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# Gyromagnetic factors and atomic clock constraints on the variation of fundamental constants

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We consider the effect of the coupled variations of fundamental constants on the nucleon magnetic moment. The nucleon  $g$ -factor enters into the interpretation of the measurements of variations in the fine-structure constant,  $\alpha$ , in both the laboratory (through atomic clock measurements) and in astrophysical systems (e.g. through measurements of the 21 cm transitions). A null result can be translated into a limit on the variation of a set of fundamental constants, that is usually reduced to  $\alpha$ . However, in specific models, particularly unification models, changes in  $\alpha$  are always accompanied by corresponding changes in other fundamental quantities such as the QCD scale,  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ . This work tracks the changes in the nucleon  $g$ -factors induced from changes in  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and the light quark masses. In principle, these coupled variations can improve the bounds on the variation of  $\alpha$  by an order of magnitude from *existing* atomic clock and astrophysical measurements. Unfortunately, the calculation of the dependence of  $g$ -factors on fundamental parameters is notoriously model-dependent.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Any definitive measurement of a temporal or spatial variation in a fundamental constant, such as the fine-structure constant  $\alpha$ , would signal physics beyond the standard model, and, in particular, a violation of the equivalence principle which is one of the foundations of general relativity. In many cases, such an observation would indicate the existence of a new light (usually scalar) degree of freedom [1]. Indeed, there has been considerable excitement during the last decade over the possible time variations in  $\alpha$  from observations of quasar absorption systems [2–7].

In effectively all unification models of nongravitational interactions, and certainly in models in which one imposes gauge coupling unification at some high energy scale, a variation in  $\alpha$  is invariably accompanied by variations in other gauge couplings [8,9]. In particular, variations in the strong gauge coupling,  $\alpha_s$ , will induce variations in the QCD scale,  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , as can be seen from the low energy expression for  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  when mass thresholds are included

$$\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} = \mu \left( \frac{m_c m_b m_t}{\mu^3} \right)^{2/27} \exp \left[ -\frac{2\pi}{9\alpha_s(\mu)} \right], \quad (1)$$

for a renormalization scale  $\mu > m_t$  up to the unification scale [8–10], where  $m_{c,b,t}$  are the masses of the charm,

bottom, and top quarks. Because fermion masses are proportional to  $h\nu$  where  $h$  is a Yukawa coupling and  $\nu$  is the Higgs vacuum expectation value (vev), variations in Yukawa couplings will also affect variations in  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  so that

$$\frac{\Delta\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} = R \frac{\Delta\alpha}{\alpha} + \frac{2}{27} \left( 3 \frac{\Delta\nu}{\nu} + \frac{\Delta h_c}{h_c} + \frac{\Delta h_b}{h_b} + \frac{\Delta h_t}{h_t} \right). \quad (2)$$

Typical values for  $R$  are of order 30 in many grand unified theories, but there is considerable model-dependence in this coefficient [11].

Furthermore, in theories in which the electroweak scale is derived by dimensional transmutation, changes in the Yukawa couplings (particularly the top Yukawa) lead to exponentially large changes in the Higgs vev. In such theories, the Higgs expectation value is related to the Planck mass,  $M_{\text{P}}$ , by [9]

$$\nu \sim M_{\text{P}} \exp \left( -\frac{2\pi c}{\alpha_t} \right), \quad (3)$$

where  $c$  is a constant of order 1, and  $\alpha_t = h_t^2/4\pi$ . For  $c \sim h_t \sim 1$ ,

$$\frac{\Delta\nu}{\nu} \sim S \frac{\Delta h_t}{h_t}, \quad (4)$$

with  $S \sim 160$ , though there is considerable model-dependence in this value as well. For example, in supersymmetric models,  $S$  can be related to the sensitivity of the

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$Z$  gauge boson mass to the top Yukawa, and may take values anywhere from about 80 to 500 [12]. This dependence gets translated into a variation in all low energy particle masses [13].

In addition, in many string theories, all gauge and Yukawa couplings are determined by the expectation value of a dilaton and we might expect [9]

$$\frac{\Delta h}{h} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{\Delta \alpha}{\alpha}, \quad (5)$$

assuming that all Yukawa couplings vary similarly, so that they all reduce to  $h$ . Therefore, once we allow  $\alpha$  to vary, virtually all masses and couplings are expected to vary as well, typically much more strongly than the variation induced by the Coulomb interaction alone.

Irrespective of the purported observations of a time variation in  $\alpha$ , many experiments and analyses have led to limits on possible variations [14,15]. Furthermore, the use of coupled variations has led to significantly improved constraints in a wide range of environments ranging from big bang nucleosynthesis [9,16–21], the Oklo reactor [22,23], meteoritic data [22–24], the microwave background [20,25] and stellar evolution [26].

This article explores the possibility that the strongest existing limits on the fine-structure constant, namely, those derived from atomic clock measurements, can also be enhanced by considering such coupled variations. We expect the effect of induced variations in  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and the light quark masses to enter through the nucleon magnetic moment. Existing experimental limits on  $\alpha$  from atomic clock experiments assume constant  $\mu_{\text{p,n}}$ . Indeed, limits on the variations of quark masses in units of the QCD scale, i.e.  $m_q/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , from atomic clock measurements have been derived [27,28]. Given a (model-dependent) calculation of the nucleon magnetic moment (or equivalently its  $g$ -factor), we can derive sharper bounds on the variation of  $\alpha$  from existing data. Unfortunately, because of the model-dependence, we find that while the limits are generally improved (by as much as an order of magnitude), there is considerable uncertainty in the precise numerical limit. As a corollary, we apply our results to astrophysical measurements such as those which rely on the 21 cm line which also depends on  $\mu_{\text{p,n}}$ .

The article is organized as follows: In Sec. II, we outline the procedure of obtaining limits on  $\alpha$  from atomic clock experiments. In particular, we examine the detailed dependence on the nuclear  $g$ -factors which will be subject to variation. In Sec. III, we derive the dependence of the nucleon magnetic moment on  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and the light quark masses. Because there is no unique (or rigorous) method for calculating baryon magnetic moments, we consider several different approaches. The most straightforward employs the constituent quark model. Surprisingly, this model is quite effective in matching the observed baryon magnetic moments. Even within this broad approach, our

result will depend on the calculation of the nucleon mass, as well as the calculation of the constituent quark mass; each carrying a significant degree of uncertainty. We also consider an approach based on chiral perturbation theory, and a method based partially on lattice results. In Sec. IV, we apply these results to atomic clock measurements and derive “improved” limits on the variation of  $\alpha$ . Finally, in Sec. V, we extend these results to measurements involving the 21 cm line and summarize our results.

## II. ATOMIC CLOCK CONSTRAINTS

### A. From frequency shifts to constants

The comparison of atomic clocks provides a constraint on the relative shift of the frequencies of the two clocks as a function of time, on time scales of the order of a couple of years. This observation (or lack thereof) can be translated into a constraint on the time variation of a fundamental constant. Using QED, the frequency of the atomic transitions can be expressed (see e.g. [29]) in terms of the fine-structure constant  $\alpha$ , the electron-to-proton mass ratio,  $\mu \equiv m_e/m_p$  and the gyromagnetic factor  $g_i = 2\mu_i/\mu_N$ , where  $\mu_i$  is the nuclear magnetic moment, and  $\mu_N = \frac{e}{2m_p}$  is the nuclear magneton.

The hyperfine frequency in a given electronic state of an alkali-like atom is given by

$$\nu_{\text{hfs}} \simeq R_\infty c \times A_{\text{hfs}} \times g_i \times \alpha^2 \times \mu \times F_{\text{hfs}}(\alpha), \quad (6)$$

where  $R_\infty$  the Rydberg constant,  $A_{\text{hfs}}$  is a numerical factor depending on the atomic species and  $F_{\text{hfs}}(\alpha)$  is a factor taking into account relativistic corrections (including the Casimir contribution) which depends on the atom. We omitted the effect of the finite nuclear radius on hyperfine frequency in Eq. (6), since the effect of varying the nuclear radius is shown to be smaller [30,31] than the effects of varying other parameters which we consider in this work. Similarly, the frequency of an electronic transition is well-approximated by

$$\nu_{\text{elec}} \simeq R_\infty c \times A_{\text{elec}} \times F_{\text{elec}}(Z, \alpha), \quad (7)$$

where, as above,  $A_{\text{elec}}$  is a numerical factor depending on each particular atom and  $F_{\text{elec}}$  is the function accounting for relativistic effects, spin-orbit couplings and many-body effects. Even though an electronic transition should also include a contribution from the hyperfine interaction, it is generally only a small fraction of the transition energy and thus should not carry any significant sensitivity to a variation of the fundamental constants.

Relativistic corrections are important [32] and are computed by means of relativistic  $N$ -body calculations [33–36]. These can be characterized by introducing the sensitivity of the relativistic factors to a variation of  $\alpha$  defined by

$$\kappa_\alpha = \frac{\delta \ln F}{\delta \ln \alpha}. \quad (8)$$

TABLE I. Sensitivity of various transitions on a variation of the fine-structure constant. From Refs. [33–36].

Atom	Transition	Sensitivity $\kappa_\alpha$
$^1\text{H}$	$1s - 2s$	0.00
$^{87}\text{Rb}$	hf	0.34
$^{133}\text{Cs}$	$^2S_{1/2}(F=2) - (F=3)$	0.83
$^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	$^2S_{1/2} - ^2D_{3/2}$	0.9
$^{199}\text{Hg}^+$	$^2S_{1/2} - ^2D_{5/2}$	-3.2
$^{87}\text{Sr}$	$^1S_0 - ^3P_0$	0.06
$^{27}\text{Al}^+$	$^1S_0 - ^3P_0$	0.008

The values of these coefficients for the transitions that we shall consider below are summarized in Table I.

### B. Experimental constraints

Over the past several years, many comparisons of atomic clocks have been performed. We consider only the latest result of each type of comparison for our analysis.

- (i) *Rubidium*: The comparison of the hyperfine frequencies of rubidium and caesium in their electronic ground state between 1998 and 2004 [29] yields

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Rb}}}\right) = (0.5 \pm 5.3) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (9)$$

From Eq. (6), and using the values of the sensitivities  $\kappa_\alpha$ , we deduce that this comparison constrains

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Rb}}} \propto \frac{g_{\text{Cs}}}{g_{\text{Rb}}} \alpha^{0.49}. \quad (10)$$

- (ii) *Atomic hydrogen*: The  $1s - 2s$  transition in atomic hydrogen was compared to the ground state hyperfine splitting of caesium [37] in 1999 and 2003, setting an upper limit on the variation of  $\nu_{\text{H}}$  of  $(-29 \pm 57)$  Hz within 44 months. This can be translated in a relative drift

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{H}}}\right) = (32 \pm 63) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (11)$$

Since the relativistic correction for the atomic hydrogen transition nearly vanishes, we have  $\nu_{\text{H}} \sim R_\infty$  so that

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{H}}} \propto g_{\text{Cs}} \mu \alpha^{2.83}. \quad (12)$$

- (iii) *Mercury*: The  $^{199}\text{Hg}^+ + ^2S_{1/2} - ^2D_{5/2}$  optical transition has a high sensitivity to  $\alpha$  (see Table I) so that it is well suited to test its variation. The frequency of the  $^{199}\text{Hg}^+$  electric quadrupole transition at 282 nm was thus compared to the ground state hyperfine transition of caesium first during a 2 yr period [38] and then over a 6 yr period [39] to get

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Hg}}}\right) = (-3.7 \pm 3.9) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (13)$$

While  $\nu_{\text{Cs}}$  is still given by Eq. (6),  $\nu_{\text{Hg}}$  is given by Eq. (7). Using the sensitivities of Table I, we conclude that this comparison tests the stability of

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Hg}}} \propto g_{\text{Cs}} \mu \alpha^{6.03}. \quad (14)$$

- (iv) *Ytterbium*: The  $^2S_{1/2} - ^2D_{3/2}$  electric quadrupole transition at 688 THz of  $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$  was compared to the ground state hyperfine transition of caesium. The constraint of [40] was updated, after a comparison over a 6 yr period, which leads to [41]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Yb}}}\right) = (0.78 \pm 1.40) \times 10^{-15} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (15)$$

This tests the stability of

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Yb}}} \propto g_{\text{Cs}} \mu \alpha^{1.93}. \quad (16)$$

- (v) *Strontium*: The comparison of the  $^1S_0 - ^3P_0$  transition in neutral  $^{87}\text{Sr}$  with a caesium clock was performed in three independent laboratories. The combination of these three experiments [42] leads to the constraint

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Sr}}}\right) = (1.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-15} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (17)$$

Similarly, this tests the stability of

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{Sr}}} \propto g_{\text{Cs}} \mu \alpha^{2.77}. \quad (18)$$

- (vi) *Atomic dysprosium*: The electric dipole (E1) transition between two nearly degenerate opposite-parity states in atomic dysprosium should be highly sensitive to the variation of  $\alpha$  [34,35,43,44]. The frequencies of two isotopes of dysprosium were monitored over an 8-month period [45] showing that the frequency variation of the 3.1-MHz transition in  $^{162}\text{Dy}$  and the 235-MHz transition in  $^{162}\text{Dy}$  are  $9.0 \pm 6.7$  Hz/yr and  $-0.6 \pm 6.5$  Hz/yr, respectively. This provides the constraint

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = (-2.7 \pm 2.6) \times 10^{-15} \text{ yr}^{-1}, \quad (19)$$

at  $1\sigma$  level, without any assumptions on the constancy of other fundamental constants.

- (vii) *Aluminum and mercury single-ion optical clocks*: The comparison of the  $^1S_0 - ^3P_0$  transition in  $^{27}\text{Al}^+$  and  $^2S_{1/2} - ^2D_{5/2}$  in  $^{199}\text{Hg}^+$  over a year allowed one to set the constraint [46]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Al}}}{\nu_{\text{Hg}}}\right) = (-5.3 \pm 7.9) \times 10^{-17} \text{yr}^{-1}. \quad (20)$$

Proceeding as previously, this tests the stability of

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Al}}}{\nu_{\text{Hg}}} \propto \alpha^{3.208}, \quad (21)$$

which, using Eq. (21) directly sets the constraint

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = (-1.65 \pm 2.46) \times 10^{-17} \text{yr}^{-1}, \quad (22)$$

since it depends only on  $\alpha$ .

Experiments with diatomic molecules, as first pointed out by Thomson [47] provide a test of the variation of  $\mu$ . The energy difference between two adjacent rotational levels in a diatomic molecule is inversely proportional to  $Mr^{-2}$ ,  $r$  being the bond length and  $M$  the reduced mass, and the vibrational transition of the same molecule has, in first approximation, a  $\sqrt{M}$  dependence. For molecular hydrogen  $M = m_p/2$  so that the comparison of an observed vibro-rotational spectrum with a laboratory spectrum gives information on the variation of  $m_p$  and  $m_n$ . Comparing pure rotational transitions with electronic transitions gives a measurement of  $\mu$ . It follows that the frequency of vibro-rotation transitions is, in the Born-Oppenheimer approximation, of the form

$$\nu \simeq E_I(c_{\text{elec}} + c_{\text{vib}}\sqrt{\mu} + c_{\text{rot}}\mu), \quad (23)$$

where  $c_{\text{elec}}$ ,  $c_{\text{vib}}$  and  $c_{\text{rot}}$  are some numerical coefficients.

The comparison of the vibro-rotational transition in the molecule SF6 was compared to a caesium clock over a two-year period, leading to the constraint [48]

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln\left(\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{SF6}}}\right) = (-1.9 \pm 0.12 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-14} \text{yr}^{-1}, \quad (24)$$

where the second error takes into account uncontrolled systematics. Now, using Table I again and Eq. (6) for Cs, we deduce that for a vibrational transition,

$$\frac{\nu_{\text{Cs}}}{\nu_{\text{SF6}}} \propto g_{\text{Cs}}\sqrt{\mu}\alpha^{2.83}. \quad (25)$$

### C. Nuclear $g$ -factors

All the constraints involve only 4 quantities,  $\mu$ ,  $\alpha$  and the two gyromagnetic factors  $g_{\text{Cs}}$  and  $g_{\text{Rb}}$ . It follows that we need to relate the nuclear  $g$ -factors that appeared in the constraints of the previous subsection, with the proton and neutron  $g$ -factors that will be calculated in Sec. III.

An approximate calculation of the nuclear magnetic moment is possible in the shell model and is relatively simple for even-odd (or odd-even) nuclei where the nuclear magnetic moment is determined by the unpaired nucleon. For a single nucleon, in a particular  $(l, j)$  state within the nucleus, we can write

$$g = \begin{cases} 2lg_l + g_s & \text{for } \begin{cases} j = l + \frac{1}{2} \\ j = l - \frac{1}{2} \end{cases} \end{cases} \quad (26)$$

where  $g_l = 1(0)$  and  $g_s = g_p(g_n)$  for a valence proton (neutron).

From the previous discussion, the only  $g$ -factors that are needed are those for  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  and  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ . For both isotopes, we have an unpaired valence proton. For  $^{87}\text{Rb}$ , the ground state is in a  $p_{3/2}$  state so that  $l = 1$  and  $j = \frac{3}{2}$ , while for  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , the ground state is in a  $g_{7/2}$  state corresponding to  $l = 4$  and  $j = \frac{7}{2}$ . Using Eq. (26), the nuclear  $g$ -factor can easily be expressed in terms of  $g_p$  alone. Using  $g_p = 5.586$ , we find  $g = 7.586$  for  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  and  $g = 3.433$  for  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , while the experimental values are  $g = 5.502$  for  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  and  $g = 5.164$  for  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ .

The differences between the shell model predicted  $g$ -factors and the experimental values can be attributed to the effects of the polarization of the nonvalence nucleons and spin-spin interaction [27,31]. Taking these effects into account, the refined formula relevant for our discussion of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  and  $^{133}\text{Cs}$  is

$$g = 2[g_n b \langle s_z \rangle^o + (g_p - 1)(1 - b) \langle s_z \rangle^o + j], \quad (27)$$

where  $g_n = -3.826$ ,  $\langle s_z \rangle^o$  is the spin expectation value of the single valence proton in the shell model and it is one half of the coefficient of  $g_s$  in Eq. (26), and  $b$  is determined by the spin-spin interaction and it appears in the expressions for the spin expectation value of the valence proton  $\langle s_{z_p} \rangle = (1 - b) \langle s_z \rangle^o$  and nonvalence neutrons  $\langle s_{z_n} \rangle = b \langle s_z \rangle^o$ . Following the preferred method in [27,31], it is found

$$\langle s_{z_n} \rangle = \frac{\frac{g}{2} - j - (g_p - 1) \langle s_z \rangle^o}{g_n + 1 - g_p}, \quad (28)$$

and

$$\langle s_{z_p} \rangle = \langle s_z \rangle^o - \langle s_{z_n} \rangle. \quad (29)$$

Therefore, the variation of the  $g$ -factor can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta g}{g} &= \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} \frac{2g_p \langle s_{z_p} \rangle}{g} + \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} \frac{2g_n \langle s_{z_n} \rangle}{g} \\ &+ \frac{\delta b}{b} \frac{2(g_n - g_p + 1) \langle s_{z_n} \rangle}{g}. \end{aligned} \quad (30)$$

From Eq. (28)–(30), we find, by using the experimental  $g$ -factors,

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{Rb}}}{g_{\text{Rb}}} = 0.764 \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} - 0.172 \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} - 0.379 \frac{\delta b}{b}, \quad (31)$$

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{Cs}}}{g_{\text{Cs}}} = -0.619 \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} + 0.152 \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} + 0.335 \frac{\delta b}{b}. \quad (32)$$

TABLE II. Summary of the constraints of the atomic clock experiments and values of the coefficients  $\{\lambda_{g_p}, \lambda_{g_n}, \lambda_b, \lambda_\mu, \lambda_\alpha\}$  entering the decomposition (34).

Clocks	$\nu_{AB}$	$\lambda_{g_p}$	$\lambda_{g_n}$	$\lambda_b$	$\lambda_\mu$	$\lambda_\alpha$	$\dot{\nu}_{AB}/\nu_{AB}$ ( $\text{yr}^{-1}$ )
Cs-Rb	$\frac{g_{\text{Cs}}}{g_{\text{Rb}}}\alpha^{0.49}$	-1.383	0.325	0.714	0	0.49	$(0.5 \pm 5.3) \times 10^{-16}$
Cs-H	$g_{\text{Cs}}\mu\alpha^{2.83}$	-0.619	0.152	0.335	1	2.83	$(32 \pm 63) \times 10^{-16}$
Cs- $^{199}\text{Hg}^+$	$g_{\text{Cs}}\mu\alpha^{6.03}$	-0.619	0.152	0.335	1	6.03	$(-3.7 \pm 3.9) \times 10^{-16}$
Cs- $^{171}\text{Yb}^+$	$g_{\text{Cs}}\mu\alpha^{1.93}$	-0.619	0.152	0.335	1	1.93	$(0.78 \pm 1.40) \times 10^{-15}$
Cs-Sr	$g_{\text{Cs}}\mu\alpha^{2.77}$	-0.619	0.152	0.335	1	2.77	$(1.0 \pm 1.8) \times 10^{-15}$
Cs-SF <sub>6</sub>	$g_{\text{Cs}}\sqrt{\mu}\alpha^{2.83}$	-0.619	0.152	0.335	0.5	2.83	$(-1.9 \pm 0.12 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-14}$
Dy	$\alpha$	0	0	0	0	1	$(-2.7 \pm 2.6) \times 10^{-15}$
$^{199}\text{Hg}^+_{-27}\text{Al}^+$	$\alpha^{-3.208}$	0	0	0	0	-3.208	$(5.3 \pm 7.9) \times 10^{-17}$

### D. Summary of the constraints

Given the discussion in the two previous subsections, and, in particular, Eqs. (31) and (32), the atomic clock experiments give constraints on the set  $\{g_p, g_n, b, \mu, \alpha\}$  and thus variations in the relative frequency shift  $\nu_{AB} = \nu_A/\nu_B$  are given by

$$\frac{\delta\nu_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} = \lambda_{g_p} \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} + \lambda_{g_n} \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} + \lambda_b \frac{\delta b}{b} + \lambda_\mu \frac{\delta\mu}{\mu} + \lambda_\alpha \frac{\delta\alpha}{\alpha}, \quad (33)$$

or equivalently

$$\frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} = \lambda_{g_p} \frac{\dot{g}_p}{g_p} + \lambda_{g_n} \frac{\dot{g}_n}{g_n} + \lambda_b \frac{\dot{b}}{b} + \lambda_\mu \frac{\dot{\mu}}{\mu} + \lambda_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}, \quad (34)$$

with the coefficients  $\{\lambda_{g_p}, \lambda_{g_n}, \lambda_b, \lambda_\mu, \lambda_\alpha\}$  summarized in Table II.

For the sake of comparison, the shell model gives

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{Rb}}}{g_{\text{Rb}}} \simeq 0.736 \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} \quad (35)$$

and

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{Cs}}}{g_{\text{Cs}}} \simeq -1.266 \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p}. \quad (36)$$

The main difference arises from the dependence in  $g_n$  and  $b$  but the order of magnitude is similar.

### III. NUCLEON MAGNETIC MOMENTS, CURRENT QUARK MASSES AND $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

In this section, we will review several approaches in the literature in calculating the nucleon magnetic moments, including the nonrelativistic constituent quark model (NQM), chiral perturbation theory ( $\chi$ PT), and a method combining the results of  $\chi$ PT and lattice QCD. We will try to extract the dependence of the nucleon magnetic moments on the current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  from the expressions given by each of these approaches.

### A. The nonrelativistic constituent quark model approach

The NQM, which approximates hadrons as bound states of their constituent quarks gives a good approximation to the measured baryon magnetic moments [49]. In this model, the baryon magnetic moments are expressed in terms of the Dirac magnetic moments of their constituent quarks, with the coefficients given by the baryon spin/flavor wave functions. For the proton and neutron, the magnetic moments are

$$\mu_p = \frac{4}{3}\mu_u - \frac{1}{3}\mu_d \quad \text{and} \quad \mu_n = \frac{4}{3}\mu_d - \frac{1}{3}\mu_u, \quad (37)$$

where  $\mu_u = \frac{2}{3}\frac{e}{2M_u}$  and  $\mu_d = -\frac{1}{3}\frac{e}{2M_d}$ . Here,  $M_u$  and  $M_d$  are the constituent  $u$  and  $d$  quark masses, respectively, with their values around a third of the nucleon mass, to be compared with the much smaller  $u$  and  $d$  current quark masses,  $m_u$  and  $m_d$ , which are several MeV. For the three light flavors ( $u$ ,  $d$  and  $s$ ), the main part of their constituent quark masses have a strong interaction origin, with the dynamics of the virtual gluons and quark-antiquark sea being responsible for the large masses [50], while the current quark masses which contribute only a small portion of their corresponding constituent quark masses are of pure electroweak origin.

From Eq. (37), the nucleon magnetic moment in units of the nuclear magneton  $\mu_N = \frac{e}{2m_p}$ , that is, the  $g$ -factor of the nucleon, can be written as

$$g_{\text{NQM}} = 2 \left( c_u \frac{m_p}{M_u} + c_d \frac{m_p}{M_d} \right), \quad (38)$$

where  $c_u = 8/9$  and  $c_d = 1/9$  for the proton, and  $c_u = -2/9$  and  $c_d = -4/9$  for the neutron. In the study of hadron properties, the constituent quark masses are usually taken as fitting parameters, with  $M_u = M_d$  often assumed [49], since isospin is a good approximate symmetry. We will assume this relation in the following calculations to simplify the algebra, but we emphasize that  $\delta M_u$  may not necessarily be equal to  $\delta M_d$ . By differentiating Eq. (38), we obtain a general expression for the variation of the  $g$ -factor

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{NQM}}} = \frac{\delta m_p}{m_p} - \left( \frac{c_u}{c_u + c_d} \frac{\delta M_u}{M_u} + \frac{c_d}{c_u + c_d} \frac{\delta M_d}{M_d} \right). \quad (39)$$

The proton mass,  $m_p$ , and  $M_{u,d}$  are functions of the fundamental constants, and they can be formally written as  $m_p = m_p(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$  and  $M_{u,d} = M_{u,d}(v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$ , where the  $v_i$ 's are fundamental constants including  $m_u, m_d, m_s, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , etc. Therefore, Eq. (39) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{NQM}}} &= \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\delta v_i}{v_i} \left[ \frac{v_i}{m_p} \frac{\partial m_p}{\partial v_i} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - \left( \frac{c_u}{c_u + c_d} \frac{v_i}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial v_i} + \frac{c_d}{c_u + c_d} \frac{v_i}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial v_i} \right) \right] \\ &\equiv \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{\delta v_i}{v_i} \kappa_i. \end{aligned} \quad (40)$$

This is our key equation in studying the dependence of the  $g$ -factors on fundamental constants in the NQM approach, and the problem amounts to finding the expressions for  $m_p(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  and  $M_{u,d}(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ .

### 1. The current quark mass and $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ dependence of $m_p$

To get the coefficients of  $\frac{\delta m_p}{m_p}$ , that is, the first term in the square bracket of Eq. (40), we follow the procedure of [51–53], by defining  $B_q (q = u, d, s)$  and the  $\pi$ -nucleon sigma term,  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$ , in terms of proton matrix elements,

$$m_q B_q \equiv \langle p | m_q \bar{q} q | p \rangle = m_q \frac{\partial m_p}{\partial m_q}, \quad (41)$$

$$\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}} \equiv \langle p | \hat{m}(\bar{u}u + \bar{d}d) | p \rangle = \hat{m} \frac{\partial m_p}{\partial \hat{m}}, \quad (42)$$

where  $\hat{m} \equiv \frac{1}{2}(m_u + m_d)$ . The latter equalities of the above two equations come from the Hellmann-Feynman theorem [54] as noted by Gasser [55].

By using the strangeness fraction of the proton,

$$y \equiv \frac{2B_s}{B_d + B_u} = 1 - \frac{\sigma_0}{\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}}, \quad (43)$$

where  $\sigma_0$  is the shift in the nucleon mass due to nonzero quark masses, and a relation from the energy-momentum tensor trace anomaly [56] for the baryon-octet members [51,57,58],

$$z \equiv \frac{B_u - B_s}{B_d - B_s} = \frac{m_{\Xi^0} + m_{\Xi^-} - m_p - m_n}{m_{\Sigma^+} + m_{\Sigma^-} - m_p - m_n} \approx 1.49, \quad (44)$$

we can derive from Eqs. (41) and (42) the current quark masses dependence of  $m_p$ , denoted as  $f_{T_q}$ 's, as

$$\begin{aligned} f_{T_u} &\equiv \frac{m_u B_u}{m_p} = \frac{2\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}}{m_p(1 + \frac{m_d}{m_u})(1 + \frac{B_d}{B_u})}, \\ f_{T_d} &\equiv \frac{m_d B_d}{m_p} = \frac{2\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}}{m_p(1 + \frac{m_u}{m_d})(1 + \frac{B_u}{B_d})}, \\ f_{T_s} &\equiv \frac{m_s B_s}{m_p} = \frac{(\frac{m_s}{m_d})\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}y}{m_p(1 + \frac{m_u}{m_d})}, \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

where

$$\frac{B_d}{B_u} = \frac{2 + y(z - 1)}{2z - y(z - 1)}. \quad (46)$$

Motivated by the trace anomaly expression for  $m_p$ ,

$$m_p = m_u B_u + m_d B_d + m_s B_s + \text{gluon term}, \quad (47)$$

we will write the remaining fundamental constants dependence of  $m_p$  as

$$f_{T_g} \equiv \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{m_p} \frac{\partial m_p}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} = 1 - \sum_{q=u,d,s} f_{T_q}, \quad (48)$$

which is the coefficient of  $\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} / \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  in  $\delta m_p / m_p$ . The argument behind Eq. (48) is the following: the *gluon term* has its origin in the strong interaction, and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , which is approximately the scale at which the strong interaction running coupling constant diverges, is the only mass parameter of the strong interaction in the chiral limit  $m_u = m_d = m_s = 0$ , and therefore in this limit all of the other finite mass scales of the strong interaction phenomena, including pion decay constant, the spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking scale, etc., are related to  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  by some pure number of order one [59]. Note that the heavy quark ( $c, b, t$ ) masses do not explicitly appear in Eq. (47) as discussed in [57]. Then as the only other variable besides the light current quark masses, we get Eq. (48) for the  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence in  $m_p$ . We note that the  $f_{T_q}$ 's and the  $f_{T_g}$  are also needed in the next section when we vary the electron-to-proton mass ratio,  $\mu \equiv m_e / m_p$ .

In calculating the  $f_{T_q}$ 's and the  $f_{T_g}$ , we take the central values given in [60] for the current quark mass ratios,  $\frac{m_u}{m_d} = 0.553$  and  $\frac{m_s}{m_d} = 18.9$ , the central value of the  $\pi$ -nucleon sigma term suggested in [53],  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}} = 64$  MeV, and we take  $\sigma_0 = 36$  MeV [61,62] and  $m_p = 938.3$  MeV. The results are

$$f_{T_u} = 0.027, \quad f_{T_d} = 0.039, \quad f_{T_s} = 0.363, \quad f_{T_g} = 0.571. \quad (49)$$

In the isospin-symmetric limit such that  $m_u = m_d = \hat{m}$ , which will be needed in subsections III B and III C, Eqs. (45) and (48) take simpler forms,

$$f_{T\hat{m}} = \frac{\sum \pi N}{m_p}, \quad f_{T_s} = \frac{\frac{m_s}{\hat{m}} \sum \pi N Y}{2m_p}, \quad f_{T_g} = 1 - f_{T\hat{m}} - f_{T_s}. \quad (50)$$

In calculating the values for this isospin-symmetric limit case, we take  $\frac{m_s}{\hat{m}} = 25$  [63], and the results are

$$f_{T\hat{m}} = 0.068, \quad f_{T_s} = 0.373, \quad f_{T_g} = 0.559. \quad (51)$$

## 2. Expressions for $M_{u,d}$ without an explicit quark sea

To get the coefficients of  $\frac{\delta M_u}{M_u}$  and  $\frac{\delta M_d}{M_d}$ , we need to model the constituent quark masses. Intuitively,  $M_{u,d}$  can be written as

$$M_q = m_q + a_{q,\text{int}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} (q = u, d), \quad (A) \quad (52)$$

where  $a_{q,\text{int}}$ 's are pure dimensionless numbers. The argument behind this form is the following: if the strong interaction were switched off, the constituent quark mass would be identical to its corresponding valence current quark mass which is obtained from the electroweak symmetry breaking. On the other hand, in the chiral limit,  $m_u = m_d = m_s = 0$ , the strong interaction is responsible for the entire constituent quark mass. The above intuitive expression for the constituent quark masses does not *explicitly* take into account the sea quark contribution, which if included will depend on the current quark masses, similar to the terms  $m_q B_q$  in the proton mass trace anomaly formula Eq. (47) [51]. However, one could argue that the sea quark contribution is already included *implicitly* in the second term of Eq. (52) together with the virtual gluons contribution, since the dynamics of the quark sea and virtual gluons are determined by strong interaction, which is characterized in the second term.

From Eq. (52), we obtain the coefficients of  $\frac{\delta M_u}{M_u}$  and  $\frac{\delta M_d}{M_d}$  as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m_u}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_u} &= \frac{m_u}{M_u}, & \frac{m_d}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_d} &= \frac{m_s}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_s} = 0, \\ \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} &= 1 - \frac{m_u}{M_u}, & \frac{m_d}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_d} &= \frac{m_d}{M_d}, \\ \frac{m_u}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_u} &= \frac{m_s}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_s} = 0, & \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} &= 1 - \frac{m_d}{M_d}. \end{aligned} \quad (53)$$

In calculating the above coefficients, we will use  $\frac{m_u}{m_d} = 0.553$ , the central value of  $m_d = 9.3$  MeV in the modified minimal subtraction ( $\overline{\text{MS}}$ ) scheme at a renormalization scale of 1 GeV [60], and we will choose  $M_u = M_d = 335$  MeV.

## 3. Expressions for $M_{u,d}$ with an explicit quark sea—linear form

A method explicitly taking into account the sea quark contribution can be traced back to the internal structure of the constituent quarks [50]. Then, for  $m_p(\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, m_u, m_d, m_s)$  a linear realization of this method is

$$\begin{aligned} M_u &= a_{\text{lin}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} + b_{u,\text{lin}} m_u + b_{d,\text{lin}} m_d + b_{s,\text{lin}} m_s, \\ M_d &= a_{\text{lin}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}} + b_{d,\text{lin}} m_u + b_{u,\text{lin}} m_d + b_{s,\text{lin}} m_s, \end{aligned} \quad (B) \quad (54)$$

where we have related the coefficients in  $M_d$  with those in  $M_u$  following [50]. The coefficients  $a_{\text{lin}}$  and  $b_{q,\text{lin}}$ 's are pure numbers. Each of the four terms of  $M_{u,d}$  can be obtained by inserting Eq. (54) into an expression for the NQM based proton mass,  $m_{p,\text{NQM}}$ , which we will discuss shortly (see e.g., Eq. (57), (59), and (61)). Then, applying the Hellmann-Feynman theorem

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial m_{p,\text{NQM}}}{\partial m_q} &= \frac{\partial m_{p,\text{NQM}}}{\partial M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_q} + \frac{\partial m_{p,\text{NQM}}}{\partial M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_q} \\ &= B_q (q = u, d, s). \end{aligned} \quad (55)$$

An example of the application of the Hellmann-Feynman theorem within the NQM is given in [64]. From Eqs. (54) and (55), the coefficients of  $\delta v_i / v_i$  ( $v_i = m_{u,d,s}, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ) of  $\delta M_u / M_u$  and  $\delta M_d / M_d$  can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m_u}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_u} &= \frac{k_u m_p f_{T_u} - k_d m_p f_{T_d} \left(\frac{m_u}{m_d}\right)}{M_u (k_u^2 - k_d^2)}, \\ \frac{m_d}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_d} &= \frac{k_u m_p f_{T_d} - k_d m_p f_{T_u} \left(\frac{m_d}{m_u}\right)}{M_u (k_u^2 - k_d^2)}, \\ \frac{m_s}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_s} &= \frac{m_p f_{T_s}}{M_u (k_u + k_d)}, \end{aligned} \quad (56)$$

$$\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} = 1 - \sum_{q=u,d,s} \frac{m_q}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_q},$$

where  $k_{u,d} = \frac{\partial m_{p,\text{NQM}}}{\partial M_{u,d}}$ . The  $\frac{v_i}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial v_i}$  ( $v_i = m_{u,d,s}, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ) are obtained from the corresponding  $\frac{v_i}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial v_i}$  by switching  $M_u \leftrightarrow M_d$  and  $k_u \leftrightarrow k_d$ .

To get  $k_{u,d}$ , we consider the following NQM based proton mass formulae as examples. To zeroth order, the proton mass is the sum of the masses of its two constituent  $u$  quarks and one constituent  $d$  quark

$$m_p = 2M_u + M_d, \quad (57)$$

so that

$$k_u = 2, \quad k_d = 1. \quad (58)$$

We will use  $M_u = M_d = \frac{1}{3} m_p$  in Eq. (56) when Eq. (57) is taken as the NQM based proton mass formula.

Without some interaction between the constituent quarks, hadrons with the same constituent quark compositions



would have a same mass, a phenomenon which is not observed in nature. To break the mass degeneracy, a spin-spin hyperfine term is introduced [65], and the resulting proton mass is

$$m_p = 2M_u + M_d + A' \left( \frac{1}{4M_u^2} - \frac{1}{M_u M_d} \right), \quad (59)$$

where  $A'$  is a constant usually determined to allow an optimal fit to the baryon-octet and decuplet masses [49]. This spin-spin hyperfine term is commonly attributed to one-gluon exchange [65], or, in the chiral quark model [66], it is explained as the interaction between the constituent quarks mediated by pseudoscalar mesons [67]. Although interpreted with relating to different degrees of freedom (gluon or pseudoscalar mesons) [58], this term nevertheless has a strong interaction origin, and therefore we will write the parameter  $A'$  as  $a_{\text{hyp}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3$ , with  $a_{\text{hyp}}$  a pure dimensionless number. From this formula, we get

$$k_u = 2 + A' \left( \frac{1}{M_d M_u^2} - \frac{1}{2M_u^3} \right), \quad k_d = 1 + \frac{A'}{M_u M_d^2}. \quad (60)$$

We will use  $M_u = M_d = 363 \text{ MeV}$  and  $A' = (298.05 \text{ MeV})^3$  in Eq. (56) when Eq. (59) is taken as the NQM based proton mass formula. Note that we have tuned  $A'$  a bit compared to the value given in [49] to allow an exact fit to the proton mass.

Equation (59) can be further refined by adding to it the kinetic term of the constituent quarks and a constituent quark mass independent term  $M_0$ , which represents the contributions of the confinement potential and the short-range color-electric interaction [64,68]

$$m_p = 2M_u + M_d + A'' \left( \frac{1}{4M_u^2} - \frac{1}{M_u M_d} \right) + B' \left( \frac{1}{M_u} + \frac{1}{2M_d} \right) + M_0. \quad (61)$$

From the physical meaning of these two new terms, it may be reasonable to write the constants  $B'$  and  $M_0$  as  $a_{\text{kin}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$  and  $a_{\text{cce}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , respectively, since the internal dynamics of a baryon is dominated by the strong interaction and the confinement is a strong interaction phenomenon. The constant  $A''$  needs to be refit after introducing the two new terms, and we write it as  $A'' = a'_{\text{hyp}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^3$ . The parameters  $a_{\text{kin}}$ ,  $a_{\text{cce}}$  and  $a'_{\text{hyp}}$  are pure dimensionless numbers. We find that  $k_{u,d}$  from this formula are

$$k_u = 2 + A'' \left( \frac{1}{M_d M_u^2} - \frac{1}{2M_u^3} \right) - \frac{B'}{M_u^2}, \quad (62)$$

$$k_d = 1 + \frac{A''}{M_u M_d^2} - \frac{B'}{2M_d^2}.$$

We will use  $M_u = M_d = 335 \text{ MeV}$ ,  $A'' = (4^{1/3} 176.4 \text{ MeV})^3$ ,  $B' = (175.2 \text{ MeV})^2$  and  $M_0 = -57.4 \text{ MeV}$  in Eq. (56)

when Eq. (61) is taken as the NQM based proton mass formula. Note that we have tuned  $M_0$  a bit compared to the value given in [64] to allow an exact fit to the proton mass.

#### 4. $M_{u,d}$ expressions with an explicit quark sea—NJL model

As can be seen from Eq. (56), the explicit inclusion of the sea quark contribution in the linear form Eq. (54) encodes the information of both the NQM based proton mass formula and the  $f_{T_q}$ 's. However, different realizations from the NQM alone are also possible. Moreover, although the constituent quark masses are usually taken as fitting parameters in the study of hadron properties, it is certainly more illuminating if some concrete physical origin of these quantities can be given and encoded in their mass formulae. As suggested in [66,69], the constituent quark masses are closely related to spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking. An example of the constituent quark mass formulae applying this idea is given by the three flavor Nambu-Jona-Lasinio (NJL) model [70,71], where the constituent quark masses are obtained from a set of gap equations

$$\begin{aligned} M_u &= m_u - 2g_s \langle \bar{u}u \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{d}d \rangle \langle \bar{s}s \rangle, \\ M_d &= m_d - 2g_s \langle \bar{d}d \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{u}u \rangle \langle \bar{s}s \rangle, \\ M_s &= m_s - 2g_s \langle \bar{s}s \rangle - 2g_D \langle \bar{u}u \rangle \langle \bar{d}d \rangle, \end{aligned} \quad (63)$$

where  $\langle \bar{u}u \rangle$ ,  $\langle \bar{d}d \rangle$  and  $\langle \bar{s}s \rangle$  are the quark condensates which are the order parameters of the spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking, and they are calculated by one loop integral

$$\langle \bar{u}u \rangle = -iN_c \text{Tr} \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{1}{\not{p} - M_u + i\epsilon},$$

and  $\langle \bar{d}d \rangle$  ( $\langle \bar{s}s \rangle$ ) is obtained by changing  $M_u$  to  $M_d$  ( $M_s$ ). The  $N_c$  is the number of colors, and we take it to be the real-world value 3. This integration can be performed by introducing a three-momentum cut-off  $\Lambda_3$ , and the result is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \bar{u}u \rangle &= -\frac{3}{2\pi^2} M_u \left[ \Lambda_3 \sqrt{\Lambda_3^2 + M_u^2} \right. \\ &\quad \left. - M_u^2 \ln \left( \frac{\Lambda_3 + \sqrt{\Lambda_3^2 + M_u^2}}{M_u} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (64)$$

The  $g_s$  and  $g_D$  in Eq. (63) are the coupling constants of the effective four-point and six-point interactions of the quark fields in the NJL Lagrangian, and they are fixed, together with  $m_s$  and the cut-off  $\Lambda_3$ , by the meson properties as explained in [64,71]. We simply quote the result given in [64]<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>We have tuned the values of  $g_s$  and  $g_D$  relative to the values given in [64] to allow  $M_u = M_d = 335 \text{ MeV}$  and  $M_s = 527 \text{ MeV}$  as exact solutions of Eq. (63).

$$\begin{aligned} m_s &= 135.7 \text{ MeV}, & g_s \Lambda_3^2 &= 3.65, \\ g_D \Lambda_3^5 &= -9.47, & \Lambda_3 &= 631.4 \text{ MeV}, \end{aligned} \quad (65)$$

which we will use for our calculation. The other parameters we need in order to solve Eq. (63) are the  $u$  and  $d$  current quark masses, which we take  $m_u = m_d = 5.5 \text{ MeV}$  following [64]. Note that the form of Eq. (63) requires  $m_u = m_d$  if we assume  $M_u = M_d$ . The cut-off  $\Lambda_3$  characterizes the spontaneous chiral symmetry breaking scale, while the latter is related to  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , as we explained in the paragraph below Eq. (48). Therefore, we will write  $\Lambda_3 = a_{c,\text{NJL}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ,  $g_s = a_{s,\text{NJL}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^{-2}$  and  $g_D = a_{D,\text{NJL}} \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^{-5}$ , where the coefficients are pure dimensionless numbers. With these inputs, the constituent quark masses are solved from Eq. (63), with the values  $M_u = M_d = 335 \text{ MeV}$  and  $M_s = 527 \text{ MeV}$ , and we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{m_u}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_u} &= \frac{m_d}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_d} = 0.0351, \\ \frac{m_d}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_d} &= \frac{m_u}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_u} = 0.0074, \\ \frac{m_s}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial m_s} &= \frac{m_s}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial m_s} = 0.0628, \\ \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_u} \frac{\partial M_u}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} &= \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{M_d} \frac{\partial M_d}{\partial \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} = 0.8947. \end{aligned} \quad (66)$$

### 5. Results and discussion of the NQM approach

We can now calculate the dependence of the nucleon magnetic moments on  $m_{u,d,s}$  and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , by

$$\frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{exp}}} = \frac{g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{exp}}} \frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{NQM}}}, \quad (67)$$

where  $g_{\text{exp}}$  is the measured value of the  $g$ -factor, which equals 5.586 for proton, and  $-3.826$  for neutron [63]. The first term in the square bracket of  $\frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{NQM}}}$  (Eq. (40)) is given in Sec. III A 1, while the second term in that square bracket can be obtained from section III A 2–III A 4 for each of the three different constituent quark mass models we have considered. The calculated coefficients of  $\frac{\delta v_i}{v_i}$  ( $v_i = m_{u,d,s}, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ) of  $\frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{exp}}}$  for proton and neutron are listed in Table III, where the constituent quark mass formula used for each row is labeled as A, B or C, representing Eqs. (52) and (54) or (63), respectively, while the 1, 2, or 3 following the label B represents Eq. (57) and (59) or (61), respectively. In all of the cases listed in Table III, we use the  $f_{T_q}$  given in Eq. (49). Note that for case C, there is a slight inconsistency due to our choice of  $m_u = m_d$ , though this has only a minor numerical effect on the resulting  $\kappa$ 's.

The coefficients in Table III show a relatively strong dependence on the constituent quark mass models used. Most of the coefficients in A and C are closer and much

TABLE III. The coefficients  $\kappa_i$  of  $\frac{\delta v_i}{v_i}$  ( $v_i = m_{u,d,s}, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ) in  $\frac{\delta g_{\text{NQM}}}{g_{\text{exp}}}$  for the proton (upper) and the neutron (lower); see Eq. (40) for their definition.

	$\kappa_u$	$\kappa_d$	$\kappa_s$	$\kappa_{\text{QCD}}$
A	0.013	0.036	0.36	-0.41
B1	-0.0039	0.0070	0	-0.0031
B2	0.0029	0.021	0.11	-0.13
B3	-0.0029	0.022	0.070	-0.089
C	-0.0050	0.029	0.30	-0.32
A	0.021	0.020	0.35	-0.40
B1	0.0056	-0.010	0	0.0045
B2	0.012	0.0033	0.11	-0.12
B3	0.011	-0.0043	0.068	-0.075
C	0.010	0.013	0.29	-0.32

larger compared to their corresponding values in B. While the first and the second terms in Eq. (40) are independent of each other for A and C, the same  $f_{T_q}$ 's appear in both terms of Eq. (40) for B, as can be seen from Eq. (56) and thus these two terms are largely canceled due to a relative sign. We can also see a relatively strong dependence of the coefficients on the NQM based proton mass formulae when comparing the rows B1, B2 and B3.

Furthermore, there is an uncertainty in the coefficients listed in Table III due to the uncertainty of the  $\pi$ -nucleon sigma term  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$ . A discussion of the impact of the uncertainty of  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$  on the interpretations of experimental searches for dark matter can be found in [53]. We plot the dependence of the coefficients in row A for the proton on  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$  in the left panel of Fig. 1. A similar plot of the coefficients for the proton in row B3 is given in the right panel of Fig. 1. As can be seen from these plots, the coefficients of  $\delta m_s/m_s$  and  $\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  show a strong dependence on the value of  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$ . Therefore it is important to pin down the value of  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$  if this quantity is used in the study of the current quark mass and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence of the proton  $g$ -factor. The same conclusion applies for the neutron  $g$ -factor, for which the behavior of the plots are similar to that shown in Fig. 1.

In addition to the relatively strong dependence of the  $\kappa_i$  on the proton and constituent quark mass formula as well as the value of  $\Sigma_{\pi\text{N}}$  we have discussed above, some other comments for this NQM approach in the study of the dependence of the nucleon  $g$ -factors on the fundamental constants are in order. Our assumption that the various parameters in the constituent quark mass formulae and the NQM based proton mass formulae take power law forms for  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  may be valid only in the chiral limit. Therefore, some current quark mass dependence may be lost and the  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence may not be very accurately determined from these formulae. To get a more accurate

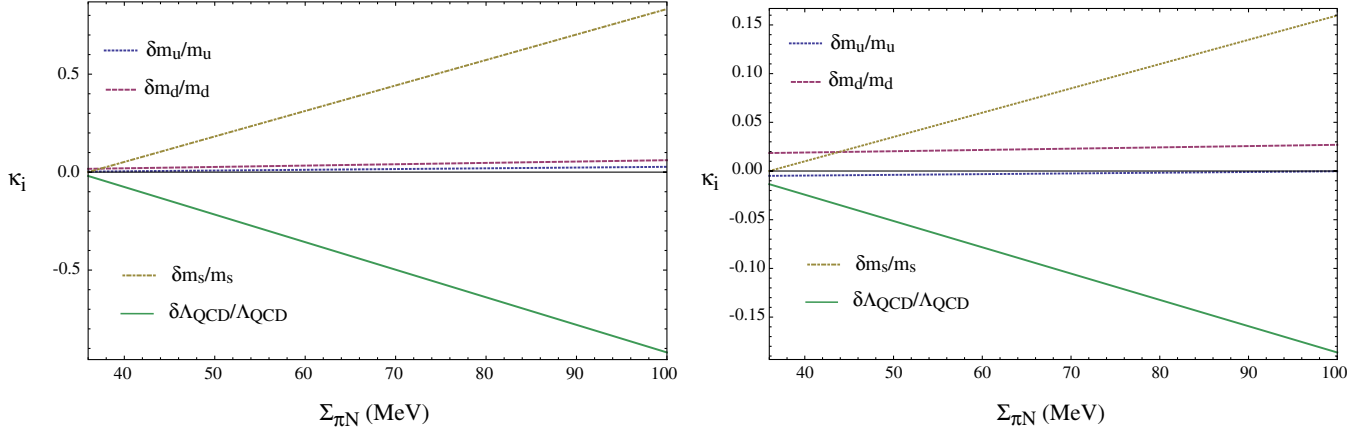


FIG. 1 (color online). The dependence of the coefficients in A for the proton on  $\Sigma_{\pi N}$  (left) and of the coefficients in B3 (right).

dependence, one may also wish to consider relativistic corrections [72] and/or corrections based on higher-dimension terms in the chiral quark model [66] for Eq. (37), and then the dependence on the current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  will change correspondingly. Finally, in the above analysis, we did not consider the electromagnetic contribution to the proton mass or the constituent quark mass formulae, and thus we may have missed some dependence on the fine-structure constant in this approach.

### B. The chiral perturbation theory approach

The second approach we consider is  $\chi\text{PT}$ , which provides a systematic method of addressing the low energy properties of the hadrons [73,74]. In contrast to the strong model-dependent NQM approach we considered in the previous subsection,  $\chi\text{PT}$  can give model-independent calculations of the nucleon magnetic moments within a perturbative field theory framework in terms of the hadronic degrees of freedom. However, as we will see, our goal of extracting the current quark mass and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence is limited by our lack of knowledge of the accurate values of the coupling constants, the so called low energy constants (LECs), appearing in the effective Lagrangians of  $\chi\text{PT}$ . These Lagrangians, and the Feynman diagrams generated by them, are organized according to a power counting scheme, and the number of LECs we will have to deal with increases as we include higher order contributions to the nucleon magnetic moments.

By construction, the LECs in the  $\text{SU}(3)$   $\chi\text{PT}$  which we will consider do not depend on the light quark ( $u$ ,  $d$  and  $s$ ) masses, and they should in principle be calculable in terms of the heavy quark ( $c$ ,  $b$  and  $t$ ) masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ . Without the ability to solve nonperturbative QCD, the LECs are usually determined by fitting to experimental data for the pertinent physical observables, or estimated theoretically by QCD-inspired models and some other approaches (e.g., the resonance saturation method), and they can also be fixed by lattice calculations (for a discussion of the LECs,

see, for example, [75] and the references therein). Most of the LECs are renormalization scale dependent in such a way that they cancel the renormalization scale dependent loop integrals so that the final results for the physical observables are renormalization scale independent. Furthermore, the values of the LECs are expected to be given by dimensional analysis [66,76] up to numerical factors of order one. Since the two quantities involved in such an analysis, namely, the Goldstone boson decay constant (for the meson octet) and the typical mass of the light but non-Goldstone states, are both pure numbers times  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  in the chiral limit, we will assume that all the LECs under discussion are functions of  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and the renormalization scale, and by this assumption we neglect the heavy quark mass dependence in the LECs.

For  $\chi\text{PT}$  in the meson-baryon sector, needed for the calculations of nucleon magnetic moments, there exist several renormalization schemes in the literature to ensure consistent power counting which is troubled by the introduction of the baryon mass as a new scale which is non-vanishing in the chiral limit. Among these renormalization schemes, the most studied in the early days in the calculations of octet baryon magnetic moments is the heavy baryon chiral perturbation theory (HB $\chi\text{PT}$ ) approach [77]. Because of a strong cancellation between the leading order  $\mathcal{O}(q^2)$  and the next-to-leading order  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  results for this approach ( $q$  denotes external momentum in the power counting scheme), one is forced to consider still higher order contributions. We will consider the results for this approach to order  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$  [78–81], with (HBwD) and without (HBw/oD) the explicit inclusion of the baryon decuplet states in loops. We will also consider a result from a more recently developed extended-on-mass-shell (EOMS) renormalization scheme [82], which gives more convergent results at  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  without [83] or with [84] the inclusion of decuplet states in loops. We will restrict our attention to the EOMS without decuplets to avoid the introduction of several new parameters which do not improve the convergence.

At leading order, the octet baryon magnetic moments can be calculated from the Feynman diagrams of chiral order  $\mathcal{O}(q^2)$ , and the results for both the HB $\chi$ PT and EOMS approaches have the same expressions as linear combinations of two LECs  $\mu_D$  and  $\mu_F$ ,

$$\mu_B^{(2)} \equiv \alpha_B = \alpha_B^D \mu_D + \alpha_B^F \mu_F, \quad (68)$$

where  $\alpha_p^D = 1/3$  and  $\alpha_p^F = 1$  for the proton, and  $\alpha_n^D = -2/3$  and  $\alpha_n^F = 0$  for the neutron. Note that we are writing down the magnetic moments (rather than the anomalous magnetic moments) directly in units of  $\mu_N$ , and therefore the  $\mu_F$  value we use may differ by 1 compared to the value given in some of the references.

At  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  and higher order, the results of HB $\chi$ PT and EOMS differ. For the HBw/oD approach, we use the result given in [78–81], essentially using the notation of [80]. At  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  it is

$$\mu_B^{(3)} = \sum_{X=\pi,K} \beta_B^X \frac{m_p M_X}{8\pi f_X^2}, \quad (69)$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} \beta_p^\pi &= -(D+F)^2, & \beta_p^K &= -\frac{2}{3}(D^2+3F^2), \\ \beta_n^\pi &= (D+F)^2, & \beta_n^K &= -(D-F)^2. \end{aligned}$$

$D$  and  $F$  are dimensionless LECs. We will use the empirical values  $m_p = 938.3$  MeV, the pion decay constant  $f_\pi = 93$  MeV and the kaon decay constant  $f_K = 1.2f_\pi$  in

our calculations, but we will consider these quantities take the forms of their corresponding LECs, namely, the average octet baryon mass,  $m_0$  and the Goldstone boson decay constant  $F_0$ , since the differences between these quantities and their corresponding LECs give contributions to the octet baryon magnetic moments beyond  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$  which is the highest order we will consider. Therefore, in contrast to the NQM approach we considered in the previous subsection, we do not need to vary the proton mass in this subsection in calculating the current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence of the nucleon magnetic moments. For the same reason, we take the pion mass,  $M_\pi$ , and kaon mass,  $M_K$ , at their empirical values of 138 MeV and 495 MeV, respectively, in our calculations, while we only take their lowest order forms  $M_\pi = (2B_0\hat{m})^{1/2}$  and  $M_K = [B_0(\hat{m} + m_s)]^{1/2}$ , where the  $B_0$  is an LEC with mass dimension, when considering light current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependences. We will work in the isospin-symmetric limit in this and the next subsection such that  $m_u = m_d \equiv \hat{m}$ . The expression for the  $\eta$  mass,  $M_\eta = [2/3B_0(\hat{m} + 2m_s)]^{1/2}$  is also needed at  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$  in the HB $\chi$ PT approach and at  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  in the EOMS approach, and we use its empirical value of 548 MeV.

For the case HBwD, we have the following terms in addition to Eq. (69) [78,80,81],

$$\mu_B^{(3)} = \sum_{X=\pi,K} \frac{m_p}{8\pi f_X^2} F(M_X, \delta, \lambda) \beta_B^X, \quad (70)$$

where

$$\pi F(M, \delta, \lambda) = -\delta \ln \frac{M^2}{\lambda^2} + \begin{cases} 2\sqrt{M^2 - \delta^2} [\pi/2 - \arctan(\delta/\sqrt{M^2 - \delta^2})], & M \geq \delta, \\ -2\sqrt{\delta^2 - M^2} \ln[(\delta + \sqrt{\delta^2 - M^2})/M], & M < \delta, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\beta_p^{\prime\pi} = -\frac{2}{9}C^2, \quad \beta_p^{\prime K} = \frac{1}{18}C^2, \quad \beta_n^{\prime\pi} = \frac{2}{9}C^2, \quad \beta_n^{\prime K} = \frac{1}{9}C^2,$$

where  $C$  is a dimensionless LEC,  $\lambda$  is the renormalization scale in dimensional regularization, and  $\delta$  is the decuplet-octet mass splitting for which we take to be a number times  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  with a value of 300 MeV.

At  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$  in the HB $\chi$ PT approach, more LECs appear in the results and the formulae become lengthy. For the case HBw/oD, we take [79]<sup>2</sup>

$$\mu_B^{(4)} = \mu_B^{(4,c)} + \mu_B^{(4,d+e+f)} + \mu_B^{(4,g)} + \mu_B^{(4,h+i)} + \mu_B^{(4,j)}, \quad (71)$$

with

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_p^{(4,c)} &= a_3 + a_4 + \frac{1}{3}a_5 + \frac{1}{3}a_6 - \frac{1}{3}a_7, \\ \mu_n^{(4,c)} &= -\frac{2}{3}a_5 - \frac{2}{3}a_6 - \frac{1}{3}a_7, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_B^{(4,d+e+f)} &= \sum_{X=\pi,K} \delta_B^X \frac{M_X^2}{16\pi^2 f_X^2} \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda} \\ &+ \sum_{X=\pi,K,\eta} \eta_B^X \frac{M_X^2}{16\pi^2 f_X^2} \left( \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda} + 1 \right) \\ &- \left[ \sum_{X=\pi,K,\eta} \phi_B^X \frac{M_X^2}{8\pi^2 f_X^2} \left( 3 \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda} + 1 \right) \right] \alpha_B, \end{aligned}$$

with

<sup>2</sup>There is a misprint in the third term of  $\mu_B^{(4,d+e+f)}$  in [79], where the sign in front should be ‘-’.

$$\begin{aligned}
\delta_p^\pi &= -\mu_D - \mu_F, & \delta_p^K &= -2\mu_F, & \delta_n^\pi &= \mu_D + \mu_F, & \delta_n^K &= \mu_D - \mu_F, \\
\eta_p^\pi &= \frac{1}{2}(D+F)^2(\mu_D - \mu_F), & \eta_p^K &= -\left(\frac{1}{9}D^2 - 2DF + F^2\right)\mu_D - (D-F)^2\mu_F, \\
\eta_p^\eta &= -\frac{1}{18}(D-3F)^2(\mu_D + 3\mu_F), & \eta_n^\pi &= -(D+F)^2\mu_F, \\
\eta_n^K &= \left(-\frac{7}{9}D^2 + \frac{2}{3}DF + F^2\right)\mu_D + (D-F)^2\mu_F, & \eta_n^\eta &= \frac{1}{9}(D-3F)^2\mu_D, \\
\phi_{p,n}^{\pi} &= \frac{3}{4}(D+F)^2, & \phi_{p,n}^K &= \frac{5}{6}D^2 - DF + \frac{3}{2}F^2, & \phi_{p,n}^\eta &= \frac{1}{12}(D-3F)^2,
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mu_B^{(4,g)} = \sum_{X=\pi,K} \gamma_B^X \frac{m_p M_X^2}{4\pi^2 f_X^2} \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda},$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
\gamma_p^\pi &= 2a_9 + 2\left(a_{10} + \frac{1}{8m_p}\right), \\
\gamma_p^K &= a_8 + 4\left(a_{10} + \frac{1}{8m_p}\right), \\
\gamma_n^\pi &= -2a_9 - 2\left(a_{10} + \frac{1}{8m_p}\right), \\
\gamma_n^K &= -2a_9 + 2\left(a_{10} + \frac{1}{8m_p}\right),
\end{aligned}$$

and

$$\mu_B^{(4,h+i)} = \sum_{X=\pi,K} \beta_B^X \frac{M_X^2}{16\pi^2 f_X^2} \left(5 \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda} + 1\right),$$

and

$$\mu_B^{(4,j)} = - \sum_{X=\pi,K} \theta_B^X \frac{m_p}{2\pi^2 f_X^2} \left(2 \ln \frac{M_X}{\lambda} + 1\right),$$

with

$$\begin{aligned}
\theta_p^\pi &= (D+F)^2 [M_K^2 a_{11} + (M_\pi^2 - M_K^2) a_{12}], \\
\theta_p^K &= \frac{1}{6} [(3F+D)^2 M_\eta^2 + 3(D-F)^2 M_\pi^2] a_{11}, \\
\theta_n^\pi &= -(D+F)^2 [M_K^2 a_{11} + (M_\pi^2 - M_K^2) a_{12}], \\
\theta_n^K &= (D-F)^2 M_\pi^2 a_{11}.
\end{aligned}$$

In the above formulae, the LECs  $a_{8,9,10,11,12}$  (labeled  $b_{9,10,11,D,F}$  in [79]) with their values in units of  $\text{GeV}^{-1}$  are  $a_8 = 0.81$ ,  $a_9 = 0.95$ ,  $a_{10} = 0.36$ ,  $a_{11} = -0.192$  and  $a_{12} = -0.210$ , where the first three are estimated by the resonance saturation method which takes into account the contribution from the baryon decuplet while the other two are determined by fitting to the baryon-octet masses, as explained in detail in [79]. We take the value of the  $\eta$  decay

constant to be  $f_\eta = 1.2f_\pi$ , but we will consider it taking the form of its corresponding LEC,  $F_0$ , for the same reason explained above for the other Goldstone boson decay constants.

At this order, an uncertainty arises for our extraction of the dependence of magnetic moments on the current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  due to the uncertainties of the values of the LECs appearing in the counter term Lagrangian, and they are denoted as  $a_{3,4,5,6,7}$  in Eq. (71). These dimensionless numbers have actually absorbed the light current quark masses in the counter term Lagrangian in contrast to their corresponding true LECs which are independent of the light current quark masses. Therefore these redefined LECs should contain a factor  $m_s/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , if we neglect the contributions from  $\hat{m}$  as its value is much smaller than  $m_s$ . Two other LECs in the counter term Lagrangian are also present at this order, and they are combined with the two LECs appearing in the  $\mathcal{O}(q^2)$  result Eq. (68), as

$$\mu_{D,F} \rightarrow \mu_{D,F} + 4B_0(2\hat{m} + m_s)\tilde{\mu}_{D,F}, \quad (72)$$

where  $\tilde{\mu}_{D,F}$  are LECs appearing in  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$  counter term Lagrangian. Then all seven of these redefined LECs,  $\mu_{D,F}$  and  $a_{3,4,5,6,7}$ , are used as fitting parameters to perform an exact fit to the seven available octet baryon magnetic moments. Since they are used as fitting parameters, and indeed different values for them are obtained with and without the explicit inclusion of baryon decuplet states in loops, as well as when different values of other LECs are used for the fittings (see the discussion below), it is hard to get an accurate extraction of the light current quark mass and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence from these redefined LECs. For the light current quark masses dependence, we will only consider the  $m_s$  dependence for  $a_{3,4,5,6,7}$ , while we will not try to extract such dependence for the redefined  $\mu_{D,F}$  (denoted as  $a_{1,2}$  in [80]), since we do not know the relative size of the two terms on the right-hand side of Eq. (72), where only one of the two terms has the light current quark mass dependence, although such dependence in these two redefined LECs may be not small, as suggested in [79] when comparing the fitting values up to  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$  with the ones up to  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$ . We take the values  $\mu_D = 3.71$ ,  $\mu_F = 3.25$ ,  $a_3 = -0.50$ ,  $a_4 = -0.15$ ,  $a_5 = -0.25$ ,  $a_6 = 0.50$  and

$a_7 = -0.46$  given in [79], where  $F = 0.5$  and  $D = 0.75$  are used, and the renormalization scale  $\lambda$  is taken to be 0.8 GeV.

For HBwD at  $\mathcal{O}(q^4)$ , we take [80]<sup>3</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \mu_B^{(4)} = & \mu_B^{(4,c)} + \sum_{X=\pi,K,\eta} \frac{1}{32\pi^2 f_X^2} (\gamma_B^{IX} - 2\phi_B^{IX} \alpha_B) M_X^2 \ln \frac{M_X^2}{\lambda^2} \\ & + \sum_{X=\pi,K,\eta} \frac{1}{32\pi^2 f_X^2} [(\tilde{\gamma}_B^{IX} - 2\tilde{\phi}_B^{IX} \alpha_B) L_{(3/2)}(M_X, \delta, \lambda) \\ & + \hat{\gamma}_B^{IX} L'_{(3/2)}(M_X, \delta, \lambda)], \end{aligned} \quad (73)$$

where

$$L_{(3/2)}(M, \delta, \lambda) = M^2 \ln \frac{M^2}{\lambda^2} + 2\pi \delta F(M, \delta, \lambda),$$

and

$$L'_{(3/2)}(M, \delta, \lambda) = M^2 \ln \frac{M^2}{\lambda^2} + \frac{2\pi}{3\delta} G(M, \delta, \lambda),$$

with

$$\pi G(M, \delta, \lambda) = -\delta^3 \ln \frac{M^2}{\lambda^2} + \pi M^3 + \begin{cases} -2(M^2 - \delta^2)^{3/2} [\pi/2 - \arctan(\delta/\sqrt{M^2 - \delta^2})], & M \geq \delta, \\ -2(\delta^2 - M^2)^{3/2} \ln[(\delta + \sqrt{\delta^2 - M^2})/M], & M < \delta, \end{cases}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\gamma}_p^{\prime\pi} &= \frac{80}{27} \mathcal{C}^2 \mu_C, & \tilde{\gamma}_p^{\prime K} &= \frac{10}{27} \mathcal{C}^2 \mu_C, & \tilde{\gamma}_p^{\prime\eta} &= 0, & \tilde{\gamma}_n^{\prime\pi} &= -\frac{20}{27} \mathcal{C}^2 \mu_C, & \tilde{\gamma}_n^{\prime K} &= -\frac{10}{27} \mathcal{C}^2 \mu_C, \\ \tilde{\gamma}_n^{\prime\eta} &= 0, & \hat{\gamma}_p^{\prime\pi} &= \frac{8}{9} \mathcal{C}(D + F) \mu_T, & \hat{\gamma}_p^{\prime K} &= \frac{2}{9} \mathcal{C}(3D - F) \mu_T, & \hat{\gamma}_p^{\prime\eta} &= 0, & \hat{\gamma}_n^{\prime\pi} &= -\frac{8}{9} \mathcal{C}(D + F) \mu_T, \\ \hat{\gamma}_n^{\prime K} &= -\frac{4}{9} \mathcal{C} F \mu_T, & \hat{\gamma}_n^{\prime\eta} &= 0, & \tilde{\phi}_{p,n}^{\prime\pi} &= 2\mathcal{C}^2, & \tilde{\phi}_{p,n}^{\prime K} &= \frac{1}{2} \mathcal{C}^2, & \tilde{\phi}_{p,n}^{\prime\eta} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

The other coefficients are related to the ones given in Eq. (71), as

$$\gamma_B^{\prime\pi,K} = \delta_B^{\pi,K} + \eta_B^{\pi,K}, \quad \gamma_B^{\prime\eta} = \eta_B^{\eta}, \quad \phi_B^{IX} = 3\phi_B^X,$$

and  $\mu_B^{(4,c)}$  is the same as the case of HBw/oD.

In this case, since different LECs are used as inputs for the fittings in comparison to the HBw/oD case, the resulting fit values of the seven redefined LECs are different, and we take their values from Case (b) in Table II of [80],  $a_1 = 3.946$ ,  $a_2 = 2.353$ ,  $a_3 = -0.001$ ,  $a_4 = -0.172$ ,  $a_5 = 0.569$ ,  $a_6 = 0.694$  and  $a_7 = -1.165$ , corresponding to the LECs inputs  $F = 0.5$ ,  $D = 0.75$ ,  $\mathcal{C} = -1.5$ ,  $\mu_T = -7.7$  and  $\mu_C = 1.94$ . A renormalization scale  $\lambda = 1$  GeV is used.

For the EOMS approach, to minimize the number of LECs involved and thus perhaps the uncertainties introduced by them, we only consider the result given in Eq. (2) to Eq. (5) of [83] which does not include the baryon decuplet states in loops. The result is up to  $\mathcal{O}(q^3)$ , and the loop integrals are finite. The values  $\mu_D = 3.82$  and  $\mu_F = 2.20$  denoted as  $\tilde{b}_6^D$  and  $\tilde{b}_6^F$  in [83], after performing the EOMS scheme, are determined by a fit to minimize the  $\tilde{\chi}^2 = \sum (\mu_{\text{th}} - \mu_{\text{exp}})^2$  as explained in that reference. For other quantities in the formula,  $F_\phi = 1.17f_\pi$  is the average of the physical values of  $f_\pi$ ,  $f_K$  and  $f_\eta$ , and we still use  $M_B = 938.3$  MeV,  $f_\pi = 93$  MeV, and the same

values for  $M_{\pi,K,\eta}$  as specified above. We take  $D = 0.80$  and  $F = 0.46$  as used in [83] for this EOMS approach.

We list the results of the two HB $\chi$ PT and the one EOMS approaches in Table IV, where we also need to specify the ratio of  $m_s$  to  $\hat{m}$ , for which we use 25. Note that as we discussed above, we have assumed that the LECs ( $a_{1,2,3,4,5,6,7}$ , correspond to the original LECs before the redefinition) depend only on  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and the renormalization scale,  $\lambda$ , i.e., they do not depend on the light quark masses and there is no dependence on the renormalization scale in the full result. Therefore, the coefficient of  $\delta\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  must be equal and opposite to the sum of the light quark mass contributions.

TABLE IV. The coefficients,  $\kappa_i$ , of  $\frac{\delta v_i}{v_i}$  ( $v_i = \hat{m}, m_s, \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ) of  $\frac{\delta g_{\chi\text{PT}}}{g_{\text{exp}}}$ , defined as in Eq. (40), for the proton (upper) and the neutron (lower).

	$2\kappa_u = 2\kappa_d$	$\kappa_s$	$\kappa_{\text{QCD}}$
HBw/oD	-0.050	-0.50	0.54
HBwD	0.034	0.17	-0.21
EOMS	-0.049	-0.031	0.080
	$2\kappa_u = 2\kappa_d$	$\kappa_s$	$\kappa_{\text{QCD}}$
HBw/oD	-0.16	-0.14	0.30
HBwD	-0.050	0.32	-0.27
EOMS	-0.11	0.014	0.097

<sup>3</sup>There is a misprint in the form of the  $\pi G(M, \delta, \lambda)$  for the case  $M \geq \delta$ , where the sign in front should be ‘-’.

We see from Table IV, the numbers in each column differ considerably for nucleon magnetic moment formulae from different renormalization schemes and depend on the explicit inclusion of baryon decuplet states in loops. As we mentioned in the beginning of this subsection, we believe this discrepancy comes in a large part from our lack of knowledge of the accurate values of the LECs. In particular, many of the LECs involved in our calculations are used as fit parameters for the octet magnetic moments and masses, while their true values may be quite different from the numbers obtained by these fits. For example, if we use the values for Case (a)  $F = 0.4$ ,  $D = 0.61$  and  $C = -1.2$  in [80], the resulting values of the  $a$ 's also give an exact fit to the seven available octet baryon magnetic moments, with a prediction for the  $\Sigma\Lambda$  transition moment similar to the one given by Case (b). However, one can see that many of the corresponding  $a$ 's for Case (a) and Case (b) differ greatly, and indeed, for Case (a) we get the coefficients from left to right of Table IV as 0.014, 0.14 and  $-0.16$  for the proton, and  $-0.039$ , 0.26 and  $-0.23$  for the neutron, which are different from the results of Case (b). Therefore, it is crucial to pin down the values of LECs before one can make a better extraction of the light quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  dependence in the  $\chi\text{PT}$  approach.

One can also estimate the dependence of  $m_p$  on the current quark masses and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  from a formula for  $m_p$  within  $\chi\text{PT}$ . Such dependences can be used when one varies the electron-to-proton mass ratio,  $\mu \equiv m_e/m_p$ . However, since we only focus on the effects of the variation of the magnetic moments in this work, we prefer to use a common set of values for the coefficients of  $f_{T_q}$  and  $f_{T_g}$  of  $\delta m_p/m_p$ . Those values for the isospin-symmetric limit case are listed at the end of Sec. III A 1.

### C. The approach combining $\chi\text{PT}$ and lattice QCD

As another approach to study hadronic physics, lattice QCD provides a promising way to extract the current quark masses dependence of the nucleon magnetic moments, because one can do explicit calculations by assuming a sequence of different current quark masses in lattice computations, although in practice the computational cost is a limitation. Since most of the current lattice computations are still using input current quark masses much larger than their empirical values, an extrapolation of the lattice results to the physical point is needed. In the extrapolations for the physical observables, terms having nonanalytic behaviors,  $m_q^{1/2}$  and  $m_q \log m_q$ , etc., which are predicted by  $\chi\text{PT}$  and have important contributions near the chiral limit, must be considered.

An earlier study of this combined lattice and  $\chi\text{PT}$  approach for the nucleon magnetic moments uses an encapsulating form which is the Padé approximant [85],

$$\mu_{p,n}(M_\pi) = \frac{\mu_0}{1 - \frac{\chi_{p,n}}{\mu_0} M_\pi + c M_\pi^2}, \quad (74)$$

where  $\chi_{p,n}$  are fixed by the leading nonanalytic term given by  $\chi\text{PT}$ , while  $\mu_0$  and  $c$  are allowed to vary to best-fit the lattice data.

A later development takes the finite range regulator (FRR) [86] as the regularization method rather than the traditional dimensional regularization for the results we discussed in the previous subsection, and the cut-off parameter in the FRR is a mass scale which can be interpreted as the inverse of the size of the nucleon.

The current quark masses dependence for the nucleon magnetic moments is given in [28], and we simply quote the result there without going into any detail

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} &= -0.087 \frac{\delta \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} - 0.013 \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s}, \\ \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} &= -0.118 \frac{\delta \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} + 0.0013 \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s}. \end{aligned} \quad (75)$$

As the same argument we made for the  $\chi\text{PT}$  approach in the previous subsection, all parameters without light quark masses dependence are either pure numbers or are pure numbers time  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ . Therefore, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} &= -0.087 \frac{\delta \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} - 0.013 \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s} + 0.100 \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \\ \frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} &= -0.118 \frac{\delta \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} + 0.0013 \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s} + 0.1167 \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}. \end{aligned} \quad (76)$$

## IV. ATOMIC CLOCK CONSTRAINTS

### A. Methodology

As we have seen in section II D, the frequency shift is related to  $\{g_p, g_n, b, \mu, \alpha\}$  by the relation

$$\frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} = \lambda_{g_p} \frac{\dot{g}_p}{g_p} + \lambda_{g_n} \frac{\dot{g}_n}{g_n} + \lambda_b \frac{\dot{b}}{b} + \lambda_\mu \frac{\dot{\mu}}{\mu} + \lambda_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}, \quad (77)$$

where the coefficients  $\lambda$  are given explicitly in Table II. Then, in Sec. III, we have expressed the dependence of the  $g$ -factors as

$$\frac{\delta g_p}{g_p} = \kappa_{u_p} \frac{\delta m_u}{m_u} + \kappa_{d_p} \frac{\delta m_d}{m_d} + \kappa_{s_p} \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s} + \kappa_{\text{QCD}_p} \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \quad (78)$$

$$\frac{\delta g_n}{g_n} = \kappa_{u_n} \frac{\delta m_u}{m_u} + \kappa_{d_n} \frac{\delta m_d}{m_d} + \kappa_{s_n} \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s} + \kappa_{\text{QCD}_n} \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \quad (79)$$

where the coefficients  $\kappa_i$  have been calculated for different models and collected in Tables III and IV and Eq. (76), as well as the dependence of the proton mass

$$\frac{\delta m_p}{m_p} = f_{T_u} \frac{\delta m_u}{m_u} + f_{T_d} \frac{\delta m_d}{m_d} + f_{T_s} \frac{\delta m_s}{m_s} + f_{T_g} \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \quad (80)$$

where the  $f_{T_i}$  are given in Eqs. (49) and (51). Also, following [27,31],  $b$  depends on the quark mass and  $\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ , and there it is found

$$\frac{\delta b}{b} = \gamma_q \frac{\delta \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} + \gamma_{\text{QCD}} \frac{\delta \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \quad (81)$$

with

$$\gamma_q = -\gamma_{\text{QCD}} = -0.11. \quad (82)$$

Assuming for simplicity that all Yukawa couplings are varying similarly, i.e.,  $\delta h_i/h_i = \delta h/h$ , the expansions (78)–(81) can be inserted in Eq. (77) to obtain

$$\frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} = \hat{\lambda}_h \frac{\dot{h}}{h} + \hat{\lambda}_\nu \frac{\dot{\nu}}{\nu} + \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} \frac{\dot{\Lambda}_{\text{QCD}}}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}} + \hat{\lambda}_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}. \quad (83)$$

The coefficients  $\hat{\lambda}$  are easily computed to be given by

$$\hat{\lambda}_h = \lambda_{g_p}(\kappa_{u_p} + \kappa_{d_p} + \kappa_{s_p}) + \lambda_{g_n}(\kappa_{u_n} + \kappa_{d_n} + \kappa_{s_n}) + \lambda_b \gamma_q + \lambda_\mu(1 - f_{T_u} - f_{T_d} - f_{T_s}) \quad (84)$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_\nu = \hat{\lambda}_h \quad (85)$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} = \lambda_{g_p} \kappa_{\text{QCD}_p} + \lambda_{g_n} \kappa_{\text{QCD}_n} + \lambda_b \gamma_{\text{QCD}} - \lambda_\mu f_{T_g} \quad (86)$$

$$\hat{\lambda}_\alpha = \lambda_\alpha. \quad (87)$$

The form (83) makes no assumption on unification and only relies on the fact that all Yukawa couplings are varying in a similar way. It is important to note here that the dimensionality constraint on the  $f_{T_i}$ ,  $\kappa_i$  and  $\gamma_i$  parameters implies that  $\hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} = -\hat{\lambda}_\nu$  so that Eq. (83) actually depends only on the combination of  $X \equiv h\nu/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$  and  $\alpha$  as

$$\frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} = \hat{\lambda}_h \frac{\dot{X}}{X} + \hat{\lambda}_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}. \quad (88)$$

This would not be the case if we had not assumed that  $\delta h_i/h_i = \delta h/h$  for all Yukawa couplings.

Our first hypothesis concerning unification allows one to express the variation of the QCD scale by means of Eq. (2) so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} &= \left( \hat{\lambda}_h + \frac{2}{9} \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} \right) \frac{\dot{h}}{h} + \left( \hat{\lambda}_\nu + \frac{2}{9} \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} \right) \frac{\dot{\nu}}{\nu} \\ &\quad + (\hat{\lambda}_\alpha + R \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}}) \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} \\ &\equiv H_S \left( \frac{\dot{h}}{h} + \frac{\dot{\nu}}{\nu} \right) + H_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (89)$$

The second hypothesis on unification assumes that the variation of  $\nu$  and  $h$  are related by Eq. (4) so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} &= \left( \hat{\lambda}_h + \frac{2}{9} \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} \right) (1 + S) \frac{\dot{h}}{h} + (\hat{\lambda}_\alpha + R \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}}) \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} \\ &\equiv H_S (1 + S) \frac{\dot{h}}{h} + H_\alpha \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (90)$$

The last hypothesis assumes that the variations of  $h$  and  $\alpha$  are related by Eq. (5) so that

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}} &= \left[ \frac{1}{2} \left( \hat{\lambda}_h + \frac{2}{9} \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} \right) (1 + S) + (\hat{\lambda}_\alpha + R \hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}}) \right] \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} \\ &\equiv \left( \frac{1}{2} H_S (1 + S) + H_\alpha \right) \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} \equiv C_\alpha(R, S) \frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha}. \end{aligned} \quad (91)$$

The two last equations define the parameter  $C_\alpha(R, S)$ .

The forms (89)–(91) imply increasing assumptions on the unification mechanisms and are thus becoming more and more model-dependent with the advantage of reducing the number of fundamental constants, hence allowing one to draw sharper constraints from the same experimental data.

The coefficients introduced above can be easily calculated from Table II for the coefficients  $\lambda$ , Tables III or IV or Eq. (76) for the coefficients  $\kappa_i$ , Eq. (49) or Eq. (51) for the coefficients  $f_{T_i}$ , and Eq. (82) for the coefficients  $\gamma_i$ . As an example, we provide the value of the coefficients  $C_\alpha$  assuming  $S = 160$  and  $R = 30$  for the 9 models considered in this article. It is important to stress that this coefficient is almost always larger than 1 and typically of order 5–30 in absolute value.

We can check that the effect of varying the nuclear radius is indeed much smaller than varying the other parameters. This effect can be included by adding a term  $\epsilon_r(\hat{m}/\hat{m} - \dot{\Lambda}_{\text{QCD}}/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}})$  to Eq. (77). Using the values listed in Table IV of [31], we have  $\epsilon_r = -0.004$  for the Cs-Rb clock system, while  $\epsilon_r = -0.007$  for the other five clock systems involving Cs. These amount to an adjustment of  $-0.13$  in the numbers in the first column of Table V, and  $-0.23$  in the other five columns.

TABLE V. The coefficient  $C_\alpha$  assuming  $S = 160$  and  $R = 30$  for each of the models for the nucleon magnetic moment and for the various combinations of clocks discussed in this article.

	Cs-Rb	H-Cs	Hg-Cs	Yb-Cs	Sr-Cs	SF <sub>6</sub> -Cs
A	-16.53	13.86	17.06	12.96	13.80	4.56
B1	-2.26	20.16	23.36	19.26	20.10	10.85
B2	-6.79	18.16	21.36	17.26	18.10	8.85
B3	-5.29	18.82	22.02	17.92	18.76	9.51
C	-13.37	15.26	18.46	14.36	15.20	5.95
HBw/oD	19.27	29.33	32.53	28.43	29.27	20.22
HBwD	-8.57	17.01	20.21	16.11	16.95	7.89
EOMS	0.49	20.97	24.17	20.07	20.91	11.86
$\chi$ PT + QCD	1.20	21.29	24.49	20.39	21.23	12.18



## B. Single experiment constraints

We are now in a position to combine our results for the dependence of the nucleon  $g$ -factor on fundamental parameters with the limits imposed from atomic clock measurements. For each experiment, we can derive a limit on the variation of the fine-structure constant under a number of sets of assumptions.

For example, assuming first that the only dependence of  $\nu_{AB}$  on  $\alpha$  is related to the coefficient  $\lambda_\alpha$  (i.e., we assume that  $g_p$ ,  $g_n$ ,  $b$  and  $\mu$  remain constant), we can use Table II to extract a limit on  $\dot{\alpha}/\alpha$  for each experiment from

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = \frac{1}{\lambda_\alpha} \frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}}. \quad (92)$$

In contrast, when we take into account the contributions from coupled variations, and we assume the relation between  $\dot{\nu}_{AB}/\nu_{AB}$  and  $\dot{\alpha}/\alpha$  given by Eq. (91) we obtain simply

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = \frac{1}{C_\alpha} \frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}}. \quad (93)$$

Thus, the improvement in the limit from each individual experiment due to the theoretical assumption of coupled variations is given by  $C_\alpha/\lambda_\alpha$ . These factors are tabulated in Table VI for each experiment and model for  $g_{p,n}$ .

As one can see, there is a strong model-dependence on the resulting limits on  $\dot{\alpha}/\alpha$ . Overall the enhancements range from  $\sim 1$  to  $\sim 10$ . For example, let us consider the case of the Cs-Rb atomic clock system. Ignoring the variations in all other constants, this clock would yield a result

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = (1.02 \pm 10.82) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (94)$$

In contrast, coupled variations, according to the factors in Table VI, improve this result by as much as a factor of 39.32 using the HBw/oD model for  $g_{p,n}$ , yielding

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = (0.03 \pm 0.28) \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}. \quad (95)$$

TABLE VI. The enhancement factor  $C_\alpha/\lambda_\alpha$  assuming  $S = 160$  and  $R = 30$  for each of the models for the nucleon magnetic moment and for the various combinations of clocks discussed in this article.

	Cs-Rb	H-Cs	Hg-Cs	Yb-Cs	Sr-Cs	SF <sub>6</sub> -Cs
A	-33.73	4.90	2.83	6.72	4.98	1.61
B1	-4.61	7.12	3.87	9.98	7.26	3.83
B2	-13.86	6.42	3.54	8.94	6.53	3.13
B3	-10.80	6.65	3.65	9.28	6.77	3.36
C	-27.28	5.39	3.06	7.44	5.49	2.10
HBw/oD	39.32	10.36	5.39	14.73	10.57	7.14
HBwD	-17.48	6.01	3.35	8.34	6.12	2.79
EOMS	1.00	7.41	4.01	10.40	7.55	4.19
$\chi$ PT + QCD	2.45	7.52	4.06	10.56	7.66	4.30

Cases A and C also make substantial improvements in the limit for the Cs-Rb clock system. On the other hand, there is no gain for case EOMS, or even a *weaker* limit if the nuclear radius effect is taken into account.

## C. Combined experimental constraints

While the results of individual experiments can be substantially improved by coupled variations, two clock systems (Dy and Hg-Al) are independent of any assumption on unification and lead to model-independent limits on  $\alpha$ . We next combine the available results to obtain a single limit on  $\alpha$  for each choice of model for  $g_{p,n}$ .

Each of the eight experimental results used in this article can be written as

$$\frac{d}{dt} \ln \nu_{AB} = \eta_{AB} \pm \delta_{AB}, \quad (96)$$

listed in Table II. From a theoretical point of view, the expression for  $\nu_{AB}$  depends on a set of constants,  $\mathbf{x}$ , chosen as being independent and on our hypothesis on unification schemes. If we assume  $d \ln \nu_{AB}(\mathbf{x})/dt - \eta_{AB}$  to be Gaussian distributed and all the experiments to be uncorrelated, then the best-fit for the set of constants  $\mathbf{x}$  is obtained by maximizing the likelihood, or equivalently by minimizing

$$\chi^2(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{AB} \frac{[\frac{\dot{\nu}_{AB}}{\nu_{AB}}(\mathbf{x}) - \eta_{AB}]^2}{\delta_{AB}^2}. \quad (97)$$

The 68.27%, 95%, and 99% confidence level (i.e.,  $1\sigma$ ,  $\sim 2\sigma$  and  $\sim 3\sigma$ ) constraints are then obtained by  $\Delta\chi^2 = (1, 3.84, 6.63)$  if  $\dim(\mathbf{x}) = 1$  and  $\Delta\chi^2 = (2.30, 5.99, 9.21)$  if  $\dim(\mathbf{x}) = 2$ .

### 1. Constraints on the QED parameters

Let us start by assuming that  $\{g_p, g_n, b, \mu, \alpha\}$  are independent parameters. One can use the Hg-Al clock to constrain the variation of  $\alpha$  and then use the six clock combinations that depend on the five parameters to set a constraint on  $\{g_p, g_n, b, \mu\}$ . However, from Eq. (30), we note that the ratio of the coefficients of  $\delta g_n/g_n$  and  $\delta b/b$  is  $g_n/(g_n - g_p + 1)$ , which is independent of the clock systems we are considering. Also, from Table II, we note that the value of  $\lambda_{g_p}/\lambda_{g_n}$  for the Cs-Rb clock is very close to that of the other five clock combinations. Therefore, for the purpose of constraining the QED parameters,  $g_p$ ,  $g_n$  and  $b$  are not independent, and we can only constrain their combination, namely,  $g_{Cs}$ . The combined constraint on  $g_{Cs}$  and  $\mu$  is depicted on Fig. 2. Note that if a different method in the calculation of  $g$ -factors of  $^{87}\text{Rb}$  and  $^{133}\text{Cs}$ , and/or other clock systems, are used, such that the ratio  $\lambda_{g_p}:\lambda_{g_n}:\lambda_b$  is not the same for different clock combinations, then  $g_p$ ,  $g_n$  and  $b$  can be taken as independent parameters.

As we know from our analysis, such a hypothesis is not correct since the variations are expected to be correlated

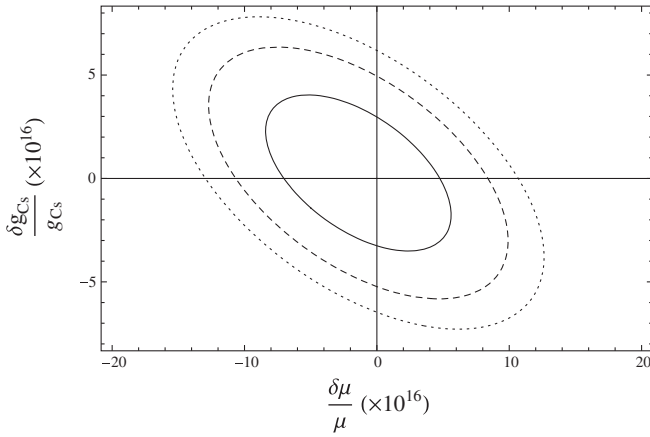


FIG. 2. Constraints on the variation of parameters  $\{g_{Cs}, \mu\}$  assumed to be independent once the constraint from the variation of  $\alpha$  from the Hg-Al clock is taken into account. Solid, dashed and dotted contours correspond to 68.27%, 95% and 99% C.L.

but this shows the result one would have derived without any knowledge on QCD.

## 2. Constraint on $\alpha$

As in the previous subsection, we can consider first the constraint obtained using the form (91) that depends on  $\delta\alpha/\alpha$  alone. Minimizing  $\chi^2$  for a single variable is equivalent to taking the weighted mean of  $\eta_{AB}/\lambda_\alpha$  with an uncertainty  $\delta_{AB}/\lambda_\alpha$ . This result can be compared with that assuming coupled variations using the coefficients  $C_\alpha$ , given in Table V. In this case, the weighted mean replaces  $\lambda_\alpha$  with  $C_\alpha$ .

In order to determine the effect of coupled variations, we compare the constraints arising from the combination of the eight experiments to the one obtained from the combination of 6 clocks (that is neglecting the Dy and Hg-Al clocks). The results are presented in Table VII and shall be

compared to the same analysis assuming that only  $\alpha$  is varying (i.e., keeping  $g_p, g_n, b$  and  $\mu$  constant). We find

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = -(2.14 \pm 2.30) \times 10^{-17} \text{ yr}^{-1} \quad (98)$$

for the combination of the 8 experiments and

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = -(5.24 \pm 6.40) \times 10^{-17} \text{ yr}^{-1} \quad (99)$$

for the combination of the 6 experiments. We also remind the reader that the Hg-Al experiment alone set the constraint

$$\frac{\dot{\alpha}}{\alpha} = -(1.65 \pm 2.46) \times 10^{-17} \text{ yr}^{-1}, \quad (100)$$

which shows that there is little gain in combining the 8 experiments compared to this experiment alone.

When  $g_p, g_n, b$  and  $\mu$  are allowed to vary in the combination of the 6 clocks, there is a gain of a factor of order 4 so that the constraint obtained from the combination of these 6 clocks assuming unification becomes as strong as the constraint obtained from Hg-Al alone. When combining the 8 experiments, the gain is less than a factor of 2, due to the fact that the limit arises mostly from the Hg-Al experiment which does not depend on  $g_{p,n}$ . These results are summarized in Table VII and each result can be compared to the single Hg-Al result given in Eq. (100).

## 3. Constraint on $h\nu$

As a second application, we can use the constraint (22) arising from the Hg-Al clock to obtain a bound on the time variation of  $\alpha$  that is independent of the other constants and then use the 6 other clocks to set a constraint on the

TABLE VII. Constraints on the variation of  $\alpha$  assuming the unification relation (91) and the values of  $C_\alpha$  for  $S = 160$  and  $R = 30$ . We compare the constraints obtained from the combination of the 8 clocks and the constraints obtained from the 6 clocks (i.e. without Dy and Hg-Al). All numbers are in  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ .

Model	8 clocks	6 clocks
A	$(-1.32 \pm 1.46) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.12 \pm 1.81) \times 10^{-17}$
B1	$(-1.25 \pm 1.34) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.07 \pm 1.60) \times 10^{-17}$
B2	$(-1.32 \pm 1.40) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.15 \pm 1.71) \times 10^{-17}$
B3	$(-1.30 \pm 1.38) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.13 \pm 1.67) \times 10^{-17}$
C	$(-1.35 \pm 1.46) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.17 \pm 1.81) \times 10^{-17}$
HBw/oD	$(-0.76 \pm 0.97) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-0.60 \pm 1.06) \times 10^{-17}$
HBwD	$(-1.36 \pm 1.44) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.19 \pm 1.78) \times 10^{-17}$
EOMS	$(-1.21 \pm 1.31) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.02 \pm 1.54) \times 10^{-17}$
$\chi\text{PT} + \text{QCD}$	$(-1.19 \pm 1.30) \times 10^{-17}$	$(-1.00 \pm 1.52) \times 10^{-17}$

TABLE VIII. Constraints on the variation of  $h\nu$  once the variation of  $\alpha$  alone is constrained from the Hg-Al clock. It assumes the unification relation (89). All numbers are in  $\text{yr}^{-1}$ .

Model	$\frac{(h\nu)}{h\nu}$
A	$(-9.64 \pm 10.79) \times 10^{-16}$
B1	$(-8.69 \pm 10.21) \times 10^{-16}$
B2	$(-9.27 \pm 10.52) \times 10^{-16}$
B3	$(-9.11 \pm 10.45) \times 10^{-16}$
C	$(-9.65 \pm 10.71) \times 10^{-16}$
HBw/oD	$(-6.20 \pm 7.32) \times 10^{-16}$
HBwD	$(-9.55 \pm 10.76) \times 10^{-16}$
EOMS	$(-8.35 \pm 10.01) \times 10^{-16}$
$\chi\text{PT} + \text{QCD}$	$(-8.22 \pm 9.91) \times 10^{-16}$

combination of parameters  $h\nu$ , assuming the form (89) to set a constraint on  $\delta h\nu/h\nu$  alone. This requires the knowledge of the coefficients  $H_S$  and  $H_\alpha$  and we assume that  $R = 30$ , but it does not depend on the coefficient  $S$ .

The constraints for each model are summarized on Table VIII. It ranges between  $|\frac{(h\nu)}{h\nu}| < 20.43 \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}$  and  $|\frac{(h\nu)}{h\nu}| < 13.52 \times 10^{-16} \text{ yr}^{-1}$ , respectively, for models A and HBw/oD and it turns out that the model-dependence for this constraint is mild.

#### 4. Constraint on $(\frac{h\nu}{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}, \alpha)$

As a third application, we use the fact that  $\hat{\lambda}_{\text{QCD}} = -\hat{\lambda}_h$  so that the form (88) allows one to set a constraint on  $(h\nu/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \alpha)$  independent of any hypothesis on unification and thus does not require knowledge of the parameters  $R$  and  $S$ .

Figure 3 compares the 99% C.L. constraints obtained from the combination of 6 and 8 experiments for each model. Again, we see that the Hg-Al experiment dominates the collective limit.

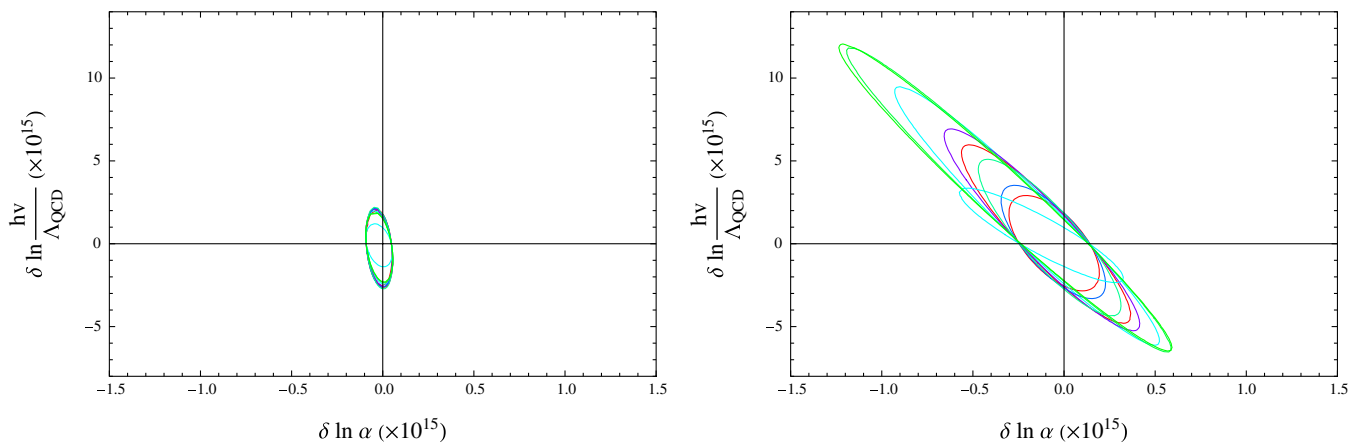


FIG. 3 (color online). Comparison of the 99% C.L. constraints on  $(h\nu/\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}, \alpha)$  for the 9 models with 8 clocks (left) and 6 clocks (right).

## V. APPLICATION TO ASTROPHYSICAL SYSTEMS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Astrophysical systems

Several different types of observations of astrophysical systems involving quasar absorption spectra are subject to a similar analysis that has been applied to atomic clocks. Indeed, there are four distinct combinations of physical parameters which depend on  $g_p$ .

- (i) The comparison of UV heavy element transitions with the hyperfine  $\text{H}_I$  transition allows one to set constraints on

$$x \equiv \alpha^2 g_p \mu, \quad (101)$$

since the optical transitions are simply proportional to  $R_\infty$ . It follows that constraints on the time variation of  $x$  can be obtained from high resolution 21 cm spectra compared to UV lines, e.g., of  $\text{Si}_{\text{II}}$ ,  $\text{Fe}_{\text{II}}$  and/or  $\text{Mg}_{\text{II}}$ . The recent detection of 21 cm and molecular hydrogen absorption lines in the same damped Lyman- $\alpha$  system at  $z_{\text{abs}} = 3.174$  towards SDSS J1337 + 3152 constrains [87] the variation  $x$  to

$$\Delta x/x = -(1.7 \pm 1.7) \times 10^{-6}, \quad z = 3.174. \quad (102)$$

- (ii) The comparison of the  $\text{H}_I$  21 cm hyperfine transition to the rotational transition frequencies of diatomic molecules allows one to set a constraint on

$$y \equiv g_p \alpha^2 \quad (103)$$

The most recent constraint [88] relies on the comparison of two absorption systems determined both from  $\text{H}_I$  and molecular absorption. The first is a system at  $z = 0.6847$  in the direction of TXS 0218 + 357 for which the spectra of  $\text{CO}(1-2)$ ,

TABLE IX. Constraints on the variation of different combinations of  $g_p$ ,  $\mu$  and  $\alpha$  from astrophysical observations.

Combination	$\lambda_{g_p}$	$\lambda_\mu$	$\lambda_\alpha$	Constraints ( $\text{yr}^{-1}$ )	redshift
$x = g_p \alpha^2 \mu$	1	1	2	$-(1.7 \pm 1.7) \times 10^{-6}$	3.174
$y = g_p \alpha^2$	1	0	2	$(-0.16 \pm 0.54) \times 10^{-5}$	0.6847
				$(-0.2 \pm 0.44) \times 10^{-5}$	0.247
$F = g_p(\alpha^2/\mu)^{1.57}$	1	-1.57	3.14	$(-0.44 \pm 0.36 \pm 1.0_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-5}$	0.765
				$(0.51 \pm 1.26) \times 10^{-5}$	0.2467
$G = g_p(\alpha^2/\mu)^{1.85}$	1	-1.85	3.70	$(-1.18 \pm 0.46) \times 10^{-5}$	0.247
				$(0 \pm 1.16) \times 10^{-5}$	0.0018

$^{13}\text{CO}(1-2)$ ,  $\text{C}^{18}\text{O}(1-2)$ ,  $\text{CO}(2-3)$ ,  $\text{HCO}^+(1-2)$  and  $\text{HCN}(1-2)$  are available. They concluded that

$$\Delta y/y = (-0.16 \pm 0.54) \times 10^{-5}, \quad z = 0.6847. \quad (104)$$

The second system is an absorption system in the direction of PKS 1413 + 135 for which the molecular lines of  $\text{CO}(1-2)$ ,  $\text{HCO}^+(1-2)$  and  $\text{HCO}^+(2-3)$  have been detected. The analysis led to

$$\Delta y/y = (-0.2 \pm 0.44) \times 10^{-5}, \quad z = 0.247. \quad (105)$$

- (iii) The ground state,  $^2\Pi_{3/2}J = 3/2$ , of OH is split into two levels by  $\Lambda$ -doubling and each of these doubled levels is further split into two hyperfine-structure states. Thus, it has two ‘‘main’’ lines ( $\Delta F = 0$ ) and two ‘‘satellite’’ lines ( $\Delta F = 1$ ). Since these four lines arise from two different physical processes ( $\Lambda$ -doubling and hyperfine splitting), they enjoy the same Rydberg dependence but different  $g_p$  and  $\alpha$  dependences. By comparing the four transitions to the  $\text{H}_1$  hyperfine line, one can set a constraint on

$$F \equiv g_p(\alpha^2/\mu)^{1.57}. \quad (106)$$

Using the four 18 cm OH lines from the gravitational lens at  $z \sim 0.765$  toward PMN J0134-0931 and comparing the  $\text{H}_1$  21 cm and OH absorption redshifts of the different components allowed one to set the constraint [89]

$$\Delta F/F = (-0.44 \pm 0.36 \pm 1.0_{\text{syst}}) \times 10^{-5}, \quad z = 0.765, \quad (107)$$

where the second error is due to velocity offsets between OH and  $\text{H}_1$  assuming a velocity dispersion of 3 km/s. A similar analysis [90] in a system in the direction of PKS 1413 + 135 gave

$$\Delta F/F = (0.51 \pm 1.26) \times 10^{-5}, \quad z = 0.2467. \quad (108)$$

- (iv) The satellite OH 18 cm lines are conjugate so that the two lines have the same shape, but with one line in emission and the other in absorption. This behavior has recently been discovered at cosmological distances and it was shown [91] that a comparison between the sum and difference of satellite line redshifts probes the variation of

$$G \equiv g_p(\alpha^2/\mu)^{1.85}. \quad (109)$$

From the analysis of a system at  $z \sim 0.247$  towards PKS 1413 + 135, it was concluded [92] that  $|\Delta G/G| = (2.2 \pm 3.8) \times 10^{-5}$ , while a newer analysis [93] gave

$$|\Delta G/G| = (-1.18 \pm 0.46) \times 10^{-5}. \quad (110)$$

TABLE X. Value of the parameter  $C_\alpha$  for the 4 combinations of constants that can be constrained by astrophysical observations, assuming  $R = 30$  and  $S = 160$  (upper) and value of the enhancement factor  $C_\alpha/\lambda_\alpha$  (lower).

	$x$	$y$	$F$	$G$
A	34.10	15.49	-12.60	-17.25
B1	20.72	2.10	-25.98	-30.64
B2	24.96	6.35	-21.73	-26.39
B3	23.52	4.91	-23.18	-27.83
C	31.21	12.59	-15.49	-20.14
HBw/oD	2.46	-15.76	-43.23	-47.77
HBwD	27.00	8.78	-18.69	-23.23
EOMS	17.63	-0.60	-28.07	-32.61
$\chi\text{PT} + \text{QCD}$	16.96	-1.26	-28.73	-33.27
	$x$	$y$	$F$	$G$
A	17.05	7.74	-4.01	-4.66
B1	10.36	1.05	-8.27	-8.28
B2	12.48	3.18	-6.92	-7.13
B3	11.76	2.45	-7.38	-7.52
C	15.60	6.30	-4.93	-5.44
HBw/oD	1.23	-7.88	-13.77	-12.91
HBwD	13.50	4.39	-5.95	-6.28
EOMS	8.81	-0.30	-8.94	-8.81
$\chi\text{PT} + \text{QCD}$	8.48	-0.63	-9.15	-8.99

TABLE XI. Comparison of the constraints obtained from astrophysical systems with and without assumption on unification for model A.

Combination	independent (yr <sup>-1</sup> )	correlated (yr <sup>-1</sup> )	redshift
$x$	$(-8.50 \pm 8.50) \times 10^{-7}$	$(-4.98 \pm 4.98) \times 10^{-8}$	3.174
$y$	$(-0.8 \pm 2.7) \times 10^{-6}$	$(-1.03 \pm 3.49) \times 10^{-7}$	0.6847
	$(-1.0 \pm 2.2) \times 10^{-6}$	$(-1.29 \pm 2.84) \times 10^{-7}$	0.247
$F$	$(-1.40 \pm 3.38) \times 10^{-6}$	$(3.49 \pm 8.44) \times 10^{-7}$	0.765
	$(1.62 \pm 4.01) \times 10^{-6}$	$(-0.40 \pm 1.00) \times 10^{-6}$	0.2467
$G$	$(-3.19 \pm 1.24) \times 10^{-6}$	$(6.84 \pm 2.67) \times 10^{-7}$	0.247
	$(0 \pm 3.14) \times 10^{-6}$	$(0 \pm 6.73) \times 10^{-7}$	0.0018

It was also applied to a nearby system [94], Centaurus A, to give  $|\Delta G/G| < 1.16 \times 10^{-5}$  at  $z \sim 0.0018$ .

These constraints are summarized in Table IX.

### B. Astrophysical constraints

In contrast to our analysis of atomic clocks, we cannot combine the astrophysical observations because they have been obtained from different systems at different redshifts and at different spatial locations. However, as we have done previously (but without the  $g_n$  and  $b$  terms), we show in Table X the enhancement factor for the analysis of the 4 types of combinations of absorption spectra. We emphasize that the enhancement factor is always larger than unity (except for  $y$  in the EOMS and  $\chi$ PT + QCD models). As last example of the power of coupled variations, Table XI compares the constraints on the variation of  $\alpha$  that can be obtained under the assumption that  $g_p$  and  $\mu$  are constant with the assumption of coupled variations based on unification. As one can see, in many cases the limits are improved by an order of magnitude.

### C. Discussion

In this article, we have discussed the effect of a correlated variation of fundamental constants, focusing on the gyromagnetic factors  $g_p$  and  $g_n$ . These parameters are particularly important to interpret electromagnetic spectra, and thus to derive constraints on the variation of fundamental constants from atomic clock experiments and from quasar absorption spectra. As discussed, there is an important model-dependence in the computation of the gyromagnetic factors in terms of the quark masses and QCD scale.

When applied to the interpretation of atomic clock experiments, we have shown that in general the constraints on

the variation of  $\alpha$  are sharper than that under the assumption that  $g_p, g_n, b$  and  $\mu$  are constant, but this is not a systematic conclusion as we have exhibited models in which the variation of  $\alpha$  stays the same or is even weaker due to cancellations in the sensitivity to  $\alpha$ . The constraints on the variation of  $\alpha$  should then be taken with care. In many cases, they may be stronger than reported, but they may be weaker as well. This points to the need to better understand the fundamental physics needed to calculate baryon magnetic moments. Any limit which depends on  $g_{p,n}$  will be subject to the type of uncertainties discussed here.

Fortunately, the tightest constraint arises from the Hg-Al clock experiments, that does not depend on  $g_p, g_n, b$  or  $\mu$ . As a consequence, we have been able to independently set a bound on the variation of  $h\nu$  from the combination of the other experiments. While this bound is still model-dependent, we have shown that it is always smaller than

$$\left| \frac{(h\nu)'}{h\nu} \right| < 2.0 \times 10^{-15} \text{ yr}^{-1} \quad (111)$$

for the models we have considered in this article.

Our analysis also applies to astrophysical system and to quasar absorption spectra. We have shown that the enhancement factor is almost always larger than unity.

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