

# **NNPDFs for the LHC**

**&**

## **the search for deviations from DGLAP evolution in HERA data**

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**Alberto Guffanti**

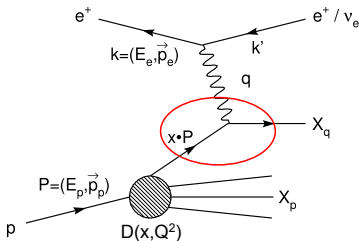
Niels Bohr International Academy & Discovery Center  
Niels Bohr Institute - Copenhagen



INT, Seattle,  
October 27, 2011

# What are Parton Distribution Functions?

- Consider a process with one hadron in the initial state



- According to the **Factorization Theorem** we can write the cross section as

$$d\sigma = \sum_a \int_0^1 \frac{d\xi}{\xi} D_a(\xi, \mu^2) d\hat{\sigma}_a \left( \frac{x}{\xi}, \frac{\hat{s}}{\mu^2}, \alpha_s(\mu^2) \right) + \mathcal{O} \left( \frac{1}{Q^p} \right)$$



# What are Parton Distribution Functions?

- The **absolute value** of PDFs at a given  $x$  and  $Q^2$  **cannot be computed** in QCD Perturbation Theory  
(Lattice? In principle yes, but ...)
- ... but the **scale dependence** is governed by **DGLAP** evolution equations

$$\frac{\partial}{\ln Q^2} q^{NS}(\xi, Q^2) = P^{NS}(\xi, \alpha_s) \otimes q^{NS}(\xi, Q^2)$$
$$\frac{\partial}{\ln Q^2} \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma \\ g \end{pmatrix}(\xi, Q^2) = \begin{pmatrix} P_{qq} & P_{qg} \\ P_{gq} & P_{gg} \end{pmatrix}(\xi, \alpha_s) \otimes \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma \\ g \end{pmatrix}(\xi, Q^2)$$

- ... and the **splitting functions**  $P$  can be computed in PT and are known up to **NNLO**

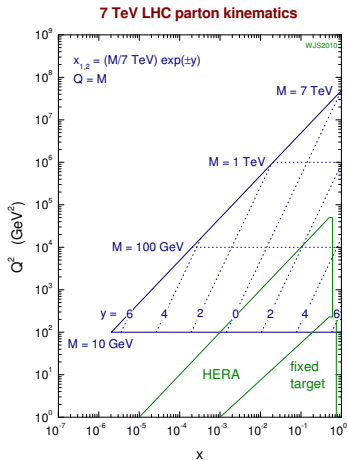
[LO - Dokshitzer; Gribov, Lipatov; Altarelli, Parisi; 1977]

[NLO - Floratos, Ross, Sachrajda; Gonzalez-Arroyo, Lopez, Yndurain; Curci, Furmanski, Petronzio, 1981]

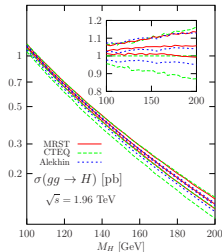
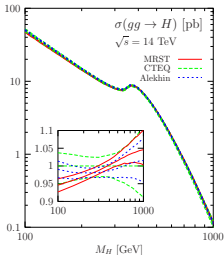
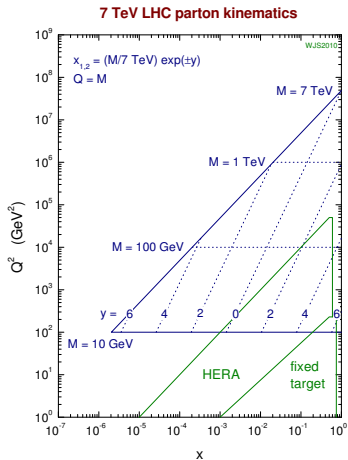
[NNLO - Moch, Vermaseren, Vogt; 2004]



# Why care about PDFs (and their uncertainties)?



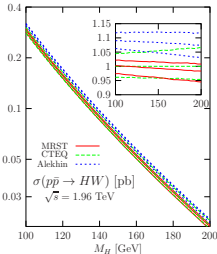
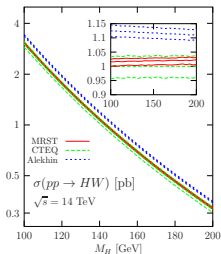
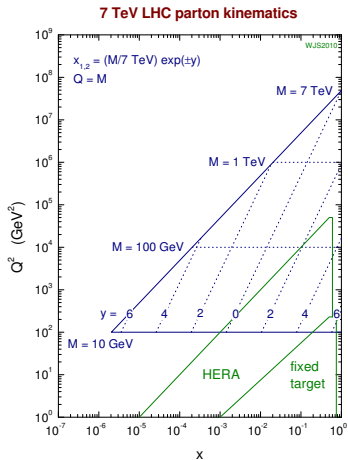
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[A. Djouadi and S. Ferrag, hep-ph/0310209]



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# Why care about PDFs (and their uncertainties)?

- Errors on PDFs are in some cases the **dominating theoretical error** on precision observables

**Ex.**  $\sigma(Z^0)$  at the LHC:  $\delta_{PDF} \sim 3\%$ ,  $\delta_{NNLO} \sim 2\%$

[J. Campbell, J. Huston and J. Stirling, (2007)]



# Why care about PDFs (and their uncertainties)?

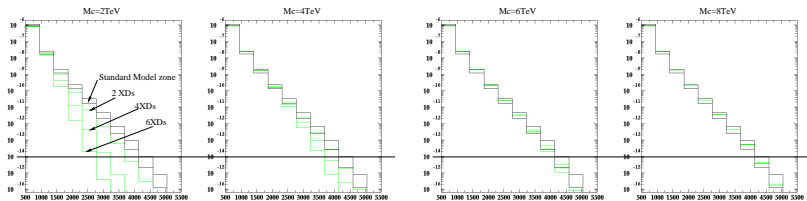
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- Errors on PDFs might **reduce sensitivity to New Physics**

Ex. Extra Dimensions discovery in dijet cross section at the LHC:



[S. Ferrag (ATLAS), hep-ph/0407303]





# Problem

Faithful estimation of errors on PDFs

- Single quantity: **1- $\sigma$  error**
- Multiple quantities: **1- $\sigma$  contours**
- Function: need an **"error band" in the space of functions**  
(i.e. the probability density  $\mathcal{P}[f]$  in the space of functions  $f(x)$ )

**Expectation values are Functional integrals**

$$\langle \mathcal{F}[f(x)] \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}f \mathcal{F}[f(x)] \mathcal{P}[f(x)]$$



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$$\langle \mathcal{F}[f(x)] \rangle = \int \mathcal{D}f \mathcal{F}[f(x)] \mathcal{P}[f(x)]$$

**Determine a function from a finite set of data points**



# Solution

## Standard Approach

- Introduce a simple functional form with enough free parameters

$$q(x, Q^2) = x^\alpha (1 - x)^\beta P(x; \lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n).$$

- Fit parameters minimizing  $\chi^2$ .



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### Open problems:

- **Error propagation** from data to parameters and from parameters to observables is **not trivial**.
- **Theoretical bias** due to the chosen **parametrization** is difficult to assess.

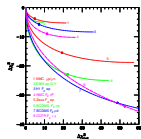


# Shortcomings of the Standard approach

What is the meaning of a one- $\sigma$  uncertainty?

- Standard  $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$  criterion is **too restrictive** to account for large discrepancies among experiments in a **global fit**.

[Collins & Pumplin, 2001]



# Shortcomings of the Standard approach

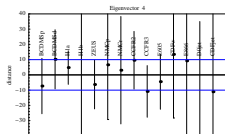
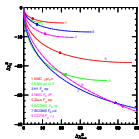
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[Collins & Pumplin, 2001]

- Introduce a **TOLERANCE** criterion, i.e. take the envelope of uncertainties of experiments to determine the  $\Delta\chi^2$  to use for the global fit (CTEQ).

[Tung et al., 2006]

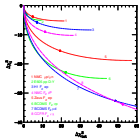


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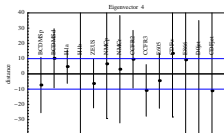
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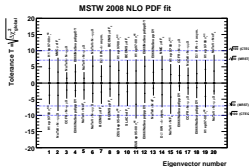
- Introduce a **TOLERANCE** criterion, i.e. take the envelope of uncertainties of experiments to determine the  $\Delta\chi^2$  to use for the global fit (CTEQ).

[Tung et al., 2006]



- Make it **DYNAMICAL**, i.e. determine  $\Delta\chi^2$  separately for each hessian eigenvector (MSTW).

[Thorne et. al, 2008]

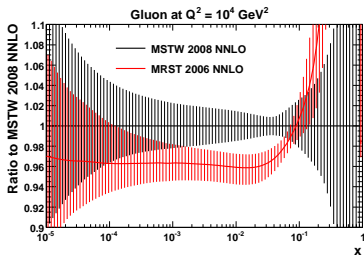


# Shortcomings of the standard approach

What determines PDF uncertainties?

- **Uncertainties** in standard fits often **increase when adding data** (i.e. when adding information) even if they are compatible with the old data.
- **Reason**: need change the parametrization in order to accommodate the new data.

Smaller high- $x$  gluon (and slightly smaller  $\alpha_S$ ) results in larger small- $x$  gluon – now shown at NNLO.



Larger small- $x$  uncertainty due to extra free parameter.

[R. Thorne, PDF4LHC]





# THE NNPDF METHODOLOGY

[R. D. Ball, V. Bertone, F. Cerutti, L. Del Debbio, S. Forte, J. I. Latorre,  
A. Piccione, J. Rojo, M. Ubiali and AG]



# NNPDF Methodology

## Main Ingredients

- **Monte Carlo** determination of errors
  - No need to rely on linear propagation of errors
  - Possibility to test for the impact of non gaussianly distributed errors
  - Possibility to test for non-gaussian behaviour in fitted PDFs ( $1 - \sigma$  vs. 68% CL)
- **Neural Networks**
  - Provide an **unbiased** parametrization
- **Stopping based on Cross-Validation**
  - Ensures proper fitting avoiding overlearning



# NNPDF Methodology

... in a Nutshell

- Generate  $N_{rep}$  **Monte-Carlo replicas** of the experimental data (sampling of the probability density in the space of data)
- Fit a set of Parton Distribution Functions on each replica (sampling of the probability density in the space of PDFs)
- **Expectation values** for observables are **Monte Carlo integrals**

$$\langle \mathcal{F}[f_i(x, Q^2)] \rangle = \frac{1}{N_{rep}} \sum_{k=1}^{N_{rep}} \mathcal{F}\left(f_i^{(net)(k)}(x, Q^2)\right)$$

... the same is true for errors, correlations, etc.



# NNPDF Methodology

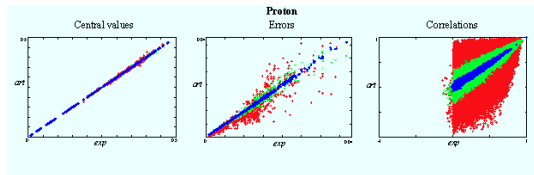
## Monte Carlo replicas generation

- **Generate** artificial data according to distribution

$$O_i^{(art)(k)} = (1 + r_N^{(k)} \sigma_N) \left[ O_i^{(exp)} + \sum_{p=1}^{N_{sys}} r_p^{(k)} \sigma_{i,p} + r_{i,S}^{(k)} \sigma_S^i \right]$$

where  $r_i$  are univariate (gaussianly distributed) random numbers

- **Validate** Monte Carlo replicas against experimental data (statistical estimators, faithful representation of errors, convergence rate increasing  $N_{rep}$ )

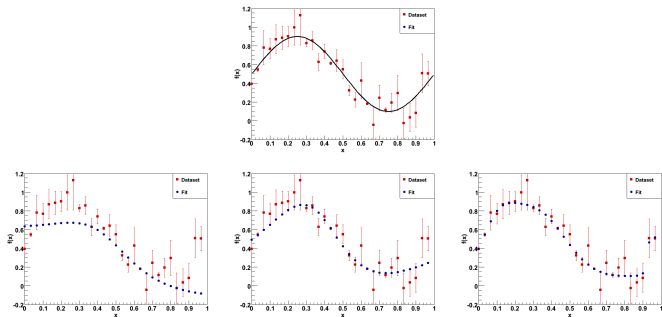


- $\mathcal{O}(1000)$  replicas needed to reproduce correlations to percent accuracy



# Proper Fitting avoiding Overlearning

Parametrization bias in a toy model



- Need a **redundant parametrization** to avoid parametrization bias.
- Need a way of **stopping the fit before overlearning** sets in to avoid fitting statistical noise.



# Neural Networks

... a suitable basis of functions

- We use **Neural Networks** as **functions** to represent **PDFs at the starting scale**
- We employ **Multilayer Feed-Forward** Neural Networks trained using a **Genetic Algorithm**
- Activation determined by **weights** and **thresholds**

$$\xi_i = g \left( \sum_j \omega_{ij} \xi_j - \theta_i \right), \quad g(x) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{-\beta x}}$$



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Ex.: 1-2-1 NN:

$$\xi_1^{(3)}(\xi_1^{(1)}) = \frac{1}{1 + e^{\theta_1^{(3)} - \frac{\omega_{11}^{(2)}}{1 + e^{\theta_1^{(2)} - \xi_1^{(1)} \omega_{11}^{(1)}} - \frac{\omega_{12}^{(2)}}{1 + e^{\theta_2^{(2)} - \xi_1^{(1)} \omega_{21}^{(1)}}}}$$



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- They provide a parametrization which is **redundant** and **robust** against variations





# Neural Networks

## Training Method

### Genetic Algorithm

- 1 Set network parameters randomly.
- 2 Make *clones* of the set of parameters.
- 3 Mutate each clone.
- 4 Evaluate  $\chi^2$  for all the clones.
- 5 Select the clone that has the lowest  $\chi^2$ .
- 6 Back to 2, until stability in  $\chi^2$  is reached.



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#### Pros:

- Allows to minimize the fully correlated  $\chi^2$
- Explores the full parameter space, reducing the risk of being trapped in a local minimum

#### Cons:

- Slow convergence
- $\chi^2$  decreases monotonically - need to find a suitable stopping criterion



# Neural Networks

## Stopping criterion

### Stopping criterion based on Training-Validation separation

- Divide the data in two sets: **Training** and **Validation**
- Minimize the  $\chi^2$  of the data in the **Training** set
- Compute the  $\chi^2$  for the data in the **Validation** set
- When **validation**  $\chi^2$  stops decreasing, **STOP** the fit

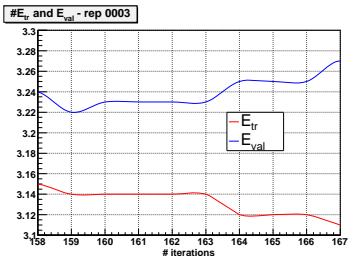
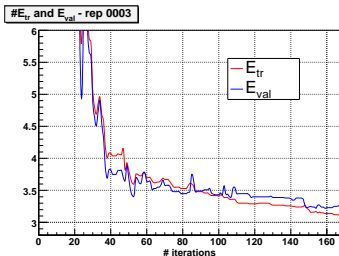


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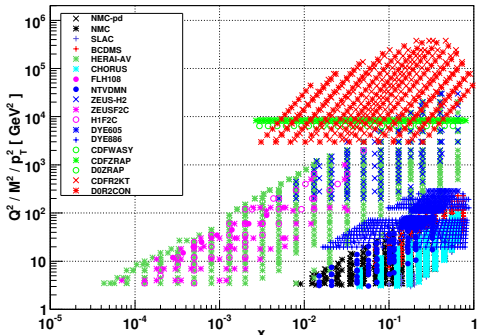
# RESULTS



# NNPDF 2.1

A family of global fits ...

NNPDF2.1 dataset



**3415** data points (NLO fit)  
(3408 - LO and 3473 - NNLO)

[R. D. Ball et. al, arXiv:1101.1300] - NLO  
[R. D. Ball et. al, arXiv:1107.2652] - LO/NNLO

OBS	Data set
<b>Deep Inelastic Scattering</b>	
$F_2^d / F_2^p$	NMC-pd
$F_2^p$	NMC, SLAC, BCDMS
$F_2^d$	SLAC, BCDMS
$\sigma_{NC}^{\pm}$	HERA-I, ZEUS (HERA-II)
$\sigma_{CC}^{\pm}$	HERA-I, ZEUS (HERA-II)
$F_L$	H1
$\sigma_{\nu}, \sigma_{\bar{\nu}}$	CHORUS
dimuon prod.	NuTeV
$F_2^c$	ZEUS, H1

<b>Drell-Yan &amp; Vector Boson prod.</b>	
$d\sigma^{DY} / dM^2 dy$	E605
$d\sigma^{DY} / dM^2 dx_F$	E866
W asymm.	CDF
Z rap. distr.	D0/CDF

<b>Inclusive jet prod.</b>	
Incl. $\sigma^{(jet)}$	CDF ( $k_T$ ) - Run II
Incl. $\sigma^{(jet)}$	D0 (cone) - Run II



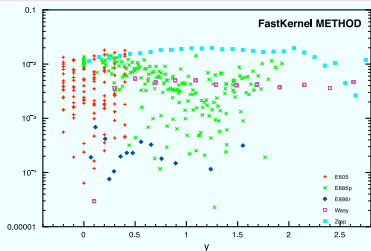
# NNPDF 2.x

## Inclusion of Higher Order corrections - *FastKernel*

- NLO computation of hadronic observables too slow for parton global fits.
- MSTW08 and CTEQ include Drell-Yan NLO as (local) K factors rescaling the LO cross section
- K-factor depends on PDFs and it is not always a good approximation.

- \* NNPDF2.0 includes full NLO calculation of hadronic observables.
- \* Use available fastNLO interface for jet inclusive cross-sections. [[hep-ph/0609285](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0609285)]
- \* Built up our own **FastKernel** computation of DY observables.

$$\int_{x_{0,1}}^1 dx_1 \int_{x_{0,2}}^1 dx_2 f_a(x_1) f_b(x_2) C^{ab}(x_1, x_2) \rightarrow \sum_{\alpha, \beta=1}^{N_X} f_a(x_{1,\alpha}) f_b(x_{2,\beta}) \int_{x_{0,1}}^1 dx_1 \int_{x_{0,2}}^1 dx_2 \mathcal{I}^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x_1, x_2) C^{ab}(x_1, x_2)$$



- Both PDFs evolution and double convolution sped up by
  - Use high-orders polynomial interpolation
  - Precompute all Green Functions

**A truly NLO analysis**



# NNPDF 2.1

## Heavy Flavour treatment - FONLL

- We adopt the **FONLL** General Mass-Variable Flavour Number Scheme

[M. Cacciari, M. Greco and P. Nason, (1998)]

[S. Forte, P. Nason E. Laenen and J. Rojo, (2010)]

- FONLL gives a prescription to **combine FFN** (Massive) and **ZM-VFN** (Massless) computations, at any given order, **avoiding double counting**.
- With results available three implementations of FONLL are possible:
  - **FONLL-A**:  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$  Massless +  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$  Massive
  - **FONLL-B**:  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$  Massless +  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$  Massive
  - **FONLL-C**:  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$  Massless +  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$  Massive
- **Fixed Flavour Number Scheme** (3-, 4-, 5-) fits **available**.





# NNPDF 2.1

## Parametrization

### Parton Distributions Combination

### NN architecture

Singlet ( $\Sigma(x)$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Gluon ( $g(x)$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Total valence ( $V(x) \equiv u_V(x) + d_V(x)$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Non-singlet triplet ( $T_3(x)$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Sea asymmetry ( $\Delta_S(x) \equiv \bar{d}(x) - \bar{u}(x)$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Total Strangeness ( $s^+(x) \equiv (s(x) + \bar{s}(x))/2$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)
Strange valence ( $s^-(x) \equiv (s(x) - \bar{s}(x))/2$ )	$\implies$	2-5-3-1 (37 pars)

**259** parameters

Standard fits have  $\sim 25$  parameters in total

**No change in the parametrization** since NNPDF1.2 ... despite substantial **enlargement of the dataset.**

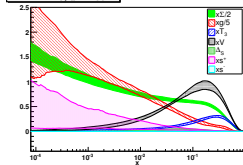


# The present status of PDF fits

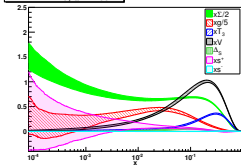
PDFs ... a family portrait

- At the starting scale ( $2 \text{ GeV}^2$ ) ...

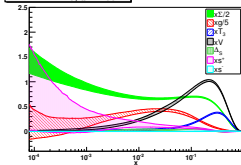
NNPDF2.1 LO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$



NNPDF2.1 NLO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$



NNPDF2.1 NNLO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

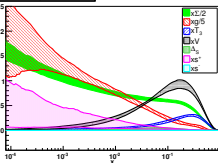


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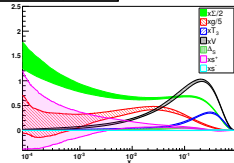
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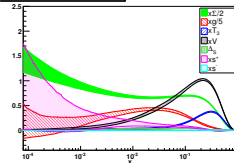
NNPDF2.1 LO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$



NNPDF2.1 NLO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

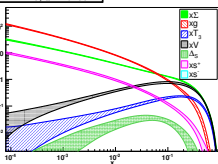


NNPDF2.1 NNLO,  $Q^2 = 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

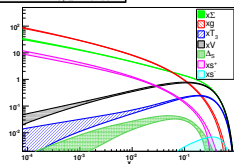


- ... and at the typical EW scale ( $100 \text{ GeV}^2$ )

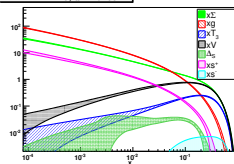
NNPDF2.1 LO,  $Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$



NNPDF2.1 NLO,  $Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$



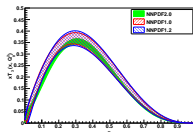
NNPDF2.1 NNLO,  $Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$



# NNPDF 2.1

Partons - A couple of upshots

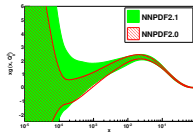
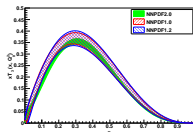
- **Reduction of uncertainties** with respect to older NNPDF sets due to **inclusion of new data**.



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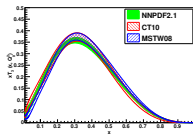
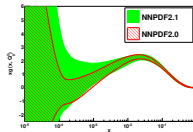
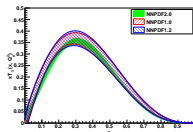
- **Reduction of uncertainties** with respect to older NNPDF sets due to **inclusion of new data**.
- When **uncertainties increase** we know it is **not a parametrization effect**.



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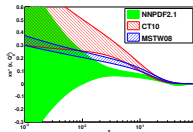
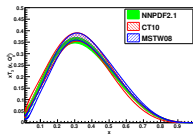
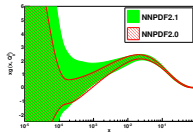
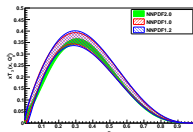
- **Reduction of uncertainties** with respect to older NNPDF sets due to **inclusion of new data**.
- When **uncertainties increase** we know it is **not a parametrization effect**.
- **Uncertainties** on PDFs have **size comparable** to those obtained by other groups in kinematic regions where there are significant **constraints from data** ...



# NNPDF 2.1

Partons - A couple of upshots

- **Reduction of uncertainties** with respect to older NNPDF sets due to **inclusion of new data**.
- When **uncertainties increase** we know it is **not a parametrization effect**.
- **Uncertainties** on PDFs have **size comparable** to those obtained by other groups in kinematic regions where there are significant **constraints from data** ...
- ... but still retain **unbiasedness** in kinematic regions where there are little or **no experimental constraints**.



# The present status of PDF fits

## The PDF sets Matrix

	Dataset	Pert. Order	Heavy Flavours	$\alpha_S$	Param.	Uncert.
<b>ABKM09</b>	DIS (FT, HERA) Drell-Yan (FT)	NLO NNLO	FFN (BMSN)	fitted	6 indep. PDF Polynomial (25 param.)	Hessian ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$ )
<b>CT10</b>	DIS (FT, HERA) Drell-Yan (FT, Tev) Jets (Tevatron)	LO NLO	GM-VFNS (S-ACOT)	external var. avail.	6 indep. PDF Polynomial (26 param.)	Hessian ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 100$ )
<b>JR09</b>	DIS (FT, HERA) Drell-Yan (FT) Jets (Tevatron)	NLO NNLO	FFN VFN	fitted	5 indep. PDF Polynom. (15 param.)	Hessian ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$ )
<b>HERAPDF1.5</b>	DIS (HERA)	NLO NNLO	GM-VFNS (TR)	external var. avail.	5 indep. PDF Polnom. (14 param.)	Hessian ( $\Delta\chi^2 = 1$ )
<b>MSTW08</b>	DIS (FT, HERA) Drell-Yan (FT, Tev) Jets (HERA, Tev)	LO NLO NNLO	GM-VFNS (TR)	fitted	7 indep. PDF Polynom. (20 param.)	Hessian ( $\Delta\chi^2 \sim 25$ )
<b>NNPDF2.1</b>	DIS (FT, HERA) Drell-Yan (FT, Tev) Jets (Tevatron)	LO NLO NNLO	GM-VFNS (FONLL)	external var. avail	7 indep. PDF Neural Netw. (259 param.)	Monte Carlo





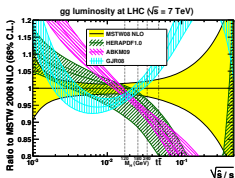
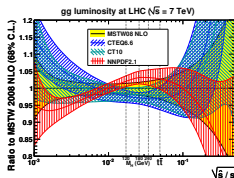
# The present status of PDF fits

## Comparison between Parton Luminosities

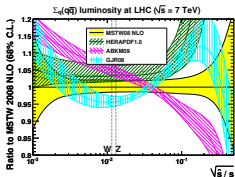
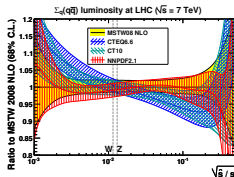
- When trying to understand **differences between PDF** sets it is useful to look at **parton luminosities**

$$\Phi_{ij}(M_X^2) = \frac{1}{s} \int_{\tau}^1 \frac{x_1}{x_1} f_i(x_1, M_X^2) f_j(\tau/x_1, M_X^2)$$

$gg$ :



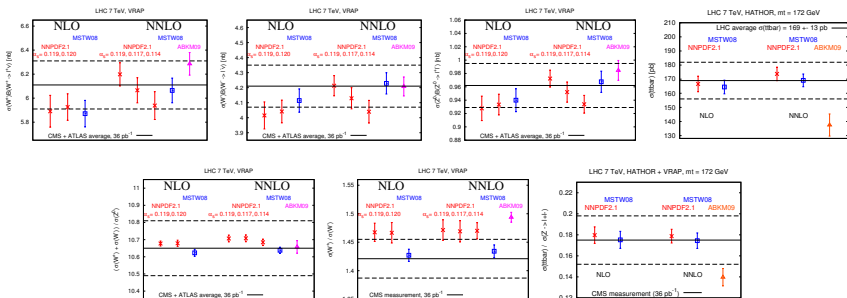
$q\bar{q}$ :



# The present status of PDF fits

## Comparisons to LHC data

- Predictions for **LHC Standard Candles** compared to **LHC data**



- LHC data will soon be precise enough to distinguish between different predictions.

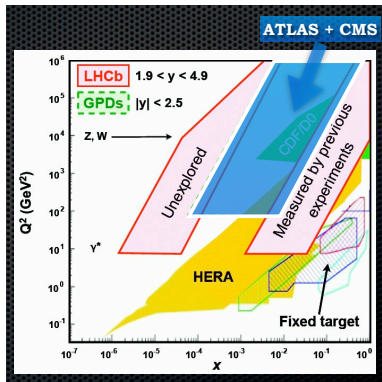


# LHC4PDFs

W lepton asymmetry data at the LHC

$$A_W^l = \frac{\sigma(pp \rightarrow W^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l) - \sigma(pp \rightarrow W^- \rightarrow l^- \bar{\nu}_l)}{\sigma(pp \rightarrow W^+ \rightarrow l^+ \nu_l) + \sigma(pp \rightarrow W^- \rightarrow l^- \bar{\nu}_l)}$$

- **ATLAS**: muon charge asymmetry ( $31\text{pb}^{-1}$ ) [ArXiv:1103:2929]
- **CMS**: muon charge asymmetry ( $36\text{pb}^{-1}$ ) [ArXiv:1103:3470]

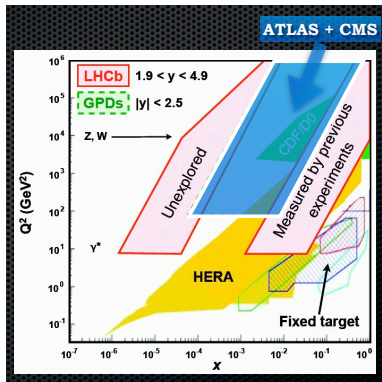


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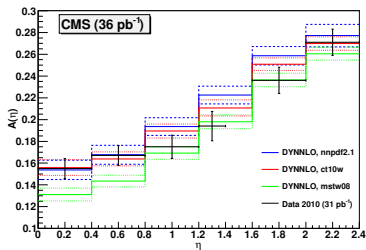
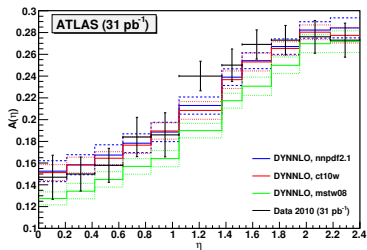
$$A'_W \sim \frac{u(x_1, M_W^2) \bar{d}(x_2, M_W^2) - d(x_1, M_W^2) \bar{u}(x_2, M_W^2)}{u(x_1, M_W^2) \bar{d}(x_2, M_W^2) + d(x_1, M_W^2) \bar{u}(x_2, M_W^2)}$$

- **ATLAS**: muon charge asymmetry ( $31 \text{ pb}^{-1}$ ) [[ArXiv:1103:2929](#)]
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# LHC4PDFs

The W lepton asymmetry data at LHC



$\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$	<b>NNPDF2.1</b>	<b>CT10w</b>	<b>MSTW08</b>
ATLAS	0.7	0.8	3.2
CMS $e^- p_T > 25$ GeV	1.9	0.8	2.4
CMS $e^- p_T > 30$ GeV	1.7	1.2	2.5
CMS $\mu p_T > 25$ GeV	1.3	0.5	1.1
CMS $\mu p_T > 30$ GeV	0.8	0.6	1.3

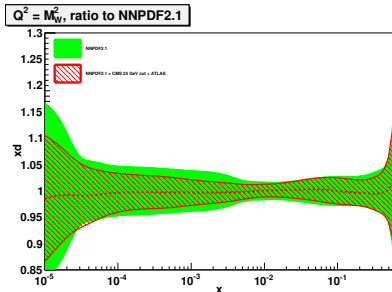
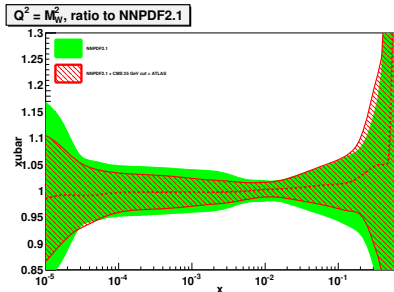
Theory predictions computed using DYNLO at NLO

[ArXiv:0903.2120]



# LHC4PDFs

Inclusion of the LHC W lepton asymmetry data



- ATLAS and CMS data compatible with data included in global analysis
- They provide important constraint to PDFs in the small medium- $x$  region
- Significant uncertainty reduction

## ATLAS

$N_{\text{eff}} = 928$ ,  $\chi^2_{\text{d.o.f.}} : 0.69 \rightarrow 0.65$

CMS ( $p_T^l > 25\text{GeV}$ )

$N_{\text{eff}} = 554$ ,  $\chi^2_{\text{d.o.f.}} : 1.41 \rightarrow 0.74$

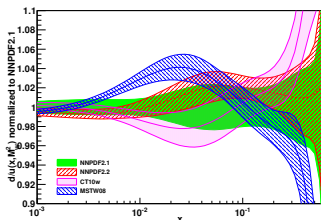
CMS ( $p_T^l > 30\text{GeV}$ )

$N_{\text{eff}} = 717$ ,  $\chi^2_{\text{d.o.f.}} : 0.98 \rightarrow 0.72$

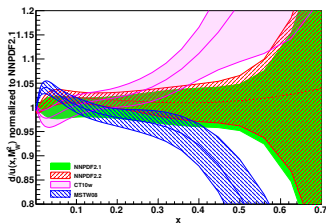
# LHC4PDFs

Combining Tevatron and LHC data

LOG scale



LIN scale

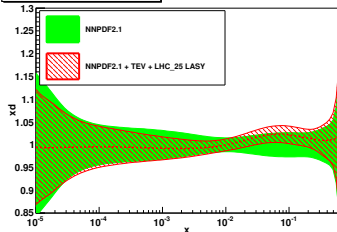


**ATLAS+CMS(25)+D0 $_{\mu}$ +D0 $_e$ (20)**

$N_{\text{eff}} = 196$ ,  $\chi^2_{\text{d.o.f.}} : 2.18 \rightarrow 0.86$

- Uncertainty reduction medium-small  $x$  and shift in central value driven by the LHC data
- Uncertainty reduction at medium-large  $x$  driven by Tevatron data

$Q^2 = M_{W,\tau}^2$ , ratio to NNPDF2.1



# LHC4PDFs

... the data we would love to have from the LHC

- Medium- and large- $x$  **gluon**
  - Prompt photons
  - Inclusive Jets
  - $t$ -quark distributions ( $p_{\perp}, y$ ) (?)
- **Light flavour separation** at medium- & small- $x$ 
  - Low-mass Drell-Yan
  - High-mass  $W$  production
  - $Z$  rapidity distribution
  - $W(+\text{jets})$  asymmetry
- **Strangeness & Heavy Flavours**
  - $W + c$
  - $Z + c, \gamma + c$
  - $Z + b$





# LOOKING FOR DEVIATIONS FROM NLO DGLAP EVOLUTION

[F. Caola, S. Forte & J. Rojo, arXiv:0910.3143]



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

## The Idea

**Deviations** from (NLO) DGLAP are **expected at at small- $x$  and  $Q^2$**

- Several **possible sources**: NNLO, resummation, saturation ...
- Possible **deviations are small**: NLO fits work well!
- **Difficult to single out** deviations: might be absorbed by deformation of fitted PDFs

**Testing** such an hypothesis requires

- Very precise, extensive **dataset**: HERA-I combined dataset
- A set of PDFs with a reliable error estimation: NNPDF



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

## The General Strategy

- Perform a **DGLAP fit** to determine PDFs in a "**safe region**"
- **Back-evolve** them using DGLAP to the "**would-be-unsafe**" region and compute observables
- **Compare** predictions **to data**  $\implies$  **systematic discrepancy** indicates **deviations from DGLAP**



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

## The General Strategy

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- **Compare predictions to data**  $\implies$  **systematic discrepancy** indicates **deviations from DGLAP**

### Caution

Deviations from DGLAP, if there, are small  
(NLO DGLAP fits give good description of available data)

- **Reliable PDF uncertainties** determination is crucial
- **Refined statistical tools**: establish statistical significance of the discrepancy



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

Define the "safe region"

## The Goal

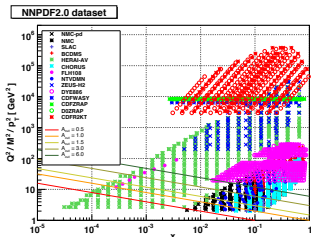
- Remove low- $x$ , low- $Q^2$  region from the fit
- Retain enough experimental information to constrain PDFs

## The Suggestion

- Keep data in the region

$$Q^2 > A_{\text{cut}} x^{-0.3}$$

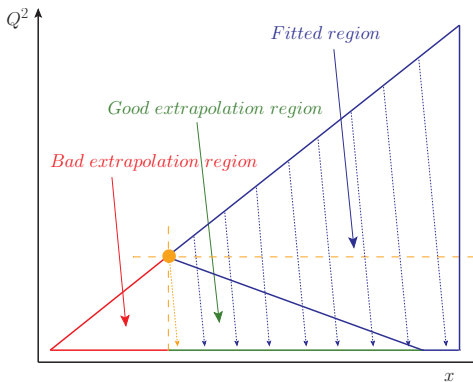
- Theoretically appealing (saturation inspired ...)
- Keep large- $x$  data



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

Define the "would-be-unsafe region"

Think of the causal structure of DGLAP evolution



## Bad extrapolation region

Evolution affected by information in the unfitted region  $\rightarrow$

DGLAP prediction meaningless

## Good extrapolation region

Evolution only depends on information in the fitted region



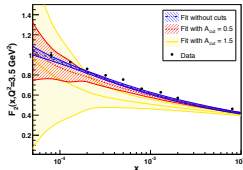
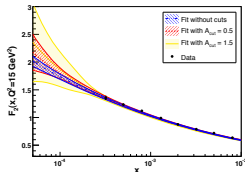
Meaningful DGLAP prediction



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

## Results

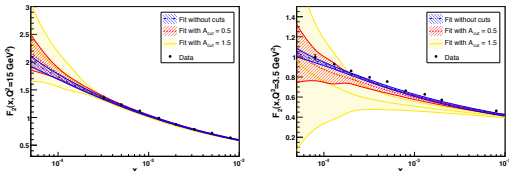
- We can have a look at the structure functions  $F_2$  itself



# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

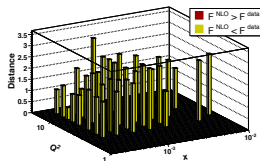
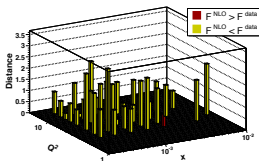
## Results

- We can have a look at the structure functions  $F_2$  itself



- Or, for a more quantitative insight, at the distances between the predictions and the data

$$d(x, Q^2) = \frac{F_2^{\text{dat}} - F_2^{\text{fit}}}{\sqrt{\sigma_{\text{dat}}^2 + \sigma_{\text{fit}}^2}}$$





# Looking for deviations from DGLAP evolution

## Comments

- This analysis provides a **model-independent indication** for deviations from (NLO) DGLAP evolution
- **Possible explanations:**
  - Higher Order effects (NNLO)
  - Heavy Flavour Mass contributions
  - Perturbative resummation
  - Parton saturation
  - ....
- **Establishing the source** of the deviations requires a specific, **hypothesis-dependent study** (e.g. inclusion of resummation effect in fits)
- We have the tools to test some of these explanations, now!



# Conclusions

- A **reliable** estimation of **PDF uncertainties** is crucial in order to exploit the full physics potential of the LHC experiments.
- The **NNPDF2.1** family of PDF sets fulfills the requirement of an ideal parton densities set for precision phenomenology at the LHC
  - it is based on a comprehensive global dataset,
  - it is (almost) free of parametrization bias,
  - it is provided with a reliable, statistically meaningful estimation of uncertainties,
  - it includes higher order corrections (almost) without resorting to  $K$ -factor approximations,
  - it includes a consistent treatment of heavy quark effects,
  - it is available for a variety of values of  $\alpha_s$  and quark masses.
- The **NNPDF parton sets** provide an **ideal tool** to systematically **test for deviations from DGLAP** evolution at small- $x$  and  $Q^2$

