

Mass suppression effect in QCD radiation and hadron angular distribution in jet*

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Abstract: The finite mass of the heavy quark suppresses the collimated radiations; this is generally referred to as the dead cone effect. In this paper, we study the distribution of hadron multiplicity over the hadron opening angle with respect to the jet axis for various jet flavors. The corresponding measurement can be the most straightforward and simplest approach to explore the dynamical evolution of the radiations in the corresponding jet, which can expose the mass effect. We also propose a transverse energy-weighted angular distribution, which sheds light on the interplay between perturbative and non-perturbative effects in the radiation. Through Monte-Carlo simulations, our calculations show that the dead cone effect can be clearly observed by finding the ratio between the b and light-quark (inclusive) jets; this is expected to be measured at the LHC in the future.

Keywords: heavy flavor, jet, multiplicity

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I. INTRODUCTION

Measuring jet production offers unique opportunities to study the perturbative and non-perturbative behavior of QCD [1–3]. Heavy flavor jets have been used to verify perturbative QCD and explore the non-perturbative effect, thereby enhancing our understanding of jet evolution in vacuum or QCD media [4, 5]. Currently at the LHC, identification techniques of heavy flavor jets make it possible to discriminate the jets originating from b or c quarks and those from light flavor quarks or gluons. Experimental collaborations at the LHC have measured heavy flavor jet production [6–16], and more results are expected in the near future, especially from LHC Run 3.

Many efforts on the theoretical side have been devoted to studying heavy flavor jets at various colliders. The inclusive p_T spectrum of heavy flavor jets [17, 18] can be predicted with the help of the semi-inclusive jet function [19, 20]. The heavy flavor jet with high transverse momentum can be used to understand the evolution of a massless quark when the mass is small enough to be ignored in comparison to the jet energy. In addition, the mass impact on the perturbative and non-perturbative nature during the evolution of heavy flavor quarks can be

monitored by measuring the radiation pattern inside jets. In this regard, the most famous phenomenon is the dead cone effect [21–23], which is a direct consequence of the suppression of the collinear radiation due to the mass of the *radiator*, i.e., the heavy quark. In recent years, the mass effect using heavy flavor jets has drawn a lot of attention in both theoretical and experimental studies. This mass effect has been analyzed in gauge theory models such as QED and QCD [24–30]. Besides, many studies have been devoted to quantifying the dead cone effect in heavy-ion and electron-ion collisions [18, 31–37].

In general, the non-zero mass of heavy quarks can control the infrared behavior of the radiation, leading to a specific perturbative radiation effect. In the collinear limit, the splitting of a massive quark can be described by effective field theory as [38]

$$\left[\frac{dN}{d^2\mathbf{k}_\perp dz} \right]_{Q \rightarrow Q_g} \propto \frac{1}{\mathbf{k}_\perp^2 + z^2 m^2}, \quad (1)$$

where \mathbf{k}_\perp is the transverse momentum of the emitted gluon and z is the energy fraction of the gluon relative to the parent massive quark. According to Eq. (1), if we

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compare with the massless quark splitting, the small-angle radiation is significantly suppressed by the mass term, *i.e.*, the dead cone effect emerges [22]. Jet properties and substructures have been widely used to study this effect. In [28, 39, 40], the authors investigated z_g and θ_g distributions for the groomed b jet, showing that the b -quark mass effect plays an important role in the collinear splitting pattern. Many other developments have been proposed on jet substructures for heavy flavor jet production [34, 41, 42]. There are also studies that applied heavy flavor jet observables at the electron-ion collider [43]; see also Ref. [44] and the references therein. By inspecting the splitting inside the jet, the dead cone effect has already been measured using the substructure of the charm jet by ALICE [13–15].

Eq. (1) also shows that generally the mass effect is more significant at relatively low energy scales/small angles. To obtain a better energy/angular resolution for this effect, the most straightforward approach is to measure the angular distribution of hadron multiplicity in the jet. The dead cone effect can be explored by comparing the hadron angular distribution between heavy flavors and light quark jets. As a physical phenomenon that typically occurs at preconfinement scale [45, 46], hadron multiplicity is not an infrared safe observable. However, we expect that the angular distribution of the hadrons preserves most of the perturbative effect from the heavy quark mass. We also propose a transverse energy-weighted angular distribution that connects the perturbative and non-perturbative multiplicity distributions. The proposed observable can be measured at the LHC and provides a new approach for investigating the mass effect for QCD radiation and jet formation. Furthermore, this observable can be used to test or tune the hadronization models of Monte-Carlo event generators.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. We provide a definition of the observable in Sec. II. Section III presents numerical results from Monte-Carlo event generators and discusses the mass effect on jet evolution. Sec. IV concludes the paper.

II. DEFINITION OF THE OBSERVABLE

In general, the non-zero mass of a radiator or radiated particles can control the infrared behavior of the radiation. Given that the heavy quark mass does not originate from confinement dynamics, it can lead to a specific perturbative radiation effect. The averaged charged particle multiplicities in e^+e^- collision were used to investigate the mass effect [23, 47–49]. Currently, leveraging the LHC and high luminosity LHC, it is possible to take a closer look inside jets. In this paper, we propose the simplest approach to comprehensively analyze the dead cone effect for heavy flavor jets: an averaged multiplicity distribution defined as

$$\frac{d\langle N_{ch} \rangle}{d\theta} = \sum_{ch \in \text{jet}} \frac{dP_{ch}}{d\theta}, \quad (2)$$

where θ is the opening angle between the jet axis and the moving direction of the charged hadron ch , and $dP_{ch}/d\theta$ is the probability distribution as a function of θ for a charged hadron ch . According to the dead cone effect, the collinear radiation inside heavy flavor jets is suppressed at a small angle. A detailed study of $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta$ for jets with various transverse momenta can be used to quantitatively identify the energy scale of the dead cone effect. Although this observable is not infrared safe, the distribution is expected to reflect the pattern from perturbative radiations; in particular, the difference between heavy flavor and light quark jets. This observable may depend on the definition of the jet axis. In this study, we used the traditional energy combination scheme to retain the correlation between the directions of the jet axis and momentum of the parent parton.

Regarding the non-perturbative nature of $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta$, it is interesting to investigate to what extent this angle distribution can be affected by non-perturbative QCD. Therefore, we introduce a variation to Eq. (2):

$$\frac{d\langle N_{ch} \rangle(\kappa)}{d\theta} = \sum_{ch \in \text{jet}} \left(\frac{p_{T,ch}}{p_{T,\text{jet}}} \right)^\kappa \frac{dP_{ch}}{d\theta}, \quad (3)$$

where $p_{T,ch}$ and $p_{T,j}$ are the transverse momenta for the charged hadron and jets, respectively; κ is a free parameter. When $\kappa = 0$, it is reduced to the multiplicity distributions inside jets. For $\kappa = 1$, $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle(\kappa = 1)/d\theta$ measures the θ dependence of the energy deposit inside the jet cone, and $\int_0^r d\theta \frac{d\langle N_{ch} \rangle(\kappa = 1)}{d\theta}$ corresponds to the infrared safe observable jet shape or jet transverse energy profile [50]. For a variation in the range of $0 \leq \kappa \leq 1$, a bridge between infrared unsafe and safe observables is established, which can be utilized to probe the non-perturbative effect.

III. NUMERICAL RESULTS

Numerical results for $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle(\kappa)/d\theta$ were obtained from simulations with PYTHIA [51, 52]. The default setting in PYTHIA8.306 was adopted for parton showers and hadronization. The simulation was performed for dijet production at the 13 TeV LHC. To investigate the physics of jets with different flavors, the multiparton interaction was switched off. The jets were constructed with anti- k_T algorithms [53] and jet radius $R = 0.4$ using only the charged tracks with $p_T > 1$ GeV and $|\eta| < 2.0$. The recombination of jets was achieved using the package FastJet [54]. We classified the jet as a b jet if there was at least one B hadron in its component.

Figure 1 shows the distributions of $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta$ for

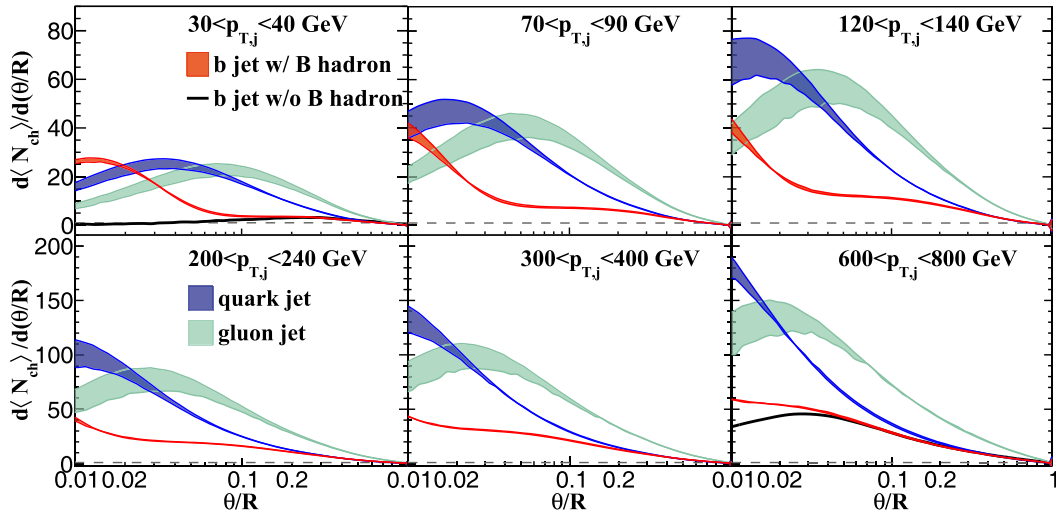


Fig. 1. (color online) Angle distribution of charged-particle multiplicity in different intervals of jet transverse momentum. The x -axis is the opening angle between the charged particle and jet axis, which is normalized by the jet radius $R = 0.4$. The red, blue, and green bands represent the b , quark, and gluon jets. The bands are Monte Carlo uncertainties. The black lines are the multiplicity distributions for the b jet without counting b hadrons.

quark, gluon, and b jets for various intervals of jet transverse momentum. The width of the bands corresponds to the uncertainties from varying the scales in parton showers by a factor of two. The integration over the θ/R axis provides the average charged multiplicity of the jet. As expected, the radiation from light quarks and gluons is greater. In particular, there is more radiation for gluon jets at large angles, leading to a broader distribution. At a large angle, the b jet behaves like the light quark jet; this is more evident for the high p_T jet. A clear suppression of the radiation can be observed for the b jet at a small-angle radiation. Needless to say, the suppression stems from the dead cone effect. Roughly speaking, the distributions for the quark and b jets are expected to be different when the typical scale of the collinear splitting inside jets $p_{T,j}\theta z(1-z) \leq p_{T,j}\theta/4$ ¹⁾ is close to that of the b quark mass m_b . In the first and last panels of Fig. 1, the black lines show the multiplicity distribution for b jets if we do not count the b hadrons inside jets. We found that the b hadron tends to stay close to the jet axis. As a result, there is a growing trend for very small angles, particularly when the jet $p_{T,j}$ is small.

One of the interesting features of this multiplicity distribution is the scaling behavior in the limit $\theta \rightarrow 0$. Figure 2 shows the multiplicity distributions for extremely small opening angles for jets with the transverse momentum $30 < p_{T,j} < 40$ GeV and $600 < p_{T,j} < 800$ GeV. When $p_{T,j}\theta \leq \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$, the phase space is extremely limited and the distributions are supposed to be dominated by non-perturbative features of QCD. Surprisingly, for jet multiplicities, we found that the quark, gluon, and b jets exhibit a

similar scaling behavior in the small θ region. This phenomenon can be explained by the existence of uniformly distributed hadrons in the collinear limit of jets; as a result, $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta \propto \theta$, similar to energy-energy correlators first reported in Ref. [55]. This interesting feature might originate from kinematics, given that the dynamic evolution is frozen below Λ_{QCD} . Consistent with results shown in Fig. 1, the multiplicity distribution of the b jet is suppressed and then enhanced when decreasing the angle relative to the jet axis. The enhancement in the small angle for the b jet mainly comes from the fact that the B hadron tends to stay close to the jet axis. By varying κ in Eq. (2), we observed relatively small κ dependence in the small-angle region for the b jet. According to Figs. 1 and 2, it can be concluded that the b -jet behaves like a B hadron dressed with relatively soft radiations for lower p_T jets.

To investigate the mass effect in detail, we present the ratio of the multiplicity distributions between the b and quark/inclusive jet at the LHC in Fig. 3. The mass effect is supposed to become smaller with increasing θ because the typical QCD scale for the splitting is larger, while at an extremely small angle, there is an enhancement observed for the heavy flavor jet given that the collinear radiation is suppressed and the parent particle tends to stay close to the jet axis. As a result of the interplay between these effects, there are dips in the distributions of the ratio. The dead cone effect can be captured by the position of the dip, which depends on the transverse momentum of the jet. The right plot in Fig. 3 displays the ratios between the distributions of the b and inclusive jets. We found that these ratios are similar to those between the b and quark

1) where z is the momentum fraction of final state parton comparing to the parent parton

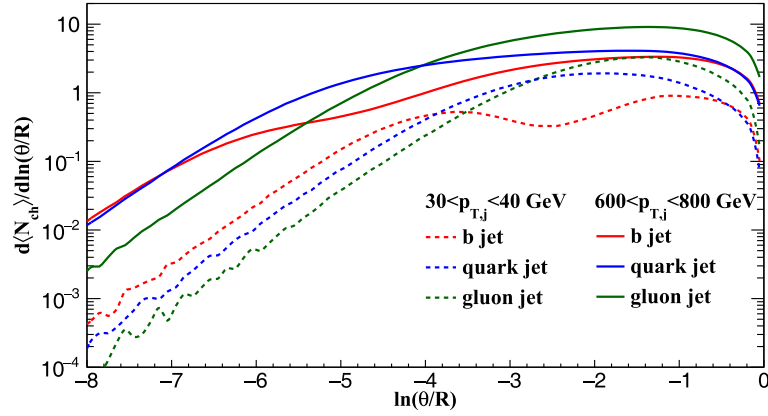


Fig. 2. (color online) Multiplicity distribution over angles between charged particles and jet axis with jet transverse momenta $30 < p_{T,j} < 40$ GeV (dashed lines) and $600 < p_{T,j} < 800$ GeV (solid lines).

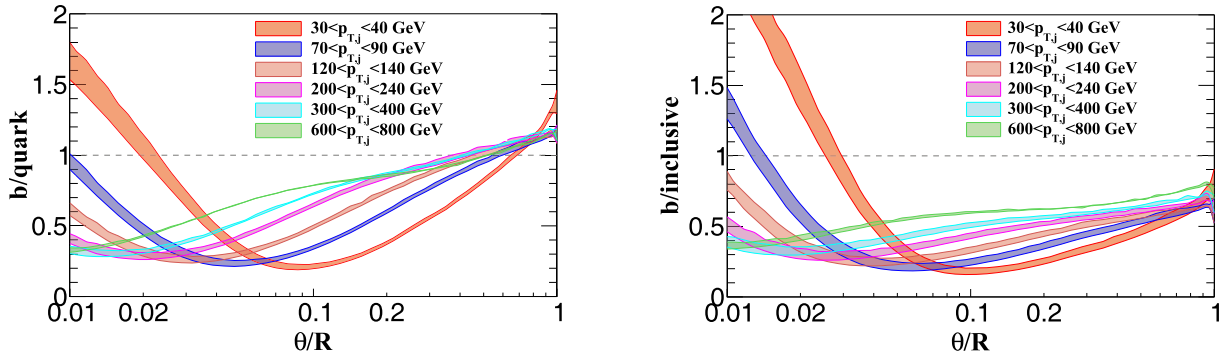


Fig. 3. (color online) Ratios of the multiplicity distributions of the b to quark jets (left) and b to inclusive jets (right) for various jet transverse momenta $p_{T,j}$.

jets; this is an approach to test the dead cone effect directly. A measurement of the multiplicity distributions of jets can be used to investigate the mass effect on the QCD dynamic evolution.

For $\kappa < 1$, $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta$ is not an infrared-safe observable, while for $\kappa = 1$ $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle/d\theta$ corresponds to the differential jet shape and is perturbatively calculable. The quantitative effect from non-perturbative physics can be explored by varying κ in Eq. (2). The distribution of $d\langle N_{ch} \rangle(\kappa)/d\theta$ heavily depends on κ ; for larger values of κ , the distribution is smaller. To further analyze the b -quark mass and the non-perturbative effect, we present the dependence of the ratio between the b and light-quark/inclusive jets for $30 < p_{T,j} < 40$ GeV in Fig. 4. Remarkably, we found that in the large θ region, the non-perturbative effect seems to be canceled in the ratios, thereby setting a guideline for non-perturbative corrections in heavy flavor jet substructures. In the small θ region, the differences between distinct κ settings are large, as expected. The results for different values of κ demonstrate a good and smooth transition of non-perturbative and perturbative QCD. As shown in the right plot of Fig. 4, the ratio between the b and inclusive jets still keeps the mass effect, as for the case of the ratio between the b and quark jets.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we present the most straightforward and simplest approach to expose the dead cone effect of heavy flavor jets: a multiplicity distribution over the opening angle between the hadron inside the jet and the jet axis. Although this multiplicity is not infrared safe, we expect that this distribution reveals the mass effect on both perturbative and non-perturbative evolutions of the heavy flavor jets. To address the non-perturbative effect, we propose a transverse energy weighted multiplicity distribution that sheds light on the interplay between perturbative and non-perturbative effects.

We present simulations of the multiplicity distributions for b , light quark, and gluon originated jets with PYTHIA using charged particles in the events. In comparison to light quark and gluon jets, the radiation of b jets is suppressed for $\theta \approx m_b/p_{T,j}$; this is the dead cone effect. Given that the b jets resemble a hard B hadron dressed with some soft radiations, we observed an enhancement of the distribution and a scaling behavior indicating uniformly distributed hadrons at an extremely small angle. By calculating the ratio between the b jet and light quark or inclusive jets, the dead cone effect can be clearly observed in the simulations and is expected to be measured

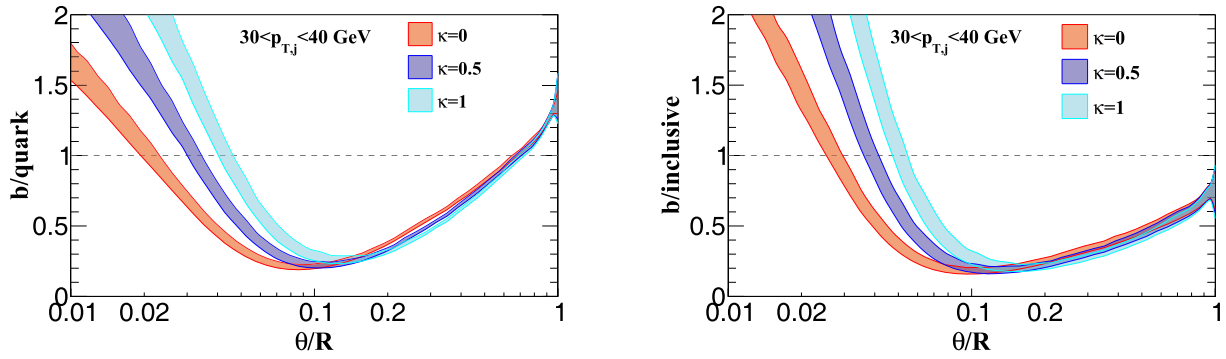


Fig. 4. (color online) The angle dependence of the charged-particle multiplicity ratio of the b -jet to quark jet (left) and inclusive jet (right) for jet transverse momenta $30 < p_{T,j} < 40$ GeV and $|\eta_{jet}| < 2.0$, and varying κ values.

at the LHC in the future. We also examined the κ dependence of the ratio of the multiplicity distributions between the b jet and light quark or inclusive jets, and found that the non-perturbative effect cancels at large angles and is important in small-angle regions. One important fact is that the dead cone or mass suppression on small-angle radiation is not removed by increasing the quark energy, which is also clearly observed from the b fragmentation function (see recent study [56]).

Last but not least, we remark that the multiplicity dis-

tribution reveals the mass effect during the dynamical evolution of heavy flavor jets. The shape of the distributions indicates the energy scale of the dead cone effect. It would be interesting to apply this observable to heavy ion collisions, which can be used to reveal the scale of the interactions of colored partons with quark-gluon plasma.

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