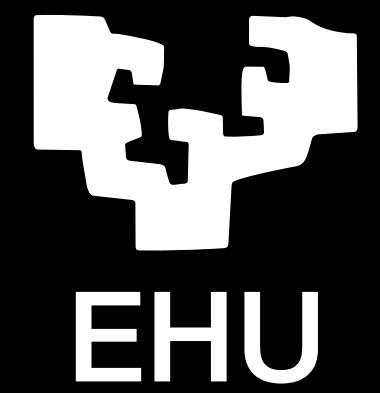
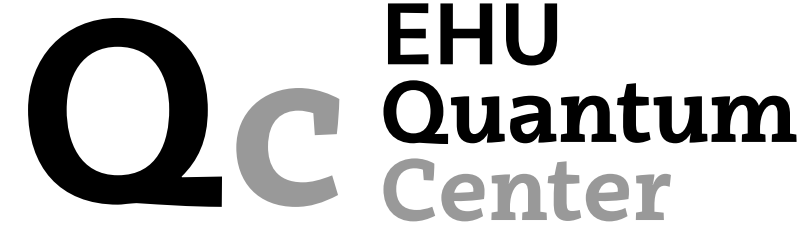
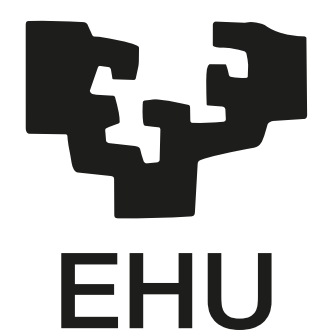


# Probing parton distribution functions with DUNE

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Universidad del País Vasco

XVII CPAN days 19-21 Nov 2025 (Valencia)



## Introduction

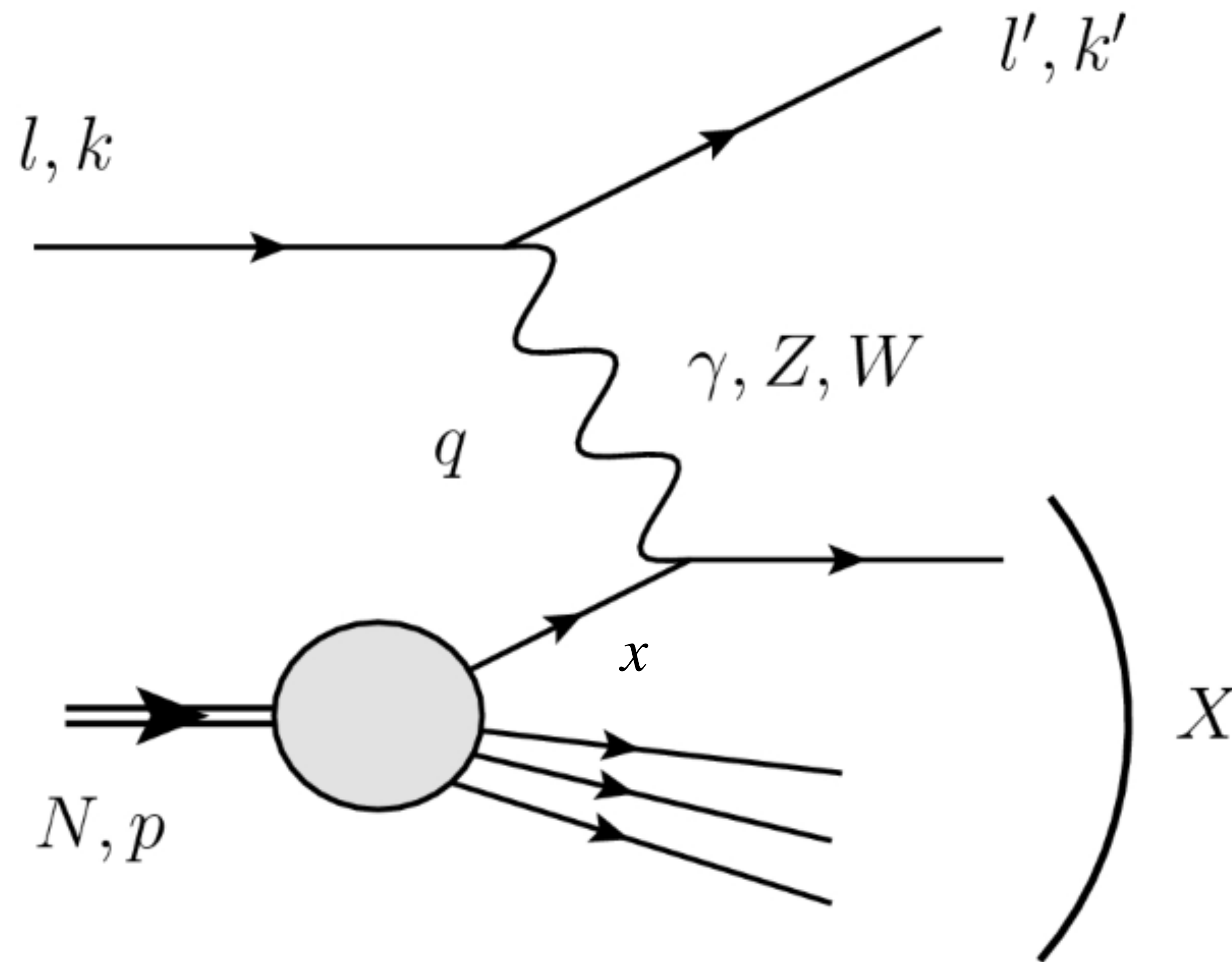
- **PDFs** are key objects to understand hadron structure.
- **DIS** is a clean tool to measure PDFs
- $\nu$ **DIS** allows for probing structure functions not available on charged lepton DIS [\[J.M. Cruz-Martinez et al. 2309.09581\]](#)

Goal: Assess the capabilities of DUNE to measure PDFs

## Motivation

- Future neutrino based facilities (DUNE, FPF) will have improved statistics, a large number of events and improved final state reconstruction for QCD measurements. [\[DUNE collaboration. 2503.23291, J.Adhikary et al. 2411.04175\]](#)
- Rising tensions between neutrino and charged lepton data hint at a lack of understanding of nuclear effects in  $\nu$ DIS [\[K.F. Muzakka et al. 2204.13157\]](#)

# Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering

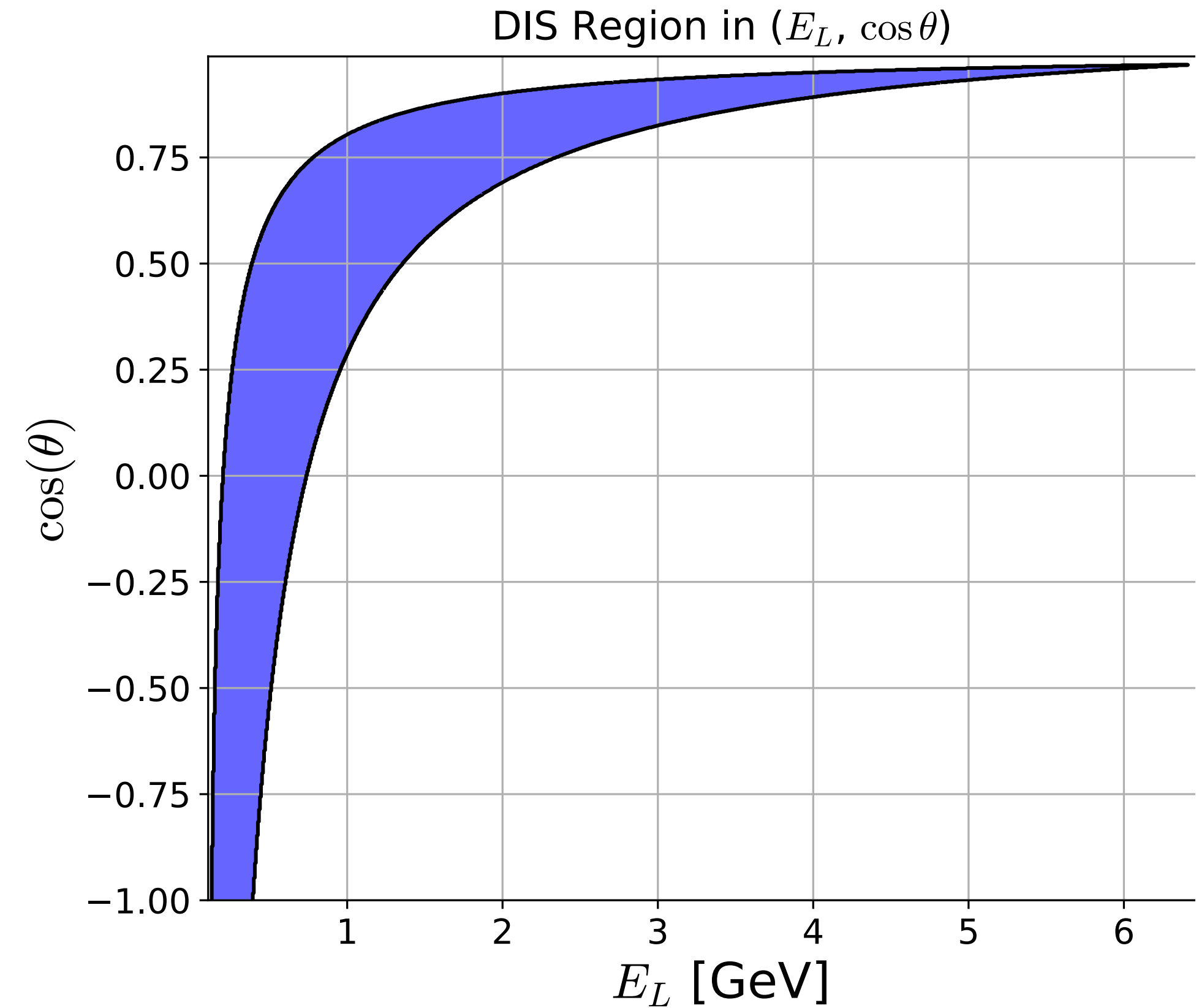
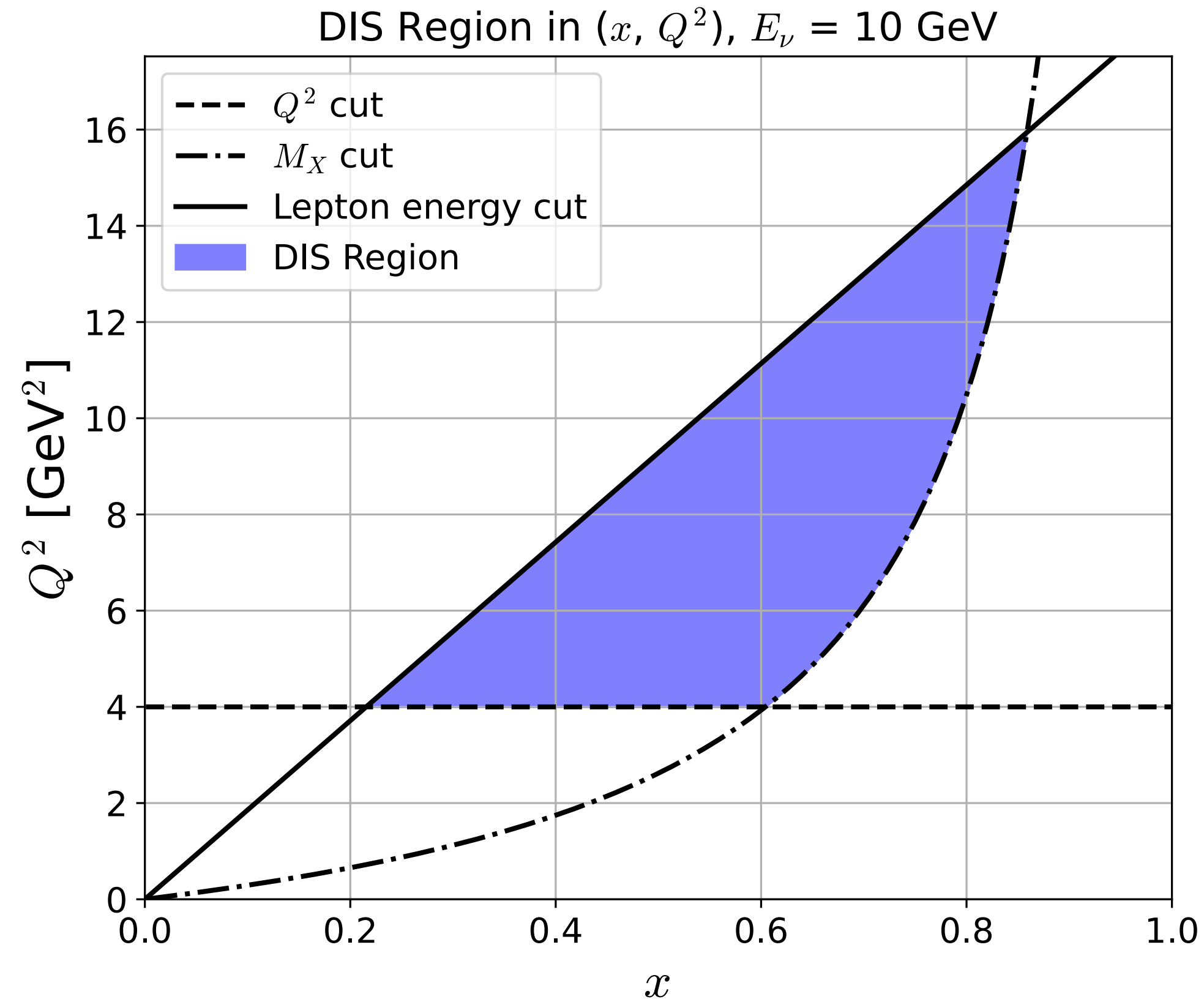


$$-q^2 = Q^2 \geq 4\text{GeV}^2.$$

$$M_X^2 \geq 3.5\text{GeV}^2.$$

Fig 1. Neutrino DIS diagram  
[I. Borsa et al. 2210.12014]

# Neutrino Deep Inelastic Scattering: DIS conditions



$$Q^2 = 2E_l E_\nu (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2m_N(E_\nu - E_l)}$$



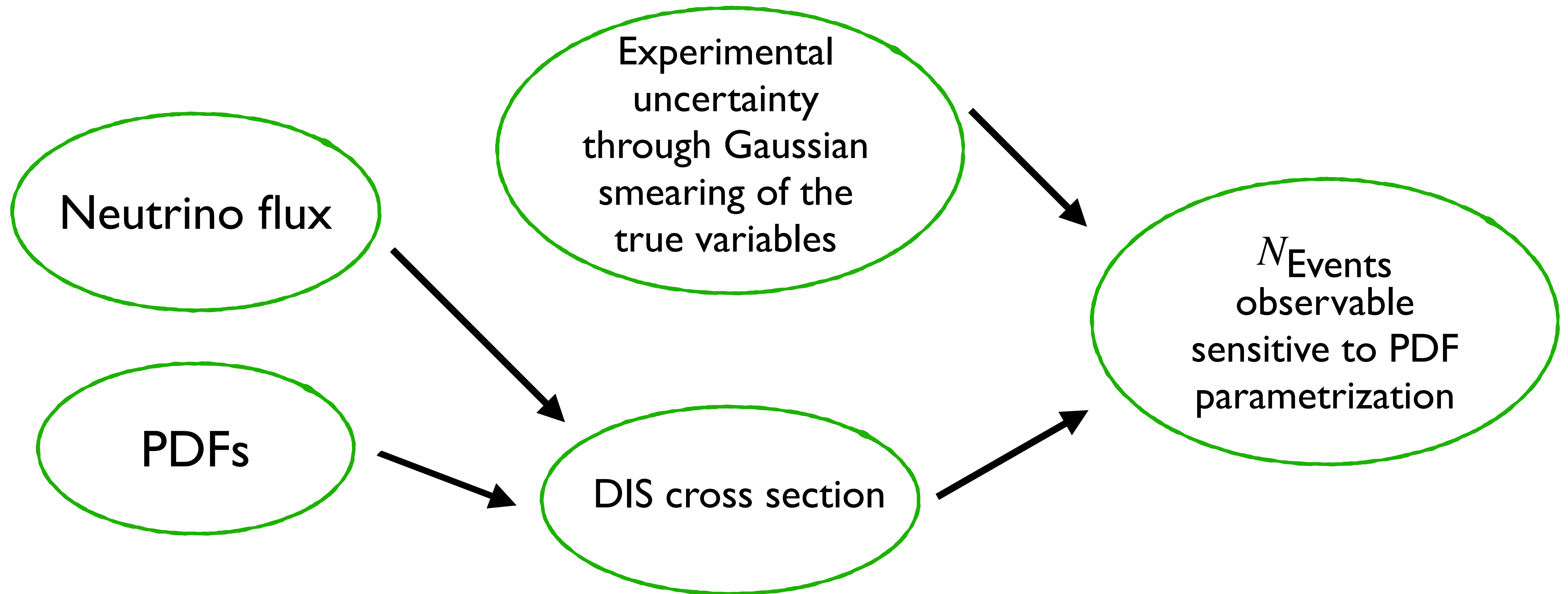
# Deep Underground Neutrino Experiment (DUNE)

- DUNE is a future neutrino oscillation experiment that will tackle several open problems (CP violation, mass ordering...).
- For a precise oscillation measurement, it has both a near and far detector.
- Broadband neutrino beam with long tail and peak energies of a few GeV.
- The expected number of muon-neutrino events in the ND is of the order of tens of millions per year.
- Reconstruction of DIS events is done by measuring  $E_H$ ,  $\cos \theta$  and  $E_l$ .

$$\sigma_H = 30 \% \sqrt{\frac{E_H}{\text{GeV}}} \quad \sigma_l = 4 \% \frac{E_l}{\text{GeV}} \quad \sigma_\theta = 1^\circ$$

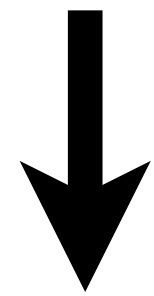
[DUNE Collaboration  
2002.03005 &  
2103.139910]







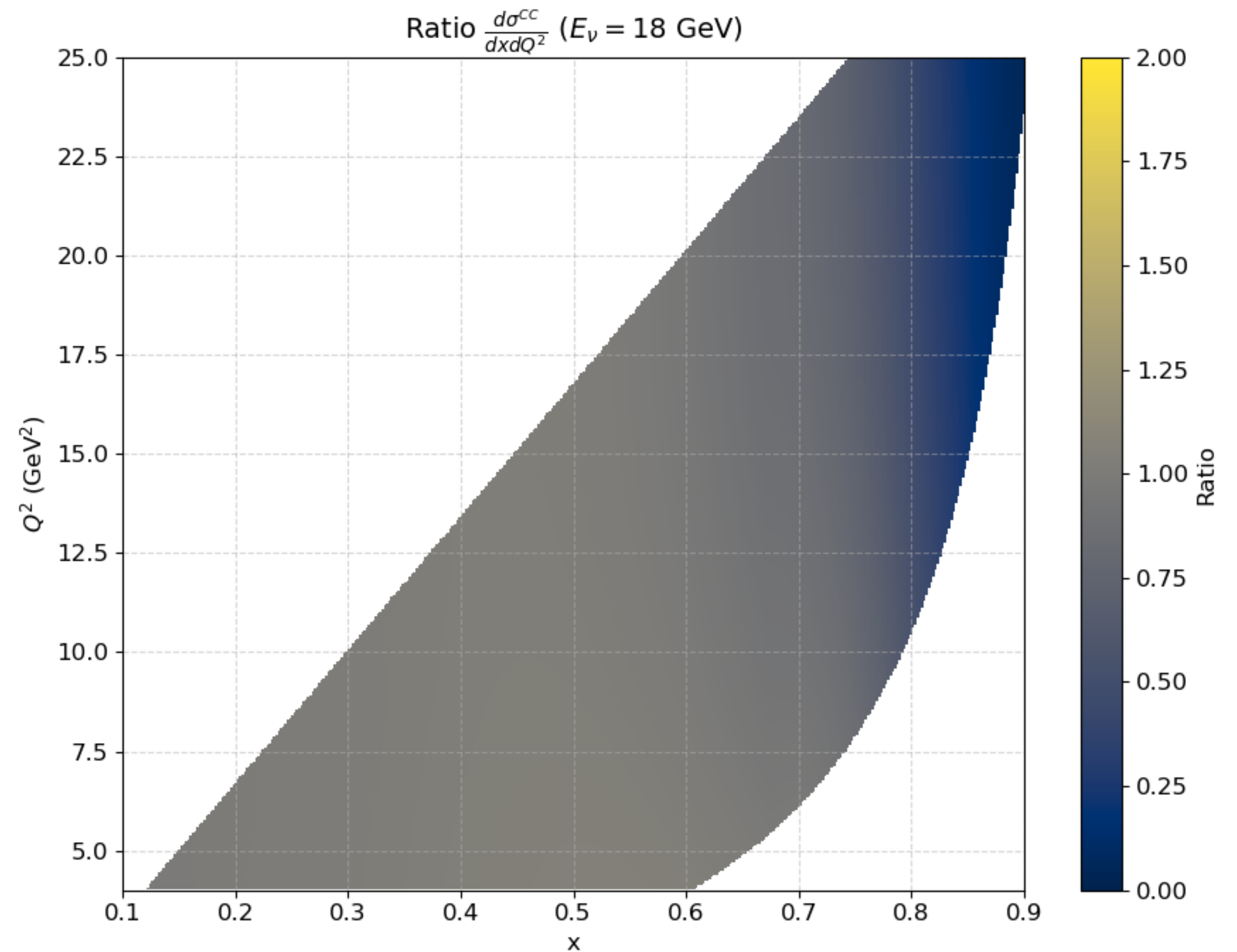
There is a mild tension  
between EPPS  
and nNNPDF  
Argon-40 datasets in the  
high- $x$  region



Can DUNE explore this  
by reconstructing events?

[K.J. Eskola et  
al. 2112.12462]

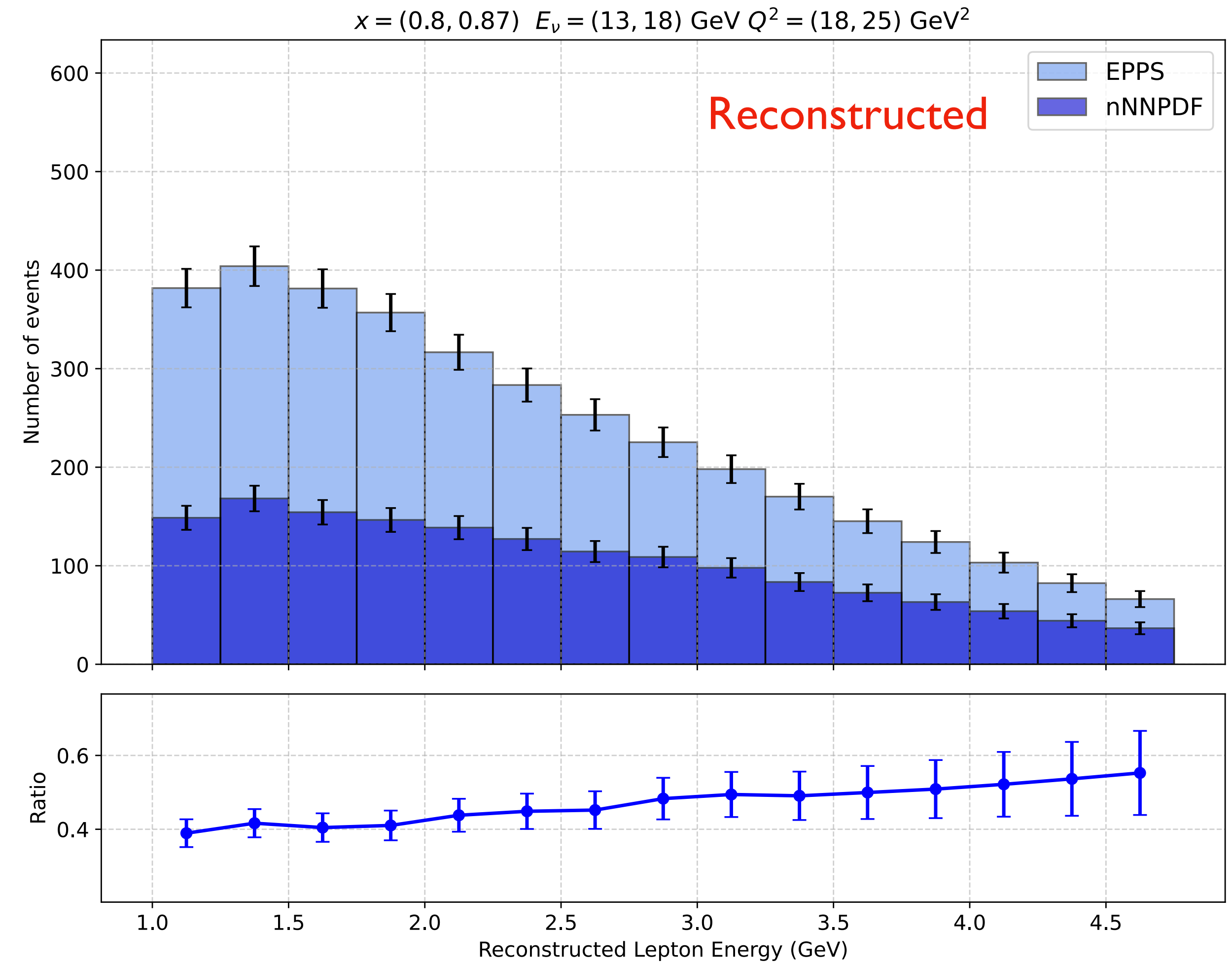
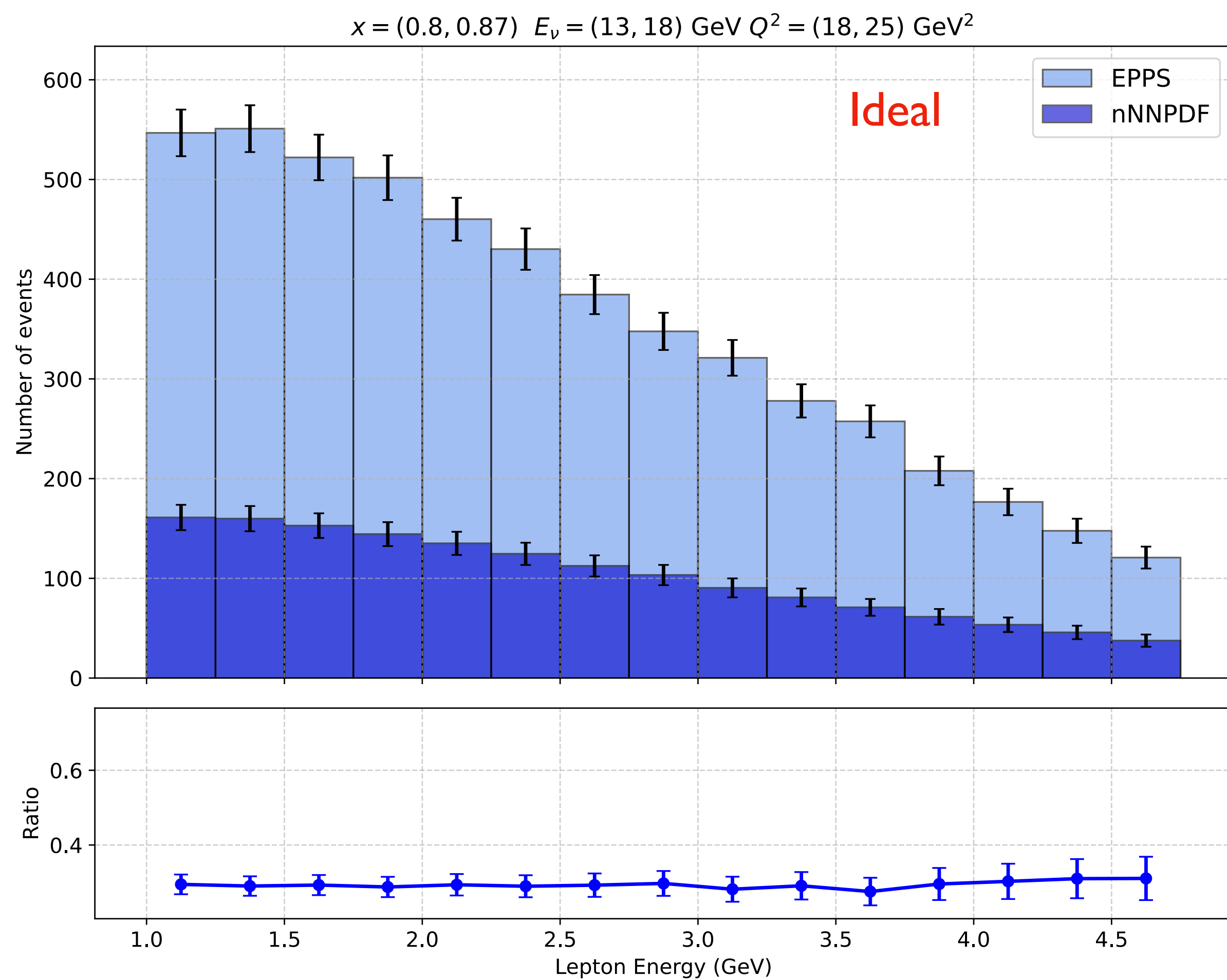
[R. Abdul Khalek et  
al. 2201.12363]





# Results on number of events

\*Statistical uncertainty only





- Charm tagging refers to identifying a charm jet in an event through various techniques and algorithms that exploit c-meson lifetimes and decay products.

[ATL-PHYS-  
PUB-2015-001]

$$c\tau_{D^\pm} \sim 309\mu m \quad c\tau_{\pi^\pm} \sim 7.8m$$

$$c\tau_{D^0} \sim 123\mu m \quad c\tau_{\pi^0} \sim 25.3nm$$

[S. Navas et al. (PDG)  
PhysRevD.110.030001]

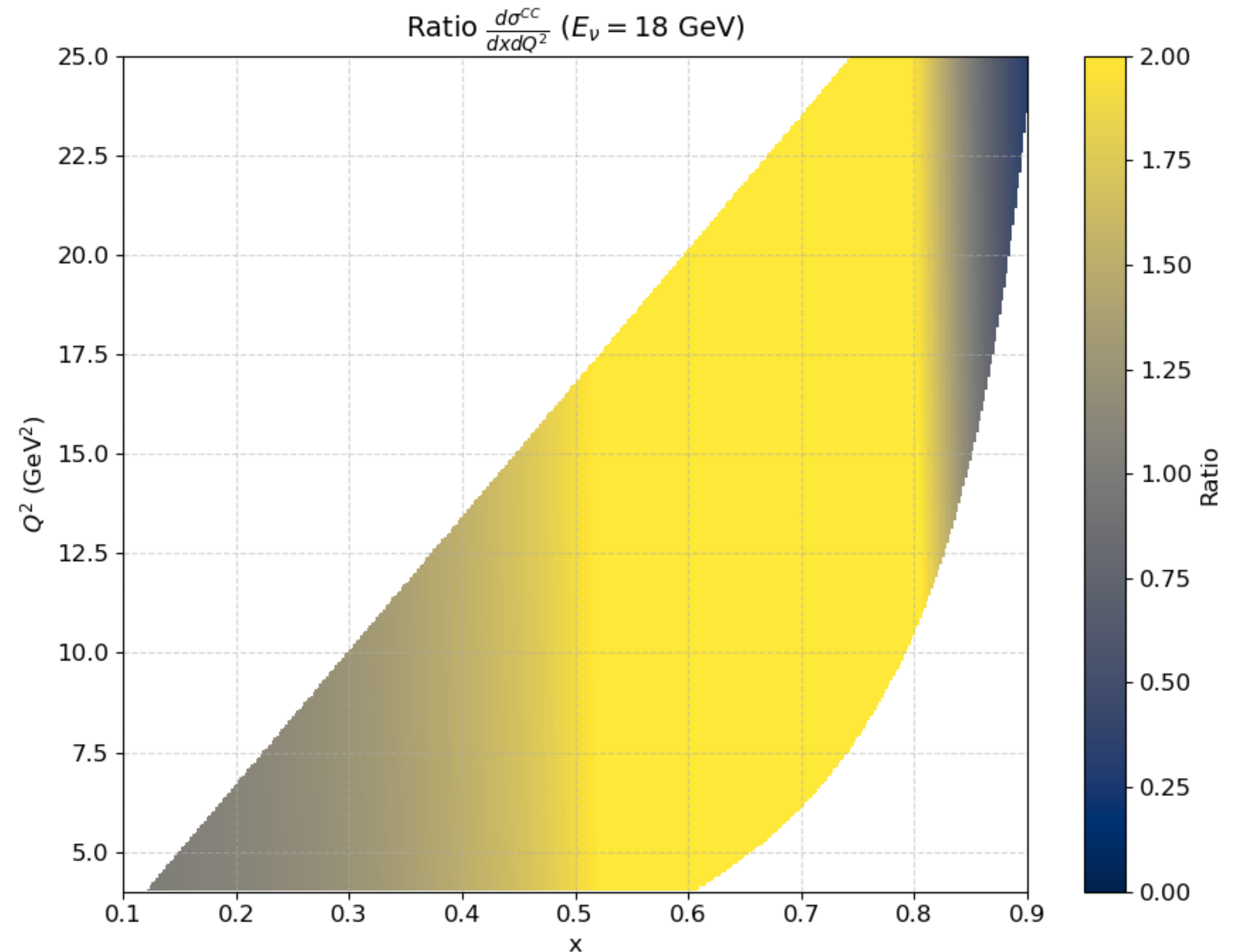
- Evaluating if and how effectively DUNE can c-tag through its TPC is an ongoing work.



- Charm-tagged events can constrain the poorly understood strange PDF.

$$s + W^+ \rightarrow c$$

- Tensions are more present as the cross section gets more sensitive to the strange PDF.

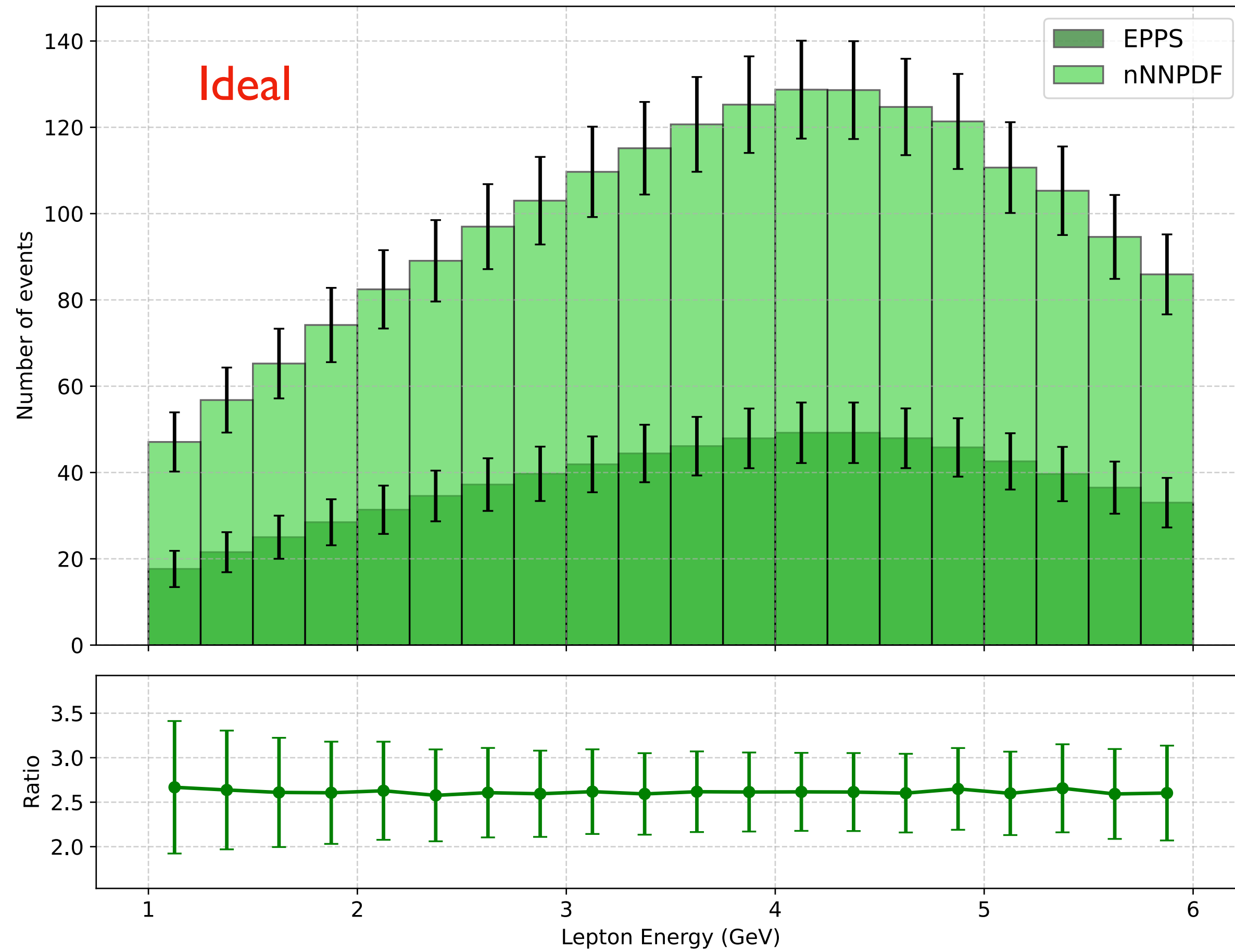




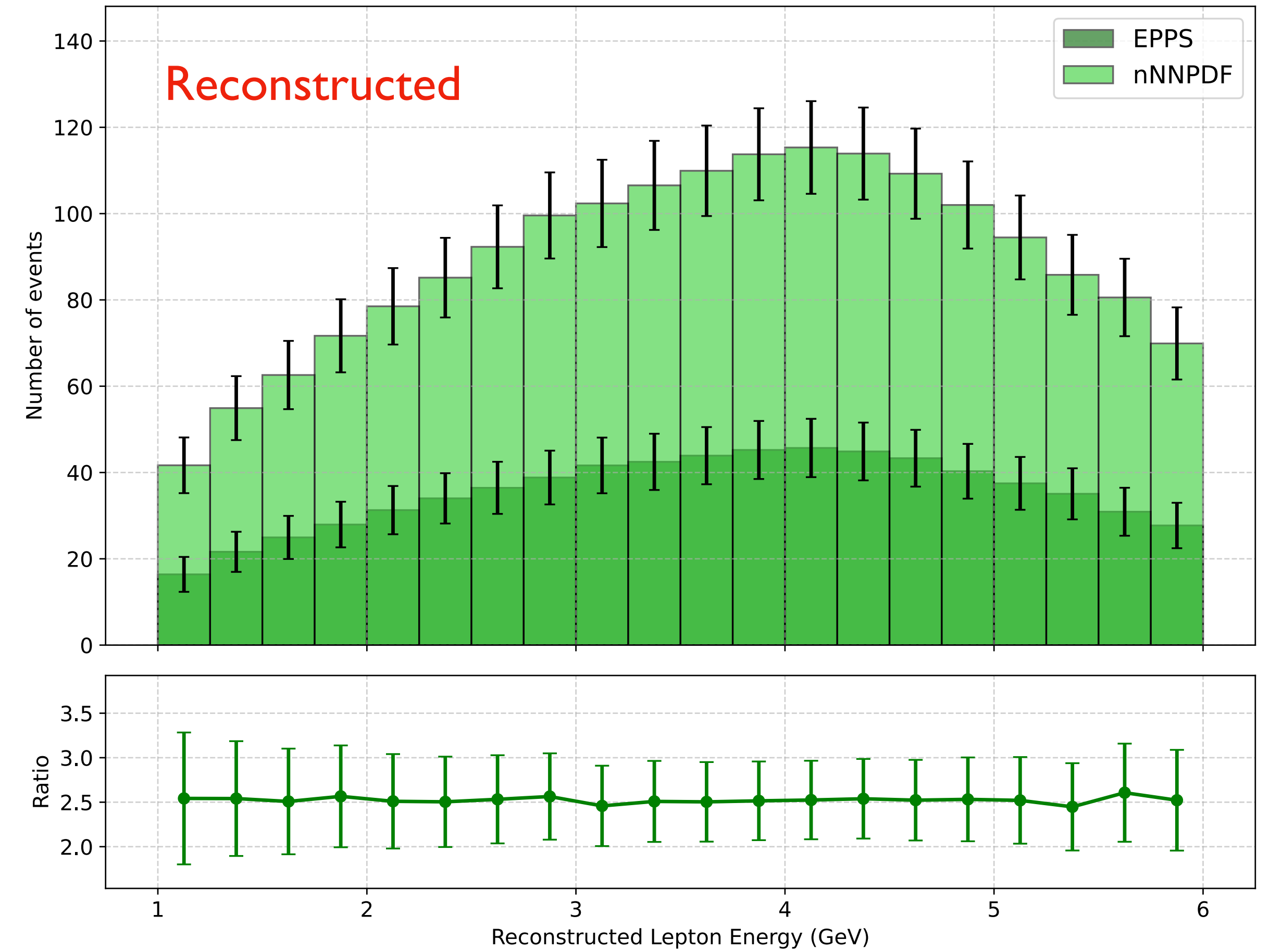
# Constraints on charm-tagged events

\*Statistical uncertainty only

$x = (0.7, 0.8)$   $E_\nu = (13, 18)$  GeV  $Q^2 = (12, 18)$  GeV<sup>2</sup>



$x = (0.7, 0.8)$   $E_\nu = (13, 18)$  GeV  $Q^2 = (12, 18)$  GeV<sup>2</sup>





### Main takeaways

- Preliminary results show that DUNE could be capable of constraining PDFs owing to the large available number of neutrino interactions and good final state reconstruction.
- Neutrino data can be a window to existing tensions among different PDF datasets and a new probe for nuclear effects.



### Future lines of research

- Extend calculations beyond leading power (WIP).
- Study the advantages of neutrino usage and their role in TMDs, FFs, ... (WIP)
- Compare different nuclei datasets to look for exclusive neutrino nuclear effects.





# Thank you!

Ángel Felipe Ballesteros

XVII CPAN days 19-21 Nov (Valencia)



# Backup slides

## DIS formulae relating physical variables

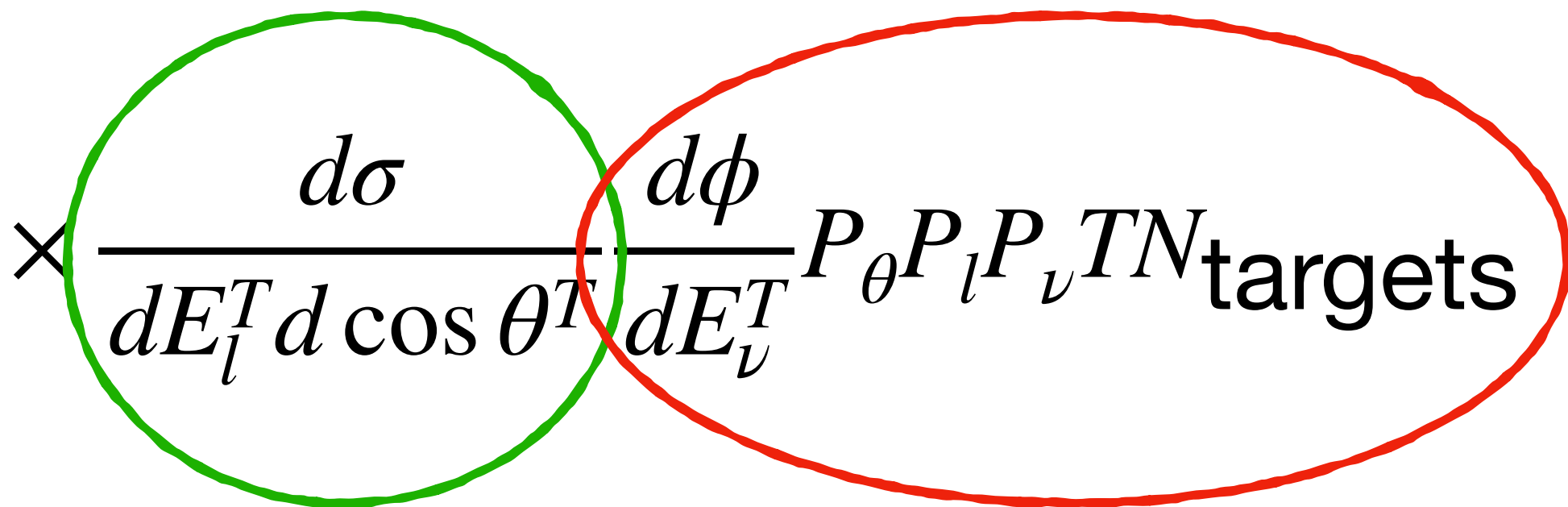
$$Q^2 = 2E_l E_\nu (1 - \cos \theta)$$

$$x = \frac{Q^2}{2m_N E_H} \qquad E_H + E_l = E_\nu$$

$$M_x^2 = m_N^2 + \frac{Q^2(1 - x)}{x}$$



The number of events is computed via:

$$N = \int_{\text{BIN}} dE_l^R \int_{\text{BIN}} dE_\nu^R \int_{\text{BIN}} d\cos\theta^R \int_{E_0}^{E_f} dE_\nu^T \int_{\text{DIS}} dE_l^T \int_{\text{DIS}} d\cos\theta^T \times$$

$$\times \frac{d\sigma}{dE_l^T d\cos\theta^T} \frac{d\phi}{dE_\nu^T} P_\theta P_l P_\nu T N_{\text{targets}}$$

Sensible to PDF parametrization

Experimental dependance (Gaussian smear)

Structure functions in neutrino DIS can be computed through collinear factorization

$$F(x, Q^2) = \sum_j \int_1^x \frac{dz}{z} C_j(z, \alpha_s(Q^2)) f_j\left(\frac{x}{z}, Q^2\right). \quad [\text{A. Candido et al. 2401.15187}]$$

Libraries for the computation of structure functions and cross sections beyond leading power already exist (YADISM, PineAPPL,...)

Applying these modules to the Argon 40 neutrino DIS case of DUNE is an ongoing work