicate that they could be different from charge form factor [36].

In the three-dimensional case, the charge density and the form factor are related with each other by

\[
\rho^h(r) = \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} e^{-i\vec{q} \cdot \vec{r}} F^h(q)
\]

\[
= \int_0^\infty dq |\vec{q}|^2 j_0(qr) F^h(q),
\]

(49)

where \( j_0 \) is the spherical Bessel function. The rms radius is obtained by

\[
\langle r^2 \rangle_h = \int d^3 r |\vec{r}|^2 \rho^h(r) = -6 \frac{dF^h(q)}{dq^2} \bigg|_{q \to 0}.
\]

(50)

For timelike form factors probed by the \( e^+e^- \) or \( \gamma^*\gamma \) reactions, we can relate them to the spacelike distributions by using the dispersion relation. Considering that singularities of the form factor \( F^h(t) \) is in the positive real \( t \) axis from \( 4m_h^2 \), we can express the \( t \)-channel form factor by the dispersion integral over the real positive \( t \) (\( \equiv s \)) as

\[
F^h(t) = \frac{\pi}{4m_h^2} \int_{4m_h^2}^\infty ds \frac{\text{Im} F^h(s)}{s - t - i\varepsilon}.
\]

(51)

Namely, the \( t \)-channel form factor \( F^h(t) \) can be calculated from the \( s \)-channel one \( F^h(s) \). Then, using Eqs. (17) and (51) together with consideration on the constituent-counting rule in the asymptotic region [3], we have [38]

\[
\rho_T^h(r_{\perp}) = \int_{4m_h^2}^\infty ds \frac{K_0(\sqrt{s} r_{\perp}) \text{Im} F_T^h(s)}{2\pi^2}.
\]

(52)

where \( K_0 \) is the modified Bessel function of the second kind. However, the imaginary part of the form factor, namely its phase, is not available from the measurement of \( \gamma^* \to h\bar{h} \) because its cross section is proportional to \( |F^h(t)|^2 \) and a theoretically model-dependent input is needed for estimating the spacial charge distribution from the timelike form factors. In Ref. [38], the Gounaris-Sakurai amplitude [39] is used for \( \text{Im} F^h(t) \) to obtain the transverse charge radius \( \sqrt{(r_{\perp}^2)}_{\text{ch}} = 0.53 \) fm, which corresponds to the three-dimensional one \( (r^2)_{\text{ch}} = 1.5{(r_{\perp}^2)}_{\text{ch}} = 0.42 \) fm². Here, “ch” indicates the electric charge. This value is comparable to the \( \pi e \) scattering measurement value \( \langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{ch}} = 0.439 \pm 0.008 \) fm² [40] for the charged pion. These results are for electric charge radii probed by electromagnetic interactions, whereas we investigate gravitational radii for hadrons, particularly the pion in this work, by using the GDAs in the two-photon process \( \gamma^*\gamma \to h\bar{h} \).

The three-dimensional density is calculated by using Eqs. (49) and (51) as

\[
\rho^h(r) = \int_{4m_h^2}^\infty ds \frac{e^{-\sqrt{s}r}}{4\pi^2} \text{Im} F^h(s).
\]

(53)

The three-dimensional rms radius is also obtained by using Eqs. (50) and (51) as

\[
\langle r^2 \rangle_h = 6 \frac{\text{Im} F^h(s)}{s^2} \bigg|_{s \to 0} = 6 \int_{4m_h^2}^\infty ds \frac{\text{Im} F^h(s)}{s^2}.
\]

(54)

The spacelike gravitational form factors \( \Theta_1(t) \) and \( \Theta_2(t) \) are defined by the energy-momentum tensor \( T_{\mu\nu} \) [28, 31, 32]. In the GPD and GDA studies [28], other notations \( A(t) \) and \( B(t) \) are often used. Here, \( A \) and \( B \) are used for expressing other quantities, so that we use the notations \( \Theta_1(t) \) and \( \Theta_2(t) \) for the gravitational form factors. In the spacelike process, they are defined by

\[
\langle \pi^n(p') | T_{\mu\nu}^0(0) | \pi^p(p) \rangle
\]

\[
= \frac{\delta^{ab}}{2} \left[ (t g^{\mu\nu} - q^\mu q^\nu) \Theta_{1,q}(t) + P^\mu P^\nu \Theta_{2,q}(t) \right],
\]

(55)

for a quark \( q \). Here, the momenta are defined by \( P = p + p' \) and \( q = p' - p \). We defined the form factors and the energy-momentum tensor for one quark type (namely, flavor-\( q \) quark and antiquark) in order to avoid confusions. In Ref. [28], the form factors are expressed by \( A \) and \( B \), and they are related to \( \Theta_1(t) \) and \( \Theta_2(t) \) by

\[
A_q(t) = \Theta_{2,q}(t), \quad B_q(t) = -\frac{1}{4} \Theta_{1,q}(t).
\]

(56)

As discussed above Eq. (31), the variables \( (p,p') \) (GPD) in the \( t \) channel is changed for \( (-p',p) \) (GDA) in the \( s \) channel by the \( s \)-\( t \) crossing. Then, using the momentum notations \( P = p + p' \) and \( \Delta = p' - p \), we obtain the definition of the timelike form factors from Eq. (55) as

\[
\langle \pi^n(p) \pi^p(p') | T_{\mu\nu}^0(0) | 0 \rangle
\]

\[
= \frac{\delta^{ab}}{2} \left[ (s g^{\mu\nu} - P^\mu P^\nu) \Theta_{1,q}(s) + \Delta^\mu \Delta^\nu \Theta_{2,q}(s) \right].
\]

(57)
From Eq. (13) and this definition, we can evaluate the gravitational form factors for the pion.

III. THEORETICAL FORMALISM

We explain the cross section for the two-photon process \( \gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0 \) to express it in terms of the GDAs in Sec. III A. First, the situation of the pion distribution amplitude (DA), instead of the GDAs, is explained in Sec. III B, and \( Q^2 \) evolution of the DA and the GDAs are discussed in Sec. III C. The relation between the gravitational form factors and the GDAs is discussed in Sec. III D. Then, the parameterization of the GDAs is introduced in Sec. III E to determine them from experimental data. Contributions from \( f_0 \) and \( f_2 \) resonances are included in the analysis, and coupling constants for the resonances are explained in Sec. III F, and the \( Q^2 \) scale dependence of such resonance contributions is discussed in Sec. III G. In Sec. III H, the relations between the gravitational form factors and the GDAs are derived.

A. Cross section for the two-photon process \( \gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0 \)

The pion-pair production process \( \gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0 \) is shown in Fig. 7, and its cross section is written by the matrix element \( M \) as

\[
d\sigma = \frac{1}{4q \cdot q'_0} \sum_{\lambda,\lambda'} |M(\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0)|^2 \frac{d^3p}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3p'}{(2\pi)^3} \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(q + q' - p - p'),
\]

where one of the initial photons is taken on mass shell \( (q'^2 = 0) \). The matrix element \( M(\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0) \) is given by the hadron tensor \( T_{\mu\nu} \) as

\[
iM(\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0) = e^\mu(\lambda) e^{\nu}(\lambda') T_{\mu\nu},
\]

\[
T_{\mu\nu} = i \int d^4y e^{-iq'y} \langle \pi^0(p)\pi^0(p')|TJ^\text{em}(y)J^\text{em}(0)|0\rangle, \tag{59}
\]

by the photon polarization vector \( e^\mu(\lambda) \) and the electromagnetic current \( J^\text{em}(y) \). In obtaining the total cross section, the cross section should be divided by two due to two identical particles in the final state to avoid the double counting. Alternatively, the cross section is integrated over the half solid angle, in stead of the factor \( 1/2 \), for calculating the total cross section. In any case, differential cross sections are discussed in this paper, so that such a factor is not needed.

We define the helicity amplitudes \( A_{ij} \) by

\[
A_{ij} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \varepsilon_i^\mu(q) \varepsilon_j^{\nu}(q') T^{\mu\nu} ,
\]

\[
i = -, 0, +, \ j = -, +. \tag{60}
\]

If the kinematical condition \( Q^2 \gg W^2, \Lambda^2 \) is satisfied, the two-photon process can be factorized into the hard part \( (\gamma^*\gamma \to q\bar{q}) \) and the soft part \( (q\bar{q} \to \pi^0\pi^0) \) as shown in Fig. 8. In the Breit frame, \( q \) is taken along the \( z \) axis. Introducing two timelike vectors \( n = (1,0,0,1)/\sqrt{2} \) and \( n' = (1,0,0,-1)/\sqrt{2} \), we express the photon and quark momenta as \( q = (n - n')\sqrt{Q^2/2}, \quad q' = n'(Q^2 + W^2)/\sqrt{2Q^2} , \) and \( k' = (1 - z)n\sqrt{Q^2/2} \). At large \( Q^2 \), the hadron tensor can be expressed by the factorized form as

\[
T_{\mu\nu} = \int d^4y e^{-iq'y} \langle \pi^0(p)\pi^0(p')|TJ^\text{em}(y)J^\text{em}(0)|0\rangle
\]

\[
= \sum_{q} (-e^2 \varepsilon^2/q^2) \int d^4k \left[ \frac{\gamma^\mu(k - q)\gamma^\nu}{(k - q)^2 + i\epsilon} + \frac{\gamma^\nu(q - k')\gamma^\mu}{(q - k')^2 + i\epsilon} \right]_{ba} \times \int d^4y e^{-ik'y} \langle \pi^0(p)\pi^0(p')|TJ^\text{em}(y)J^\text{em}(0)|0\rangle. \tag{61}
\]

The first part describes the process \( \gamma^*\gamma \to q\bar{q} \) of Fig. 8 and the second one does the soft process \( q\bar{q} \to \pi^0\pi^0 \). For the term \( T_{\mu}(y)q_a(0) \) in this equation, we use the Fierz identity

\[
4 T_{\mu}(y)q_a = \gamma^\lambda_{ab} T_{\gamma\lambda\gamma} q + (\gamma^\lambda_{ab})_{\gamma} T_{\gamma\lambda\gamma} q + \frac{i}{\Lambda} (\gamma^\lambda_{ab})_{\gamma} T_{\gamma\lambda\gamma} q + \sigma^\lambda_{ab} T_{\sigma\lambda\gamma} q, \tag{62}
\]

where the first two terms and the last one are the leading twist terms, while the third and fourth ones are twist-3 terms. Since the trace of an odd number of \( \gamma_\lambda \) is zero, only the first two terms survive. However, the second term is the axial-vector current, which cannot exist for \( \pi^0\pi^0 \) state due to the particle invariance. After all, only the first term contributes to the hadron tensor.

In the leading order of the running coupling constant \( \alpha_s \), the gluon GDA contribution is neglected and the hadron tensor can be expressed by the quark GDAs by calculating the hard part of Eq. (61) as \( 4, 23, 24 \)

\[
T^{\mu\nu} = -g^\mu\nu T^{\text{em}} - \sum_{q} e^2 \int d^4z \frac{2z - 1}{z(1 - z)} F^\text{em}_q(z, \zeta, W^2), \tag{63}
\]

where \( g^\mu\nu \) is defined by

\[
g^\mu\nu = -1 \quad \text{for } \mu = \nu = 1, 2, \quad = 0 \quad \text{for } \mu, \nu = \text{others.} \tag{64}
\]
The hadron tensor $T^{\mu \nu}$ is generally written by the product of the two electromagnetic currents in Eq. (59). In the leading twist, it is expressed by the matrix element of the vector current as given by the GDAs $\Phi^{\pi^0 \pi^0}$ in Eq. (59) [20, 24]. The situation is the same as the one in the hadron tensor $W_{\mu \nu}$ in the charged-lepton deep inelastic scattering as expressed in the twist expansion [42].

Since only the non-vanishing terms are $\varepsilon^{(+)}_\mu (q) \varepsilon^{(+)}_\nu (q') T^{\mu \nu}$, the cross section is expressed by the helicity amplitude $A_{++}$ as

$$
\frac{d\sigma}{d(\cos \theta)} = \frac{\pi \alpha^2}{4(Q^2 + s)} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m^2}{s}} |A_{++}|^2,
$$

$$
A_{++} = \sum_q \frac{e_q^2}{2} \int_0^1 dz \frac{2z - 1}{z(1 - z)} \Phi^\pi \pi^0 (z, \xi, W^2),
$$

(65)

where the relation $A_{--} = A_{++}$ is used due to parity conservation. The gluon GDA contributes to the cross section through the amplitudes $A_{++} = A_{--}$ and $A_{+-} = A_{-+}$ in the next-to-leading order, so that these terms are suppressed by the factor of $\alpha_s$. There are also contributions from higher-twist amplitudes $A_{0+}$ and $A_{0-}$ which decrease as at least $1/Q$ because of a helicity flip [21, 22].

The $\gamma^* \pi \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$ cross section is related by the GDAs in Eq. (65). In order to determine the GDAs from experimental data, we need to express the GDAs by a number of parameters, which are then determined by a $\chi^2$ analysis of the data on $d\sigma/d(\cos \theta)$. There is a number of studies on the pion distribution amplitudes; however, it is the first attempt for the GDAs in comparison with actual experimental data. Before discussing an appropriate functional form of the GDAs, we explain the distribution amplitude (DA), which is related to the $z$-dependent part of the GDAs. For example, the pion distribution amplitude $\Phi_\pi (z)$ is related to the GDAs by [23]

$$
\Phi_\pi (z) = \Phi^{\pi \pi^0}_{\pi}(z, \xi, W^2 = 0) = -\Phi^{\pi \pi^0}_{\pi}(z, \xi, W^2 = 0),
$$

$$
\Phi^{\pi \pi^0}_{\pi}(z, \xi, W^2 = 0) = \Phi^{\pi \pi^0}_{\pi}(z, \xi, W^2 = 0) = 0.
$$

(66)

In our analysis of $\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$, we obtain $\Phi^{\pi \pi^0}_{\pi}(+)$.

### B. Pion distribution amplitude

Before stepping into the details of the pion GDAs, we explain the pion distribution amplitudes (DAs). The pion DAs are defined by the matrix element of a bilocal quark operator between the vacuum and the pion by taking the pion momentum along the positive $z$-axis as

$$
\langle \pi^0(p) | \bar{\psi}(y) \gamma_\mu \psi(0) | 0 \rangle \biggr|_{y^+ = y_0} = -\frac{i f_\pi}{4} \int_0^1 dz e^{izp^+} y^-(\gamma_5 \not{p})\beta_\mu \Phi_\pi(z, \mu) + \cdots,
$$

(67)

where $a$ is the pion charge ($a = +, 0, -), \bar{\psi}(y)\psi(0)$ indicates $\bar{u}(y)d(y)$, $[\bar{u}(y)u(y) - d(y)d(y)]/\sqrt{2},$ or $\bar{d}(y)u(0)$, for $\pi^+, \pi^0,$ or $\pi^-$, respectively, and the ellipses indicate higher-twist terms.

The function $\Phi_\pi (z, \mu)$ is the leading-twist distribution expressed by the longitudinal momentum fraction $z$ of a valence quark in the pion and the renormalization scale $\mu$ of the bilocal operator. The $\mu$ dependence is described by the ERBL evolution equations [44]. It is normalized as

$$
\int_0^1 dz \Phi_\pi(z, \mu) = 1,
$$

(68)

and $f_\pi$ is the pion decay constant defined by

$$
\langle \pi^0(p) | \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \psi(0) | 0 \rangle = -if_\pi p^\mu.
$$

(69)

In the asymptotic limit of $\mu \to \infty$, the pion distribution amplitude becomes

$$
\Phi_\pi^{(as)}(z) = 6z (1 - z),
$$

(70)

as it becomes obvious from the $Q^2$-evolution solution of Eqs. (78) and (81). At finite $\mu$, it is generally expressed by using the Gegenbauer polynomials as

$$
\Phi_\pi(z, \mu) = 6z (1 - z) \sum_{n=0,2,4,\cdots} a_n(\mu) \frac{C_n^3(2z - 1)}{\mu},
$$

(71)

where only the even terms contribute because the DA should satisfy the condition $\Phi_\pi(1 - z, \mu) = \Phi_\pi(z, \mu)$ under the exchange $z \leftrightarrow 1 - z$. It corresponds to the exchange of $q$ and $\bar{q}$ in the pion, and the momentum distribution carried by a quark or antiquark should be same under this exchange because of positive C-parity of the axial current. The Gegenbauer polynomials are $C_0^3(x) = 1, C_1^3(x) = 2ax, C_2^3(x) = -a + 2a(1 + a)x^2, \cdots$. The current situation of the pion DA is explained in Ref. [18]. Since the Gegenbauer polynomials are rapidly oscillating functions at large $n$ and the coefficients $a_n(\mu)$ are small for large $\mu$, the $n \geq 4$ terms could be neglected at this stage. As for the second coefficient $a_2$, there are theoretical estimates by lattice QCD [45] and QCD sum rules [46, 51]. One of the well known functions was proposed by Chernyak and Zhitnitsky (CZ) to take $a_2(\mu \approx 0.5 \text{ GeV}) = 2/3$ as suggested by the QCD sum rule [46]:

$$
\Phi^{\pi^0}_{\pi}(z, \mu) = 6z (1 - z) \left[ 1 + \frac{2}{3} C_2^3(2z - 1) \right] = 30z (1 - z)(2z - 1)^2 \text{ at } \mu \approx 0.5 \text{ GeV},
$$

(72)
which is very different from the asymptotic form because it has a minimum at $z = 0.5$. There are also recent theoretical suggestions on different $a_2$ values and also $a_4$ and $a_6$ values. In principle, the different pion DAs can be tested by experiments. The Belle measurements on the $\gamma \to \pi$ form factor are close to the asymptotic form because it is consistent with $a_2(\mu = 2 \text{ GeV}) = 0.22$. Further measurements are needed to distinguish various theoretical DAs.

We comment on a slightly different convention from ours in defining the distribution amplitude because it may be sometimes confusing in using the decay constant $f_\pi$ or $f_\pi/\sqrt{2}$. In the Diehl’s article of 2003, the $\pi^0$ distribution amplitude is defined for one quark flavor as

$$
\langle \pi^0(p) | \overline{\psi}(y)_{\alpha} q(0)_{\beta} | 0 \rangle \big|_{y = y = 0}
$$

instead of the left-hand side of Eq. (67). Therefore, the decay constant definition of Eq. (66) becomes

$$
\langle \pi^0(p) | \overline{\psi}(0) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 u(0) | 0 \rangle = -\langle \pi^0(p) | \overline{\psi}(0) \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 d(0) | 0 \rangle = -i f_\pi p_\mu / \sqrt{2}.
$$

We should note that there is a factor of $\sqrt{2}$ in this expression. However, this $\sqrt{2}$ is absorbed into the definition of distribution amplitude in his formalism so that the decay constant $f_\pi$ stays the same as ours.

C. Scale evolution of distribution amplitudes and generalized distribution amplitudes

If the kinematical condition $Q^2 \gg W^2$, $\Lambda^2_{\text{QCD}}$ is satisfied, the process $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$ is factorized into the hard part $H_{q,g}$ and the soft one $S_{q,g}$ as shown in Fig. 8. Here, the final state $X$ is $\pi^0$ for the DAs or $\pi^0 \pi^0$ for the GDAs. The hard part is calculated in perturbative QCD and the soft one is expressed by the DAs or the GDAs. The $Q^2$ evolution equations of the DAs and GDAs are described by calculating the hard part in perturbative QCD. Since both reactions ($\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0$ and $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$) have the same hard processes, the DAs and GDAs follow the same evolution equations, and their $z$ and scale-$\mu$ dependencies are represented by the functions $\Phi_q(z, \mu)$ and $\Phi_g(z, \mu)$ in the following discussions of this subsection [$\Phi_q = \Phi_{q_{\pi}}$ for the DAs, $\Phi_q = \Phi_{q_{\pi}}(\pi^0)$+$\Phi_q = \Phi_{q_{\pi}^\pi}$ for the GDAs].

In order to describe the $Q^2$ evolution of the DAs and GDAs, we introduce the auxiliary quark and gluon functions $f_Q$ and $f_G$ defined by

$$
\begin{align*}
\langle \pi^0(z) f_Q(z, \mu) \rangle &= \sum_q \Phi_q(z, \mu), \\
\langle 2(1 - z) f_G(z, \mu) \rangle &= \Phi_g(z, \mu).
\end{align*}
$$

We introduce the variable $\tau$ defined by

$$
\tau = \frac{2}{\beta_0} \ln \left( \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_0^2)}{\alpha_s(\mu^2)} \right),
$$

for describing the evolution from $\mu_0^2$ to $\mu^2$ as usually used in expressing the DGLAP evolution equations for the PDFs. Here, $\beta_0 = 11 - 2n_f/3$ and $\alpha_s$ is the running coupling constant. Then, the evolution equations are expressed as

$$
\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \left( f_Q(z, \tau) \right)_u = \int_0^1 du \left( V_{QQ}(z, u) V_{QG}(z, u) \right)(f_Q(u, \tau)),
$$

where the matrix $V$ is the kernel calculated in perturbative QCD. The one-loop contributions to this kernel is shown in Fig. 9. The one-loop kernels have been obtained as

$$
\begin{align*}
V_{QQ} &= C_F \left[ \theta(z - u) \frac{1}{z} \left( 1 + \frac{1}{(z - u)_+} \right) \right] + \left\{ u, z \to \tilde{u}, \tilde{z} \right\}, \\
V_{QG} &= 2n_f T_F \left[ \frac{1}{z} \left( z - 2u \right) \right] + \left\{ u, z \to \tilde{u}, \tilde{z} \right\}, \\
V_{GG} &= C_A \frac{1}{z} \left[ \theta(z - u) \left( \frac{u}{(z - u)_+} - \frac{u\tilde{u} - u^2}{2z} \right) \right] + \left\{ u, z \to \tilde{u}, \tilde{z} \right\} - \frac{2}{3} n_f T_F \delta(u - z),
\end{align*}
$$

where $\tilde{u}$ and $\tilde{z}$ are defined by $\tilde{u} = 1 - u$ and $\tilde{z} = 1 - z$, and $C_F$, $T_F$, and $C_A$ are given by $C_F = (N_c^2 - 1)/(2N_c)$, $T_F = 1/2$, and $C_A = N_c$ with the number of colors $N_c = 3$. These equations are called ERBL evolution equations.

The integro-differential equations can be solved in the same way with solving the DGLAP (Dokshitzer-Gribov-Lipatov-Altarelli-Parisi) evolution equations by using the anomalous dimensions ($\gamma_{qQ}^Q$, $\gamma_{qG}^Q$, $\gamma_{qG}^G$, $\gamma_{GG}^G$)

FIG. 8. Factorization of $\gamma^* \gamma \to X, X = \pi^0$ for DAs or $\pi^0 \pi^0$ for GDAs, into the hard part $H_{q,g}$ and the soft one $S_{q,g}$. For the isovector $\pi$, the right-hand-side process with the two-gluon intermediate state does not exist for the single $\pi^0$ production ($X = \pi^0$).

FIG. 9. Leading contributions to the hard part $H_{q,g}$. 12
obtained from the kernel matrix $V$. From these anomalous dimensions, we define
\[
\gamma^n_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \gamma^n_{QQ} + \gamma^n_{GG} \pm \sqrt{(\gamma^n_{QQ} - \gamma^n_{GG})^2 + 4\gamma^n_{QQ}\gamma^n_{GG}} \right].
\] (77)

Then, the solution is written in terms of the Gegenbauer polynomials $C_n$ and the anomalous dimensions as
\[
\sum_{q}^{n_f} \Phi_q^+(z, \mu) = z(1-z) \sum_{\text{odd } n} A_n(\mu) C_n^{3/2}(2z-1),
\]
\[
\Phi_q(z, \mu) = z^2(1-z)^2 \sum_{\text{odd } n} A'_n(\mu) C_n^{5/2}(2z-1),
\] (78)

where the coefficients are given by
\[
A_n(\mu) = A_n^+ \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{\pm}/\beta_0} + A_n^- \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{-}/\beta_0},
\]
\[
A'_n(\mu) = g_\pi A_n^+ \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{\pm}/\beta_0} + g_n A_n^- \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{-}/\beta_0},
\] (79)

with the factor $g_\pi^+ = (\gamma_{+,QQ} - \gamma^n_{GG})/(3\gamma^n_{QQ}/n)$. The summations of Eq. (78) are taken for odd $n (n = 1, 3, \cdots)$ in the $C^{=}\text{even}$ case.

In the $n = \text{odd}$ summation, all the anomalous dimensions are positive except for $\gamma_{+,QQ} = 0$, so that the only the $A_n^+$ terms survive in the scaling limit of $\mu^2 \to \infty$. Using the Gegenbauer polynomial $C^n_1(x) = 2ax$, we have the $C^{=}\text{even}$ (isoscalar) GDAs as
\[
\sum_{q}^{n_f} \Phi_q^+(z, \mu \to \infty) = 3A_1^+ z(1-z)(2z-1),
\]
\[
\Phi_q(z, \mu \to \infty) = g_1 A_1^- z^2(1-z)^2.
\] (80)

Therefore, the $z$-dependent functional forms are uniquely given for the GDAs. This fact should be taken into account for parametrizing the GDAs.

For the $C^{=}\text{odd}$ (isovector) GDAs, the $n$ summation of Eq. (80) is for the even numbers ($n = 0, 2, \cdots$). In the scaling limit, only the $n = 0$ term survives and the GDAs become
\[
\sum_{q}^{n_f} \Phi_q^-(z, \mu \to \infty) = A_0 z(1-z),
\] (81)

by using $C^n_0(x) = 1$. The above isovector GDAs have $z$ dependence $z(1-z)$ which is the same as the $\rho$-meson (pion (23)) isovector DA of Eq. (70) in the scaling limit.

D. $\zeta$ dependence of generalized distribution amplitudes

The $Q^2$ evolution of the GDAs are calculated in perturbative QCD as shown in the previous subsection, and the $z$ dependence is given by the Gegenbauer polynomials. The GDAs also depend on other two variables $\zeta$ and $W^2$. Here, we discuss the $\zeta$ dependence. As shown in Fig. 3 and Eq. (14), the variable $\zeta$ indicates the momentum fraction for a produced pion in the final state and it is expressed by the polar angle ($\theta$) of the pion. Therefore, we may expand the coefficients $A_n$ and $A'_n$ in terms of orthogonal polynomials, which could be taken as the Legendre polynomials $P_l$:
\[
A_n(\zeta, W^2) = 6 n_f \sum_{l=0}^{n+1} B_{nl}(W^2) P_l(2\zeta - 1),
\] (82)

where $n$ is odd ($l$ is even) for $C^{=} = +$, and $n$ is even ($l$ is odd) for $C^{=} = -$. Here, the factor 6 comes in the similar way to the normalization of the pion DA as shown in Eqs. (13) and (21), so that the odd-$l$ terms do not contribute to the $C^{=} = \pm$ GDAs.

From the scale-dependence relations of Eq. (44), the coefficients $B_{nl}$ should follow the same relations:
\[
B_{nl}(W^2, \mu) = B_{nl}(W^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{+,QQ}/\beta_0} + B_{nl}^{-}(W^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right]^{2\gamma^n_{-,QQ}/\beta_0},
\] (83)

and a similar equation for $B'_{nl}(W^2, \mu)$. In the scaling limit $\mu \to \infty$, only the lowest terms survive in $A_n(\zeta, W^2)$ and $A'_n(\zeta, W^2)$, and we obtain (1, 24)
\[
\sum_{q}^{n_f} \Phi_q^{\pi}(z, \zeta, W^2) = 18 n_f z(1-z)(2z-1)
\]
\[
\times [B_{10}(W^2) + B_{12}(W^2) P_2(2\zeta - 1)],
\]
\[
\Phi_q^{\pi}(z, \zeta, W^2) = 48 z^2(1-z)^2
\]
\[
\times [B_{10}(W^2) + B_{12}(W^2) P_2(2\zeta - 1)],
\] (84)

where the Legendre polynomial $P_2(x)$ is given by $P_2(x) = (3x^2 - 1)/2$. Since the Legendre polynomial term is given by $P_2(2\zeta - 1) = 1 - 6\zeta(1 - \zeta)$, the sum rule of Eq. (13) is satisfied if the coefficients satisfy the relation $B_{10}(W^2 = 0) = -B_{12}(W^2 = 0)$, which is considered in the parametrization in the next subsection. This is the basic functional forms for $z$ and $\zeta$ dependencies in the scaling limit. Next, we explain our actual parametrization for the GDAs by following the essence of these basic functional forms.

E. Expression of generalized distribution amplitudes

With the basic knowledge of the pion DA and GDAs, we need to express the GDAs by a number of parame-
ters. In particular, the z dependence is given by Eqs. (80) and (81) in the scaling limit. Considering these functional forms, we express the GDAs with a number of parameters. First, we neglect the higher-order $\alpha_s$ effects and higher-twist effects, so that the gluon GDA does not appear. Since $\pi^0\pi^0$-production data are analyzed in this work, only the $C = \text{even}$ GDAs contribute to the cross section. The $C = \text{even}$ function of Eq. (80) is $z(1 - z)/(2z - 1)$. Since the $C = \text{even}$ isoscalar GDAs have $-$ sign under the change $z \to 1 - z$ as given in Eq. (28), the same parameter $\alpha$ is assigned for the powers of $z$ and $1 - z$: $\Phi_q^{\pi\pi}(z) \sim z^\alpha(1 - z)^\alpha(2z - 1)$. The $2z - 1$ factor comes from the lowest Gegenbauer polynomial $C_i^{3/2}(2z - 1)$, which survives in the scaling limit. However, the detailed $z$ dependence is not determined from the current data, so that we decide to take the lowest Gegenbauer polynomial form of $2z - 1$, supplementing by the phenomenological parameter $\alpha$ which will later appear to be close to the asymptotical value 1.

We use the following function for explaining the $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ data at a fixed $Q^2$ value:

$$\Phi_q^{\pi\pi}(z, \zeta, W^2) = N_\alpha z^\alpha (1 - z)^\alpha (2z - 1) \times [B_{10}(W^2) + B_{12}(W^2) P_2(2\zeta - 1)],$$

(85)

where $N_\alpha$ is the overall constant determined by the sum rule (19) as

$$N_\alpha = \frac{3(2\alpha + 3)}{5B(\alpha + 1, \alpha + 1)},$$

(86)

with the beta function $B(a, b)$. The quark-momentum fraction factor $M_{2q}(q)$ and the $W^2$-dependent form factor $F_q(W^2)$ are included in the coefficients $B_{nl}(W^2)$. The $\zeta$ dependence can be re-expressed by the angle $\theta$ defined in Eq. (13) as

$$B_{10}(W^2) + B_{12}(W^2) P_2(2\zeta - 1) = \bar{B}_{10}(W^2) + \bar{B}_{12}(W^2) P_2(\cos \theta),$$

(87)

where the invariant-mass dependent functions $\bar{B}_{nl}(W^2)$ and $B_{nl}(W^2)$ are related with each other by

$$\bar{B}_{10}(W^2) = B_{10}(W^2) - \frac{1 - \beta^2}{2} B_{12}(W^2),$$

$$\bar{B}_{12}(W^2) = \beta^2 B_{12}(W^2).$$

(88)

In the limit of $W^2 \to 4m^2_q \approx 0$, they are given by [23, 24]

$$B_{12}(0) = \frac{10}{9} M_{2q}(q),$$

(89)

where $M_{2q}(q)$ is the momentum fraction carried by the $q$-flavor quarks and antiquarks in the pion ($\sum_q M_{2q}(q) \approx 0.5$). This equation is obtained by considering the forward limit of the GPDs and then the $s$-$t$ crossing to relate the GPDs and GDAs, so that it should be a model-independent relation. Then, the relation between $B_{10}(0)$ and $B_{12}(0)$ is studied in a soft-pion theorem, and it was obtained as [23, 24]

$$B_{10}(0) = -B_{12}(0).$$

(90)

Then, the $W^2$ dependence of $B_{10}(W^2)$ and $B_{20}(W^2)$ was studied at small $W^2$ as a possible constraint on the functional form of $W^2$ within a instanton model of QCD [25].

The gluon GDA does not contribute to the cross section because the higher-order and higher-twist terms are neglected in our analysis. However, as discussed in Sec. III.C, it affects the $Q^2$ evolution. It will be shown in Figs. 13 and 14 that current Belle data are not accurate enough to probe the scaling violation. The quark GDAs are provided at a fixed $Q^2$ scale which is taken as the average $Q^2$ value (16.6 GeV$^2$) of the Belle data. Then, the $Q^2$ evolution is not taken into account in our analysis within the Belle-data range ($8.92 \leq Q^2 \leq 24.25$ GeV$^2$). Therefore, the gluon GDA does not contribute in our analysis.

There are two terms, which correspond to the angular momenta, $l = 0$ and 2, of the pion pair. There are intermediate meson contributions to the cross section for $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$, so that the invariant-mass dependent factors $\bar{B}_{nl}$ have imaginary parts expressed by the phase shifts $\delta_l(W)$:

$$\bar{B}_{nl}(W^2) = \bar{B}_{nl}(W^2) e^{i\delta_l(W)}.$$

(91)

Here, we use the $\pi\pi$ phase shifts by Bykovsky, Kaminski, Nazari, and Surzytsev [55]. There is also another study on the phase shifts in Ref. [56]. The relation of Eq. (80) indicates that the $\bar{B}_{nl}(W^2 = 0)$ factors are given by

$$\bar{B}_{10}(0) = -\frac{3 - \beta^2}{2} B_{12}(0) = -\left(1 + \frac{2m^2_q}{W^2}\right) B_{12}(0),$$

$$\bar{B}_{12}(0) = \beta^2 B_{12}(0) = \left(1 - \frac{4m^2_q}{W^2}\right) B_{12}(0).$$

(92)

There are two types of contributions to $\bar{B}_{nl}(W)$. One is the continuum and the other is from the intermediate resonances expressed by

$$\bar{B}_{nl}(W^2) = \bar{B}_{nl}(0) F_q(W^2) + \sum_R \frac{c_R}{\sqrt{(M_R^2 - W^2)^2 + \Gamma_R^2 M_R^4}},$$

(93)

where $M_R$ is the resonance mass, $\Gamma_R$ is its width, and $c_R$ is a constant.

The $W^2$ dependence of the continuum part of the pion GDAs is given by the form factor, which could be parametrized as [4]

$$F_q(W^2) = \frac{1}{[1 + (W^2 - 4m^2_q)/\Lambda^2]^{n+1}}.$$

(94)

Here, $\Lambda$ is the cutoff parameter, which indicates the pion size, $n$ is the number of active constituents according
to the constituent-counting rule in perturbative QCD \[57\], and it is normalized as \( F_{\beta(q)}(4m_{\pi}^2) = 1 \). It is the continuum part of the timelike forms factor of the energy-momentum tensor. Here, the pion size means the gravitational-interaction size instead of the usual charge radius in electromagnetic interactions as explained in Sec. III A. The high-energy behavior of the form factor is given by the factor \( n \), which is supposed to be \( n = 2 \) for the pion \[4\].

\[\begin{align*}
\text{FIG. 10.} & \quad \gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \text{ through the intermediate states } M \bar{M}.
\end{align*}\]

**F. Resonance terms and their coupling constants**

The resonance states are illustrated as the intermediate states in Fig. 10. Above 1 GeV of the invariant mass \( W \), the intermediate \( KK \) and \( \eta \eta \) channels contribute to the process. However, their contributions may not be as large as the pion ones, and they are not explicitly considered in this work. As seen in Fig. 10, we also need the kaon GDAs in the formalism if the \( KK \) were introduced in the intermediate state. The constant \( c_R \) in Eq. (52) is expressed by the \( R \rightarrow \pi \pi \) coupling constant \( g_{R\pi\pi} \), the decay constant \( f_R \), the mass \( M_R \), and the width \( \Gamma_R \). As for the mesons with \( J^{PC}(J^{PC}) = 0^+(0^{++}), 0^+(2^{++}) \), we consider

\[\begin{align*}
0^+(0^{++}) & : f_0(500), f_0(980), \\
0^+(2^{++}) & : f_2(1270),
\end{align*}\]

which could make conspicuous contributions to the cross section \( \gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0 \) in the invariant mass region of \( W \leq 2.05 \text{ GeV} \), in our analysis. In this energy region, there are other possible resonances

\[\begin{align*}
0^+(0^{++}) & : f_0(1370), f_0(1500), f_0(1710), \\
0^+(2^{++}) & : f_2(1525), f_2(1950), f_2(2010),
\end{align*}\]

in principle. However, these meson effects have minor effects on the cross section, hence they are not included in our analysis.

The GDAs are defined by the matrix element of the nonlocal vector operator from the vacuum to the \( \pi^0 \pi^0 \) state, and it is expressed by three steps for describing the process with the intermediate \( f_0 \) meson \[58\]. First, the \( f_0 \) meson is produced from the vacuum, it propagates, and then it decays into the pion pair:

\[\begin{align*}
\langle \pi^0(p)\pi^0(p')| \bar{q}(z/2)\gamma_{\mu}q(z/2) | 0 \rangle & = \langle \pi^0(p)\pi^0(p') | f_0(P) \rangle \\
& \times \frac{1}{m_{f_0}^2 - P^2 - i\Gamma M_{f_0}} \langle \bar{q}(z/2)\gamma_{\mu}q(z/2) | 0 \rangle + \cdots .
\end{align*}\]

(97)

In Sec III B, the pion distribution amplitude is defined by \( \bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_5\psi \) instead of one quark flavor one \( \bar{q}\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_5q \). The above \( f_0 \) distribution amplitude is related to the one defined by \( \bar{\psi}\gamma_{\mu}\psi = (\bar{\psi}_{\mu\mu}, u + \bar{\psi}_{\mu\mu}, d)/\sqrt{2} \) as

\[\begin{align*}
\langle f_0(p)| \bar{q}(z/2)\gamma_{\mu}q(z/2) | 0 \rangle & = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \langle f_0(p)| \bar{\psi}(z/2)\gamma_{\mu}\psi(z/2) | 0 \rangle,
\end{align*}\]

(98)

where \( q = u \) or \( d \). The final 2\( \pi \)-decay part is simply the coupling constant written as

\[\begin{align*}
\langle \pi^0(0)\pi^0(p') | f_0(P) \rangle = -ig_{f_0\pi\pi\pi},
\end{align*}\]

(99)

and the first \( f_0 \) production part is expressed by the distribution amplitude for \( f_0 \) as discussed in the later part of this subsection. Then, the \( f_0 \) contribution to \( \bar{B}_{10}(W) \) is written as

\[\begin{align*}
\bar{B}_{10}(W) & = \frac{5g_{f_0\pi\pi}f_{f_0}}{3\sqrt{2}[m_{f_0} - W^2 - i\Gamma M_{f_0}^2}],
\end{align*}\]

(100)

so that its absolute value is given by

\[\begin{align*}
\bar{B}_{10}(W) & = \frac{5g_{f_0\pi\pi}f_{f_0}}{3\sqrt{2}\sqrt{[M_{f_0}^2 - W^2]^2 + \Gamma_{f_0}^2 M_{f_0}^2]},
\end{align*}\]

(101)

where the factor \( 5/3 \) comes from the convention difference in defining the distribution amplitude, namely the overall factor could be \( 30 \) or \( 18 \). This difference becomes \( 30/18 = 5/3 \). In the same way, the \( f_2 \) contribution is given by

\[\begin{align*}
\bar{B}_{12}(W) & = \frac{10g_{f_2\pi\pi}f_{f_2}M_{f_2}^2B_2^2}{9\sqrt{2}\sqrt{[M_{f_2}^2 - W^2]^2 + \Gamma_{f_2}^2 M_{f_2}^2}},
\end{align*}\]

(102)

where the different factor 10 \( M_{f_2}^2/9 \) comes from the tensor nature of \( f_2 \) in defining the coupling constant to \( 2\pi \) and also the decay constant \[58,59\]. In Ref. [58], the \( B_2 \) factor is included in Eq. (A26) of this paper.

As for the resonance terms, we use the \( W \) dependence of \( \bar{B}_{nl}(W^2) \) in Eqs. (101) and (102) \[53\], although the resonance properties are also obtained by the Belle collaboration for the resonances \( f_0(980) \) and \( f_2(1270) \) \[3\]. In Refs. [53,61], the constants are \( f_{f_2} = 0.101 \text{ GeV at } Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2 \), \( M_{f_2} = 1.275 \text{ GeV} \), and \( \Gamma_{f_2} = 0.185 \text{ GeV for } f_2(1270) \), and the decay constant \( g_{f_2\pi\pi} \) is defined by \( g_{f_2\pi\pi} = \sqrt{(2/3)24\pi\Gamma(f_2 \rightarrow \pi\pi)/M_{f_2}^2} \) with \( \Gamma(f_2 \rightarrow \pi\pi) = 0.85\Gamma_{f_2} \). Here, the factor of 2 in \( 2/3 \) comes from the identical particles of two \( \pi^0 \)'s, and the factor \( 1/3 \) does
TABLE I. Resonance constants in our analysis. The decay constant $f_{f_0}$ is shown at $Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ in this table. In Table III the decay constants are listed at $Q^2 = 16.6 \text{ GeV}^2$, which is the average scale of the used Belle data. The value $f_{f_2} = 0.101$ at $Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$ corresponds to $f_{f_2} = 0.0754$ at $Q^2 = 16.6 \text{ GeV}^2$.

| Meson (h) | $M$ (GeV) | $\Gamma$ (GeV) | $g_{f_0}$ | $f_h$ (GeV) |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| $f_0(500)$ | 0.475     | 0.550          | 2.959     | 0.990       |
| $f_0(980)$ | 0.990     | 0.055          | 1.524     | 0.055       |
| $f_2(1270)$ | 1.275     | 0.185          | 0.157     | 1.524       |

from $\Gamma(f_2 \to \pi^0\pi^0) = 1/3\Gamma(f_2 \to \pi\pi)$. As it will become clear in comparison with the actual measurements, the Belle data indicate a clear peak of $f_{f_2}$ at $Q^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2$.

For the S-wave resonances of $f_0(500)$ and $f_0(980)$, we have $M_{f_0(500)} = 0.475 \text{ GeV}$ and $M_{f_0(980)} = 0.55 \text{ GeV}$, respectively. The decay constant $f_{f_0(500)}$ is defined by $g_{f_0\pi\pi} = \sqrt{(2/3)16\pi \Gamma(f_0 \to \pi\pi)}M_{f_0}$ with $\Gamma(f_0 \to \pi\pi) = \Gamma_{f_0}$ for both $f_0(500)$ and $f_0(980)$. The decay width of $f_0(980)$ is not well determined by experiments, and it is listed as $10-100 \text{ MeV}$. We use the middle values of the Particle Data Group, namely $\Gamma_{\pi} = 550 \text{ MeV}$ between 400 MeV and 700 MeV. As for the decay constants $f_{f_0(500)}$ and $f_{f_0(980)}$, no experimental information is available. There are theoretical estimates on $f_{f_0(980)}$ by the QCD sum-rule method. However, they assume the $q\bar{q}$ configuration for $f_0(980)$ and their decay-constant values seem to be inconsistent with the Belle data on the differential cross section as shown in Sec. IIIA. There is no theoretical estimate on $f_{f_0(500)}$ as far as we searched, so it is simply terminated or it is considered as one of the parameters in our analysis. These numerical values are summarized in Table I.

Next, we define decay constants and distribution amplitudes for the resonances $f_0(500)$, $f_0(980)$, and $f_2(1270)$. In the reaction $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$, the matrix elements of a vector current between the vacuum and these meson states are involved in its cross section. First, the matrix element for the tensor meson $f_2(1270)$ is expressed by the decay constant $f_{f_2}$ and the distribution amplitude $\Phi_{f_2}(z,\mu)$ as

$$
\langle f_2(p) | \bar{\psi}(y)\gamma_\mu\psi(0) | 0 \rangle \bigg|_{y^+ = y_- = 0} = \frac{\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^{(A)} \cdot y^\alpha y^\beta}{(p \cdot y)^2}
$$

$$
\times f_{f_2} \frac{m_{f_2}^2}{2} p_\mu \int_0^1 dz e^{izp^+y^+} \Phi_{f_2}(z,\mu) + \cdots,
$$

where $\varepsilon_{\alpha\beta}^{(A)}$ is the polarization vector of $f_2$ meson and the higher-twist terms are not explicitly written. The distribution amplitude for $f_2$ is given by the summation of odd Gegenbauer polynomials due to the $C$-parity as explained in Eq. (63), and it is expressed as

$$
\Phi_{f_2}(z,\mu) = 6z(1-z) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(\mu)C^{3/2}_n(2z - 1) = B_1(\mu) 18z(1-z)(2z-1) + \cdots,
$$

whereas it is the even polynomials for the pion as shown in Eq. (71).

In the same way, the matrix elements for the scalar mesons $f_0(500)$ and $f_0(980)$ are given by

$$
\langle f_0(p) | \bar{\psi}(y)\gamma_\mu\psi(0) | 0 \rangle \bigg|_{y^+ = y_- = 0} = p_\mu \int_0^1 dz e^{izp^+y^+} \Phi_{f_0}(z,\mu),
$$

Writing the above vector current at the position $x$ as $J_\mu(x) = \bar{\psi}(x)\gamma_\mu\psi(x) = e^{i\bar{\psi}D_\mu(0)e^{-i\bar{\psi}D_\mu}}$ and using the equation of motion, we relate the two decay constants as

$$
(m_{q_q} - m_q) \tilde{f}_{f_0} = m_{f_0} f_{f_0},
$$

where $m_q$ and $m_{q_q}$ are quark and antiquark masses. In the $f_0$-meson case, the masses are equal ($m_{q_q} - m_q = 0$).

Because of the conservation of the vector current or charge-conjugation invariance, the constant $f_{f_0}$ should vanish if $f_0 = 0$. However, the nonlocal matrix element of Eq. (105) does not vanish at finite $Q^2$, whereas it vanishes in the scaling limit $Q^2 \to \infty$ as we explain later in Sec. IV.C. Comparing Eqs. (105) and (106), we obtain the relation

$$
\int_0^1 dz \Phi_{f_0}(z,\mu) = f_{f_0} = 0.
$$

For the scalar mesons with $m_q \neq m_{q_q}$, the relation can be used to relate the decay constants. Therefore, according to Ref. [63], we may take that the $f_0$ distribution amplitude is expressed by $f_{f_0}$ and the Gegenbauer polynomials as

$$
\Phi_{f_0}(z,\mu) = \tilde{f}_{f_0} 6z(1-z)
$$

$$
\times \left[ B_0(\mu) + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(\mu)C^{3/2}_n(2z - 1) \right].
$$

Then, the normalization of Eq. (108) is satisfied if $B_0$ is taken as $(m_{q_q} - m_q)/m_{f_0} \equiv 1/\mu_{f_0}$. The integral of the first term is $f_{f_0}$ and those of the subsequent summation
terms vanish identically. The first term $\tilde{f}_s f_s / \mu f_s = f_f$ vanishes for the $f_0$ meson, so that it is given by

$$\Phi_{f_0}(z, \mu) = \tilde{f}_s f_s (1 - z) \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} B_n(\mu) C_n^{3/2}(2z - 1)$$

$$= \tilde{f}_s f_s B_1(\mu) 18 z (1 - z) (2z - 1) + \cdots,$$  \hspace{1cm} (110)

where $C_n^{3/2}(x) = 3x$ is used.

G. Scale dependence of resonance contributions

There are finite contributions to the $\gamma^*\gamma \rightarrow \pi^0 \pi^0$ cross section from $f_2(1270)$, $f_0(500)$, and $f_0(980)$ at small $Q^2$. However, as the $Q^2$ increases, they become smaller and smaller, and they eventually vanish in the scaling limit $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$. The scale dependence of the distribution amplitude is given by the anomalous dimensions $\gamma_n$ and the leading coefficient $\beta_0 = (11C_A - 4T_R n_f)/3$ of the $\beta$ function with $C_A = N_c$ and $T_R = 1/2$ as [58, 61]

$$f_f(Q^2) B_n(Q^2) = f_f(Q_0^2) B_n(Q_0^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\alpha_s(Q_0^2)} \right]^{\gamma_n/\beta_0} ,$$

$$\gamma_n = C_F \left[ 1 - \frac{2}{(n + 1)(n + 2)} + 4 \sum_{j=2}^{n+1} \frac{1}{j} \right] ,$$  \hspace{1cm} (111)

where $C_F = (N_c^2 - 1)/(2N_c)$ with the number of colors $N_c$. Here, the meson $f$ indicates $f_0(500)$, $f_0(980)$, or $f_2(1270)$, and the decay constant $f_f$ is $\tilde{f}_s f_s$, $\tilde{f}_s f_0$, or $\tilde{f}_2 f_2$. One could express the scale evolution separately for the decay constant and the distribution amplitude as [61]

$$f_f(Q^2) = f_f(Q_0^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\alpha_s(Q_0^2)} \right]^{-4/\beta_0} ,$$

$$B_n(Q^2) = B_n(Q_0^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\alpha_s(Q_0^2)} \right]^{(\gamma_n + 4)/\beta_0} .$$  \hspace{1cm} (112)

The leading Gegenbauer polynomial is taken in Eq. (110), and its anomalous dimension is given by $\gamma_1 = 2 C_F/3$. This finite anomalous dimension indicates that the distribution amplitudes decrease with increasing $Q^2$ as shown in Eq. (111).

From Eq. (112), it is possible to describe the $Q^2$ evolution separately for the decay constant and the distribution amplitude. However, the overall scale dependence is given by Eq. (111) in any case. The scale dependence is often attributed only to the decay constant [58, 61], namely

$$f_f(Q^2) = f_f(Q_0^2) \left[ \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\alpha_s(Q_0^2)} \right]^{\gamma_1/\beta_0} ,$$  \hspace{1cm} (113)

and the distribution amplitude may be normalized in the scale-independent way as

$$\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_f(z) = 1 ,$$  \hspace{1cm} (114)

so that it becomes

$$\Phi_f(z) = 30 z (1 - z) (2z - 1) ,$$  \hspace{1cm} (115)

as the leading distribution. In Eqs. (104) and (110), the $f_2$ and $f_0$ distribution amplitudes are defined with the scale dependence. However, the scale independent expression of Eq. (115) is used in this work, which means to take the $B_1$ factor as $B_1 = 5/3$ [61]. This is a consistent description with Eq. (112). However, it may be somewhat confusing, so that one should remember that the distribution amplitude vanishes in the scaling limit $\Phi_f(z, \mu) = 0$ at $\mu \rightarrow \infty$, although the scale-independent expression (114) is often used practically.

H. Gravitational form factors for pion

As shown in Eq. (115), the GDAs probe the $++$ component of the energy momentum tensor, and it is expressed by the form factors for $\pi^0$ as [51, 52]

$$\langle \pi^0(p) \pi^0(p') | T_{++}^{,(0)} | 0 \rangle$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} \left[ (s g^{++} - P^+ P^+) \Theta_{1,q}(s) + \Delta^+ \Delta^+ \Theta_{2,q}(s) \right] .$$  \hspace{1cm} (116)

Calculating the $+$ components by using the momentum assignments in Eq. (15) and using its relation to the GDAs in Eq. (44), we obtain

$$\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_q f^{\pi^0}(z, \zeta, W^2)$$

$$= -\Theta_{1,q}(s) + \frac{\beta^2}{3} \Theta_{2,q}(s) + \frac{2\beta^2}{3} \Theta_{2,q}(s) P_2(\cos \theta) .$$  \hspace{1cm} (117)

On the other hand, from the GDA expression in terms of $B_{10}$ and $B_{20}$ in Eqs. (56) and (57) with the normalization of Eq. (56), the integral of the GDA is given by

$$\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_q f^{\pi^0}(z, \zeta, W^2)$$

$$= \frac{3}{5} \left[ B_{10}(W^2) + \bar{B}_{12}(W^2) P_2(\cos \theta) \right] .$$  \hspace{1cm} (118)

From Eqs. (117) and (118), the gravitational form factor is expressed by the $S$- and $D$-wave components of the GDAs as

$$\Theta_{1,q}(s) = -\frac{3}{5} B_{10}(W^2) + \frac{3}{10} \bar{B}_{20}(W^2) ,$$

$$\Theta_{2,q}(s) = \frac{9}{10 \beta^2} \bar{B}_{20}(W^2) .$$  \hspace{1cm} (119)

Quark and antiquark contributions are added to obtain the timelike gravitational form factors of the pion as

$$\Theta_n(s) = \sum_{i=q} \Theta_{n,i}(s) , \hspace{0.5cm} n = 1, 2 .$$  \hspace{1cm} (120)
In this way, if the GDAs are determined from experimental measurements, the gravitational form factors, consequently gravitational radii, are obtained for the pion.

Next, we discuss normalizations of the form factors. Using the Legendre polynomial expressed by \( \zeta \) as

\[
P_2(\cos \theta) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ -12 \zeta (1 - \zeta) + 3 - \beta^2 \right] / (2 \beta^2),
\]
we obtain the integral of Eq. (117) as

\[
\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1) \Phi_{q}^{n\pi n}(z, \zeta, W^2)
= -\Theta_{1,q}(s) + \Theta_{2,q}(s) - 4\zeta(1 - \zeta)\Theta_{2,q}(s).
\]

The right-hand-side of this equation should be equal to the sum \(-4M_{2(q)}^n\) given in Eq. (119) at \(W^2 = 4m_p^2\), and it leads to the relations

\[
\Theta_{1,q}(s = 4m_p^2) = \Theta_{2,q}(s = 4m_p^2) = M_{2(q)}^n,
\]

in the scaling limit. Quark and antiquark contributions are added to obtain the form factors: \(\Theta_n(s = 4m_p^2) = \sum_{q,z} \Theta_{n,i}(s = 4m_p^2)\). Then, such sum of the right-hand side of Eq. (122) is \(\sum_q M_{2(q)}^n\). Therefore, the normalizations of the form factors become the momentum fraction carried by quarks and antiquarks in the pion:

\[
\Theta_1(s = 4m_p^2) = \Theta_2(s = 4m_p^2) = \sum_q M_{2(q)}^n,
\]

in the scaling limit. The factor \(\sum_q M_{2(q)}^n\) is written as \(R_n\) in some articles. Here, the only the quark contributions are discussed, so that the normalization becomes the quark (and antiquark) momentum fraction. However, if the gluon contribution is added, the relation should be \(\Theta_1(s = 4m_p^2) = \Theta_2(s = 4m_p^2) = 1\), which indicates \(A(s = 4m_p^2) = 1\) and \(B(s = 4m_p^2) = -1/4\) from Eq. (59).

The timelike form factor for the continuum is given by the cut-off parameter \(\Lambda\) and the power of \(n - 1\) in Eq. (24). The factor \(n\) is suggested by the constituent counting rule at high energies and it is \(n = 2\) for the pion. Here, \(f_0\) indicates \(f_0(500)\) and \(f_0(980)\). However, the analyzed Belle data are not sensitive to \(f_0(980)\), so that it is not included in our analysis. The up and down quark GDAs are considered in our analysis, and strange and charm quark contributions are neglected. We assigned a parameter \(\alpha\) for the \(z\)-dependent functional form of the quark GDAs. This \(z\)-dependent function enters into the amplitude \(A_{++}\) in Eq. (96), and then the integral is given in the form of

\[
\int_0^1 dz (2z - 1)^2 z^\alpha - 1 (1 - z)^{\alpha - 1}.
\]

This integral is expressed as the beta function as \(B(\alpha, \alpha)/(2\alpha + 1)\), and it plays a role of overall constant to explain the \(\gamma^* \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0\) data.

Next, we explain the S- and D-wave phase shifts used in our analysis. The phase shifts \(\delta_0\) and \(\delta_2\) in Ref. [24] seem to work below \(W = 1\) GeV. The region of the center-of-mass energy is 0.525 GeV \(\leq \sqrt{s} = W \leq 2.05\) GeV in the Belle data [21]. In order to analyze the Belle data, we use the S-wave and D-wave \(\pi\pi\) phase shifts obtained by Bydzovsky, Kaminski, Nazari, and Surovtsev (BKNS) [55]. Their phase shifts are shown in Fig. 11. They proposed a parametrization of the S- and D-wave phase shifts from analysis of the \(\pi\pi\) scattering experimental data in the isospin = 0 channel. Since only the

IV. RESULTS

From these theoretical preparations, we proceed to the actual analysis of experimental data. Here, the Belle data for \(\gamma^* \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0\) [2] are used for our study. The invariant-mass dependent functions are parametrized with the resonance contributions from \(f_0(500), f_0(980)\) and \(f_2(1270)\), and it is summarized as

\[
\Phi_{q}^{\pi\pi}(z, \zeta, W^2) = N_n z^\alpha (1 - z)^\alpha (2z - 1)
\times [\tilde{B}_{10}(W^2) + \tilde{B}_{12}(W^2) P_2(\cos \theta)],
\]

where the normalization constant \(N_n\) is given in Eq. (56). The S and D wave terms are expressed by the contributions from the continuum and the resonances as

\[
\tilde{B}_{10}(W^2) = -\left( 1 + \frac{2m_p^2}{W^2} \right) \left[ \frac{10}{9} M_{2(q)}^5 F_q^5(W^2)
\right.
+ \sum_{f_0} \frac{5 g_{f_0\pi\pi} f_{f_0}}{3 \sqrt{3} (M_{f_0}^2 - W^2)^2 + \Gamma_{f_0}^2 M_{f_0}^2}
\right]
\left. e^{i\delta_0(W)} \right),
\]

\[
\tilde{B}_{12}(W^2) = \left( 1 - \frac{4m_p^2}{W^2} \right) \left[ \frac{10}{9} M_{2(q)}^5 F_q^5(W^2)
\right.
+ \sum_{g_{f_2\pi\pi} f_{f_2}} \frac{g_{f_2\pi\pi} f_{f_2} M_{f_2}^2}{\sqrt{3} (M_{f_2}^2 - W^2)^2 + \Gamma_{f_2}^2 M_{f_2}^2}
\right]
\left. e^{i\delta_2(W)} \right). \]
difference of S- and D-wave phase shifts matters for explaining the cross section in our analysis of Eqs. (122) and (124), the difference is also shown by the dashed curve. Above the $\bar{K}K$ threshold at about 1 GeV, the phase difference is, roughly speaking, a slowly varying function of $W$. We note that the $\bar{K}K$ channel opens at the threshold energy $2m_{K^+} = 0.987354$ GeV, so that only the $\pi\pi$ phase shifts may not be sufficient. To be precise, the $\bar{K}K \rightarrow \pi\pi$ phase shifts should be introduced together with the kaon GDAs. We may investigate such details step by step. In our GDA analysis, a simple case is considered by introducing a phase $\Delta\delta(W)$ for the S-wave above the $\bar{K}K$ threshold, $\delta_0(W) = \delta_0(W)_{\text{BHNS}} + \Delta\delta(W)$, $\delta_2(W) = \delta_2(W)_{\text{BHNS}}$ with expectation that such effects are included in the modified part. In our analysis, we introduce phase parameters in the S-wave as

$$\delta_0(W) = \delta_0(W)_{\text{BHNS}} + a_3 (W - 2m_K)^{b_3}, \quad (126)$$

at $W > 2m_K$. The parameters $a_3$ and $b_3$ are determined by the $\chi^2$ analysis.

### A. $f_0(980)$ contribution

A possible complication or ambiguity is how to determine the decay constants $f_{f_0(500)}$ and $f_{f_0(980)}$, whereas the constant $f_{f_2}$ is relatively well evaluated by experimental measurements [58, 61]. It is because the internal configurations of $f_0(500)$ and $f_0(980)$ are not well known. The evaluation of $f_{f_0}$ is done for $f_0(980)$ only by assuming that $f_0$ is a $q\bar{q}$-type meson, namely $(u\bar{u} + d\bar{d})/\sqrt{2}$ ($\equiv n\bar{n}$), $s\bar{s}$, or mixture of them [59]. On the other hand, it is known that $f_0(980)$ is likely to be a tetra-quark meson or $K\bar{K}$ molecule so as to explain the experimental measurements on $f_0(980) \rightarrow \pi\pi$, $f_0(980) \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$, and $\phi \rightarrow f_0(980)\gamma$ [62, 64, 66]. The theoretical decay constant is not evaluated unfortunately, as far as we are aware, for the tetra-quark or $K\bar{K}$ configurations for the $f_0(980)$. Therefore, a realistic numerical estimate would not be possible for $f_0(980)$ in comparing with experimental data on $\gamma^* \gamma \rightarrow \pi^0\pi^0$.

Of course, the $f_0(980)$ may be viewed as a $q\bar{q}$ state at high energies, whereas it may be a $q\bar{q}q\bar{q}$ one at low energies, because they could mix with each other. In fact, there is an indication from the constituent-counting-rule studies on $\Lambda(1405)$ in comparison with the experimental data on $\gamma + p \rightarrow \Lambda(1405) + K^+$ that $\Lambda(1405)$ looks penta-quark state ($qqqq\bar{q}$) at low energies, whereas it could be an ordinary three-quark one ($q\bar{q}$) at high energies [67]. There is a possibility that the situation could be the same for $f_0(980)$ on the energy-dependent composition.

In any case, let us simply assume the decay constant $f_{f_0(980)}$ by taking the $q\bar{q}$-type estimate in the QCD sum rule in order to illustrate the situation and the issue. As we will show later, the optimum value for the parameter $\alpha$ is roughly given by $\alpha \sim 1$. We find that it is difficult to accommodate the $f_0(980)$ resonance with this parameter value. Obtained cross sections are compared with the Belle data at $Q^2 = 8.92$ GeV$^2$ and $\cos \theta = 0.1$ by taking $\alpha = 0.5, 1.0,$ and 2.0 in Fig. 12. Here, the decay constant $f_{f_0(980)}(Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$) = 0.104 GeV was obtained in Ref. [63] by considering the $u$ and $d$ quark contributions to the GDAs with $f_0 = 0.35$ GeV at $Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$, the mixing angle $\theta_{f_0} = 32.5^\circ$, which is the middle of $25^\circ < \theta_{f_0} < 40^\circ$, between $|n\bar{n}|$ and $|s\bar{s}|$, $B_1 = -0.92$ by the QCD sum rule [63], and the conversion factor 18/30 for the distribution amplitude from Eq. (110) to Eq. (115). The $Q^2$ evolution is also taken into account by using Eq. (115) from $Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$ to 8.92 GeV$^2$ in order to compare with the Belle data at $Q^2 = 8.92$ GeV$^2$.

From the comparison with the Belle data in Fig. 12 we find that the $f_0(980)$ peak structure is not obvious from the data and they are not consistent with the theoretical predictions as long as $\alpha < 2$. Although the figure is one of the kinematical point of the Belle measurements, the comparisons with other data also indicate a similar tendency. Here, we should note that the theoretical curves are shown by assuming the $q\bar{q}$ configuration of $f_0(980)$ with the QCD sum rule estimate for the decay constant. These results should suggest that $f_0(980)$ could not be understood mainly by the $q\bar{q}$ configuration. It is possibly a tetra-quark (or $KK$ molecule) state as widely known in the hadron-physics community. The decay constant could be very small if it is a tetra-quark ($qqqq$) type because the decay width is proportional to the matrix element of a bilocal operator. Since the data do not show an obvious $f_0(980)$ peak structure and a theoretical estimate is not available for the decay width by the tetra-quark picture, we do not include $f_0(980)$ in our numerical analysis in the analysis of Sec. IVB. If the measurements become more accurate in future, one may consider to include this contribution.

The $f_0(980)$ effect is not conspicuous in the Belle data on the differential cross section, for example, in Fig. 12. However, it appears in the total cross section and the
$\gamma \to f_0(980)$ transition form factor is investigated by using the Belle data \cite{62}. Such studies indicate that $f_0(980)$ is consistent with the $q\bar{q}$ configuration, which is different from our finding in Fig. 12. Because of these conflicting results, the $f_0(980)$ contribution and its internal configuration are not well understood.

B. Analysis results

The GDAs are expressed by a number of parameters, which are obtained by a $\chi^2$ analysis of Belle experimental measurements on $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$. The resonance part is fixed as much as possible by other experimental and theoretical studies, and the used values are listed in Table II. The large uncertainty comes from the values of the decay constants, $f_{f_0(500)}$, $f_{f_0(980)}$, and $f_{f_2(1270)}$, especially for the $f_0$ mesons. There are a number of reliable theoretical studies on $f_{f_2(1270)}$. In Sec. IV A we explained that the current QCD sum rule estimate for $f_{f_0(980)}$ is much different from the Belle measurements if it is assumed as a $q\bar{q}$ state. There is no available estimate, as far as we are aware, for the decay constant in the tetra-quark picture for $f_0(980)$. In any case, the data do not show a clear signature of $f_0(980)$ in the $W \sim 1$ GeV region, so that $f_0(980)$ is not included in the following analysis. Furthermore, there is no theoretical estimate on the decay constant for $f_{f_0(500)}$. We may simply assume that it is same as the $f_0(980)$ value; however, the results are inconsistent with the Belle data in the same way with the $f_0(980)$ case. Therefore, we consider two options in our studies:

(set 1) Analysis without $f_0(500)$ and $f_0(980)$:

The GDAs are expressed by the parameters for only the continuum and $f_2(1270)$, and they are determined by the $\chi^2$ analysis.

(set 2) Analysis with $f_0(500)$ and without $f_0(980)$:

The decay constant $f_{f_0(500)}$ is considered as an additional parameter to be determined from the experimental data in addition to the parameters in the set 1.

For the decay constants, the $Q^2$ evolution is taken into account by using Eq. (113) and taking the average scale of the Belle experiment as $\langle Q^2 \rangle = 16.6$ GeV$^2$, which is a simple average of the minimum and maximum values, 8.92 and 24.25 GeV$^2$, in the analyzed data in this work.

By considering the factorization condition of Eq. (12), only the large $Q^2$ data with $Q^2 \geq 8.92$ GeV$^2$ are used in our analysis. Furthermore, the higher-order and higher-twist terms $A_{\perp}$ and $A_{\delta}$ do not contribute significantly at large $Q^2$. The $Q^2$ values to satisfy this condition are $Q^2 = 8.92, 10.93, 13.37, 17.23,$ and $24.25$ GeV$^2$ in the Belle measurements. In each $Q^2$, the pion angles are $\cos \theta = 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9$ as listed in Table II. In each bin of $Q^2$ and $\cos \theta$, there are 22 data points, so that the total number of data is 550.

The GDAs are expressed by the three kinematical variables, $z$, $\zeta$, and $W^2$ without the scale $Q^2$ by considering the scaling region. Actual experiments are done at finite $Q^2$, so that the GDAs extracted from the measurements may depend on $Q^2$. In order to check the $Q^2$ dependence of the Belle data, we show the quantity $(Q^2 + s) d\sigma/ d\beta d(\cos \theta)$ in Figs. 13 and 14 for $\cos \theta = 0.1$ and $\cos \theta = 0.5$, respectively by choosing $W = 0.525, 0.975,$ and 1.550 GeV. According to Eq. (63), there is no scale dependence for this quantity in the scaling limit. As shown in these figures, the Belle data are not very accurate at this stage to discuss whether $Q^2$ dependence exists. However, there are tendencies for the scaling within the errors. The $Q^2$ variations may be seen at $Q^2 < 6$ GeV$^2$ at $W = 1.55$ GeV and $\cos \theta = 0.5$ in Fig. 14; however, such data are irrelevant in our analysis because only the data with $Q^2 \geq 8.92$ GeV$^2$ are used.

![FIG. 13. $Q^2$-scale dependence of the Belle data at $\cos \theta = 0.1$. The ordinate corresponds to the term with the GDAs integrated over $z$ in Eq. (63).](image)

![FIG. 14. $Q^2$-scale dependence of the Belle data at $\cos \theta = 0.5$.](image)

| $Q^2$ (GeV$^2$) | $\cos \theta$ | No. of data |
|-----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 8.92            | 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 | 22 x 5  |
| 10.93           | 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 | 22 x 5  |
| 13.37           | 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 | 22 x 5  |
| 17.23           | 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 | 22 x 5  |
| 24.25           | 0.1, 0.3, 0.5, 0.7, 0.9 | 22 x 5  |
| total           |                | 550         |
In the analysis 1, there are four parameters, $\alpha$, $\Lambda$, $a_5$, and $b$, and the others are fixed. For example, $n = 2$ is taken by the constituent-counting rule, and $\sum_q M^2_q = 0.5$ from pion-structure function studies. The $f_0(500)$ contribution is terminated by taking $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500) = 0$. The obtained parameter values are listed in Table III. A reasonable fit is obtained in this analysis with $\chi^2$/d.o.f. = 1.22. Assigning the decay constant $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500)$ as an additional parameter in the analysis 2, we obtained a better agreement with the data with $\chi^2$/d.o.f. = 1.09. In both cases, the parameter $\alpha$ is close to the asymptotic value $\alpha = 1$. For the pion distribution amplitude, a more concave functional form is suggested at finite $Q^2$ [41, 53, 67]. However, the pion distribution amplitude is related to the C-odd GDAs as shown in Eq. (69), and our current analysis is for the C-even GDAs, so that there is no direct connection.

The cutoff parameter is in the range $1.6 < \Lambda < 2.0$ GeV, which is larger than the cutoff of the nucleon's electromagnetic form factors. The set 2 provides a better description of the Belle data, as indicated by the $\chi^2$/d.o.f. value, especially at small $W(<0.8$ GeV). In both analyses, the values of $a_5$ and $b$ stay at almost same values, $a_5 \simeq 3.8$ and $b \simeq 0.4$. In order to explain the Belle data, the decay constant of $f_0(500)$ is $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500) = 0.0183$ GeV at $Q^2 = 16.6$ GeV$^2$. It becomes $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500) = 0.0246$ GeV at $Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$, and this value is much smaller than the one for $\bar{f}_{f_0}(980)$, with the $q\bar{q}$ picture ($\bar{f}_{f_0}(980) = 0.104$ GeV at $Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$) [63].

The actual comparisons with the Belle data are shown in Figs. 13 and 14 for $Q^2 = 8.92, 13.37, 17.23,$ and $24.25$ GeV$^2$ and $\cos\theta = 0.1$ and 0.5. The dashed and solid curves are our theoretical results for set 1 (without $f_0(500)$) and set 2 (with $f_0(500)$). There is a dip around $W = 1$ GeV, which is caused by cancellations between the S- and D-wave terms. The $f_2(1270)$ contribution is obvious at $\cos\theta = 0.1$ but it is relatively suppressed at larger $\cos\theta (=0.5)$. As mentioned before, the $f_0(980)$ effects do not appear in the data. However, since the $\chi^2$ value is slightly smaller in the analysis set 2 in comparison with the set-1 value, the $f_0(500)$ could be needed for interpreting the data in the small $W$ range ($W < 0.8$ GeV).

The whole cross section decreases with increasing $Q^2$ as shown in Figs. 13 and 14. Especially, at reasonably large $\cos\theta$, the $f_2$ resonance effects becomes small. Due to the scale dependence of the decay constants $\bar{f}_{f_0}$ and $\bar{f}_{f_2}$, the resonance contributions should become small in comparison with the continuum as $Q^2$ becomes large. At high-energy $e^+e^-$ colliders such as the international linear collider (ILC), large $Q^2$ measurements should be done and such experiments are suitable for probing the continuum part of the GDAs. They are valuable for the studies of the GDAs as one of three dimensional structure functions and their relations to the GPDs.

In order to see each term contribution to the $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ cross section, we show the cross section solely coming from $f_0(500)$, GDA continuum, or $f_2(1270)$ in Fig. 15 by terminating other terms and the phase shifts

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**TABLE III. Constants and parameters determined by the $\chi^2$ analysis.** Here, the $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500)$ and $\bar{f}_{f_2}(1270)$ values are provided at $Q^2 = 16.6$ GeV$^2$, and they correspond to $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500) = 0.0246 \pm 0.0045$ and $\bar{f}_{f_2}(1270) = 0.101$ at $Q^2 = 1$ GeV$^2$.

| Parameter      | set 1                          | set 2                          |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| $\alpha$       | $0.801 \pm 0.042$              | $1.157 \pm 0.132$              |
| $\Lambda$ (GeV) | $1.602 \pm 0.109$              | $1.928 \pm 0.213$              |
| $\bar{f}_{f_0}(500)$ (GeV) | 0                              | $0.0184 \pm 0.0034$          |
| $\bar{f}_{f_2}(1270)$ (GeV) | 0.0754 (fixed)              | 0.0754 (fixed)                 |
| $a_5$          | $3.878 \pm 0.165$              | $3.800 \pm 0.170$              |
| $b_5$          | $0.382 \pm 0.040$              | $0.407 \pm 0.041$              |
| $\chi^2$/d.o.f.| 1.22                          | 1.09                          |

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**FIG. 15.** Comparison with the Belle cross sections measurements at $Q^2 = 8.92$ and $13.37$ GeV$^2$ with $\cos\theta = 0.1$ and 0.5. The dashed and solid curves indicate our analysis results for set 1 (without $f_0(500)$) and set 2 (with $f_0(500)$), respectively.

**FIG. 16.** Comparison with the Belle cross sections measurements at $Q^2 = 17.23$ and $24.25$ GeV$^2$ with $\cos\theta = 0.1$ and 0.5. The dashed and solid curves indicate our analysis results for set 1 (without $f_0(500)$) and set 2 (with $f_0(500)$), respectively.
in Eq. (124) for the kinematics of $Q^2 = 8.92 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\cos \theta = 0.1$. In the solid curves, the phase shifts are also terminated, whereas the dashed curve indicates the GDA continuum with the phase shifts. For example, the solid GDA continuum curve is obtained by terminating $f_0(500) = f_2(1270) = 0$ and $\delta_0 = \delta_2 = 0$. Here, the parameters of the set 2 are used for drawing these curves. In comparison with the solid curve in Fig. 15 for $Q^2 = 8.92 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\cos \theta = 0.1$, these distributions seem to be very small. However, the continuum and $f_2$ contribute to the cross section constructively with almost the same magnitude, so that each contribution is about 1/4 of the cross section of Fig. 14 if other terms are terminated. As expected, $f_0(500)$ contributes only in the low-energy region of $W < 0.8 \text{ GeV}$, and it is much smaller than the continuum according to the set-2 analysis. However, it depends on the $f_0(500)$ decay constant, which is taken as one of the parameters in our analysis because of the lack of theoretical information. The $f_2(1270)$ contributes especially in the $W = 1.27 \text{ GeV}$ region, and its magnitude is comparable to the continuum. The GDA continuum is a slowly varying function of $W$ and it is distributed in the wide $W$ range.

C. Gravitational form factors and radii for pion

Since the optimum GDAs are determined from the Belle data, the timelike gravitational form factors are calculated by Eqs. (119) and (120). Their absolute values are shown in Fig. 18 and individual real and imaginary parts are in Fig. 19. The form factor $\Theta_2$ comes from the D-wave contribution and it is peaked at the $f_2(1270)$ position, whereas the function $\Theta_1$ has a dip due to the interference between the S- and D-wave terms. The imaginary part of $\Theta_2$ is peaked at the $f_2(1270)$ resonance and its real part changes the sign. The real and imaginary parts of $\Theta_1$ have both features on the interference and the $f_2(1270)$ resonance. As for the electric form factor of the pion in the timelike region, there are recent theoretical studies by the holographic QCD and lattice QCD.

In order to find the space distributions and gravitational radii, the timelike form factors should be transformed to the spacelike one by using the dispersion relation of Eq. (51). The obtained spacelike form factors are shown in Fig. 20. They are slowly decreasing function of $-t$ and the slope is steeper for $\Theta_1$ than the one for $\Theta_2$ due to the additional S-wave term in Eq. (119).

The substantial difference between the form factors

FIG. 17. Each contribution to the $\gamma^* \gamma \to \pi^0 \pi^0$ cross section is shown for the the kinematics $Q^2 = 8.92 \text{ GeV}^2$ and $\cos \theta = 0.1$. The solid curves indicate cross sections by terminating other contributions and phase shifts. Three curves are for only $f_0(980)$, continuum, or $f_2(1270)$. The dashed curve shows the continuum cross section by turning on the phase shifts. The parameter values of the set-2 results are used here.

FIG. 18. Absolute values of the timelike gravitational form factors $\Theta_1(s)$ and $\Theta_2(s)$ of the pion.

FIG. 19. Real and imaginary parts of the timelike gravitational form factors $\Theta_1(s)$ and $\Theta_2(s)$ of the pion.

FIG. 20. Spacelike gravitational form factors normalized to their values at $t = 0$. 
certainly contradicts to the soft-pion theorem which guarantees that Goldstone bosons in gravitational field are insensitive to the scalar curvature. As the gravity is coupled to the conserved energy-momentum tensor including the gluon contributions, it may be the signal that gluon GDA, whose contribution to the gravitational physics of the pion. The $\mu \nu = 00$ component satisfies the mass relation

$$\int d^3 r T^{00}(r) = m_\pi \Theta_{2, 0}(0).$$

Therefore, the $\Theta_2$ reflects the mass (energy) distribution in the pion. The $\mu \nu = ij$ ($i, j = 1, 2, 3$) components are expressed by the pressure $p(r)$ and shear force $s(r)$ as

$$T^{ij}(\vec{r}) = p_q(r) \delta_{ij} + s_q(r) \left( \frac{r_i r_j}{r^2} - \frac{1}{3} \delta_{ij} \right).$$

Using the definition of the energy-momentum-tensor form factors, we find that $p(r)$ and $s(r)$ are expressed by $\Theta_1$. Namely, the $\Theta_1$ is the mechanical form factor which contains information on the pressure and shear force. The conservation of the energy-momentum tensor $\partial_\mu T^{\mu \nu} = 0$ indicates the stability condition for the pressure $p(r)$ as

$$\int_0^\infty r^2 p(r) \, dr = 0.$$  

It is satisfied in our formalism due to the finite $\Theta_1(t = 0)$, as also noticed in Ref. [32], because of the $\delta$ function in the $r$ integration.

According to the definition, the mass (energy) density is given mainly by the form factor $\Theta_2(t)$; however, $\Theta_1(t)$ also contributes at finite $t$. On the other hand, pressure and shear-force densities are given solely by the form factor $\Theta_1(t)$. Therefore, we may use the terminologies “mass” (or energy) and “mechanical” (pressure and shear-force) for $\Theta_2(t)$ and $\Theta_1(t)$.

The gravitational densities $4\pi r^2 \rho_1(r)$ and $4\pi r^2 \rho_2(r)$ are peaked at $r = 0.1\sim0.2$ fm region in Fig. 21. However, the mechanical density $\rho_1(r)$ is distributed in larger $r$ region, which is our interesting finding for studying the gravitational physics of the pion. The mechanical density contains the shear force, which could be dominant in the surface region, so that the $\rho_1(r)$ may be distributed in the relatively large-$r$ region. From the densities $\rho_1(r)$ and $\rho_2(r)$ or the spacelike form factors $\Theta_1(t)$ and $\Theta_2(t)$, the gravitational radii can be calculated. We obtained the radii $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_2} \equiv \sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}}$ and $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_1} \equiv \sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}}$ as

$$\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}} = 0.69 \text{ fm}, \quad \sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}} = 1.45 \text{ fm (set 2)}.$$ (131)

It is interesting that we found a mass radius which is similar to the charged one $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{charge}}} = 0.672 \pm 0.008$ fm; however, the mechanical radius is larger as indicated in the density $4\pi r^2 \rho_1(r)$ of Fig. 21. It is because that there is also the S-wave term $B_{10}$ in addition to the D-wave frame as [29]

$$T^{\mu \nu}(\vec{r}) = \int \frac{d^3 q}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}}}{2E} \left\langle \pi^0(\vec{p'}) \mid T^{\mu \nu}(0) \mid \pi^0(\vec{p}) \right\rangle,$$ (127)

where $E = \sqrt{m_\pi^2 + \vec{q}^2/4}$. The $\mu \nu = 00$ component satisfies the mass relation

$$\int d^3 r T^{00}(r) = m_\pi \Theta_{2, 0}(0).$$ (128)

![FIG. 21. Gravitational densities $\rho_1(r)$ and $\rho_2(r)$.](image)

| Hadrons       | $\rho(r)$              | $F(q)$              |
|---------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Quark         | $\frac{4\pi}{e^2} \rho_1(r)$ | $1$                 |
| Pion          | $\frac{4\pi}{e^2} \rho_2(r)$ | $\frac{1}{1 + \vec{q}^2/\Lambda^2}$ |
| Proton        | $\frac{4\pi}{e^2} \rho_1(r)$ | $\frac{1}{1 + \vec{q}^2/\Lambda^2}$ |
| Light nuclei  | $\frac{4\pi}{e^2} \rho_1(r)$ | $\frac{1}{1 + \vec{q}^2/\Lambda^2}$ |
| Heavy nuclei  | $\frac{4\pi}{e^2} \rho_1(r)$ | $\frac{1}{1 + \vec{q}^2/\Lambda^2}$ |

TABLE IV. Typical densities and form factors.
one $\bar{D}_{20}$. In physics, the pressure and shear-force distributions have different nature from the mass distribution.

We should note that there is uncertainty in our analysis in the sense that only the relative phase $\Delta \delta_0(W) - \delta_2(W)$ affects the cross section; however, their absolute phases are not. It means that the phase $\Delta \delta_0(W)$ could be attributed to $\delta_2$ instead of $\delta_0$ in Eq. (120). We repeated our $\chi^2$ analysis with this extreme option and obtained the radius values as $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}} = 0.56$ fm and $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}} = 1.56$ fm. Therefore, it is fair to state at this stage that the evaluated gravitational radii are in the ranges:

$$\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}} = 0.56 \sim 0.69 \text{ fm},$$
$$\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}} = 1.45 \sim 1.56 \text{ fm}. \quad (132)$$

It is encouraging that similar radii are obtained in totally different analyses. The mass radius is consistently in the range of the charge radius or slightly smaller, and the mechanical radius is larger. It is interesting to find that there is a possibility that the mass radius is different from the charge one as suggested in Ref. [36].

Lattice QCD calculations on the energy-momentum tensor indicate similar tendency that the mechanical radius is larger than the mass radius [72]. Here, we should note the definition difference from our form factor, namely the factor of $-4$ in $B(t)$ and $\Theta_1(t)$ as explained below Eq. (128). The actual radii are not shown in the lattice calculations [72]; however, spacelike form factors and radii have similar tendencies with our results. In addition, a theoretical estimate of D-term, which corresponds to $\Theta_1$ in our studies, also shows a similar result [72].

Because the pion GDAs were obtained in this work, it is possible to study their relation to the pion GPDs as explained in Secs. III.D and III.E. In order to discuss the pion GPDs, we need to find appropriate double distributions from the GDAs and then to calculate the GPDs. Since it is a significant work, we leave it as our future project. In addition, the Belle collaboration has been investigating other hadron-pair production processes including $p\bar{p}$. Once such data become available, it is possible to determine nucleonic GDAs in comparison with the GPDs obtained in spacelike reactions.

This kind of studies has a bright prospect in the sense that the Belle collaboration has been analyzing other meson productions $\gamma^*\gamma \to hh$ from the two photon. The experimental errors of Figs. 13 and 16 are dominated by the statistical errors. The KEKB was just upgraded to super-KEKB, so that the errors should be much smaller in the near future. Furthermore, if the ILC is realized, the two-photon cross section $\gamma^*\gamma \to hh$ should be obtained in a very different kinematical region, namely at large $Q^2$, and the ILC measurement should be valuable for probing especially the continuum part of the GDAs.

For a long time, the GDAs had been considered as a purely theoretical subject. We showed in this work that it becomes possible to investigate the GDAs experimentally with the appropriate theoretical formalism. This study is merely a starting point. Interesting prospects are waiting for us for investigating gravitational physics for hadrons in the quark-gluon level. For example, the equivalence principle indicates that the anomalous gravitomagnetic moment should vanish in the nucleon [74]. Therefore, the equivalence principle could be tested in the microscopic particle physics by investigating the GPDs and GDAs for the nucleon.

V. SUMMARY

The GDAs are one of three-dimensional structure functions, and they are related to the GPDs by the $x$-$t$ crossing relation. We analyzed the Belle data of the two-photon cross sections $\gamma^*\gamma \to \pi^0\pi^0$ for determining the pion GDAs. This work is the first work to obtain the GDAs from the actual experimental data, and our results should be valuable for probing the three-dimensional structure of hadrons, especially for future applications to unstable hadrons including exotic-hadron candidates which cannot be used in fixed-target experiments.

Including the $f_0(500)$ and $f_2(1270)$ meson contributions to the cross section, we expressed the pion GDAs by a number of parameters which were determined by analyzing the data. The obtained $z$-dependence is close to the scaling one ($\alpha = 1$). If we include $f_0(980)$ contribution with constants estimated by assuming it as a $q\bar{q}$ state, theoretical differential cross sections are much larger than the Belle measurements. The $f_0(980)$ meson was not included in our actual analysis. The GDAs contain the timelike gravitational form factors $\Theta_1(s)$ and $\Theta_2(s)$ of the energy-momentum tensor, and we calculated them from the obtained GDAs. The function $\Theta_2(s)$ is determined only by the D-wave part, whereas both S- and D-waves contribute to $\Theta_1(s)$. Therefore, they have different functional behaviors. This is the first time that the gravitational form factors are obtained from actual experimental measurements.

The timelike gravitational form factors are converted to the spacelike ones by the dispersion relation. Then, the gravitational mass and mechanical densities are shown, and their radii are calculated. We obtained $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mass}}} = 0.56 \sim 0.69$ fm and $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{mech}}} = 1.45 \sim 1.56$ fm from the form factors $\Theta_2$ and $\Theta_1$, respectively. They indicate that the gravitational mass radius is similar or slightly smaller than the charge radius $\sqrt{\langle r^2 \rangle_{\text{charge}}} = 0.672 \pm 0.008$ fm and that the mechanical radius is larger. Future super-KEKB measurements should improve this situation. We hope that this work will open a new field of gravitational physics in the quark-gluon level.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank Drs. M. Masuda and S. Uehara for explanations and suggestions on Belle experimental measurements and two-photon processes; M. Wakamatsu for
discussions on the GPDs and energy-momentum tensor; P. Bydzovsky, R. Kaminski, V. Nazari, and Y. S. Surovtsev for supplying their code on the \( \pi \pi \) phase shifts \[53\], which were used in this work. They also thank V. Braun, H.-Y. Cheng, H.-C. Kim, H.-D. Son, and K.-C. Yang for their information on decay constants and form factors. This work was supported by Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research (KAKENHI) Grant Number JP25105010. Q.-T.S is supported by the MEXT Scholarship for foreign students through the Graduate University for Advanced Studies. O.V.T thanks the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for its support on his visit to KEK, where this work was started. SK and Q.-T.S thank the Institute for Nuclear Theory at the University of Washington for its hospitality and the Department of Energy for partial support during the completion of this work.

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