Physical Gluons and high-$E_T$ Jets.

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Abstract

We propose a more physical parameterization of the gluon distribution for global parton analyses of deep inelastic and related hard scattering data. In the new parameterization the gluon distribution at large $x$ in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$-scheme is driven by the valence quarks, which naturally produces a shoulder-like form at high $x$, and hence produces a better description of the Tevatron inclusive jet data. We perform the new analysis at both NLO and NNLO. The improvement is found to be even better at NNLO than at NLO. We make available the new sets of NLO and NNLO partons, which we denote by MRST2004.

A detailed knowledge of the partonic structure of the proton is an essential ingredient in the analysis of hard scattering data from $pp$ or $p\bar{p}$ or $ep$ high energy collisions. The parton distributions are determined by a global analysis of a wide range of deep inelastic and related hard scattering data. The Bjorken $x$ dependence of the distributions is parameterized at some low scale, and a fixed order (either LO or NLO or NNLO) DGLAP evolution performed to specify the distributions at the higher scales where data exist. A global fit to the data then determines the parameters of the input distributions, see, for example, Refs. [1, 2]. The uncertainties in the resulting distributions have been the subject of much detailed study; see, for example, Refs. [3, 4, 5]. The gluon distribution at high $x$, $x \gtrsim 0.3$ is particularly ill-determined. Indeed, in the past, this ambiguity has been exploited to describe 'anomalous' behaviour of the inclusive jet distribution observed at high $E_T$ at the Tevatron.

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Figure 1: The $x$ behaviour of CTEQ6.1M parton distributions, $xf(x, Q^2)$, at $Q^2 = 5 \text{ GeV}^2$.

It is informative to illustrate the present situation for high $x$ gluons and the Tevatron jet data in both the CTEQ and MRST global analyses. First, we note that the simple spectator counting rules [6] predict the following behaviour at high $x$

$$q_{\text{val}} \sim (1 - x)^3, \quad g(x) \sim (1 - x)^5,$$

for valence quarks and the gluon respectively. From Fig. 1 we see that this behaviour is not true for CTEQ6.1M (NLO) partons [2]. The gluon is harder than both the up and the down quark distributions as $x \to 1$, which results in a good fit to the Tevatron jet data. On the other hand, the MRST parameterizations do not naturally allow such a hard gluon and, as a consequence the description of the jet data is not quite so good, the $\chi^2$ being about 30 units higher. In fact we have noticed that the problem is worse in the NNLO fit, than in the NLO analysis. The NNLO coefficient functions are positive for $F_2$ at the largest $x$, leading to smaller quarks and a larger gluon is consequently needed for a good fit.

Sometime ago Klasen and Kramer [10] noticed that the description of the jet data was better in the DIS factorization scheme than in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme. This is for reasons which we will discuss in a moment. Note that the latter scheme is the default adopted in the global analyses. Of

\footnote{Such plots can be readily obtained from http://durpdg.dur.ac.uk/hepdata/pdf3.html}
Figure 2: The $x$ behaviour of the CTEQ6.1M and CTEQ6D gluon distributions, $xg(x, Q^2)$, at $Q^2 = 5 \text{ GeV}^2$, obtained from global fits using the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ and DIS factorization schemes respectively.

course, in principle, it should not matter which scheme is used. We can readily transform the partons from one scheme to the other without changing the observables.\footnote{Strictly speaking this is only the case if the NLO, and higher order, splitting functions are not exponentiated in the solution to the renormalization group equations. However, when using the $x$-space evolution programs these terms are exponentiated, so some higher order terms are introduced. As a consequence a scheme difference due to these extra terms appears. Nevertheless, this is a small effect, and unrelated to the results that we highlight in this paper.} However, in practice, the behaviour of a parton can have a particularly simple parameterization in one scheme and much more structure in the other scheme. Since the number of parameters is limited, it is clear that better fits can occur in the scheme in which the parton has the smoother distribution, particularly if the structure is difficult to mimic using a particular parameterization. We shall see that this applies to the behaviour of the gluon at high $x$. The first hint that this might occur can seen from the comparison of the CTEQ6 gluons obtained from separate global analyses performed first in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme and then in the DIS scheme. Fig. 2 shows that the DIS gluon is far softer than the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ gluon. Both are smooth, although a transformation from one to the other would result in some structure. However, the important point to note is the qualitatively completely different behaviour in the two schemes.
The MRST analyses are performed in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme, and the partons are then transformed to obtain the distributions in the DIS scheme. It is found that the gluon becomes negative at high $x$ in the DIS scheme. All the above observations indicate that it is desirable to look more carefully at the parameterization which describes the high $x$ behaviour of the gluon.

Indeed, we are led to propose a new approach to the treatment of the gluon distribution at high $x$. First we note the general form of the transformation which expresses the partons in the DIS factorization scheme in terms of those in the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ scheme [11]. Schematically we have

$$q_{\text{DIS}} = q_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} + C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes q_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} + C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes g_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}, \quad (2)$$

while to obtain the gluon we take

$$g_{\text{DIS}} = g_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes q_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes g_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}.$$

The last transformation is not unique. However it represents the simplest and most natural choice to maintain the 100% momentum carried by the partons. Indeed, this is the conventional choice which has been used in the past to obtain DIS-scheme parton distributions, see for example Refs. [7, 8, 9, 2].

At high $x$, the term $C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes q_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ is effectively negligible. The coefficient function $C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ must be consistent with the Adler sum rule, and hence it has a vanishing zeroth moment (consistent with quark number conservation). However the perturbative coefficients give a large positive contribution at high $x$, behaving as $[\ln^{2n-1}(1-x)/(1-x)]_+$ at order $\alpha^n_s$. Hence the term $C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes q_{\text{MS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ plays a crucial role at high $x$.

Although the partons are significantly different in the two schemes, the jet cross section is rendered unchanged up to NLO by a compensating change in the hard subprocess cross sections. To see this we note that the total jet cross section may be written schematically as

$$\sigma_{\text{jet}} = \sigma_{qq}^i \otimes q^i \otimes q^i + \sigma_{qq}^i \otimes q^i \otimes g^i + \sigma_{qg}^i \otimes g^i \otimes g^i \quad (4)$$

with $i = \overline{\text{MS}}$ or DIS. Thus, using (2) and (3) with the final term neglected, we find, up to NLO, that

$$\sigma_{qq}^{\text{DIS}} = \sigma_{qq}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - 2\sigma_{qq}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} + \sigma_{qg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}, \quad (5)$$

$$\sigma_{qg}^{\text{DIS}} = \sigma_{qg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} + 2\sigma_{qg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - \sigma_{qg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}, \quad (6)$$

$$\sigma_{gg}^{\text{DIS}} = \sigma_{gg}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}. \quad (7)$$

As a result the increase in the high $x$ quark density is compensated by a decrease in the hard subprocess cross section, and the quark-dependent decrease in the gluon is compensated by an increase in the quark-gluon cross-section.

We can now explain the improvement in the quality of the description of the jet data using the DIS scheme that was noted by Klasen and Kramer [10]. They used the CTEQ3M(\overline{\text{MS}}) and

\footnote{For simplicity, it is sufficient in this discussion to ignore the difference between quarks and antiquarks.}
CTEQ3D(DIS) partons in their analysis. The difference between these partons can be seen in Fig. 2 of Ref. [10]. These partons were determined by CTEQ in separate global fits performed in the two schemes. The precise structure function data at high \( x \) forces the quarks to satisfy (2) to good accuracy. On the other hand, at the time of these CTEQ fits [18] there was no strong constraint on the high \( x \) gluon, and consequently it is very similar in the two schemes, clearly in contradiction with (3) (and with the CTEQ6 results shown in Fig. 2 above). Hence the increased hard subprocess cross section \( \sigma_{q g}^{\text{DIS}} \) was not accompanied by a decrease in the gluon distribution, and the prediction for the high \( E_T \) jet cross section increased significantly. However the more precise data that are available now forces the gluon to, at least approximately, respect the transformation relation given in (3). Nevertheless, the complicated nature of the transformation may result in differences in the fits to the data in the two schemes due to the simplicity of the form of the gluon parameterization at high \( x \).

The DIS factorization scheme is certainly more natural for quarks. The \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme was devised to be particularly simple when using the standard, but unphysical, dimensional regularization procedure for regularization of infrared singularities. Moreover if, as expected, the high \( x \) valence quarks dominate the high \( x \) gluon in the DIS scheme\(^5\), then, according to transformation (3), the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) gluon in the high \( x \) limit is determined by the behaviour of the valence quarks

\[
g^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \simeq g^{\text{DIS}} + C_{2,q}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes q^{\overline{\text{MS}}}.
\]

(8)

It is therefore natural to adopt the following procedure. We parameterize the DIS gluon at the input scale so that its large \( x \) behaviour is governed by the conventional form \( (1 - x)^{\eta_g^{\text{DIS}}} \). Then, as usual, we perform the global fit in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme, but now with the input gluon parameterized according to (8). To be precise we take

\[
g^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(x, Q_0^2) = g^{\text{DIS}}(x, Q_0^2) + C_{2,\text{NS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \otimes \sum_{q=u,d} q_{\text{val}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(x, Q_0^2),
\]

(9)

with \( Q_0^2 = 1 \text{ GeV}^2 \). We note that our input gluon has exactly the same number of parameters as usual. At NLO the non-singlet coefficient function is

\[
C_{2,\text{NS}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(x) = \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi} \left[ 2 \left( \frac{\ln(1 - x)}{1 - x} \right)_+ - \frac{3}{2} \left( \frac{1}{1 - x} \right)_+ - (1 + x) \ln(1 - x) \right. \\
\left. - \frac{1 + x^2}{1 - x} \ln x + 3 + 2x - \left( \frac{\pi^2}{3} + \frac{9}{2} \right)(1 - x) \right].
\]

(10)

Thus, for example, if \( q_{\text{val}}^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \) goes like \( A(1 - x)^n \) at high \( x \), then the convolution in (9) gives a behaviour

\[
g^{\overline{\text{MS}}} \sim \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{2\pi} \ln^2(1 - x) A(1 - x)^n
\]

(11)

for the ‘valence-driven’ gluon at high \( x \). That is a \( \log^2 \) enhancement over the fall-off of the valence quark. The NNLO expression of the coefficient function can be found in Ref. [12], and

\(^5\)Recall that if this dominance occurred in the \( \overline{\text{MS}} \) scheme, then the high \( x \) gluon is negative in the DIS scheme.
leads to a leading-log $\ln^4(1-x)$ enhancement. In principle a large-$x$ resummation [13] could be performed. We shall see that the structure of the input form, (9), of the gluon cannot easily be mimicked by a direct $\overline{\text{MS}}$ gluon parameterization. It turns out to be important that the high $x$ gluon is driven by the valence quarks.

We perform global analyses at both NLO and NNLO using the standard cuts on the data ($Q^2 > 2$ GeV$^2$ and $W^2 > 12.5$ GeV$^2$). We use the parameterization of Ref. [1], except that the gluon is first parametrised in the DIS scheme and then transformed according to (9). Indeed, the NLO global analysis with this new gluon parameterization works extremely well, and is even better for the NNLO DGLAP fit. When we performed our previous NNLO analyses [14, 4, 5] the complete set of splitting functions was not available, at this order, and we used the bounds on their behaviour obtained by van Neerven and Vogt [15]. However in the present NNLO analysis we use the splitting functions which have recently become available [16, 17]. Since these exact functions lie approximately centrally within the original bounds, the NNLO partons are essentially unaltered.

First, consider the NLO analysis. Our most recent default gluon\footnote{Since the global analysis of Ref. [4] was performed, we now include in the fit the new NuSea data for Drell-Yan production in $pp$ collisions [19], the high-$Q^2$ 1999-2000 ZEUS data for $F_2$ [20] and the charged-current HERA data [21]. This leads to only minor changes in the partons, but the gluon parameter $\eta_g(\overline{\text{MS}})$ decreases slightly from 3.15 to 2.98, and $\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$ increases slightly to 0.1205, since the increase of the gluon at very high $x$ results in a decrease for $x \sim 0.1$, and so the coupling has to increase to fit the NMC and HERA $F_2$ data.} behaves like $(1-x)^{2.98}$, that is $\eta_g(\overline{\text{MS}}) = 2.98$, corresponding to a $\chi^2 = 154$ description of the D0 and CDF inclusive jet $E_T$ distributions. If, now, we perform a NLO fit with the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ gluon parameterized according to (8) then the description of the jet data is considerably improved, with $\chi^2 = 116$, while $\chi^2$ for the remainder of the data only increases by 12. Interestingly, with the new parameterization the $g^\text{DIS}$ component in (8) behaves as $(1-x)^{4.5}$, much more consistent with the simple counting rule expectations, (1). The resulting ‘DIS-driven’ $\overline{\text{MS}}$ gluon is compared to our previous default $\overline{\text{MS}}$ gluon in Fig. 3 at $Q^2 = 1$ and $Q^2 = 20$ GeV$^2$. The two gluons are shown by continuous and dashed curves respectively. We see that the DIS-driven gluon is considerably larger at very high $x$ (due its quark component), and has a shoulder-like structure at the input scale. The dot-dashed curves show the form of the $g^\text{DIS}$ component of (8), which clearly has a more natural $(1-x)$ behaviour than our previous default gluon. In this new NLO analyses the value of $\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$ has increased slightly from 0.1200 to 0.1205, since the increase of the gluon at very high $x$ results in a decrease for $x \sim 0.1$, and so the coupling has to increase to fit the NMC and HERA $F_2$ data.

The improvement in the NNLO global fit is even better than that at NLO, when the DIS-driven gluon parameterization is used. Now, $\chi^2$ for the description of the D0 and CDF inclusive jet $E_T$ distributions is reduced from 164 to 117, with the overall $\chi^2$ of the global fit decreasing by 79. We illustrate the improvement in Fig. 4 by comparing the default and the new fits to the inclusive jet $E_T$ distributions measured by the D0 Collaboration [22]. The improvement in the description of the CDF inclusive jet data [23] is similar. At NNLO, not only the fit to the jet
Figure 3: The previous (default) MRST NLO $\overline{\text{MS}}$-scheme gluon compared to that obtained when the high $x$ behaviour of the gluon is determined by the quark transformation between $\overline{\text{MS}}$ and DIS schemes, as in (8). The two gluons are shown, respectively, by continuous and dashed curves. Also shown by dot-dashed curves is this latter gluon when transformed to the DIS scheme. Exactly the same data sets are used in the two fits.
Figure 4: The description of the D0 inclusive jet $E_T$ distributions in different rapidity intervals [22] obtained in our standard default NNLO analysis compared to the improvement obtained using the new gluon parameterization of (9). The bands indicate the allowed shifts from the central value for each data point obtained by adding the correlated errors in quadrature. The ‘valence-quark driven’ parametrization of the gluon improves $\chi^2$ for the description of the D0 data from 88 to 64.
Figure 5: The previous default MRST NNLO $\overline{\text{MS}}$-scheme gluon compared to that obtained when the high $x$ behaviour is determined by the quark transformation between $\overline{\text{MS}}$ and DIS schemes. Also shown is this latter gluon when transformed to the DIS scheme.
data, but also to the HERA data, is improved by the new parameterization; or more precisely the relaxation of the tension between the two data sets allows the description of both to improve at NNLO\(^7\). Also, in this case there is even less change in \(\alpha_s(M_Z^2)\) when introducing the new parameterization; it increases from 0.1165 to 0.1167. The new NNLO gluon is compared to our previous NNLO gluon in Fig. 5. The shoulder at high \(x\) is even more pronounced; the additional quark contribution, \(C_{2,g}^{\text{MS},(2)} \otimes q^{\text{MS}}\) is positive and significant at very high \(x\), so the high \(x\) NNLO gluon is even more determined by the quark distributions than that at NLO.

To conclude, there is an inherent instability in the size and shape of the gluon at high \(x\) – it changes dramatically as one goes from one factorization scheme to another. The natural assumption that the high-\(x\) gluon should be smooth, with the usual \((1 - x)\eta_g\) behaviour at high \(x\), in the DIS scheme, results in a relatively large high-\(x\) gluon with structure in the \(\overline{\text{MS}}\) scheme. This is exactly what is needed to give an excellent description of the Tevatron jet data. Indeed, using the quark-driven gluon parametrization given by (9), we find a much improved fit to jet data at NLO, and a dramatic improvement in the fit to both the jet data and the total global fit at NNLO where the scheme dependence increases still further. The main reason for the improvement can be traced to the discussion of the description of the Tevatron jet data in Ref. [14]. From the viewpoint of the DIS factorization scheme, the good fit to the jet data is driven by large valence quarks at high \(x\), and a naturally smaller and smooth gluon. In fact it was already noticed that in a LO fit, where the quarks are very similar to those in the DIS scheme, a good description of the Tevatron jet data could be obtained \((\chi^2 = 123)\), with an input gluon behaving as \((1 - x)^{6.49}\) at high \(x\) [14]. Thus, it is a pleasing, and seemingly natural outcome that the best NLO and NNLO fits\(^8\) (performed in the \(\overline{\text{MS}}\) scheme) come from a high-\(x\) gluon of the form we would intuitively expect in the more physically motivated DIS factorization scheme. However, even if one does not believe that there is any reason for the DIS-scheme gluon to be the more physical at high \(x\), the procedure in this paper provides an extremely successful way to obtain a high-\(x\) gluon of precisely the size and shape needed by the Tevatron jet data within a global fit.

\(^7\)The analysis is repeated with various cuts on \(x\) and \(Q^2\) to see whether the improvement in fit quality after cuts have been applied is reduced by the introduction of the new parameterization. At NLO, when conservative cuts \([5]\) of \(x = 0.005\) and \(Q^2 = 10\ \text{GeV}^2\) are applied and a new fit performed, for the standard parameterization the refit results in an improvement in \(\chi^2\) of 79 compared to the partons obtained from the fit with the default cuts \((x = 0\) and \(Q^2 = 2\ \text{GeV}^2\)). When this procedure is repeated with the new parameterization for the high-\(x\) gluon the improvement due to the refit is reduced to 54. At NNLO, with conservative cuts of \(x = 0.005\) and \(Q^2 = 7\ \text{GeV}^2\) the refitting procedure with the standard parameterization gives an improvement in \(\chi^2\) of 79, and this is reduced to an improvement with refitting of 41 when the new parameterization is used. Hence, in neither case can the new parameterization be said to remove the improvement with refitting after cuts are applied. Nevertheless, the reduction in \(\chi^2\) with refitting comes about in essence due to more gluon moving to high \(x\) when it is allowed to, and the improvement in the shape of the high-\(x\) gluon in the new parameterization clearly moderates this effect.

\(^8\)These parton sets, which we denote by MRST2004, can be found at http://durpdg.dur.ac.uk/hepdata/mrs.html
Acknowledgements

RST would like to thank the Royal Society for the award of a University Research Fellowship. ADM and RGR would both like to thank the Leverhulme Trust for the award of an Emeritus Fellowship. The IPPP gratefully acknowledges financial support from the UK Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.

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