

First principles' calculations of the gluon structure of hadrons

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Gluon structure

Gluons are key to understanding the visible universe

- Dominant contribution to mass of the visible universe
- Significant contribution to the spin of hadrons
- Fundamental to understanding a new form of matter:
color glass condensate

Complete tomography of hadrons needs detailed understanding of gluon structure!

EIC provides great opportunity for collaboration and interplay between theory and experiment

Outline

1. Gluon structure of hadrons - what do we know?
2. Gluon structure from first principles
3. Unpolarised gluon PDF in the pseudo distribution framework
4. Polarised gluon PDF in the pseudo distribution framework

Glue structure of hadrons - what do we know?



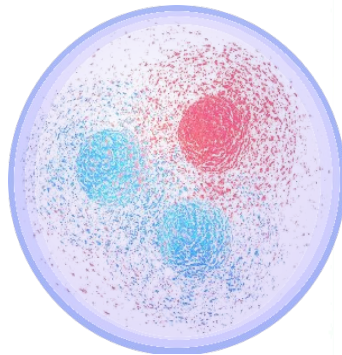
Hadron structure at a glance



How is the spin of the hadron split amongst its constituents?

How does the proton interact with the other fundamental forces?

How is the momentum of a fast moving hadron spread amongst its constituent quarks and gluons?



What are the internal correlations of the proton?

How is the momentum of the constituents correlated with their transverse structure?

Hadron structure at a glance

Spin

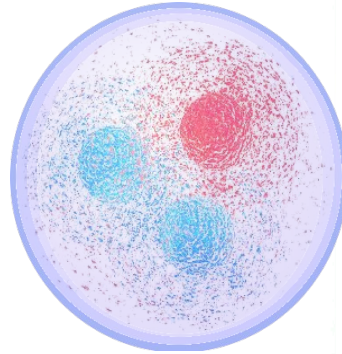
Form factors

Parton distribution functions (PDFs)

Generalised parton distribution functions (GPDs)

Wigner functions

How is the spin of the hadron split amongst its constituents?



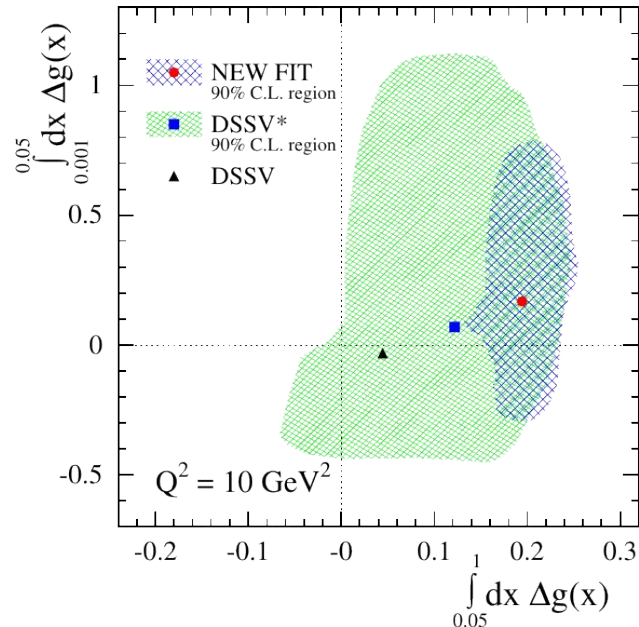
How is the momentum of a fast moving hadron spread amongst its constituent quarks and gluons?

The origin of hadron spin

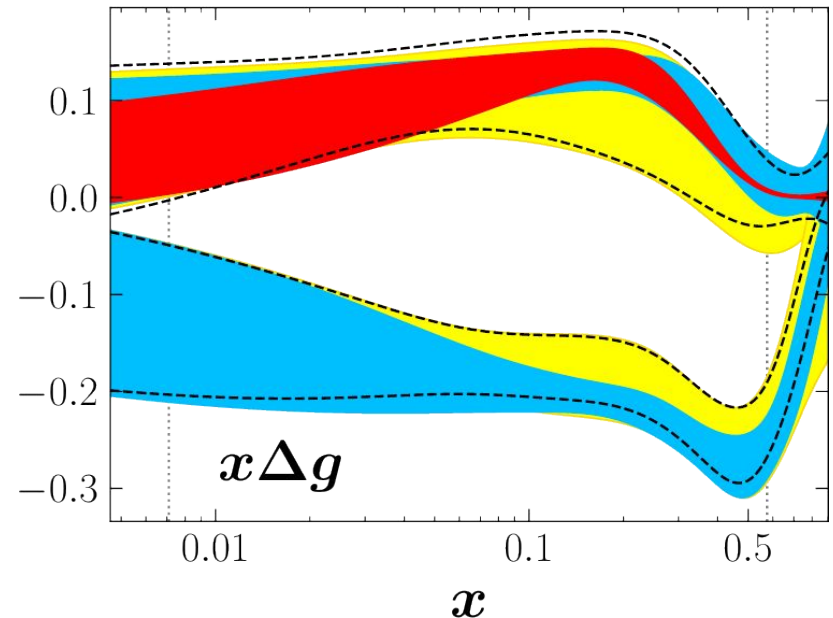
30 years after the EMC experiment precipitated the “proton spin crisis”, experimental picture still unclear

We do know quarks carry approximately 30% of the proton’s spin, gluon picture is much less clear

de Florian et al., PRL 113 (2014) 012001



Zhou et al., PRD 105 (2022) 074022

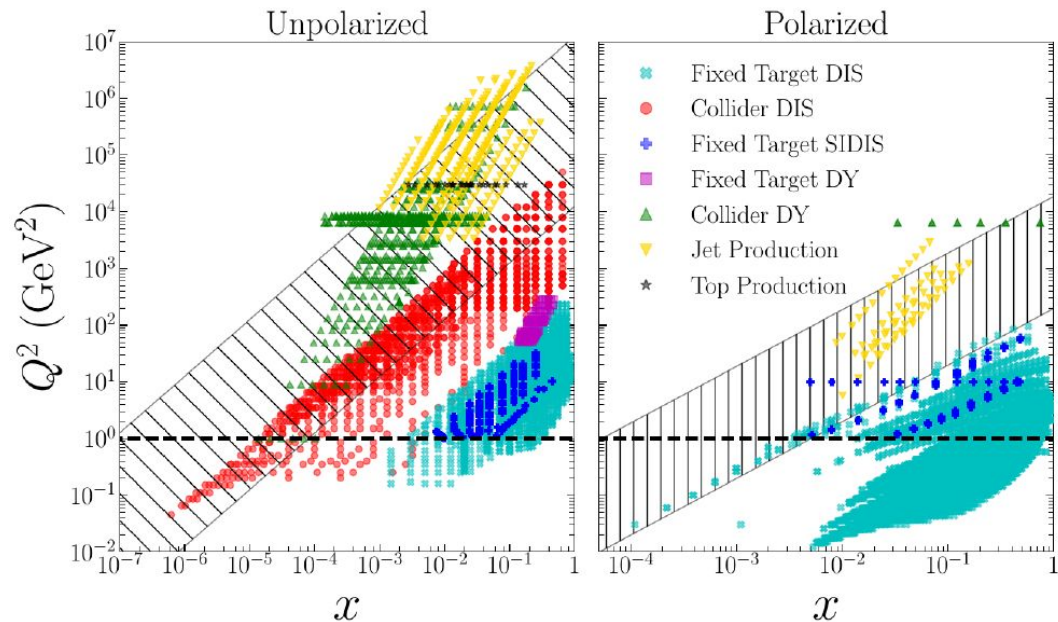


Gluon PDFs

How is the momentum of a fast-moving hadron spread amongst its constituents?

LHC has considerably improved our knowledge of gluon PDFs

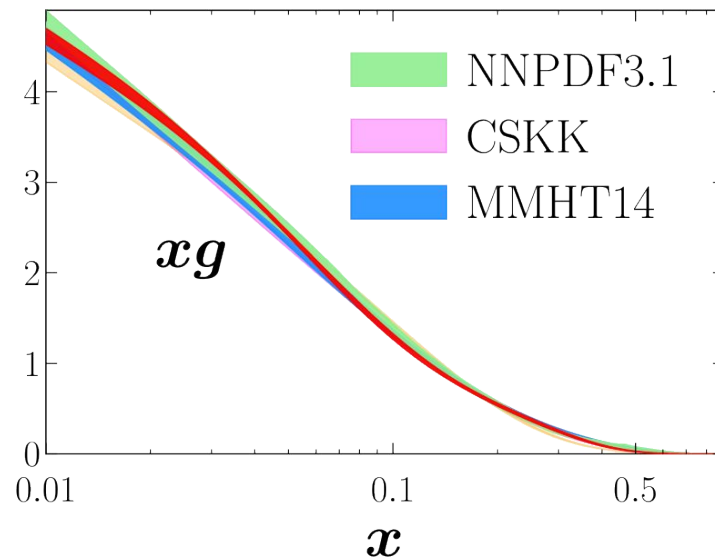
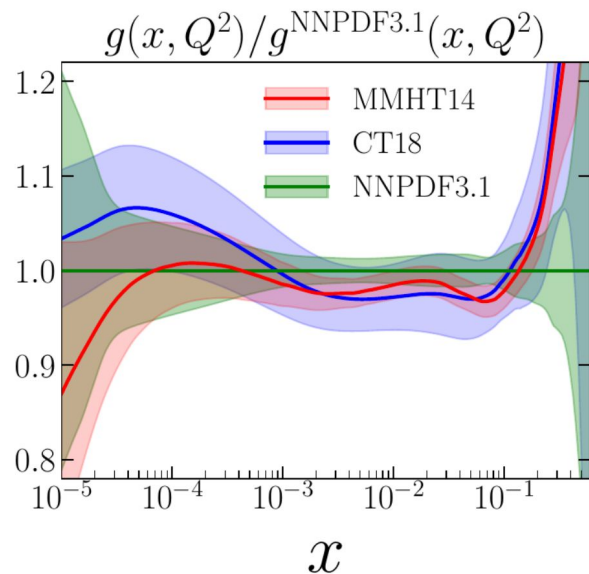
EIC and LHeC will expand this considerably!



Gluon PDFs: experimental status

LHC has considerably improved our knowledge of unpolarised gluon PDFs

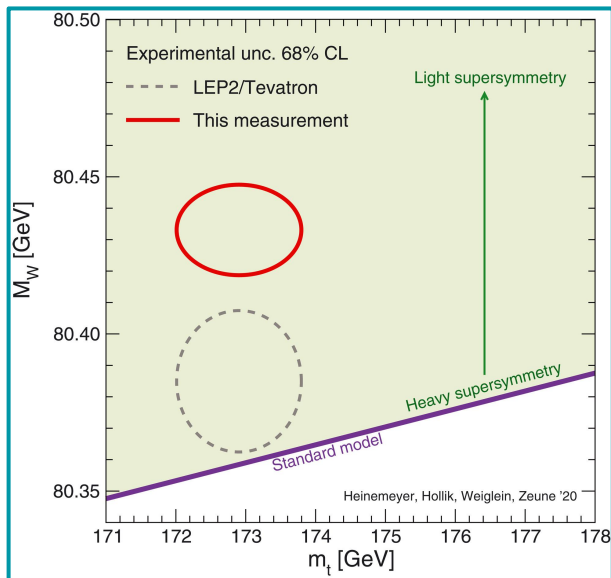
Large uncertainties remain at large and small Bjorken- x



Unpolarised gluon PDFs

Unpolarised gluon PDFs an important source of theoretical uncertainty at LHC

- Higgs couplings
- Certain search channels for BSM particles
- Mass of the W boson



Recent measurement from Tevatron

$$m_W^{(\text{Tevatron 2022})} = 80.4335(94) \text{ GeV}$$

Significant (7 sigma) tension with standard model expectation

$$m_W^{(\text{SM})} = 80.357(6) \text{ GeV}$$

And previous experimental results

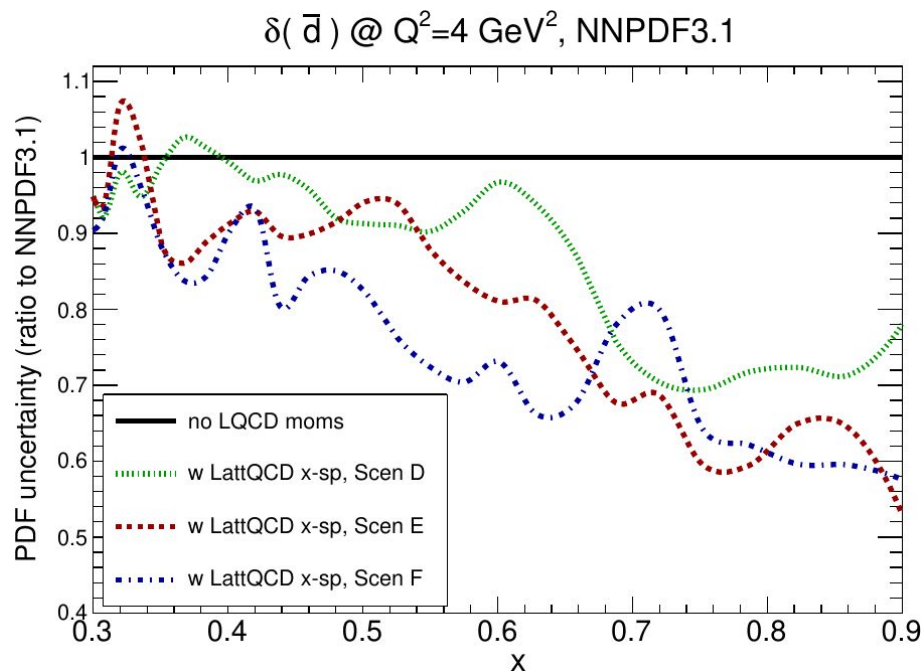
$$m_W^{(\text{LEP+Tevatron})} = 80.385(15) \text{ GeV}$$

$$m_W^{(\text{ATLAS})} = 80.370(19) \text{ GeV}$$

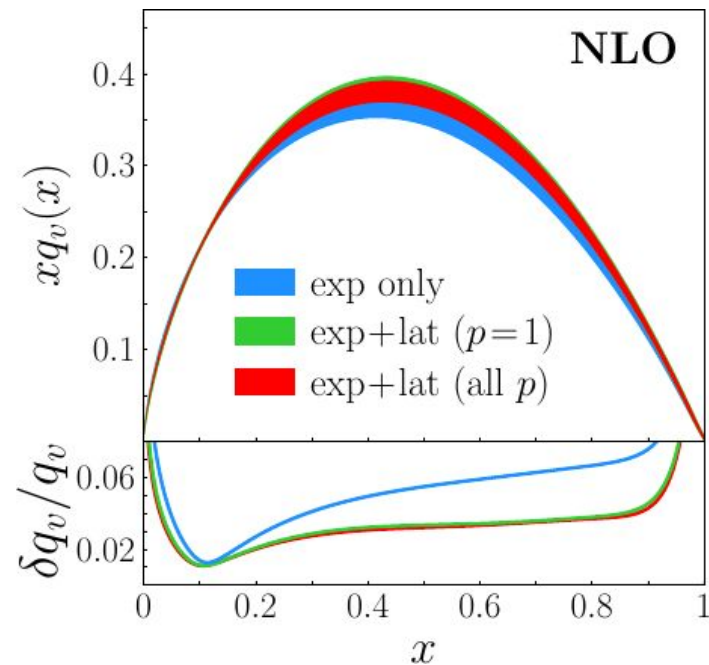
CDF, Science 376 (2022) 170

PDFs from QCD

First principles calculations complement, and inform, JLab 12 GeV, the LHC and the EIC



Lin et al., Prog. Nucl. Part. Phys. 100 (2018) 107



Barry et al., PRD 105 (2022) 114051

Glue structure from first principles - spin



The origin of hadron spin

Two decompositions of the spin of the proton

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + L_q + J_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + \Delta G + \ell_q + \ell_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

Frame-independent decomposition

“Ji sum rule”

Expressed in terms of the quark helicity and orbital angular momentum contributions, and gluon contribution

Infinite-momentum frame decomposition

“Jaffe-Manohar sum rule”

Expressed in terms of the quark and gluon helicities, and the quark and gluon twist-3 orbital-angular-momentum

Partonic interpretation

The origin of hadron spin

Broadly speaking - two approaches to first principles calculations of these contributions

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + L_q + J_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

Obtained from
the axial current

Defined through TMDs or
through form factors of the
energy-momentum tensor

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + \Delta G + \ell_q + \ell_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

Obtained from
the axial current

Defined through local
operators in IMF or
through TMDs

The origin of hadron spin

Broadly speaking - two approaches to first principles calculations of these contributions

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + L_q + J_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\frac{\Delta\Sigma}{2} + \Delta G + \ell_q + \ell_g = \frac{1}{2}$$

Defined through the local operator in the infinite-momentum frame

$$S_G = \int d^3x \text{Tr} [\mathbf{E} \times \mathbf{A}_{\text{phys}}]$$

Both challenging for lattice QCD!

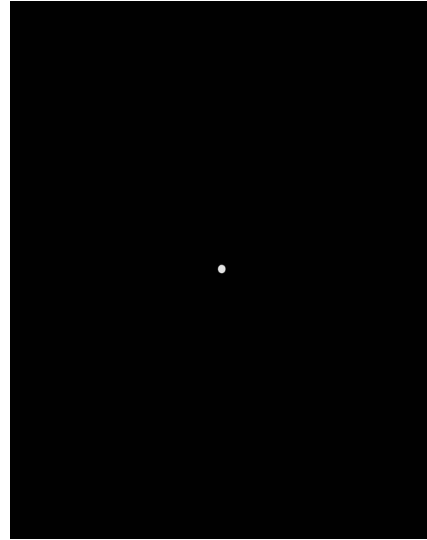
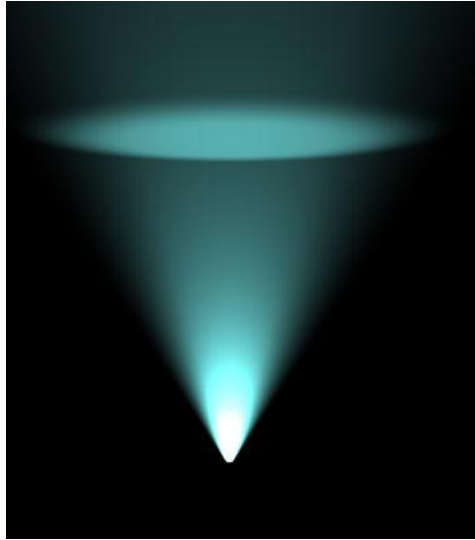
Defined through the integral of the helicity PDF

$$\Delta G(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx \Delta g(x, Q^2)$$

The challenge

Lattice QCD is formulated in a finite volume on a discretised Euclidean spacetime lattice

- Light cone not accessible



The challenge

Lattice QCD is formulated in a finite volume on a discretised Euclidean spacetime lattice

- Light cone not accessible

Path integral is sampled stochastically via Markov chain Monte Carlo

- Infinite momentum not accessible numerically!

Static quantities extracted in the long Euclidean-time limit

- Noise-to-signal ratio increases exponentially with Euclidean time
- Particularly challenging for gluons

Large-momentum effective theory (LaMET)

Framework to relate lattice-calculable to infinite-momentum quantities

Ji et al., PRL 111 (2013) 112002

- originally introduced to enable the calculation of the gluon spin contribution
- now a general framework for first principles' calculations

Effective theory: infinite momentum limit does not commute with removing the regulator

Relies on perturbative matching

Ji et al., RMP 93 (2021) 35005

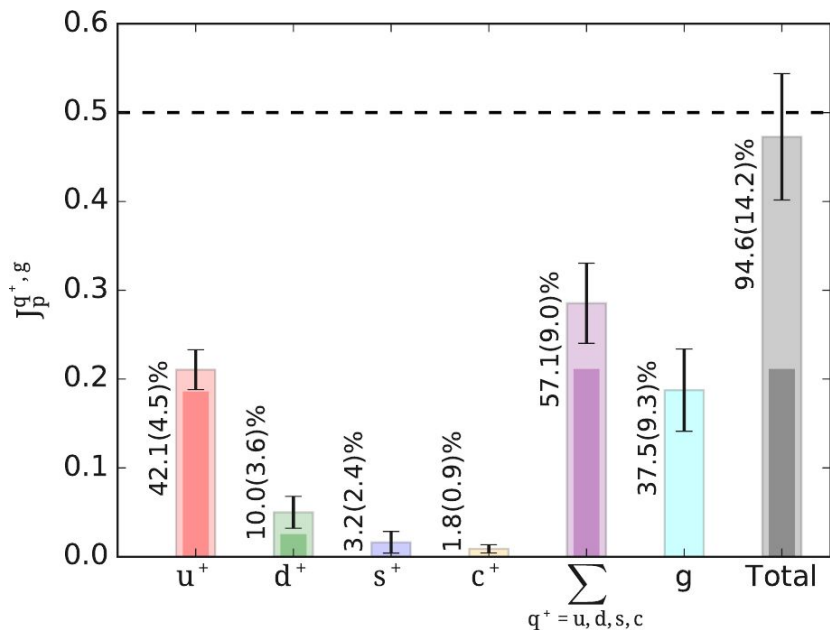
- Quantities required to have the same infrared behaviour
- For example, at one loop in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ -bar scheme

$$\Delta G^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu) = \frac{\alpha_s}{3\pi} \left[3 \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m^2} + 7 \right]$$

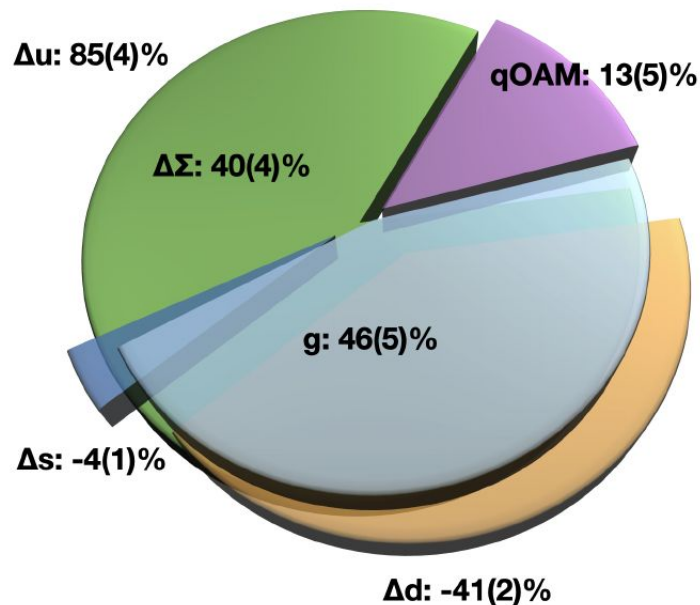
$$\Delta G^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(\mu, P_z) = \frac{\alpha_s}{3\pi} \left[\frac{5}{3} \ln \frac{\mu^2}{m^2} - \frac{1}{9} + \frac{4}{3} \ln \frac{P_z^2}{m^2} \right]$$

First calculations of the spin of the proton

Two state-of-the-art decompositions from lattice QCD



Alexandrou et al., PRD 101 (2020) 094513



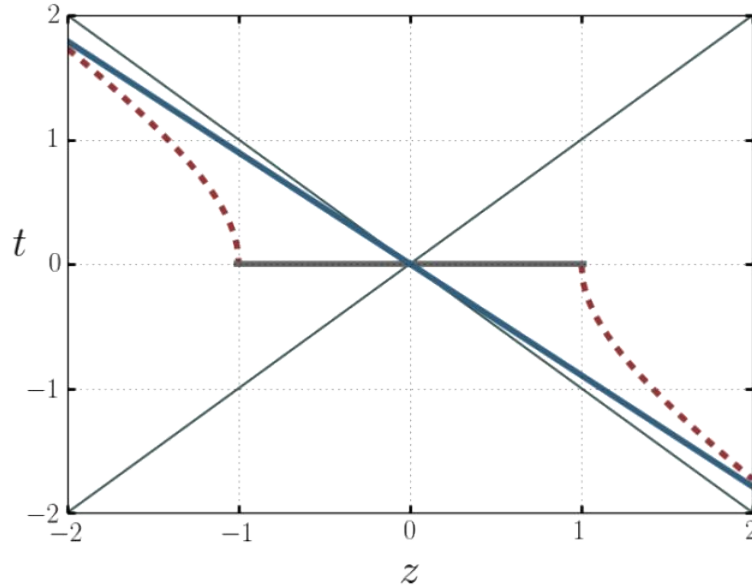
Wang et al., PRD 106 (2022) 014512

Glue structure from first principles - PDFs



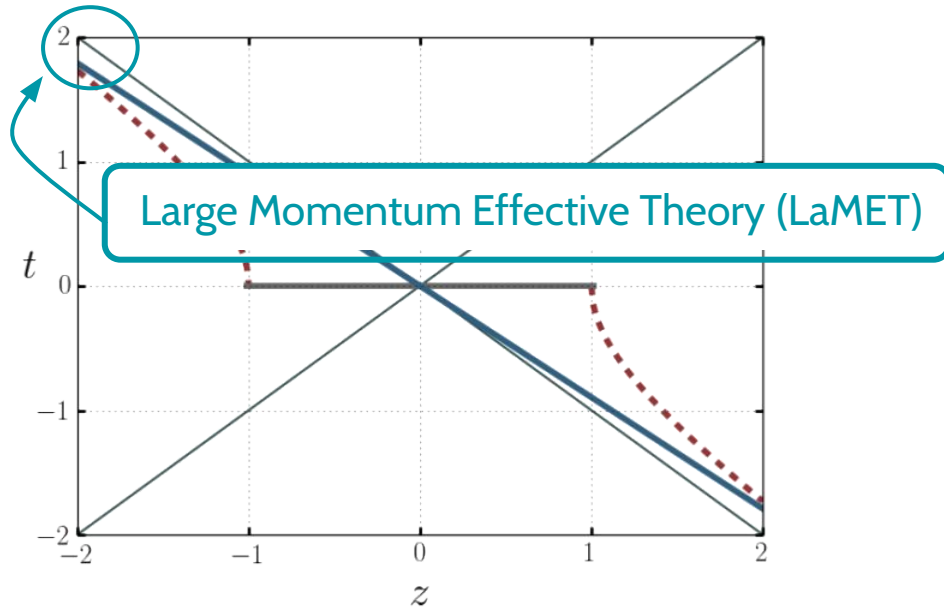
Large-momentum effective theory (LaMET)

Intuitive picture for PDFs - defined through operators of light-like separated fields



Large-momentum effective theory (LaMET)

Intuitive picture for PDFs - defined through operators of light-like separated fields



Distributions galore

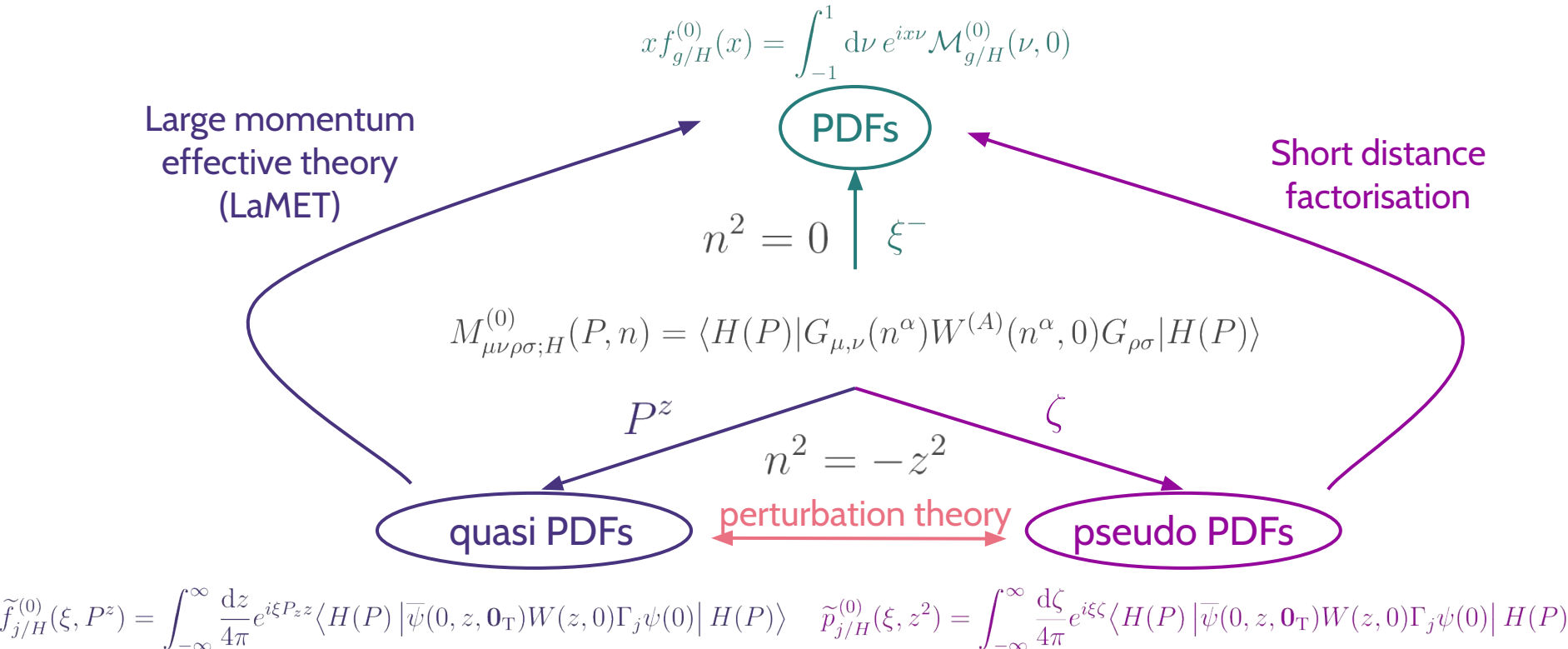
$$x f_{g/H}^{(0)}(x) = \int_{-1}^1 d\nu e^{ix\nu} \mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0)$$

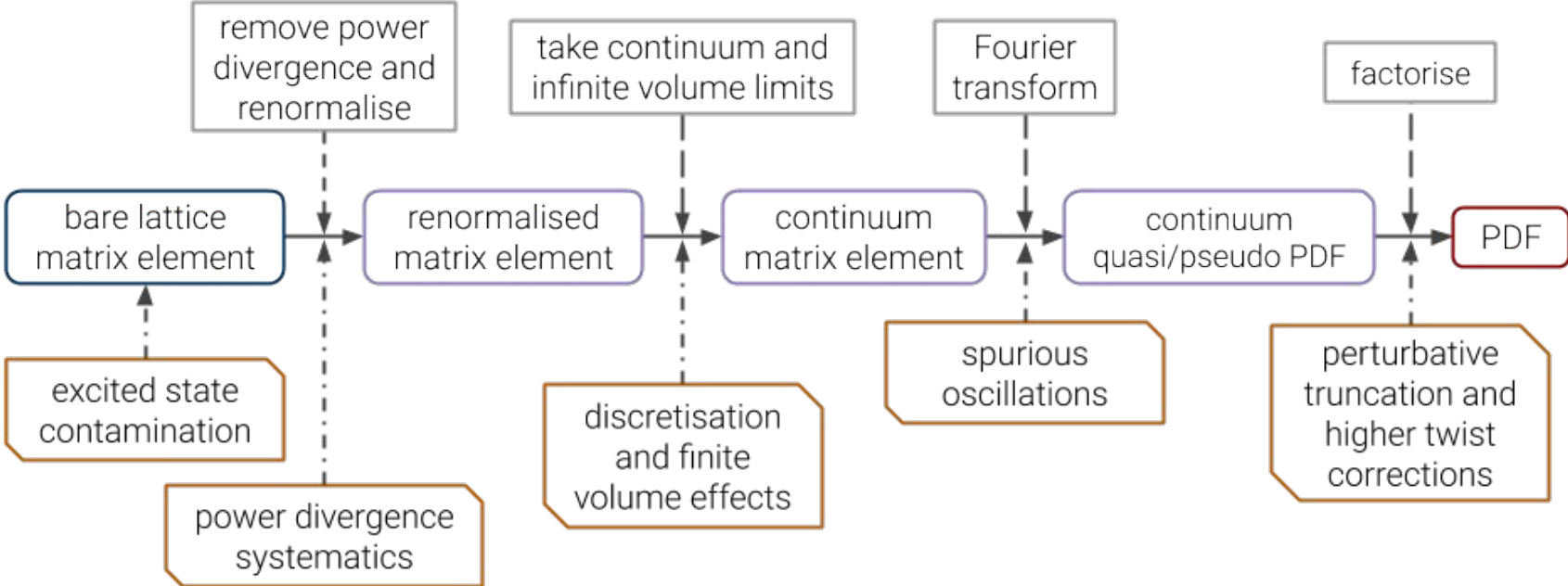
PDFs

$$n^2 = 0 \quad \uparrow \quad \xi^-$$

$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, n) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu,\nu}(n^\alpha) W^{(A)}(n^\alpha, 0) G_{\rho\sigma} | H(P) \rangle$$

Distributions galore





Methods galore

Quasi and pseudo PDFs

Ji, PRL 110 (2013) 262002
Radyushkin, PRD 96 (2017) 034025

Factorisable matrix elements

Braun & Müller, EPJC 55 (2008) 349
Ma & Qiu, 1404.6860

Fictitious heavy quarks

Detmold & Lin, PRD 73 (2006) 014501

Compton amplitude

Chambers et al., PRL 118 (2017) 242001

Euclidean hadronic tensor

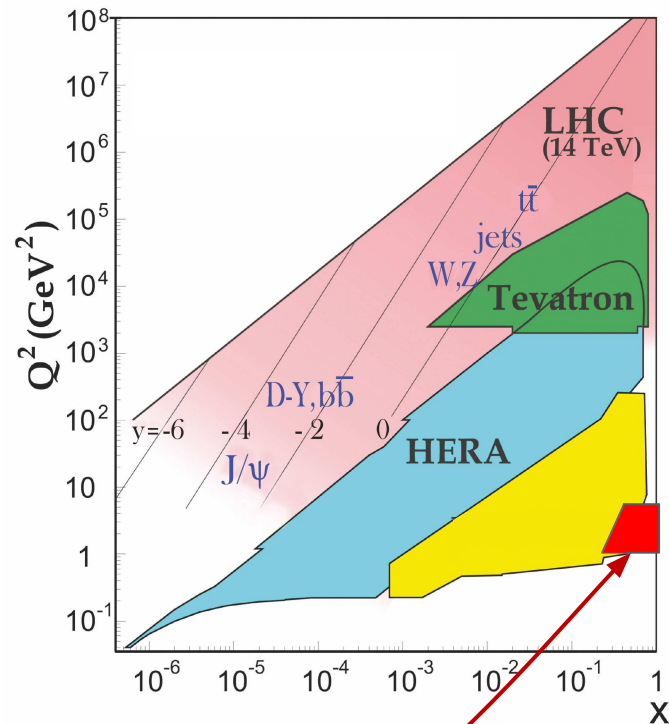
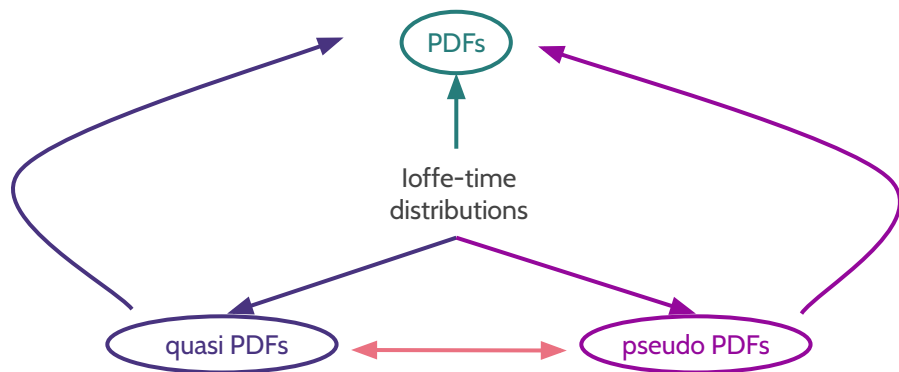
Liu & Dong, PRL 72 (1994) 1790

Many review articles!

Lin et al., PPNP 100 (2018) 107
CJM, POS(LATTICE2018) 018
Zhao, IMJPA 33 (2019) 1830033

Cichy & Constantinou, AHEP (2019) 3036904
Constantinou et al., PPNP 121 (2021) 130908
Ji et al., RMP 93 (2021) 035005
Constantinou et al., 2202.07193

Lattice “cross-sections” and global fits



“Lattice ~~cross-sections~~” factorisable matrix elements

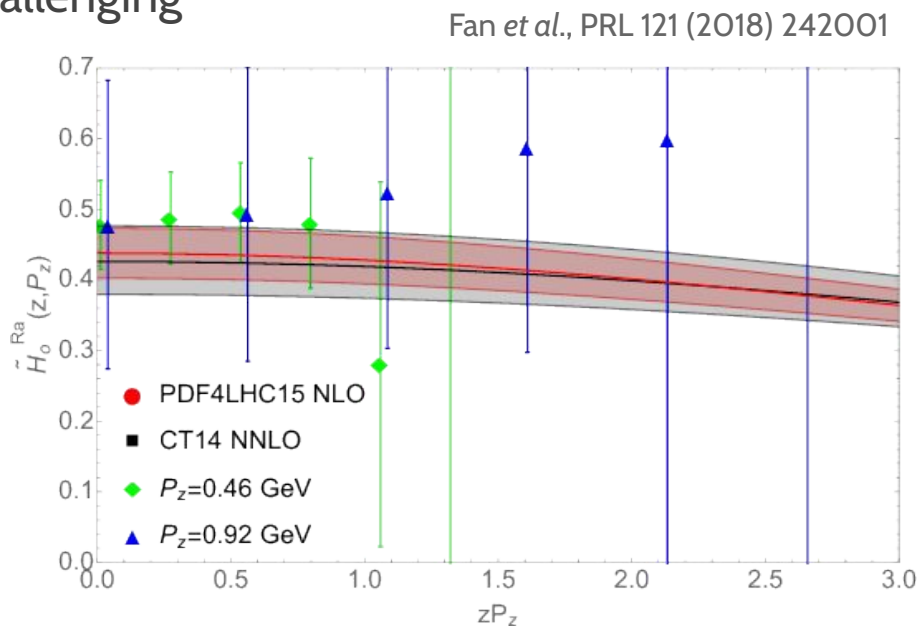
$$\sigma_{j/H}(\xi, \dots) \in \left\{ \tilde{f}_{j/H}^{(0)}(\xi, P^z), \tilde{p}_{j/H}^{(0)}(\xi, z^2), \dots \right\}$$

Gluon PDFs: lattice calculations

Gluon observables provide significant challenges for lattice calculations

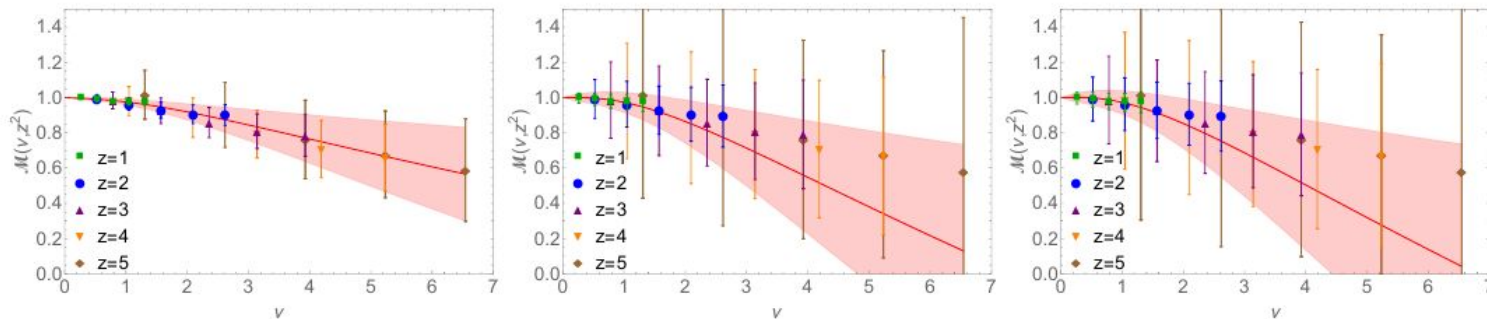
- significant signal-to-noise issues
- nonperturbative renormalisation challenging

First proof-of-principle calculation using LaMET illustrates the challenges

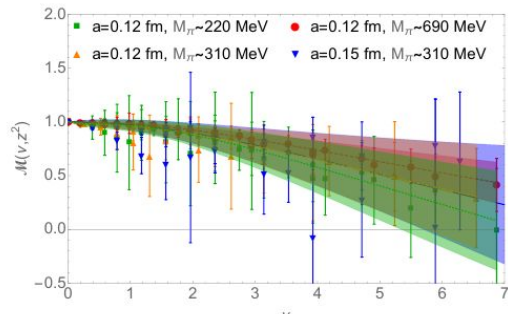


Gluon PDFs: lattice calculations

Gluon observables provide significant challenges for lattice calculations



Fan et al., Int.J.Mod.Phys.A 36 (2021) 13



Fan and Lin, PLB 823 (2021) 136778

Essentially the challenge is the noise-to-signal ratio of gluon observables

Unpolarised gluon PDF in the pseudo distribution framework



Gluon PDFs: pseudo-distribution formalism

Starting point:

Balitsky, Morris and Radyushkin, PLB 808 (2020) 135621

$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, n) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu,\nu}(n^\alpha) W^{(A)}(n^\alpha, 0) G_{\rho\sigma} | H(P) \rangle$$

$$W^{(A)}(n^\alpha, 0) = \mathcal{P} \exp \left\{ ig \int_0^n dy^\mu A_\mu^{(A)}(y) \right\}$$

Gluon PDFs: pseudo-distribution formalism

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$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, n) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu,\nu}(n^\alpha) W^{(A)}(n^\alpha, 0) G_{\rho\sigma} | H(P) \rangle$$

$n^2 = 0$ \rightarrow

$$\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0) = \frac{1}{2(P^+)^2} [M_H^{(0)}(P, z^-)]^{+\mu}_{+\mu}$$

PDFs

ξ^-

$$x f_{g/H}^{(0)}(x) = \int_{-1}^1 d\nu e^{ix\nu} \mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0)$$

Gluon PDFs: pseudo-distribution formalism

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Balitsky, Morris and Radyushkin, PLB 808 (2020) 135621

$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, n) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu,\nu}(n^\alpha) W^{(A)}(n^\alpha, 0) G_{\rho\sigma} | H(P) \rangle$$

$$n^2 = -z^2 \downarrow$$

$$n^2 = 0 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0) = \frac{1}{2(P^+)^2} [M_H^{(0)}(P, z^-)]^{+\mu}_{+\mu}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, z^2) = \frac{1}{2E_P^2} [M_{0ii0;H}^{(0)}(P, z) - M_{jijj;H}^{(0)}(P, z)]$$

PDFs $\downarrow \xi^-$

$$x f_{g/H}^{(0)}(x) = \int_{-1}^1 d\nu e^{ix\nu} \mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0)$$

$$\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(\text{red.})}(\nu, z^2) = \left(\frac{\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, z^2)}{\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(\nu, 0)|_{z=0}} \right) / \left(\frac{\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(0, z^2)|_{p=0}}{\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(0)}(0, 0)|_{p=0, z=0}} \right)$$

$\zeta \downarrow$ pseudo PDFs

$$\mathcal{M}_{g/H}^{(\text{red.})}(\nu, z^2) = \int_0^1 \frac{d\xi \xi}{\langle \xi \rangle^2(\mu)} \left[c_{gg}(\xi\nu, \mu^2 z^2) f_{g/H}(\xi, \mu^2) + \frac{Pz}{E_P} c_{gq}(\xi\nu, \mu^2 z^2) f_{S/H}(\xi, \mu^2) \right]$$

HadStruc lattice implementation

Glueballs provide significant signal-to-noise challenges for lattice calculations

Mitigated through three strategies

1. Gradient flow smearing reduces ultraviolet fluctuations
2. Distillation and summed GEVP method improves operator overlap and reduces excited state contamination
3. Reduced lattice-time distribution reduces correlated uncertainties through ratio

In the following, we neglect mixing with scalar quark distribution

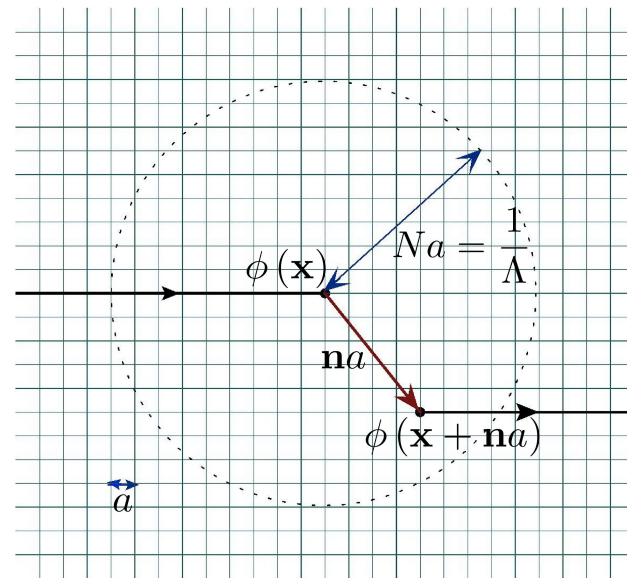
- note this appears in factorisation to PDF

$$\frac{g_{J\psi h_S}}{g} \begin{pmatrix} \chi \psi^d(x, h_S) \\ \psi^d(x, h_S) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} B^{dd}(x, h_S) & B^{dd}(x, h_S) \\ B^{dd}(x, h_S) & B^{dd}(x, h_S) \end{pmatrix} \otimes \begin{pmatrix} \chi \psi^d(h_S) \\ \psi^d(h_S) \end{pmatrix}$$

Smearing

“Smearing” partially restores rotational symmetry: widely-used lattice technique

- construct operators with improved continuum limits,
i.e. reduced systematic uncertainties
- suppresses operator mixing
- precisely identify hadronic excited states
- reduce statistical noise



Gradient flow smearing

Gradient flow: deterministic evolution of fields in “flow time” τ toward classical

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} B_\mu(\tau, x) = D_\nu \left(\partial_\nu B_\mu - \partial_\mu B_\nu + [B_\nu, B_\mu] \right) \quad D_\nu = \partial_\nu + [B_\nu, \cdot]$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} \chi(\tau, x) = D_\mu D^\mu \chi(\tau, x) \quad D_\mu = \partial_\mu + B_\mu$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$B_\mu(\tau = 0, x) = A_\mu(x) \quad \chi(\tau = 0, x) = \psi(x)$$

Can be implemented on the lattice and solved nonperturbatively

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} V_\mu(\tau, x) = -g_0^2 \left\{ \partial_{x,\mu} S[V_\mu(\tau, x)] \right\} V_\mu(\tau, x)$$

Narayanan & Neuberger, JHEP 0603 064

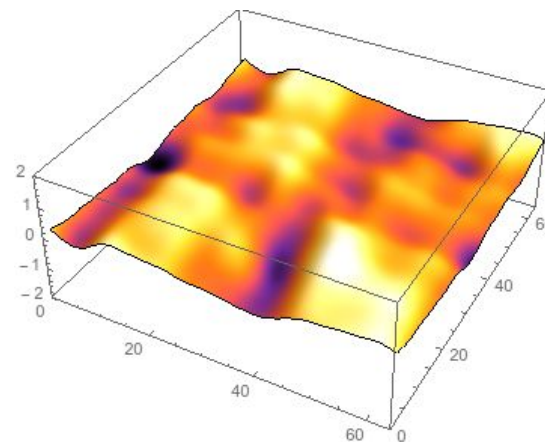
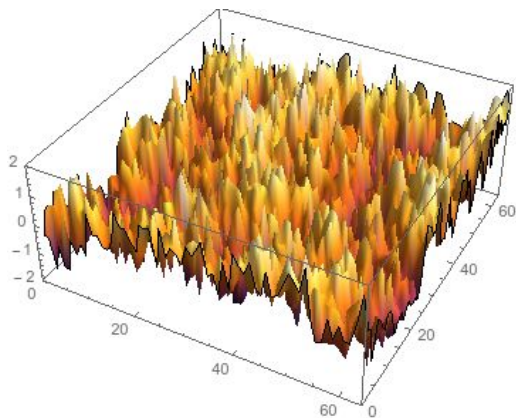
Lüscher, JHEP 1008 071

Lüscher, JHEP 04 (2013) 123

Gradient flow smearing

Gradient flow: deterministic evolution of fields in “flow time” τ toward classical minimum

Evolution in flow time corresponds to exponential damping of UV modes



Key result: correlation functions remain finite at finite flow time

Lüscher & Weisz, JHEP O2 (2011) 051

Lüscher, JHEP O4 (2013) 123

Correlators

Signal-to-noise ratio improved and excited state effects reduced through sGEVP

Typical lattice calculation based on 3-point function (and ratio with 2-point function)

$$\langle C_{3pt}(t, t_g) \rangle = \langle 0 | T \{ O_N(t) O_g(t_g) \bar{O}_N(0) \} | 0 \rangle$$

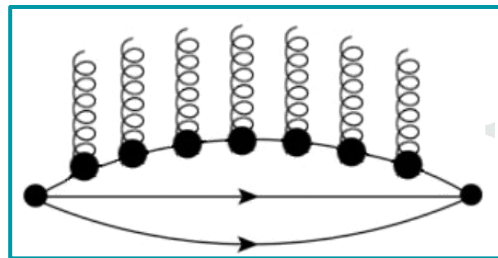
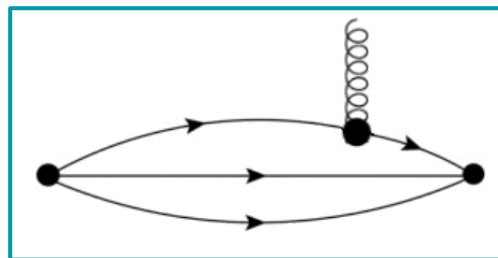
Summation method

$$C_{3pt}^{i,s}(t) = \sum_{t_g=1}^{t-1} C_{3pt}^i(t, t_g)$$

$$C_{3pt}^i(t, t_g) = \left(C_{2pt}^i(t) - \langle C_{2pt}(t) \rangle \right) \left(O_g^i(t_g) - \langle O_g(t_g) \rangle \right)$$

Leads to

$$\mathcal{M}^{\text{eff}}(t) = A + B t \exp(-\Delta E t)$$



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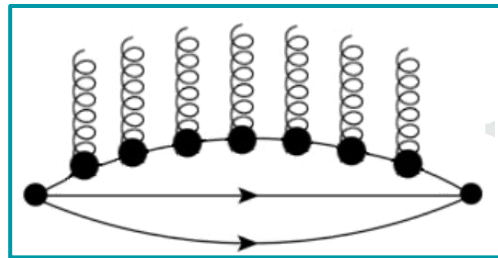
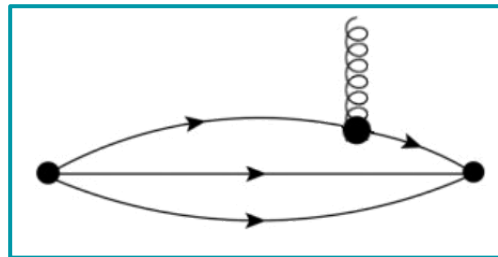
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what we want



Correlators

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Summation method

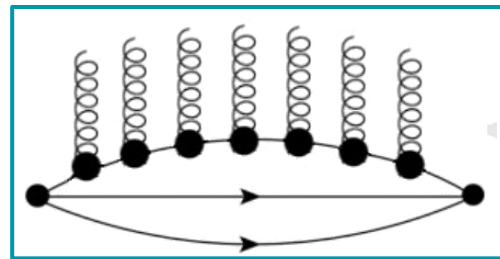
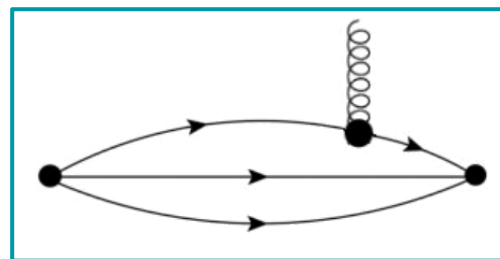
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Leads to

$$\mathcal{M}^{\text{eff}}(t) = A + B t \exp(-\Delta E t)$$

Combined with distillation and GEVP method for operator construction



Reduced Ioffe-time distribution

Double ratio removes correlated uncertainties and need for renormalization

$$\mathfrak{M}(\nu, z^2) = \left(\frac{\mathcal{M}(\nu, z^2)}{\mathcal{M}(\nu, 0)|_{z=0}} \right) / \left(\frac{\mathcal{M}(0, z^2)|_{p=0}}{\mathcal{M}(0, 0)|_{p=0, z=0}} \right)$$

Connect this ratio to the Ioffe-time distribution through factorisation

$$\begin{aligned} \mathfrak{M}(\nu, z^2) = & \frac{\mathcal{I}_g(\nu, \mu^2)}{\mathcal{I}_g(0, \mu^2)} - \frac{\alpha_s N_c}{2\pi} \int_0^1 du \frac{\mathcal{I}_g(u\nu, \mu^2)}{\mathcal{I}_g(0, \mu^2)} \left\{ \ln \left(\frac{z^2 \mu^2 e^{2\gamma_E}}{4} \right) B_{gg}(u) + 4 \left[\frac{u + \ln(\bar{u})}{\bar{u}} \right]_+ \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{2}{3} [1 - u^3]_+ \right\} - \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi} \ln \left(\frac{z^2 \mu^2 e^{2\gamma_E}}{4} \right) \int_0^1 dw \frac{\mathcal{I}_S(w\nu, \mu^2)}{\mathcal{I}_g(0, \mu^2)} \mathfrak{B}_{gq}(w). \end{aligned}$$

with

$$\mathcal{I}_g(\nu, \mu^2) = \frac{1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 dx e^{ix\nu} x g(x, \mu^2) \quad B_{gg}(u) = 2 \left[\frac{(1 - u\bar{u})^2}{1 - u} \right]_+ \quad \mathfrak{B}_{gq}(w) = \left[1 + (1 - w)^2 \right]_{+41}$$

Extracting the PDF

Determining the PDF from limited, discrete lattice data is an ill-posed inverse problem

Treat this inverse problem by parameterising the PDF

$$\mathfrak{M}(\nu, z^2) = \int_0^1 dx \mathcal{K}(x\nu, \mu^2 z^2) \frac{x^\alpha (1-x)^\beta}{B(\alpha+1, \beta+1)}$$

transformed Jacobi polynomial



Test systematic effects by modifying parameterisation

$$\mathfrak{M}(\nu, z^2) = \int_0^1 dx \mathcal{K}(x\nu, \mu^2 z^2) x^\alpha (1-x)^\beta \left(\frac{1}{B(\alpha+1, \beta+1)} + d_1^{(\alpha, \beta)} J_1^{(\alpha, \beta)}(x) \right)$$

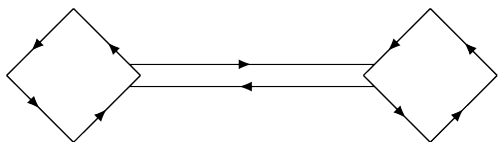
$$\mathfrak{M}(\nu, z^2) = \int_0^1 dx \mathcal{K}(x\nu, \mu^2 z^2) \frac{x^\alpha (1-x)^\beta}{B(\alpha+1, \beta+1)} + \left(\frac{a}{|z|} \right) P_1(\nu)$$

Results

Results calculated on a single lattice ensemble of 2+1 stout-smearred Wilson-improved clover fermions and tree-level tadpole-improved Symanzik gauge action

ID	a (fm)	M_π (MeV)	$L^3 \times N_t$	N_{cfg}	N_{srcls}
$a094m358$	0.094(1)	358(3)	$32^3 \times 64$	349	64

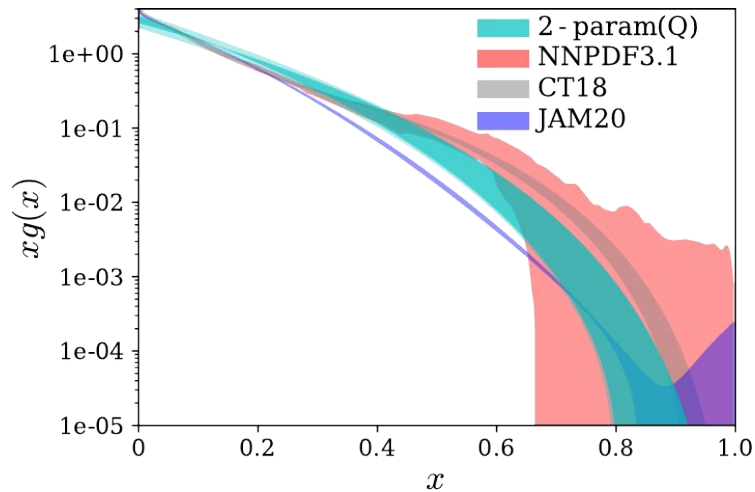
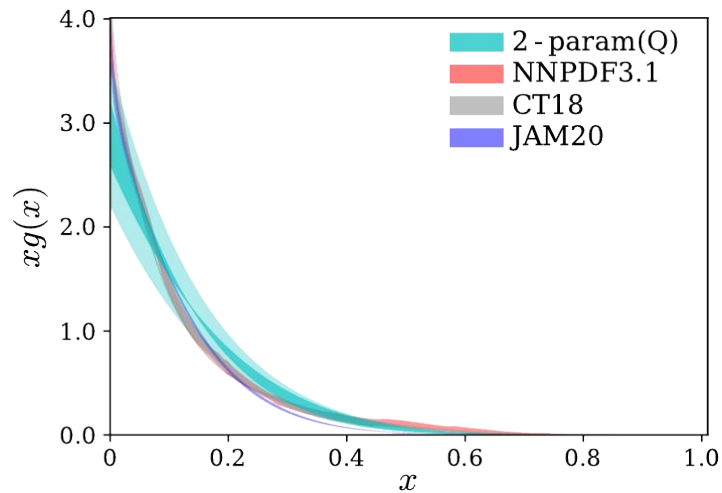
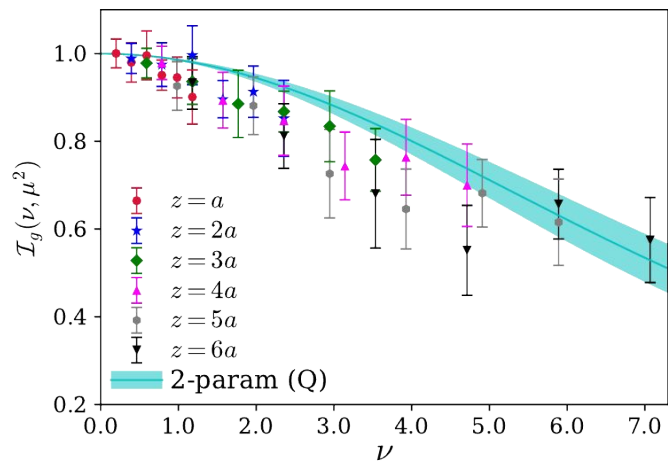
- Implement gradient flow via the Wilson flow
- Momentum smearing for interpolating operators at nonzero momentum
- Unimproved field strength operator



$$-\frac{i}{2} \left[P_{\mu\nu}^{(1+1)} - [P_{\mu\nu}^{(1+1)}]^\dagger - \frac{1}{3} \text{Tr} \left\{ P_{\mu\nu}^{(1+1)} - [P_{\mu\nu}^{(1+1)}]^\dagger \right\} \right] = ag^2 [G_{\mu\nu} + \mathcal{O}(a^2, a^2g^2)]$$

$$P_{\mu\nu}^{(1+1)} = U_\mu(x)U_\nu(x + a\hat{\mu})U_\mu^\dagger(x + a\hat{\nu})U_\nu^\dagger(x)$$

Results: unpolarised gluons



Unpolarised gluon PDFs: the take-home message

Challenging calculations, requiring a suite of sophisticated approaches, but controlled extractions with moderate precision at moderate Bjorken- x feasible in the near future

Polarised gluon PDF in the pseudo distribution framework



Gluon PDFs: pseudo-distribution formalism for polarised gluons

Unpolarised case

Balitsky, Morris and Radyushkin, PLB 808 (2020) 135621

$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, z) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu\nu}(0, z, \mathbf{0}_T) W^{(A)}(z, 0) G_{\rho\sigma}(0) | H(P) \rangle$$

becomes

Balitsky, Morris and Radyushkin, JHEP 02 (2022) 193

$$M_{\mu\nu\rho\sigma;H}^{(0)}(P, z) = \langle H(P) | G_{\mu\nu}(0, z, \mathbf{0}_T) W^{(A)}(z, 0) \tilde{G}_{\rho\sigma}(0) | H(P) \rangle$$

Decompose into invariant amplitudes, but a higher twist term cannot be removed

$$M_{0i;0i}^{(0)}(P, z) + M_{ij;ij}^{(0)}(P, z) = -2P^z E_H \mathcal{M}_{\Delta g/H}(\nu, z^2) + 2E_H^3 z \mathcal{M}_{pp}(\nu, z^2)$$

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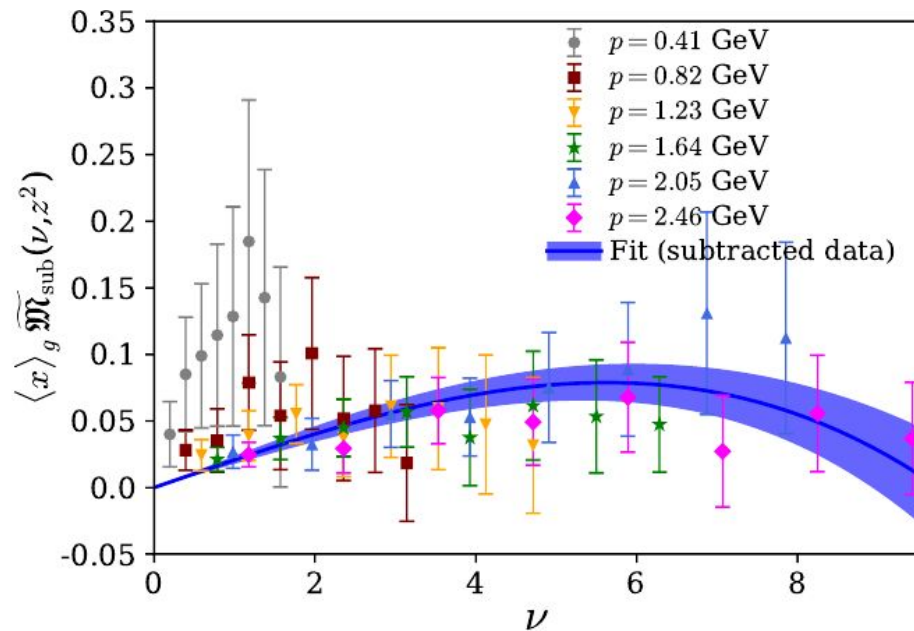
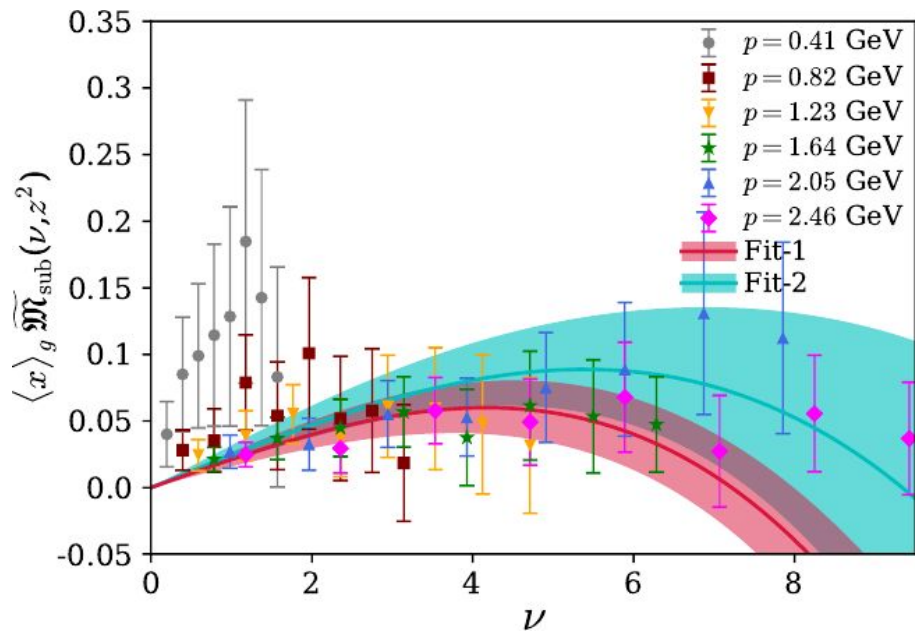
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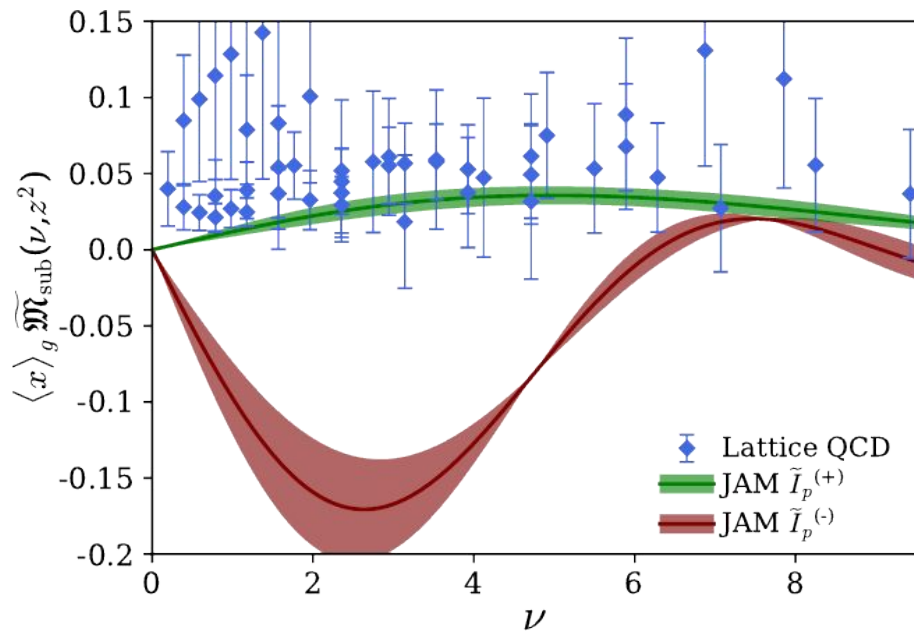
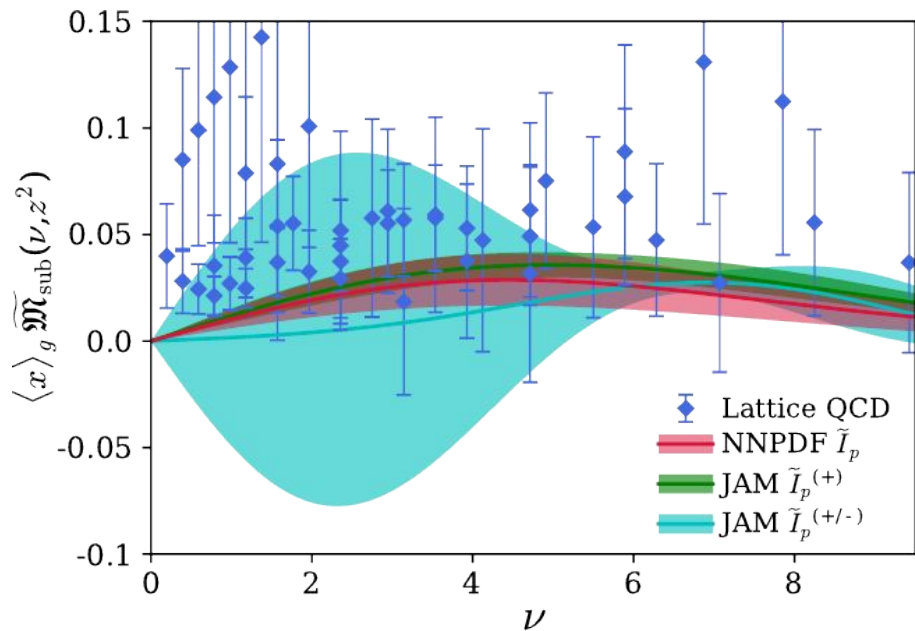
Complicates the analysis!

what we want

Results: polarised gluons



Results: polarised gluons



Polarised gluon PDFs: the take-home message

Very challenging calculations, requiring high statistics, but clear opportunity for meaningful contributions from controlled calculations, even with large uncertainties

Summary

Precise extraction of the unpolarised gluon PDF from pseudo-distribution framework

First extraction of the polarised gluon PDF from lattice QCD

evidence for meaningful contributions to our picture, even with large uncertainties

Significant improvement in precision using:

gradient flow smearing; distillation and summed GEVP method; ratio method

Future improvements needed:

1. Increased statistics
2. Calculation of gluon momentum fraction
3. Long-term goal - combine with isoscalar quark PDF

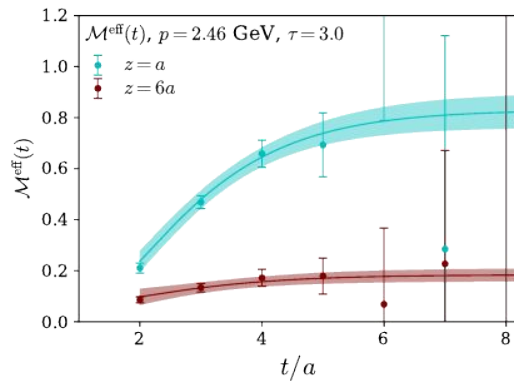
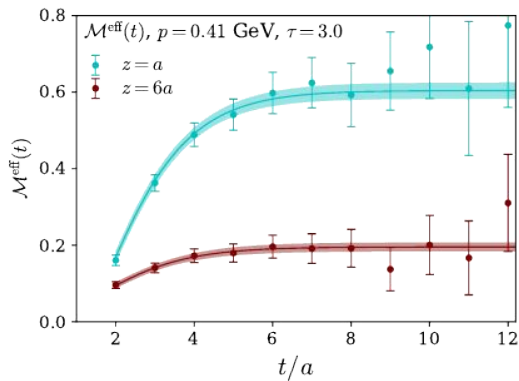
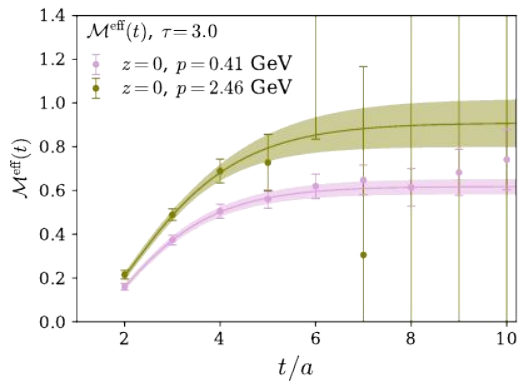
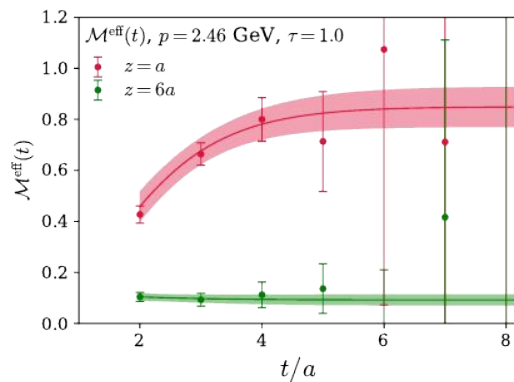
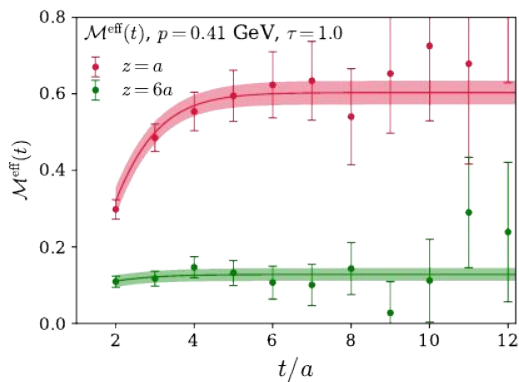
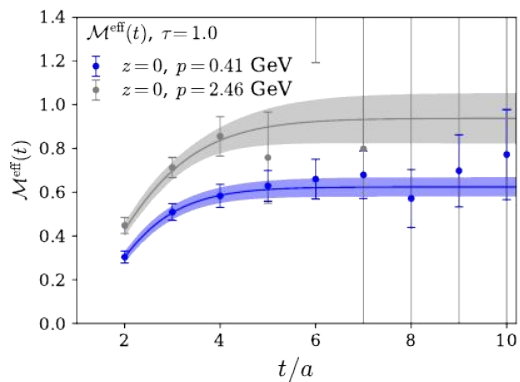
Thank you!

Chris Monahan

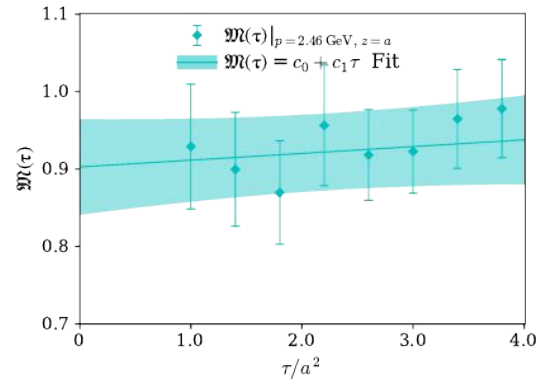
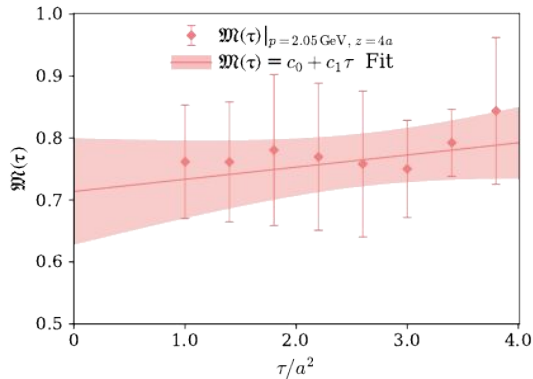
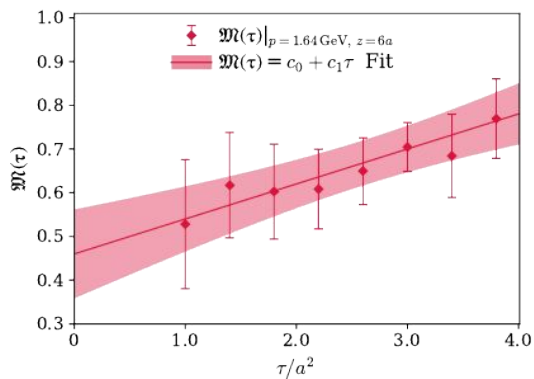
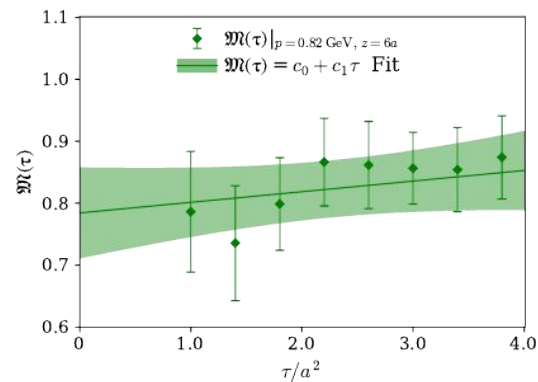
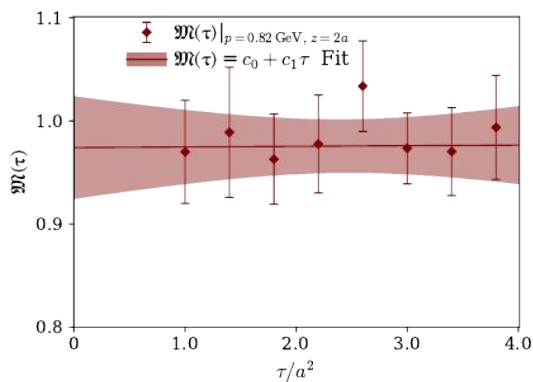
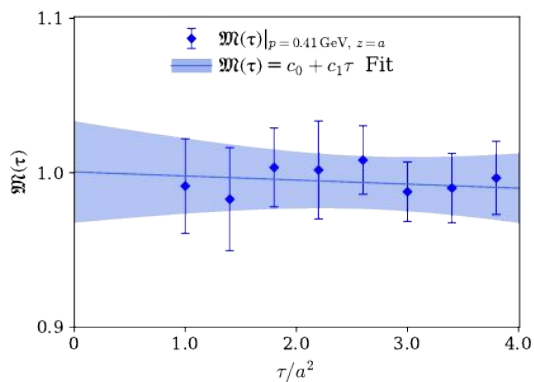
cjmonahan@wm.edu



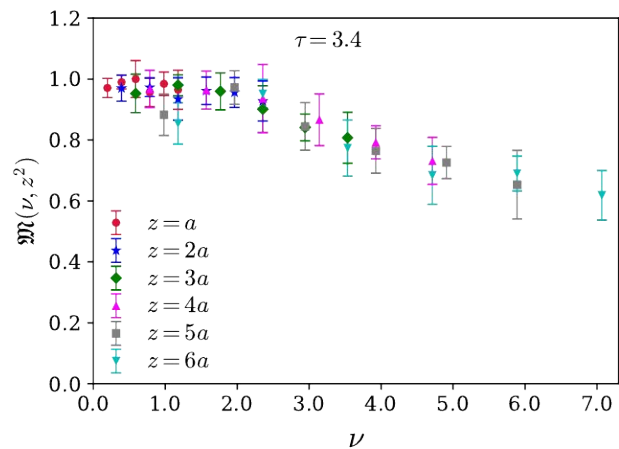
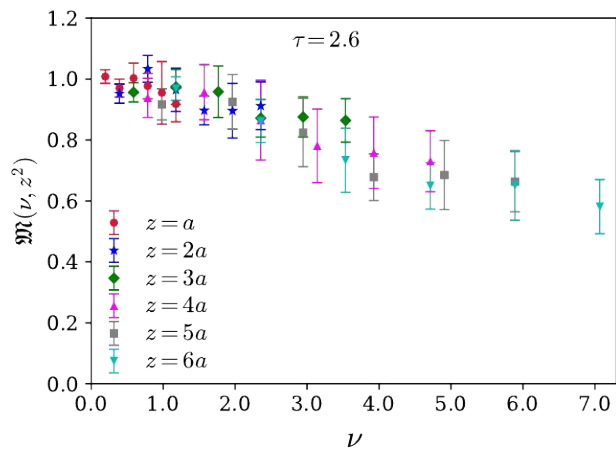
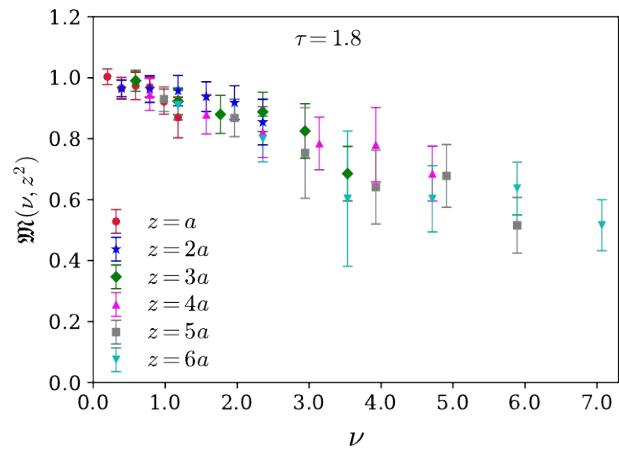
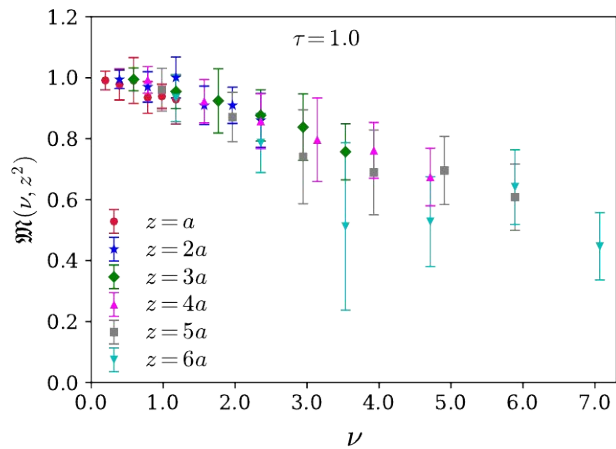
Results: unpolarised gluons



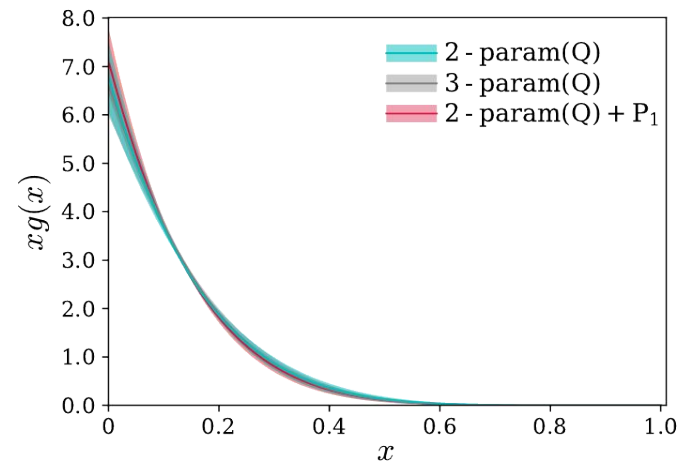
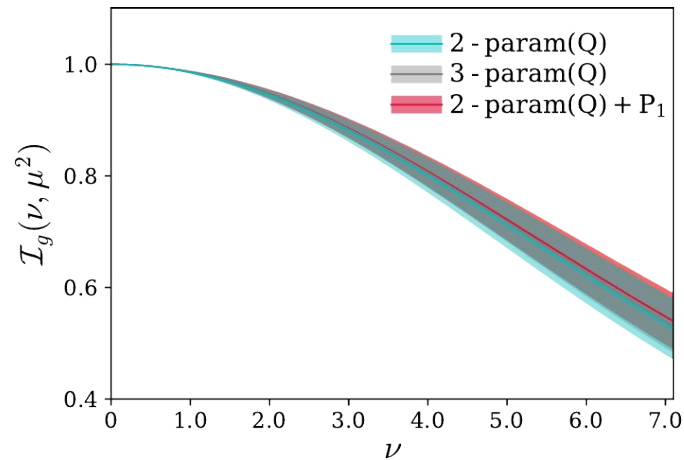
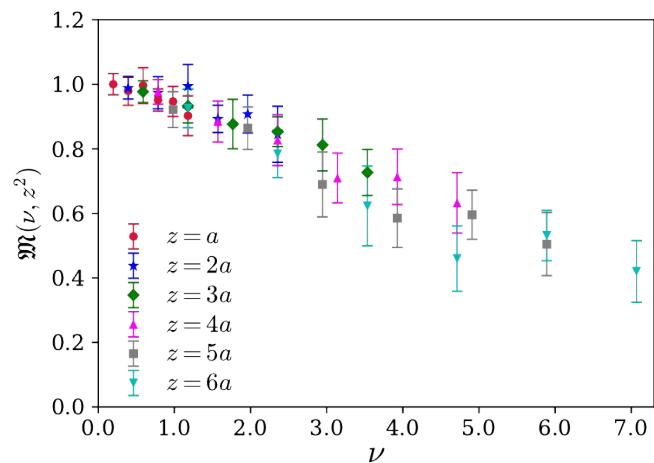
Results: unpolarised gluons



Results



Results: unpolarised gluons



Gradient flow theory in D+1 dimensions

Gradient flows are, broadly speaking, any solution of steepest descent:

- energy landscape
- field configuration space
- probability measure space

Typically expressed through solutions to PDEs.

E.g. in Euclidean space, gradient flows along $f:\mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are solutions to

$$\frac{dx_t}{dt} = -\nabla f(t)$$

Leads to the gradient descent algorithm for finding local minima

Gradient flow theory in D+1 dimensions

Gradient flow for boundary theory can be implemented in a D+1 dimensional Lagrangian

$$S_{GF} = -2 \int_0^\infty d\tau \int d^D x \text{Tr} \{ L_\mu(\tau, x) [\partial_\tau B_\mu(\tau, x) - D_\nu G_{\nu\mu}(\tau, x)] \}$$

Lagrange multiplier field couples to the boundary gauge field only through the bulk field

Variation of the action with respect to Lagrange multiplier field imposes gradient flow equation in the bulk

Formalism suited to studying formal properties of the flow; not typically practical

- Generalised BRST invariance constrains counterterms in the bulk
- Guarantees renormalised correlation functions remain finite, up to a fermionic wavefunction renormalisation

Gradient flow: perturbation theory

Gradient flow in QCD

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial \tau} B_\mu(\tau, x) = D_\nu \left(\partial_\nu B_\mu - \partial_\mu B_\nu + [B_\nu, B_\mu] \right) \quad D_\nu = \partial_\nu + [B_\nu, \cdot]$$

Dirichlet boundary conditions

$$B_\mu(\tau = 0, x) = A_\mu(x) \quad \chi(\tau = 0, x) = \psi(x)$$

Tree-level expansion and “flow propagator”

$$B_\mu(\tau, x) = \int d^4 y \left\{ K_\tau(x - y)_{\mu\nu} A_\nu(y) + \int_0^\tau d\sigma K_{\tau-\sigma}(x - y)_{\mu\nu} R_\nu(\sigma, y) \right\}$$

where

$$K_\tau(x)_{\mu\nu} = \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{e^{ipx}}{p^2} \left\{ (\delta_{\mu\nu} p^2 - p_\mu p_\nu) e^{-\tau p^2} + p_\mu p_\nu \right\}$$

$$R_\mu(\tau, x) = 2[B_\nu, \partial_\nu B_\mu] - [B_\nu, \partial_\mu B_\nu] - [B_\mu, \partial_\nu B_\nu] + [B_\nu, [B_\nu, B_\mu]]$$

Renormalised boundary theory requires no further renormalisation in the bulk