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Calculation of QCD NLO Splitting Functions in the light-cone gauge: a new regularization prescription *

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We report on the progress in calculating NLO DGLAP splitting functions for $x < 1$ using the New Principal Value prescription, which is a modification of the standard Principal Value approach proposed by Curci, Furmanski and Petronzio in 1980. The new prescription reproduces the standard results on the inclusive (integrated) level, but simplifies individual contributions and restricts the cancellations between real and virtual diagrams which makes it useful for Monte Carlo simulations.

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1. Introduction

In QCD in addition to the ultra-violet (UV) singularities also mass singularities appear. Mass singularities can be further divided into infra-red (IR) and collinear ones. By analogy with the UV divergences, which rule the evolution of the strong coupling constant α_s , the collinear divergences rule the evolution of parton distribution functions, f_i . This evolution is governed by the DGLAP equations [1, 2, 3] which read:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \ln \mu^2} f_i(x, \mu^2) = \sum_{j=g,q,\bar{q}} \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} P_{ij}(z, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) f_j\left(\frac{x}{z}, \mu^2\right), \quad (1.1)$$

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where μ is the factorization scale, $i, j = g, q, \bar{q}$ goes over all types of partons, and $P_{ij}(x, \alpha_s)$ are the DGLAP splitting functions (evolution kernels).

As opposed to parton distributions, the evolution kernels can be calculated perturbatively and we can write their expansion in powers of α_s as

$$P_{ij}(x, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) = \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} P_{ij}^{(0)}(x) + \left(\frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi}\right)^2 P_{ij}^{(1)}(x) + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3). \quad (1.2)$$

The lowest $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ splitting functions $P_{ij}^{(0)}(x)$ are known for about forty years, e.g. see [1, 4]. Later, the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ splitting functions were calculated with the help of two independent methods: 1) the operator product expansion (OPE) [5, 6] and 2) the method of Curci, Furmanski, and Petronzio (CFP) [4, 7] which is based on factorization properties of mass singularities in the light-cone gauge [8]. The latest, state-of-the-art results for the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ space-like splitting functions were obtained with OPE approach in [9, 10], and approximate results for the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ time-like splitting functions are available in [11, 12].

Such impressive results obtained with the OPE method are caused by its technical simplicity compared to the CFP approach. The latter method operates in the physical momentum space and uses light-cone gauge which introduces additional complications due to the axial-type denominator $1/(ln)$, where n is a light-cone reference vector. Despite of this complication, the CFP method provides a more clear physical picture of the collinear limit, i.e. generalized ladder expansion [8].

This fact is used to build the first fully next-to-leading-order (i.e. $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$) parton shower Monte Carlo generator [13, 14, 15] (with NLO corrections included in both the hard matrix element and the shower itself). Construction of such a NLO shower, however, requires the knowledge about the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ splitting functions at the exclusive, unintegrated, level. It means that, in addition to the known dependence on the longitudinal momentum fraction x , the dependence on the transverse momentum variable should be also known. Because of this, the use of the OPE method becomes more complicated in comparison to the CFP approach.

Moreover, the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ splitting functions calculated in the standard CFP approach, that are available in the literature [4, 18, 19], are also not well suited for the purpose of Monte Carlo simulations of parton cascades. First, the literature provides mostly the inclusive splitting functions (after integration over the final state momenta). Second, in the classic CFP approach there are cancellations between real and virtual contributions that are realized through cancellation of dimensional ϵ poles. This is incompatible with the Monte Carlo parton shower algorithms, and motivates modification of the CFP prescription [21] and recalculation of the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ evolution kernels.¹

We already started to calculate the NLO DGLAP kernels in the modified scheme. For the first time the new approach was used to calculate the real contributions to the non-singlet splitting function [20]. After that, we proceed with one-loop virtual contributions [22] and would like to report on these results in this paper.

¹ There is also an interest in recalculating the evolution kernels for the purpose of improving the convergence of expansion of parton distributions [16, 17].

2. The New Principal Value Prescription

Contributions to the NLO splitting functions for $x < 1$ come from two types of topologies, further referred to as *real* – with two final-state momenta; and *virtual* – with one virtual and one final-state momentum. At the inclusive level these two cases can be added together since all, real and virtual, momenta are integrated out and only x -dependence is left. With more detailed analysis of the standard calculation procedure [19] one can find that $1/\epsilon^3$ terms cancel between these two contributions, while, as expected, terms $1/\epsilon^2$ and lower survive. Existence of $1/\epsilon^3$ poles is a serious problem for Monte-Carlo application of splitting functions, since at the exclusive level the real and virtual contributions are defined in different phase spaces, two- and one-particle ones respectively. Therefore, the contributions can not be easily added in order to cancel higher-order poles in ϵ and to make splitting functions finite in $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit at the exclusive level. Fortunately, this issue can be resolved with a modification to the standard PV regularization prescription for the light-cone singularities, which we proposed in [21, 22].

In the standard approach the PV regularization is applied only to the axial denominator in the gluon propagator at the level of the Feynman rules:

$$g^{\mu\nu} - \frac{l^\mu n^\nu + l^\nu n^\mu}{ln} \rightarrow g^{\mu\nu} - (l^\mu n^\nu + l^\nu n^\mu) \frac{ln}{(ln)^2 + \delta^2(pl)}, \quad (2.1)$$

where δ is an infinitesimal regulator and p is an external reference momentum. However, there are also singularities in the $l_+ = (ln)/(pn)$ variable originating from the phase space parametrization or the Feynman part of gluon propagator and in the standard approach these are regularized in a dimensional manner. In the *New Principal Value* (NPV) prescription [21] the PV regularization is used to regularize *all* the singularities in the l^+ variable, regardless of their origin. For instance, we do the following replacement:

$$d^m l l_+^{\epsilon-1} \rightarrow d^m l \frac{l_+}{l_+^2 + \delta^2} \left(1 + \epsilon \ln l_+ + \epsilon^2 \frac{1}{2} \ln^2 l_+ + \dots \right) \quad (2.2)$$

in the entire integrand.

When the new prescription is used, there is one technical point we would like to underline. As opposed to the standard techniques of calculating loop integrals, where we introduce e.g. the Feynman parameters and integrate over them at the very end of the calculation, in the NPV prescription we perform the integration over the “plus” component (l_+) as the last one.

In the NPV prescription singularities appearing as double ϵ poles (before integration over scale, or in the case of virtual graphs before integration over final state momentum) are changed to double logarithms in the regulator δ or combination of single logarithms and single poles.² For example, if we consider a three-point Feynman integral (kinematical

² We use the following symbols for divergent integrals with the geometrical PV regularization:

$$I_0 = \int_0^1 dx \frac{x}{x^2 + \delta^2} \simeq -\ln \delta, \quad I_1 = \int_0^1 dx \frac{x}{x^2 + \delta^2} \ln x \simeq -\frac{1}{2} \ln^2 \delta - \frac{\pi^2}{24}.$$

set-up: $p^2 = (p - q)^2 = 0$, $q^2 < 0$) in the standard CFP approach, we have:

$$J_3^F = \int \frac{d^m l}{(2\pi)^m} \frac{1}{l^2(q-l)^2(p-l)^2} = \frac{i}{(4\pi)^2 |q^2|} \left(\frac{4\pi}{|q^2|} \right)^{-\epsilon} \Gamma(1-\epsilon) \left(-\frac{1}{\epsilon^2} + \frac{\pi^2}{6} \right), \quad (2.3)$$

and in the NPV prescription it is given by:

$$J_3^F = \frac{i}{(4\pi)^2 |q^2|} \left(\frac{4\pi}{|q^2|} \right)^{-\epsilon} \Gamma(1-\epsilon) \left(-\frac{2I_0 + \ln(1-x)}{\epsilon} - 4I_1 + 2I_0 \ln(1-x) + \frac{\ln^2(1-x)}{2} \right). \quad (2.4)$$

In this example we can explicitly see how the ϵ pole is replaced by the geometrical regulator which can be actually implemented in a Monte Carlo program. It is also important that in most cases the singularities regularized by I_0 and I_1 cancel separately between the real and virtual contributions.

3. NLO Splitting Functions

In this section, we present a few selected results obtained in the NPV scheme. Namely, we show all contributions to the inclusive splitting function P_{qq} and selected contributions to the P_{gg} one. This is enough to demonstrate explicitly that the NPV prescription leads to the same inclusive splitting functions as the standard PV scheme, but at the same time can be used at the exclusive level for Monte Carlo simulations in four dimensions. All the contributing graphs are shown in Fig. 1.

Inclusive splitting functions are presented in Tables 1–2, where in the ‘virt’ column we provide contributions with one cut line, in the ‘real’ column – with two cut lines, and in ‘sum’ column – their sum. This allows for comparison of the results in NPV prescription with already known results in the PV prescription [4, 18, 19] and demonstrates the correctness of the proposed approach. The results in the ‘virt’ columns can be calculated with the help of the **Axiloop** package [23] and are available in [22, 21], the real contributions were calculated in [20]. The column ‘sum’ equals to the sum of the corresponding ‘virt’ and ‘real’ columns and is in full agreement with the known results, e.g. [18, 19].

In addition we present also contributions from diagrams of topologies (d-qq) and (d-gg) to the *exclusive splitting functions* in which dependence on the final-state momenta is kept unintegrated, see Fig. 1:

$$\begin{aligned} W_R^{(d-qq)} = \alpha_s^2 \frac{\Gamma(1-\epsilon)}{(4\pi)^\epsilon} \frac{1}{|k^2|} \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon} (6 - 4 \ln x - 8 \ln(1-x) - 16I_0) \left(\left(\frac{|k^2|}{\mu_r^2} \right)^\epsilon - 1 \right) P_{qq} \right. \\ \left. + \left(p_{qq} (-14 + 16\text{Li}_2(1) + 4 \ln^2 x - 4\text{Li}_2(1-x) + 8I_0 \ln x + 8I_0 \ln(1-x) - 24I_1) \right. \right. \\ \left. \left. + (1-x) - (1+x) \right) \left(\frac{|k^2|}{\mu_r^2} \right)^\epsilon \right\}, \quad (3.1) \end{aligned}$$

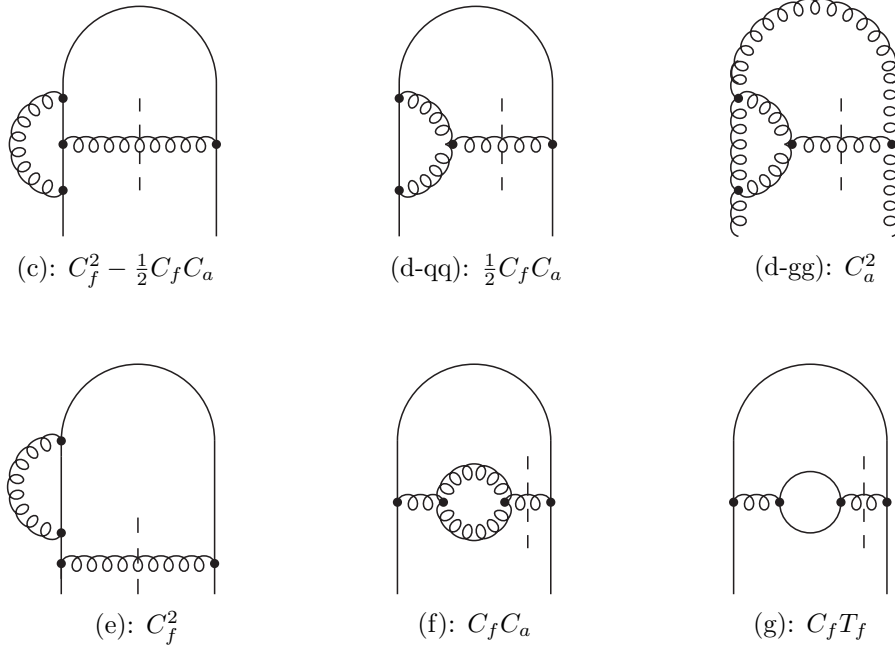


Fig. 1: Virtual graphs contributing to the NLO splitting function P_{qq} and one contribution to the P_{gg} kernel.

$$\begin{aligned}
W_R^{(\text{d-gg})} = & \alpha_s^2 \frac{\Gamma(1-\epsilon)}{(4\pi)^\epsilon} \frac{8}{|k^2|} \left\{ \frac{1}{\epsilon} \left(-\frac{11}{3} + 2\ln x + 2\ln(1-x) + 6I_0 \right) \left(1 - \left(\frac{|k^2|}{\mu_r^2} \right)^\epsilon \right) P_{gg} \right. \\
& \left. - \left(P_{gg} \left(\frac{67}{9} - 6\text{Li}_2(1) - 2\ln^2 x - 4I_0 \ln x - 2I_0 \ln(1-x) + 8I_1 \right) + \frac{x}{6} \right) \left(\frac{|k^2|}{\mu_r^2} \right)^\epsilon \right\}, \quad (3.2)
\end{aligned}$$

where the leading-order splitting functions are given as

$$p_{qq} = \frac{1+x^2}{1-x}, \quad P_{qq} = \frac{1+x^2}{1-x} + \epsilon(1-x), \quad P_{gg} = \frac{(1-x+x^2)^2}{x(1-x)}. \quad (3.3)$$

Note that contributions to the exclusive splitting functions in eqs. (3.1–3.2) contain $1/\epsilon$ poles in $m = 4 + 2\epsilon$ dimensions, but they are finite in $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit. This is not true for the same contributions in the standard PV prescription where finiteness for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ occurs only after adding the real contributions³.

³ There are exceptions to this behavior (finiteness for $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$) also in the NPV scheme: they occur for the topologies (f) and (g) and they are connected with building up of the running coupling constant and with the final-state-type singularities.

4. Summary

In this work we have presented all contributions to the non-singlet space-like NLO splitting function P_{qq} calculated in the NPV prescription, which is a modification of the standard approach proposed by Curci, Furmanski and Petronzio [4]. The main reason for such a modification is the need to have the *exclusive* NLO splitting functions. These objects serve as building blocks for the NLO parton shower Monte Carlo generator, KRKMC, currently developed by the theory group at IFJ PAN [14].

The key modification was made to the regularization prescription for spurious singularities which arise from axial-type denominators [21]. The obtained exclusive results [21, 22] have simpler pole structure (compared with [19]), and apart from known exceptions they satisfy the requirement for being finite in $\epsilon \rightarrow 0$ limit, and thus are suitable for Monte Carlo parton shower simulations in four dimensions. We also presented the inclusive results separately for real and virtual contributions. These results are in full agreement with the literature [4, 18, 19].

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	(d-qq)			(d-gg)			(c)		
	virt	real	sum	virt	real	sum	virt	real	sum
<i>Double Poles</i>									
p_{qq}	-6	0	-6	-22/3	0	-22/3	-6	0	-6
$p_{qq} \ln x$	4	0	4	4	0	4	4	0	4
$p_{qq} \ln(1-x)$	8	0	8	4	0	4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_0$	16	0	16	12	0	12	8	0	8
<i>Single Poles</i>									
p_{qq}	-7	-4	-11	-134/9	-4	-170/9	-7	0	-7
$p_{qq} \ln x$	0	-3/2	-3/2	0	-11/3	-11/3	0	-3/2	-3/2
$p_{qq} \ln(1-x)$	-3	8	5	-22/3	8	2/3	-3	0	-3
$p_{qq} \ln^2 x$	2	-1	1	4	-2	2	2	-1	1
$p_{qq} \ln x \ln(1-x)$	2	4	6	4	4	8	2	0	2
$p_{qq} \ln^2(1-x)$	4	-2	2	4	-2	2	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \text{Li}_2(1)$	8	-2	6	12	-2	10	4	0	4
$p_{qq} \text{Li}_2(1-x)$	-2	2	0	0	0	0	2	-2	0
$1/x$	0	0	0	0	-22/3	-22/3	0	0	0
1	-3	2	-1	0	25/3	25/3	-3	-8	-11
x	2	-1	1	-1/3	-24/3	-25/3	4	7	11
x^2	0	0	0	0	22/3	22/3	0	0	0
$1/x \ln x$	0	0	0	0	-11/3	-11/3	0	0	0
$\ln x$	2	1/2	5/2	0	-23/6	-23/6	2	-7/2	-3/2
$x \ln x$	-2	1/2	-3/2	0	-23/6	-23/6	-2	-7/2	-11/2
$x^2 \ln x$	0	0	0	0	-11/3	-11/3	0	0	0
$(1-x) \ln(1-x)$	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Single Spurious Poles</i>									
$p_{qq} I_0$	0	8	8	0	8	8	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_0 \ln x$	4	4	8	8	4	12	4	0	4
$p_{qq} I_0 \ln(1-x)$	12	-4	8	16	-4	12	4	0	4
$p_{qq} I_1$	-12	4	-8	-16	4	-12	-4	0	-4
$(1-x) I_0$	8	0	8	0	0	0	4	0	4

Table 1: Contributions to the inclusive splitting functions P_{qq} and P_{gg} from the graphs (d-qq), (d-gg), and (c) in the NPV prescription.

	(e)	(f)			(g)		
	virt	virt	real	sum	virt	real	sum
<i>Double Poles</i>							
p_{qq}	6	44/3	-22/3	22/3	-8/3	4/3	-4/3
$p_{qq} \ln x$	-8	0	0	0	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \ln(1-x)$	0	-16	8	-8	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_0$	-8	-16	8	-8	0	0	0
<i>Single Poles</i>							
p_{qq}	7	0	103/9	103/9	0	-10/9	-10/9
$p_{qq} \ln x$	0	0	11/3	11/3	0	-2/3	-2/3
$p_{qq} \ln(1-x)$	3	22/3	-34/3	-4	-4/3	4/3	0
$p_{qq} \ln^2 x$	-2	0	0	0	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \ln x \ln(1-x)$	-4	0	-4	-4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \ln^2(1-x)$	0	-8	6	-2	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \text{Li}_2(1)$	-4	0	-4	-4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} \text{Li}_2(1-x)$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$1-x$	3	22/3	-4	10/3	-4/3	0	-4/3
$(1-x) \ln x$	-4	0	0	0	0	0	0
$(1-x) \ln(1-x)$	0	-8	4	-4	0	0	0
$1+x$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$(1+x) \ln x$	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Single Spurious Poles</i>							
$p_{qq} I_0$	0	0	-4	-4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_0 \ln x$	-4	0	-4	-4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_0 \ln(1-x)$	-4	-8	4	-4	0	0	0
$p_{qq} I_1$	4	0	4	4	0	0	0
$(1-x) I_0$	-4	-8	4	-4	0	0	0

Table 2: Contributions to the inclusive splitting function P_{qq} from the graphs (e), (f), and (g) in the NPV prescription.