

Towards Gluon PDFs in the Coulomb Gauge

Bill Good
07.27.2026

In Collaboration with:
Joshua Lin, Yong Zhao, Huey-Wen Lin



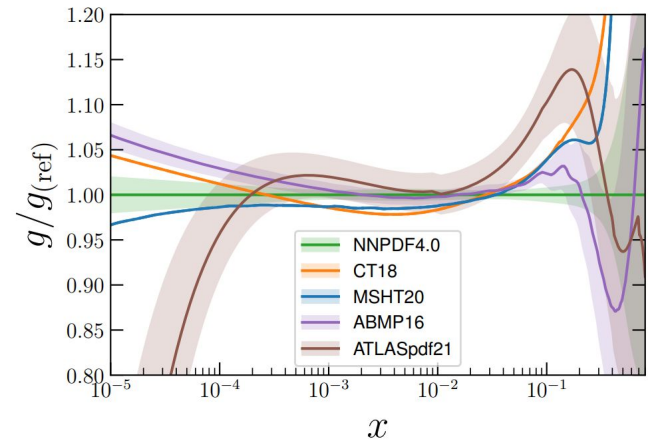
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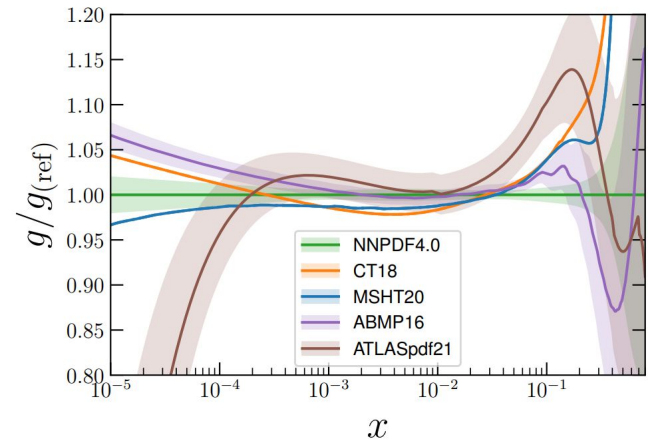
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Amaroso, *et al.* (Snowmass) Acta Physica
Polonica. B, 53, 12 (2023)

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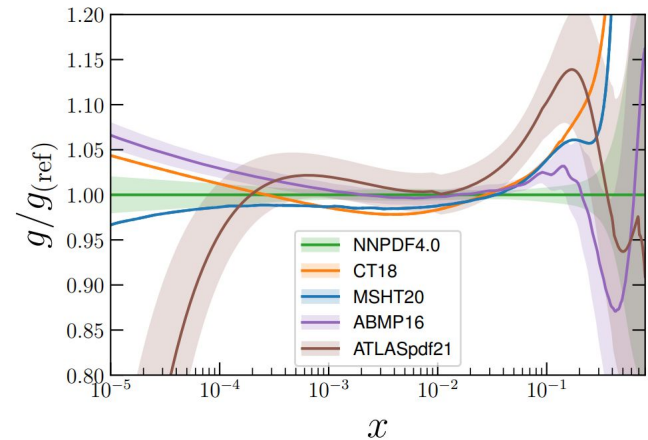
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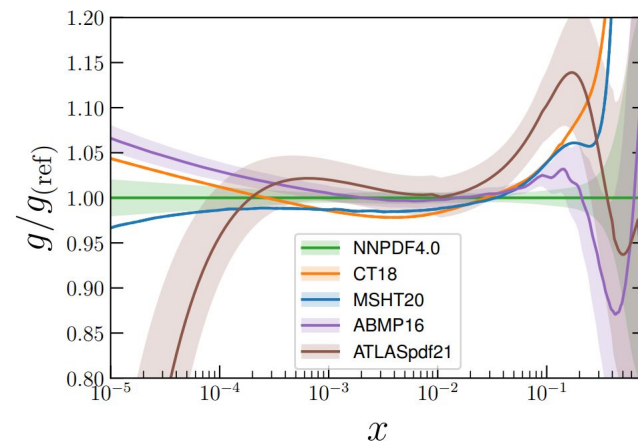
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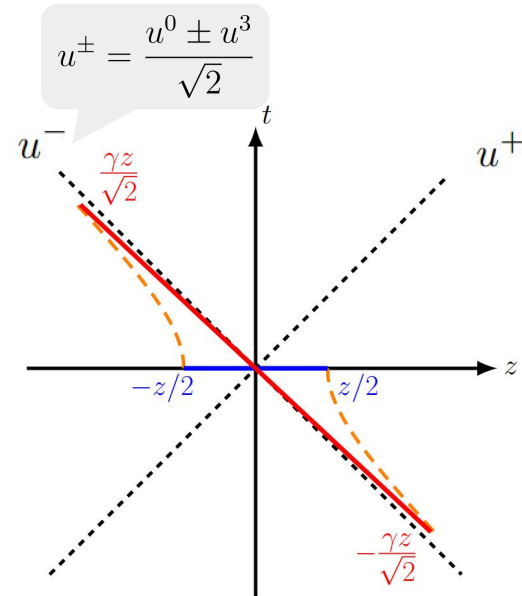
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- Coulomb gauge PDFs promise to reduce statistical error; and in turn allow us to go to higher momenta, lower pion mass, etc.



Light Cone Gluon PDFs

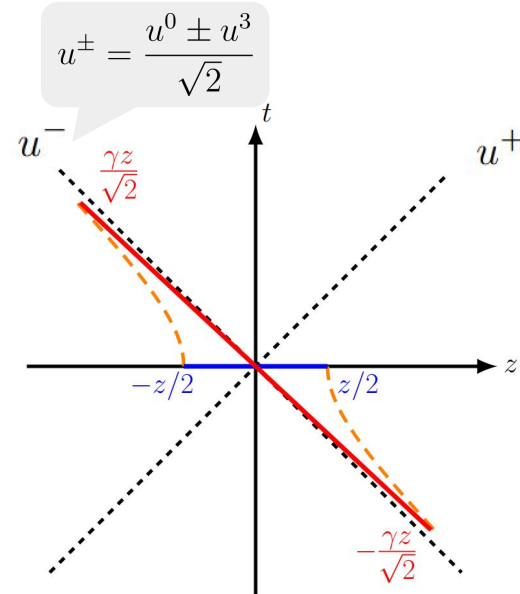
Ji, PRL 110:262002 (2013)
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Light Cone Gluon PDFs

PDFs are formally defined by light-cone (LC) correlations of gluon field strength tensors:

$$g(x) = \frac{1}{xP^+} \int dz^- e^{ixP^+z^-} \langle P | F^{+\mu}(z^-) W(0, z^-) F_{\mu}^+(0) | P \rangle$$

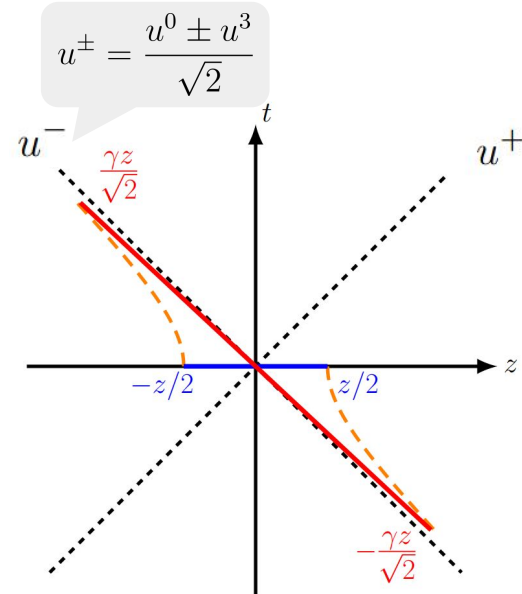


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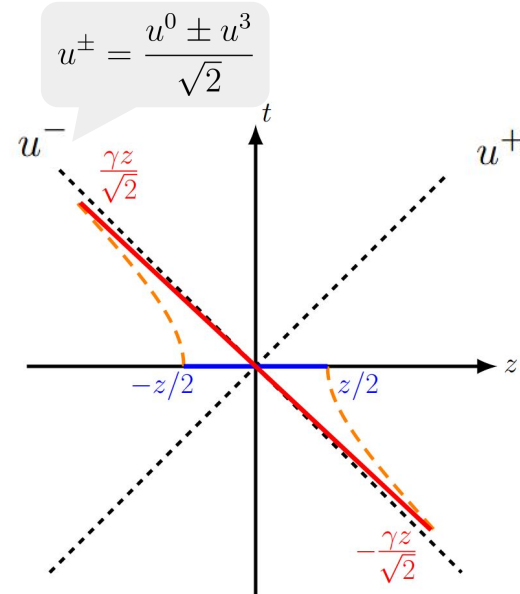
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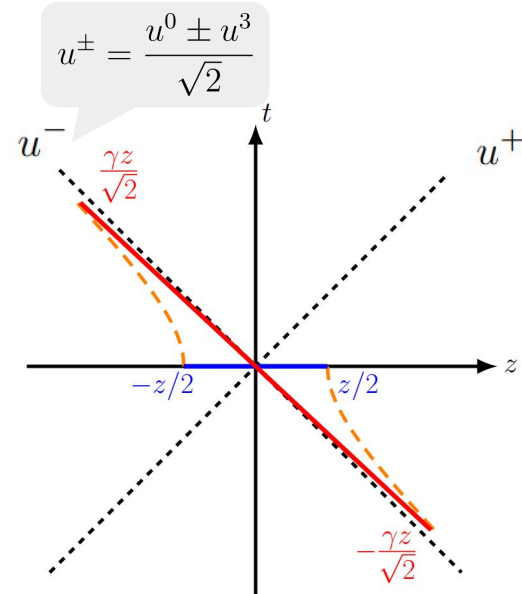
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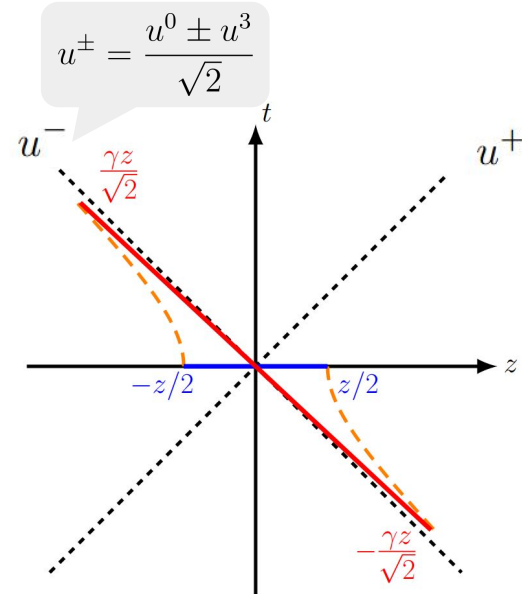
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$$xg(x, \mu^2) = \int dy C_{gg}\left(\frac{x}{y}, \frac{\mu^2}{P_z^2}\right) y \tilde{g}(y, P_z) + C_{gq}\left(\frac{x}{y}, \frac{\mu^2}{P_z^2}\right) \tilde{q}(y, P_z) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{(xP_z)^2}, \frac{\Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2}{((1-x)P_z)^2}\right)$$



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Balitsky, *et al.*, PLB 808:135621 (2020)
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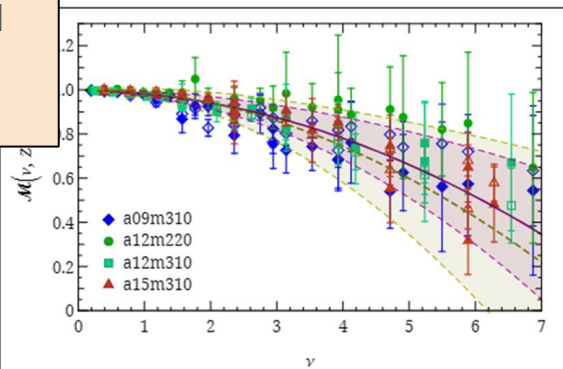
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[MSULat] First physical continuum lattice nucleon gluon PDFs



PRD 108:014508(1), (2023)

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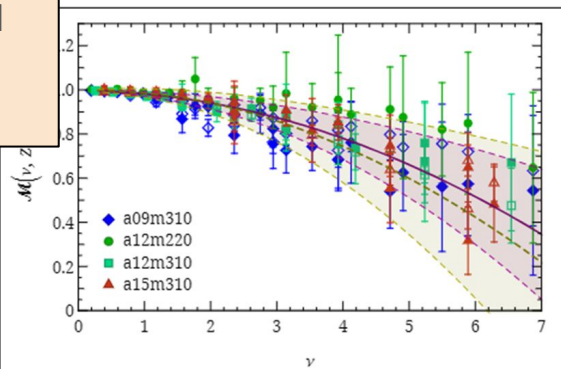
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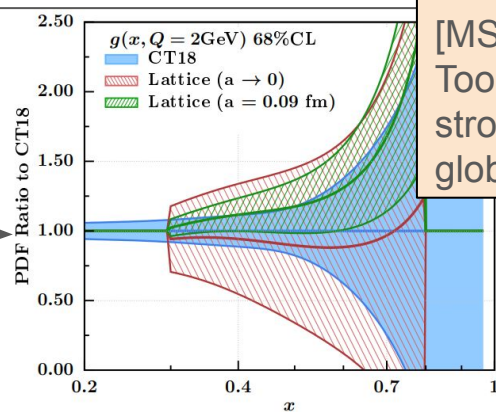
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[MSULat+CTEQ]
Too noisy to
strongly impact
global fit arXiv:2502.10630

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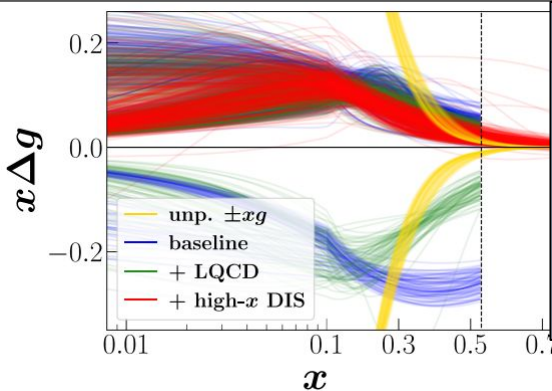
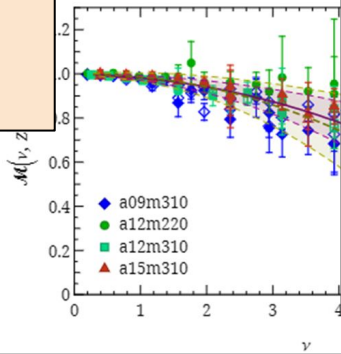
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[Hadstruc+JAM] Gluon helicity sign problem “solved”

PRD 109:036031(3), (2024)
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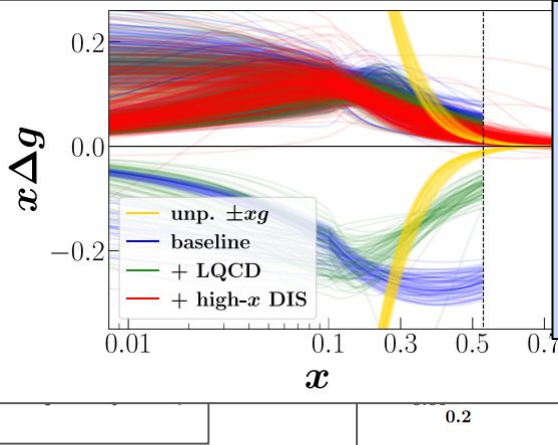
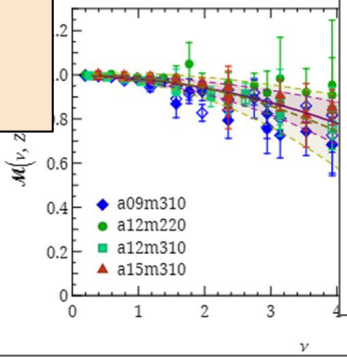
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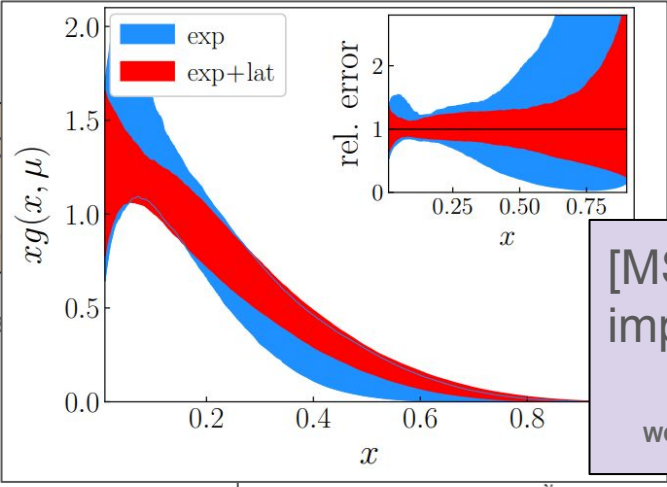
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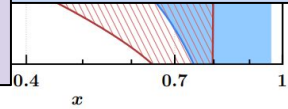
[MSULat+JAM] Strong impact on pion gluon PDF
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[MSULat continuum nucleon

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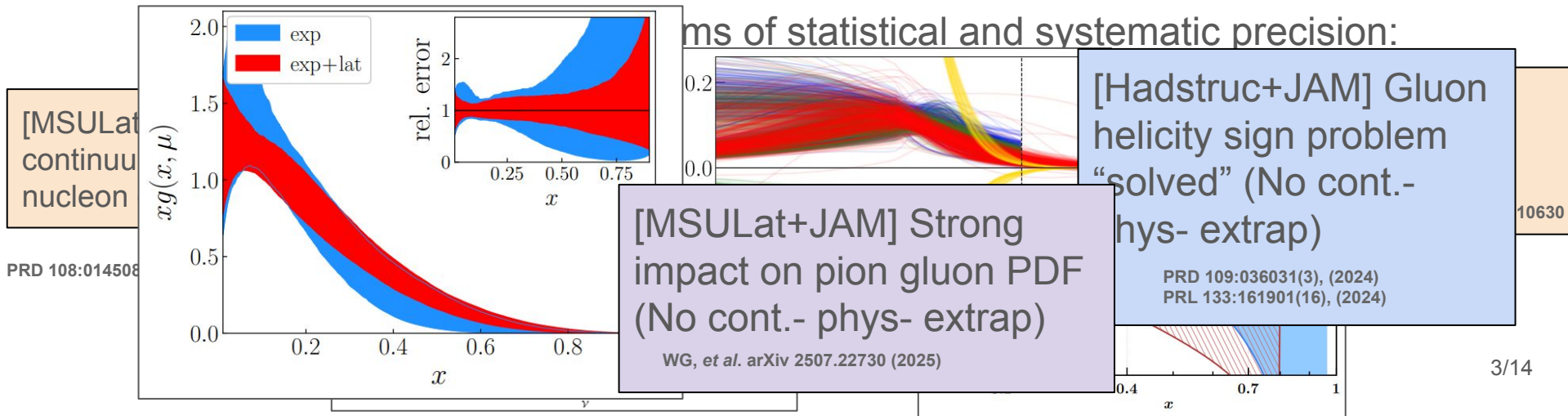
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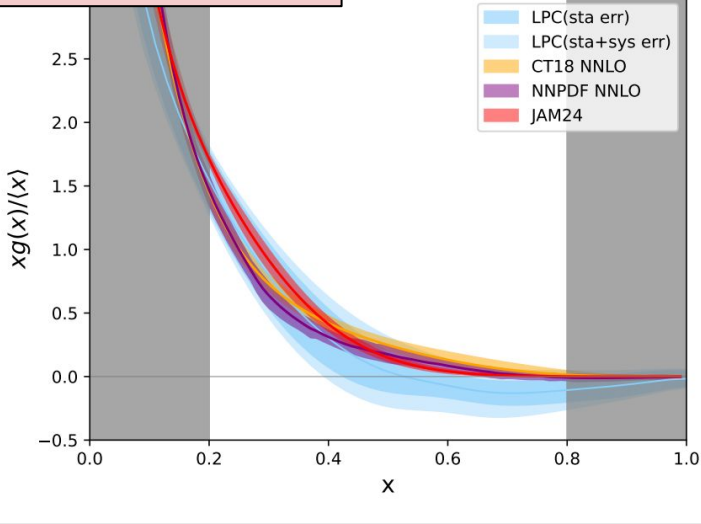
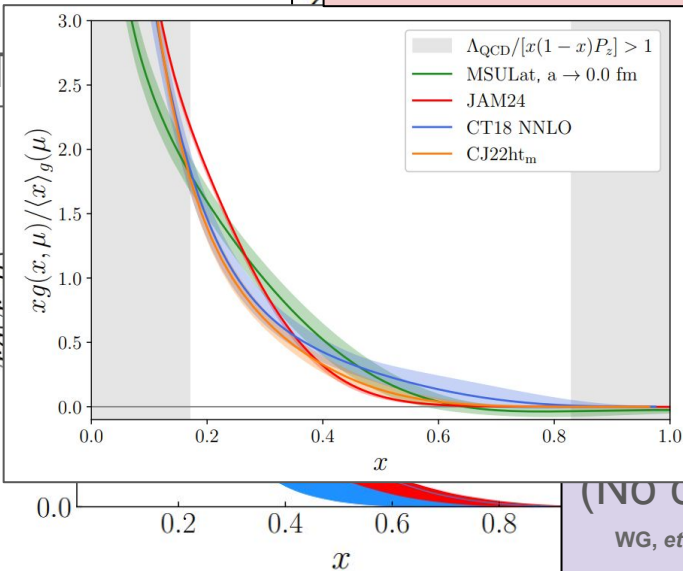
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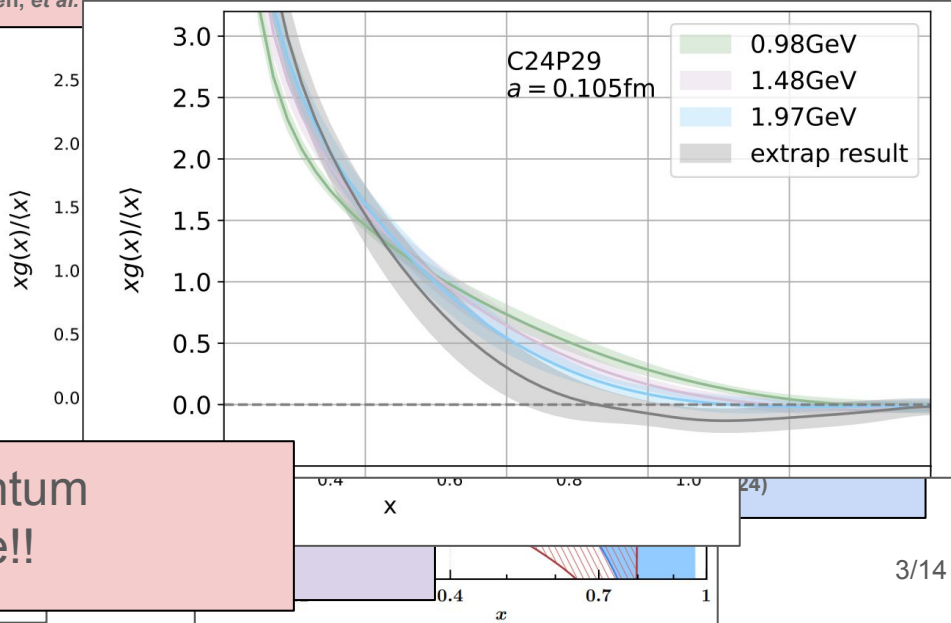
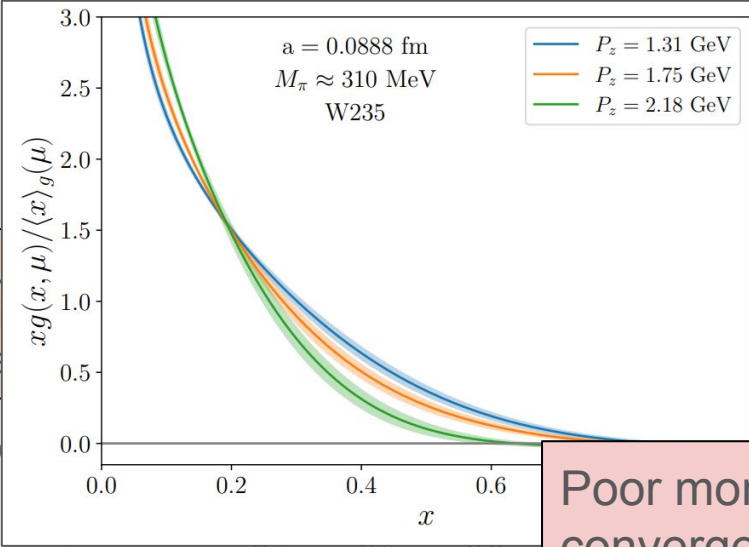
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Poor momentum convergence!!

Coulomb Gauge to the Rescue

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- I will give a quick demo showing that the GI gluon operators have no linear divergence on the lattice and show our progress towards calculating the perturbative matching

Quick Proof of Principle

Follana *et al.* PRD 75:054502, 2007.

A. Bazavov, *et al.* [MILC], PRD 82:074501, 2010.

A. Bazavov, *et al.* [MILC], PRD 87:054505, 2013.

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- As a check, I was able to do a quick and dirty extraction of “strange nucleon” matrix elements from the traditional gluon operator with the Wilson lines removed on several lattice spacings

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a (fm)	0.0888(8)	0.1207(11)	0.1510(20)
$L^3 \times T$	$32^3 \times 96$	$24^3 \times 64$	$16^3 \times 48$
$M_{\eta_s}^{\text{val}}$ (GeV)	0.698(7)	0.6841(6)	0.687(1)
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$N_{\text{meas}}^{2\text{pt}}$	1,378,944	1,555,968	950,400

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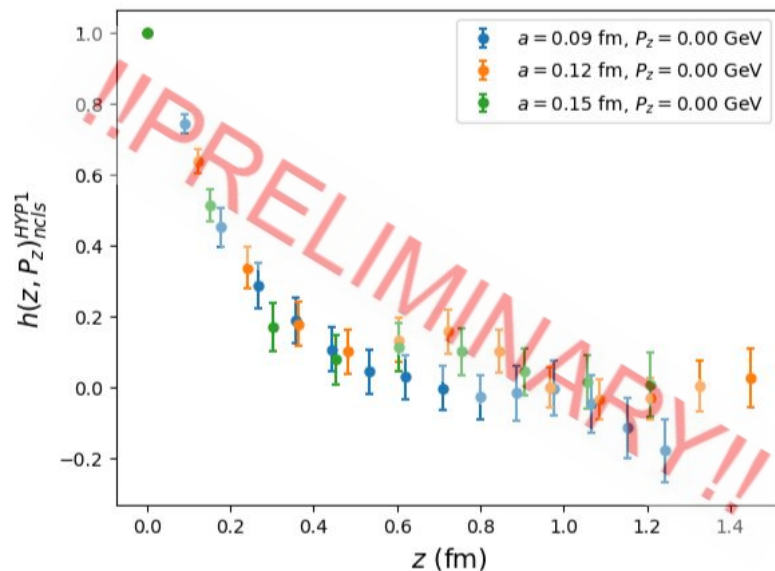
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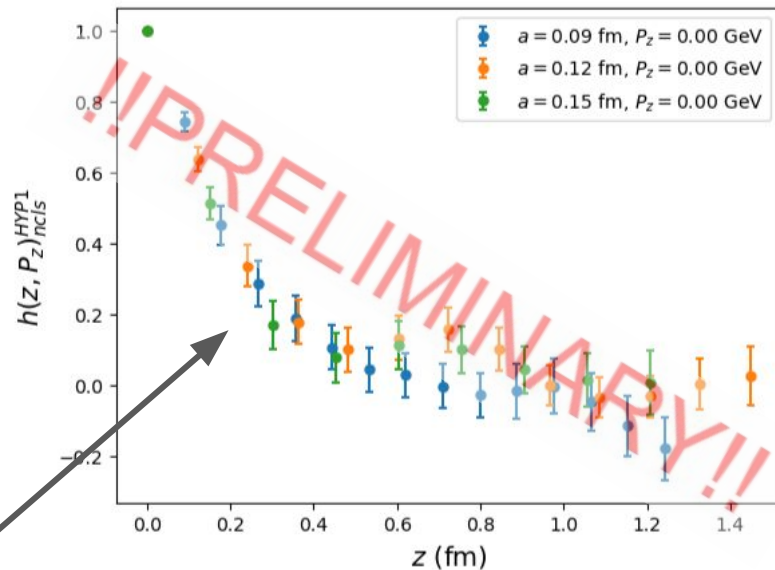
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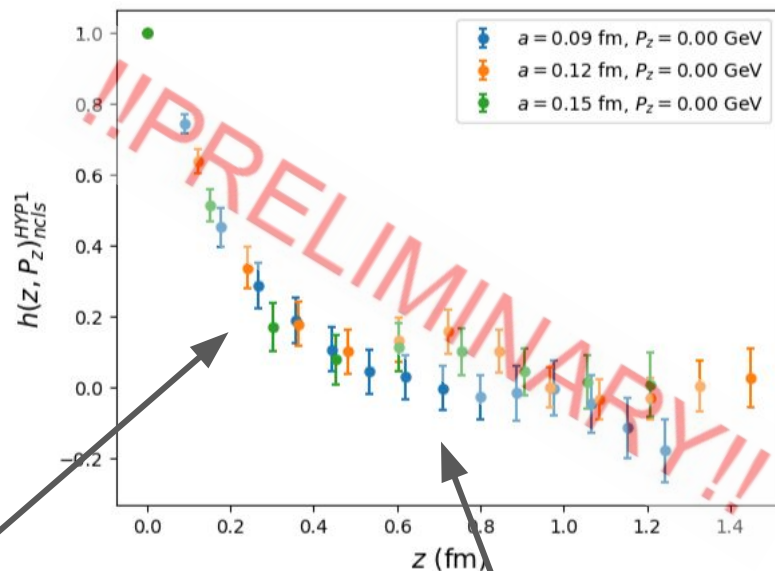
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Slight tension is likely from my sloppy preliminary matrix element fits

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- Matching to relevant lattice renormalization schemes is straightforward

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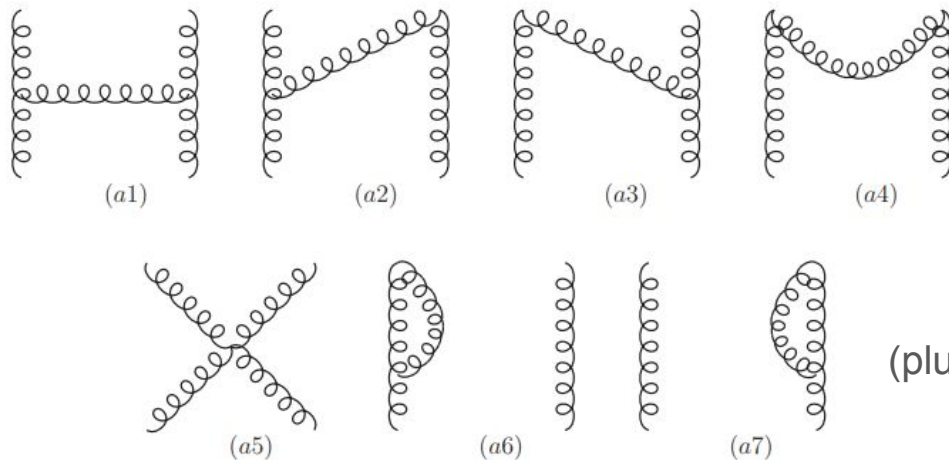
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NLO diagrams:



(plus self energy terms)

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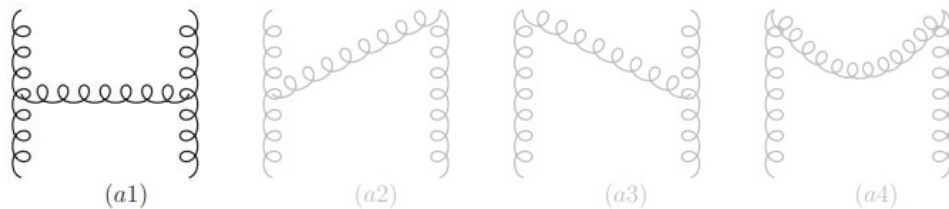
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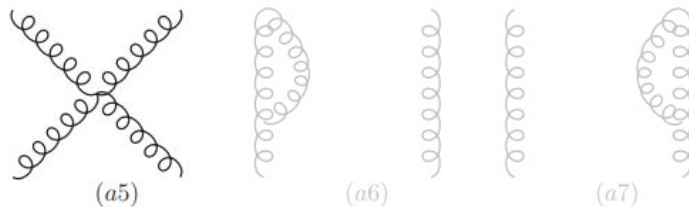
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Wang, et al. PRD 100:074509 (2019)

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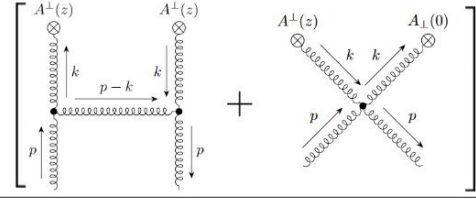
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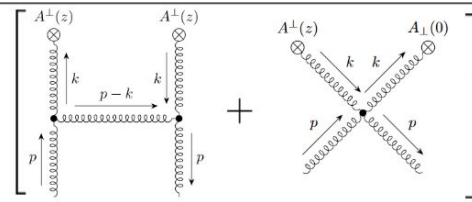
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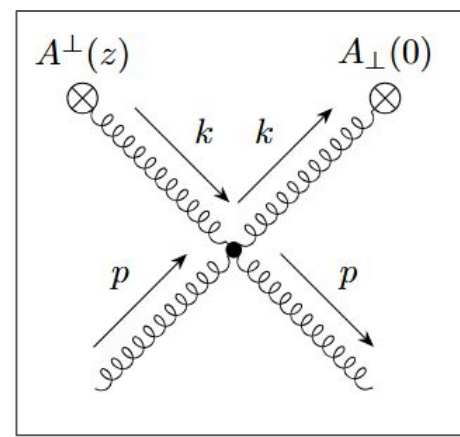


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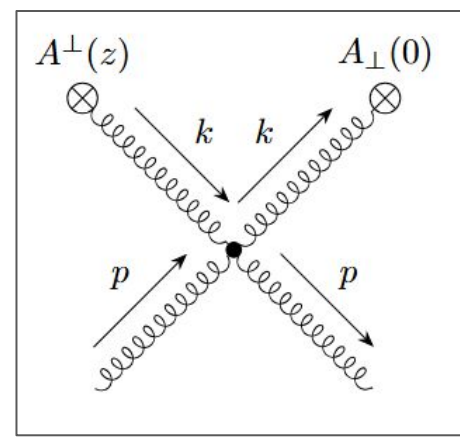
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Easy Part: Four Gluon Vertex Diagram



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- The 4-gluon vertex diagram is the easier of the two

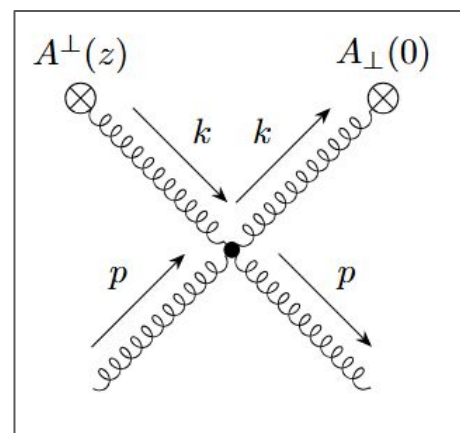


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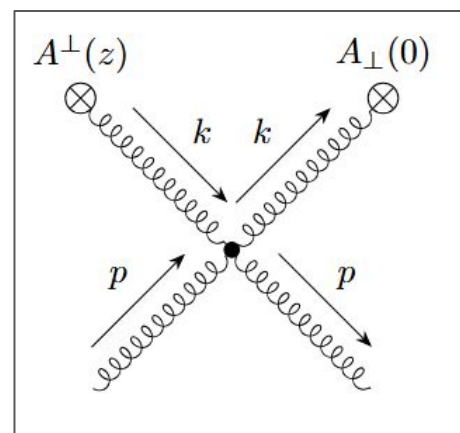
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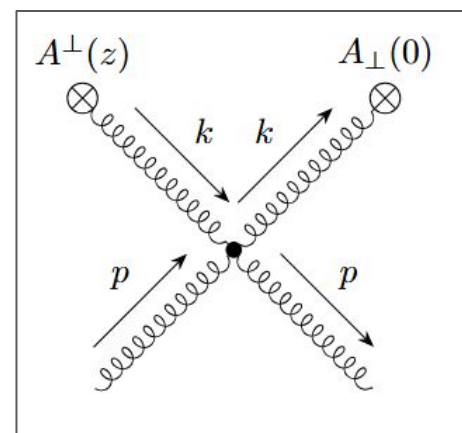


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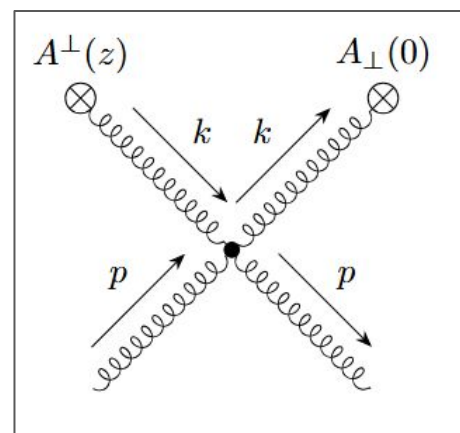
$$A_b^\mu(z) \begin{array}{c} \otimes \\ \uparrow p \\ \text{wavy line} \end{array} \alpha, a = \delta^{ab} g^{\alpha\mu} e^{-ip \cdot z}$$

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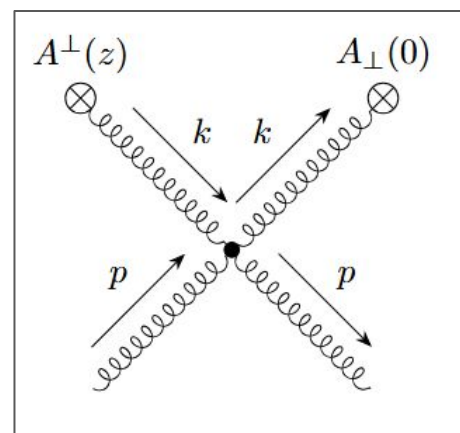
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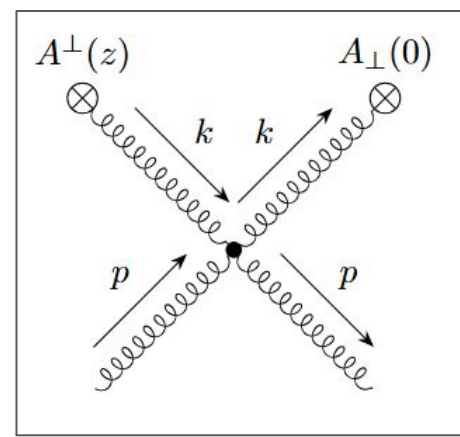
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$$iD^{\mu\nu}(k) = \frac{-i}{k^2 + i0} \left[g^{\mu\nu} - n \cdot k \frac{n^\mu k^\nu + n^\nu k^\mu}{\vec{k}^2} + \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{\vec{k}^2} \right]$$

$$n^\mu = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$



- Operator insertion plus the fourier transform results in a delta function

$$\int \frac{dz}{2\pi} \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} e^{-iz(k_z - xp_z)} f(k, p_z) = \int \frac{d^d k}{(2\pi)^d} \delta(k_z - xp_z) f(k, p_z)$$

- We treat the temporal momentum integral as $d = 1$, and then the resulting $d - 2$ Euclidean integrals are textbook

$$\int \frac{dk_t}{2\pi} \frac{1}{k^{2a}} \propto \frac{1}{k^{2(a-\frac{1}{2})}}$$

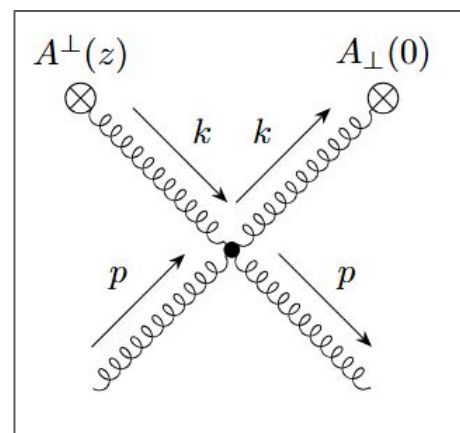
$$\int \frac{d^{d-2} \vec{k}_\perp}{(2\pi)^{d-2}} \frac{\vec{k}_\perp^{2a}}{(\vec{k}_\perp^2 + (xp_z)^2)^b}$$

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Easy Part: Four Gluon Vertex Diagram

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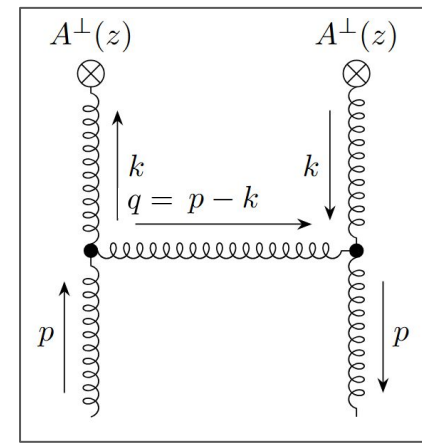
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Box Diagram I

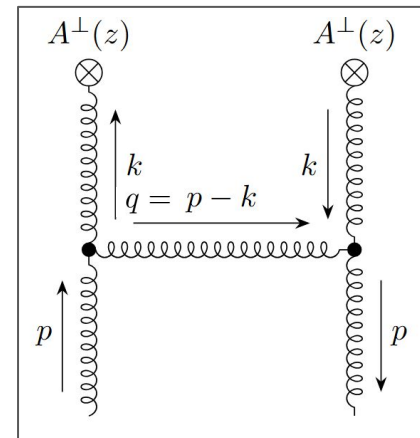


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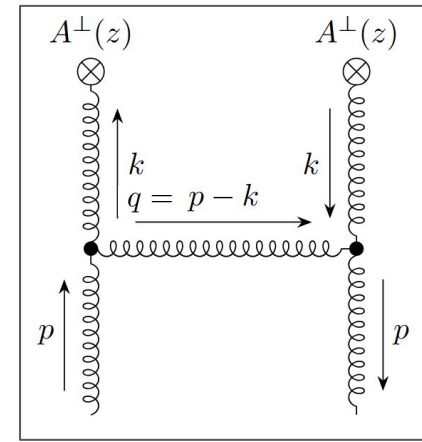
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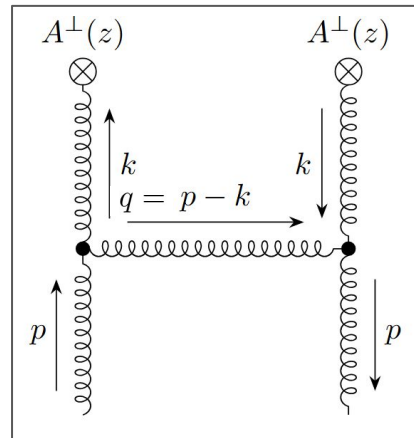
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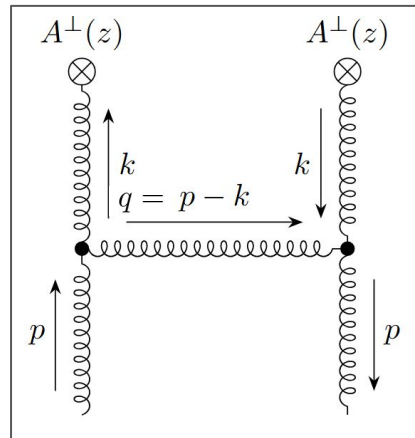
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$${}_2F_1(a, b - \epsilon; c; \frac{2x-1}{x^2}) \xrightarrow{x \rightarrow 1} (1-x)^{\min[0, c-b-a+\epsilon]}$$



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- Expanding like this carefully and adding the contribution from the gluon wavefunction renormalization, we recover exactly the DGLAP kernel for our IR divergence, which nearly proves NLO factorization!

$$-\frac{P_{gg}(x)}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_{\text{IR}}} \left(-2C_A \left(\frac{x}{(1-x)_+} + x(1-x) + \frac{1-x}{x} \right) + \frac{\beta_0}{2} \delta(1-x) \right)$$

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- For $x \neq 1$, the results look something as follows (we haven't simplified the expression with full handling of the plus prescription yet)

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{sgn}(1-x) \left(\log(|1-x|) P_{\text{gg}}(x) + \frac{11x^6 - 34x^5 + 71x^4 - 84x^3 + 60x^2 - 24x + 4}{4(x-1)x(2x-1)^2} \right) + \\ & \text{sgn}(x) \left(\log(|x|) P_{\text{gg}}(x) + \frac{(x^4 + 4x^2 - 4x + 1)x^2 \tanh^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2x-1}}{x}\right)}{(x-1)(2x-1)^{5/2}} + \frac{90x^5 - 210x^4 + 434x^3 - 590x^2 + 357x - 74}{30(2x-1)^2x} - \right. \\ & \left. \frac{(5x^6 - 32x^5 + 78x^4 - 120x^3 + 108x^2 - 48x + 8) \sin^{-1}\left(\frac{\sqrt{2x-1}}{x}\right)}{4(2x-1)^{5/2}x} \right) + \theta(1-x) \theta(x) P_{\text{gg}}(x) \log\left(\frac{4pz^2}{\mu^2}\right) \end{aligned}$$

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- We have calculated the quasi-PDF for the Coulomb gauge operator $A^\perp(z)A_\perp(0)|_{\nabla \cdot \vec{A}=0}$ via momentum space, and demonstrated that the IR behavior is the same as the light-cone PDF
- We have uncovered in our calculation, an issue with other momentum space calculations, where the matching convolution is not generally convergent
- We plan to resolve this issue and move forward with obtaining well constrained light-cone gluon PDFs from the Coulomb gauge
- We will also complete the more straightforward calculation of the quark-in-gluon matching once the glue-glue calculation is resolved