



Z+charm at the LHC: implications for proton structure

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Jets and EW bosons

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Heavy quark production in perturbative QCD

V+jets in PDF fits

Inclusive measurements of *W* and *Z* boson production: key building block of global fits



V+jets in PDF fits

Inclusive measurements of *W* and *Z* boson production: key building block of global fits

Measurements of *W* and *Z* boson in association with jets provide sensitivity to complementary PDF flavour combinations



Both types of processes can be treated using NNLO QCD theory and are part of the NNPDF4.0 determination

V+jets in PDF fits

Inclusive measurements of *W* and *Z* boson production: key building block of global fits

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g U Constrains the gluon PDF for x ≈ 0.01, relevant for Higgs production in gluon fusion

nb Z p_T vanishes at Born level



Direct handle on the charm content of the proton

The **Z p_T distributions** from ATLAS and CMS are routinely added in global fits

What about Z+charm? What do we really learn by measuring the charm PDF?

say you want to evaluate the charm DIS structure function. You have three options

Let us assume for the time being that there is no ``Intrinsic Charm": the non-perturbative proton wave function does not have a charm component

Fixed-flavor scheme: no charm PDF, charm mass effects accounted for exactly



The charm PDF does not exist here!

say you want to evaluate the **charm DIS structure function**. You have three options

Zero-mass scheme: charm PDF treated on the same footing as all other quark flavours



the charm PDF is deterministically generated from the gluon (and light quark) PDFs

Here charm PDF is ``trivial": little to learn from its measurement

say you want to evaluate the **charm DIS structure function**. You have three options

General-mass VFN scheme: charm PDF treated on the same footing as all other quark flavours, massive effects included in coefficient functions

$$F_2^c(x, Q^2) \propto \sum_{i=g, u, d, s, c} C_i^{(\text{GM})}(\alpha_s, Q^2/m_c^2) \otimes f_i^{(n_f+1)}$$

Systematically improvable, reliable for all values of Q² from threshold to collider scales



The charm PDF

so far we have assumed that charm is **purely perturbative**. But it does not need to be so! An **intrinsic component** is allowed and even predicted in many models of nucleon structure

THE INTRINSIC CHARM OF THE PROTON

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Valence-like charm PDF predicted, peaked at x=0.4

Recent data give unexpectedly large cross-sections for charmed particle production at high x_F in hadron collisions. This may imply that the proton has a non-negligible uudcc Fock component. The interesting consequences of such a hypothesis are explored.

Ultimately, **data has to decide**: a phenomenological determination of the charm PDF will quantify the relative weight of the perturbative vs intrinsic components

 $c^{(n_f=5)}(x,Q) \simeq c^{(n_f=5)}_{(\text{pert})}(x,Q) + c^{(n_f=5)}_{(\text{intr})}(x,Q)$

from pQCD evolution and matching

from intrinsic component

 $c_{(\text{intr})}^{(n_f-3)}(x) \neq 0$

perturbative, intrinsic, and fitted charm

The charm PDF in the 4-flavour scheme (above charm threshold) can be determined as:

For turbative charm: the charm PDF vanishes below threshold (no charm in 3-flavour scheme), above threshold ($\mu_c \approx m_c$) deterministically generated from the gluon (and light quark) PDFs

$$\begin{aligned} f_c^{(n_f)} &= 0 & \rightarrow \quad f_c^{(n_f+1)} \propto \alpha_s \ln \frac{Q^2}{m_c^2} \left(P_{qg} \otimes f_g^{(n_f+1)} \right) + \mathcal{O}\left(\alpha_s^2\right) \quad \text{``trivial'' charm PDF} \\ & \text{3FNS charm} & \text{4FNS charm} \end{aligned}$$

Intrinsic charm: a model for the charm PDF in the 3-flavour scheme is assumed, then evolved with DGLAP: combination of (model-dependent) intrinsic and perturbative components

$$f_c^{(n_f)}(x, Q_0) = Ax^2 \left[6x(1+x)\ln x + (1-x)(1+10x+x^2) \right]$$

BHPS model (scale independent)

the model parameters (e.g. normalisation) are extracted from comparison with data

Fitted charm: no assumptions on possible intrinsic component are made. The charm is parametrised above threshold (4FNS) in exactly the same was as all other quark PDFs

NNPDF approach
$$f_c^{(n_f+1)}(x, Q_0) = x^{-\alpha_c}(1-x)^{\beta_c} NN(x)$$

Let the data tell us whether or not there is an intrinsic charm component!

n.b. the GM-VFN structure functions need to be modified for a non-zero charm PDF in the n_f=3 scheme

perturbative, intrinsic, and fitted charm



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NNPDF approach
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Why fitting charm?

1) Fit quality of global analysis with fitted charm superior to that with perturbative charm

Process	Dataset	$n_{ m dat}$	$\chi^2_{\rm base}$	$\chi^2_{ m pr}$	$\chi^2_{ m str}$	$\chi^2_{ m str_s_hat}$	$\chi^2_{ m str_pch}$
$\nu \text{DIS} (\mu \mu)$		76/76/95/91/95	0.70	0.71	0.53	0.52	0.63
	NuTeV [9]	76/76/76/76/76	0.70	0.71	0.53	0.55	0.61
	NOMAD [10]	-/-/19/15/19	[9.0]	[8.8]	0.55	0.35	0.69
W, Z (incl.)		327/418/418/418/418	1.38	1.40	1.40	1.39	1.40
	ATLAS $[12]$	/61/61/61/61	3.22	1.65	1.67	1.64	1.80
W+c		-/37/37/37/37	[0.76]	0.68	0.60	0.66	0.68
	CMS [17, 18]	-/15/15/15/15	[1.10]	0.98	0.96	1.00	1.00
	ATLAS $[16]$	-/22/22/22/22	[0.53]	0.48	0.42	0.43	0.46
W+jets	ATLAS $[15]$	-/32/32/32/32	[1.58]	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18
Total		3917/4077/4096/4092/4096	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.17	1.20
NNPDF3.1 strangene	ess study				Fitted charm		Perturbative charm

consistent improvement in fit quality, not driven by one specific class of processes

Similar picture in NNPDF4.0 global analysis

$$\chi^2_{\text{tot}} = 1.162, \quad \chi^2_{\text{DY}} = 1.26, \quad \chi^2_{\text{DISnc}} = 1.22$$
 Fitted charm
 $\chi^2_{\text{tot}} = 1.981, \quad \chi^2_{\text{DY}} = 1.31, \quad \chi^2_{\text{DISnc}} = 1.28$ Perturbative charm

Why fitting charm?

- 2) Stability of fit results with respect to the value of the charm mass
- 3) Unrealistically small uncertainties of charm PDF when generated perturbatively



4) Very large MHOUs to the heavy quark matching conditions: perturbatively unstable

$$f_{i}^{(n_{f}+1)} = A_{ij}^{(n_{f})} \otimes f_{j}^{(n_{f})}$$

 $i, j = u, d, s, c, g, ...$





As compared with the first NNPDF-based fitted charm determination, greatly improved precision in the recent NNPDF4.0 global analysis

Solution of constraints provided by new precision LHC data, complemented by fixed-target DIS

The EMC charm measurements (early 80s) provided the dominant constraints on the charm PDF in NNPDF3.0.



The fitted charm PDF is stable upon change of input **parameterisation basis:** the **large-***x* **enhancement** (intrinsic component?) is genuine feature (no artefact) of the fit



- In NNPDF4.0, LHC data dominates the constraints on the charm PDF, with EMC structure functions having a milder impact now
- Marked differences between fitted and perturbative approaches for the charm PDF, can we distinguish them phenomenologically?

M The perturbative calculation depends sensitively on the choice of **charm mass value**

To disentangle the perturbative from the intrinsic component of the charm PDF, we need to **evolve backwards** and transform to the 3FNS via **matching conditions**



the matching conditions implement the scheme change at the heavy quark threshold

$$f_i^{(n_f+1)} = A_{ij}^{(n_f)} \otimes f_j^{(n_f)}, i, j = u, d, s, c, g, \dots$$

NNLO: Buza et al 92 N3LO: Bluemlein et al.

To disentangle the perturbative from the intrinsic component of the charm PDF, we need to **evolve backwards** and transform to the 3FNS via **matching conditions**



Estimate MHOUs from the shift between NNLO and N3LO matching

while perturbative uncertainties from the matching are large, one can clearly appreciate a **non-zero component peaked at large-***x*: intrinsic charm

Calculation carried out with new DGLAP evolution framework: **EKO**

https://eko.readthedocs.io/



NNPDF Collaboration, in preparation

Candido, Hekhorn, Magni, in preparation

Z+charm at the LHC

Z+charm in PDF fits

Hence what are we learning about **nucleon structure** from the Z+charm process?



if the charm PDF is entirely generated by perturbative QCD evolution

then one is probing the gluon and light quarks, which are already better constrained by other processes *if the charm PDF receives contribution from an intrinsic component*

then one is measuring whether or not the nucleon contains an intrinsic charm component!

Z+D @ LHC: direct probe of intrinsic charm

Z+charm @ LHC



ATLAS/CMS probe medium-x charm, where perturbative and fitted approaches yield similar results. Sensitivity to intrinsic charm requires reaching higher values of p_T^z

✓ LHCb probes forward kinematics, where IC is enhanced (*<x>=0.4* in most forward bin)

M LHCb measurements **favour the intrinsic charm hypothesis**, though more data required

Z+charm @ LHC



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Z+charm @ LHC



Theory subtleties in the interpretation of **V+Q data**

- Charm-jets definition require anIR safe flavour algorithm
- Modelling of heavy meson production involves charm/ bottom fragmentation
- Heavy quark mass effects may not be negligible, need generalmass VFN scheme e.g. FONLL

MNLO QCD corrections

required for precise calculations, though likely to partially cancel in ratios a la LHCb

Summary and outlook

- The associated production of Z bosons with charm quarks represents a direct probe of the charm content of the proton
- Recent progress in global PDF fits identifies an intrinsic component of the charm PDF with a local significance at the 3-sigma level
- Such intrinsic component is consistent with recent LHCb measurements of **forward Z+charm production**, though more theory and experimental work is required



``The simple hydrogen atom nucleus appears to be surprisingly charming"

Extra Material

Improved fitting methodology

Stochastic Gradient Descent via TensorFlow for NN training

Automated model hyperparameter optimisation: NN architecture, minimiser, learning rates ...

Validation with future tests (forecasting new datasets) and closure tests (data based on known PDFs)

 $\boldsymbol{\hat{\theta}} = \operatorname*{arg\ min}_{\boldsymbol{\theta}\in\boldsymbol{\Theta}} \left(\frac{1}{n_{\mathrm{fold}}} \sum_{k=1}^{n_{\mathrm{fold}}} \chi_k^2(\boldsymbol{\theta}) \right)$ ML model hyperparams

Loss (``average'')

$$L = \max\left(\chi_1^2, \chi_2^2, \chi_3^2, \dots, \chi_{n_{\text{fold}}}^2\right)$$

Loss (``max")





Stability wrt hyperopt loss function

Improved fitting methodology





Illustrating the outcome of SGD minimisation (band: standard deviation over the MC replicas)

Closure and future tests

Closure tests

Generate **toy data** based on some known PDF, check *a posteriori* that the **true underlying law is reproduced** within errors



Future tests

Fit data restricted to specific kinematic regions,

then verify succesful extrapolation



Process	χ^2 pre-HERA	χ^2 pre-LHC	χ^2 Global
Fixed target NC DIS	1.05	1.18	1.23
Fixed target CC DIS	0.80	0.85	0.87
Fixed target Drell-Yan	0.92	1.27	1.59
HERA	27.20 (1 .23)	1.22	1.20
Collider Drell-Yan (Tevatron)	5.52~(1.02)	0.99	1.11
Collider Drell-Yan (LHC)	18.91 (1.31)	2.63 (1.58)	1.53
Top quark production	20.01 (1.06)	1.30 (0.87)	1.01
Jet production	2.69 (0.98)	2.12 (1.10)	1.26

Positivity and integrability



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- MSbar PDFs have been shown to satisfy positivity requirements at all orders: reduce large-x uncertainties
- The non-singlet quark triplet and octet should be *integrable* (e.g. Gottfried sum rule): reduce small-x uncertainties

$$T_8 = (u + \bar{u}) + \left(d + \bar{d}\right) - 2\left(s + \bar{s}\right)$$



A ML open-source QCD fitting framework



The full **NNPDF machine learning fitting framework** has been publicly released open source, together with extensive documentation and user-friendly examples

Comparison with NNPDF3.1



Good agreement with NNPDF3.1 within uncertainties, with NNPDF4.0 being more precise

Differences can be traced back to the impact of specific datasets (e.g. dijets for large-x gluon) or improvements in theory calculations (e.g. NNLO corrections in dimuon DIS for strangeness)

Comparison with NNPDF3.1



The strangest proton



- NOMAD dimuon DIS data sensitive to
 strangeness via charged-current scattering
- Fitting NOMAD had large impact on the strangeness in NNPDF3.1, now in NNPDF4.0 the no-NOMAD fit is already spot on the data

Excellent consistency of global dataset



The strangest proton

 $R_{s} = 0.5$

 $R_S \equiv \frac{s + \bar{s}}{\bar{u} + \bar{d}}$

 $R_s = 1$

NNPDF4.0 (w. NOMAD)

NNPDF4.0 (no A/C W, Z)

NNPDF4.0 (no LHCb)

NNPDF4.0

CT18

MSHT20

Maintoing The LHC inclusive W, Z production

data are also sensitive probes of the proton strangeness

- Fit results stable, within uncertainties,
 when either ATLAS/CMS or LHCb W,
 Z data are removed
- No tension between LHC and DIS neutrino data observed



Comparison between global fits

reasonable agreement with CT18, and MSHT20, different pattern of PDF uncertainties



Comparison between global fits

different pattern of PDF uncertainties ... $\delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{CT}) \gtrsim \delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{MSHT}) \gtrsim \delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{NNPDF})$ u at 100 GeV \bar{u} at 100 GeV 0.14 0.14 NNPDF4.0 (NNLO) NNPDF4.0 (NNLO) relative PDF uncertainties relative PDF uncertainties CT18 (NNLO) CT18 (NNLO) 0.12 0.12 MSHT20 (NNLO) MSHT20 (NNLO) 0.10 0.10 0.08 0.08 0.06 0.06 0.04 0.04 0.02 0.02 0.00 0.00 10-2 10^{-1} 10-2 10^{-1} 10-3 10⁻³ 10^{-4} 10⁰ 10^{-4} 10^{0} g at 100 GeV s at 100 GeV 0.14 elative PDF uncertainties NNPDF4.0 (NNLO) 0.14 NNPDF4.0 (NNLO) relative PDF uncertainties CT18 (NNLO) CT18 (NNLO) 0.12 0.12 MSHT20 (NNLO) MSHT20 (NNLO) 0.10 0.10 0.08 0.08 0.06 0.06 T₈ integ 0.04 0.04 0.02 0.02 0.00 0.00 10-2 10-3 10^{-1} 10^{-4} 10⁰ 10^{-1} 10^{-3} 10-2 10^{-4} 10^{0} 3

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Comparison between global fits

... follows pattern of input datasets

$\delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{CT}) \gtrsim \delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{MSHT}) \gtrsim \delta_{\text{PDF}}(\text{NNPDF})$

Data set	Ref.	NNPDF3.1	NNPDF4.0	ABMP16	CT18	MSHT20	Data set	Ref.	NNPDF3.1	NNPDF4.0	ABMP16	CT18	MSHT20
ATLAS W, Z 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 35 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)	[51]	1	1	1	1	1	CMS W asym. 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)	[267]	×	×	×	×	1
ATLAS W, Z 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 4.6 \text{ fb}^{-1}$)	[52]	1	1	×	(✔)	1	CMS Z 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 36 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)	[268]	×	×	×	×	1
ATLAS low-mass DY 7 TeV	[53]	1	1	×	(✔)	×	CMS W electron asymmetry 7 TeV	[55]	✓	 Image: A second s	×	1	 Image: A second s
ATLAS high-mass DY 7 TeV	[54]	1	1	×	(✔)	1	CMS W muon asymmetry 7 TeV	[56]	 Image: A second s	✓	✓	1	×
ATLAS W 8 TeV	[79]	×	(✔)	×	×	1	CMS Drell-Yan 2D 7 TeV	[57]	 Image: A second s	1	×	(✔)	 Image: A second s
ATLAS DY 2D 8 TeV	[78]	×	1	×	×	1	CMS Drell-Yan 2D 8 TeV	[269]	(✔)	×	×	×	×
ATLAS high-mass DY 2D 8 TeV	[77]	×	1	×	(✔)	1	CMS W rapidity 8 TeV	[58]	 Image: A second s	1	1	1	 Image: A second s
ATLAS $\sigma_{W,Z}$ 13 TeV	[81]	×	1	1	×	×	CMS $W, Z p_T $ 8 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 18.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$)	[270]	×	×	×	(✔)	×
ATLAS W +jet 8 TeV	[<mark>93</mark>]	×	1	×	×	1	CMS $Z p_T$ 8 TeV	[64]	1	1	×	(✔)	×
ATLAS $Z p_T$ 7 TeV	[259]	(🗸)	×	×	(🖌)	×	CMS $W + c$ 7 TeV	[76]	 Image: A second s	1	×	(✔)	 Image: A second s
ATLAS $Z p_T$ 8 TeV	[<mark>63</mark>]	1	1	×	1	1	$\mathrm{CMS}\ W + c\ 13\ \mathrm{TeV}$	[84]	×	1	×	×	(✔)
ATLAS $W + c$ 7 TeV	[83]	×	1	×	(✔)	×	CMS single-inclusive jets 2.76 TeV	[75]	~	×	×	×	 Image: A second s
ATLAS σ_{tt}^{tot} 7, 8 TeV	[65]	1	1	1	×	×	CMS single-inclusive jets 7 TeV	[147]		(✔)	×	1	
ATLAS σ_{tt}^{tot} 7, 8 TeV	[260-265]	×	×	1	×	×	CMS dijets 7 TeV	[74]	×		×	X	×
ATLAS σ_{tt}^{tot} 13 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 3.2 \text{ fb}^{-1}$)	[66]	1	×	1	×	×	CMS single-inclusive jets 8 TeV	[87]	×		×	~	×
ATLAS σ_{tt}^{tot} 13 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 139 \text{ fb}^{-1}$)	[134]	×	1	×	×	×	CMS 3D dijets 8 lev	[149]	<u>^</u>	(*)	<u>^</u>	- Û	<u>^</u>
ATLAS σ_{tt}^{tot} and Z ratios	[266]	×	×	×	×	(✔)	CMS - tot 7 8 TaV	[00]	· · ·	*	^	()	<u></u>
ATLAS $t\bar{t}$ lepton+jets 8 TeV	[67]	1	1	×	1	1	$CMS \sigma_{tt}^{tot} \ 8 \text{ TaV}$	[140]	×	×	<u> </u>	Ŷ.	
ATLAS $t\bar{t}$ dilepton 8 TeV	[89]	×	1	×	×	1	CMS σ_{tt}^{tot} 5 7 8 13 TeV	[271]	x	x		x	×
ATLAS single-inclusive jets 7 TeV, R=0.6	[73]	1	(✔)	×	1	1	CMS σ_{tt}^{tot} 13 TeV	[69]				x	x
ATLAS single-inclusive jets 8 TeV, R=0.6	[86]	×	1	×	×	×	$CMS t\bar{t}$ lepton+jets 8 TeV	[70]	1	1	×	×	1
ATLAS dijets 7 TeV, R=0.6	[148]	×	1	×	×	×	CMS $t\bar{t}$ 2D dilepton 8 TeV	[90]	×	1	×	1	1
ATLAS direct photon production 8 TeV	[100]	×	(✔)	×	×	×	CMS $t\bar{t}$ lepton+jet 13 TeV	[91]	×	1	×	×	×
ATLAS direct photon production 13 TeV	[101]	×	1	×	×	×	CMS $t\bar{t}$ dilepton 13 TeV	[92]	×	1	×	×	×
ATLAS single top R_t 7, 8, 13 TeV	[94,96,98]	×	1	1	×	×	CMS single top $\sigma_t + \sigma_{\bar{t}}$ 7 TeV	[95]	×	1	1	×	×
ATLAS single top diff. 7 TeV	[94]	×	1	×	×	×	CMS single top R_t 8, 13 TeV	[97, 99]	×	1	1	×	×
ATLAS single top diff. 8 TeV	[96]	×	1	×	×	×	CMS single top 13 TeV	[281, 282]	×	×	×	×	(✔)

Data set	Ref.	NNPDF3.1	NNPDF4.0	ABMP16	CT18	MSHT20
LHCb Z 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 940 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)	[59]	1	1	×	×	1
LHCb $Z \rightarrow ee \ 8 \ \text{TeV} \ (\mathcal{L} = 2 \ \text{fb}^{-1})$	[61]	1	1	1	1	1
LHCb W 7 TeV ($\mathcal{L} = 37 \text{ pb}^{-1}$)	[283]	×	×	×	×	1
LHC b $W,Z \to \mu$ 7 TeV	[<mark>60</mark>]	 Image: A second s	 Image: A second s	1	1	1
LHC b $W,Z \to \mu$ 8 TeV	[62]	1	1	1	1	1
LHC b $W \to e$ 8 TeV	[80]	×	(✔)	×	×	×
LHC b $Z \to \mu \mu, ee$ 13 TeV	[82]	×	1	×	×	×

