Heavy-flavour jet measurements by ALICE

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Physics motivation for heavy-flavour jets





Early perturbative production \rightarrow tests for pQCD down to low p_{T}

Heavy flavour conserved in the parton shower and experimentally traceable → access to properties of gluon emissions (e.g. splitting function)

- Dead-cone effect, $\theta_{DC} = m_a/E_a$
- Casimir colour factors
- Modification in QGP

Hadronisation mechanisms

- Baryons vs mesons
- Beyond vacuum fragmentation in QGP

D⁰-jet production in pp collisions





Jet resolution parameter (R) dependence allows to probe the angular profile of the parton shower.

Agreement with pQCD in pp collisions \rightarrow calibrated baseline for Pb–Pb collisions

Hardening of the p_{T}^{jet} spectra with increasing centre-of-mass energy



arXiv:2204.10167 [nucl-ex]

Jet substructure: Lund maps



Lund maps of splittings to access kinematics of parton shower evolution

- Splitting angle $\theta = \Delta R$ of prongs
- Splitting scale k_{T} (transverse component of emission momentum) Requesting higher k_{T} suppresses non-perturbative effects.





Dead-cone effect



Ratio of Lund map projections for heavy-flavour jets and inclusive jets



Groomed-charm-jet substructure: z_a

 p_{τ} symmetry of the first perturbative splitting

Converges to the splitting function at high jet p_{T}



First direct experimental constraint of the splitting function of heavy quarks

Symmetric emissions from charm quarks suppressed

Good agreement with MC models for charm jets

PYTHIA steeper than the measurement for inclusive jets





Groomed-charm-jet substructure: R

quar



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0.4

 R_{a}



 $\theta_{\rm a} = R_{\rm a}/R$

0.9

0.8

O D⁰-tagged

inclusive

0.6

0.7

SD-untagged jets D⁰-tagged: 22% inclusive: 2.8%

0.25

0.3

0.35

Groomed-charm-jet substructure: n_{SD}

Number of perturbative splittings of the leading branch



Fewer perturbative emissions from charm quarks, i.e. more likely to emit soft gluons. Fragmentation of charm quarks is harder.

Good agreement with MC models for charm jets \blacksquare Shift to larger n_{sp} for PYTHIA for inclusive jets \blacksquare





D⁰ fragmentation function



arXiv:2204.10167 [nucl-ex]





D⁰ fragmentation function

Narrow low- p_{T} jets are often single D⁰.

- Fragmentation softens with increasing *R*.
- Significant shape transition for R = 0.4
- Models harder at low jet p_{T}
- Discrepancy larger at larger R



arXiv:2204.10167 [nucl-ex]



jet p_T

Λ_{λ}^{+} fragmentation function

A different look at the baryon-meson ratio enhancement in pp w.r.t. ee/ep collisions

Well described by PYTHIA with colour reconnection beyond the leading-colour approximation

Monash goes in the opposite direction.

Fragmentation into D^0 harder than into Λ_{-}^+

New way of constraining hadronisation mechanisms (e.g. local parton density dependence of fragmentation)



I/N_{jets} dN/dz^{ch}

ALICE Preliminary, pp, $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

anti- $k_{\rm T}, R = 0.4, |\eta_{\rm iet}| < 0.5$

7 < p_T_iet < 15 GeV/*c*

 $3 < p_{T, \Lambda^{+}} < 15 \text{ GeV}/c$

 $\Lambda_{\rm c}^{\rm +}$ (and charge conj.) in charged jets with 0.4 < $z_{\rm II}^{\rm ch} \leq 1$

data

svst. unc.

○ POWHEG + PYTHIA 6 ♦ PYTHIA 8 (Monash)

PYTHIA 8 SoftQCD, mode 0



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Prospects

Run 3

More data and better tracking resolution \rightarrow better accuracy

Better characterisation of hadronisation mechanisms from fragmentation functions of Λ_c^+ and D^0 Local parton multiplicity effects

Substructure of b-jets Low p_T : dead-cone effect for charm vs beauty ——— High p_T : Casimir colour factors for quarks vs gluons

Pb-Pb collisions

Probe to study QGP Modification of heavy-quark fragmentation in QGP Mass dependence of parton energy loss in medium







Heavy-flavour jets are an excellent tool to probe perturbative and non-perturbative QCD processes.

Heavy-quark production

 \rightarrow Jet cross section

Parton shower evolution (dead-cone effect, Casimir colour factors)

 \rightarrow Jet substructure from low to high jet $p_{\rm T}$

Hadronisation mechanisms

 \rightarrow Fragmentation functions of baryons vs mesons

Medium-induced modification of parton radiation

 \rightarrow Heavy-ion collisions (R_{AA} ,...)

Thank you for your attention



Backup

Jet substructure: declustering and grooming



Access evolution of the parton shower: jet splittings (declustering)

Groom away soft radiation at large angles: isolate hard structures inside the jet (grooming)

- **Reclustering** with Cambridge/Aachen (angular ordering)
- **Declustering**: unwind reclustering history \rightarrow chronologically ordered splittings
- Grooming with Soft Drop (SD): groom away soft prongs not satisfying the condition





A. J. Larkoski, S. Marzani, G. Soyez et al. JHEP 05 (2014) 146

Jet substructure



Jet substructure observables constructed from jet constituents after jet clustering

- Characterise internal fragmentation pattern of parton shower
- Tests of pQCD predictions
- Insight into nonperturbative phenomena (hadronisation, underlying-event effects)
- Baseline for medium effects of quark-gluon plasma in heavy-ion collisions



Substructure of heavy-flavour jets



 $m_{\rm q} > \Lambda_{\rm OCD} \rightarrow$ perturbative production down to low jet $p_{\rm T}$

Heavy flavour conserved through the shower evolution

Inclusive vs heavy-flavour jets at low p_{T} :

- Casimir colour factors: different fragmentation of quarks and gluons
- **Dead-cone effect**: suppression of emission phase space for $\theta < \theta_{DC} = m_q/E_q$

 \rightarrow Mass effects sizeable in the low p_{T} kinematic range.



Groomed-jet substructure: *z*_q

Agreement within uncertainties with Soft-collinear effective theory (SCET)

Same trend as MC models.







H. T. Li and I. Vitev. *Phys. Lett. B* **793** (2019) 259–264 H. T. Li, Z. L. Liu, and I. Vitev. *Phys. Lett. B* **827** (2022) 137007