

HERAFitter - an open source QCD Fit platform

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The first stable release of the `HERAFitter` package is presented. `HERAFitter` is an open source project which provides a framework for QCD analyses in the context of multi-process and multi-experiment settings, bridging the state-of-the-art theory developments with an appropriate treatment of the precise experimental measurements. The `HERAFitter` program allows determination of the PDFs from the various measurements of the cross sections at ep , pp or $p\bar{p}$ colliders. It includes various options for theoretical models and different choices to account for the experimental uncertainties. Therefore, this project represents not only an ideal environment for benchmarking studies, but also a support for the QCD interpretation of data analyses within the LHC experiments, as already demonstrated by several publicly available LHC results using the `HERAFitter` framework.

*XXII. International Workshop on Deep-Inelastic Scattering and Related Subjects,
28 April - 2 May 2014
Warsaw, Poland*

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1. Introduction

Increasing accuracy of the experimental measurements at the LHC makes the uncertainties of proton's parton distribution functions (PDFs) play dominant role for the precision tests of the Standard Model (SM), such as measurements of the electroweak mixing angle and the W boson mass. PDF uncertainties are one of the dominating uncertainties in Higgs production and they substantially affect the theory predictions for beyond SM high mass production. This platform also provides the basis for comparisons of different theoretical approaches and can be used for direct tests of the impact of new experimental data in the QCD analysis.

HERAFitter is an open source project [1] which provides a framework for QCD analysis of hadron-induced processes and determination of PDFs as well as extraction of fundamental QCD parameters such as the heavy quark masses or strong coupling constant.

2. HERAFitter project

2.1 Structure

In HERAFitter the extraction of the PDFs is based on factorisation theorem, according to which, the hard-scattering cross section is a convolution product of the PDFs and the putatively calculable hard scattering coefficients. The PDFs are usually extracted from the QCD fits by measure of agreement between data from various processes and theory models. The functionality

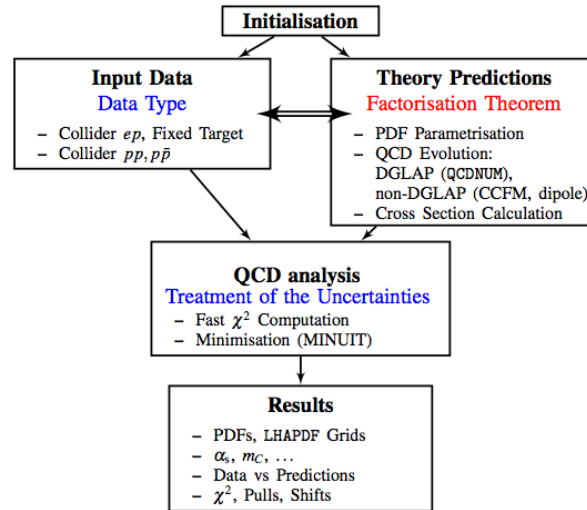


Figure 1: Schematic structure of the HERAFitter program.

of HERAFitter is schematically illustrated in Fig. 1.

Input data: Different available measurements from the various processes are implemented in the HERAFitter package with the full information on their uncorrelated and correlated uncertainties.

Theory predictions: The PDFs are parametrised at a starting input scale Q_0^2 by a chosen functional form with a set of free parameters, which are then evolved [2] to the scale of the measurement Q^2 . The prediction of a particular process cross section is calculated at a certain order in QCD using relevant theory program.

QCD analysis: The PDFs are determined by minimising the χ^2 function with respect to free PDF parameters using the MINUIT [3] program. The experimental uncertainties are taken into account, either using a nuisance parameter method for the correlated systematic uncertainties, or a covariance matrix method.

Results: The resulting PDFs are provided in format of LHAPDF [4]. HERAFitter drawing tools can be used to display the PDFs with their uncertainties at a chosen scale. The comparison of data used in the fit to the theory predictions are also produced.

2.2 Functionality

All main experimental data sets relevant for PDFs can be fitted within the HERAFitter framework. In case of inclusive cross sections from HERA DIS and fixed target experiments the structure functions can be calculated in different heavy flavour schemes, i.e. fixed-flavour (FFN) or variable flavour number (VFN) schemes. The VFN schemes available in HERAFitter framework are Thorne Roberts (TR) scheme at LO, NLO and NNLO as provided by the MSTW group, the ACOT scheme at LO and NLO as provided by the CTEQ group. Drell Yan pp processes are accessed in HERAFitter either using calculations at LO and NLO based on k -factor technique or grid technique (i.e. APPLGRID or FastNLO). Applgrid and FastNLO can also be used as fast input to NLO jet cross sections.

Various functional forms to parametrise the PDFs at the starting scale are implemented in the HERAFitter package. Currently available are simple polynomials, bi-log normal function and chebyshev polynomials. The HERAFitter package provides access to external PDFs via LHAPDF library. Basic plotting tools for visualising fit results are also included in the HERAFitter.

3. Results obtained using HERAFitter

The HERAFitter framework is actively used by HERA and LHC experiments. At the LHC, QCD analysis based on the HERAFitter platform involve inclusive low and high mass Drell-Yan production [5, 6], measurements of W and Z production cross sections [7], W production in association with the charm quark [8, 9], inclusive photon [10] and jet [11, 12] production. In addition, a study of the impact of the QED radiative corrections on the PDFs was reported in [13].

At HERA, new results of QCD analysis using HERAFitter include the recent preliminary HERAPDF2.0 set by the H1 and ZEUS Collaborations based on the preliminary HERA data combination [14], the preliminary QCD analysis on the combined full HERA inclusive set, and a study on the determination of charm mass running from a combined analysis of HERA charm data. Other dedicated analysis using HERAFitter based on the HERA measurements were obtained, such as determination of the transverse momentum dependent gluon density and an analysis using a new dipole model [15, 16].

4. Summary

HERAFitter contains all necessary ingredients to study the proton PDFs, it incorporates variety of different data processes and theory calculations, contains many useful tools and is an optimal platform for various benchmarking studies. HERAFitter is the first open source package to perform PDF fits and is actively used by experimental and theoretical high energy physics communities.

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