Parton distribution functions with percent level precision

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Turning the lights on...

NNPDF 3.0 (2014)



Turning the lights on...

NNPDF 3.1 (2017)



Turning the lights on...

NNPDF 3.1 (2017) Available on LHAPDF!



Similar situation for other channels

qą





qq





Confidently claiming improvements in PDF uncertainties requires:

- Wealth of *precise and accurate* experimental data.
- Corresponding theory calculations.
- Control over theoretical uncertainties (α_s, m_c).
- Control over uncertainties related to fitting methodology (*cross validation, closure testing*).

However:

- Improvements in one of these areas increases the relative importance of the others.
- Many non obvious problems appear that previously could be overlooked.

- What's new in NNPDF 3.1.
- Challenges associated to the increased precision.
- Future directions.

Idea Do not assume that the charm PDF is perturbatively generated, but fit it.

- Main Effect Eliminate possible source of bias. Reduce the dependency on the charm mass.
 - **Required** Extend FONLL to deal with charm initiated contributions. [Ball, Bonvini, Rottoli, JHEP 15, Ball et all PLB]

Scale dependence of the charm PDF

Compared to a purely perturbative charm PDF,

• Reduced scale dependence + charm vanishing at $Q^2 \gtrsim m_c$ \rightarrow Increased strangeness at high $Q^2 \rightarrow$ Better fit to the LHC data.



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PDF dependence on charm mass





Run I+II
Run II
2011
2011
2010-2011
2012
2012
2012
2011-2012

Kinematic coverage (LO)



Individual effect of the new data

• New included datasets are broadly in agreement and have a moderate impact individually.



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Global effect of the new data

Collectively, up tp \sim 1 σ deviations, \sim 30% smaller uncertainties.



Correlations between data and PDF fluctuations



- Gluon dependence more localized.
- Charm less important even with increased fluctuations.
- Constraining strangeness becoming more important.

Impact on the Higgs Cross section





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Impact on the W and Z cross sections







Note:

- Effect of EW corrections.
- Better agreement thanks to charm suppression.



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- The solution is to add a 1% uncorrelated error consistent with the distance to the smoothed curve.
- This improves the quality of the description while leaving the PDFs unchanged [Boughezal, Guffanti, Petriello, Ubiali 1705.00343]
- Can we do better?
- MC errors previously considered negligible compared to data. Now of the same order.

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Similar kinematics and apparent agreement to the 2011 data, yet much worse actual χ^2 .

Similar PDF dependence



Checking the correlations



- Most of the disagreement on the '12 data comes from a few eigenvectors of the covariance matrix.
- The 2012 data have extremely small statistical uncertainties.
 - Covariance matrix close to singular. Systematics need to be very accurate.
- Unfortunately couldn't study much further:
 - No breakdown of systematics available.

Effects of including the '12 data

- Bad fit quality for the '12 data.
- Deterioration of the fit quality of other datasets (precise HERA data).
- Big change in the PDFs (particularly gluon).



- Including the data doesn't seem advantageous.
- Also, similar conclusions by other fitting groups.

Dealing with uncertain covariance matrices

- Luminosity upgrades shift the weight of the uncertainty from statistical to systematic components.
- Covariance matrices increasingly more unstable and sensitive to small errors.
- How should we deal with this? Can we model the uncertainty of the uncertainty somehow? Wishart models?

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$$\sigma_{had} = \hat{\sigma} \otimes f(x, Q^2)$$

In practice:

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All those interpolations need to work at percent level!

- Future progress will focus on methodological upgrades:
 - Can we use better minimization algorithms? Will the result be more precise? More accurate?
 - Can we remove all ad hoc settings with *deep learning* techniques?
 - Can we run fits (+precomputed grids) faster (GPUs)?
 - Or remove fits altogether (*reminimization* starting from a prior).
- Inclusion of more sources of uncertainty:
 - Scale variations: First results already available!

- Technology ready at NLO (can produce fits with arbitrary $\mu_{\rm R}/\mu_{\rm F}$).
- At NNLO we need to transition to *grids* as opposed to K factors first.
- Not clear how to correlate the scales for various processes or what's the final deliverable.

Example: All scales set multiplied and divided by two:



Thank you!