

Heavy pseudoscalar leading-twist distribution amplitudes within QCD theory in background fields

Tao Zhong^{1,a}, Xing-Gang Wu^{2,b}, Tao Huang^{1,c}¹ Institute of High Energy Physics and Theoretical Physics Center for Science Facilities, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing 100049, People's Republic of China² Department of Physics, Chongqing University, Chongqing 401331, People's Republic of ChinaReceived: 30 September 2014 / Accepted: 11 January 2015 / Published online: 3 February 2015
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Abstract In this paper, we study the leading-twist distribution amplitude (DA) of the heavy pseudoscalars (HPs), such as η_c , η_b , and B_c , within the QCD theory in the background fields. New sum rules up to dimension-six condensates for both the HP decay constants and their leading-twist DA moments are presented. From the sum rules for the HP decay constants, we obtain $f_{\eta_c} = 453 \pm 4$ MeV, $f_{B_c} = 498 \pm 14$ MeV, and $f_{\eta_b} = 811 \pm 34$ MeV. Based on the sum rules for the HPs' leading-twist DA moments, we construct a new model for the η_c , η_b , and B_c leading-twist DAs. Our present HP DA model is also adaptable for the light pseudoscalar DAs, such as the pion and kaon DAs. Thus, it shall be applicable for a wide range of QCD exclusive processes. As an application, we apply the η_c leading-twist DA to calculate the $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c$ transition form factor $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$. At the maximum recoil region, we obtain $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(0) = 0.612_{-0.052}^{+0.053}$. Furthermore we predict the branching ratio for the semi-leptonic decay $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu$ and obtain $\mathcal{B}(B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu) = (7.70_{-1.48}^{+1.65}) \times 10^{-3}$ for massless leptons, which is consistent with the light-cone sum rules estimation obtained in the literature.

1 Introduction

The hard exclusive processes involving the heavy pseudoscalars (HPs), such as η_c , η_b , and B_c , have been studied within several approaches, such as the perturbative QCD (pQCD) factorization approach [1–6], the non-relativistic QCD (NRQCD) factorization approach [7–9], and the QCD light-cone sum rules (LCSRs) approach [10–12]. The HP leading-twist distribution amplitude (DA) is always an

important input for those analysis, and a more precise DA shall lead to more precise prediction.

The HP leading-twist DA at the scale μ can be expanded in Gegenbauer polynomials as [13]

$$\phi_{\text{HP}}(\mu, x) = 6x(1-x) \left[1 + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n^{\text{HP}}(\mu) C_n^{3/2}(2x-1) \right], \quad (1)$$

where $a_n^{\text{HP}}(\mu)$ stands for the n th-order Gegenbauer moment, and the odd moments should be zero for the η_c and η_b mesons. When the scale μ tends to infinity, the DA $\phi_{\text{HP}}(\mu, x)$ shall evolve into its asymptotic form $6x(1-x)$ [14]. Since the typical energy scale of a specific process is always finite, it is interesting to know the ϕ_{HP} behavior at any finite scale.

It is reasonable to assume that the η_c and η_b DAs have similar behaviors. As for the η_c leading-twist DA, several models have been suggested in the literature [10, 15–21, 29, 30]. For example, Bondar and Chernyak [15] proposed a phenomenological model for the η_c leading-twist DA (the BC model) as an attempt to resolve the disagreement between the experimental observations and the NRQCD prediction on the production cross section of $e^+e^- \rightarrow J/\Psi + \eta_c$; Braguta et al. [16] proposed a model for the η_c leading-twist DA (the BLL model) based on the moments calculated under the QCD Shifman–Vainshtein–Zakharov (SVZ) sum rules up to dimension-four condensates. As for the B_c meson, one usually adopts a naive δ -like model for its leading-twist DA ϕ_{B_c} [22].

In this paper, we study the HP leading-twist DAs within the SVZ sum rules [23] under the background field theory (BFT) [24–26]. As the basic assumption of the SVZ sum rules, the quark condensate $\langle \bar{q}q \rangle$, the gluon condensate $\langle G^2 \rangle$ and etc., reflect the nonperturbative property in QCD. It is noted that the BFT provides a self-consistent description for

^a e-mail: zhongtao@ihep.ac.cn^b e-mail: wuxg@cqu.edu.cn^c e-mail: huangtao@ihep.ac.cn

those vacuum condensates and provides a systematic way to achieve the goal of the SVZ sum rules [24–26]. The HP DAs are more involved than the light pseudoscalar DAs, since we have to take the quark mass effect in the calculation. Recently, within the framework of BFT, we have for the first time calculated the quark propagator and vertex operator $(z \cdot \overleftrightarrow{D})^n$ with full mass dependence up to dimension-six operators [27]. Thus we are facing the opportunity of deriving a more precise sum rule for the HP DA moments and a precise HP DA behavior. For convenience, based on the BHL-prescription for constructing the meson wavefunctions [28–30], we suggest a general model for the HP leading-twist wavefunctions and their DAs.

As an application of the suggested DA model, we apply the η_c leading-twist DA to calculate the $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c$ transition form factor (TFF) $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$ within the LCSRs. It is the key component for the semi-leptonic decay $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu$. It is also the only TFF for the decay if the generated leptons are massless. By adopting the conventional correlator for the LCSRs, similar to the $B \rightarrow \pi$ TFFs [31], the TFF $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$ shall be formulated as the function involving the η_c leading-twist DA, twist-3 DA, and other higher-twist DAs. The higher-twist DAs follow the power suppression rule in large scale region; however, they may have sizable contributions to the TFF in the intermediate energy regions, similar to the pionic cases of the $B \rightarrow \pi$ TFFs and the pion TFFs [32,33]. At present, the η_c higher-twist DAs are still with great uncertainty, thus the possible LCSRs with η_c various twist DAs shall inversely greatly dilute our understanding of the leading-twist DA behaviors. To cure the problem, we adopt the chiral correlator suggested in Ref. [11] to do our calculation, and we find that the most uncertain twist-3 DAs can be eliminated, then we can see more clearly on how the leading-twist DA affects $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$.

The remaining parts of the paper are organized as follows. In Sect. 2, the QCD SVZ sum rules for the HP decay constants and the HP leading-twist DA moments are given within the framework of BFT. A new model for the HP leading-twist DAs are also suggested here. Numerical results are presented in Sect. 3. Section 4 is reserved for a summary.

2 Calculation technology

2.1 SVZ sum rules for the HP decay constants

To obtain the SVZ sum rules for the HP decay constants, we take the following correlation function:

$$\Pi(q^2) = i \int d^4x e^{iq \cdot x} \langle 0 | T \{ J_5(x) J_5^\dagger(0) \} | 0 \rangle. \tag{2}$$

Here the pseudoscalar current

$$J_5(x) = \bar{Q}_1(x) i \gamma_5 Q_2(x), \tag{3}$$

where $Q_1 = b$ and $Q_2 = c$ for B_c , $Q_1 = Q_2 = c$ ($Q_1 = Q_2 = b$) for η_c (η_b), respectively. The HP decay constant f_{HP} is defined as

$$\langle 0 | J_5 | HP \rangle = f_{HP} \frac{m_{HP}^2}{m_1 + m_2}, \tag{4}$$

where m_{HP} stands for the HP mass and $m_{1(2)}$ is the mass of $Q_{1(2)}$ quark.

Following the standard sum rules procedures, into the correlation function (2) can be inserted a complete set of intermediate hadronic states in the physical region. It can also be treated in the framework of the operator product expansion (OPE) in the deep Euclidean region simultaneously. Those two results can be related by the dispersion relation

$$\Pi_{\text{QCD}}(q^2) = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{t_{\min}}^{\infty} ds \frac{\text{Im} \Pi_{\text{had}}(s)}{s - q^2} + \text{subtractions}, \tag{5}$$

where $t_{\min} = (m_1 + m_2)^2$. Then the sum rules can be obtained by applying the Borel transform for both sides of Eq. (5).

More explicitly, on the one hand, we do the OPE for the correlator (2), $\Pi_{\text{QCD}}(q^2)$, within the framework of BFT. For the purpose, we first apply the following replacement for the quark fields:

$$Q_{1(2)} \rightarrow Q_{1(2)} + \eta_{1(2)} \tag{6}$$

in Eq. (2), where Q_1 and Q_2 in the right-hand-side of Eq. (6) stand for the quark background fields, η_1 and η_2 are the corresponding quantum fluctuations (quantum fields) on the background field. The quantum fields interact with each other according to the Feynman rule of BFT [24–26], for example, the quantum quark–anti-quark pair can be contracted as a propagator, while the remaining background fields shall be kept to form the various vacuum matrix elements. Figure 1 shows the Feynman diagrams for determining the HP decay constant up to dimension-six operators, in which the newly derived quark propagator with up to dimension-six operators has been adopted [27]. In Fig. 1, the big dot stands for the vertex operators $i \gamma_5$ in the current (3), the cross symbol attached to the gluon line indicates the tensor of the local gluon background field, and “ n ” indicates the n th-order covariant derivative. Figure 1a1 provides the perturbative contribution, Fig. 1b1, b2, c2 provide the contributions proportional to the dimension-four condensate $\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle$, and the remaining 13 diagrams, Fig. 1d1–f1, provide the contributions proportional to the dimension-six condensate $\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle$. Here, $\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle$ and $\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle$ are abbreviations for the condensates $\langle 0 | \alpha_s G_{\mu\nu}^A G^{A\mu\nu} | 0 \rangle$ and $\langle 0 | g_s^3 f^{ABC} G^{A\mu\nu} G_\nu^{B\rho} G_{\rho\mu}^C | 0 \rangle$, respectively, where the color

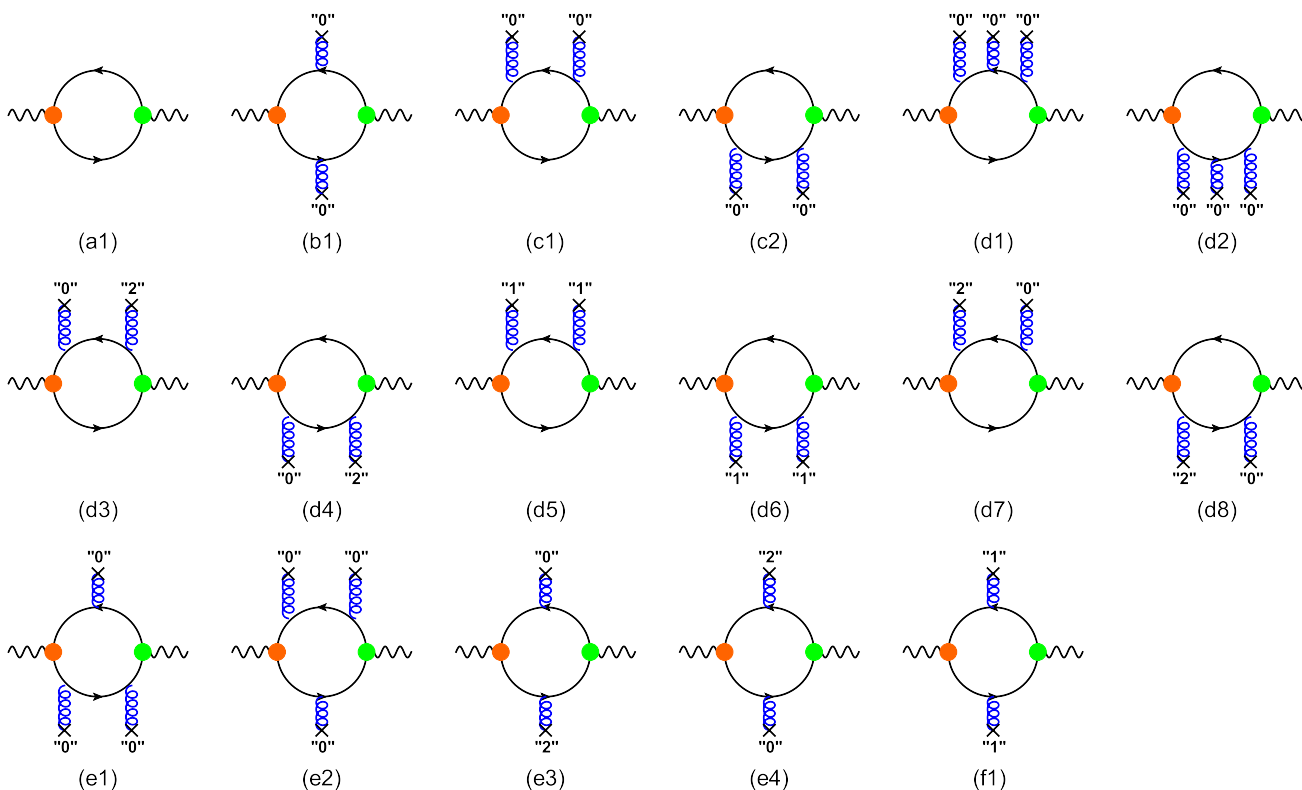


Fig. 1 Feynman diagrams for the HP decay constant. The *big dot* stands for the vertex operators $i\gamma_5$ in the current (3), the *cross symbol* attached to the *gluon line* indicates the tensor of the local gluon background field, and “ n ” indicates the n th-order covariant derivative

indices $A, B, C = (1, 2, \dots, 8)$. Then we can directly derive the explicit expression for $\Pi_{\text{QCD}}(q^2)$ from Fig. 1, which is rather lengthy and shall not be presented here for simplicity.

On the other hand, with the help of the definition (4), the hadronic spectrum representation of the correlator (2) can be written as

$$\text{Im}\Pi_{\text{had}}(q^2) = \pi\delta(q^2 - m_{\text{HP}}^2)\frac{f_{\text{HP}}^2 m_{\text{HP}}^4}{(m_1 + m_2)^2} + \pi\rho^{\text{cont}}(q^2)\theta(q^2 - s_{\text{HP}}), \tag{7}$$

where s_{HP} is the continuous threshold parameter, θ is the usual step function, and ρ^{cont} stands for the hadron spectrum density from the continuous states. Due to the quark–hadron duality, ρ^{cont} can be written as

$$\rho^{\text{cont}}(s) = \frac{1}{\pi}\text{Im}\Pi_{\text{pert}}(s). \tag{8}$$

As a combination of Eqs. (5), (7), and (8), we are ready to derive the SVZ sum rules for the HP decay constant. After further applying the Borel transformation to suppress both the unknown continuous states’ contributions and the higher dimensional condensates’ contributions, the final SVZ sum rules for the HP decay constant reads

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{f_{\text{HP}}^2 m_{\text{HP}}^4}{M^2(m_1 + m_2)^2} e^{-[m_{\text{HP}}^2/M^2]} \\ &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{M^2} \int_{t_{\text{min}}}^{s_{\text{HP}}} ds e^{-s/M^2} \times \text{Im}\Pi_{\text{pert}}(s) \\ &+ \hat{L}_M \Pi_{\langle G^2 \rangle}(Q^2) + \hat{L}_M \Pi_{\langle G^3 \rangle}(Q^2), \end{aligned} \tag{9}$$

where M is the Borel parameter, the operator $\hat{L}_M = \lim_{-q^2, n \rightarrow \infty; (-q^2/n)=M^2} \frac{(-q^2)^n}{(n-1)!} \left(\frac{d}{dq^2}\right)^n$ stands for the usual Borel transformation operator. The perturbative part have been studied up to one-loop level by Ref. [34], and we have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}\Pi_{\text{pert}}(s) &= \frac{3}{8\pi} \frac{\bar{s}^2}{s} v \left\{ 1 + \frac{4\alpha_s(\mu)}{3\pi v} \left[(1 + v^2) \right. \right. \\ &\times \left. \left. \left(\frac{\pi^2}{6} + \ln\left(\frac{1+v}{1-v}\right) \ln\left(\frac{1+v}{2}\right) + 2\text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1-v}{1+v}\right) \right. \right. \right. \\ &+ \left. \left. \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1+v}{2}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1-v}{2}\right) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \left[-4\text{Li}_2(v_i) \right. \right. \right. \\ &+ \left. \left. \left. \text{Li}_2(v_i^2) + \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1+v_i}{2}\right) - \text{Li}_2\left(\frac{1-v_i}{2}\right) \right] \right] \right\} \\ &+ \left(\frac{19}{16} - 3v + \frac{1}{8}v^2 + \frac{3}{16}v^4 \right) \ln\left(\frac{1+v}{1-v}\right) + \frac{29}{8}v \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & -\frac{3}{8}v^2 + 6v \ln\left(\frac{1+v}{2}\right) - 4v \ln v + \frac{1}{2}(1+v^2) \\
 & \times \sum_i \ln\left(\frac{1+v_i}{1-v_i}\right) \ln\left(\frac{v_i}{v}\right) + \frac{1}{2}v \sum_i \left(\frac{1}{v_i} - \frac{1}{v}\right) \\
 & \times \ln\left(\frac{1+v_i}{1-v_i}\right) + v \ln\left(\frac{s}{\bar{s}}\right) + \frac{3}{2}v \ln\left(\frac{m_1}{m_2}\right) \\
 & + v \left[\frac{(m_1-m_2)^2}{s} v \ln\left(\frac{1+v}{1-v}\right) - \frac{m_2^2-m_1^2}{s} \ln\left(\frac{m_2}{m_1}\right) \right] \Bigg\}, \\
 & + 88m_1m_2x(1-x) \times \left[m_1^2x^2 + m_2^2(1-x)^2 \right] \\
 & - \frac{112}{3}[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^4 + \frac{64}{3}m_1m_2x(1-x) \\
 & \times [m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2 + 128m_1^2m_2^2x^2(1-x)^2 \Bigg\} \\
 & \times \frac{1}{6M^8x^4(1-x)^4} - \frac{2}{15}[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2 \\
 & \times \frac{m_1^4x^5 + m_2^4(1-x)^5}{M^{10}x^6(1-x)^6}. \tag{10}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\bar{s} = s - (m_1 - m_2)^2$, $v^2 = 1 - 4m_1m_2/\bar{s}$, $v_{1(2)} = \bar{s}v/s_{1(2)}$ with $s_1 = s - m_1^2 + m_2^2$ and $s_2 = s + m_1^2 - m_2^2$, $\text{Li}_2(x) = -\int_0^x dt \frac{\ln(1-t)}{t}$ is the Spence function. Moreover, for the parts proportional to the dimension-four and dimension-six condensates, we have

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \hat{L}_M \Pi_{\langle G^2 \rangle}(q^2) \\
 & = \frac{\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle}{48\pi} \int_0^1 dx \exp\left[-\frac{m_1^2x + m_2^2(1-x)}{M^2x(1-x)}\right] \\
 & \times \left\{ \left[-6m_1m_2 - 2\frac{m_1^2x^3 + m_2^2(1-x)^3}{x(1-x)} \right] \frac{1}{M^4x^2(1-x)^2} \right. \\
 & \left. + [m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2 \frac{m_1^2x^3 + m_2^2(1-x)^3}{M^6x^4(1-x)^4} \right\}, \tag{11}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \hat{L}_M \Pi_{\langle G^3 \rangle}(q^2) \\
 & = \frac{\langle g_s^3 fG^3 \rangle}{32(4\pi)^2} \int_0^1 dx \exp\left[-\frac{m_1^2x + m_2^2(1-x)}{M^2x(1-x)}\right] \\
 & \times \left(\left[64 - \frac{416}{3}x(1-x) - 45\frac{x^3 + (1-x)^3}{x(1-x)} \right] \right. \\
 & \times \frac{1}{M^4x^2(1-x)^2} + \left\{ 45\frac{[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2}{x(1-x)} - \frac{2}{3}m_1m_2 \right\} \\
 & \times [x^3 + (1-x)^3] - 6\frac{m_1^2x^4 + m_2^2(1-x)^4}{x(1-x)} \\
 & - 12\left[m_1^2x^3 + m_2^2(1-x)^3 \right] - \frac{478}{9}m_1m_2x(1-x) \\
 & + \frac{287}{9}[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2 - \frac{320}{9}x(1-x) \\
 & \times \left[m_1^2x + m_2^2(1-x) \right] \Bigg\} \frac{1}{2M^6x^3(1-x)^3} \\
 & + \left\{ \left(6\frac{[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2}{x(1-x)} + 28m_1m_2 \right) \right. \\
 & \times \left[m_1^2x^4 + m_2^2(1-x)^4 \right] - 4\left[m_1^4x^4 + m_2^4(1-x)^4 \right] \\
 & \left. + \frac{16}{5}\frac{m_1^4x^5 + m_2^4(1-x)^5}{x(1-x)} + \left(30[m_1x + m_2(1-x)]^2 \right. \right.
 \end{aligned}$$

In deriving these sum rules, we have adopted the \overline{MS} -scheme to deal with the infrared divergences. During the calculation, we have to deal with the following vacuum matrix elements in D -dimensional space ($D = 4 - 2\epsilon$): $\langle 0 | G_{\mu\nu}^A G_{\rho\sigma}^B | 0 \rangle$, $\langle 0 | G_{\mu\nu}^A G_{\rho\sigma}^B G_{\lambda\tau}^C | 0 \rangle$, $\langle 0 | G_{\mu\nu;\lambda}^A G_{\rho\sigma;\tau}^B | 0 \rangle$, $\langle 0 | G_{\mu\nu;\lambda\tau}^A G_{\rho\sigma}^B | 0 \rangle$, and $\langle 0 | G_{\mu\nu}^A G_{\rho\sigma;\lambda\tau}^B | 0 \rangle$. The formulas for relating these matrix elements with the conventional condensates under the D -dimensional space have been given in Appendix B of Ref. [27]. For simplicity, we do not present them here, and the interesting readers may turn to this reference for detailed technology.

2.2 SVZ sum rules for the moments of the HP leading-twist DA

The HP leading-twist DA ϕ_{HP} is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle 0 | \bar{Q}_1(z) \not{z}\gamma_5 Q_2(-z) | \text{HP}(q) \rangle \\
 & = i(z \cdot q) f_{\text{HP}} \int_0^1 du e^{i\xi(z \cdot q)} \phi_{\text{HP}}(u), \tag{13}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $\xi = 2u - 1$. Expanding the left-hand-side of Eq. (13) near $z = 0$ and writing the exponent in right-hand-side of Eq. (13) as a power series, we obtain the definition of the DA moments:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \langle 0 | \bar{Q}_1(0) \not{z}\gamma_5 (iz \cdot \overleftrightarrow{D})^n Q_2(0) | \text{HP}(q) \rangle \\
 & = i(z \cdot q)^{n+1} f_{\text{HP}} \langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}, \tag{14}
 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}} = \int_0^1 du (2u - 1)^n \phi_{\text{HP}}(u) \tag{15}$$

is the n th-order moment of ϕ_{HP} . The 0th-order moment

$$\langle \xi^0 \rangle_{\text{HP}} = \int_0^1 du \phi_{\text{HP}}(u) = 1 \tag{16}$$

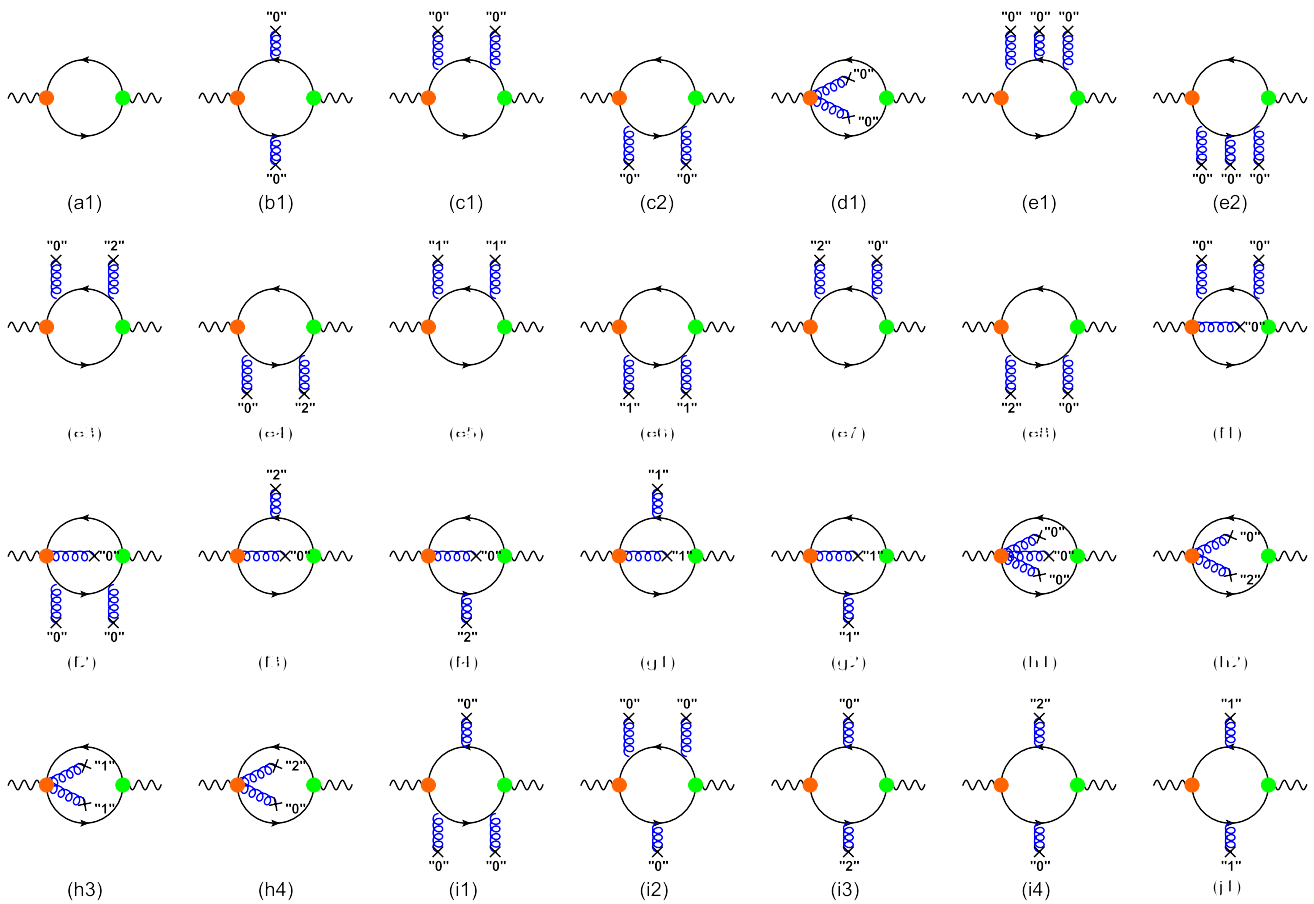


Fig. 2 Feynman diagrams for the moments of the HP leading-twist DA. The left big dot and the right big dot stand for the vertex operators $\not{z}\gamma_5(z \cdot \vec{D})^n$ and $\not{z}\gamma_5$ in the currents $J_n(x)$ and $J_0^\dagger(0)$, respectively.

The cross symbol attached to the gluon line indicates the tensor of the local gluon background field, and “n” indicates nth-order covariant derivative

gives the normalization condition for ϕ_{HP} . Setting $n = 0$ in Eq. (14), one can get

$$\langle 0 | \bar{Q}_1(0) \not{z}\gamma_5 Q_2(0) | HP(q) \rangle = i(z \cdot q) f_{HP}. \tag{17}$$

To derive sum rules for the ϕ_{HP} moments, we consider the following correlation function:

$$\begin{aligned} & (z \cdot q)^{n+2} I(q^2) \\ &= i \int d^4x e^{iq \cdot x} \langle 0 | T \{ J_n(x) J_0^\dagger(0) \} | 0 \rangle, \end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

where $z^2 = 0$, and the two currents

$$\begin{aligned} J_n(x) &= \bar{Q}_1(x) \not{z}\gamma_5 (i z \cdot \vec{D})^n Q_2(x), \\ J_0^\dagger(0) &= \bar{Q}_2(0) \not{z}\gamma_5 Q_1(0). \end{aligned}$$

Similar to Sect. 2.1, we can deduce the SVZ sum rules for the moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}$.

Figure 2 shows the corresponding Feynman diagrams for deriving the moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}$. In Fig. 2, the left big dot and the right big dot stand for the vertex operators $\not{z}\gamma_5(z \cdot \vec{D})^n$ and $\not{z}\gamma_5$ in the currents $J_n(x)$ and $J_0^\dagger(0)$, respectively; the

cross symbol attached to the gluon line indicates the tensor of the local gluon background field, and “n” indicates nth-order covariant derivative. Different from Fig. 1, there are seven Feynman diagrams that have not been shown in Fig. 2, because they have no contribution for the moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}$ due to their quark loops explicitly lead to $\text{Tr}[\dots] = 0$. Fig. 2a1 provides the perturbative contribution, Fig. 2b1–d1 provide the double-gluon condensate contribution and the remaining 23 diagrams provide the triple-gluon condensate contribution. Furthermore, compared with Fig. 1, we have some extra diagrams for the present case, i.e. Fig. 2d1, f1–h4, which are due to the new vertex operator $(z \cdot \vec{D})^n$.

Following the standard SVZ procedures of the sum rules, the final sum rules for the moments of the HP leading-twist DA can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{f_{HP}^2 \langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}}{M^2 \exp[m_{HP}^2/M^2]} &= \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{1}{M^2} \int_{t_{\min}}^{s_{HP}} ds e^{-s/M^2} \\ &\times \text{Im} I_{\text{pert}}(s) + \hat{L}_M I_{\langle G^2 \rangle}(Q^2) \\ &+ \hat{L}_M I_{\langle G^3 \rangle}(Q^2), \end{aligned} \tag{19}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Im}I_{\text{pert}}(s) &= \frac{3}{8\pi(n+1)(n+3)} \left\{ \left(\frac{s_1 + \bar{s}v}{s} - 1 \right)^{n+1} \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left[(n+1) \frac{(s_1 + \bar{s}v)(-s_2 + \bar{s}v)}{2s^2} - 1 \right] - (v \rightarrow -v) \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{20}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{L}_M I_{(G^2)}(Q^2) &= \frac{\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle}{6\pi} \int_0^1 dx \exp \left[-\frac{m_1^2 x + m_2^2(1-x)}{M^2 x(1-x)} \right] \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \left[\frac{1}{2}(2x-1)^n x^2(1-x)^2 + n(n-1)(2x-1)^{n-2} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. x^3(1-x)^3 \right] \frac{1}{M^4 x^2(1-x)^2} - (2x-1)^n x(1-x) \right. \\ &\quad \left. \frac{m_1^2 x^3 + m_2^2(1-x)^3}{2M^6 x^3(1-x)^3} \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{21}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{L}_M I_{(G^3)}(Q^2) &= \frac{\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle}{(4\pi)^2} \int_0^1 dx \exp \left[-\frac{m_1^2 x + m_2^2(1-x)}{M^2 x(1-x)} \right] \\ &\quad \times \left\{ \left[-\frac{45}{8}(2x-1)^n x(1-x)(x^3 + (1-x)^3) \right. \right. \\ &\quad - (2x-1)^n x^2(1-x)^2 \left(\frac{16n}{9} x(1-x) + \frac{22n+69}{72} \right) \\ &\quad - \frac{n(n-1)}{9}(2x-1)^{n-2} x^3(1-x)^3 \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. \left((n+1)x(1-x) + 16x^2 + 16(1-x)^2 \right) \right] \right. \\ &\quad \times \frac{1}{2M^6 x^3(1-x)^3} + \left[-\frac{3}{4}(2x-1)^n x(1-x) \right. \\ &\quad \times (m_1^2 x^4 + m_2^2(1-x)^4) + \frac{11n}{6}(2x-1)^{n-1} x^2(1-x)^2 \\ &\quad \times (m_1^2 x^3 - m_2^2(1-x)^3) - \frac{n(n-1)}{3}(2x-1)^{n-2} \\ &\quad \times x^4(1-x)^4 (m_1^2 x + m_2^2(1-x)) + (2x-1)^n x^2(1-x)^2 \\ &\quad \times \left(-\frac{23}{12}(m_1^2 x^2 + m_2^2(1-x)^2) + \frac{1}{3}(m_1 m_2 - 6m_1^2 - 6m_2^2) \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. x(1-x) + 2(m_1^2 x + m_2^2(1-x)) \right) - \frac{8n}{3}(2x-1)^n \right. \\ &\quad \times \left. \left. x^3(1-x)^3 (m_1^2 x + m_2^2(1-x)) \right] \times \frac{1}{6M^8 x^4(1-x)^4} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{2}{5}(2x-1)^n \times x(1-x) \frac{m_1^4 x^5 + m_2^4(1-x)^5}{24M^{10} x^5(1-x)^5} \right\}. \end{aligned} \tag{22}$$

Up to 6th order, the moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ and the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} at the same scale μ can be related via the following equations:

$$\langle \xi^1 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu = \frac{3}{5} a_1^{\text{HP}}(\mu), \tag{23}$$

$$\langle \xi^2 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu = \frac{1}{5} + \frac{12}{35} a_2^{\text{HP}}(\mu), \tag{24}$$

$$\langle \xi^3 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu = \frac{9}{35} a_1^{\text{HP}}(\mu) + \frac{4}{21} a_3^{\text{HP}}(\mu), \tag{25}$$

$$\langle \xi^4 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu = \frac{3}{35} + \frac{8}{35} a_2^{\text{HP}}(\mu) + \frac{8}{77} a_4^{\text{HP}}(\mu), \tag{26}$$

$$\langle \xi^5 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu = \frac{1}{7} a_1^{\text{HP}}(\mu) + \frac{40}{231} a_3^{\text{HP}}(\mu) + \frac{8}{143} a_5^{\text{HP}}(\mu), \tag{27}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \xi^6 \rangle_{\text{HP}} |_\mu &= \frac{1}{21} + \frac{12}{77} a_2^{\text{HP}}(\mu) + \frac{120}{1001} a_4^{\text{HP}}(\mu) \\ &\quad + \frac{64}{2145} a_6^{\text{HP}}(\mu). \end{aligned} \tag{28}$$

Thus, inversely, we can derive the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} from the above sum rules for $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$. Usually, the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} are known for an initial scale μ_0 around Λ_{QCD} , which can be evolved from any scale μ via the equation

$$a_n^{\text{HP}}(\mu) = \left(\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\mu_0)} \right)^{\frac{\epsilon_n}{4\pi b_0}} a_n^{\text{HP}}(\mu_0), \tag{29}$$

where

$$\epsilon_n = \frac{4}{3} \left(1 - \frac{2}{(n+1)(n+2)} + 4 \sum_{j=2}^{n+1} \frac{1}{j} \right).$$

For the running coupling, we adopt [35]

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_s(\mu) &= \frac{1}{b_0 t} \left[1 - \frac{b_1}{b_0^2} \frac{\ln t}{t} \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{b_1^2(\ln^2 t - \ln t - 1) + b_0 b_2}{b_0^4 t^2} \right] \end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

with $t = \ln \frac{\mu^2}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}$,

$$b_0 = \frac{33 - 2n_f}{12\pi},$$

$$b_1 = \frac{153 - 19n_f}{24\pi^2},$$

$$b_2 = \frac{2857 - \frac{5033}{9}n_f + \frac{325}{27}n_f^2}{128\pi^2}.$$

2.3 A model for the HP leading-twist DAs

The meson DA can be derived from its light-cone wavefunction by integrating out its transverse components.¹ Thus, it is helpful to construct a HP leading-twist wavefunction and then get its DA. For the purpose, one may assume that

¹ The relation between the light-cone wavefunction and distribution amplitude could be more complicated, and a recent discussion of this point can be found in Refs. [36,37].

the HP wavefunctions have a similar form to those of the pseudoscalars kaon with $SU_f(3)$ -breaking effect [38] and the D meson or B meson [11,39]. Based on the BHL-prescription [28–30], the HP wavefunction can be constructed as

$$\Psi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) = \chi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) \Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp), \tag{31}$$

where \mathbf{k}_\perp is the transverse momentum, $\chi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp)$ is the spin-space wavefunction and $\Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp)$ stands for the spatial wavefunction. The spin-space wavefunction $\chi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp)$ takes the form [40]

$$\chi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) = \frac{\hat{m}_1(1-x) + \hat{m}_2x}{\sqrt{\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 + [\hat{m}_1(1-x) + \hat{m}_2x]^2}}, \tag{32}$$

where $\hat{m}_{1,2}$ are the constituent quark masses for the HP. $\hat{m}_1 = \hat{m}_b$ and $\hat{m}_2 = \hat{m}_c$ for the case of B_c meson, $\hat{m}_1 = \hat{m}_2 = \hat{m}_c$ (\hat{m}_b) for the case of η_c (η_b). We take $\hat{m}_c = 1.8 \text{ GeV}$ and $\hat{m}_b = 4.7 \text{ GeV}$ to do our numerical calculations. It is noted that different choices of \hat{m}_c or \hat{m}_b will lead to quite small differences to the HP DA. Because $\hat{m}_b, \hat{m}_c \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$, the spin-space wavefunction χ_{HP} tends to 1 for the heavy scalars, thus, one may omit such factor as a simplified model. The spatial wavefunction $\Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp)$ takes the form

$$\begin{aligned} \Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) &= A_{\text{HP}} \varphi_{\text{HP}}(x) \times \exp \left[\frac{-1}{8\beta_{\text{HP}}^2} \left(\frac{\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 + \hat{m}_1^2}{x} + \frac{\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 + \hat{m}_2^2}{1-x} \right) \right], \end{aligned} \tag{33}$$

where A_{HP} is normalization constant. The parameter β_{HP} is a harmonious parameter that dominantly determines the wavefunction transverse distributions. The function $\varphi_{\text{HP}}(x)$ dominantly dominates the wavefunction’s longitudinal distribution, whose behavior is further dominated by its first several Gegenbauer polynomials. By keeping up to 6th-order Gegenbauer moments, it can be expansion as

$$\varphi_{\text{HP}}(x) = 1 + \sum_{n=1}^6 B_n^{\text{HP}} \times C_n^{3/2}(2x - 1), \tag{34}$$

in which $B_{1,3,5}^{\text{HP}}$ should be 0 for the case of η_c or η_b DA, due to the fact that the η_c or η_b DA should be unchanged over the transformation $x \leftrightarrow (1-x)$.

Using the relationship between the HP leading-twist DA and the HP wavefunction,

$$\phi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mu) = \frac{2\sqrt{6}}{f_{\text{HP}}} \int_{|\mathbf{k}_\perp|^2 \leq \mu_0^2} \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} \Psi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp), \tag{35}$$

we can obtain the required leading-twist DA for the HP. That is, after integrating over the transverse momentum for the wavefunction (31), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \phi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mu_0) &= \frac{\sqrt{3}A_{\text{HP}}\tilde{m}\beta_{\text{HP}}}{2\pi^{3/2}f_{\text{HP}}} \sqrt{x(1-x)}\varphi_{\text{HP}}(x) \\ &\times \exp \left[-\frac{\hat{m}_1^2(1-x) + \hat{m}_2^2x - \tilde{m}^2}{8\beta_{\text{HP}}^2x(1-x)} \right] \\ &\times \left\{ \text{Erf} \left[\sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}^2 + \mu_0^2}{8\beta_{\text{HP}}^2x(1-x)}} \right] \right. \\ &\left. - \text{Erf} \left[\sqrt{\frac{\tilde{m}^2}{8\beta_{\text{HP}}^2x(1-x)}} \right] \right\}, \end{aligned} \tag{36}$$

where $\tilde{m} = \hat{m}_1(1-x) + \hat{m}_2x$, $\mu_0 \sim \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ is the factorization scale, and the error function $\text{Erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_0^x e^{-t^2} dt$.

The wavefunction parameters A_{HP} , B_n^{HP} , and β_{HP} can be determined by the following constraints:

- The normalization condition,

$$\int_0^1 dx \int_{|\mathbf{k}_\perp|^2 \leq \mu_0^2} \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} \Psi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) = \frac{f_{\text{HP}}}{2\sqrt{6}}. \tag{37}$$

The decay constant f_{HP} can be determined by the sum rules (9).

- The probability of finding the leading Fock state $|Q_1 \bar{Q}_2\rangle$ in the HP Fock state expansion,

$$P_{\text{HP}} = \int_0^1 dx \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} \left| \Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp) \right|^2. \tag{38}$$

Equivalently, one can replace the constraint (38) by the average value of the squared transverse momentum $\langle \mathbf{k}_\perp^2 \rangle_{\text{HP}}$, which is measurable and is defined as

$$\langle \mathbf{k}_\perp^2 \rangle_{\text{HP}} = \int_0^1 dx \int \frac{d^2\mathbf{k}_\perp}{16\pi^3} |\mathbf{k}_\perp|^2 \frac{|\Psi_{\text{HP}}^R(x, \mathbf{k}_\perp)|^2}{P_{\text{HP}}}.$$

The experimental measurements on $\langle \mathbf{k}_\perp^2 \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ are not available at the present. We adopt the constraint (38) and take $P_{\eta_c} \simeq 0.8$ [19,40] and $P_{B_c} \sim P_{\eta_b} \simeq 1$ [39] to do the calculation. The choice of $P_{\eta_b} \sim P_{B_c} > P_{\eta_c}$ is reasonable, since with the increase of the constituent quark masses, the valence Fock state occupies a bigger fraction in hadron and the probability of finding the valence Fock state will be close to unity in the non-relativistic limit. We have checked that all the wavefunction parameters change very slightly by varying P_{B_c} from 1.0 to 0.9, which indicates that the B_c meson already reaches the non-relativistic limit.

- The Gegenbauer moments can also be derived from the following definition:

$$a_n^{\text{HP}}(\mu_0) = \frac{\int_0^1 dx \phi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mu_0) C_n^{3/2} (2x - 1)}{\int_0^1 dx 6x(1-x) \left[C_n^{3/2} (2x - 1) \right]^2}. \quad (39)$$

They should be equal to the Gegenbauer moments determined from the values of $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$, which can be determined from the sum rules (19).

Using these constraints, one can strictly determine the wavefunction parameters A_{HP} , B_n^{HP} , and β_{HP} at an initial scale μ_0 . These parameters are scale dependent; one can obtain their values at any scale μ via the following evolution equation [14]:

$$x_1 x_2 \mu^2 \frac{\partial \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(x_i, \mu)}{\partial \mu^2} = C_F \frac{\alpha_s(\mu^2)}{4\pi} \left\{ \int_0^1 [dy] V(x_i, y_i) \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}} \times (y_i, \mu) - x_1 x_2 \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(x_i, \mu) \right\}, \quad (40)$$

where $C_F = 4/3$,

$$[dy] = dy_1 dy_2 \delta(1 - y_1 - y_2),$$

$$V(x_i, y_i) = 2 \left[x_1 y_2 \theta(y_1 - x_1) \times \left(\delta_{h_1 \bar{h}_2} + \frac{\Delta}{(y_1 - x_1)} \right) + (1 \leftrightarrow 2) \right],$$

$$\phi_{\text{HP}}(x_i, \mu) = x_1 x_2 \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(x_i, \mu),$$

$$\Delta \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(y_i, \mu) = \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(y_i, \mu) - \tilde{\phi}_{\text{HP}}(x_i, \mu),$$

$\delta_{h_1 \bar{h}_2} = 1$ when the Q_1 and \bar{Q}_2 have opposite helicities and $\delta_{h_1 \bar{h}_2} = 0$ for other cases.

3 Numerical analysis

3.1 Input parameters

To determine the HP decay constants and the first several moments of the HP leading-twist DA, we take [35]

$$\begin{aligned} m_{\eta_c} &= (2.9837 \pm 0.0007) \text{ GeV}, \\ m_{B_c} &= (6.2745 \pm 0.0018) \text{ GeV}, \\ m_{\eta_b} &= (9.3980 \pm 0.0032) \text{ GeV}, \\ \bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c) &= (1.275 \pm 0.025) \text{ GeV}, \\ \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b) &= (4.18 \pm 0.03) \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The \overline{MS} c - and b -quark masses at any other scale can be derived from the evolution [35]

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{m}_c(\mu) &= \bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c) \left[\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\bar{m}_c)} \right]^{\frac{12}{25}}, \\ \bar{m}_b(\mu) &= \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b) \left[\frac{\alpha_s(\mu)}{\alpha_s(\bar{m}_b)} \right]^{\frac{12}{23}}. \end{aligned} \quad (42)$$

Table 1 The HP decay constants for $s_{\eta_c} = 18 \text{ GeV}^2$, $s_{B_c} = 45 \text{ GeV}^2$, and $s_{\eta_b} = 90 \text{ GeV}^2$ under the allowable Borel windows, where all the other input parameters are taken to be their central values

HP	η_c	B_c	η_b
$s_{\text{HP}} (\text{GeV}^2)$	18	45	90
$M^2 (\text{GeV}^2)$	[2, 11]	[9, 13]	[16, 20]
$f_{\text{HP}} (\text{MeV})$	453 ± 3	498 ± 9	811 ± 9

From $\alpha_s(m_Z) = 0.1184 \pm 0.0007$ with $m_Z = (91.1876 \pm 0.0021) \text{ GeV}$ [35], we predict $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \simeq 270, 257,$ and 204 MeV for the flavor $n_f = 3, 4,$ and $5,$ respectively. We take the scale-independence dimension-four gluon condensate $\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle = (0.038 \pm 0.011) \text{ GeV}^4$ [41] and $\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle = (0.013 \pm 0.007) \text{ GeV}^6$ [27].

3.2 The HP decay constants

To set the threshold parameter s_{HP} and the allowable Borel window for the sum rules (9), we require that the continuum contribution to be less than 30 %, and the values for f_{HP} are stable in the Borel window. We obtain $s_{\eta_c} = 18 \text{ GeV}^2$, $s_{B_c} = 45 \text{ GeV}^2$, and $s_{\eta_b} = 90 \text{ GeV}^2$. Our predictions for the HP decay constants f_{HP} under the allowable Borel windows are put in Table 1, where all other input parameters are taken as their central values. We put the curves for the decay constants f_{η_c} , f_{B_c} , and f_{η_b} versus the Borel parameter M^2 in Fig. 3, where the shaded bands indicate the uncertainties from the input parameters $m_{\text{HP}}, m_{c,b}, \langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle,$ and $\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle$. By taking all uncertainty errors into consideration and adding them in quadrature, our final predictions on f_{HP} are put in Table 2. As a comparison, some typical estimations on the HP decay constants derived under various approaches [42–57] are also presented. Table 2 shows that our present estimations on HP decay constants agree with those derived under the Lattice QCD [57], especially for f_{B_c} and f_{η_b} .

3.3 The HP leading-twist DAs

First, we calculate the HP leading-twist DA moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ with the SVZ sum rules (19). As suggested by Braguta et al. [16], we set the continue threshold to be infinity. We adopt the ratio $f_{\text{HP}}^2 \langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}} / (f_{\text{HP}}^2 \langle \xi^0 \rangle_{\text{HP}})$ to derive the n th-moment $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ instead of directly calculating $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$. Due to the theoretical uncertainty sources for f_{HP} and $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ are mutually correlated with each other, such a treatment result in a much smaller theoretical uncertainty. Our results are presented in Table 3, in which the HP leading-twist DA moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ up to 6th order are presented. We take the Borel window $M^2 \in [1, 2] (\text{GeV}^2)$ for $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\eta_c}$, $M^2 \in [15, 20] (\text{GeV}^2)$ for $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{B_c}$ and $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\eta_b}$, respectively. Figure 4 shows the stability of the moments within those allowable Borel windows.

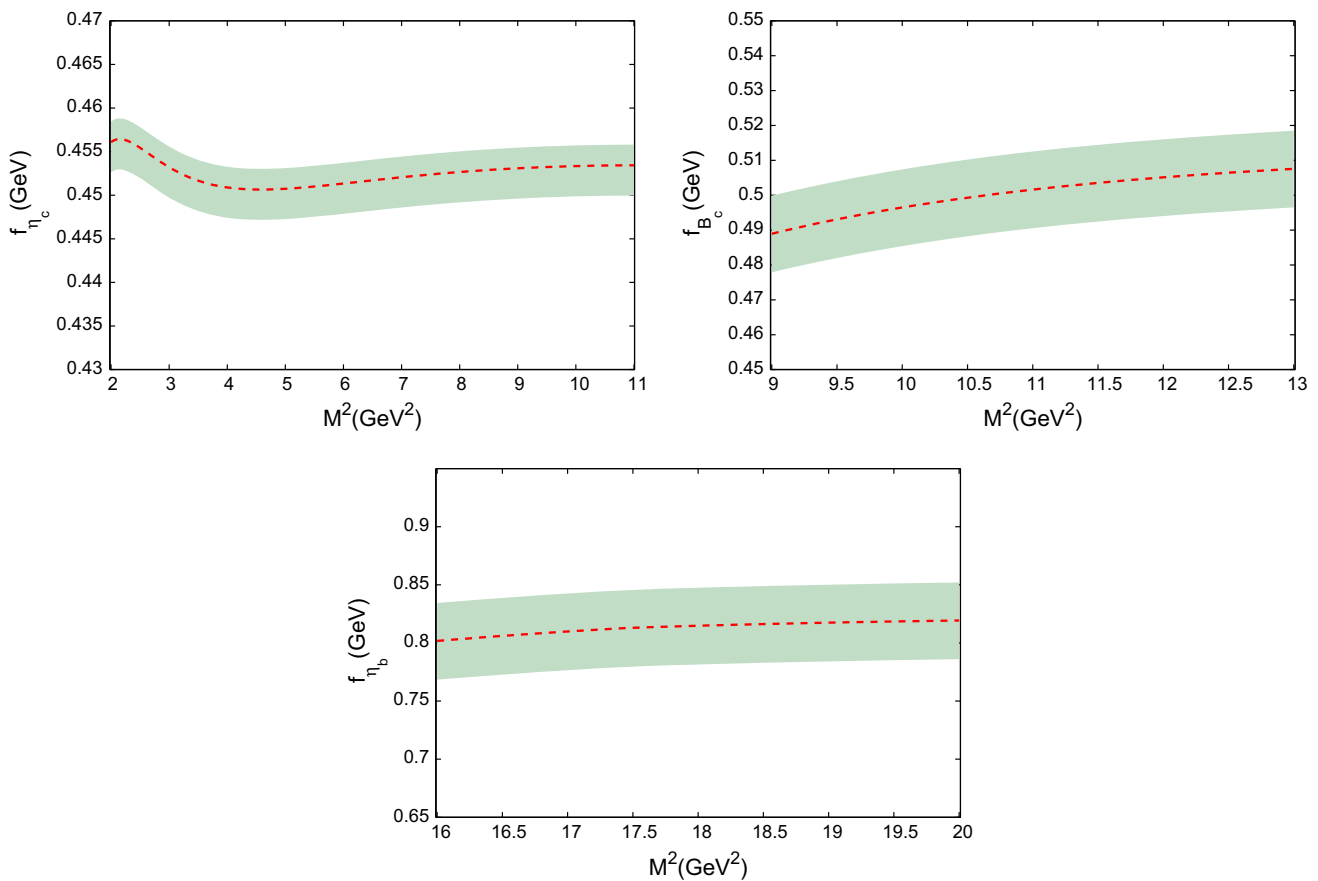


Fig. 3 The HP decay constants versus the Borel parameter M^2 . The shaded band indicates the uncertainty

Table 2 A comparison of our present HP decay constants (in unit MeV) with those obtained under various approaches [42–57]

f_{η_c}	f_{B_c}	f_{η_b}	Ref.
453 ± 4	498 ± 14	811 ± 34	This work
/	510 ± 50	/	[42]
/	400 ± 20	/	[43]
/	375 ± 40	/	[44]
/	570 ± 60	/	[45]
/	300	/	[46]
320 ± 40	360 ± 60	500 ± 100	[47]
/	570 ± 60	/	[48]
/	383 ± 27	/	[49]
/	300 ± 65	/	[50]
/	385 ± 25	/	[51]
420 ± 52	/	705 ± 27	[52]
/	400 ± 45	/	[53]
/	395 ± 15	/	[54]
484	399	/	[55]
490	/	/	[56]
438 ± 8	489 ± 5	801 ± 9	[57]

Table 3 The HP leading-twist DA moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}$ up to 6th-order. The errors are squared average of those from all the input parameters, such as the Borel parameter, the condensates, and the bound state parameters. The scale μ is set to be $\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)$ for η_c and $\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$ for B_c and η_b

	$\eta_c (\mu = \bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c))$	$B_c (\mu = \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b))$	$\eta_b (\mu = \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b))$
$\langle \xi^1 \rangle$	0	0.279 ± 0.023	0
$\langle \xi^2 \rangle$	0.073 ± 0.009	0.182 ± 0.005	0.067 ± 0.007
$\langle \xi^3 \rangle$	0	0.100 ± 0.006	0
$\langle \xi^4 \rangle$	0.014 ± 0.003	0.071 ± 0.003	0.011 ± 0.002
$\langle \xi^5 \rangle$	0	0.047 ± 0.002	0
$\langle \xi^6 \rangle$	0.004 ± 0.001	0.036 ± 0.001	0.003 ± 0.001

In doing the calculation, all the uncertainty sources, such as the Borel parameter, the dimension-four condensate $\langle \alpha_s G^2 \rangle$, the dimension-six condensate $\langle g_s^3 f G^3 \rangle$, and the bound state parameters, have been taken into consideration. The errors listed in Table 3 are dominated by varying M^2 within the Borel window. The scale μ is set to be $\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c) = 1.275$ GeV for η_c and $\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b) = 4.18$ GeV for B_c and η_b .

Second, we adopt the relationship between the moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{HP}$ and the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} , i.e. Eqs. (23)–

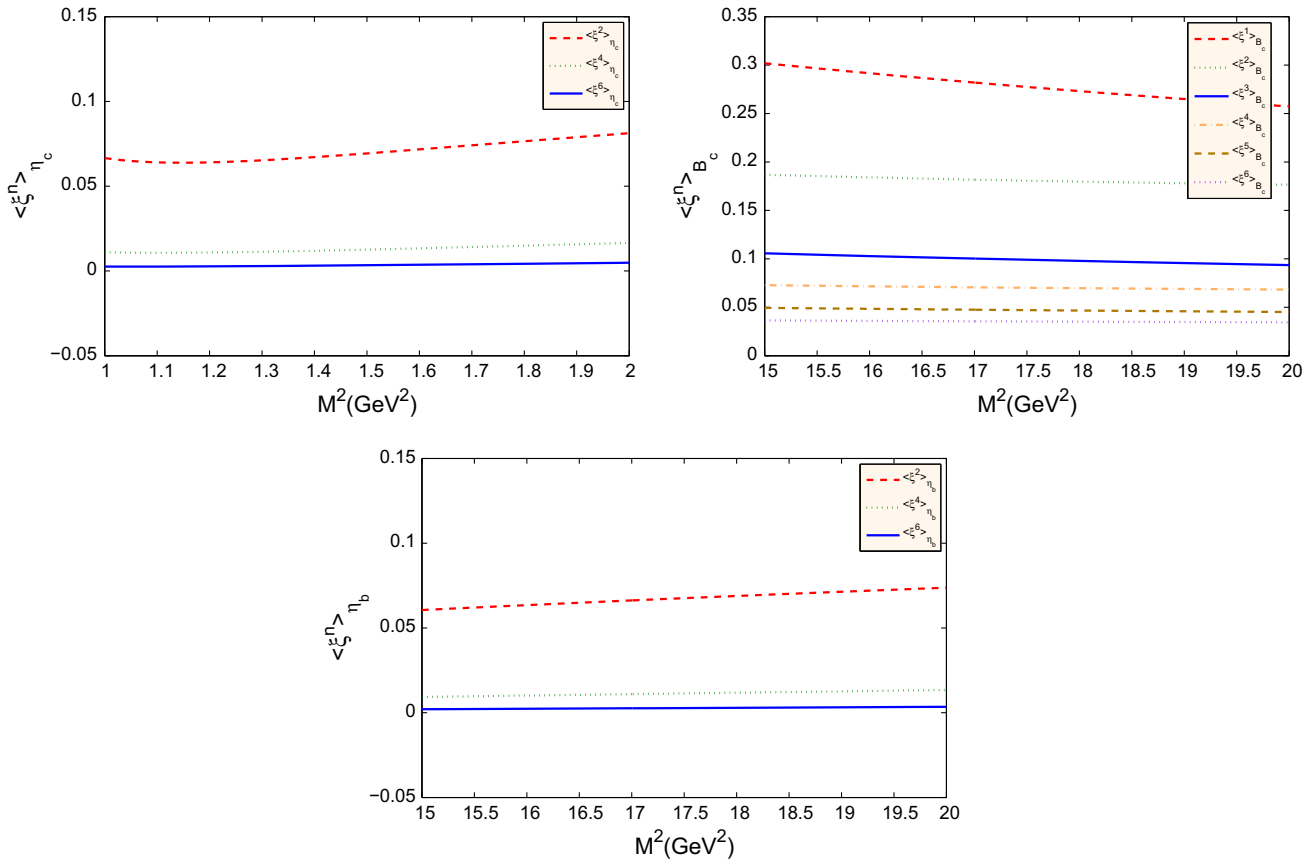


Fig. 4 The first several moments $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ versus the Borel parameter M^2 . Here the input parameters are taken as the central values

Table 4 The HP leading-twist DA Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} up to 6th order, which are derived from $\langle \xi^n \rangle_{\text{HP}}$ via the relations (23)–(28). The scale μ is set to be $\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)$ for η_c and $\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$ for B_c and η_b

	$\eta_c (\mu = \bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c))$	$B_c (\mu = \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b))$	$\eta_b (\mu = \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b))$
a_1	0	0.466 ± 0.038	0
a_2	-0.372 ± 0.027	-0.053 ± 0.016	-0.387 ± 0.019
a_3	0	-0.106 ± 0.018	0
a_4	0.124 ± 0.029	-0.028 ± 0.010	0.136 ± 0.022
a_5	0	-0.017 ± 0.002	0
a_6	-0.025 ± 0.017	-0.014 ± 0.001	-0.028 ± 0.013

(28), to derive the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} from Table 3. The results for the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} are shown in Table 4.

Third, we determine all the input parameters A_{HP} , B_n^{HP} , and β_{HP} for the HP leading-twist DA model (36). Using the central values for the Gegenbauer moments a_n^{HP} listed in Table 4, we obtain, at the scale $\mu = \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$,

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\eta_c} &= 2.401 \text{ GeV}^{-1}, \\ B_2^{\eta_c} &= -0.306, \\ B_4^{\eta_c} &= 0.092, \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} B_6^{\eta_c} &= -0.019, \\ \beta_{\eta_c} &= 5.386 \text{ GeV}, \end{aligned} \tag{43}$$

for the η_c leading-twist DA; and

$$\begin{aligned} A_{B_c} &= 1.894 \text{ GeV}^{-1}, \\ B_1^{B_c} &= 0.400, \\ B_2^{B_c} &= -0.150, \\ B_3^{B_c} &= -0.152, \\ B_4^{B_c} &= -0.014, \\ B_5^{B_c} &= 0.009, \\ B_6^{B_c} &= -0.001, \\ \beta_{B_c} &= 7.538 \text{ GeV}, \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

for the B_c leading-twist DA; and

$$\begin{aligned} A_{\eta_b} &= 7.432 \text{ GeV}^{-1}, \\ B_2^{\eta_b} &= -0.383, \\ B_4^{\eta_b} &= 0.129, \\ B_6^{\eta_b} &= -0.028, \\ \beta_{\eta_b} &= 3.811 \text{ GeV}, \end{aligned} \tag{45}$$

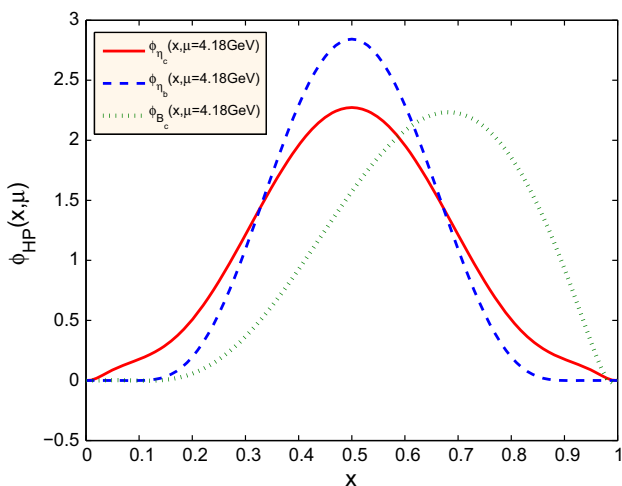


Fig. 5 The HP leading-twist DAs. The *solid*, the *dotted* and the *dashed* lines are for η_c DA, B_c DA and η_b DA at the scale $\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$, respectively

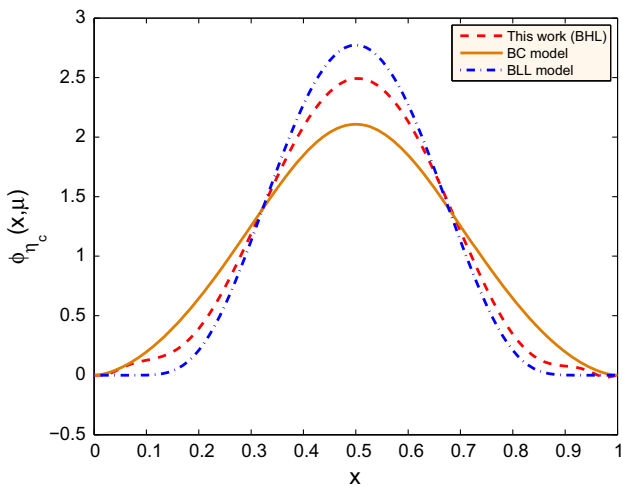


Fig. 6 A comparison of the η_c leading-twist DA. The *dashed*, the *solid*, and the *dash-dot* lines are for our present model (36), the BC model [15] and the BLL model [16], respectively. $\mu = \bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)$

for the η_b leading-twist DA. All those three HPs' leading-twist DAs are presented in Fig. 5. The $\phi_{\eta_c}(x, \mu)$ is broader than $\phi_{\eta_b}(x, \mu)$, and both of them are symmetric, while the $\phi_{B_c}(x, \mu)$ is non-symmetrical, which is consistent with the fact that its constituent c - and b -quarks are different.

Finally, we take the η_c leading-twist DA as an explicit example to show the HP DA properties in detail. Figure 6 presents a comparison of our η_c leading-twist DA model (36) with those of the BC model [15] and the BLL model [16]. Our DA model is broader in shape than that of the BLL model, but narrower than that of the BC model. Figure 7 shows how $\phi_{\eta_c}(x, \mu)$ changes with the scale, in which four typical values, i.e. $\mu = 1.275, 4.18, 10, \text{ and } 100 \text{ GeV}$, are adopted. From Fig. 7, one may observe that with increment of the scale μ , the $\phi_{\eta_c}(x, \mu)$ becomes broader and broader, which finally tends to the asymptotic form for the $\mu = \infty$ limit.

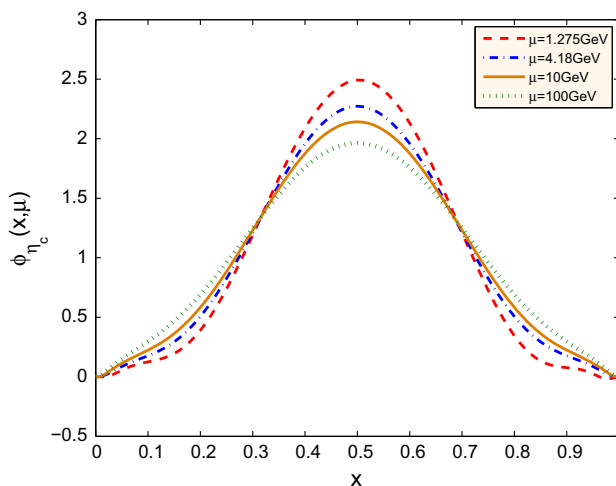


Fig. 7 The running of the η_c leading-twist DA. The *dashed*, the *dash-dot*, the *solid* and the *dotted* lines are for $\mu = 1.275, 4.18, 10, \text{ and } 100 \text{ GeV}$, respectively

3.4 An application of the leading-twist DA ϕ_{η_c}

As an application, in this subsection, we calculate the $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c$ TFF $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$ by using our present η_c DA model (36).

As has been discussed in the Introduction, it is helpful to apply the LCSRs approach with chiral current correlator to calculate $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$ [11]. Thus the most uncertain twist-3 DAs' contributions are eliminated, and we can see more clearly the properties of the leading-twist DA. Following the standard way as programmed in Ref. [11], we obtain

$$f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2) = \frac{\hat{m}_b(\hat{m}_b + \hat{m}_c) f_{\eta_c} e^{m_{B_c}^2/M^2}}{m_{B_c}^2 f_{B_c}} \int_{\Delta}^1 du \frac{\phi_{\eta_c}(u)}{u} \times \exp\left[-\frac{\hat{m}_b^2 - \bar{u}(q^2 - um_{\eta_c}^2)}{uM^2}\right] + \text{twist-4 and higher-twist terms}, \quad (46)$$

where $\bar{u} = 1 - u$, and

$$\Delta = \left[\sqrt{(s_0 - q^2 - m_{\eta_c}^2)^2 + 4m_{\eta_c}^2(\hat{m}_b^2 - q^2)} - (s_0 - q^2 - m_{\eta_c}^2) \right] / (2m_{\eta_c}^2). \quad (47)$$

We take the η_c leading-twist DA $\phi_{\eta_c}(u)$ at the scale $\mu \simeq \bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)$ to do the calculation. We adopt the same criteria as those of Ref. [11] to determine the Borel window of the process and we take the continuum threshold to be $s_0 = 42 \text{ GeV}^2$. The determined Borel window is $M^2 = (20\text{--}35) \text{ GeV}^2$, in which the TFF also has a good stability as shown by Fig. 8.

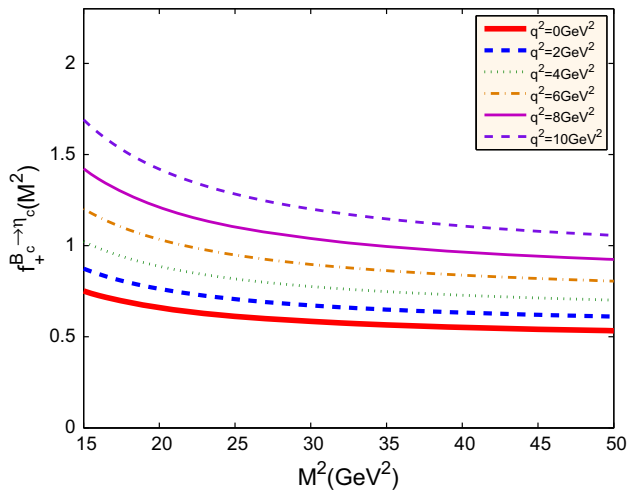


Fig. 8 The TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ versus the Borel parameter M^2 at several typical q^2 . All the input parameters are taken to be their central values

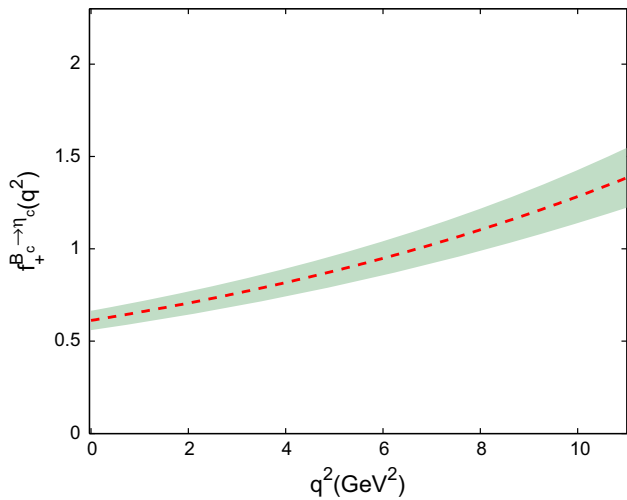


Fig. 9 The TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ versus q^2 , in which the shaded hand indicates its uncertainties

We present the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ versus q^2 in Fig. 9, in which the shaded hand indicates its uncertainties. At the maximum recoil region with $q^2 = 0$, we obtain

$$f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(0) = 0.612_{-0.052}^{+0.053}, \tag{48}$$

where all uncertainties have been added up in quadrature. For the semi-leptonic decay $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$, the energy region $[0, (m_{B_c} - m_{\eta_c})^2]$ is considered, and being different from the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ by pQCD,² the LCSR is supposed to be valid in $0 < q^2 < m_b^2 - 2m_b \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} \simeq 15 \text{ GeV}^2$ for b -quark decays [11], then our TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ from (46) can

² The pQCD is valid in low-energy region, thus its prediction for the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ needs to be extrapolated from the lower q^2 region to larger q^2 region via proper extrapolations, cf. Refs. [58–61].

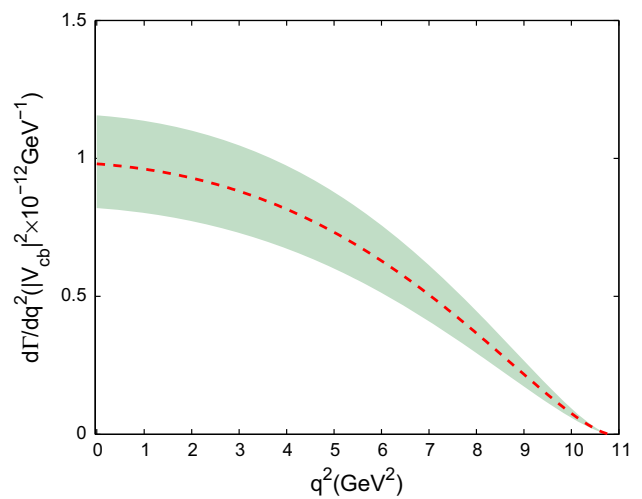


Fig. 10 The differential decay rate for $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$ versus q^2 , where the shaded hand indicates the uncertainty from the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ only

be directly used in the exclusive process $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$. The semi-leptonic differential decay rate of $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$ reads

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2}(B_c \to \eta_c l \nu) &= \frac{G_F^2 |V_{cb}|^2}{192\pi^3 m_{B_c}^3} \lambda(q^2)^{3/2} \left[f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2) \right]^2, \end{aligned} \tag{49}$$

where $\lambda(q^2) = (m_{B_c}^2 + m_{\eta_c}^2 - q^2)^2 - 4m_{B_c}^2 m_{\eta_c}^2$, the Fermi constant $G_F = 1.1663787(6) \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$, and the CKM matrix element $|V_{cb}| = 0.0412_{-0.0005}^{+0.0011}$ [35]. Figure 10 shows the differential decay rate of $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$ versus q^2 , where the shaded hand indicates the uncertainty from the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$ only. After doing integrating over $q^2 \in [0, (m_{B_c} - m_{\eta_c})^2]$, we obtain the central decay width $\Gamma(B_c \to \eta_c l \nu) = 1.12 \times 10^{-14} \text{ GeV}$. By further using the lifetime of the B_c meson $\tau_{B_c} = (0.452 \pm 0.032) \times 10^{-12} \text{ s}$ [35], we predict the branching ratio of $B_c \to \eta_c l \nu$ as

$$\text{Br}(B_c \to \eta_c l \nu) = (7.70_{-1.48}^{+1.65}) \times 10^{-3}. \tag{50}$$

It is noted that the TFF $f_+^{B_c \to \eta_c}(q^2)$, the CKM matrix element $|V_{cb}|$ and the B_c meson lifetime τ_{B_c} provide the dominant error sources for the branching ratio.

We put our prediction of the branching ratio together with the typical prediction under various approaches in Table 5. It shows that our result agrees with the previous LCSR estimation [62] and also in agreement with the quark model prediction [55,58].³

³ A larger branching ratio for $B_c \to \eta_c(J/\psi)l\nu$ is helpful for solving the puzzle for the parameter $\Re(J/\psi \ell^+ \nu)$. A recent discussion of this point can be found in Ref. [9].

Table 5 The branching ratio of $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu$ (in unit %). As a comparison, we also present those derived by the LCSRs, the quark model (QM), the pQCD, the QCD relativistic potential model (RPM) and the NRQCD approaches

Approach	$\text{Br}(B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu)$	Ref.
LCSRs	$0.770^{+0.165}_{-0.148}$	This work
	0.75	[62]
QM	0.81	[55]
	$0.48^{+0.02}$	[56]
	$0.67^{+0.11}_{-0.13}$	[58]
	0.42	[63]
pQCD	$0.441^{+0.122}_{-0.109}$	[5]
QCD RPM	0.15	[64]
NRQCD	$2.1^{+0.7}_{-0.3}$	[8]

4 Summary

The meson DA is an important component for the QCD exclusive processes that are studied within the framework of the QCD sum rules, the QCD LCSRs, and the pQCD factorization approaches. The QCD SVZ sum rules provides one of the most effective approaches for exclusive processes, which separates the short- and long-distance quark-gluon interaction, and parameterizes the latter as a series of nonperturbative vacuum condensates. The BFT provides a systematic method for achieving the goal of SVZ sum rules and also provides a physical picture for the vacuum condensates. As a sequential work of Ref. [27], in this paper, we have made a detailed study on the HP leading-twist DAs together with the HP decay constants under the framework of BFT up to dimension-six condensates.

Using the sum rules (9), we obtain $f_{\eta_c} = 453 \pm 4$ MeV, $f_{B_c} = 498 \pm 14$ MeV and $f_{\eta_b} = 811 \pm 34$ MeV. These values are in agreement with those derived by the Lattice QCD [57]. Using the sum rules (19), we calculate the first several moments for the HP leading-twist DA, which are presented in Table 3. Using the relations (23–27, and 28), we further obtain the Gegenbauer moments up to 6th order. More explicitly, the non-zero Gegenbauer moments for ϕ_{η_c} are: $a_2(\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)) = -0.372 \pm 0.027$, $a_4(\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)) = 0.124 \pm 0.029$, and $a_6(\bar{m}_c(\bar{m}_c)) = -0.025 \pm 0.017$; the non-zero Gegenbauer moments for ϕ_{η_b} are: $a_2(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.387 \pm 0.019$, $a_4(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = 0.136 \pm 0.022$, and $a_6(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.028 \pm 0.013$; the non-zero Gegenbauer moments for ϕ_{B_c} are: $a_1(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = 0.466 \pm 0.038$, $a_2(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.053 \pm 0.016$, $a_3(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.106 \pm 0.018$, $a_4(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.028 \pm 0.010$, $a_5(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.017 \pm 0.002$, $a_6(\bar{m}_b(\bar{m}_b)) = -0.014 \pm 0.001$. Here, the errors are squared average of those from the uncertainties of the Borel parameter, the condensates, and the bound state

parameters. The Gegenbauer moments at any other scale can be obtained via evolution.

The meson DA is of nonperturbative nature, thus, it is helpful to have a general model for all the related HPs. Based on the BHL-prescription [28–30], we have suggested the model (36) for the HP leading-twist DAs. The model parameters of $\phi_{\text{HP}}(x, \mu)$ are determined with three reasonable constraints together with the newly obtained HP decay constants and Gegenbauer moments. The behaviors of the η_c , B_c , and η_b leading-twist DAs are presented in Fig. 5. It is shown that the ϕ_{η_c} and ϕ_{η_b} are symmetric and are close in shape, while the ϕ_{B_c} is non-symmetrical and quite different from the naive δ -model, i.e. $\phi_{B_c}(x) \propto \delta(x - \hat{m}_b/m_{B_c})$, suggested in Ref. [22]. Our present HP DA model may also be adaptable for the light pseudoscalar DAs, such as pion and kaon DAs. Thus, it shall be applicable for a wide range of QCD exclusive processes. With more and more data available, we may get more definite conclusions on the behaviors of the pseudoscalar DAs, and then we may achieve a more accurate theoretical prediction on those processes.

As an application for the η_c leading-twist DA ϕ_{η_c} , we study the TFF $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$ within the LCSR. It is noted that the branching ratio $\text{Br}(B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu)$ strongly depends on the TFF $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(q^2)$, thus a more accurate TFF shall result in a more accurate branching ratio. At the maximum recoil point, we obtain $f_+^{B_c \rightarrow \eta_c}(0) = 0.612^{+0.053}_{-0.052}$. Furthermore, we predict the branching ratio of the semi-leptonic decay $B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu$, i.e., $\text{Br}(B_c \rightarrow \eta_c l \nu) = 7.70^{+1.65}_{-1.48} \times 10^{-3}$, which is consistent with previous LCSR prediction [62] and the quark model result [55, 58].

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