

# Heavy flavours at small-x

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Heavy Flavours at High  $p_T$

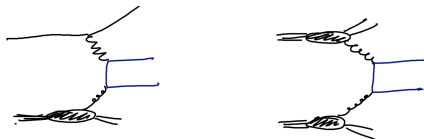
30 Nov 2023, Higgs Centre, Edinburgh



Istituto Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare  
Sezione di ROMA

# Scales of heavy quark production

Consider heavy quark production in either DIS or  $pp$  collisions



There are (at least) four scales in the game

- $m$ : mass of the heavy quark
- $Q$ : hard scale (virtuality of the photon, invariant mass of the final state)
- $\sqrt{s}$ : parton-level centre-of-mass energy
- $\sqrt{S}$ : hadron-level centre-of-mass energy

Depending on the hierarchy, there may be large logs  $\rightarrow$  need to resum them

Dimensionless ratios:

$$\frac{m^2}{Q^2}, \quad \tau = \frac{Q^2}{S}, \quad x = \frac{Q^2}{s}, \quad \tau \leq x \leq 1$$

Focus on the high-energy limit  $\tau \ll 1$ : large  $\log x$  appear and must be resummed.  
If  $m^2/Q^2$  is also small, also  $\log \frac{m^2}{Q^2}$  must be resummed

# small- $x$ resummation

[Catani, Ciafaloni, Colferai, Hautmann, Salam, Stasto]

[Thorne, White]

[Altarelli, Ball, Forte]

[Neill, Pathak, Rothstein, Stewart]

Collinear factorization: 
$$\sigma(x, Q^2) = \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} C_i(z, \alpha_s(Q^2)) f_i\left(\frac{x}{z}, Q^2\right)$$

DGLAP evolution: 
$$\mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} f_i(x, \mu^2) = \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} P_{ij}(z, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) f_j\left(\frac{x}{z}, \mu^2\right)$$

Heavy-quark matching: 
$$f_i^{[n_f+1]}(x, \mu^2) = \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} A_{ij}(z, \alpha_s(\mu^2)) f_j^{[n_f]}\left(\frac{x}{z}, \mu^2\right)$$

Any object with a perturbative expansion can exhibit a logarithmic enhancement:

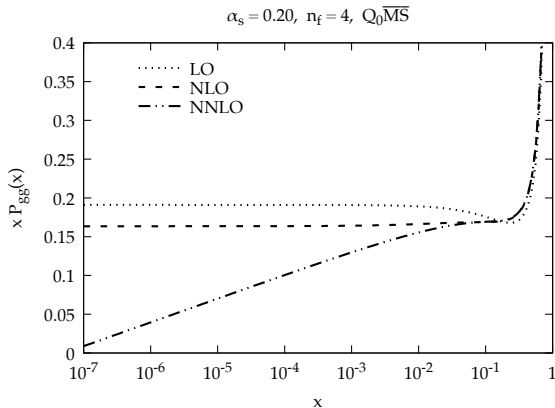
- observable: coefficient functions  $C(x, \alpha_s)$
- evolution: splitting functions  $P(x, \alpha_s)$  and matching conditions  $A(x, \alpha_s)$

Small- $x$  logarithms: single logs  $\alpha_s^n \frac{1}{x} \log^k \frac{1}{x} \quad (0 \leq k \leq n-1)$

When  $\alpha_s \log \frac{1}{x} \sim 1$  perturbativity is spoiled  $\rightarrow$  **all-order resummation needed**

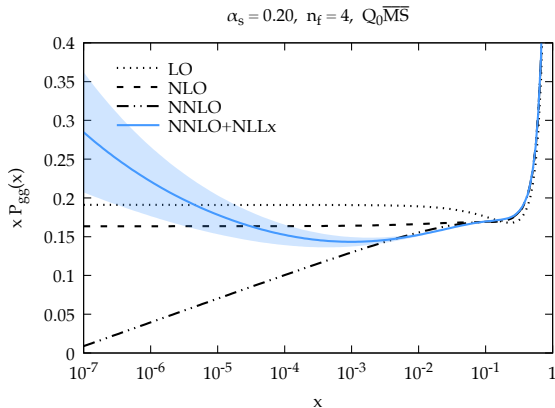
In  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  and related schemes, both coefficient  $C(x, \alpha_s)$  and splitting  $P(x, \alpha_s)$  functions, and also matching conditions  $A(x, \alpha_s)$ , are logarithmically enhanced at small  $x$  (in the singlet sector)

$P_{gg}(x, \alpha_s)$  splitting function at fixed order



Logarithms start to grow for  $x \lesssim 10^{-2} \rightarrow$  **perturbative instability** for  $x \lesssim 10^{-3}$   
(for  $Q \sim 5\text{GeV}$ )

$P_{gg}(x, \alpha_s)$  splitting function at fixed order



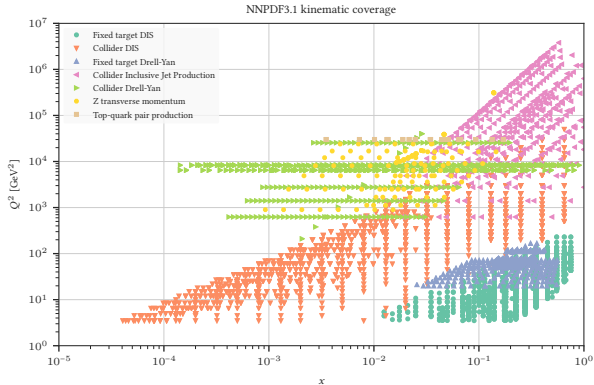
Logarithms start to grow for  $x \lesssim 10^{-2} \rightarrow$  **perturbative instability** for  $x \lesssim 10^{-3}$   
(for  $Q \sim 5\text{GeV}$ )

Resummation obtained with the **HELL** public code

[MB,Marzani,Peraro 1607.02153] [MB,Marzani,Muselli 1708.07510] [MB,Marzani 1805.06460]

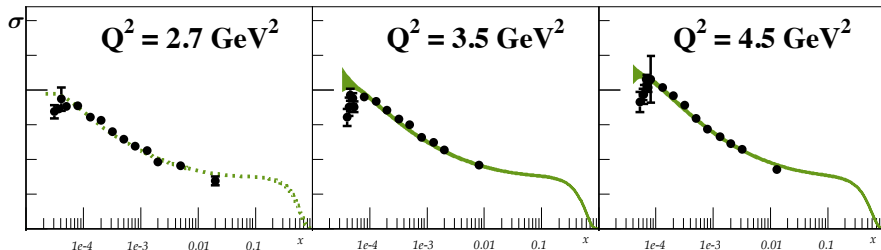
# Do we experience the need for small- $x$ resummation?

*Hint: look at PDF fits...*

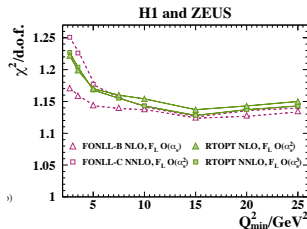


Deep-inelastic scattering (DIS) data from HERA extend down to  $x \sim 3 \times 10^{-5}$  in the “perturbative region”  $Q^2 > 2 \text{ GeV}^2$

Tension between HERA data at low  $Q^2$  and low  $x$  with fixed-order theory



Also leads to a deterioration of the  $\chi^2$  of PDF fits when including low- $Q^2$  data





# The first PDF fits with small- $x$ resummation

**HELL** → makes possible a PDF fit with small- $x$  resummation

NNPDF3.1sx [1710.05935]

NeuralNet parametrization of PDFs  
MonteCarlo uncertainty  
charm PDF is fitted  
DIS+tevatron+LHC ( $\sim 4000$  datapoints)  
NLO, NLO+NLL $x$ , NNLO, NNLO+NLL $x$

xFitter [1802.00064, see also 1902.11125]

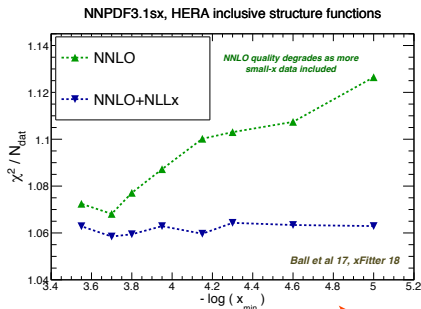
polynomial parametrization  
Hessian uncertainty  
charm PDF perturbatively generated  
only HERA data ( $\sim 1200$  datapoints)  
NNLO, NNLO+NLL $x$

The quality of the fit improves substantially including small- $x$  resummation

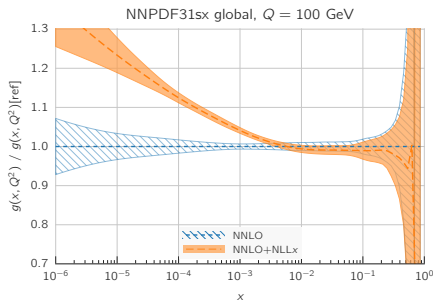
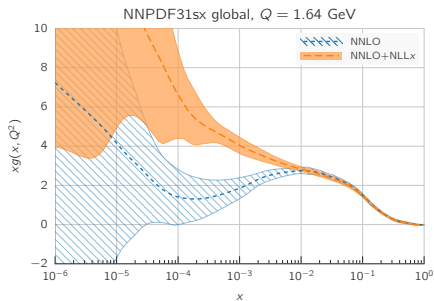
$\chi^2/N_{\text{dat}}$	NNLO	NNLO+NLL $x$
xFitter	<b>1.23</b>	<b>1.17</b>
NNPDF3.1sx	<b>1.130</b>	<b>1.100</b>

smaller!

Stable upon inclusion of low- $x$  data →



Small- $x$  resummation mostly affects the gluon PDF (and the total quark singlet)



Dramatic effect of resummation on the gluon PDF at  $x \lesssim 10^{-3}$

Persists at higher energy scales  $\Rightarrow$  impact for LHC and FCC-hh phenomenology

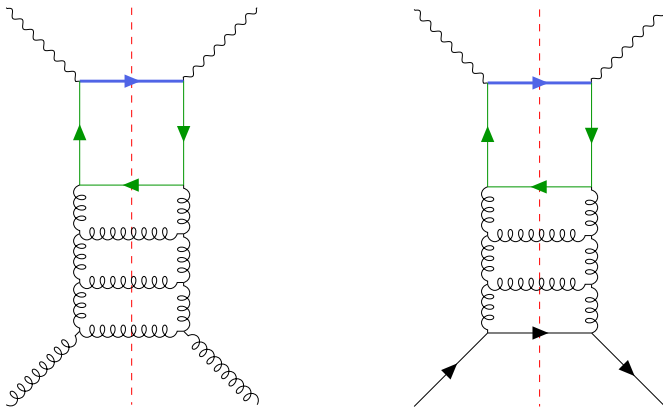
# heavy quark production in DIS

[Catani,Ciafaloni,Hautmann NPB 366 (1991) 135]

[Ball,Ellis 0101199]

[MB,Marzani,Muselli 1708.07510]

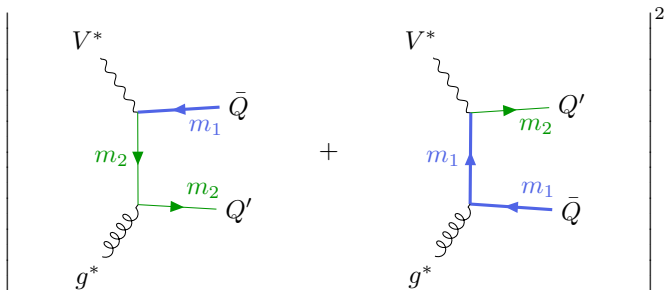
## Heavy quark production in neutral or charged current



Leading small- $x$  logarithms produced by chains of gluon emissions (in axial gauge)  
Factorization into a universal ladder and a process dependent *off-shell* coefficient function

We computed the off-shell coefficients, projected onto  $F_2$ ,  $F_L$  and  $F_3$  structure functions

[MB,Marzani,Muselli 1708.07510]



In the charged current case, the flavour changes  $\rightarrow m_1 \neq m_2$

Ignoring the top quark, and considering CKM suppression in  $V_{cb}$ , we can assume one of the quarks to be massless ( $m_2 = 0$ ).

**Note:** massless limit is finite as long as gluon is off-shell!

## Variable flavour number scheme (1)

Consider the charm quark, with mass  $m$ . Collinear emissions are regulated by the mass, so no need to factorize them  $\rightarrow$  3FS (3 light active flavours)

$$F_2(Q^2, m^2) = \sum_i^3 C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(Q^2)$$

$C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2)$  contains logs of  $m^2/Q^2$ , which may get large for  $Q^2 \gg m^2$   
 $\rightarrow$  resummation  $\rightarrow$  4FS (the charm is considered massless)

$$= \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes f_k^{[4]}(Q^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2}{Q^2}\right)$$

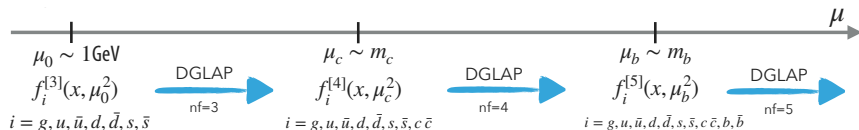
collinear emissions are factorized in the 4FS PDF, massless limit finite, power corrections lost.

Power corrections can be restored from the 3FS computation, after removing power counting

Linear relation between  $f_i^{[3]}(Q^2)$  and  $f_k^{[4]}(Q^2)$  (factorization scheme change)

# Variable flavour number scheme (2)

Need the relation between PDFs in the two schemes



$$f_k^{[4]}(Q^2) = \sum_p^4 \sum_{i,j}^3 U_{kp}^{[4]}(Q^2, \mu_c^2) \otimes A_{pj}^{[4 \leftarrow 3]}(\mu_c^2, m^2) \otimes U_{ji}^{[3]}(\mu_c^2, \mu_0^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(\mu_0^2)$$

where  $A_{ki}^{[4 \leftarrow 3]}(\mu_c^2, m^2)$  depends on  $m$  through logarithms of  $m^2/\mu_c^2$

- Choosing  $\mu_c \sim m$  the logs of  $m^2/Q^2$  are resummed through DGLAP evolution from  $\mu_c^2$  to  $Q^2$
- Choosing  $\mu_c = Q$  resummation is switched off and we get

$$f_k^{[4]}(Q^2) = \sum_i^3 A_{ki}^{[4 \leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(Q^2)$$

We can thus write

$$\begin{aligned}
 F_2(Q^2, m^2) &= \sum_i^3 C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(Q^2) \\
 &= \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes f_k^{[4]}(Q^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2}{Q^2}\right) \\
 &= \sum_i^3 \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes A_{ki}^{[4\leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(Q^2) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2}{Q^2}\right)
 \end{aligned}$$

from which we get

$$\lim_{m^2 \ll Q^2} C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2) = \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes A_{ki}^{[4\leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2)$$

out of which we can compute the matching functions  $A_{ki}^{[4\leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2)$  and the power corrections

$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m^2}{Q^2}\right) &= \sum_i^3 \left[ C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2) - \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes A_{ki}^{[4\leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2) \right] \otimes f_i^{[3]}(Q^2) \\
 &= \sum_k^4 \Delta C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, m^2) \otimes f_k^{[4]}(Q^2)
 \end{aligned}$$



Expanding this equation to NLL at small  $x$

$$\lim_{m \ll Q} C_i^{[3]}(Q^2, m^2) = \sum_k^4 C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) \otimes A_{ki}^{[4 \leftarrow 3]}(Q^2, m^2)$$

we get (in Mellin space) at LL

[MB, Marzani, Muselli 1708.07510]

$$A_{ki}^{[4 \leftarrow 3], \text{LL}}(Q^2, m^2) = \delta_{ki}$$

and at NLL

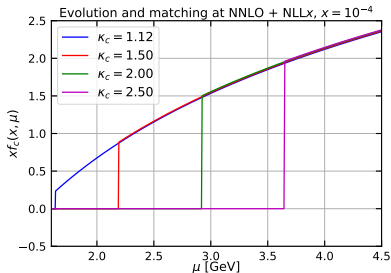
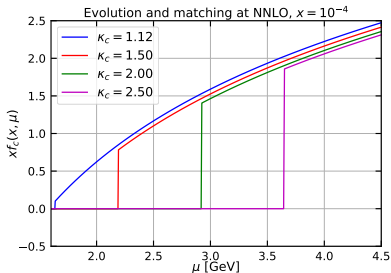
$$A_{cg}^{[4 \leftarrow 3], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, m^2) = \lim_{m \ll Q} C_g^{[3], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, m^2) - C_g^{[4], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, 0)$$

$$A_{cq}^{[4 \leftarrow 3], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, m^2) = \frac{C_F}{C_A} A_{cg}^{[4 \leftarrow 3], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, m^2)$$

$$A_{ki}^{[4 \leftarrow 3], \text{NLL}}(Q^2, m^2) = 0 \quad \text{if } k \text{ is light } (g, u, d, s)$$

# Perturbative stability of charm matching conditions

$$f_c^{[4]}(Q^2) = \sum_p^4 \sum_{i,j}^3 U_{cp}^{[4]}(Q^2, \mu_c^2) \otimes A_{pj}^{[4 \leftarrow 3]}(\mu_c^2, m^2) \otimes U_{ji}^{[3]}(\mu_c^2, \mu_0^2) \otimes f_i^{[3]}(\mu_0^2)$$



$$\kappa_c = \mu_c/m, \quad \mu_c = \text{charm matching scale (threshold)}$$

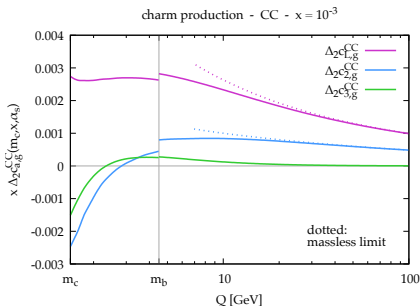
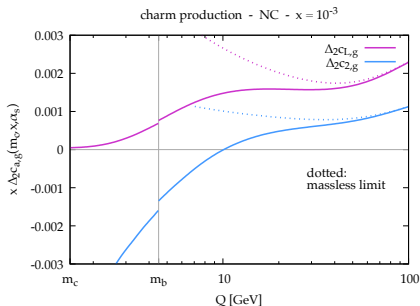
[xFitter 1802.00064]

The perturbatively generated charm PDF is much less dependent on the (unphysical) matching scale when small- $x$  resummation is included!

Resummed result with power corrections included:

$$F_2(Q^2, m^2) = \sum_k^4 \left[ C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, 0) + \Delta C_k^{[4]}(Q^2, m^2) \right] \otimes f_k^{[4]}(Q^2)$$

Resummed contribution to  $F_{2,g}$ ,  $F_{L,g}$  and  $F_{3,g}$  DIS coefficient functions for the charm with mass effects



# heavy quark production at LHC

[Catani,Ciafaloni,Hautmann NPB 366 (1991) 135]

[Ball,Ellis 0101199]

[Chachamis,Deák,Hentschinski,Rodrigo,Sabio Vera 1507.05778]

[Guiot 1812.02156]

[Bolognino,Celiberto,Fucilla,Ivanov,Mohammed,Papa 1909.03068, 2109.11875]

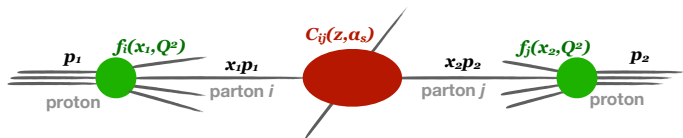
[MB,Silvetti 2211.10142]

# Theoretical predictions with hadrons in the initial state

QCD collinear factorization:

$$y = Y - \frac{1}{2} \log \frac{x_1}{x_2}$$

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2 dY dp_t \dots} = \sum_{i,j=g,q} \int_{\tau}^1 dx_1 \int_{\tau}^1 dx_2 f_i(x_1, Q^2) f_j(x_2, Q^2) C_{ij} \left( \frac{\tau}{x_1 x_2}, y, p_t, \dots, \alpha_s \right)$$



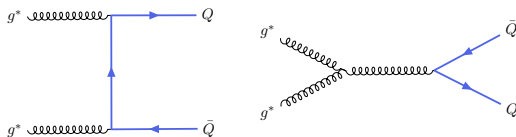
$x_1, x_2, \frac{\tau}{x_1 x_2}$  can get as small as  $\tau = \frac{Q^2}{S}$  (note: typical values  $x_1, x_2 \sim \sqrt{\tau}$ )

$\tau$	Higgs	low mass DY	$b\bar{b}$	$c\bar{c}$
LHC (13 TeV)	$10^{-4}$	$\sim 10^{-6}$	$\sim 10^{-6}$	$\sim 10^{-7}$
FCC-hh (100 TeV)	$10^{-6}$	$\sim 10^{-8}$	$\sim 10^{-8}$	$\sim 10^{-9}$

Heavy-quark production at  $pp$  colliders probes rather small  $x$ !!

## Fully differential heavy-quark pair production

[MB,Silvetti 2211.10142]



$$g^*(k_1) + g^*(k_2) \rightarrow Q(p) + \bar{Q}(\bar{p}) \quad (\text{pair with momentum } q = p + \bar{p})$$

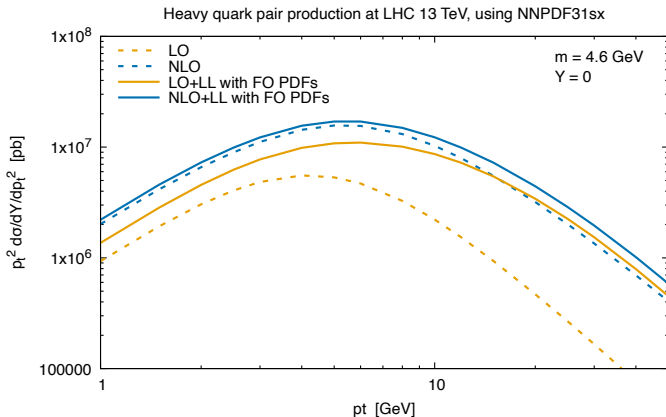
We have resummed the cross section for different kinematics:

- single heavy quark  $\frac{d\sigma}{dY dp_t} \rightarrow$  e.g.  $D$ ,  $B$  meson production
- heavy-quark pair  $\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2 dY dq_t} \rightarrow$  e.g.  $J/\psi$ ,  $\Upsilon$  production

Small- $x$  resummation crucial for charm and bottom production

- sensitive to very small  $x \rightarrow$  constrain the PDFs [Gauld, Rojo 1610.09373]
- key process at a forward physics facility (FPF) [Feng et al 2203.05090]

# Heavy-quark pair production at LHC: single-quark kinematics

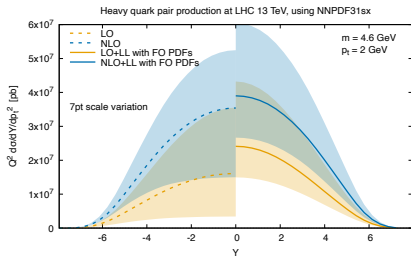
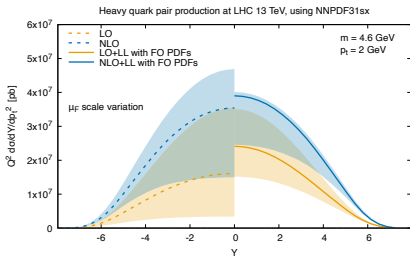
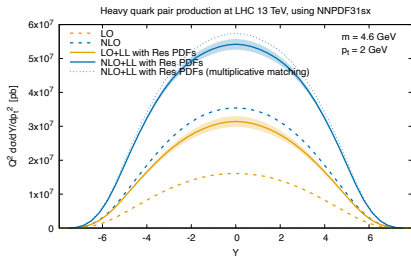
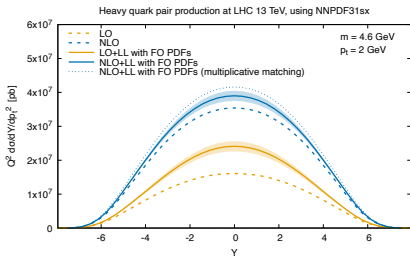


At large  $p_t$  a larger perturbative instability, likely due to small- $x$  logs, as it is cured by resummation

Induced by kinematic constraint 
$$x e^{2|y|} \left( 1 + \frac{p_t^2}{m^2} \right) \leq 1$$

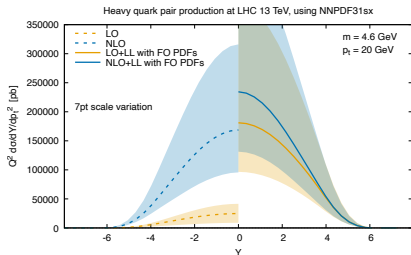
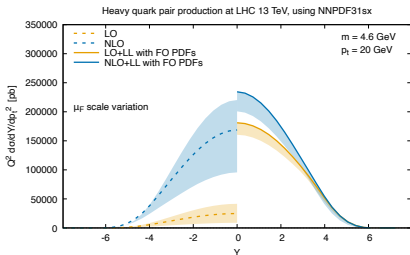
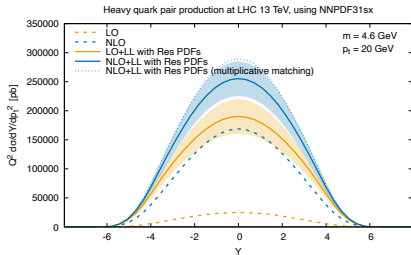
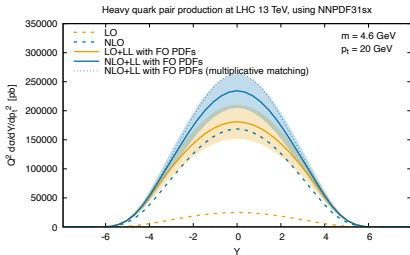
# Heavy-quark pair production at LHC: single-quark kinematics

Low  $p_t = 2$  GeV





## High $p_t = 20$ GeV



# conclusions

## Why small $x$ resummation:

- stabilises perturbative expansion at small  $x \lesssim 10^{-3}$
- has important effects in PDFs at small  $x$ , especially the gluon
- impact on LHC and future high-energy colliders

## Heavy quark production in DIS:

- crucial for DIS description and so for PDF determination
- small- $x$  resummation at lowest non-trivial order known (available from HELL)
- variable flavour number scheme at small  $x$  fully ready (from HELL)

## Heavy quark production at $pp$ colliders:

- can probe very small  $x$
- fully differential resummed results available (from HELL)
- single-quark and quark-pair kinematics both considered
- potential for improving knowledge of PDFs at small  $x$

# backup slides

# The role of the longitudinal structure function

The HERA data are reduced cross sections, given by

$$\sigma_{r,\text{NC}} = F_2(x, Q^2) - \frac{y^2}{1 + (1 - y)^2} F_L(x, Q^2) \quad y = \frac{Q^2}{x s}$$

in terms of the structure functions  $F_2, F_L$

The turnover can be explained by a larger  $F_L$ , contributing mostly at small  $x$

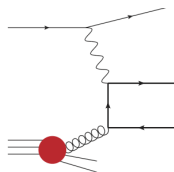
The other option, a turnover in  $F_2$ , seems unlikely (requires peculiar PDF shape)

Note that  $F_L = \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ , and it is gluon dominated

It plays a key role in DIS at small  $x$

⇒ having good measurements of  $F_L$  is very important!

**Future  $ep$  colliders (LHeC, FCC-eh) could provide precise  $F_L$  measurements!!**



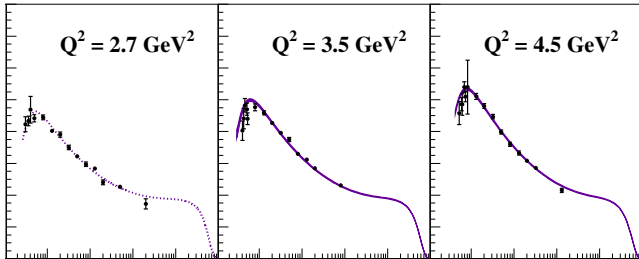
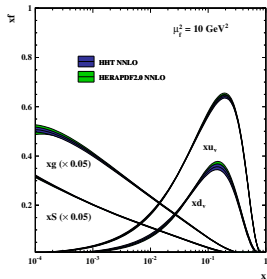
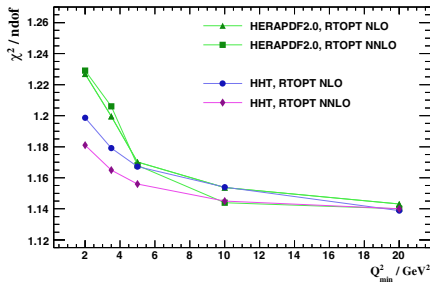
# Higher twist explanation of HERA low- $x$ data

$$F_L \rightarrow F_L \times \left(1 + \frac{A_L}{Q^2}\right)$$

with  $A_L$  fitted from data

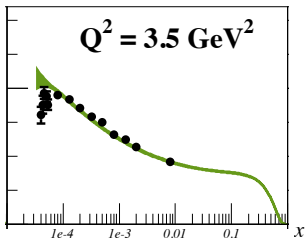
Improved description, but  $\chi^2$  still grows

PDFs unaffected



[Abt, Cooper-Sarkar, Foster, Myronenko, Wichmann, Wing 1604.02299]

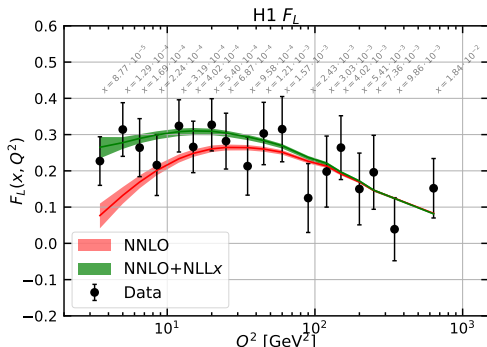
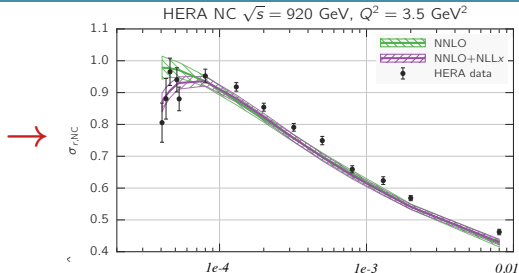
# Improved description of low- $x$ HERA data



Improved description of the data, turnover well reproduced

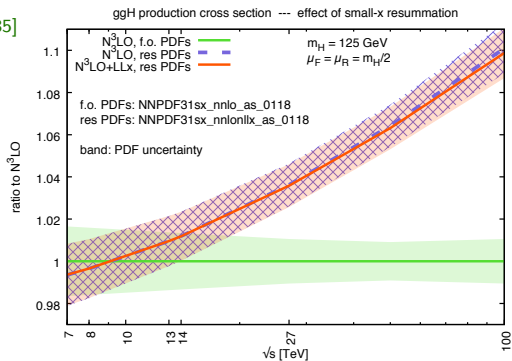
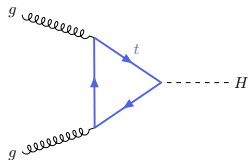
The better description mostly comes from a larger resummed  $F_L$

**Note:** no extra parameters in the fit, just improved theory



## $gg \rightarrow H$ inclusive cross section

[MB,Marzani 1802.07758] [MB 1805.08785]



$ggH$  cross section at FCC-hh  $\sim 10\%$  larger than expected!

At LHC  $+1\%$  effect; larger effect expected at differential level

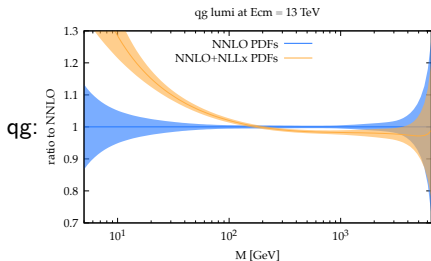
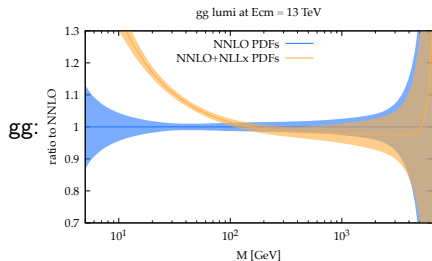
Other recent works on Higgs production

[Hentschinski,Kutak,vanHameren 2011.03193]

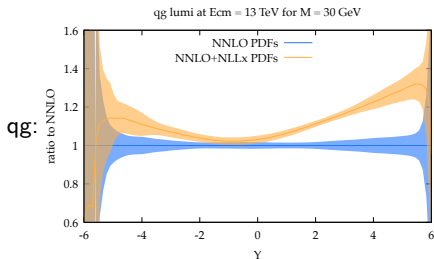
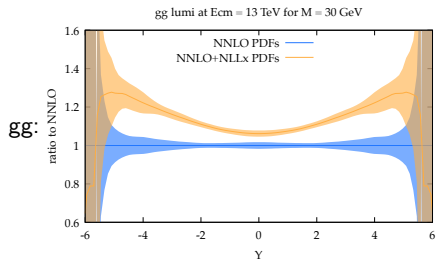
[Celiberto,Ivanov,Mohammed,Papa 2008.00501]



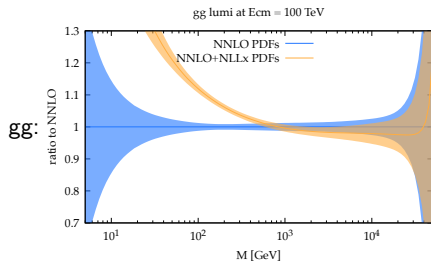
# Parton luminosities at LHC



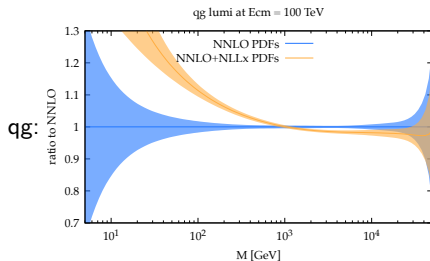
Difference more pronounced in differential distributions at large rapidity



# Parton luminosities at FCC-hh

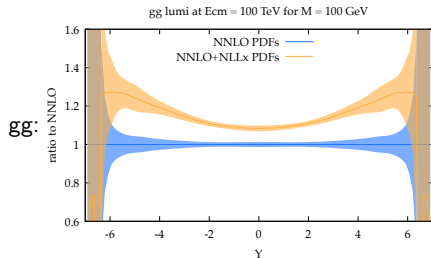


gg:

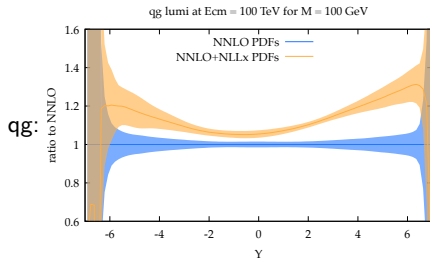


qg:

Large effects also at the EW scale, especially at large rapidities

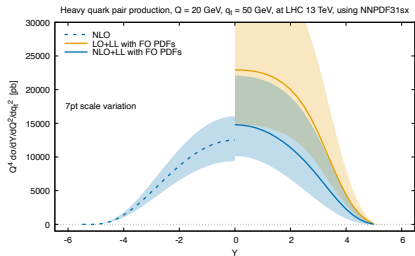
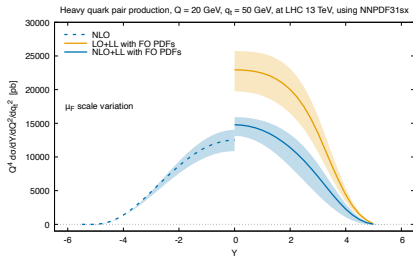
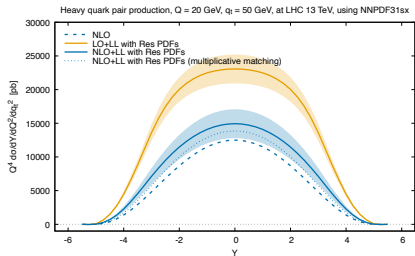
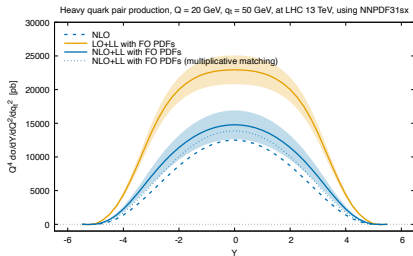


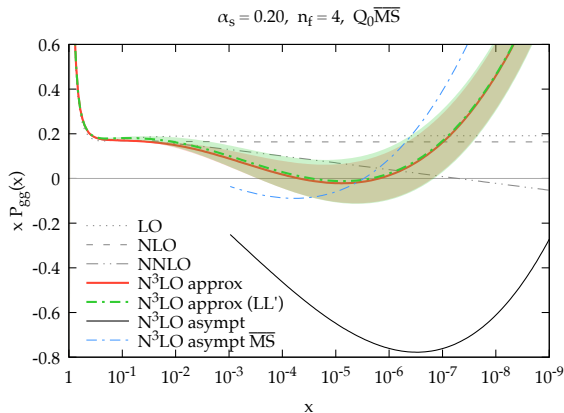
gg:



qg:

# Heavy-quark pair production at LHC: quark-pair kinematics





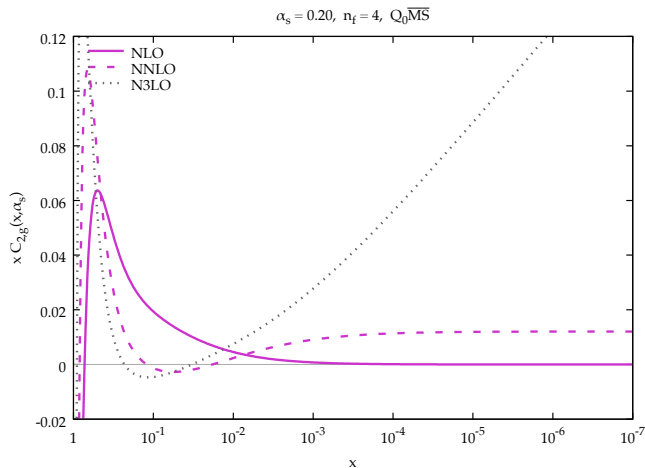
Large uncertainties from subleading logs

$$x P_{gg}^{(3)}(x) = a_{LL}^{\text{known}} \log^3 \frac{1}{x} + a_{NLL}^{\text{known}} \log^2 \frac{1}{x} + a_{NNLL}^{\text{not known}} \log \frac{1}{x} + \dots$$

Could be constrained with the recent impressive progress (Mellin moments)

[Davies,Vogt,Ruijl,Ueda,Vermaseren 1610.07477] [Moch,Ruijl,Ueda,Vermaseren,Vogt 1707.08315]

Only **singlet sector** affected:  $C_{a,g}, C_{a,q}^S, a = 2, L, 3$



fixed-order  
 $x C_{2,g}(x, \alpha_s)$  splitting  
 function at small  $x$ :

LO:  
 0

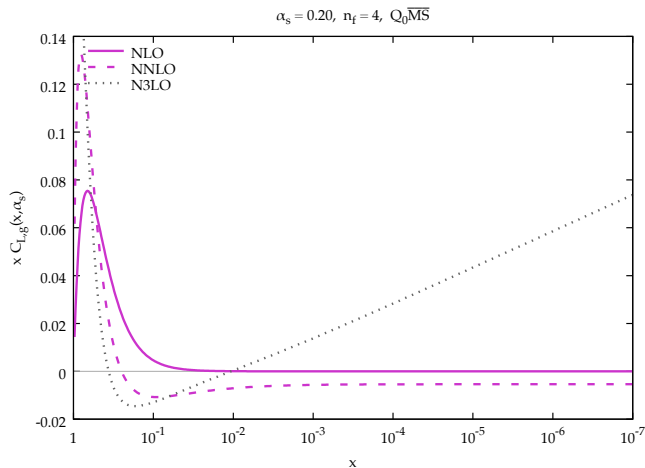
NLO:  
 $\alpha_s \times 0$

NNLO:  
 $\alpha_s^2 \times \text{const}$

N<sup>3</sup>LO:  
 $\alpha_s^3 (\ln \frac{1}{x} + \text{const})$

DIS coefficient functions are NLL quantities

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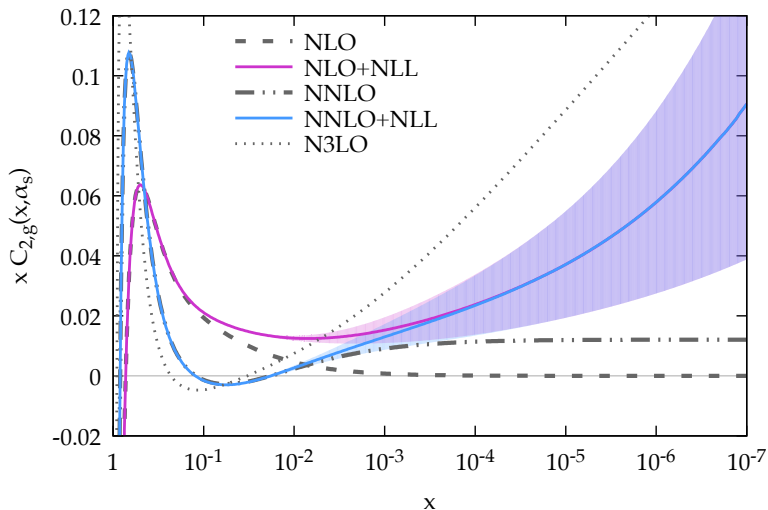
N<sup>3</sup>LO:  
 $\alpha_s^3 (\ln \frac{1}{x} + \text{const})$

DIS coefficient functions are NLL quantities

# Some representative HELL results: DIS coefficient functions

$F_{2,g}$  and  $F_{L,g}$  massless DIS coefficient functions

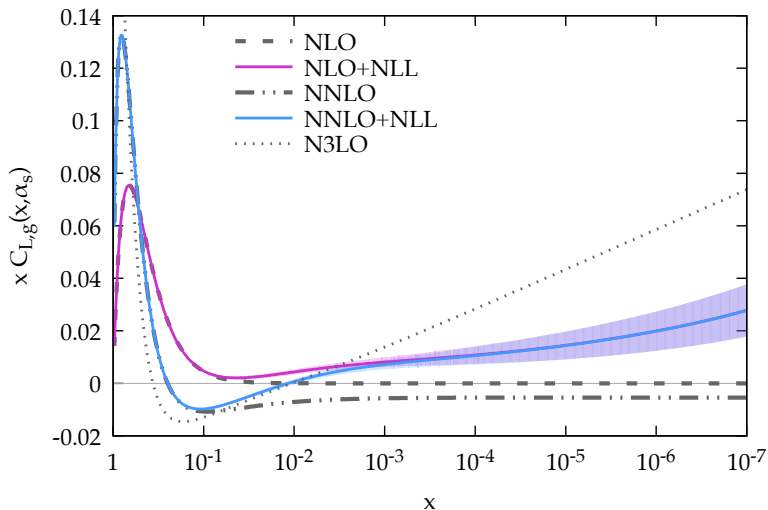
$\alpha_s = 0.20, n_f = 4, Q_0 \overline{MS}$



# Some representative HELL results: DIS coefficient functions

$F_{2,g}$  and  $F_{L,g}$  massless DIS coefficient functions

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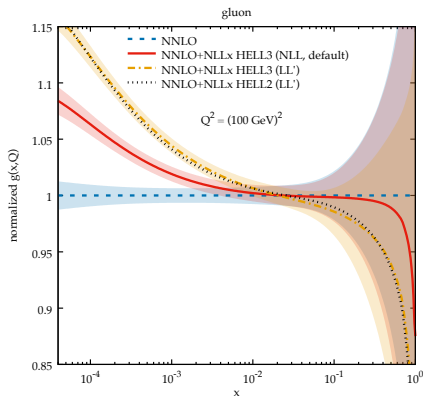
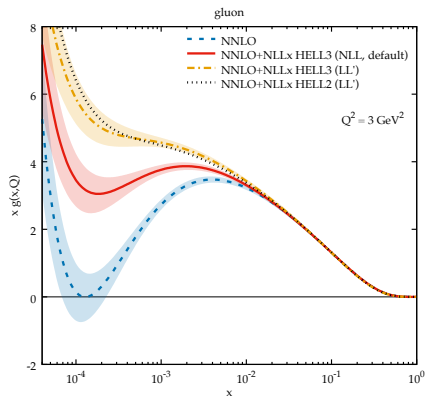




First fit with HELL 3.0

[MB,Giuli 1902.11125]

Red and yellow curves differ by subleading logs

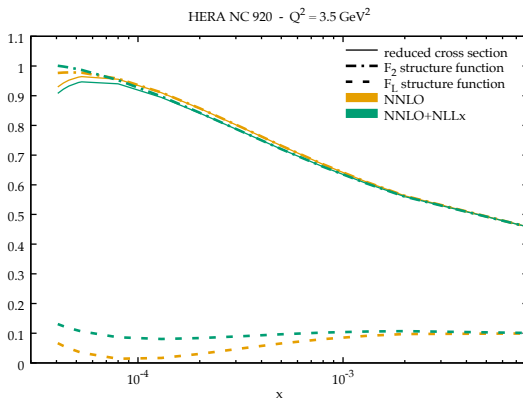


Achieved with a new parametrization, more flexible at small  $x$

$$x f(x, \mu_0^2) = A x^B (1-x)^C \left[ 1 + Dx + Ex^2 + F \log x + G \log^2 x + H \log^3 x \right]$$

Improved description of the low  $x$  data even at fixed order

The good agreement obtained at fixed order with the low  $x$  HERA data is achieved in a different way with respect to the resummed case [\[MB,Giuli 1902.11125\]](#)



At resummed level, both  $F_L$  and  $F_2$  grow

At fixed order,  $F_L$  grows below  $x \sim 10^{-4}$  and  $F_2$  decreases, due to the sudden growth of the gluon PDF

# Why is the effect of resummation mostly driven by the PDFs?

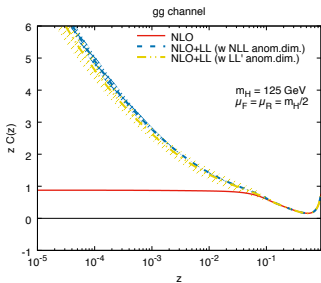
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dQ^2 dY\dots} = \int_{\tau}^1 \frac{dz}{z} \int d\hat{y} f_i\left(\sqrt{\frac{\tau}{z}} e^{\hat{y}}, Q^2\right) f_j\left(\sqrt{\frac{\tau}{z}} e^{-\hat{y}}, Q^2\right) C_{ij}(z, Y - \hat{y}, \dots, \alpha_s)$$

The small  $z$  integration region, where logs in  $C$  are large, is weighted by the PDFs at large momentum fractions  $x = \sqrt{\frac{\tau}{z}} e^{\pm\hat{y}}$

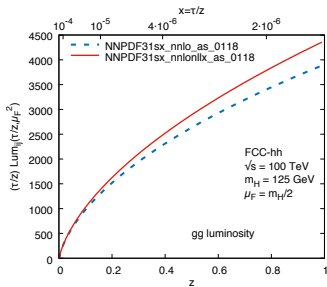
Since PDFs die fast at large  $x$ , especially the gluon, the small- $z$  region is suppressed!

Rather, the large  $z$  region is enhanced by the gluon-gluon luminosity

In that region, the difference between fixed-order and resummed PDFs is large



$gg$  partonic cross section



$gg$  luminosity