

# CT18 Fitted Charm: possibilities at CERN FPF

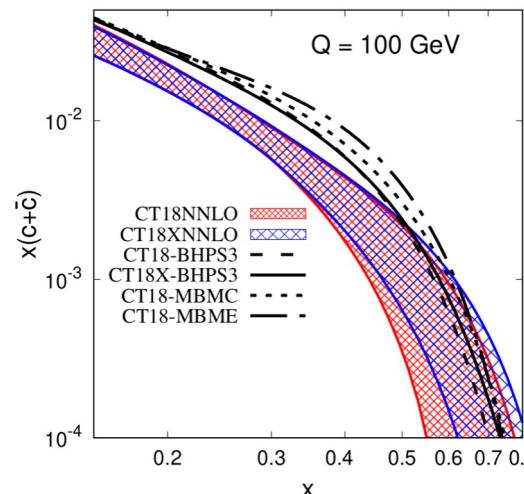
Tim Hobbs, ANL



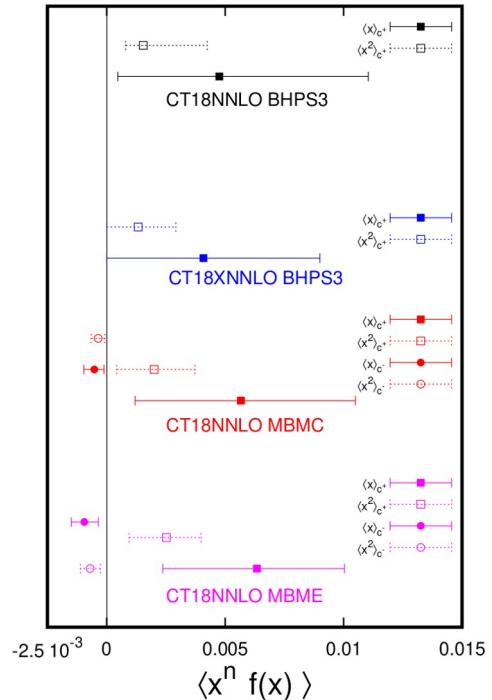
with M. Guzzi, K. Xie, J. Huston,  
P. Nadolsky, C.-P. Yuan

and members of the  
CTEQ-TEA (Tung Et. Al.) working group

recently published:  
[PLB 843 \(2023\) 137975](#)



Nonperturbative charm moments  $Q_0 = 1.27 \text{ GeV}$   
Intervals of  $\Delta\chi^2 < 10$



see also: [1707.00657](#)  
and [2205.10444](#)

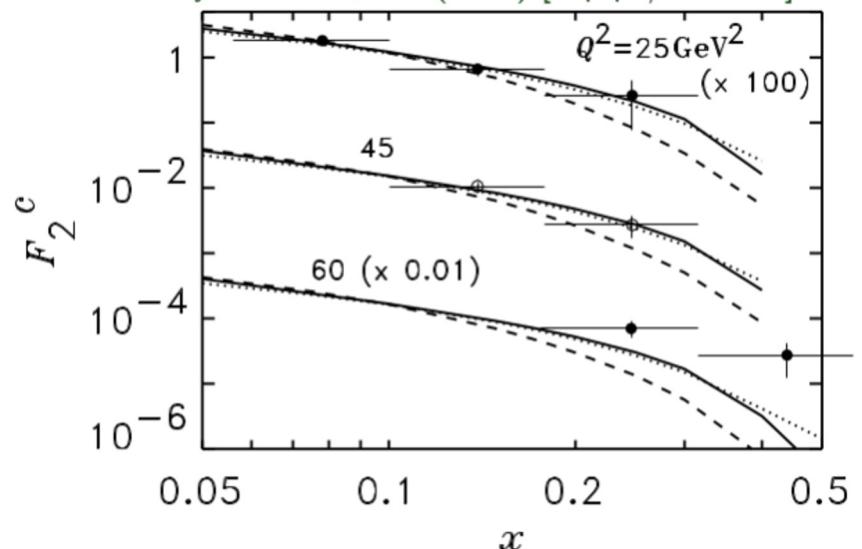
heavy quarks typically implemented *perturbatively* in QCD analyses

$$F_i = C_i \otimes f_{c/p}$$

might also explore *nonperturbative* charm; *i.e.*, not radiatively generated,

$$c(x, Q = m_c) = c^{\text{IC}}(x) \neq 0$$

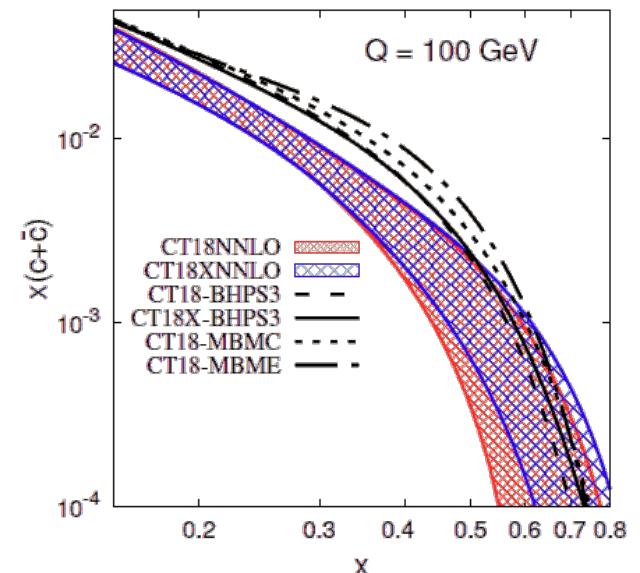
F. M. Steffens, W. Melnitchouk and A. W. Thomas,  
Eur. Phys. J. C 11, 673 (1999) [hep-ph/9903441].



but can global PDF fits constrain  
“intrinsic” charm?

“fitted charm” is a more direct term to describe the charm PDF found in the global QCD fit

analog: the fitted charm mass



# PDF fits may include a fitted charm PDF

fitted charm = “higher-twist charm”  
+ other (possibly not universal)  
higher  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ , higher-power terms

QCD factorization theorem for DIS structure function  $F(x, Q)$  [Collins, 1998]:

All  $\alpha_s$  orders: 
$$F(x, Q) = \sum_{a=0}^{N_f} \int_x^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} \mathcal{C}_a \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, \frac{Q}{\mu}, \frac{m_c}{\mu}; \alpha(\mu) \right) f_{a/p}(\xi, \mu) + \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^2/m_c^2, \Lambda^2/Q^2)$$

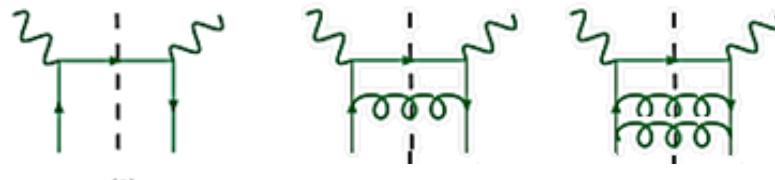
PDF fits implement this formula only up to (N)NLO ( $N_{ord} = 1$  or  $2$ ):

PDF fits: 
$$F(x, Q)^{[\text{trunc}]} = \sum_{a=0}^{N_f} \int_x^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} \mathcal{C}_a^{(N_{ord})} \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, \frac{Q}{\mu}, \frac{m_c}{\mu}; \alpha(\mu) \right) f_{a/p}^{(N_{ord})}(\xi, \mu)$$

leading-power charm PDF component cancels at  $Q \approx m_c$ , up to a higher order  
fitted charm component may potentially **absorb missing terms** of orders  $\alpha_s^p$  with  
 $p > N_{ord}$ , or  $\Lambda^2/m_c^2$ , or  $\Lambda^2/Q^2$

# fitted charm contributions, practical implementation in CT18

Keep only  $c_{h,h} \otimes f_h$ :  
Discard  $C_{h,gg}^{(k)} \otimes f_{gg}$ , etc.



In the absence of full computation, we (and other groups) make the simplest approximation:

$$F_{FC}(x, Q_0) = [c_{h,h} \otimes f_{c/p}^{FC}](x, Q_0)$$

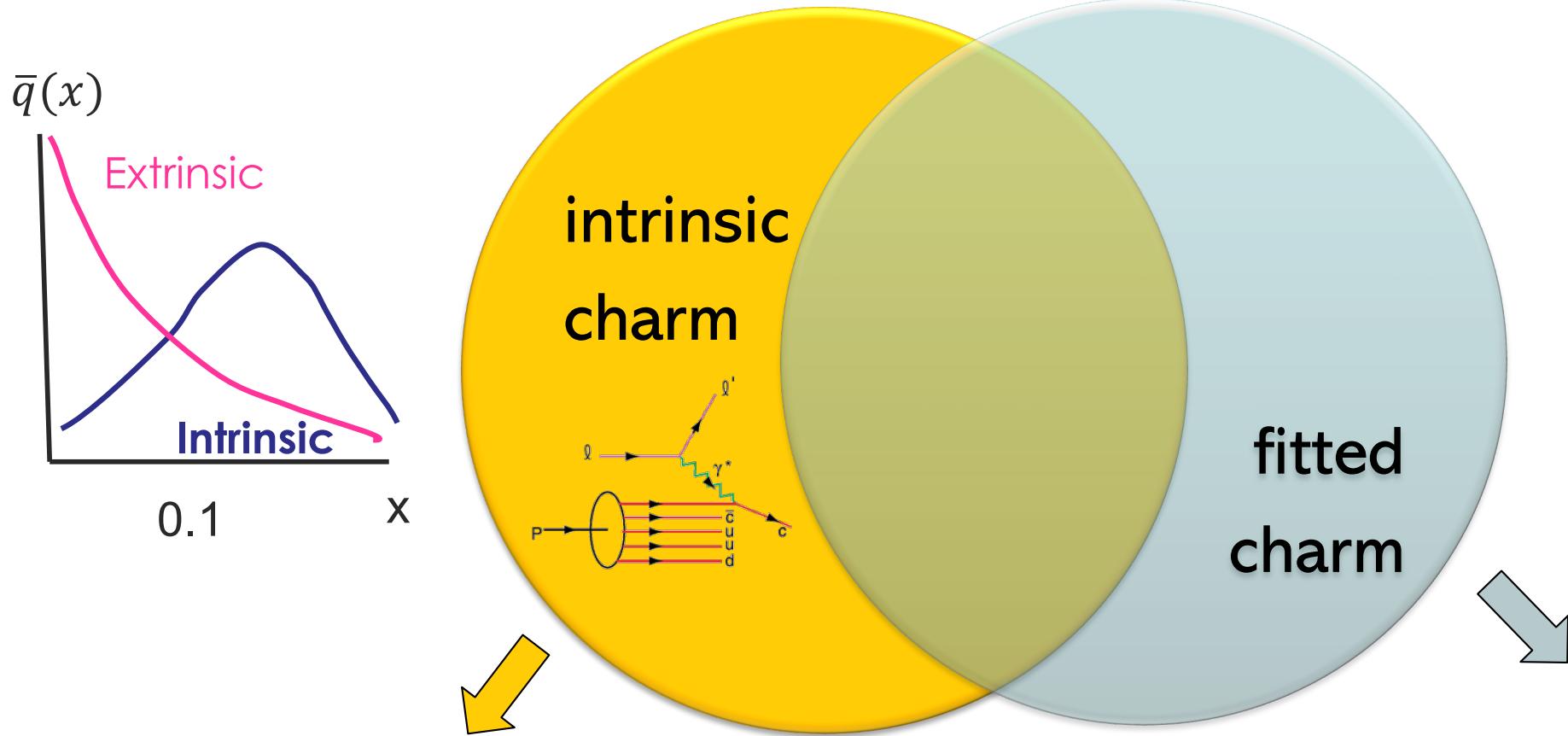
**$c_{h,h}$  is the twist-2 charm DIS coefficient function** introduced to factorize the twist-4 ladder terms; defined according to the SACOT-MPS scheme

Start with  $N_f = 3$  at  $\mu_0 = m_c - \epsilon$ , evolve to  $\mu > \mu_0$  by incrementing  $N_f$  to 4 and 5

FC is compatible with any version of the ACOT scheme (cf. arXiv:1707.00657).

Flavor-excitation coefficient functions of these schemes differ by terms of  $O(m_c^2/Q^2)$ . Their overall differences are of  $O(\Lambda^2/Q^2)$ , i.e., within the accuracy of the factorization theorem.

# challenging to formulate a rigorous definition of intrinsic charm



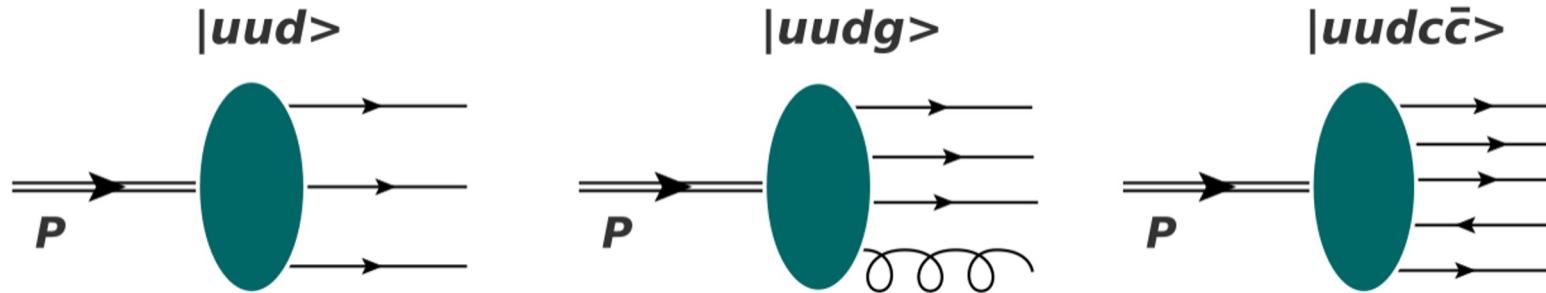
- The concept of nonperturbative methods
- Can refer to a component of the hadronic Fock state or the type of the hard process
- Predicts a typical enhancement of the charm PDF at  $x \gtrsim 0.2$

- 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 QCD can generate a low-scale charm PDF

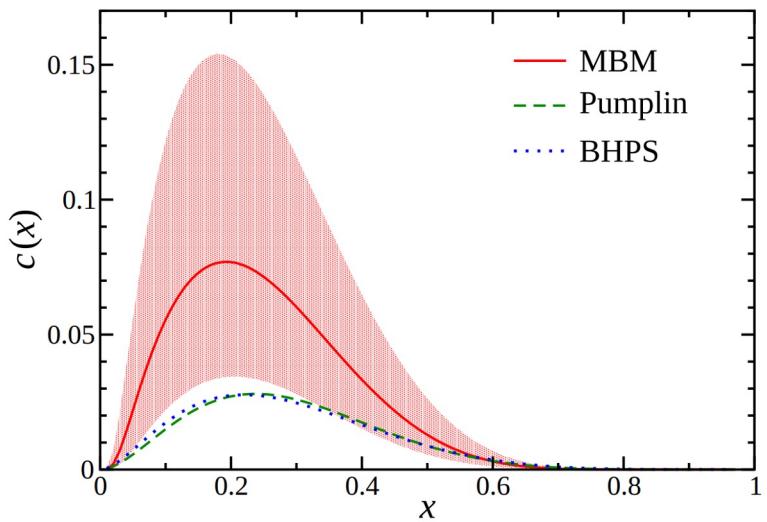
## Fock expansion

Brodsky, Hoyer, Peterson, Sakai (BHPs); Phys. Lett. **B93** (1980) 451.



IC PDF: transition matrix element,  $|\text{proton}\rangle \rightarrow |uudc\bar{c}\rangle \rightarrow$  old-fashioned PT;  
scalar field theory

$$P(p \rightarrow uudc\bar{c}) \sim \left[ M^2 - \sum_{i=1}^5 \frac{k_{\perp i}^2 + m_i^2}{x_i} \right]^{-2} \quad (\text{'BHPs3': full mass dependence})$$



$$m_c = m_{\bar{c}} \implies c^{\text{BHPs}}(x) = \bar{c}^{\text{BHPs}}(x)$$

→ more complex models: meson-baryon model (MBM); produce charm-anticharm asymmetry

TJH, Londergan, Melnitchouk, PRD89, 074008 (2014).

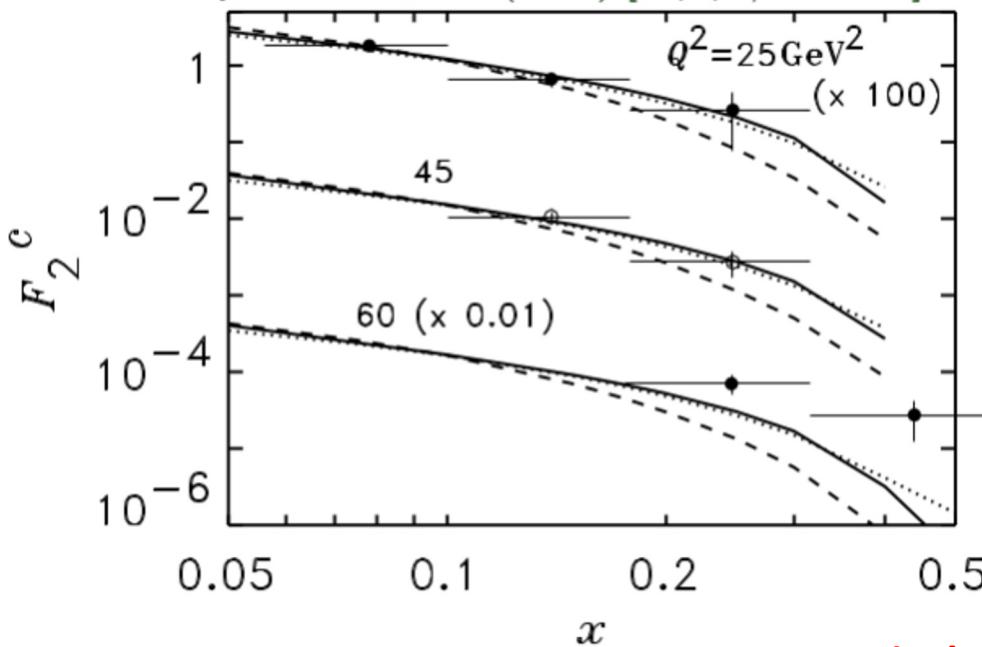
→ generically yields valence-like shape; governed by charm, hadronic mass scales

## few expts with clear sensitivity; EMC data challenging to fit

historically, charm structure function data,  $F_2^{c\bar{c}}$ , from EMC were suggestive

J. J. Aubert *et al.* (EMC), NPB**213** (1983) 31–64.

F. M. Steffens, W. Melnitchouk and A. W. Thomas,  
Eur. Phys. J. C **11**, 673 (1999) [hep-ph/9903441].



- hint of high- $x$  excess in select  $Q^2$  bins
- data were analyzed only at LO
- show anomalous  $Q^2$  dependence
- EMC data fit poorly in CT14 IC study
- closely related to high- $x$   $g(x)$  PDF

not included in CT18 FC

CT14 IC, arXiv: 1707.00657.

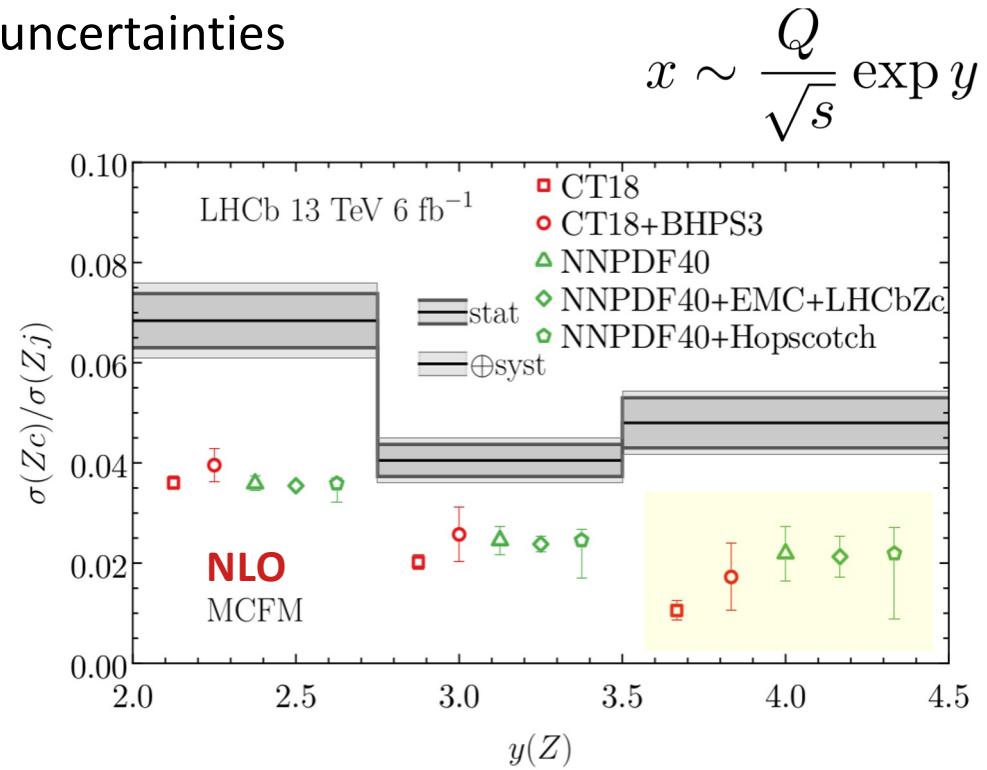
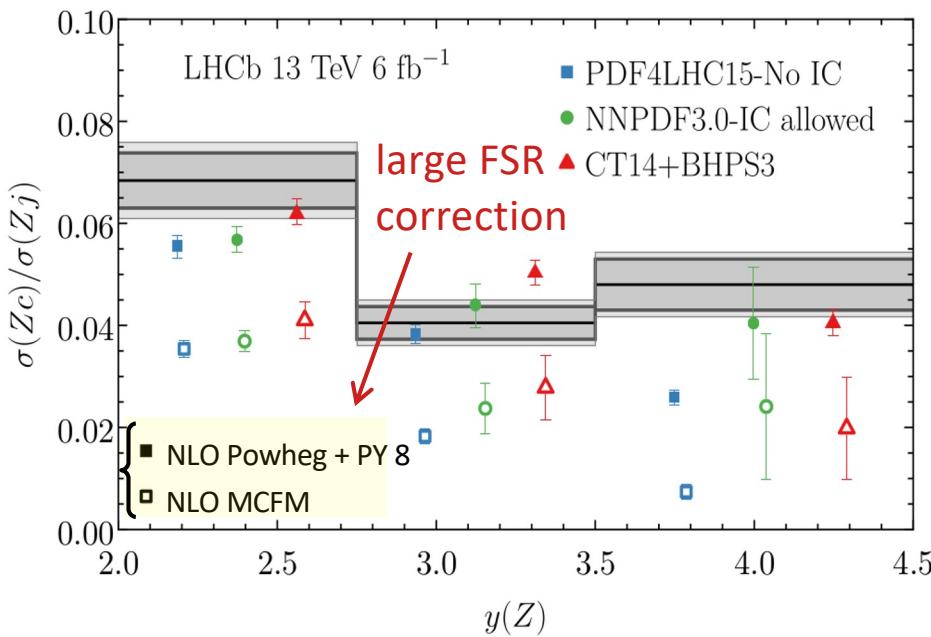
Candidate NNLO PDF fits	$\chi^2/N_{\text{pts}}$			
	All Experiments	HERA inc. DIS	HERA $c\bar{c}$ SIDIS	EMC $c\bar{c}$ SIDIS
CT14 + EMC (weight=0), no IC	1.10	1.02	1.26	3.48
CT14 + EMC (weight=10), no IC	1.14	1.06	1.18	2.32
CT14 + EMC in BHPS model	1.11	1.02	1.25	2.94
CT14 + EMC in SEA model	1.12	1.02	1.28	3.46

# Z+c at LHCb: intriguing new data; need theory development

2022 LHCb 13 TeV data: (Z+c) / (Z+jet) ratios; 3 rapidity bins

R. Aaij, *et al.* (LHCb); arXiv: 2109.08084.

- FC slightly enhances ratio; not enough to improve agreement with data  
→ meanwhile, significant theory uncertainties

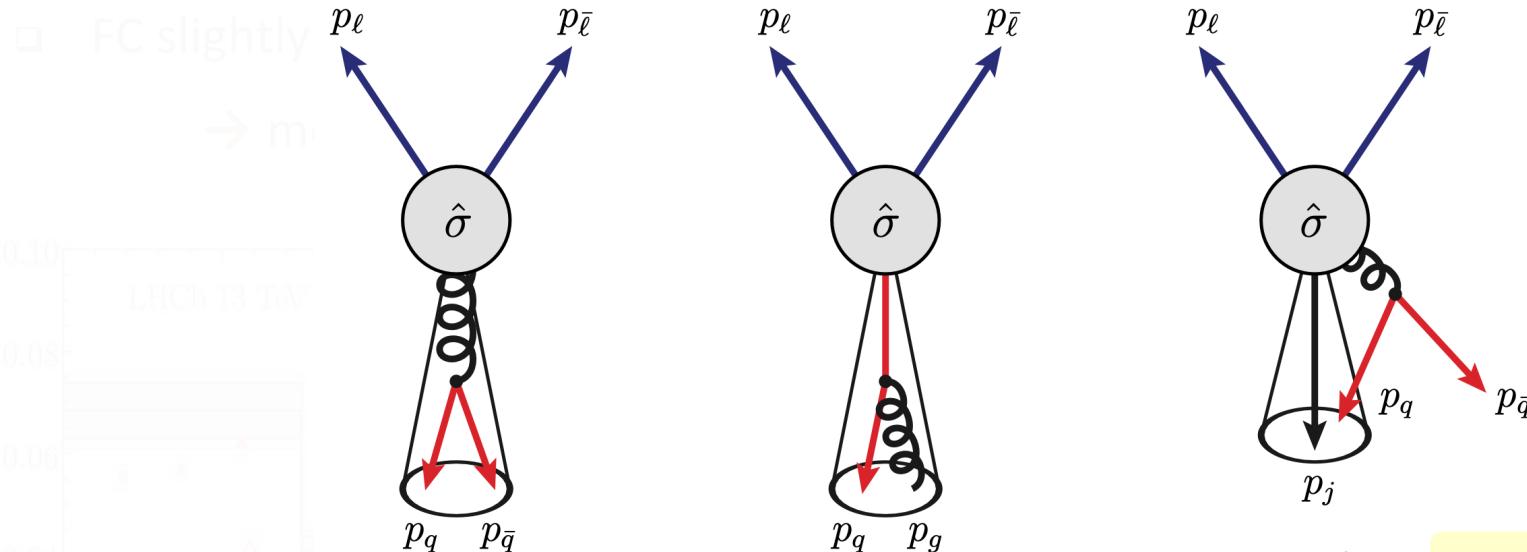


→ calculated **NLO** cross-section ratio similarly depends on showering, hadronization

NNLO calculations recently available, but not implemented in PDF fits

# Z+c at LHCb: intriguing new data; need theory development

- in addition to NNLO corrections, IRC safety poses challenges to jet algorithms:



from Gauld et al., 2302.12844

- multi-parton interactions (MPI) can represent a significant correction
  - ~10% effect on  $(Z+c)/(Z+jet)$ , especially for  $y(Z) > 3.5$ ; large uncertainty
- massless fixed-order calculation affected by divergences

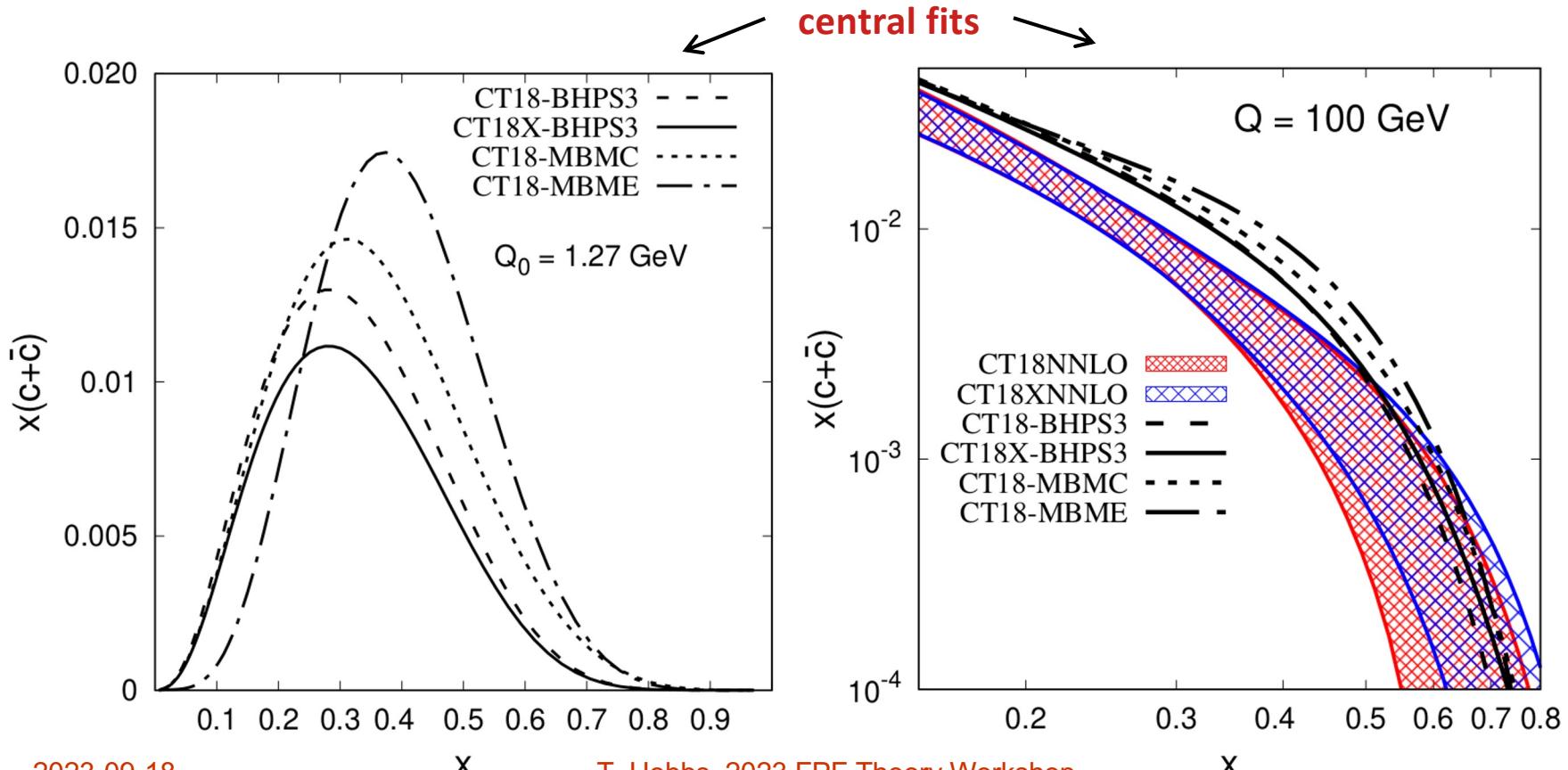
theory improvements would help guarantee interpretation for PDF extractions

# CT18 FC total charm PDFs

FC scenarios traverse range of high- $x$  behaviors from IC models

- fit implementation of BHPS from CT14IC (BHPS3) on CT18 or CT18X (NNLO)
- fit two MBMs: MBMC (confining), MBME (effective mass) on CT18

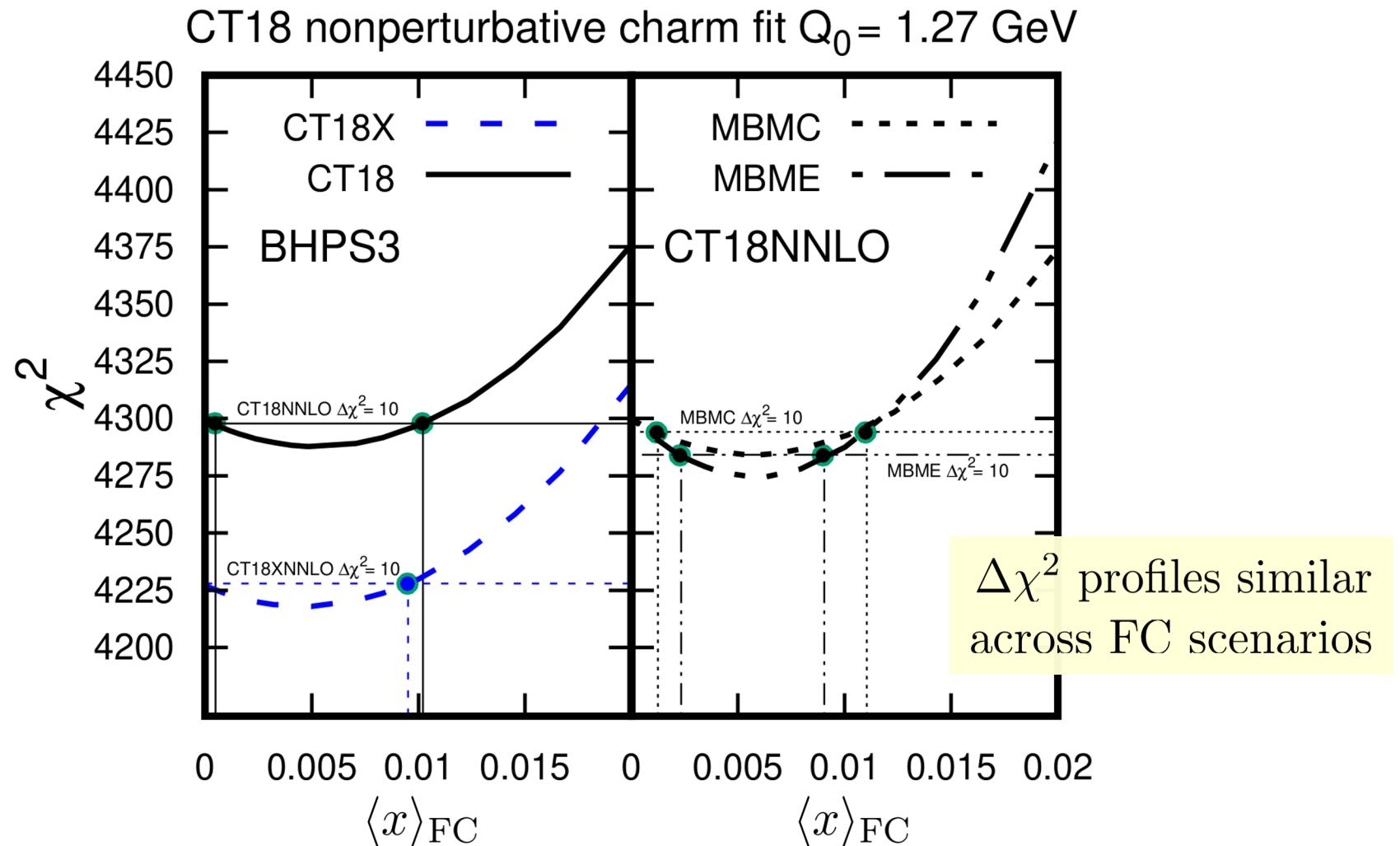
investigate constraints from newer LHC data in CT18



signal for FC in CT18 study, but with shallower  $\Delta\chi^2$  than CT14 IC

FC uncertainty quantified by normalization via  $\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}}$  for each input IC model

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



# FC PDF moments as F.o.M.

moments of the FC PDFs often used to characterize magnitude, asymmetry

$$\langle x^n \rangle_{c^\pm} = \int_0^1 dx x^n (c \pm \bar{c})[x, Q]$$

$$\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} \equiv \langle x \rangle_{c^+}[Q_0 = 1.27 \text{ GeV}] \quad \dots \text{at NNLO.}$$

$$= 0.0048^{+0.0063}_{-0.0043} \quad (+0.0090)_{(-0.0048)}, \text{ CT18 (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0041^{+0.0049}_{-0.0041} \quad (+0.0091)_{(-0.0041)}, \text{ CT18X (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0057^{+0.0048}_{-0.0045} \quad (+0.0084)_{(-0.0057)}, \text{ CT18 (MBMC)}$$

$$= 0.0061^{+0.0030}_{-0.0038} \quad (+0.0064)_{(-0.0061)}, \text{ CT18 (MBME)}$$

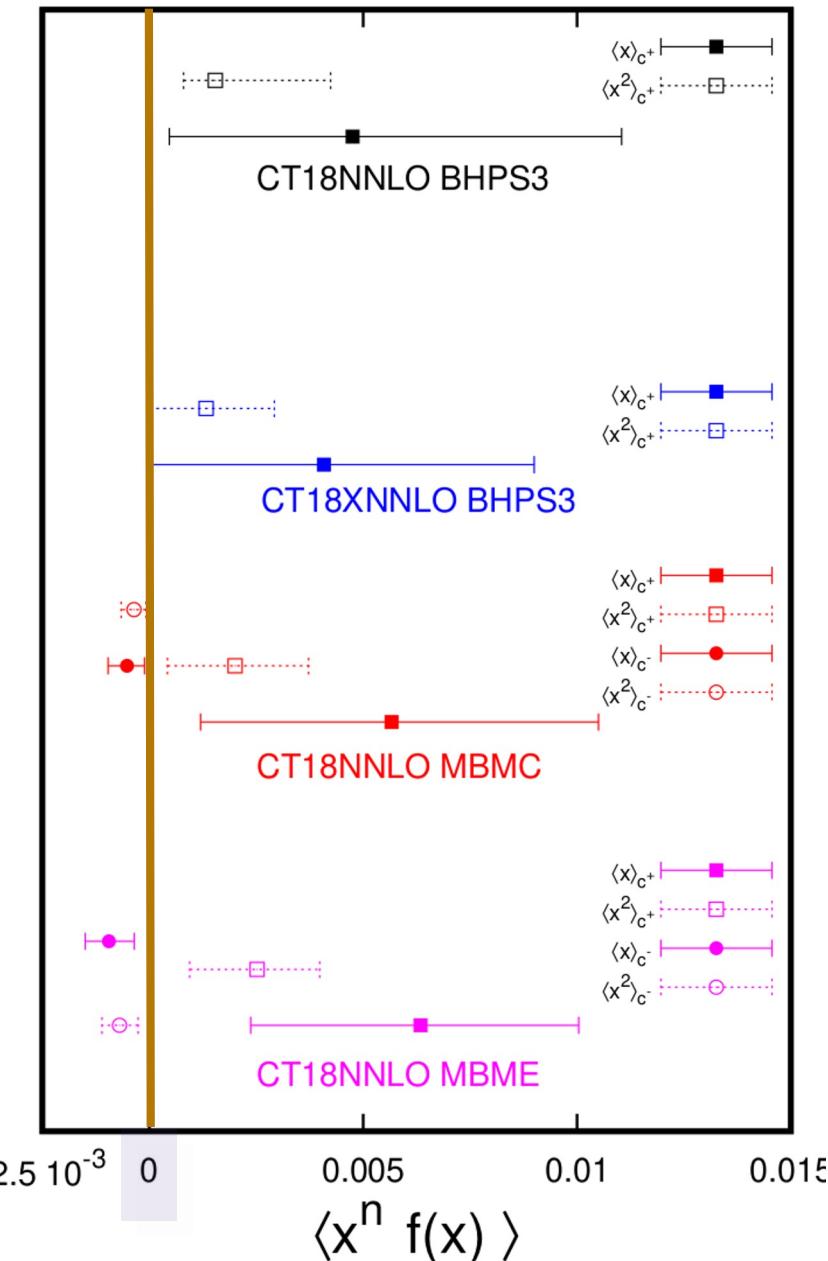
$$\Delta\chi^2 \leq 10$$

(restrictive tolerance)

$$\Delta\chi^2 \leq 30$$

(~CT standard tolerance)

Nonperturbative charm moments  $Q_0 = 1.27 \text{ GeV}$   
Intervals of  $\Delta\chi^2 < 10$



# FC PDF moments as F.o.M.

**even restrictive uncertainties give moments consistent with zero**

→ broaden further for default CT tol.

→ lattice may give  $\langle x \rangle_{c+}$ ,  $\langle x^2 \rangle_{c-}$

$$\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} \equiv \langle x \rangle_{c+} [Q_0 = 1.27 \text{ GeV}]$$

$$= 0.0048^{+0.0063}_{-0.0043} \quad (+0.0090), \text{ CT18 (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0041^{+0.0049}_{-0.0041} \quad (+0.0091), \text{ CT18X (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0057^{+0.0048}_{-0.0045} \quad (+0.0084), \text{ CT18 (MBMC)}$$

$$= 0.0061^{+0.0030}_{-0.0038} \quad (+0.0064), \text{ CT18 (MBME)}$$

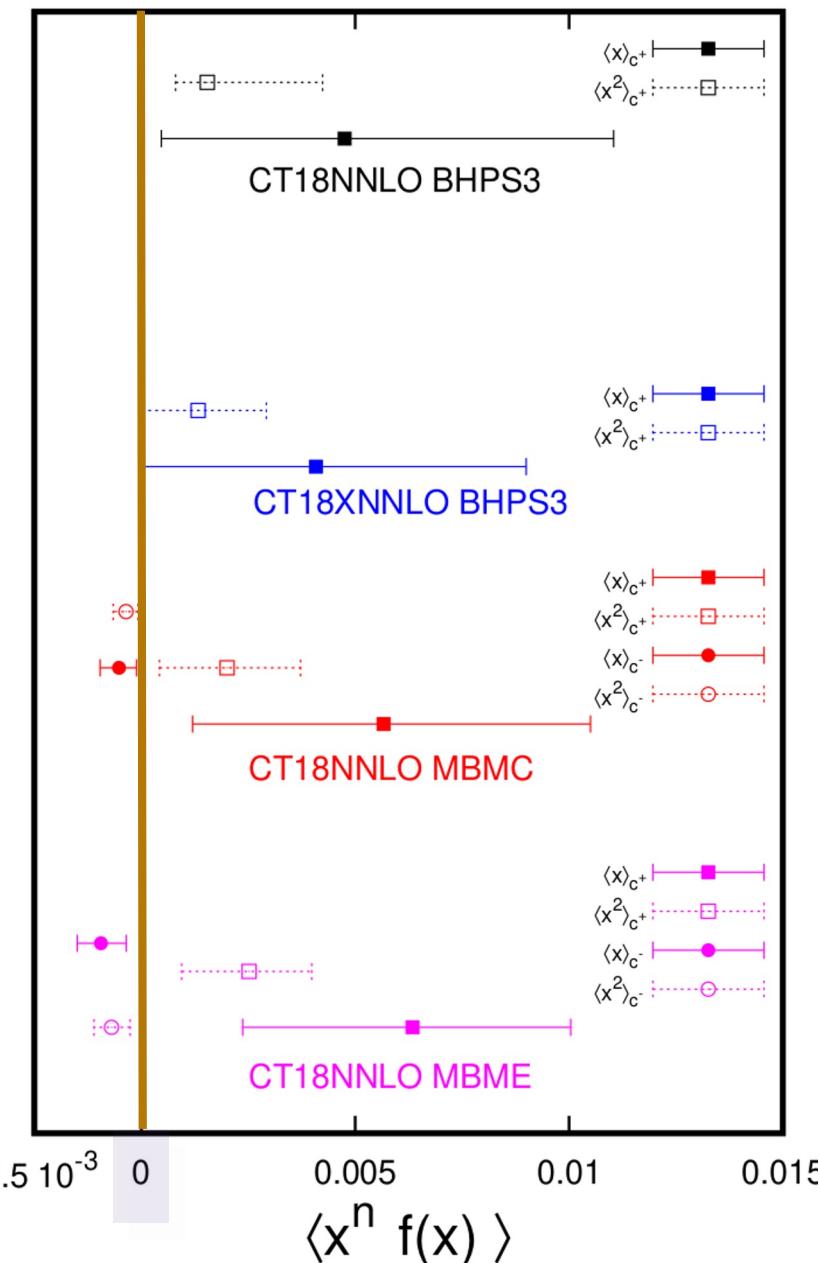
$$\Delta\chi^2 \leq 10$$

(restrictive tolerance)

$$\Delta\chi^2 \leq 30$$

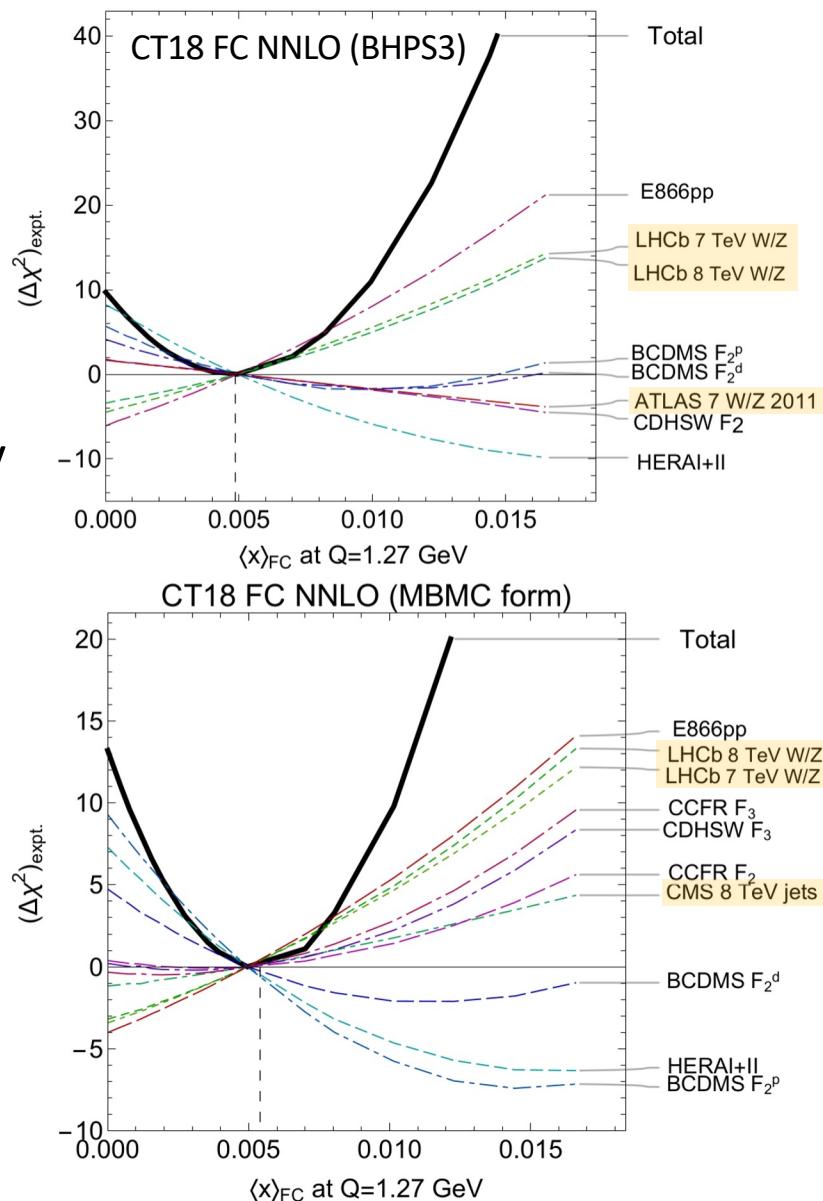
(~CT standard tolerance)

Nonperturbative charm moments  $Q_0 = 1.27 \text{ GeV}$   
Intervals of  $\Delta\chi^2 < 10$



data pull opposingly on  $\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}}$ ; depend on FC scenario, enhancing error

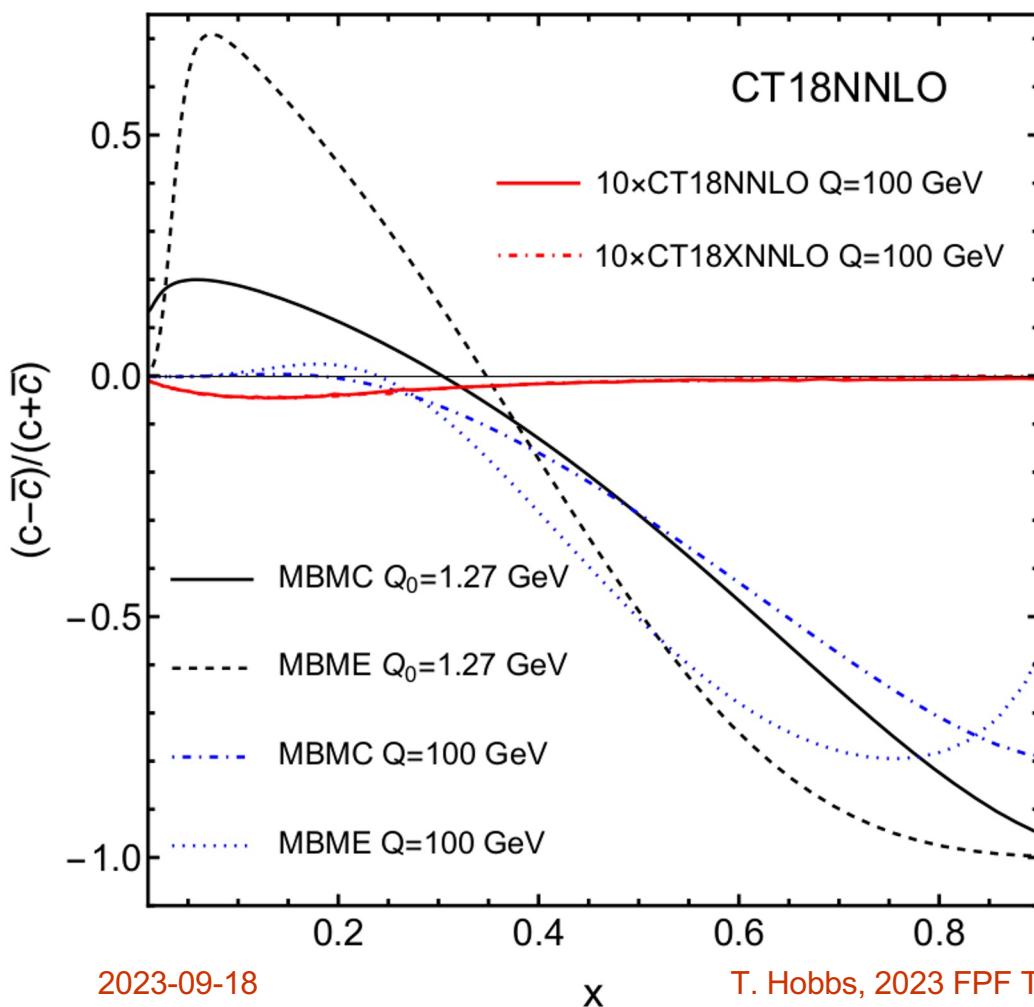
Run-1 LHC  
expts generally  
prefer smaller  
magnitudes of  
FC



# possible charm-anticharm asymmetries

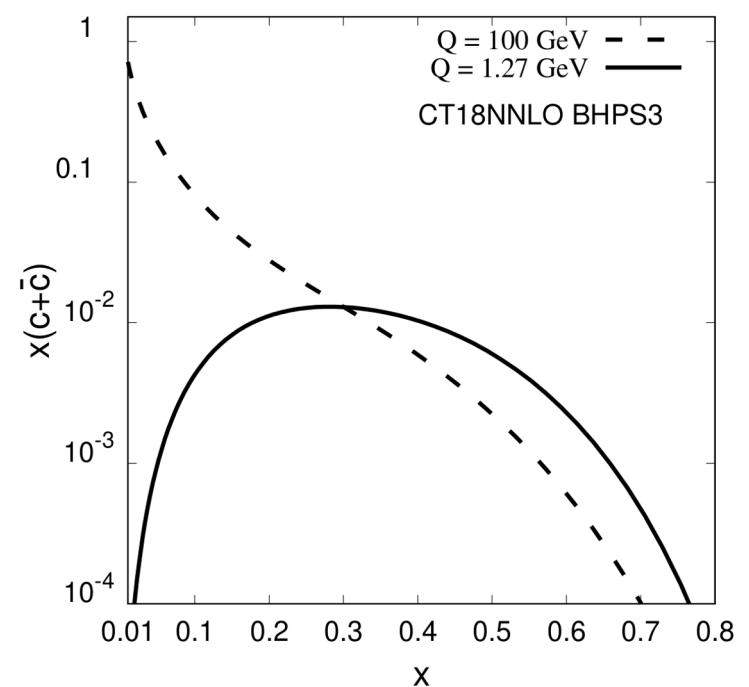
pQCD only very weakly breaks  $c = \bar{c}$  through HO corrections

- large(r) charm asymmetry would signal nonpert dynamics, IC
- MBM breaks  $c = \bar{c}$  through hadronic interactions



consider two MBM models as  
**examples** (not predictions)

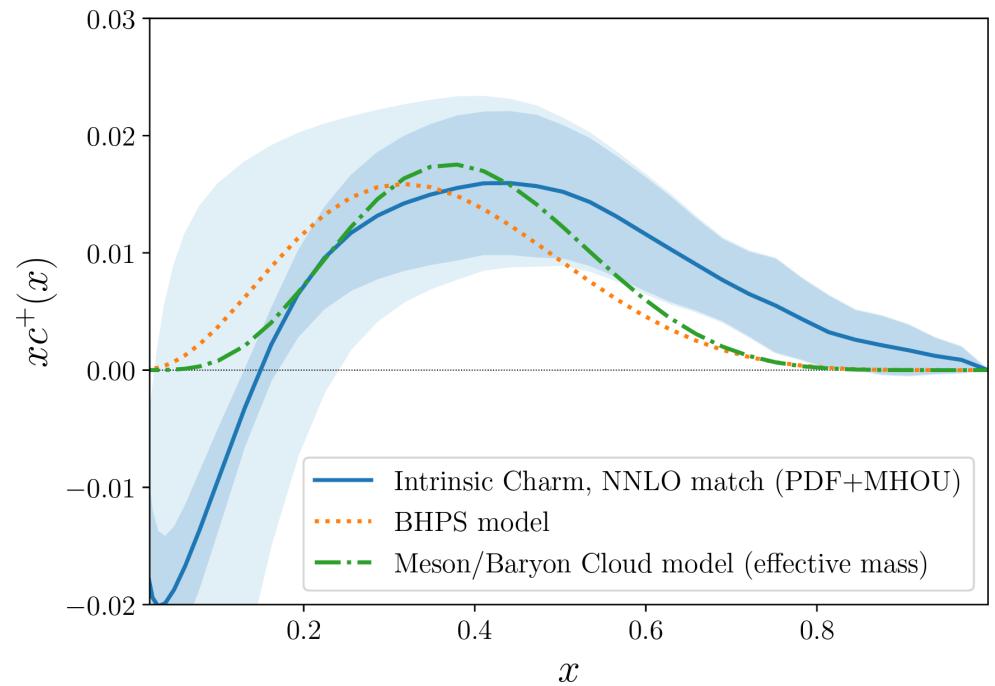
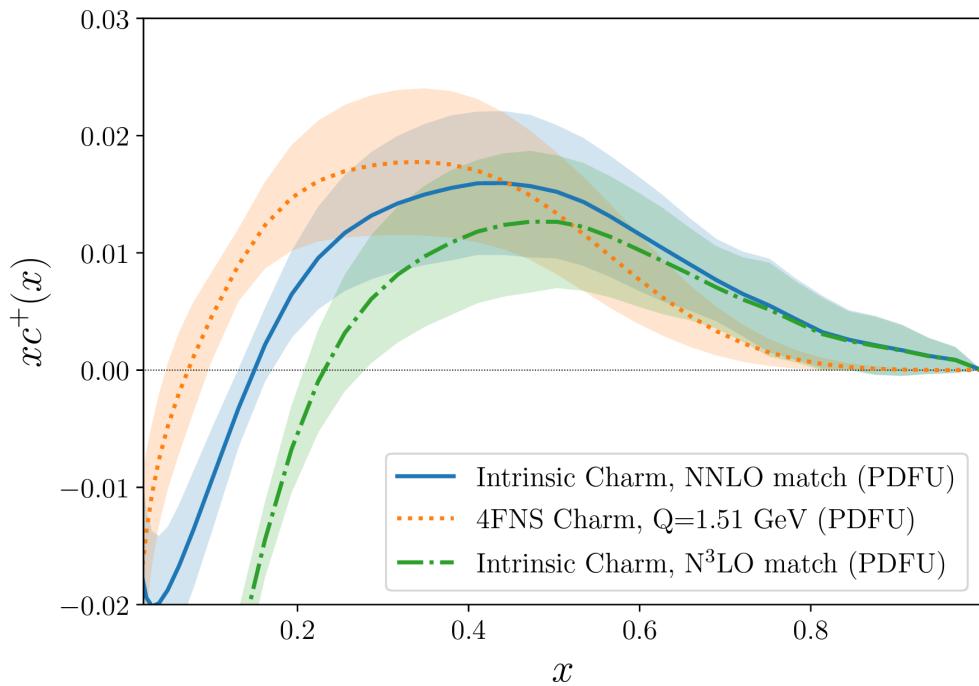
- asym. small but ratio (left) can be bigger; will be hard to extract from data



# recent NNPDF IC analysis

NNPDF, Nature 608 (2022) 7923, 483.

- NNPDF have recently claimed  $3\sigma$  evidence for ‘IC’
  - based on local ( $x$ -dependent) deviation of FC PDF from the ‘no-FC’ scenario
  - implies crucial dependence on size and shape of PDF uncertainty



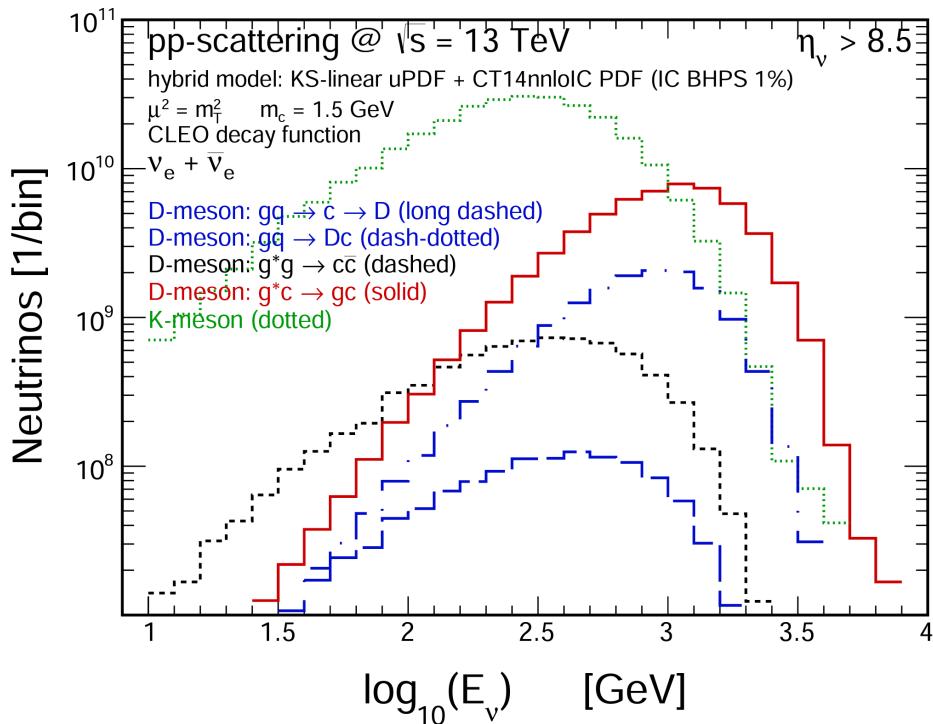
→ Two classes of uncertainties need further scrutiny:

1. Missing HO unc (MHOU): N3LO in DIS, etc.; N2LO in Z+c production

$$\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} = 0.62 \pm 0.28\% \quad \text{without MHOU}$$

$$\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} = 0.62 \pm 0.61\% \quad \text{with MHOU}$$

2. Parametrization sampling uncertainty (underestimation of PDFU)

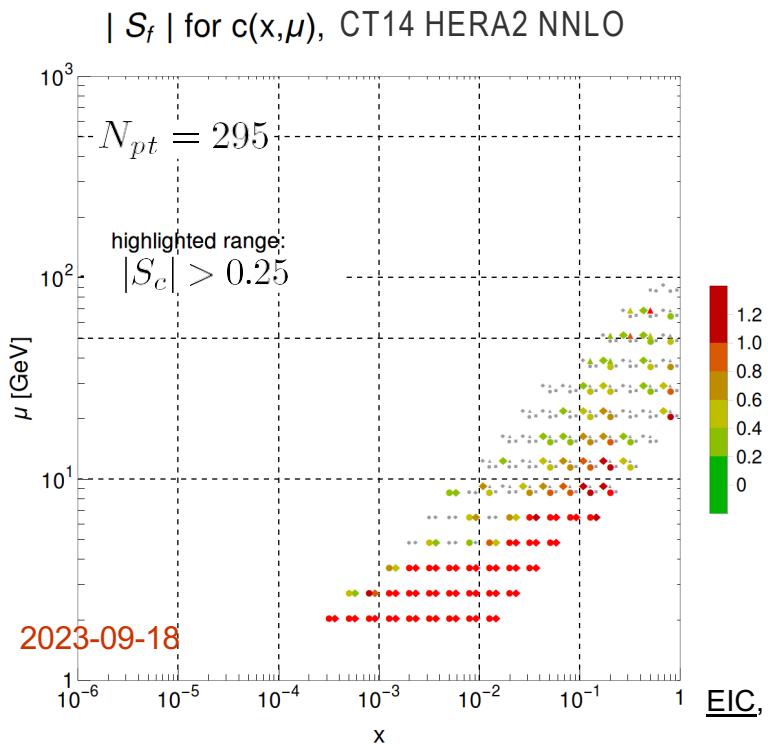


future data will inform FC

- experiments like FPF, EIC + lattice QCD may potentially constrain FC scenarios

→ possible FC sensitivity at CERN FPF:  
k<sub>T</sub> factorization-based study

(FPF Whitepaper, 2203.05090)



- enhanced FC momentum implied by EMC data → small high-x effects in structure function; need high precision

future experiments are expected to have precise sensitivity to the few- GeV, high-x region where FC signals are to be expected

EIC, see also: TJH, Alberg, and Miller; PRD96, 074023 (2017).

# conclusions

---

- size, shape of nonpert charm remains **indeterminate**
  - theoretical ambiguities in relation between FC/IC unresolved
  - need more sensitive data; FC currently consistent with zero

concordance with enlarged error estimates:  $\langle x \rangle_{\text{FC}} \sim 0.5\%$ , well below evidence-level

- need more NNLO and better showering calculations (*e.g.*, for  $Z+c$ )
- further progress in quantifying and estimating PDF uncertainties

---

opportunities to improve knowledge of FC:

- promising experiments at LHC; CERN FPF; EIC
- lattice data on key charm PDF moments; quasi-PDFs
- direct benchmarking of FC among PDF fitting groups