Anomalous dimension of the gauge invariant canonical decomposition for proton momentum with the background field method

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The anomalous dimension for the gauge-invariant-canonical decomposition of the energy-momentum tensor for quarks and gluons is studied by the background field method. In particular, the consistency between the background field method and the renormalization in the gluonic sectors is investigated. The analysis shows that the naive gauge-invariant-decomposition has an inconsistency between its definition and the renormalization in the background field method. Although we try to consider a trick to overcome this inconsistency in computing the anomalous dimension, the gauge-parameter dependence remains in the final result. This result should be extended to the problems on the gauge-invariant-canonical-spin decomposition.

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One of remained problems in quantum chromodynamics (QCD) is the complete decomposition of the proton spin into the orbital angular momentum and the spin in terms of quarks and gluons. Although several decompositions are known [1, 2], the complete decomposition of the proton spin with keeping gauge invariance to each term seemed impossible. However, in the past few-years, a new kind of the gauge-invariant decomposition was proposed by Chen et al. [3, 4]. A prediction based on their decomposition is that the momentum fraction carried by gluons in the proton is about one-fifth [4]; this is different from the well-known value, about half, predicted by the standard QCD [5]. Their study triggered many debates and caused much controversy (see Refs. [6, 7] for recent reviews).

After Chen et al. proposed the new decomposition, Wakamatsu extended their splitting-technique to the following covariant-form [8],

\[ A^\mu = A^\mu_{\text{pure}} + A^\mu_{\text{phys}}, \]

with the condition \( F^{\mu\nu}_{\text{pure}} = 0 \). The field \( A^\mu_{\text{pure}} \) carries the degree of freedom of the gauge transformation and the field \( A^\mu_{\text{phys}} \) carries the physical degree of freedom and \( F^{\mu\nu}_{\text{pure}} \) is the field strength for \( A_{\text{pure}} \). After long debates, two types of decompositions are widely accepted as the gauge-invariant decompositions, namely, gauge-invariant-canonical (gic) and the gauge-invariant-kinetic (gik) decompositions. Although originally this decomposition was for the three-dimensional operators, currently four-dimensionally-covariant decompositions both for the generalized-angular-momentum tensor and the energy-momentum tensor are known [8, 9].

The gic decomposition of the energy-momentum tensor \( T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic}} \) is given by

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic}} = T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic},q} + T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic},g},
\]

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic},q} = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu (iD^\nu) \psi,
\]

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic},g} = -\text{Tr} \left[ F^{(\mu\alpha)D^\nu} A_{\alpha,\text{phys}} \right],
\]

where \( a^{(\mu\nu\rho)} = a^{\mu\nu} b^\rho + a^{\nu\rho} b^\mu + a^{\rho\mu} b^\nu \) is the symmetrization symbol, \( D^\mu_{\text{pure}} = \partial^\mu - ig[A^\mu_{\text{pure}}, \cdot] \) is the covariant derivative with \( A_{\text{pure}} \), and we ignored the terms including \( g^{\mu\nu} \) since these terms are irrelevant to the momentum operators of quarks and gluons. On the other hand, Belinfante-improved-energy-momentum tensor \( T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel}} \) as a gik decomposition is given by

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel}} = T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel},q} + T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel},g},
\]

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel},q} = \frac{1}{2} \bar{\psi} \gamma^\mu (iD^\nu) \psi,
\]

\[
T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel},g} = -\text{Tr} \left[ F^{(\mu\alpha)F^\nu} A_{\alpha,\text{phys}} \right],
\]

where these two definitions are related to each other by the surface term, \( T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{gic}} = T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{Bel}} - \partial_\nu \text{Tr} \left( F^{(\mu\alpha)A^\nu}_{\text{phys}} \right) \). The quark (gluon) momentum \( \vec{P}_{\mu} \) is related to the energy-momentum tensor \( T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{q}(g)} \) through the relation \( P^{\mu}_{\text{q}(g)} = \int d^3x T^{\mu\nu}_{\text{q}(g)} \). The gauge transformations for split fields are given in

\[
A^\mu_{\text{pure}}(x) = U(x) \left( A^\mu_{\text{pure}}(x) + \frac{i}{g} \partial^\mu \right) U^\dagger(x),
\]

\[
A^\mu_{\text{phys}}(x) = U(x) A^\mu_{\text{phys}}(x) U^\dagger(x),
\]

where \( U(x) = e^{ig\gamma^\mu x^\mu} \) is the gauge-transformation factor. The two definitions in Eqs. [9] and [10] are invariant under the above gauge-transformations.

The gauge transformations in Eq. [11] are well known in the background field method (BFM). The BFM is an alternative method to quantize a field theory with keeping the gauge invariance manifestly by integrating out
the quantum part of the gauge field; it gives the same result with the standard quantization (see the review [10]). Actually, such a similarity between the gauge transformation in Eq. (4) and the BFM has already been pointed out by Lorce in the context of a path dependence of Wilson lines [11] and Noether theorem under the presence of the background field [12], and by Zhang and Pak in the context of the gluon’s helicity [13]. However, the one-loop analysis of the gic decomposition by the BFM has not yet carried out. In this Letter, we push forward to study the recent progress on the problems of the momentum (spin) decompositions by the BFM. In particular, we investigate the anomalous-dimension matrix in Ref. [3] again by the BFM, because the gic decomposition in Eq. (2) obviously includes the split gauge-fields and hence one needs the BFM to handle these definitions.

The momentum fraction carried by quarks and gluons in the proton can be predicted by solving the following renormalization-group-equation,

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \mu} \left( \frac{\bar{p}_q(\mu)}{\bar{p}_g(\mu)} \right) = -\gamma \left( \frac{\bar{p}_q(\mu)}{\bar{p}_g(\mu)} \right),$$

(5)

where the mixing matrix $\gamma$ is called the anomalous-dimension matrix and the matrix elements are defined by

$$\gamma = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \begin{pmatrix} \gamma^{qq} & \gamma^{qg} \\ \gamma^{gq} & \gamma^{gg} \end{pmatrix},$$

(6)

with the conventional overall-sign to compare ours with recent results. Chen et al.’s result of the anomalous dimension [4] is summarized in the following form:

$$\gamma_{\text{Chen}} = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{2}{5}n_g & \frac{4}{3}n_f \\ \frac{2}{5}n_g & -\frac{2}{3}n_f \end{pmatrix},$$

(7)

where $n_g = 8$ is the number of gluons and $n_f$ is a number of quark flavors. This anomalous dimension gives the asymptotic limit to gluon momentum, $\bar{p}_g = \frac{n_g}{n_g + 3n_f} \bar{p}_{q+g}$; it predicts that the momentum fraction carried by gluons is about one-fifth for $n_f = 5$. The above mixing-matrix is different from the standard-QCD result [3],

$$\gamma_{\text{QCD}} = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \begin{pmatrix} -\frac{8}{5}n_g & \frac{4}{3}n_f \\ \frac{2}{5}n_g & -\frac{2}{3}n_f \end{pmatrix},$$

(8)

where the above standard-results gives the asymptotic limit, $\bar{p}_g = \frac{2n_g}{2n_g + 3n_f} \bar{p}_{q+g}$; it predicts that the momentum fraction carried by gluons is about half for $n_f = 5$.

The origin of the contradicted result of the asymptotic limit for the momentum fraction carried by the gluons in the proton is the anomalous dimension in Eq. (7). Actually, the evaluation of the anomalous dimension based on Eq. (2), independently of Ref. [4], is studied in Ref. [14] and the author concluded that Eq. (2) leads to the well known result in Eq. (8). However, the author adopted the own method introducing a projector to the physical field $A_{\text{phys}}$ [15], not the BFM.

In the BFM, one decomposes the gauge field $A^\mu$ into the background field or classical field $A_{\text{bg}}^\mu$, and the quantum field $A_{\text{q}}^\mu$, as $A^\mu = A_{\text{bg}}^\mu + A_{\text{q}}^\mu$. To evaluate the anomalous dimension based on the BFM at the one-loop order, one has to take into account a difference between these two-fields; however, this difference never appears in the standard quantization, namely, two different-roles of the background field $A_{\text{bg}}^\mu$ and quantum field $A_{\text{q}}^\mu$. The quantum field $A_{\text{q}}^\mu$ should be integrated out in the sense of the path integral and hence it only describes quantum effects. On the other hand, the background field $A_{\text{bg}}^\mu$ receives that quantum effects as the feedback and it describes the gauge-invariant-effective theory. In other words, the quantum field should be understood as internal propagators and the background field should be understood as external lines in loop diagrams. Therefore, to identify $A_{\text{pure}}^\mu$ as the background field and $A_{\text{phys}}^\mu$ as the quantum field in the BFM, we have to keep the following principle:

- **background field**: $A_{\text{phys}} = \text{external lines}$
- **quantum field**: $A_{\text{phys}} = \text{internal lines}$

(9)

The above principle shows that one cannot introduce the field renormalization to $A_{\text{phys}}$ in the effective theory after the integration of $A_{\text{phys}}$, but one should introduce it to $A_{\text{pure}}$. If one does not correctly treat these differences, the gauge invariance of the effective theory after the loop integral is not guaranteed by the definition of the BFM [10].

Taking into account this principle of the BFM to guarantee the gauge-invariant results, we have to consider Feynman diagrams in Fig. 1(a), (b), (c), and (d).

FIG. 1. One-loop diagrams contributing to the anomalous dimension of the energy-momentum tensor for quarks and gluons in the BFM: (a) $\gamma^{qq}$, (b) $\gamma^{qg}$, (c) $\gamma^{gg}$, and (d) $\gamma^{gg}$. The symmetric factors to the second and third graphs in (d) are $3/4$ in the BFM; this value can be obtained by calculating $\gamma_{QCD}^{gg}$ by the BFM and is different from $1/2$ in the standard method [3].

The fermion lines without arrows should be understood as the sum of clockwise and anticlockwise arrows in Fig. 1(b) and the contributions from the field renormalization of the quark and the gluon are not explicitly shown. One introduces the so-called background-gauge-fixing term and the corresponding ghost-term to the classical QCD Lagrangian in order to covariantly quantize
the theory \( \Gamma \)

\[
\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff+gb}} = -\frac{1}{\xi} \text{Tr} \left( D_{\text{pure}}^\mu A_{\text{phys}}^\mu \right)^2 - 2\text{Tr}(\tilde{c} D_{\text{pure}}^\mu D_\mu c),
\]

where \( \xi \) is the gauge parameter and \( \tilde{c} \) is the (anti) ghost field. It is notable that the ghost fields do not contribute to the related Feynman-diagrams and only contribute to the field renormalization of the gluon field in external lines. Moreover, we use the dimensional regularization with the dimension \( D = 4 - 2\epsilon \) and then the divergence is expressed as a pole of \( 1/\epsilon \). The anomalous dimensions can be extracted from the coefficients of this pole by differentiating those with respect to the scale \( \mu \) introduced in the dimensional regularization. We denote our results of the anomalous dimension based on Eq. (2) by the BFM as \( \gamma_{\text{gic}} \).

Comparing the diagram of Fig. (1) in our treatment with the standard method (for example, see the related figures in Ref. [5], or Ref. [14]), the difference between our analysis with the BFM and the standard method is the absence of (b) of Fig. 2 in Ref. [14]. This is obvious because the gic decomposition of \( T_{\text{gic,q}} \) in Eq. (2) only can generate one diagram due to the absence of the interaction \( \psi A_{\text{phys}} \psi \). It should be emphasized that the definition of \( T_{\text{gic,q}} \) includes \( \psi A_{\text{pure}} \psi \) and this \( A_{\text{pure}} \) field cannot generate gluon propagators because of the principle of the BFM. Taking into account this difference, we can recover one of Chen et al.’s results, \( \gamma_{\text{gic}} = \gamma_{\text{Chen}} = -2n_g/9 \). It is worth noting that the gauge-parameter dependence, \( \xi \), is canceled between Fig. (1)a) and the field renormalization of the quark within the covariant gauge even in the BFM, as expected.

This result contradict to Ref. [14]. The reason of this disagreement is a misunderstanding of \( A_{\text{pure}} \) and \( A_{\text{phys}} \). The author in Ref. [14] indirectly evaluated the contributions to \( \gamma_{\text{qg}} \) by showing that the so-called potential momentum term vanishes. On the other hand, we can directly derive \( \gamma_{\text{gic}} \neq \gamma_{\text{Chen}} \neq \gamma_{\text{QCD}} \) thanks to the differences of allowed Feynman-diagrams in the BFM. Similarly, taking into account the BFM, Fig. (1)c) gives \( \gamma_{\text{gic}} = \gamma_{\text{Chen}} = 2n_g/9 \) and the reason of the disagreement between ours with Ref. [14] is the same reason mentioned in computing \( \gamma_{\text{gq}} \), namely, misunderstanding of the internal and external lines. For example, we cannot use Fig. 3 in Ref. [14] within the BFM to guarantee the gauge-invariant results.

Our results so far seemingly show the consistency between the BFM and Chen et al.’s results in the quark sectors \( (\gamma_{\text{gic}} , \gamma_{\text{Chen}}) \). However, Figs. (1)b) and (d) to calculate the gluonic sectors \( (\gamma_{\text{gic}} , \gamma_{\text{Chen}}) \) cause problems of renormalizations in the gluonic sector. We can discuss the divergence of Fig. (1)b) without any computation in the following way. The BFM does not change the fermion propagator and it gives the same operator-insertion-vertex and there is no difference between the coupling of \( \bar{\psi} A_{\text{phys}} \psi \) and \( \bar{\psi} A_{\text{pure}} \psi \) interaction. Hence Fig. (1)b) gives the same divergence with the standard computation. Then this divergent-structure seems to give the result, \( \gamma_{\text{gic}} = \gamma_{\text{Chen}} = \gamma_{\text{QCD}} \), and seems to confirm Chen et al.’s result at first glance. However, we should carefully check the renormalization of this divergence and the gauge-parameter dependence in the gluonic sectors by the BFM.

As we have already mentioned the principle of the renormalization in the BFM, the divergence should be removed by the counter term defined by the background fields, namely, \( A_{\text{pure}} A_{\text{pure}} \) term in the definition \( T_{\text{gic,g}} \) in Eq. (2). However, \( T_{\text{gic,g}} \) in Eq. (2) does not include such a term and hence we cannot remove this divergence in Fig. (1)b) due to the lack of the counter term. We can easily check the absence of \( A_{\text{pure}} A_{\text{pure}} \) term by using the relation, \( F_{\mu\nu} = F_{\mu\nu}^{\text{pure}} + D_{\mu} A_{\text{pure}}^{\nu} - D_{\nu} A_{\text{pure}}^{\mu} \) with the condition \( F_{\mu\nu}^{\text{pure}} = 0 \). This absence of the counter term means that we cannot correctly define the anomalous dimension in the gluonic sector based on Eq. (2). It is obvious that we have the same problem in Fig. (1)d) because of the absence of the counter term. Hence the gic decomposition of the energy-momentum tensor defined in Eq. (2) causes the inconsistency in the renormalization of the gluonic sectors.

Although we have discussed the gic decomposition of the energy-momentum tensor of quarks and gluons in Eq. (2), we can easily apply this logic to the gic decomposition of the generalized-angular-momentum tensor for quarks and gluons, for example, as discussed in Refs. [6, 7]:

\[
M_{\text{gic}}^{\mu\nu} = M_{\text{gic,q,spin}}^{\mu\nu} + M_{\text{gic,g,spin}}^{\mu\nu},
\]

where each term is given by

\[
M_{\text{gic,q,spin}}^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} \varepsilon_{\mu\nu\sigma\rho} \bar{\psi} \gamma_\sigma \gamma_\rho \psi,
\]

\[
M_{\text{gic,g,spin}}^{\mu\nu} = 2\text{Tr} \left[ F_{\mu\nu} A_{\text{phys}}^\rho - F_{\mu\rho} A_{\text{phys}}^\nu \right],
\]

\[
M_{\text{gic,q,OM}}^{\mu\nu} = \bar{\psi} \gamma_\mu (x^\nu D_{\text{pure}}^\rho - x^\rho D_{\text{pure}}^\nu) \psi,
\]

\[
M_{\text{gic,g,OM}}^{\mu\nu} = 2\text{Tr} \left[ F_{\mu\sigma} (x^\nu D_{\text{pure}}^\rho - x^\rho D_{\text{pure}}^\nu) A_{\alpha,\text{phys}} \right],
\]

where we ignored the so-called boost term. Checking the two-point interaction by \( A_{\text{pure}} A_{\text{pure}} \) in \( M_{\text{gic,g,OM}}^{\mu\nu} \), we can easily find the absence of such a term in the above definition. Hence we cannot remove the divergences in the gluonic sectors with keeping the principle of the BFM as we discussed the energy-momentum tensor.

It is instructive to try to consider a trick to avoid this problem, that is, the absence of the gluonic counter-term. At first, we can recognize that a reason why we do not have \( A_{\text{pure}} A_{\text{pure}} \) interaction is because of the condition, \( F_{\mu\nu}^{\text{pure}} = 0 \), at the definitions in Eq. (2). Hence we may try to keep this term as the nonzero contribution and set it zero at the end of all calculation. Then the gluonic term \( T_{\text{gic,g}}^{\mu\nu} \) is corrected by the new form:

\[
T_{\text{gic,g}}^{\mu\nu} = -\text{Tr} \left[ F_{\mu\nu} (F_{\mu\rho}^{\text{pure},\alpha} + D_{\rho} A_{\alpha,\text{phys}}) \right],
\]
where "gic" stands for an alternative gic-decomposition and the quark part \(\gamma_{gic}^{QCD}\) and the Feynman rule of \(A_{phys}\) interaction is not affected by this modification. Then, we can use \(A_{phys}\) term for the renormalization of the gluonic sector and we reproduce the result \(\gamma_{gic}^{QCD} = \gamma_{gic}^{Chen} = \gamma_{QCD}^{gic}\). It should be stressed that we do not assume the well-known relation \(\gamma_{QCD}^{gic} = -\gamma_{QCD}^{gic}\) in the standard QCD, which was assumed in Ref. [14]; instead, we should directly check whether the gauge-parameter dependence cancels out or not in the nontrivial gluon-to-gluon-sector. Actually this cancellation works in Eq. [8] based on the Eq. [3] both by the standard method and by the BFM.

To calculate the last piece, \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\), we have to change the related Feynman-rules of \(A_{phys}\) interaction according to the new definition in Eq. (13) and we use PACKAGE-X [16] for symbolic calculations. Combining the result of \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\) based on Eq. (13) with former results, \(\gamma_{gic}, \gamma_{gic}, \gamma_{gic}^{qg}\), we denote our final-results as \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\). The result is summarized in the following:

\[
\gamma_{gic}^{gic} = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{4\pi} \left( -\frac{2}{3}n_g - \frac{1}{3}n_f - 6 - 2\xi \right),
\]

(14)

where this result does not coincide with Eqs. [7] or [8]. Beside, more importantly, the gauge-parameter dependence, \(\xi\), remains in the above result of \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\) sector and this was not studied in Ref. [4] because of their explicit-Coulomb-gauge-fixing. This result can be understood as consequences of the modified Feynman-rule for \(A_{phys}\) term and of the surface term (potential-momentum term) between Belinfante and gic definition; thus, the cancellation of the gauge parameter working perfectly in the Belinfante definition is spoiled in \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\) due to these effects. Actually we have already seen the similar effect in \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic}\) sector, because the surface term changed the loop structure and consequently it gives \(\gamma_{gic}^{gic} \neq \gamma_{QCD}^{gic}\).

Hence the above result depends on a choice of gauge and shows that the gic decomposition in Eq. (13) does not give the gauge-independent result of the anomalous dimension at the one-loop order, even after we adopted the trick to overcome the problem of the gluonic sectors.

In conclusion, we showed that our analysis of the anomalous dimension matrix for the gic decomposition of the energy-momentum tensor for quarks and gluons by the BFM leads to the inconsistency in the renormalization of the gluonic sectors at the one-loop order. Most importantly, the final result in Eq. (13) depends on the gauge even after the improvement of this inconsistency. Although both the gic and gik decomposition seems to be possible at the definitions [6, 7], our analysis based on the BFM reveals the serious problems in the gluonic sector of gic (gic) decompositions. This result can be extended to the anomalous dimension for the total angular momentum of quark (gluon), \(J_{g(q)}\), derived from Eq. (12), because the short-distance behavior of \(J_{g(q)}\) in the standard method is essentially same with that of the quark (gluon) momentum \(\vec{P}_{q(g)}\), as shown in Ref. [17]. Hence it is obvious that the same problems and inconsistencies appear in the anomalous dimensions of the gic-spin decomposition. We have to check the renormalization and the gauge-dependence in the gluonic sector to confirm this perspective, namely, we should study the anomalous dimension of the gluon-to-gluon sector based on the gic-spin decomposition by the BFM. Such a point of view will shed light on unknown aspects of the gik and gic decompositions.

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