Transverse strange quark spin structure of the nucleon

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We investigate the transverse quark spin densities of the nucleon with the lowest moment within the framework of the SU(3) chiral quark-soliton model, emphasizing the strange quark spin density. Based on previous results of the vector and tensor form factors, we are able to determine the impact-parameter dependent probability densities of transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon as well as those of unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon. We find that the present numerical results for the transverse spin densities of the up and down quarks are in good agreement with those of the lattice calculation. We predict the transverse spin densities of the strange quark. It turns out that the polarized strange quark is noticeably distorted in an unpolarized proton.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The transversity of the nucleon is one of the most important issues in understanding the structure of the nucleon [1–3] (see also the review [4]). Though it is rather difficult to get access to the transversity of the nucleon experimentally because of its chiral-odd nature, some information is now available from the transverse spin asymmetry $A_{TT}$ of Drell-Yan processes in $pp$ reactions [5,11]. The transversity distribution $b_\perp(x)$ was also extracted, based on a global analysis of the data of the azimuthal single spin asymmetry in SIDIS processes $lp^\uparrow \to l\pi X$ by the Belle [12], HERMES [13,14] and COMPASS [15] collaborations. The corresponding tensor charges for the up and down quarks were reported [16]. Moreover, the QCDSF/UKQCD Collaborations has announced the first lattice results of the transverse spin structure of the nucleon [17] based on the work [18]. The work [18] extended the analysis of Refs. [19,20] for the generalized parton distributions (GPDs) of the vector and axial-vector current to the generalized transversity distributions of the tensor current. Furthermore, the Refs. [19,20] provide a mean to obtain information on the parton distributions in the impact parameter space that is not affected by certain relativistic ambiguities.

In the present work, we investigate the transverse quark spin densities of the nucleon with the lowest moment, based on the previous results for the nucleon vector and tensor form factors obtained within the SU(3) chiral quark-soliton model ($\chi$QSM). In particular, we emphasize the transverse spin densities of the strange quark in the nucleon. The nucleon vector form factors were already computed within that framework in Refs. [21,22]. As a result, the strange vector form factors were predicted and turned out to be within the uncertainty of the experimental data [24]. The tensor form factors of the nucleon have been recently calculated within the $\chi$QSM [25]. The results turn out to be similar to those of the lattice calculation. The strange tensor charge of the nucleon was also predicted in Ref. [25] and was found to be rather small. The anomalous tensor magnetic moments (ATMM) of the nucleon were computed in Ref. [26] within the same framework and were found to be positive and large for both up and down quarks as in the lattice calculation [17]. The ATMM plays an important role in describing the transverse deformation of the transverse momentum-dependent parton distributions [26,27] within the $\chi$QSM and the light-front constituent quark model, both in the 3 quark valence approximation. However, since we employ the SU(3) version of the $\chi$QSM with explicit breaking of SU(3) symmetry together with the whole Dirac sea, we are in a unique position to obtain spatial information on the transverse spin structure of the strange quark inside the nucleon.

II. TRANSVERSE QUARK SPIN DENSITIES

2. The vector and tensor form factors of the nucleon are defined in terms of the matrix elements of the vector and tensor currents, respectively:

$$
\langle N_s(p')|\bar{\psi}(0)\gamma^\mu \lambda^s \psi(0)|N_s(p)\rangle = \pi_s(p') \left[ F_1^s(Q^2) \gamma^\mu + F_2^s(Q^2) \frac{i\sigma^{\mu\nu}q_\nu}{2M_N} \right] u_s(p),
$$

$$
\langle N_s(p')|\bar{\psi}(0)i\sigma^{\mu\nu}\lambda^s \psi(0)|N_s(p)\rangle = \pi_s(p') \left[ H_1^s(Q^2)i\sigma^{\mu\nu} + E_2^s(Q^2)\frac{\gamma^\mu q^\nu - q^\mu \gamma^\nu}{2M_N} + \hat{H}_T^s(Q^2)\frac{\pi^\mu q^\nu - q^\mu \pi^\nu}{2M_N^2} \right] u_s(p),
$$

where $\gamma^\mu$ denotes the Dirac matrix and $\sigma^{\mu\nu}$ is the spin operator defined as $\sigma^{\mu\nu} = i[\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu]/2$. The $\lambda^s$ represent the Gell-Mann matrices including the unit matrix $\lambda^0 = \sqrt{2/3}$. The $\psi$ stands for the quark field and $u_s(p)$ designates the spinor for the nucleon for mass $M_N$, momentum $p$, and the third component of its spin $s$. The momentum transfer $q$ and the total momentum $n$ are defined as $q = p' - p$ with $Q^2 = -t = -q^2$ and $n = p + p'$. The form factors in Eq. (1) are related to the generalized form factors defined in Ref. [31] as follows: $F_1^s(Q^2) = A_{10}^x(t)$, $F_2^s(Q^2) = B_{10}^x(t)$, $H_1^s(Q^2) = A_{110}^x(t)$, $E_2^s(Q^2) = B_{110}^x(t)$, and $\hat{H}_T^s(Q^2) = A_{110}^x(t)$. Note that also the GPDs $H(x,t), E(x,t), H_1(x,t), E_2(x,t), H_T(x,t), E_T(x,t)$ and $\hat{H}_T(x,t)$ are related to the form factors $F_1(t), F_2(t), H_1(t), E_2(t)$ and $\hat{H}_T(t)$ with the momentum fraction $x$ integrated. We use the arguments of a given function to distinguish between GPDs, form factors and Fourier transformed form factors. Furthermore, we define the anomalous magnetic moment $\kappa$ and the tensor anomalous magnetic form factor as:

$$
\kappa = F_2(0), \quad \kappa_T(Q^2) = E_T(Q^2) + 2\hat{H}_T(Q^2),
$$

(2)
with $\kappa_T = \kappa_T(0)$ as the ATMM. We want to mention that $\kappa_T$ is a more important quantity than the two form factors $E_T$ and $H_T$, since it is involved directly in describing the spatial distribution of the nucleon in the transverse plane.

The transverse spin densities of quarks with transverse polarization $s$ in a nucleon with transverse spin $S$ are expressed as \[18\]

$$\rho(b, S, s) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ H(b^2) - S^i e^{ij} b^j \frac{1}{M_N} \frac{\partial E(b^2)}{\partial b_i} - s^i e^{ij} b^j \frac{1}{M_N} \frac{\partial \kappa_T(b^2)}{\partial b_i} \right]$$

$$+ s^i S^j \left[ H_T(b^2) - \frac{1}{4M_N^2} \nabla^2 \tilde{H}(b^2) \right] + s^j \left( 2b^i b^j - b^2 \delta^{ij} \right) S^i \frac{1}{M_N^2} \left( \frac{\partial}{\partial b^2} \right)^2 \tilde{H}(b^2), \tag{3}$$

where $b$ denotes the two dimensional vector in impact parameter space with distance $b = \sqrt{b_x^2 + b_y^2}$ from the center of the nucleon momentum. The tensor $\epsilon^{ij}$ is an antisymmetric tensor with the property $\epsilon^{12} = -\epsilon^{21} = 1$. The operator $\nabla^2$ is a Laplacian with respect to $b$. The $b^2$-dependent form factors are given by the Fourier transformations of the vector and tensor form factors which are written generically as

$$F^x(Q^2) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dQ}{2\pi} Q J_0(bQ) F^x(Q^2), \tag{4}$$

where $J_0$ is a Bessel-function with order zero. Note that the transverse quark spin densities in Eq.\(3\) are just the first moments of the two dimensional spin densities $\rho(x, b, S, s)$ that indicate the probability of finding a quark with momentum fraction $x$ and transverse polarization $s$ at distance $b$ in a nucleon with polarization $S$. \[17\] [18].

III. FLAVOR VECTOR AND TENSOR FORM FACTORS OF THE NUCLEON

The vector and tensor form factors defined in Eq.\(1\) have been already studied in detail \[21\] [23] [25] [24]. Since they are the basis of the present work, we will briefly recapitulate the results. We refer to Ref. \[32\] for a general formalism as to how to compute form factors within the $\chi$QSM. There are four different parameters in the $\chi$QSM: the cut-off mass $\Lambda$, the dynamical quark mass $M$, the current quark mass of the up and down quark $\bar{m}$, and the strange current quark mass. Apart from the dynamical quark mass $M$, all other parameters are fixed in the mesonic sector by using the pion decay constant $f_\pi = 93$ MeV, physical pion mass $m_\pi = 139$ MeV, and the kaon mass. Since various observables of the nucleon such as the electric charge radii are well reproduced with the value of $M = 420$ MeV, we will use all the results of the relevant form factors produced with this value.

The vector and tensor form factors $F^q$ for the up, down and strange quarks ($q = u, d, s$) can be expressed in terms of flavor form factors $F^x$ with $\chi = 0, 3, 8$:

$$F^u = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{2}{3} F^0 + F^3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} F^8 \right),$$

$$F^d = \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{2}{3} F^0 - F^3 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} F^8 \right),$$

$$F^s = \frac{1}{3} \left( F^0 - \sqrt{3} F^8 \right). \tag{5}$$

The vector form factors have been already studied in Refs. \[21\] [23]. In particular, the strange vector form factors were predicted and turned out to be within the uncertainty range of the experimental data. \[24\].

Figure\(1\) draws the proton up and down Dirac form factors as a function of $Q^2$ in solid and dashed curves, respectively. Note that they are normalized to one at $Q^2 = 0$ in order to compare their $Q^2$ dependences and look very similar to each other. Fig.\(2\) the up and down Pauli form factors are depicted, which are also normalized by the corresponding anomalous magnetic moments: $\kappa_u = 1.35$ and $\kappa_d = -1.80$ with $\kappa_u/\kappa_d = 0.75$. The experimental data for the proton and neutron anomalous magnetic moments, the $SU(2)$ approximation being considered, gives phenomenological values as $\kappa_u = 1.67$ and $\kappa_d = -2.03$ with $\kappa_u/\kappa_d = 0.82$. The anomalous magnetic moment for the proton is obtained as $\kappa_p = 1.49$, which is about 17 % underestimated compared to the experimental data $\kappa_p^{\text{Exp}} = 1.79$. The Pauli form factor for the up quark falls off faster than that for the down quark. Figure\(3\) shows the proton anomalous tensor magnetic form factors for the up and down quarks, respectively. The up form factor also decreases faster than the down form factor as $Q^2$ increases. We will see later that this difference will clearly appear in the transverse quark spin densities. In general, the $\chi$QSM shows the tendency that the slopes of the up quark form factors decrease faster than those of the down quark form factors. This implies that the up quark radii are smaller than those of the down quark so that the up quark seems to be located more to the center of the proton than the down quark.
FIG. 1. Vector form factors of the proton for the up and down quarks from the $\chi$QSM. The values at $Q^2 = 0$ for excluding the charge but including the number of valence quarks are given as $F_1^u(0) = 2$, $\kappa^u = 1.35$, $F_1^d(0) = 1$, and $\kappa^d = -1.80$. The anomalous magnetic moment of the proton is obtained as $\kappa_p = 1.49$ while the experimental value is $\kappa_p^{Exp} = 1.79$.

FIG. 2. Anomalous tensor magnetic form factors of the proton for the up and down quarks from the $\chi$QSM. The values at $Q^2 = 0$ are given as $\kappa_T^u = 3.56$ and $\kappa_T^d = 1.83$. The values of the lattice calculation are $\kappa_T^u = 3.70$ and $\kappa_T^d = 2.35$ at the scale of $\mu^2 = 0.36$ GeV$^2$ [17].

In the lattice calculation [17], a simple $p$-pole parametrization for the tensor form factors

$$ F(Q^2) = \frac{F_0}{(1 + Q^2/m_p^2)^p} $$

was employed with the three parameters $F_0 = F(t = 0)$, $m_p$, and $p$ for each form factor, where $F_0$ denotes the corresponding value of a form factor at $Q^2 = 0$ and $m_p$ represents the $p$-pole mass in the unit of GeV. Similarly, we also utilize the parametrization of Eq. (6) for the vector and tensor form factors. In Table [1], we list the numerical
TABLE I. Parameters of the proton up and down form factors fitted by the form $F(Q^2) = F_0/(1 + Q^2/m_p^2)^p$. The charges of the quarks are excluded and the number of valence quarks are included for $F_1$ and $F_2$.

| $p$ | $F_1^u$ | $F_2^u$ | $\kappa_1^u$ | $F_1^d$ | $F_2^d$ | $\kappa_1^d$ |
|-----|---------|---------|-------------|---------|---------|-------------|
| $Q^2 = 0$ | 2.72 | 2.65 | 2.43 | 5.62 | 3.02 | 5.70 |
| $m_p [GeV]$ | 1.07 | 0.96 | 0.97 | 1.65 | 1.12 | 2.03 |

results of the parameters for the parametrization for each form factor.

FIG. 3. Strange vector and anomalous tensor magnetic form factors of the proton from the $\chi$QSM. The charges are excluded for the vector form factors where the strange magnetic moment of the proton is obtained as $\mu_s = 0.12 \mu_N$.

Figure 3 draws the proton Dirac and Pauli form factor together with the anomalous tensor magnetic form factors of the strange quark. The strange quark Dirac form factor is naturally equal to zero at $Q^2 = 0$. The value of the strange quark Pauli form factor is the same as the strange magnetic moment of the nucleon: $\mu_s = 0.12 \mu_N$ [22]. The strange quark ATMM is almost compatible with zero.

Both the strange quark Dirac and anomalous tensor magnetic form factors show $Q^2$ dependencies very similar to the electric form factor of the neutron. That is, they start to increase and then fall off slowly. On the contrary, the strange Pauli form factor decreases rather strongly till around $Q^2 \approx 0.25 \text{GeV}^2$ and as $Q^2$ increases, $F_2^s$ gets larger. Moreover, $F_2^s$ becomes negative from around $Q^2 \approx 0.2 \text{GeV}^2$. However, the general shape, multiplying the Pauli form factor by $-1$ and shifting it by a constant, is the same for all three strange quark form factors.

Because of this $Q^2$ behavior, it is not as simple as the case of the up and down form factors to parametrize the strange form factors. Thus, we introduce the following parametrization for the Fourier transform

$$F(Q^2) = (a + bQ^2) e^{-c(Q^2)d},$$

where the four parameters $a$, $b$, $c$, and $d$ are fitted to the form factors obtained from the $\chi$QSM. The corresponding values for each form factor are listed in Table II.
TABLE II. Parameters of the proton strange quark form factors fitted in the form of $F(Q^2) = (a + bQ^2) e^{-cQ^2d}$. Note that the charge of the strange quark is excluded in the case of $F_1$ and $F_2$.

|       | $a$ | $b$  | $c$  | $d$  |
|-------|-----|------|------|------|
| $F_1^s$ | 0   | 1.02 | 2.95 | 0.72 |
| $F_2^s$ | 0.12| -0.63| 2.59 | 0.81 |
| $\kappa_T^s$ | 0.01| 2.85 | 2.87 | 0.62 |

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

We now proceed to compute the transverse quark spin densities in a proton. We consider first unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon with nucleon polarization $[S, s] = [(1,0), (0,0)]$ and quark polarization $s = (0,0)$. We express these polarizations in the notation of $[S, s] = [(1,0), (0,0)]$. Afterwards we consider the unpolarized nucleon and transversely polarized quarks with $[S, s] = [(0,0), (1,0)]$. For these cases, the second line of Eq. (3) does not contribute to the spin densities.

FIG. 4. Transverse up and down quark spin densities with the lowest moment of the nucleon from the $\chi$QSM. In the upper left panel, the density of unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon $[S, s] = [(1,0), (0,0)]$ is drawn and in the upper right panel, that of transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon $[S, s] = [(0,0), (1,0)]$. In the lower panel, we plot the down quark densities.
In Fig. 4 we illustrate the transverse up and down quark spin densities of the nucleon. In the left panel we show the density of unpolarized up and down quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon for \([S, s] = [(1, 0), (0, 0)]\). As can be seen in Eq. (9), the deformation of these densities are governed by the Pauli form factors. We see that the down quark density is more distorted in the negative direction of \(b_y\) than the up quark density in the positive direction. The reason can be found in the fact that firstly the down Pauli form factor falls off more slowly than that of the up quark and secondly, the down anomalous magnetic moment \((\kappa^d = -1.80)\) is negative. The sign of the form factors at intermediate \(Q^2\) determines the direction of the shift. In the case of choosing the polarizations as \([S, s] = [(0, 0), (1, 0)]\), only the anomalous tensor magnetic form factors contribute, as shown in the right panel of Fig. 4. Because both \(\kappa^T_d\) and \(\kappa^T_f\) are positive, both transverse spin densities are deformed in the direction of positive \(b_y\) and again, because the form factor \(\kappa^T_f\) falls off more slowly, the density for the down quark is more strongly deformed. Furthermore, we want to mention that our results for the transverse up and down quark spin densities of the nucleon with the lowest moment are very similar to those from the lattice calculation [17].

Since both the strange Pauli form factor and anomalous tensor magnetic form factor turn out to be rather small, we can expect that the strength of the strange densities will be also quite small. Nevertheless, it is of great interest to see how much the transverse strange densities are distorted. Figure 5 plots the transverse strange quark spin densities of the nucleon from the \(\chi\)QSM with the lowest moment. In the left panel, the density of unpolarized strange quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon \([S, s] = [(1, 0), (0, 0)]\) is drawn and in the right panel, that of transversely polarized strange quarks in an unpolarized nucleon \([S, s] = [(0, 0), (1, 0)]\).

It is interesting of see that the density of unpolarized strange quarks in a polarized nucleon is negatively shifted. It is due to the fact that the strange Pauli form factor \(F^s_2\) turns negative from \(Q^2 \approx 0.2\) GeV\(^2\) and the lower \(Q^2\) values are suppressed in the Fourier transform. Therefore, the negative values of the form factor at intermediate \(Q^2\) shift the density to the negative \(b_y\) direction, despite the positive strange anomalous magnetic moment. On the contrary, the density of polarized strange quarks in an unpolarized nucleon is shifted and remarkably distorted in the direction of the positive \(b_y\). This can be understood from the \(Q^2\) dependence of \(\kappa^T_f(Q^2)\) as shown in Fig. 3. Moreover, the density becomes negative for the negative values of \(b_y\). One can see later this more clearly (see Fig. 7).

In Fig. 4 we draw the transverse up and down quark spin densities with \(b_x\) fixed to be zero. In the case of the unpolarized up quarks in a polarized nucleon, the density is slightly shifted to the positive direction of \(b_y\), whereas that of the polarized up quarks in an unpolarized nucleon is quite much shifted to the positive \(b_y\) direction. Moreover, the width of the profile gets narrower and more peaked. On the contrary, the transverse down quark spin density for the unpolarized quarks in a polarized nucleon is changed to the negative \(b_y\) direction and shows an obvious distortion. That for the polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon is shifted to the positive \(b_y\) direction and distorted again.

Figure 7 shows the profiles of the transverse strange quark spin densities with \(b_x = 0\). Interestingly, the density for the unpolarized strange quarks in a polarized nucleon is only slightly modified. In contrast, the polarized strange quarks are strongly redistributed in an unpolarized nucleon. As a result, the peak position is shifted to the positive \(b_y\) direction and becomes sharper. Moreover, the density becomes even more negative for the negative value of \(b_y\) than for the positive \(b_y\).
FIG. 6. Transverse up and down quark spin densities with the lowest moment of the nucleon from the $\chi$QSM with $b_x = 0$. In the upper left panel, the density of unpolarized quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon ($[S, s] = [(1,0), (0,0)]$) is drawn and in the upper right panel, that of transversely polarized quarks in a unpolarized nucleon ($[S, s] = [(0,0), (1,0)]$). In the lower panel, we plot the down quark densities.

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

We investigated the transverse quark spin densities of the nucleon with the lowest moment, using the results of the vector and tensor form factors derived from the SU(3) chiral quark-soliton model. We first recapitulated the flavor-decomposed anomalous vector and tensor magnetic form factors as functions of the momentum transfer. For numerical convenience, we made parametrizations of the form factors. Having combined these form factors and performed the Fourier transformations, we evaluated the transverse quark spin densities of the nucleon with the lowest moment. We considered two different cases, the density of unpolarized quarks in a polarized nucleon and that of polarized quarks in an unpolarized nucleon. The results turned out to be rather similar to the lattice QCD ones. Transversely polarized quarks in an unpolarized proton are both shifted to the positive direction of $b_x$. The shift is more prominent than the one occurring for unpolarized quarks in a polarized proton, where the density for the u-quark is shifted to positive and that of the d-quark to the negative $b_y$ direction.

We presented in this work the first result of the transverse strange quark spin densities. Since the magnitudes of strange Pauli and anomalous tensor magnetic form factors are rather small, the strange densities turn out to be much smaller than those for the up and down quarks. However, the density for polarized strange quarks in an unpolarized nucleon is noticeably distorted in the direction of the positive $b_y$ and becomes more negative for the negative values of $b_y$.

In the present work, we considered only the transverse spin densities with the lowest moment. The generalized form factors with higher moments can be calculated in principle within the framework of the chiral quark-soliton model.
FIG. 7. Transverse strange quark spin densities of the nucleon from the χQSM with the lowest moment with $b_x = 0$. In the left panel, the density of unpolarized strange quarks in a transversely polarized nucleon ($S_x, s = [(1,0), (0,0)]$) is drawn and in the right panel, that of transversely polarized strange quarks in an unpolarized nucleon ($S_x, s = [(0,0), (1,0)]$).

However, we need to consider them carefully because of the presence of the derivative operators. The corresponding work is under progress. So far, we did not consider other cases of the transverse polarizations such as $[(1,0), (1,0)]$ for which one requires information on the form factor $\tilde{H}_T$ and its derivative. However, we found that this form factor showed a numerically sensitivity. A related work addressing that is under way.

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