

A photograph of a cable-stayed bridge at dusk or dawn. The bridge has a tall, white, A-shaped pylon with several white cables fanning out to support the deck. The sky is a mix of grey and blue, and the bridge's lights are visible. The image is partially obscured by a teal geometric shape in the bottom left and a white geometric shape in the bottom right.

PDFs at approximate N³LO accuracy

Felix Hekhorn

Particle Physics Day 2023

Overview

1. Introduction

2. Theory Uncertainties

3. Cross-Sections

4. Evolution

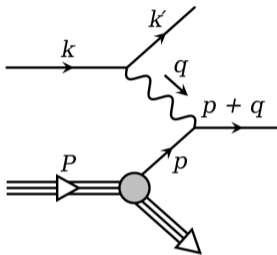
5. NNPDF4.0 with QCD@aN3LO (preliminary)

6. Summary

The background features a diagonal split between a teal upper-left section and a light gray lower-right section. The word "Introduction" is centered in the white space between these two colors.

Introduction

Parton Distribution Functions



Parton Distribution Functions (PDF) $\mathbf{f}(x, \mu_F^2)$

- ▶ describe the fundamental constituents of the proton: quarks, gluons
- ▶ μ_F -dependence: DGLAP equations!
- ▶ x -dependence: fit!

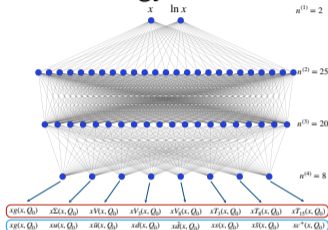
How to fit a PDF?

Experiment:

p_T [GeV]	Dimuon cross section (pb)	Dilepton cross section (pb)	Diplectron cross section (pb)
0 - 1.0	8.8345 [26.2056]	9.0042 [26.2056]	9.2821 [26.2076]
1.0 - 2.0	23.05 [26.2085]	23.482 [26.2097]	22.786 [26.2098]
2.0 - 3.0	31.799 [26.2097]	32.648 [26.2107]	32.042 [26.2108]
3.0 - 4.0	35.663 [26.2107]	37.025 [26.2118]	36.225 [26.2118]
4.0 - 5.0	36.455 [26.2118]	37.578 [26.2118]	36.882 [26.2118]
5.0 - 6.0	35.099 [26.2118]	36.201 [26.2118]	35.579 [26.2118]
6.0 - 7.0	33.122 [26.2118]	34.275 [26.2118]	33.547 [26.2118]
7.0 - 8.0	30.967 [26.2118]	32.2 [26.2118]	31.324 [26.2118]
8.0 - 9.0	28.702 [26.2118]	29.834 [26.2118]	29.069 [26.2118]
9.0 - 10.0	26.069 [26.2118]	27.389 [26.2118]	26.933 [26.2118]

taken from [JHEP12.061]

Methodology:



taken from [EPJC82.428]

Theory:

$$s^2 \frac{d^2 \sigma_{e^+e^-}^{(1),H,fin}}{d\ln s d\ln Q} = \alpha \alpha_s g_{6,Q}^2 g_{6,Q}^2 K_{ST} N_C C_F \left[\frac{2}{m_1} P_{\alpha_s, \ln}(s_1) \right. \\ \left. \left\{ B_{eQED}^{(1)}(s_1, k_1) \left(\ln \left(\frac{s_1^2}{m^2 (s_1 + m^2)} \right) - \ln(\mu^2/m^2) \right) - 2B_{eQED}^{(1)}(s_1, k_1) \right\} \right. \\ \left. + C_A \frac{s_1}{2\pi (s_1 + m^2)} \left(\int d\Omega_n R_{e,CK} \right)^{finite} \right. \\ \left. + 2C_F \frac{s_1}{2\pi (s_1 + m^2)} \int d\Omega_1 R_{eQED} \right]. \quad (5.36)$$

taken from [1910.01536]

Strategy:

repeat until converged:

guess candidate PDF $f(Q_0^2) \rightarrow$ compute theory predictions $T \rightarrow$ compare to data D

Ingredients for an aN3LO PDF Fit

Factorization:

$$T(Q^2) = C(Q^2) \otimes f(Q^2) = C(Q^2) \otimes E(Q^2 \leftarrow Q_0^2) \otimes f(Q_0^2) \quad (1)$$

Upgrade perturbative elements:

$$X = X^{(0)} + a_s X^{(1)} + a_s^2 X^{(2)} + a_s^3 X^{(3)} + \dots \quad (2)$$

partonic cross-sections C :

- ▶ DIS
- ▶ LHC (and everything else)

evolution E :

- ▶ splitting functions
- ▶ transition matrix elements

Account for uncertainties!

The background consists of two large, overlapping geometric shapes. A teal-colored shape is in the upper-left corner, and a light beige shape is in the lower-left corner. The rest of the background is white. The text is centered in the white area.

Theory Uncertainties

Covariance Matrix Formalism [\[EPJC79.931\]](#)

To maximize the (Bayesian) probability $P(T|D)$ for a theory prediction T to describe a data point D we minimize

$$\chi^2 = (T - D)^T C^{-1} (T - D) \quad (3)$$

and assuming the experimental cov. matrix C is independent of a theoretical cov. matrix S we can minimize:

$$\chi^2 = (T - D)^T (C + S)^{-1} (T - D) \quad (4)$$

Both can contain:

- ▶ statistical uncertainties (e.g. QM vs. MC)
- ▶ systematic uncertainties (e.g. resolution vs. scale)

Strategy:

decompose $S^{\text{tot}} = S^{\text{MHO}} + S^{\text{IHO}}$

MHOU Using Scale Variations [\[EPJC79.931\]](#)

$$T(Q^2, \mu_r^2, \mu_f^2) = C(Q^2, \mu_r^2) \otimes E(Q^2 \leftarrow Q_0^2, \mu_f^2) \otimes f(Q_0^2) \quad (5)$$

Factorization scale variations:

- ▶ finite knowledge of splitting functions
- ▶ correlated across datasets as PDFs are universal

Renormalization scale variations:

- ▶ finite knowledge of partonic cross-sections
- ▶ correlated for a given process (DIS NC, DIS CC, TOP, JETS, ...)

Choose:

$$\mu = \kappa \mu_0 \quad \kappa \in \{1/2, 1, 2\} \quad (6)$$

The background consists of two large, overlapping geometric shapes. A teal-colored shape is in the upper-left corner, and a light gray shape is in the lower-left corner. The rest of the background is white. The text 'Cross-Sections' is centered in the white area.

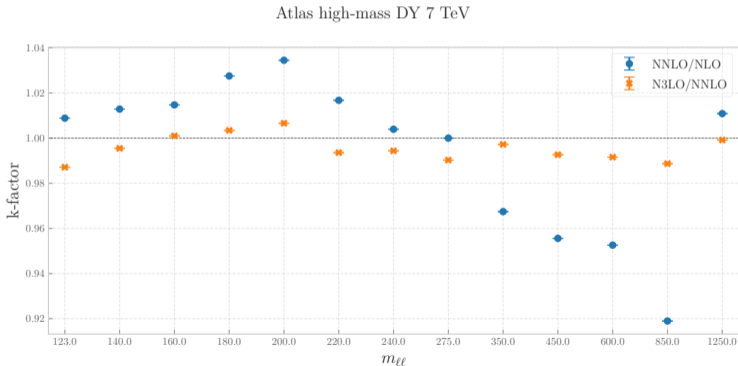
Cross-Sections

DIS with QCD@N3LO

- ▶ light coefficient functions [VVM05],[MVV05],[MV00],[MRV08],[MVV09] ✓
- ▶ massive coefficient functions → approximation in MSc thesis of N. Laurenti ✓
i.e. combine in a suitable way:
 - ▶ threshold limit $s \rightarrow 4m^2$
 - ▶ high-energy limit $s \rightarrow \infty$
 - ▶ asymptotic limit $Q^2 \gg m^2$

DY with QCD@N3LO

- ▶ even if available, most codes are private
- ▶ use `n3lox` [[JHEP12.066](#)] to obtain k-factor for inclusive distributions, e.g. [[PLB725.223](#)]



The background consists of two large, overlapping geometric shapes. A teal-colored shape is in the upper-left corner, and a light beige shape is in the lower-left corner. The rest of the background is white. The word "Evolution" is centered in the white area.

Evolution

Transition Matrix Elements

Use whatever is available in literature:

- I. Bierenbaum, J. Blümlein, and S. Klein. Mellin Moments of the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ Heavy Flavor Contributions to unpolarized Deep-Inelastic Scattering at $Q^2 \gg m^2$ and Anomalous Dimensions. *Nucl. Phys. B*, 820:417–482, 2009. arXiv:0904.3563, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2009.06.005.
- J. Blümlein. Analytic continuation of mellin transforms up to two-loop order. *Computer Physics Communications*, 133(1):76–104, Dec 2000. URL: [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0010-4655\(00\)00156-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0010-4655(00)00156-9), doi:10.1016/S0010-4655(00)00156-9.
- J. Ablinger, A. Behring, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, A. Hasselhuhn, A. von Manteuffel, M. Round, C. Schneider, and F. Wißbrock. The 3-Loop Non-Singlet Heavy Flavor Contributions and Anomalous Dimensions for the Structure Function $F_2(x, Q^2)$ and Transversity. *Nucl. Phys. B*, 886:733–823, 2014. arXiv:1406.4654, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.07.010.
- J. Ablinger, A. Behring, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, A. von Manteuffel, and C. Schneider. The 3-loop pure singlet heavy flavor contributions to the structure function $f_2(x, q^2)$ and the anomalous dimension. *Nuclear Physics B*, 890:48–151, Jan 2015. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.10.008>, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.10.008.
- J. Ablinger, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, A. Hasselhuhn, A. von Manteuffel, M. Round, and C. Schneider. The $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2 T_2^2)$ contributions to the Gluonic Operator Matrix Element. *Nucl. Phys. B*, 885:280–317, 2014. arXiv:1405.4259, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.05.028.
- J. Ablinger, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, A. Hasselhuhn, A. von Manteuffel, M. Round, C. Schneider, and F. Wißbrock. The transition matrix element $a_{gq}(n)$ of the variable flavor number scheme at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$. *Nuclear Physics B*, 882:263–288, May 2014. URL: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.02.007>, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2014.02.007.
- A. Behring, I. Bierenbaum, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, S. Klein, and F. Wißbrock. The logarithmic contributions to the $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ asymptotic massive Wilson coefficients and operator matrix elements in deeply inelastic scattering. *Eur. Phys. J. C*, 74(9):3033, 2014. arXiv:1403.6356, doi:10.1140/epjc/s10052-014-3033-x.
- J. Ablinger, J. Blümlein, S. Klein, C. Schneider, and F. Wißbrock. The $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$ Massive Operator Matrix Elements of $\mathcal{O}(n_f)$ for the Structure Function $F_2(x, Q^2)$ and Transversity. *Nucl. Phys. B*, 844:26–54, 2011. arXiv:1008.3347, doi:10.1016/j.nuclphysb.2010.10.021.
- J. Blümlein, J. Ablinger, A. Behring, A. De Freitas, A. von Manteuffel, and C. Schneider. Heavy Flavor Wilson Coefficients in Deep-Inelastic Scattering: Recent Results. *PoS, QCDEV2017-031*, 2017. arXiv:1711.07957, doi:10.22323/1.308.0031.
- J. Ablinger, A. Behring, J. Blümlein, A. De Freitas, A. Goedicke, A. von Manteuffel, C. Schneider and K. Schonwald. The Unpolarized and Polarized Single-Mass Three-Loop Heavy Flavor Operator Matrix Elements $A_{\text{FK},Q}$ and $\Delta A_{\text{FK},Q}$ arXiv:2211.0546

Approximating Splitting Functions

Splitting functions are not known fully analytically, but some partial information:

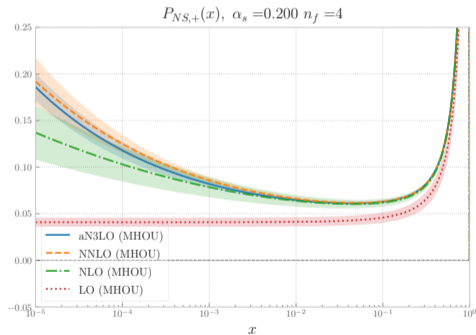
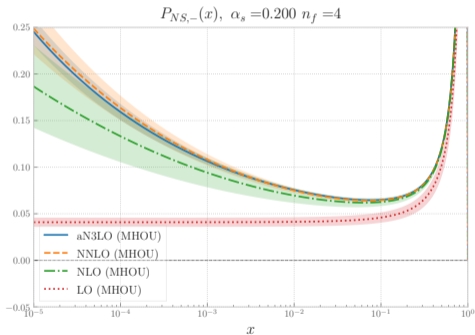
- ▶ large n_f contributions [NPB915.335], [JHEP10.041], [2310.01245]
- ▶ small x limit (from BFKL) [JHEP06.145], [JHEP08.135]
- ▶ large x limit (from soft) [NPB832.152], [JHEP04.018], [JHEP09.155]
- ▶ some (low) moments [JHEP10.041], [PLB825.136853], [PLB842.137944], [2307.04158], [2310.05744]

Strategy:

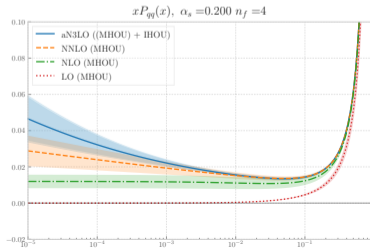
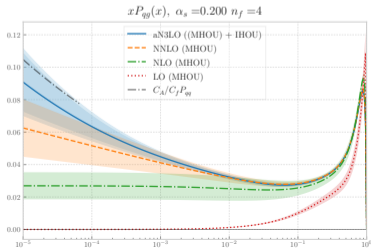
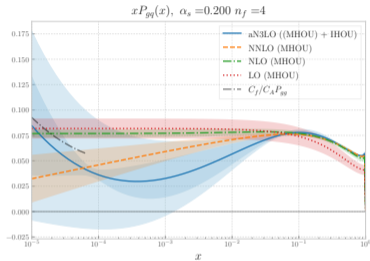
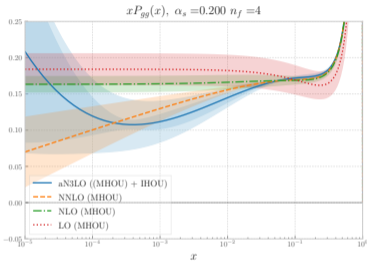
combine known limits and add sub-leading functions to ensure moments \Rightarrow IHOU

Non-Singlet Splitting Functions

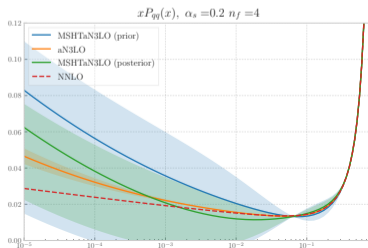
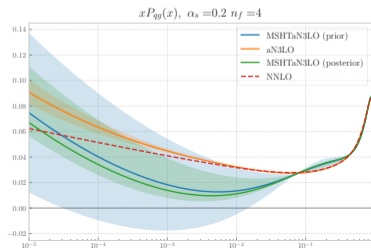
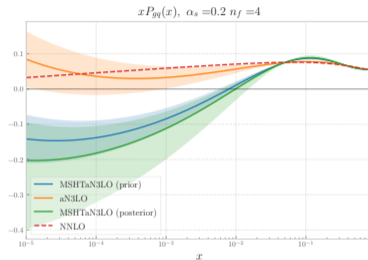
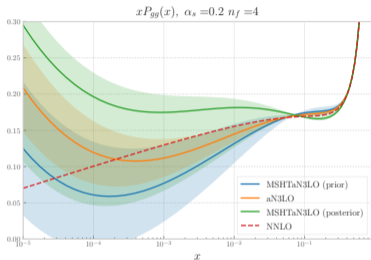
8 known moments ✓



Singlet Splitting Functions

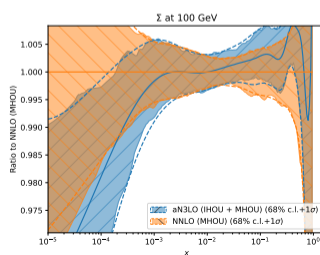
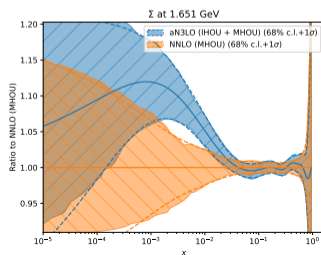
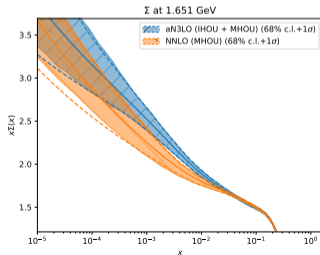
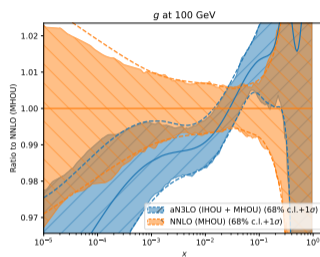
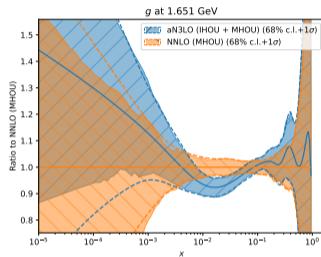
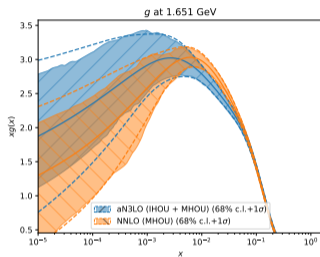


Comparison with MSHT [EPJC83.185]

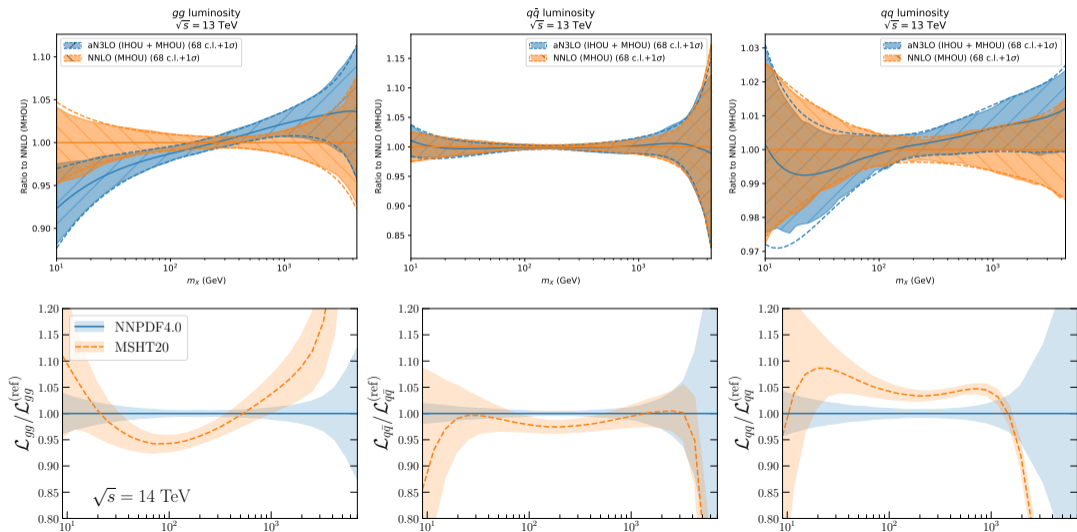


NNPDF4.0 with QCD@aN3LO
(preliminary)

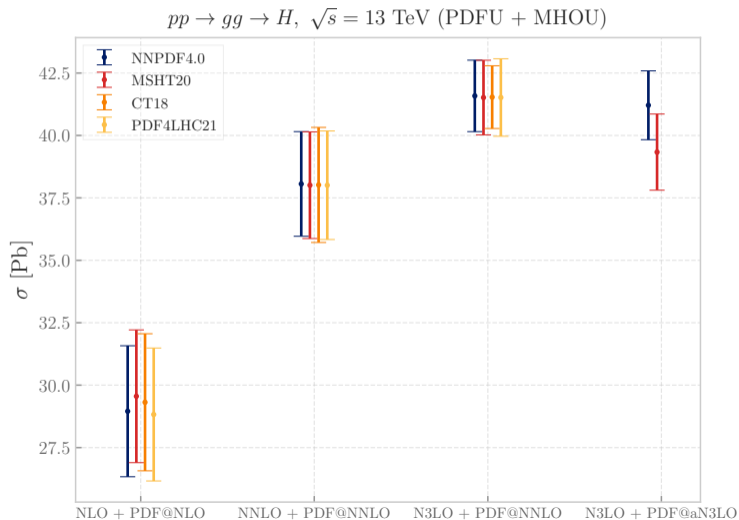
PDFs



Luminosities



Some First Pheno ...



The background consists of two large, overlapping geometric shapes. A teal-colored shape is in the upper-left corner, and a light gray shape is in the lower-left corner. The rest of the page is white. The word "Summary" is centered in the white area.

Summary

Summary

For PDFs at % accuracy we need:

- ▶ include QED and EW effects → NNPDF4.0QED
- ▶ account for theory uncertainties → NNPDF4.0MHOU
- ▶ use N3LO accuracy → NNPDF4.0aN3LO

For PDFs with QCD@aN3LO we need:

- ▶ approximate splitting functions
- ▶ upgrade as many processes as possible
- ▶ account for theory uncertainties

Summary

For PDFs at % accuracy we need:

- ▶ include QED and EW effects → NNPDF4.0QED
- ▶ account for theory uncertainties → NNPDF4.0MHOU
- ▶ use N3LO accuracy → NNPDF4.0aN3LO

For PDFs with QCD@aN3LO we need:

- ▶ approximate splitting functions
- ▶ upgrade as many processes as possible
- ▶ account for theory uncertainties

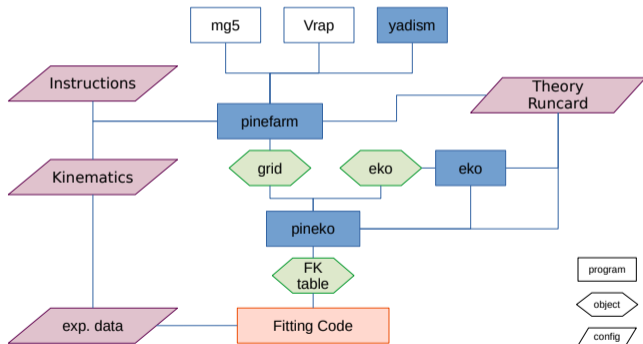
Danke! Thanks! Kiitos!

The background consists of two large, overlapping geometric shapes. A teal-colored shape is in the upper-left corner, and a light gray shape is in the lower-left corner. The rest of the slide is white.

Backup slides

New Theory Prediction Pipeline Pipeline [2302.12124]

Produce FastKernel (FK) tables!



The workhorse in the background: PineAPPL

Usage of PDFs with Theory Uncertainties [EPJC79.931]

- ▶ PDFs are universal
- ▶ we can assume uncertainties for a given process independent of the PDF

In the end we can just do:

$$(\delta\sigma^{tot})^2 = (\delta\sigma^{MHOU})^2 + (\delta\sigma^{PDF})^2 \quad (7)$$

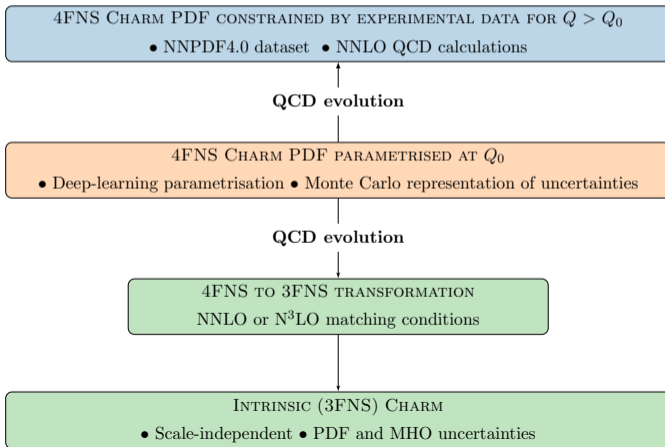
with (as usual):

$$(\delta\sigma^{MHOU})^2 = \langle (T_\sigma[\mu] - T_\sigma[\mu_0])^2 \rangle_{\mu \in V_\mu} \quad (8)$$

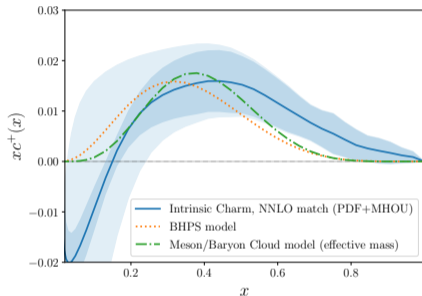
$$(\delta\sigma^{PDF})^2 = \langle (T_\sigma[f^{(k)}] - T_\sigma[f^{(0)}])^2 \rangle_{k=1 \dots N_{rep}} \quad (9)$$

Intrinsic Charm: Strategy [\[Nature608.483\]](#)

based on NNPDF4.0 [\[EPJC82.428\]](#)



Intrinsic Charm: PDF plot [\[Nature608.483\]](#)



[\[BHPS\]](#) or [\[Meson/Baryon Cloud Model\]](#)

- ▶ in **3FNS** a valence-like peak is present
- ▶ for $x \leq 0.2$ the perturbative uncertainties are quite large
- ▶ the carried momentum fraction is within **1%**