

Model calculation for twist-3 proton PDFs and their evolution with the energy scale

Arianna Vercesi

Università degli Studi di Pavia

September 11th, 2025

Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 LFWF model
- 3 Twist-3 evolution
- 4 Results

Instant form

$$x^\mu = (x^0, x^1, x^2, x^3)$$

Light-front form

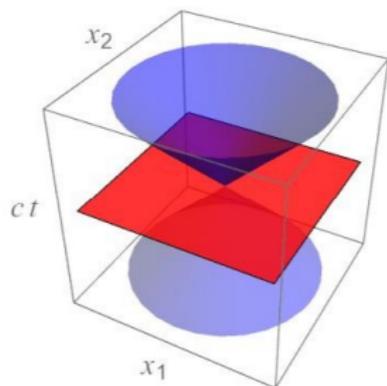
$$x^\mu = (x^+, x^-, \mathbf{x}_\perp)$$
$$x^\pm = \frac{x^0 \pm x^3}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \mathbf{x}_\perp = (x^1, x^2)$$

Light-front formalism

Instant form

$$x^\mu = (x^0, x^1, x^2, x^3)$$

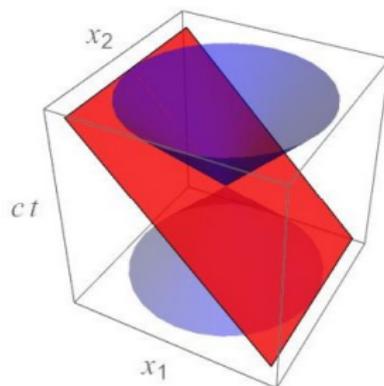
Null-time surface $x^0 = 0$



Light-front form

$$x^\mu = (x^+, x^-, \mathbf{x}_\perp)$$

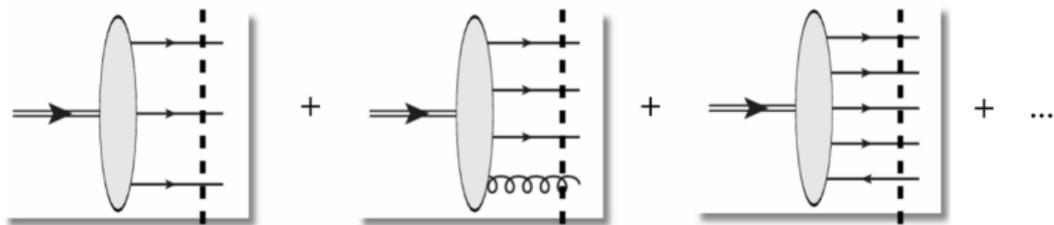
Null-time surface $x^+ = 0$



Fock expansion

Hadronic states can be expanded with Fock components weighted by **light-front wave functions** (LFWFs):

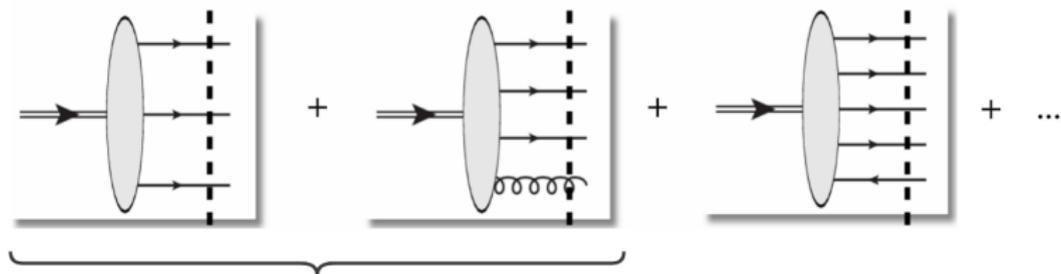
$$|P\rangle = \Psi_{qqq} |qqq\rangle + \Psi_{qqqg} |qqqg\rangle + \Psi_{qqq\bar{q}q} |qqq\bar{q}q\rangle + \dots$$



Fock expansion

Hadronic states can be expanded with Fock components weighted by **light-front wave functions** (LFWFs):

$$|P\rangle = \underbrace{\Psi_{qqq} |qqq\rangle + \Psi_{qqqg} |qqqg\rangle + \Psi_{qqq\bar{q}q} |qqq\bar{q}q\rangle + \dots}$$



LFWFs model

The model for LFWFs is defined at low energy scale ($\mu^2 = 0.26\text{GeV}^2$)

$$\Psi_{qqq(g)}(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \propto G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) P(\{\xi_i\})$$

- ▶ 2D gaussian $G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \sim \prod_i e^{-\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}^2/\xi_i}$
- ▶ Polynomial term $P(\{\xi_i\}) \sim \xi_1^{r_1} \xi_2^{r_2} \xi_3^{r_3} (\xi_4^{r_4})$

LFWFs model

The model for LFWFs is defined at low energy scale ($\mu^2 = 0.26\text{GeV}^2$)

$$\Psi_{qqq(g)}(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \propto G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) P(\{\xi_i\})$$

► 2D gaussian $G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \sim \prod_i e^{-\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}^2/\xi_i}$

► Polynomial term $P(\{\xi_i\}) \sim \xi_1^{r_1} \xi_2^{r_2} \xi_3^{r_3} (\xi_4^{r_4})$

↑

r_i are determined by fits of valence quark distributions

LFWFs model

The model for LFWFs is defined at low energy scale ($\mu^2 = 0.26\text{GeV}^2$)

$$\Psi_{qqq(g)}(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \propto G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) P(\{\xi_i\})$$

► 2D gaussian $G(\{\xi_i\}, \{\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}\}) \sim \prod_i e^{-\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}^2/\xi_i}$

► Polynomial term $P(\{\xi_i\}) \sim \xi_1^{r_1} \xi_2^{r_2} \xi_3^{r_3} (\xi_4^{r_4})$

↑

r_i are determined by fits of valence quark distributions

$$\text{PDF} \sim \int [d\xi_i][d^2\mathbf{k}_{i\perp}] \Psi_{qqq} \Psi_{qqq}^*$$

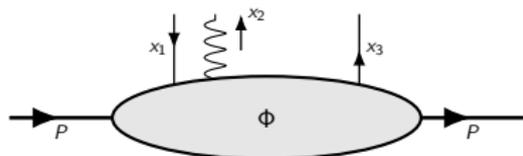
The generic twist-3 PDF f is given by the following Fourier transform:

$$\langle P, S | O(z_1, z_2, z_3) | P, S \rangle \sim \int [dx] e^{-iP^+ \sum_i x_i z_i} f(x_1, x_2, x_3)$$

Twist-3 PDFs

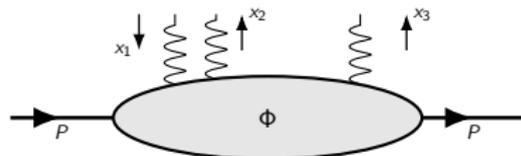
The generic twist-3 PDF f is given by the following Fourier transform:

$$\langle P, S | O(z_1, z_2, z_3) | P, S \rangle \sim \int [dx] e^{-iP^+ \sum_i x_i z_i} f(x_1, x_2, x_3)$$



quark PDFs

$$O(z_{123}) \sim \bar{\psi}(z_1) F^{\mu+}(z_2) \Gamma \psi(z_3)$$



gluon PDFs

$$O(z_{123}) \sim F^{\mu+}(z_1) F^{\nu+}(z_2) F^{\rho+}(z_3)$$

Support of twist-3 PDFs

$$\int [dx] = \int_{-1}^1 dx_1 \int_{-1}^1 dx_2 \int_{-1}^1 dx_3 \delta(x_1 + x_2 + x_3)$$

Support of twist-3 PDFs

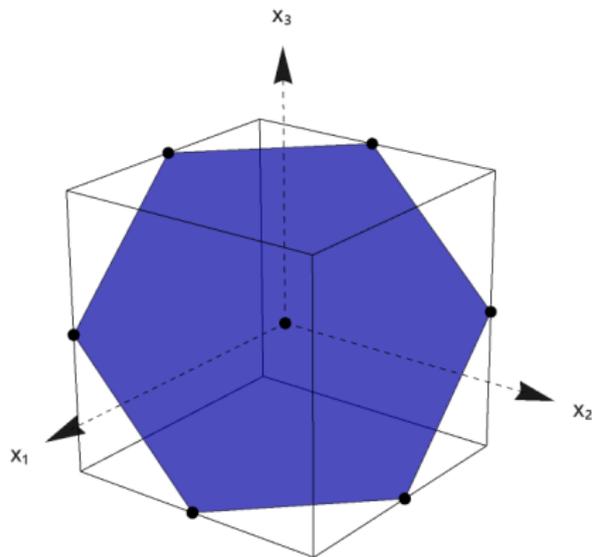
$$\int [dx] = \int_{-1}^1 dx_1 \int_{-1}^1 dx_2 \int_{-1}^1 dx_3 \delta(x_1 + x_2 + x_3)$$

- ▶ x_i longitudinal momentum fractions

$$-1 \leq x_i \leq +1$$

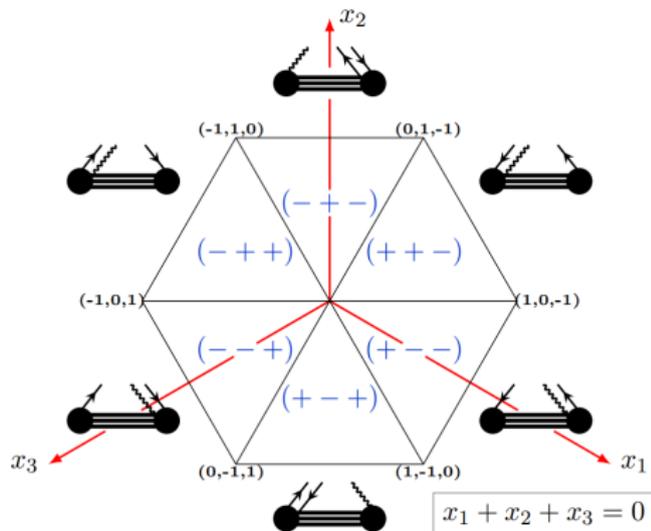
- ▶ x_i non-independent variables

$$x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = 0$$



Support of twist-3 PDFs

- $x_1 > 0$ antiquark emission
- $x_1 < 0$ quark absorption
- $x_2 > 0$ gluon emission
- $x_2 < 0$ gluon absorption
- $x_3 > 0$ quark emission
- $x_3 < 0$ antiquark absorption



[arXiv:2405.01162v2]

Twist-3 evolution

- Quark PDFs:

$$\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x}_{123}), \Delta \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x}_{123}) \leftrightarrow \mathfrak{G}^{\pm}(x_{123})$$

- Gluon PDFs:

$$\mathbf{T}_{3F}^{\pm}(\mathbf{x}_{123}) \leftrightarrow \mathfrak{F}^{\pm}(x_{123})$$

where \mathfrak{G}^{\pm} and \mathfrak{F}^{\pm} are definite-C-parity distributions.

- Simmetries for $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \rightarrow (-x_3, -x_2, -x_1)$:

$$T(x_{123}) = T(-x_{321})$$

$$\Delta T(x_{123}) = -\Delta T(-x_{321})$$

$$T_{3F}^{\pm}(x_{123}) = T_{3F}^{\pm}(-x_{321})$$

Twist-3 evolution

- Quark PDFs:

$$\mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x}_{123}), \Delta \mathbf{T}(\mathbf{x}_{123}) \leftrightarrow \mathfrak{G}^{\pm}(x_{123})$$

- Gluon PDFs:

$$\mathbf{T}_{3F}^{\pm}(\mathbf{x}_{123}) \leftrightarrow \mathfrak{F}^{\pm}(x_{123})$$

where \mathfrak{G}^{\pm} and \mathfrak{F}^{\pm} are definite-C-parity distributions.

$$T(x_{123}) = \frac{1}{4} \left(\mathfrak{G}^{+}(x_{123}) + \mathfrak{G}^{+}(x_{321}) + \mathfrak{G}^{-}(x_{123}) - \mathfrak{G}^{-}(x_{321}) \right)$$

$$\Delta T(x_{123}) = -\frac{1}{4} \left(\mathfrak{G}^{+}(x_{123}) - \mathfrak{G}^{+}(x_{321}) + \mathfrak{G}^{-}(x_{123}) + \mathfrak{G}^{-}(x_{321}) \right)$$

$$T_{3F}^{\pm}(x_{123}) = \frac{1}{2} \left(\mathfrak{F}^{\pm}(x_{123}) \mp \mathfrak{F}^{\pm}(x_{321}) \right)$$

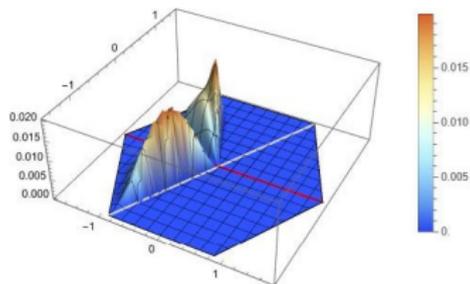
Twist-3 evolution

$$\mu^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^2} \mathfrak{G}_{NSi}^\pm = -a(\mu^2) \mathbb{H}_{NS} \mathfrak{G}_{NSi}^\pm$$

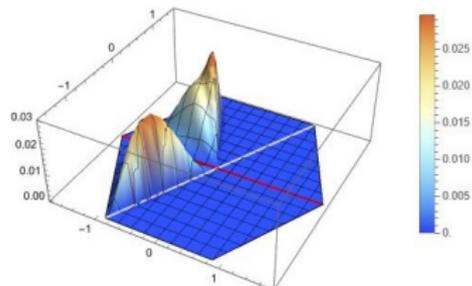
$$\mu^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu^2} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{G}_S^\pm \\ \mathfrak{F}^\pm \end{pmatrix} = -a(\mu^2) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbb{H}_{qq}^\pm & \mathbb{H}_{qg}^\pm \\ \mathbb{H}_{qg}^\pm & \mathbb{H}_{gg}^\pm \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \mathfrak{G}_S^\pm \\ \mathfrak{F}^\pm \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ Non-singlet (NS) combinations evolve independently
- ▶ Singlet (S) contribution mixes with gluon ($\mathfrak{G}_S^\pm = \sum_f \mathfrak{G}_f^\pm$)

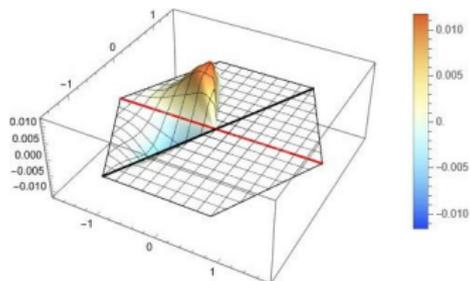
Initial scale functions (0.26 GeV²)



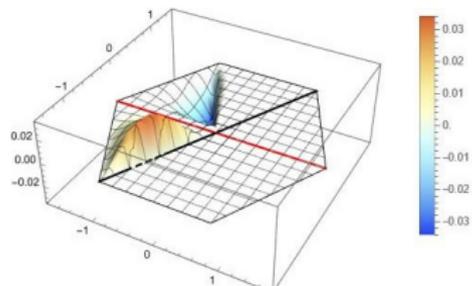
$T_d(x_{123})$



$-T_u(x_{123})$

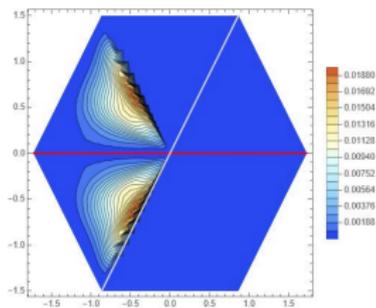


$\Delta T_d(x_{123})$

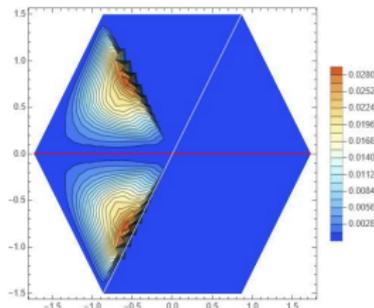


$\Delta T_u(x_{123})$

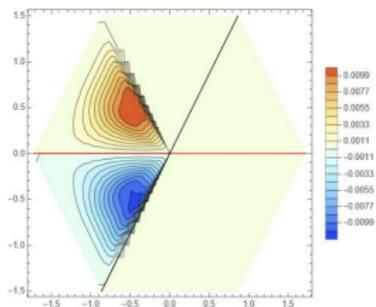
Initial scale functions (0.26 GeV²)



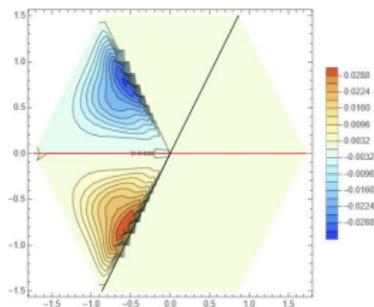
$T_d(x_{123})$



$-T_u(x_{123})$

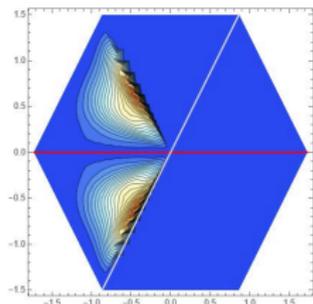


$\Delta T_d(x_{123})$

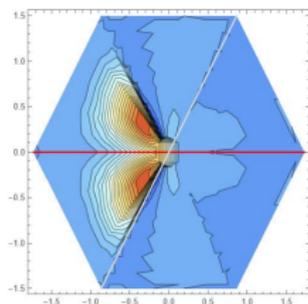


$\Delta T_u(x_{123})$

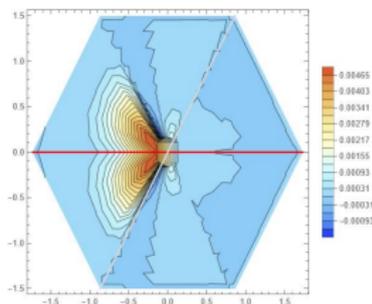
Evolution of T_f



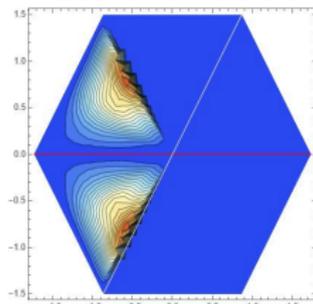
$T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 0.26 \text{ GeV}^2$



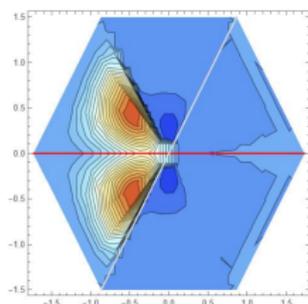
$T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 25 \text{ GeV}^2$



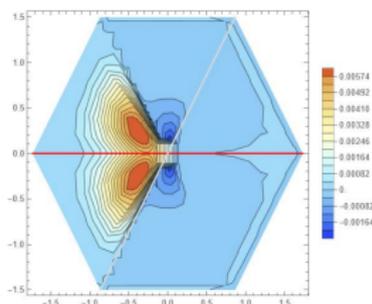
$T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$



$-T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 0.26 \text{ GeV}^2$

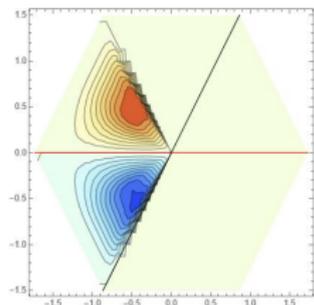


$-T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 25 \text{ GeV}^2$

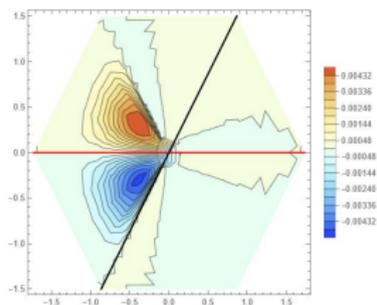


$-T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$

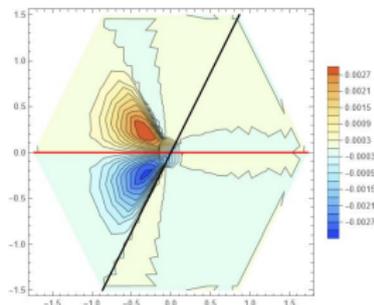
Evolution of ΔT_f



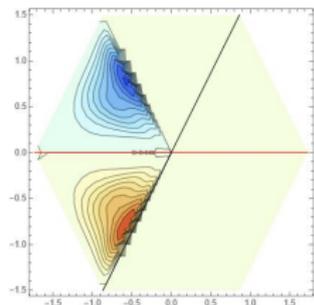
$\Delta T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 0.26 \text{ GeV}^2$



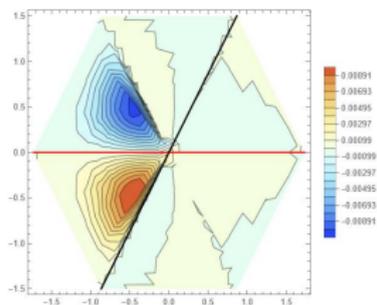
$\Delta T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 25 \text{ GeV}^2$



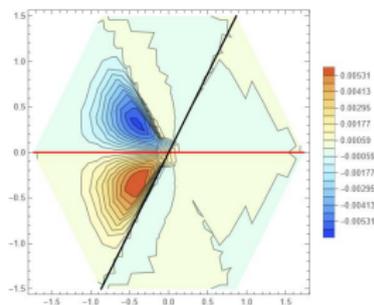
$\Delta T_d(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$



$\Delta T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 0.26 \text{ GeV}^2$

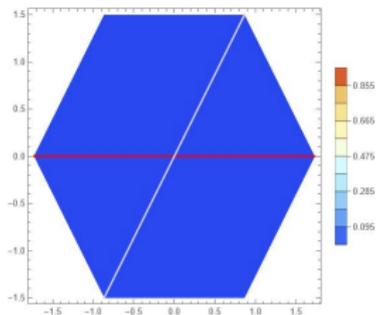


$\Delta T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 25 \text{ GeV}^2$

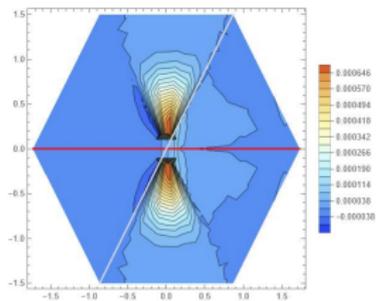


$\Delta T_u(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$

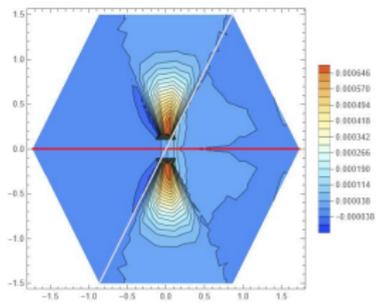
Evolution for other flavours



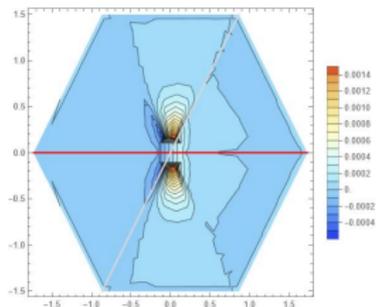
$T_s(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 0.26 \text{ GeV}^2$



$T_s(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 4 \text{ GeV}^2$

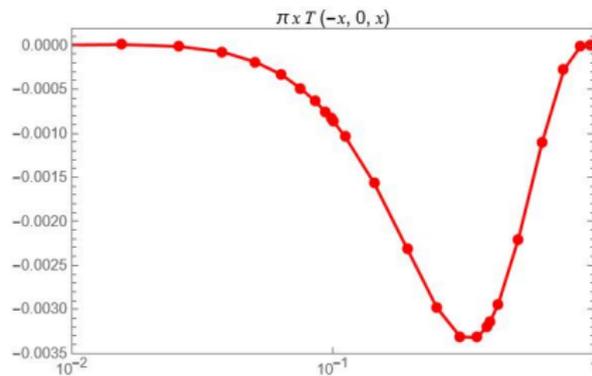
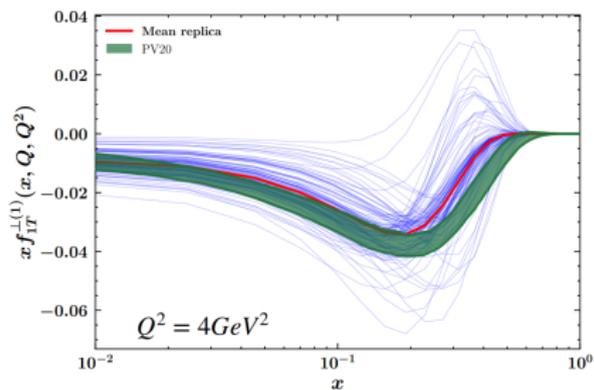


$T_s(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 100 \text{ GeV}^2$



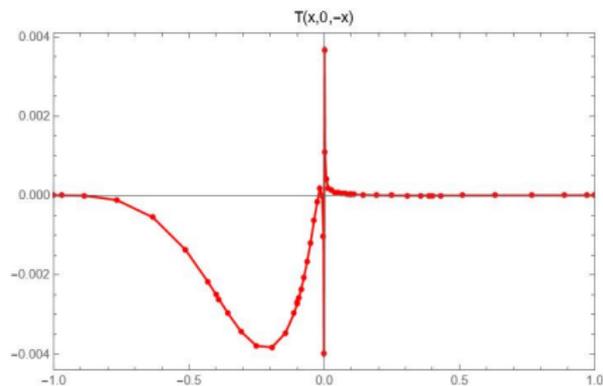
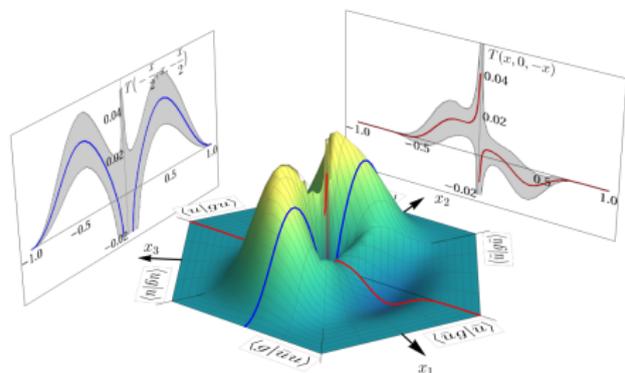
$T_s(x_{123}) \quad Q^2 = 10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$

Frame Title



[]

Frame Title



[]

**Thank you
for your attention!**