

---

# CT18 update

J. Huston (for the CTEQ-TEA  
collaboration)

PDF4LHC meeting Nov. 17, 2023

...borrowing liberally from slides from P. Nadolsky, T. Hobbs, ...  
especially from DIS talks

# Some recent publications

1. Exploring the impact of high-precision top-quark pair production data on the structure of the proton at the LHC; A. Ablat, M. Guzzi, K. Xie, S. Dulat, T-J Hou; arXiv: 2307.11153
2. Quantifying the interplay of experimental constraints in analyses of parton distributions; ATLASpdf, CT and MMHT authors; *Phys.Rev.D* 108 (2023) 3, 034029
3. Precision studies of the post-CT18 LHC Drell-Yan data in the CTEQ-TEA global analysis; I. Sitiwaldi, K. Xie et al; *Phys. Rev. D* 108 (2023) 3, 034030
4. The persistent nonperturbative charm enigma, M. Guzzi, T. Hobbs et al; *Phys. Lett. B* 843 (2023), 13975
5. Parton distributions need representative sampling, A. Courtoy et al; *Phys. Rev. D* 107 (2023) 3, 034008
6. CT18 global PDF fit at leading order in QCD; M. Yan et al; *Phys. Rev. D* 107 (2023) 11, 116001
7. General heavy-flavor mass scheme for charged-current DIS at nnlo and beyond; J. Gao, T. Hobbs et al; *Phys. Rev D* 105 (2022) 1, L011503
8. Simultaneous CTEQ-TEA extraction of PDFs and SMEFT parameters from jet and ttbar data; J. Gao, T. Hobbs et al; arXiv:2211.01094
9. Parton distributions and lattice-QCD calculations: Towards 3D structure, A. Courtoy et al; *Prog. Part. Nucl. Phys.* 121 (2021) 103908

**Since 2018, we have examined the impact of new LHC data, new parametrizations, joint PDF+EFT fits, as well as the impact of lattice constraints (especially on the strange quark).**



---

## CTEQ-TEA presentations at DIS'2023

Toward a new generation of CT202X PDFs

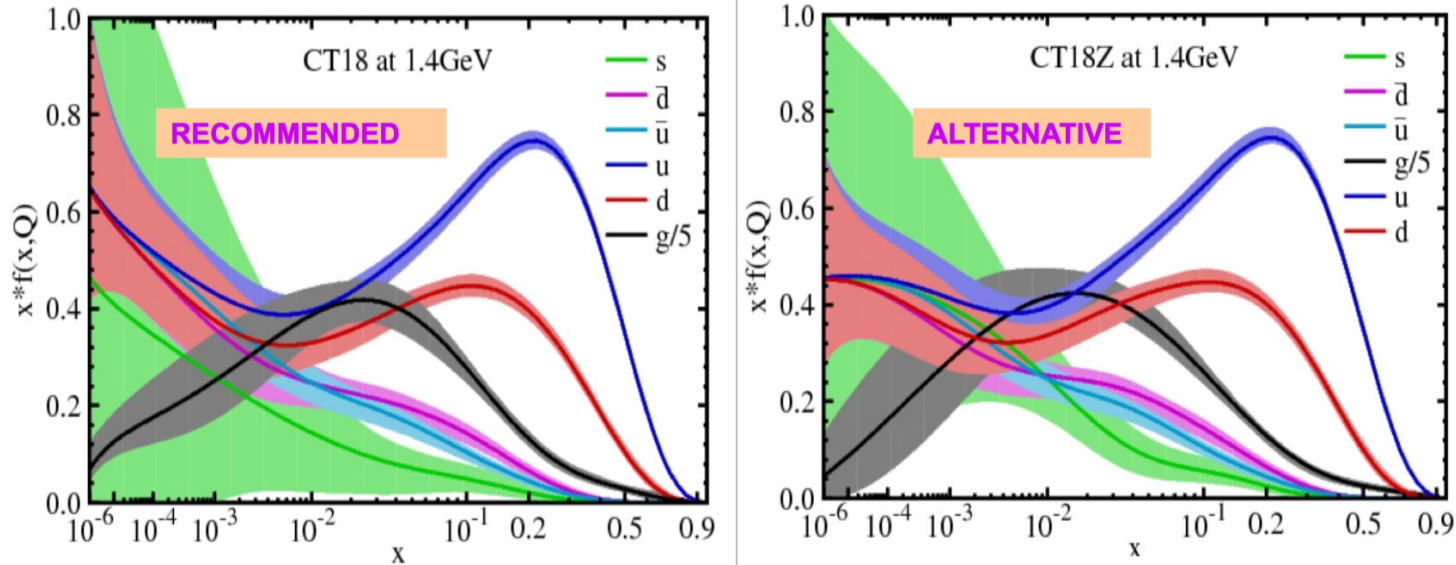
- |   |             |         |
|---|-------------|---------|
| 1. Impact of Drell-Yan data on post-CT18 global fits                      | Keping Xie  | WG3     |
| 2. Constraints from $t\bar{t}$ production at LHC 13 TeV                   | Marco Guzzi | WG1     |
| 3. Epistemic uncertainty quantification in PDF fits                       | P. Nadolsky | WG1     |
| 4. CT18 NNLO fitted charm PDFs [ <i>arXiv:2211.01387</i> ]                | Tim Hobbs   | WG1     |
| 5. Prospects for using lattice-QCD constraints in the global PDF analysis | T.-J. Hou   | Plenary |
| 6. CTEQ-TEA NNLO predictions for high-energy neutrino cross sections      | Dan Stump   | WG3     |
| 7. Simultaneous CTEQ-TEA extraction of PDFs and SMEFT contributions       | Tim Hobbs   | WG3     |
| 8. Small-x dynamics in CTEQ-TEA fits and Forward Physics Facility         | Keping Xie  | WG2     |

- 
- Impact of top/jet data->see talk of Marco Guzzi
  - L2 sensitivity->see talk of Aurore Courtoy
  - Replicability->see talk of Pavel Nadolsky

# CT18 parton distributions

PRD 103 (2021) 014013

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



- The CT18 family of PDFs includes LHC data available up to 2018, i.e. mostly 7 and 8 TeV data
- CT18 is the primary PDF; CT18A includes the ATLAS 7 TeV W/Z data (excluded from CT18 due to very poor fit); CT18X includes scale to simulate effects of low  $x$  resummation for DIS; CT18Z includes both effects
- CT18As (new) allows a more flexible parametrization for strange
- CT18As\_Lat (new) adds lattice constraint

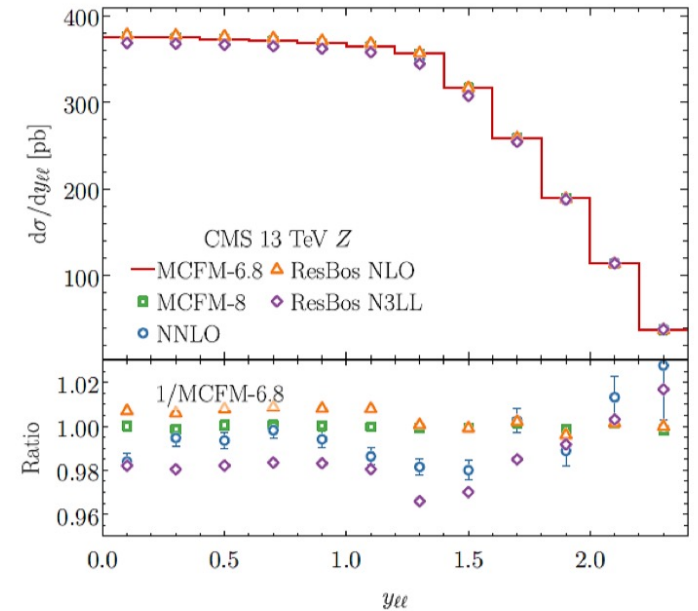
New CT 18 NNLO grids for precision calculations

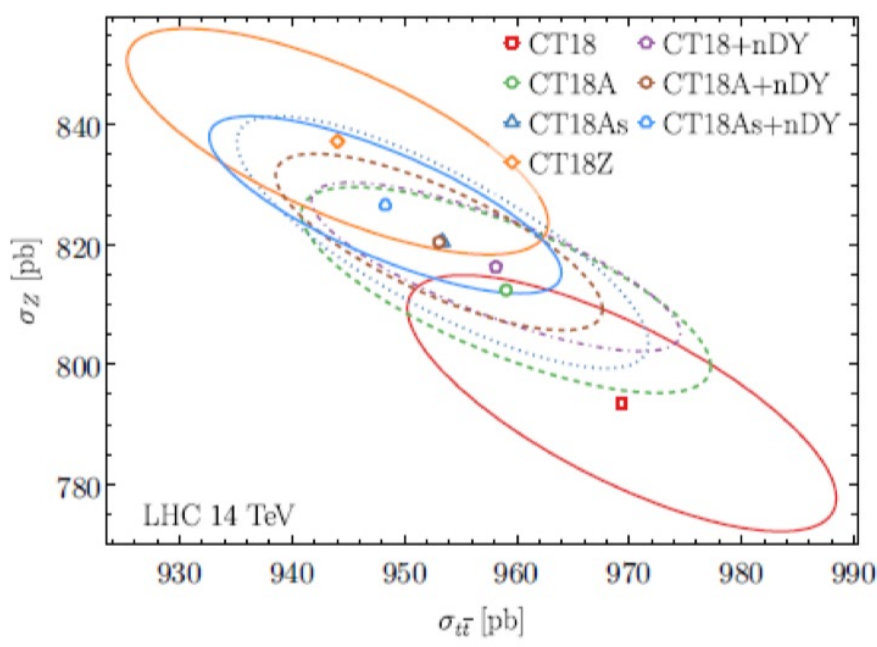
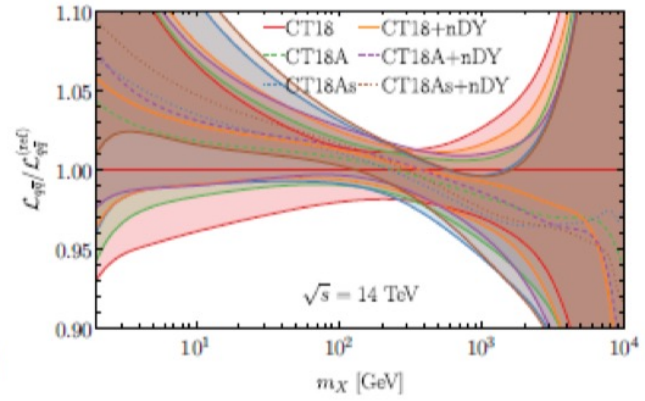
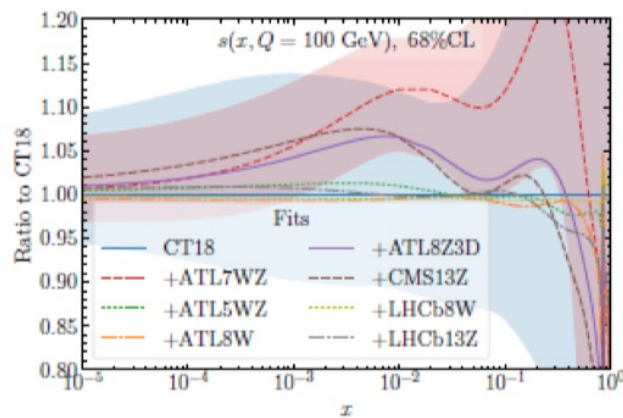
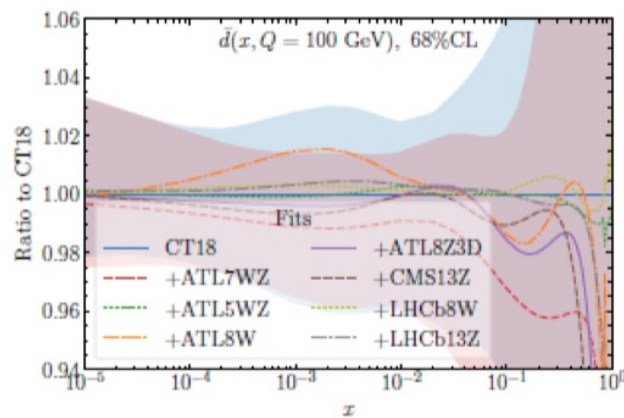
- Available on [ct.hepforge.org](http://ct.hepforge.org)
- Contain more  $x$  and  $Q$  points — improved interpolation at the expense of slightly slower evaluation
- Crossing of quark mass thresholds implemented with multiple  $Q$  grids. Complement the published (less dense) CT 18 grids on LHAPDF that remain sufficient for most applications

# New post-CT18 LHC Drell-Yan data

Boson	$\sqrt{s}$	Lumi	Observable	Ref.
<b>ATLAS</b>				
$W, Z$	2.76	$4.0 \text{ pb}^{-1}$	$\sigma^{\text{fid,tot}}$	1907.03567
$W, Z$	13	$81.0 \text{ pb}^{-1}$	$\sigma^{\text{fid}}$	1603.09222
$W, Z$	5.02	$25.0 \text{ pb}^{-1}$	$(\eta_\ell, y_{\ell\ell})$	1810.08424
$Z$	8	$20.2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$(m_{\ell\ell}, y_{\ell\ell})$	1710.05167
$W \rightarrow \mu\nu$	8	$20.2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$\eta_\mu$	1904.05631
$Z$	13	$36.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$p_T^{\ell\ell}$	1912.02844
<b>CMS</b>				
$Z$	13	$2.8 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$m_{\ell\ell}$	1812.10529
$Z$	13	$35.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$(y, p_T, \phi^*)$	1909.04133
$W$	13	$35.9 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$\sigma^{\text{fid}}, y_W, (\eta_\ell, p_T^\ell)$	2008.04174
<b>LHCb</b>				
$W \rightarrow e\nu$	8	$2.0 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$\eta_e$	1608.01484
$Z$	13	$294 \text{ pb}^{-1}$	$\sigma^{\text{fid}}, (y, p_T, \phi^*)$	1607.06495
$Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$	13	$5.1 \text{ fb}^{-1}$	$\sigma^{\text{fid}}, (y, p_T, \phi^*)$	2112.07458

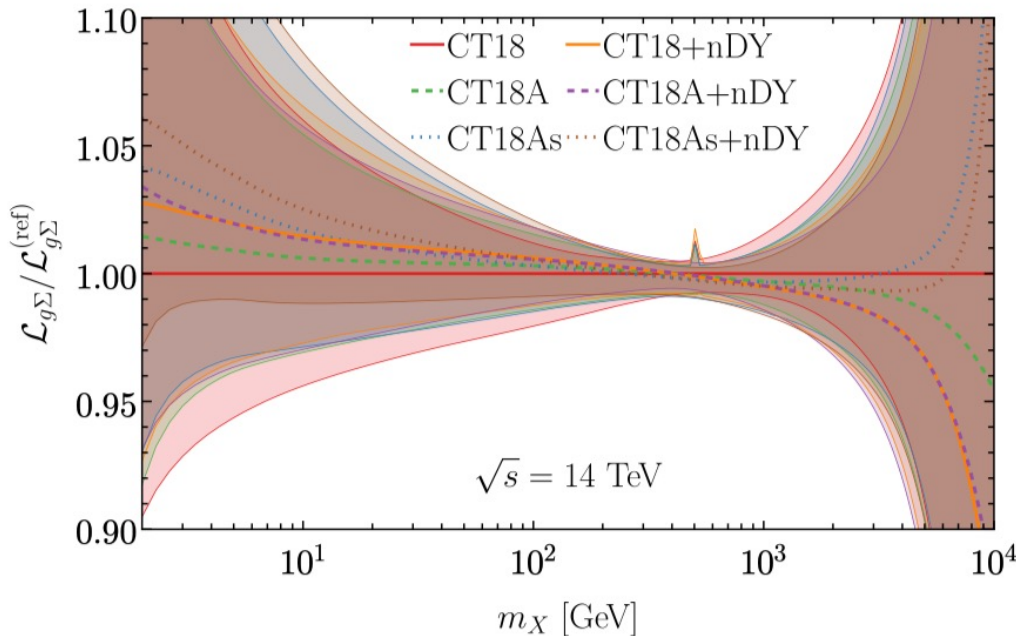
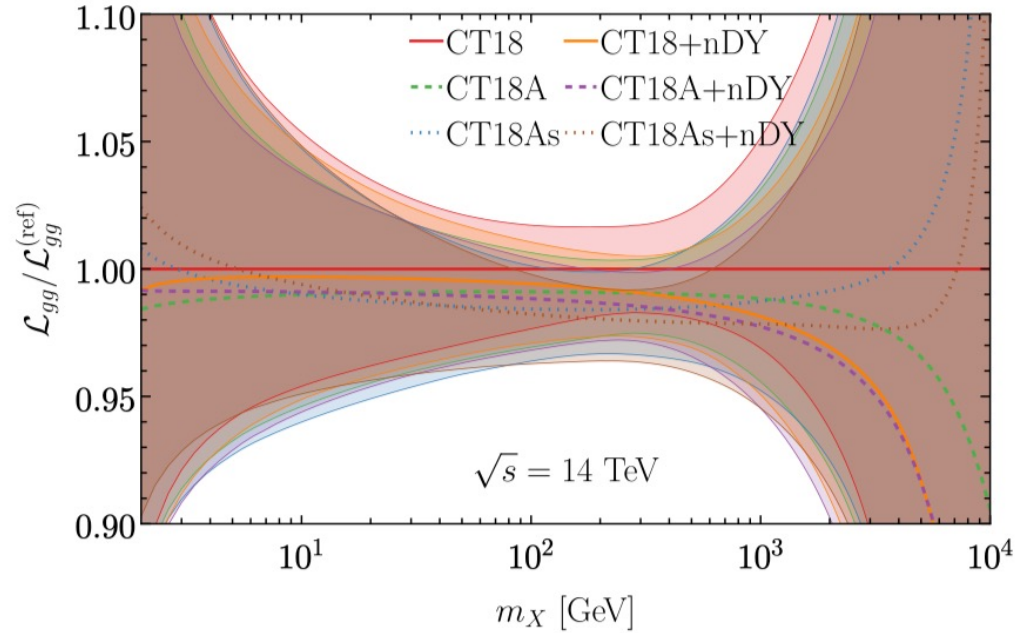
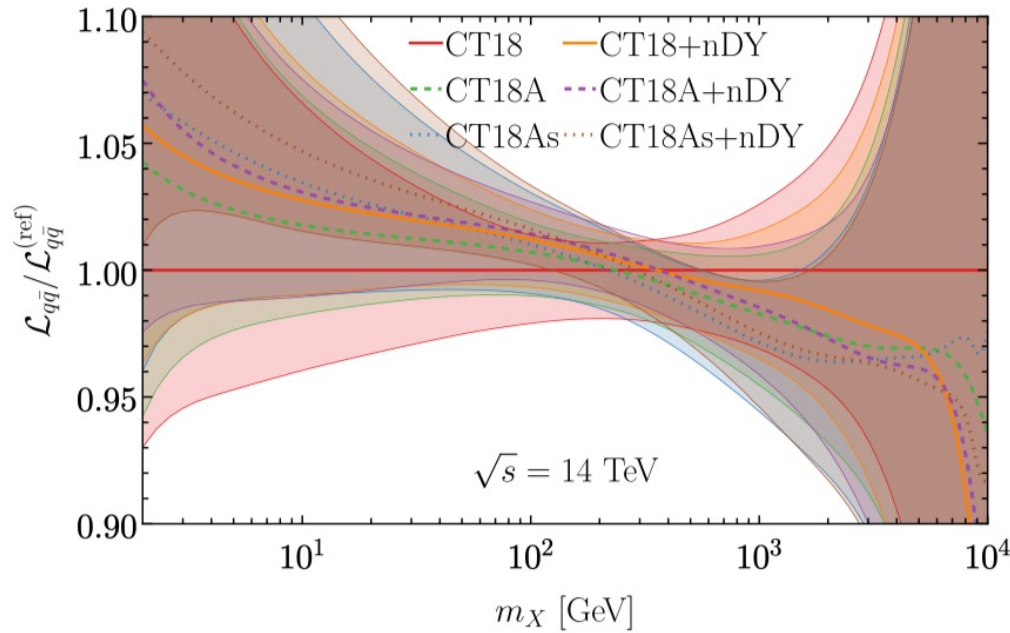
Multiple candidate fits to explore the impact of 8 and 13 TeV Drell-Yan data using NNLO and resummed N3LL-NNLO cross sections





- Most of the post-CT18 LHC Drell-Yan data are consistent with the ATLAS 7 TeV  $W, Z$  precision measurement, which enhance the strangeness (CT18A).
- Exceptions for ATLAS and LHCb 8 TeV  $W$  data, which push the  $d(\bar{d})$  PDFs to the opposite direction.
- The post-CT18 LHC Drell-Yan data shrink the error bands.
- The joint impact of these new data sets pull the PDFs and predictions from CT18 to CT18Z direction.

# Parton Luminosities



- The new Drell-Yan data increases (decreases) the quark-related luminosity at low (high) invariant mass
- ...with a reduction in the size of the error bands
- The more flexible strangeness parameterization in CT18As can enlarge the uncertainty bands for quark-related parton luminosities



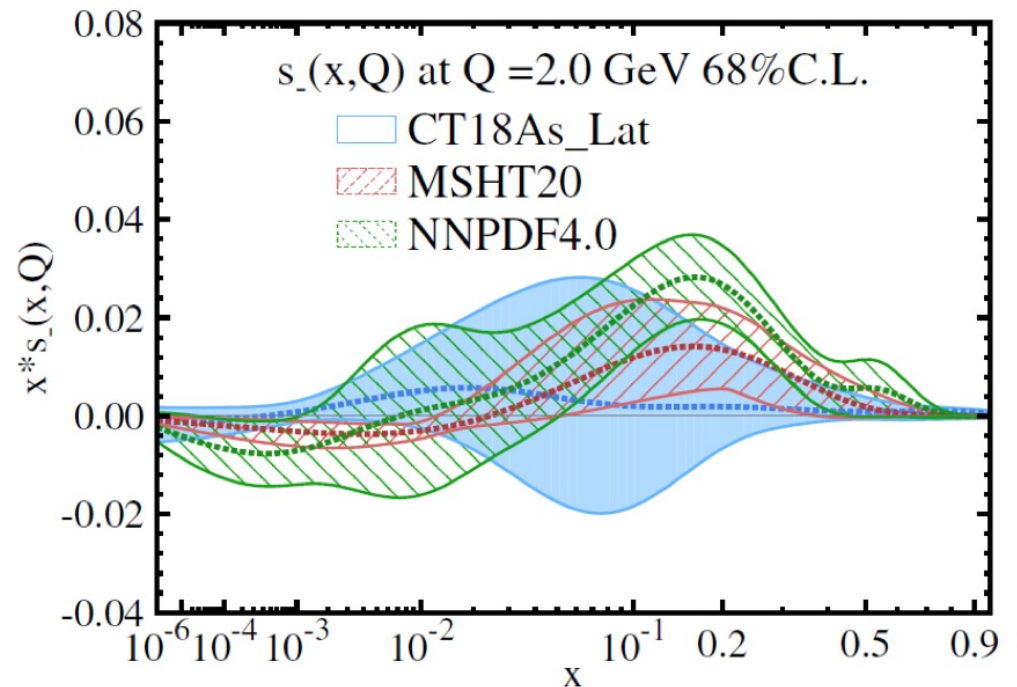
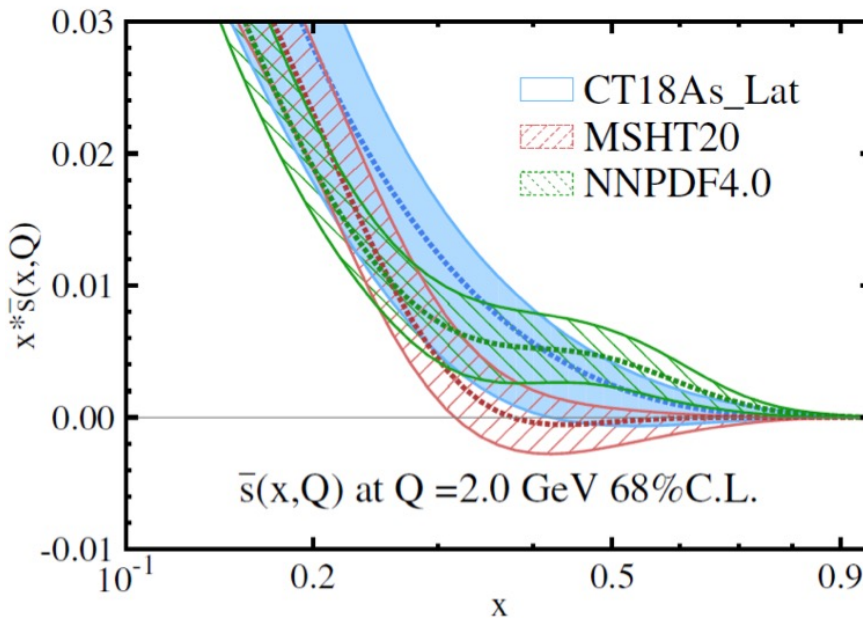
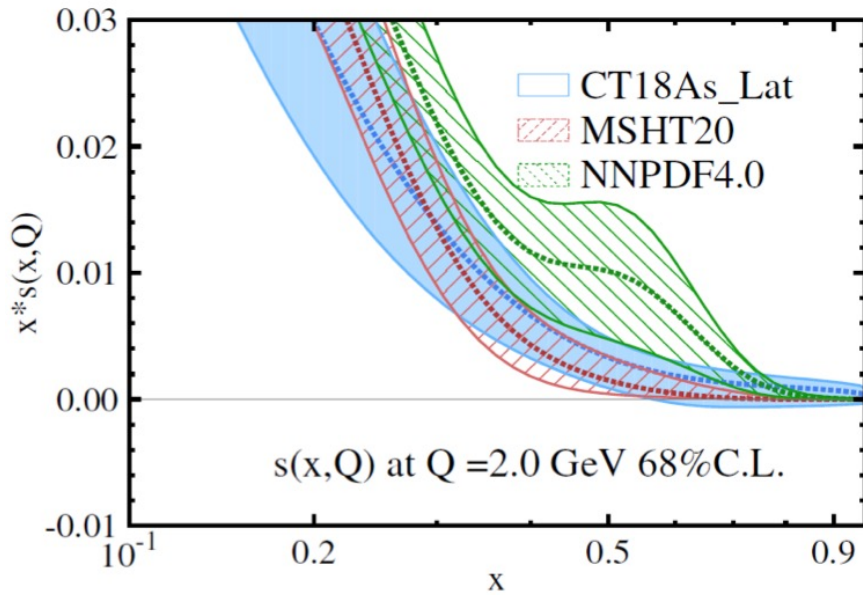
# CT18As\_Lat NNLO: Strangeness asymmetry with a lattice QCD constraint

T.-J. Hou et al., arXiv: 2211.11064

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

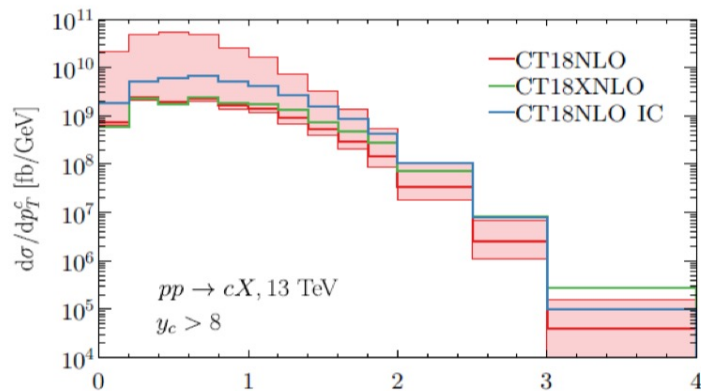
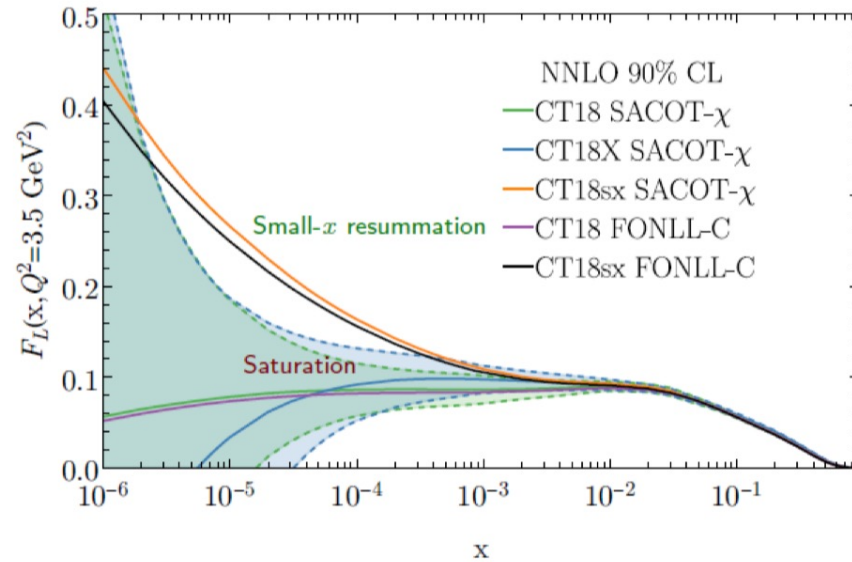
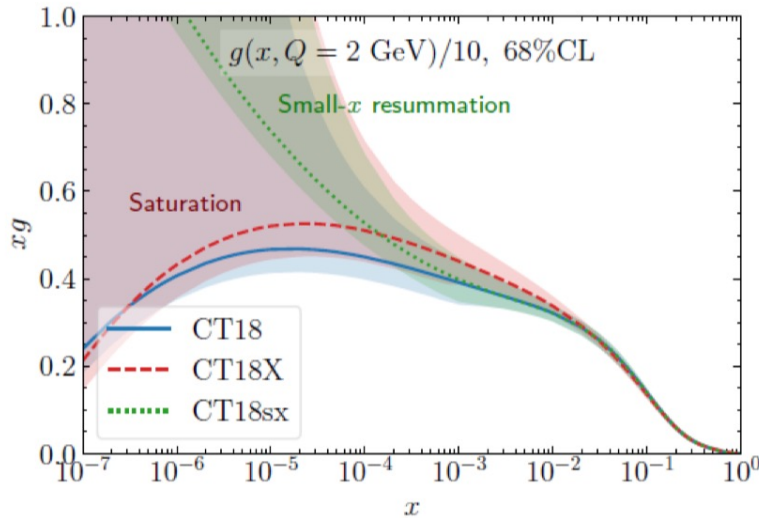
**CT18As\_Lat:** CT18As with a lattice constraint on  $s_-(x)$  at  $0.3 \leq x \leq 0.8$ .

$$\int_0^1 s_-(x) dx = 0$$



# Small- $x$ dynamics in CTEQ-TEA PDFs

K. Xie, WG2



- Both the BFKL resummation (CT18sx) and saturation (CT18X) models improve the description of HERA DIS data, which enhances gluon PDF at small  $x$  and low  $Q^2$ .
- $F_L$  at  $x \rightarrow 0$  is enhanced (stays  $\approx$  constant) with resummation (saturation) models.
- Forward charm production at CERN FPF gets large uncertainty from small- $x$  dynamics.

# New CT18 Fitted Charm analysis

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

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

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

$$= 0.0048^{+0.0063}_{-0.0043} \left( \begin{matrix} +0.0090 \\ -0.0048 \end{matrix} \right), \text{ CT18 (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0041^{+0.0049}_{-0.0041} \left( \begin{matrix} +0.0091 \\ -0.0041 \end{matrix} \right), \text{ CT18X (BHPS3)}$$

$$= 0.0057^{+0.0048}_{-0.0045} \left( \begin{matrix} +0.0084 \\ -0.0057 \end{matrix} \right), \text{ CT18 (MBMC)}$$

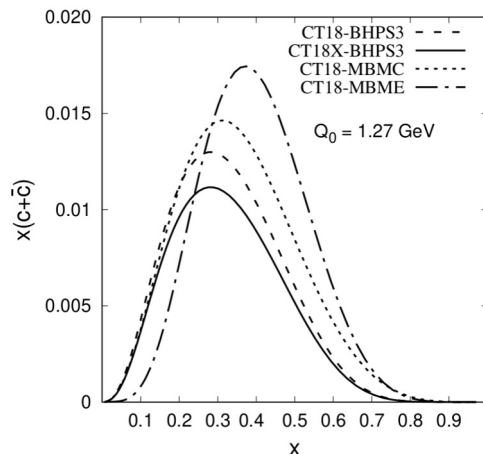
$$= 0.0061^{+0.0030}_{-0.0038} \left( \begin{matrix} +0.0064 \\ -0.0061 \end{matrix} \right), \text{ CT18 (MBME)}$$

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

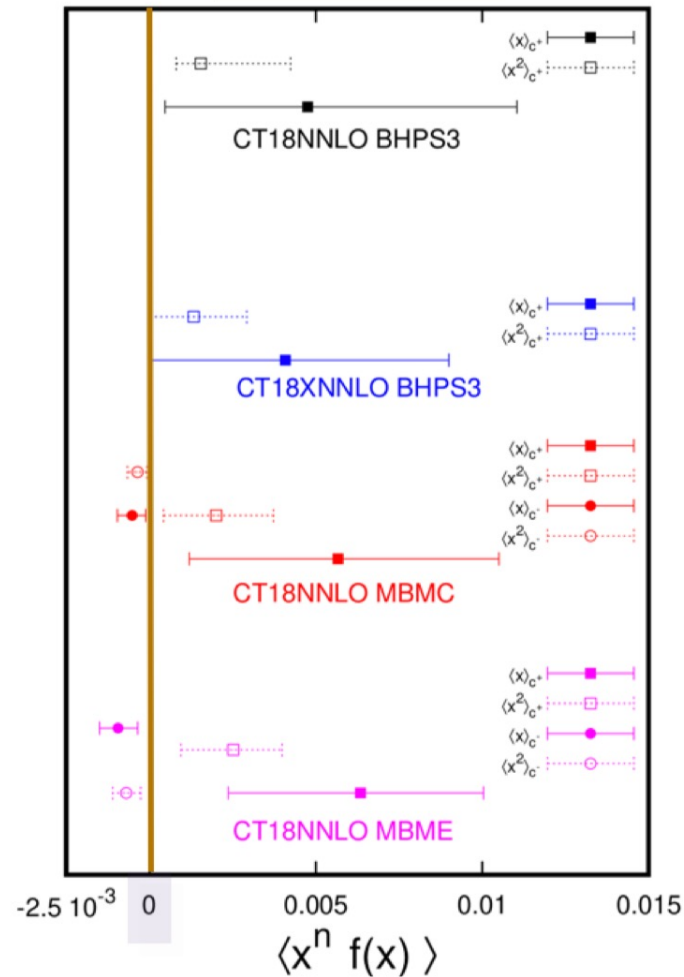
$$\Delta\chi^2 \leq 30$$

(restrictive tolerance)

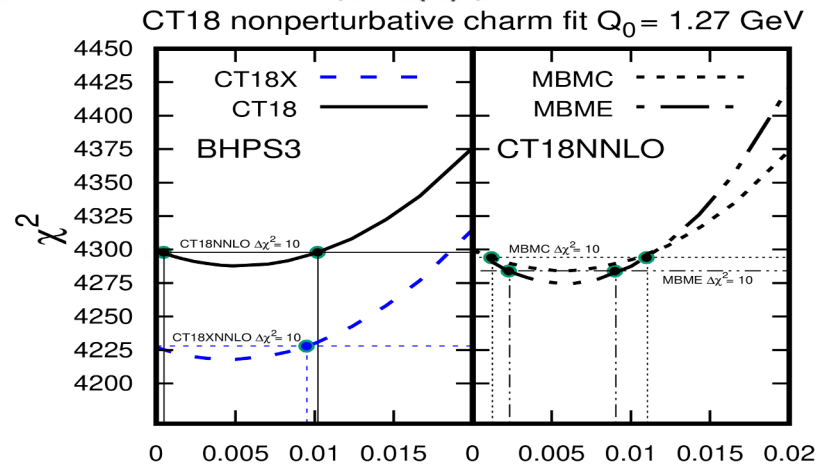
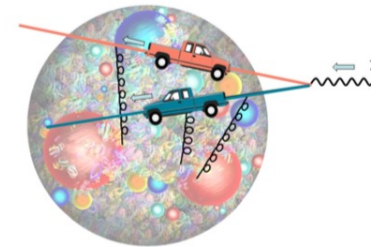
(~CT standard tolerance)



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



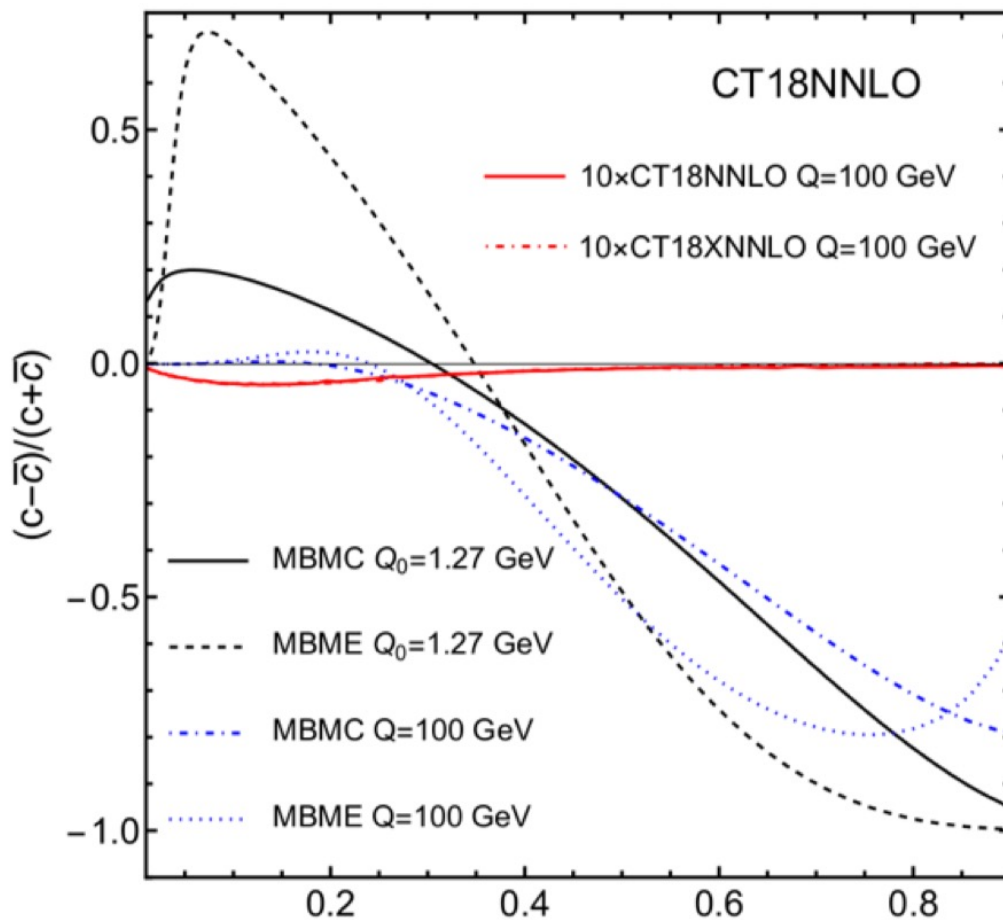
T. Hobbs, WG1



**possible charm-anticharm asymmetries** to break  $c = \bar{c}$

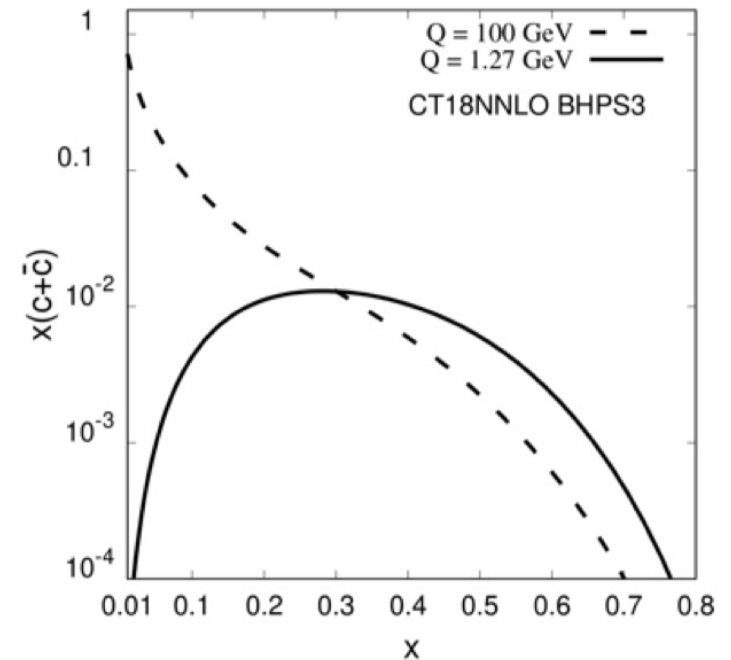
pQCD only very weakly breaks  $c = \bar{c}$  through HO corrections

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

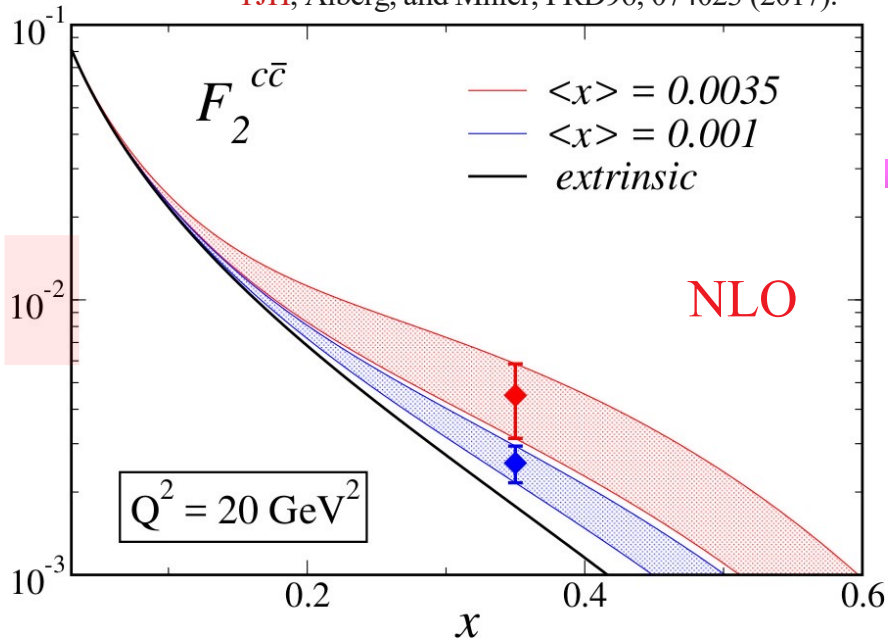


consider two MBM models as **examples** (not predictions)

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



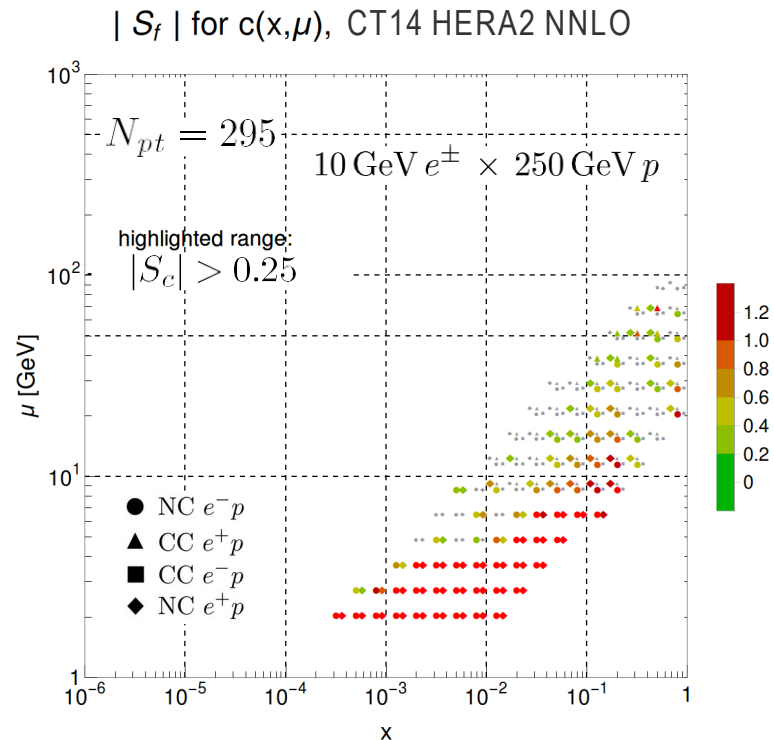
TJH, Alberg, and Miller; PRD96, 074023 (2017).



conclusion: require more data/input to resolve FC

EIC + lattice QCD will constrain FC scenarios

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

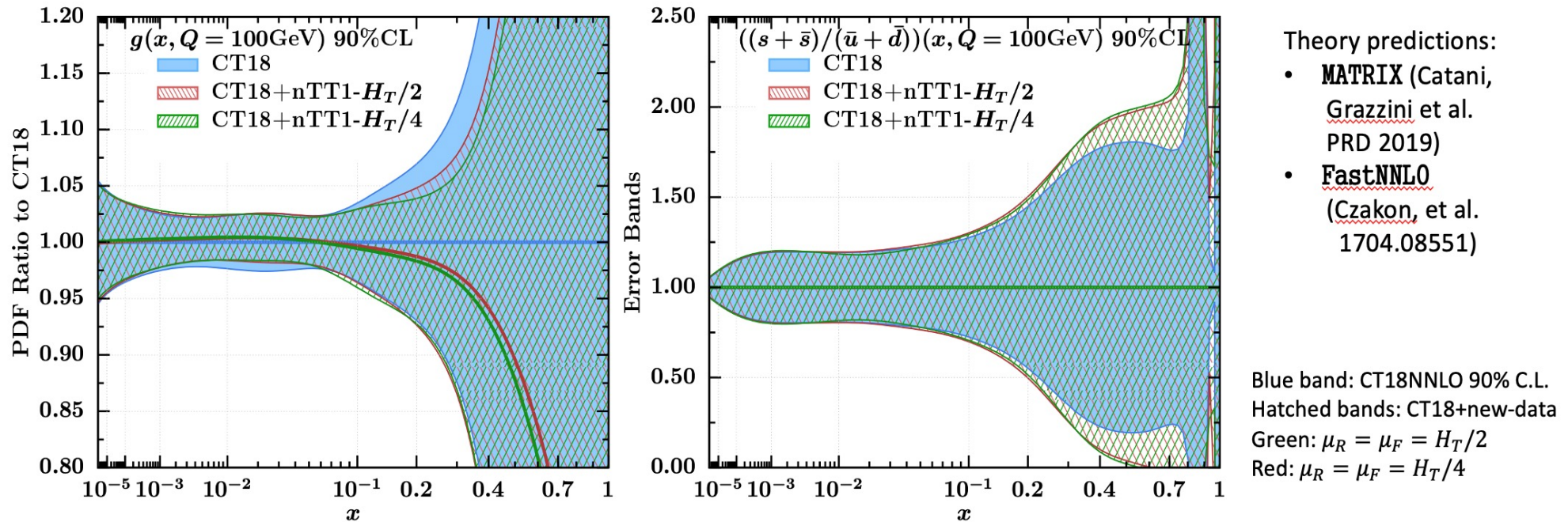


essential complementary input from LHC; CERN FPF

EIC will measure precisely in the few-GeV, high- $x$  region where FC signals are to be expected

# One slide on $t\bar{t}$

## Global fit: impact from new baseline with $t\bar{t}@13\text{ TeV}$



Differences related to different scale choices are well within the CT18 PDF error band.

Optimal baselines consists of combinations of 1D absolute  $X_{\text{sec}}$  from



- ATLAS all hadronic,  $\nu t\bar{t}$
- ATLAS lepton + jets,  $\nu t\bar{t}$  and stat. comb.  $\{\nu t\bar{t}, M_{t\bar{t}}, \nu B_{t\bar{t}}, H_{Tt\bar{t}}\}$  have very similar impact
- CMS dilepton,  $\nu t\bar{t}$
- CMS lepton + jets,  $M_{t\bar{t}}$

Reduction in scale uncertainty for gg observed in ggF Higgs region

# Simultaneous CTEQ-TEA extraction of PDFs and SMEFT parameters from jet and $t\bar{t}$ data

---

T.J. Hobbs DIS

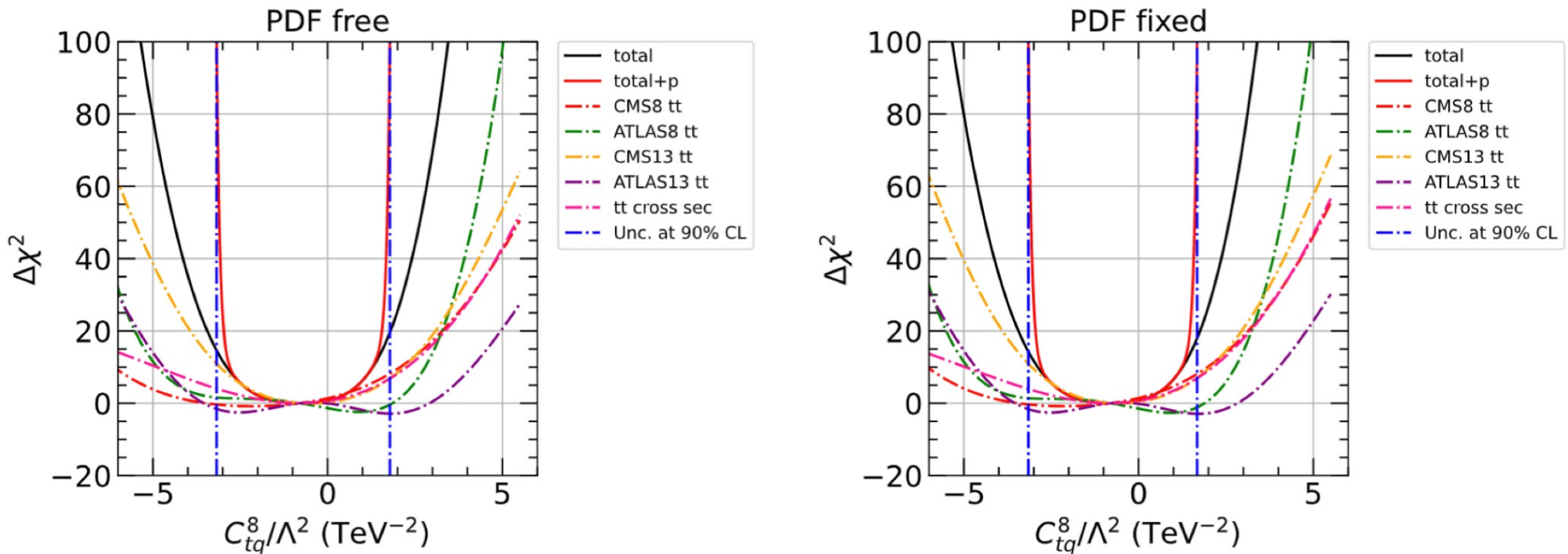
motivation

arXiv:2211.01094

- strong recent interest: model-independent BSM analyses
  - EFT-based parametrizations: *e.g.*, SM effective field theory (SMEFT)
- EFT global analyses often assumed *fixed* SM calculations
  - PDFs not actively fitted alongside **SMEFT parameters**
  - could potentially bias resulting SMEFT analysis
- some recent studies: preliminary attempts at joint SMEFT/PDF fits
  - this work: explore in context of CTEQ-TEA (CT) framework
  - demonstration study focusing on select data: jet,  $t\bar{t}$  production
  - examine possible PDF-SMEFT correlations

# examine SMEFT uncertainties in joint PDF fit

- quantify SMEFT uncert. through Lagrange Multiplier (LM) scans:



→ constraints to top-associated Wilson coefficient,  $C_{tq}^8/\Lambda^2$

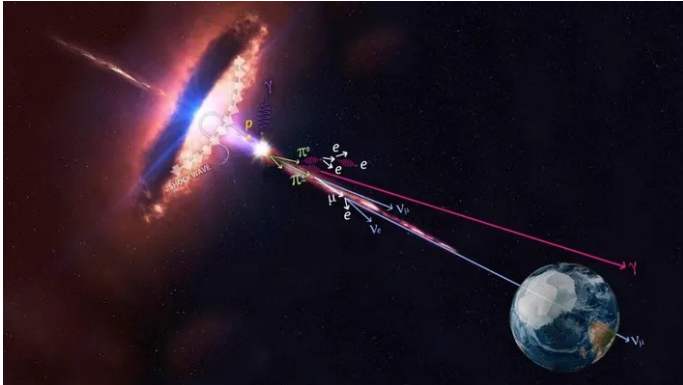
- modest increase in uncertainty when co-fitted with PDFs
- predominantly *quartic* shapes for  $\Delta\chi^2$  reflect pure SMEFT contributions  $\sim \frac{1}{\Lambda^4}$



- growing interest in EFT global fits, joint analyses with PDFs
  - completed first simultaneous PDF-SMEFT fit within CT framework
- 
- explore jet and  $t\bar{t}$  data as a demonstration study; examine correlations
    - relatively weak PDF-SMEFT correlations
    - evidence of correlation between high-x gluon, contact interaction
    - these will increase with growing expt precision; e.g., at HL-LHC
    - need further theory development; more operator combinations, ...
- 
- ML-based framework; scalable to larger SMEFT parameter space

# UHE neutrinos: probe matter at extreme scales, BSM sensitivity

- relevant energies are those attained at *neutrino telescopes, e.g., IceCube*



‘high energy’:  $10^3 < E_\nu < 10^8$  GeV

‘ultra-high energy’ (UHE):  $E_\nu > 10^8$  GeV

- far exceed energy scales achievable at terrestrial facilities (e.g., the LHC)
  - potentially probe saturation physics at extremely low  $x$
  - test BSM scenarios: leptoquarks, hidden extra dimensions, ...
  - provide information on 6 of 9 flavor oscillation channels
  - yield insights into astrophysics (‘multi-messenger’ astronomy)
- bridge between HEP-NP research areas

# CT18 NNLO high-energy neutrino DIS cross sections from $10^2$ to $10^7$ GeV

K. Xie et al., arXiv:[2303.13607](https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.13607)

D. Stump, WG3

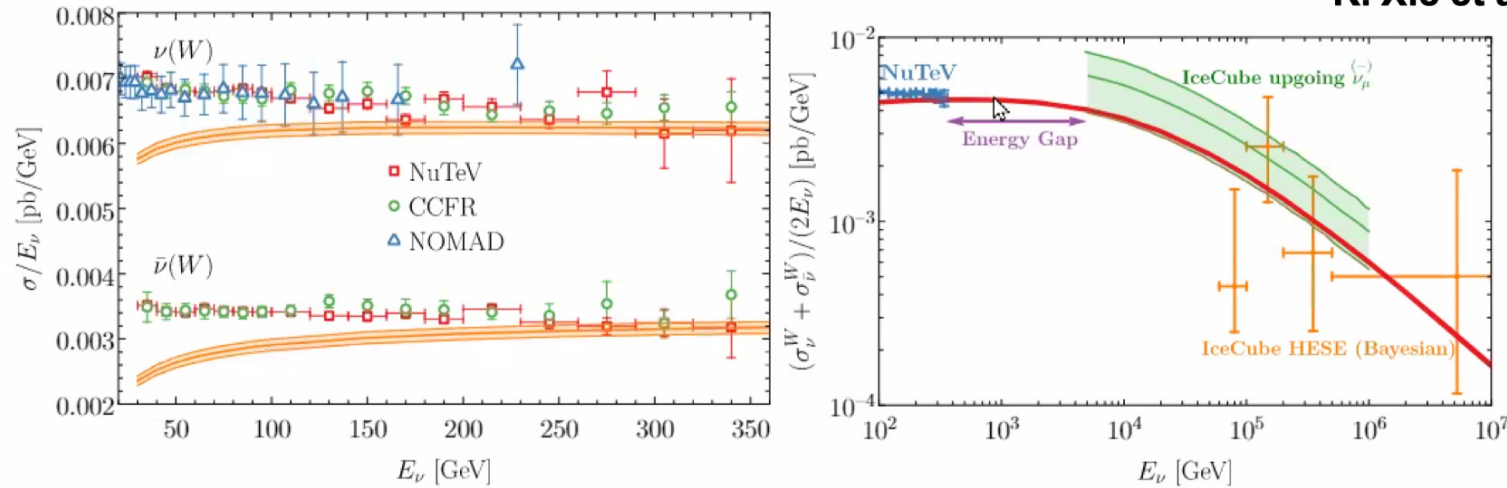
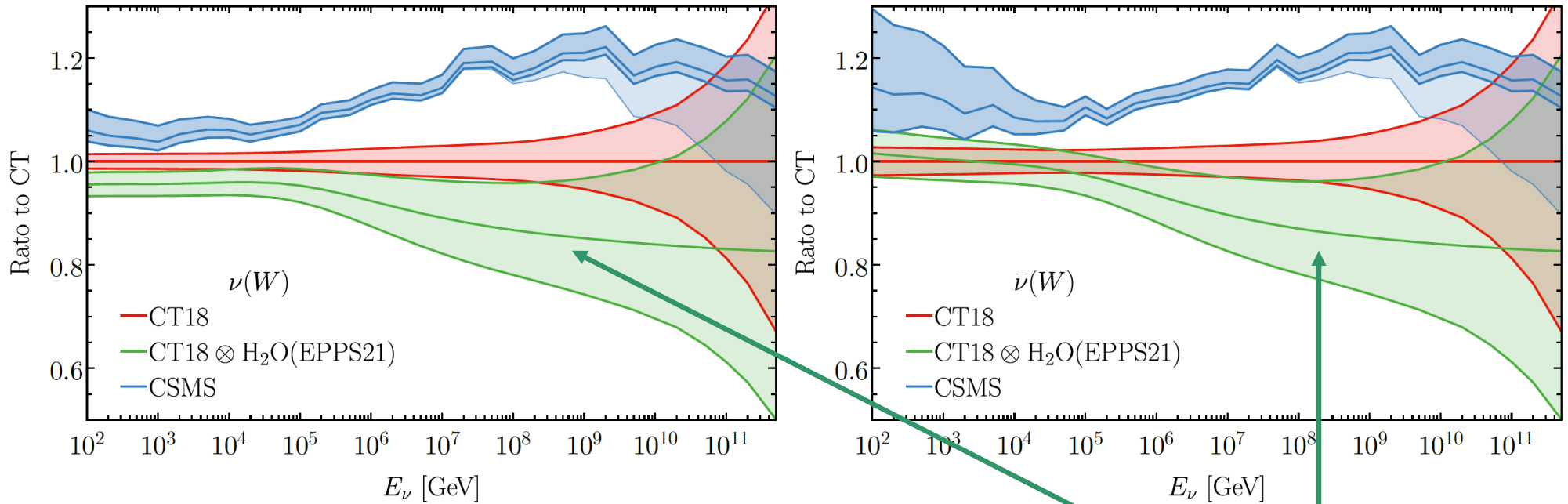


FIG. 20. Left: The CT18 predictions for the neutrino-isoscalar charged-current cross sections divided by the (anti)neutrino energy,  $\sigma/E_\nu$ , in comparison with data measured at accelerator-based experiments [88–90]. Right: The CT18 prediction of the averaged neutrino-isoscalar charged-current cross sections divided by neutrino energy in the energy gap ( $360 \text{ GeV} \lesssim E_\nu \lesssim 6 \text{ TeV}$ ), which can be measured by the FASER and other FPFs at the LHC [15, 16]. We included cross sections below  $360$  GeV measured by NuTeV [88] and above  $6.3$  ( $60$ ) TeV by IceCube upgoing  $\bar{\nu}_\mu$  [9] (HESE Bayesian [10]) analyzes.

# QCD uncertainties remain challenging at high energies



- ❑ combined CT18 and EPPS21 uncertainties represent a more aggressive scenario
  - ➔ nCTEQ15-based predictions enlarge high-energy uncertainties further

- ❑ many additional model considerations: heavy-quark mass effects; extrapolations, ...
  - ➔ compelling arena to test QCD across HEP-NP! arXiv: 2303.13607

*e.g., nuclear models in saturation regime could strengthen BSM sensitivity...*

Low-x (n)PDF and theory uncertainties form a limitation to accuracy at very high energies

# Toward a new generation of CT202X PDFs

1. **Identify sensitive, mutually consistent new experimental data sets** using preliminary fits and fast techniques ( $L_2$  sensitivities and  $ePump$ )
2. Implement N3LO QCD and NLO EW contributions as they become available. N3LO accuracy is reached only when N3LO terms are **fully** implemented.
3. Meanwhile, “**NNLO+**” PDFs: e.g., include theoretical uncertainty due to QCD scale dependence for key processes as has been done in CT18/CT18X NNLO PDFs
4. Explore quark sea flavor dependence:  $s - \bar{s}$  (CT18As), fitted charm (CT18FC),...
5. Include lattice QCD constraints (CT18As\_Lat)
6. Next-generation PDF uncertainty quantification: META PDFs, Bézier curves, MC sampling, ML stress-testing, multi-Gaussian approaches, ...

↓  
Krieste, Hobbs—forthcoming study

↓  
see arXiv:2311.08447  
on archive yesterday

Exploratory effort on  $\sim$ n3lo PDFs at the moment, but more will come in the future

# Extras





**You**

write a joke about Donald trump that has to do with high energy physics



**ChatGPT**

Why did Donald Trump apply for a job at the Large Hadron Collider?

Because he heard they were looking for someone with "tremendous energy" to lead the charge in particle politics!



**You**

write a joke about Donald trump that has to do with physics



**ChatGPT**

Why did Donald Trump enroll in a physics class?

Because he wanted to learn the art of "alternative dimensions" where everything is relative, especially when it comes to polls!





**You**

write a joke about Donald trump that has to do with high energy physics



**ChatGPT**

Why did Donald Trump apply for a job at the Large Hadron Collider?

Because he heard they were looking for someone with "tremendous energy" to lead the charge in particle politics!



**You**

write a joke about Donald trump that has to do with physics



**ChatGPT**

Why did Donald Trump enroll in a physics class?

Because he wanted to learn the art of "alternative dimensions" where everything is relative, especially when it comes to polls!



...as I was quoted in this week's Higgs XSWG meeting (re:aN3LO PDFs), chatGPT jokes about Donald Trump and physics are "informative but not definitive"



# selecting dominant SMEFT operators

- this study: dim-6 operators only
  - dim-8 contributions small (may be relevant for future precision)
  - consider several SMEFT operators associated with jet,  $t\bar{t}$

jet production: contact interaction

$$O_1 = 2\pi \left( \sum_{i=1}^3 \bar{q}_{Li} \gamma_\mu q_{Li} \right) \left( \sum_{j=1}^3 \bar{q}_{Lj} \gamma^\mu q_{Lj} \right)$$

Warsaw operator basis

top production

$$\begin{aligned} O_{tu}^1 &= \sum_{i=1}^2 (\bar{t} \gamma_\mu t) (\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu u_i) , \\ O_{td}^1 &= \sum_{i=1}^3 (\bar{t} \gamma^\mu t) (\bar{d}_i \gamma_\mu d_i) , \\ O_{tG} &= ig_s (\bar{Q}_{L,3} \tau^{\mu\nu} T^A t) \tilde{\varphi} G_{\mu\nu}^A + \text{h.c.} , \\ O_{tq}^8 &= \sum_{i=1}^2 (\bar{Q}_i \gamma_\mu T^A Q_i) (\bar{t} \gamma^\mu T^A t) , \end{aligned}$$

- have imposed multiple symmetries on SMEFT space

# explore SMEFT constraints from range of LHC expts

- included on top of default CT18 fitted experiments
  - nominally fit  $\sim 112 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of top data;  $\sim 67 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  for jet production

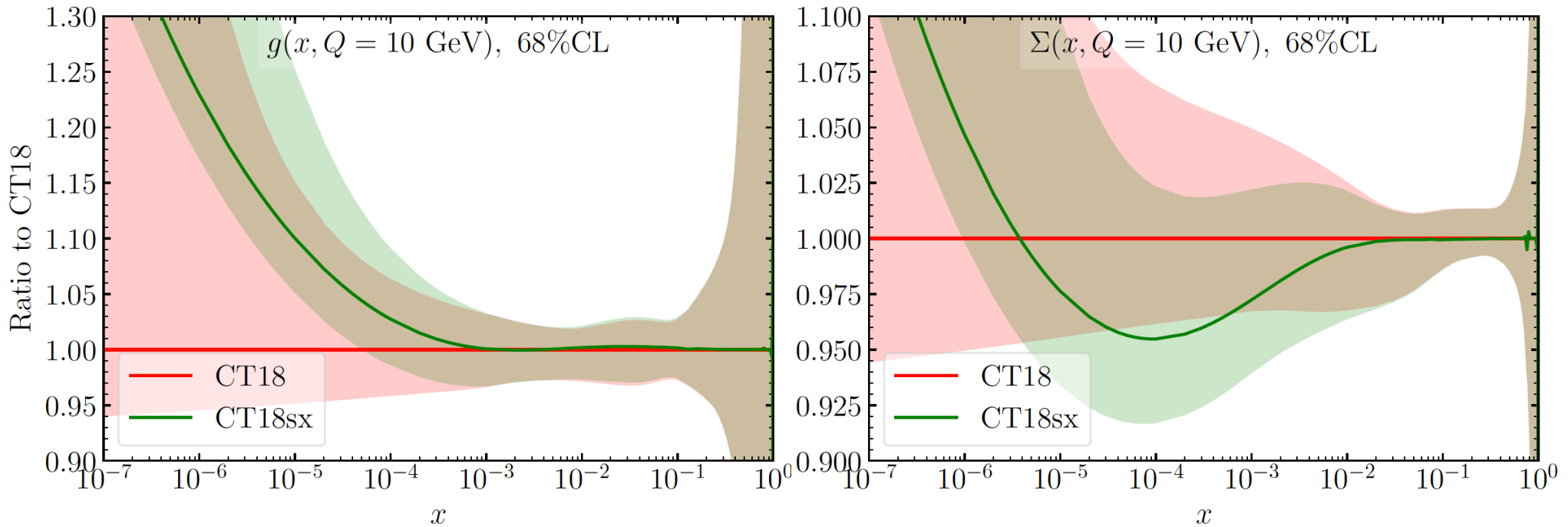
Experiments	$\sqrt{s}(\text{TeV})$	$\mathcal{L}(\text{fb}^{-1})$	observable	$N_{\text{pt}}$
*† LHC(Tevatron)	7/8/13(1.96)	—	$t\bar{t}$ total cross section	8
*† ATLAS $t\bar{t}$	8	20.3	1D dis. in $p_{T,t}$ or $m_{t\bar{t}}$	15
*† CMS $t\bar{t}$	8	19.7	2D dis. in $p_{T,t}$ and $y_t$	16
CMS $t\bar{t}$	8	19.7	1D dis. in $m_{t\bar{t}}$	7
*† ATLAS $t\bar{t}$	13	36	1D dis. in $m_{t\bar{t}}$	7
*† CMS $t\bar{t}$	13	35.9	1D dis. in $m_{t\bar{t}}$	7
*† CDF II inc. jet	1.96	1.13	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	72
*† D0 II inc. jet	1.96	0.7	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	110
*† ATLAS inc. jet	7	4.5	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	140
*† CMS inc. jet	7	5	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	158
* CMS inc. jet	8	19.7	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	185
† CMS dijet	8	19.7	3D dis. in $p_T^{ave.}$ , $y_b$ and $y^*$	122
† CMS inc. jet	13	36.3	2D dis. in $p_T$ and $y$	78

\*(in nominal top fits); †(in nominal jet fits)

# cross sections sensitive to proton PDF extrapolation region

- gluon and singlet PDF uncertainties become poorly controlled below

$$x \lesssim 10^{-5} - 10^{-4}$$



- parametrization, low- $x$  resummation and related effects become significant

# Error ellipses for new PDFs

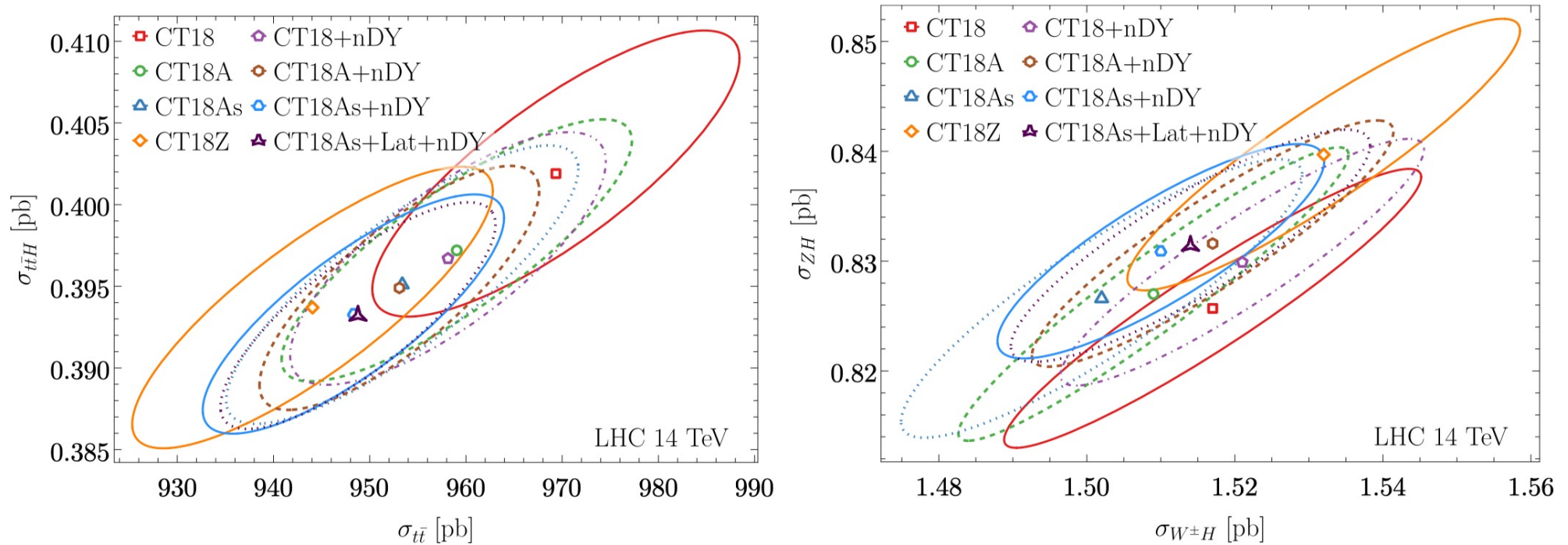


Figure 3: The correlation ellipses in the 68% confidence level between the inclusive  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $W^\pm H$  and  $ZH$  production at the 14 TeV LHC.