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Theoretical aspects of the EIC heavy flavor program

Joint EFo7 and EFo6 discussion: Heavy Flavor Physics at the EIC *October 2020*



Letter of Interest

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Letter of Interest: Heavy Flavors at the EIC

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The Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) Heavy Flavor Group is writing to express its interests in the future of high energy physics and the Snowmass 2021 planning process. We recognize the deep intellectual connections between particle and nuclear science and the rich collaborative opportunities that the EIC will bring in theory, computation, experiment, and detector technology [1]. We advocate for the inclusion of EIC science in the recommendations for the future of high energy physics in the US. Our primary interests align with the Energy Frontier of Snowmass 2021, with strong overlaps with the Theory and Computing Frontiers [2].

Open and hidden heavy-flavor production in deep-inelastic scattering needs a status review of the tools/theory to make precise predictions in the future EIC experiments. As heavy quarks introduce a new mass scale, the impact of flavor number schemes - fixed-flavor number (FFN) scheme and variable-flavor-number (VFN) scheme – on charm and bottom distributions has to be better understood [3,4].

Via neutral-current (NC) exchange in e+p/A collisions at the EIC, heavy flavor production can be used to probe the initial gluon distributions inside nucleon and nucleus. This can be used to constrain the gluon (nuclear) PDF especially in the large x_B region [5]. In the charged-current (CC) interaction channel with the scattered neutrino, heavy flavor and heavy flavor jet production offer the sensitivity to the strange quark sea [6]. The interpretation of data from these experiments may be complicated by a subtle interplay of effects arising from nuclear, target-mass, and other power-suppressed corrections, as well as potential contamination from target fragmentation. This requires a significance development in theory predictions and tools in order to extract valuable info (e.g. gluon and sea quark PDFs) from future data. One critical issue to be addressed is how to distinguish nPDF effects from other CNM effects through the analysis of future EIC data together with the data on heavy-flavor production at HERA and the LHC [7].

Many ambiguities remain regarding the possible role of heavy quarks - particularly charm - in hadronic and nuclear structure. A prime example of this is the issue of the nonperturbative or intrinsic charm contribution to the proton wave function [8,9]. Up-to-date, there is nearly a complete lack of measurements with direct sensitivity to nonperturbative charm in the nucleon. The ideal measurement would involve charm structure-function data in the high x > 0.1 and intermediate Q ~ 10 GeV region, which the EIC will be poised to extract with considerable precision. Similarly, the EIC will be well-positioned to not only constrain/isolate the presence of intrinsic charm but also to potentially determine its detailed origins in QCD. The EIC could shed light on this subject through a detailed exploration of the scale dependence of the nucleon's charm component. More broadly, there is a possible role to be played by charm-jet production in this area as well.

Effect of flavor schemes on PDF extraction ABM

Follows discussion from

S. Alekhin et al. (2020)

- Different schemes and different prescriptions in the variable flavor number scheme
- Critical assessment and comparisons will be useful for the EIC

Fixed flavor schemes – typically at low virtualities

Variable flavor schemes – as one goes to higher energies, effectively resums

 $Q^{2}/m^{2}c$ (or $Q^{2}/m^{2}b$)

The ABMP16 PDF fit [5] is based on the FFN scheme in a part concerning heavy-flavor DIS production. Nonetheless, for the collider data on t-quark, W- and Z-boson production, where the VFN scheme is more relevant, the 5-flavor PDFs are constructed from the 3-flavor ones, see Eqs. (2)-(4), using currently available information on the heavy-quark OMEs and employing NNLO evolution for the matched PDFs. All relevant formulae are implemented in the code OPENQCDRAD (version 2.1), which is publicly available [43].

CT

CT18 [7] uses the ACOT VFN scheme [26–28], specifically an NNLO realization [44] of the so-called S-ACOT- χ variant. The S-ACOT- χ VFN scheme features a slow rescaling of the parton momentum fractions z in the argument of the respective massless Wilson coefficient functions in $F_{2,h}^{ZMVFN}$ in Eq. (12) by replacing $z \to \chi = z \left(1 + \frac{4m_h^2}{O^2}\right)$, and restricting the integration range of z in the convolutions to $x\left(1+\frac{4m_h^2}{Q^2}\right) \le z \le 1$ with the Bjorken variable x. The slow rescaling is motivated by its properties to model energy conservation in the DIS production of heavy final states. Ref. [44] also explores a wider family of rescaling choices, which interpolate smoothly between z and χ .

MSTW

MMHT14 [8] uses the RT VFN scheme [30], specifically the TR' prescription from Ref. [45] for PDF fits at NNLO. The RT scheme requires as a constraint the continuity of physical observables in the threshold region, i.e., for the expression for $F_{2,h}^{FFN}$ in Eq. (13) below and $F_{2,h}^{ZMVFN}$ in Eqs. (12) above threshold. To that end, the derivative of the structure function, $dF_2/d\ln Q^2$ is supposed to be continuous at the matching point $Q^2 = m_b^2$ in the gluon sector. To achieve this modeling constraint, a Q^2 -independent term is added above the matching point to the expression for F_{2h}^{ZMVFN} to maintain continuity of the structure function. The TR' prescription specifies this procedure up to NNLO [45].

NNPDF

NNPDF3.1 [9] uses the FONLL VFN scheme [29], which has been devised to combine the heavy-quark DIS structure functions and the ZMVFN expressions in analogy to Eq. (15). FONLL suppresses the difference of F_{2h}^{ZMVFN} in Eq. (12) and the necessary subtraction term, i.e., the expression analogous to F_{2h}^{asy} in Eq. (14), which is needed to avoid double counting, with a kinematical damping factor $\left(1-\frac{Q^2}{m^2}\right)^2$. In this manner, it is guaranteed, that only $F_{2,h}^{FFN}$ of Eq. (13) remains for virtualities $\hat{Q}^2 \simeq m_h^2$ near threshold. The variant FONLL-C is used to determine the PDFs at NNLO [29].

BMSN prescription for VFNS, confronting HERA data

Realistic evaluations combine FFNS and VFNS, subtraction of double $F_{2,h}^{asy} = \sum_{k=1}^{k} a_s^k(n_f) \sum_{i=q,g} H_{2,i}^{(k),asy}(n_f) \otimes f_i(n_f),$ counting is required



order/prescription, Q2 – good description of DIS data

Confronting HF schemes with HERA data

10 -2

х

xFitterTeam

V. Bertone et al . (2019)

Emphasizes the need for flexible tools for PDF analysis

 Can take input from various processes, notably DIS; can produce not only PDFs but also related alphas values, heavy quark masses



xFitter Team Example - VFNs matching scales

A. Kusina et al . (2013)

Hybrid variable flavor number scheme

- Different choices of matching mass values. It allows the user, for example to use Nf=4 above Mb scale for example
- (1) The PDFs and strong couplings with different N_F flavors coexist simultaneously.
- (2) The PDFs and strong couplings with one N_F value have a precise analytic relation to those with a different N_F value which is specified by the appropriate evolution equations and the $\overline{\text{MS}}$ boundary conditions at $\mu = m_{c,b,t}$ (cf., the Appendix).





In going to higher precision the differences from separation scales choice disappear V. Bertone et al . (2018)



Use of LHC data to constrain heavy favor PDFs – PROSA collaboration

O. Zenaiev et al . (2018)

 Adding LHCb and ALICE data to the heavy flavor data from HERA

Inclusion of heavy flavor reduces PDF uncertainties for sea quarks and gluons at small x, especially FFNS









Important to do combined analysis at the EIC

Heavy meson production in e+p at EIC

Understand contributions at higher orders

- The gluon contribution at EIC is small
- Resolved photon contribution

Extract FFs, understand evolution, use heavy mesons in jets



$$E_h \frac{d^3 \sigma^{\ell N \to h X}}{d^3 P_h} = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{i,f} \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} f^{i/N}(x,\mu)$$
$$\times D^{h/f}(z,\mu) \Big[\hat{\sigma}^{i \to f} + f_{\text{ren}}^{\gamma/\ell} \Big(\frac{-t}{s+u}, \mu \Big) \hat{\sigma}^{\gamma i \to f} \Big].$$



Modification of FFs in e+A

Vacuum splitting functions provide correction to vacuum showers and correspondingly modification to DGLAP evolution for FFs

H Li et al. (2020)



$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\mathrm{d}D_q(z,Q)}{\mathrm{d}\ln Q} &= \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\pi} \int_z^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}z'}{z'} \left\{ P_{q \to qg}(z',Q) D_q\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) + P_{q \to gq}(z',Q) D_g\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) \right\},\\ \frac{\mathrm{d}D_{\bar{q}}(z,Q)}{\mathrm{d}\ln Q} &= \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\pi} \int_z^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}z'}{z'} \left\{ P_{q \to qg}(z',Q) D_{\bar{q}}\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) + P_{q \to gq}(z',Q) D_g\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) \right\},\\ \frac{\mathrm{d}D_g(z,Q)}{\mathrm{d}\ln Q} &= \frac{\alpha_s(Q^2)}{\pi} \int_z^1 \frac{\mathrm{d}z'}{z'} \left\{ P_{g \to gg}(z',Q) D_g\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) - P_{q \to gq}(z',Q) D_g\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) + P_{q \to qq}(z',Q) D_g\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) \right\},\\ + P_{g \to q\bar{q}}(z',Q) \left(D_q\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) + f_{\bar{q}}\left(\frac{z}{z'},Q\right) \right) \right\}.\end{aligned}$$



Jet production at the EIC



$$E_J \frac{d^3 \sigma^{lN \to jX}}{d^3 P_J} = \frac{1}{S} \sum_{i,f} \int_0^1 \frac{dx}{x} \int_0^1 \frac{dz}{z^2} f_{i/N}(x,\mu)$$
 R. Boughezal et al. (2020)
 $\times \hat{\sigma}^{i \to f}(s,t,u,\mu) J_f(z,p_T R,\mu) ,$ Li et al. (2020)

Has to be applied to heavy-flavor tagged jet production at the EIC

Large number of contributions to be understood

Inclusive Jet p_T : $Q^2 = 10-100 \text{ GeV}^2$



Heavy jet production in e+A

 Modern SCET techniques to calculate heavy jet modification. Applicable to EIC

Example from heavy ion collisions



nuclei, effect of mass on parton sowers

Heavy flavor jet substructure

Jet substructure (e.g. jet angularity) studies for flavor tagged jets can improve the understanding of flavor dependent hadronization processes.



Technologies of interest to HEP and NP developed

The asymmetric collisions nature at the EIC requires special focus on the forward going direction



Numerical methods

Refactoring

➤ Code is restructured (in C++) and shortened (24K → 8K lines). 20x speed improvement

Effective incorporation of nuclear medium

> 2x speed improvement

Efficient on-node parallelization

New parallelization shows much better scaling 10x speed improvement

Overall improvement: **18 days** → **1 hour** Higher orders till challenging

ML techniques investigated



Quarkonia production puzzles

 Quarkonia (e.g. J/ψ, Y), bound states of the heaviest elementary particles – still not understood theoretically

Matsui *et al. (*1986)

Outstanding puzzles

Quarkonium polarization puzzle – inability to simultaneously describe the cross section and polarization of quarkonia



 Suppression puzzle - similar dissociation behavior observed in small system, p+A and even in p+p (where OGP is not expected), as a function of the number of hadrons.





Quarkonium production at the EIC

Lepton-nucleon/nucleus collisions constitute an excellent laboratory for the studies of quarkonium production since, it is simplified and cleaner environment compared to hadronic collisions, yet far richer than in the electron-positron annihilation. Quarkonia can be produced either through photoproduction (Q ~ o) or lepto-production (Q> 1 GeV) processes. In these two cases the resolved, diffractive/exclusive, and inclusive productions



HERA data has had important impact but interpretation subject of debate

Flore et al . (2020)

There has been no phenomenological extraction of the TMD shape functions. Meanwhile, it has been proposed that exclusive quarkonium production can be understood through the formalism of GPDs and the Wigner functions

Cui et al . (2018)

Chen et al . (2019)

Constraining matrix elements at EIC



Bain et al . (2017)

Quarkonium production in reactions with nuclei

EFTs for quarkonia in matter

 The EIC will also offer the opportunity to observe quarkonium ^{p/A} production in eA collisions where one can study the interactions with nuclear matter and the formation of quarkonia in a nuclear medium.

Y. Makris et al . (2019)

Open quantum systems

 Primarily formulated in the context of quark-gluon-plasma, these formalisms can also be extended to cold nuclear matted effects

Akamatsu et al . (2014)



$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{NRQCD}_{G}} = \mathcal{L}_{\mathrm{NRQCD}} + \mathcal{L}_{Q-G/C}(\psi, A_{G/C}^{\mu,a}) + \mathcal{L}_{g-G/C}(A_{s}^{\mu,b}, A_{G/C}^{\mu,a}) + \psi \longleftrightarrow \chi$$

NRQCD with Glauber Gluons

$$\mathcal{L}_{Q-G/C}^{(0)}(\psi, A_{G/C}^{\mu, a}) = \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}_T} \psi_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}_T}^{\dagger} \left(-g A_{G/C}^0 \right) \psi_{\mathbf{p}} \ (collinear/static/soft).$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Q-G}^{(1)}(\psi, A_G^{\mu, a}) = g \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}_T} \psi_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}_T}^{\dagger} \Big(\frac{2A_G^{\mathbf{n}}(\mathbf{n} \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}}) - i \Big[(\boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}}_{\perp} \times \mathbf{n}) A_G^{\mathbf{n}} \Big] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2m} \Big) \psi_{\mathbf{p}} \quad (collinear)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{Q-C}^{(1)}(\psi, A_C^{\mu, a}) = g \sum_{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{q}_T} \psi_{\mathbf{p}+\mathbf{q}_T}^{\dagger} \Big(\frac{2\mathbf{A}_C \cdot \boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}} + [\boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}} \cdot \mathbf{A}_C] - i \Big[\boldsymbol{\mathcal{P}} \times \mathbf{A}_C \Big] \cdot \boldsymbol{\sigma}}{2m} \Big) \psi_{\mathbf{p}} \quad (soft)$$