

# Pion GPDs: Theory, modeling and experimental access

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# Generalized parton distributions

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# Generalized parton distributions (GPDs)

## (GPD) – Generalized parton distributions:

Non-local quark and gluon operators, evaluated between hadron states in non-forward kinematics and projected onto the light front.

[Fortsch.Phys.:42(1994)101]

[Phys.Lett.B:380(1996)417]

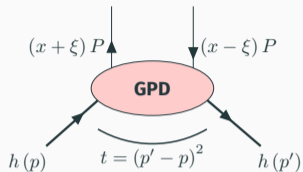
[Phys.Rev.D:55(1197)7114]

Example: Leading twist chiral-even GPDs of a spinless hadron.

$$H_{\pi}^q(x, \xi, t) = \frac{1}{2} \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{i\lambda x} \langle \pi(p') | \bar{\psi}^q(-\lambda n/2) \gamma^{\mu} \psi^q(\lambda n/2) | \pi(p) \rangle n_{\mu},$$

$$H_{\pi}^g(x, \xi, t) = \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{i\lambda x} \langle \pi(p') | G^{\mu\alpha}(-\lambda n/2) G_{\alpha}^{\nu}(\lambda n/2) | \pi(p) \rangle n_{\mu} n_{\nu}$$

# GPDs: Definition and properties



$x$ : Momentum fraction of  $P$ .

$\xi$ : Fraction of momentum longitudinally transferred.

$t$ : Momentum transfer.

## Kinematics:

[Phys.Rept:388(2003)41]

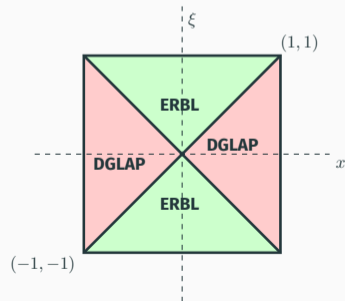
**DGLAP:** ( $|x| > |\xi|$ ):

$x > 0$ : Emits quark.

$x < 0$ : Takes antiquark.

**ERBL:** ( $|x| < |\xi|$ ):

Emits pair quark-antiquark.



# GPDs: Definition and properties

- **Support:**

[Phys.Lett.B:428(1998)359]

$$(x, \xi) \in [-1, 1] \otimes [-1, 1]$$

Analyticity/Causality

- **Polynomiality:**

[X.Ji-JPG:1181(24)1998, A.Radyushkin-PLB:81(449)1999]

$$\int_{-1}^1 dx x^m H(x, \xi, t) = \sum_{\substack{k=0 \\ k \text{ even}}}^{m+1} c_k^{(m)}(t) \xi^k$$

Lorentz invariance

- **Positivity:**

[P.V.Pobylitsa-PRD:114015(65)2002, B.Pire et al.-EPJC:103(8)1999]

$$|H^q(x, \xi, t=0)| \leq \sqrt{q \left( \frac{x+\xi}{1+\xi} \right) q \left( \frac{x-\xi}{1-\xi} \right)}, \quad |x| \geq \xi$$

Positivity of Hilbert space norm

- **Low energy soft-pion theorem**

[M.V.Polyakov-NPB:231(555)1999, C.Mezrag et al.-PLB:190(741)2015]

PCAC/Axial-Vector WTI

# GPDs: Definition and properties

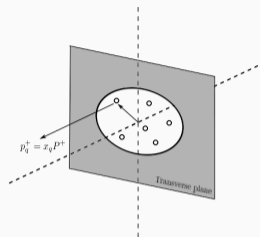
## Probabilistic interpretation:

Probability amplitude of finding a parton at a given position in transverse plane carrying a momentum fraction “ $x$ ” of the hadron’s averaged light-cone momentum.

[Phys.Rev.D:66(2002)119903]

## Striking properties:

- PDFs as forward limit.
- Electromagnetic and gravitational FFs as Mellin moments.
- Connection with energy-momentum tensor: Angular momentum, pressure...  
[Phys.Lett.B:555(2003)57, Phys.Rev.Lett.:28(1997)610]
- Parametrize DVCS amplitudes through CFFs.  
[e.g. Phys.Rev.D:59(1999)07009, Phys.Rev.D:56(1997)2982]



“3D picture” of hadrons

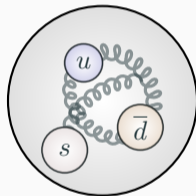
# GPDs: Pion structure and generalized parton distributions

## Hadron structure

*How do quarks and gluons combine to make hadrons up?*

### PIONS

1. “Simpler” than baryons
2. Connected with DCSB



### GPDs

1. Connection with elementary degrees of freedom
2. “3D” picture of hadrons
3. Experimentally accessible

1. *Can we obtain “theoretically complete” pion GPDs?*
2. *What can we learn about actual pions?*

# **GPD modeling**

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**Question:** *Can we build pion GPDs fulfilling all these constraints?*

**1. Overlap representation**

[Nucl.Phys.B596(2001)33]

Based on LFWFs,  $\Psi^q(x, k_{\perp}^2)$

} Polynominality ?  
Positivity ✓

---

**2. Double Distribution representation**

[Fortsch.Phys.:42(1994)101, hep-ph/0101225]

Relying on Radon transform,  $\mathcal{R}$

} Polynominality ✓  
Positivity ?

**Problem:** Different modeling strategies and different issues.

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## Solution

**Covariant extension:** Given a DGLAP GPD, the covariant extension allows computing the ERBL GPD such that polynominality is satisfied. [Eur.Phys.J.C:77(2017)12,906]

## **GPD modeling: DSE**

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# GPD modeling: DSE Ansätze

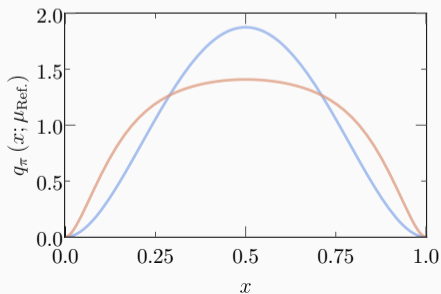
## 1. “Factorization” of LFWFs: DSE-PTIRs.

[Phys. Lett. B 815 (2021) 136158, Chin. Phys. C 46 (2022) 1, 013105]

$$\Psi_{\pi}^{\lambda_1 \lambda_2}(x, k_{\perp}^2) = \sqrt{q_{\pi}(x)} \frac{i^{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} M^2}{(k_{\perp}^2 + M^2)^2}$$

## 2. Overlap representation: **Positive pion GPD** [Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094012]

$$H_{\pi}^q(x, \xi, t)|_{\text{DGLAP}} = \frac{\sqrt{q_{\pi}(x_-) q_{\pi}(x_+)}}{(1+z^2)^2} \left[ 3 + \frac{1-2z}{1+z} \frac{\text{arctanh}\left(\sqrt{\frac{z}{1+z}}\right)}{\sqrt{\frac{z}{1+z}}} \right], z = \frac{-t(1-x)^2}{4M^2(1-\xi^2)}$$



### Two models:

- Algebraic model

$$q_{\pi}^{\text{Alg.}}(x) = \mathcal{N}_q x^2 (1-x)^2$$

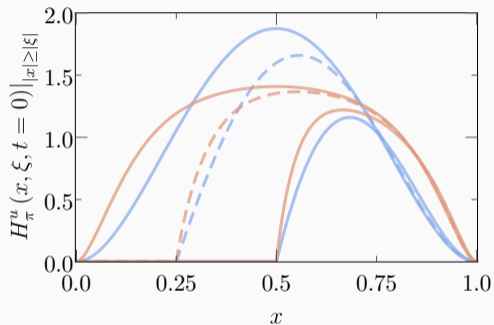
- Realistic model (DSE)

[Phys.Rev.D:101(2020)5,054014]

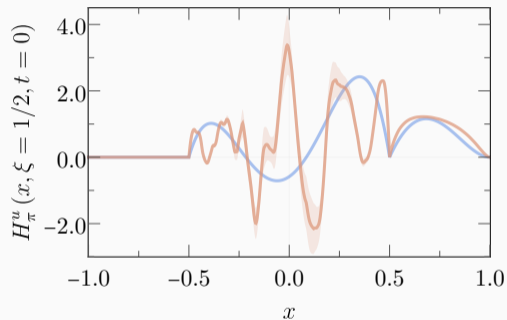
$$q_{\pi}(x) = q_{\pi}^{\text{Alg.}}(x) \left[ 1 + \gamma x(1-x) + \rho \sqrt{x(1-x)} \right]$$

## GPD modeling: DSE Ansätze

### DGLAP GPD



### DGLAP+ERBL GPD



Continuity (but non-differentiability) along the  $x = \xi$  line, as expected in DVCS amplitudes

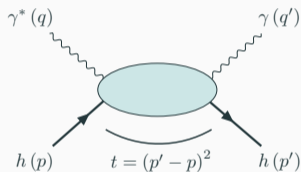
# Phenomenology of pion GPDs

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## Hadron structure

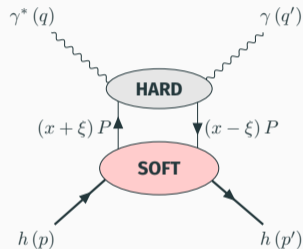
*How do quarks and gluons combine to make hadrons up?*



Generalized Bjorken limit  
 $Q^2 \rightarrow \infty$  with  $Q^2 \gg t$   
and  $\xi$  fixed.

### Factorization

[Phys.Rev.D59(1999)074009]



DVCS: 
$$\mathcal{H}(\xi, t; Q^2) = \sum_{p=q,g} \int_{-1}^1 \frac{dx}{\xi} \mathcal{K}^P \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, \frac{Q^2}{\mu_F^2}, \alpha_s(\mu_F^2) \right) H^P(x, \xi, t; \mu_F^2)$$

Hard kernel  $\mathcal{K}^P$ : perturbative information

**Generalized Parton distributions**  $H^P$ : non perturbative QCD

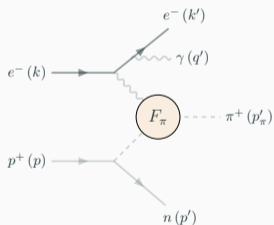
# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: Sullivan process

Sullivan process [Phys.Rev.D:5(1972)1732]

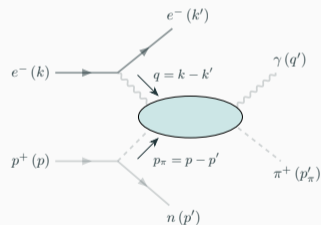
Deep inelastic electron-proton scattering with  $\pi n$  fixed final states.

One-pion-exchange approximation: [Eur.Phys.J.C:58(2008)179]

- $|t|^{Max.} = 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$
  - Factorization:  $\sigma_L^{\gamma^*} \gg \sigma_{\perp}^{\gamma^*}$
- } Met at EIC [arXiv[phys.ins-det]2103.05419]



Employed for EFFs  
[Phys.Rev.C:78(2008)045203]

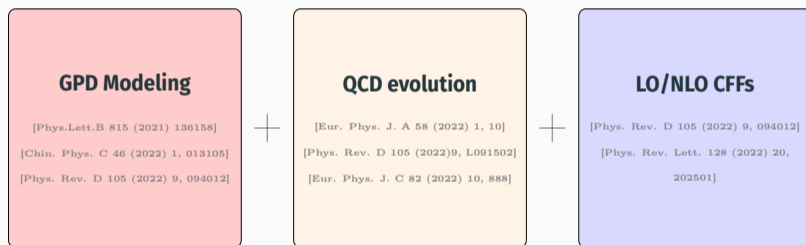


Provide access to pion GPDs



# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: The path towards DVCS

1. Start from state-of-the-art **models** for pion GPDs.
2. Leading order **scale evolution** for GPDs.
3. Convolution with coefficient functions: **CFFs**.

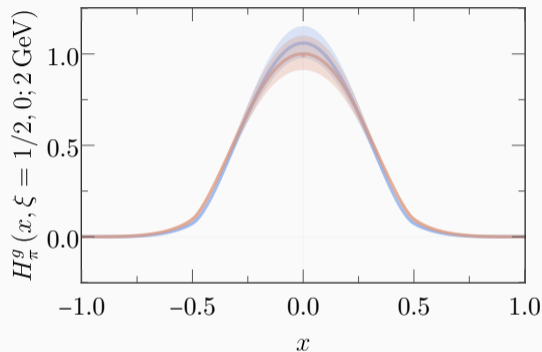
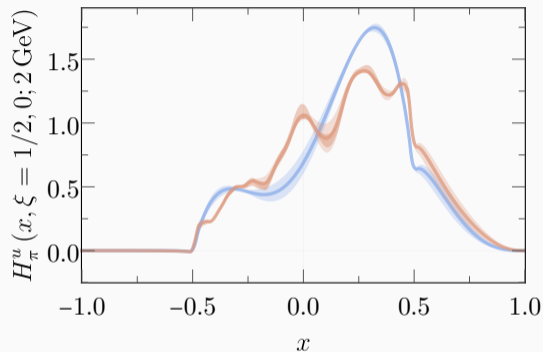


Phenomenological study of pion's structure

Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 20, 202501

# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: Scale evolution

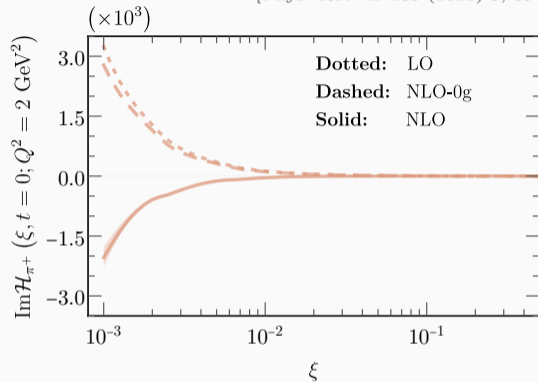
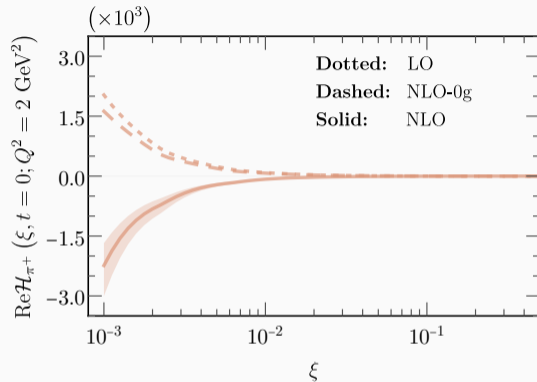
[Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094012]



- Non-zero gluon distribution generated by scale evolution.
- Uncertainty band narrowed.
- Continuity along  $x = \xi$  lines.

# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: Compton Form Factors

[Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094012]



- Small effect of NLO corrections to quark amplitudes.
- Dominant effect of gluons.

Gluon dominance makes essential at least NLO accuracy in any phenomenological analysis of DVCS at an EIC.

## Monte Carlo event generation

- Pick events compatible with detector geometry and performance: EIC and EicC.

[arXiv[phys.ins-det]2103.05419, arXiv[nucl-ex]2102.09222]

- Add kinematical cuts: [Eur.Phys.J.C:58(2008)179]

- DVCS kinematics and one pion exchange approximation:

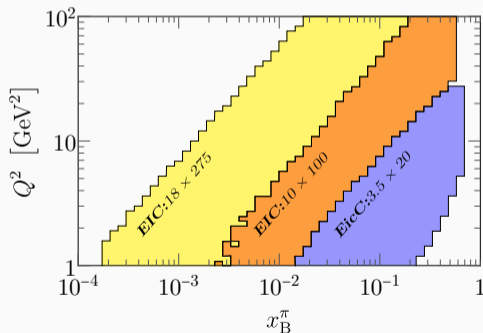
$$\star s_{\pi}^{\text{Min}} = 4 \text{ GeV}^2$$

$$\star |t_{\pi}|^{\text{Max.}} = 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$$

- Reduce contamination of resonances

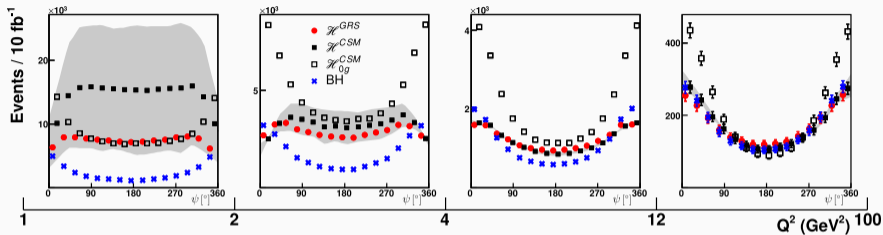
$$(\Delta): M_{n\pi}^2 \gtrsim 4 \text{ GeV}^2$$

- Integrated one-year luminosity.



# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: EIC event-rates

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 20, 202501]

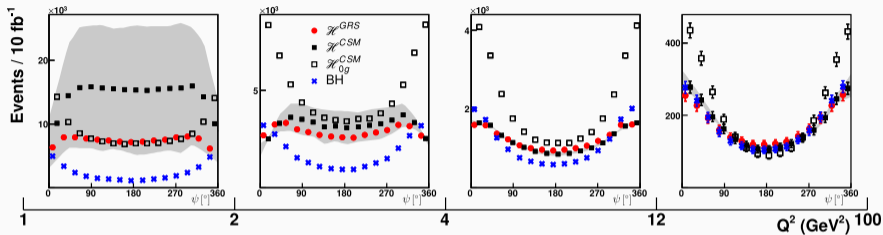


The cross-section can be written as: [Phys.Rev.D:79(2009)014017s]

$$|\mathcal{M}_{e\pi \rightarrow e\gamma\pi}|^2 = C_{\text{BH}} F_\pi^2(t_\pi) \pm \frac{F_\pi}{Q} (C_{\text{int}}(\psi) \text{Re}\mathcal{H}_\pi + \lambda S_{\text{Int}}(\psi) \text{Im}\mathcal{H}_\pi) + \frac{1}{Q^2} C_{\text{DVCS}} |\mathcal{H}_\pi|^2$$

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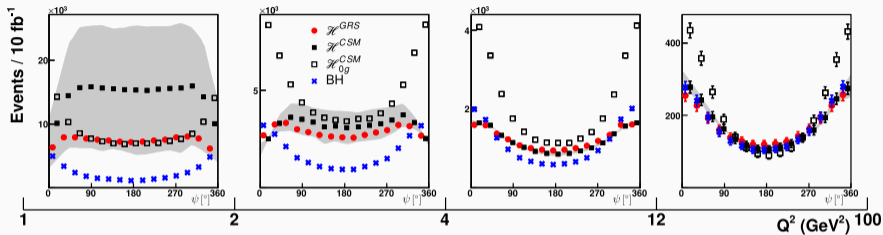
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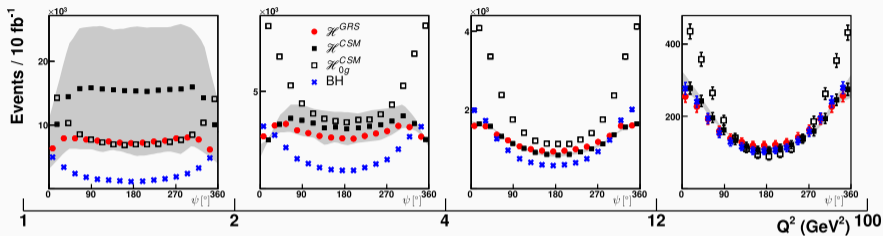
Low energy,  $Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

Intermediate energies

$$|\mathcal{H}_{\pi}|_{Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2}^2 \sim |\mathcal{H}_{\pi}^g|_{Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2}^2 > |\mathcal{H}_{\pi}^{q,\text{LO}} - \mathcal{H}_{\pi}^g|_{2 < Q^2 < 12 \text{ GeV}^2}^2 \sim |\mathcal{H}_{\pi}|_{2 < Q^2 < 12 \text{ GeV}^2}^2$$

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Low energy,  $Q^2 < 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

Intermediate energies

Quark-gluon “interference”: Modulates expected number of events



## **Summary and perspectives**

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1. *Can we obtain “theoretically complete” pion GPDs?* **YES!**

- Positivity: “Factorization hypothesis”
- Polynomiality: Covariant extension
- Support and soft-pion theorem
- Continuity along  $x = \xi$

2. *What can we learn from them about actual pions?*

- GPDs might be accessible in future experiments
- Crucial role of gluons within pions
  - Modulate expected statistics
  - Manifest themselves through beam-spin asymmetries

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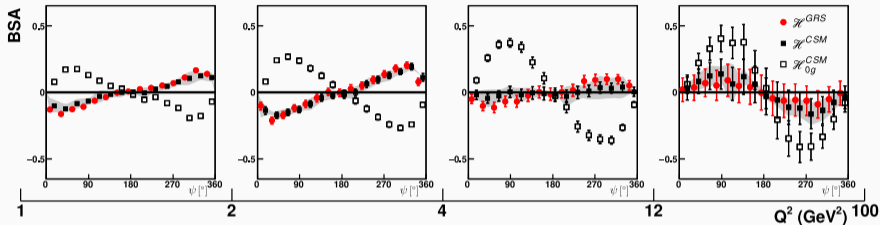
### Future work

- “Incomplete” covariant extension: Trigger Lattice efforts (**In preparation**)
- Refine evolution
- Neutral pions: Direct window to GPDs?

**Thank you!**

# Phenomenology of pion GPDs: EIC beam-spin asymmetries

[Phys. Rev. Lett. 128 (2022) 20, 202501]

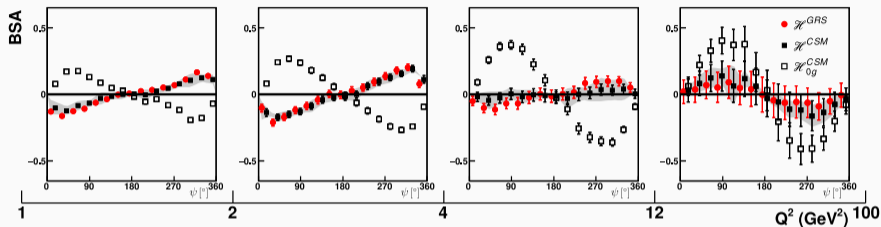


$$\mathcal{A}(\psi) = \frac{\sigma^\uparrow - \sigma^\downarrow}{\sigma^\uparrow + \sigma^\downarrow} \sim s_{\text{Int}}^1 \text{Im} \mathcal{H}_\pi \sin \psi$$

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Sign inversion: **Smoking gun** for gluon dominance

## GPD modeling: Covariant extension

$$H(x, \xi, t) = \int_{\Omega} d\beta d\alpha d\delta (x - \beta - \alpha\xi) h(\beta, \alpha, t) + \frac{1}{|\xi|} D^+ \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, t \right) + \text{sign}(\xi) D^- \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, t \right)$$

- DGLAP GPDs receive **NO** D-term contributions.
- The inverse Radon transform exists, is unique and can be evaluated.
- Soft-pion theorem tames D-term contributions to the ERBL region.

GPD properties			
Support [Diehl-PLB(1998)]	✓	Positivity [Poby.-PRD(2002), Pire-EPJC(1999)]	✓
Polynomiality [Ji-JPG(1998), Radyu.-PLB(1999)]	✓	Soft-pion [Poly.-NPB(1999), Mezr.-PLB(2015)]	✓

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**DGLAP**

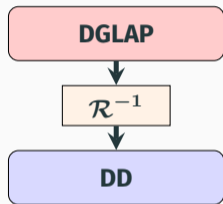
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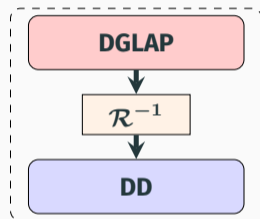


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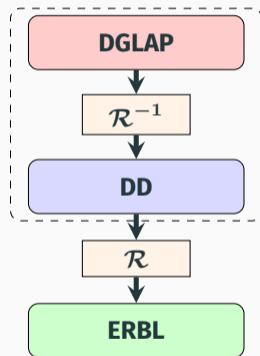


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Polynomiality [Ji-JPG(1998), Radyu.-PLB(1999)]	✓	Soft-pion [Poly.-NPB(1999), Mezz.-PLB(2015)]	✓

## GPD modeling: Covariant extension

$$H(x, \xi, t) = \int_{\Omega} d\beta d\alpha d\delta (x - \beta - \alpha\xi) h(\beta, \alpha, t) + \frac{1}{|\xi|} D^+ \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, t \right) + \text{sign}(\xi) D^- \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, t \right)$$



- DGLAP GPDs receive **NO** D-term contributions.
- The inverse Radon transform exists, is unique and can be evaluated.
- Soft-pion theorem tames D-term contributions to the ERBL region.

GPD properties				
Support [Diehl-PLB(1998)]	✓	Positivity [Poly.-PRD(2002), Pire-EPJC(1999)]	✓	
Polynomiality [Ji-JPG(1998), Radyu.-PLB(1999)]	✓	Soft-pion [Poly.-NPB(1999), Mezr.-PLB(2015)]	✓	

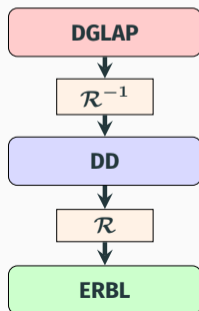
**Covariant extension:** Allows to overcome challenges of known modeling strategies.

**Input:** (part of) **DGLAP GPD**

## Covariant extension

**Covariant extension:** Given a DGLAP GPD, the covariant extension allows for computing the corresponding ERBL GPD such that polynomiality is satisfied. [Eur.Phys.J.C:77(2017)12,906]

$$H(x, \xi) = \mathcal{R}[h(\beta, \alpha)] + \frac{1}{|\xi|} D^+ \left( \frac{x}{\xi} \right) + \text{sign}(\xi) D^- \left( \frac{x}{\xi} \right)$$



1. Build positive DGLAP GPD
2. Covariant extension: ERBL GPD

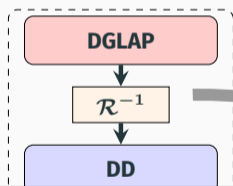
GPD properties			
Support [Diehl-PLB(1998)]	✓	Positivity [Poly.-PRD(2002), Pire-EPJC(1999)]	✓
Polynomiality [Ji-JPG(1998), Radyu.-PLB(1999)]	✓	Soft-pion [Poly.-NPB(1999), Mezz.-PLB(2015)]	✓

3. Soft pion theorem: fix  $D^\pm(\alpha, 0)$

## Covariant extension

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1. Build positive DGLAP GPD
2. Covariant extension: ERBL GPD

GPD properties			
Support [Diehl-PLB(1998)]	✓	Positivity [Pob.-PRD(2002), Pire-EPJC(1999)]	✓

$$H(x, \xi)|_{|x| \geq \xi} = \mathcal{R}[h(\beta, \alpha)] \Rightarrow h(\beta, \alpha) = \mathcal{R}^{-1}[H(x, \xi)]$$

*Can we evaluate the inverse Radon transform?*

## Covariant extension

**Question:** *Can we evaluate the inverse Radon transform?*

$$H(x, \xi)|_{|x| \geq |\xi|} = \int_{\Omega} d\beta d\alpha \delta(x - \beta - \alpha\xi) h(\beta, \alpha)$$

### Uniqueness theorem

(Boman and Todd-Quinto [D.Math.J.:943(55)1987, Eur.Phys.J.C:77(2017)12,906])

If  $H(x, \xi) = 0 \forall (x, \xi) \in [-1, 1] \otimes [-1, 1] / |x| \geq |\xi|$

Then,  $h(\beta, \alpha) = 0 \forall (\beta \neq 0, \alpha) \in \Omega$

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---

Although it exists,  $\mathcal{R}^{-1}$  is a non-continuous operator:

### **ILL-POSED PROBLEM (HADAMARD)**

Numerical solution of the inverse Radon transform

[Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094012]

# GPD modeling: Factorized LFWFs

## 1. Overlap representation [Nucl.Phys.B596(2001)33]

$$H^q(x, \xi, t)|_{|x| \geq \xi} = \int \frac{d^2 k_{\perp}}{16\pi^3} \Psi^{q*}(x_-, k_{\perp}^2, -) \Psi^q(x_+, k_{\perp}^2, +)$$

## 2. Assume factorization of the LFWF

$$\Psi^q(x, k_{\perp}^2) \propto \varphi(x) \phi(k_{\perp}^2)$$

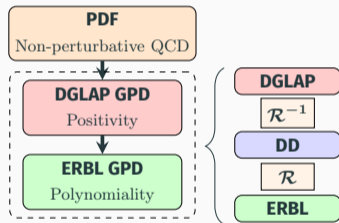
↓ (Overlap rep.)

$$H^q(x, \xi, t)|_{|x| \geq \xi} = \sqrt{q \left( \frac{x - \xi}{1 - \xi} \right) q \left( \frac{x + \xi}{1 + \xi} \right)} \Phi(x, \xi, t)$$

↓ ( $t = 0$ )

$$H^q(x, \xi, 0)|_{|x| \geq \xi} = \sqrt{q \left( \frac{x - \xi}{1 - \xi} \right) q \left( \frac{x + \xi}{1 + \xi} \right)}$$

[Phys. Rev. D 105 (2022) 9, 094012]



PDFs are the sole ingredient  
needed to build positive DGLAP  
GPD



$$H(x, \xi, t; \mu^2) = \int \frac{d\lambda}{2\pi} e^{i\lambda x} \langle p' | \mathcal{O}(-\lambda n, \lambda n) | p \rangle$$

Light-cone operator product expansion:

$$\mathcal{O}(-\lambda n, \lambda n) \xrightarrow{n^2=0} \sum_i c_i n^{2i} \mathcal{O}_i$$

Renormalization group equations for the operators  $\mathcal{O}_i$  yield scale evolution for GPDs:

[Phys.Rev.D:55(1997)7114, Eur.Phys.J.C:82(2022)10,888]

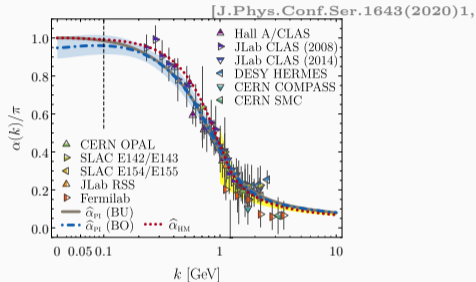
$$\frac{dH^{(\pm)}(x, \xi, t; \mu^2)}{d \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{4\pi} \int_x^\infty \frac{dy}{y} \mathcal{P}^{(\pm)}(y, \kappa, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) H^{(\pm)}\left(\frac{x}{y}, \xi, t; \mu^2\right)$$

“Splitting functions”:  $\mathcal{P}^{(\pm)}(y, \kappa; \alpha_s(\mu^2)) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{4\pi} \mathcal{P}_n^{(\pm)}(y, \kappa) ; \kappa = \frac{\xi}{x}$

# Scale evolution: Hadron scale

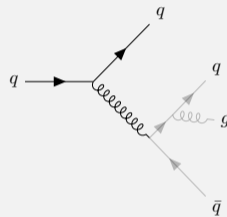
Reference scale:  $\mu_{\text{Ref.}} = 331 \text{ MeV}$

No gluons nor sea quarks



Parton splitting (DGLAP)

[Nucl.Phys.B:126(1977)298]



Renormalization group equations for GPD operators yield:

[Phys.Rev.D:55(1997)7114, Eur.Phys.J.C:82(2022)10,888]

$$\frac{dH^{(\pm)}(x, \xi, t; \mu^2)}{d \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{4\pi} \int_x^\infty \frac{dy}{y} \mathcal{P}^{(\pm)}(y, \kappa, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) H^{(\pm)}\left(\frac{x}{y}, \xi, t; \mu^2\right)$$

## Scale evolution: PDFs

