

Nuclear PDFs at the beginning of LHC Run 3

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Nuclear PDFs from global analyses

Nuclear PDFs (nPDFs) are fitted with similar global analyses as their free-proton counterparts

- rely only to the QCD collinear factorisation
- model-agnostic way to study the nuclear effects

Multi-observable fit needed to constrain individual flavours, minimise:

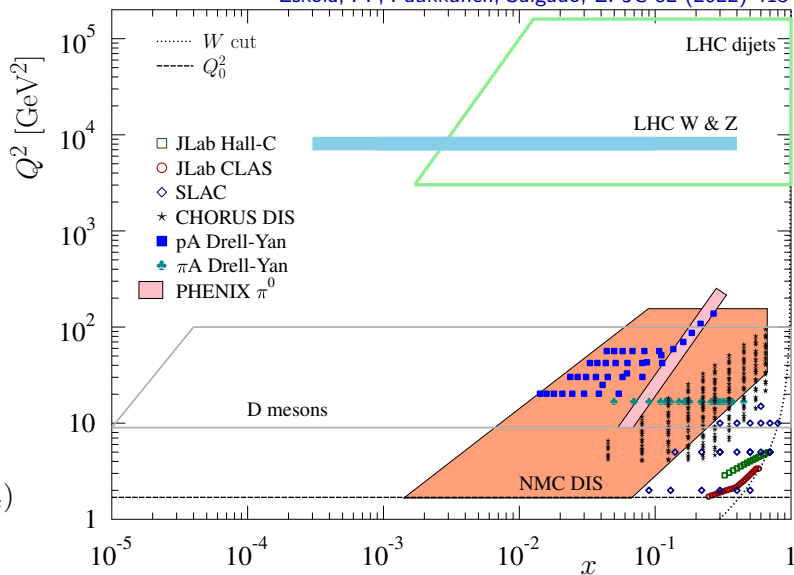
Sum over data sets

$$\chi_{\text{tot}}^2 = \sum_k (D_k - T_k)^T C_k^{-1} (D_k - T_k)$$

data theory cov.

Correlations important!

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413



Recent nPDF global fits

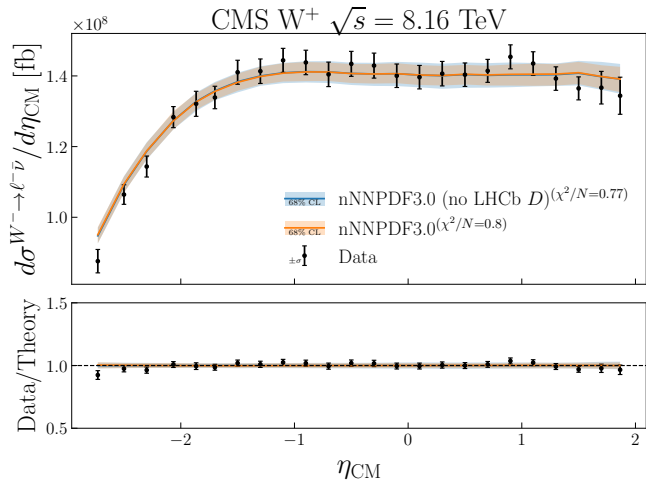
	KSASG20	TUJU21	EPPS21	nNNPDF3.0	nCTEQ15HQ*
Order in α_s	NLO & NNLO	NLO & NNLO	NLO	NLO	NLO
lA NC DIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
νA CC DIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	
pA DY	✓		✓	✓	✓
πA DY			✓		
RHIC dAu π^0, π^\pm			✓		✓
LHC pPb π^0, π^\pm, K^\pm					✓
LHC pPb dijets			✓	✓	
LHC pPb HQ			✓	✓ reweight	✓ ME fitting
LHC pPb W,Z		✓	✓	✓	✓
LHC pPb γ				✓	
Q, W cut in DIS	1.3, 0.0 GeV	1.87, 3.5 GeV	1.3, 1.8 GeV	1.87, 3.5 GeV	2.0, 3.5 GeV
p_T cut in HQ, inc.-h	N/A	N/A	3.0 GeV	0.0 GeV	3.0 GeV
Data points	4353	2410	2077	2188	1496
Free parameters	9	16	24	256	19
Error analysis	Hessian	Hessian	Hessian	Monte Carlo	Hessian
Free-proton PDFs	CT18	own fit	CT18A	~NNPDF4.0	~CTEQ6M
Free-proton corr.	no	no	yes	yes	no
HQ treatment	FONLL	FONLL	S-ACOT	FONLL	S-ACOT
Indep. flavours	3	4	6	6	5
Reference	PRD 104, 034010	arXiv:2112.11904	EPJC 82, 413	arXiv:2201.12363	arXiv:2204.09982

*see also PRD 103 (2021) 114015 & arXiv:2204.13157

W bosons in pPb at 8.16 TeV

data from: CMS Collaboration, PLB 800 (2020) 135048
pp baseline: CMS Collaboration, EPJC 76 (2016) 469

Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363

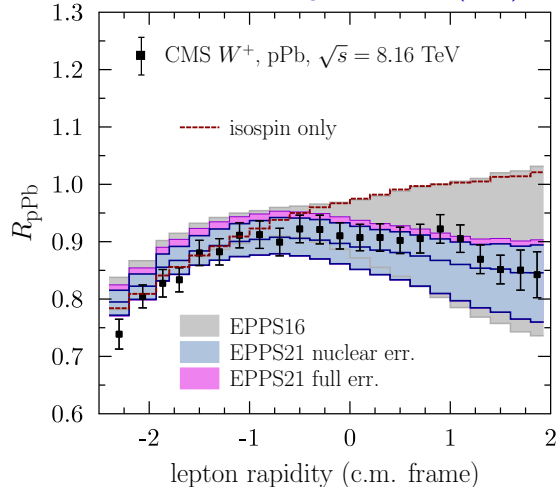


EW bosons important probes of flavour separation

- $u\bar{d}$ ($c\bar{s}$) $\rightarrow W^+$
- $\bar{u}d$ ($\bar{c}s$) $\rightarrow W^-$

Small- x , high- Q^2 quarks and gluons correlated by DGLAP evolution \rightarrow sensitivity to gluons

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413



nCTEQ15WZSIH, TUJU21 and nNNPDF3.0
fit to absolute cross sections

EPPS21 uses nuclear-modification ratios
to cancel proton-PDF uncertainties

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 271

Mitigating free-proton PDF uncertainty

data from: CMS Collaboration, PLB 800 (2020) 135048
pp baseline: CMS Collaboration, EPJC 76 (2016) 469

Absolute pPb cross sections sensitive to proton-PDF uncertainties!

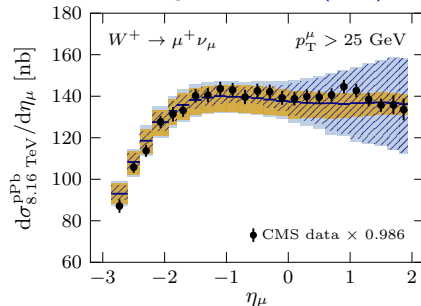
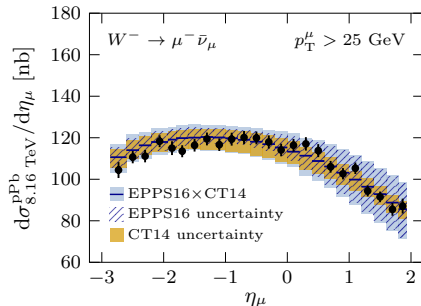
Difficult to disentangle nuclear modifications from free-proton d.o.f.s

nCTEQ15WZSIH, TUJU21 and nNNPDF3.0 fit to absolute cross sections

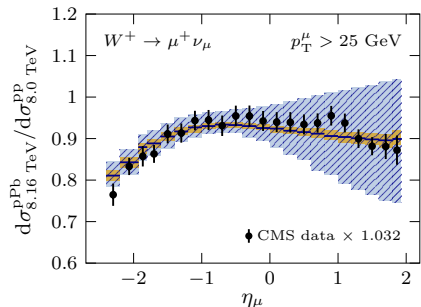
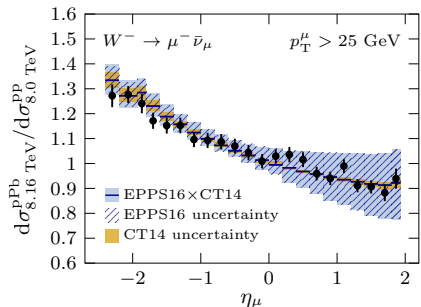
Wherever possible, EPPS21 uses nuclear modification ratios to cancel the free-proton-PDF uncertainties

- can still become relevant with LHC Run 3 statistics
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Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 271

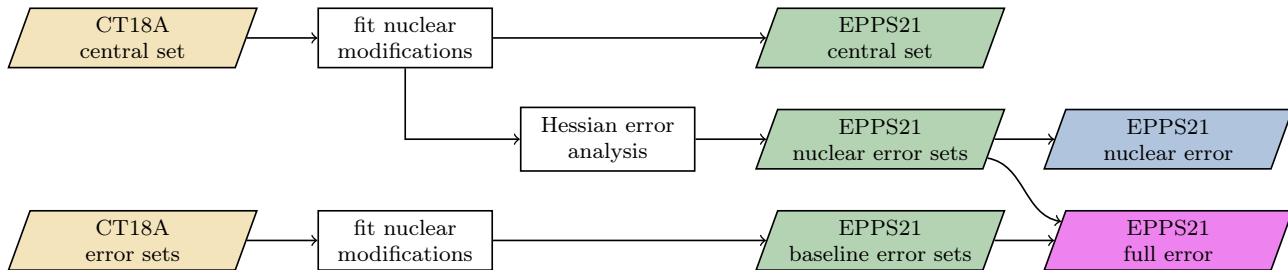


↓ Cancel proton-PDF uncertainty ↓



Propagating free-proton PDF uncertainty

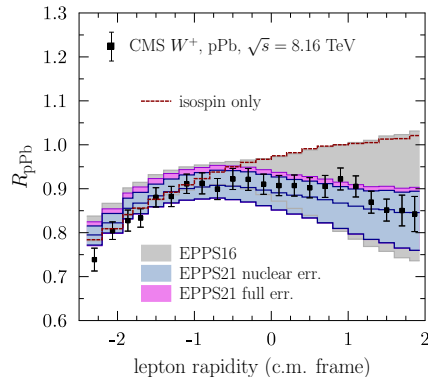
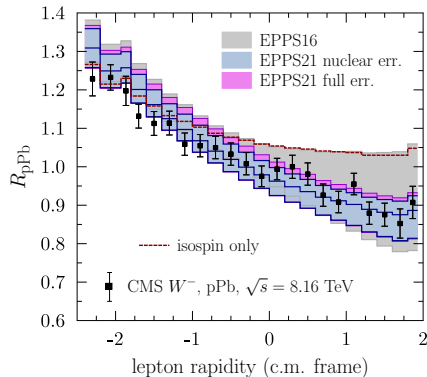
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EPPS21: fit nuclear modifications for each CT18A error set separately

→ subleading effect

nNNPDF3.0 uses similar approach in Monte Carlo framework



Z bosons in pPb at 8.16 TeV

data from: [CMS Collaboration, JHEP 05 \(2021\) 182](#)
 pp baseline: [CMS Collaboration, EPJC 75 \(2015\) 147](#)

New Run 2 data from CMS

[CMS Collaboration, JHEP 05 \(2021\) 182](#)

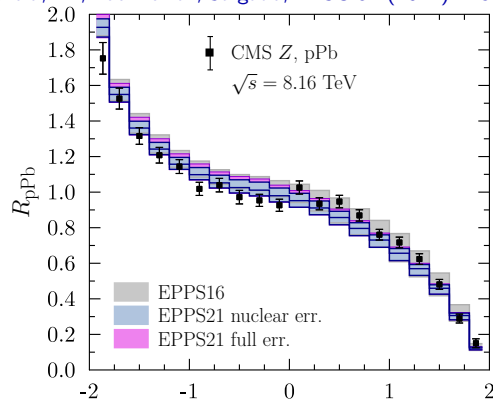
- nNNPDF3.0 include both low-mass and on-peak data
- R_{pPb} studied in EPPS21 → not included in the final fit

Both EPPS21 and nNNPDF3.0 observe some tension between the data and fit

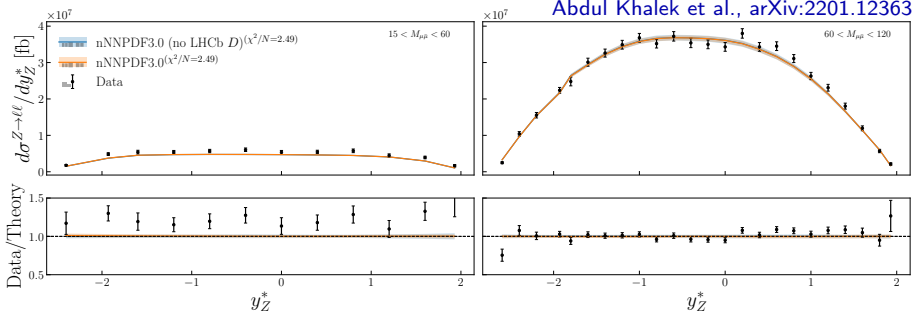
- abrupt change in the shape at midrapidity
- NNLO to cure for the low-mass data?

[Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363](#)

[Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 \(2022\) 413](#)



Z rapidity (c.m. frame)

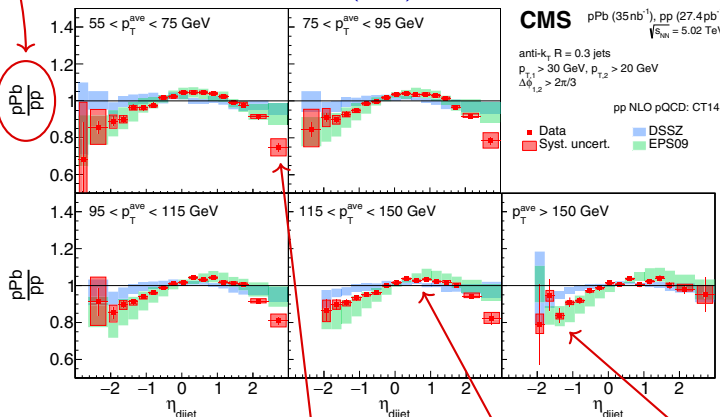


	χ^2/N_{data}
EPPS21	2.1
nNNPDF3.0	2.49

Dijets in pPb at 5.02 TeV

Ratio of ratios: $R_{\text{pPb}}^{\text{norm.}} = \frac{d^2\sigma^{\text{pPb}}/dp_T^{\text{ave}}d\eta_{\text{dijet}}}{d\sigma^{\text{pPb}}/dp_T^{\text{ave}}} \bigg/ \frac{d^2\sigma^{\text{pp}}/dp_T^{\text{ave}}d\eta_{\text{dijet}}}{d\sigma^{\text{pp}}/dp_T^{\text{ave}}}$

CMS Collaboration, PRL 121 (2018) 062002

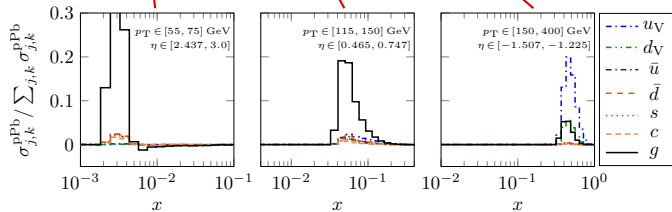


Double ratio convenient for:

- Cancellation of hadronization and luminosity uncertainties separately for pPb and pp
 - do not expect strong final-state effects
- Cancellation of free-proton-PDF and scale uncertainties in pPb/pp
 - direct access to nuclear modifications

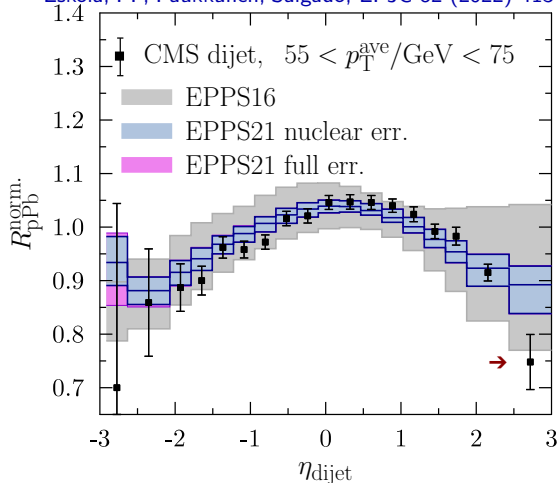
Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, EPJC 79 (2019) 511

NLO pQCD:

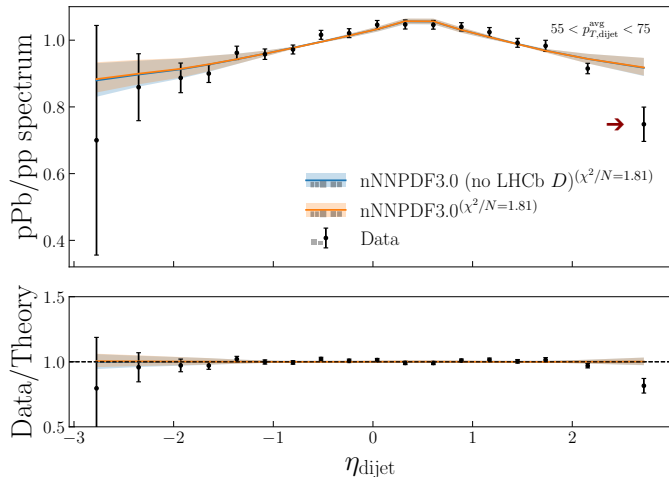


Good resolution to gluon nuclear modifications for $10^{-3} < x < 0.5$

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413



Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363



Drastic reduction in the nPDF uncertainties!

→ Important constraints for the nuclear gluons!

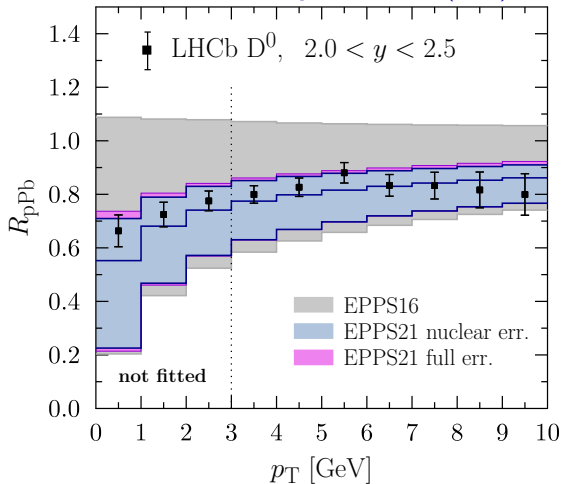
Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, EPJC 79 (2019) 511
 Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413
 Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363

Both EPPS21 and nNNPDF3.0 find difficulties in reproducing the most forward data points

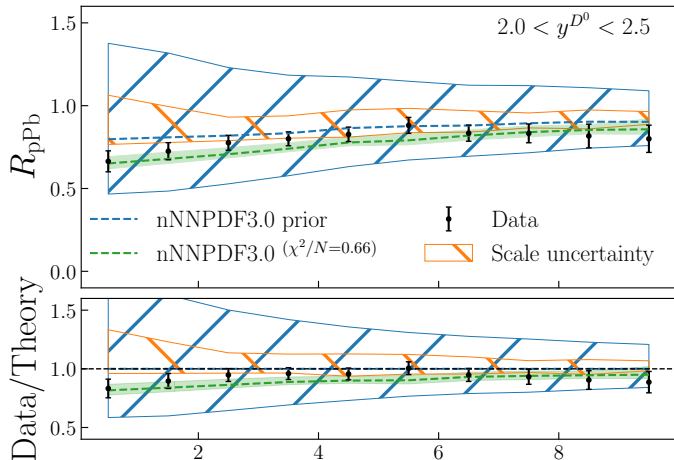
→ missing data correlations important?

→ NNLO? non-pert. effects?

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413



Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363



Drastic reduction in the nPDF uncertainties!

→ Important constraints for the nuclear gluons!

Kusina et al., PRL 121 (2018) 052004
 Eskola, Helenius, PP, Paukkunen, JHEP 05 (2020) 037
 Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413
 Abdul Khalek et al., arXiv:2201.12363

nNNPDF3.0 with POWHEG+PYTHIA finds a large scale uncertainty → fit only forward data

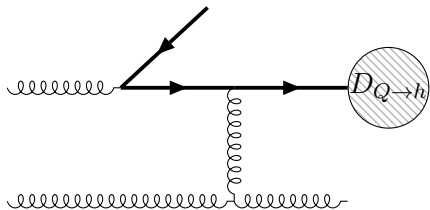
not seen in the S-ACOT- m_T GM-VFNS used in EPPS21
 Helenius & Paukkunen, JHEP 05 (2018) 196
 Eskola, Helenius, PP, Paukkunen, JHEP 05 (2020) 037

Heavy-flavour production mass schemes

FFNS

In *fixed flavour number scheme*, valid at small p_T , heavy quarks are produced only at the matrix element level

Contains $\log(p_T/m)$ and $\mathcal{O}(m)$ terms

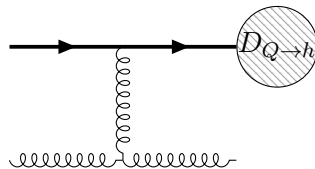


ZM-VFNS

In *zero-mass variable flavour number scheme*, valid at large p_T , heavy quarks are treated as massless particles produced also in ISR/FSR

Resums $\log(p_T/m)$ but ignores $\mathcal{O}(m)$ terms

– subtraction term +



GM-VFNS

A *general-mass variable flavour number scheme* combines the two by supplementing subtraction terms to prevent double counting of the resummed splittings, valid at all p_T

Resums $\log(p_T/m)$ and includes $\mathcal{O}(m)$ terms in the FFNS matrix elements

Important: includes also **gluon-to-HF fragmentation** – large contribution to the cross section!

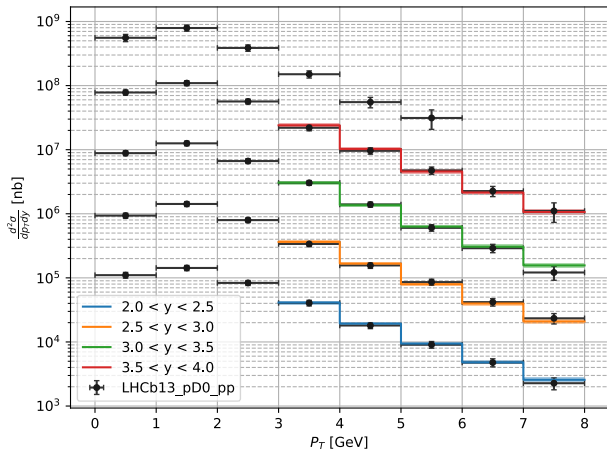
A data-driven approach – nCTEQ15HQ

nCTEQ15HQ uses a data-driven approach

Lansberg & Shao, EPJC 77 (2017) 1
Kusina et al., PRL 121 (2018) 052004

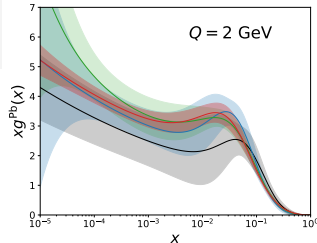
to fit the D^0 and J/ψ data:

1. Fit the matrix elements to pp data...
(assume $2 \rightarrow 2$ kinematics, neglect IS quarks)

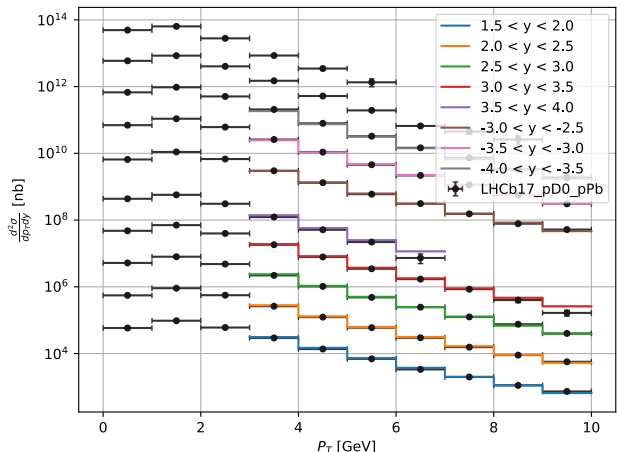


Duwentäster et al., arXiv:2204.09982

— nCTEQ15 Pb208
— nCTEQ15WZ
— nCTEQ15WZ+SIH
— nCTEQ15HQ



2. ... use the fitted matrix elements to fit nuclear PDFs with pPb data



D^0 s at 8.16 TeV – LHCb

New LHCb measurement at 8.16 TeV
(not included in the nPDF analyses yet)

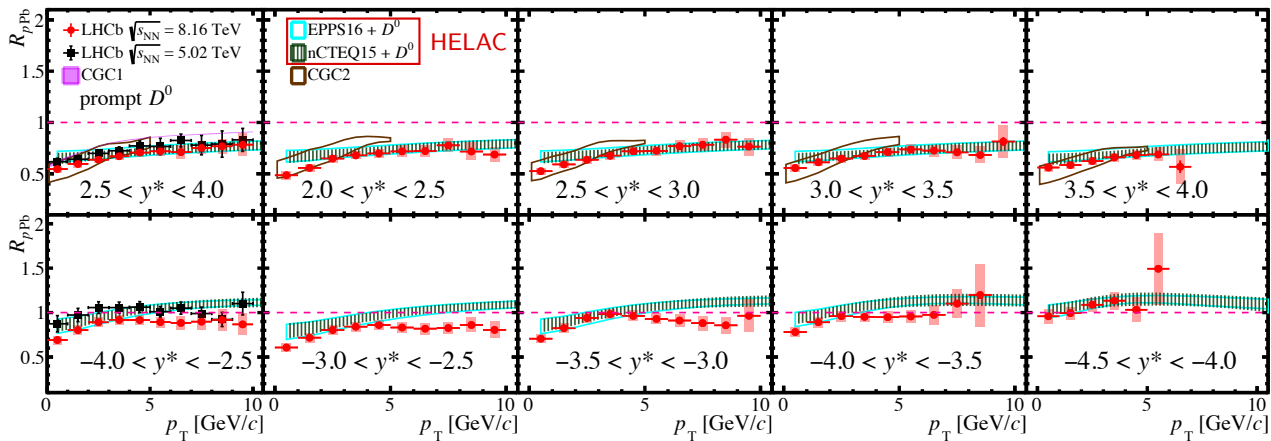
pp reference interpolated from 5 and 13 TeV
measurements

So far compared only against the HELAC
matrix-element-fitting results

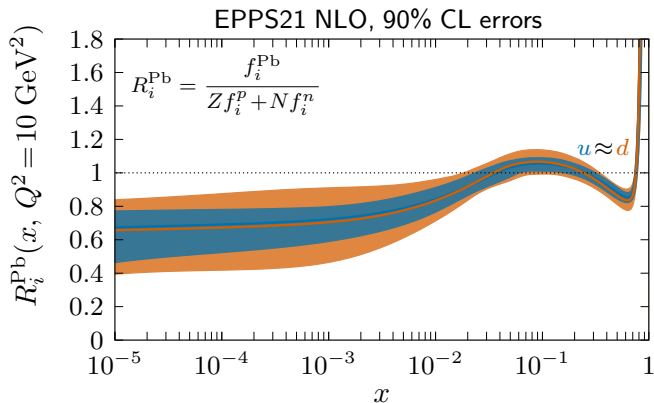
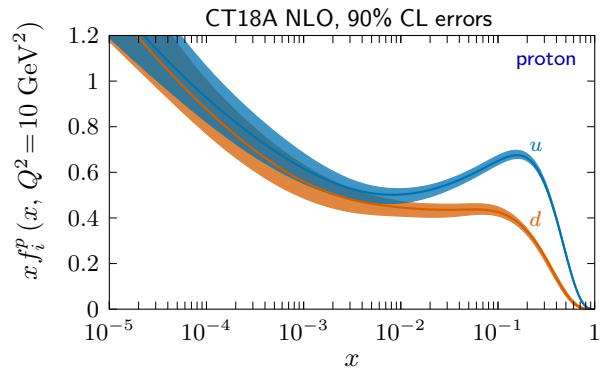
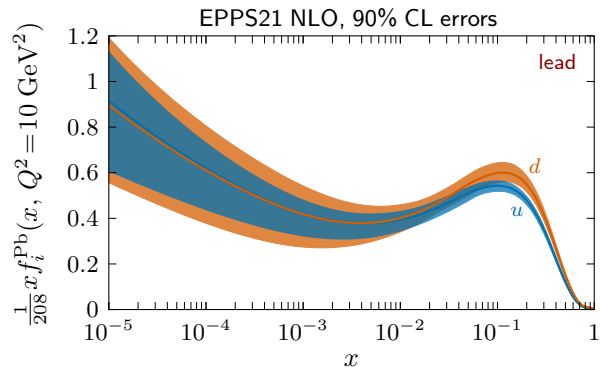
[Kusina et al., PRL 121 \(2018\) 052004](#)

→ to be scrutinised with the direct pQCD
calculations

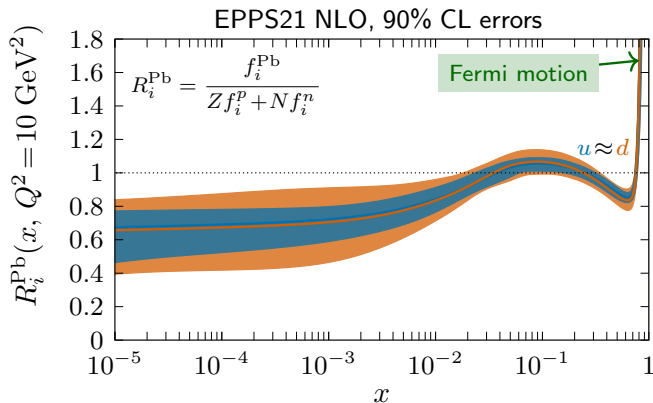
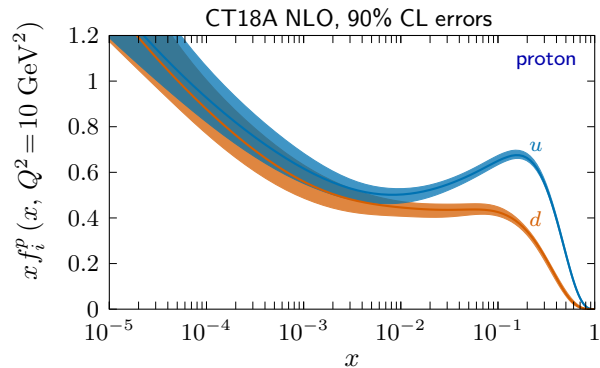
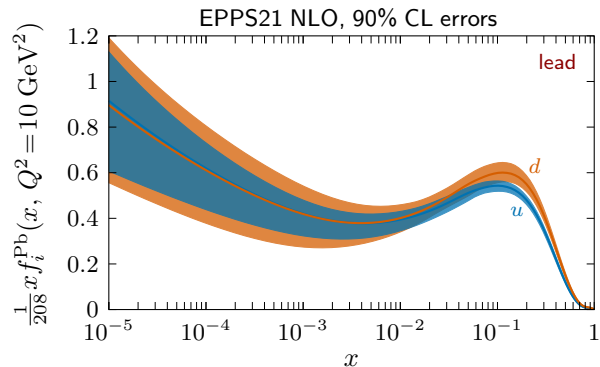
[LHCb Collaboration, arXiv:2205.03936](#)



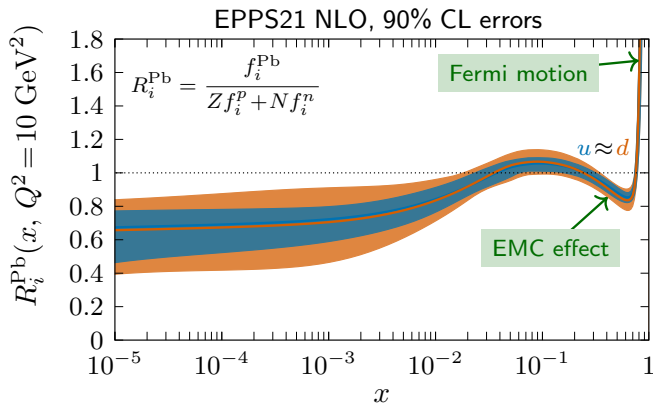
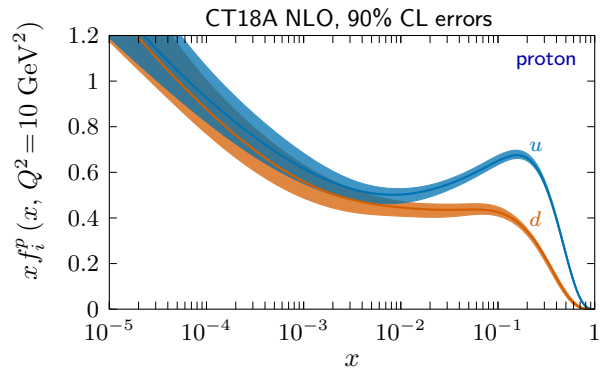
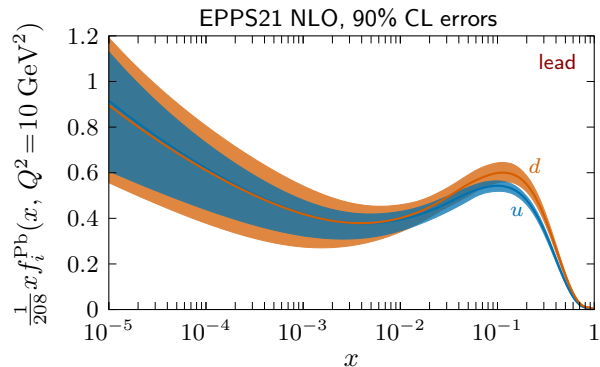
nPDF results – u and d



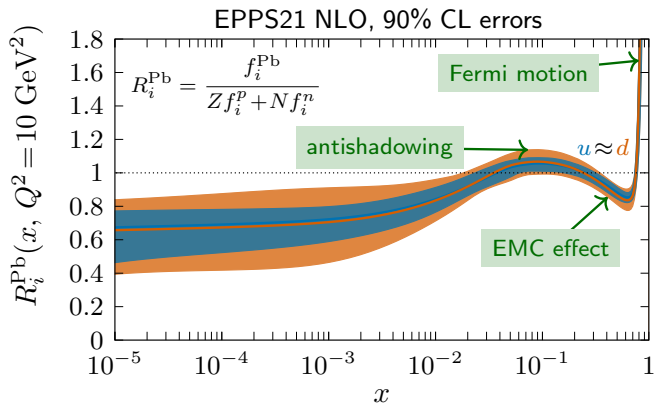
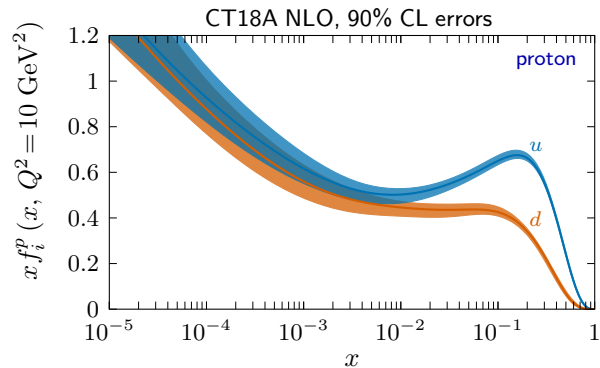
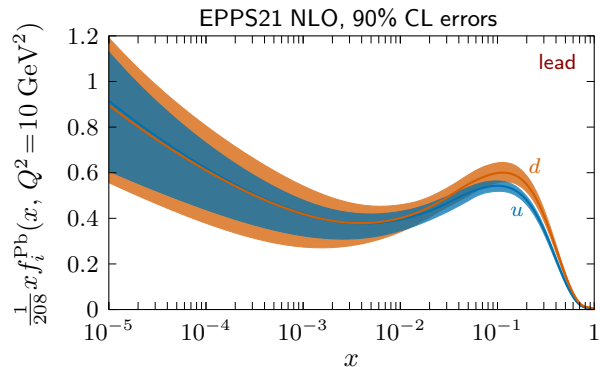
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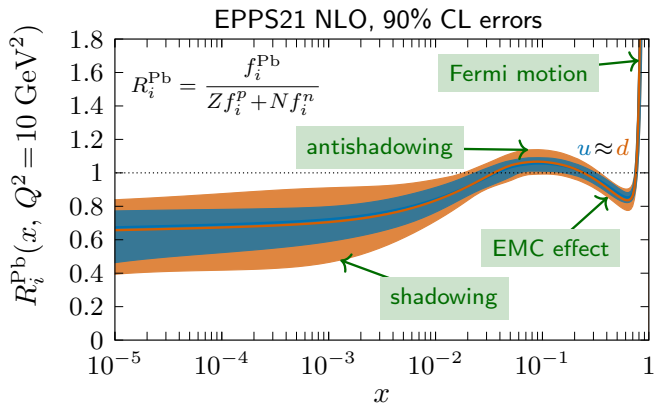
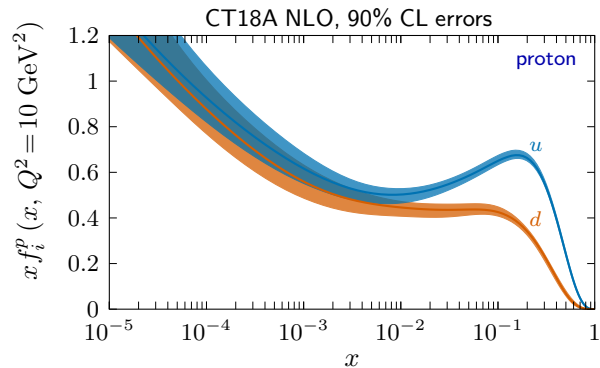
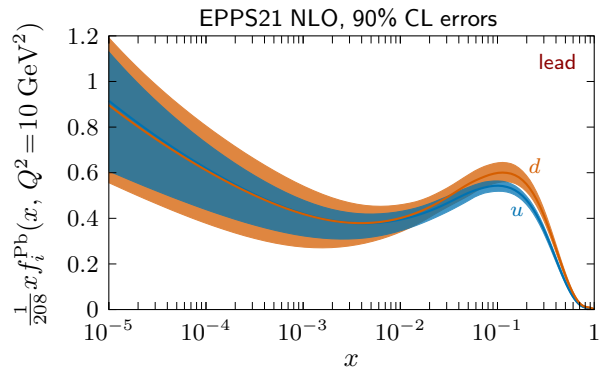
nPDF results – u and d



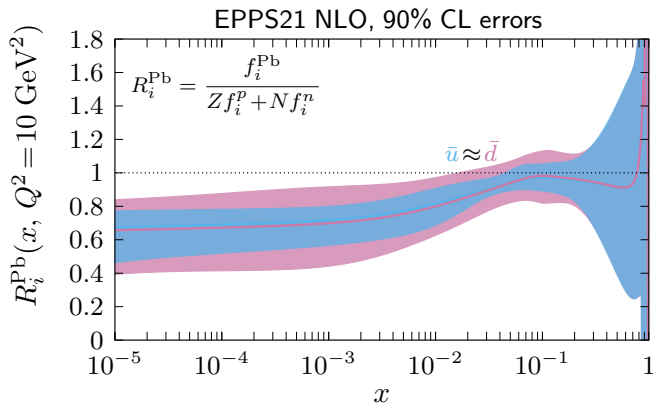
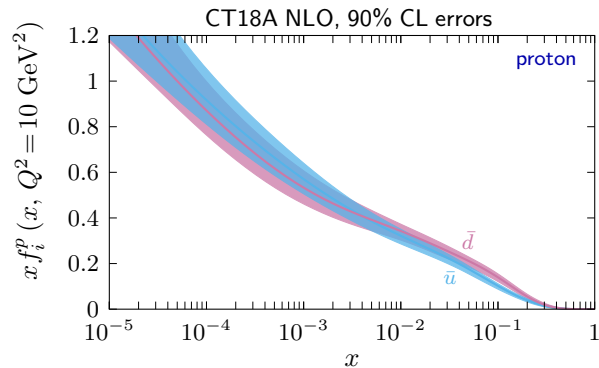
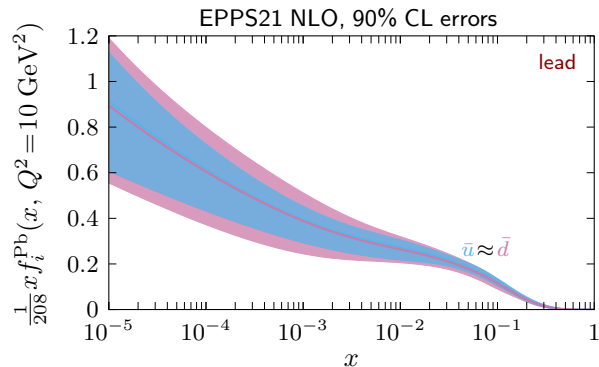
nPDF results – u and d



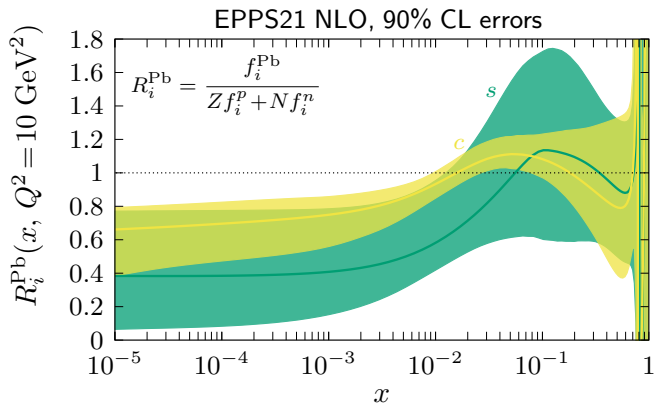
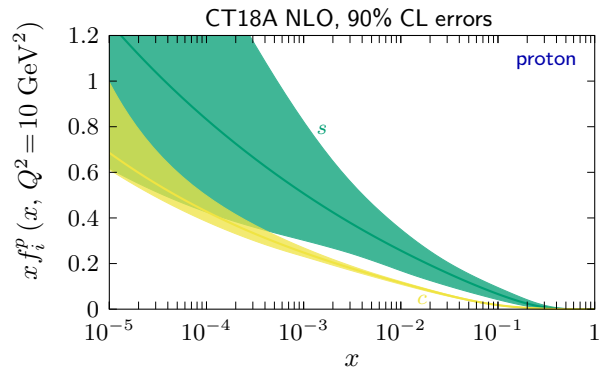
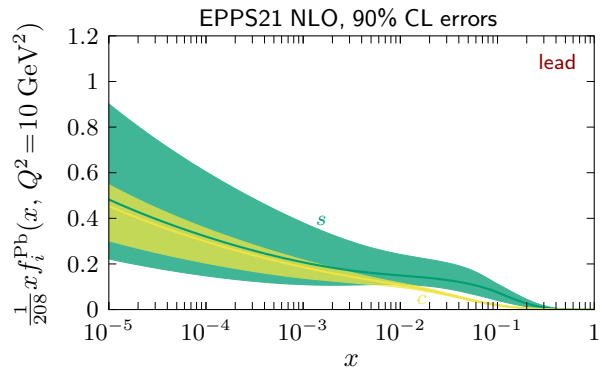
nPDF results – u and d



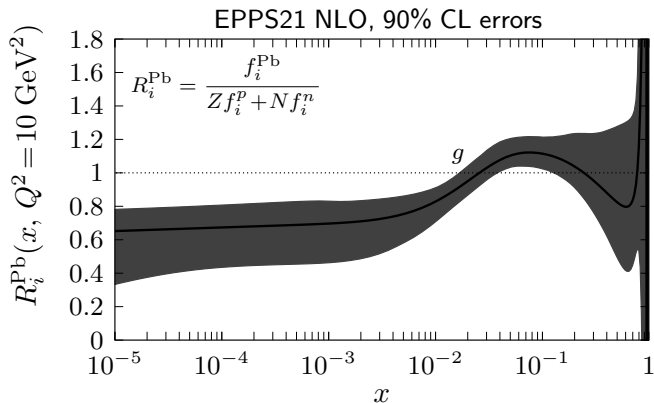
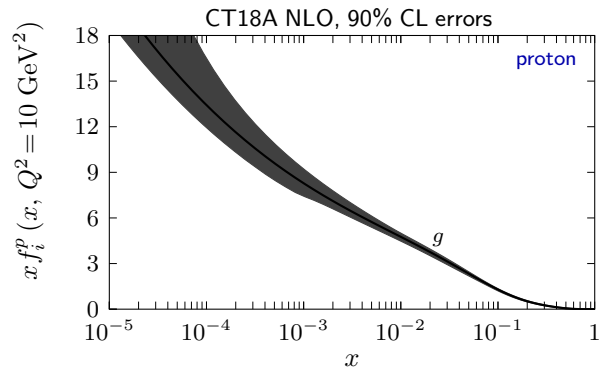
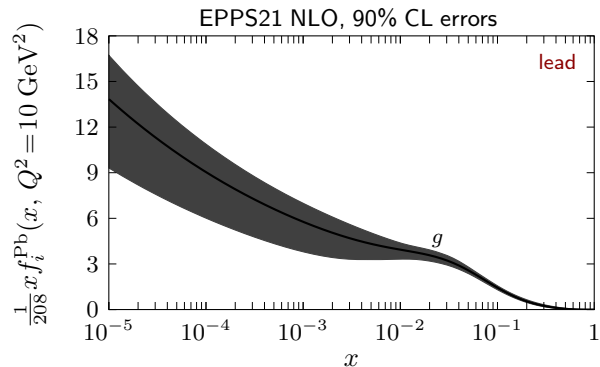
nPDF results – \bar{u} and \bar{d}



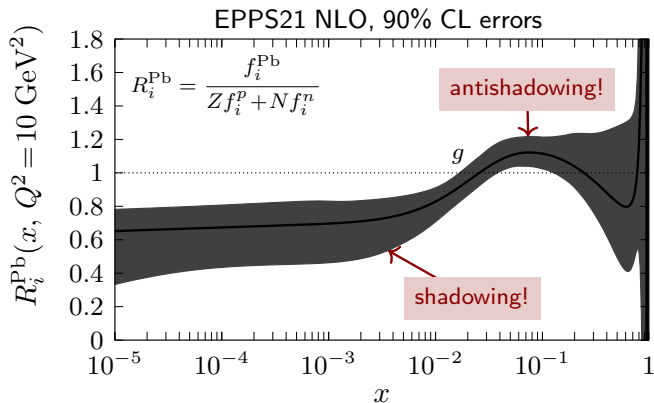
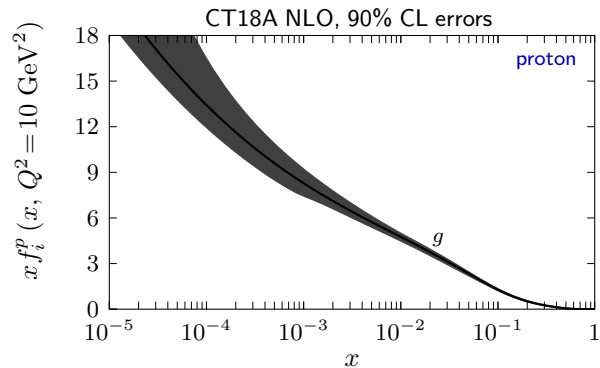
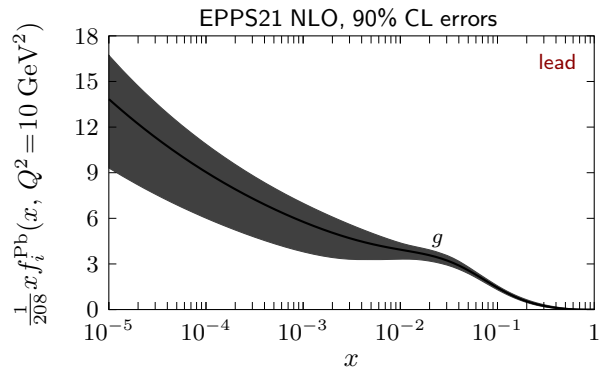
nPDF results – s and c



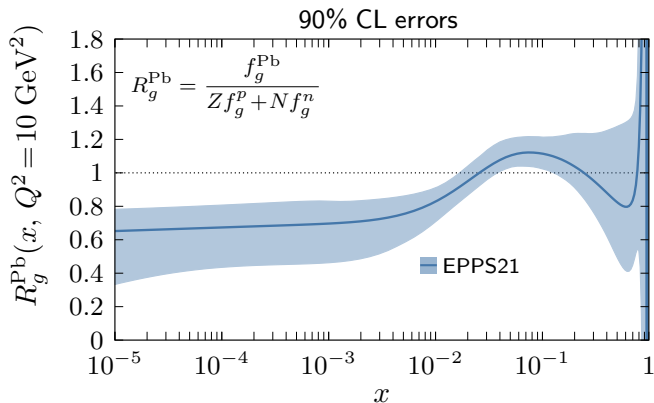
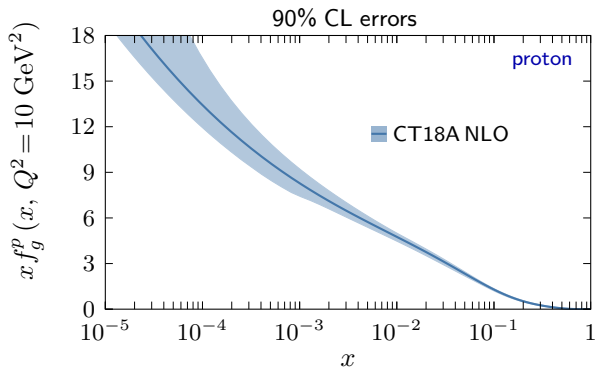
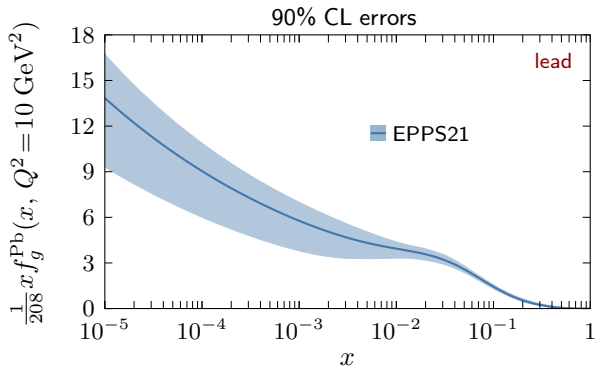
nPDF results – *glue*



nPDF results – *glue*



nPDF comparison – *glue*



EPPS21:

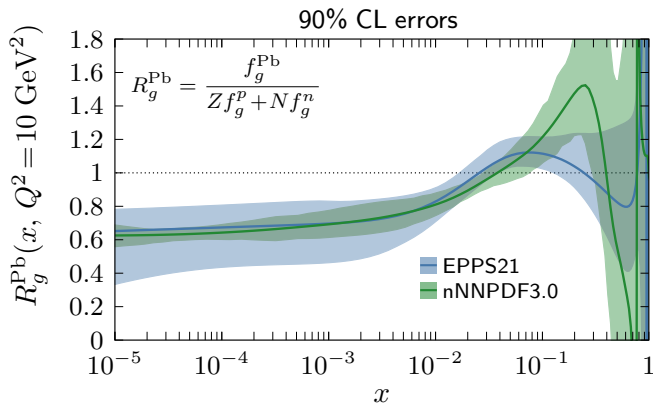
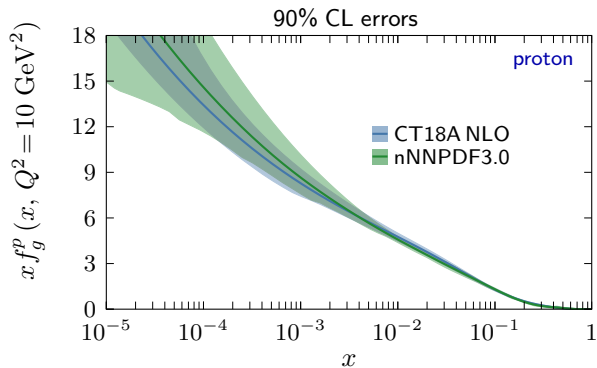
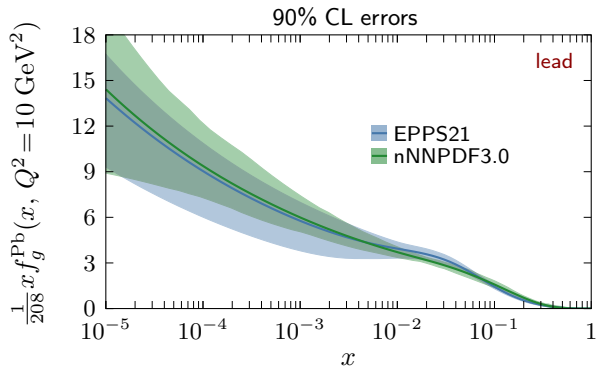
incl.- h^{RHIC}

$D_{\text{bwd}}^{\text{0fwd}}$

jets

W,Z

nPDF comparison – *glue*



EPPS21:

nNNPDF3.0:

incl.- h^{RHIC}

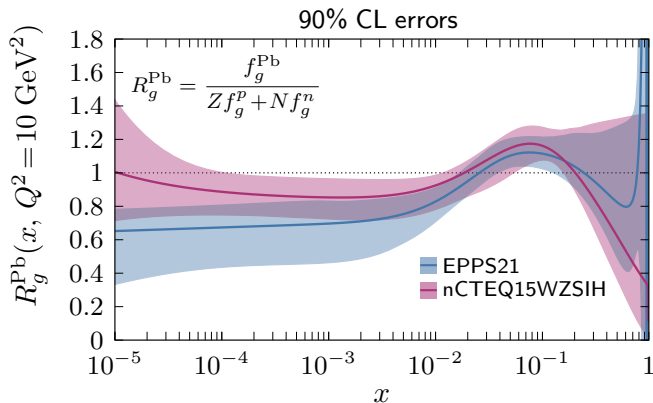
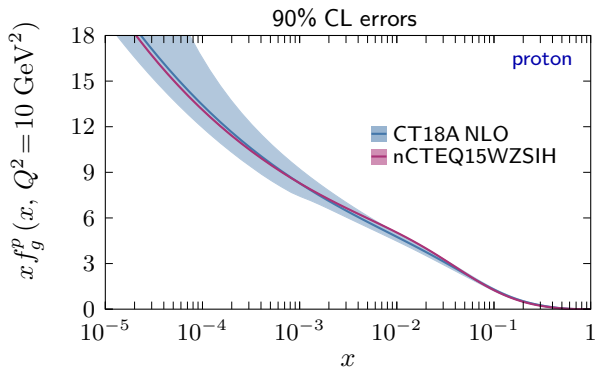
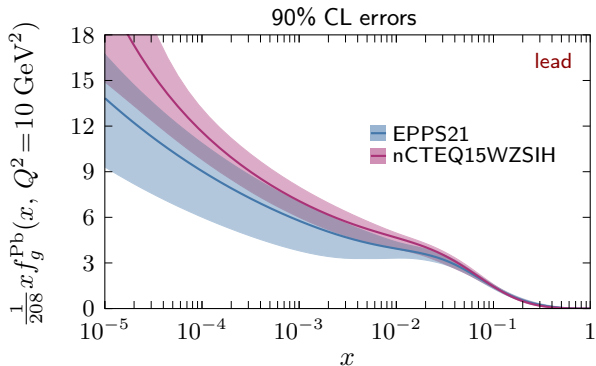
$D_{\text{bwd}}^{\text{0fwd}}$

jets W,Z

$D_{\text{fwd}}^{\text{0fwd}}$

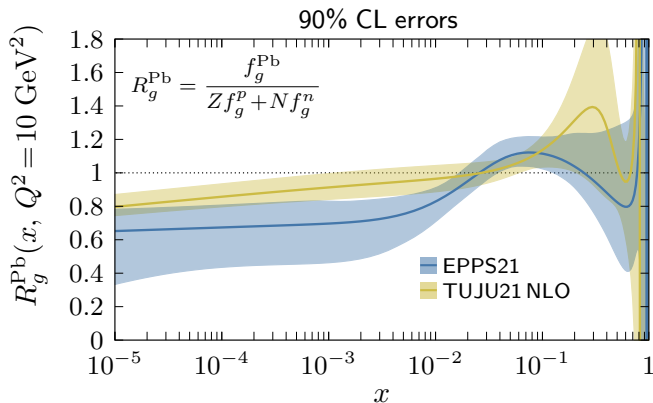
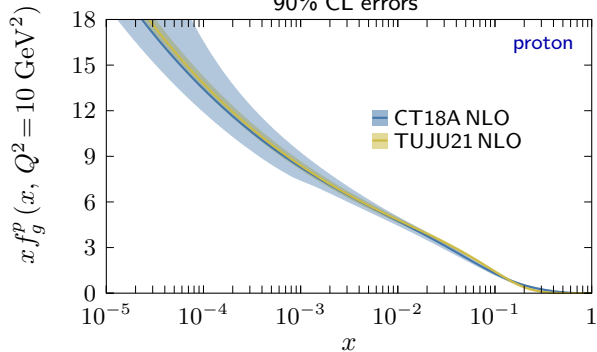
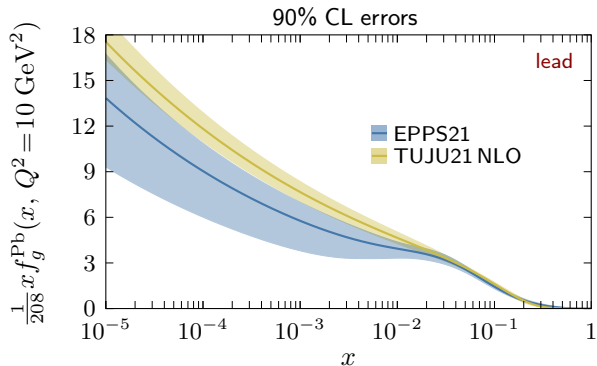
jets W,Z

nPDF comparison – *glue*



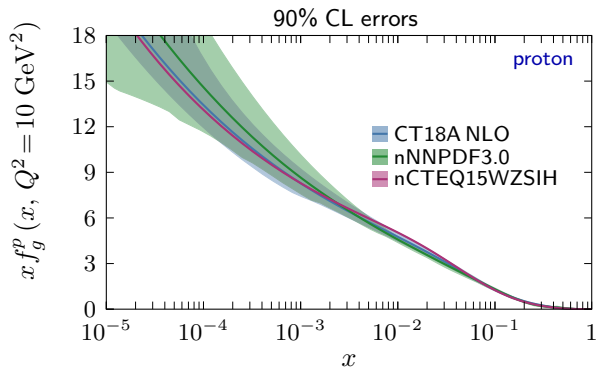
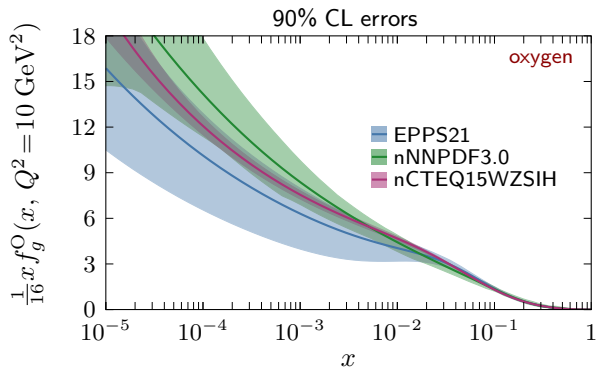
EPPS21:	incl.- h^{RHIC}	$D_{\text{bwd}}^{0\text{fwd}}$	jets	W,Z
nNNPDF3.0:		D^{fwd}	jets	W,Z
nCTEQ15WZSIH:	incl.- $h_{\text{LHC}}^{\text{RHIC}}$			W,Z

nPDF comparison – *glue*



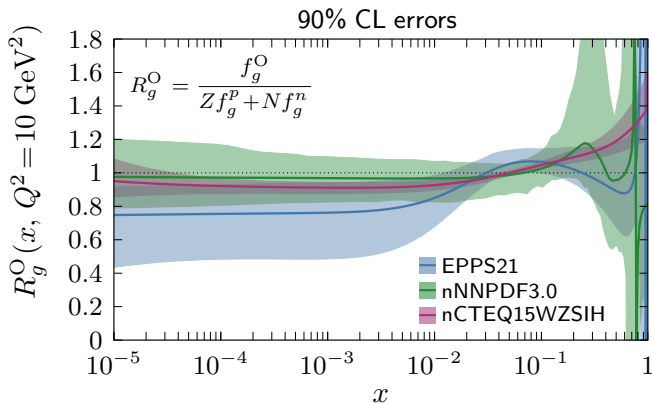
EPPS21:	incl.- h^{RHIC}	$D_{\text{bwd}}^{\text{0fwd}}$	jets	W,Z
nNNPDF3.0:		D^{0fwd}	jets	W,Z
nCTEQ15WZSIH:	incl.- $h_{\text{LHC}}^{\text{RHIC}}$			W,Z
TUJU21:				W,Z

nPDF comparison – *glue* in oxygen



nPDFs a major source of uncertainty in testing small-system energy loss with OO

Huss et al., PRL 126 (2021) 192301
 Brewer et al., PRD 105 (2022) 074040



EPPS21:

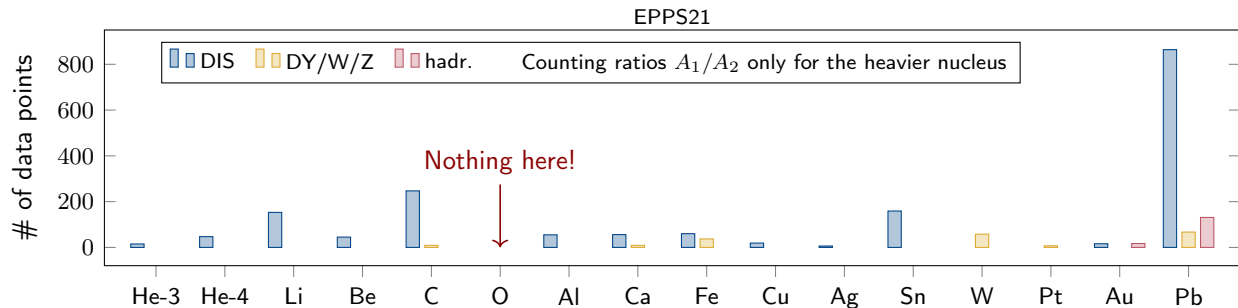
nNNPDF3.0:

nCTEQ15WZSIH:

incl.- h^{RHIC}	$D_{\text{bwd}}^{0\text{fwd}}$	jets	W,Z
	$D^{0\text{fwd}}$	jets	W,Z
incl.- $h_{\text{LHC}}^{\text{RHIC}}$			W,Z

only dAu and pPb!

Data availability w.r.t. A



$\sim 50\%$ of the data points are for Pb!

- ☺ Good coverage of DIS measurements for different A (but only fixed target!)
- ☹ DY data more scarce, but OK A coverage
- ☹ Hadronic observables available only for heavy nuclei!

Light-ion runs at LHC could:

- Complement other light-nuclei DY data with W and Z production (strangeness!)
- Give first direct constraints (e.g. dijets, D-mesons) on light-nuclei small- x gluon distributions!

Dijet production in pO at 9.9 TeV

Similar setup as in CMS 5.02 TeV pPb measurement

Total integrated pO cross section of 81 μb

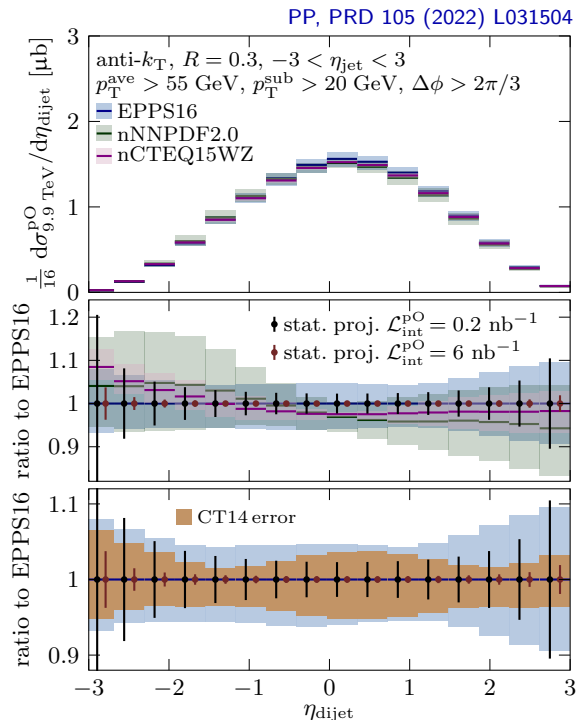
- Compare with $\sim 330 \mu\text{b}$ in pPb at 5.02 TeV
- Sufficient to give reasonable statistics even at relatively low luminosities
 - 16000 events at 0.2 nb^{-1}
 - 486000 events at 6 nb^{-1}

Problem: absolute cross sections very sensitive to the used free-proton PDFs

- Difficult to disentangle nuclear modifications from the free-proton d.o.f.s

Problem: We do not expect pp reference at 9.9 TeV

- Could we use a mixed energy ratio pO(9.9 TeV)/pp(8.8 TeV)?



Dijet R_{pO} in pO at 9.9 TeV

Problem: We do not expect pp reference at 9.9 TeV

- Could we use a mixed energy ratio $pO(9.9 \text{ TeV})/pp(8.8 \text{ TeV})$? Yes!

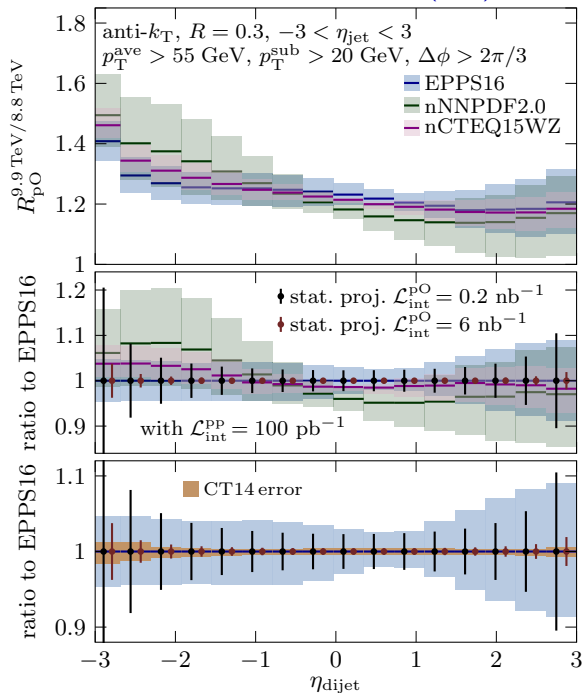
Excellent cancellation of free-proton PDFs

- Direct access to nuclear modifications

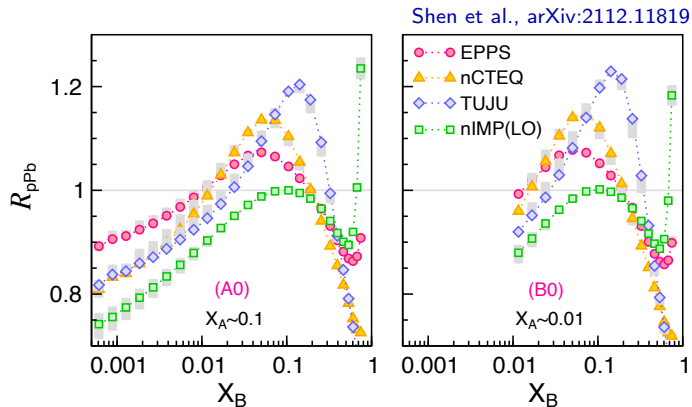
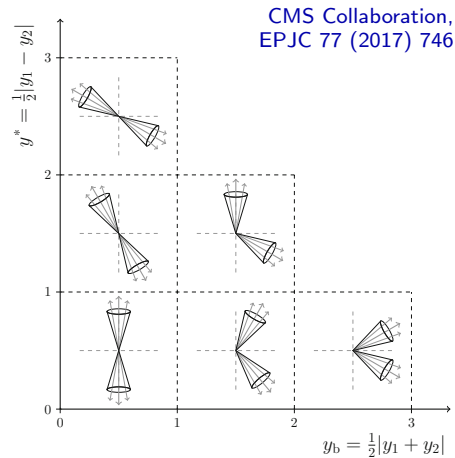
Already few nb^{-1} can be expected to be enough to put new constraints on nPDFs (if we have sufficient statistics for the pp reference)

- Can resolve different nPDF parametrisations!

PP, PRD 105 (2022) L031504



Triple-differential dijets in pPb?



Triple-differential measurement fixes partonic kinematics at LO

→ powerful test of factorisation and PDFs

Measured in pp at 8 TeV

CMS Collaboration, EPJC 77 (2017) 746

Should be feasible in pPb with Run 2/3 statistics?

Various observable choices possible, e.g. X_A, X_B, y^*

measurable!

$$X_B = \sum_{n \in \text{dijet}} \frac{E_{Tn}}{\sqrt{s}} e^{-y_n} \stackrel{\text{LO}}{=} x_{\text{Pb}}$$

momentum fraction from the lead side

Ellis & Soper, PRL 74 (1995) 5182

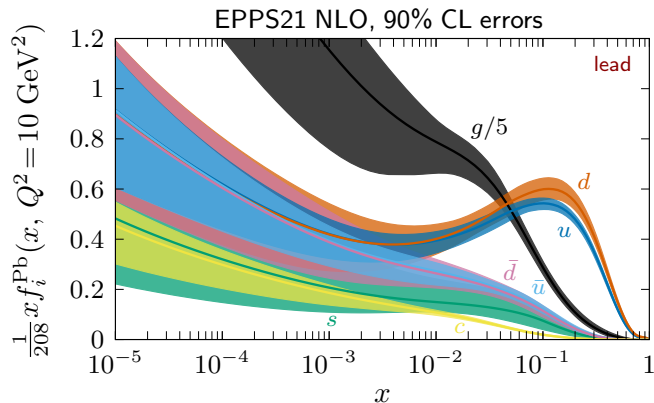
Summary

Ample progress in incorporating new data in global nPDF fits:

- LHC pPb data put unprecedented constraints on the gluon nPDF
- Work towards more global NNLO fits
- Ongoing work to understand the (cross)correlations between proton and nuclear PDF analyses

The future is luminous!

- Both collider and fixed-target experiments keep providing new data
- LHC Run 3 about to begin
- New experiments and upgrades to utilize: SMOG@LHCb, FoCal@ALICE, sPHENIX, EIC, LHeC, FPF...



Backup

Collinear factorisation of QCD

The cross section for producing an inclusive final state $k + X$ can be described as a convolution of...

... Coefficient Functions $\hat{d}\sigma^{ij \rightarrow k+X'}$ which are calculable from perturbative QCD...

$$d\sigma^{AB \rightarrow k+X}(Q^2) \stackrel{Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}}{=} \sum_{i,j,X'} f_i^A(Q^2) \otimes \hat{d}\sigma^{ij \rightarrow k+X'}(Q^2) \otimes f_j^B(Q^2) + \mathcal{O}(1/Q^2)$$

... and Parton Distribution Functions f_i^A, f_j^B which contain long-range physics and cannot be obtained by perturbative means...

... plus "Higher Twist" corrections which are suppressed at high enough momentum scale $Q \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$

The PDFs $f_i^A(x, Q^2)$ are *universal*, process independent,

parent hadron or nucleus

factorisation scale

parton flavour

fraction of momentum carried by the parton

and obey the DGLAP equations $Q^2 \frac{\partial f_i^A}{\partial Q^2} = \sum_j P_{ij} \otimes f_j^A$

splitting functions

Mellin conv.

... this is the framework which every PDF analysis and application relies on and tests!

Example parametrization: EPPS21

- Define nuclear PDFs in terms of

$$f_i^{p/A}(x, Q^2) = \underbrace{R_i^{p/A}(x, Q^2)}_{\text{nuclear modification}} \underbrace{f_i^p(x, Q^2)}_{\text{free-proton PDF}}$$

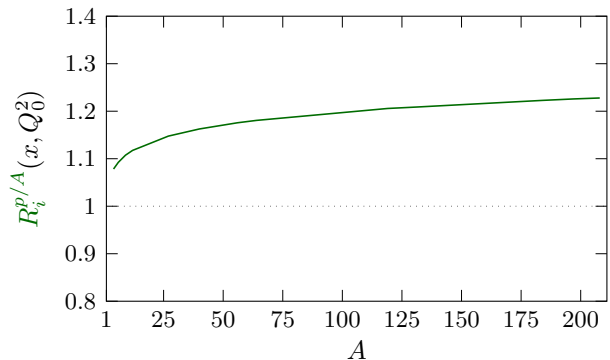
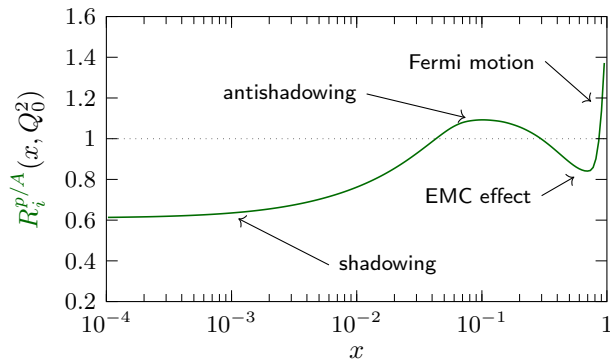
bound-proton PDF free-proton PDF

- PDFs of the full nucleus are then constructed with

$$f_i^A(x, Q^2) = Z f_i^{p/A}(x, Q^2) + N f_i^{n/A}(x, Q^2),$$

and assuming $f_i^{p/A} \overset{\text{isospin}}{\longleftrightarrow} f_j^{n/A}$

- Parametrize the x and A dependence of $R_i^{p/A}(x, Q_0^2)$ at $Q_0 = m_{\text{charm}} = 1.3$ GeV
 - Use a phenomenologically motivated piecewise function in x
 - Use a power-law type function in A



DIS in the “transition region” $W \gtrsim 1.7$ GeV
 just above the
 resonance-dominated one

Target-mass corrections
 important!

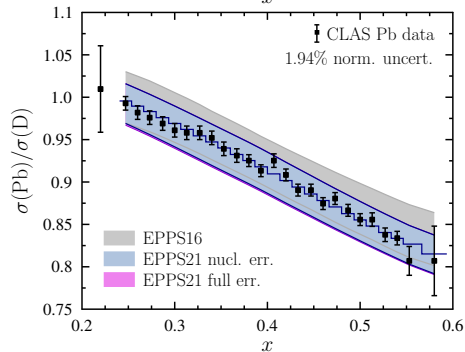
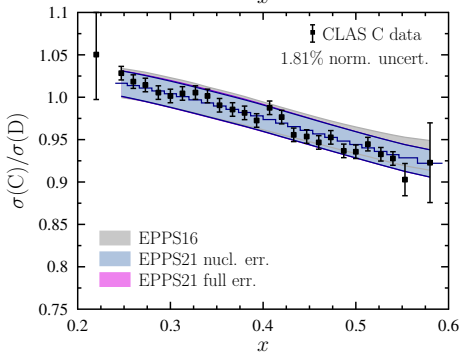
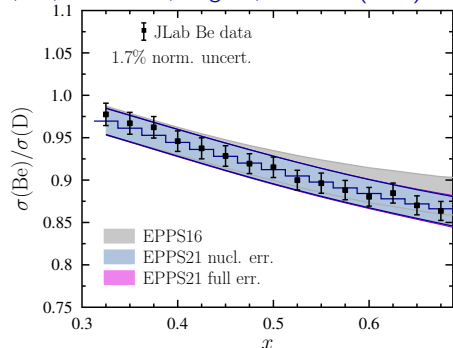
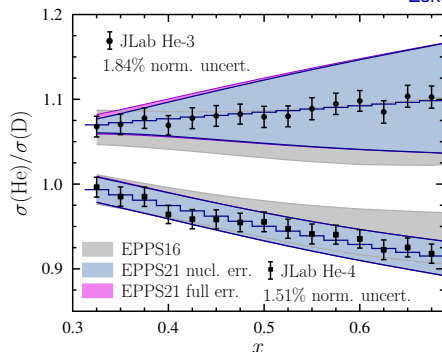
Deuterium and
 higher-twist corrections
 can improve the fit

Segarra et al.,
 PRD 103 (2021) 114015

but are not necessary to
 describe the data

Paukkunen & Zurita,
 EPJC 80 (2020) 381
 Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado,
 EPJC 82 (2022) 413

Eskola, PP, Paukkunen, Salgado, EPJC 82 (2022) 413



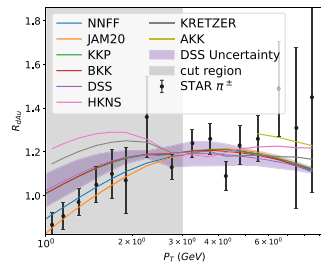
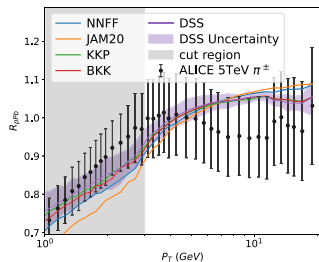
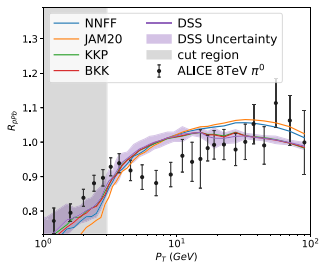
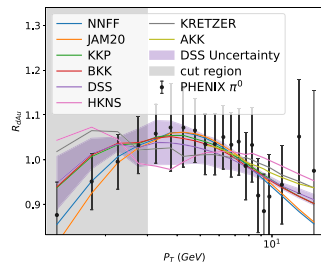
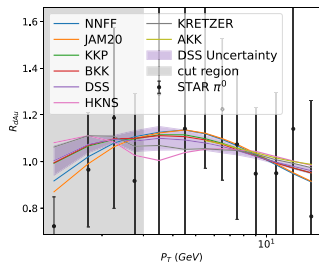
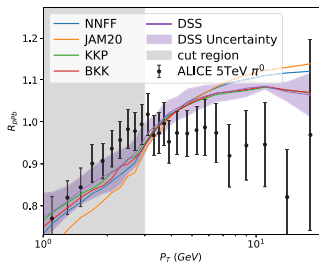
Single-inclusive hadrons – nCTEQ15WZSIH

Duwentäster et al., PRD 104 (2021) 094005

Complementary gluon constraints from π^0, π^\pm, K^\pm production

Fragmentation Functions *partially* cancel in nuclear ratios

nCTEQ15WZSIH fits to the data from PHENIX, STAR and ALICE with a cut at $p_T > 3$ GeV



data from: PHENIX Collaboration, PRL 98 (2007) 172302
STAR Collaboration, PLB 637 (2006) 161
PRC 81 (2010) 064904
ALICE Collaboration, PLB 760 (2016) 720
EPJC 78 (2018) 624
PLB 827 (2022) 136943

PHENIX pion production small-system scan

PHENIX Collaboration, arXiv:2111.05756

New mid-rapidity π^0 data from PHENIX

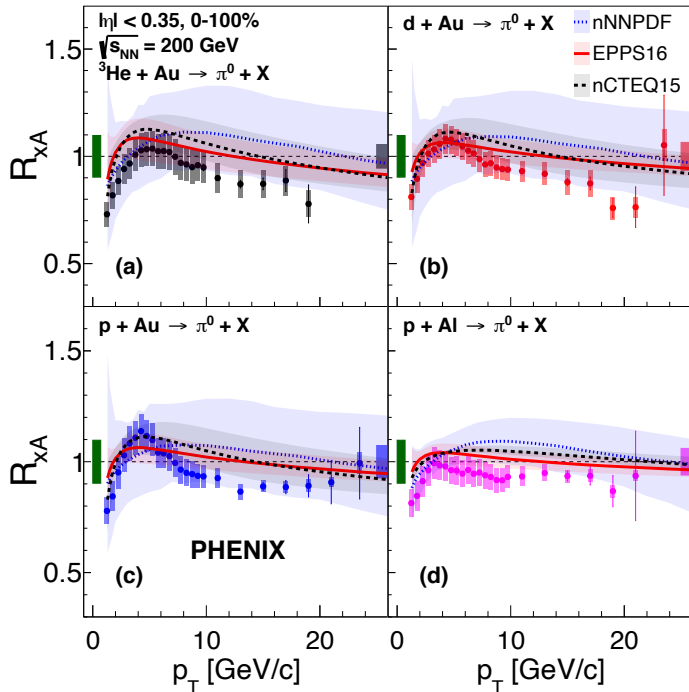
PHENIX Collaboration, arXiv:2111.05756

- improved precision
- higher $p_T \rightarrow$ larger x

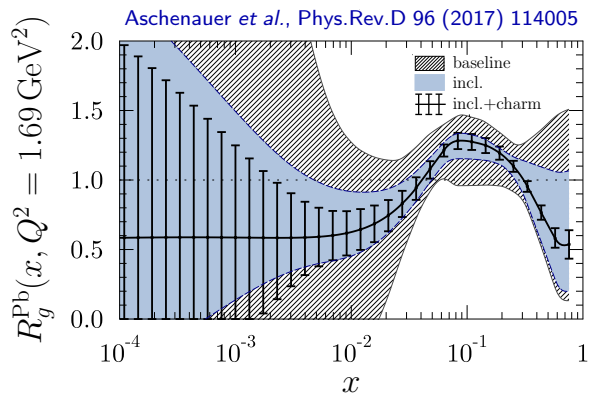
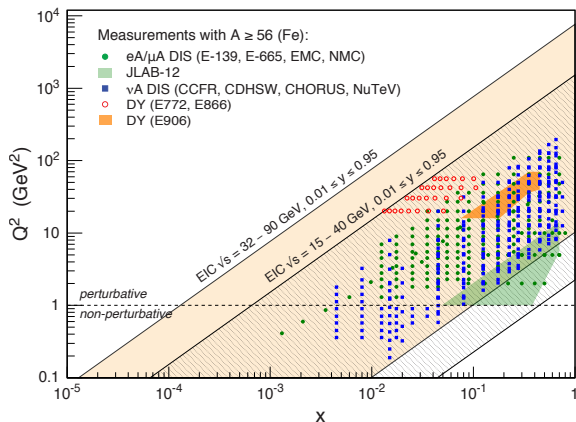
Contrary to nPDF expectations, measured “Cronin peak” size follows the ordering ${}^3\text{He} + \text{Au} < d + \text{Au} < p + \text{Au}$

- higher-twist (multiple-scattering)?
- flow-like component?

At high p_T the nPDF predictions overshoot the data, but mind the large normalisation uncertainties



Gluon constraints from EIC



EIC will significantly widen the kinematic range of DIS constraints for nPDFs

- Comparing with LHC measurements will put collinear factorization with nuclei to a stringent test

With the F_L extraction capability, EIC provides a clean probe to study small- x gluons

- Good constraining power to well down to 10^{-2} in a high-energy scenario

Charm-tagged cross-section measurement can vastly reduce high- x gluon uncertainty

see also: [Kelsey *et al.*, Phys.Rev.D 104 \(2021\) 054002](#)

UPCs in collinear factorisation

First phenomenological implementation of the exclusive J/ψ photoproduction NLO corrections

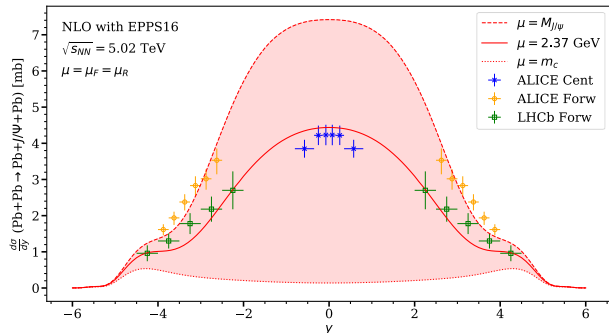
Ivanov et al., EPJC 34 (2004) 297
 Jones et al., J. Phys. G 43 (2016) 035002

in ultraperipheral Pb+Pb

Large scale uncertainty

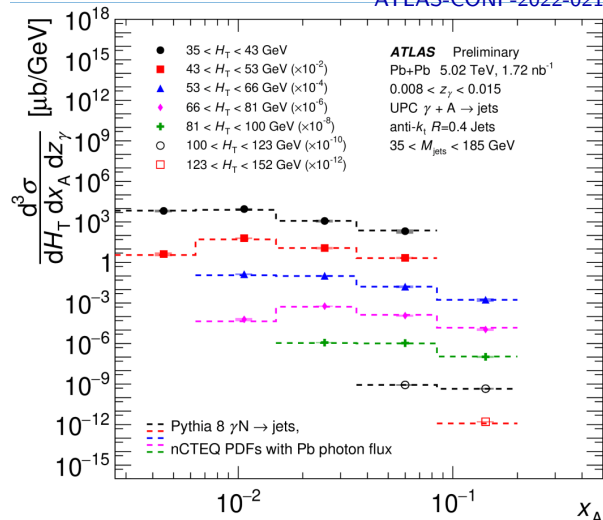
- perturbative convergence?
- cancel with nuclear ratios?

Eskola et al., arXiv:2203.11613



ATLAS inclusive dijet photoproduction measurement now fully unfolded

ATLAS-CONF-2022-021



Proton strangeness from νA DIS vs. LHC EW data

$$K_s = \frac{\int_0^1 dx x [s(x, Q^2) + \bar{s}(x, Q^2)]}{\int_0^1 dx x [\bar{u}(x, Q^2) + \bar{d}(x, Q^2)]}$$

table and fig. from Feng et al., "The Forward Physics Facility at the High-Luminosity LHC", arXiv:2203.05090

Data set	Ref.	Proton PDF sets					Nuclear PDF sets			
		ABMP16	CT18	MSHT20	NNPDF4.0	EPPS21	nCTEQ15	nNNPDF3.0	TUJU21	
CHORUS $\sigma_{CC}^{\nu, \bar{\nu}}$	Pb [1238]	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	
CHORUS	Pb [1239]	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
NOMAD $\mathcal{R}_{\mu\mu}$	Fe [1195]	✓	✗	✗	(✓)	✗	✗	✗	✗	
CCFR $x F_3^P$	Fe [1240]	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
CCFR F_2^P	Fe [1241]	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	
CDSHW $F_2^P, x F_3^P$	Fe [1242]	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	
NuTeV $\sigma_{CC}^{\nu, \bar{\nu}}$	Fe [1196]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	
NuTeV F_2, F_3	Fe [1194]	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	

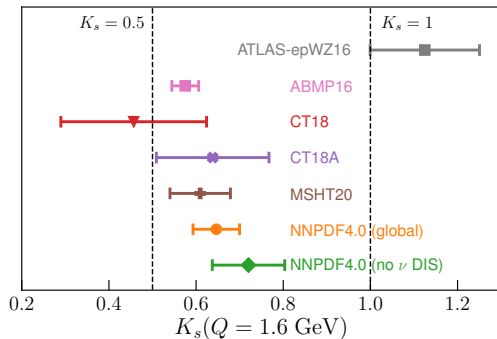
Proton-PDF fits traditionally include neutrino-*nucleus* DIS for improved strange-quark constraints → suppressed strangeness

Complementary data from ATLAS EW-boson production confronts this view with preference for unsuppressed strange

ATLAS Collaboration, PRL 109 (2012) 012001
EPJC 77 (2017) 367

Simultaneous fit feasible w/ NNLO c-quark mass corrections

Faura et al., EPJC 80 (2020) 1168
Bailey et al., EPJC 81 (2021) 341
Ball et al., arXiv:2109.02653



Nuclear uncertainties in proton-PDF fits

Ball et al., arXiv:2109.02653

Nuclear effects can impact the proton-PDF fits!

NNPDF4.0:

- Different large- x sea-quark behaviour depending on whether the uncertainties from nNNPDF2.0 nuclear PDFs were included or not
- Nuclear data found to constrain the proton PDFs even with nuclear uncertainties included

Ball et al., EPJC 79 (2019) 282

Ball et al., arXiv:2109.02653

MSHT20: take nuclear corrections from DSSZ + additional 3-param. fit

Bailey et al., EPJC 81 (2021) 341

CT18: does not report on any use of nuclear corrections

