



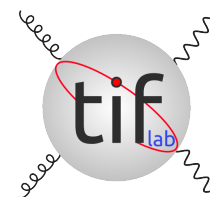
# MACHINE LEARNING

# PRECISION HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS

STEFANO FORTE  
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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI FISICA



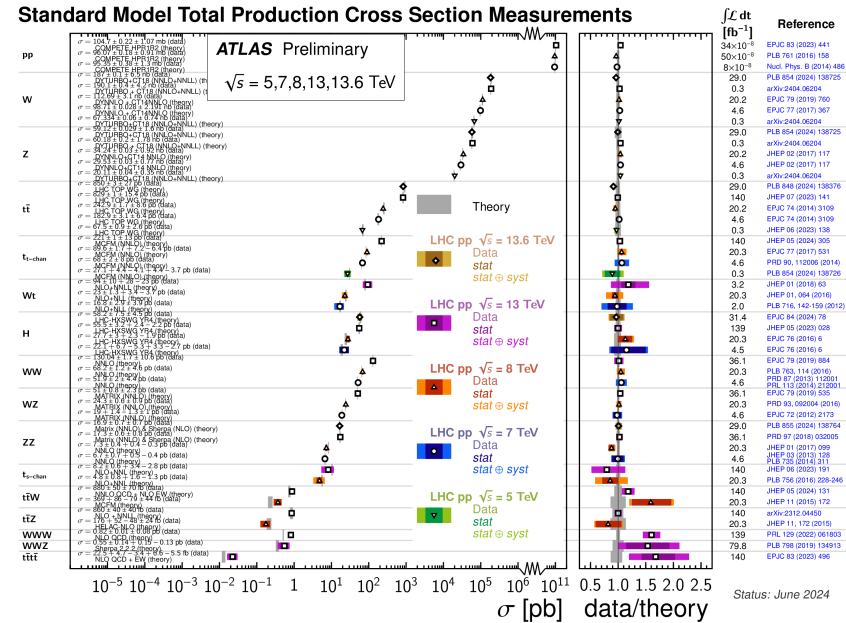
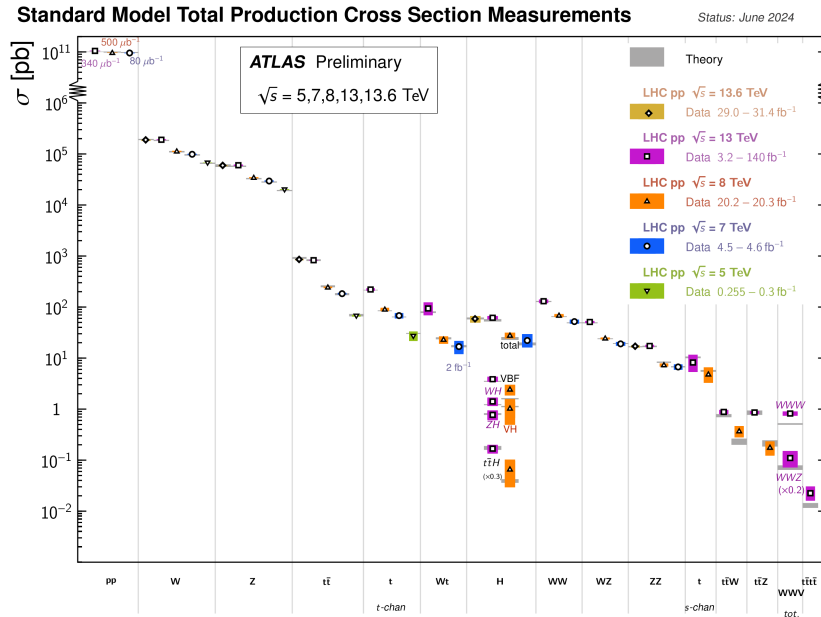
PHYSICS IN THE AI ERA

PISA, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

# PRECISION HIGH-ENERGY PHYSICS

## PARTICLE PRODUCTION PROCESSES AT LHC

## RATIO TO THEORY

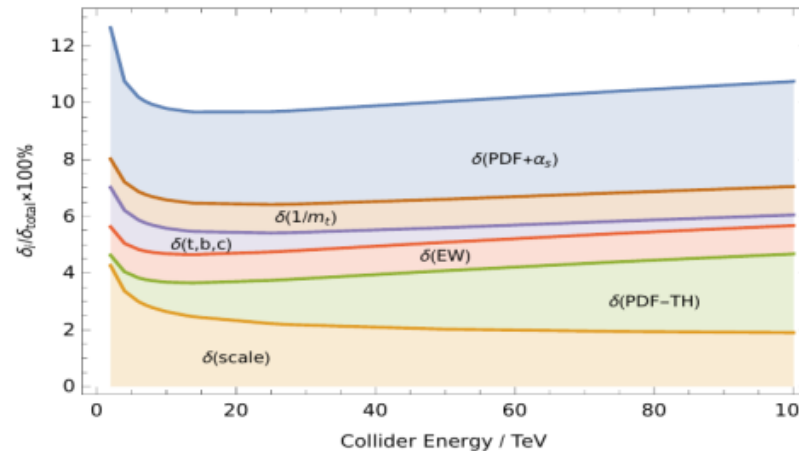
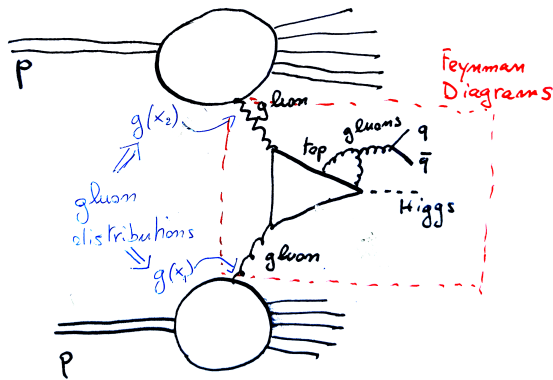


- PRODUCTION RATE PREDICTED OVER  $\sim 10$  ORDERS OF MAGNITUDE
- TYPICAL ACCURACY APPROACHING PERCENT
- LOOKING FOR DEVIATIONS

# THE THEORY BOTTLENECK PROTON STRUCTURE

UNCERTAINTIES:  
HIGGS IN GLUON FUSION

## QCD FACTORIZATION



- ←..... PDF4LHC WG 22
- ←..... Czakon, Harlander, Klappert, Niggetiedt 21
- ←..... Can be removed (?)
- ←..... **Reduced to 0.6% (gg light-quark)**  
Bechetti, Bonciani, Del Duca, Hirschi, Moriello, Schweitzer 20
- ←..... **Missing N<sup>3</sup>LO PDFs**  
McGowan, Cridge, Harland-Lang, Thorne 22

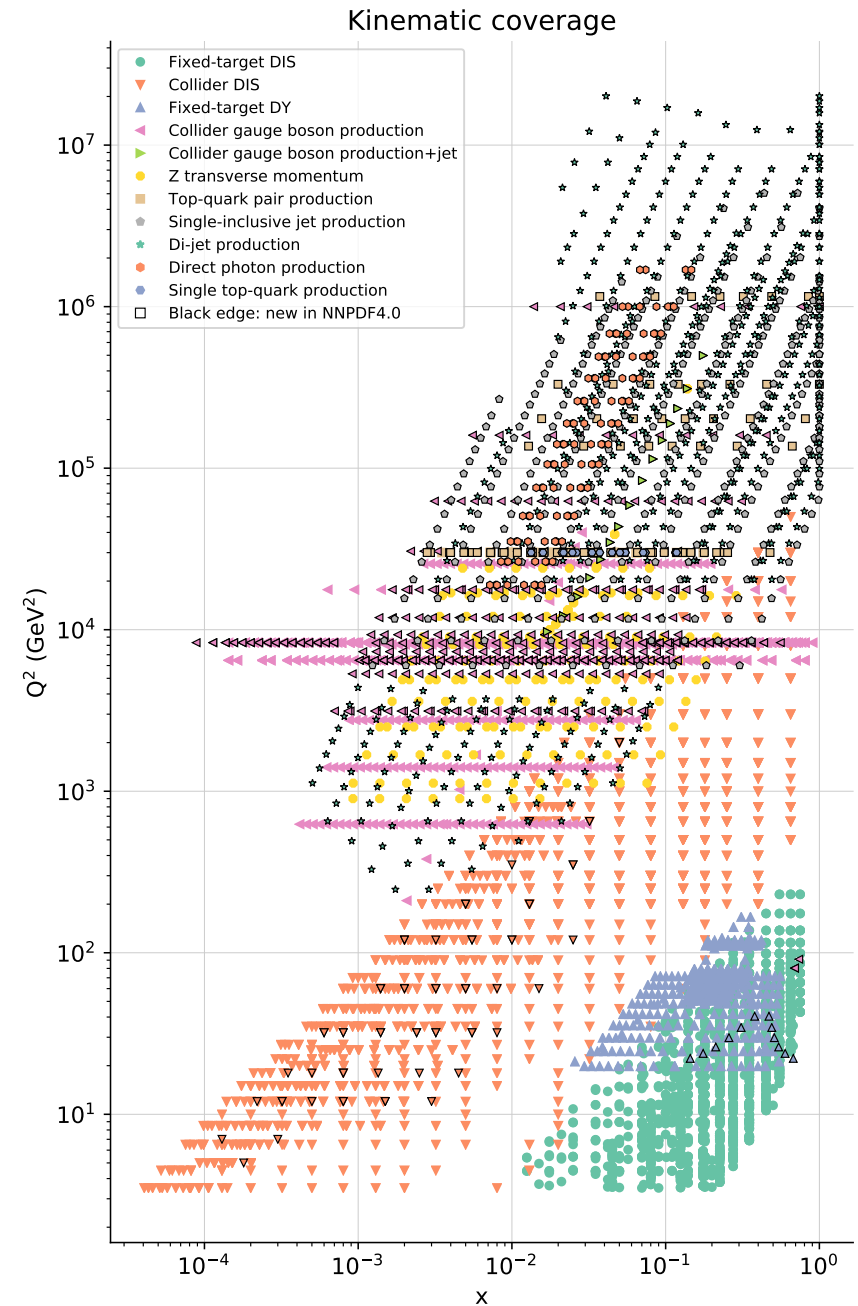
(R. Röntsch, Les Houches 2023)

- **PARTON DISTRIBUTIONS (PDF)** “PROBABILITY” TO PULL OUT A PROTON CONSTITUENT
- **IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPUTE** AT PRESENT
- **DOMINANT SOURCE OF UNCERTAINTY**

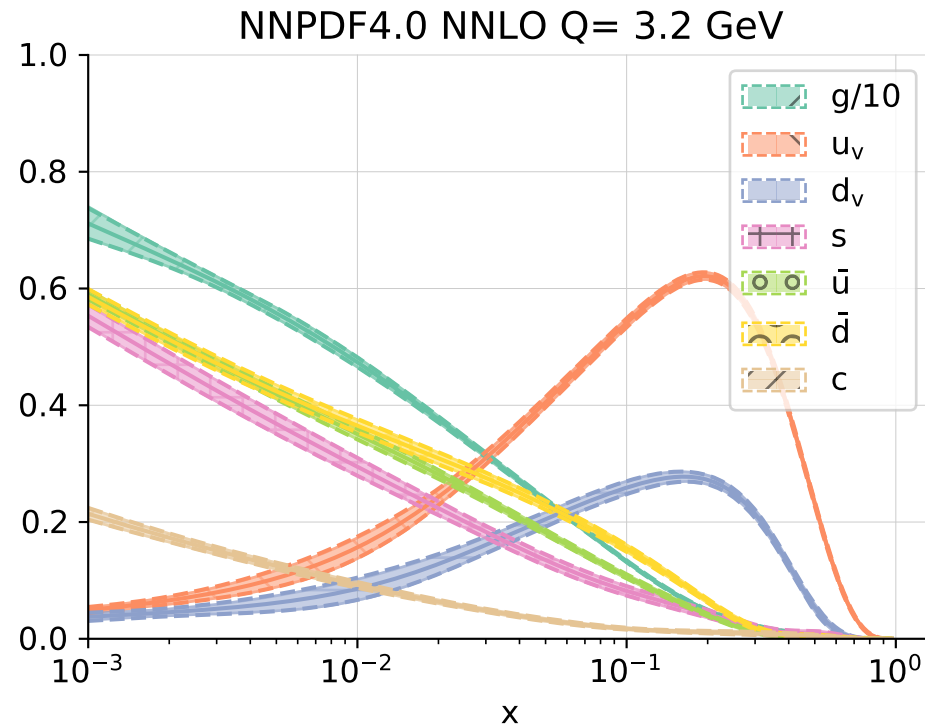
# A PATTERN RECOGNITION PROBLEM

## A CURRENT DATASET

- COLLISION WITH PROTON(S)  $\Rightarrow$  RESULT DEPENDS ON PDF
- COMPUTE RESULT FOR MANY PROCESSES
- COMPARE TO (LOTS) OF DATA



# QUALITATIVE BEHAVIOR, QUANTITATIVE PROBLEMS



- A SET OF PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS OF PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTIONS
- FULL (INFINITE DIMENSIONAL) COVARIANCE MATRIX
- MUST BE DETERMINED FROM FINITE SET OF DISCRETE DATA

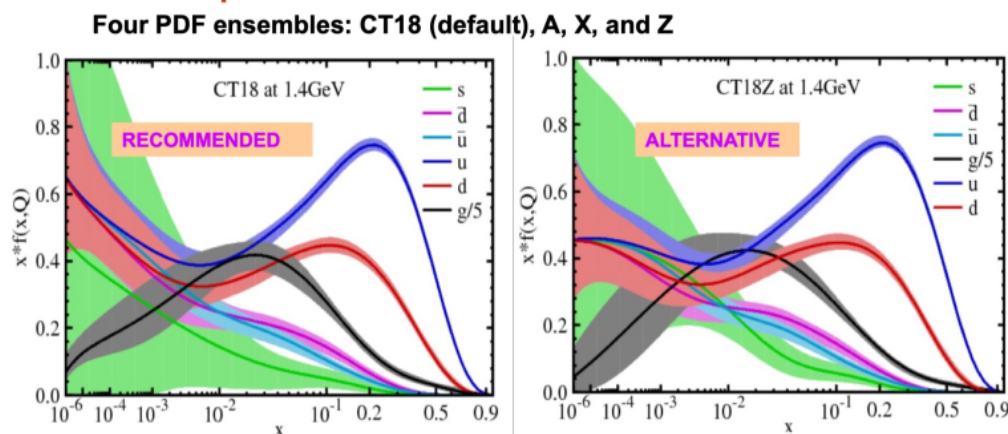
# DO WE REALLY NEED MACHINE LEARNING?

## ALTERNATIVE: A MODEL-DEPENDENT APPROACH

### PARAMETRIZATIONS

- CTEQ5 2002:  $xg(x, Q_0^2) = A_0 x^{A_1} (1-x)^{A_2} (1 + A_3 x^{A_4})$
- MRST-HERALHC 2005:  $xg(x, Q_0^2) = A_g x^{\delta_g} (1-x)^{\eta_g} (1 + \epsilon_g x^{0.5} + \gamma_g x) + A_{g'} x^{\delta_{g'}} (1-x)^{\eta_{g'}}$
- CT18:  $g(x, Q = Q_0) = x^{a_1-1} (1-x)^{a_2} [a_3(1-y)^3 + a_4 3y(1-y)^2 + a_5 3y^2(1-y) + y^3]$ ;  $y = \sqrt{x}$ ;  $a_5 = (3 + 2a_1)/3$ .

**MORE DATA  $\Rightarrow$  BIGGER PARAMETRIZATION (?)**  
**PROLIFERATION OF PDF SETS**



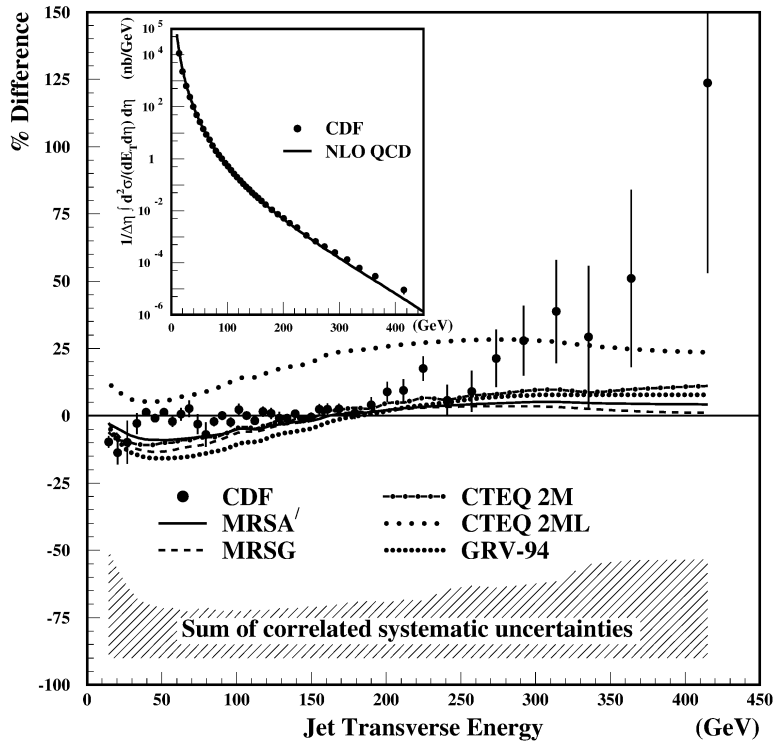
- The CT18 family of PDFs includes LHC data available up to 2018, i.e. mostly 7 and 8 TeV data
- CT18 is the primary PDF; CT18A includes the ATLAS 7 TeV W/Z data (excluded from CT18 due to very poor fit); CT18X includes scale to simulate effects of low x resummation for DIS; CT18Z includes both effects
- CT18As (new) allows a more flexible parametrization for strange
- CT18As\_Lat (new) adds lattice constraint

(J. Huston, PDF4LHC 11/2023)

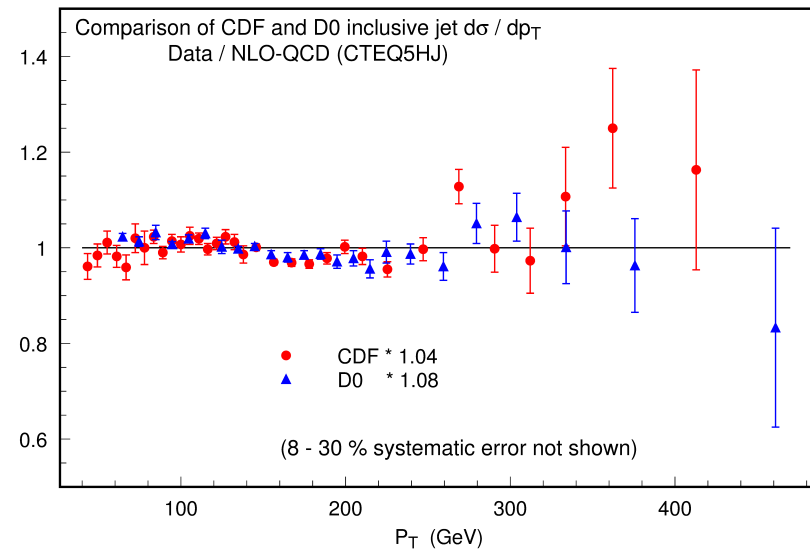
**MORE DATA  $\Rightarrow$  BIGGER UNCERTAINTIES (!)**

# WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PREHISTORY

## DISCOVERY PHYSICS 1995



**BETTER MODELING  $\Rightarrow$  NO DISCREPANCY**  
**FINAL RESULTS (1998)**



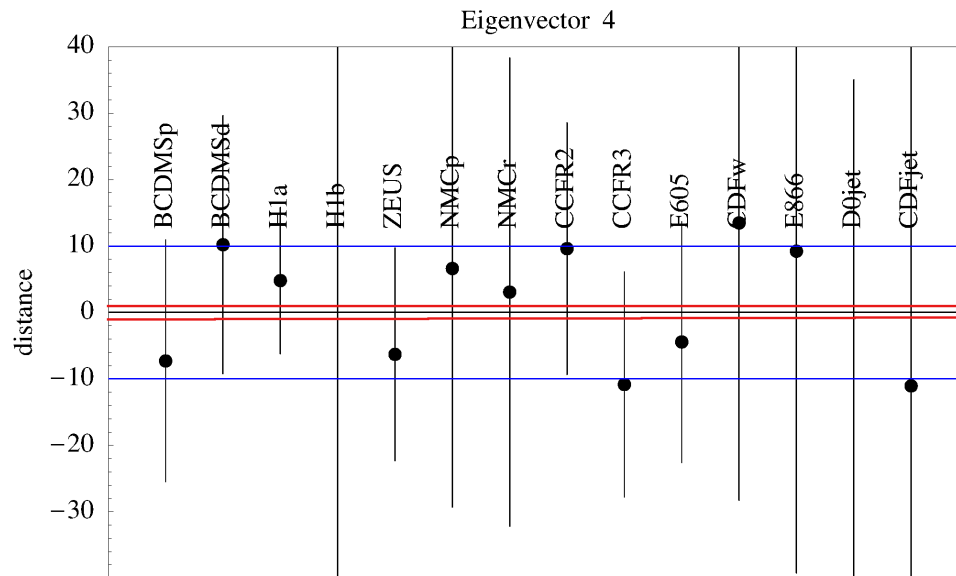
- HUGE DATA-THEORY DISCREPANCY
- ~~COMPOSITE QUARKS???~~
- BAD MODELING!

# WHAT STILL HAPPENS TODAY “TOLERANCE UNCERTAINTIES”

## FIRST PDFs WITH UNCERTAINTIES (2002)

one sigma & ten sigma intervals for typical  
covariance matrix eigenvalue

vs best value and uncertainty from individual experiments



## MSHT PDFS (2020)

e- vector	+ t	+ T	Most constraining data set	- t
1	3.71	3.75	ATLAS 7 TeV high prec. W,Z	4.76
2	3.12	3.33	NuTeV $\nu N \rightarrow \mu\mu X$	2.85
3	2.48	2.58	NuTeV $\nu N \rightarrow \mu\mu X$	4.07
4	3.61	3.60	CMS 8 TeV W	2.93
5	2.64	3.00	ATLAS 7 TeV high prec. W,Z	2.72
6	5.22	5.46	ATLAS 8 TeV double dif Z	5.01
7	4.07	4.37	NMCL... $F_L$	2.90
8	3.90	3.50	LHCb 2015 W,Z	3.90
9	5.48	5.59	LHCb 2015 W,Z	3.73
10	3.55	3.58	BCDMS $\mu p F_2$	4.87
11	3.06	2.91	DØ W asym.	4.83
12	1.42	1.71	DØ W asym.	3.40
13	3.87	4.10	CMS asym. $p_T > 25, 30$ GeV	4.38
14	1.36	1.50	E866/NuSea $pd/pp$ DY	3.67
15	5.53	5.89	E866/NuSea $pd/pp$ DY	3.17
16	1.89	0.52	E866/NuSea $pd/pp$ DY	5.64
17	2.51	2.54	E866/NuSea $pd/pp$ DY	2.69
18	1.80	1.88	DØ W asym.	2.47
19	2.47	2.18	CMS 8 TeV W	1.37
20	1.82	2.22	DØ W asym.	4.69
21	4.41	5.36	ATLAS 8 TeV Z $p_T$	4.68
22	3.49	3.23	DØ W asym.	3.04
23	1.84	2.43	ATLAS 8TeV sing dif $t\bar{t}$ dilep	4.96
24	0.99	1.23	E866/NuSea $pd/pp$ DY	4.61
25	2.01	1.35	DØ W asym.	2.77
26	2.25	2.51	NuTeV $\nu N xF_3$	2.06
27	2.83	3.65	ATLAS 8 TeV $t\bar{t}$ , dilepton	2.64
28	1.74	1.92	DØ W asym.	2.65
29	2.57	2.85	CMS 7 TeV W + c	1.79
30	4.76	3.92	CCFR $\nu N \rightarrow \mu\mu X$	2.25
31	2.79	4.81	ATLAS 7TeV high prec W,Z	2.07
32	2.57	4.27	CCFR $\nu N \rightarrow \mu\mu X$	2.58

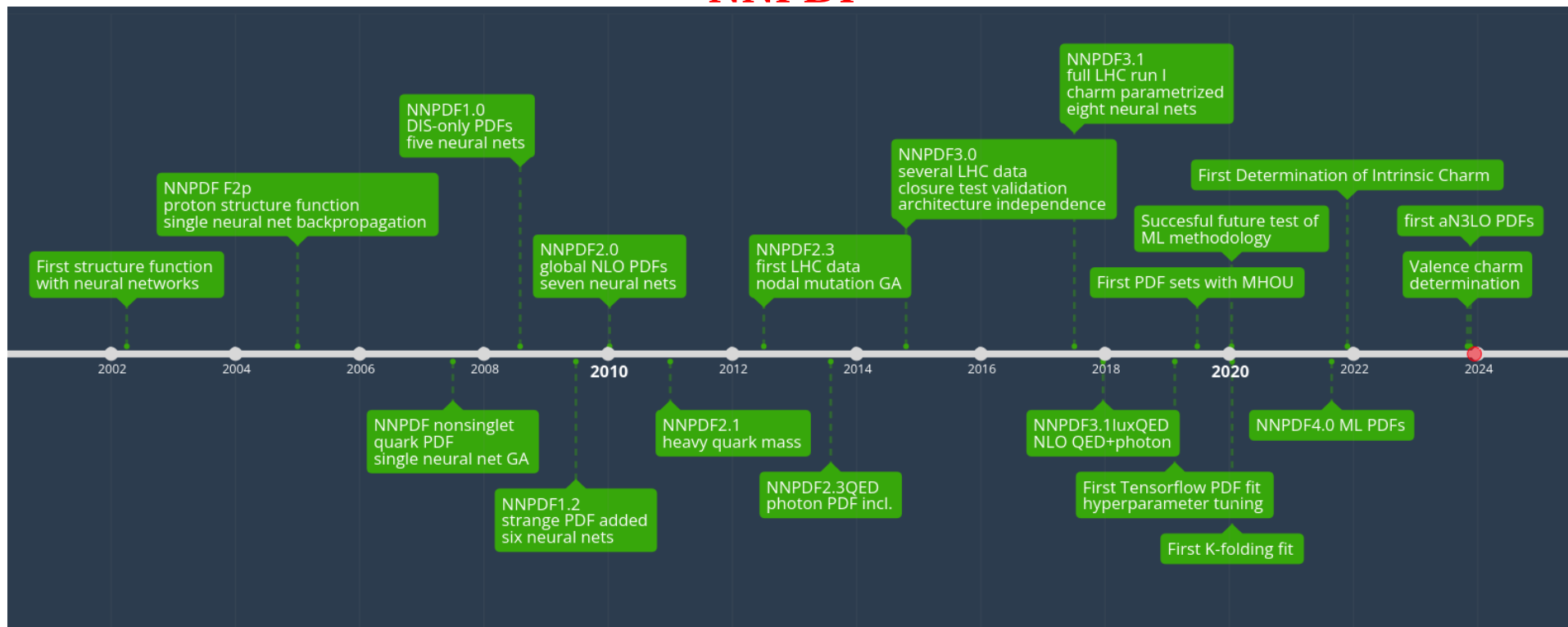
## A COOKBOOK RECIPE

- **UNCERTAINTIES RESCALED** BY “TOLERANCE”  $T \sim 4 \div 10$
- DETERMINED FROM **SPREAD** OF BEST-FIT FROM DIFFERENT DATA



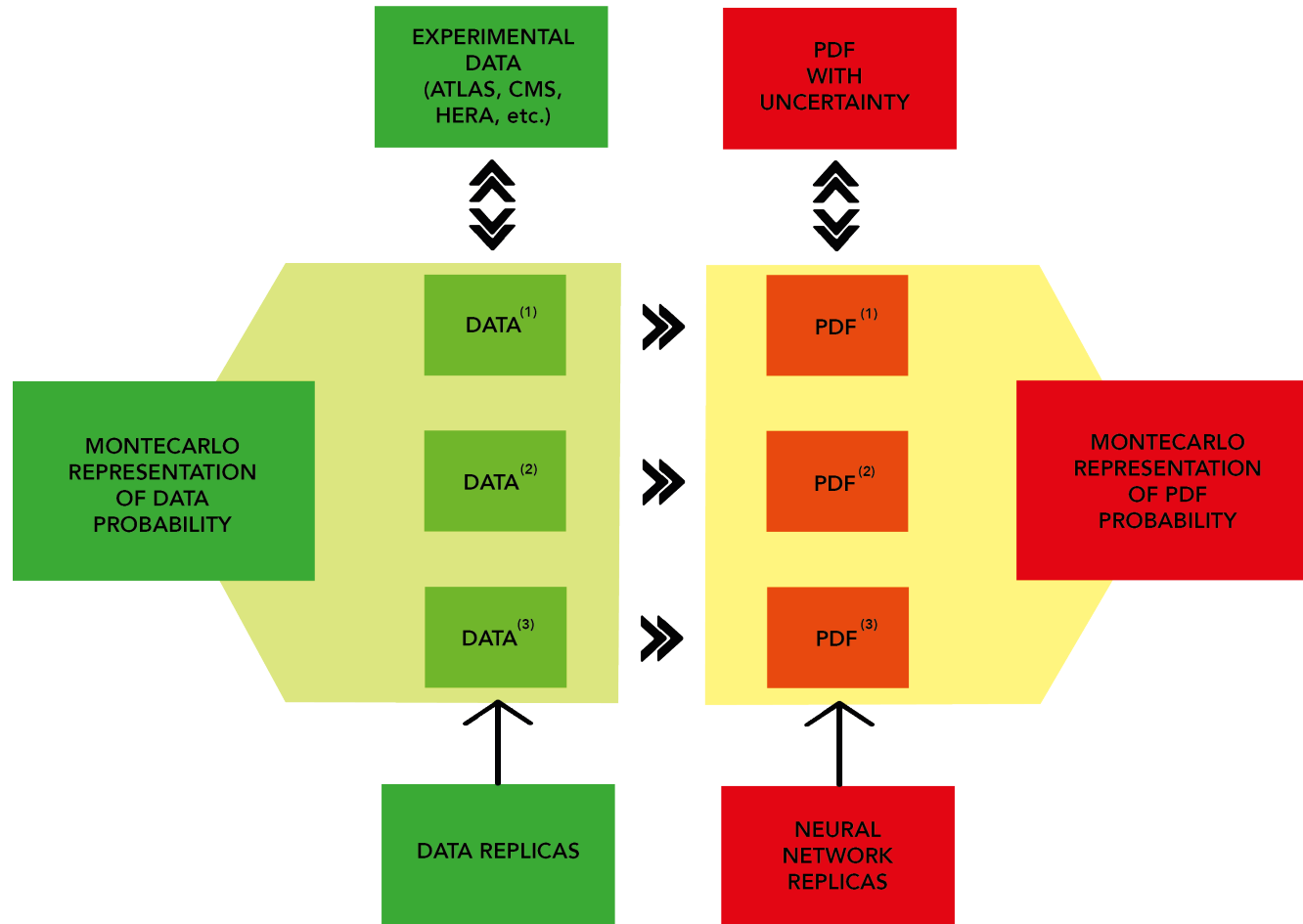
# PROTON STRUCTURE AS A ML PROBLEM

## NNPDF



# PROBABILITY REGRESSION

REPLICA SAMPLE OF FUNCTIONS  $\Leftrightarrow$  PROBABILITY DENSITY IN FUNCTION SPACE  
 KNOWLEDGE OF LIKELIHOOD SHAPE (FUNCTIONAL FORM) NOT NECESSARY

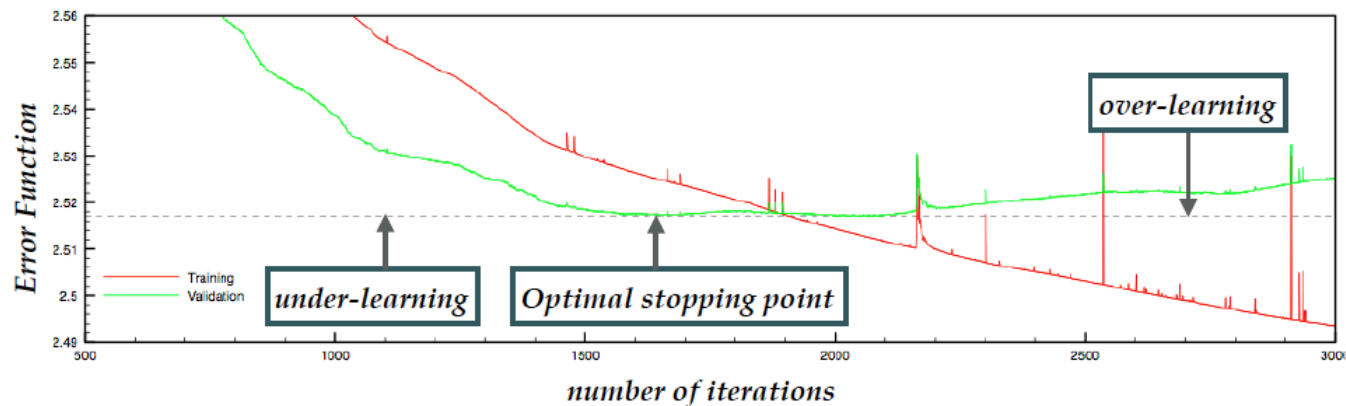
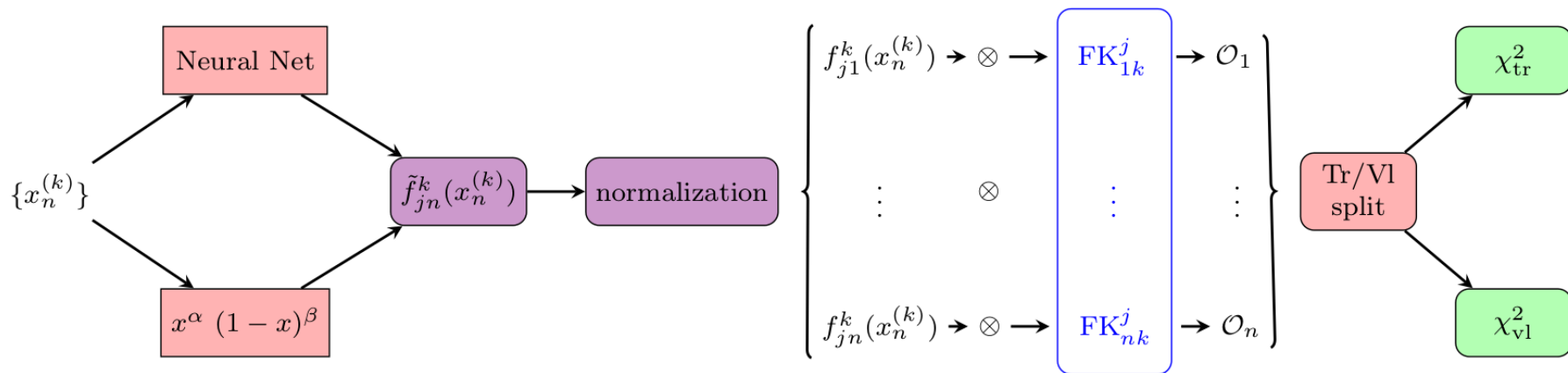


FINAL PDF SET:  $f_i^{(a)}(x, \mu)$ ;

$i = \text{up, antiup, down, antidown, strange, antistrange, charm, gluon}; j = 1, 2, \dots, N_{\text{rep}}$

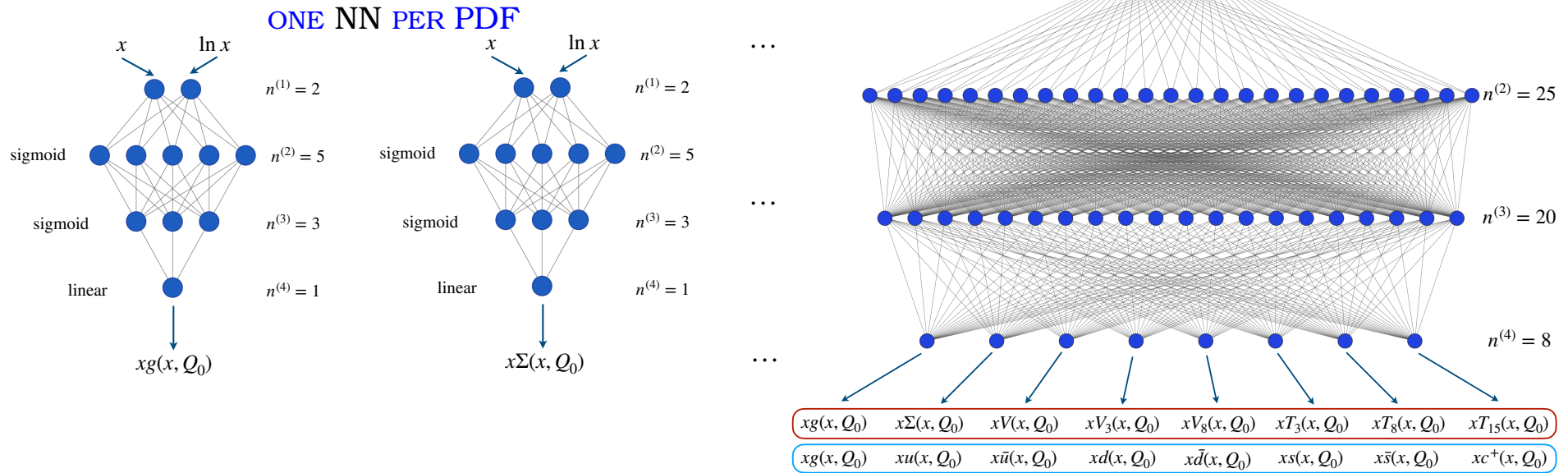
# CROSS-VALIDATED LEARNING

- MODEL PARAMETERS DETERMINED BY LOSS MINIMIZATION THROUGH GRADIENT DESCENT
- RANDOM TRAINING-VALIDATION SPLIT, LOSS TO TRAINING DATA MINIMIZED
- STOP TRAINING IF VALIDATION LOSS GROWS FOR A WHILE (PATIENCE)
- LOWEST VALIDATION LOSS OPTIMAL LEARNING FIT



# WHICH MODEL? NEURAL NETWORKS ARCHITECTURE

- HOW MANY **INPUTS**?
- HOW MANY **INDEPENDENT NNs**?



# WHICH MODEL? NEURAL NETWORKS ACTIVATION FUNCTION

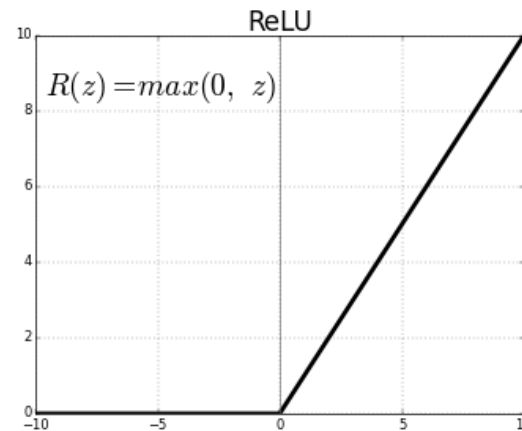
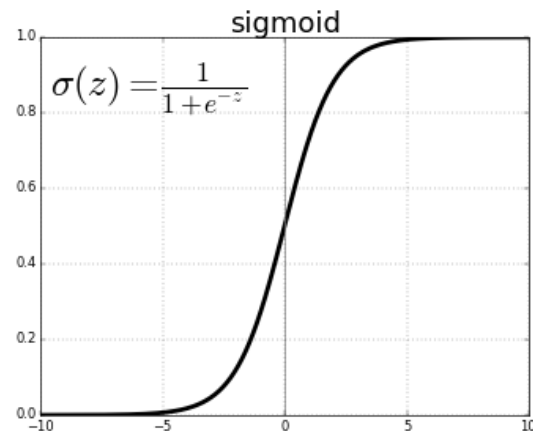
- **LINEAR** ACTIVATION  $\Rightarrow$  **MULTILINEAR** REGRESSION
- **+** **NONLINEAR** PROFILE  $\Rightarrow$  **UNIVERSAL** INTERPOL.

$$F_{\text{out}}^{(i)}(\vec{x}_{\text{in}}) = F\left(\sum_j \omega_{ij} x_{\text{in}}^j - \theta_i\right)$$

– sigmoid  $F(x) = \frac{1}{1+e^{-x}}$

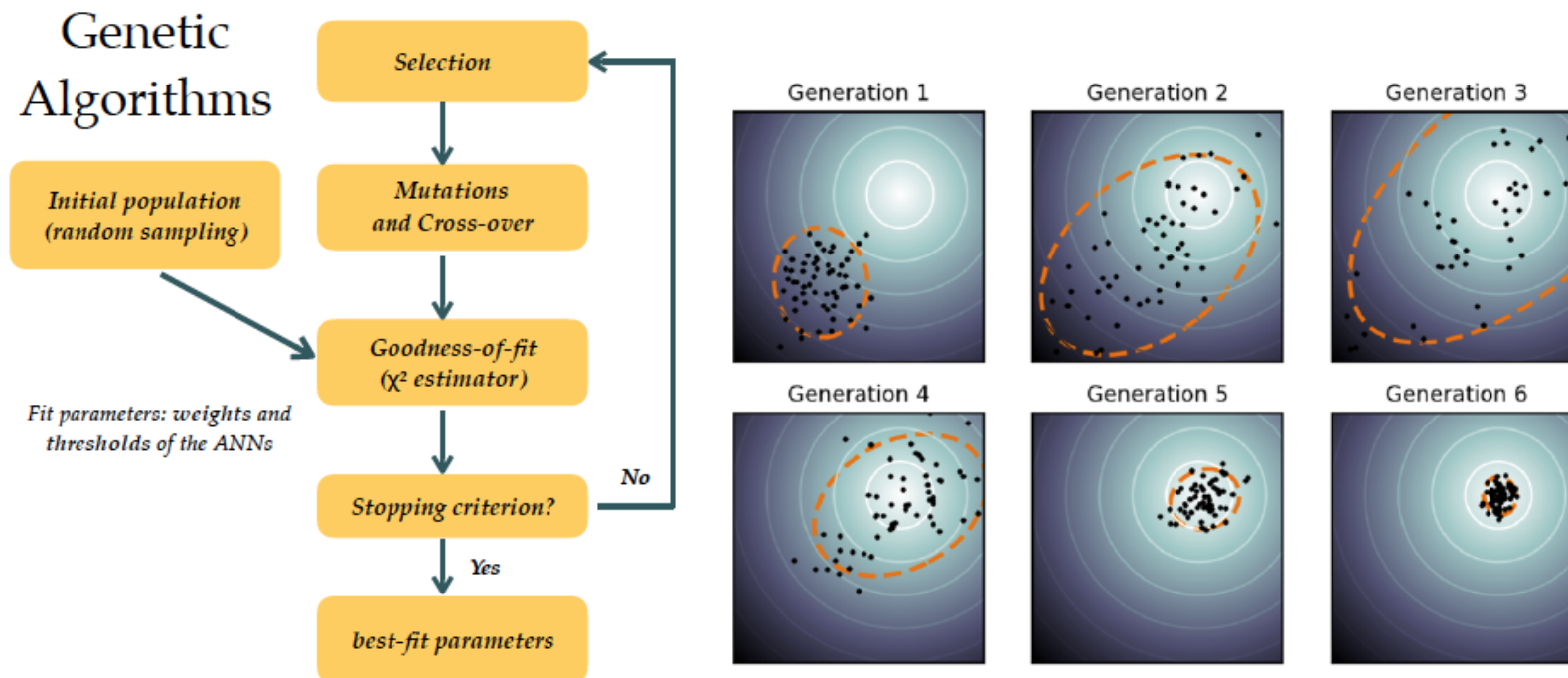
– arctan  $F(x) = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan x$

– RELU  $F(x) \begin{cases} 0; & x < 0 \\ x; & x > 0 \end{cases}$



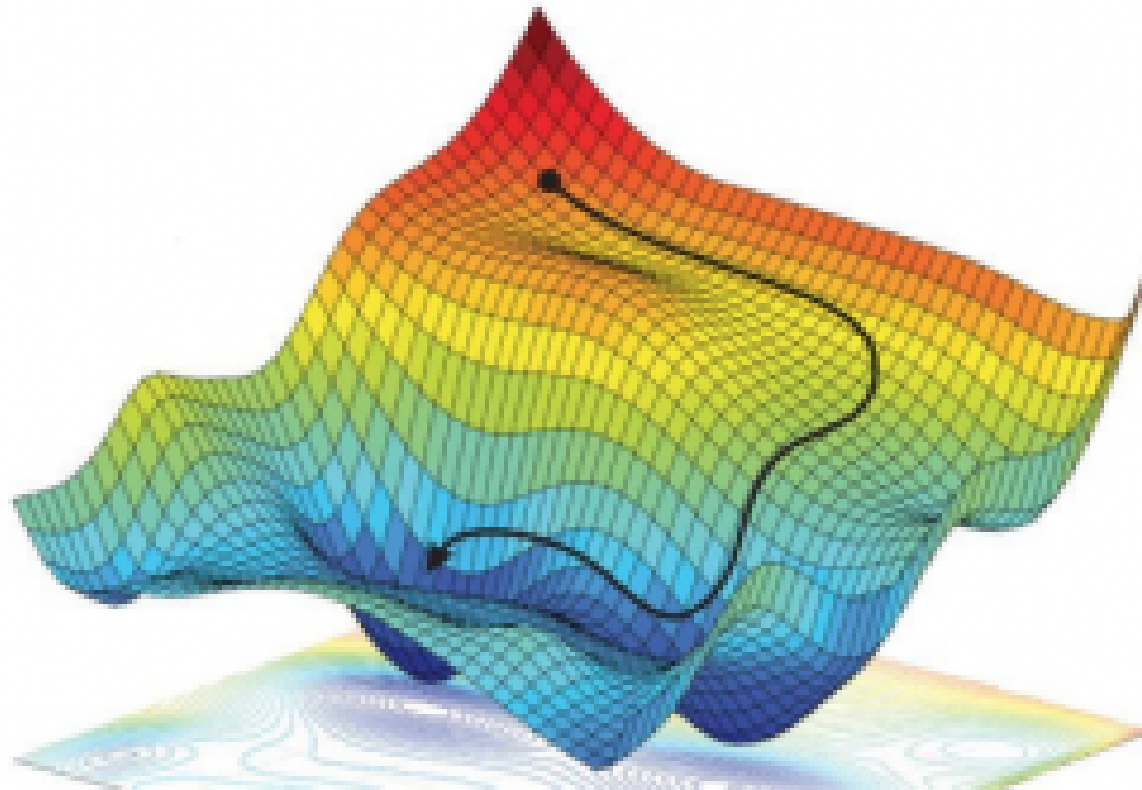
# WHICH LEARNING? GENETIC ALGORITHMS

- **BASIC IDEA:** RANDOM MUTATION OF THE NN PARAMETER
- **SELECTION OF THE FITTEST**



# WHICH LEARNING? GRADIENT DESCENT

- BASIC IDEA: COMPUTE GRADIENT OF LOSS W.R. TO PARAMETERS
- SELECT DIRECTION OF DESCENT



# WHICH LEARNING? DESIDERATA

- **FAST** CONVERGENCE
- **DO NOT STOP ON LOCAL** MINIMA
- **EXPLORE** SPACE OF MINIMA (**DEGENERATE** CASE)

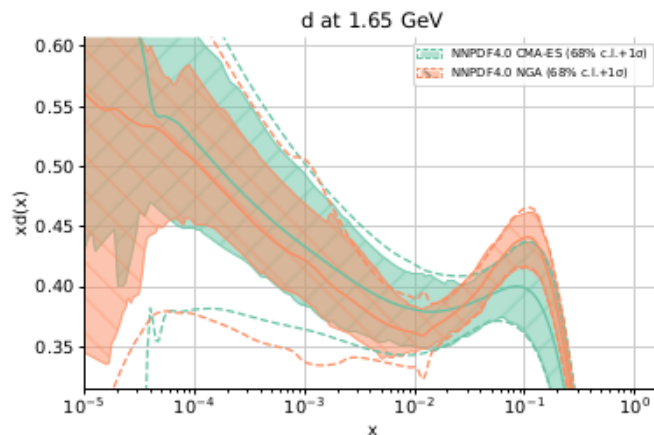
## GENETIC ALGORITHMS

- DIFFERENT EPOCHS; **VARIABLE MUTATION** RATE
- **REWEIGHTING** DIFFERENT DATA CONTRIBUTIONS TO LOSS
- **NODAL MUTATION**
- COVARIANCE MATRIX ADAPTATION (**CMA**)

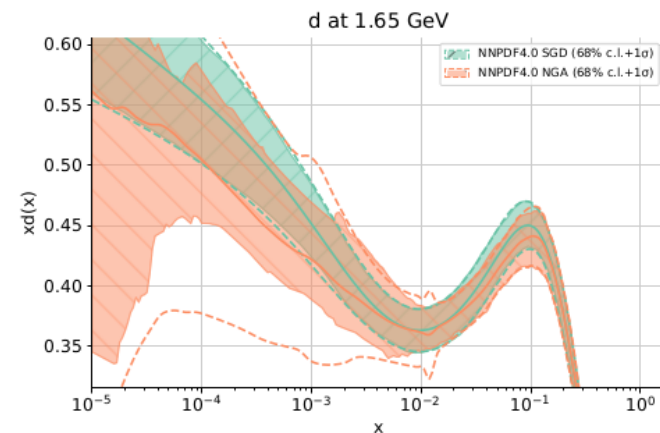
## GRADIENT DESCENT

- **GLOROT** NORMAL/UNIFORM INITIALIZATION
- **ADAPTIVE** GRADIENT / ADAPTIVE MOMENT
- **STOCHASTIC** GD
- **BATCH** GD

NAIVE GA vs. CMA

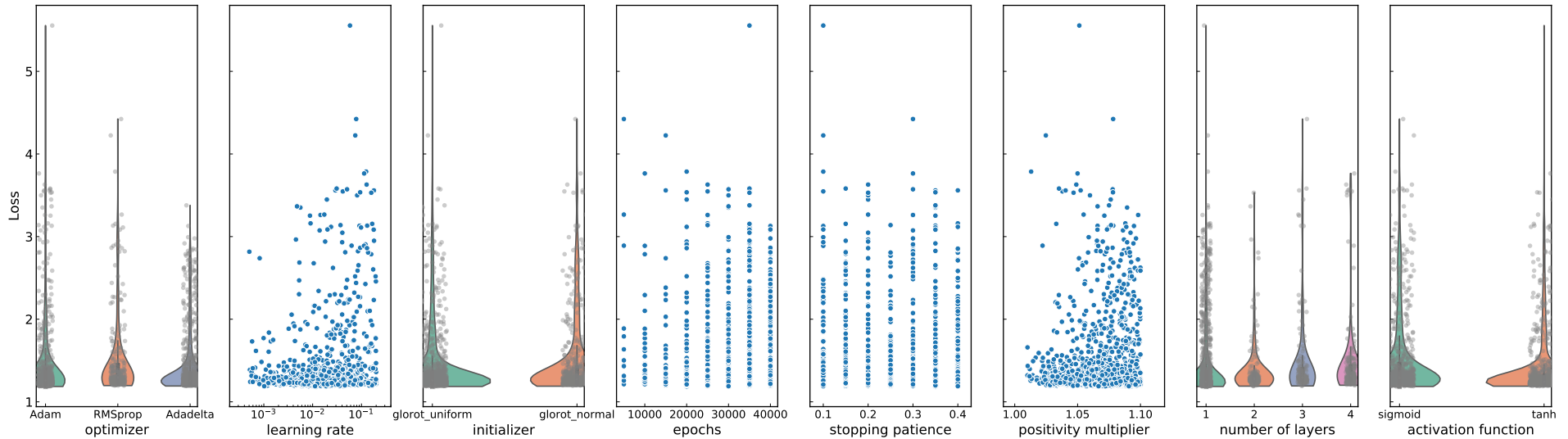


GA (NAIVE) vs GD (ADADELTA)





# METHODOLOGY HYPEROPTIMIZATION



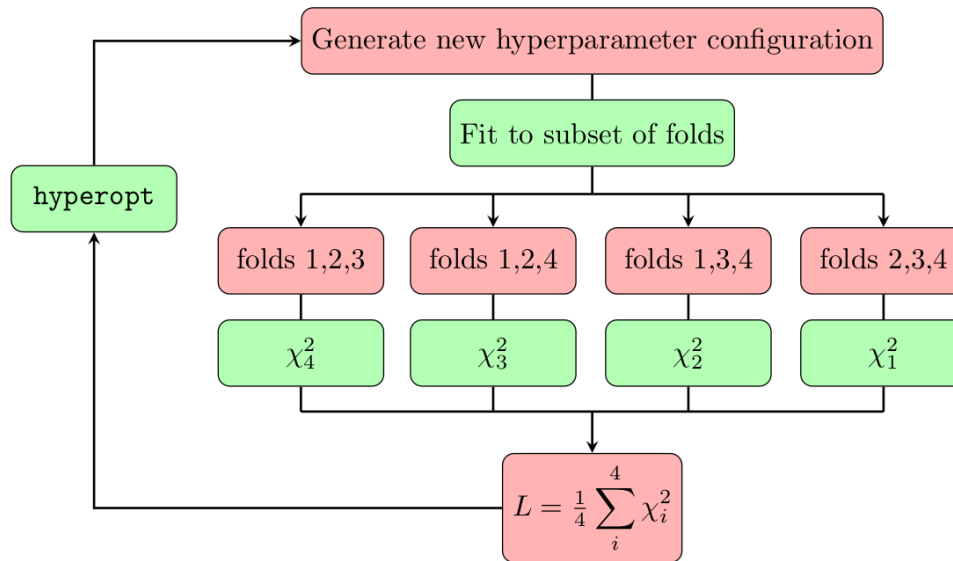
## HYPEROPT PARAMETERS

NEURAL NETWORK	FIT OPTIONS
NUMBER OF LAYERS (*)	OPTIMIZER (*)
SIZE OF EACH LAYER	INITIAL LEARNING RATE (*)
DROPOUT	MAXIMUM NUMBER OF EPOCHS (*)
ACTIVATION FUNCTIONS (*)	STOPPING PATIENCE (*)
INITIALIZATION FUNCTIONS (*)	POSITIVITY MULTIPLIER (*)

- **SCAN** PARAMETER SPACE
- **OPTIMIZE** FIGURE OF MERIT: **K-FOLDING** LOSS

# K-FOLDING LOSS??

## BEST RESULT $\Rightarrow$ BEST GENERALIZATION

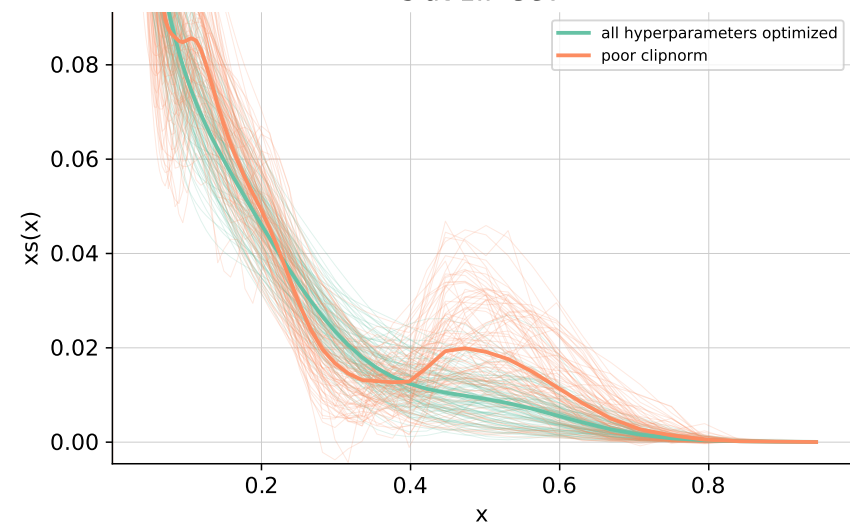


- EACH FOLD REPRODUCES FEATURES OF FULL DATASET
- LOSS: AVERAGE FIT QUALITY OF NON-FITTED FOLDS
- OVERFITTING REMOVED  $\Rightarrow$  CORRECT GENERALIZATION

Fold 1		
CHORUS $\sigma_{CC}^e$	HERA 1+II inc NC $e^+p$ 920 GeV	BCDMS $p$
LHCb $Z$ 940 pb	ATLAS $W, Z$ 7 TeV 2010	CMS $Z$ 8 TeV $(p_T^Z, y_{t\bar{t}})$
DY E805 $\sigma_{DY}^p$	CMS Drell-Yan 2D 7 TeV 2011	CMS 3D dijets 8 TeV
ATLAS single- $\bar{t}y$ (normalised)	ATLAS single top $R_t$ 7 TeV	CMS $t\bar{t}$ rapidity $y_{t\bar{t}}$
CMS single top $R_t$ 8 TeV		
Fold 2		
HERA 1+II inc CC $e^-p$	HERA 1+II inc NC $e^+p$ 460 GeV	HERA comb. $\sigma_{\mu e}^{\text{had}}$
NMC $p$	NuTeV $\sigma_e^p$	LHCb $Z \rightarrow ee$ 2 fb
CMS $W$ asymmetry 840 pb	ATLAS $Z$ $p_T$ 8 TeV $(p_T^Z, M_{t\bar{t}})$	D0 $W \rightarrow \mu\nu$ asymmetry
DY E886 $\sigma_{DY}^p$	ATLAS direct photon 13 TeV	ATLAS dijets 7 TeV, R=0.6
ATLAS single antitop $y$ (normalised)	CMS $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{had}}$	CMS single top $\sigma_t + \sigma_{\bar{t}}$ 7 TeV
Fold 3		
HERA 1+II inc CC $e^+p$	HERA 1+II inc NC $e^+p$ 575 GeV	NMC $d/p$
NuTeV $\sigma_e^p$	LHCb $W, Z \rightarrow \mu$ 7 TeV	LHCb $Z \rightarrow ee$
ATLAS $W, Z$ 7 TeV 2011 Central selection	ATLAS $W^+ + \text{jet}$ 8 TeV	ATLAS HM DY 7 TeV
CMS $W$ asymmetry 4.7 fb	DYE 866 $\sigma_{DY}^d / \sigma_{DY}^p$	CDF $Z$ rapidity (new)
ATLAS $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{had}}$	ATLAS single top $y_t$ (normalised)	CMS $\sigma_{t\bar{t}}^{\text{had}}$ 5 TeV
CMS $t\bar{t}$ double diff. $(m_{t\bar{t}}, y_t)$		
Fold 4		
CHORUS $\sigma_{CC}^e$	HERA 1+II inc NC $e^+p$ 820 GeV	LHCb $W, Z \rightarrow \mu$ 8 TeV
LHCb $Z \rightarrow \mu\mu$	ATLAS $W, Z$ 7 TeV 2011 Fwd	ATLAS $W^- + \text{jet}$ 8 TeV
ATLAS low-mass DY 2011	ATLAS $Z$ $p_T$ 8 TeV $(p_T^Z, y_{t\bar{t}})$	CMS $W$ rapidity 8 TeV
D0 $Z$ rapidity	CMS dijets 7 TeV	ATLAS single top $y_t$ (normalised)
ATLAS single top $R_t$ 13 TeV	CMS single top $R_t$ 13 TeV	

## K-FOLDING VS NO K-FOLDING

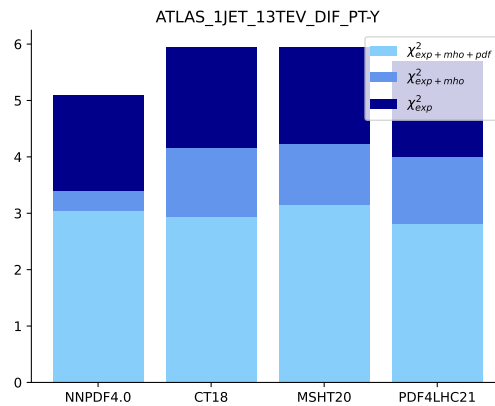
s at 1.7 GeV



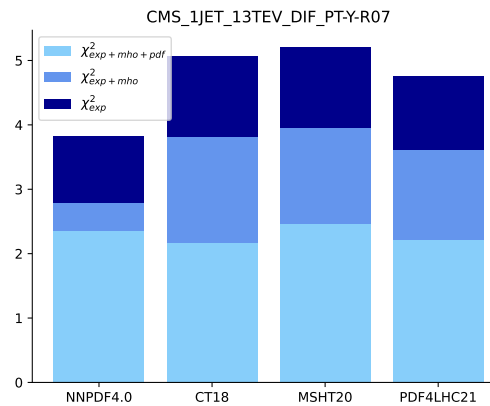
# WHAT DOES ML BUY US? PRECISION + ACCURACY

- **AGREEMENT** ( $\chi^2$ ) WITH DATA PUBLISHED **AFTER PUBLICATION** OF NNPDF4.0 PDF SET
- **EXP**, **EXP+TH** AND **TOTAL (EXP+TH+PDF)** UNCERTAINTIES

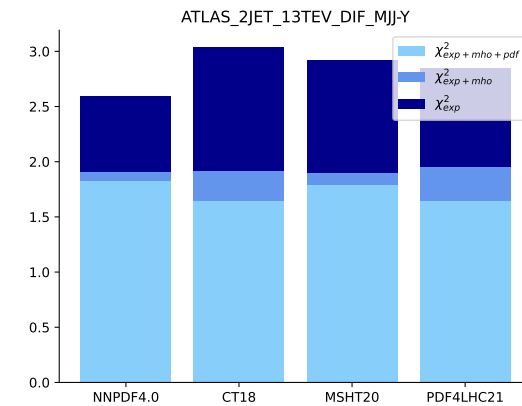
## ATLAS JETS



## CMS JETS



## ATLAS DIJETS



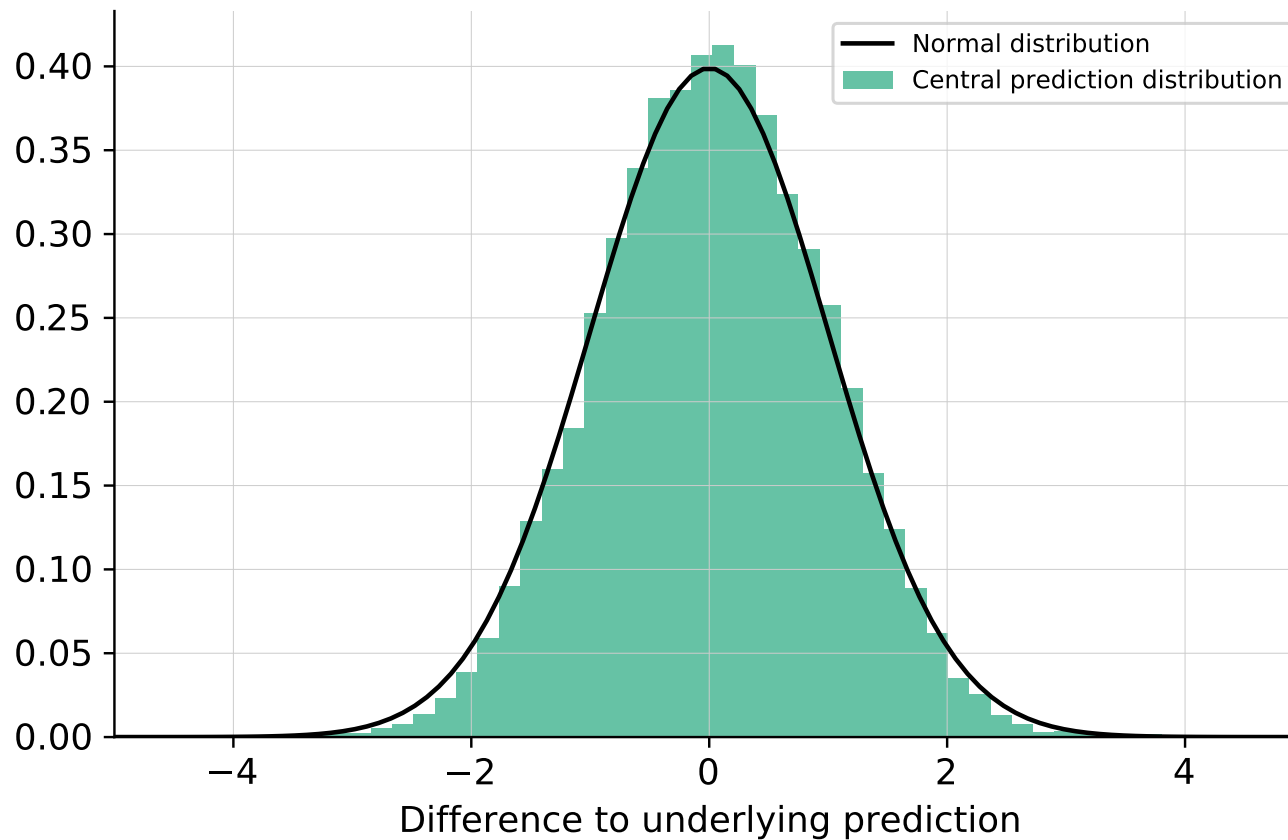
- **EXP**  $\chi^2$  **LOWER**  $\Rightarrow$  NNPDF4.0 **AGREES BETTER** WITH DATA  $\Rightarrow$  **MORE PRECISE**
- **EXP** AND **TOTAL**  $\chi^2$  **CLOSER**  $\Rightarrow$  NNPDF4.0 **PDF UNCERTAINTIES SMALLER**
- **AGREEMENT** WITH DATA OF ALL PDF SETS **COMPARABLE**  $\Rightarrow$  ALL **UNCERTAINTIES FAITHFUL**  $\Rightarrow$  **EQUALLY ACCURATE**

## SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTY VALIDATION: CLOSURE TESTS

- ASSUME “TRUE” UNDERLYING PDF  $\Rightarrow$  E.G. SOME RANDOM PDF REPLICA
- GENERATE DATA DISTRIBUTED ACCORDING TO EXPERIMENTAL COVARIANCE MATRIX
- RUN WHOLE METHODOLOGY ON THESE DATA
- DO STATISTICS ON “RUNS OF THE UNIVERSE”: IS TRUTH WITHIN ONE SIGMA 68% OF TIMES?

# TESTING UNCERTAINTIES

## DISTRIBUTION OF DEVIATIONS FROM TRUTH

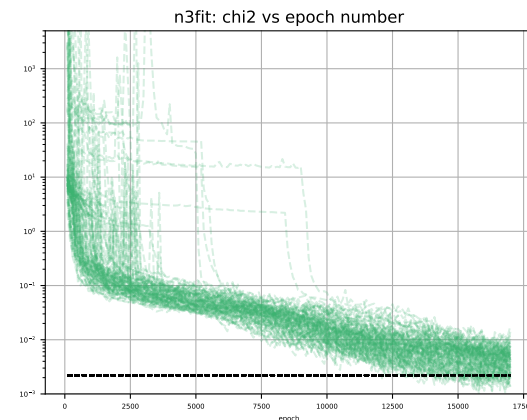


- **COMPARISON** OF PREDICTIONS TO **TRUTH**
- **STATISTICS** OVER RUNS OF THE UNIVERSE
- **CORRECTLY NORMALIZED** GAUSSIAN DISTRIBUTION OF OUTCOMES

# CLOSURE TEST UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES

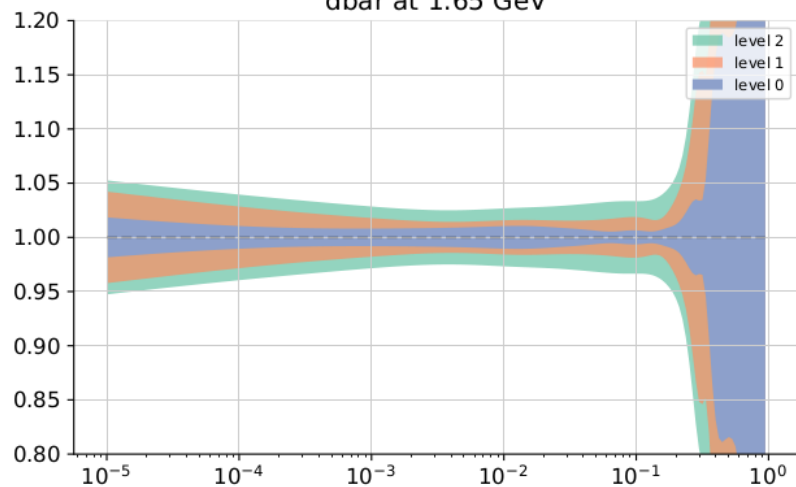
LEVEL 0 LOSS VS TRAINING

- **LEVEL 0** (TRUTH DATA)  $\Rightarrow$  PERFECT AGREEMENT ( $\chi^2 \approx 0$ )  
YET **UNCERTAINTY NONZERO**  
 $\Rightarrow$  NEURAL NETS  $\Leftrightarrow$  **MANY FUNCTIONAL FORMS**
- **LEVEL 1** (RUNS OF UNIVERSE)  $\Rightarrow$  REPLICAS ALL FITTED TO SAME DATA,  
YET **UNCERTAINTY NONZERO**  
 $\Rightarrow$  **DITTO**
- **LEVEL 0, 1 AND 2 UNCERTAINTIES COMPARABLE IN SIZE**



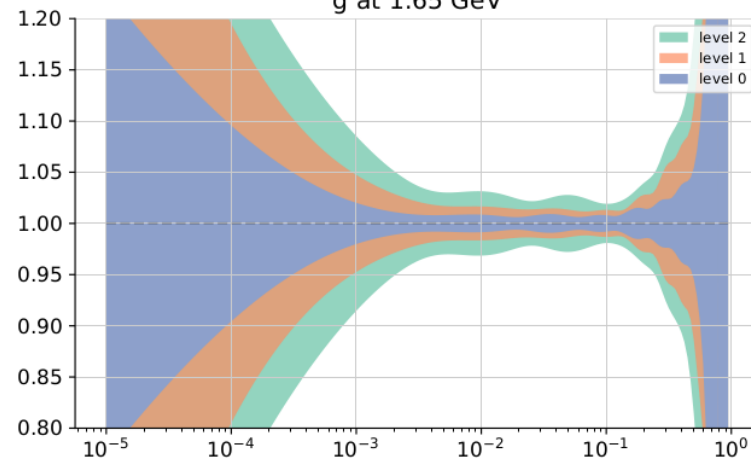
## LEVEL 0/1/2 UNCERTAINTIES

ANTIDOWN  
dbar at 1.65 GeV



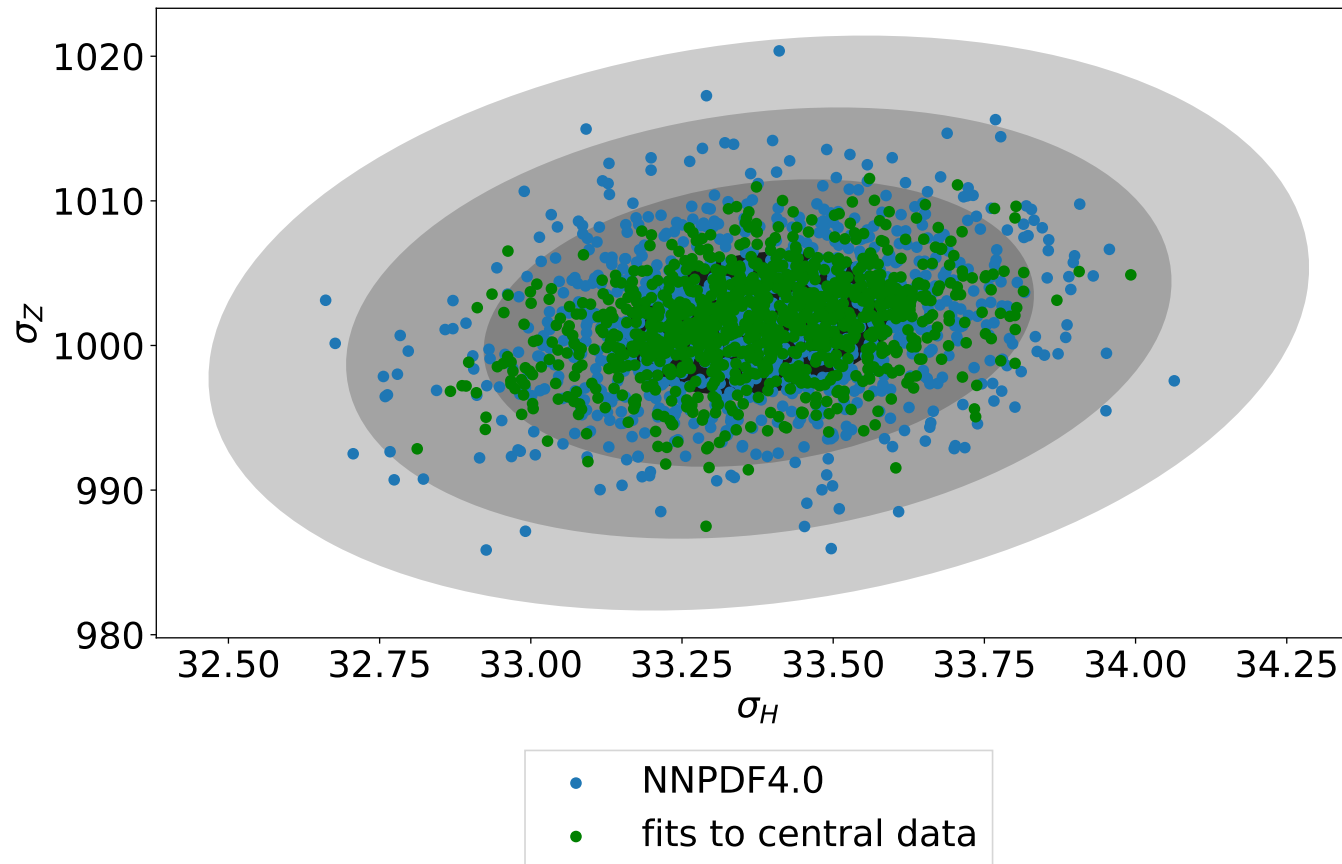
GLUON

g at 1.65 GeV



## UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES THE REPLICA DISTRIBUTION

- PLOT RESULTS IN  $(\sigma_H, \sigma_Z)$  PREDICTION SPACE  $\Rightarrow$  GAUSSIAN!
- REPLICA FLUCTUATION  $\Rightarrow$  DATA UNCERTAINTIES
- NO REPLICA FLUCTUATION  $\Rightarrow$  MODEL UNCERTAINTY

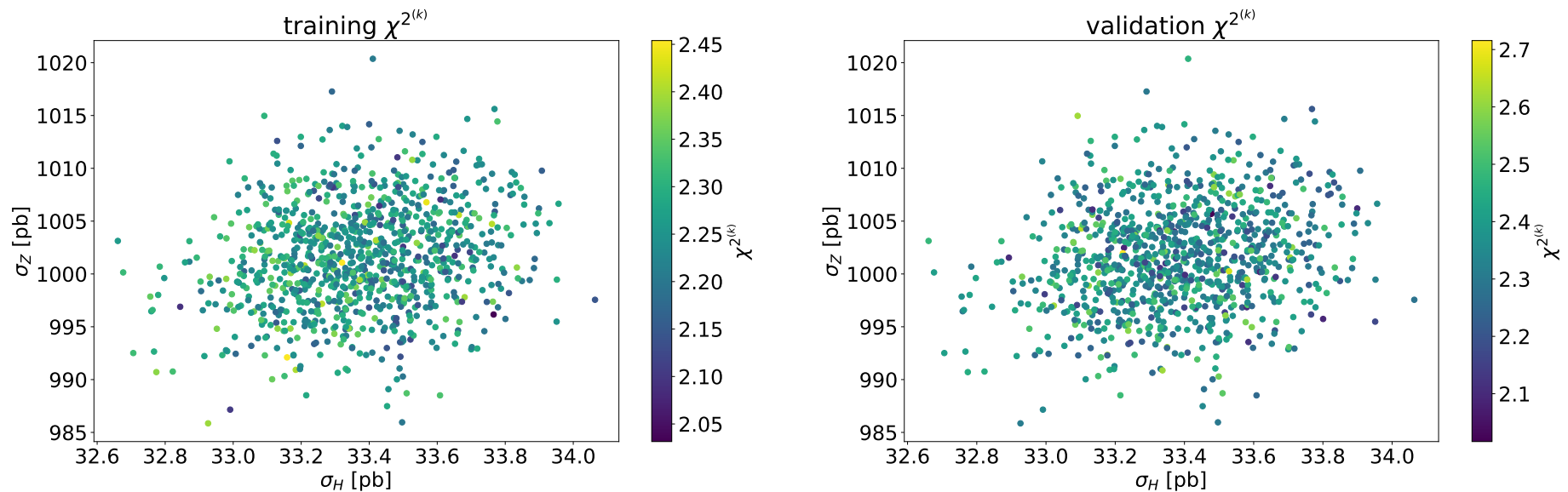


### DISTRIBUTION OF REPLICAS DRIVEN BY

- DATA UNCERTAINTIES  $\Rightarrow$  DATA REPLICA FLUCTUATION
- INTERPOLATION, EXTRAPOLATION AND FUNCTIONAL UNCERTAINTIES  $\Rightarrow$  BEST FIT DEGENERACY

# UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES THE REPLICA DISTRIBUTION

ARE ALL FITS EQUALLY GOOD?



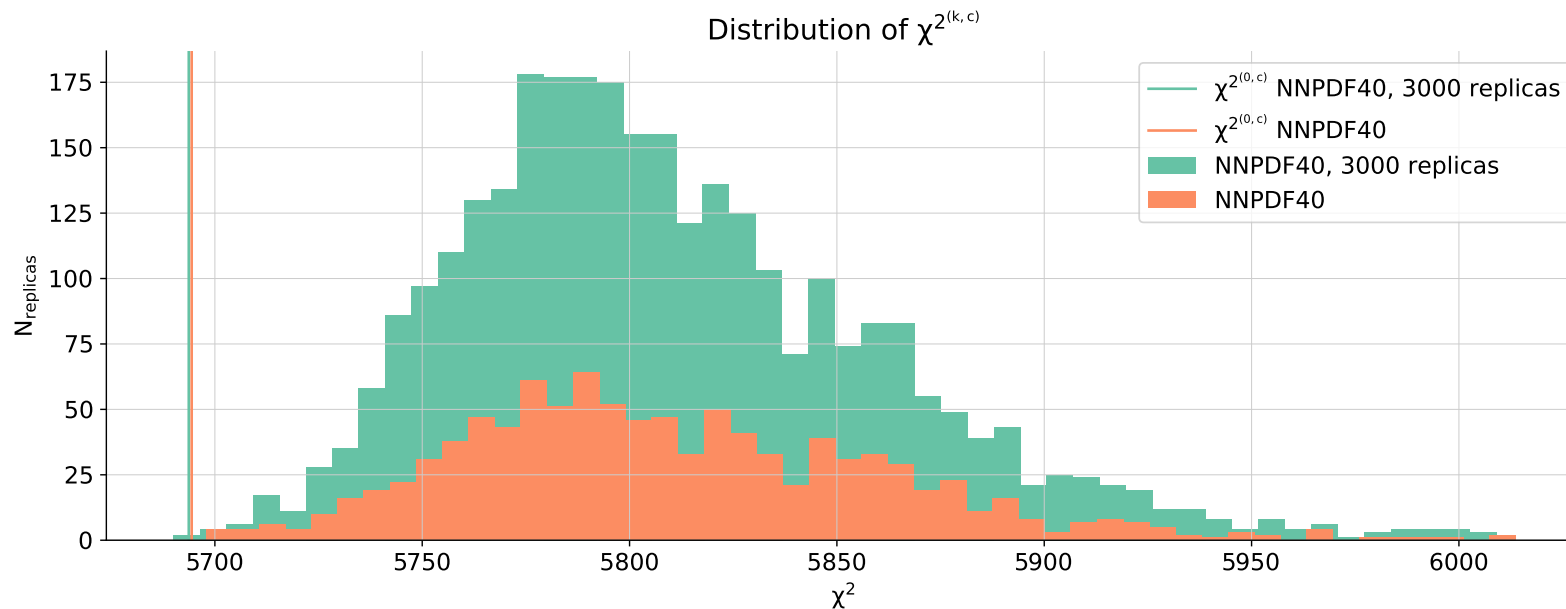
- COMPARE TRAINING AND VALIDATION LOSS FOR EACH REPLICA
- NO CORRELATION BETWEEN FIT QUALITY AND POSITION IN THE  $(\sigma_H, \sigma_Z)$  PLANE
- UNIFORM FIT QUALITY



# UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES THE REPLICA DISTRIBUTION COMPARISON TO CENTRAL DATA

- EACH PDF REPLICA FITTED TO A DATA REPLICA
- FIT QUALITY TO CENTRAL DATA STATISTICALLY DISTRIBUTED

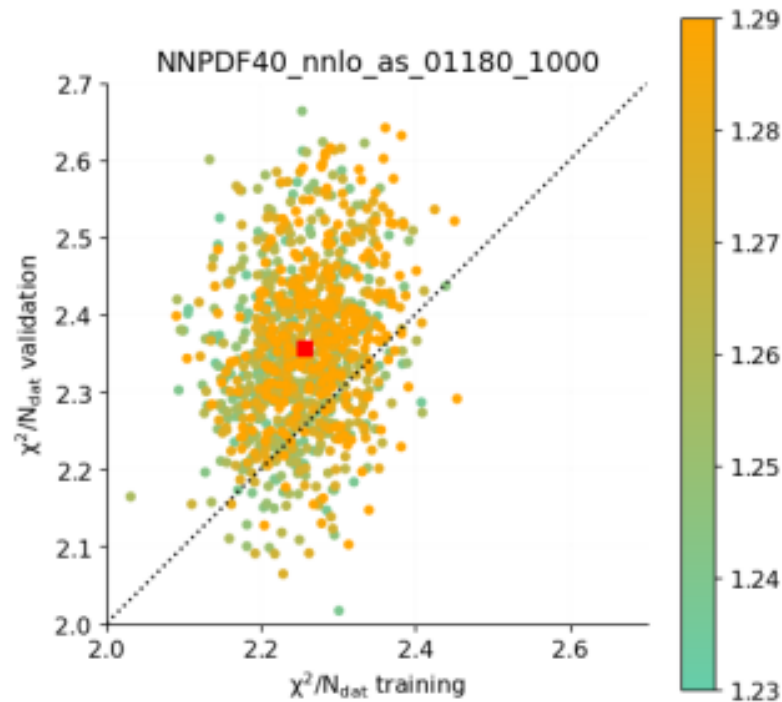
1000 REPLICAS VS. 3000 REPLICAS



- AVERAGE BEST FIT PDF  $\Rightarrow$  BETTER AGREEMENT
- NOT NECESSARILY BEST

# UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES COMPARISON TO CENTRAL DATA

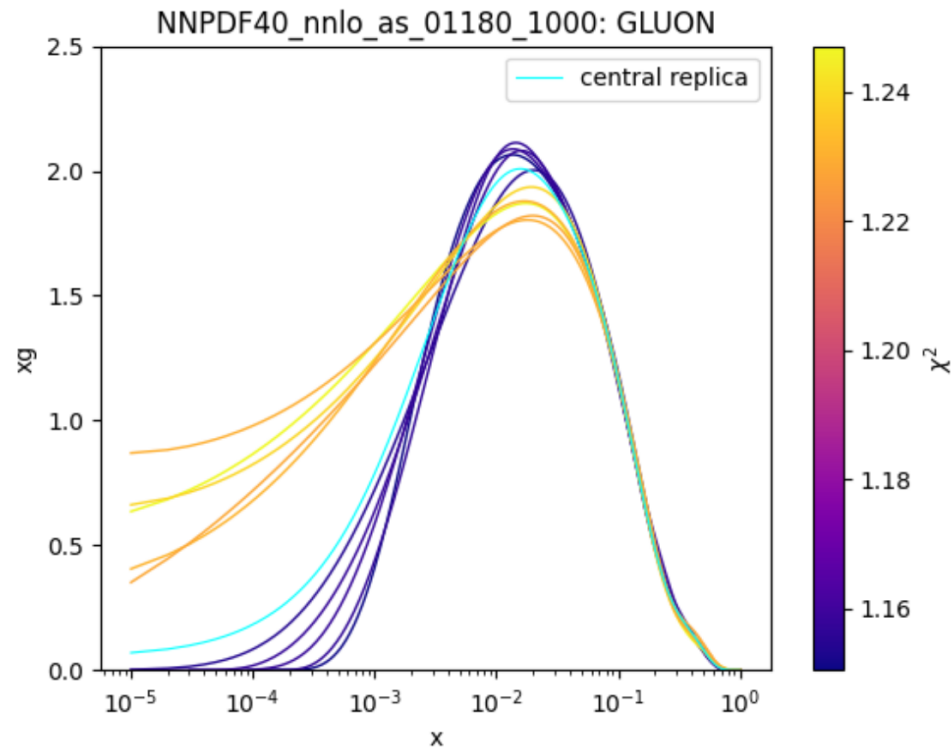
- ARE FITS WITH **WORSE AGREEMENT** WITH CENTRAL DATA **POOR** (UNDERLEARNT)?



- **NO CORRELATION** BETWEEN **AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL DATA** AND **TRAINING, VALIDATION LOSS**
- **UNIFORM** **FIT QUALITY**
- **DISPERSION DUE**
  - **DATA REPLICAS FLUCTUATION**  $\Rightarrow$  **DATA UNCERTAINTIES**
  - **BEST FIT DEGENERACY**  
 $\Rightarrow$  **INTERPOLATION, EXTRAPOLATION AND FUNCTIONAL UNCERTAINTIES**

UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES  
EXPLAINING THE DISTRIBUTION  
THE GLUON

REPLICAS WITH BEST & WORST AGREEMENT WITH CENTRAL DATA



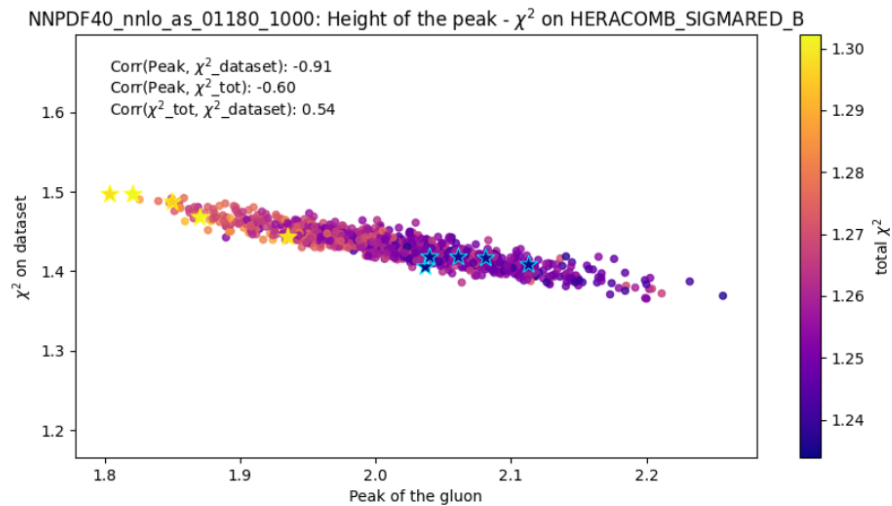
- CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE STRUCTURE  $\Rightarrow$  OUTLIERS WITH MORE/LESS STRUCTURE
- MORE STRUCTURE  $\Rightarrow$  BETTER AGREEMENT WITH (CENTRAL) DATA
- WHY IS MORE STRUCTURE OUTLIER DESPITE BETTER AGREEMENT?

## UNDERSTANDING UNCERTAINTIES EXPLAINING THE DISTRIBUTION

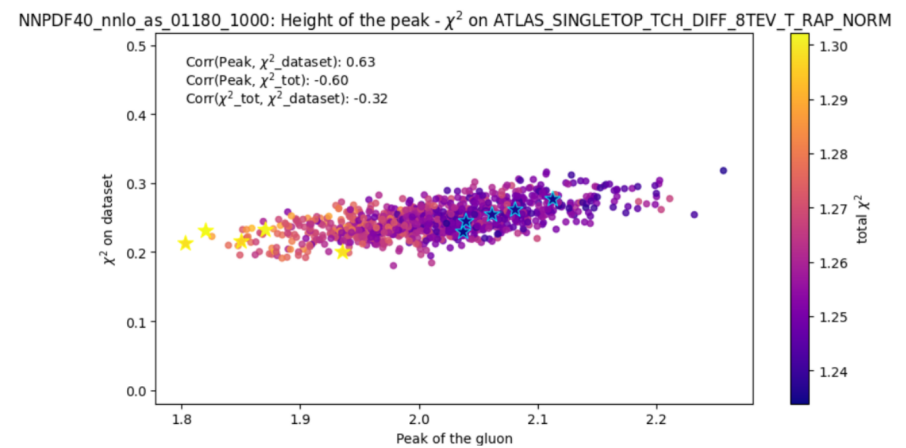
### AGREEMENT WITH DATA SUBSET VS HEIGHT OF THE GLUON PEAK

WORST VS BEST AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL DATASET

DATA FAVORING HIGH PEAK (MORE STRUCTURE)



DATA FAVORING LOW PEAK (LESS STRUCTURE)



- MORE OR LESS STRUCTURE (HIGH/LOW PEAK) FAVORED BY
- MORE OR LESS STRUCTURE (HIGH/LOW PEAK) FAVORED BY DIFFERENT DATA SUBSETS
- HIGH PEAK SUBSET MORE NUMEROUS  $\Rightarrow$  HIGH PEAK BETTER GLOBAL AGREEMENT
- HIGH PEAK WOULD NOT GENERALIZE  $\Rightarrow$  OUTLIER
- MACHINE LEARNING  $\Rightarrow$  OPTIMAL MODEL

NO EFFECT THAT REQUIRES MORE THAN 10% ACCURACY IN  
MEASUREMENT IS WORTH INVESTIGATING

Walther Nernst

~~NO EFFECT THAT REQUIRES MORE THAN 10% ACCURACY IN  
MEASUREMENT IS WORTH INVESTIGATING~~  
Walther Nernst

ACCURACY OF OBSERVATION IS THE EQUIVALENT OF  
ACCURACY OF THINKING  
Wallace Stevens