

EIC early science runs: A nuclear PDF perspective

EIC early science workshop – CFNS – Stony Brook

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nCTEQ

nuclear parton distribution functions

Structure of nuclei

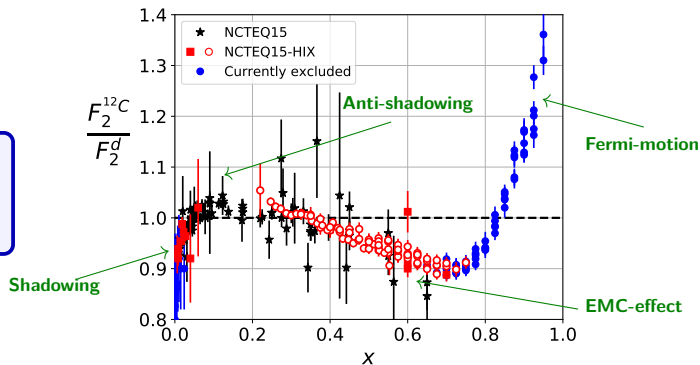
- ▶ Nuclear binding energy $\sim 1\%$ of mass
- ▶ First approximation:
nuclei consist of free protons & neutrons

$$F_2^A(x) \approx \neq Z F_2^{p,free}(x) + N F_2^{n,free}(x)$$

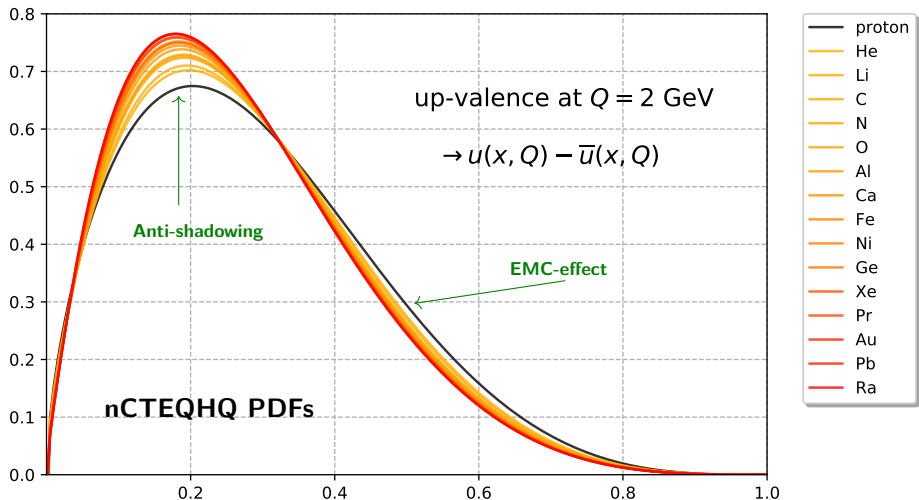
\Rightarrow **does not work**

- ▶ Cross-sections in nuclear collisions are modified
- ▶ Can we translate these modifications into universal quantities?

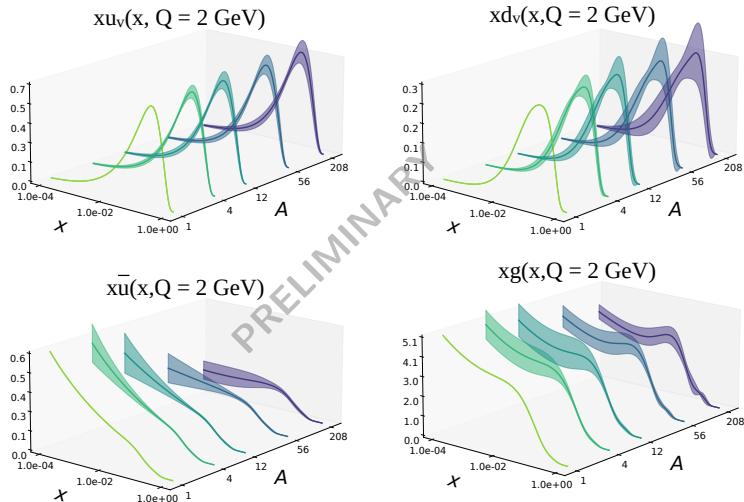
\Rightarrow **nuclear PDFs**



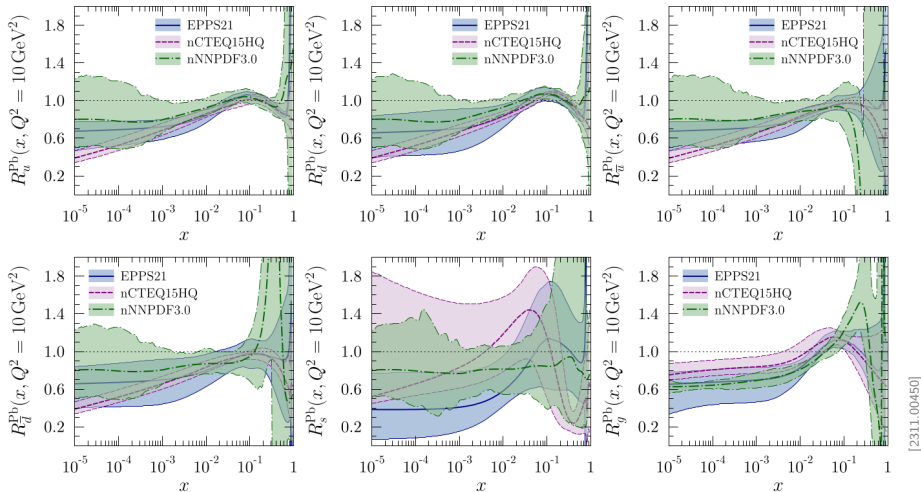
Nuclear modification: free proton vs bound proton



Preliminary results: A -dependence

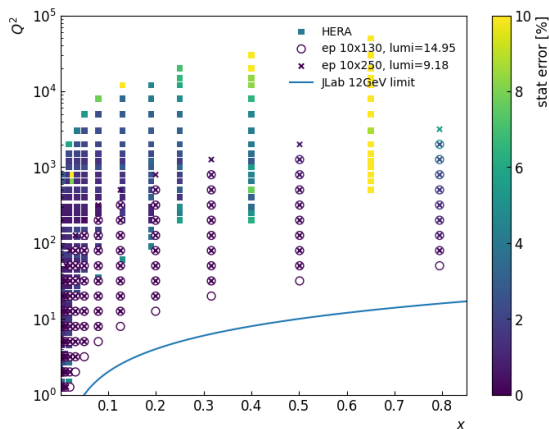


Nuclear ratio of EPPS21 vs. nNNPDF3.0 vs. nCTEQ15HQ

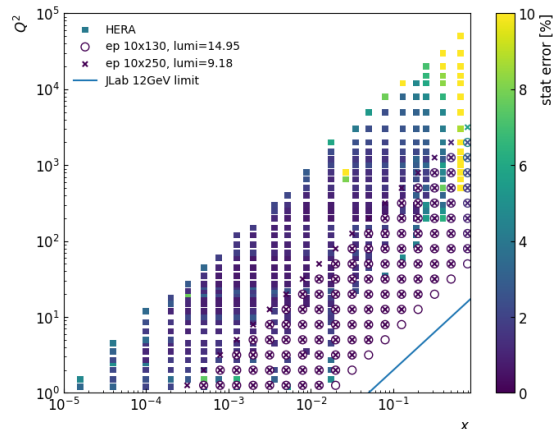


the case for eP runs

eP runs: kinematics & statistics



► improved precision at large- x



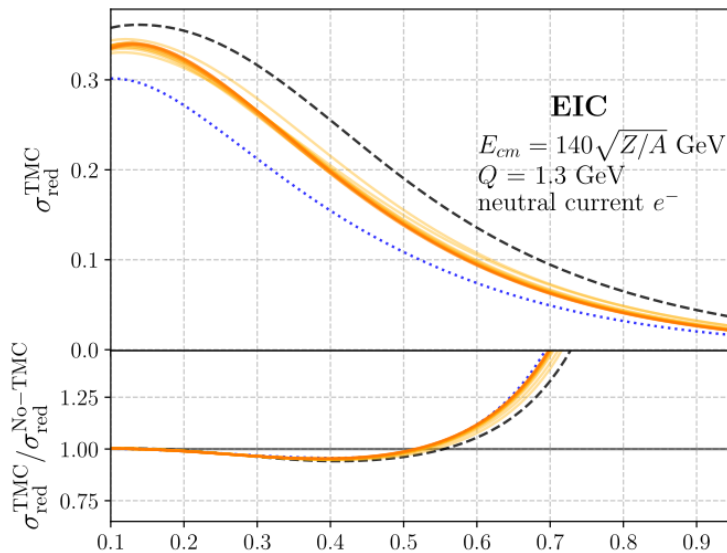
► improved precision at low- x

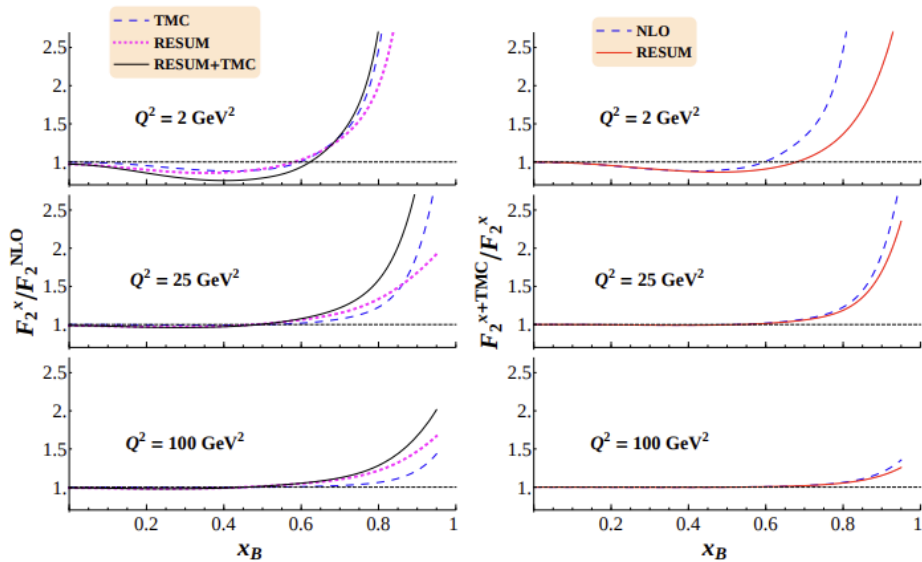
large- x region

The large- x region

There are several (theoretically) distinct effects at large- x , but they all look fairly similar!

- ▶ Target Mass corrections
- ▶ higher twist effects
- ▶ large- x resummation
- ▶ nuclear effects





Enlarged kinematic cuts

Kinematic variables:

$$Q^2 \quad \& \quad W^2 = Q^2 \frac{1-x}{x} + M_N^2$$

Requires proper treatment of:

- ▶ deuteron corrections

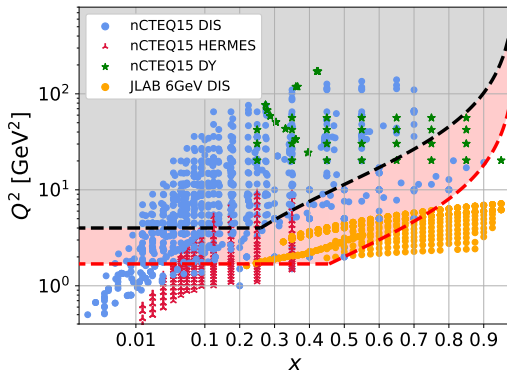
[PRD 93, 114017 (2016)]

- ▶ target mass corrections (TMCs)

[Prog.Part.Nucl.Phys. 136 (2024) 104096]

- ▶ higher twist effects

[PRD 93, 114017 (2016)]



nCTEQ15

$Q > 2 \text{ GeV}$
 $W > 3.5 \text{ GeV}$
 $N_{\text{data}} = 708$

nCTEQ15HIX

$Q > 1.3 \text{ GeV}$
 $W > 1.7 \text{ GeV}$
 $N_{\text{data}} = 1679$

[PRD 103, 114015 (2021)]

low- x region

The low- x region

- ▶ need for precise proton baseline
- ▶ only way of finding saturation from PDF fits is by carefully disentangling the different effects as precise as possible
- ▶ problems with the HERA data
- ▶ problems with theoretical predictions
- ▶ ...

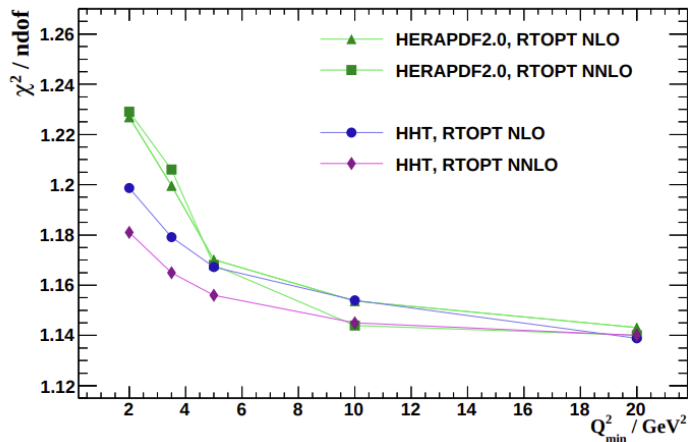
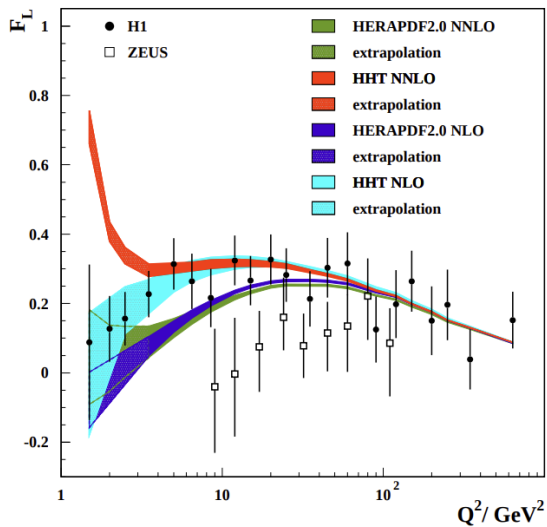
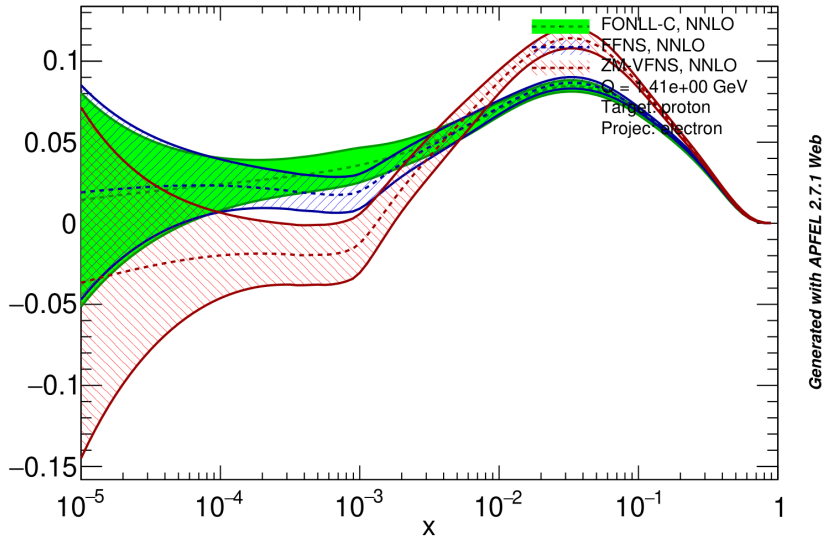


Figure 2: The χ^2/ndof versus Q_{\min}^2 for HHT and HERAPDF2.0 fits at NNLO and NLO.



$F_L^p(x, Q)$, CT18NNLO

Thank you!