

**THE CONTROVERSY CONCERNING THE
DEFINITION OF QUARK AND GLUON
ANGULAR MOMENTUM:**

**WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT AND DOES IT
MATTER?**

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<http://www.int.washington.edu/PROGRAMS/12-49w/>

Meant to resolve controversy. Has opened up
Pandora's box!

Important question: how are the momentum and angular momentum of a nucleon built up from the momenta and angular momenta of its constituents?

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- Ji vs Chen *et al* vs Wakamatsu vs Hatta vs Canonical
- New controversy about angular momentum sum rules

OUTLINE

- Pedagogical: Canonical and Belinfante angular momentum
- The new schemes and the claim that all textbooks on QED have been wrong for past 50 years
- Physical content of the new schemes
- Interpretation of $\Delta G(x)$

Actually two kinds of problem:

- Any interacting particles
- Specific to gauge theories

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Since controversy arose in QCD, will first discuss gauge aspect

Since problem already arises in QED, will illustrate via QED

Theory invariant under space-time and Lorentz transformations

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Conserved energy-momentum tensor $t^{\mu\nu}$ $\partial_\mu t^{\mu\nu} = 0$

Conserved angular momentum tensor

$$\mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu\lambda} \quad \partial_\mu \mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu\lambda} = 0$$

Theory invariant under space-time and Lorentz transformations

From Lagrangian via Noether's theorem, derive:

Conserved energy-momentum density

$$t^{\mu\nu} \quad \partial_\mu t^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

Conserved angular momentum density

$$\mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu\lambda} \quad \partial_\mu \mathcal{M}^{\mu\nu\lambda} = 0$$

Call these **CANONICAL**: $t_{can}^{\mu\nu}$ and $\mathcal{M}_{can}^{\mu\nu\lambda}$

Total 4-momentum: $P_{can}^\mu = \int d^3x t_{can}^{0\mu}(x)$

Total angular momentum: $M_{can}^{ij} \equiv \int d^3x \mathcal{M}_{can}^{0ij}(x)$

$$J_{can}^k = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{kij} M_{can}^{ij}$$

THESE ARE GENERATORS OF SPACE-TIME AND LORENTZ TRANSFORMATIONS

For any set of fields $\phi_r(x)$:

$$i [P_{can}^\mu, \phi_r(x)] = \partial^\mu \phi_r(x)$$

$$i [M_{can}^{ij}, \phi_r(x)] = (x^i \partial^j - x^j \partial^i) \phi_r(x) + (\Sigma^{ij})_r^s \phi_s(x)$$

Pros and Cons of

Jcan

Similar issues in QED and QCD: mainly discuss QED
for simplicity.

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{J}_{can} &= \int d^3x \psi^\dagger \boldsymbol{\gamma} \gamma_5 \psi + \int d^3x \psi^\dagger [\mathbf{x} \times (-i\nabla)] \psi \\
&+ \int d^3x (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A}) + \int d^3x E^i [\mathbf{x} \times \nabla A^i] \\
&= \mathbf{S}_{can}(el) + \mathbf{L}_{can}(el) + \mathbf{S}_{can}(\gamma) + \mathbf{L}_{can}(\gamma)
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Pros:

- \mathbf{J} Looks like sum of free electron plus free photon terms
- Total energy looks like electron energy plus photon energy plus H_{int}
- Photon angular momentum is split into SPIN and ORBITAL parts: similar in QCD.....gluon spin!

Cons:

- **ONLY electron spin term** is Gauge Invariant
- All Textbooks on QED say:

The angular momentum of the photon cannot be split in a gauge invariant way into a spin part and an orbital part

Does it matter if the individual terms are NOT gauge invariant??

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Ji: Yes: If experimentally measurable, the operators should be gauge invariant.

E.L: No: What you measure are matrix elements. The physical matrix elements must be gauge invariant.

An example: Non-gauge invariance of the QED momentum operator

Theorem : Theory invariant under local c-number gauge transformations.

$$A^\mu(x) \rightarrow A^\mu(x) + \partial^\mu \Lambda(x)$$

where $\Lambda(x)$ is a c-number field satisfying $\square \Lambda(x) = 0$ and vanishing at infinity.

P^μ the *total* momentum operator, defined as the generator of space-time translations.

Then P^μ cannot be a gauge invariant operator.

Proof: Let F be the generator of gauge transformations, so that

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$$[F, [P^\mu, A^\nu]] + [A^\nu, [F, P^\mu]] + [P^\mu, [A^\nu, F]] = 0$$

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Since $[A^\nu, F]$ is a c-number, one finds

$$[[F, P^\mu], A^\nu] \neq 0$$

so that P^μ is not gauge invariant.

However, lack of gauge invariance of no physical significance.

Example, covariantly quantized QED: generator of translations is P_{can} : show that the matrix element of P_{can}^j between any normalizable physical states, unaffected by gauge changes in the operator.

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Lautrup-Nakanishi Lagrangian density: combination of the Classical Lagrangian ($Clas$) and a Gauge Fixing part (Gf)

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{Clas} + \mathcal{L}_{Gf}$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Clas} = -\frac{1}{4}F_{\mu\nu}F^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}[\bar{\psi}(i \not{\partial} - m + e \not{A})\psi + \text{h.c.}]$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Gf} = B(x) \partial_\mu A^\mu(x) + \frac{a}{2}B^2(x)$$

$B(x)$: gauge-fixing field.

$$\text{Generator } F = \int d^3x [(\partial_0 B)\Lambda - B\partial_0\Lambda + \partial_j(F^{0j}\Lambda)].$$

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$$B^{(+)}(x)|\Psi\rangle = 0$$

For arbitrary physical states

$$\langle\Psi'|B(x)|\Psi\rangle = 0$$

Theorem: Physical matrix elements of P^j are invariant under gauge transformations.

Proof: Consider the general physical matrix element

$$\langle \Psi' | P^j | \Psi \rangle = \int d^3\mathbf{p} d^3\mathbf{p}' \phi(\mathbf{p}) \phi'(\mathbf{p}') \langle \mathbf{p}' | P^j | \mathbf{p} \rangle$$

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Change induced in $\langle \mathbf{p}' | P^j | \mathbf{p} \rangle$ is $\langle \mathbf{p}' | i[F, P^j] | \mathbf{p} \rangle$.

Using expression for F can show $\langle \Psi' | P^j | \Psi \rangle$ is indeed invariant under gauge transformations.

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We don't know how to do **operator** gauge transformations.

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Maybe Path Integral is only way.

The Belinfante energy-momentum and angular momentum densities

Suppose we add a **spatial divergence**, say $\frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} H^{j\mu}(x)$ to $t_{can}^{0\mu}(x)$ where

$$\lim_{|\mathbf{x}| \rightarrow \infty} H^{j\mu}(x) = 0.$$

Then

$$\int_{all\ space} d^3x \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} H^{j\mu}(x) = H^{j\mu}(t, |\mathbf{x}| = \infty) = 0$$

Can define the Belinfante energy-momentum density which :

- is symmetric: $t_{bel}^{\nu\mu}(x) = t_{bel}^{\mu\nu}(x)$
- is gauge invariant
- $t_{bel}^{0\mu}(x) = t_{can}^{0\mu}(x) + \text{spatial divergence}$

It follows that

$$P_{bel}^{\mu} \equiv \int d^3x t_{bel}^{0\mu}(x) = P_{can}^{\mu}$$

IF the fields vanish at infinity.

Similarly for Belinfante angular momentum density;

$$\mathcal{M}_{bel}^{0ij}(x) = \mathcal{M}_{can}^{0ij}(x) + \text{spatial divergence}$$

so that

$$\mathbf{J}_{bel} = \mathbf{J}_{can}$$

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Come back to this presently.

What does \mathbf{J}_{bel} look like ?

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{J}_{bel} &= \int d^3x \psi^\dagger \boldsymbol{\gamma} \gamma_5 \psi + \int d^3x \psi^\dagger [\mathbf{x} \times (-i\mathbf{D})] \psi \\ &+ \int d^3x \mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) \\ &= \mathbf{S}_{bel}(el) + \mathbf{L}_{bel}(el) + \mathbf{J}_{bel}(\boldsymbol{\gamma})\end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{D} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} - ie\mathbf{A}.$$

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where

$$\mathbf{D} = \boldsymbol{\nabla} - ie\mathbf{A}.$$

Pros: Each term is gauge invariant

Cons: $\mathbf{J}_{bel}(\gamma)$ **NOT** split into spin and orbital parts.

There are several delicate questions involved in the above, even at classical level.

1) Classical: a circularly polarized light beam

Applying the above to a free classical electromagnetic field, one gets

$$\mathbf{J}_{can} = \underbrace{\int d^3x (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A})}_{\text{spin term}} + \underbrace{\int d^3x E^i (\mathbf{x} \times \nabla A^i)}_{\text{orbital term}}$$

and

$$\mathbf{J}_{bel} = \int d^3x [\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B})]$$

Consider a left-circularly polarized (= positive helicity) beam propagating along OZ i.e. along $e_{(z)}$:

$$A^\mu = \left(0, \frac{E_0}{\omega} \cos(kz - \omega t), \frac{E_0}{\omega} \sin(kz - \omega t), 0 \right)$$

gives correct \mathbf{E} and \mathbf{B} .

\mathbf{E} , \mathbf{B} and \mathbf{A} all rotate in the XY plane.

Now consider the component of \mathbf{J} along OZ .

Note that

$$\nabla A_{x,y} \propto \mathbf{e}_{(z)} \quad \text{so that} \quad (\mathbf{x} \times \nabla A_{x,y})_z = 0$$

so only the spin term contributes to $J_{can,z}$.

Find

$$J_{can,z} \text{ per unit volume} = \frac{E_0^2}{\omega}$$

For one photon per unit volume $E_0^2 = \hbar\omega$ so that

$$J_{can,z} \text{ per photon} = \hbar \quad \checkmark$$

×

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For Belinfante case

$$(\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B}) \propto \mathbf{e}_z$$

so that

$$J_{bel,z} = \int d^3x [\mathbf{x} \times (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{B})]_z = 0 \quad \times$$

2) Quantum: what does it mean to say an operator vanishes at infinity?

Usually we are interested in expectation values of these operators i.e their forward matrix elements. For these it may be possible to justify neglecting the contribution at infinity.

2.1) Spatial divergence of a local operator

A **local** operator $O(x)$ is defined at one space-time point and must satisfy the law of translation i.e.

$$e^{ia \cdot P} O(x) e^{-ia \cdot P} = O(x + a)$$

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For the spatial divergence of a local operator we have

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \mathbf{p}' | \partial_j O(x) | \mathbf{p} \rangle &= \frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} \langle \mathbf{p}' | O(x) | \mathbf{p} \rangle \\ &= \left[\frac{\partial}{\partial x^j} e^{-i\mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}')} \right] \langle \mathbf{p}' | O(0) | \mathbf{p} \rangle \\ &= i(p'^j - p^j) \langle \mathbf{p}' | O(0) | \mathbf{p} \rangle e^{-i\mathbf{x} \cdot (\mathbf{p} - \mathbf{p}')} \end{aligned}$$

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Therefore as $\mathbf{p}' \rightarrow \mathbf{p}$

$$\langle \mathbf{p} | \partial_j O(x) | \mathbf{p} \rangle = 0 \quad \text{if} \quad \langle \mathbf{p} | O(0) | \mathbf{p} \rangle \quad \text{is non-singular}$$

2.2) Spatial divergence of a compound operator

In the angular momentum case the spatial divergence involves an operator of the form $xO(x)$. While this **is** defined at one space-time point it is **NOT** a local operator.

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To see this suppose that $Q(x) = x O(x)$ **is** a local operator. Then

$$\begin{aligned} Q(x) &= e^{-ix \cdot P} Q(0) e^{ix \cdot P} \\ &= 0 \quad \text{for all } x, \text{ since } Q(0) = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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Conclusion

For momentum and angular momentum it is safe to neglect spatial divergence terms.

The problem of defining separate quark and gluon momenta

Two separate issues:

(1) general problem of how to define the separate momenta for a system of interacting particles,

(2) more specific to gauge theories and includes the issue of splitting the angular momentum of a gauge particle into a spin and orbital part.

(1) The general problem: System of interacting particles E and F . Split the total momentum into two pieces

$$P^j = P_E^j + P_F^j$$

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Note that this expression is **totally misleading**, and should be written

$$P^j = P_E^j(t) + P_F^j(t)$$

to reflect the fact that the particles exchange momentum as a result of their interaction.

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and similarly for F

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and similarly for F

But there is no way we can check this, since $P_E^j(t)$ depends on t and, without solving the entire theory, we are only able to compute equal time commutators .

We suggest, therefore, that *the minimal requirement for identifying an operator P_E^j with the momentum carried by E* , is to demand that *at equal times*

$$i[P_E^j(t), \phi^E(t, \mathbf{x})] = \partial^j \phi^E(t, \mathbf{x}).$$

Analogously, for an angular momentum operator M_E^{ij}
 ($J^i = \epsilon^{ijk} M^{jk}$) we suggest that **at equal times**

$$i[M_E^{ij}(t), \phi_r^E(t, \mathbf{x})] = (x^i \partial^j - x^j \partial^i) \phi_r^E(t, \mathbf{x}) + (\Sigma^{ij})_r^s \phi_s^E(t, \mathbf{x})$$

where r and s are spinor or Lorentz labels and $(\Sigma^{ij})_r^s$
 is the relevant spin operator.

Implications

For the **total** momentum there is no essential difference between P_{can} and P_{bel} since their integrands differ by the spatial divergence of a local operator.

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But, if we split P_{can} into $P_{can,E} + P_{can,F}$ and P_{bel} into $P_{bel,E} + P_{bel,F}$, then the integrands of $P_{can,E}$ and $P_{bel,E}$ do *not* differ by a spatial divergence.

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Hence $P_{can,E}$ and $P_{bel,E}$ do **not** generate the same transformation on $\phi^E(x)$, and similarly for F .

Since, by construction, $P_{can,E}$ and $P_{can,F}$ do generate the correct transformations on $\phi_E(x)$ and $\phi_F(x)$ respectively, we conclude that with the above minimal requirement we are forced to associate the momentum and angular momentum of E and F with the canonical version of the relevant operators.

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However you

CAN NO LONGER TALK ABOUT J (quark) and J (gluon)

MUST SPECIFY WHICH SCHEME FOR J

YOU ARE USING

and similarly for momentum P .

No worse than realization that for PDFs must specify factorization scheme:

$$q(x)_{MS} \quad q(x)_{\overline{MS}} \quad q(x)_{DIS}$$

THE CONTROVERSY

Chen, Lu, Sun, Wang and Goldman (Chen *et al*):

They insist on gauge invariant operators, but then using \mathbf{J}_{bel} in analogous QCD case, what do you mean by the gluon spin???????

IT IS POSSIBLE to split photon or gluon angular momentum into a spin part and an orbital part in a **GAUGE INVARIANT** way !!!

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IT IS POSSIBLE to split photon angular momentum into a spin part and an orbital part in a **GAUGE INVARIANT** way !!!

Put $\mathbf{A} = \mathbf{A}_{phys} + \mathbf{A}_{pure}$ with

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A}_{phys} = 0 \quad \nabla \times \mathbf{A}_{pure} = 0$$

Corresponds exactly to what is usually called the transverse \mathbf{A}_{\perp} and longitudinal \mathbf{A}_{\parallel} parts respectively

Adding a spatial divergence to \mathbf{J}_{can} they get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathbf{J}_{chen} &= \int d^3x \psi^\dagger \boldsymbol{\gamma} \gamma_5 \psi + \int d^3x \psi^\dagger [\mathbf{x} \times (-i\mathbf{D}_{pure})] \psi \\
 &+ \int d^3x (\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A}_{phys}) + \int d^3x E^i [\mathbf{x} \times \nabla A_{phys}^i] \\
 &= \mathbf{S}_{ch}(el) + \mathbf{L}_{ch}(el) + \mathbf{S}_{ch}(\gamma) + \mathbf{L}_{ch}(\gamma)
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{D}_{pure} = \nabla - ie\mathbf{A}_{pure}$$

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 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\mathbf{D}_{pure} = \nabla - ie\mathbf{A}_{pure}$$

Under gauge transformation:

$$\mathbf{A}_{pure} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_{pure} + \nabla \Lambda(x) \quad \mathbf{A}_{phys} \rightarrow \mathbf{A}_{phys}$$

so each term in \mathbf{J}_{chen} is indeed gauge invariant.

Does this imply that all textbooks of past 50 years are wrong?

NO!

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NO!

\mathbf{A}_{phys} is not a local field:

$$\mathbf{A}_{phys} = \mathbf{A} - \frac{1}{\nabla^2} \nabla(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A})$$

Recall

$$\frac{1}{\nabla^2} f(x) \equiv \frac{1}{4\pi} \int d^3x' \frac{f(x')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}$$

What does this actually mean physically?

Since Chen *et al.* is gauge invariant, can choose gauge $\mathbf{A}_{pure} = 0$ i.e. $\mathbf{A}_{phys} = \mathbf{A}$ which implies

$$\nabla \cdot \mathbf{A} = 0$$

which is the **Coulomb** gauge !

Thus

$$\mathbf{J}_{chen} \equiv \mathbf{J}_{can} | \text{Coulomb Gauge}$$

Summary of Chen, Lu, Sun, Wang and Goldman

- it is a **Gauge Invariant Extension** of the Canonical case in the Coulomb gauge
- it involves non-local fields
- A^μ does not transform as a 4-vector under Lorentz transformations
- **the physical content is exactly the same as in the canonical case in the Coulomb gauge**

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

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Split

$$A^\mu = A_{phys}^\mu + A_{pure}^\mu$$

$$F_{pure}^{\mu\nu} = 0$$

NB Wakamatsu does NOT give a specific formula for A_{pure}^μ

Lorcé: Exists *Stueckelberg* transformation

$$A_{pure}^{\mu} \rightarrow A_{pure}^{\mu} + \partial^{\mu}C(x) \quad A_{phys}^{\mu} \rightarrow A_{phys}^{\mu} - \partial^{\mu}C(x)$$

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So there are an INFINITE number of possible A_{pure}^{μ} .

QED: $A_{pure}^{\mu} = \partial^{\mu} \Lambda(x)$ any Λ

QCD: $A_{pure}^{\mu} = U^{-1} \partial^{\mu} U$; U any $SU(3)$ matrix

Physical content of Wakamatsu II

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Suppose we uniquely specify the scheme J_{wakII}^F by fixing A_{pure}^μ via

$$A_{pure}^\mu|_F = F(A^\mu)$$

where F is some given function.

Since the scheme is gauge invariant, choose the gauge which makes $A_{pure}^\mu|_F = 0$. Call it **Gauge F**.

Then

$$A_{phys}^\mu = A^\mu|_{\text{Gauge F}}$$

and from the expression for \mathbf{J}_{wakII} one sees that

$$\mathbf{J}_{wakII}^F = \mathbf{J}_{can}|_{\text{Gauge F}}$$

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Thus the family of schemes Wakamatsu II is identical to the canonical scheme in various choices of gauge.

Hatta

Hatta gave a precise concrete example of A_{pure}^μ , i.e. a specific choice of the function $F(A^\mu)$.

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corresponds to the lightcone gauge $A^+ = 0$.

$$\text{Thus } \mathbf{J}_{Hatta} = \mathbf{J}_{can}|_{\text{Gauge } A^+=0}$$

Several other papers——no time to discuss:

Bashinsky and Jaffe; Stoilov; Cho, Ge and Zhang; Zhang and Pak; Zhou and Huang; Xiang-Song Chen.

Lorcé: general underlying mathematical structure.

WHICH SCHEME SHOULD YOU LOVE AND TRUST??

Two fundamental schemes: Canonical and Belinfante

Belinfante favoured by Ji and collaborators:

Pros:

- ▲ Each term is gauge invariant
- ▲ Nucleon expectation values can be related to GPDs
.....but this is **now controversial!**

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Cons:

- ▼ Photon (gluon) angular momentum NOT split into spin and orbital parts
- ▼ Operators do NOT generate rotations

Canonical: favoured by me and by Jaffe-Manohar

Pros:

- ▲ At equal times operators are generators of rotations
- ▲ Photon (gluon) angular momentum is split into spin and orbital parts.
- ▲ Operators have same form as for free field case
- ▲ Operators in the gauge $A^+ = 0$ can be related to PDFs and GPDs. (see presently)
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SUMMARY

- 1) There are, I believe, only two fundamental schemes: **Canonical and Belinfante**
- 2) You may use whichever you prefer, but you must indicate which scheme you are using
- 3) Though not gauge invariant, I prefer **Canonical** because the operators generate rotations **at least at equal times**
- 4) All the new gauge invariant schemes involve non-local fields and **correspond to the Canonical version viewed in a particular choice of gauge**. Thus the new schemes, in my opinion, do not contain any new physics.

EXTRA SLIDES

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In fact, no contradiction in the special case of the *longitudinal* components of the momentum and angular momentum.

From the gauge invariant expression for the unpolarized quark number density $q(x)$ (including Wilson line operator) one finds

$$\int_0^1 dx x [q(x) + \bar{q}(x)] = \frac{i}{4(P^+)^2} \langle P | \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^+ \overleftrightarrow{D}^+ \psi(0) | P \rangle$$

with

$$\overleftrightarrow{D}^+ = \overrightarrow{\partial}^+ - \overleftarrow{\partial}^+ - 2igA^+(0).$$

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with

$$\overleftrightarrow{D}^+ = \overrightarrow{\partial}^+ - \overleftarrow{\partial}^+ - 2igA^+(0). \quad (2)$$

But the quark part of $t_{bel}^{\mu\nu}(qG)$ is given by

$$t_{q, bel}^{\mu\nu}(z) = \frac{i}{4} [\bar{\psi}(z) \gamma^\mu \overleftrightarrow{D}^\nu(z) \psi(z) + (\mu \leftrightarrow \nu)] - g^{\mu\nu} \mathcal{L}_q$$

where \mathcal{L}_q is the quark part of \mathcal{L}_{qG} .

Since $g^{++} = 0$

$$t_{q, bel}^{++}(0) = \frac{i}{2} \{ \bar{\psi}(0) \gamma^+ \overleftrightarrow{D}^+ \psi(0) \}$$

so that

$$\int_0^1 dx x [q(x) + \bar{q}(x)] = \frac{1}{2(P^+)^2} \langle P | t_{q, bel}^{++}(0) | P \rangle.$$

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Consider the physical interpretation of the LHS in the parton model. The parton model is not synonymous with QCD. It is a picture of QCD in the gauge $A^+ = 0$ and it is in this gauge, and in an infinite momentum frame that x can be interpreted as the momentum fraction carried by a quark in the nucleon.

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$$t_{q,can}^{++}(0) = t_{q,bel}^{++}(0) \quad (\text{gauge } A^+ = 0).$$

Hence the fraction of *longitudinal* momentum carried by the quarks in an infinite momentum frame is given equally well by either the canonical or Belinfante versions of the energy momentum tensor density.

A key issue: the polarized gluon density $\Delta G(x)$

$\Delta G(x)$ is measurable

$\Delta G(x)$ is gauge invariant

In what sense does it correspond to the spin of the gluon?

As stated: my view: The parton model is a PICTURE of QCD in the gauge $A^+ = 0$.

All is well, since can show that

$$\Delta G(x) = \langle \hat{\mathbf{P}} \cdot \mathbf{S}_{can}(\text{gluon}) \rangle |_{\text{Gauge } A^+=0}$$

where $\langle .. \rangle$ means expectation value in a longitudinally polarized nucleon.