

# Bjorken polarised sum rule with IR-finite QCD coupling

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# Introduction

- We use the known renormalon structure for the inelastic Bjorken polarised sum rule (BSR)  $\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$ , in order to resum the leading-twist ( $D = 0$ ) part  $d(Q^2)$  of BSR approximately to all orders.
- This resummation is represented by an integral of the pQCD running coupling  $a(tQ^2) (\equiv \alpha_s(tQ^2)/\pi)$ , weighed by a characteristic function  $G_d(t)$ , over all momenta  $tQ^2$ . The characteristic function  $G_d(t)$  is determined by the renormalon structure of  $d(Q^2)$ .
- The resummation (integration) is ambiguous due to the Landau singularities of the perturbative (pQCD) running coupling  $a(tQ^2)$ , the ambiguities reflect the renormalon structure.
- In order to avoid the resummation ambiguity, we work with various IR-finite running QCD couplings  $a(tQ^2) \mapsto \mathcal{A}(tQ^2)$ , i.e., they are free of Landau singularities but practically coincide with the pQCD coupling  $a(tQ^2)$  at large  $t$ .
- Using truncated OPE of BSR with  $D = 2$  (and  $D = 4$ ) terms, we fit this expression to the data and extract the higher twist parameters  $\bar{f}_2$  (and  $\mu_6$ ).

# BSR: theoretical expressions

The (inelastic) polarised Bjorken sum rule (BSR),  $\Gamma_1^{p-n}$ , is the difference between the  $g_1$  spin-dependent structure functions of the proton and neutron integrated over the  $x$ -Bjorken range  $0 < x < 1$

$$\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2) = \int_0^{1-0} dx [g_1^p(x, Q^2) - g_1^n(x, Q^2)] . \quad (1)$$

This quantity has been extracted at various values of  $Q^2 \equiv -q^2 > 0$  from various experiments (Jefferson Lab, SLAC, COMPASS, HERMES). The theoretical Operator Product Expansion (OPE) for this quantity, truncated at  $D = 4$ , has the form (Bjorken, 1966, 1970)

$$\Gamma_1^{p-n, \text{OPE}}(Q^2) = \left| \frac{g_A}{g_V} \right| \frac{1}{6} (1 - d(Q^2) - \delta d_{m_c}(Q^2)) + \sum_{i=2}^{\infty} \frac{\mu_{2i}(Q^2)}{Q^{2i-2}} , \quad (2)$$

where  $|g_A/g_V|$  is the ratio of the nucleon axial charge,  $d(Q^2) = a(Q^2) + \mathcal{O}(a^2)$  is the canonical pQCD part, and  $\mu_{2i}/Q^{2i-2}$  are  $D \geq 2$  contributions. The term proportional to  $|g_A/g_V|$  is the total leading-twist (LT) contribution.

# BSR: theoretical expressions

The canonical  $D = 0$  part,  $d(Q^2)$ , has known perturbation expansion up to  $a(Q^2)^4$  [where:  $a(Q^2) \equiv \alpha_s(Q^2)/\pi$ ] (Gorishnii and Larin, 1986; Larin and Vermaseren, 1991; Baikov, Chetyrkin and Kühn, 2010)

$$d(Q^2)_{\text{pt}} = \bar{a} + \bar{d}_1 \bar{a}^2 + \bar{d}_2 \bar{a}^3 + \bar{d}_3 \bar{a}^4 + \mathcal{O}(\bar{a}^5), \quad (3)$$

where  $\bar{a} = a^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(Q^2)$ . In any other scheme, the series is then also known up to  $a^4$ .

The next coefficient  $\bar{d}_4$  can be estimated, for example, by the ECH method (Kataev and Starshenko, 1995), and gives

$$\bar{d}_4 = \bar{d}_4(ECH) \pm 103. \approx 1557. \pm 32.8 \quad (4)$$

The term  $\delta d(Q^2)_{\text{m}_c}$  is a (small) correction due to nondecoupling of the charm quark (Blümlein et al., 2016).

The  $D = 2$  coefficient  $\mu_4$  has known  $Q^2$ -dependence:

$$\mu_4(Q^2) = \bar{a}_2^{p-n} a(Q^2)^{B_{a2}} + 4\bar{d}_2^{p-n} a(Q^2)^{B_{d2}} + \bar{f}_2 a(Q^2)^{k_1}, \quad (5)$$

where the constants  $\bar{a}_2^{p-n}$  and  $\bar{d}_2^{p-n}$  are approximately known (Bali et al.(RQCD), 2020, 2021), and  $B_{a2} = 50/81$ ,  $B_{d2} = 77/81$ ,  $k_1 = 32/81$  are the anomalous dimensions of the corresponding operators (Bali et al., 2020, 2021; Kawamura et al., 1996).

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

For the renormalon structure and its characteristic function, it is important to construct first the auxiliary quantity  $\tilde{d}(Q^2)$  [auxiliary to  $d(Q^2)$ ], according to the following approach (G.C.,2018): first the above power series is reorganised in logarithmic derivatives

$$\tilde{a}_{n+1}(Q^2) \equiv \frac{(-1)^n}{n! \beta_0^n} \left( \frac{d}{d \ln Q^2} \right)^n a(Q^2) \quad (n = 0, 1, 2, \dots), \quad (6)$$

[note:  $\tilde{a}_{n+1}(Q^2) = a(Q^2)^{n+1} + \mathcal{O}(a^{n+2})$ ] and we obtain

$$d(Q^2) = a(Q^2) + \tilde{d}_1 \tilde{a}_2(Q^2) + \dots + \tilde{d}_n \tilde{a}_{n+1}(Q^2) + \dots \quad (7)$$

By the use of the ( $\overline{\text{MS}}$ ) RGE, we can relate the new coefficients  $\tilde{d}_n$  with the original ones  $d_n, d_{n-1}, \dots$

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

Using these modified coefficients  $\tilde{d}_n$ , the modified Borel transform is

$$\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u) \equiv 1 + \frac{\tilde{d}_1}{1!\beta_0} u + \dots + \frac{\tilde{d}_n}{n!\beta_0^n} u^n + \dots \quad (8)$$

It turns out that this transform has the simple one-loop-type renormalisation scale dependence (in contrast to the original  $\mathcal{B}[d](u)$ )

$$\frac{d}{d \ln \kappa} \tilde{d}_n(\kappa) = n\beta_0 \tilde{d}_{n-1}(\kappa) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u; \kappa) = \kappa^u \mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u), \quad (9)$$

where  $\kappa \equiv \mu^2/Q^2$ .

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

As a consequence, it can be shown (G.C., 2018) that this Borel transform  $\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u)$  has a structure very similar to the known large- $\beta_0$  structure of the Borel  $\mathcal{B}[d](u)$

$$\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u) = \exp(\tilde{K}u) \pi \left\{ \tilde{d}_1^{\text{IR}} \frac{1}{(1-u)^{\kappa_1}} + \tilde{d}_2^{\text{IR}} \frac{1}{(2-u)} + \tilde{d}_1^{\text{UV}} \frac{1}{(1+u)} + \tilde{d}_2^{\text{UV}} \frac{1}{(2+u)} \right\}, \quad (10)$$

Here,  $\kappa_1 = 1 - k_1$ , where  $k_1 = 32/81$  is the aforementioned anomalous dimension of the  $D = 2$  OPE term. The five parameters ( $\tilde{K}$  and the residues  $\tilde{d}_1^{\text{IR}}, \tilde{d}_2^{\text{IR}}, \tilde{d}_1^{\text{UV}}, \tilde{d}_2^{\text{UV}}$ ) are determined by the knowledge of the first five coefficients  $d_n$  (and thus  $\tilde{d}_n$ ),  $n = 0, 1, 2, 3, 4$ .

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

It can be shown (G.C., 2018; C.A., G.C. and D.Teca, 2023) that this ansatz for  $\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u)$  implies the theoretically expected structure of the corresponding renormalon terms in the Borel  $\mathcal{B}[d](u)$  of the canonical BSR  $d(Q^2)$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u) &= \frac{A}{(p \mp u)^\kappa} \Rightarrow \\ \mathcal{B}[d](u) &= \frac{B}{(p \mp u)^{\kappa \pm p\beta_1/\beta_0}} [1 + \mathcal{O}(p \mp u)]\end{aligned}\quad (11)$$

where  $\beta_0$  and  $\beta_1$  are the one-loop and two-loop QCD  $\beta$ -coefficients

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{da(Q^2)}{d \ln Q^2} &= -\beta_0 a(Q^2)^2 - \beta_1 a(Q^2)^3 - \beta_2 a(Q^2)^4 - \dots \\ &= -\beta_0 a(Q^2)^2 [1 + c_1 a(Q^2) + c_2 a(Q^2)^2 + \dots].\end{aligned}$$

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

We use P44-type  $\beta$ -functions:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{da(Q^2)}{d \ln Q^2} &= \beta(a(Q^2))_{\text{P44}} \\ &\equiv -\beta_0 a(Q^2)^2 \frac{[1 + \alpha_0 c_1 a(Q^2) + \alpha_1 c_1^2 a(Q^2)^2]}{[1 - \alpha_1 c_1^2 a(Q^2)^2] [1 + (\alpha_0 - 1) c_1 a(Q^2) + \alpha_1 c_1^2 a(Q^2)^2]}, \end{aligned}$$

where  $c_j \equiv \beta_j/\beta_0$  and

$$\alpha_0 = 1 + \sqrt{c_3/c_1^3}, \quad \alpha_1 = c_2/c_1^2 + \sqrt{c_3/c_1^3}.$$

Expansion gives:

$$\beta(a(Q^2))_{\text{P44}} = -\beta_0 a(Q^2)^2 [1 + c_1 a(Q^2) + c_2 a(Q^2)^2 + c_3 a(Q^2)^3 \dots].$$

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

For these P44-type  $\beta$ -functions we have explicit solutions (G.C., Kondrashuk, 2011):

$$a(Q^2) = \frac{2}{c_1} \left[ -\sqrt{\omega_2} - 1 - W_{\mp 1}(z) + \sqrt{(\sqrt{\omega_2} + 1 + W_{\mp 1}(z))^2 - 4(\omega_1 + \sqrt{\omega_2})} \right]^{-1},$$

where  $\omega_1 = c_2/c_1^2$ ,  $\omega_2 = c_3/c_1^3$ ,  $Q^2 = |Q^2| \exp(i\phi)$ , and  $W_{\mp 1}(z)$  are two branches of the Lambert function. When  $0 \leq \phi < \pi$ ,  $W_{-1}(z)$  is used; when  $-\pi \leq \phi < 0$ ,  $W_{+1}(z)$  is used. The argument  $z = z(Q^2)$  appearing in  $W_{\pm 1}(z)$  is

$$z \equiv z(Q^2) = -\frac{1}{c_1 e} \left( \frac{\Lambda_L^2}{Q^2} \right)^{\beta_0/c_1}.$$

We call  $\Lambda_L$  Lambert scale ( $\Lambda_L^2 \sim 0.1 \text{ GeV}^2$ ).

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

**Table:** The values of  $\tilde{K}$  and of the renormalon residues  $\tilde{d}_{i,j}^X$  (X=IR,UV) for the five-parameter ansatz (10) in the (5-loop)  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  and various P44-type schemes:  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  P44 ( $c_2 = 4.471$  and  $c_3 = 20.990$ ); P44<sup>(0)</sup> ( $c_2 = 6.$  and  $c_3 = 20.$ ); LMM P44 ( $c_2 = 9.297$  and  $c_3 = 71.454$ ). Here,  $d_4$  is taken such that  $d_4(\overline{\text{MS}}) = 1557.43$  as predicted by ECH. The last line is for the 5-loop  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  with  $d_4(\overline{\text{MS}}) = 1557.43 - 32.84 = 1524.59$ , cf. Eq. (4).

scheme	$\tilde{K}$	$\tilde{d}_1^{\text{IR}}$	$\tilde{d}_2^{\text{IR}}$	$\tilde{d}_1^{\text{UV}}$	$\tilde{d}_2^{\text{UV}}$
$\overline{\text{MS}}$	-1.82336	7.8156	-14.8199	-0.0413348	-0.0920349
$\overline{\text{MS}}$ P44	-1.83223	7.86652	-14.9299	-0.0444416	-0.0776748
P44 <sup>(0)</sup>	0.450041	0.331813	0.231437	-0.0809782	-0.0964868
LMM P44	0.443075	0.0726314	0.880932	-0.00867699	-0.372221

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

**Table:** The coefficients  $d_n$  for the case of  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  ( $c_2 = 4.471$  and  $c_3 = 20.990$ ),  $\text{P44}^{(0)}$  ( $c_2 = 6.$  and  $c_3 = 20.$ ) and LMM  $\text{P44}$  ( $c_2 = 9.297$  and  $c_3 = 71.454$ ).  $N_f = 3$  taken throughout.

$n$	$d_n(\overline{\text{MS}})$	$d_n(\text{P44}^{(0)})$	$d_n(\text{LMM})$
0	1	1	1
1	3.58333	3.58333	3.58333
2	20.2153	15.6863	15.3893
3	175.749	143.787	115.932
4	1557.43	1243.48	1074.32
5	24746.	16422.2	10691.9
6	315887.	208828.	120500.
7	$6.0460 \times 10^6$	$3.65668 \times 10^6$	$1.62183 \times 10^6$
8	$1.06009 \times 10^8$	$6.32015 \times 10^7$	$2.48533 \times 10^7$
9	$2.44469 \times 10^9$	$1.4051 \times 10^9$	$4.54306 \times 10^8$
10	$5.38798 \times 10^{10}$	$3.07916 \times 10^{10}$	$9.40672 \times 10^9$

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

The characteristic function  $G_d(t)$  that enters in the (formal) resummation of the (canonical BSR)  $d(Q^2)$

$$d(Q^2)_{\text{res}} = \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t} G_d(t) a(te^{-\tilde{K}} Q^2) \quad (12)$$

is the inverse transform of the Borel  $\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u)$  (G.C., 2018)

$$G_d(t) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{u_0-i\infty}^{u_0+i\infty} du \mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u) t^u, \quad (13)$$

where  $-1 < u_0 < +1$ . Explicit evaluation gives:

$$G_d(t) = \Theta(1-t) \pi \left[ \frac{\tilde{d}_1^{\text{IR}} t}{\Gamma(1-k_1) \ln^{k_1}(1/t)} + \tilde{d}_2^{\text{IR}} t^2 \right] + \Theta(t-1) \pi \left[ \frac{\tilde{d}_1^{\text{UV}}}{t} + \frac{\tilde{d}_2^{\text{UV}}}{t^2} \right]. \quad (14)$$

# Renormalon structure of $d(Q^2)$

In practice, the pQCD coupling  $a(Q'^2)$  has (unphysical) Landau singularities at low positive  $Q'^2$ , thus the integration (12) has to avoid them, which we do with a PV-type of regularisation

$$d(Q^2)_{\text{res}} = \text{Re} \left[ \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t} G_d(t) a(te^{-\tilde{K}} Q^2 + i\epsilon) \right] \quad (15)$$

On the other hand, if we use an IR-safe coupling  $a(Q^2) \mapsto \mathcal{A}(Q^2)$  that has no Landau singularities but practically coincides with  $a(Q^2)$  at large  $|Q^2| > \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}^2$ , such as  $3\delta\text{QCD}$  coupling (C.A., G.C. et al., 2017), no additional regularisation is needed

$$d(Q^2)_{\text{res}} = \text{Re} \left[ \int_0^\infty \frac{dt}{t} G_d(t) \mathcal{A}(te^{-\tilde{K}} Q^2) \right] \quad (16)$$

# IR-finite couplings $\mathcal{A}(Q^2)$

The spectral function  $\rho^{(\text{pt})}(\sigma)$  of pQCD coupling  $a(Q^2)$

$$\rho^{(\text{pt})}(\sigma) \equiv \text{Im } a(-\sigma - i\epsilon), \quad (17)$$

has nonzero values even for  $\sigma < 0$ , on the Landau cut ( $\Lambda_L^2 \leq \sigma < 0$ ). If, on the other hand, we define the spectral function without such a cut

$$\rho_{\mathcal{A}}^{(n\delta)}(\sigma) = \pi \sum_{j=1}^n \mathcal{F}_j \delta(\sigma - M_j^2) + \Theta(\sigma - M_0^2) \rho^{(\text{pt})}(\sigma), \quad (18)$$

we obtain coupling  $\mathcal{A}(Q^2)$  that is free of the Landau singularities and is finite at  $Q^2 \rightarrow 0$

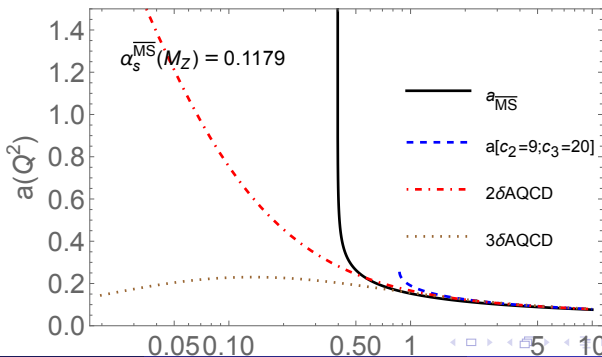
$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}^{(n\delta)}(Q^2) \left( \equiv \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^\infty d\sigma \frac{\rho_{\mathcal{A}}(\sigma)}{(\sigma + Q^2)} \right) &= \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{\mathcal{F}_j}{(Q^2 + M_j^2)} \\ &+ \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{M_0^2}^\infty d\sigma \frac{\rho_1^{(\text{pt})}(\sigma)}{(Q^2 + \sigma)}. \end{aligned}$$

# IR-finite couplings $\mathcal{A}(Q^2)$

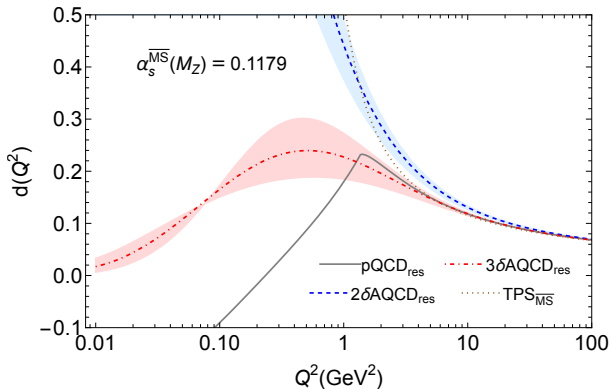
We can impose that  $\mathcal{A}(Q^2)$  practically coincides with the (underlying) pQCD coupling  $a(Q^2)$  at high  $Q^2$

$$\mathcal{A}(Q^2) - a(Q^2) \sim \left(\frac{\Lambda_L^2}{Q^2}\right)^5 \quad (|Q^2| > \Lambda_L^2), \quad (19)$$

and at low  $Q^2$  we can impose additional physically motivated conditions. This determines then the coupling.



# $d(Q^2)$ with pQCD and IR-finite couplings $\mathcal{A}(Q^2)$



**Figure:**  $d(Q^2)_{\text{res}}$  (at  $N_f = 3$ ), according to Eq. (16), for the  $2\delta$ ACD and  $3\delta$ AQCD coupling (' $2\delta$ AQCD<sub>res</sub>', ' $3\delta$ AQCD<sub>res</sub>'), with three hadronic threshold scales  $M_1 = 0.150^{+0.100}_{-0.050}$  GeV of their spectral function. For comparison,  $d(Q^2)_{\text{res}}$  for the pQCD coupling (underlying to  $2\delta$ ACD ('pQCD<sub>res</sub>')). Included is the truncated perturbation series (TPS) in powers of  $a = a(Q^2)$  in the  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  scheme up to  $\sim a^5$  ('TPS <sub>$\overline{\text{MS}}$</sub> '). We use throughout  $\alpha_s^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(M_Z^2; N_f = 5) = 0.1179$  and  $d_4^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 1557.4$ .

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$

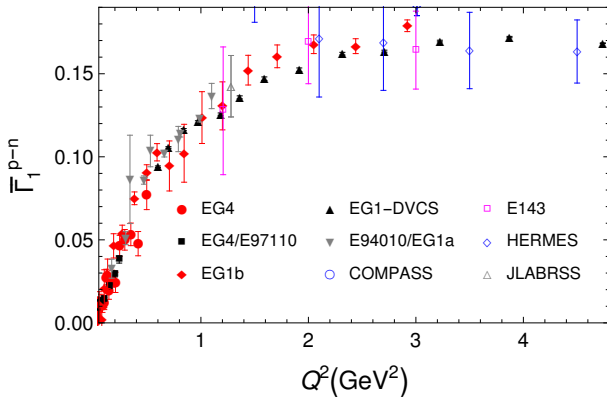
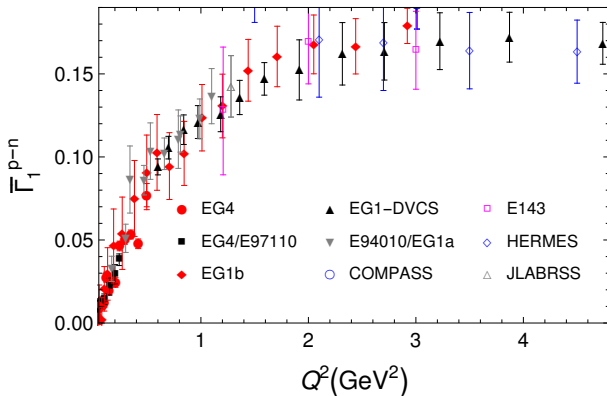


Figure: The measured results for the inelastic BSR  $\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$  for different experiments, with the *statistical* uncertainties.

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$



**Figure:** The measured results for the inelastic BSR  $\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$  for different experiments, with the *systematic* uncertainties.

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$

$$\chi^2(j_{\min}; k) = \frac{1}{(j_{\max} - j_{\min} + 1 - N_p)} \sum_{j=j_{\min}}^{j_{\max}} \frac{[\bar{\Gamma}_1^{\text{p-n, OPE}}(Q_j^2) - \bar{\Gamma}_1^{\text{p-n}}(Q_j^2)_{\text{exp}}]^2}{\sigma(Q_j^2; k)^2}$$

$$\sigma^2(Q_j^2; k) = \sigma_{\text{stat}}^2(Q_j^2) + k \sigma_{\text{sys}}^2(Q_j^2).$$

$k$  is adjusted until  $\text{Min } \chi^2(j_{\min}; k) = 1$ . Then  $\sigma(Q_j^2; k) = \sigma(Q_j)_{\text{uncorr.}}$  and  $(1 - \sqrt{k})\sigma_{\text{sys}}(Q_j^2) = \sigma(Q_j)_{\text{corr.}}$ .

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$

The fit with data, for  $\alpha_s^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(M_Z^2) = 0.1179$  and  $Q_{\min}^2 \approx 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$ , gives  $k \approx 0.130, 0.158$  in  $2\delta$  and  $3\delta$ AQCD, and:

$$\bar{f}_2^{(2\delta)} = -0.0082_{-0.0196}^{+0.0180}(c_2 c_3)_{-0.0274}^{+0.0283}(\alpha_s)_{+0.0003}^{-0.0001}(d_4)_{+0.0541}^{-0.0763}(M_1)_{+0.0210}^{-0.0209}(a_2 d_2)_{+0.0035}^{-0.0006}(Q_{\min}^2) \pm 0.0038(\text{exp.u.}) \pm 0.0207(\text{exp.c.}) \pm 0.0001(k).$$

$$\bar{f}_2^{(3\delta)} = -0.2534_{-0.0109}^{+0.0110}(\alpha_s) \pm 0.0001(d_4)_{-0.0427}^{+0.0447}(M_1)_{+0.0186}^{-0.0187}(a_2 d_2)_{+0.0019}^{-0.0044}(Q_{\min}^2) \pm 0.0042(\text{exp.u.}) \pm 0.0202(\text{exp.c.}) \mp 0.0013(k).$$

In pQCD  $Q_{\min}^2 \approx 1.7 \text{ GeV}^2$

$$\bar{f}_2^{(\text{pQCD})} = -0.107_{-0.030}^{+0.022}(c_2 c_3) \pm 0.020(\alpha_s) \mp 0.009(d_4) \mp 0.067(\text{ren})_{-0.029}^{+0.012}(Q_{\min}^2) \pm 0.033(\text{exp.u.}) \pm 0.154(\text{exp.c.}),$$

Similar results are obtained for two-parameter fit ( $\bar{f}_2$  and  $\mu_6$ ). When using pQCD coupling, much higher  $Q_{\min}^2 \approx 1.7 \text{ GeV}^2$  is needed, and experimental uncertainties of the extracted values are one order of magnitude larger:  $\pm 0.033(\text{exp.u.})$  and  $\pm 0.154(\text{exp.c.})$ .

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$

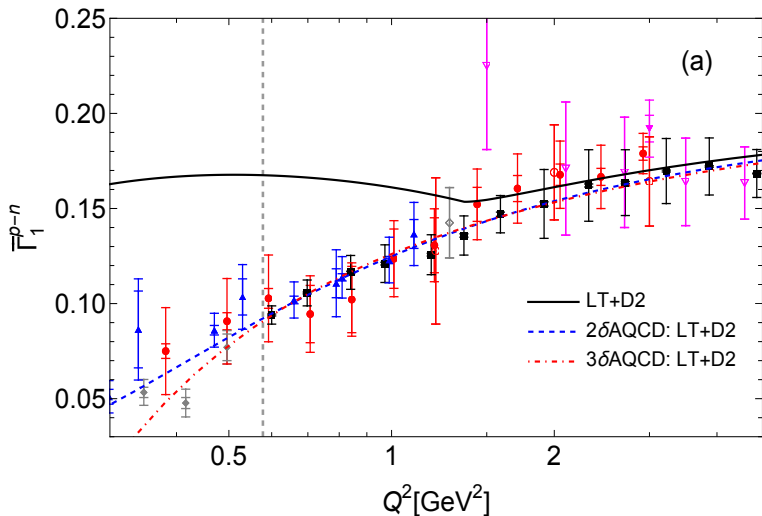


Figure: Results of fitting of BSR  $\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$ , with one-parameter fit. Experimental data, and the corresponding pQCD fit (solid line) are included.

# Fitting the BSR data, extraction of $\alpha_s$

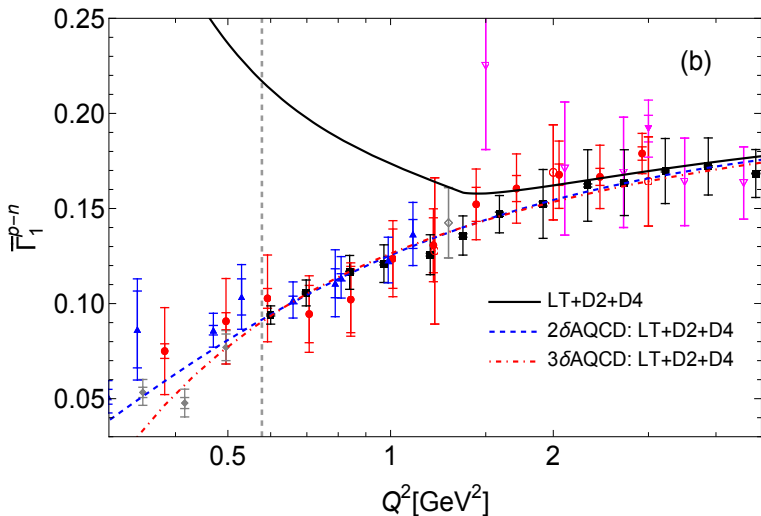


Figure: Results of fitting of BSR  $\bar{\Gamma}_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$ , with two-parameter fit. Experimental data, and the corresponding pQCD fit (solid line) are included.

# Conclusions

- From the knowledge of the pQCD expansion coefficients  $\tilde{d}_n$  of canonical part  $d(Q^2)$  BSR, we determined the parameters of the Borel transform  $\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u)$ .
- Inverse Mellin transform of  $\mathcal{B}[\tilde{d}](u)$  gave us the characteristic function  $G_d(t)$  which allowed us to resum/evaluate  $d(Q^2)$  in BSR  $\Gamma_1^{p-n}(Q^2)$ . When using IR-finite QCD coupling, no regularisation is needed. When using pQCD coupling, a (PV-type of) regularisation is needed.
- When using IR-finite couplings, we can extract the higher-twist parameters of BSR ( $\bar{f}_2$ , or both  $\bar{f}_2, \mu_6$ ) with relatively small experimental uncertainties. Those uncertainties become much higher when pQCD coupling is used, and the  $Q^2$ -interval of fit has to be significantly reduced as well.
- A reliable extraction of the value of  $\alpha_s^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(M_Z^2)$  cannot be made, principally because of the present large experimental uncertainties of the BSR data. For the central input values we obtain in  $2\delta$  and  $3\delta$ AQCD the minimal  $k$  and thus the preferred values of  $\alpha_s^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(M_Z^2)$  for  $\alpha_s^{\overline{\text{MS}}}(M_Z^2) \approx 0.117$  when  $Q_{\min}^2 \approx 0.6 \text{ GeV}^2$ , but the minimum disappears when  $Q_{\min}^2$  increases.