Parton distributions at small x

Keping Xie (U. Pitt) Pavel Nadolsky (SMU)

CTEQ-TEA (Tung et al.) collaboration

South China U.: T.-J. Hou

Kennesaw State U.: M. Guzzi

Michigan State U.: J. Huston, J. Pumplin, D. Stump, C. Schmidt, C.-P. Yuan

Shanghai Jiao Tong U.: J. Gao

Southern Methodist U.: P. Nadolsky

Argonne National Lab: T. Hobbs

Xinjiang U.: S. Dulat, I. Sitiwaldi

U. of Pittsburgh: K. Xie



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How to treat the DIS low-Q and small-x data?

NNPDF & xFitter: BFKL to resum the small-x [1710.05935,1802.00064]
CT: an x-dependent DIS scale, motivated by saturation models [1912.10053]

PDF ensemble	Factorization scale in DIS	ATLAS 7 Z/W data included?	CDHSW $F_2^{p,d}$ data included?	Pole charm mass, GeV
CT18	$\mu_{F,DIS}^2 = \mathbf{Q}^2$	No	Yes	1.3
CT18X	$\mu_{F,DIS}^2 = 0.8^2 \left(Q^2 + \frac{0.3 \ GeV^2}{x^{0.3}} \right)$	No	Yes	1.3
CT18A	$\mu_{F,DIS}^2 = \mathbf{Q}^2$	Yes	Yes	1.3
CT18Z	$\mu_{F,DIS}^2 = 0.8^2 \left(Q^2 + \frac{0.3 \ GeV^2}{x^{0.3}} \right)$	Yes	No	1.4

CT18 parton distributions

Four PDF ensembles: CT18 (default), A, X, and Z



CT18X get a better chi² by around 70 units. CT18X enhances (reduces) gluon (light-quark) PDFs at $x \sim 10^{-4}$

CT18X and Z: a special factorization scale in DIS

The CT18Z fits uses a $\mu_{DIS,X}$ scale that reproduces many features of NNLO-NLLx fits with $\ln(1/x)$ resummation by the NNPDF [arXiv:1710.05935] and xFitter [1802.0064] groups.

$$\mu_{DIS,X}^2 = 0.8^2 \left(Q^2 + \frac{0.3 \ GeV^2}{x^{0.3}} \right)$$

g Ratio of PDFs: CT18 (x-dependent scale)/CT18, Q=2 GeV 1.5_F 1.4 C d 1.3 ---- S 1.2 ----- C x-dependent DIS 0.8 scale, effect on PDFs 0.7 0.6 0.5[⊥] 10⁻⁵10⁻⁴ 10⁻³ 10⁻² 0.1 0.2 0.5 0.7 1



CT18X and Z: a special factorization scale in DIS

Right: when the χ^2 weight for the inclusive HERA I+II DIS is increased to wt = 10 to suppress pulls from the other experiments, χ^2_{CT18Z}/N_{pt} for HERA I+II DIS and HERA charm production decreases to about the same levels as in HERA-only NNLO+NLLx fits by other groups.

 NNLO with an x-dependent scale is statistically indistinguishable from BFKL resummation in the CT18 x-Q region (Q > 2 GeV)



CT18X vs CT18sx (small-x resumed to NLLx)



Parton luminosities



Structure function F2 at low Q





- CT uses the SACOT heavy-quark scheme. Small-x resummation is performed in the FONLL scheme that close to the SACOT.
- > The small-x resummed F2 is obtained with APFEL, and folded in a K-factor approach:

$$F^{\text{NLLx, SACOT}}(\text{CT18sx}) = F^{\text{NNLO, SACOT}}(\text{CT18}) \underbrace{\frac{F^{\text{NLLx}}(\text{CT18sx})}{F^{\text{NNLO}}(\text{CT18})}}_{\equiv K_1, \text{FONLL}}.$$

- > For F2, the CT18X is indistinguishable with CT18sx down to $x \sim 10^{-5}$. It only takes off below this x value.
- At higher Q, the impact of CT18X and CT18sx on F2 is comparably small (see backup slides).

Structure function FL



- ➤ At low Q, CT18X prediction agrees better than CT18 with the H1 FL data. At x< 5 · 10⁻⁵, CT18X (CT18sx) predicts reduction (enhancement) of FL.
- At high Q, both gives enhancement to FL, while the CT18X prescription is sizably smaller.
- It would be very interesting to see which is preferred by LHeC.

In comparison with N3LO PDFs



Conclusion

- Both the small-x resummation and the saturation data scale prescription improve the goodness-of-fit for HERA I+II DIS data
- Both CT18X and CT18sx enhance the gluon and reduce the singlet PDF.
- At high x or high Q, they become indistinguishable within PDF errors.
- At x<10^-5 and Q<2 GeV, NLLx and NNLO+saturation scale may predict different FL behavior.