



# Splitting functions@N3LO

QCD@LHC 2023

Durham, September 5<sup>th</sup>

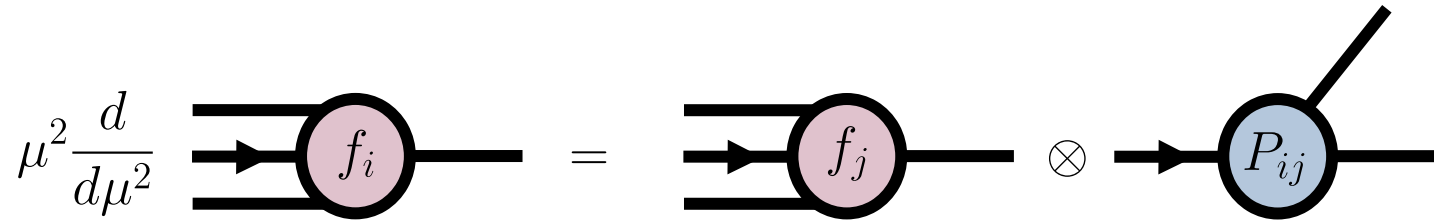
Franz Herzog

Collaborators

Giulio Falcioni, Sven Moch, Andreas Vogt, and Andrea Pelloni

# Splitting Basics

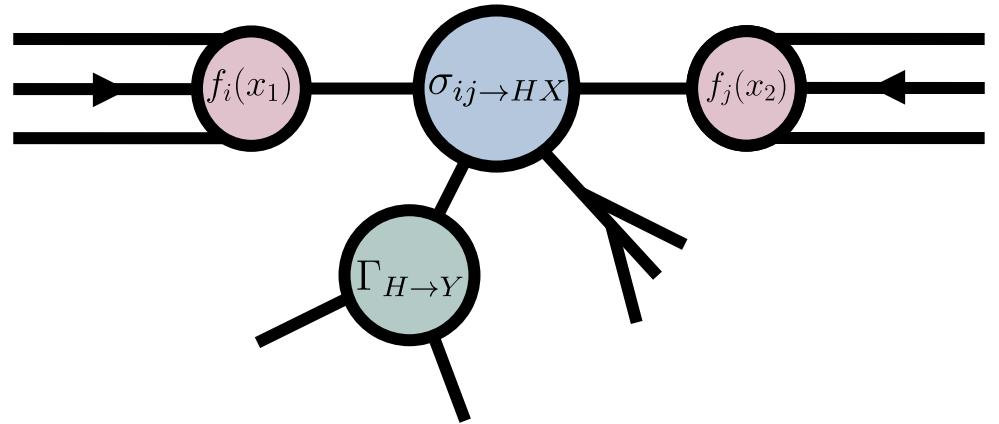
- Splitting functions govern PDF evolution (DGLAB)



$$\mu^2 \frac{d}{d\mu^2} f_i(x, \mu^2) = \int_x^1 \frac{dz}{z} f_j(x/z, \mu^2) P_{ij}(z)$$

# Why splitting functions at N3LO?

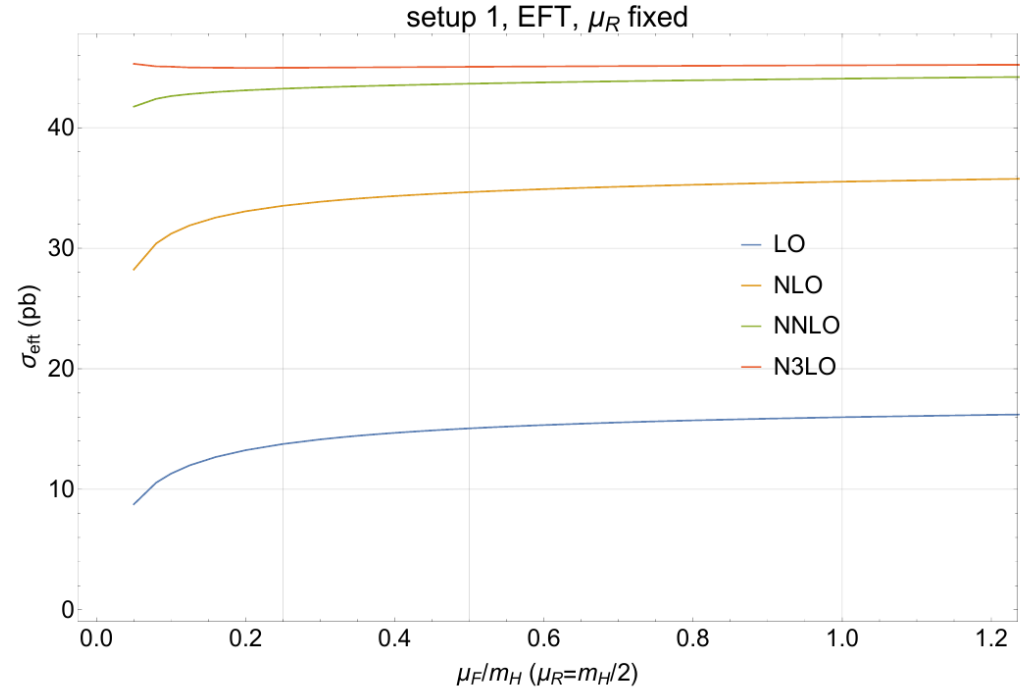
- Missing ingredient at N3LO
  - Needed in N3LO PDF fits
  - Reduce theory error



$$\sigma_{PP \rightarrow HX}(\mu) = \sum_{i,j} \int dx_1 dx_2 f_i(x_1, \mu) f_j(x_2, \mu) \sigma_{ij \rightarrow HX}(\mu) \Gamma_{H \rightarrow y}$$

# Theory uncertainties in Higgs production

- N3LO factorisation scale dependence is **artificially low**.
- Due to **missing N3LO splitting function** and **N3LO PDF set**.



$\delta(\text{PDF})$	$\delta(\alpha_s)$
$\pm 0.90 \text{ pb}$	$+1.27 \text{ pb}$ $-1.25 \text{ pb}$
$\pm 1.86\%$	$+2.61\%$ $-2.58\%$

$\delta(\text{scale})$	$\delta(\text{trunc})$	$\delta(\text{PDF-TH})$	$\delta(\text{EW})$	$\delta(t, b, c)$	$\delta(1/m_t)$
$+0.10 \text{ pb}$ $-1.15 \text{ pb}$	$\pm 0.18 \text{ pb}$	$\pm 0.56 \text{ pb}$	$\pm 0.49 \text{ pb}$	$\pm 0.40 \text{ pb}$	$\pm 0.49 \text{ pb}$
$+0.21\%$ $-2.37\%$	$\pm 0.37\%$	$\pm 1.16\%$	$\pm 1\%$	$\pm 0.83\%$	$\pm 1\%$

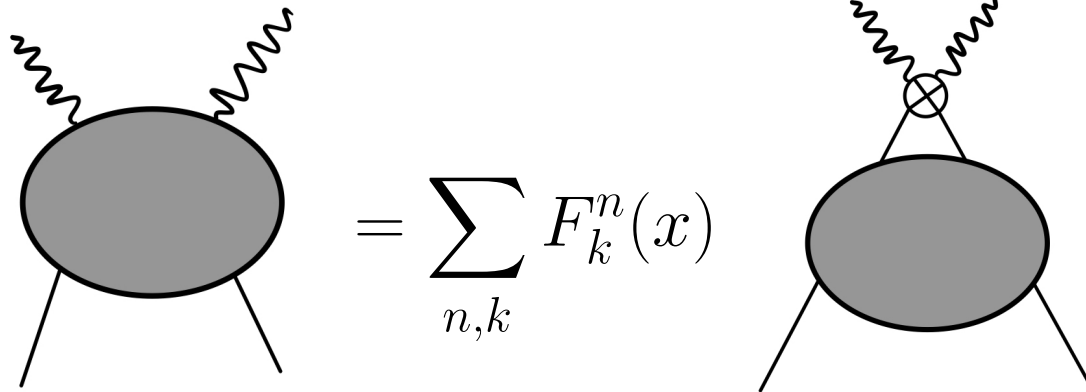
# Mellin moments $\gamma_{ij}(N)$

- ▣  $\gamma_{ij}(N)$  are important:
  - DGLAB becomes ordinary product in Mellin space
  - are related  $p \rightarrow 0$  Taylor expansion of DIS Forward scattering amplitude
  - are the anomalous dimensions of lightcone operators via the OPE

$$\gamma_{ij}(N) = - \int_0^1 dx x^{N-1} P_{ij}(x)$$

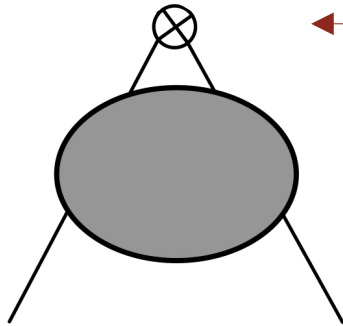
# The OPE method

$$\langle 0|T[\bar{\psi}(-p)J(x)J(0)\psi(p)]|0\rangle = \sum_{n,k} F_k^n(x) \langle 0|T[\bar{\psi}(-p)O_k^n(0)\psi(p)]|0\rangle$$



→ Only need to compute diagrams with operators inserted!

# The OPE method



$$O_g^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = \mathcal{S} F_{\mu}^{\mu_1} D^{\mu_2} \dots D^{\mu_{n-1}} F^{\mu \mu_n}$$

$$O_{q;n_s}^{a;\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = \mathcal{S} \bar{\psi} \lambda^a \gamma^{\mu_1} D^{\mu_2} \dots D^{\mu_n} \psi$$

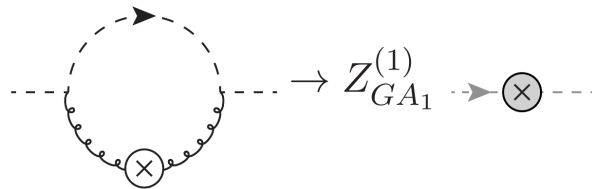
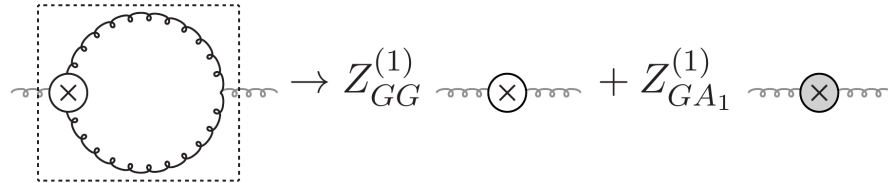
$$O_{q;s}^{\mu_1 \dots \mu_n} = \mathcal{S} \bar{\psi} \gamma^{\mu_1} D^{\mu_2} \dots D^{\mu_n} \psi$$

- Need to compute 2-point *off-shell* correlators with operator insertions. (p-integrals)
- This problem is “solved” up to four loops. Masters [Baykov, Chetyrkin; Smirnov, Smirnov, Lee] and reductions implemented in FORCER [Ruijl, Ueda, Vermaseren]

**Problem:** Offshell correlators are *not* gauge invariant!

# Operator mixing in singlet sector

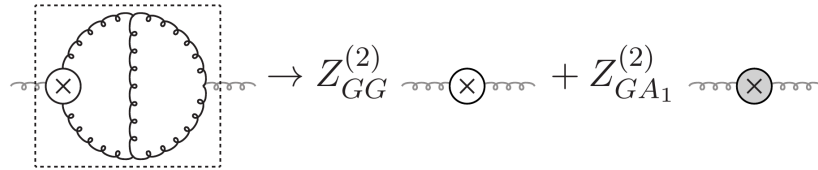
- Gluonic operator (G) mixes with aliens (A1,A2,...) under renormalisation



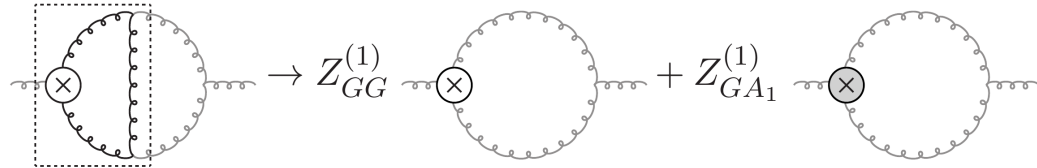


# Operator mixing in singlet sector

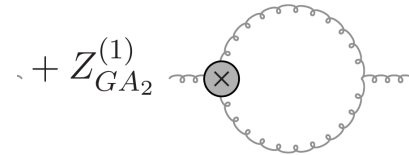
- ▣ Gluonic operator (G) mixes with aliens (A1,A2,...) under renormalisation



- ▣ More legs  $\rightarrow$  more Aliens



- ▣ More loops  $\rightarrow$  more legs in subgraphs  $\rightarrow$  more Aliens



FORCER allows us to get to 4 loops, but we were  
were not the first to arrive



# Dixon Taylor Alien basis

- ▣ Alien and Ghost operators:

(all Lorentz indices contracted with a massless vector)

$$\bar{O}_A = \bar{F}^{a\alpha} \bar{D}_\alpha^{ab} \partial^{m-2} \bar{A}^b - \bar{g} f^{abc} \bar{F}_\alpha^a \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \frac{\kappa_i}{\eta} \partial^\alpha [(\partial^{i-1} \bar{A}^b)(\partial^{m-2-i} \bar{A}^c)] + \mathcal{O}(\bar{g}^2),$$

$$\bar{O}_\omega = -\xi^a \partial^m \bar{\omega}^a - \bar{g} f^{abc} \bar{\xi}^a \sum_{i=1}^{m-2} \frac{\eta_i}{\eta} \partial [(\partial^{m-2-i} \bar{A}^b)(\partial^i \bar{\omega}^c)] + \mathcal{O}(\bar{g}^2),$$

- ▣ Was used by Van-Neerven&Hamberg to *correctify* OPE computations at 2-loop

# 2022 Beyond Dixon Taylor basis

▣ General Method for Alien basis only available since *last year*

➤ Based on Generalised gauge+BRST invariance [Falcioni, FH]

A1	$\mathcal{O}_{\text{EOM}}^{(N),1} = \eta (D.F)^a \partial^{N-2} A^a$	$\mathcal{O}_G^{(N),1} = -\eta (\partial \bar{c}^a) (\partial^{N-1} c^a),$
A2	$\mathcal{O}_{\text{EOM}}^{(N),2} = g(D.F)^a \sum_{\substack{i+j= \\ =N-3}} C_{ij}^{abc} (\partial^i A^b) (\partial^j A^c)$	$\mathcal{O}_G^{(N),2} = -g \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2 \\ =N-3}} \tilde{C}_{i_1 i_2}^{a; a_1 a_2} (\partial \bar{c}^a) (\partial^{i_1} A^{a_1}) (\partial^{i_2+1} c^{a_2}),$
A3	$\mathcal{O}_{\text{EOM}}^{(N),3} = g^2(D.F)^a \sum_{\substack{i+j+k \\ =N-4}} C_{ijk}^{abcd} (\partial^i A^b) (\partial^j A^c) (\partial^k A^d)$	$\mathcal{O}_G^{(N),3} = -g^2 \sum_{\substack{i_1+i_2+i_3 \\ =N-4}} \tilde{C}_{i_1 i_2 i_3}^{a; a_1 a_2 a_3} (\partial \bar{c}^a) (\partial^{i_1} A^{a_1}) (\partial^{i_2} A^{a_2}) (\partial^{i_3+1} c^{a_3}),$
A4	$\mathcal{O}_{\text{EOM}}^{(N),4} = g^3(D.F)^a \sum_{\substack{i+j+k+l \\ =N-5}} C_{ijkl}^{abcde} (\partial^i A^b) (\partial^j A^c) (\partial^k A^d) (\partial^l A^e)$	$\mathcal{O}_G^{(N),4} = -g^3 \sum_{\substack{i_1+\dots+i_4 \\ =N-5}} \tilde{C}_{i_1 i_2 i_3 i_4}^{a; a_1 a_2 a_3 a_4} (\partial \bar{c}^a) (\partial^{i_1} A^{a_1}) (\partial^{i_2} A^{a_2}) (\partial^{i_3} A^{a_3}) (\partial^{i_4+1} c^{a_4}).$

➤ Alternative approach not based on operators  
[Gehrmann, von Manteuffel, Yang]

# History of splitting functions

Please accept my apologies: this is not complete

## ▣ LO (one loop)

- *OPE in physical gauge:*  
1973: Georgi & Politzer; Gross & Wilczek
- *OPE in Feynman gauge:*  
1974: Dixon and Taylor

## ▣ NLO (two loops)

- *OPE in Feynman gauge:*  
1977-1979 Floratos, Ross & Sachrajda **with ERROR in singlet**  
1980 Gonzalez-Arroyo&Lopez **with ERROR in singlet**  
1993 Van Neerven & Hamberg **CORRECT!**
- *Factorisation in axial gauge:*  
1980 Curci, Furmanski, Petronzio **CORRECT!**

## ▣ NNLO (three loops)

- *Extracted from DIS:*  
2000 (nonsinglet), 2004 (singlet) Moch, Vermaseren, Vogt
- N3LO calculations:  
2016 [Anastasiou, Duhr, Dulat, FH, Mistlberger]; 2020 [Duhr, Dulat, Mistlberger]
- Massive onshell OPE:  
2017 (singlet NF) [Ablinger, Behring, Blümlein, De Freitas, von Manteuffel];..
- OPE:  
2021 (non-singlet) [Blümlein, Marquard, Schneider, Schönwald];
- Complete OPE:  
2022 [Gehrmann, von Manteuffel, Yang ]

# N3LO/4-loops and beyond

## ▣ OPE method

- 1996 **Leading Nf** all orders [Gracey]
- Non-singlet:
  - 2017 **Subleading Nf; Leading Nc; Approx. from N<22** [Davies, Vogt, Ruijl, Ueda, Vermaseren]
  - 2018 **5-loop N=2,3** [Herzog, Moch, Ruijl, Ueda, Vermaseren, Vogt]
- Singlet:
  - 2023 **Approx N<22 for P<sub>qq</sub> and P<sub>qg</sub>** [Falcioni, FH Moch, Vogt]
  - 2023 **Subleading Nf for P<sub>qq</sub>** [Gehrmann, von Manteuffel, Yang]

## ▣ DIS Taylor expansion

- Singlet:
  - 2021-23 **N<14** [Moch, Ruijl, Ueda, Vermaseren, Vogt]

# Results: 4-loop pure singlet

▣ First 20 moments known:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=2) &= -691.5937093 n_f + 84.77398149 n_f^2 + 4.466956849 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=4) &= -109.3302335 n_f + 8.776885259 n_f^2 + 0.306077137 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=6) &= -46.03061374 n_f + 4.744075766 n_f^2 + 0.042548957 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=8) &= -24.01455020 n_f + 3.235193483 n_f^2 - 0.007889256 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=10) &= -13.73039387 n_f + 2.375018759 n_f^2 - 0.021029241 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=12) &= -8.152592251 n_f + 1.819958178 n_f^2 - 0.024330231 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=14) &= -4.840447180 n_f + 1.438327380 n_f^2 - 0.024479943 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=16) &= -2.751136330 n_f + 1.164299642 n_f^2 - 0.023546009 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=18) &= -1.375969240 n_f + 0.960873318 n_f^2 - 0.022264393 n_f^3, \\
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=20) &= -0.442681568 n_f + 0.805745333 n_f^2 - 0.020918264 n_f^3.
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \gamma_{\text{ps}}^{(3)}(N=20) &= n_f C_F^3 \left( \frac{2128032487727689123396891103081423002879945894061}{236298858959429600796016734112798923362304000000} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{7463032385600125416449}{7804464223042296810000} \zeta_3 + \frac{9834028074797}{14900178793500} \zeta_4 - \frac{178084}{153615} \zeta_5 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f C_A C_F^2 \left( -\frac{8442281731349030891500282315883757515259615913}{1413270687556397133947468505459323704320000000} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{13512345934144930064021}{10405952297389729080000} \zeta_3 - \frac{7936779238702}{3725044698375} \zeta_4 + \frac{89042}{460845} \zeta_5 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f C_A^2 C_F \left( \frac{250450109018215553669333751863263807123028219}{119012268425801863911365768880785154048000000} \right. \\
 &\quad \left. + \frac{40625424437896114995230699}{18397723661785041013440000} \zeta_3 + \frac{164760066767}{112031419500} \zeta_4 - \frac{4694036}{1382535} \zeta_5 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f \frac{d_{\text{R}}^{abcd} d_{\text{R}}^{abcd}}{n_c} \left( \frac{124046988016629781809318499469746921}{1840118243383345660115052672000000} + \frac{34660205433264885994007}{1100342324269440252000} \zeta_3 \right. \\
 &\quad \left. - \frac{48237328}{460845} \zeta_5 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f^2 C_F^2 \left( -\frac{20553091730130297702276618606953655791}{71772053747957053386934630643251200000} - \frac{2842660003013}{7450089396750} \zeta_3 + \frac{89042}{460845} \zeta_4 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f^2 C_A C_F \left( \frac{688560020231378646396927215051130832957}{1602729320537086079392450022635008000000} + \frac{1316792611}{7223745375} \zeta_3 - \frac{89042}{460845} \zeta_4 \right) \\
 &\quad + n_f^3 C_F \left( -\frac{46235817346069201871585241841}{990993385042051234188945600000} + \frac{178084}{6912675} \zeta_3 \right). \tag{A.12}
 \end{aligned}$$

# Strategy for approximations

- ▣ Fit 80 *trial* functions which include
  - known small-x (BFKL) and large-x (soft) terms
  - 10 polynomials different for each trial function

e.g. 
$$P_{\text{ps,A}}^{(3)}(n_f = 3, x) = p_{\text{ps,0}}^{(n_f=3)}(x) + 67731 x_1 L_0/x + 274100 x_1/x + 40006 L_0^3 + 10620 L_0^2$$

$$+ 353656 x_1 L_0 - 2365.1 x_1 L_1^2 - 7412.1 x_1 L_1 + 1533.0 x_1^2 L_1^2 - 104493 x_1(1+2x) + 34403 x_1 x^2,$$

**Known (rounded) endpoint behaviour:**

$$p_{\text{ps,0}}^{(n_f)}(x) = n_f \left\{ 1749.227 L_0^2/x - (7.506173 - 0.7901235 n_f) L_0^6 \right.$$

$$+ (28.54979 + 3.792593 n_f) L_0^5 - (854.8001 - 77.36626 n_f + 0.1975309 n_f^2) L_0^4$$

$$- (199.1111 - 13.69547 n_f) x_1^2 L_1^3 - 13.16872 x_1^2 L_1^4 - (247.5505 - 40.55967 n_f$$

$$\left. + 1.580247 n_f^2) x_1 L_1^3 - (56.46091 - 3.621399 n_f) x_1 L_1^4 \right\}.$$

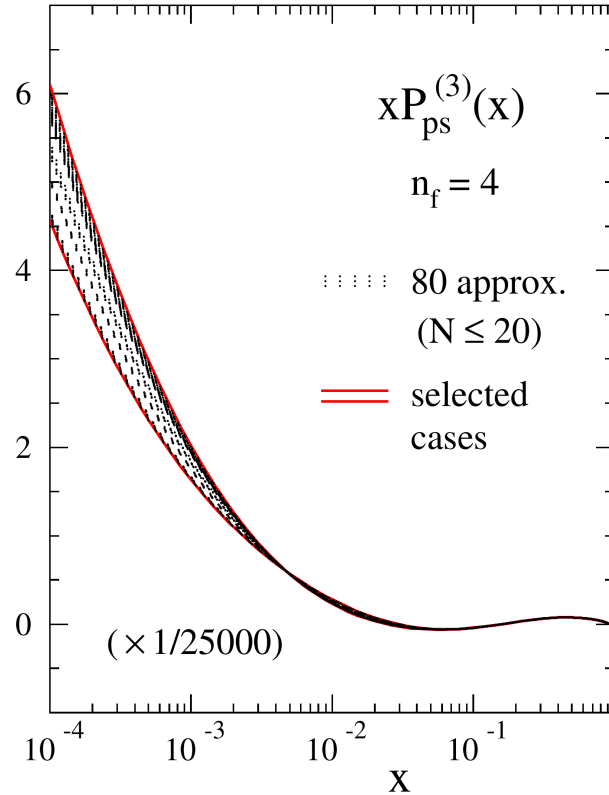
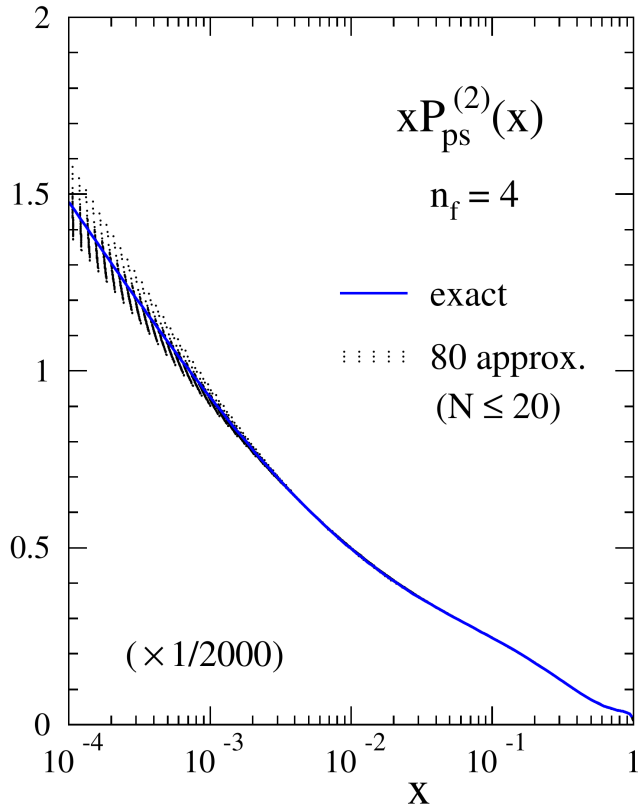
$$x_1 = 1 - x$$

$$L_1 = \log 1 - x$$

$$L_0 = \log x$$

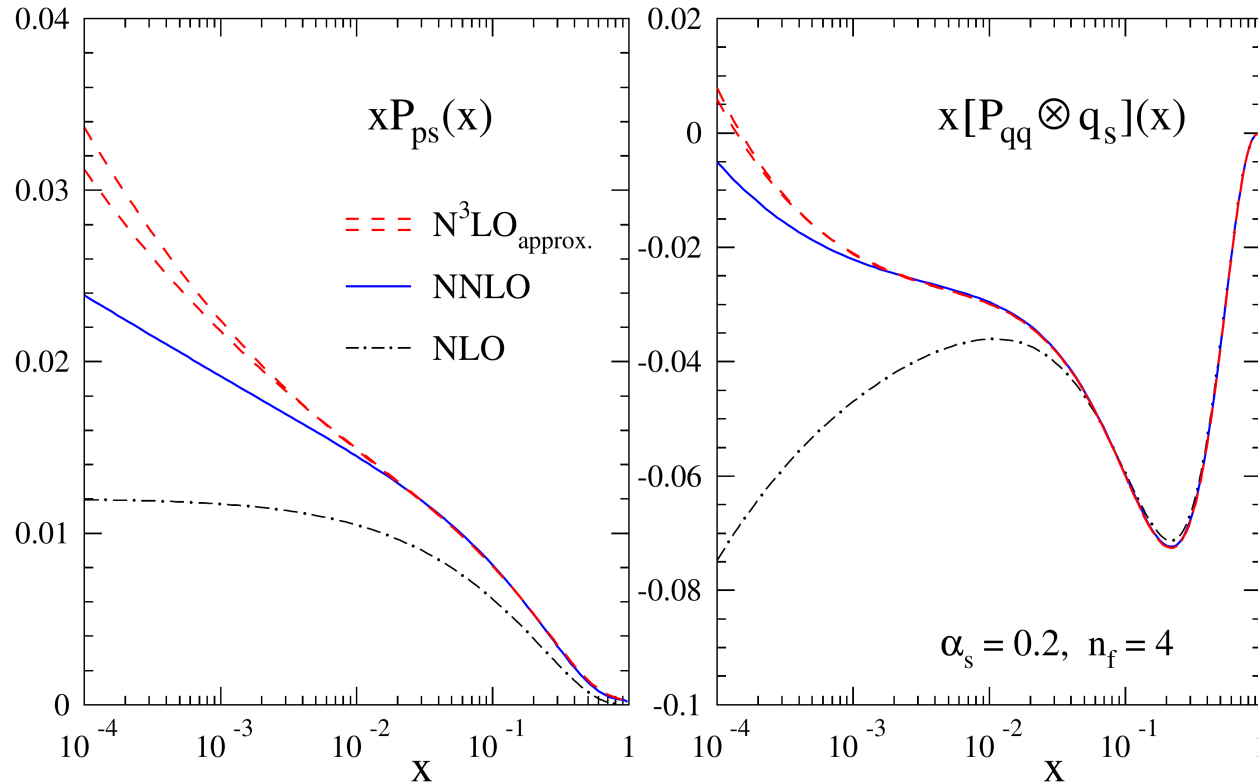


# Approximations $P_{ps}$



- ▣ Strategy works well at NNLO
- ▣ Small  $x$  uncertainties increase for  $x < 10^{-3}$

# Approximations $P_{ps}$

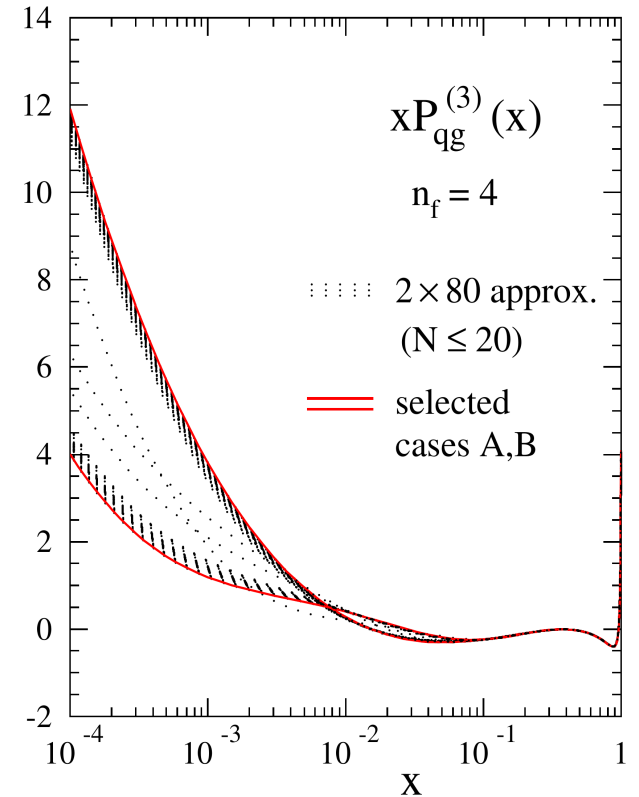
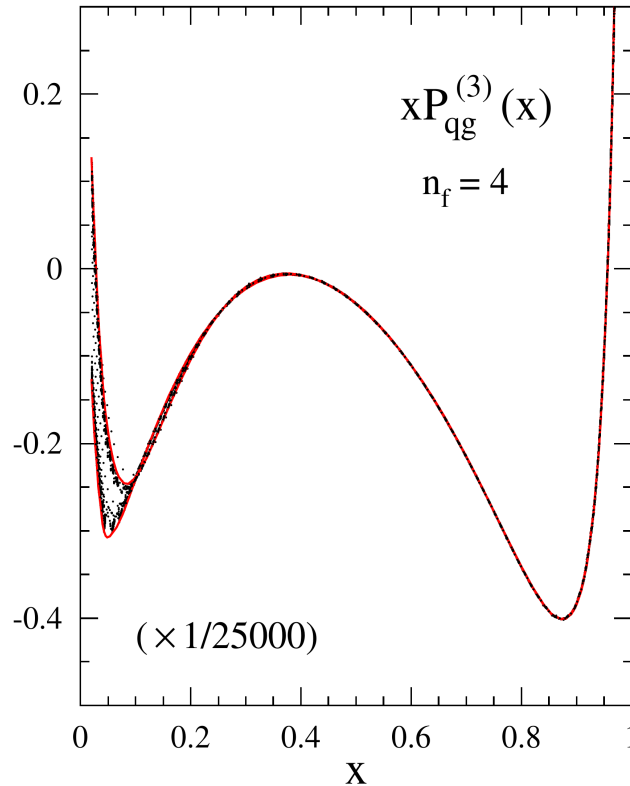


- ▣ Perturbative corrections large at small  $x$
- ▣ Convolution with PDF suppresses small- $x$  uncertainty

$$xq_s(x, \mu_0^2) = 0.6x^{-0.3}(1-x)^{3.5}(1+5.0x^{0.8})$$

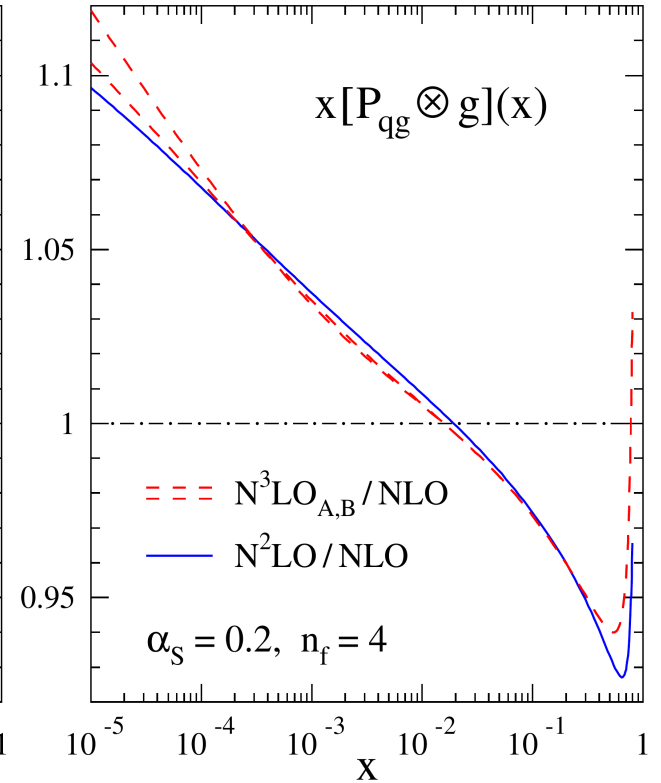
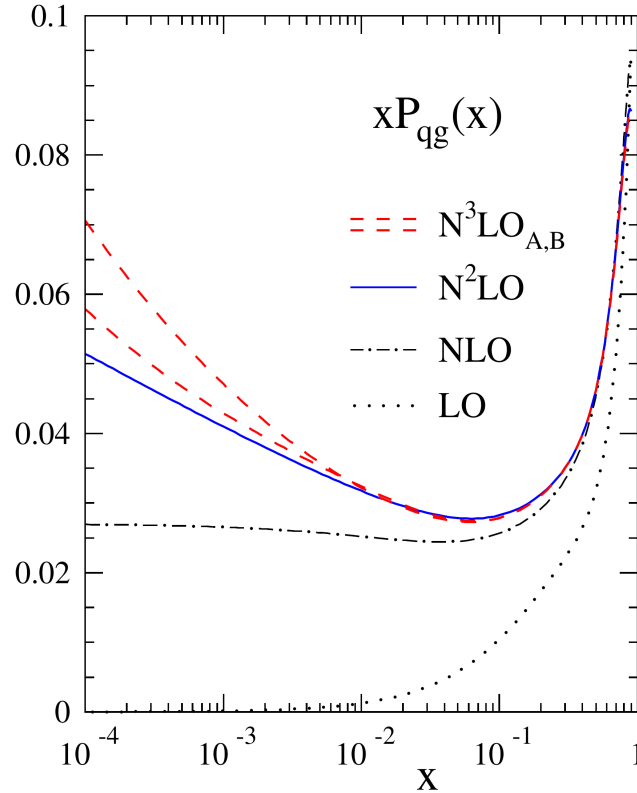
# Approximations $P_{\text{qg}}$

- Approximations for  $P_{\text{qg}}$  are worse than for  $P_{\text{ps}}$
- Large errors already at  $x \sim 0.005$



# Approximations $P_{qg}$

- As for  $P_{ps}$ , PDF convolution compresses small- $x$  uncertainty

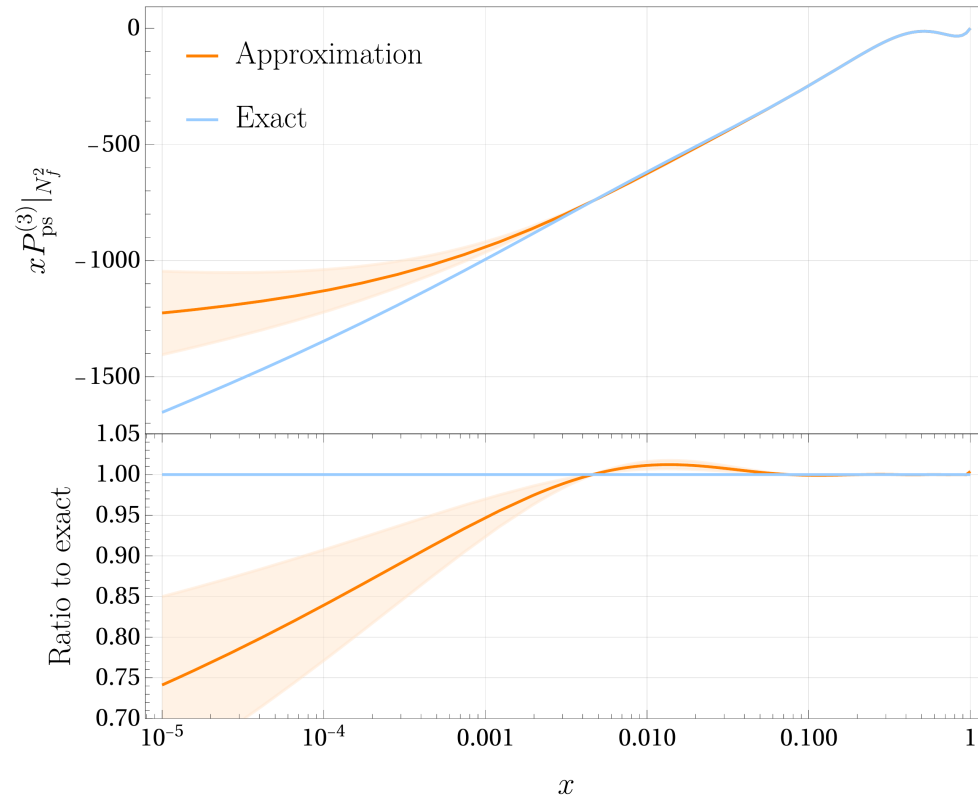


# Summary/Outlook

- ▣ Reviewed status of N3LO OPE calculations for splitting functions
  - Alien's operator basis finally well understood
- ▣ Presented approximations for  $P_{ps}$  and  $P_{qg}$  from first 10 Mellin moments + known endpoint behaviour
  - Small  $x$ -uncertainties still fairly large, (more knowledge about logs could help!)
  - Pdf convolution has small uncertainties even at small  $x$
  - Likely sufficient for most pheno-applications
- ▣ Calculations for  $P_{gq}$  and  $P_{gg}$  are almost finished and we expect to publish first 20 moments & approximations soon!

# Backup

# Plot in 2308.07958



# General Structure of Aliens

$$F^{\mu;a} = \Delta_{\nu} F^{\mu\nu;a}, \quad A^a = \Delta_{\mu} A^{\mu;a}, \quad D = \Delta_{\mu} D^{\mu}, \quad \partial = \Delta_{\mu} \partial^{\mu}.$$

$$\Delta^2 = 0$$

$$\mathcal{O}_G^{(N)} + \mathcal{O}_{\text{EOM}}^{(N)} = s(\partial \bar{c}^a \mathcal{G}^a) + \frac{\delta S}{\delta A_a} \mathcal{G}^a$$

$$\mathcal{G}^a = \sum_{\substack{i_1 + \dots + i_k \\ = N - k - 1}} C_{i_1 \dots i_k}^{a; a_1 \dots a_k} (\partial^{i_1} A^{a_1}) \dots (\partial^{i_k} A^{a_k})$$



# Alien examples N=2,4

▣ N=2:

$$\mathcal{O}_2^{(2)} = (D.F)^a A^a + \bar{c}^a \partial^2 c^a$$

▣ N=4

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_2^{(4)} = & (D.F)^a \left[ \partial^2 A^a + g f^{aa_1 a_2} A^{a_1} \partial A^{a_2} \right] - \partial \bar{c}^a \partial^3 c^a - g f^{aa_1 a_2} \partial \bar{c}^a \left[ 2A^{a_1} \partial^2 c^{a_2} + \partial A^{a_1} \partial c^{a_2} \right] \\ & - g^2 (ff)^{aa_1 a_2 a_3} \partial \bar{c}^a A^{a_1} A^{a_2} \partial c^{a_3}, \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_3^{(4)} = d^{aa_1 a_2 a_3} \left[ (D.F)^a A^{a_1} A^{a_2} A^{a_3} - 3 \partial \bar{c}^a A^{a_1} A^{a_2} \partial c^{a_3} \right].$$

# Including limits in pure singlet

terms in the limits  $x \rightarrow 0, 1$ . At small  $x$ , the coefficient of the leading logarithm  $(\ln^2 x)/x$  is known since long [47], as well as those of the highest three sub-dominant logarithms  $\ln^k x$  with  $k = 6, 5, 4$ , see ref. [48]. At large  $x$ , the leading terms are of the form  $(1-x)^j \ln^k(1-x)$  with  $j \geq 1$  and  $k \leq 4$ . The coefficients for  $k = 4, 3$  are known [49] for all  $j$ . With the 10 Mellin moments  $N \leq 20$  in

- [47] S. Catani and F. Hautmann, *High-energy factorization and small  $x$  deep inelastic scattering beyond leading order*, *Nucl. Phys. B* **427** (1994) 475–524, [hep-ph/9405388](#)
- [48] J. Davies, C. H. Kom, S. Moch and A. Vogt, *Resummation of small- $x$  double logarithms in QCD: inclusive deep-inelastic scattering*, *JHEP* **08** (2022) 135, [arXiv:2202.10362](#)
- [49] G. Soar, S. Moch, J. A. M. Vermaseren and A. Vogt, *On Higgs-exchange DIS, physical evolution kernels and fourth-order splitting functions at large  $x$* , *Nucl. Phys. B* **832** (2010) 152–227, [arXiv:0912.0369](#)