

# Nuclear PDFs

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Atelier “Physique Théorique des deux infinis”  
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# nCTEQ collaboration

- **nCTEQ** is part of **CTEQ** (The Coordinated Theoretical-Experimental Project on QCD)
- Devoted to understanding **QCD** at the **interface between nuclear and particle physics**:
  - Understand **nuclei** in terms of **quark and gluon degrees of freedom**
  - Understand **nuclear corrections** needed to use nuclear data in **studies of nucleon structure**

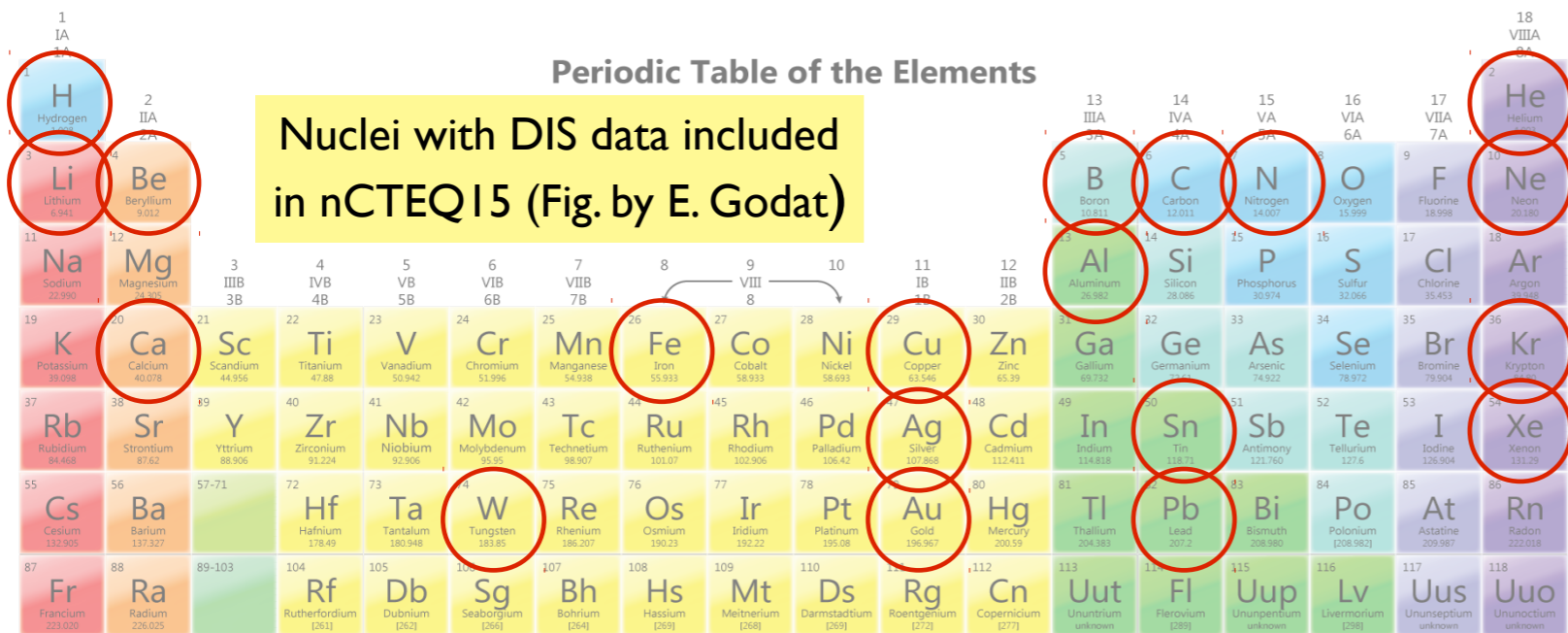
- Webpage: <https://ncteq.hepforge.org/>

**nCTEQ**  
nuclear parton distribution functions

# nCTEQ collaboration

- **Initiated in 2006** by **Fred Olness, IS** and **Ji-Young Yu (SMU Dallas)** joined by the CTEQ members **C. Keppel (Hampton Univ./JLAB)**, **J. G. Morfin (FNAL)**, and **J. Owens (Florida State Univ.)**
- **Members in 2021** [3rd generation! underlined: (former) LPSC]:
  - **SMU Dallas:** F. Olness (CTEQ), T. Hobbs (Post-Doc), J.-Y. Yu
  - **FNAL:** J. G. Morfin (CTEQ)
  - **LPSC Grenoble:** I. Schienbein (CTEQ), C. Léger (PhD)
  - **JLAB:** C. Keppel (CTEQ)
  - **INP Krakow:** A. Kusina, R. Ruiz (Post-Doc)
  - **Univ. Münster:** M. Klasen (CTEQ), K. Kovarik (CTEQ), F. Muzakka (PhD), P. Duwentäster (PhD), P. Risse (PhD)
  - **Univ. Karlsruhe:** T. Jezo (senior Post-Doc)

# Partonic structure of nuclei

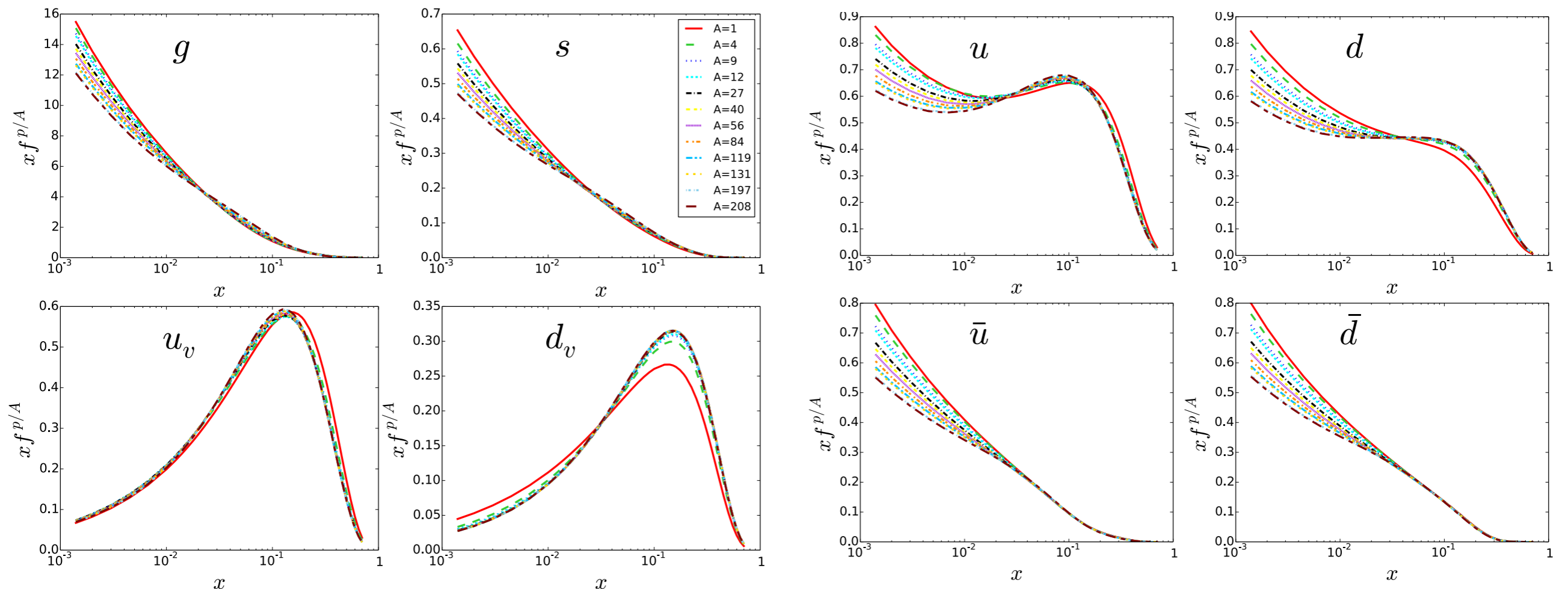


- Fundamental quest
- New data from LHC, EIC, LHeC, etc. will allow for a refined parametrization; zoom in on high- $x$  region
- Ultimately, fits to lead only (or other targets); no need to combine different  $A$  in one analysis

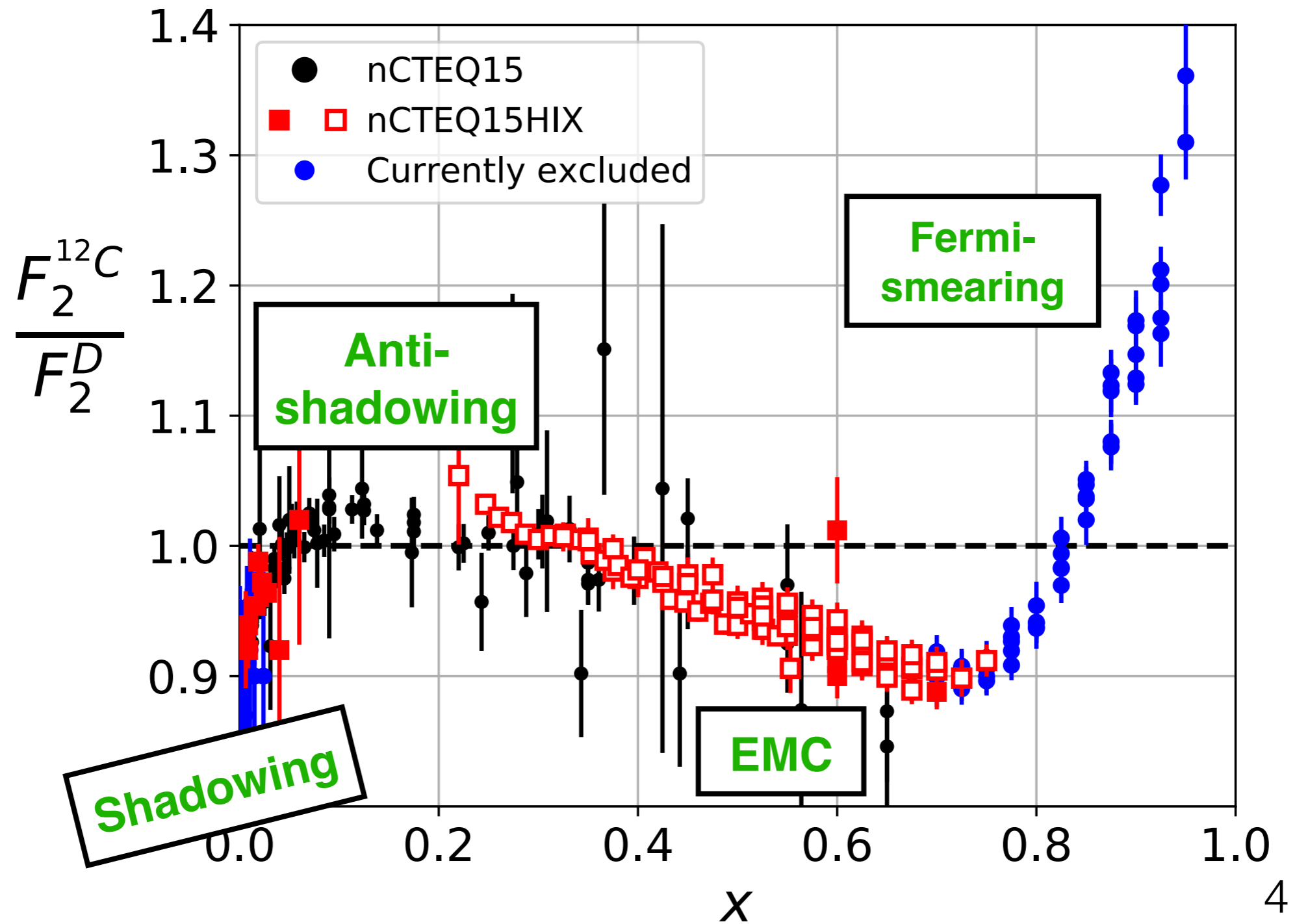
nCTEQ15, arXiv:1509.00792

$$x f_i^{p/A}(x, Q_0) = x^{c_1} (1-x)^{c_2} e^{c_3 x} (1 + e^{c_4 x})^{c_5}$$

$$c_k(A) = c_{k,0} + c_{k,1} (1 - A^{-c_{k,2}})$$



# A nucleus is not a collection of free nucleons



# Theoretical Framework (pQCD formalism)

## Factorization Theorems:

- Provide (field theoretical) **definitions** of the **universal** PDFs
- Make the formalism **predictive!**
- Make a statement about the **error** of the factorization formula

**PDFs** and predictions for **observables+uncertainties refer to this standard pQCD framework**

**Need a solid understanding of the standard framework!**

- For **pp** and **ep** collisions there a **rigorous factorization proofs**
- For **pA** and **AA** factorization is a **working assumption** to be tested phenomenologically

There might be breaking of QCD factorization, deviations from **DGLAP** evolution, other nuclear matter effects to be included

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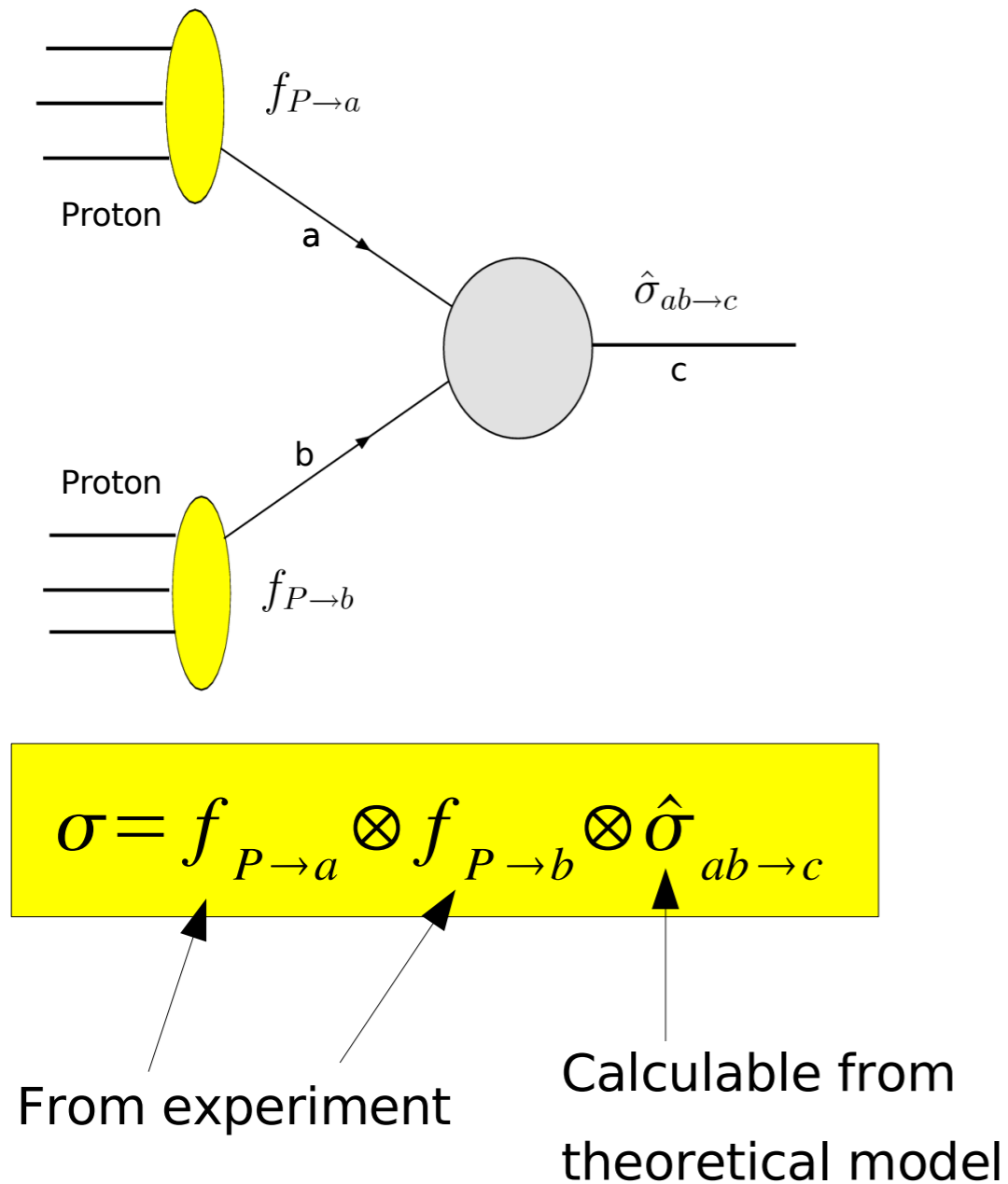
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Talk by C. Marquet

Talk by F. Arleo

# Factorization for pp collisions



## Parton Distribution Functions (PDFs)

$$f_{P \rightarrow a, b}(x, \mu^2)$$

- ★ Universal
- ★ Describe the structure of hadrons
- ★ Obey **DGLAP** evolution equations

## The hard part $\hat{\sigma}_{ab \rightarrow c}(\mu^2)$

- ★ Free of short distance scales
- ★ Calculable in perturbation theory
- ★ Depends on the process

# Predictive Power

**Universality:** same PDFs/FFs enter different processes:

- DIS: 
$$F_2^A(x, Q^2) = \sum_i [f_i^A \otimes C_{2,i}] (x, Q^2)$$

- DY: 
$$\sigma_{A+B \rightarrow \ell^+ + \ell^- + X} = \sum_{i,j} f_i^A \otimes f_j^B \otimes \hat{\sigma}^{i+j \rightarrow \ell^+ + \ell^- + X}$$

- $A+B \rightarrow H + X$ : 
$$\sigma_{A+B \rightarrow H+X} = \sum_{i,j,k} f_i^A \otimes f_j^B \otimes \hat{\sigma}^{i+j \rightarrow k+X} \otimes D_k^H$$

- **Predictions** for unexplored kinematic regions and for your favorite **new physics** process

# Scale dependence predicted by QCD

- ▶  $x$ -**dependence** of PDFs is NOT calculable in pQCD
- ▶  $\mu^2$ -**dependence** is calculable in pQCD – given by **DGLAP**  
(Dokshitzer-Gribov-Lipatov-Altarelli-Parisi) evolution equations

## DGLAP evolution equations

$$\frac{df_q(x, \mu^2)}{d \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_S(\mu^2)}{2\pi} \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} \left[ P_{qq} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) f_q(y, \mu^2) + P_{qg} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) f_g(y, \mu^2) \right]$$
$$\frac{df_g(x, \mu^2)}{d \log \mu^2} = \frac{\alpha_S(\mu^2)}{2\pi} \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} \left[ P_{gg} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) f_g(y, \mu^2) + P_{gq} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) f_q(y, \mu^2) \right]$$

- Need to fix boundary conditions  $\mathbf{f_i(x, Q_0)}$  at some perturbative initial scale  $\mathbf{Q_0 \gtrsim 1 \text{ GeV}}$
- Perform **global analysis** of wide range of experimental data
- Progress on the lattice: interplay between global fits and lattice calculations  
see PDFLattice white papers [arXiv:1711.07916](https://arxiv.org/abs/1711.07916), [arXiv:2006.08636](https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.08636)  
[see talk by S. Zafeiropoulos]

# Global analysis of nuclear PDFs

## Same approach as for proton PDF determinations

- Boundary conditions:  
Parameterize x-dependence of PDFs at initial scale  $Q_0$

$$f(x, Q_0) = A_0 x^{A_1} (1-x)^{A_2} P(x; A_3, \dots); f = u_v, d_v, g, \bar{u}, \bar{d}, s, \bar{s}$$

- Evolve from  $Q_0$  to  $Q$  solving the DGLAP evolution equations:  $f(x, Q)$

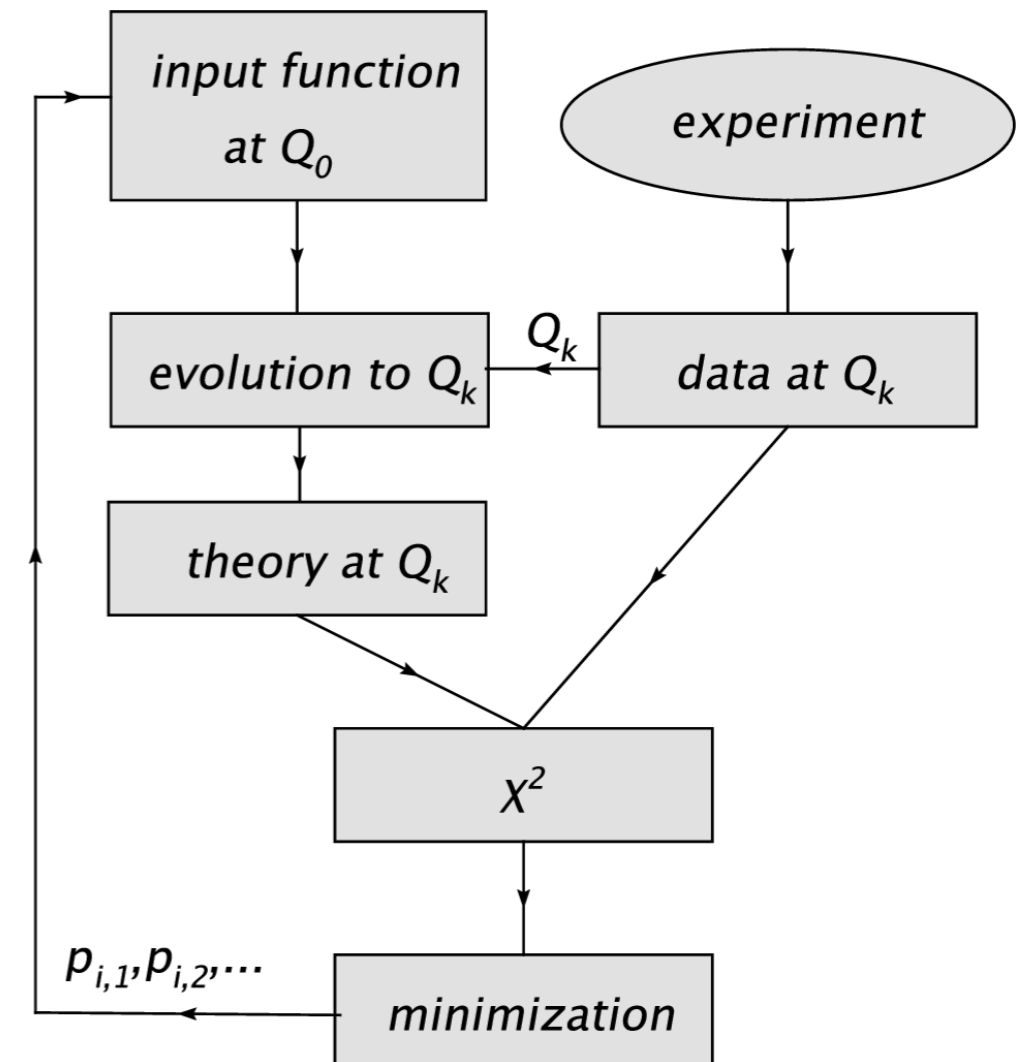
- Define suitable  $\chi^2$  function and **minimize** w.r.t. fit parameters

$$\chi^2_{global} [A_i] = \sum_n w_n \chi_n^2; \chi_n^2 = \sum_I \left( \frac{D_{nI} - T_{nI}}{\sigma_{nI}} \right)^2$$

Sum over experiments

Sum over data points

weights: default=1, allows to emphasize certain data sets



**Complex code, entirely rewritten in C++ by my former PhD students F. Lyonnet, T. Jezo**

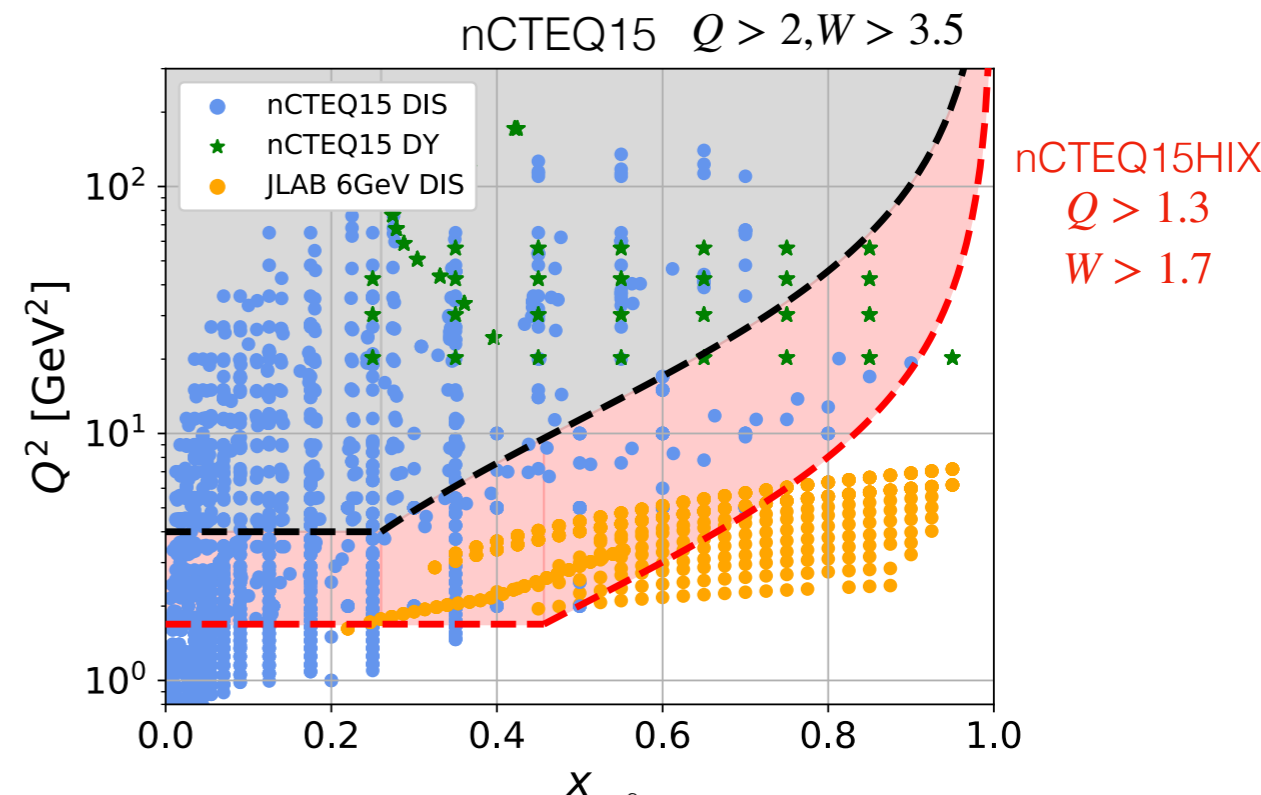
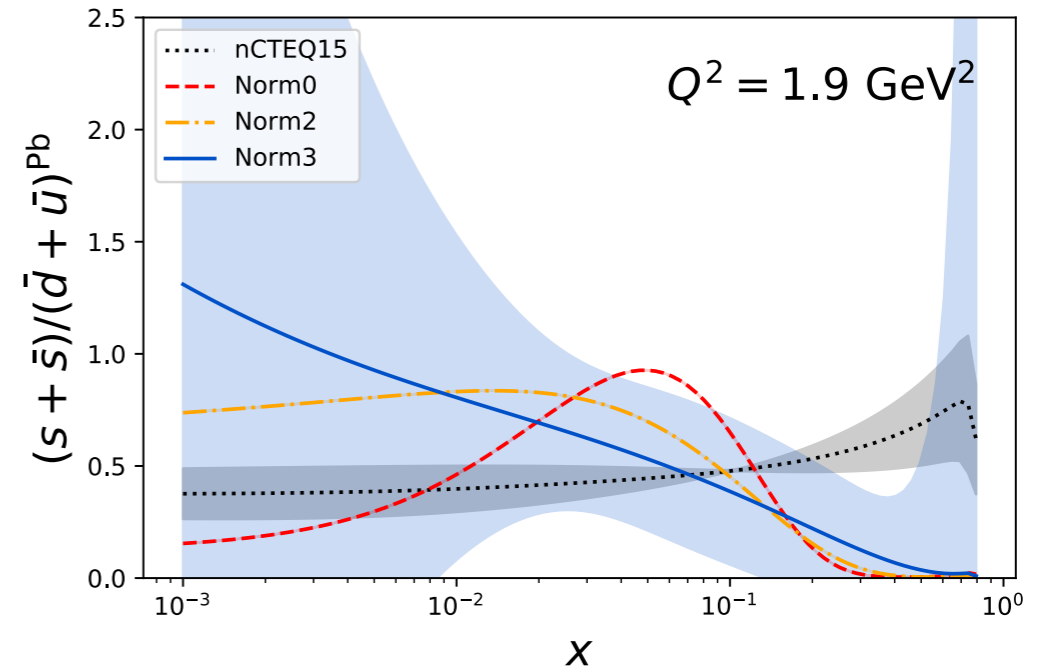
# Current nPDFs

	nNNPDF1.0 EPJC79(2019)471	EPPS16 EPJC77(2017)163	nCTEQ15 PRD93(2016)085037	KA15 PRD93(2016)014036	DSSZ12 PRD85(2012)074028	EPS09 JHEP0904(2009)065
IA DIS	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
DY in p+A	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
RHIC $\pi$ d+Au	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
vA DIS	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗
DY in $\pi$ +A	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
LHC p+Pb dijets	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
LHC p+Pb W,Z	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗

Order in $\alpha_s$	NNLO	NLO	NLO	NNLO	NLO	NLO
Q-cut in DIS	<b>1.87 GeV</b>	1.3 GeV	<b>2 GeV</b>	1 GeV	1 GeV	1.3 GeV
W-cut	<b>3.53 GeV</b>	-	<b>3.5 GeV</b>	-	-	-
Data points	451	1811	708	1479	1579	929
Free parameters	Neural Net	20	16	16	25	15
Error tolerance	MC replica	52	35	N.N.	30	50
Proton baseline	NNPDF3.1	CT14NLO	~CTEQ6.1	JR09	MSTW08	CTEQ6.1
Mass scheme	FONLL-B	GM-VFNS	GM-VFNS	ZM-VFNS	GM-VFNS	ZM-VFNS
Flavour sep.	-	val.+sea	valence	-	-	-

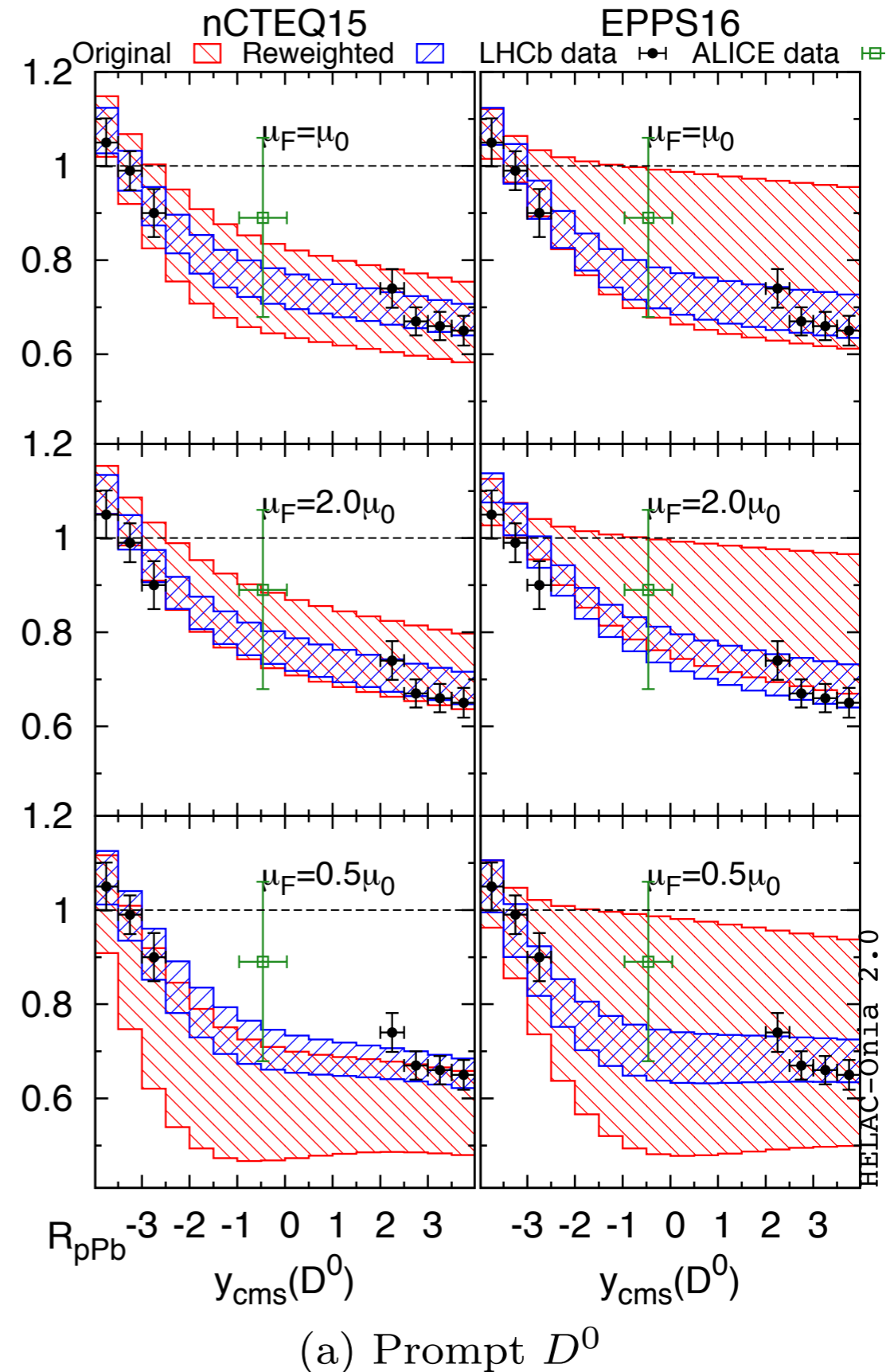
# Recent and ongoing work

- Global Analysis including LHC W/Z data:  
**nCTEQ15WZ** [2007.09100]
- Global Analysis including high-x, low- $Q^2$  data from JLAB: **nCTEQ15Hix** [2012.11566]
- Global Analysis including new single inclusive hadron (SIH) data from ALICE and RHIC: **nCTEQ15SIH** [2105.09873]
- Global Analysis including **neutrino-nucleus DIS** data:  
soon to appear
- Paper on nuclear DIS in terms of quarks and gluons **without** describing the nucleus in terms of nucleons; clearer and more solid basis for defining nuclear PDFs
- Heavy flavour production at the LHC and the nuclear gluon distribution:  
Kusina, Lansberg, Shao, IS,  
[2103.00876, PRL 121 (2018) 052004]



# The small-x gluon content (GLUE@NLO)

- First analysis of LHC heavy quark(-onium) data in the standard pQCD approach: [PRL 121 \(2018\) 052004](#)
- Consistent with a strongly shadowed gluon at small-x (alternative explanations: energy loss, saturation, ...)
- Reweighting analysis of nCTEQ15 and EPPS16 performed [\[2012.11462\]](#)
- Need to include heavy quark data in global analysis
- Include also prompt photon data (gluon sensitive, other systematics): FOCAL to cover small-x





# Summary

## What: nuclear Parton Distribution Functions

### Why:

- Information on hadron structure
- Needed to calculate cross sections involving initial state hadrons (RHIC, LHC, EIC, high-energy interactions in the atmosphere, long-baseline neutrino-int.)
- Precise knowledge needed to disentangle initial state effects (nuclear PDFs) from final state and medium effects

### How:

- Global QCD Analyses
- Ab initio lattice calculations

### Who:

- nCTEQ collaboration [with many (former) LPSC members]
- Master project GLUE@NLO: Lansberg, Wallon (IJCLab), Shao (LPTHE)

### Plans:

- Include more LHC data in global analysis framework (prompt photons, heavy quarks, jets)
- Prepare next big release of nCTEQ nPDFs: nCTEQ22 or nCTEQ23
- Improve A-dependence, switch to NNLO, MCMC approaches, Machine Learning
- Future: data from HL-LHC, EIC, LHeC, ...

# Summary

## Links:

- Global analysis of proton PDFs
  - simultaneous fits of proton PDFs and nuclear PDFs
  - Proton fits use data taken on nuclei! Need to understand nuclear corrections
- There are other collinear PDFs: helicity dependent PDFs, transversity PDFs
- Generalized PDFs: H. Moutarde (CEA Saclay), C. Mezrag (CEA Saclay), C. Lorce (Palaiseau), S. Wallon (IJCLab)
- Transverse Mass Dependent PDFs (TMD): J.-P. Lansberg, S. Wallon (IJCLab)
- PDFs inside nucleons, nuclei but also pions, kaons, even photons  
pion structure: COMPASS experiment (S. Platchkov (CEA Saclay, ...))
- Fragmentation Functions
- Ab initio lattice calculations: S. Zafeiropoulos (Marseille), M. Mangin-Brinet (LPSC), ...

**Goal: Understanding the 3D-structure of hadrons**

# Collaborators in France

- Long term collaboration with **J.-P. Lansberg** (IJCLab), **H. S. Shao** (LPTHE) [Common Master projects *GLUE@NLO*, *PDFs and Hard processes* and joint Theorie-LHC-France projects]
- How to include energy loss effects in nPDF determinations? **F.Arleo** (LLR/Subatech), **S. Peigne** (Subatech) [see talk by F.Arleo]
- Prompt photon production and heavy quark production with the FOCAL detector: **R. Guernane** (ALICE, LPSC)
- Interactions with **S. Zafeiropoulos** on PDF determinations on the lattice [see his talk]
- Work on photon+heavy quark production in pp, pA and AA collisions: **J.-P. Guillet** (LAPTH), **F.Arleo**, **P.-B. Gossiaux** (Subatech) [see talk by J.-P. Guillet]
- Many interactions with experimentalists from ALICE, ATLAS, CMS and LHCb

**Thank you!**