

# Machine Learning for the precision determination of Parton Distribution Functions

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UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI MILANO



# How to adult...



SHOP FOR A NEW TIE.



MAKE MACARONI



DO CARDIO.



DON'T LET THE EXISTENTIAL  
DREAD SET IN.



DON'T LET IT SET IN.



VACUUM THE RUG.

# How to be a mature physicist...



Measure Higgs couplings.



Search for WIMPs.



Improve PDFs  
determination



DON'T LET THE EXISTENTIAL  
DREAD SET IN.



DON'T LET IT SET IN.



Look for strings

# Outline

## ① QCD in a nutshell

- The Standard Model & strong interactions
- Parton Distribution Functions
- Factorization theorem

## ② Machine Learning

- Motivation for Machine Learning
- Neural Networks & general strategy

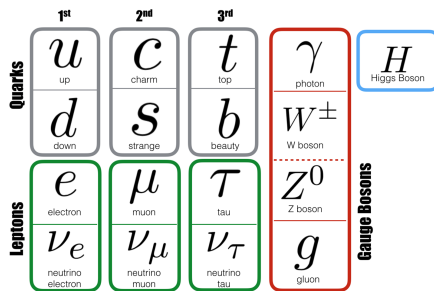
## ③ The N3PDF project

- The NNPDF methodology
- Operator implementation in TensorFlow
- Results & Conclusions

## Quantum Chromodynamics in a nutshell

# QCD in a nutshell

## The Standard Model



Quantum Field Theory describing physics at the TeV scale

- 1 Fermions composing matter
- 2 Bosons mediating interactions
- 3 Scalar Higgs generating mass

# QCD in a nutshell

Explore the strong interactions

How to explore proton's inner structure?

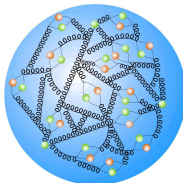
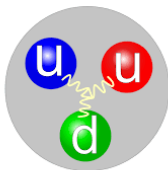


- Point-like projectile on the object  $\rightarrow$  DIS
- Smash the two objects  $\rightarrow$  LHC physics

"A way to analyze high energy collisions is to consider any hadron as a composition of point-like constituents  $\rightarrow$  **partons**" R.Feynman, 1969

# QCD in a nutshell

## Parton Distribution Functions



- Hadrons made of partonic objects  $\longrightarrow$  non perturbative physics
- Interactions take place only at partonic level

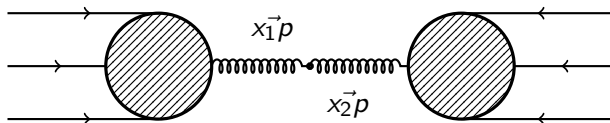
Parton Distribution Functions: probability distribution of finding a particular parton (u, d, ..., g) carrying a fraction  $x$  of the proton's momentum



# QCD in a nutshell

## Factorization theorem

Observables in hadronic events  $\longrightarrow \sigma$  is hard to compute



Factorize the problem  $\longrightarrow$  Convolute the **PDFs** with the partonic  $\hat{\sigma}_{ij}$

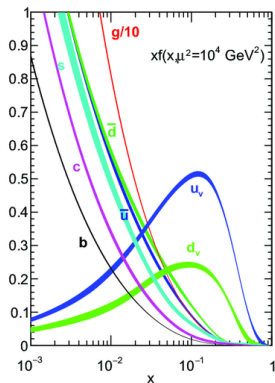
$$\sigma = \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 f_{\alpha}(x_1, \mu_F) * f_{\beta}(x_2, \mu_F) * \hat{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}(\alpha_s(\mu_R), \mu_F)$$

- Partonic  $\hat{\sigma}$  can be computed as perturbative series in  $\alpha_s$
- **PDFs** absorb the non perturbative effects, evaluated at  $\mu_F$

# QCD in a nutshell

## What PDFs look like

- Each parton has a different PDF  
 $u(x)$ ,  $d(x)$ , ...,  $g(x)$
- PDFs are not predicted, and can not be measured
- PDFs are **extracted** from data



# Machine Learning

# Machine learning

A hot topic at IFAE

**TITLE:** Searches for new phenomena at the LHC using machine-learning techniques

**TITLE:** Design and performance study of machine learning techniques for the ATLAS experiment event selection at the High-Luminosity LHC

**TITLE:** Enhanced ATLAS Level-1 trigger capabilities with Artificial-Intelligence regression on Field-Programmable Gate Array architecture.

**TITLE:** Unraveling New Physics effects in rare B decays using Neural Networks

# Machine learning

## What is Machine Learning?

- 1 A subset of Artificial Intelligence (AI) algorithms
- 2 Used to solve *complex* tasks like classification and regression
- 3 Rely on comparison with data → **Learning**



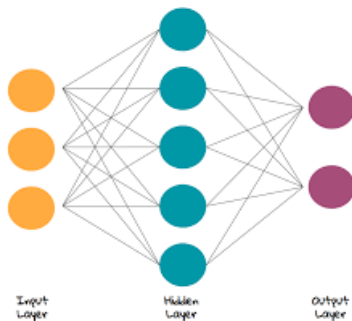
# Machine learning

## Building a ML model



# Machine learning

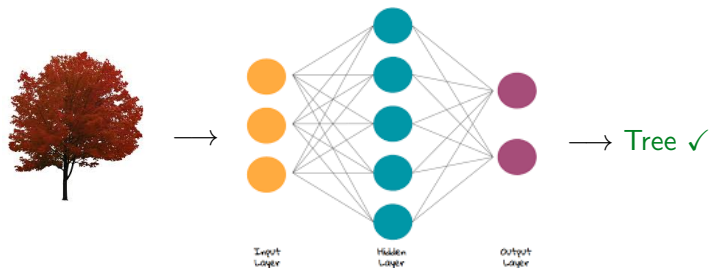
## Building a ML model



- 1 Turn the input set into an array and build a **random** prediction
- 2 Compare with truth and compute a **Loss** function
- 3 Update the parameters in a specific way

# Machine learning

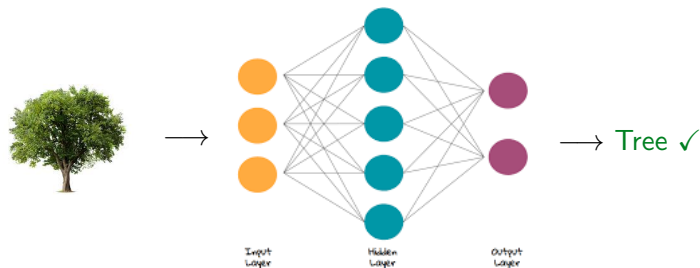
## Building a ML model





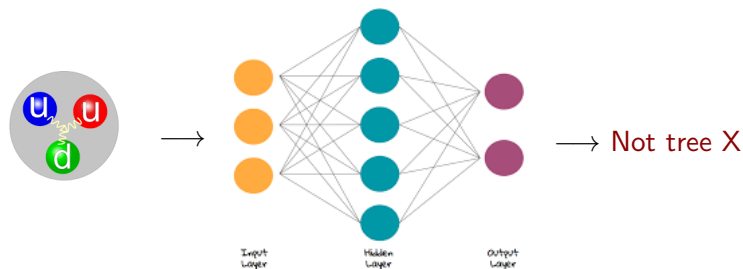
# Machine learning

## Building a ML model



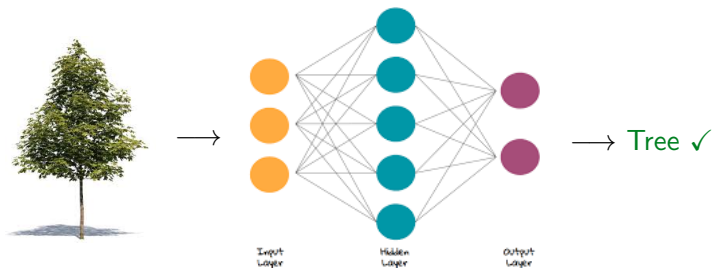
# Machine learning

## Building a ML model



# Machine learning

## Building a ML model



# Machine Learning

## Loss function

$$Loss = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1^{true} \\ y_2^{true} \\ \vdots \\ y_n^{true} \end{pmatrix}}_{y_{true}} - \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}}_{y_{pred}}$$

- 1 Compute a loss function

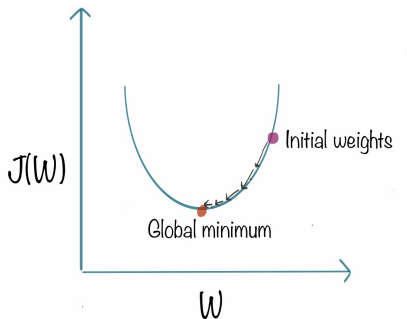
$$L = \sum_{i=1}^N (y_i^{true} - y_i^{pred})^2$$

- 2 Perfect prediction will mean  $L = 0$

# Machine Learning

## Loss function

- 1 Loss is a function of weights and bias  $L = L(w, b)$
- 2 Compute gradient  $\nabla_{w_{ij}} L$  to look for the minimum of  $L$



# Machine Learning

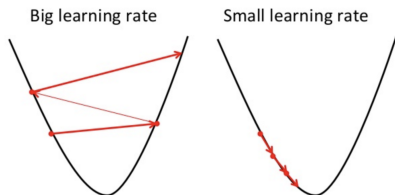
## Update rule

Update the parameters of the network following the gradient descend

$$w_{ij} \longrightarrow w_{ij} - \alpha \nabla L$$

$$b_i \longrightarrow b_i - \alpha \nabla L$$

Where  $\alpha$  is the learning rate



## The N3PDF project

Machine Learning for the precision determination of PDFs

# The N3PDF project

## The NNPDF methodology

Factorize the problem  $\longrightarrow$  Convolute the PDFs with the partonic  $\hat{\sigma}_{ij}$

$$\sigma = \int_0^1 dx_1 dx_2 f_{\alpha}(x_1, \mu_F) * f_{\beta}(x_2, \mu_F) * \hat{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}(\alpha_s(\mu_R), \mu_F)$$

- Partonic  $\hat{\sigma}_{\alpha\beta}$  is computed perturbatively. Hadronic  $\sigma$  is measured.
- Use a Neural Networks to generate (*fit*) the PDFs
- Generate a vector of observables  $\sigma_N$  to be compared with data

$$\sigma_N = \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} f_{\alpha}(x_i) f_{\beta}(x_j) \hat{\sigma}_{Nij\alpha\beta}$$



# The N3PDF project

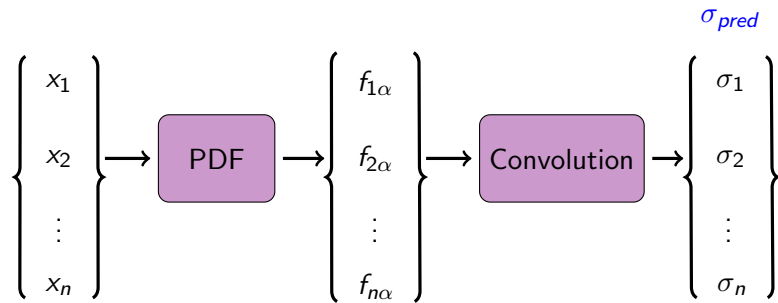
## General structure of n3fit



- Use TensorFlow and Keras to determine the PDFs
- See paper by S.Carraza - J.Cruz-Martinez  
"Towards a new generation of parton densities  
with deep learning models",  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1907.05075>

# The N3PDF project

## General structure of n3fit

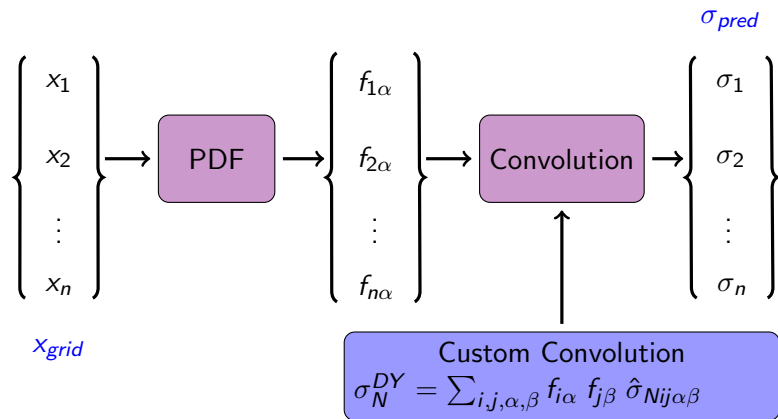


$x_{grid}$

- 1 Build a NN to compute  $\sigma_{pred}$  observables from a grid  $x_i$
- 2 Compute  $\chi^2$  loss function by comparing with data
- 3 Update values of PDF  $\rightarrow$  Fit

# The N3PDF project

## Operator implementation



- 1 TF relies in symbolic computation  $\rightarrow$  High memory usage
- 2 Implement c++ operator replacing the convolution

# Results

## Checking computation

DIS:

	TensorFlow	Custom	Ratio
Convolution	1.9207904	1.9207904	1.0000000
	2.4611666	2.4611664	0.9999999
	1.3516952	1.3516952	1.0000000
Gradient	1.8794115	1.8794115	1.0000000
	1.505316	1.505316	1.0000000
	2.866085	2.866085	1.0000000

# Results

## Checking computation

Hadronic:

	TensorFlow	Custom	Ratio
Convolution	8.142365	8.142366	1.0000001
	8.947762	8.947762	1.0000000
	7.4513326	7.4513316	0.9999999
Gradient	18.525095	18.525095	1.0000000
	19.182995	19.182993	0.9999999
	19.551006	19.551004	0.9999999

# Results

## Memory saving

Hadronic only:

	TensorFlow	Custom Convolution	Diff
Virtual	17.7 GB	13.8 GB	3.9 GB
RES	12.1 GB	8.39 GB	3.2 GB

Global:

	TensorFlow	Custom Convolution	Diff
Virtual	23.5 GB	19.7 GB	3.8 GB
RES	18.4 GB	12.5 GB	5.9 GB

"Towards hardware acceleration for parton densities estimation",  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/1909.10547>

# Summary & Conclusions

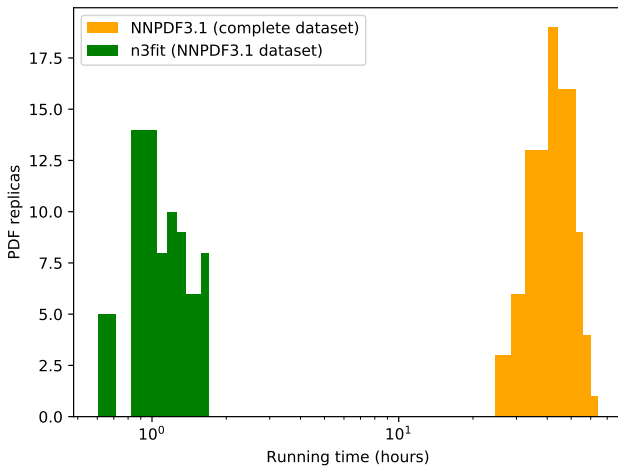
- ① PDFs are required to have accurate predictions in high energy physics
- ② ML provides a new way of determine the PDFs
- ③ Operator implementation leads to memory saving by taking full control on the computation

Thank you!



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under grant agreement No 740006.





# Back up

## TF computation of the gradient

- 1 Computing gradient of the  $\chi^2$  loss with respect to all parameters of the network.

$$\nabla \chi^2 \longrightarrow \frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial x_i}$$

- 2 TF requires the gradient with respect to any operation in the model.

$$\frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial x_i} = \frac{\partial \chi^2}{\partial \mathbf{Op}} \frac{\partial \mathbf{Op}}{\partial f_{\mu\nu}} \cdots \frac{\partial f_{\mu\nu}}{\partial x_i}$$

- 3 TF does not know the structure of **Op**. Compute manually the gradient  $\frac{\partial \mathbf{Op}}{\partial f_{\mu\nu}}$  and implement it in the TF framework.

# Back up

## Manual computation of the gradient

- 1 From the expression of the output:

$$\mathbf{Op} \equiv y_N = \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} f_\alpha(x_i) f_\beta(x_j) \hat{\sigma}_{Nij\alpha\beta}$$

- 2 Gradient of the output with respect to the PDFs:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial y_N}{\partial f_{\mu\nu}} &= \frac{\partial}{\partial f_{\mu\nu}} \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} f_{i\alpha} f_{j\beta} \hat{\sigma}_{Nij\alpha\beta} \\ &= \sum_{i,j,\alpha,\beta} (\delta_{\mu i} \delta_{\nu \alpha} f_{\beta j} + \delta_{\mu j} \delta_{\nu \beta} f_{\alpha i}) \hat{\sigma}_{Nij\alpha\beta} \\ &= \sum_{j,\beta} f_{j\beta} \hat{\sigma}_{N\mu j \nu \beta} + \sum_{i,\alpha} f_{i\alpha} \hat{\sigma}_{Ni \mu \alpha \nu} \end{aligned}$$