Target mass corrections to matrix elements in nucleon spin structure functions

Y. B. Dong
Institute of High Energy Physics, CAS, Beijing 100049, P. R. China
and
Theoretical Physics Center for Science Facilities (TPCSF), CAS, P. R. China

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Abstract

Target mass corrections to the twist-4 terms $\tilde{f}_{2}^{p,n,d}$ as well as to the leading-twist $\tilde{a}_{2}$ are discussed.

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We know that different approaches [1-7] have been employed to study higher-twist effect to the nucleon structure functions. There were also several phenomenological analyses of the nucleon structure functions to study quark-hadron duality and to extract the higher-twist contributions (like the ones of the twist-3 and twist-4 terms) from experimental measurements [8-11]. Those analyses are going to be more and more accurate since the more and more precise measurements of the nucleon spin structure functions $g_{1}$ and $g_{2}$ are becoming available [11-12]. The high precision data have been employed to study the validity of the quark-hadron duality for the nucleon structure function $F_{2}$ [13] and even for spin asymmetry $A_{1}$ by HERMES [14] recently. Several experiments to test the higher-twist effect on the nucleon spin structure functions are being carried out in the Jefferson Laboratory [9,15].

It has been pointed out, in the literature, that the target mass corrections (TMCs) should be considered in the studies of the nucleon structure functions [16] in a moderate $Q^{2}$ region, and of the Bloom-Gilman quark-hadron duality [17-18]. Therefore, only after the important target mass corrections are removed from the experimental data, one can reasonably extract the higher-twist effect [18]. There were several papers about the target mass corrections to $F_{1,2}(x,Q^{2})$ and $g_{1,2}(x,Q^{2})$ in the past [19]. Recently, the target mass corrections to the nucleon structure functions for the polarized deep-inelastic scattering have been systematically studied [20-21]. In our previous work [22], TMCs to the twist-3 matrix element in the nucleon structure functions are addressed. In this report, TMCs to the twist-4 terms $\tilde{f}_{2}^{p,n,d}$ as well as to the leading-twist $\tilde{a}_{2}$ will be discussed.
Consider the Cornwall-Norton (CN) moments $g_{1,2}^{(n)}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 x^{n-1} g_{1,2}(x, Q^2) dx$, we know that the first CN moment of $g_1$ can be generally expanded in inverse powers of $Q^2$ in operator production expansion (OPE) \cite{1-2} as
\[
 g_1^{(1)} = \int_0^1 dx g_1(x, Q^2) = \sum_{\tau=2, \text{even}}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_\tau(Q^2)}{Q^{\tau-2}} \tag{1}
\]
with the coefficients $\mu_\tau$ relating to the nucleon matrix elements of operators of twist $\leq \tau$. In Eq. (1), the leading-twist (twist-2) component $\mu_2$ is determined by the matrix elements of the axial vector operator $\bar{\psi}\gamma_\mu\gamma_5\psi$, summed over various quark flavors. The coefficient of $1/Q^2$ term, $\mu_4 = \frac{1}{3} M^2(\bar{a}_2 + 4\bar{d}_2 + 4\bar{f}_2)$, contains the contributions from the twist-2 $\bar{a}_2$, twist-3 $\bar{d}_2$, and twist-4 $\bar{f}_2$, respectively. Usually, $\bar{d}_2$ is extracted from the third moments of the measured $g_1(x, Q^2)$ and $g_2(x, Q^2)$ by using $\bar{d}_2(Q^2) = \int_0^1 x^2 \left(2g_1(x, Q^2) + 3g_2(x, Q^2)\right) dx$. However, it is pointed out that this method for $\bar{d}_2$ ignores the target mass corrections to the third moments of $g_{1,2}$, and the target mass corrections play a sizeable role to $\bar{d}_2$ \cite{22} in a moderate $Q^2$ region.

To further estimate TMCs to the twist-4 of the nucleon spin structure functions, one may assume that the contributions from higher-twist term with $\tau > 6$ can be ignored \cite{23} or assume this term to be a constant (neglecting any possible $Q^2$-dependence) \cite{8}. Based on the first assumption, we have
\[
\frac{4}{9} y^2 \tilde{f}_2 - \frac{1}{2} \tilde{a}_0 = g_1^{(1)} = \frac{1}{9} y^2(\tilde{a}_2 + 4\tilde{d}_2). \tag{2}
\]
When no TMCs are considered, $\tilde{a}_2$ and $\tilde{d}_2$ can be simply expressed by the CN moments of the nucleon spin structure functions, and we get
\[
\frac{4}{9} y^2 \tilde{f}_2^{(0)} + \frac{1}{2} \tilde{a}_0 = g_1^{(1)} = \frac{2}{9} y^2(5g_1^{(3)} + 6g_2^{(3)}). \tag{3}
\]

When TMCs are considered, we have to employ the Nachtmann moments
\[
M_1^{(n)}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \frac{\xi^{n+1}}{x^2} \left\{ \frac{x}{\xi} - \frac{n^2}{(n+2)^2} y^2 x \xi \right\} g_1(x, Q^2) - y^2 x^2 \frac{4n}{n+2} g_2(x, Q^2),
\]
\[
M_2^{(n)}(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \frac{\xi^{n+1}}{x^2} \left\{ \frac{x}{\xi} g_1(x, Q^2) + \frac{n}{n-1} \frac{x^2}{\xi^2} - \frac{n}{n+1} y^2 x^2 \right\} g_2(x, Q^2), \tag{4}
\]
where the Nachtmann variable $\xi = \frac{2x}{1+r}$ (with $r = \sqrt{1+4y^2x^2}$), $y^2 = M^2/Q^2$, and $x$ is the Bjorken variable. The twoNachtmann moments are simultaneously constructed by the two spin structure functions $g_{1,2}$. If $g_{1,2}(x, Q^2)$ are replaced by the ones with TMCs (see Refs. [20-22]), one can easily expand the two Nachtmann moments with respect to $y^2$. The results are $M_1^{(n)} = \frac{1}{2} \tilde{a}_{n-1} + \mathcal{O}(y^8)$, and $M_2^{(n)} = \frac{1}{2} \tilde{d}_{n-1} + \mathcal{O}(y^8)$. The two expressions explicitly tell that, different from the CN moments, one can get the contributions of a pure twist-2 with spin-n and a pure twist-3 with spin-(n-1) operators from the Nachtmann moments. The advantage of the Nachtmann moments means that they contain only dynamical higher-twist, which are the ones related to the correlations among the partons. As a result, they are constructed to protect the moments of the nucleon spin structure functions from the target mass corrections. Consequently,
to extract the higher-twist effect, say twist-3 or twist-4 contribution, one is required to consider the Nachtmann moments instead of the CN moments.

We use the Nachtmann moments to express $\tilde{a}_n$ and $\tilde{d}_n$ and obtain

$$\frac{4}{9}g^2f_2 + \frac{1}{2}\tilde{a}_0 = g_1^{(1)}$$

$$-\frac{2}{9}g^2\int_0^1 \frac{\xi^4}{x^2}dx \left[ \left( \frac{5x}{\xi} - \frac{9}{25}g^2x\xi \right)g_1(x, Q^2) + \left( \frac{6x^2}{\xi^2} - \frac{27}{5}g^2x^2 \right)g_2(x, Q^2) \right]$$

(5)

Thus, TMCs to the twist-4 contribution, due to the two different moments, is $\Delta f_2 = \tilde{f}_2 - \tilde{f}_2^0$. Here, we employ the parametrization forms of the spin structure functions of the proton, neutron and deuteron [11-12] to estimate $\Delta f_2$. Note that the well-known W andzura and Wilczek (WW) relation [24] $g_2(x, Q^2) = g_{WW}^2(x, Q^2) = -g_1(x, Q^2) + \int_x^1 \frac{d_1(y, Q^2)}{y}dy$ is valid if only the leading-twist is considered, and TMCs to the twist-2 contribution do not break the WW relation. However, if the higher-twist operators, like twist-3 and twist-4, are considered, the WW relation $g_2(x, Q^2) = g_{WW}^2(x, Q^2)$ no longer preserves. Thus, one may write $g_2(x, Q^2) = g_{WW}^2(x, Q^2) + \tilde{g}_2(x, Q^2)$ [8,9], where $\tilde{g}_2$ represents the violation of the WW relation. The non-vanishing value of $\tilde{g}_2$ just results from the higher-twist effect.

One can calculate $\Delta f_2$ with the parametrizations of $g_{1,2}$. The results are plotted in Fig. 1. We see that the typical values of the differences are in order of $10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$. There are several theoretical estimated values for the twist-4 term $\tilde{f}_2$ in the literature (see table 1), like the ones of the bag model [4], of the QCD sum rule [5,6], of the empirical analyses of the experimental measurements [8, 23], and of the instanton model [25]. Comparing the estimated differences in Fig. 1 to those estimated values displayed in table 1, we conclude that TMCs to the twist-4 term $\tilde{f}_2$ are negligible (less than 2%). We also find that $\Delta f_2$ of the proton and deuteron are always larger than that of the neutron.

In addition, we check TMCs to the leading twist term (with spin-3) $\tilde{a}_2$. If no TMCs are considered, $\tilde{a}_2^{(0)} = 2g_1^{(3)}$. When TMCs are taken into account, we get, from the Nachtmann moments,

$$\tilde{a}_2 = \int_0^1 \frac{\xi^4}{x^2}dx \left[ \left( \frac{x}{\xi} - \frac{9}{25}g^2x\xi \right)g_1(x, Q^2) + \left( \frac{12}{5}g^2x^2 \right)g_2(x, Q^2) \right].$$

(6)

Fig. 2 displays the $Q^2$-dependence of the ratio $R = \tilde{a}_2/\tilde{a}_2^{(0)}$ for the proton, neutron and deuteron targets. The sizable effect of TMCs is clearly seen, since the ratios all diverge from unity obviously. When $Q^2 \sim 5 \text{ GeV}^2$, the effect of TMCs is still about 10% for the proton and deuteron targets. In addition, the effect on the proton and deuteron targets is much larger than that on the neutron. Here the $Q^2$-dependences of the three ratios are similar to those of the twist-3 terms [22]. The sizeable effect tells that TMCs should be taken into account. Therefore, to estimate the matrix element of $\tilde{a}_2$, the Nachtmann moments are required to be employed.

Table 1, The estimated values for $\tilde{f}_2$ in different approaches in the literature.
In summary, we have explicitly shown the target mass corrections to the twist-4 $\tilde{f}_2$ term and to the leading-twist one (spin-3) $\tilde{a}_2$. It is reiterated that in order to precisely and consistently extract the contributions of the leading-twist $\tilde{a}_2$, of the twist-3 $\tilde{d}_2$ and of the twist-4 $\tilde{f}_2$ with a definite spin and with a moderate $Q^2$ value, one is required to employ the Nachtmann moments $M_{1,2}$ instead of the CN moments. Our results show that TMCs play an evidently role to $\tilde{a}_2$ when $Q^2$ is small. The above conclusion does not change if different parameterizations of the structure functions are employed. We also show that TMCs to the twist-4 term is much smaller than those to the twist-3 term and to the leading-twist term.

Finally, the expressions of the differences $\Delta f_2$ and $\Delta a_2$ between the CN and Nachtmann moments are

$$\Delta f_2 = \tilde{f}_2 - \tilde{f}_2^{(0)} = \frac{y^2}{10} \left\{ \frac{384}{5} g_1^{(5)} - 234 y^2 g_1^{(7)} + 736 y^4 g_1^{(9)} \right\} + \mathcal{O}(y^8),$$

$$\Delta a_2 = \tilde{a}_2 - \tilde{a}_2^{(0)} = 2M_1^{(3)} - 2g_1^{(3)} = y^2 \left\{ \left[ -\frac{168}{25} g_1^{(5)} + \frac{108}{5} y^2 g_1^{(7)} - \frac{352}{5} y^4 g_1^{(9)} \right] \right\} + \mathcal{O}(y^8).$$

One sees that the two expressions mainly depend on the higher-moment of the nucleon spin

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{Q2_vs_Deltaf2.png}
\caption{Difference $\Delta f_2$. The solid, dashed and dotted-dashed curves are the results of the proton, neutron and deuteron, respectively.}
\end{figure}

\begin{table}
\centering
\begin{tabular}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|}
\hline
References & $\tilde{f}_2^p$ & $\tilde{f}_2^n$ & References & $\tilde{f}_2^p$ & $\tilde{f}_2^n$ \\
\hline
Ref. [4] & 0.050 ± 0.034 & −0.018 ± 0.017 & Ref. [5] & −0.028 & 0 \\
Ref. [6] & 0.037 ± 0.006 & 0.013 ± 0.006 & Ref. [8] & — & 0.034 ± 0.043 \\
Ref. [23] & −0.10 ± 0.05 & −0.07 ± 0.08 & Ref. [25] & −0.046 & 0.038 \\
\hline
\end{tabular}
\end{table}
structure functions, and therefore, on the spin structure function in the large-x region. In the most of the empirical analyses of the Ellis-Jaffe sum rule (the first moment of $g_1$), the contribution from the spin structure function in the large-x region is assumed to be trivial, since it behaves like $(1-x)^3$. When the higher-moment of the spin structure function is considered, the effect of the spin structure functions in the large-x region becomes important. Consequently, the measurement of the nucleon spin structure functions in the large-x region with a high precision is required.

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