Separating quark and gluon jet distributions in heavy-ions

Jasmine Brewer



Based on:

JB, Jesse Thaler and Andrew P. Turner to appear soon

Thanks to the organizers for pushing on!



A time for global thinking, strength and unity...

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How do the degrees of freedom of the QGP depend on length scale?



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Use jets as a multi-scale probe of QGP

Use quark and gluon jets as a (colored) probe of the (color) structure of the QGP



In pQCD picture energy loss difference given by ratio of color charges

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- 1. Jet modification in samples with different q/g fraction
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 - assume template for quark and gluon jet distributions and fit fractions
- 3. Machine learning (e.g. Chien, Elayavalli 1803.03589)
 - typically relies on some Monte Carlo labelling
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1. Jet modification in samples with different q/g fraction

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How to access fractions and distributions separately in experiment?

Template fitting without templates





Jasmine Brewer (MIT)



Turns out it is easy* to decompose two mixture distributions into two components

Done in p-p: Metodiev and Thaler PRL 120, 241602 (2018)

Requires... Sample independence: Jet Observable Jet Observable





Mutual Irreducibility: samples are pure quark and pure gluon in some limits

Mutual irreducibility: decomposing a mixture is ambiguous



Jet Observable

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To resolve ambiguity, extract base distributions that are mutually irreducible

$$b_1(x) = \text{Pois}(k_1)$$

 $b_2(x) = \text{Pois}(k_2)$

Jet Observable

 $b_1(x), b_2(x)$ completely separated from one another at $0, \infty$

Quantified by
$$\lim_{x \to \infty} \frac{b_1(x)}{b_2(x)} = 0$$

$$\lim_{x \to 0} \frac{b_2(x)}{b_1(x)} = 0$$



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Two distinct mixtures of $b_1(x)$, $b_2(x)$ can be separated into fractions at $0, \infty$



Mixtures of $b_1(x)$, $b_2(x)$ are *not* completely separated at $0, \infty$

Jet Observable



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Jet Observable

Requirement of mutual irreducibility restricts space of jet observables that can be used to extract quark/gluon fractions

Quark/gluon mutual irreducibility at high energies in QCD

• Counting observables (constituent multiplicities, n_{SD}) are Poissonian in high-energy limit

Mutually irreducible

• Observables with Casimir scaling in high-energy limit (mass, angularities)

Not mutually irreducible

Frye, Larkoski, Thaler and Zhou. JHEP 09 (2017) 083











Primary difficulty: extraction sensitive to tails of the distribution

Going forward

• Quark and gluon fractions as a function of p_T allow for separate measurements of quark and gluon spectra, R_{AA} , Q_{AA}

• Separate distribution-level modification of quark and gluon jets from modification of their relative fractions (e.g. in dijet, photon+jet)