

# **Determination of the beam asymmetry $\Sigma$ in $\eta$ - and $\eta'$ -photoproduction using Bayesian statistics**

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I hereby declare that this thesis was formulated by myself and that no sources or tools other than those cited were used.

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## Introduction

The *Standard Model of Particle Physics* (SM) is the most successful model aiming to describe the particles and forces of the universe. It distinguishes between *fermions* and *bosons*. While all matter consists of fermions, bosons are particles that mediate the fundamental interactions.

Matter consists of (anti-)quarks and (anti-)leptons with three generations of each. Table 1.1 shows all elementary fermions including some of their most important properties. Only the first and lightest generation consists of stable particles, i.e. the up and down quark as well as the electron and its neutrino. All other particles are heavier and not stable, they will thus decay fast via the strong, electromagnetic or weak interaction.

There are in fact four interactions described by the SM: strong, electromagnetic, weak and gravitational interaction<sup>1</sup>, where gravitation is mentioned here for the sake of completeness; on the mass scale of elementary particles gravitation is negligible. Strong and weak interaction are restricted to a finite range of the order of the nucleon radius, whereas electromagnetic interaction and gravitation have infinite range. Each interaction has its own coupling (charge). The strong interaction is mediated by gluons and couples to the color charge.

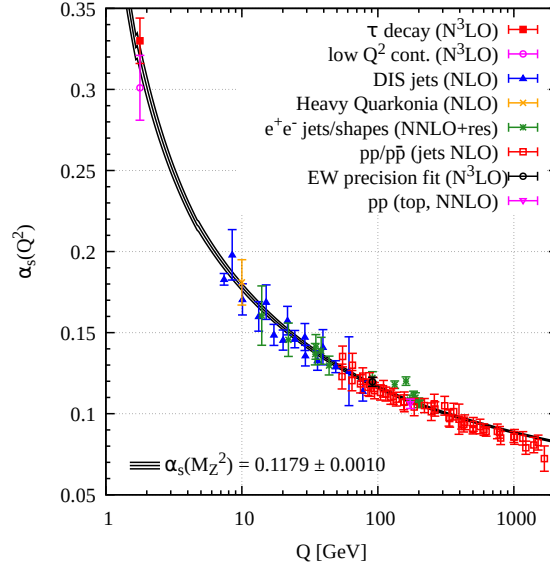
	Generation			el. charge	color charge
	1	2	3		
<b>Quarks</b>	$u$	$c$	$t$	2/3	r,g,b
	$d$	$s$	$b$	1/3	r,g,b
<b>Leptons</b>	$e$	$\mu$	$\tau$	-1	-
	$\nu_e$	$\nu_\mu$	$\nu_\tau$	0	-

**Table 1.1:** Summary of the particles of the SM

Gluons and quarks carry color charge and thus interact strongly. However, an isolated quark or gluon has not been observed. Only color neutral bound systems of quarks are seen, which are called hadrons. Hadrons with integer spin are called mesons and those with half-integer spin are called baryons. Color neutrality demands mesons consist of at least one quark and one anti-quark and baryons consist of at least three quarks.

<sup>1</sup> they are ordered here according to their relative strength





**Figure 1.1:** Running coupling of QCD. The colored data points represent different methods to obtain a value for  $\alpha_s$ . For a detailed review see [Wor+22].

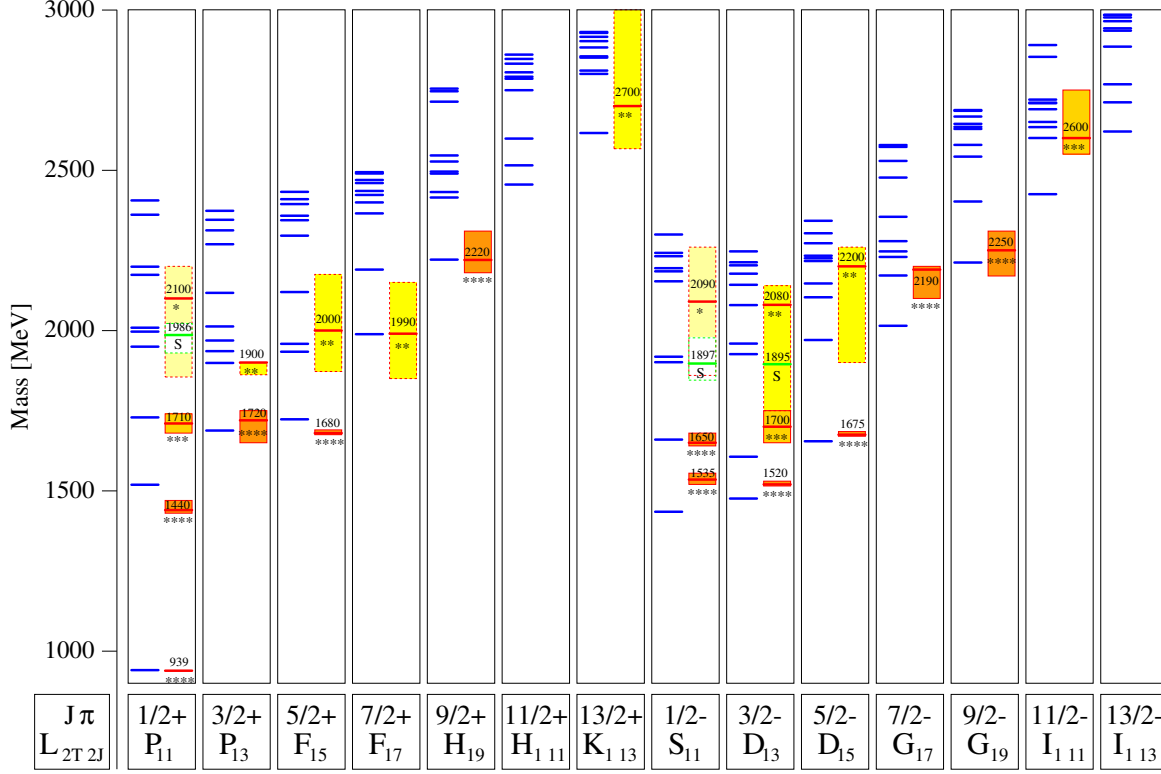
As already mentioned, isolated quarks are not seen. This can be understood in terms of the strong coupling constant  $\alpha_s$ . The coupling constant is a measure of the strength of the strong interaction. Because it is highly dependent on the momentum transfer in the observed strong reaction it is also called running coupling constant, which is depicted in figure 1.1.

For low ( $< 1$  GeV) momentum transfers or large distances the coupling constant approaches infinity whereas it decreases for high ( $\gg 1$  GeV) momentum transfers or short distances. These momentum ranges are referred to as *confinement* and *asymptotic freedom*, respectively; quarks are confined to remain in a bound state since if one tried to pull them apart the color field becomes so strong it will create a new quark anti-quark pair resulting in two new bound states. On the other hand, bound quarks behave quasi-free and can be described using perturbative quantum chromodynamics (pQCD) if probed at sufficiently large momentum transfers.

It is more difficult however to describe QCD at momentum scales of  $\approx 1$  GeV since the coupling is too strong to justify a perturbative approach. Thus explicit modeling of QCD bound states is inevitable. One possibility is to describe baryons consisting of constituent quarks which are bound in a potential. Constituent quark models assume baryons are made up of three constituent quarks with effective masses differing from the bare quark mass. The effective mass is made up mostly from a sea of quark anti-quark pairs and gluons which surround the bare (valence) quarks. The explicit form of the binding potential is determined for each model.

The Bonn model [LMP01], for example, is formulated as a relativistically covariant constituent quark model. A potential increasing linearly with the distance is employed to adequately describe confinement. The binding potential between the constituent quarks is described by an instanton-induced interaction. Baryon resonances are then states with an orbital or angular excitation of one of the quarks. Figure 1.2 shows computed nucleon resonances with Isospin  $I = 1/2$  of the Bonn model [LMP01] on the left side of each column. These are compared to measured resonances and their PDG rating [Wor+22] in the middle. Uncertainties are indicated by the colored areas. The resonances are

identified by their total angular momentum and their parity  $J\pi$ . In addition also the total internal angular momentum along with isospin and again the total angular momentum  $L_{2T2J}$  is given. While



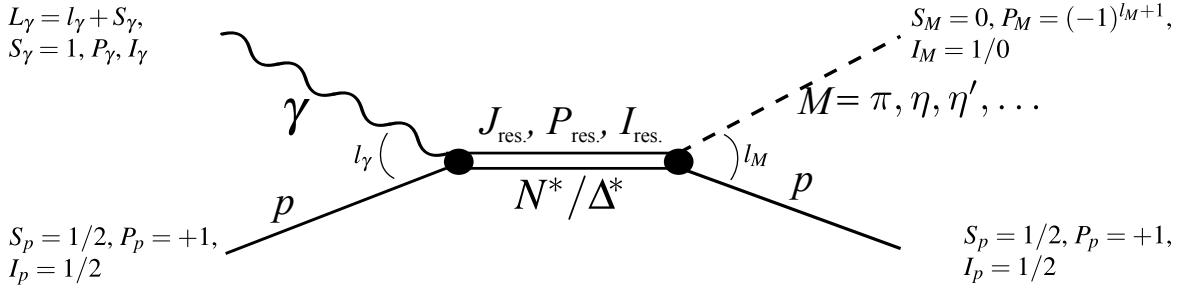
**Figure 1.2:** Calculated nucleon (isospin  $I = 1/2$ ) resonances compared to measurements. Left in each column are the calculations [LMP01], the middle shows the measurements and PDG rating [Wor+22]

generally good agreement exists for low lying resonances, especially for high masses there are much more resonances predicted than actually found. This is also known as the “missing resonances” indicating the poor understanding of QCD in the non-perturbative region. This can be due to several reasons: most of the knowledge about nucleon resonances and their properties was obtained investigating the  $\pi N$  channel, biasing the data for resonances coupling weakly to this channel. Furthermore, the number of excited states with definite quantum numbers is related directly to the effective number of degrees-of-freedom accessible to the underlying theory. As a consequence, the number of degrees-of-freedom should be obtainable by comparing the measured states to the predicted states. Since nucleon resonances decay dominantly hadronic, their resonances are broad and overlapping. Thus on one hand the determination of excitation spectra proves to be a challenge on its own, demanding sophisticated methods, such as partial wave analysis (PWA). On the other hand it is not yet clear how many effective degrees-of-freedom exist for the nucleon in a constituent quark model. They could for example be decreased if the nucleon were made up of a quark and a di-quark structure. To access nucleon resonances and transitions between them for as many final states as possible the photoproduction of mesons off the proton has gained attention. Experiments dedicated to study photoproduction reactions off nucleons are located e.g. at JLAB, MAMI or ELSA. In this thesis photoproduction data taken at the CBELSA/TAPS experiment, which is located at

the accelerator ELSA in Bonn, is analyzed regarding the reactions  $\gamma p \rightarrow p\eta$  and  $\gamma p \rightarrow p\eta'$ . The theoretical foundation underlying the photoproduction of pseudoscalar mesons and the measurement of polarization observables will be discussed in the next sessions.

## 1.1 Photoproduction of Pseudoscalar Mesons

From the scattering theory point of view, photoproduction of mesons is well understood [KS03]. Figure 1.3 shows schematically the process thereof off the proton:



**Figure 1.3:** FEYNMAN diagram for the s-channel photoproduction of pseudoscalar mesons, adapted from [Afz19]

The analysis requires partial wave decomposition in both initial and final states [DT92] since the intermediate resonance  $N^*/\Delta^*$  has definite angular momentum, parity and isospin  $J_{\text{res.}}, P_{\text{res.}}, I_{\text{res.}}$ . The resonance is excited by a photon with (iso-) spin  $I_\gamma, S_\gamma = 1$  and parity  $P_\gamma$  coupling electromagnetically to the target proton with (iso-) spin  $I_p = 1/2, S_p = 1/2$  and parity  $P_p$ . The relative momentum is  $l_\gamma$ , such that the total momentum of the photon is  $L_\gamma = l_\gamma + S_\gamma$ . The parity of the photon depends on the multipolarity of the photon and is given by  $P_\gamma = (-1)^{L_\gamma}$  for electric ( $E$ ) or  $P_\gamma = (-1)^{L_\gamma+1}$  for magnetic ( $M$ ) photon multipoles [DT92]. Subsequently the intermediate state will have the quantum numbers  $J_{\text{res.}}, P_{\text{res.}}, I_{\text{res.}}$  and decay into a proton with spin  $S_p = 1/2$ , parity  $P_p = +1$  and isospin  $I_p = 1/2$  under emission of a meson. Here, only pseudoscalar mesons that have vanishing spin  $S_M = 0$ , isospin  $I_M$ , relative orbital angular momentum  $l_M$  and Parity  $P_M = (-1)^{l_M+1}$  are considered. Note that for  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  mesons  $I_M = 0$ ; this exclusively limits the intermediate resonances to  $N^*$  states since the strong interaction conserves isospin [Wor+22]. The following selection rules can be derived using parity and momentum conservation [KS03; Afz19]

$$J_{\text{res.}} = L_\gamma \oplus S_p = L_\gamma \oplus 1/2, \quad (1.1)$$

$$P_{\text{res.}} = P_p \cdot P_\gamma = P_\gamma, \quad (1.2)$$

$$J_{\text{res.}} = l_M \oplus S_p = l_M \oplus 1/2 \quad (1.3)$$

$$P_{\text{res.}} = P_p \cdot P_M = (-1)^{l_M+1}, \quad (1.4)$$

where the usual rules for the coupling  $\oplus$  of angular momenta [Bar+18] apply. Thus, knowledge of the photoproduction multipoles allows the identification of contributing resonances for particular mesonic final states. Table 1.2 shows a summary of allowed quantum numbers according to the shown selection rules for the lowest order of photon multipoles ( $L_\gamma = 1$ ). The photoproduction multipoles  $E_{l_\pm}, M_{l_\pm}$  indicate the relative momentum of the meson ( $l = l_M$ ) and whether the total

angular momentum is obtained by adding “+” or subtracting “-” the final state momenta. Resonances are identified in spectroscopic notation by the meson momentum  $l_M$  as well as by their (iso-)spin  $I, J$  and Mass  $M$ . Note that only  $2I = 1$  resonances are listed since the mesons  $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  have vanishing isospin, so that only  $I = 1/2$  resonances ( $N^*$  resonances) may be accessed. The determination

Photon multipole	initial state $(L_\gamma^{P_\gamma}, S_p^{P_p})$	intermed. state $J_{\text{res}}^{P_{\text{res}}}$	final state $(S_p^{P_p}, l_M^{P_M})$	photoproduction multipole $E_{l_\pm}, M_{l_\pm}$	resonance $(l_M)_{2I2J} (M)$
$E1$	$(1^-, \frac{1}{2}^+)$	$\frac{1}{2}^-$	$(\frac{1}{2}^+, 0^-)$	$E_{0+}$	$S_{13}(M)$
$E1$	$(1^-, \frac{1}{2}^+)$	$\frac{3}{2}^-$	$(\frac{1}{2}^+, 2^-)$	$E_{2-}$	$D_{13}(M)$
$M1$	$(1^+, \frac{1}{2}^+)$	$\frac{1}{2}^+$	$(\frac{1}{2}^+, 1^+)$	$M_{1-}$	$P_{11}(M)$
$M1$	$(1^+, \frac{1}{2}^+)$	$\frac{3}{2}^+$	$(\frac{1}{2}^+, 1^+)$	$M_{1+}$	$P_{13}(M)$

**Table 1.2:** Allowed quantum numbers for the intermediate resonance state  $N^*$  in  $\eta/\eta'$ -photoproduction. Adapted from [Afz19]

of contributing multipoles which can then be used to identify nucleon resonances is challenging and requires sophisticated (model dependent) partial wave analyses (PWA). The measurement of polarization observables helps to eliminate ambiguities in PWA calculations as will be explained in the following section.

## 1.2 Measurement of Polarization Observables

Using an ansatz purely motivated by scattering theory, the differential cross section of meson photoproduction can be written as

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} = \frac{q}{k} |\langle f | \mathcal{F} | i \rangle|^2, \quad (1.5)$$

where the matrix element is taken between initial and final PAULI spinors [Che+57] and  $q$  and  $k$  denote the momentum of the incident photon and final state meson, respectively. The photoproduction amplitude  $\mathcal{F}$  contains all relevant information regarding the scattering process connecting the initial and final state in analogy to the  $S$ -matrix that is introduced in the general discussion of quantum-mechanical scattering [PS95]. Following the notation of reference [Che+57] it can be written as a sum of the complex CHEW-GOLDBERGER-LOW-NAMBU (CGLN) amplitudes  $F_i$

$$\mathcal{F} = i(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \vec{\epsilon})F_1 + (\vec{\sigma} \cdot \hat{q})(\vec{\sigma} \cdot (\hat{k} \times \vec{\epsilon}))F_2 + i(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \hat{k})(\hat{q} \cdot \vec{\epsilon})F_3 + i(\vec{\sigma} \cdot \hat{q})(\hat{q} \cdot \vec{\epsilon})F_4, \quad (1.6)$$

where  $\hat{k}$  and  $\vec{\epsilon}$  are the momentum unit vector and polarization vector of the incident photon,  $\hat{q}$  is the momentum unit vector of the final state meson and  $\vec{\sigma}$  denote the PAULI matrices. Applying the method of partial waves onto the complex CGLN amplitudes  $F_i$  one can absorb the angular dependence into LEGENDRE polynomials  $P_l(\cos \theta)$  and derivatives thereof<sup>2</sup> and express the energy dependence solely

<sup>2</sup> Here  $\cos \theta$  denotes the polar angle of the meson in the center of mass system

by the photoproduction multipoles  $E_{l\pm}, M_{l\pm}$ , e.g. for  $F_1$  one finds [Che+57]

$$F_1 = \sum_{l=0}^{\infty} [lM_{l+}(W) + E_{l+}(W)] P'_{l+1}(\cos \theta) + [(l+1)M_{l-}(W) + E_{l-}(W)] P'_{l-1}(\cos \theta), \quad (1.7)$$

where  $W$  is the center of mass energy. Inserting the partial wave expansion of all CGLN amplitudes into Equation (1.5) directly connects the CGLN amplitudes and the photoproduction multipoles to the cross section which is a measurable quantity. However, the measurement of the differential cross section will give one real number which is not sufficient to unambiguously determine four complex amplitudes. To be able to access further observables that are connected to the CGLN amplitudes and the photoproduction multipoles, a polarized target and/or a polarized photon beam can be employed. In total, one may measure 16 non-redundant polarization observables [San+11] that are grouped into four categories: single polarization observables, where either the beam photon, target proton or recoil proton are polarized, and three groups of double polarization observables where two of the mentioned particles are polarized, i.e. the three groups are beam-target (BT), beam-recoil (BR) and target-recoil (TR) observables. In Table 1.3 all single and double polarization observables in pseudoscalar meson photoproduction are listed. Eight carefully chosen observables allow an unambiguous determination of all CGLN amplitudes [CT97], which are then referred to as a *complete experiment* [CT97; San+11].

category	observables			
non /single	$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} /$	$\Sigma$	$T$	$P$
beam-target	$G$	$H$	$E$	$F$
beam-recoil	$O_{x'}$	$O_{z'}$	$C_{x'}$	$C_{z'}$
target-recoil	$T_{x'}$	$T_{z'}$	$L_{x'}$	$L_{z'}$

**Table 1.3:** All 16 non redundant polarization observables in pseudoscalar meson photoproduction [San+11]. Table adapted from [Afz12].

The CBELSA/TAPS experiment is able to produce a linearly or circularly polarized photon beam as well as a longitudinally or transversely polarized target. This introduces dependencies on the azimuthal angle into the differential cross section that couple to polarization observables  $\Sigma, T, P, E, F, G, H$  and the linear or circular polarization degrees of the photon beam  $p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}}, p_{\gamma}^{\text{circ}}$  as well as the target polarization  $p_x, p_y, p_z$  [San+11]

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(E_{\gamma}, \theta, \varphi) = \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(E_{\gamma}, \theta) & \left[ 1 - p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}} \Sigma \cos(2\varphi) + p_x \left( p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}} \mathbf{H} \sin(2\varphi) + p_{\gamma}^{\text{circ}} \mathbf{F} \right) \right. \\ & \left. - p_{\gamma} \left( p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}} \mathbf{P} \cos(2\varphi) - \mathbf{T} \right) - p_z \left( -p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}} \mathbf{G} \sin(2\varphi) + p_{\gamma}^{\text{circ}} \mathbf{E} \right) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (1.8)$$

In this thesis data was analyzed that was taken with a linearly polarized photon beam and an unpolarized target, so that (1.8) reduces to

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(E_{\gamma}, \theta, \varphi) = \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega}(E_{\gamma}, \theta) \left[ 1 - p_{\gamma}^{\text{lin}} \Sigma \cos(2\varphi) \right], \quad (1.9)$$

which allows the determination of the beam asymmetry  $\Sigma$ , as is described in detail in chapter ???. The beam asymmetry can then be related to the CGLN amplitudes in order to enable the determination of

photoproduction multipoles if it is multiplied by the unpolarized cross section [**fasano**]

$$\widehat{\Sigma} = \Sigma \cdot \left( \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega} \right)_0 \propto \frac{\sin^2(\theta)}{2} \Re \left[ |F_3|^2 + |F_4|^2 + 2 (F_1^* F_4 + F_2^* F_3 + \cos \theta F_3^* F_4) \right]. \quad (1.10)$$

Unlike the unpolarized cross section, the beam asymmetry, or rather polarization observables in general, is sensitive not only to the absolute values of the photoproduction multipoles squared but is also sensitive to interference terms thereof [**Wunderlich\_2017**; Afz19]. Ultimately the photoproduction multipoles can be linked to resonance properties like mass  $M$  and width  $\Gamma$  using (model dependent) partial wave analyses that consider many observables in different final states at once. Expanding the database of polarization observables helps to further eliminate ambiguities in the photoproduction multipoles, which are used to identify contributing resonances, and thus adds to the understanding of the strong interaction in the non perturbative regime.

## 1.3 Introduction to BAYESIAN statistics

To determine the beam asymmetry (see Chapter ??) BAYESIAN methods are applied. This section will give a short introduction of the used concepts regarding BAYESIAN inference and the implementation of such a BAYESIAN analysis.

### 1.3.1 Notation

First of all, a probabilistic notation is introduced that will consequently be used throughout the remainder of this thesis to ease the formulation of BAYESIAN models and inferences. Hereby the BAYESIAN approach is directly applied to the context of parameter inference.

BAYESIAN parameter inference aims to draw statistical conclusions about parameters

$\theta = \{\theta_1, \theta_2, \dots, \theta_N\}$  conditioned on observed data  $y$  in the form of probability statements [**bayes**]. The probability density of the introduced parameters  $\theta$  given the observed data  $y$  is written as

$$p(\theta|y). \quad (1.11)$$

Distributions that are not conditioned on other observables, i.e. marginal or prior distributions, are notated as e.g.

$$p(\theta). \quad (1.12)$$

If a parameter  $\theta$  follows a well known probability density function (PDF) like a GAUSSIAN  $\mathcal{N}$  with mean  $\mu$  and standard deviation  $\sigma$  or POISSON distribution  $\mathcal{P}$  with mean  $\tilde{\mu}$  this is notated as

$$bl \quad (1.13)$$

### 1.3.2 BAYES' theorem

### 1.3.3 Comparison of BAYESIAN and Frequentist approach

#### Frequentist Approach

The traditional approach to this fitting problem is a  $\chi^2$  fit. Assume there are  $N$  precise predictors  $\{x_i\}$  and corresponding measurements  $\{y_i\}$  with measurement errors  $\{\sigma_i\}$ . Additionally, the data  $y$  is expected to follow a functional  $y = f(x, \theta)$  with parameter(s)  $\theta$  and predictors  $x$ . Then the test statistic

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i - f(x_i; \theta)}{\sigma_i^2} \right] \quad (1.14)$$

can be minimized with respect to the parameters  $\theta$  giving according estimates with error bars which are calculated using error propagation from the original data points  $\{y_i\}$ . The minimization can be solved analytically in the case of linear functions by solving the equation system

$$\frac{d}{d\theta} \chi^2 = 0$$

and otherwise numerically. The minimization of  $\chi^2$  to get best-fit estimates for the desired parameters can be motivated if one considers the likelihood  $\mathcal{L}$  that the data follow the function  $f$ . It is given by

$$\ln \mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^N \left[ \frac{y_i - f(x_i; \theta)}{\sigma_i} \right]^2 - \sum_{i=1}^N \ln \sigma_i \sqrt{2\pi}, \quad (1.15)$$

if one assumes GAUSSIAN errors at each data point. To maximize the (log-) likelihood with respect to all parameters is then equivalent to minimizing  $\chi^2$ . As a byproduct, the  $\chi^2$  fit also gives a goodness of fit estimate which is given by  $\chi^2/\text{NDF} \approx 1$ , where NDF are the number of degrees of freedom. Significantly smaller or larger values indicate too small error estimates or a bad fit, respectively. [Bar89]

#### Bayesian approach

As an alternative

### 1.3.4 Combining inferences

## 1.4 Motivation and Structure of this Thesis

bla





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