

Towards a consensus regarding the angular momentum controversy

Elliot Leader

Imperial College London

I came to Seattle to defend the Canonical version, and I still think it is the clearest and most intuitive, and its operators do what angular momentum operators should do, i.e. generate rotations.

However, I now feel that it is a little bit like scheme dependence in polarized PDFs. People use MS , \overline{MS} , AB and JET . One could argue that the JET scheme is best, but it makes little difference, *provided* people clearly indicate what they are using.

Similarly, I now feel that both Canonical and Belinfante are useful and, most importantly, give you different and complementary information about the spin structure of the nucleon. I am less enthusiastic about the Intermediate versions.

Here is a brief summary of the properties of the various versions.

Canonical (Jaffe, Manohar, Leader)

Pros: Intuitive. For several fields usually looks like sum of operators for the individual fields. There is a gluon spin term and its longitudinal projection i.e. the gluon helicity, is measured by $\Delta G(x)$. Operators are generators of rotations, as they should be, at least at equal times.

Cons: Operators are not gauge invariant, but I claim their physical matrix elements are. A test of this on a lattice by Lin and Liu was inconclusive [see arXiv:1111.5813]. A new test has been proposed.

Belinfante(Ji)

Pros: Operators are gauge invariant. Expectation values of the operators can be related to GPDs.

Cons: No gluon spin term. Operators do not generate rotations.

Intermediate (Chen, Lu, Sun, Wang, Goldman; Wakamatsu; Hatta)

Pros: Operators are gauge invariant. There is a gluon spin term. Wakamatsu shows it is measured by $\Delta G(x)$.

Cons: Requires splitting the gluon vector potential A^μ into two pieces A_{pure}^μ and A_{Phys}^μ . This splitting is somewhat arbitrary, but Hatta gives an explicit construction. The splitting is either frame-dependent and A^μ transforms as a 4-vector, or frame-independent and A^μ does NOT transform as a 4-vector. It is not clear what are the consequences of the latter.