



# Challenges and Strategies in Determining Longitudinal Unpolarized Proton PDFs: From the LHC to EIC Prospects

CTEQ

C.-P. Yuan

Michigan State University  
Wu-Ki Tung Professorship in Particle Physics

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Workshop on PDFs in the EIC era

In collaboration with CTEQ-TEA members

CTEQ – Tung et al. (TEA)  
in memory of Prof. Wu-Ki Tung



# CTEQ-TEA group

CTEQ

**CTEQ:** The **C**oordinated **T**heoretical-**E**xperimental Project on **Q**CD

- CTEQ – Tung Et Al. (TEA)

in memory of Prof. Wu-Ki Tung, who co-established CTEQ Collaboration in early 90's

- Current members:

**China:** Sayipjamal Dulat, Ibrahim Sitiwaldi, Alim Albet (Xinjiang U.), Tie-Jiun Hou (U. of South China), Liang Han, Minghui Liu, Siqi Yang (USTC) and other coauthors.

**Mexico:** Aurore Courtoy (Unam, Mexico)

**USA:** Marco Guzzi (Kennesaw State U.), Tim Hobbs (Argonne Lab), Pavel Nadolsky (Southern Methodist U.), Yao Fu, Joey Huston, Huey-Wen Lin, Max Ponce-Chavez, Dan Stump, Carl Schmidt, Keping Xie, C.-P Yuan (Michigan State U.) and other coauthors.

Some useful websites:

- CT18 PDFs

<https://ct.hepforge.org/PDFs/ct18/>

- L2 Sensitivity

<https://ct.hepforge.org/PDFs/ct18/figures/L2Sensitivity/>

- ePump

<https://epump.hepforge.org/>

- ResBos2

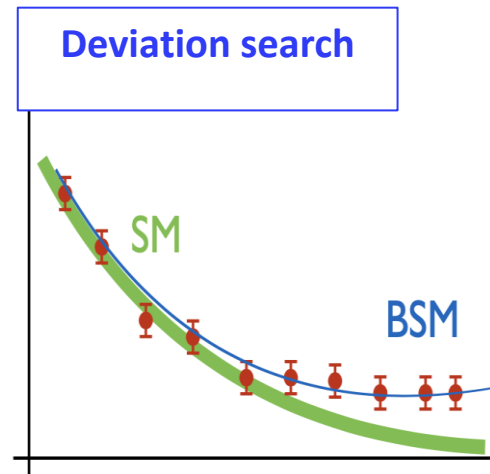
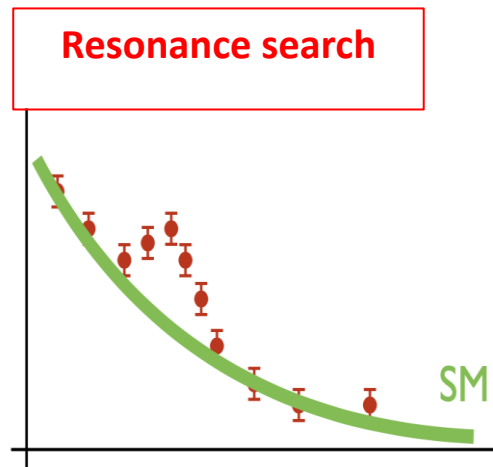
<https://gitlab.com/resbos2>



# Physics Goals of the LHC

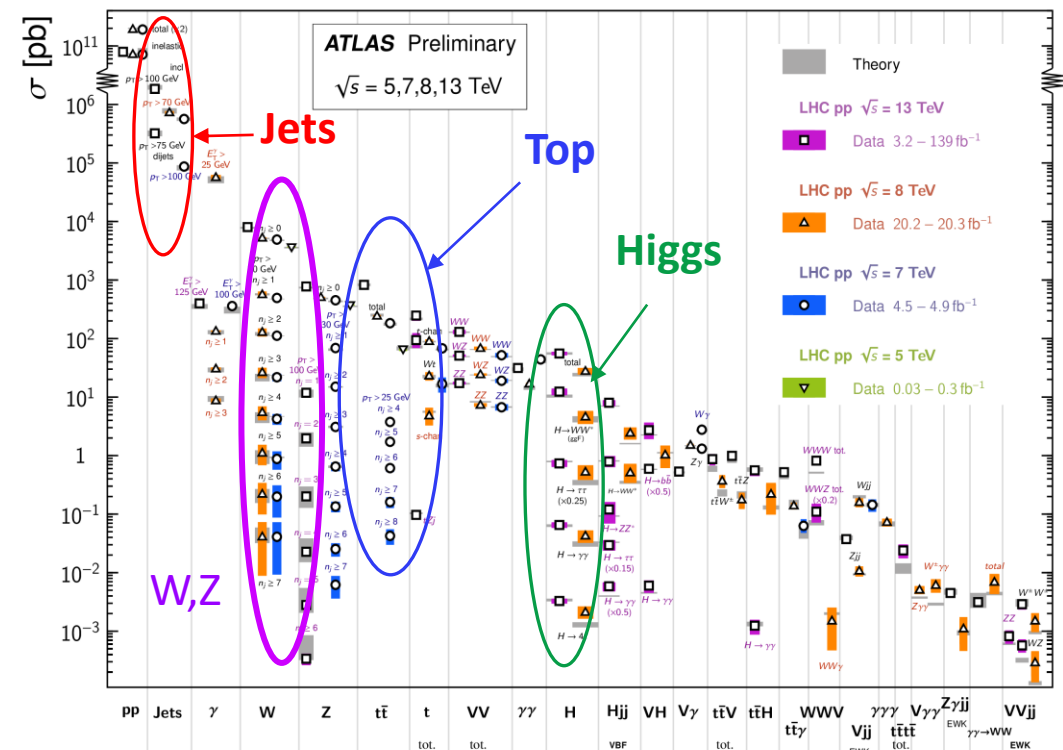
CTEQ

- **Goals:** 1. Test Standard Model (SM)  
2. Find New Physics (NP)



Standard Model Production Cross Section Measurements

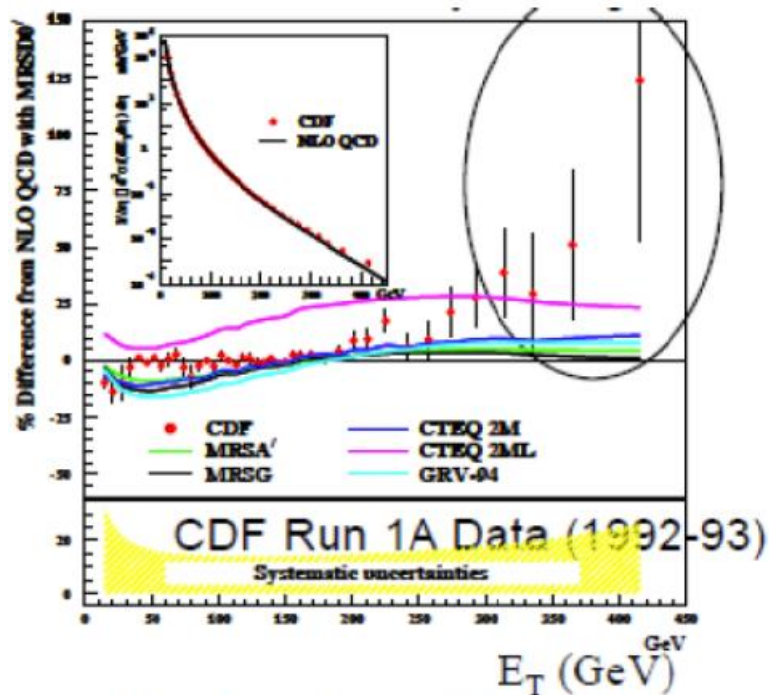
Status: February 2022





# New Physics Found (in 1996) ?

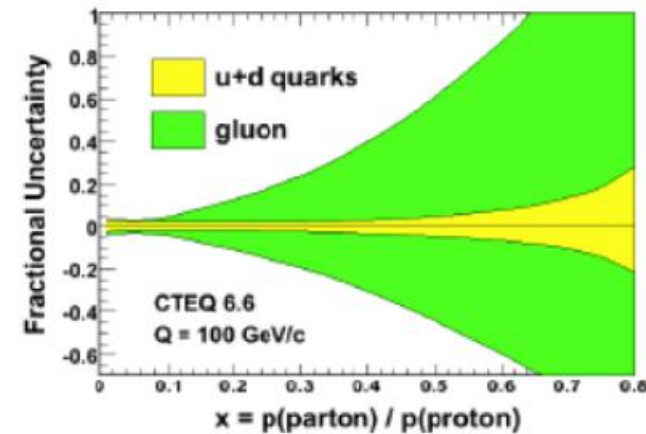
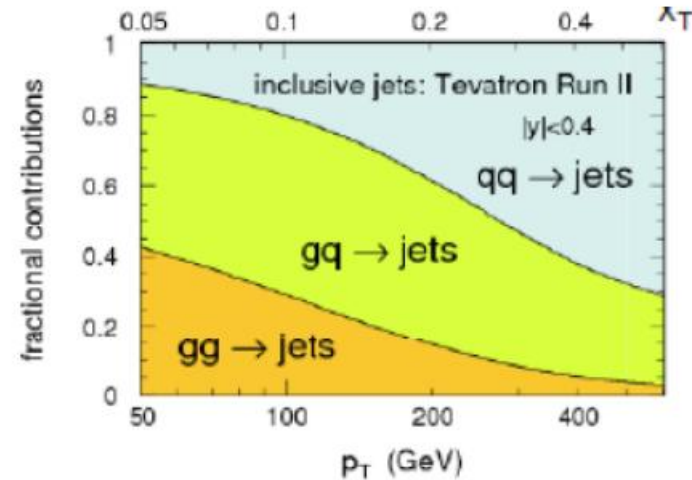
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Phys. Rev. Lett. 77, 438 (1996)

High- $x$  gluon not well known

...can be accommodated in the Standard Model



Explained by having better determined PDFs from global analysis; no need for NP scenario yet.

J. Huston, E. Kovacs, S. Kuhlmann, J.L. Lai, J.F. Owens, D. Soper, W.K. Tung, Phys. Rev. Lett. 77 (1996) 444.



# QCD Factorization Theorem and Parton Distribution Functions

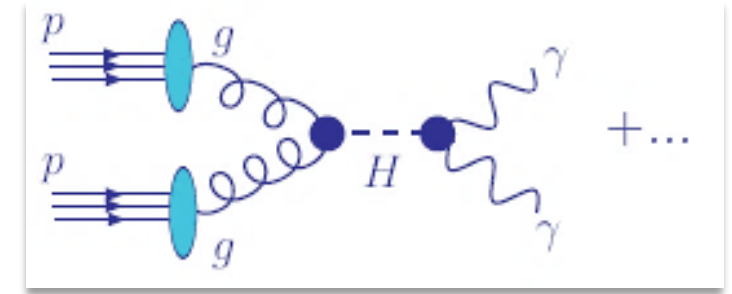
Hessian PDF eigenvector (EV) sets

vs

Monte Carlo (MC) PDF replicas

# QCD Factorization Theorem and PDFs

$$\sigma_{pp \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma X}(Q) = \sum_{a,b=g,q,\bar{q}} \int_0^1 d\xi_a \int_0^1 d\xi_b \hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma} \left( \frac{x_a}{\xi_a}, \frac{x_b}{\xi_b}, \frac{Q}{\mu_R}, \frac{Q}{\mu_F}; \alpha_s(\mu_R) \right) \\ \times f_a(\xi_a, \mu_F) f_b(\xi_b, \mu_F) + O\left(\frac{\Lambda_{QCD}^2}{Q^2}\right)$$



$\hat{\sigma}$  is the hard cross section; computed order-by-order in  $\alpha_s(\mu_R)$   
 $f_a(x, \mu_F)$  is the distribution for parton  $a$  with momentum fraction  $x$ , at scale  $\mu_F$

$f_{a/h}(x, Q)$

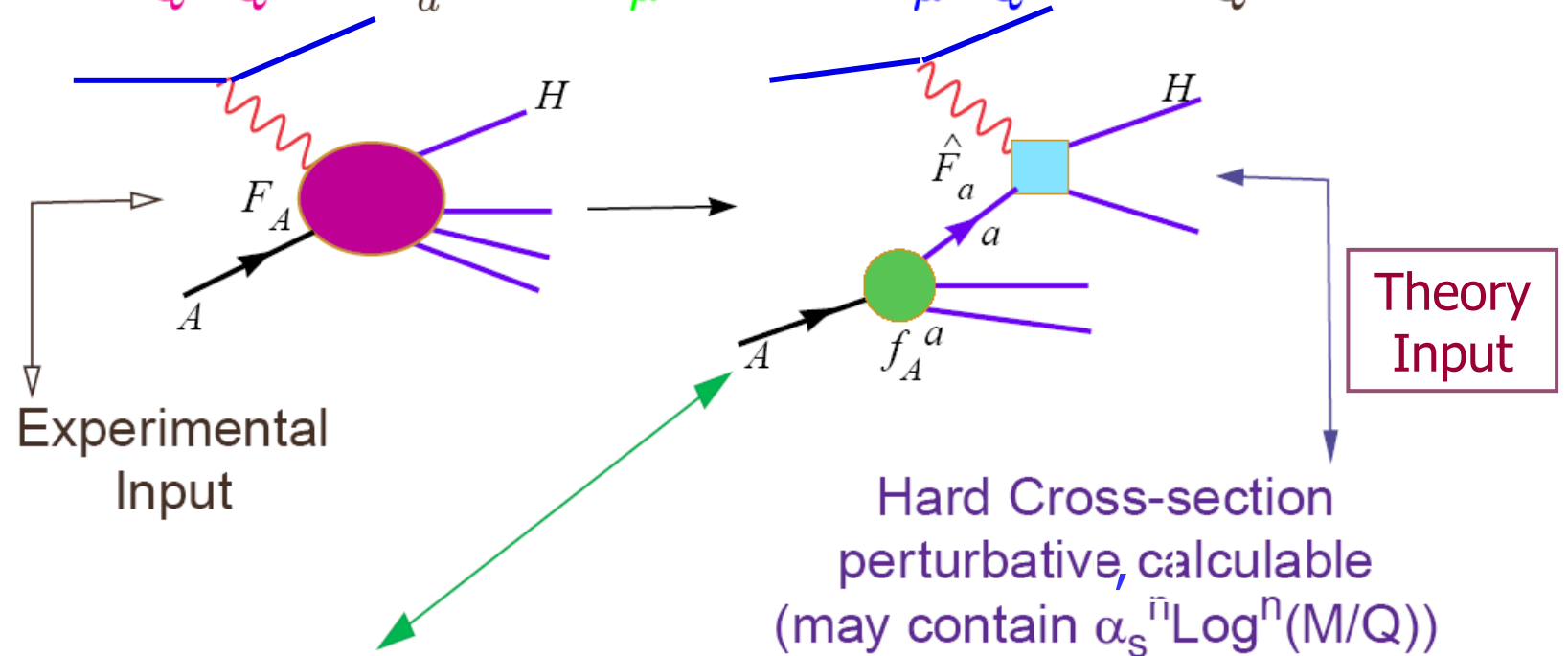
**Unpolarized collinear** parton distribution functions (PDFs)

$f_{a/h}(x, Q)$  are associated with probabilities for finding a parton  $a$  with the “+” momentum  $x p^+$  in a hadron  $h$  with the “+” momentum  $p^+$  for  $p^+ \rightarrow \infty$ , at a resolution scale  $Q > 1$  GeV.

The (unpolarized) collinear PDFs describe long-distance dynamics of (single parton scattering) in high-energy collisions.

## Master Equation for QCD Parton Model – the Factorization Theorem

$$F_A^\lambda(x, \frac{m}{Q}, \frac{M}{Q}) = \sum_a f_A^a(x, \frac{m}{\mu}) \otimes \hat{F}_a^\lambda(x, \frac{Q}{\mu}, \frac{M}{Q}) + \mathcal{O}((\frac{\Lambda}{Q})^2)$$



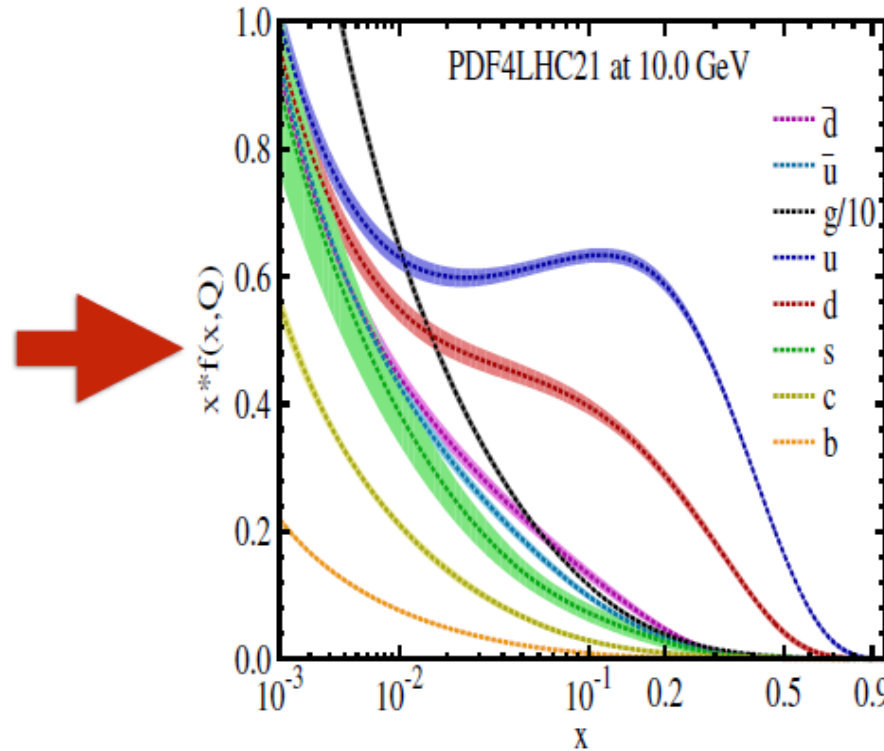
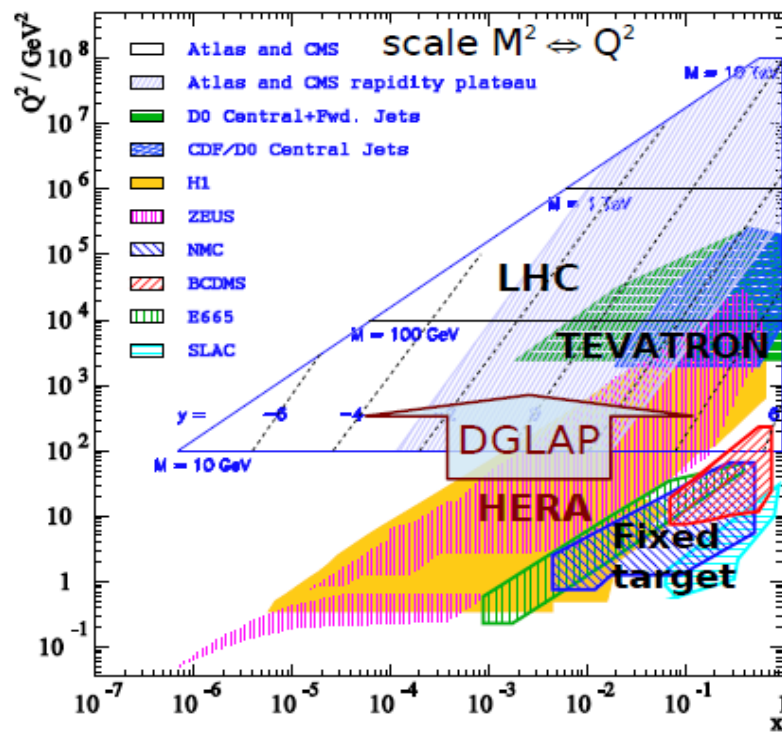
universal Parton Dist. Fn.  
Non-Perturbative Parametrization at  $Q_0$   
DGLAP Evolution to  $Q$

Extracted by global analysis



# Global analysis of PDFs

- PDFs are usually extracted from global analysis on variety of data, e.g., DIS, Drell-Yan, jets and top quark productions at fixed-target and collider experiments, with increasing weight from LHC, together with SM QCD parameters  
[see [1709.04922](#), [1905.06957](#) for recent review articles]



parameter variations
$\alpha_s(M_Z)$
$M_c, M_b, M_t$
QCD/EW corrections
nuclear corrections
EW parameters
New Physics

- diversity of the analysed data are important to ensure flavor separation and to avoid theoretical/experimental bias; possible extensions to include EW parameters and possible new physics for a self-consistent determination
- alternative approach from lattice QCD simulations, for various PDF moments or PDFs directly calculated in  $x$ -space with large momentum effective theory or pseudo-PDFs [[2004.03543](#)]

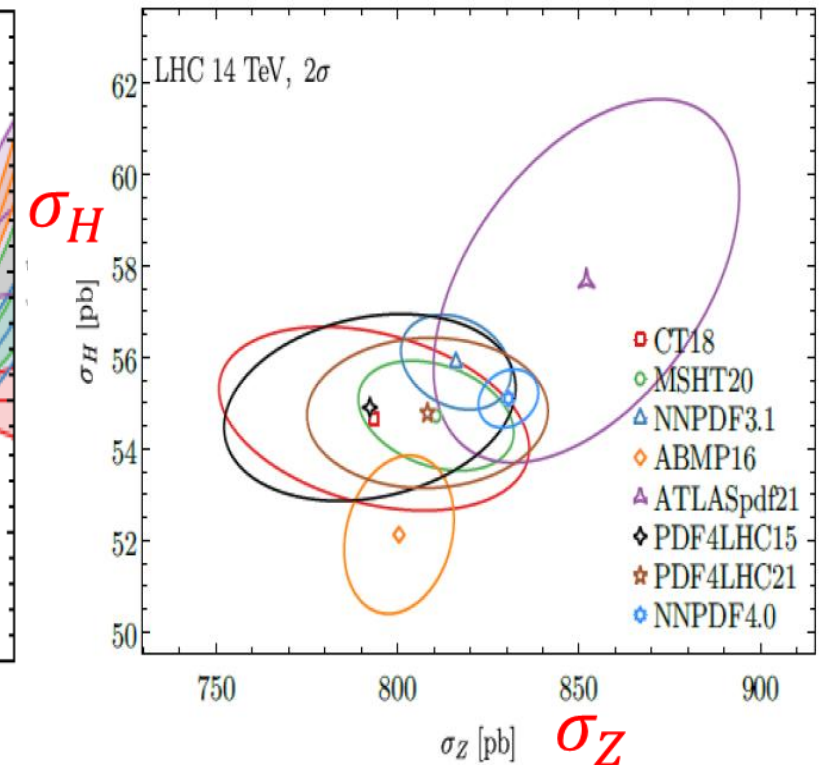
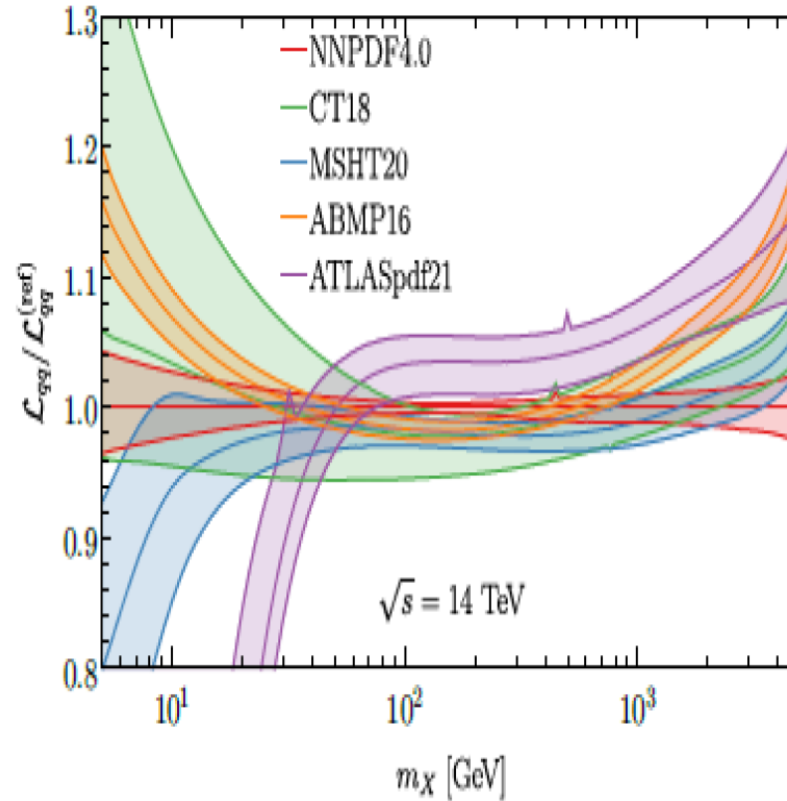
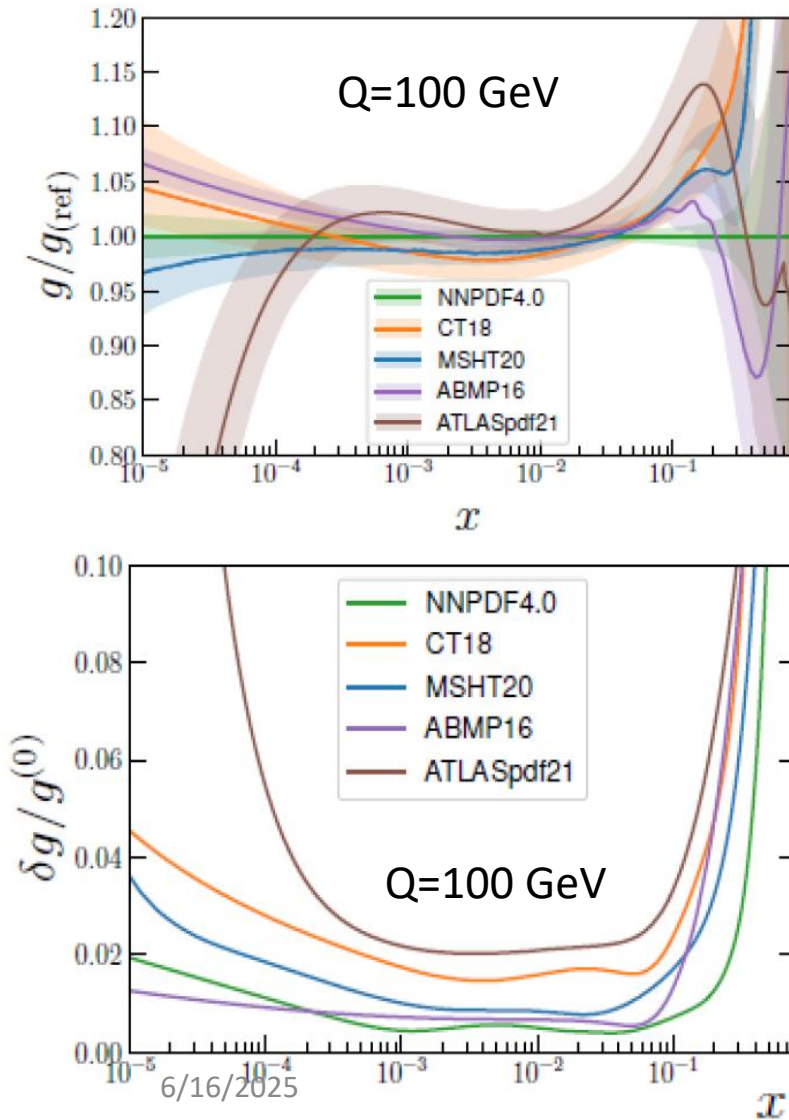


# Comparing predictions from various QCD global analysis groups

Snowmass 2021, 2203.13923

Smaller PDF errors lead to smaller

PDF luminosity errors, then smaller PDF-induced errors in cross sections.



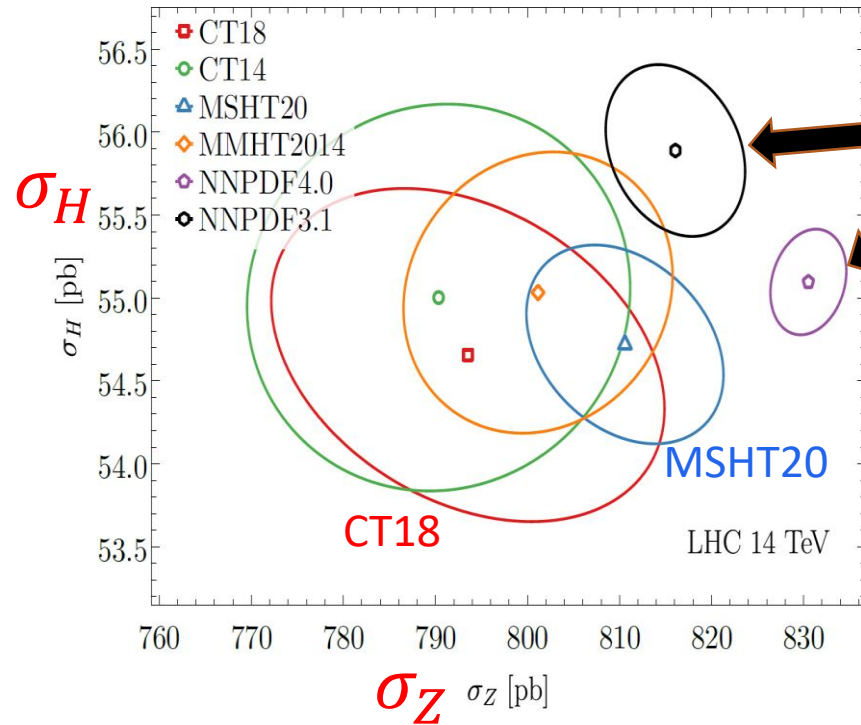
# Comparing predictions from various QCD global analysis groups

The PDF-induced errors @ 68% CL in  $gg \rightarrow h$  and  $q \bar{q} \rightarrow Z$  NNLO cross sections



Snowmass 2021, 2203.13923

Due to different choices of



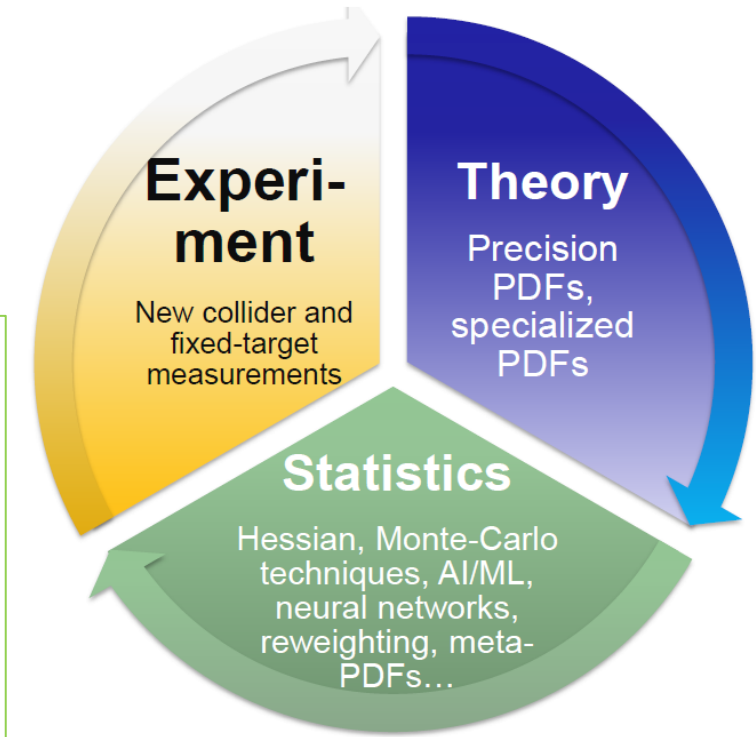
NNPDF3.1

Their predictions do not overlap at  $1\sigma$  level.

NNPDF4.0

Different (though mostly consistent) predictions on

- central values and error estimates of PDFs,
- parton luminosities,
- physical cross sections, and
- various correlations among PDFs and data ...



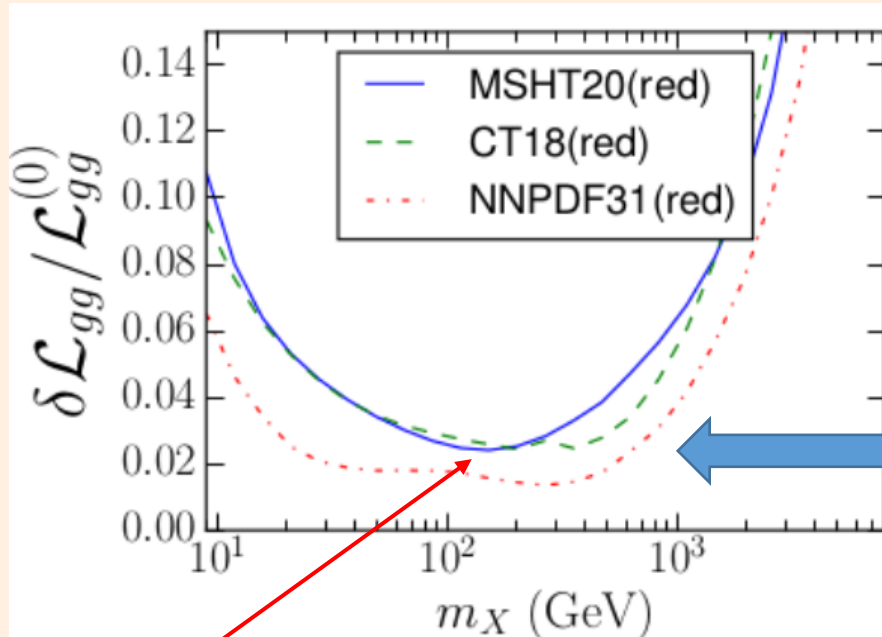
Components of a global QCD fit

# Benchmark Study: PDF4LHC21

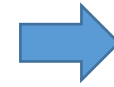
arXiv:2203.05506

Relative PDF uncertainties on the  $gg$  luminosity at 14 TeV in three PDF4LHC21 fits to the **identical** reduced global data set

arXiv:2203.05506



- Each analysis group (**CT**, **MSHT**, **NNPDF**) used the **same (reduced) data sets** and **same theory predictions** in the analysis



Smaller error size found by NNPDF

- NNPDF3.1' and especially 4.0 (based on the NN's+ MC technique) tend to give smaller uncertainties in data-constrained regions

The size of PDF error estimates depends on the **methodology of global analysis** adopted by the PDF fitting group.

Factorization Theorem:

$$\text{Data} = \text{PDFs} \otimes \text{Hard part cross sections (Wilson coeff.)}$$

**Experimental errors:**

- Statistical
- Systematic
  - uncorrelated
  - correlated
- $\chi^2$  definition (experimental or  $t_0$ )
- Possible tensions among data sets

**Extracted with errors,  
dependent of  
methodology of analysis**

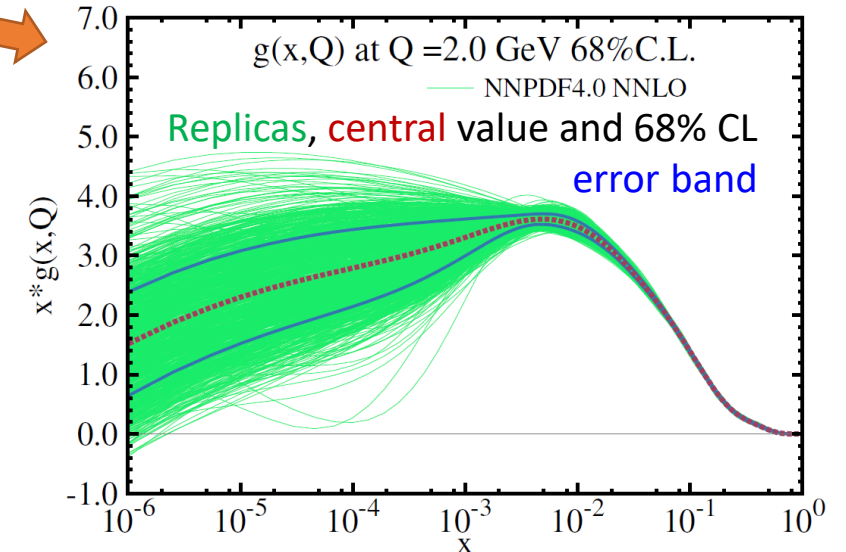
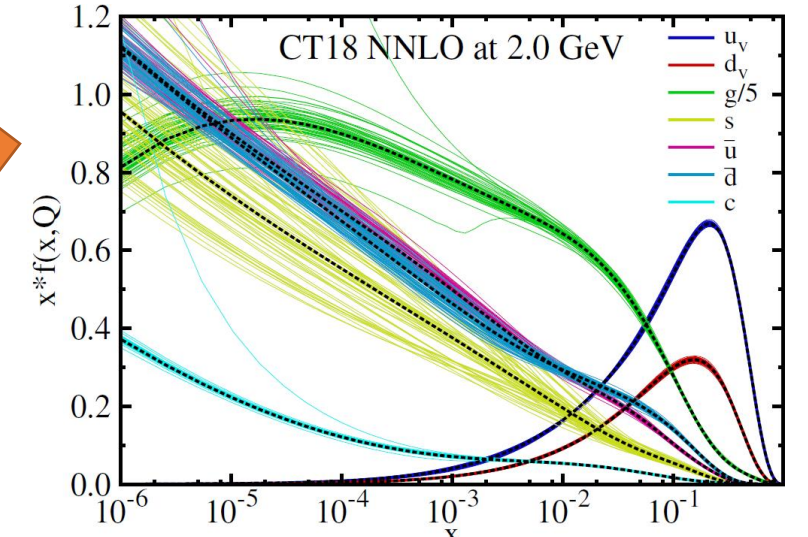
- Non-perturbative parametrization forms of PDFs
- Additional theory prior
- Choice of Tolerance ( $T^2$ ) value

**Theoretical errors:**

- Which order: (NLO, NNLO, ..., resummation – BFKL, qT, threshold)
- Which scale: ( $\mu_F$ ,  $\mu_R$ )
- Which code: (antenna subtraction, sector decomposition, ..., qT, N-jettiness, ...)
- Monte Carlo error: (most efficient implementation, ...)

# How to estimate PDF errors in QCD global analysis

- Error estimate is important.
- Two different methodology in global analysis
  - ❖ **Hessian PDF eigenvector (EV) sets**,  
from analytic parametrizations of PDFs  
➡ (ABM, CTEQ, HERA, MSHT, ...)
  - ❖ **Monte Carlo (MC) PDF replicas**,  
from Neural Network (NN) parametrizations  
➡ (NNPDF)
- Both methods assume some non-perturbative input of PDFs at the initial  $Q_0$  scale, around 1 GeV. (analytical parametrization vs. NN architecture)
- They are two powerful and complementary representations.
- Hessian PDFs can be converted into MC ones, and vice versa.







# How to quantify PDF uncertainties

was first introduced in 2001 by  
Jon Pumplin, Dan Stump and Wu-Ki Tung  
@ Michigan State University

hep-ph/0101032

Uncertainties of predictions from PDFs:

The Hessian method

hep-ph/0101051

Uncertainties of predictions from PDFs:

The Lagrange multiplier method

$$\chi^2 = \chi_0^2 + \sum_{i,j} H_{ij} (a_i - a_i^0) (a_j - a_j^0)$$

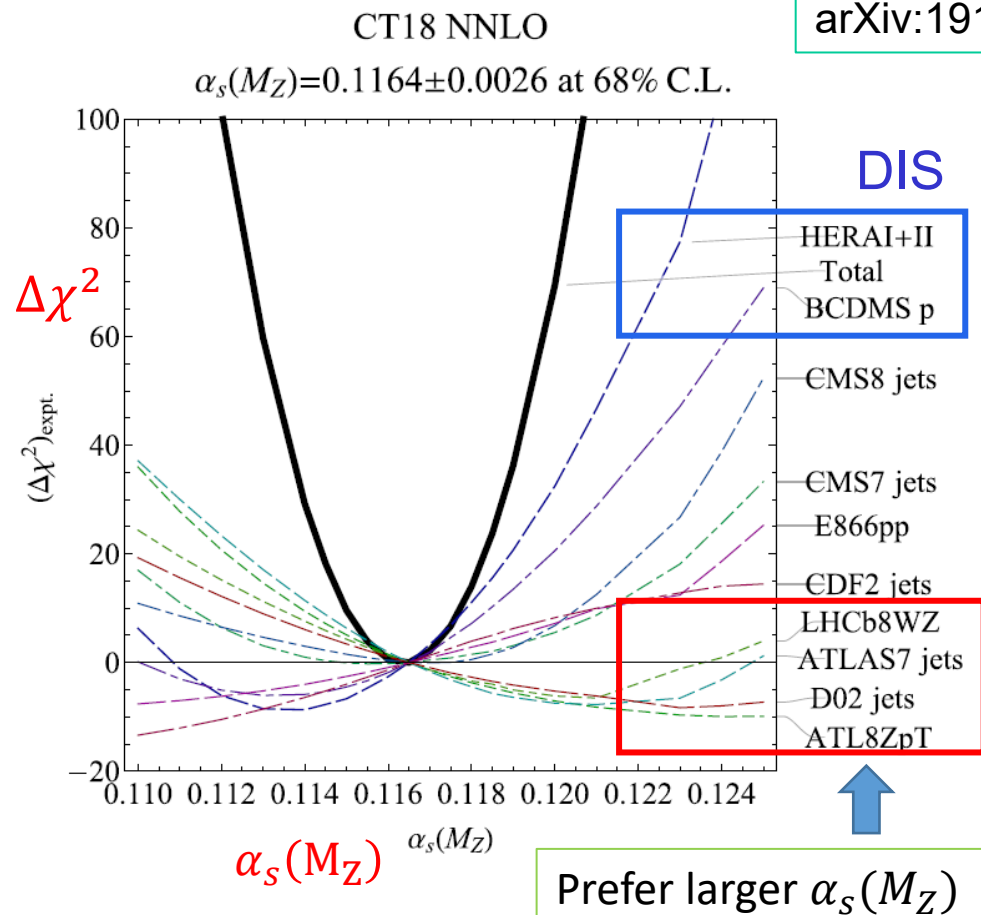
It was first implemented in CTQE6 PDFs.

They were used to determine **uncertainty of PDFs**, **physical cross sections**,  $\alpha_s$  and  $m_t$  as well as exploring **tensions among data sets** in the CTEQ-TEA analysis.

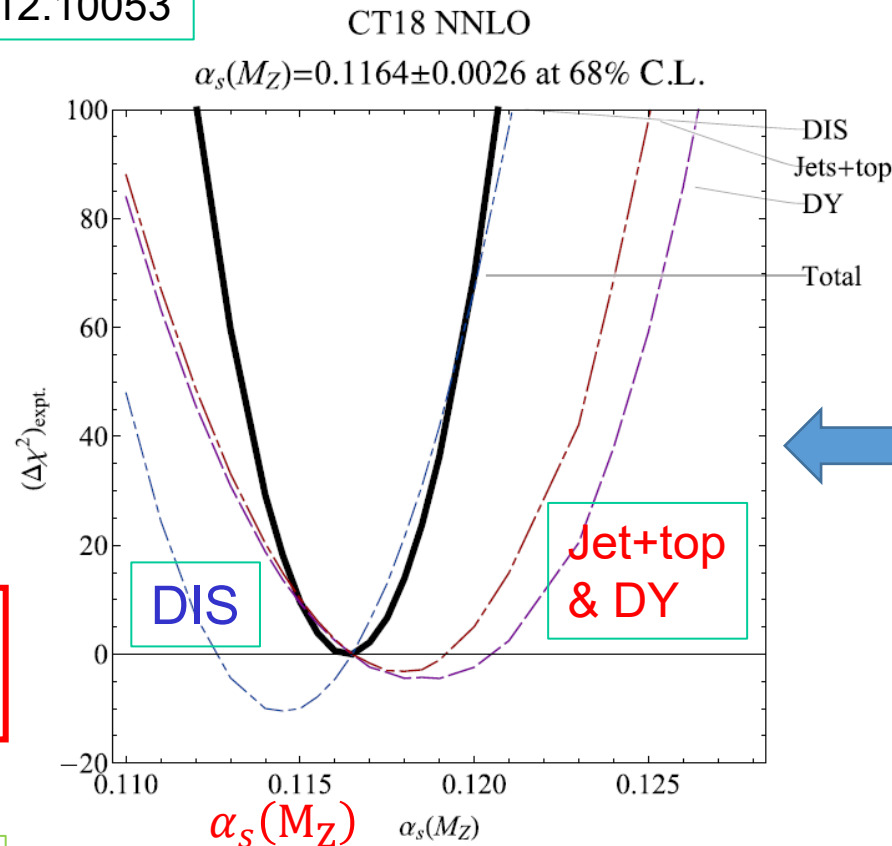


# Lagrange Multiplier scan

To explore **PDF-induced errors** in the determination of  $\alpha_s(M_Z)$  and **tensions among data sets** included in the fit



arXiv:1912.10053



➤ The opposing pulls (i.e., tensions) of DIS and jet+top&DY experiments significantly exceed  $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$  variation, as implied by the simplest statistical framework.

➤ Require a large value of Tolerance  $T^2$ , the maximum allowed total  $\Delta\chi^2$ , with  $\Delta\chi^2 > 1$

➤ To agree with the error in  $\alpha_s(M_Z)$ , 0.007, as provided by PDG (in 2010), without including hadron collider data in the fit, it requires

$$1 < \Delta\chi^2 \leq (5 - 10)$$

The scan of  $\alpha_s(M_Z)$  values in CT18 NNLO PDF analysis.



# Possible tensions among experimental data sets

Require  $\Delta\chi^2 > 1$

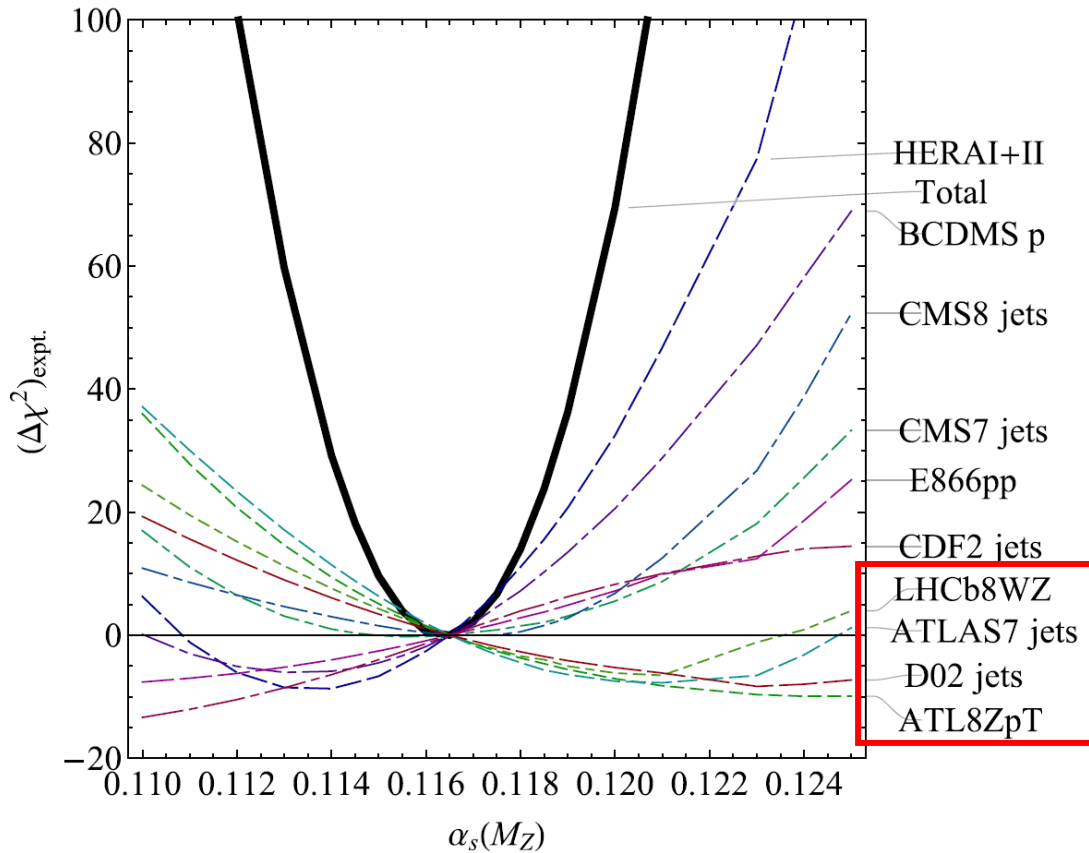


# Tensions among experimental data sets

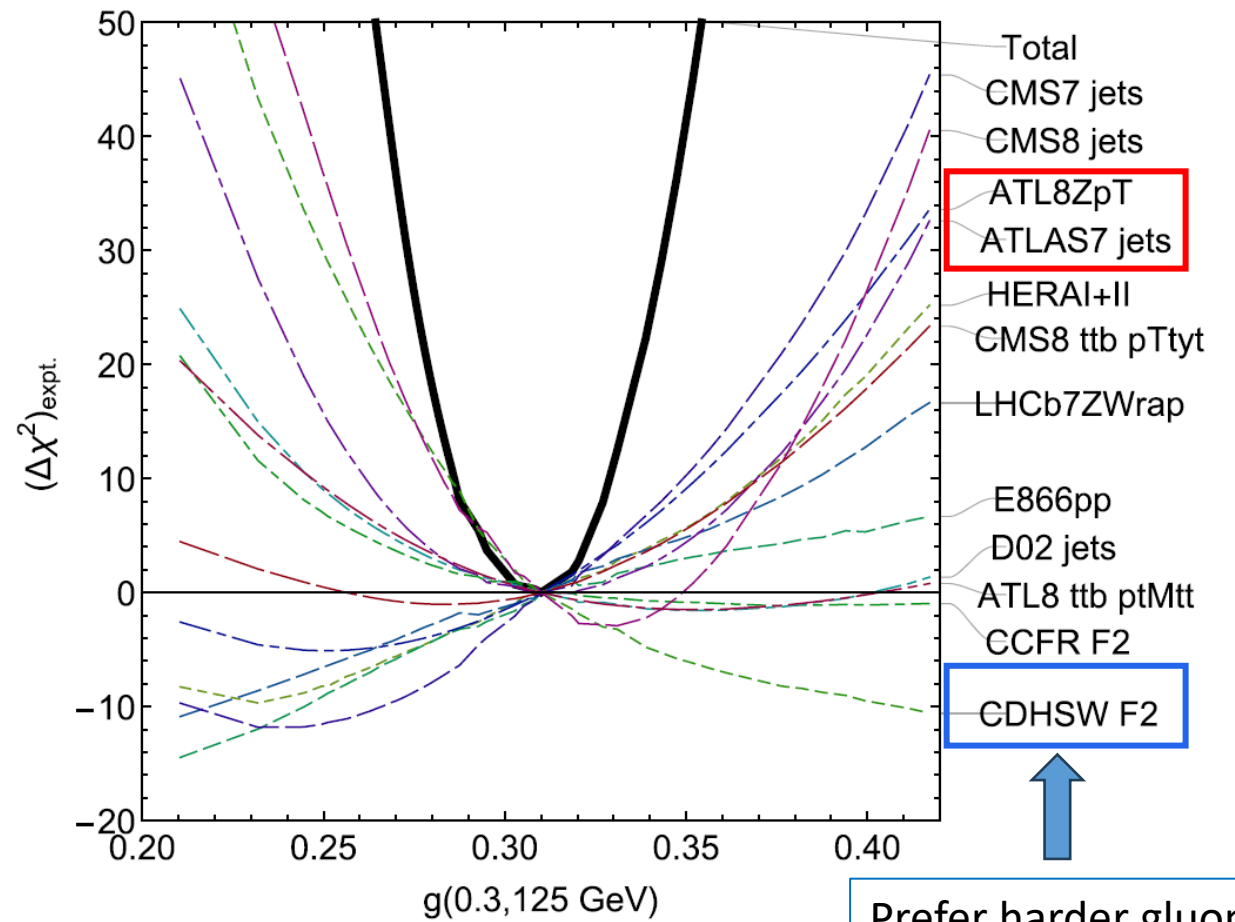
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CT18 NNLO

$\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.1164 \pm 0.0026$  at 68% C.L.



CT18 NNLO



Prefer harder gluon PDF at large x.



# Tolerance ( $T^2$ ) values in various PDF analysis groups

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- Tolerance  $T^2$ , the maximum allowed total  $\Delta\chi^2$  value away from the best (or central) fit, was introduced to account for the **sampling** of
  - non-perturbative parametrization of PDFs (or NN architecture, smoothness, positivity) and
  - the allowed PDF variation due to various choices of data sets and theory calculations, etc.
- Roughly speaking, at the 68% CL,
  - **CTEQ-TEA (CT)** Tier-1  $T^2 \sim 30$
  - **MSHT** dynamical  $T^2 \sim 10$
  - **NNPDF** effective  $T^2 \sim 2$  (for MC replicas and their Hessian representation)
- A smaller  $T^2$  value typically yields a smaller PDF error estimate.



To reduce PDF uncertainty, one must maximize both

**PDF fitting accuracy**  
(accuracy of experimental, theoretical and other inputs)

and

**PDF sampling accuracy**  
(adequacy of sampling in space of possible solutions)

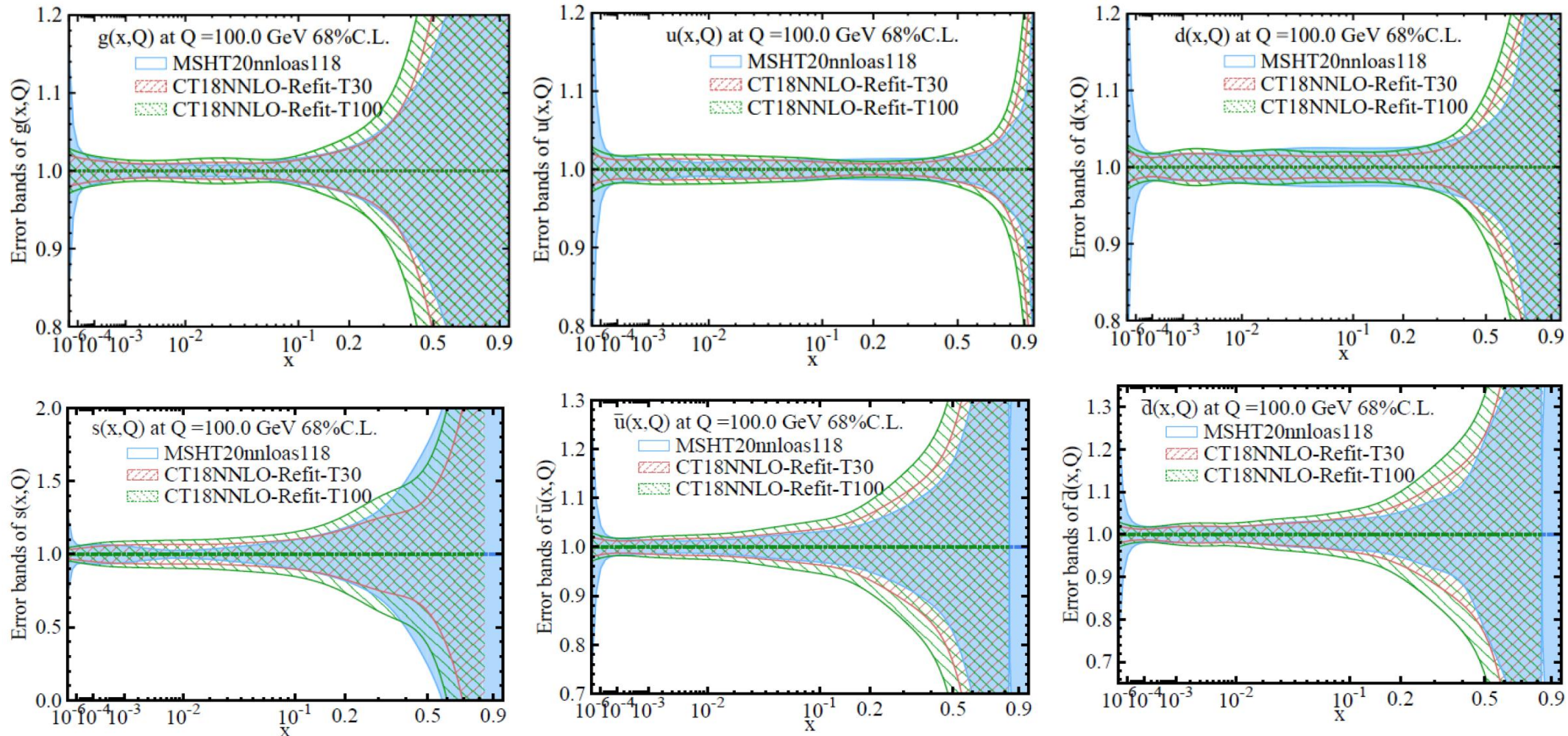
CT tolerance includes both Tier-1 and Tier-2 contributions.





# Compare PDF error bands with $T = 37$ or 10 (of CT18) and MSHT20, at 68% CL

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The PDF errors of MSHT20 and CT18 (T=10) are alike in many cases.

26



# Hessian profiling of CT and MSHT PDFs cannot use $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$

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ATLAS-CONF-2023-015

arXiv: 1907.12177

arXiv:1912.10053

The statistical analysis for the determination of  $\alpha_s(m_Z)$  is performed with the xFitter framework [60]. The value of  $\alpha_s(m_Z)$  is determined by minimising a  $\chi^2$  function which includes both the experimental uncertainties and the theoretical uncertainties arising from PDF variations:

$$\chi^2(\beta_{\text{exp}}, \beta_{\text{th}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{data}}} \frac{(\sigma_i^{\text{exp}} + \sum_j \Gamma_{ij}^{\text{exp}} \beta_{j,\text{exp}} - \sigma_i^{\text{th}} - \sum_k \Gamma_{ik}^{\text{th}} \beta_{k,\text{th}})^2}{\Delta_i^2} + \sum_j \beta_{j,\text{exp}}^2 + \sum_k \beta_{k,\text{th}}^2.$$

profiling of CT and MSHT PDFs requires to include a tolerance factor  $T^2 > 10$  as in the ePump code

- xFitter profiling uses  $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$ , by default.
- For CT (or MSHT) PDFs, using  $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$  in profiling is equivalent to assigning a weight of about 30 (or 10) to the new data included in the fit. Hence, it will overestimate the impact of new data.
- CT:  $T^2 \sim 30$ ; MSHT:  $T^2 \sim 10$

When profiling a new experiment with the prior imposed on PDF nuisance parameters  $\lambda_{\alpha,\text{th}}$ :

$$\chi^2(\vec{\lambda}_{\text{exp}}, \vec{\lambda}_{\text{th}}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N_{\text{pt}}} \frac{[D_i + \sum_{\alpha} \beta_{i,\alpha}^{\text{exp}} \lambda_{\alpha,\text{exp}} - T_i - \sum_{\alpha} \beta_{i,\alpha}^{\text{th}} \lambda_{\alpha,\text{th}}]^2}{s_i^2} + \sum_{\alpha} \lambda_{\alpha,\text{exp}}^2 + \sum_{\alpha} T^2 \lambda_{\alpha,\text{th}}^2. \quad \beta_{i,\alpha}^{\text{th}} = \frac{T_i(f_{\alpha}^+) - T_i(f_{\alpha}^-)}{2},$$

new experiment

priors on expt. systematics  
and PDF params





# Impact of SIDIS data

- Di-muon data
- Couple to final state fragmentation function and decay branching ratio

arXiv:1907.12177

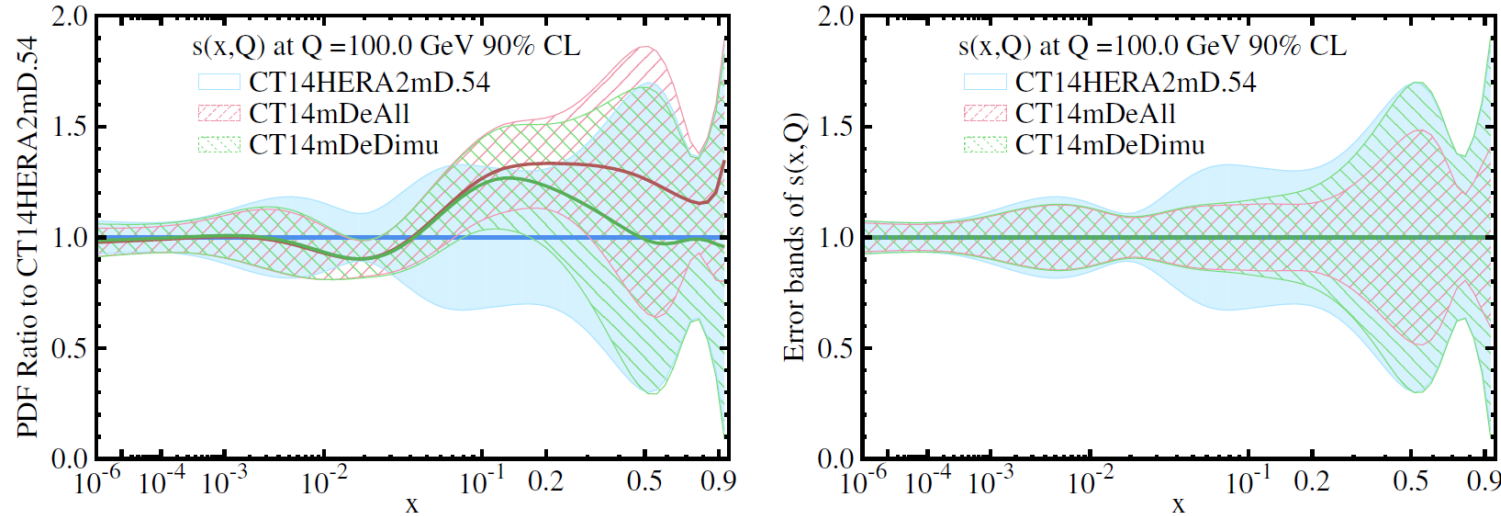
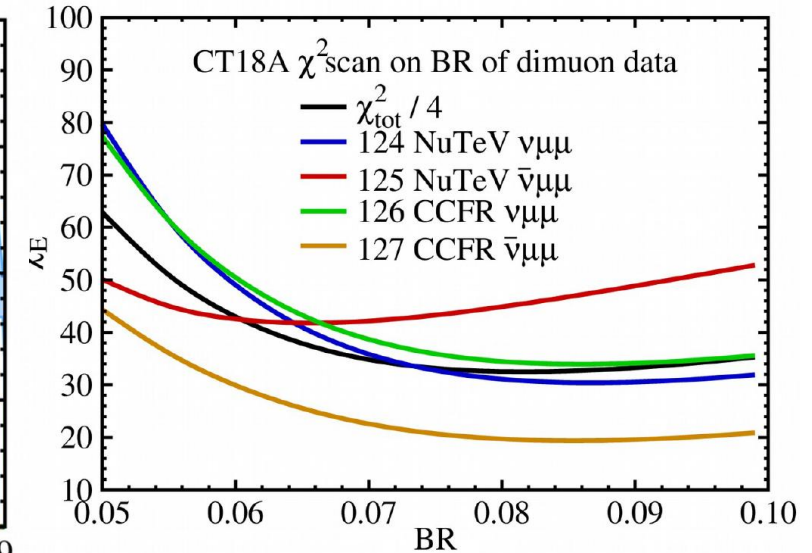
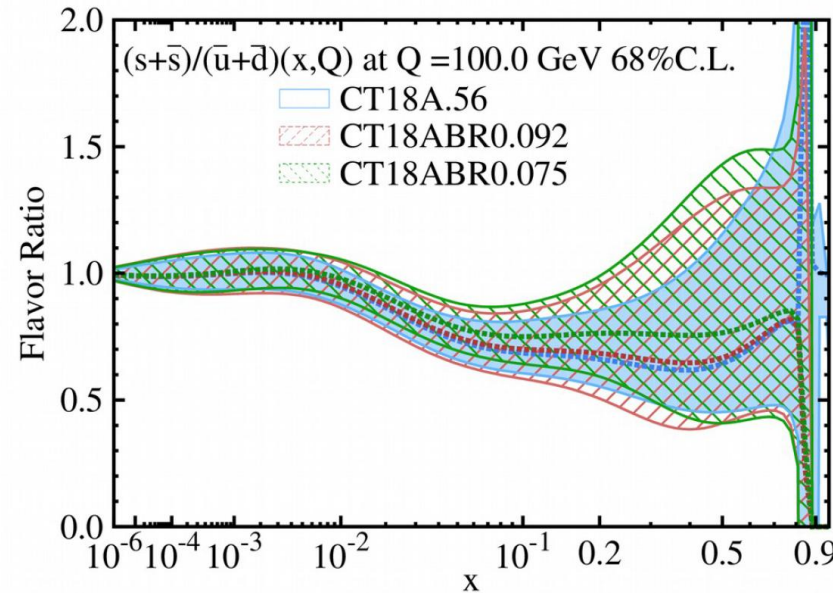
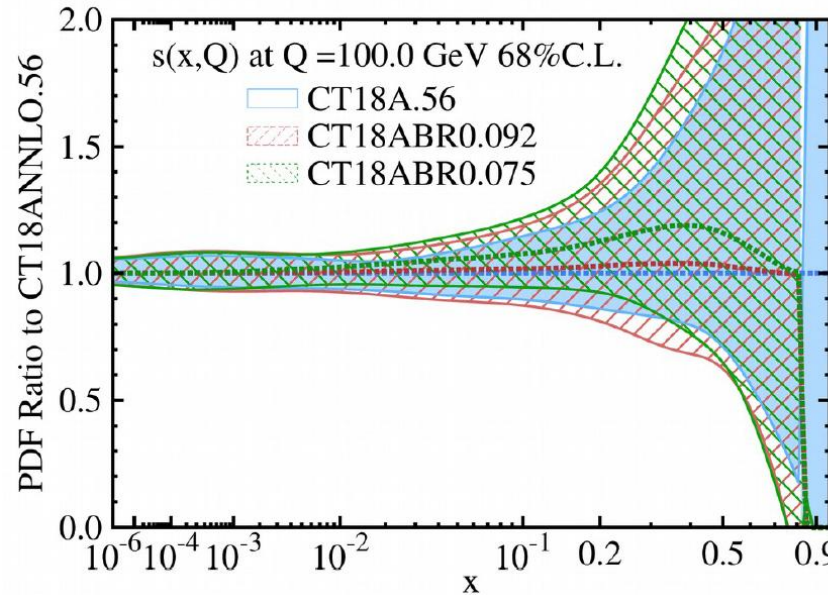


FIG. 16: Comparison of ePump-updated  $s$ -PDF, at  $Q = 100$  GeV. CT14mDeDimu is obtained by adding only the DIS charged current dimuon data (NuTeV [18], and CCFR [19]) to CT14HERA2mD with ePump.

- NuTeV and CCFR di-muon data provide important constraints on  $s$  and  $\bar{s}$  PDFs at large  $x$ .
- They are SIDIS data, so that constraints on PDFs depend on the modeling of final state fragmentation and the value of  $c \rightarrow \mu$  decay branching ratio  $R$ .
- The LHC W and Z data can constrain  $s$  and  $\bar{s}$  PDFs at  $x \sim 10^{-2}$ .



#	fitname	248	124	125	126	127
CT18A		87.55	31.91	52.81	35.59	20.88
CT18ABR0.092		85.16	31.49	49.97	34.65	20.53
CT18ABR0.075		79.02	32.83	43.25	34.64	21.30

- In CT18A, the  $c \rightarrow \mu$  decay branching ratio  $R$  is taken to be 0.099
- No noticeable changes by varying  $R$  from 0.099 to 0.092

(ID=248 refers to ATLAS 7 TeV W/Z data.)

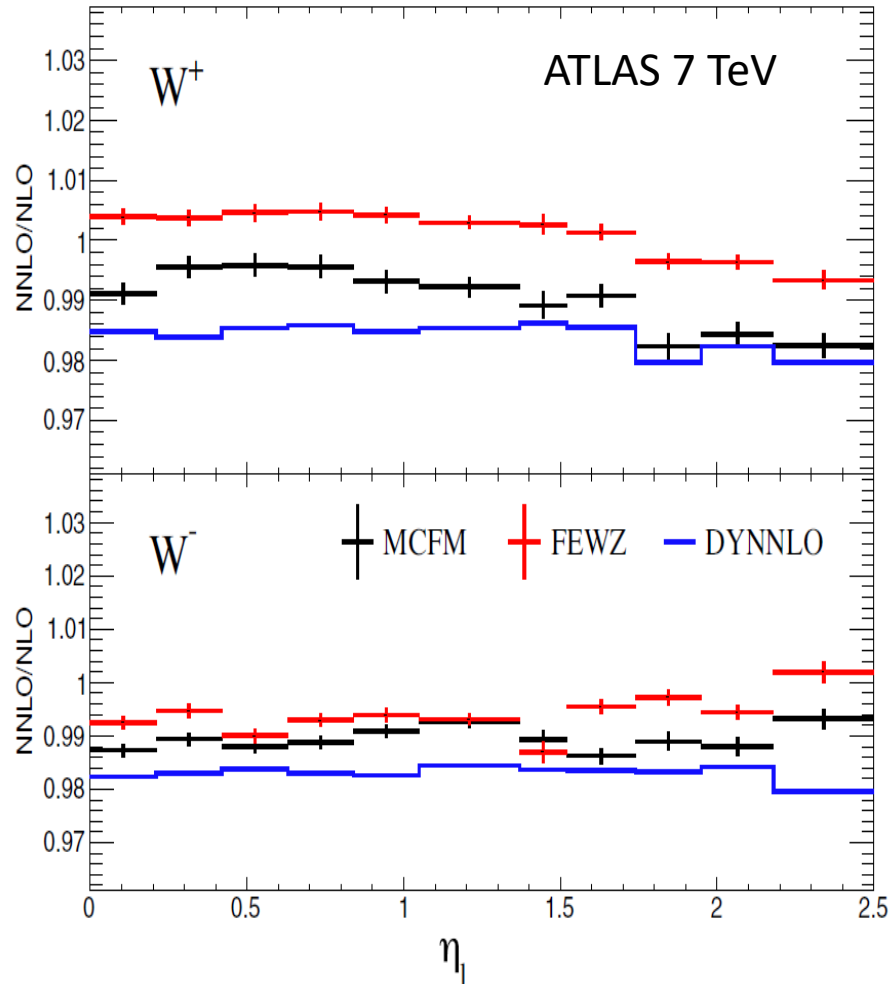


# Impact of higher order theoretical predictions

- Theoretical errors can be larger than experimental errors, even at the NNLO in QCD interaction.

# Different (NNLO) theory predictions from various codes; require $\Delta\chi^2 > 1$

arXiv:1912.10053



- Compare predictions of three different codes:
  - FEWZ (sector decomposition)
  - MCFM (N-jettiness)
  - DNNLO (qT)
- Their predictions agree well at NLO.
- Their NNLO predictions agree well for inclusive cross sections (without imposing kinematic cuts).
- Their NNLO predictions for fiducial cross sections (with kinematic cuts) can differ at percent level, while the statistical error of the data is at the sub-percent level.

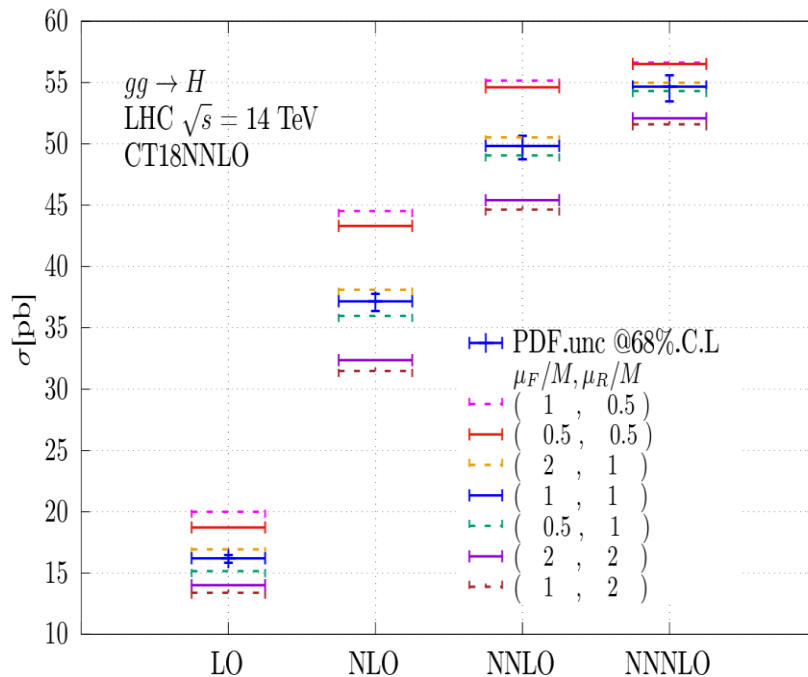
- The resulting PDFs from various theory predictions only differ slightly, when including this data in the CT18A fit.
- ✓ The kind of theory uncertainty is accounted for by choosing a larger Tolerance value than 1 (i.e.,  $\Delta\chi^2 > 1$ ) at the 68% CL.

# Missing higher order (MHO) uncertainty estimated by scale variation

- General wisdom: Varying a “typical scale” by a factor of 2 (or 7-point scales) to estimate missing higher order (MHO) contribution.
- This wisdom does not always work. Namely, **varying the factorization and normalization scales by a factor of 2 cannot accurately estimate MHO contribution.**



The complete higher order calculations in QCD, EW, and the mixed QCD+EW are all very important for making precision theory prediction to compare to precision experimental data in order to extract precision PDFs.



$\sigma(gg \rightarrow H)$  at 14 TeV LHC

**7-point scale variation** at N3LO in QCD  
for  $m_t = 172.5$  GeV and  
 $M = m_H = 125$  GeV

$\mu_F/M$ $\mu_R/M$	0.5	1	2
0.5	3.4%	3.6%	-
1	-0.6%	-	0.6%
2	-	-5.6%	-4.7%

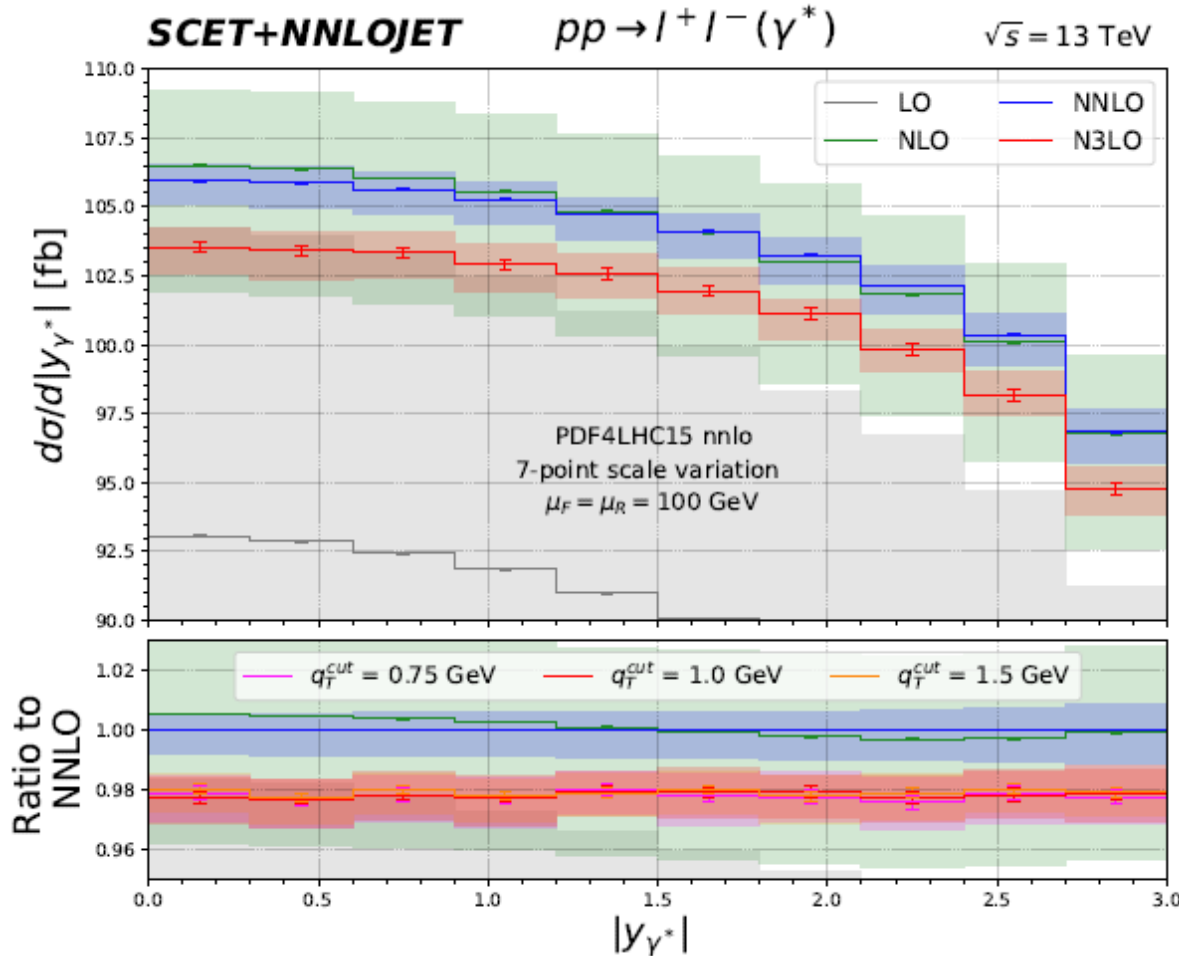
- The K-factor of electroweak (EW) correction is about 1.05
- The PDF uncertainty is about 2.8%

Tools : ggHiggs( Marco Bonvini)



# Estimating missing higher order contribution via varying $\mu_f$ and $\mu_R$ scales

arXiv:2107.09085



- Varying the factorization  $\mu_f$  and renormalization  $\mu_R$  scales by a factor of 2 around their nominal values (with 7-point scale variation) does not always lead to a good estimate of missing higher order (MHO) effect in the perturbative calculation.
- The N3LO correction is outside the scale variation band predicted at NNLO, due to accidental cancellation among various partonic subprocess contributions.

$\alpha_s^2$   
 $\alpha_s^3$

This comparison does not include PDF and  $\alpha_s$  induced errors.



# Some data requires all-order (resummation) calculations

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- When applying a symmetric  $p_T$  cut (with same magnitude) on the decay leptons of inclusive W or Z boson production, the two leptons are almost back-to-back, decaying from a low  $p_T$  gauge boson.
- Fixed order predictions cannot correctly predict the low  $p_T$  distribution of W or Z.
- It requires a **resummation calculation**, such as **ResBos**, to resum all the large logs arising from multiple soft-gluon radiation.

## What's QCD Resummation?

- Perturbative expansion

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}}{dq_T^2} \sim \alpha_s \left\{ 1 + \alpha_s + \alpha_s^2 + \dots \right\}$$

- The singular pieces, as  $\frac{1}{q_T^2}$  (1 or log's)

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}}{dq_T^2} \sim \frac{1}{q_T^2} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{2n-1} \alpha_s^{(n)} \ln^{(m)} \left( \frac{Q^2}{q_T^2} \right)$$

$$\sim \frac{1}{q_T^2} \left\{ \alpha_s (L+1) \right.$$

$$+ \alpha_s^2 (L^3 + L^2 + L + 1)$$

$$+ \alpha_s^3 (L^5 + L^4 + L^3 + L^2 + L + 1)$$

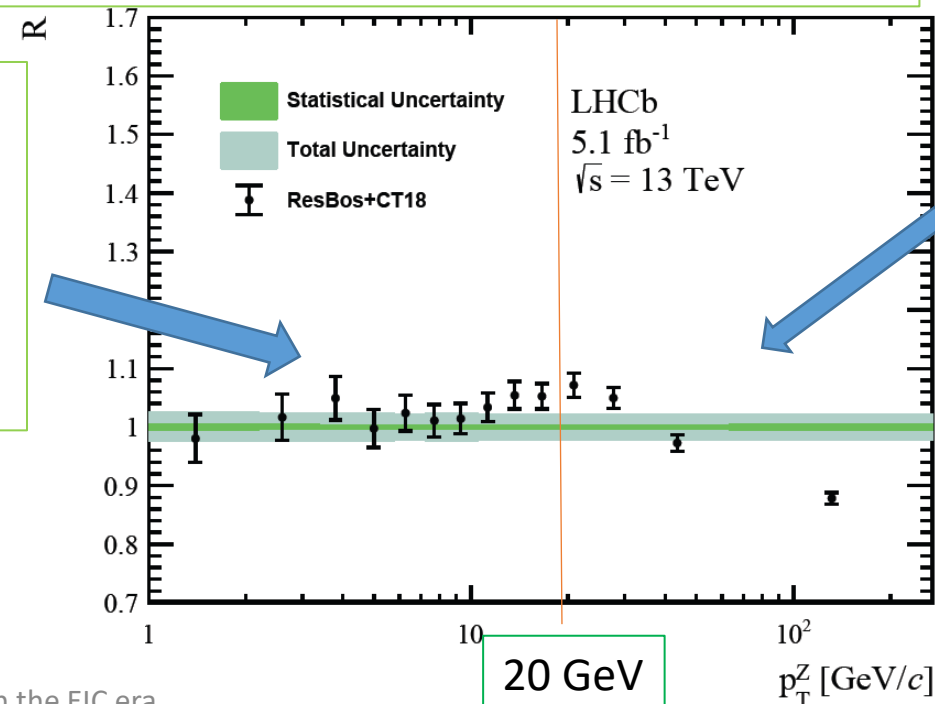
$$+ \dots \left. \right\}$$

$$L \equiv \ln \left( \frac{Q^2}{q_T^2} \right)$$

**ResBos + CT18**  
can describe  
well low  $p_T(Z)$   
region, with  
 $p_T(Z) < 20$   
GeV

$$\alpha_s \ln \left( \frac{Q^2}{q_T^2} \right) \sim 1$$

Compare to LHCb 13 TeV Z data; arXiv:2112.07458



High  $p_T(Z)$   
region  
needs  $\alpha_s^3$   
contribution

Resummation is to reorganize the results in terms of the large Log's.



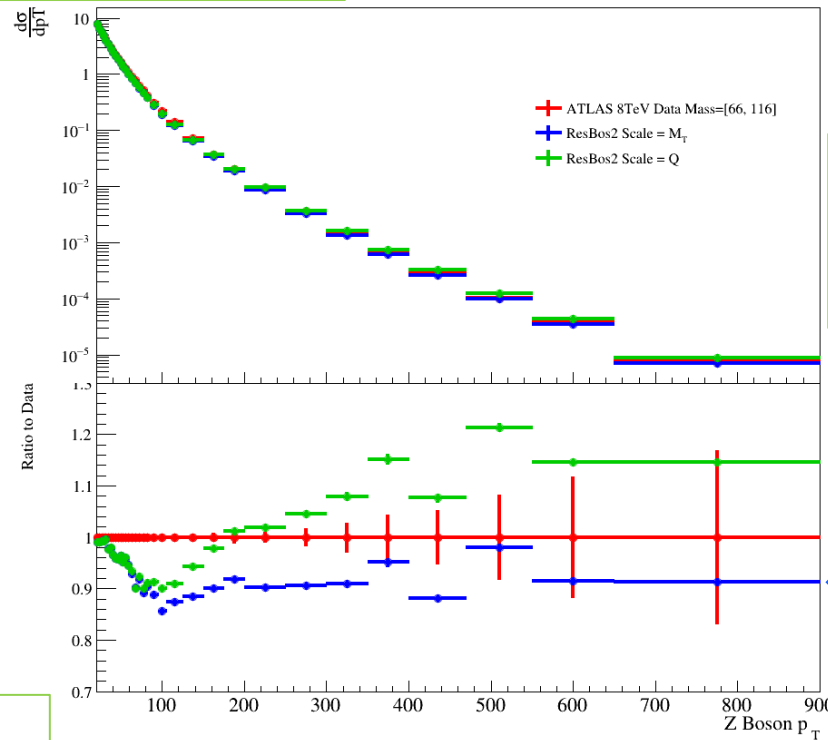
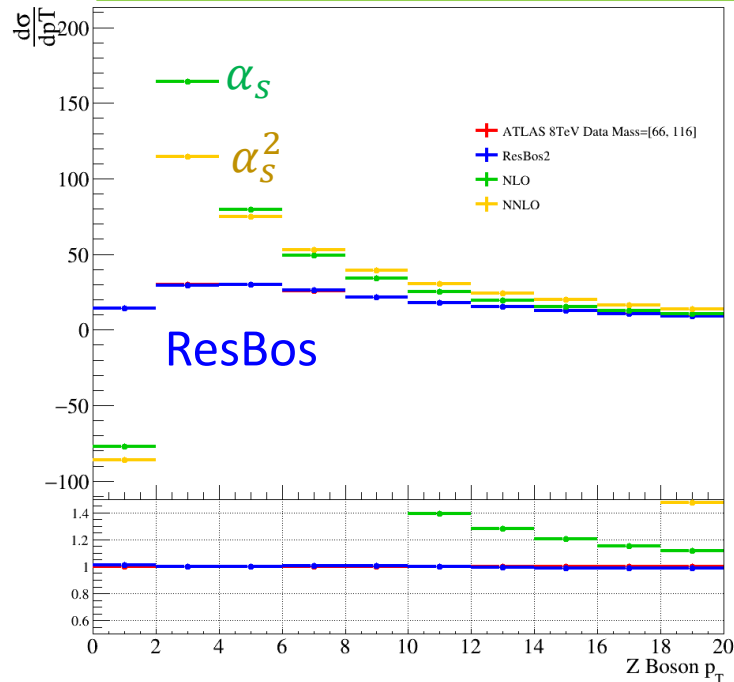
# Some data requires all-order (resummation) calculations: ResBos

CTEQ

Compare to ATLAS 8 TeV Z data; arXiv:1606.00689

<https://gitlab.com/resbos2>

arXiv:2205.02788



- Sensitive to scale choices at  $\alpha_s^2$
- High  $p_T(Z)$  region requires yet higher order ( $\alpha_s^3$ ) contribution.

Use  $\mu_F = \mu_R = Q$   
Invariant mass, at  $\alpha_s^2$

Use  $\mu_F = \mu_R = m_T$   
where  $m_T = \sqrt{Q^2 + p_T^2}$   
Transverse mass, at  $\alpha_s^2$

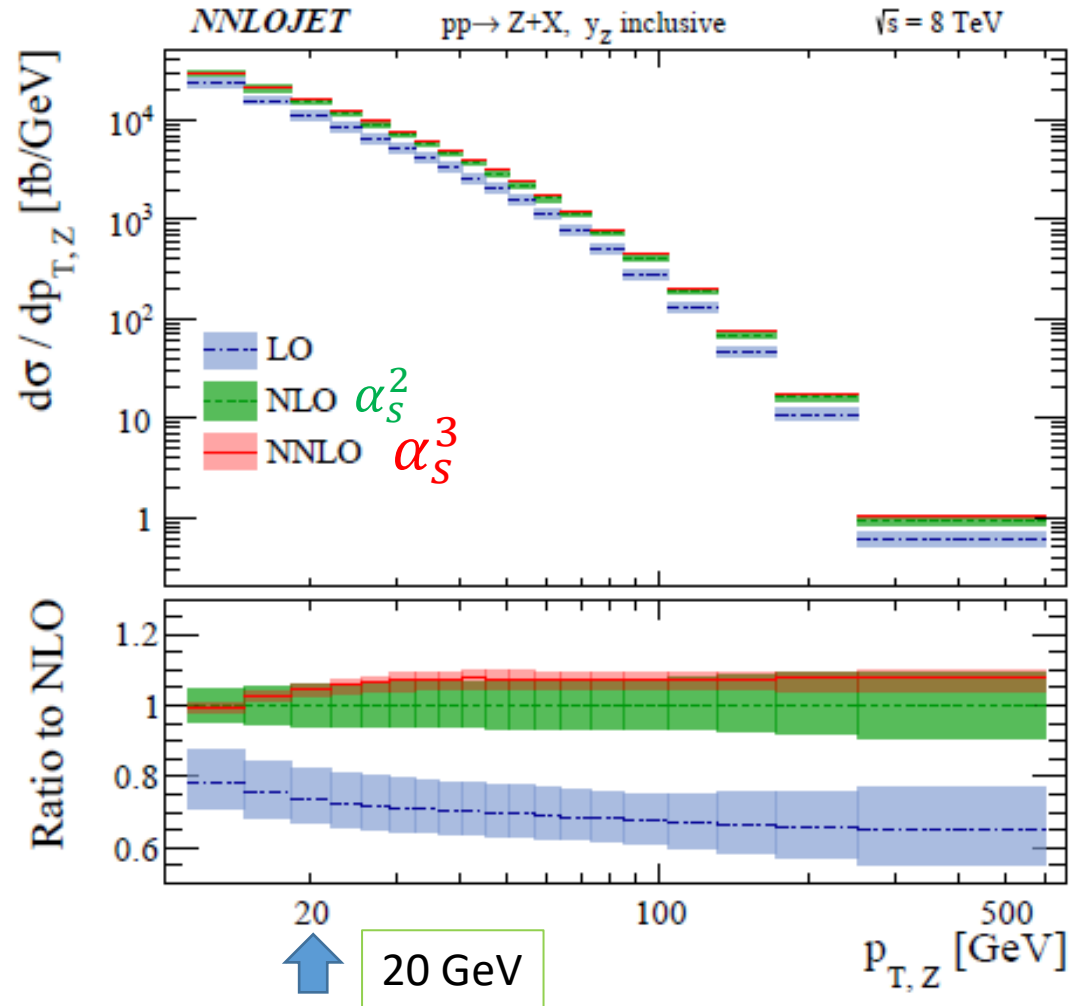
The low  $p_T$  Z data, with  $p_T(Z) < 20$  GeV, can be described well by ResBos, but not fixed order (NLO, NNLO,...) calculations which yield singular result as  $p_T(Z) \rightarrow 0$ .

Require higher (fixed) order calculations for  $p_T(Z) > 20$  GeV;  $\alpha_s^3$  correction increases the rate by about 10% when using the scale  $m_T$  and renders a good agreement with data.



# Higher order contributions are important

CTEQ



arXiv:1708.00008

- The  $\alpha_s^3$  prediction has much smaller scale variation as compared to  $\alpha_s^2$  calculation.
- For  $p_{T(Z)} > 20$  GeV, the K-factor of  $\alpha_s^3/\alpha_s^2$  is roughly a constant, about 1.1



# Extensions of CT18 family PDFs: post-CT18

CTEQ

- **CT18As**: CT18A (a CT18 fit with the inclusion of ATLAS 7 TeV W, Z data), but with non-zero strangeness asymmetry  $s_-(x, Q_0) = s(x, Q_0) - \bar{s}(x, Q_0)$  at  $Q_0 = 1.3$  GeV.
- **CT18As\_Lat**: CT18As, but including **Lattice QCD data on strangeness asymmetry**  $s_-(x, Q_0) = s(x, Q_0) - \bar{s}(x, Q_0)$
- **CT18FC**: fitted charm PDF  $c(x, Q_0) \neq 0$  ; for  $c(x, Q_0) =$  **or**  $\neq \bar{c}(x, Q_0)$
- **CT18qed**: take photon as a parton of proton;  $\gamma(x, Q_0) \neq 0$
- Machine Learning approach: A fast version of Lagrange Multiplier scan (for simultaneous fit to PDFs and SMEFT)
- CT18LO: LO PDF for event generators, e.g., PYTHIA
- NNLO-QCD+ NLO-QED PDFs for a neutron
- CT18MC: NLO PDFs for Monte Carlo event generators

# Non-zero strangeness asymmetry at $Q_0$

- **CT18As**: CT18A (a CT18 fit with the inclusion of ATLAS 7 TeV W, Z data), but with non-zero strangeness asymmetry  $s_-(x, Q_0) = s(x, Q_0) - \bar{s}(x, Q_0)$  at  $Q_0 = 1.3$  GeV.
- **CT18As\_Lat**: CT18As, but including Lattice QCD data on strangeness asymmetry  $s_-(x, Q_0) = s(x, Q_0) - \bar{s}(x, Q_0)$

See talk by Huey-Wen Lin for lattice-QCD calculations.





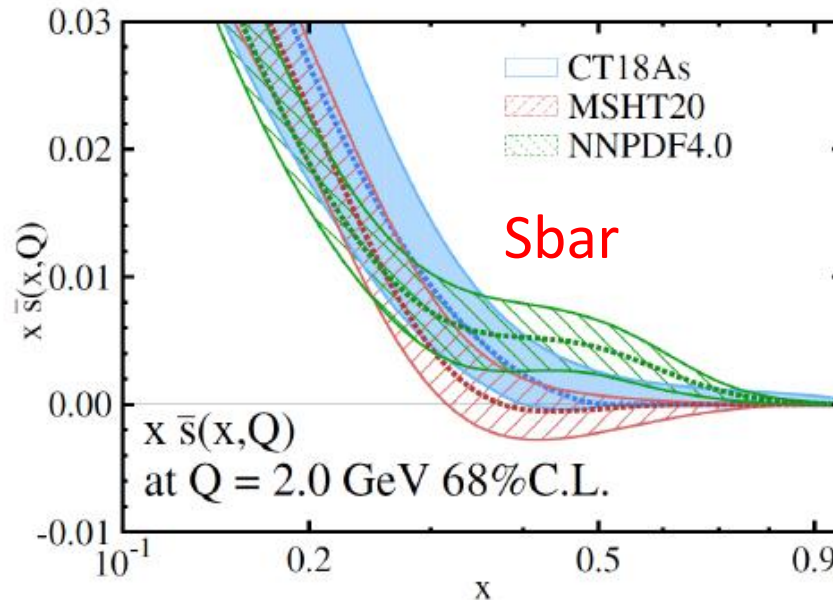
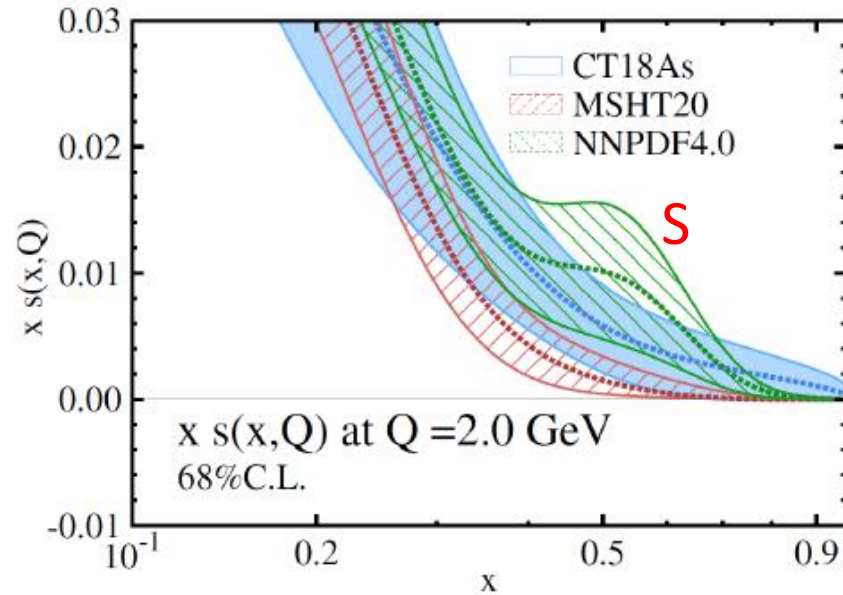
# CT18As NNLO: Strangeness asymmetry

E Q

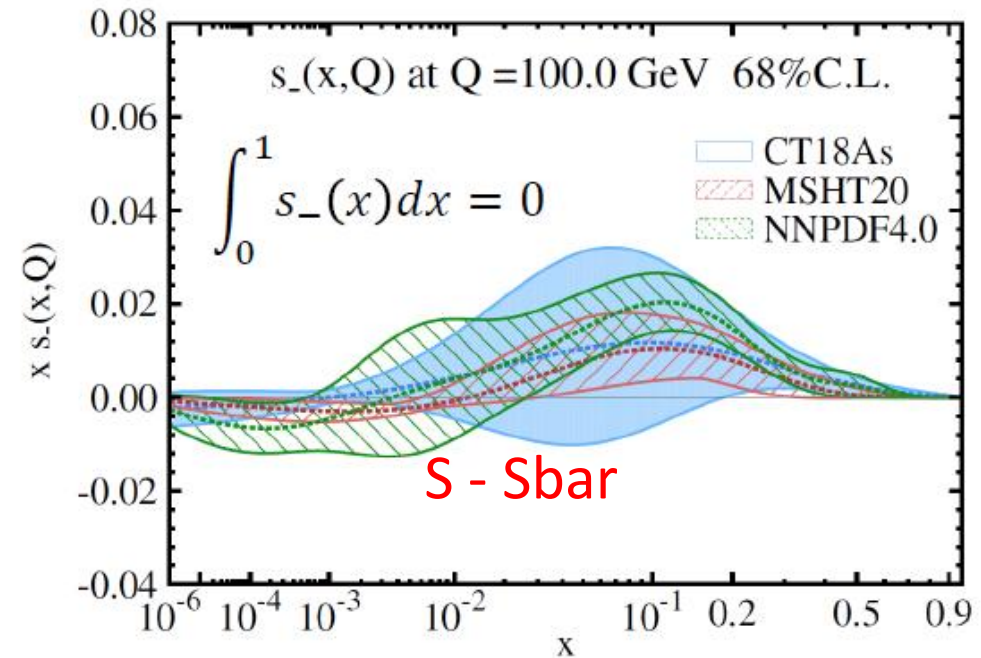
[arXiv:2204.07944]

New NNLO fits:

**CT18As:** CT18A with  $s_- \equiv s - \bar{s} \neq 0$



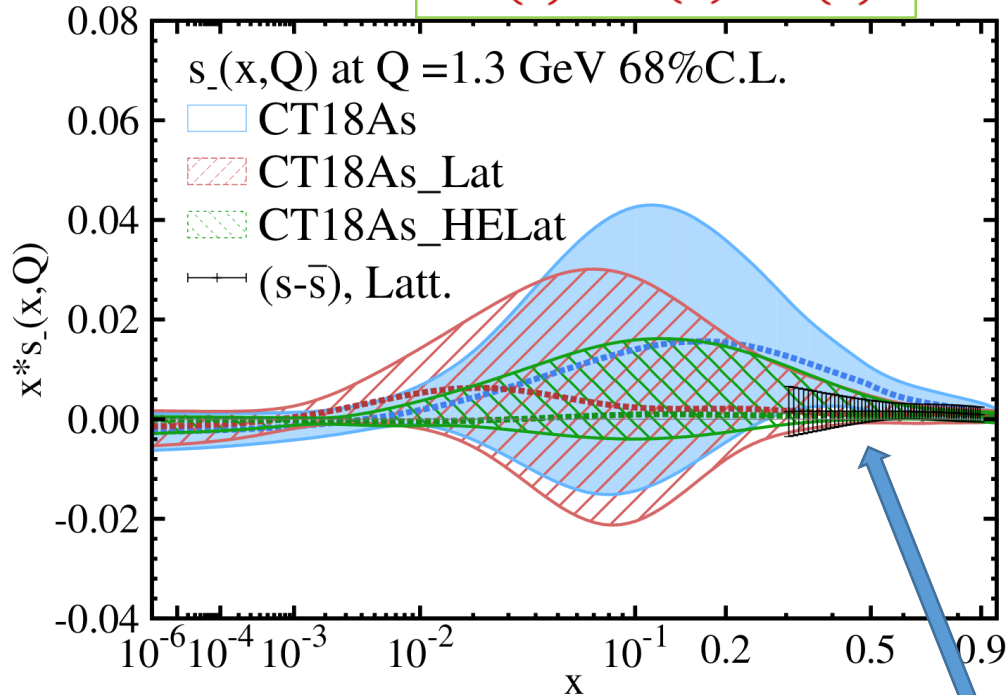
MSHT20  
allows a  
negative  
sbar-PDF at  
low Q value.



# Lattice QCD data as an input to PDF global analysis

arXiv: 2211.11064

$$s_-(x) = s(x) - \bar{s}(x)$$



- The **uncertainties of PDFs** can be further reduced by including Lattice QCD predictions in global analysis
- Complementarity of collider experimental data and lattice QCD data

**CT18As:** CT18A with non-zero strangeness asymmetry  $s_-(x)$  at  $Q_0 = 1.3$  GeV.

**CT18As\_Lat:** CT18As PDFs with lattice input on  $s_-(x)$

**CT18As\_HELat:** CT18As\_Lat with the lattice errors reduced by half.

CT18A = CT18 + ATLAS W,Z data

- Lattice QCD calculation provides prediction at  $0.3 < x < 0.8$ , while NuTeV and CCFR SIDIS di-muon data constraint strangeness PDFs at  $0.015 < x < 0.336$ .
- **Lattice QCD data are consistent with  $s(x) = \bar{s}(x)$  at large  $x$ .**
- **CT18 assumes  $s(x, Q_0) = \bar{s}(x, Q_0)$ ; NNLO DGLAP evolution generates  $s(x, Q) \neq \bar{s}(x, Q)$  at  $Q > Q_0$**

arXiv: 2005.12015



# Fitted Charm VS Intrinsic Charm

- CT18: perturbative charm PDF  $c(x, Q_0) = 0$
- CT18FC: fitted charm PDF  $c(x, Q_0) \neq 0$  ; for  $c(x, Q_0) = \text{or} \neq \bar{c}(x, Q_0)$

# Intrinsic charm vs Fitting charm

IC is either process-dependent or scheme-dependent.

**A persistent terminological and conceptual ambiguity:**

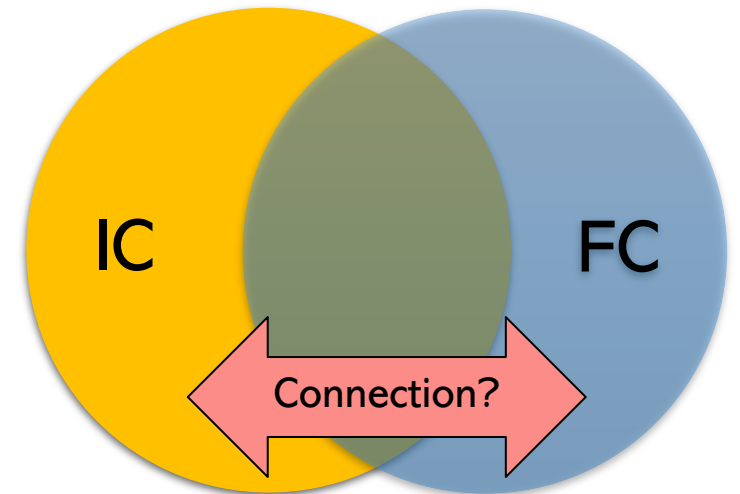
Is IC a type of a QCD observable or a nonperturbative QCD function?

If an observable, it receives process-dependent radiative contributions.

⇒ **Process dependence**

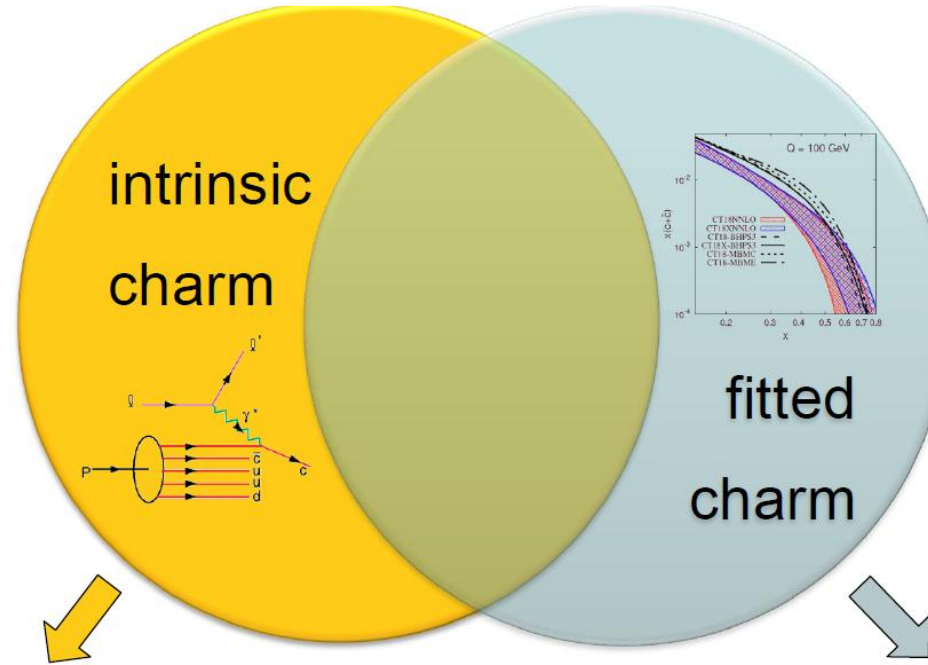
If a nonperturbative function, it can be defined in many ways.

⇒ **Scheme dependence**



# Challenging to formulate a rigorous definition of Intrinsic Charm and its relation to Fitted Charm

arXiv:2211.01387



- The concept of nonperturbative methods
- Can refer to a component of the hadronic Fock state or the type of the hard process
- Predicts a typical enhancement of the charm PDF at  $x \gtrsim 0.2$

Connection?

- A charm PDF parametrization at scale  $Q_0 \approx 1$  GeV found by global fits [CT, NNPDF, ...]
- Arises in perturbative QCD expansions over  $\alpha_s$  and operator products
- May absorb process-dependent or unrelated radiative contributions



# Nonperturbative (intrinsic) charm of proton CT18FC

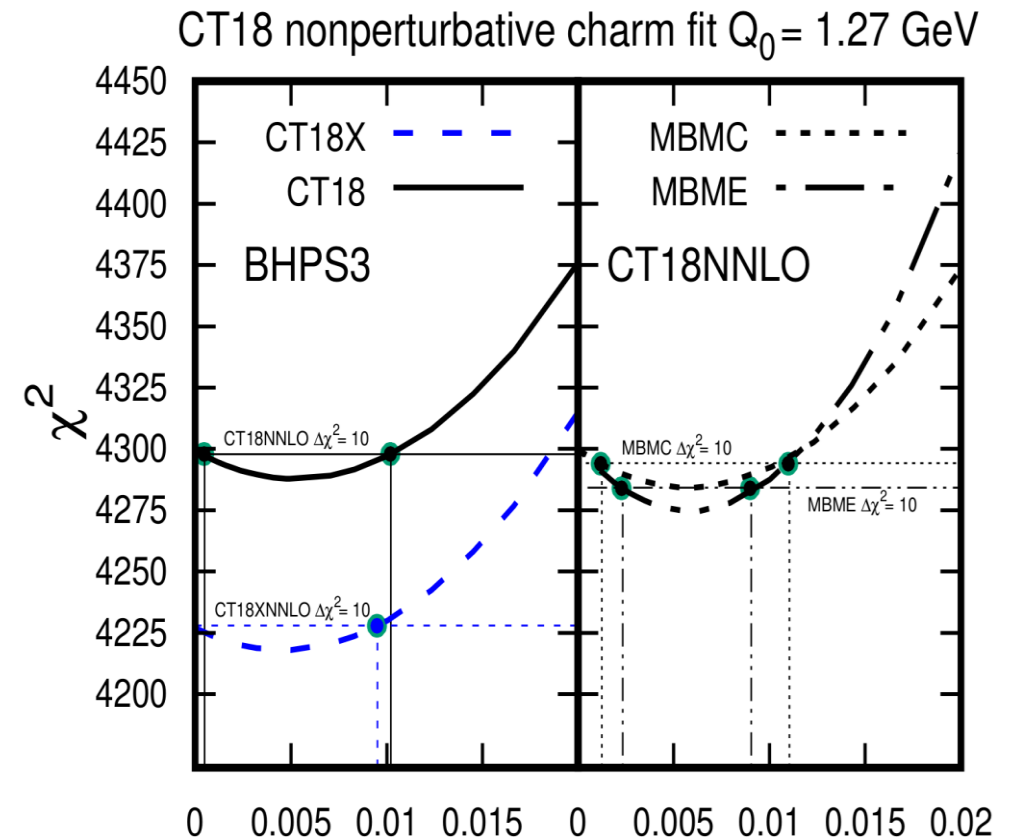
CTEQ

arXiv:2211.01387

- Proton's intrinsic charm, a non-vanishing charm PDF at  $Q_0$  (around 1 GeV) scale, remains indeterminate.
- Challenging to formulate a rigorous definition of **intrinsic charm (IC)** and its relation to **fitted charm (FC)**.
- Need more NNLO and better showering calculations.
  - Z+c theory predictions have sizable uncertainties, e.g., flavor-tag jet definition, multi-parton interaction (MPI), showering effect.
- Need more sensitive data

arXiv: 2302.12844

- CT18FC study found no significant evidence for non-zero IC, as NNPDF4.0 IC, Nature 608 (2022) 7923, 483.
- FC in CT18FC study is currently consistent with zero, and with shallower  $\Delta\chi^2$  than CT14IC.



$$\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} \approx 0.5\% \ (\Delta\chi^2 \gtrsim -25) \text{ vs. } \langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} \approx 0.8-1\% \ (\Delta\chi^2 \gtrsim -40) \text{ in CT14 IC}$$





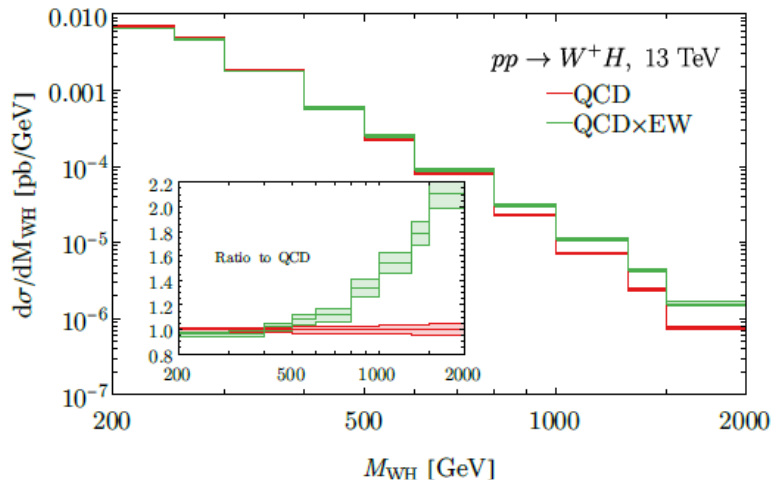
# QED corrections added to NNLO QCD predictions

- CT18qed: take photon as a parton of proton;  $\gamma(x, Q_0) \neq 0$

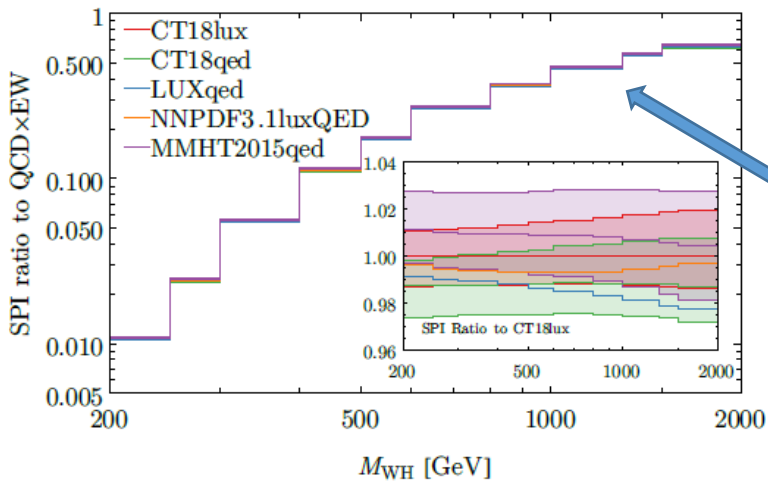
# Photon PDF of proton: CT18qed

arXiv:2106.10299

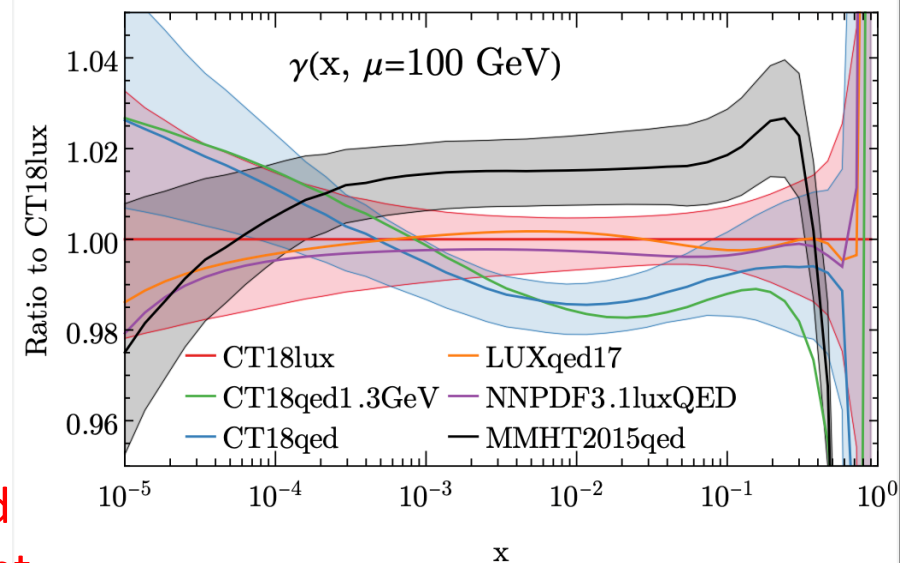
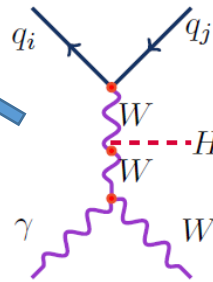
$$\sigma(pp \rightarrow W^+ H)$$



At  $\alpha_s^2$  accuracy, EW corrections and explicit photon PDF  $\gamma(x, Q^2)$  are needed.



Single-photon-initiated (SPI) process; important at TeV scale



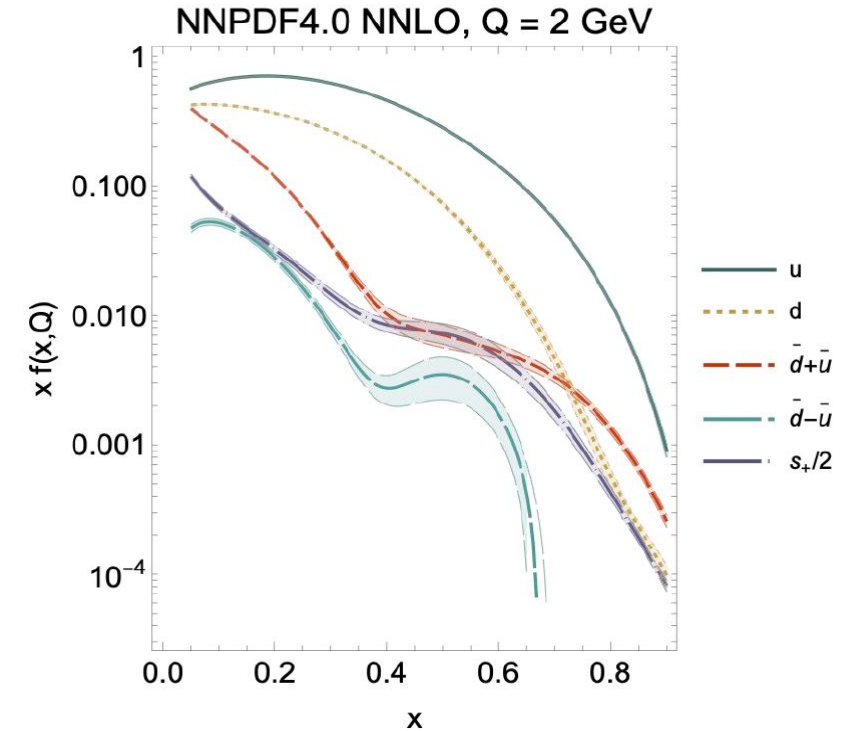
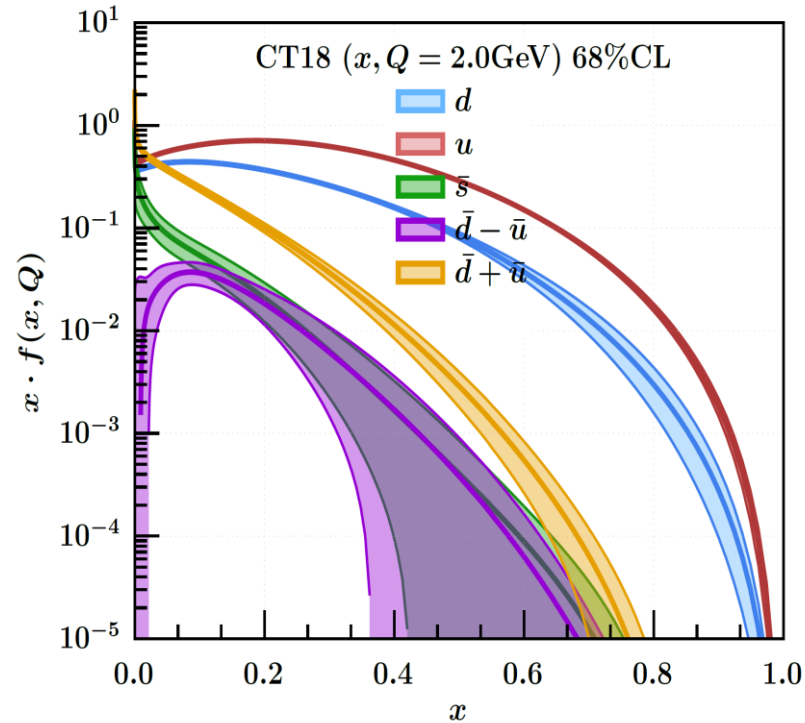
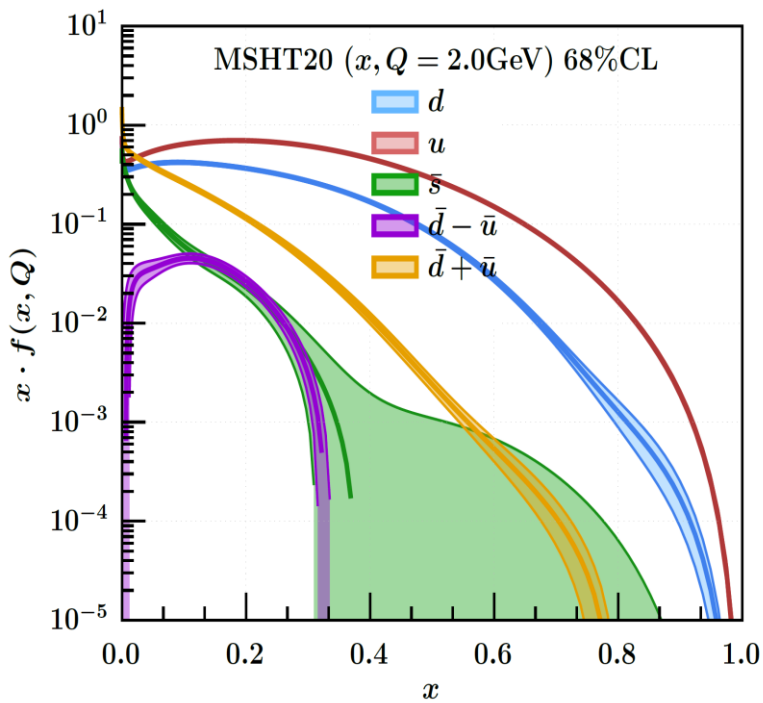
- CT18lux provides the photon PDF at all scales,  $\mu$ .
- CT18qed initializes photon PDF at  $\mu_0$ , and evolves to high scales.
- CT18lux gives the photon in between LUXqed(17) and MMHT2015qed, while CT18qed gives smaller photon.



# New experimental observables to further constrain PDFs

- Drell-Yan  $A_{FB}$  data for refining PDFs at large  $x$

# Compare MSHT20, CT18 and NNPDF4.0 PDFs



- MSHT20, CT18 and NNPDF4.0 predict very different sea quarks at large  $x$ .
- $A_{FB}$  is sensitive to combinations of  $\bar{u}/u$  and  $\bar{d}/d$

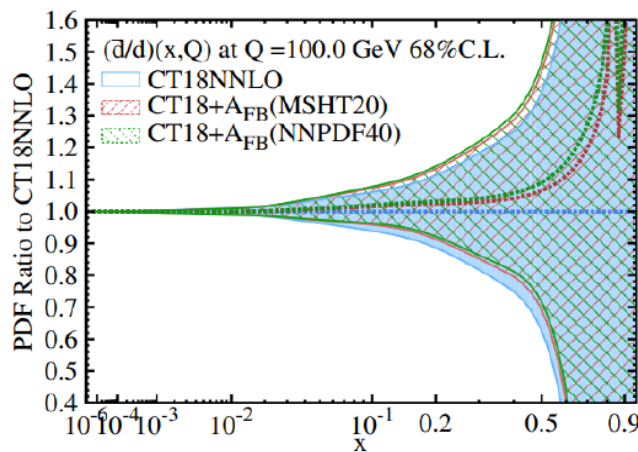
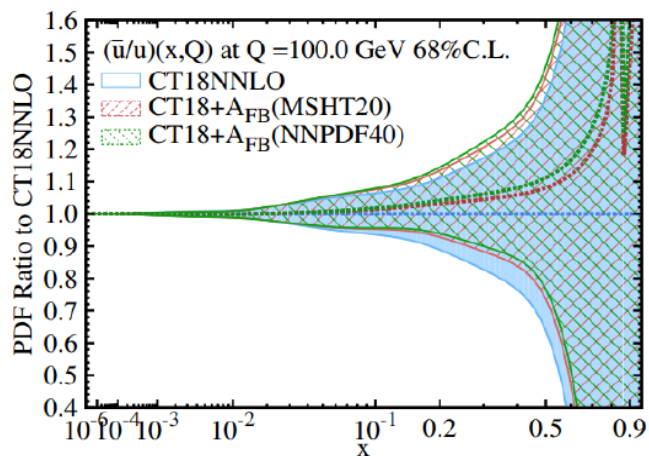
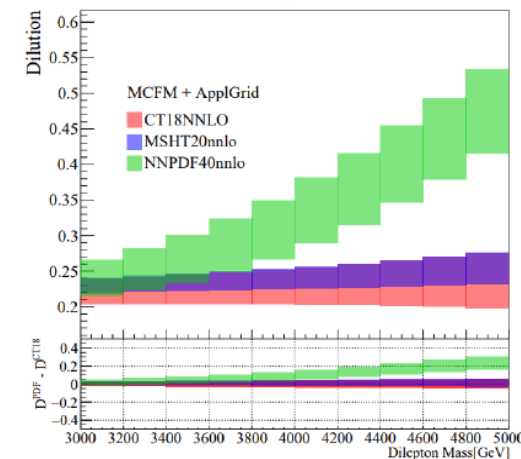
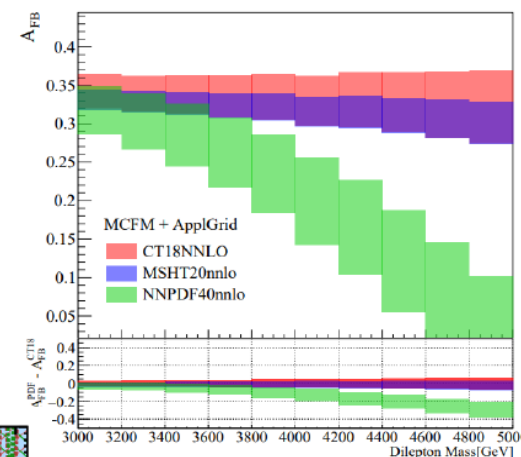
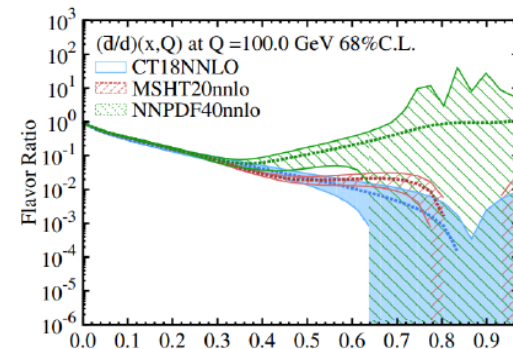
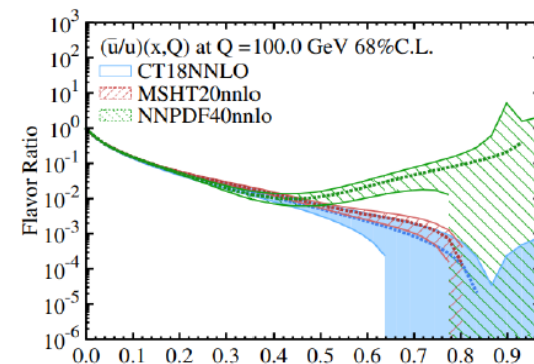
High-sea scenario with non-smooth light-sea quarks, with sea PDFs that can be larger than valence PDFs at large  $x$ .

Smaller uncertainties.

# Impact of $A_{FB}$ in the high-mass Drell-Yan process

Y. Fu et al., 2307.07839  
C. Willis et al., 1809.09481

- $A_{FB}$  at the LHC is sensitive to the energy dilution factor  $D$  (probability of  $k_q^0 < k_{\bar{q}}^0$  in the Collins-Soper frame)
- $A_{FB}^h = \frac{N_F^h - N_B^h}{N_F^h + N_B^h} \approx (1 - 2D)A_{FB}^q$
- $A_{FB}$  at high invariant mass region probes  $\bar{u}/u, \bar{d}/d$  at  $x > 0.2$



- CT18, MSHT20, and NNPDF4.0 predict very different  $\bar{q}/q$  at  $x > 0.2$
  - The article quantified the potential effect of high-mass  $A_{FB}$  on large- $x$  antiquarks
- See also NNPDF (2209.08115), Fiaschi et al. (2211.06188)

# Drell-Yan $A_{FB}$ data for refining PDFs

Siqi Yang, et al, arXiv:2202.13628

For LHC's  $pp$  collision

$$C_u(x_1, x_2) = \frac{[u(x_1)\bar{u}(x_2) - \bar{u}(x_1)u(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_u}{\sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b} [q(x_1)\bar{q}(x_2) + \bar{q}(x_1)q(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_q}$$

$$C_d(x_1, x_2) = \frac{[d(x_1)\bar{d}(x_2) - \bar{d}(x_1)d(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_d}{\sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b} [q(x_1)\bar{q}(x_2) + \bar{q}(x_1)q(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_q}$$

For Tevatrons'  $p\bar{p}$  collision

$$C_u(x_1, x_2) = \frac{[u(x_1)u(x_2) - \bar{u}(x_1)\bar{u}(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_u}{\sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b} [q(x_1)q(x_2) + \bar{q}(x_1)\bar{q}(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_q}$$

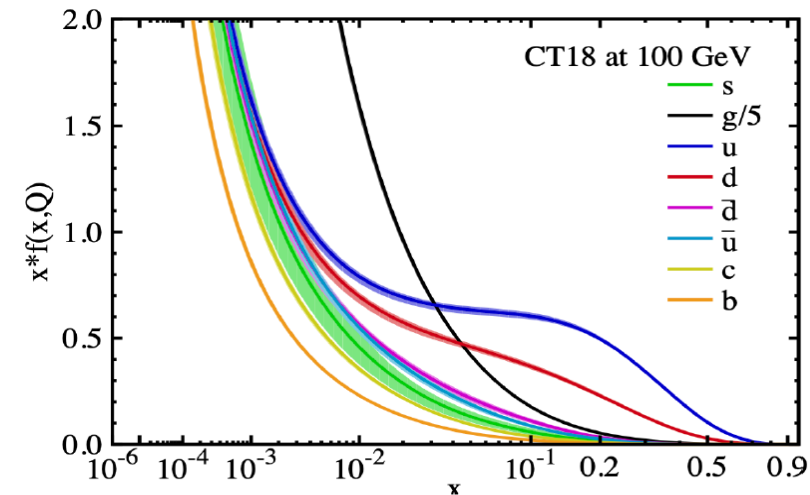
$$C_d(x_1, x_2) = \frac{[d(x_1)d(x_2) - \bar{d}(x_1)\bar{d}(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_d}{\sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b} [q(x_1)q(x_2) + \bar{q}(x_1)\bar{q}(x_2)] \mathcal{N}_q}$$

$$A_{FB}^h = C_u(Y, M, Q_T) \times A_{FB}^u(Y, M, Q_T) + C_d(Y, M, Q_T) \times A_{FB}^d(Y, M, Q_T)$$

Given that at hadron colliders  $x_2$  is around 0.001 or even smaller, we have  $u(x_2) \approx \bar{u}(x_2) \approx d(x_2) \approx \bar{d}(x_2)$  so they cancel out in the ratio parameter:

$$R = C_d/C_u = \frac{d - \bar{d}}{u - \bar{u}} = \frac{d_V}{u_V}$$

A perfect direct observable on valence quark ratio, without mix from anyother quarks !!





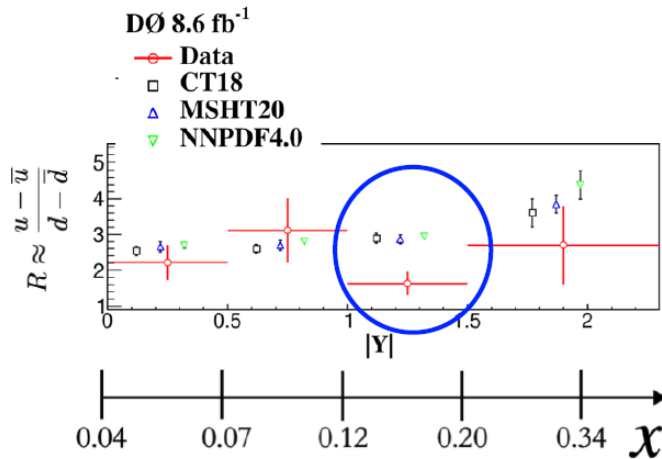


# D0 and CMS measurements of $A_{FB}$

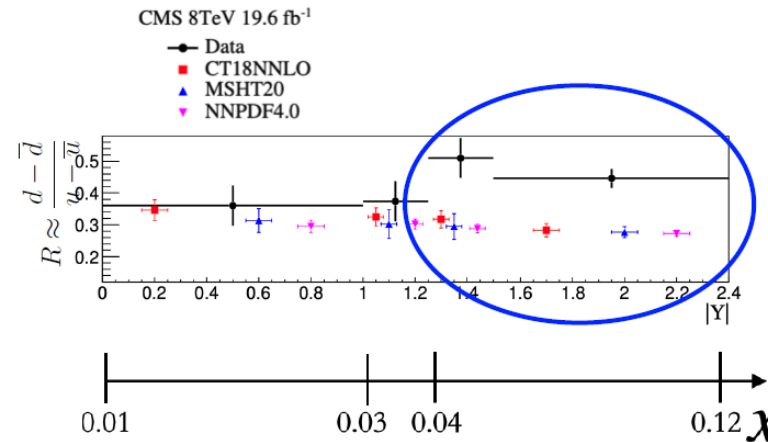
Expected to refine the existing PDF sets, as of 2025

CTEQ

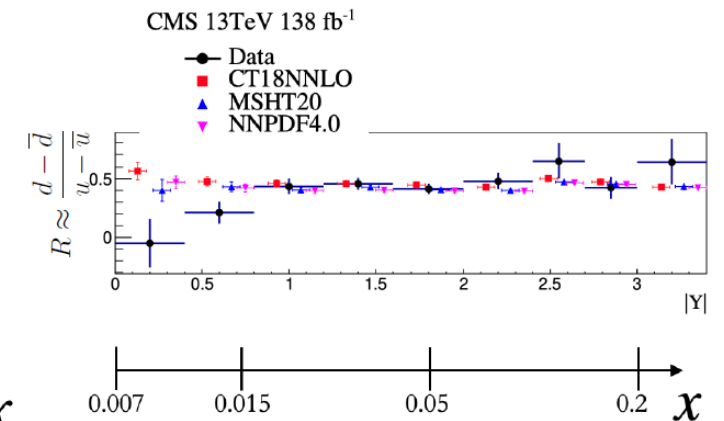
- First direct measurements on valence quark ratio, DØ and CMS data
- The  $d_V/u_V$  is significantly higher than PDF predictions at  $x \sim 0.1$
- The  $x$ -dependence is also different



Measurement of  $R = (u - \bar{u})/(d - \bar{d})$   
at DØ,  $p\bar{p}$  collision at 1.96 TeV



Measurement of  $R = (d - \bar{d})/(u - \bar{u})$   
at CMS,  $pp$  collision at 8 TeV



Measurement of  $R = (d - \bar{d})/(u - \bar{u})$   
at CMS,  $pp$  collision at 13 TeV

Phys. Rev. D 110, L091101 (2024)

arXiv: 2505.17608

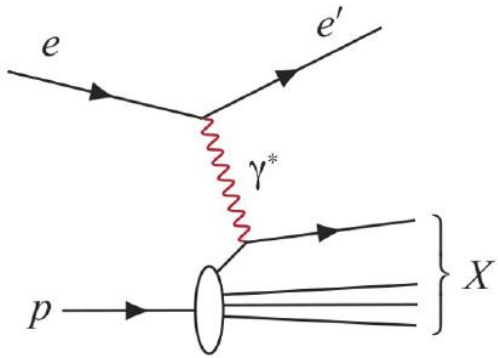
arXiv: 2505.17608



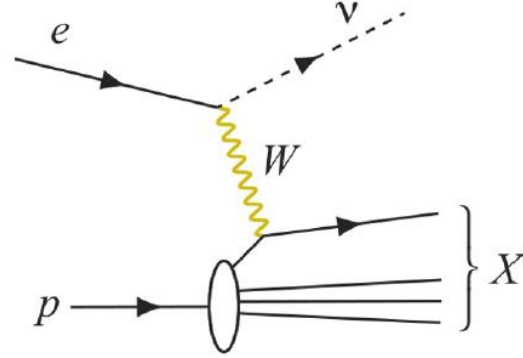
# Challenges and Strategies in Determining Longitudinal Unpolarized Proton PDFs: From the LHC to EIC Prospects

- Scattering processes at the EIC
- Unpolarized PDFs at the EIC
- New Physics search opportunity at the EIC

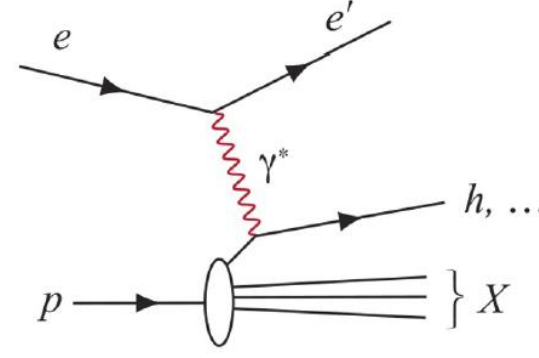
# Scattering processes at the EIC



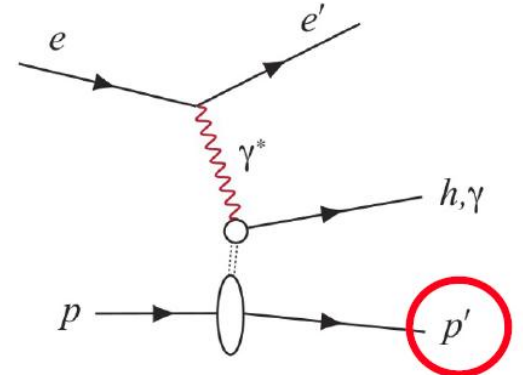
Neutral Current DIS



Charged Current DIS



Semi-Inclusive DIS



Exclusive Processes

- Electron beam can be longitudinally polarized.
- Proton (Ion) beam can be longitudinally or transversely polarized.
- The measurements of exclusive processes are special at the EIC, as compared to the LHC.

# ePIC performance: DIS kinematics with ePIC

## Kinematic Resolutions

- Reconstruct inclusive kinematics using various methods
  - **compare reconstruction performance**
  - Color of point indicates best method for  $y$  (inelasticity)
  - Size of point indicates  $y$  resolution
- **~30% or better  $y$  resolution across  $x - Q^2$  plane**

$$y_e = 1 - \frac{E_e(1 - \cos \theta_e)}{2E_0},$$

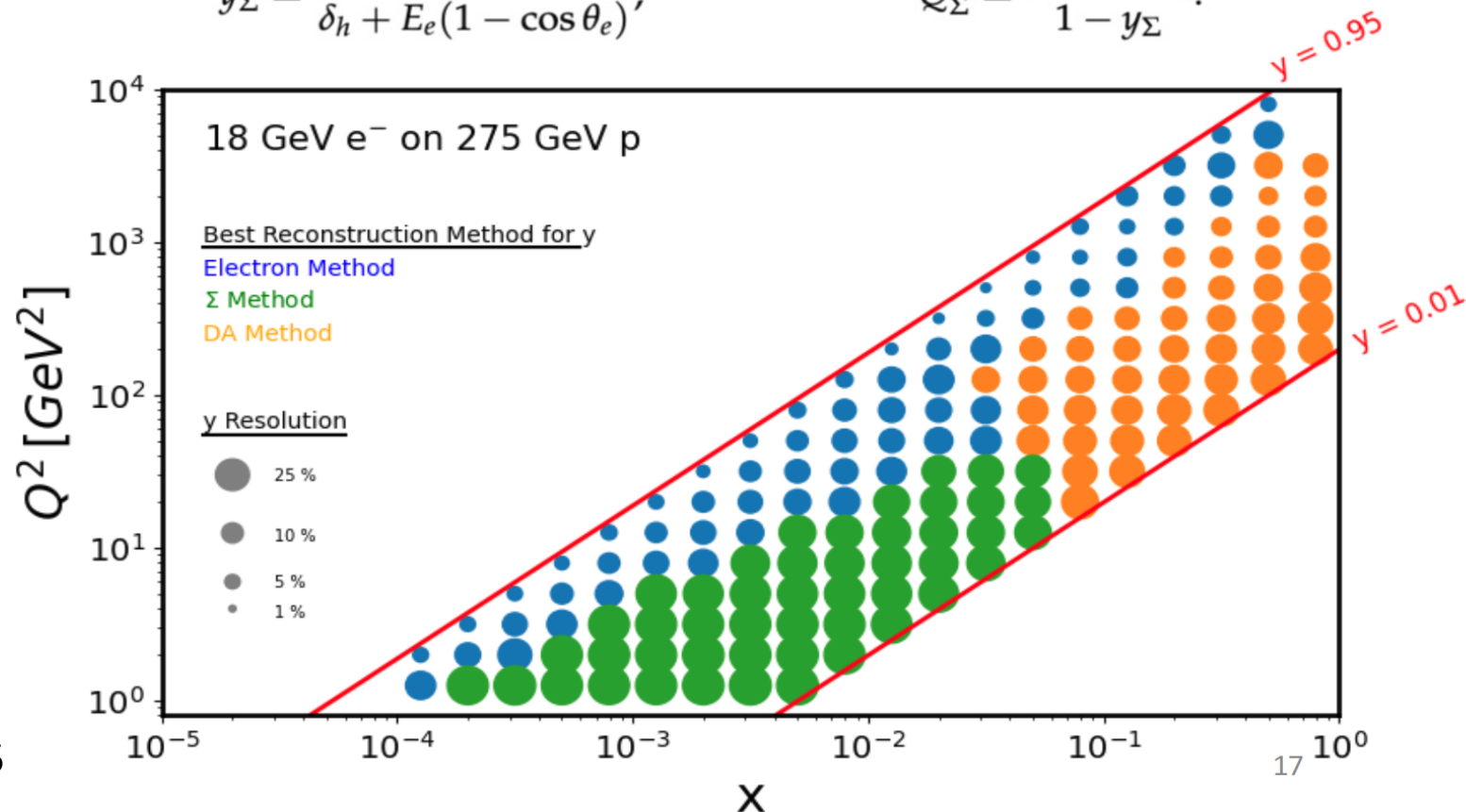
$$Q_e^2 = 2E_0E_e(1 + \cos \theta_e).$$

$$y_{DA} = \frac{\alpha_h}{\alpha_e + \alpha_h},$$

$$Q_{DA}^2 = \frac{4E_0^2}{\alpha_e(\alpha_e + \alpha_h)}$$

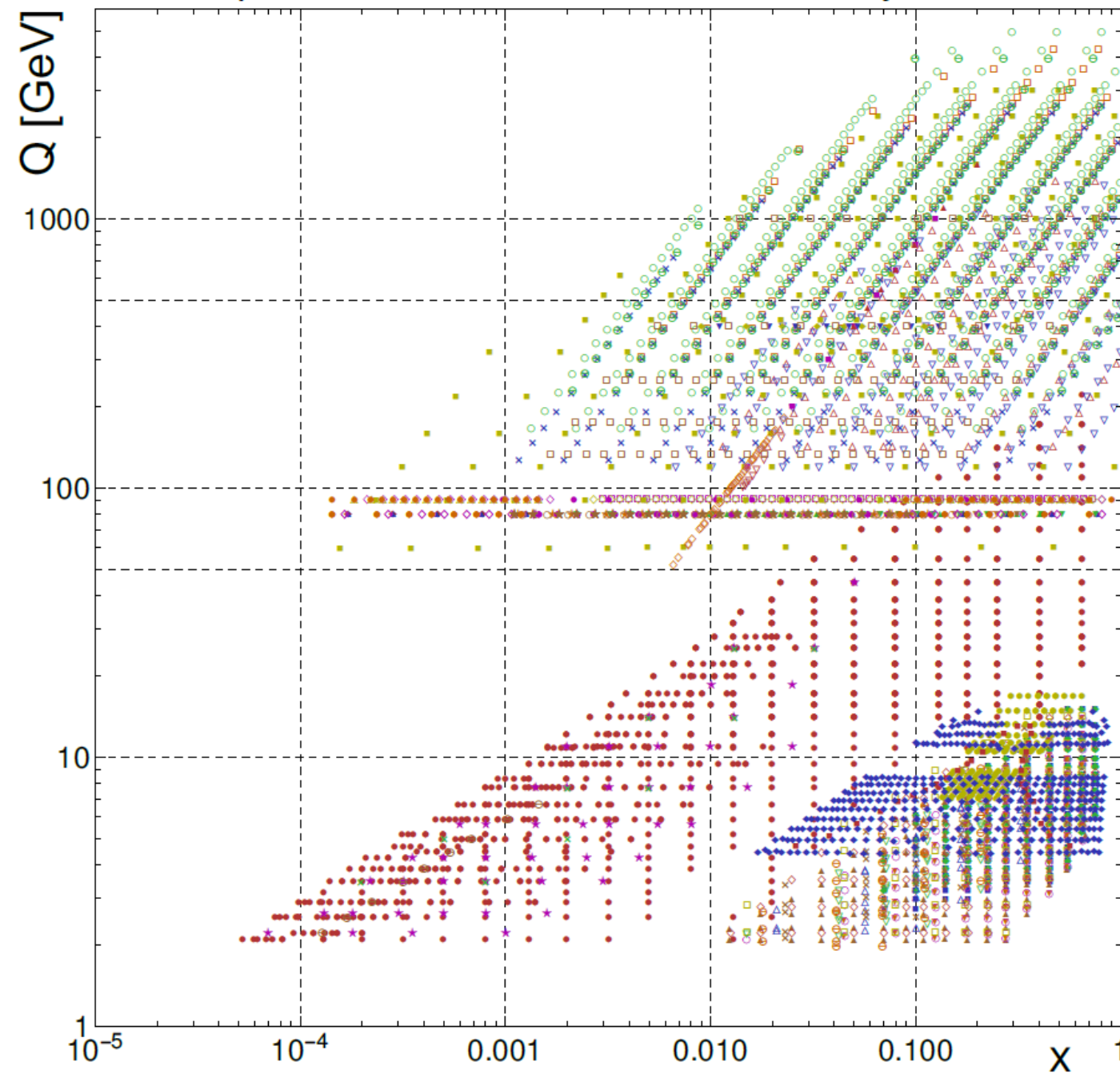
$$y_{\Sigma} = \frac{\delta_h}{\delta_h + E_e(1 - \cos \theta_e)},$$

$$Q_{\Sigma}^2 = \frac{E_e'^2 \sin^2 \theta_e}{1 - y_{\Sigma}}.$$



S Fazio, BNL-INT Joint Workshop, June 2025

# Experimental data in CT18 PDF analysis



● HERA-I+II'15	○ HERA-FL'11
■ BCDMSp'89	★ CMS7EASY'12
◆ BCDMSd'90	● ATL7WZ'12
▲ NMCrat97	■ ATL7JETS'12
▼ CDHSW-F2'91	◆ LHCb7WZ'12
○ CDHSW-F3'91	▲ LHCb7WASY'12
□ CCFR-F2'01	▼ D02EASY2'15
◇ CCFR-F3'97	○ CMS7Masy2'14
△ NuTeV-NU'06	□ CMS7JETS'13
▽ NuTeV-NUB'06	◇ LHCb7ZWRAP'15
× CCFR SI NU'01	△ LHCb8ZEE'15
⊖ CCFR SI NUB'01	▽ ATL7ZPT'14
★ HERAc'13	× CMS7JETS'14
● E605'91	⊖ ATLAS7JETS'15
■ E866RAT'01	★ CMS8WASY'16
◆ E866PP'03	● LHCb8WZ'16
▲ CDF1WASY'96	■ ATL8TTB-PT'16
▼ CDF2WASY'05	◆ ATL8TTB-Y_AVE'16
○ D02Masy'08	▲ ATL8TTB-MTT'16
□ ZyD02'08	▼ ATL8TTB-Y_TTB'16
◇ ZyCDF2'10	○ CMS8JETS'17
△ CDF2JETS'09	□ ATL8DY2D'16
▽ D02JETS'08	◇ ATL8ZPT'16
× HERAB'06	

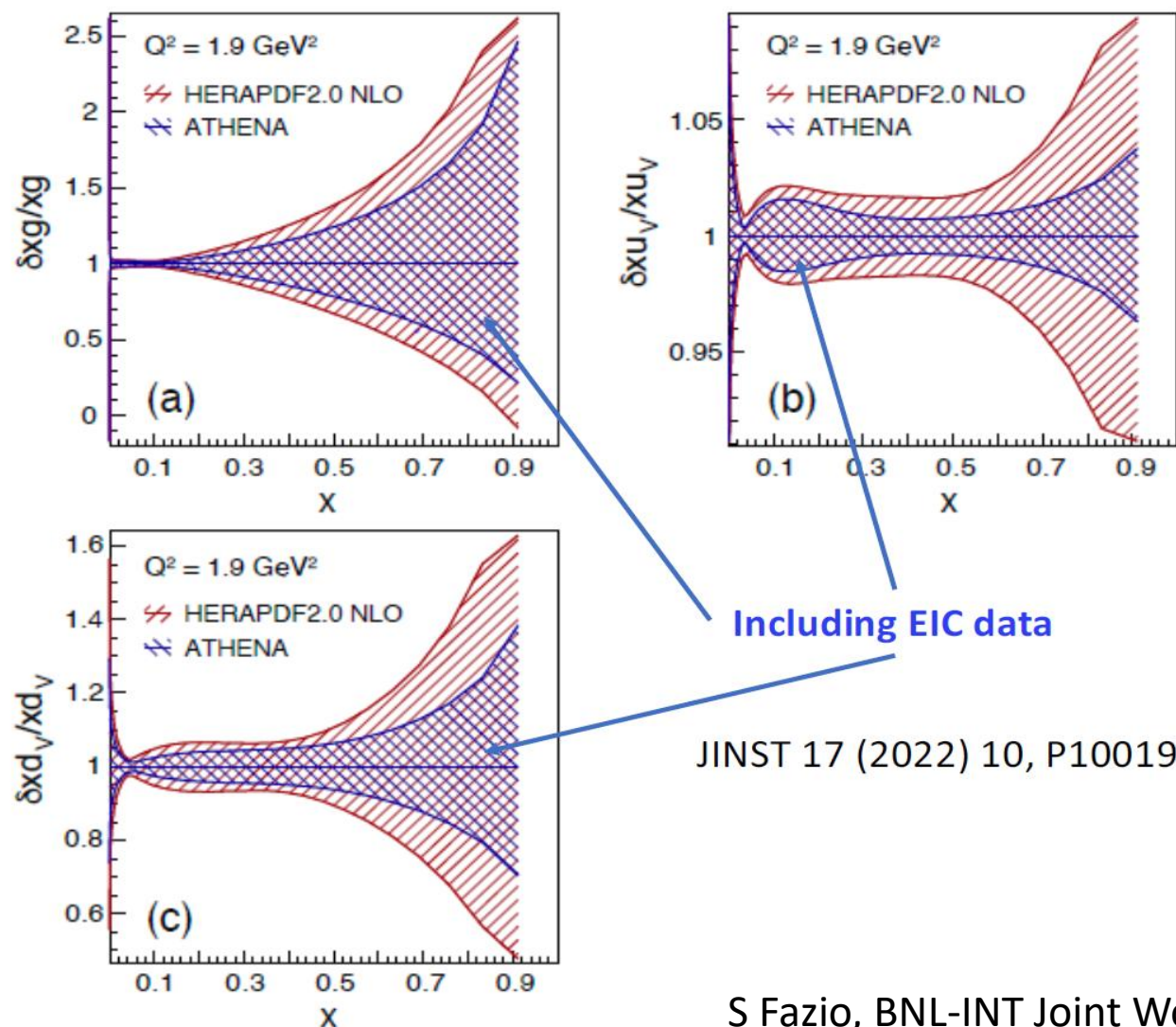
CTEQ

arXiv: 1912.10053

See talk by  
Tie-Jiun Hou  
for the  
Post-CT18  
data sets



# Scientific goals: **proton PDFs**



JINST 17 (2022) 10, P10019

## Proton PDFs @ EIC

- $F_2(x, Q^2)$  largely studied at HERA
- Nevertheless, a better precision often needed for precise calculations!  
--> explore specific kinematics
- EIC impact on HERA + LHC global fits, as estimated at the times of detector proposals in 2022 (ATHENA)
- High- $x$  region: constrain of both gluons and flavor-separated valence quarks

### Key detector performance:

- Electron ID
- Fine  $y$  resolution over large phase space

S Fazio, BNL-INT Joint Workshop, June 2025

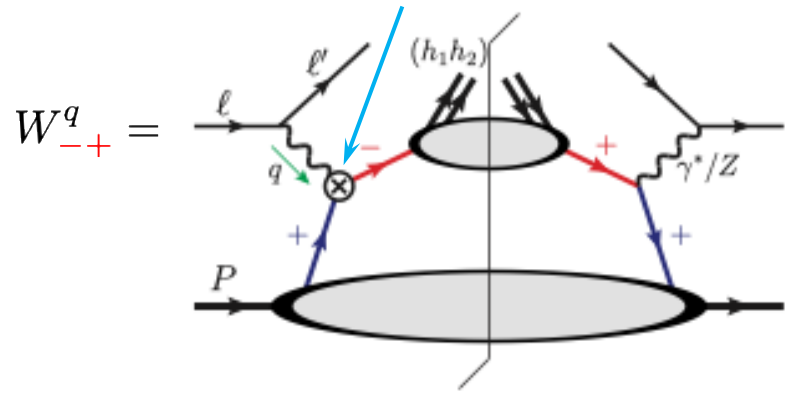


# Transverse spin effects of quark @ EIC

Xin-Kai Wen, Bin Yan, Zhite Yu, C.-P. Yuan, 2408.07255

- Quark dipole interactions can induce transversely polarized quarks

$\bar{q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} q_R A^{\mu\nu}, \bar{q}_L \sigma_{\mu\nu} q_R Z^{\mu\nu}$ : Flips chirality from “Right” (+) to “Left” (-).

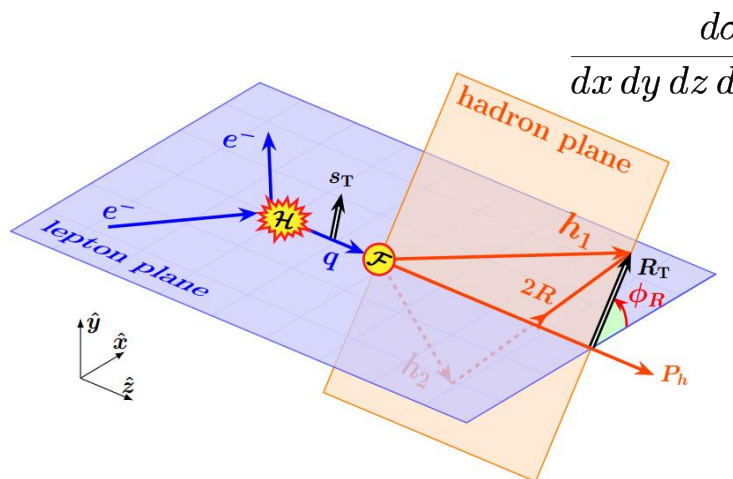


$$W_{-+}^q = \frac{C_q}{2} (s_q^x + i s_q^y) \propto \Gamma_{\gamma, Z}^q$$

$$s_q^x = \frac{2}{C_q} (w_\gamma^q \text{Re} \Gamma_\gamma^q + w_Z^q \text{Re} \Gamma_Z^q)$$

$$s_q^y = \frac{2}{C_q} (w_\gamma^q \text{Im} \Gamma_\gamma^q + w_Z^q \text{Im} \Gamma_Z^q)$$

- Measured via dihadron fragmentation function (DiFF)



$$\frac{d\sigma}{dx dy dz dM_h d\phi_R} = \frac{N}{2\pi} \sum_q f_q(x) \otimes C_q(x, Q) \otimes D_q^{h_1 h_2}(z, M_h)$$

$$\times \left[ 1 - \underbrace{\frac{H_q^{h_1 h_2}(z, M_h)}{D_q^{h_1 h_2}(z, M_h)}}_{\text{Spin-analyzing power}} (s_q^x \sin \phi_R - s_q^y \cos \phi_R) \right]$$

# Light-quark dipole interactions @ EIC

Xin-Kai Wen, Bin Yan, Zhite Yu, C.-P. Yuan, 2408.07255

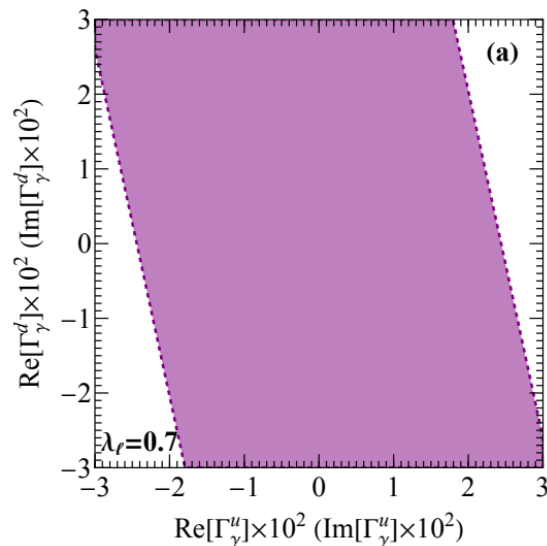
$$s_q^x = \frac{2}{C_q} (w_\gamma^q \text{Re} \Gamma_\gamma^q + w_Z^q \text{Re} \Gamma_Z^q) \quad (w_\gamma^q, w_Z^q) \text{ require } \underline{\text{parity-violating}} \text{ effects to be nonzero.}$$

$$s_q^y = \frac{2}{C_q} (w_\gamma^q \text{Im} \Gamma_\gamma^q + w_Z^q \text{Im} \Gamma_Z^q)$$

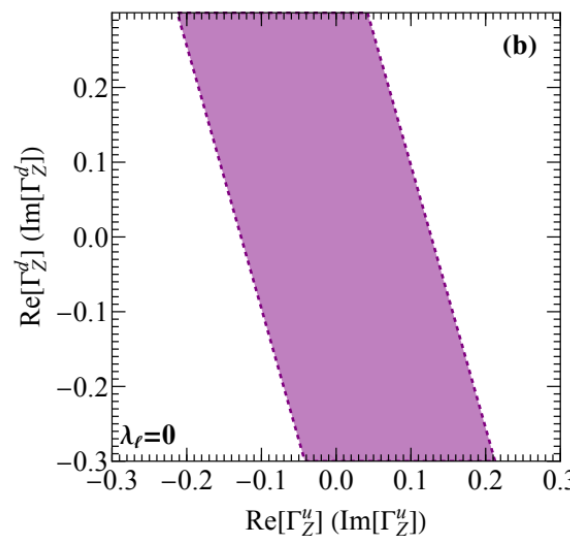
➤ longitudinal polarization of the electron  
➤ parity-odd Z interactions

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\phi_R} \propto 1 + A_R(\text{Re} \Gamma_\gamma, \text{Re} \Gamma_Z) \sin \phi_R + A_I(\text{Im} \Gamma_\gamma, \text{Im} \Gamma_Z) \cos \phi_R$$

$\gamma\gamma$  channel,  $\lambda_e = 0.7$



$\gamma Z$  channel,  $\lambda_e = 0$



$\sqrt{s} = 105 \text{ GeV}, \mathcal{L} = 1 \text{ ab}^{-1}$



- $\gamma$  dipole:  $O(0.01)$
- $Z$  dipole:  $O(0.1)$

Outperform current constraints  
by 1-2 orders of magnitude

However, only constrains a linear combination of  $\Gamma^u$  and  $\Gamma^d$ .



# Conclusion: Key Takeaways from the Talk

CTEQ

- Addressed the critical challenges in determining the proton's longitudinal unpolarized parton distribution functions (PDFs).
- Identified key limitations arising from:
  - Perturbative and nonperturbative QCD interactions
  - Data analysis complexities
  - Statistical uncertainties
- Emphasized the importance of insights from LHC data in shaping future research at the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) for PDF determination.
  - Discussed the role of lattice QCD calculations in enhancing our understanding of PDFs
  - Highlighted the potential of novel experimental observables to tighten constraints on PDFs and increase sensitivity in the search for New Physics
- Concluded that EIC data will be particularly valuable for further constraining PDFs of the proton at large  $x$ , paving the way for improved theoretical predictions and experimental tests.



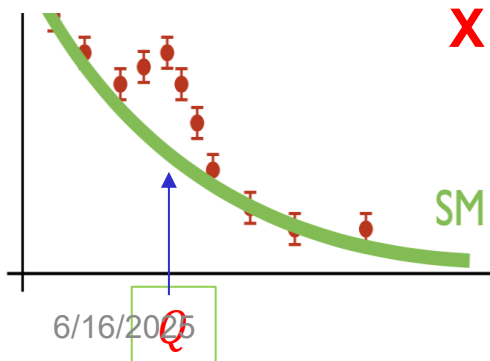
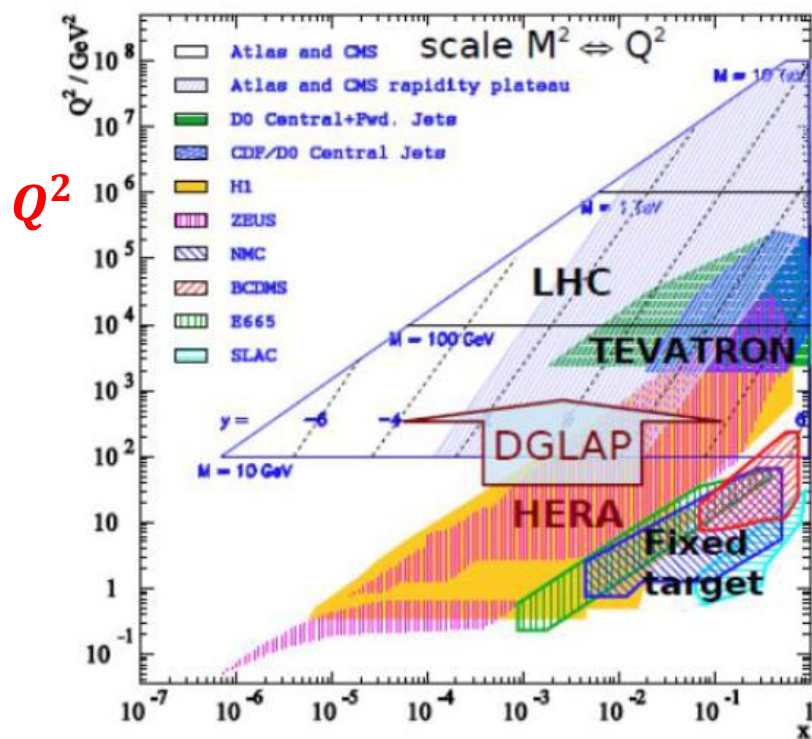
CTEQ

Backup slides



# Some basics about PDFs: relevant kinematics in $(x, Q^2)$

CTEQ



$$\sigma(Q) \simeq \sum_{i,j} f_{i/p}(x_1, Q) \otimes f_{j/p}(x_2, Q) \otimes \hat{\sigma}_{ij}(x_1, x_2; Q)$$

- Parton Distribution Function  $f(x, Q)$
- Given a heavy resonance with mass  $Q$  produced at hadron collider with c.m. energy  $\sqrt{S}$
- What's the typical  $x$  value?

$$\langle x \rangle = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{S}} \quad \text{at central rapidity } (y=0)$$

$$\text{Generally, } x_1 = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{S}} e^y \quad \text{and} \quad x_2 = \frac{Q}{\sqrt{S}} e^{-y}$$

$$x_1 + x_2 = 2 \frac{Q}{\sqrt{S}} \cosh(y) \quad \longrightarrow \quad y_{\max} : x_1 + x_2 = 1$$



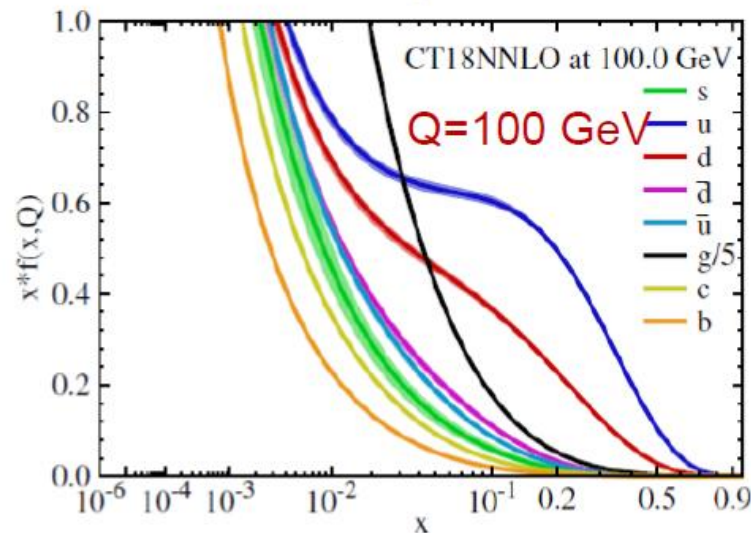
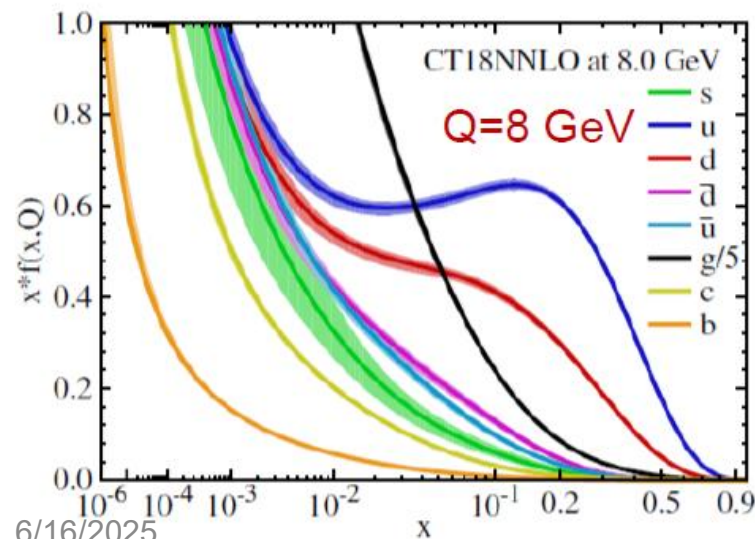
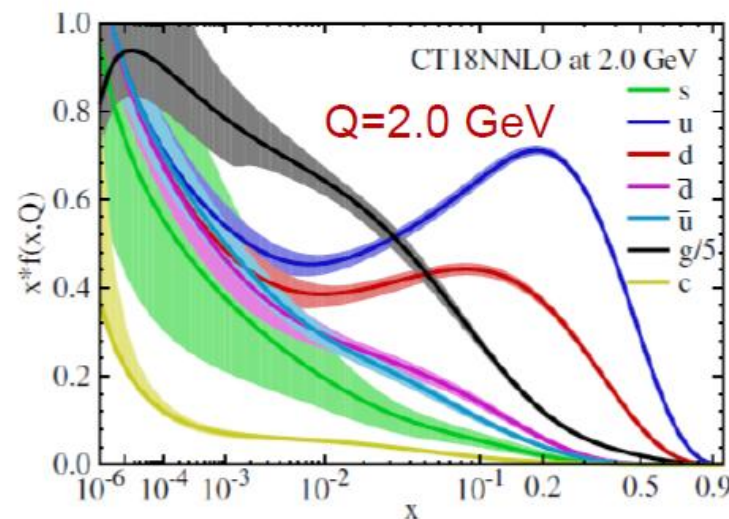
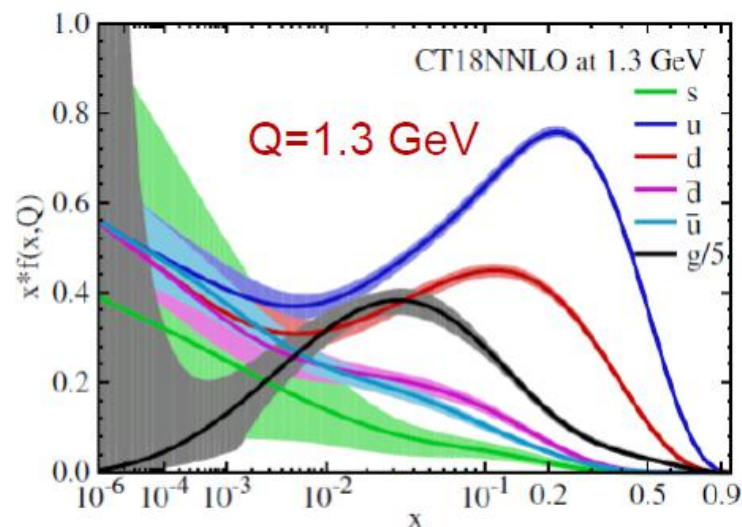


# PDF uncertainties vary as $Q$ via DGLAP evolution

CTEQ

arXiv: 1912.10053

CT18 NNLO PDFs



- Faster DGLAP evolution at low  $Q$  values.
- Smaller PDF error bands at higher  $Q$  values.
- At high  $Q$ , perturbative contribution becomes more important than the non-perturbative part of PDF.



Relatively low energy data, such as HERA I+II, remain crucial for PDF global analysis.



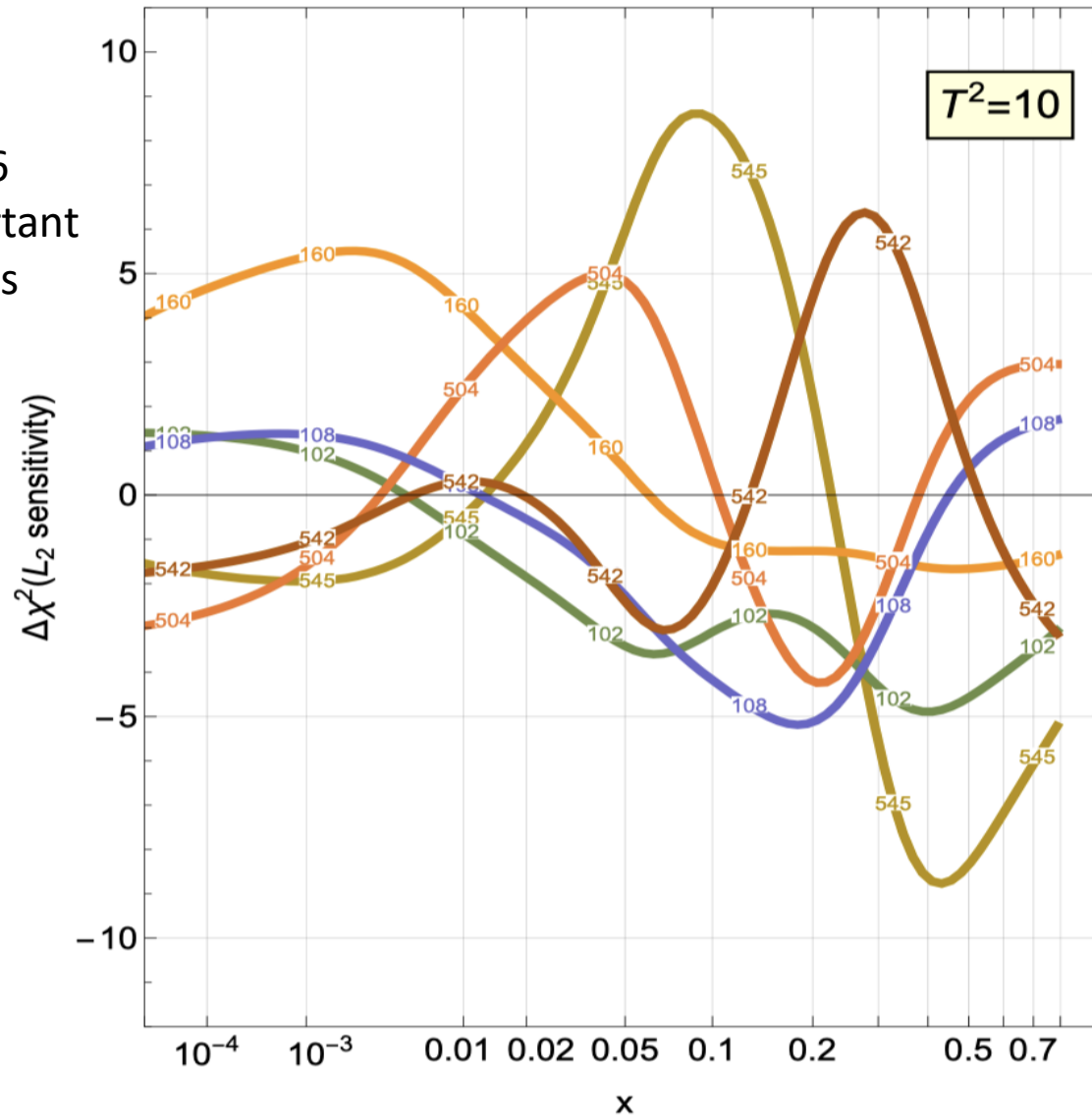


## L2 Sensitivity

CT18 NNLO  
 $g(x, 100 \text{ GeV})$

CTEQ

show only 6  
most important  
experiments



Small tolerance to stay in  
the region where total  $\chi^2$   
has best quadratic behavior

- 545: CMS 8 TeV jets
- 160: HERA DIS combined
- 102: BCDMS  $F_2^d$
- 504: CDF Run-2 jets
- 108: CDHSW  $F_2$
- 542: CMS 7 TeV jets