# Sum rule for the double virtual Compton scattering 

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#### Abstract

The two photon exchange amplitude is investigated in frame of analytic properties of the virtual Compton scattering amplitude as a function of the invariant mass squared of the intermediate hadronic state. A sum rule is built, based on arguments from analyticity. It relates the differential cross section of elastic electron-proton scattering including form factors, and the cross section of inelastic scattering channel, with a contribution of nucleon anti-nucleon pair production arising from the Fermi statistics. The last term is calculated in frame of a simple model of nucleon-pion interaction.


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## I. INTRODUCTION

In a previous paper of one of us [1] a sum rule relating the electrons (Dirac and Pauli) form factors with the inelastic cross sections of processes in electron-positron high energy peripheral (small angle) scattering was investigated. For $e^{+} e^{-}$peripheral scattering, in the lowest order of perturbation theory (PT), a relation between the electron Dirac form factor (as a function of transferred momentum square) and the derivative over the transferred momentum square of the cross section for the emission of real photon (soft and hard) was obtained. In the next order of QED PT these sum rules becomes more complicated. They relate the radiative corrected cross section of a single photon emission, the cross section of two real photon emission, the Dirac and Pauli form factors of electron, computed in the relevant order of PT , with that contribution to the cross section of $e^{+} e^{-}$pair production which takes into account the identity of two electrons in the final state. The calculation was given in the logarithmic approximation (Weizsäcker-Williams approximation), which corresponds to the limiting case of small values of the transferred momentum. A relation between the total cross section of inelastic processes in peripheral $e^{+} e^{-}$high energy collisions and the slope of Dirac form factor at zero momentum transfer was obtained.

In Ref. [2], analytical properties of the Compton scattering amplitude which are the basis of these relations, were used to describe the proton block of the electron-proton scattering amplitude. In this way a relation between the radius and the anomalous magnetic momentum of proton and neutron, on one side, and the total cross sections of photoproduction on the other side, was derived. The difficulties related with the possible Pomeron contribution to the description of the photoproduction cross section was overcome by building linear combinations of cross sections, which are free from Pomeron pole contribution.

Recently, the relevance of the contribution of the two photon exchange amplitude (TPE) to the differential cross section was discussed in the literature [3], in order to solve the discrepancy between new experimental data on elastic electron proton scattering [6], based on the polarization method [7], and all unpolarized data based on the Rosenbluth fit [8]. Although in a previous work devoted to this problem [5], it was shown that TPE contribution is too small (it does not exceed $2 \%$ and it is not the solution to this problem), the investigation of TPE amplitude is interesting by itself, as it can help to understand the properties of the Compton scattering amplitude in the low energy region. The motivation of this paper is to
study analytical properties of TPE amplitude. The paper is organized as follows. In Section II, a sum rule is derived in terms of the discontinuity of scattering amplitudes and of the corresponding contribution to the differential cross section as a function of the transferred momentum. Section III is devoted to the explicit calculation of the left cut contribution. The results are discussed in Conclusion. The kinematics of the two-loop Feynman integral, which enters in the calculation of the left cut, is given in the Appendix.

## II. PERIPHERAL KINEMATICS. DERIVATION OF THE SUM RULE.

Let us consider elastic electron proton scattering

$$
\begin{equation*}
e\left(p_{1}\right)+p(p) \rightarrow e\left(p_{1}^{\prime}\right)+p\left(p^{\prime}\right) \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

in peripheral kinematics:

$$
\begin{equation*}
q=p_{1}-p_{1}^{\prime}, s=2 p_{1} p \gg Q^{2}=-q^{2}, p^{2}=p^{\prime 2}=M^{2} . \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

The Born amplitude has the form:

$$
M_{B}=\frac{4 \pi \alpha}{q^{2}} \bar{u}\left(p_{1}^{\prime}\right) \gamma_{\mu} u\left(p_{1}\right) \bar{u}\left(p^{\prime}\right) \Gamma_{\nu} u(p) g^{\mu \nu},
$$

where the electromagnetic vertex of proton is

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Gamma_{\mu}(q)=\left[F_{1}\left(q^{2}\right)+\frac{\hat{q}}{2 M} F_{2}\left(q^{2}\right)\right] \gamma_{\mu} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

and $F_{1,2}$ are the Dirac and Pauli form factors of proton.
The main property of the peripheral amplitude of charged particles scattering is related to non-vanishing differential cross section in the high energy limit. This can be more explicitly seen using the Gribov's representation of the photon Green function:

$$
\begin{equation*}
g^{\mu \nu} \approx \frac{2}{s} p^{\mu} p_{1}^{\nu} \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

With such substitution we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
M_{B}=\frac{8 \pi \alpha s}{q^{2}} N_{e} N_{p}, \quad N_{e}=\frac{1}{s} \bar{u}\left(p_{1}^{\prime}\right) \hat{p} u\left(p_{1}\right) ; \quad N_{p}=\frac{1}{s} \bar{u}\left(p^{\prime}\right) \Gamma_{\nu}(q) u(p) p_{1}^{\nu} . \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

The phase volume of the final state

$$
\begin{equation*}
d \Gamma=\frac{d^{3} p_{1}^{\prime}}{2 E_{1}^{\prime}} \frac{d^{3} p^{\prime}}{2 E^{\prime}}(2 \pi)^{-2} \delta^{4}\left(p_{1}+p-p_{1}^{\prime}-p^{\prime}\right) \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

can also be simplified, in peripheral kinematics. Let us introduce an auxiliary integration over the transferred momentum as $\int d^{4} q \delta^{4}\left(p_{1}-q-p_{1}^{\prime}\right)=1$, and use the Sudakov's parameterization:

$$
\begin{equation*}
q=\alpha \tilde{p}+\beta p_{1}+q_{\perp}, \tilde{p}=p-\frac{M^{2}}{s} p_{1}, q_{\perp} p_{1}=q_{\perp} p=0, d^{4} q=\frac{s}{2} d \alpha d \beta, q^{2} \approx-\vec{q}^{2}<0 \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

Performing the integrations on the variables $\alpha, \beta$ by means of $\delta$ functions corresponding to the on mass shell conditions of the final electron and proton:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int d \alpha d^{4} p_{1}^{\prime} \delta^{4}\left(p-q-p_{1}^{\prime}\right) \delta\left((p-q)^{2}-m^{2}\right)=\frac{1}{s} \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

and a similar expression for the scattered proton, we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
d \Gamma=\frac{d^{2} q_{\perp}}{2 s} \frac{1}{(2 \pi)^{2}} \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

The differential cross section has the form (we omit the subscript ' $\perp$ ')

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d^{2} \sigma_{B}^{e p \rightarrow e p}}{d^{2} q}=\frac{4 \alpha^{2}}{\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}}\left[F_{1}^{2}\left(q^{2}\right)+\tau F_{2}^{2}\left(q^{2}\right)\right], \tau=\frac{\vec{q}^{2}}{4 M^{2}} \tag{10}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let us consider now the $s$-channel discontinuity of the forward scattering TPE amplitude, summed over the spin states, with an electron and a proton in the intermediate state. Using the Cutkovsky rules, it can be written in the form

$$
\begin{align*}
A= & \Delta_{s} \sum A(s, t=0)=\frac{(4 \pi \alpha)^{2}}{(2 \pi)^{4}} \int \frac{d^{4} q}{\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}}(2 \pi i)^{2} \delta\left(\left(p_{1}-q\right)^{2}-m^{2}\right) \delta\left((p+q)^{2}-M^{2}\right) \\
& \operatorname{Tr} \hat{p}_{1} \gamma_{\mu}\left(\hat{p_{1}}-q\right) \gamma_{\nu} \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{p}+M) \Gamma_{\mu_{1}}(q)(\hat{p}+\hat{q}+M) \Gamma_{\nu_{1}}(-q) g^{\mu \mu_{1}} g^{\gamma_{\nu} \gamma_{\nu_{1}}} . \tag{11}
\end{align*}
$$

Applying the expression (4) for the photon Green function we obtain for the differential distribution with respect to the transferred momentum:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left.\frac{d^{2} A}{d^{2} q}\right|_{\text {pole }}=\frac{32 s \alpha^{2}}{\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}}\left[F_{1}^{2}\left(q^{2}\right)+\tau F_{2}^{2}\left(q^{2}\right)\right] \tag{12}
\end{equation*}
$$

which verifies the optical theorem:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left.\frac{d^{2} A}{d^{2} q}\right|_{\text {pole }}=8 s \frac{d^{2} \sigma_{B}}{d^{2} q} . \tag{13}
\end{equation*}
$$

The cross section for inelastic scattering $e p \rightarrow e X$ can be obtained writing the matrix element in the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
M_{\text {inel }}=\frac{8 \pi \alpha s}{q^{2}} N_{e} N_{X}, N_{X}=\frac{1}{s} p_{1}^{\mu} J_{\mu}^{X}, \tag{14}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $J_{\mu}^{X}$ is the current describing the the transition from the initial proton to the state $X$ when interacting with the electromagnetic field. Applying the condition of current conservation:

$$
\begin{equation*}
q_{\mu} J_{\mu}^{X} \approx\left(\beta p_{1}+q_{\perp}\right)_{\mu} J_{\mu}^{X}=0, \tag{15}
\end{equation*}
$$

we find

$$
\begin{equation*}
N_{X}=|\vec{q}| \frac{1}{s_{2}}\left(\vec{e} \vec{J}^{X}\right), \vec{e}=\frac{\vec{q}}{|\vec{q}|}, \tag{16}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $(p+q)^{2}=M^{2}-\vec{q}^{2}+s_{2}$ is the invariant mass squared of the proton block, with $s_{2}=2 q p$ and $\vec{e}$ is the polarization vector of the virtual photon.

The quantity $\vec{e} \vec{J}^{X}$ can be expressed in terms of the photo-production cross section:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\sigma^{\gamma^{*} p \rightarrow X}\left(s_{2}\right)=\frac{\pi \alpha}{2 s_{2}} \int\left|\left(\vec{J}^{X} \vec{e}\right)\right|^{2} d \Gamma_{X}, \tag{17}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $d \Gamma_{X}$ is the phase volume of the created set of particles $X$. The final expression is:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d^{2} \sigma^{e p \rightarrow e X}}{d^{2} q}=\frac{2 \alpha \vec{q}^{2}}{\pi^{2}\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}} \int_{s_{t h}}^{s} \frac{d s_{2}}{s_{2}} \sigma^{\gamma^{*} p \rightarrow X}\left(s_{2}, \vec{q}\right) \tag{18}
\end{equation*}
$$

The relevant discontinuity of the forward scattering amplitude can be expressed in terms of the cross section using the optical theorem (13).

Along the world line, the proton firstly absorbs the virtual photon emitted by electron (with positive energy) and subsequently, it emits the virtual photon. The photon absorption precedes the emission of the final state photon.

Therefore the total Compton scattering amplitude A, can be written as the sum of an advanced $\mathcal{A}_{\text {adv }}$ and a retarded $\mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}$ amplitude:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathcal{A}=\mathcal{A}_{r e t}+\mathcal{A}_{a d v} . \tag{19}
\end{equation*}
$$

Our approach consists in considering only the retarded part $\mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}$. This amplitude has all the singularities in the region of where the invariant variable $s_{2}$ is positive: the pole, situated at $s_{2}=\vec{q}^{2}$, which corresponds to a single proton intermediate state; and a sequence of cuts. The first of them is located at $s_{2}=\vec{q}^{2}+2 M m_{\pi}$, and corresponds to a $N \pi$ state. Further cuts, corresponding to more complicate sets of particles, are located at higher values of $s_{2}$. More accurate considerations require to take into account the state corresponding to a proton
with a nucleon-antinucleon pair. The relevant threshold starts at $s_{2}=-\left(\vec{q}^{2}+8 M^{2}\right)$. In particular, the contribution to the total cross section which takes into account the identity of two nucleons in the final state is not described by the retarded part of Compton amplitude.

The retarded amplitude has also a left cut, corresponding to a $p p \bar{p}$ state in the crossed (u) channel.

The advanced part of the Compton amplitude has the same kind of singularities, with the replacement $s_{2}$ by $u_{2}=-2 p q$. The discontinuities of both parts of the Compton amplitude obey the current conservation condition. This last statement follows from the fact that the relevant contributions can be measured in an experiment. The retarded forward Compton scattering amplitude summed over the spin states of the electron and the proton can be written in the form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d^{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}}{d^{2} q}=\frac{2^{6} \pi^{2} \alpha^{2} s}{\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}} g^{6} \int_{C} \frac{d s_{2}}{2 \pi i} T, \tag{20}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $g$ is the $\pi$ nucleon coupling constant, $g=13.6 \pm 0.3[11] . T$ is proportional to the light-cone projection of the forward Compton scattering tensor

$$
\begin{equation*}
T=\frac{1}{4 s^{2}} \sum_{\lambda} \bar{u}^{\lambda}(p) O^{\mu \nu} u^{\lambda}(p) p_{1 \mu} p_{1 \nu} \tag{21}
\end{equation*}
$$

The contour of integration in the $s_{2}$ plane is located along the real axes in the physical regions of the $s_{2}$ and $u_{2}$ channels (see Fig. 1a):

$$
\begin{equation*}
-\infty-i 0<s_{2}<+i 0+\infty . \tag{22}
\end{equation*}
$$

The sum rule appears from the equality of the expression for $\mathcal{A}$ with the contour closed to the singularities of the positive part of the $s_{2}$ real axis and to the singularity of the real axes of $s_{2}$ plane with negative values of $s_{2}$ (see Fig. 1b):

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{d^{2} \Delta_{u} \mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}}{d^{2} q}=\left.\frac{d^{2} \mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}}{d^{2} q}\right|_{\text {pole }}+\frac{d^{2} \Delta_{s} \mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}}{d^{2} q} \tag{23}
\end{equation*}
$$

The contribution of the so called "large half circles" tends to zero when the radii of the large circle tends to infinity. This statement holds due to the gauge invariance property of the discontinuities of the light-cone projection of the Compton scattering amplitude. With the help of Eq. (15) one can write:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{1}{s^{2}} \bar{u}(p) O_{\mu \nu} u(p) p_{1}^{\mu} p_{1}^{\nu}=\frac{1}{s_{2}^{2}} \bar{u}(p) O_{\mu \nu} u(p) q_{\perp}^{\mu} q_{\perp}^{\nu} . \tag{24}
\end{equation*}
$$



FIG. 1: Illustration of singularities along the $s_{2}$ real axis with the open contour C (a), and with the contour C closed (b). LC stays for large circle contribution.

## III. CALCULATION OF THE LEFT CUT CONTRIBUTION

The Feynman diagram which corresponds to the left cut contribution is drawn in Fig. 2 , where the empty circles denote the amplitudes of sub-processes $p+\gamma^{*} \rightarrow p+\pi_{0}$ and $p+\pi_{0} \rightarrow p+\gamma$ and the crossed lines represent the on mass shell protons and the antiproton. One can be convinced that only this type of amplitudes with two protons and an antiproton (all particles are on mass shell) corresponds to the nearest left cut, if we neglect possible exotic states. The intermediate states with $\pi$-mesons give the main numerical contribution. States involving heavier scalar or pseudo scalar particles as well as vector mesons are suppressed at least by a factor equal to the square of the ratio of their masses. This follows from the convergence of loop momentum integrals in the region where their values are much lower than the rest energy of the proton. The left cut contribution does not suffer from infrared as well as ultraviolet divergences, and obeys the gauge invariance conditions applied to both exchanged photons.

Sudakov's form of the momenta of the intermediate mesons reads as $k_{i}=\alpha_{i} \tilde{p}+\beta_{i} p_{1}+$ $k_{i \perp}$. We perform the $\beta_{1,2}$ integrations as well as the $s_{2}$ integration using the on mass shell


FIG. 2: Diagram for the amplitude for Compton scattering.
conditions of the two protons and the anti-proton:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \int d s_{2} d^{4} k_{1} d^{4} k_{2} \delta\left(\left(p-k_{1}\right)^{2}-M^{2}\right) \delta\left(\left(p-k_{2}\right)^{2}-M^{2}\right) \delta\left(\left(p+q-k_{1}-k_{2}\right)^{2}-M^{2}\right) \\
& =\frac{1}{4} \int \frac{d \alpha_{1} \theta\left(c_{1}\right)}{c_{1}} \frac{d \alpha_{2} \theta\left(c_{2}\right)}{c_{2}} \frac{\theta(-c)}{|c|} d^{2} \vec{k}_{1} d^{2} \vec{k}_{2}=\pi^{2} \int d \Gamma, \\
c_{1} & =1-\alpha_{1} ; c_{2}=1-\alpha_{2} ; c=1-\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2} . \tag{25}
\end{align*}
$$

We obtain for the $u$ channel discontinuity of the forward scattering amplitude summed on spin states:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left(\frac{d^{2} \Delta \mathcal{A}_{\text {ret }}}{d^{2} q}\right)_{\text {left }}=s \frac{\alpha^{2} g^{4}}{\pi^{4}\left(q^{2}\right)^{2}} \Phi(\vec{q}), \text { with } \Phi(\vec{q})=\int d \Gamma \frac{T}{\left(k_{1}^{2}-m^{2}\right)\left(k_{2}^{2}-m^{2}\right)}, \tag{26}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $m$ is the pion mass; the quantity $T$ has the form :

$$
\begin{align*}
T= & \frac{1}{4 s^{2}} \operatorname{Tr}(\hat{p}+M)\left(\hat{p}-\hat{k}_{2}-M\right)\left[A_{11} s+A_{12} \hat{p}_{1} \hat{q}\right]\left(\hat{p}+\hat{q}-\hat{k}_{1}-\hat{k}_{2}+M\right) \\
& {\left[A_{21} s+A_{22} \hat{q} \hat{p}_{1}\right]\left(\hat{p}-\hat{k}_{1}-M\right) . } \tag{27}
\end{align*}
$$

The details are given in the Appendix. Using the expressions given in Appendix one can be convinced that the quantities in the square brackets in the expression for $T$, Eq. (27), which are the light-cone projections of the amplitudes for the subprocesses $p+\gamma^{*} \rightarrow p+\pi_{0}$ and $p+\pi_{0} \rightarrow p+\gamma$ vanish in the limit $\vec{q} \rightarrow 0$. This property is a consequence of gauge invariance.

The behavior of the function $\Phi(\vec{q})$ (Eq. 26) averaged over the azimuthal angle $\varphi_{q}: \bar{\Phi}(z)=$ $\int d \varphi_{q} /(2 \pi) \Phi(\vec{q})$, with $z=\vec{q}^{2} / M^{2}$ and $d^{2} q=\left(d \vec{q}^{2} d \varphi_{q}\right) / 2$ is presented in Fig. 4.

## IV. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

We note that the quantity $T$, Eq. (27), is dimensionless. Keeping in mind its gauge properties we conclude that $T \sim|\vec{q}|^{2} / M^{2}$. This property provide the ultra-violet convergence when integrating on $k_{1,2}$. Moreover its characteristic value is much lower than the proton mass, which follows from the analysis of denominators $D_{i}$, Eq. (38).

For the case of large angles scattering the suppression factor of the left cut contribution is $\vec{q}^{2} / s \ll 1$. So it can be interpreted as higher twists contributions. Therefore it can be neglected when considering the interference of Born and Box type Feynman amplitudes for TPE in large angles electron (positron) scattering on a proton [9]. The sum rule obtained above can be formulated in terms of cross sections. It has the form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{g^{4}}{8 \pi^{4}} \bar{\Phi}\left(\frac{\vec{q}^{2}}{M^{2}}\right)=-4\left[F_{1}^{2}\left(\vec{q}^{2}\right)+\frac{\vec{q}^{2}}{4 M^{2}} F_{2}^{2}\left(\vec{q}^{2}\right)\right]+\left(\vec{q}^{2}\right)^{2} \frac{d \sigma^{e p \rightarrow e X}}{d \vec{q}^{2}} . \tag{28}
\end{equation*}
$$

In Fig. 3 the prediction for the cross section of $e p \rightarrow e X$ assuming dipole form-factor behavior is shown.

Calculating the derivative of both sides on $\vec{q}^{2}$ at $\vec{q}^{2}=0$ and using the expressions for the charge radii and the anomalous magnetic moment of proton in terms of its form factors

$$
\begin{equation*}
\left.F_{1}^{\prime}(0)=\frac{1}{6}<r_{p}^{2}\right\rangle, F_{2}(0)=\mu, \tag{29}
\end{equation*}
$$

we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{g^{4}}{8 \pi^{4}} \bar{\Phi}^{\prime}(0)=-4\left[\frac{1}{3}<r_{p}^{2}>+\frac{\mu^{2}}{4 M^{2}}\right]+\frac{2}{\pi^{2} \alpha} \int_{s_{t h}}^{s} \frac{d s_{2}}{s_{2}} \sigma_{t o t}^{\gamma p \rightarrow X}\left(s_{2}\right) . \tag{30}
\end{equation*}
$$

For the case of moderately high energies the upper limit, $s$, of the integration over $s_{2}$ can be replaced by $\infty$, due to the absence of Pomeron contribution to the photo-production cross section $\sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow X}$.

Using the known values [12] of $\sqrt{\left\langle r_{p}^{2}\right\rangle}=4.35 / M, \mu=1.79$ and substituting the value of the derivative $M^{2} \bar{\Phi}^{\prime}(0)=-2.9 * 10^{-3}$ (see details in Appendix), we obtain for the weighted integral of cross section of photoproduction for the case of moderate high energies:

$$
\begin{equation*}
\int_{s_{t h}=0.28 G e V^{2}}^{s=8 G e V^{2}} \frac{d s}{s} \sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow X}(s)=\frac{0.9}{M^{2}} \tag{31}
\end{equation*}
$$

We imply that the total photoproduction cross section $\sigma^{\gamma p \rightarrow X}(s)$ is a decreasing function of $s$. Due to this reason we use the results on the total cross section for Ref. [12] in a


FIG. 3: Prediction for $\frac{d \sigma^{e p \rightarrow e X}}{d \vec{q}^{2}}$ in $\mathrm{GeV}^{-2}$ (see Eq. (28)).
restricted region of $s\left(s<8 \mathrm{GeV}^{2}\right)$, as data on the separate contribution of definite channels are absent. For numerical estimation of (30) we obtain:

$$
\begin{equation*}
-0.13 \frac{1}{M^{2}} \approx-26.0 \frac{1}{M^{2}}+25.0 \frac{1}{M^{2}}, \tag{32}
\end{equation*}
$$

which is in reasonable agreement with the sum rules statement. For the case of ultra high energies the Pomeron contribution becomes essential. Nevertheless taking into account the universal character of its interaction with hadrons, a sum rule can still be derived through a linear combination involving proton and neutron, built in such a way to eliminate Pomeron contribution [2].

The region of validity of our formulas is determined by peripheral kinematics

$$
\begin{equation*}
\frac{Q^{2}}{s} \ll 1, Q^{2} \sim M^{2} . \tag{33}
\end{equation*}
$$



FIG. 4: Behavior of the function $\bar{\Phi}(z)$ (see Eq. (26)).

The accuracy of the formulas given above is determined by the omitted terms

$$
\begin{equation*}
1+O\left(\frac{M^{2}}{s}, \frac{Q^{2}}{s}\right) \tag{34}
\end{equation*}
$$

Furthermore, we do not consider the pure QED radiative corrections, as their contribution does not exceed a few percents.

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## VI. APPENDIX

Solving the on-mass shell condition for the protons, in frame of the Sudakov parameterization, we can express all the kinematic invariants of the problem in terms of euclidean two-vectors and energy fractions $\alpha_{1,2}$ :

$$
\begin{equation*}
s \beta_{1}=-\frac{\vec{k}_{1}^{2}+\alpha_{1} M^{2}}{1-\alpha_{1}} ; k_{1}^{2}=-\frac{\vec{k}_{1}^{2}+M^{2} \alpha_{1}^{2}}{1-\alpha_{1}} ; s \beta_{2}=-\frac{\vec{k}_{2}^{2}+\alpha_{2} M^{2}}{1-\alpha_{2}} ; k_{2}^{2}=-\frac{\vec{k}_{2}^{2}+M^{2} \alpha_{2}^{2}}{1-\alpha_{2}}, \tag{35}
\end{equation*}
$$

with $c, c_{1,2}$ defined in Eq. (25). From the on mass shell condition for the anti-proton we obtain

$$
\begin{equation*}
s_{2}=\frac{d_{q}}{c c_{1} c_{2}}, d_{q}=M^{2} \alpha_{1} \alpha_{2}\left(2-\alpha_{1}-\alpha_{2}\right)+c_{1} c_{2}\left[\vec{q}^{2}-2 \vec{q}\left(\vec{k}_{1}+\vec{k}_{2}\right)+2 \vec{k}_{1} \vec{k}_{2}\right]+\alpha_{1} c_{1} \vec{k}_{2}^{2}+\alpha_{2} c_{2} \vec{k}_{1}^{2} . \tag{36}
\end{equation*}
$$

Keeping in mind that the region of the main contribution corresponds to small $\left|\vec{k}_{1,2}\right|$ and $\alpha_{1} \approx \alpha_{2} \approx(-c) \approx 2 / 3$, one sees that $s_{2}<-8 M^{2}$. Applying the on-mass-shell condition, the light-cone projection of the amplitude of the subprocess $\gamma^{*}(q)+p\left(p_{1}-k_{1}\right) \rightarrow \pi^{0}\left(k_{2}\right)+$ $p\left(p+q-k_{1}-k_{2}\right)$ can be written in the form:

$$
\begin{align*}
& \bar{u}\left(p+q-k_{1}-k_{2}\right)\left[\gamma_{5} \frac{\hat{p}+\hat{q}-\hat{k}_{1}+M}{D_{2}} p_{1}+p_{1} \frac{\hat{p}-\hat{k}_{1}-\hat{k}_{2}+M}{D} \gamma_{5}\right] u\left(p-k_{1}\right) \\
& \approx \bar{u}\left(p+q-k_{1}-k_{2}\right)\left[s \gamma_{5}\left(\frac{c_{1}}{D_{2}}+\frac{c}{D}\right)+\gamma_{5} \hat{q} \hat{p}_{1}\left(\frac{1}{D_{2}}+\frac{1}{D}\right)\right] u\left(p-k_{1}\right) . \tag{37}
\end{align*}
$$

The expressions for $D_{i}$ are

$$
\begin{align*}
D_{1} & =\left(p+q-k_{2}\right)^{2}-M^{2}=\frac{d_{q}}{c_{1} c}, D_{2}=\left(p+q-k_{1}\right)^{2}-M^{2}=\frac{d_{q}}{c_{2} c} ; \\
D & =\left(p-k_{2}-k_{1}\right)^{2}-M^{2}=-\frac{d}{c_{2} c_{1}}, 2 k_{1} k_{2}=D ; \\
d & =M^{2} \alpha_{1} \alpha_{2}(1+c)+2 c_{2} c_{1} \vec{k}_{1} \vec{k}_{2}+\alpha_{1} c_{1} \vec{k}_{2}^{2}+\alpha_{2} c_{2} \vec{k}_{1}^{2} . \tag{38}
\end{align*}
$$

Writing the quantity $T$ as

$$
\begin{equation*}
T=A_{11} A_{21} C_{1121}+A_{11} A_{22} C_{1122}+A_{12} A_{21} C_{1221}+A_{12} A_{22} C_{1122}, \tag{39}
\end{equation*}
$$

we find

$$
\begin{equation*}
A_{11}=A_{21}=c c_{1} c_{2}\left[\frac{1}{d_{q}}-\frac{1}{d}\right] ; A_{12}=c_{1}\left[\frac{c}{d_{q}}-\frac{c_{2}}{d}\right] ; A_{22}=c_{2}\left[\frac{c}{d_{q}}-\frac{c_{1}}{d}\right] . \tag{40}
\end{equation*}
$$

The coefficients have the form:

$$
\begin{align*}
C_{1222} & =\frac{c \vec{q}^{2}}{4} d_{0} ; C_{1121}=\frac{1}{2}\left[\left(\vec{q} \vec{k}_{1}\right)\left(\vec{q} \vec{k}_{2}\right)-\left(k_{1}^{2}+\vec{q} \vec{k}_{1}\right)\left(k_{2}^{2}+\vec{q} \vec{k}_{2}\right)+\frac{s_{2}}{2} d_{0}\right] \\
C_{1221} & =\frac{1}{2} k_{2}^{2}\left[\alpha_{1} \vec{q} \vec{k}_{2}+c_{2} \vec{q} \vec{k}_{1}-\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{1} \vec{q}^{2}\right]-\vec{q} \vec{k}_{2} k_{1} k_{2}-\frac{1}{4} \alpha_{2} \vec{q}^{2} k_{1}^{2} ; \\
C_{1122} & =\frac{1}{2} k_{1}^{2}\left[\alpha_{2} \vec{q} \vec{k}_{1}+c_{1} \vec{q} \vec{k}_{2}-\frac{1}{2} \alpha_{2} \vec{q}^{2}\right]-\vec{q} \vec{k}_{1} k_{1} k_{2}-\frac{1}{4} \alpha_{1} \vec{q}^{2} k_{2}^{2}, \\
d_{0} & =d_{0}=k_{1}^{2} \alpha_{2}+k_{2}^{2} \alpha_{1}-2 k_{1} k_{2} . \tag{41}
\end{align*}
$$

The calculation of the derivative of $\Phi\left(\vec{q}^{2}\right)$ at $\vec{q}^{2}=0$ gives:

$$
\begin{equation*}
M^{2} \Phi^{\prime}(0)=M^{2} \int \frac{d^{2} k_{1}}{2 \pi} \frac{d^{2} k_{2}}{2 \pi} \frac{1}{\Lambda_{1}+m^{2} c_{1}} \frac{1}{\Lambda_{2}+m^{2} c_{2}} \int_{0}^{1} d \alpha_{1} \int_{c_{1}}^{1} d \alpha_{2} \frac{1}{2 d^{2}}\left[A_{1}+A_{2}+A_{3}+A_{4}\right] \tag{42}
\end{equation*}
$$

with

$$
\begin{align*}
& A_{1}=\frac{c_{1}^{2} c_{2}^{2}}{d^{2}}\left(\vec{k}_{1}+\vec{k}_{2}\right)^{2}\left[-2 c_{1} c_{2} c \Lambda_{1} \Lambda_{2}+d^{2}-d\left(\alpha_{1} c_{1} \Lambda_{2}+\alpha_{2} c_{2} \Lambda_{1}\right)\right] ; \\
& A_{2}=-2 \alpha_{1} \alpha_{2}\left[\alpha_{1} c_{1} \Lambda_{2}+\alpha_{2} c_{2} \lambda_{1}-d\right] ; \\
& A_{3}=\frac{c_{1} c_{2}^{2}}{d}\left(\vec{k}_{1}+\vec{k}_{2}\right)\left[c_{2} \Lambda_{1}\left(\alpha_{2} \vec{k}_{1}+c_{1} \vec{k}_{2}\right)-d \vec{k}_{1}\right] ; \\
& A_{4}=\frac{c_{1}^{2} c_{2}}{d}\left(\vec{k}_{1}+\vec{k}_{2}\right)\left[c_{1} \Lambda_{2}\left(\alpha_{1} \vec{k}_{2}+c_{2} \vec{k}_{1}\right)-d \vec{k}_{2}\right] ; \\
& \Lambda_{1}=\vec{k}_{1}^{2}+M^{2} \alpha_{1}^{2}+m^{2} c_{1} ; \Lambda_{2}=\vec{k}_{2}^{2}+M^{2} \alpha_{2}^{2}+m^{2} c_{2} . \tag{43}
\end{align*}
$$

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