D* Dρ and B* Bρ strong couplings in light-cone sum rules

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Abstract: We present an improved calculation of the strong coupling constants gD Dρ and gB Bρ in light-cone sum rules, including one-loop QCD corrections of leading power with ρ meson distribution amplitudes. We further compute subleading-power corrections from two-particle and three-particle higher-twist contributions at leading order up to twist-4 accuracy. The next-to-leading order corrections to the leading power contribution numerically offset the subleading-power corrections to a certain extent, and our numerical results are consistent with those of previous studies on sum rules. A comparison between our results and existing model-dependent estimations is also made.

Keywords: strong couplings, light-cone sum rules, double dispersion relation
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1 Introduction

This study aims to provide a more precise determination of D* Dρ and B* Bρ coupling in the framework of light-cone sum rules (LCSR). These couplings describe the low-energy interaction between heavy and light mesons, which are important in understanding QCD long-distance dynamics. The coupling is a fundamental parameter of the effective Lagrangian in heavy meson chiral perturbative theory (HMPT) [1-4], which plays an important role in the study of heavy meson physics. Phenomenologically, it describes the strength of the final state interactions [5], which are important in the generation of the strong phase in B decays [6,7]. Moreover, the coupling relates the pole residue of D(B) to ρ form factors at large momentum transfer by the dispersion relation, which is helpful to gain a better understanding of the behavior of form factors.

Various theoretical approaches have been suggested to evaluate the coupling. First, with the D(B) to ρ form factors obtained in a certain region of the momentum transfer from LCSR [8-10] and the lattice QCD [11], the corresponding pole residue that relates to the coupling is extracted with appropriate extrapolation of the form factors. The simplest approach to perform this extrapolation is the vector meson dominance (VMD) hypothesis, which neglects continuum spectral characteristics. In addition to the VMD approximation, certain other modified parameterizations for the form factors were proposed in [12-15]. In addition to the above method, the coupling can also be estimated from HMPT with the VMD approximation, as performed in [16-19].

Another strategy to obtain the strong coupling is calculation from first principles of QCD. We study the strong coupling constants gD Dρ and gB Bρ in LCSR using the double dispersion relation. The LCSR was proposed in [20-22] based on the light-cone operator-product-expansion (OPE) relative to the conventional QCD sum rules (QCDSR) method. There have been several studies addressing the couplings gD Dρ and gB Bρ starting from [23] with the inclusion of two-particle ρ DAs corrections up to twist-3 at leading order (LO). Years later, [24-27] improved the formal calculation by considering the two-particle twist-4 corrections [28] at LO. Meanwhile, gD Dρ is also calculated with three-point QCDSR by taking into account the dimension-5 quark-gluon condensate corrections under flavor SU(3) symmetry [29]. In previous studies, coupling estimations showed a wide range of values. The results from LCSR studies [24-27] yield values that are smaller than those in other estimations; hence, we...
must perform a more accurate calculation to confirm whether this difference arises from radiative and power corrections. Moreover, the inclusion of NLO corrections can also decrease the scale-dependence. In this work, we present a calculation including \(O(\alpha_s)\) corrections to the leading power contribution with the resummation of large logarithm to next-to-leading logarithmic accuracy (NLL). For the subleading-power corrections, our results also include the three-particle twist-4 corrections at LO.

The paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, we calculate the leading power contributions up to NLO. The procedures for analytic continuation and continuum subtraction are similar to the ones presented in \([30,31]\). Subleading-power corrections, including two-particle and three-particle corrections up to twist-4 at LO, are calculated in Section 3. Section 4 presents our numerical results and the phenomenological discussion. We summarize this work in the last section.

## 2 Leading power contributions

### 2.1 Hard-collinear factorization at LO in QCD

The strong coupling constant \(g_H\) is defined by

\[
\langle \rho(p, q) H(q) H*(p + q, e) \rangle = -g_H\epsilon_{pq}\epsilon_{pq},
\]

with \(\epsilon_{pq}\) is the heavy quark Chinese Physics C Vol. 44, No. 7 (2020) 073103

\[
\epsilon_{pq} = \epsilon_{pq}^{\mu
u}p^\mu q^\nu e^\rho.
\]

Here, we choose \(H^*\) and \(H\) to represent the \(D^- (B^0)\) meson and \(D^0 (B^+)\) meson, respectively, and \(\rho\) is the polarization vectors of \(H^*\) and \(\rho\) mesons, respectively. We use the conventions \(\epsilon_{0123} = -1\) and \(D^0 = \partial_0 - ig_S T^a \Lambda_\mu^a\). The couplings of different charge states are related by isospin symmetry, for example,

\[
g_D \equiv g_D^\mu = \sqrt{2} g_D^\mu - \rho^\mu - \rho^\mu - \rho^\mu\cdot
\]

We construct the following correlation function at the starting point

\[
\Pi_\rho(p, q) = \int d^4x e^{-i(p + q) x} \langle \rho^\mu(p, q) T[\bar{d}(x) \gamma_{\mu\nu} Q(x),]
\]

\[
\bar{Q}(0) \gamma_\nu u(0)\rangle|0\rangle,
\]

where \(\gamma_{\mu\nu} = \gamma_\mu\gamma_\nu - \gamma/2\delta_{\mu\nu} - \gamma/2\delta_{\mu\nu}\). \(Q\) is the heavy quark field. We introduce two light-cone vectors \(n_\mu\) and \(\bar{n}_\mu\) with \(n \cdot n = \bar{n} \cdot \bar{n} = 0\) and \(n \cdot \bar{n} = 2\). For the momentum, we choose a coordinate to have \(q_+ = 0\). Within the frame of the LCSR, the \(\rho\) meson is on the light-cone, and its momentum is chosen as

\[
\rho^\mu = \frac{n \cdot p}{2} \bar{n}_\mu.
\]

On the hadronic level, taking advantage of the following definitions for decay constants

\[
\langle H^+(p + q, e^+) | \bar{d} \gamma^\mu Q | 0 \rangle = f_H m_H e^{i\rho^\mu},
\]

\[
\langle 0 | \bar{Q} \gamma_\mu u | H(p) \rangle = -i f_H m_H^2/m_Q,
\]

the correlation function (4) can be written as

\[
\Pi_\rho^{had}(p, q) = \frac{f_H f_H f_H}{m_H^2 - (p + q)^2 - i0|m_H^2 - q^2 - i0|} \frac{m_H^2 m_H}{m_Q} \epsilon_{pq},
\]

\[
+ \int \frac{d^4 s}{\Sigma} [s^2 - (p + q)^2] (s - q)^2 \cdot \cdot \cdot,
\]

where the second term counts the contributions from higher resonances and continuum states. The ellipses denote the terms that vanish after the double Borel transformation.

After the double Borel transformation, we obtain the hadronic representation of the correlation function

\[
\Pi_\rho^{had}(p, q) = \int d^4 s \epsilon_{pq} \epsilon_{pq} - \frac{\rho^\mu(p, q)}{m_Q^2} \epsilon_{pq},
\]

\[
+ \int \frac{d^4 s}{\Sigma} [s^2 - (p + q)^2] (s - q)^2 \rho^\mu(p, q).
\]

For the boundary of the integral \(\Sigma\), we take \(s + s' = 2s_0\) with \(s_0\) as the threshold of excited and continuum states. The Borel parameters associated with \((p + q)^2\) and \(q^2\) are quite similar in magnitude; hence, we set the same value \(M^2\).

On the quark level, the leading-twist tree diagram is displayed in Fig. 1. The correlation function reads

\[
\Pi_\rho^{LT,0}(p, q) = -\frac{i}{2 \sqrt{2} q^2} \langle \bar{u}(p + q)^2 - u\bar{m}_p - m_Q^2 \rangle
\]

\[
\times \bar{q}(u p) \gamma_{\mu\nu} Q_\mu | Q\rangle|0\rangle
\]

\[
+ O \left( \frac{\Lambda^2_{QCD}}{m_Q^2} \right).
\]

Using the definition of the leading-twist \(DA\) \([28]\) in Appendix A, we obtain the leading twist level factorization formula

\[
\Pi_\rho^{LT,0}(p, q) = -f_\rho^{LT}(\mu) \epsilon_{\mu\nu} \int_0^1 du \phi_\nu(u, \mu) \frac{1}{u q^2 + u(p + q)^2 - m_Q^2}.
\]

Fig. 1. Diagram of leading-order (LO) contribution.
The result (9) can be written in the form of double dispersion relation
\[ \Pi_{\mu}^{LT,(0)}(p, q) = -f_{\mu}^{T}(\mu) \epsilon_{\mu \rho \nu \sigma} \int ds ds' \frac{\rho_{LT,(0)}(s, s')}{(s-q^2)[s'-(p+q)^2]}, \] (10)
where the double dispersion relation \( \rho_{LT,(0)} \) is defined as
\[ \rho_{LT,(0)}(s, s') = \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \epsilon_{\mu \rho \nu \sigma} \int_{0}^{1} du \frac{\phi_{\mu}(u, \mu)}{u s + \bar{u} s' - m_{Q}^2}. \] (11)

The expression of wave function \( \phi_{\mu}(u, \mu) \) in terms of Gegenbauer polynomials can be written as
\[ \phi_{\mu}(u, \mu) = 6 u \bar{u} \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} a_{n}^{\mu}(\mu) c_{n}^{(3/2)}(2u - 1) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_{k} u^{k}, \] (12)
where \( b_{k} \) is the function of Gegenbauer moments \( a_{k}(\mu) \). The spectral density can be obtained as follows \[30\]
\[ \rho_{LT,(0)}^{(t, v)}(s, v) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_{k} \frac{1}{\pi} \text{Im} \epsilon_{\mu \rho \nu \sigma} \int_{0}^{1} du \frac{u^{k}}{u s + \bar{u} s' - m_{Q}^2} \]
\[ = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} b_{k} \frac{1}{k!} \left( \frac{1}{2^{k+1}} \right) \delta^{(k)}(v - \frac{1}{2}) \times \theta(vt - m_{Q}^2). \] (13)

We defined two variables \( t = s + s', v = \frac{s}{s+s'} \) in Eq. (13), which are similar to those in our previous study \[32\].

Equating (6) and (10) and applying the double Borel transformation, then subtracting the continuum states using the quark-hadronic duality, we obtain the leading-twist strong coupling constant at LO
\[ g_{LT,(0)}^{(t, v)} = \frac{m_{Q}}{f_{H} f_{H} m_{H}^2 m_{H}^2} f_{\mu}^{T}(\mu) \frac{M_{T}^2}{2} \phi_{\mu}(\frac{1}{2}, \mu) \]
\[ \times \left[ e^{\frac{m_{Q}^2 m_{H}^2 - 2m_{Q}^2}{M_{T}^2}} - e^{\frac{m_{Q}^2 m_{H}^2 - 2m_{Q}^2}{M_{T}^2}} \right]. \] (14)

### 2.2 Next-to-leading order corrections

The one-loop diagrams are shown in Fig. 2. The loop calculations are similar to those in [32]. We borrow the results from [32] and take the asymptotic form of wave function in Eq. (12) as \( \phi_{\mu}(u) = 6 u \bar{u} \) for feasibility of calculation. Subsequently, we adopt a similar procedure to derive the double dispersion spectral densities and apply the double Borel transformation and continuum subtraction to obtain the result. Here, we omit the detailed procedures for simplicity, and the explicit operations with final results are provided in our previous study [32].

Combing the NLO result from [32] with Eq. (14), we obtain the leading-twist sum rules up to \( O(\alpha_{s}) \), and the coupling constant reads
\[ g_{LT}^{(t)} = - \frac{m_{Q}}{f_{H} f_{H} m_{H}^2 m_{H}^2} e^{\frac{m_{Q}^2 m_{H}^2 - 2m_{Q}^2}{M_{T}^2}} f_{\mu}^{T}(\mu) \]
\[ \times \left[ -\frac{M_{T}^2}{2} \phi_{\mu}(\frac{1}{2}, \mu) \left( e^{-\frac{\mu^{2}}{m_{Q}^2}} - e^{-\frac{\mu^{2}}{m_{Q}^2}} \right) + \mathcal{F}_{LT,(1)} \right], \] (15)
where
\[ \mathcal{F}_{LT,(1)} = -\frac{\alpha_{s} C_{F}}{4 \pi} \frac{2 \pi^{2}}{3} \int_{0}^{\frac{M_{T}^2}{m_{Q}^2}} d \sigma e^{-\frac{\pi^{2}}{\sigma}} \mathcal{G}(\sigma) \]
\[ + \Delta g(\hat{M}^2, m_{Q}^2) \], (16)
and
\[ \mathcal{G}(\sigma) = 3 \text{Li}_{2}(\sigma) + 3 \text{Li}_{2}(\sigma - 1) - 6 \text{Li}_{2} \left( -\frac{\sigma}{2} \right) - 3 \ln \sigma^{2} \ln \sigma + \frac{5}{2} \]
\[ + 3 \ln(\sigma + 1) \ln(\sigma + 2) - \frac{6(\sigma + 1)^{2} \ln(\sigma + 1)}{(\sigma + 2)^{2}} \]
\[ + \frac{3(7 \sigma^{3} + 50 \sigma^{2} + 100 \sigma + 64) \ln \sigma}{4(\sigma + 2)^{3}} \]
\[ + \frac{3 \ln \sigma}{\sigma} - \frac{3 \ln \sigma^{2}}{8(\sigma + 2)^{2}} \]
\[ - \frac{3 \ln m_{Q}^{2}}{m_{Q}^{2}} = \frac{9}{4} \ln^{2} \frac{\pi^{2}}{4} \]
\[ \Delta g(\hat{M}^2, m_{Q}^2) = 3 \left( \text{Li}_{2}(\sigma) + \frac{3}{4} \ln^{2} \frac{\mu^{2}}{m_{Q}^2} \right). \] (17)

For the scale dependence, we use
\[ \frac{d}{d \ln \mu} m_{Q}(\mu) = -\frac{\alpha_{s} C_{F}}{4 \pi} m_{Q}(\mu), \]
\[ \frac{d}{d \ln \mu} f_{\mu}^{T}(\mu) = -\frac{\alpha_{s} C_{F}}{4 \pi} f_{\mu}^{T}(\mu), \] (18)
and we obtain
\[ \frac{d}{d \ln \mu} g_{LT}^{(t)} = 0 + O(\alpha_{s}^{2}), \] (19)
It is evident that our result is independent of the factorization scale \( \mu \) at the one-loop level.

Fig. 2. NLO QCD corrections of leading-twist contributions.

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3 Subleading-power corrections at LO

We perform the subleading power corrections to coupling constants, which are involved with two-particle and three-particle corrections up to twist-4. The higher twist (up to twist-4) $Q$-quark propagator in the background field is adopted [33]:

$$
\langle 0 | T[\bar{Q}(x), Q(0)] | 0 \rangle \approx ig_s \int d^4k \frac{e^{-ikx}}{(2\pi)^4} \left[ \frac{u x_{\mu}}{k^2 - m_Q^2} G^{\mu \nu}(u x) \gamma_{\nu} - \frac{k + m_Q}{2(k^2 - m_Q^2)} G^{\nu \sigma}(u x) \gamma_{\sigma} \right].
$$

For the two-particle corrections, inserting the first term of Eq. (20) into the correlation function (4) and using the DAs of $\rho$ meson, we gain the higher twist two-particle corrections

$$
\Pi^{2PHT}_\mu(p, q) = -\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \int_0^1 du \left\{ \frac{2m_Q f_{\rho, \rho} g^{(a)}_{\rho\sigma\rho}(u) + f^{T}_\rho(\mu) m^2_{\rho} \delta_T(u)}{[u q^2 + \bar{u}(p + q)^2 - m^2_{\rho}]^2} - \frac{2m_Q f_{\rho, \rho} g^{(a)}_{\rho\sigma\rho}(u)}{[u q^2 + \bar{u}(p + q)^2 - m^2_{\rho}]^3} \right\}.
$$

The twist-3 $g^{(a)}_{\rho\sigma\rho}$ corrections are suppressed by $O(\Lambda_{QCD}/m_Q)$, and twist-4 $\delta_T$ corrections are suppressed by $O(\Lambda^2_{QCD}/m^2_Q)$ compared with the leading-twist corrections (10). To maintain consistency, we must also consider the subleading-power corrections of leading twist. According to Eq. (8), the correlation function reads

$$
\Pi^{LT,NLP}_\mu(p, q) = -\frac{1}{2} \bar{n} \cdot q \left[ \frac{u \bar{u} m^2_{\rho}}{[u q^2 + \bar{u}(p + q)^2 - m^2_{\rho}]^2} \times \hat{q}(u p) \gamma_{\mu \lambda} \gamma_5 \bar{\gamma}(\bar{u} p) \right]
\times f^{T}_\rho(\mu) \epsilon_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \int_0^1 du \phi_{\rho}(u, \mu)
\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{\epsilon m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2} \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2} \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2} \phi_{\rho}(\mu).
$$

Similar to the leading-twist LO case, after applying double Borel transformations and subtracting the continuum states using quark-hadron duality, we obtain the strong coupling constant for two-particle subleading-power corrections at LO

$$
g^{3P} = -\frac{m_Q}{f_{\rho, \rho} m^2_{\rho} m_T} e^{\frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2}} \left[ \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{2} f^{T}_\rho(\mu) \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \frac{1}{2} e^{\frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2}} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \right] - m_Q f_{\rho, \rho} g^{(a)}_{\rho\sigma\rho}(\mu) + m_P f^{T}_p(\mu) \left[ \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{2} + \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{M^2} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \frac{1}{2} e^{\frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2}} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \right].
$$

Considering three-particle corrections at the tree level, the correlation function of the three-particle $q\bar{q}g$ corrections can be written as

$$
\Pi^{3P}_\mu(p, q, \rho) = i g_s \int d^4x \int d^4k \frac{e^{-i(k+p+q)x}}{(2\pi)^4} \left[ \frac{u x_{\mu}}{k^2 - m_Q^2} G^{\mu \nu}(u x) \gamma_{\nu} \right]
\times \int_0^1 du \gamma(p \gamma(\eta) i \delta(x) \gamma_{\gamma \beta} \left[ \frac{u x_{\eta}}{k^2 - m_Q^2} \right]
- \frac{k + m_Q}{2(k^2 - m_Q^2)} \frac{u x_{\gamma \beta} G^{\gamma \beta}(u x) q(0)}{\sigma_{\gamma \beta} G^{\gamma \beta}(u x) q(0)}.
$$

Employing the conformal expansion of the three-particle DAs in Appendix B, we obtain

$$
g^{3P} = -\frac{m_Q}{f_{\rho, \rho} m^2_{\rho} m_T} e^{\frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2}} f^{T}_\rho(\mu) m^2_{\rho}
\times \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} + \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{M^2} \right) \frac{1}{2} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \right]
- m_Q f_{\rho, \rho} g^{(a)}_{\rho\sigma\rho}(\mu) + m_P f^{T}_p(\mu) \left[ \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{2} + \frac{m^2_{\rho}}{M^2} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \frac{1}{2} e^{\frac{m^2_{\rho}}{m^2_{\rho} + M^2}} \phi_{\rho}(\mu) \right],
$$

where $\mathcal{F}_{LT}(1)$ is defined in Eq. (16).

4 Numerical analysis

4.1 Input parameters

The masses of quarks in the $\overline{MS}$ scheme and the values of decay constants are listed in Table 1. The parameters in $\rho$ DAs are listed in Table 2, which are extracted from the method of QCDSR [9,28].

The solution to the two-loop evolution of the Gegenbauer moment $a_n^\rho(\mu)$ is

$$
f^{T}_\rho(\mu) a_n^\rho(\mu) = \left( E^{\rho}_{LT}(\mu, \mu_0) + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \right) \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} E^{\rho}_{L}(\mu, \mu_0)
\times \delta^k_{\rho}(\mu, \mu_0) f^{T}_\rho(\mu) a_n^\rho(\mu_0),
$$

where the explicit expressions of $E_{LT}$ and $\delta_{LT}$ can be found in [39]. The scale evolution of other non-perturbative parameters to leading logarithmic accuracy is listed in Appendix B.

The factorization scales are taken as $\mu_e \in [1, 2]$ GeV around the default choice $m_c$ and $\mu_0 = m^2_{e/m_c/2}$ for radiative $D^*$ and $B^*$ decays, respectively. For the Borel mass
\( M^2 \) and the threshold parameter \( s_0 \), we assume the following intervals [40,41]
\[
\begin{align*}
  s_0 &= 6.0 \pm 0.5 \text{ GeV}^2, \\
  M^2 &= 4.5 \pm 1.0 \text{ GeV}^2, \\
  s_0 &= 34.0 \pm 1.0 \text{ GeV}^2, \\
  M^2 &= 18.0 \pm 3.0 \text{ GeV}^2,
\end{align*}
\]
which satisfy the standard criterions [42].

### 4.2 Theory predictions

The coupling constants for \( D^* \bar{D} \rho \) and \( B^* \bar{B} \rho \) are listed in Table 3. It is apparent that the perturbative QCD corrections decrease the tree level leading power contributions of coupling constants by 10% and 20% for \( D^* \bar{D} \rho \) and \( B^* \bar{B} \rho \), respectively. Meanwhile, contributions from tree level sub-leading power corrections have evident compensation effects, which increase the leading twist contributions by approximately 20% and 30% for \( D^* \bar{D} \rho \) and \( B^* \bar{B} \rho \), respectively. We also note that three-particle sub-leading power corrections have more minor effects compared with two-particle sub-leading power corrections, particularly for the coupling of \( B^* \bar{B} \rho \), which is consistent with the validity of OPE.

The uncertainties are also included for separate terms of coupling constants in Table 3. The uncertainties are estimated by varying independent input parameters, and the individual uncertainties are presented in Table 4. To estimate total uncertainties, we add them in quadrature to obtain the final results. From Table 4, we can see that the primary uncertainties stem from the Borel mass \( M^2 \) and parameter \( a_2^2 \) for both \( D^* \bar{D} \rho \) and \( B^* \bar{B} \rho \). The second Gegenbauer moment \( a_2^2 \) refers to transversely polarized \( \rho \) meso twist-4 LCDA, which is indicated in Appendix A, B. The quasi-distribution amplitudes (quasi-DAs), which are based on the large-momentum effective theory (LaMET) [43,44], along with the simulation from lattice QCD [45] are also capable of extracting meson LCDA [46,47] other than QCDSR. In the future, a more precise determination of the \( \rho \) meson LCDA will be helpful to decrease the uncertainties of couplings.

Next, we compare our results of coupling constants with those obtained in other studies using sum rules, as shown in Table 5. Among them, the LCSR studies [24,26] did not take the perturbative QCD corrections and 3-particle corrections into account, and the QCDSR study considers the dimension-5 quark-gluon condensate correction.

### Table 1.
Heavy quark masses [34,35] and decay constants [9,36-38], with scale-dependent quantity \( f_T^0 \) given at \( \mu_0 = 1.0 \text{ GeV} \).

| Parameter | Value   |
|-----------|---------|
| \( m_t \) (GeV) | 1.288 ± 0.02 |
| \( m_b \) (GeV) | 4.193 ± 0.022 |
| \( f_T^0 \) (GeV) | 213 ± 5 |
| \( f_D \) (GeV) | 160 ± 7 |
| \( f_{D^*} \) (GeV) | 209.0 ± 2.4 |
| \( f_{S_D} \) (GeV) | 225.3 ± 8.0 |
| \( f_{S_{D^*}} \) (GeV) | 192.0 ± 4.3 |
| \( f_{B^*} \) (GeV) | 182.4 ± 6.2 |

### Table 2.
Non-perturbative parameters in DAs at scale \( \mu_0 = 1.0 \text{ GeV} \).

| Parameter | Value   |
|-----------|---------|
| \( s_0 \) (GeV) | 0.17 ± 0.07 |
| \( M^2 \) (GeV) | 0.14 ± 0.06 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 0.032 ± 0.010 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | -2.1 ± 1.0 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 3.8 ± 1.8 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 7.0 ± 7.0 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 0.10 ± 0.05 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | -0.10 ± 0.05 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | -0.15 ± 0.15 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 0 |
| \( a_2^2 \) (GeV) | 0 |

### Table 3.
Results of \( g_{H^*H^*} \) (GeV\(^{-1}\)) for \( QCD \) at NLO accuracy, \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) corresponds to the tree-level leading power contributions with resummation at LL accuracy, \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,N,L,L} \) corresponds to the leading power contributions up to NLO with resummation at NLL accuracy, \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) and \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) are from 2-particle and 3-particle sub-leading power corrections at LO separately.

| Parameter | Value   |
|-----------|---------|
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | 3.61 ± 0.54 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,N,L,L} \) | 3.18 ± 0.53 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | 0.47 ± 0.17 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | 0.14 ± 0.09 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | 3.80 ± 0.59 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.47 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,N,L,L} \) | -0.43 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.47 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.43 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.43 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.43 |
| \( g_{H^*H^*}^{T,L,L} \) | -0.43 |

### Table 4.
Central value and individual uncertainty of \( g_{H^*H^*} \) (GeV\(^{-1}\)) due to variations in input parameters. We only list numerically significant uncertainties.

| Parameter | Value   |
|-----------|---------|
| \( \Delta f_T^0 \) | +0.14 |
| \( \Delta m_0 \) | +0.00 |
| \( \Delta M^2 \) | +0.38 |
| \( \Delta \mu \) | +0.20 |
| \( \Delta f_T^0 \) | ±0.11 |
| \( \Delta a_2^2 \) | ±0.32 |

### Table 5.
Numerical values of coupling constants \( g_{H^*H^*} \) (GeV\(^{-1}\)) from several studies via sum rules.

| Study        | Value   |
|--------------|---------|
| This work    | 3.80 ± 0.50 |
| LCSR [24]    | 4.17 ± 1.04 |
| QCDSR [29]  | 3.56 ± 0.60 |
| LCSR [26]    | 4.07 ± 0.71 |
| QCDSR [29]  | -- |
| LCSR [26]    | 5.70 ± 1.43 |
| QCDSR [29]  | -- |
reactions [29]. As mentioned above, the NLO effects of leading power almost cancel the subleading-power corrections; hence, it is expected that our results are close to those of previous sum rules studies within the errors.

Next, we extract the $B^* B_{\rho}$ coupling from form factors. The $B \to \rho$ form factors $V(q^2)$ and $T_1(q^2)$, which are related to $g_{B^* B_{\rho}}$ are defined as

$$\langle \rho^- (p, \eta') | \bar{b} \gamma_{\mu} b | B^- (p + q) \rangle = \frac{2}{m_{B^*} + m_{\rho}} V(q^2) \epsilon_{\alpha \beta \gamma \mu}. \quad (29)$$

$$\langle \rho^- (p, \eta') | \bar{d} \gamma_{\mu} q^- \gamma_{\nu} b | B^- (p + q) \rangle = -2 T_1(q^2) \epsilon_{\alpha \beta \gamma \mu}. \quad (29)$$

From the dispersion relation of the form factor $F_i(q^2)$

$$F_i(q^2) = \frac{r_i}{1 - q^2/m_i^2} + \int_{(m_{n} + m_{n}')}^{\infty} \frac{\rho(s)}{s - q^2 - i\epsilon} ds, \quad (30)$$

the strong coupling relates to the pole of the form factors at the unphysical point $q^2 = m_i^2$. Then, we have the relation

$$r_i \equiv \lim_{q^2 \to m_i^2} \frac{r_i}{1 - q^2/m_i^2} V(q^2) = \frac{m_{B^*} + m_{\rho}}{2m_{B^*}} g_{B^* B_{\rho}}, \quad (31)$$

$$r_1^T \equiv \lim_{q^2 \to m_i^2} \frac{r_1^T}{1 - q^2/m_i^2} T_1(q^2) = \frac{1}{2} f_{B_{\rho}}^2 g_{B^* B_{\rho}}, \quad (31)$$

where $f_{B_{\rho}}^2$ is the tensor coupling of the $B^*$ meson, and it is defined as

$$\langle 0 | \bar{b} \sigma_{\mu \nu} q | B^* (q, \epsilon) \rangle = i f_{B_{\rho}}^2 (\epsilon_\mu, \epsilon_\nu, -\epsilon, -\epsilon). \quad (32)$$

Using Eq. (31) and choosing the size $f_{B_{\rho}}^2 = f_{B_{\rho}}$, we extract several numerical values of the coupling $g_{B^* B_{\rho}}$ from recent LCSR studies [9,10], which we list in Table 6.

As shown, our central value is smaller than the extrapolations from LCSR form factors. To explain this discrepancy, on the one hand, uncertainties from the parameterizations of form factors to obtain the un-physical singularity may be underestimated. On the other hand, for the double dispersion relation, the Borel suppression is not sufficient to neglect the isolated excitation contributions, according to the discussion in [48]. Apart from $B \to \rho$, the $B^* \to B$ and $B^* \to \rho$ form factors can also be used to extract the coupling. To the best of our knowledge, there are no relevant studies that address corresponding form factors in LCSR. A future study could verify whether different choices of form factors are consistent across the coupling extractions.

Finally, we analyze our study and compare it with other model-dependent studies. The HMGPT effective Lagrangian to parametrize the $H^* H'$ coupling can be written as [1]

$$L_V = i \lambda \text{Tr} \left[ H_b \sigma^{\mu \nu} F_{\mu \nu} (\rho)_{ab} \bar{H}_a \right], \quad (33)$$

with

$$F_{\mu \nu} (\rho) = \partial_\mu \rho_\nu - \partial_\nu \rho_\mu + [\rho_\mu, \rho_\nu], \quad \rho_\mu = i \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} \hat{\tau}_\mu. \quad (34)$$

where $\hat{\rho}$ is a $3 \times 3$ matrix for light meson nonet, and the heavy $H, H'$ mesons are represented by the doublet field $H_a$ with the conventional normalization. The parameter $g_V = m_{\rho}/f_\pi$. In the chiral and heavy quark limits, we have the following relation for the coupling $\lambda$

$$\lambda = \sqrt{2} \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{g_V} g_{H^* H'}. \quad (35)$$

We find the coupling $\lambda = 0.23 \pm 0.03$ GeV$^{-1}$ at leading power from our value of $g_{B^* B_{\rho}}$.

In Table 7, we compare this value with other model estimations. Similar to the estimations from form factors, our result is smaller than the model predictions. One possibility for this discrepancy may be that the model predictions have potentially larger errors. Consequently, in principle, the LCSR is more credible. However, in addition to the possible influences of excitation contributions mentioned above, the values of NLO corrections to higher twists and the sub-sub-leading power contributions are unknown, which may likewise represent sources of the discrepancy. Improvements in the calculations of both the sum rules and models may help better understand such discrepancies in the future.

| This work | $V(q^2)$ [9] | $T_1(q^2)$ [9] | $V(q^2)$ [10] | $T_1(q^2)$ [10] |
|-----------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| $3.89^{+0.32}_{-0.48}$ | $8.50 \pm 1.73$ | $8.02 \pm 1.59$ | $6.04^{+3.00}_{-2.24}$ | $7.25^{+0.72}_{-0.78}$ |

| This work | VMD [19] | CQM [49] | CQM [50] | QM+VMD [51] |
|-----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|
| $0.23$ | $0.56$ | $0.60$ | $0.47$ | $0.33$ |

5 Conclusion

We compute the $D^* D_{\rho}$ and $B^* B_{\rho}$ strong couplings to subleading-power in LCSR. Long-distance dynamics are incorporated in the $\rho$ DAs. We calculate the $O(\alpha_s)$ corrections to leading power of the sum rules. The subleading-power corrections are calculated at LO by accounting the two- and three-particle wave functions up to twist-4. The
analytical results of the double spectral densities are obtained, and in accordance with the previous study, we also perform a continuum subtraction for the higher-twist corrections. The LO results are independent of the choice of the duality region because of the special form of the double spectral density.

The NLO corrections reduce the numerical tree-level results by 10% and 20% for $D' D p$ and $BB p$, respectively. However, the subleading-power corrections at LO can give rise to values about 20% and 30% for $D' D p$ and $BB p$, respectively. Summing all the contributions, our values are consistent with the predictions from previous sum rules studies. Moreover, we also predict the coupling $\lambda$ in HMTPT at leading power. The central value of our result is smaller than the existing model-dependent estimations. Possible explanations for the discrepancy are potentially large errors within models and influences of excitation contributions in LCSR. Moreover, radiative corrections to higher twists and sub-sub-leading power contributions may also be sources of error. A better understanding of this discrepancy will prove beneficial to shedding light on long-distance QCD dynamics in the future.

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Appendix A: $\rho$ meson DAs

Here, we collect the $\rho$ meson DAs up to twist-4, which are defined in [28]

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | g(x) \rangle |_{\gamma} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \bar{\gamma} \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A1)

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | g(x) \rangle |_{\sigma_{\mu \nu}} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \sigma_{\mu \nu} \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A2)

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | g(x) \rangle |_{\partial_{\mu}} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \partial_{\mu} \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A3)

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | g(x) \rangle |_{\gamma} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A4)

\[
\langle (p', \eta', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | G_{\rho \rho} (x) \rangle |_{\gamma} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A5)

\[
\langle (p', \eta', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | G_{\rho \rho} (x) \rangle |_{\sigma_{\mu \nu}} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \sigma_{\mu \nu} \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A6)

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | G_{\rho \rho} (x) \rangle |_{\partial_{\mu}} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \partial_{\mu} \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A7)

\[
\langle (p', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | G_{\rho \rho} (x) \rangle |_{\gamma} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A8)

\[
\langle (p', \eta', \eta') | \hat{d}(x) | G_{\rho \rho} (x) \rangle |_{\gamma} (u(0)) = \frac{-i f_{\rho} m_{\rho}^{2} \eta'}{2p' \cdot x} \int [Dp] e^{i p' \cdot p} \langle p' | \gamma \rangle (u(0)) \int [D\bar{p}] e^{-i p' \cdot \bar{p}} \langle \bar{p} | \gamma \rangle (u(0))
\]

(A9)

where

\[
\bar{G}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{1}{2} e_{\rho \mu \nu} O^{\rho \mu \nu}
\]

(A10)
Appendix B: Conformal expansion of $\rho$ DAs

Here, we list the conformal expansion for these higher twist DAs involved in our calculation [28].

The chiral-even twist-three DA $s^{(3)}_1$ reads

$$s^{(3)}_1(u) = 6a\bar{u} \left[ 1 + \frac{1}{4} a^2 + \frac{1}{16} \bar{c} \left( 1 - \frac{3}{11} a^2 + \frac{9}{16} \bar{u}^2 \right) \right] (5\bar{c}^2 - 1), \quad (B1)$$

with $\xi = 2u - 1$. For the chiral-odd twist-four DA $A_T$, we have

$$A_T(u) = \frac{30 a^2 \bar{u}^2}{2} \left[ \frac{1 + \bar{c}^2 + a^2 + \frac{10}{3} \bar{u}^2 - \frac{20}{3} \bar{c} \bar{u}}{4} \right] + \frac{3}{11} a^2 + \frac{1}{16} \bar{c} \left( 1 + \frac{126}{55} \bar{u}^2 + \frac{126}{55} \bar{c} \frac{a^2}{11} \right) + \frac{70}{11} (\langle Q^{(1)} \rangle) \left[ a\bar{u}(2 + 13u\bar{u}) \right] + 2u^3 (10 - 15u + 6u^2) \ln u + 2\bar{u}^3 (10 - 15u + 6u^2) \ln \bar{u}, \quad (B2)$$

For the twist-four three-particle DAs,

$$S_1(\alpha_4) = 30 a^2 \bar{u}^2 [\kappa_0 (1 - \alpha_4) + \kappa_1 (1 - \alpha_4) \bar{a}^2 \bar{c}^2] + \frac{3}{2} (a_3^2 + \bar{a}_3^2) \kappa_0 (1 - \alpha_4),$$

$$S_2(\alpha_4) = 30 a^2 \bar{u}^2 [\kappa_0 (1 - \alpha_4) + \kappa_1 (1 - \alpha_4) \bar{a}^2 \bar{c}^2] + \frac{3}{2} (a_3^2 + \bar{a}_3^2) \kappa_0 (1 - \alpha_4),$$

$$T^{(5)}_1(\alpha_4) = 120 \bar{u} \bar{a} (1 - \alpha_4) a_3 a_4,$$

$$T^{(6)}_2(\alpha_4) = -30 a^2 \bar{u}^2 (a_4 - \bar{a}_4) \left[ \kappa_0 (5a_4 - 3) + \kappa_0 a_4 \right],$$

$$T^{(7)}_3(\alpha_4) = -120 \bar{u} \bar{a} (1 - \alpha_4) a_4 a_5,$$

$$T^{(8)}_4(\alpha_4) = 30 a^2 \bar{u}^2 (a_4 - \bar{a}_4) \left[ \kappa_0 (5a_4 - 3) + \kappa_0 a_4 \right]. \quad (B3)$$

The eight parameters in three-particle DAs can be written as

$$s_{10} = \frac{\langle Q^{(1)} \rangle}{\langle Q^{(3)} \rangle}, \quad s_{00} = \frac{\langle Q^{(3)} \rangle}{\langle Q^{(1)} \rangle}.$$

$$x_{10} = -\frac{3}{11} a^2 + \frac{1}{8} \bar{c} \frac{a^2}{11} \bar{u}^2 + \frac{28}{55} \langle Q^{(1)} \rangle \left[ \frac{7}{11} \langle Q^{(3)} \rangle \right] + \frac{14}{11} \langle Q^{(5)} \rangle, \quad (B4)$$

The scale evolution of non-perturbative parameters to leading logarithmic accuracy is as follows

$$a^2(\mu) = L^2 a^2(\mu_0),$$

$$\bar{c}^2(\mu) = L^2 \bar{c}^2(\mu_0),$$

$$a_2(\mu) = L^2 a^2(\mu_0),$$

$$\bar{a}_2(\mu) = L^2 \bar{a}_2(\mu_0),$$

$$\langle Q^{(1)} \rangle(\mu) = L^2 \langle Q^{(1)} \rangle(\mu_0),$$

$$\langle Q^{(3)} \rangle(\mu) = L^2 \langle Q^{(3)} \rangle(\mu_0),$$

$$\langle Q^{(5)} \rangle(\mu) = L^2 \langle Q^{(5)} \rangle(\mu_0), \quad (B5)$$

where $L = \beta_0(\mu)/\beta_0(\mu_0)$ and $\beta_0 = n_f - 11 - 2n_f/3$, $n_f$ being the number of flavors involved. The scale-dependence of $\omega_2(\mu)$

$$\omega_2(\mu) - \omega_2(\mu_0) = L^2 \beta_0 \left[ \omega_2(\mu) - \omega_2(\mu_0) \right]. \quad (B6)$$

where $\Gamma_\omega$ is given by

$$\Gamma_\omega = \left( \frac{3}{2} C_F - \frac{1}{2} C_A \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} C_F - \frac{1}{2} C_A \right). \quad (B7)$$

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