



*Three-body dynamics in hadron structure & hadronic systems:  
A symposium in celebration of Iraj Afnan's 70th birthday  
Jefferson Lab, July 24, 2009*

# Deep-inelastic scattering on the tri-nucleons

*Wally Melnitchouk*

The logo for Jefferson Lab, featuring a stylized red and black graphic above the text "Jefferson Lab".  
Jefferson Lab

# Outline

- Motivation: neutron structure at large  $x$ 
  - $d/u$  ratio, duality in the neutron
- Status of large- $x$  quark distributions
  - nuclear corrections
  - new global analysis of *inclusive* DIS data (CTEQ $x$ )
- DIS from  $A=3$  nuclei
  - model-independent extraction of neutron  $F_2$
  - plans for helium-3/tritium experiments

# Quark distributions at large $x$

# Parton distributions functions (PDFs)

- provide basic information on structure of hadronic systems
- needed to understand backgrounds in searches for *new physics* beyond the Standard Model in high-energy colliders, neutrino oscillation experiments, ...

→ DGLAP evolution feeds low  $x$ , high  $Q^2$  from high  $x$ , low  $Q^2$

$$\frac{dq(x, t)}{dt} = \frac{\alpha_s(t)}{2\pi} \int_x^1 \frac{dy}{y} \left[ P_{qq} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) q(y, t) + P_{qg} \left( \frac{x}{y} \right) g(y, t) \right]$$

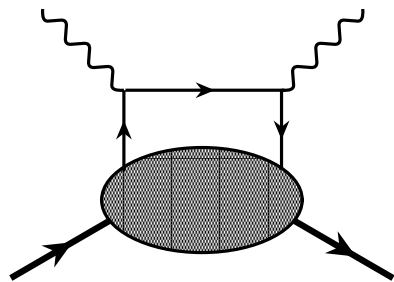
$$t = \log Q^2 / \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$$

- Ratio of  $d$  to  $u$  quark distributions at large  $x$  particularly sensitive to quark dynamics in nucleon

- SU(6) spin-flavor symmetry

*proton wave function*

$$\begin{aligned}
 p^\uparrow = & -\frac{1}{3}d^\uparrow(uu)_1 - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{3}d^\downarrow(uu)_1 \\
 & + \frac{\sqrt{2}}{6}u^\uparrow(ud)_1 - \frac{1}{3}u^\downarrow(ud)_1 + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}u^\uparrow(ud)_0
 \end{aligned}$$



interacting  
quark

spectator  
diquark

diquark spin

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 \end{aligned}$$

$$\longrightarrow u(x) = 2 d(x) \text{ for all } x$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{F_2^n}{F_2^p} = \frac{2}{3}$$

■ scalar diquark dominance

$M_\Delta > M_N \implies (qq)_1$  has larger energy than  $(qq)_0$

$\implies$  scalar diquark dominant in  $x \rightarrow 1$  limit

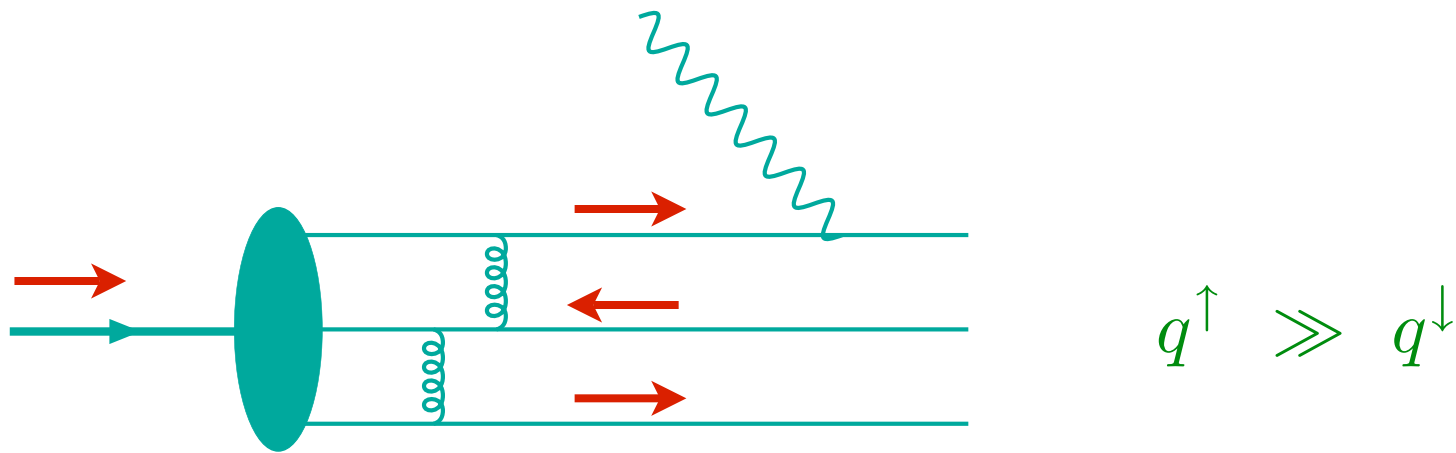
since only  $u$  quarks couple to scalar diquarks

$$\longrightarrow \boxed{\frac{d}{u} \rightarrow 0}$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{F_2^n}{F_2^p} \rightarrow \frac{1}{4}$$

■ hard gluon exchange

at large  $x$ , helicity of struck quark = helicity of hadron



$\implies$  helicity-zero diquark dominant in  $x \rightarrow 1$  limit

$$\longrightarrow \boxed{\frac{d}{u} \rightarrow \frac{1}{5}}$$

$$\longrightarrow \frac{F_2^n}{F_2^p} \rightarrow \frac{3}{7}$$



- At large  $x$ , valence  $u$  and  $d$  distributions extracted from  $p$  and  $n$  structure functions

$$F_2^p \approx \frac{4}{9}u_v + \frac{1}{9}d_v$$

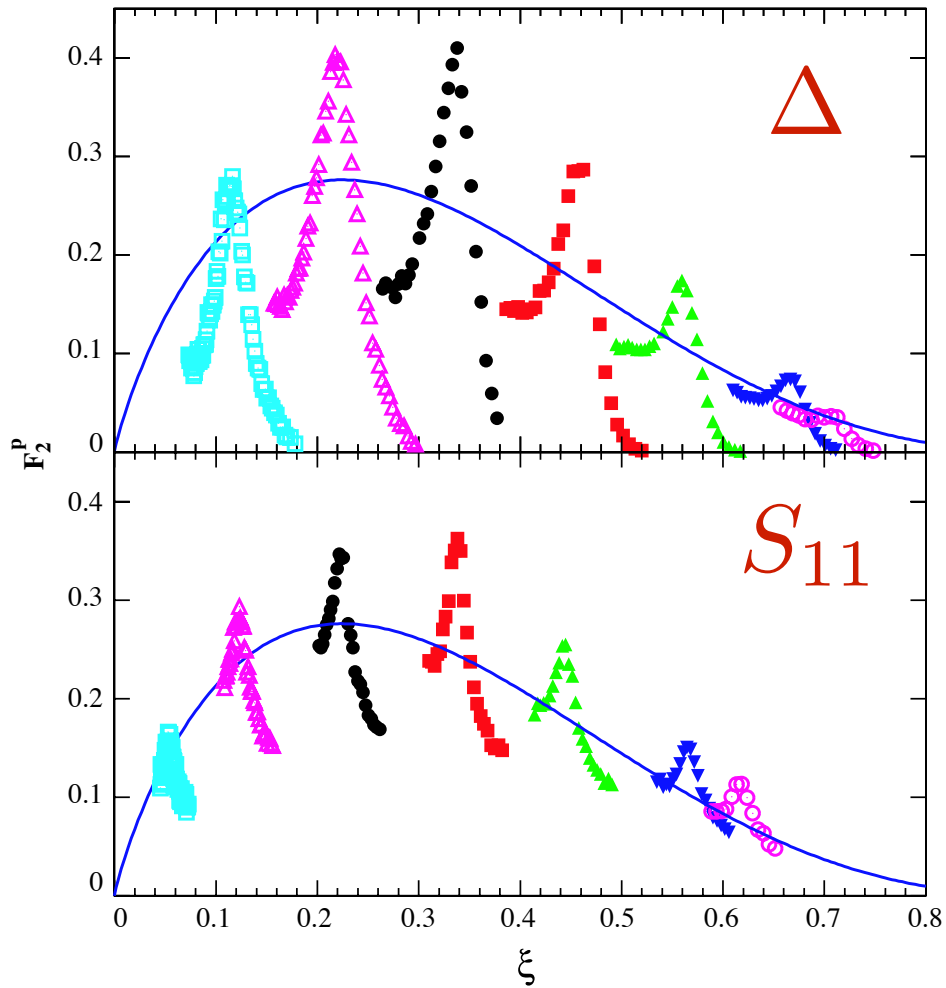
$$F_2^n \approx \frac{4}{9}d_v + \frac{1}{9}u_v$$

- $u$  quark distribution well determined from  $p$  data
- $d$  quark distribution requires  $n$  structure function

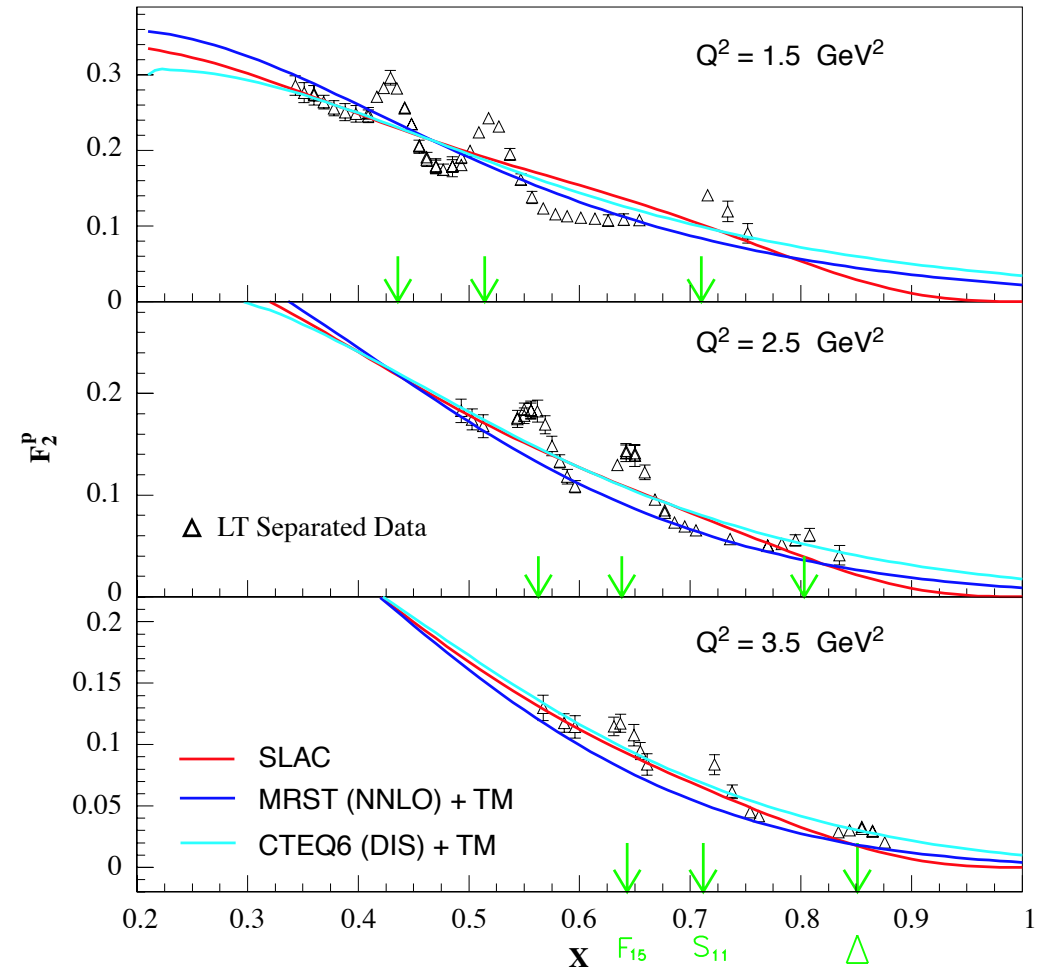
$$\rightarrow \frac{d}{u} \approx \frac{4 - F_2^n / F_2^p}{4F_2^n / F_2^p - 1}$$

Duality in the neutron?

■ Bloom-Gilman duality well established for the *proton*

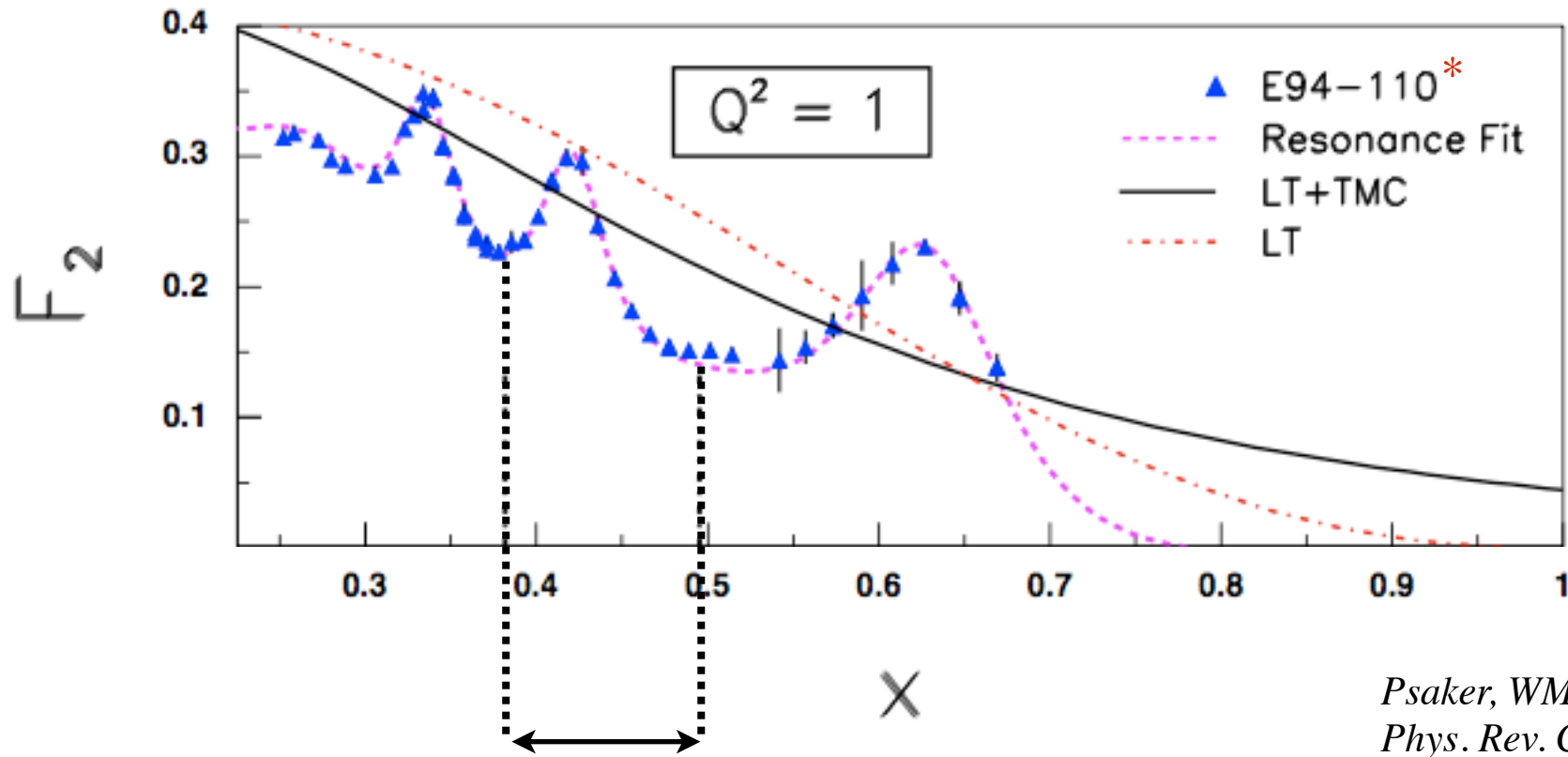


Niculescu et al., PRL 85 (2000) 1182, 1185



Christy et al. (2005)

# $F_2^p$ resonance spectrum



how much of this region is leading twist ?

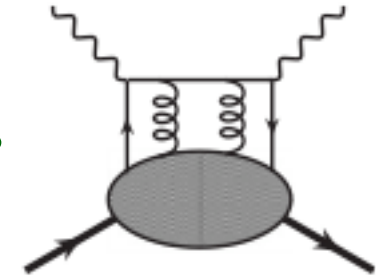
# Higher twists

- $1/Q^2$  expansion of structure function moments

$$M_n(Q^2) = \int_0^1 dx x^{n-2} F_2(x, Q^2) = A_n^{(2)} + \frac{A_n^{(4)}}{Q^2} + \frac{A_n^{(6)}}{Q^4} + \dots$$

matrix elements of operators with specific “twist” (= dimension – spin)

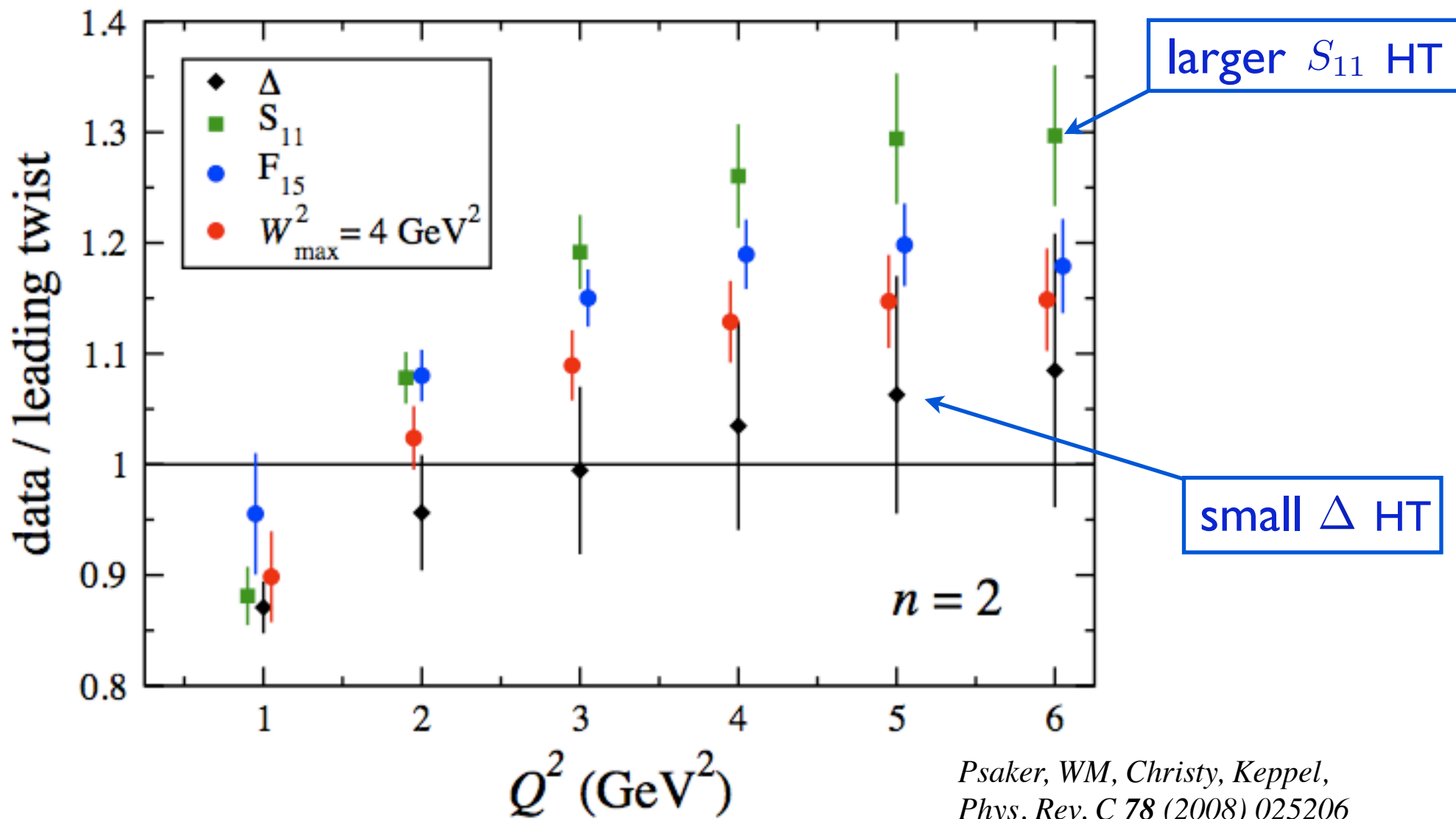
→ twist > 2 reveals long-range  $q$ - $g$  correlations



- phenomenologically important at low  $Q^2$  and large  $x$

→ parametrize  $x$  dependence by

$$F_2(x, Q^2) = F_2^{\text{LT}}(x, Q^2) \left( 1 + \frac{C(x)}{Q^2} \right)$$



→ higher twists < 10–15% for  $Q^2 > 1 \text{ GeV}^2$



- No **FREE** neutron targets

(neutron half-life ~ 12 mins)

→ use deuteron as “effective” neutron target

- **BUT** deuteron is a nucleus, and  $F_2^d \neq F_2^p + F_2^n$

→ nuclear effects (nuclear binding, Fermi motion, shadowing)  
obscure neutron structure information

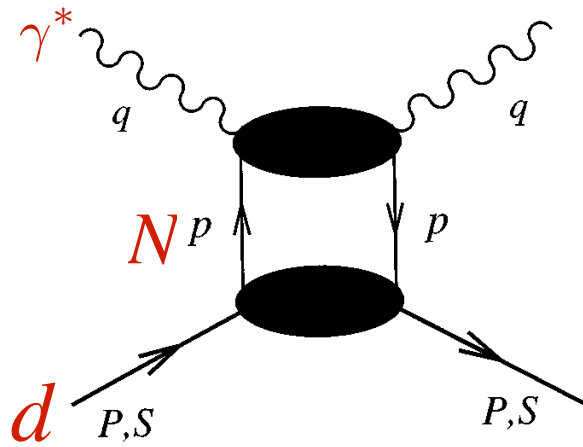
→ need to correct for “nuclear EMC effect”



# Nuclear effects in the deuteron

■ nuclear “impulse approximation”

→ incoherent scattering from individual nucleons in  $d$   
 (good approx. at  $x \gg 0$ )

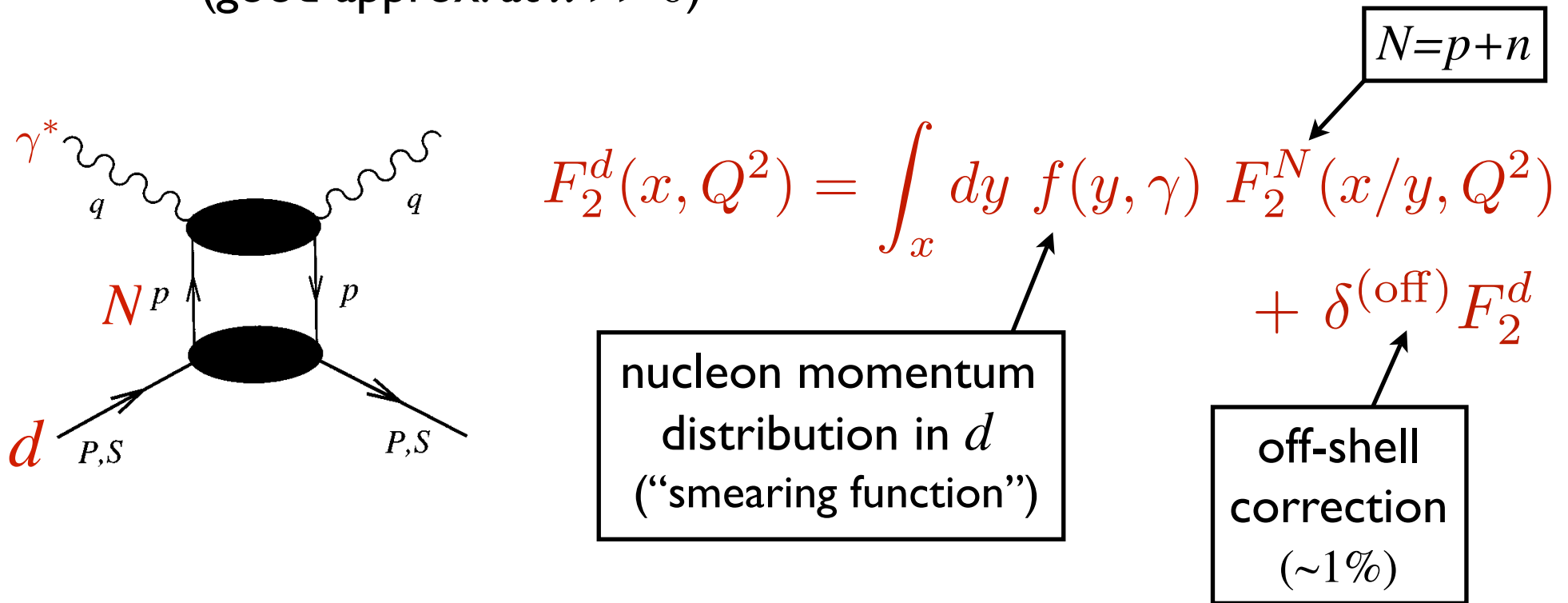


$$F_2^d(x, Q^2) = \int_x^1 dy f(y, \gamma) F_2^N(x/y, Q^2) + \delta^{(\text{off})} F_2^d$$

$$N=p+n$$

## ■ nuclear “impulse approximation”

→ incoherent scattering from individual nucleons in  $d$   
(good approx. at  $x \gg 0$ )



→ at finite  $Q^2$ , smearing function depends also on parameter

$$\gamma = |\mathbf{q}|/q_0 = \sqrt{1 + 4M^2 x^2 / Q^2}$$

## $N$ momentum distributions in $d$

- weak binding approximation (WBA):  
expand amplitudes to order  $\vec{p}^2/M^2$

$$f(y, \gamma) = \int \frac{d^3 p}{(2\pi)^3} |\psi_d(p)|^2 \delta\left(y - 1 - \frac{\varepsilon + \gamma p_z}{M}\right) \\ \times \frac{1}{\gamma^2} \left[ 1 + \frac{\gamma^2 - 1}{y^2} \left( 1 + \frac{2\varepsilon}{M} + \frac{\vec{p}^2}{2M^2} (1 - 3\hat{p}_z^2) \right) \right]$$

*Kulagin, Petti, NPA765, 126 (2006); Kahn, WM, Kulagin, PRC 79, 035205 (2009)*

- deuteron wave function  $\psi_d(p)$
- deuteron separation energy  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_d - \frac{\vec{p}^2}{2M}$
- approaches usual nonrelativistic momentum distribution in  $\gamma \rightarrow 1$  limit

# Off-shell correction

$$\delta^{(\text{off})} F_2^d$$



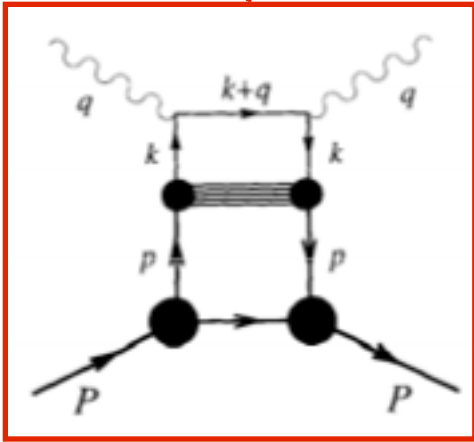
$$\delta^{(\Psi)} F_2^d$$

negative energy components of  $\psi_d$

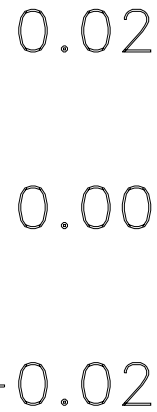


$$\delta^{(p^2)} F_2^d$$

off-shell  $N$  structure function



$$\delta^{(\text{off})} F_2^d / F_2^d$$



total

$$\delta^{(p^2)} F_2^d$$

$$\delta^{(\Psi)} F_2^d$$

0.2 0.4 0.6 0.8 1.0

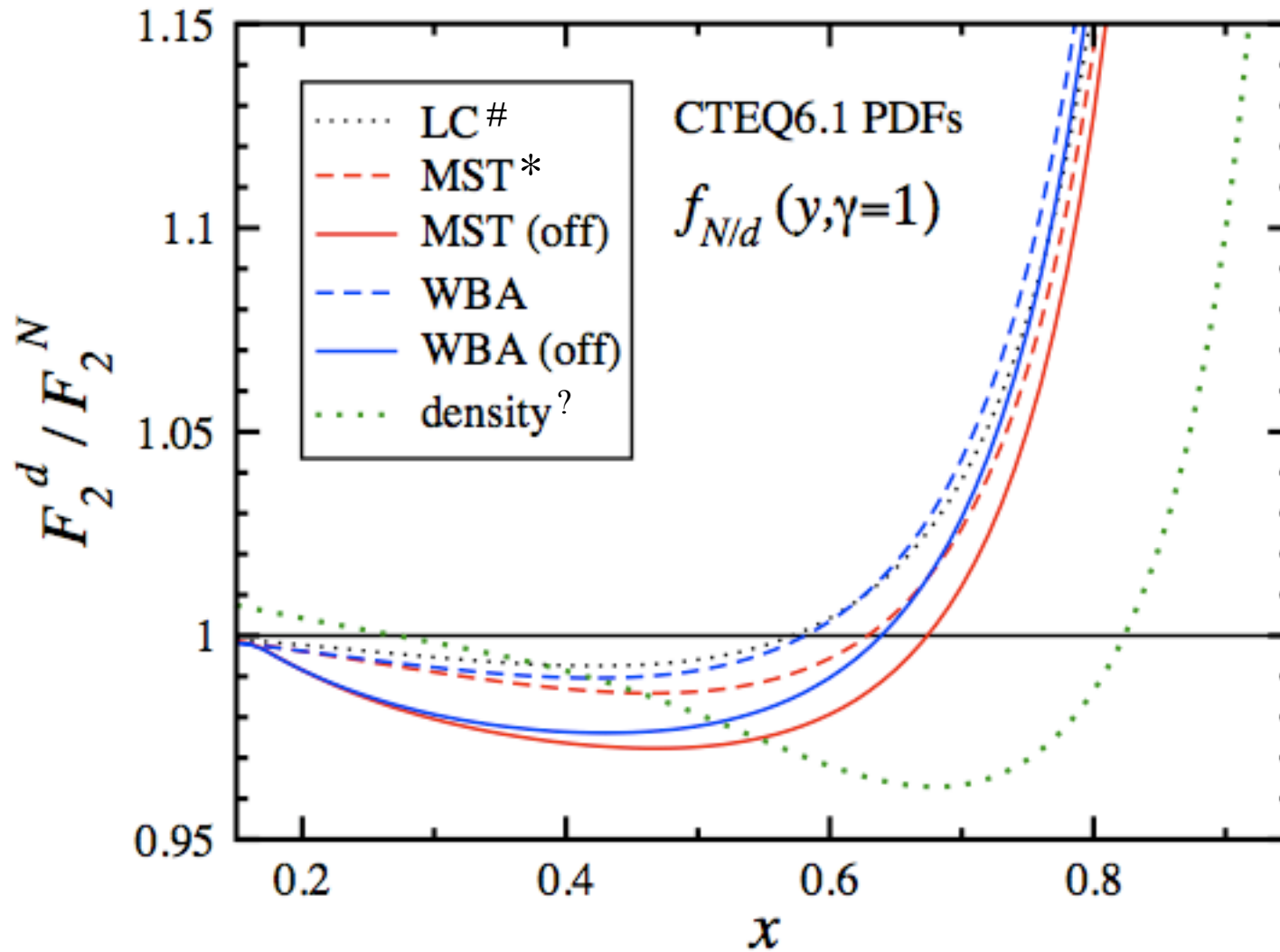
$x$

WM, Schreiber, Thomas  
PLB 335 (1994) 11



$\leq 1 - 2\%$  effect

# EMC effect in deuteron



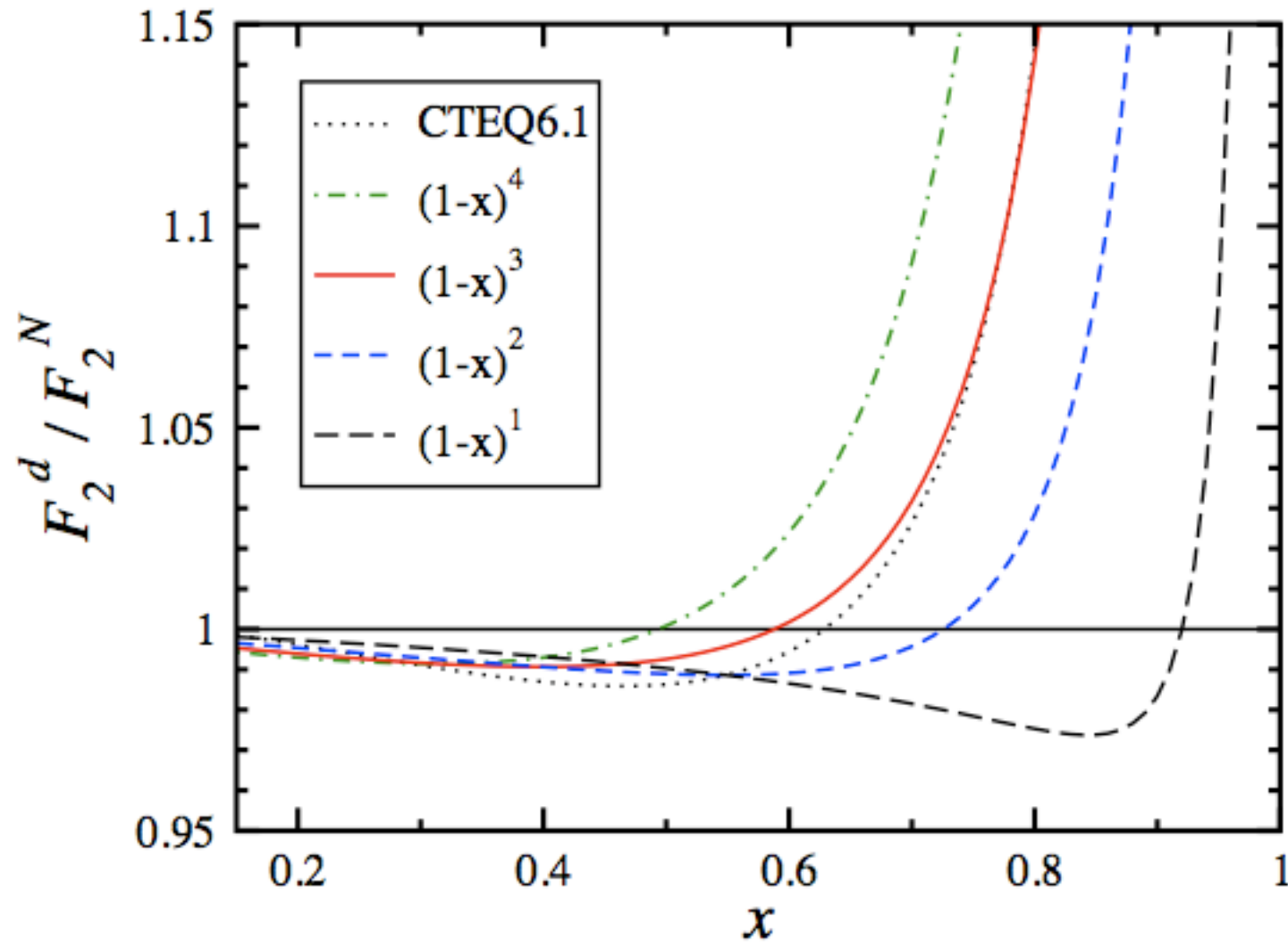
# *Light-cone model*  
(Frankfurt, Strikman)

\* *Relativistic model*  
(WM, Schreiber,  
Thomas)

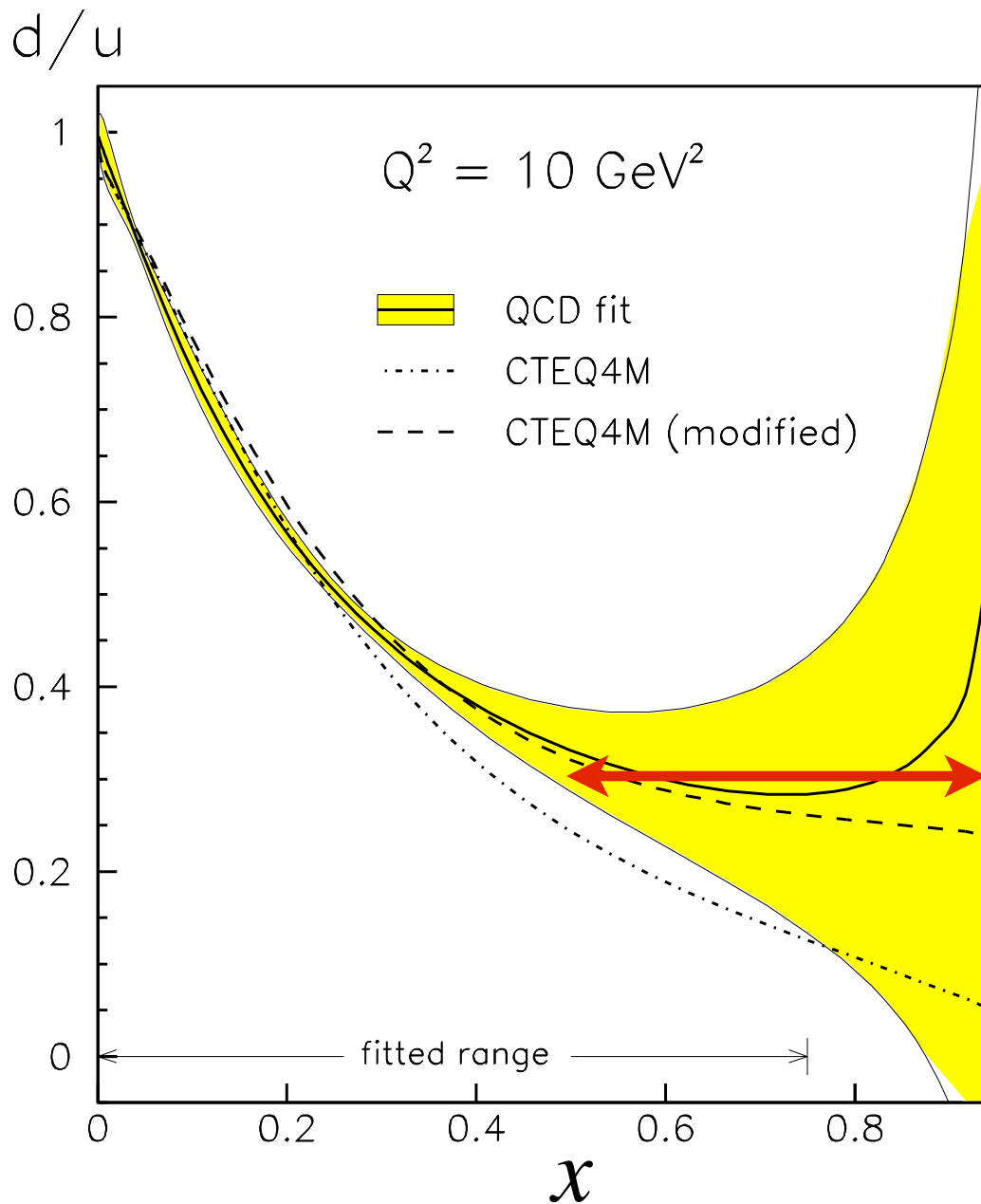
? *Nuclear density model*  
(Frankfurt, Strikman)

→ larger EMC effect (smaller  $d/N$  ratio) at  $x \sim 0.5-0.6$   
with binding + off-shell corrections

## EMC effect in deuteron



→ EMC ratio depends also on *input nucleon SFs*;  
need to iterate when extracting  $F_2^n$



large uncertainty from  
nuclear effects in deuteron  
(range of nuclear models\*)  
beyond  $x \sim 0.5$

→ symmetry breaking  
mechanism remains  
unknown!

\* most PDFs assume no nuclear corrections



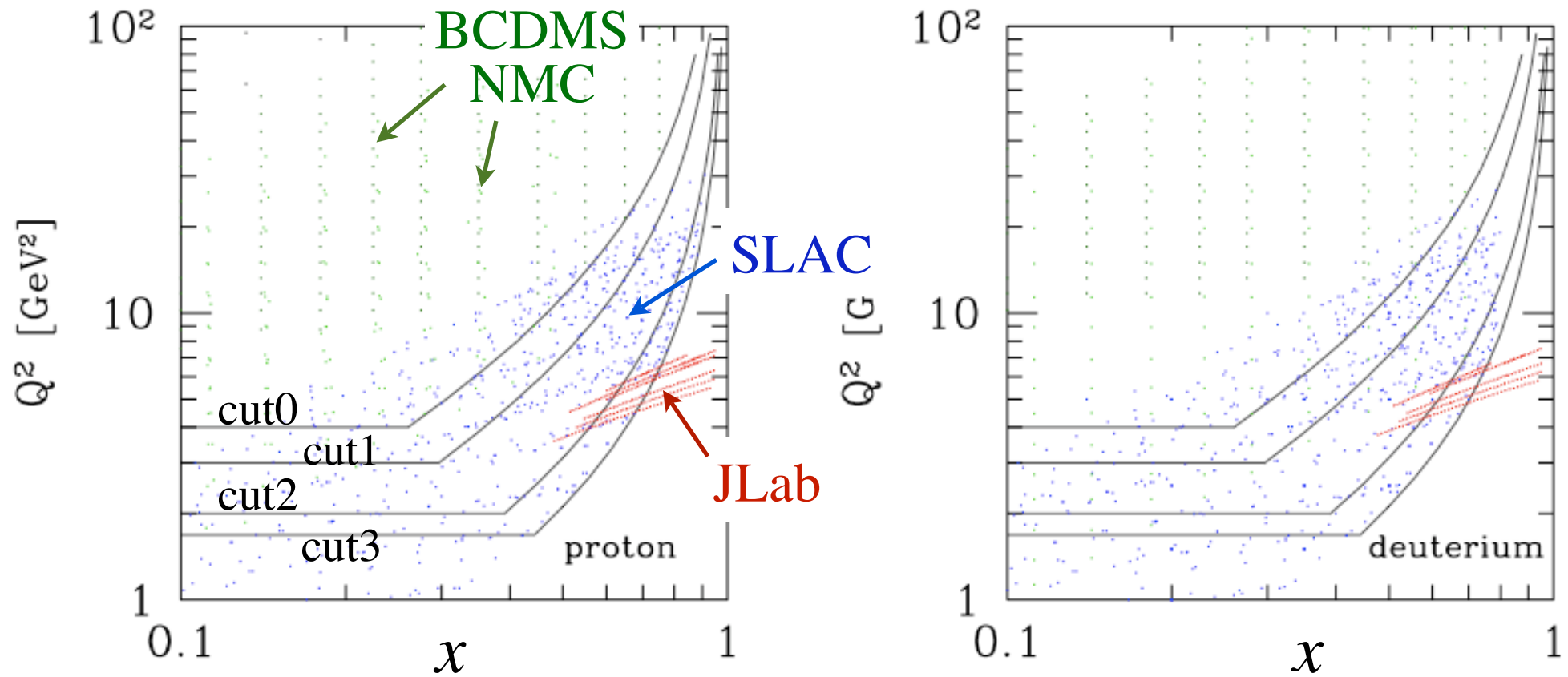
# New global analysis ("CTEQx")

[with Accardi, Christy, Keppel, Monaghan, Morfin, Owens]

# Global questions

- Can one obtain stable fits including low- $Q^2$ , low- $W$  data?
    - how do large- $x$  data affect PDFs?
    - to what extent can uncertainties be reduced?
  - Are subleading,  $1/Q^2$  corrections under control?
    - how large are higher twists?
  - How do nuclear corrections affect  $d/u$  ratio?
    - what uncertainties do nuclear effects introduce?
- ➔ New analysis of proton & deuteron data includes effects of  $Q^2/W$  cuts, TMCs, higher twists, nuclear corrections

# Kinematic cuts



cut0:  $Q^2 > 4 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $W^2 > 12.25 \text{ GeV}^2$

cut1:  $Q^2 > 3 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $W^2 > 8 \text{ GeV}^2$

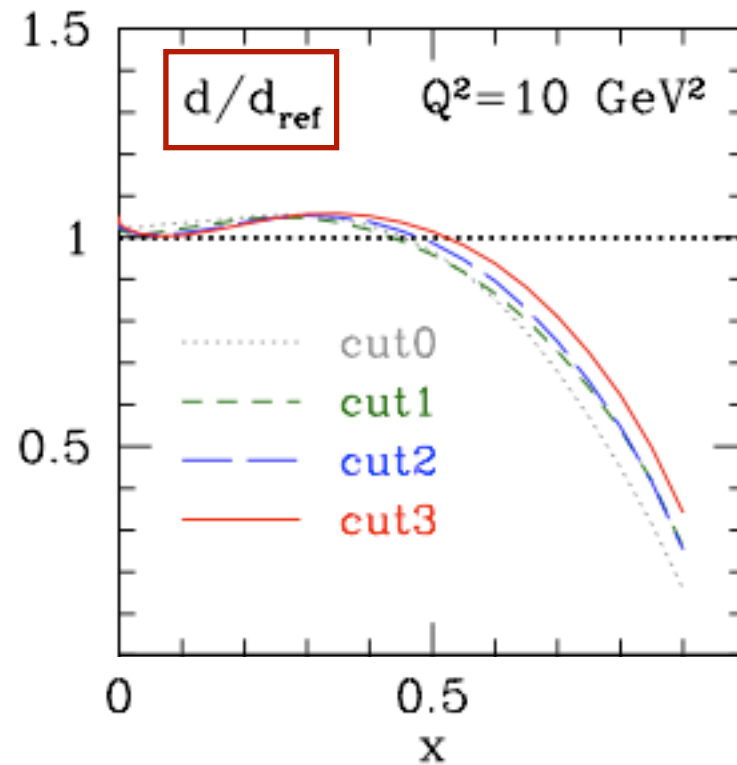
cut2:  $Q^2 > 2 \text{ GeV}^2$ ,  $W^2 > 4 \text{ GeV}^2$

cut3:  $Q^2 > m_c^2$ ,  $W^2 > 3 \text{ GeV}^2$

$\sim 2$  times more data  
for cut3 *cf.* cut0

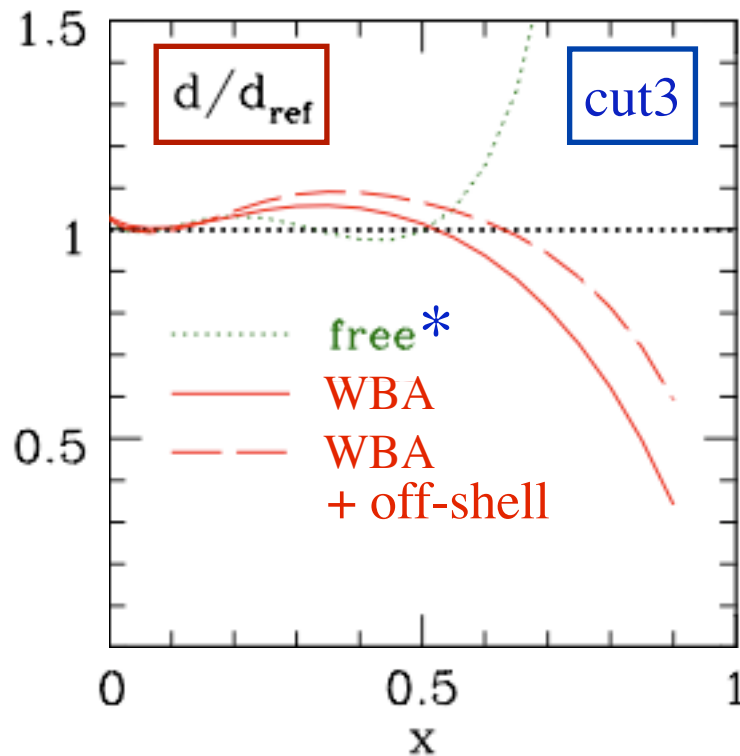
## Effect of $Q^2$ & $W$ cuts

- Systematically reduce  $Q^2$  and  $W$  cuts
- Fit includes target mass, higher twist & nuclear corrections (WBA)



- $d$  suppressed by  $\sim 50\%$  for  $x > 0.5$
- driven mostly by nuclear corrections

# Effect of nuclear corrections

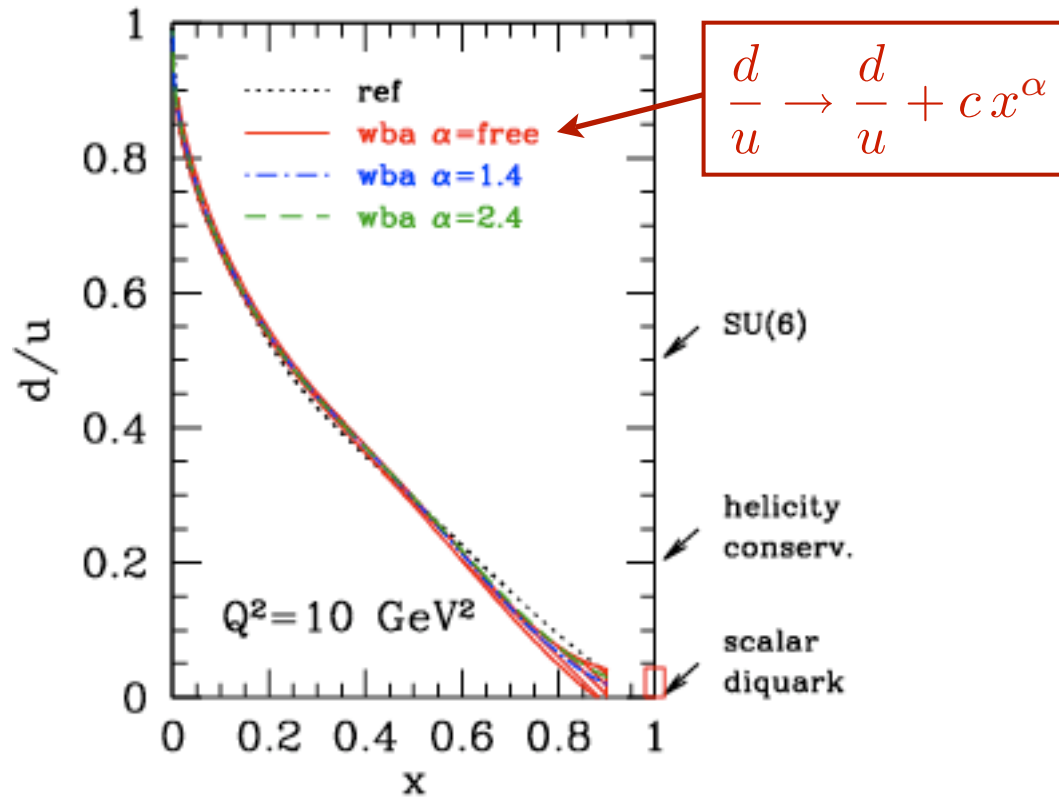


\* assumes  $F_2^d = F_2^p + F_2^n$   
as in CTEQ6.1 and most  
other global fits

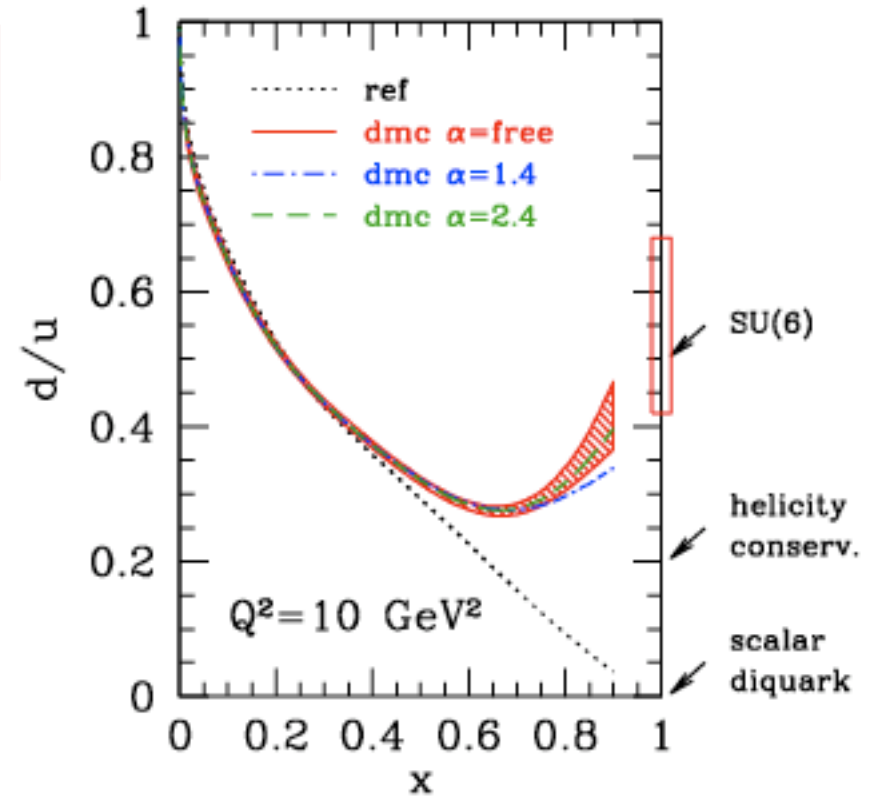
- dramatic effect of nuclear corrections:  
decrease in  $d$  distribution for  $x > 0.6$
- modest increase with (additive) off-shell correction  
(since EMC ratio has deeper “trough”)

# $d/u$ PDF ratio

## nuclear smearing



## density model



- full fits favors smaller  $d/u$  ratio
- dominance of nonperturbative physics?
- critical need for neutron SF at  $x > 0.6$

How to extract neutron  
without nuclear uncertainties?

Deep inelastic scattering from  $A=3$  nuclei and the neutron structure functionI. R. Afnan,<sup>1</sup> F. Bissey,<sup>2</sup> J. Gomez,<sup>3</sup> A. T. Katramatou,<sup>4</sup> S. Liuti,<sup>5</sup> W. Melnitchouk,<sup>3</sup> G. G. Petratos,<sup>4</sup> and A. W. Thomas<sup>6</sup>■ EMC ratios for  $A=3$  mirror nuclei

$$R(^3\text{He}) = \frac{F_2^{^3\text{He}}}{2F_2^p + F_2^n} \quad R(^3\text{H}) = \frac{F_2^{^3\text{H}}}{F_2^p + 2F_2^n}$$

■ Extract  $n/p$  ratio from measured  $^3\text{He}$ - $^3\text{H}$  ratio

$$\frac{F_2^n}{F_2^p} = \frac{2\mathcal{R} - F_2^{^3\text{He}}/F_2^{^3\text{H}}}{2F_2^{^3\text{He}}/F_2^{^3\text{H}} - \mathcal{R}}$$

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{R(^3\text{He})}{R(^3\text{H})}$$

theory input





■ Nucleon distribution function in  $A=3$  nucleus

$$f_{N/A}(y, \gamma) = \int d^4p \left( 1 + \frac{p_z}{p_0} \right) S_A(p) \mathcal{F}(p, \gamma) \delta \left( y - \frac{p_0 + p_z}{M} \right)$$

$$\mathcal{F}(p, \gamma) = \left( 1 + \frac{4Mp_z x^2 \gamma}{yQ^2} \right) - (2p^2 - p_z^2) \frac{\gamma^2 x^2}{y^2 Q^2}$$

→ nucleon spectral function

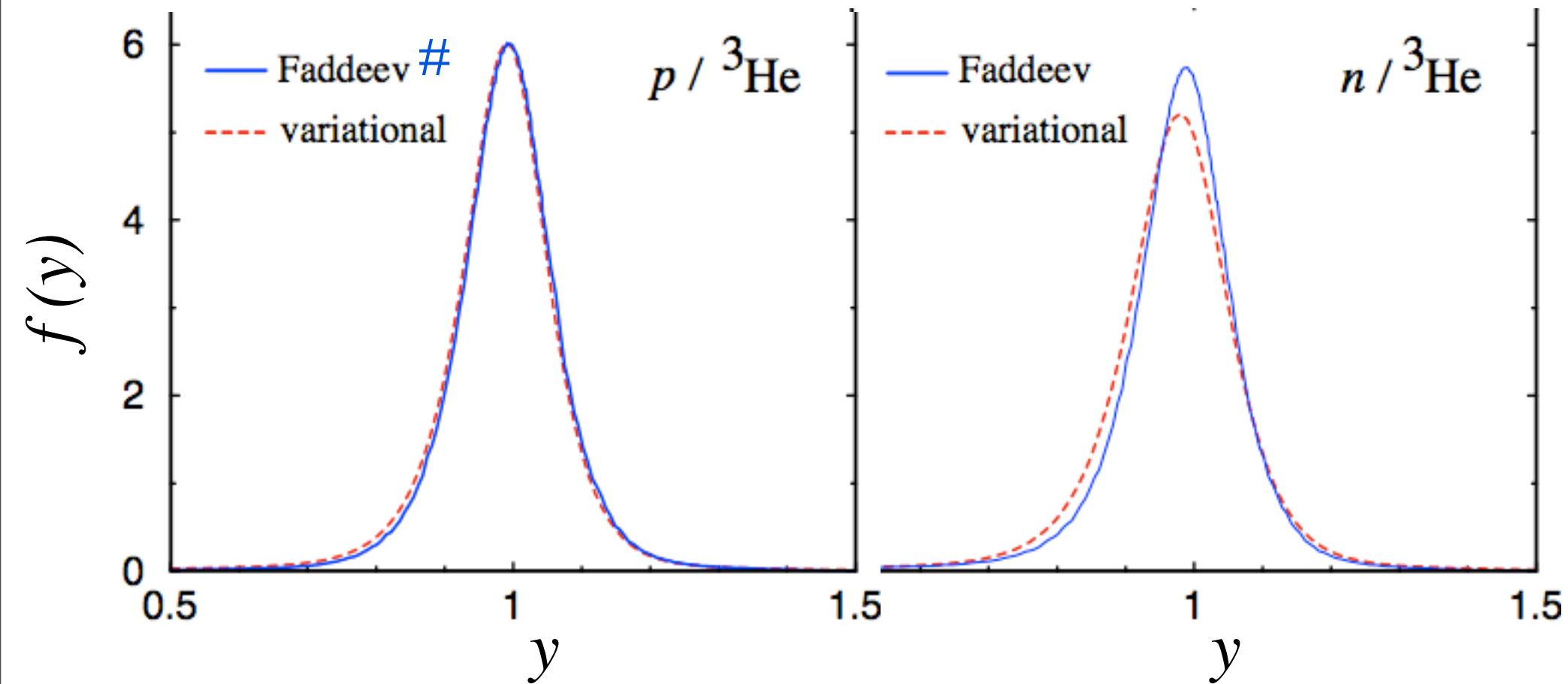
$$S_A(p) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \sum_f \left| \int d^3r e^{i\vec{p}\cdot\vec{r}} G_{fi}(\vec{r}) \right|^2 \delta(E_3 - E_2^f - E)$$

$$S_{^3\text{He}} = \frac{2}{3} S_{p/^3\text{He}} + \frac{1}{3} S_{n/^3\text{He}} , \quad S_{^3\text{H}} = \frac{1}{3} S_{p/^3\text{H}} + \frac{2}{3} S_{n/^3\text{H}}$$

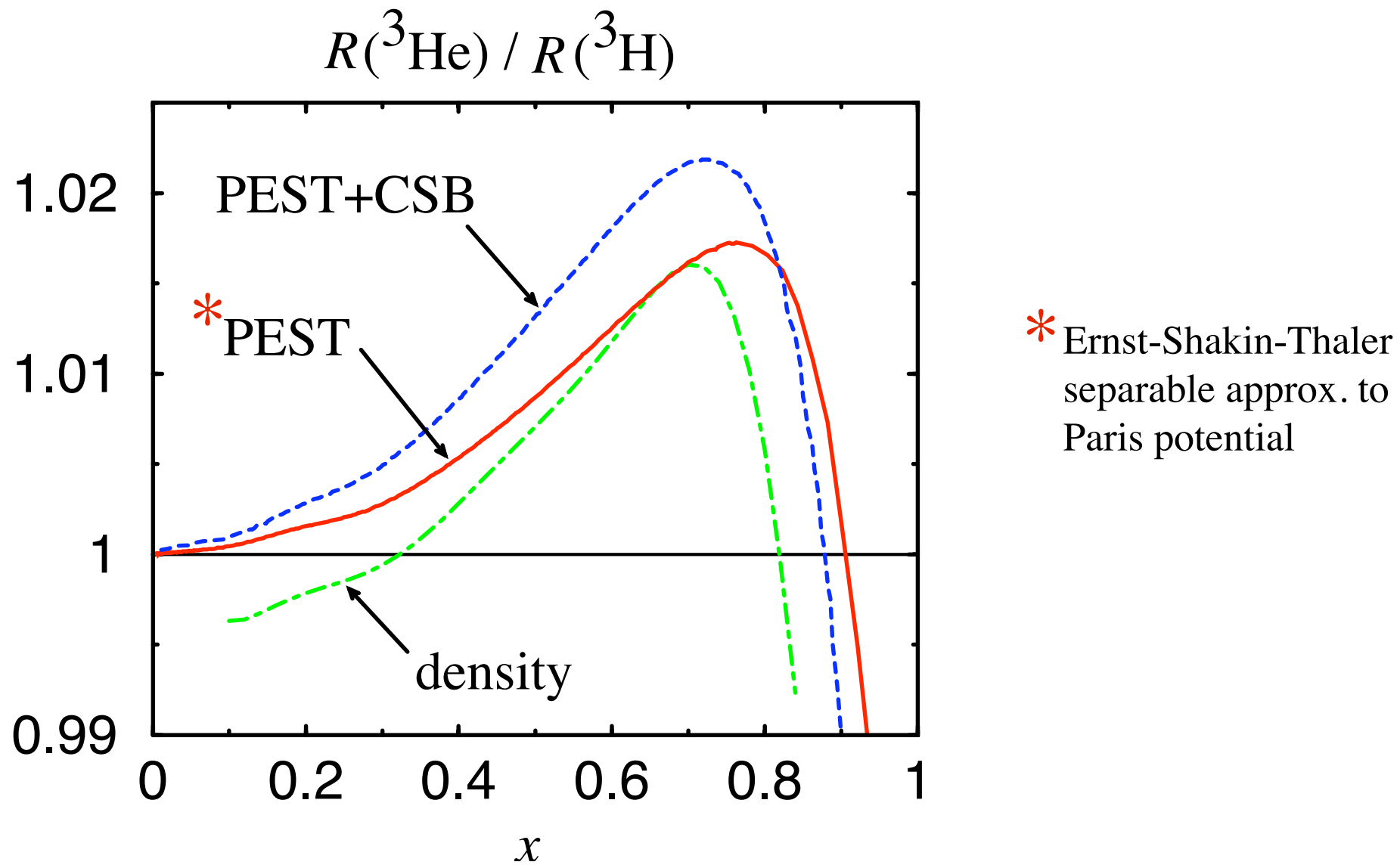
$d + np$  break-up

$pp$  break-up

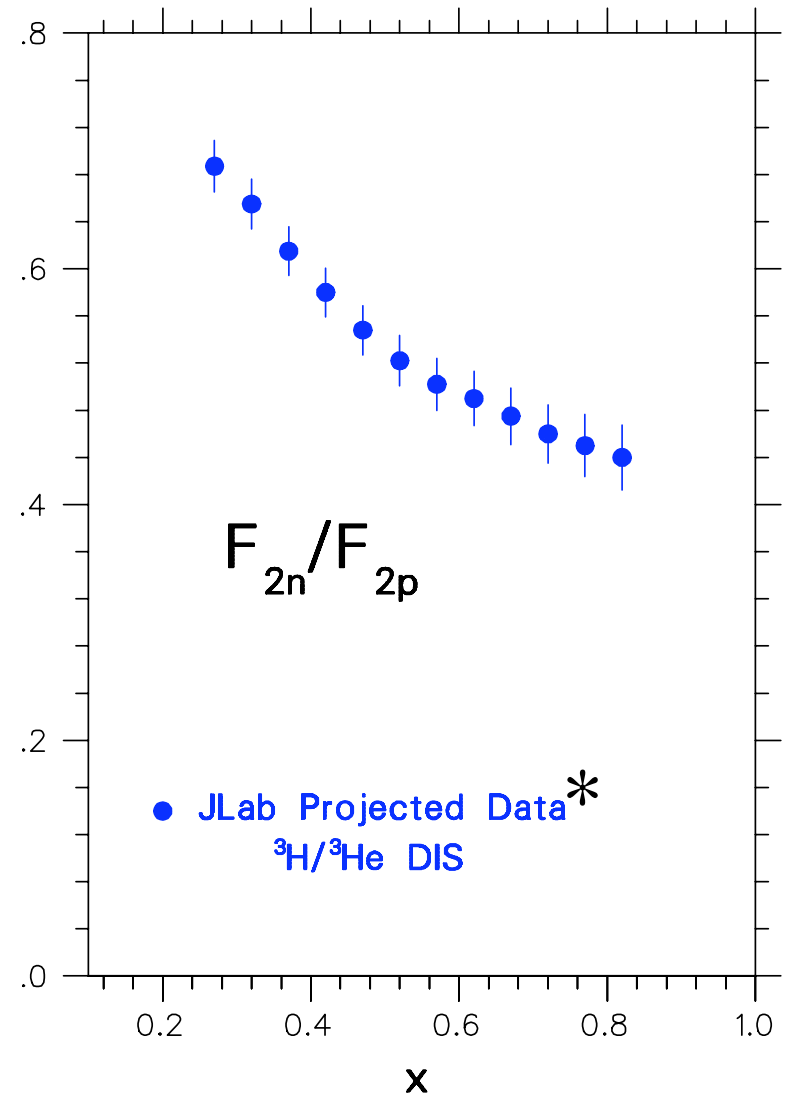
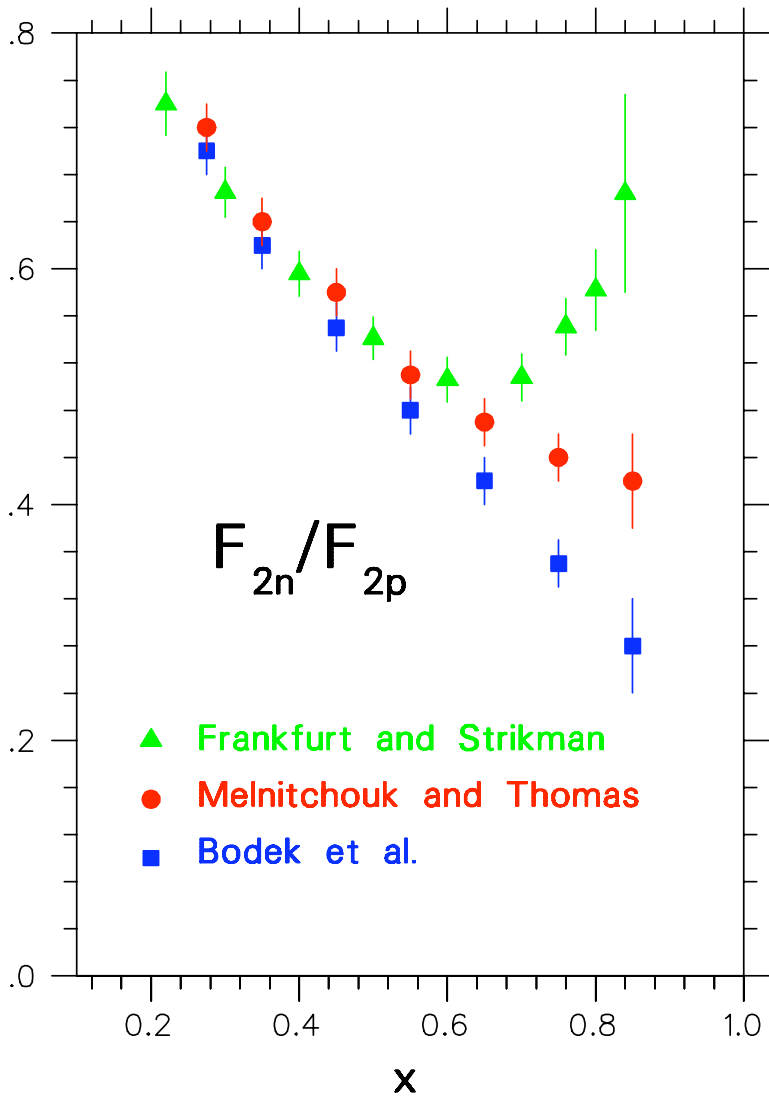
■ Nucleon distribution function in  $A=3$  nucleus



# Bissey, Thomas, Afnan, *Phys. Rev. C* **64**, 024004 (2001)



→ nuclear effects cancel to < 1% level



\*theoretical uncertainty integrated into total error

# Tritium Target at JLab

*Roy J. Holt*

## *Tritium Target Task Force:*

*E. J. Beise (Univ. of Maryland), R. J. Holt (ANL),  
W. Korsch (Univ. of Kentucky), T. O'Connor (ANL),  
G. Petratos (Kent State Univ.), R. Ransome (Rutgers Univ.),  
P. Solvignon (ANL), and B. Wojtsekhowski (JLab)*



- **12 GeV experiment: E12-06-118, conditionally approved**
  - **d/u ratio**
  - **EMC effect in  $^3\text{H}$**
- **“... the PAC considers the physics goals of this experiment as highlights of the 12 GeV physics program.”**
- **Condition: “A special JLab Management review of the safety aspects of the tritium target is the condition for approval.”**

# Summary

- Scientific stage being set at JLab for d/u ratio and EMC measurements
- Totally sealed, passively-cooled target, triple containment, exhaust fan, interlocks
- All tritium gas handling performed at STAR Facility at INL \*
- Additional independent interlock on beam raster
- Target concept is ready for engineering design

\* *Safety and Tritium Applications Research (STAR) Facility  
Idaho National Laboratory*

***Conclusion: A safe tritium target is possible at JLab.***

Thank you, Iraj, for your critical contributions!