

Higher-point energy correlators made practical

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Main Workshop

Mar. 2-5, 2026



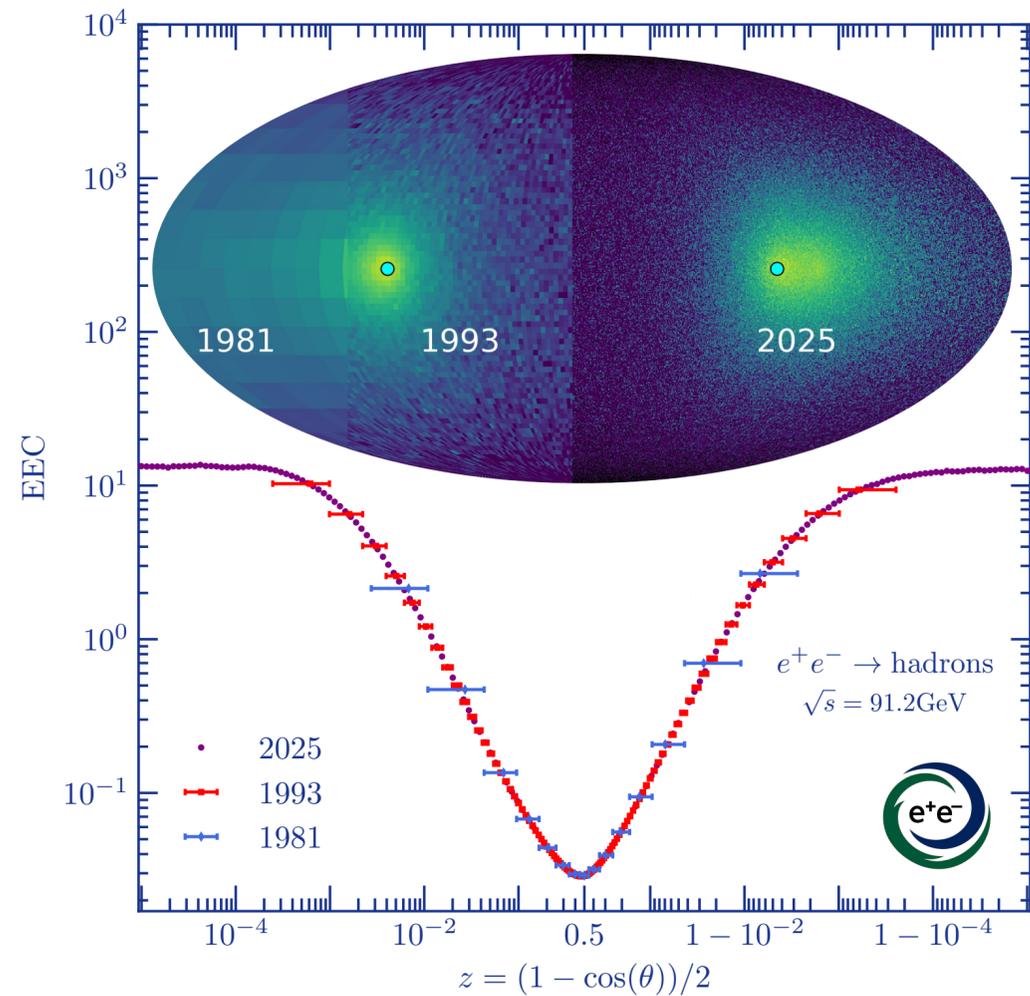
Outline

1. Why higher-point correlators matter
2. Making higher-point correlators practical
3. Factorization in back-to-back regime
4. Nonperturbative effects in collinear regime
5. Conclusions

Apologies: x, z, θ, R all used for angular distance

Why higher-point correlators matter

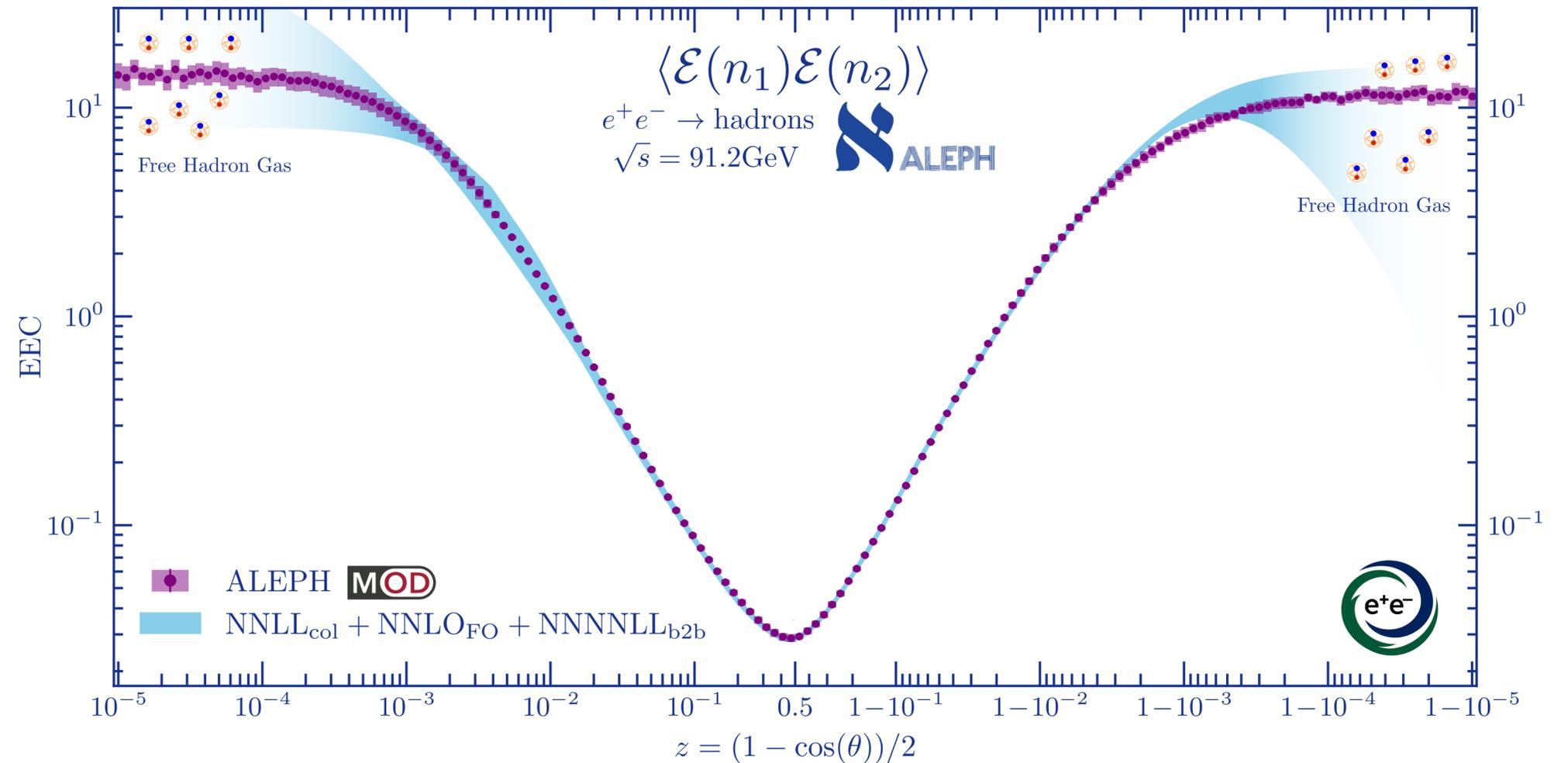
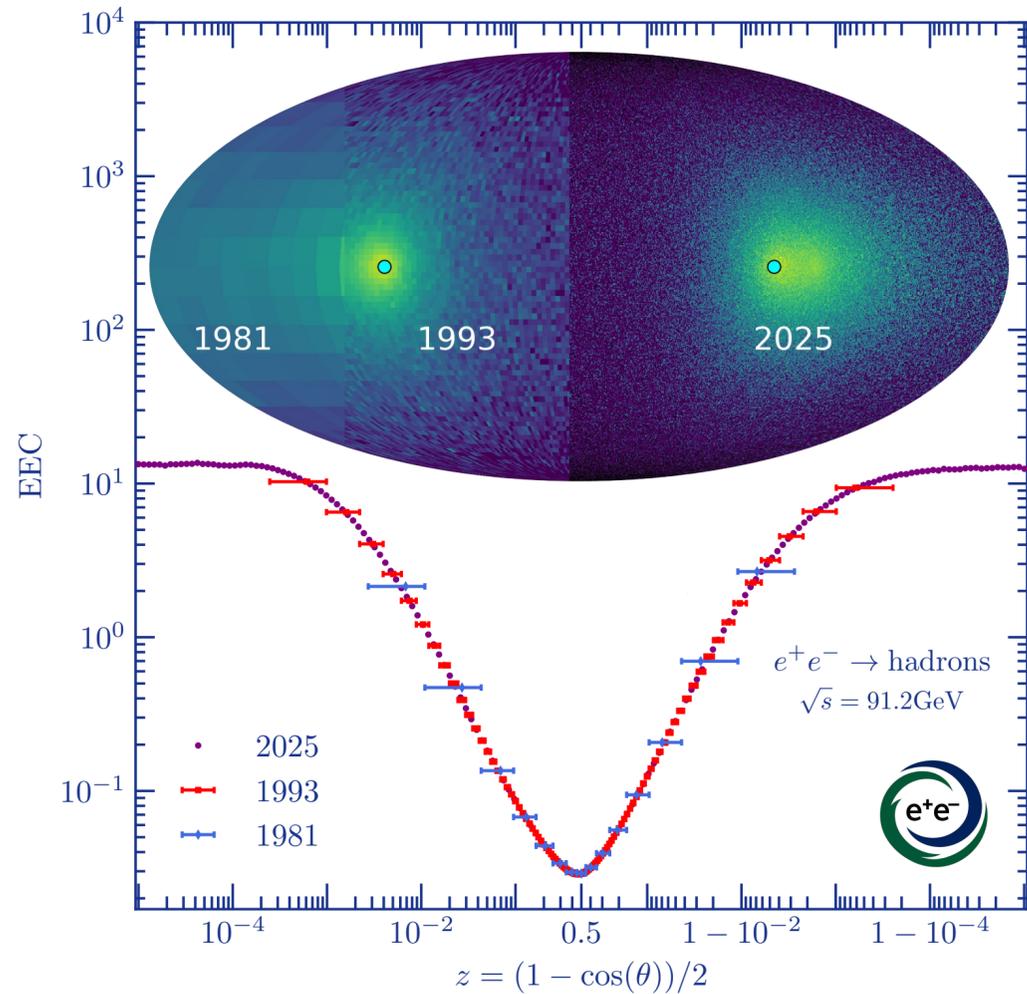
High precision energy-energy correlator



[Lee et al (theory: Jaarsma, Li, Moulton, WW, Zhu)]

- Opportunity: charged particle tracks offer amazing angular resolution.

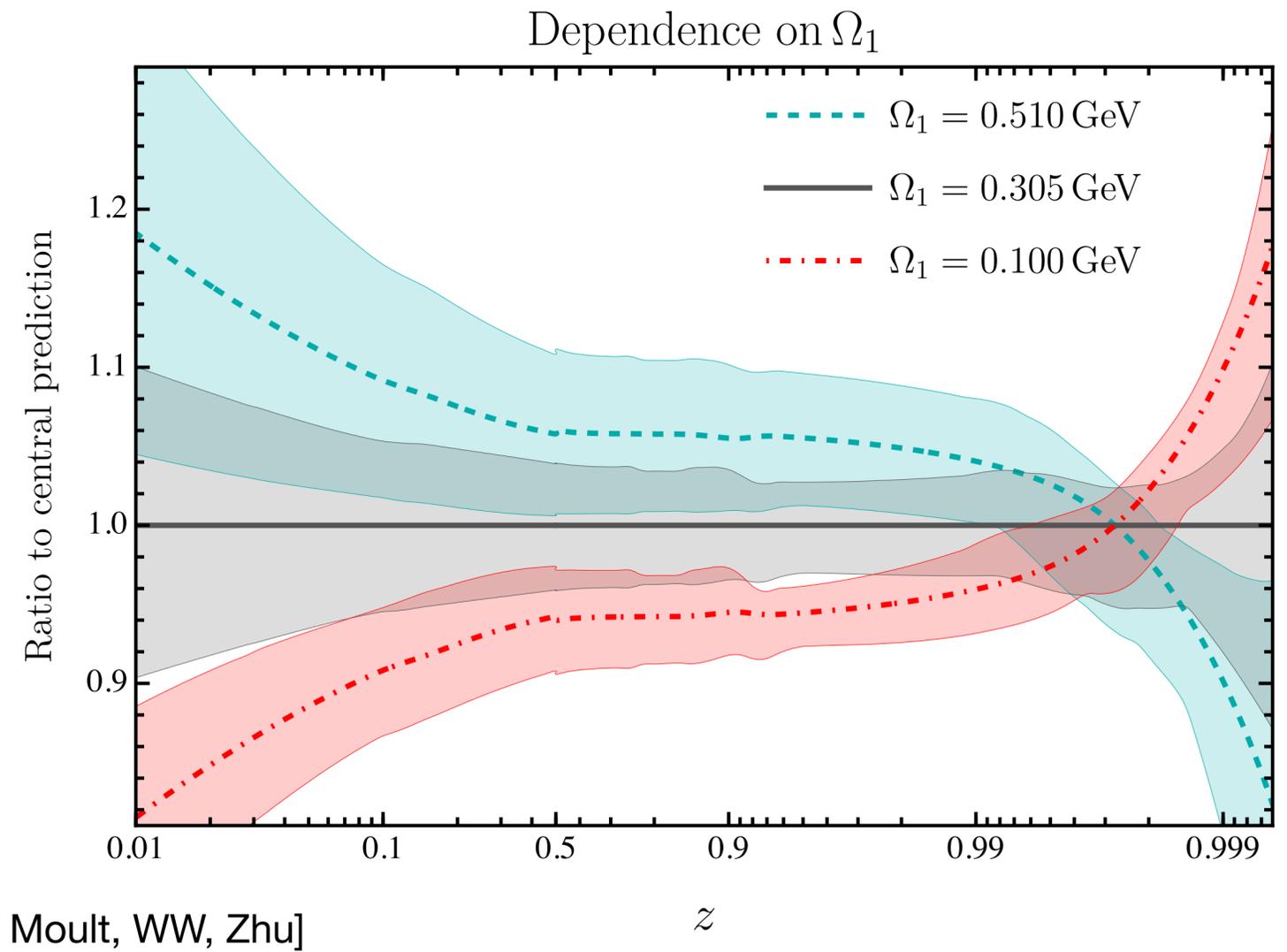
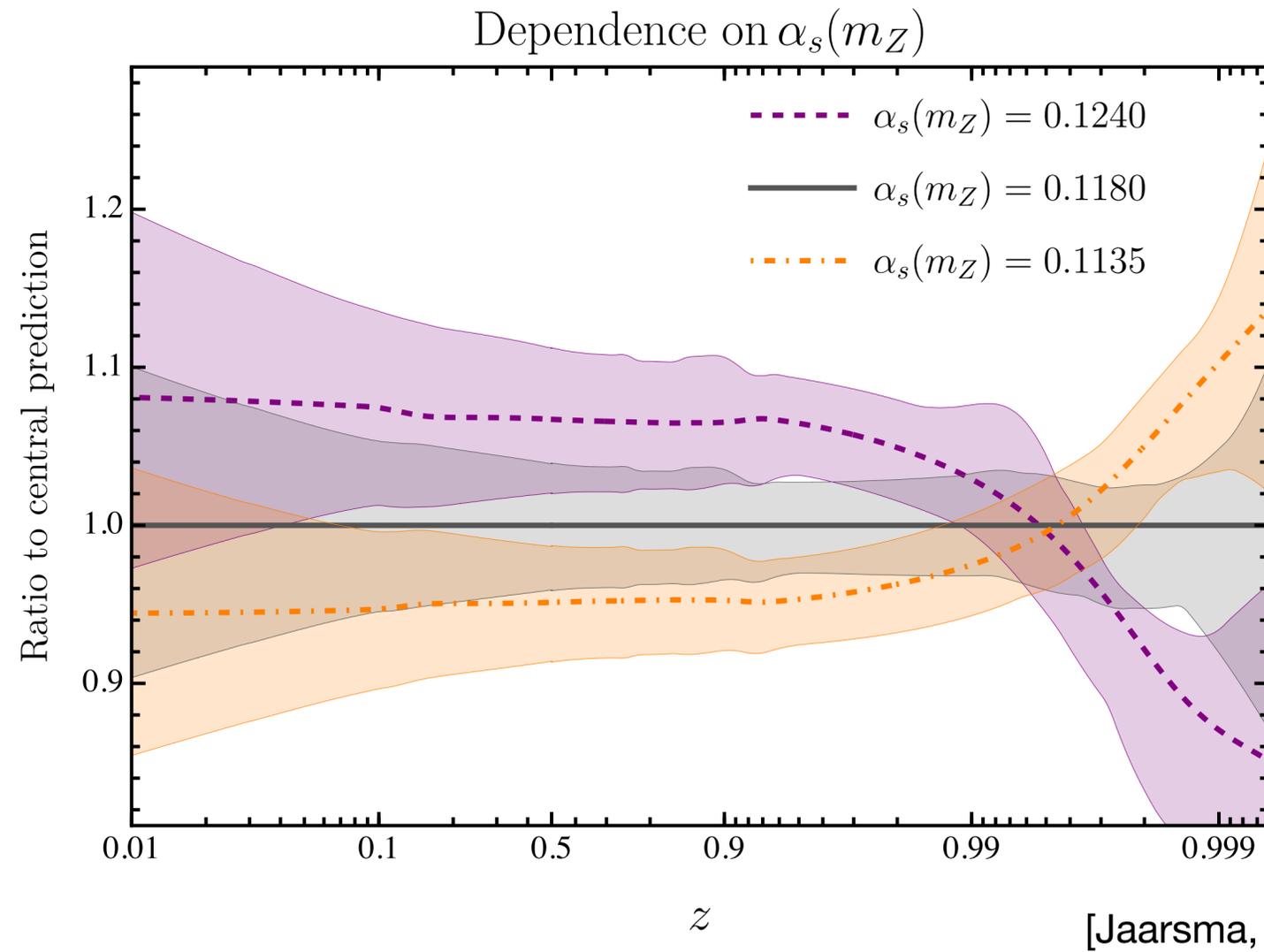
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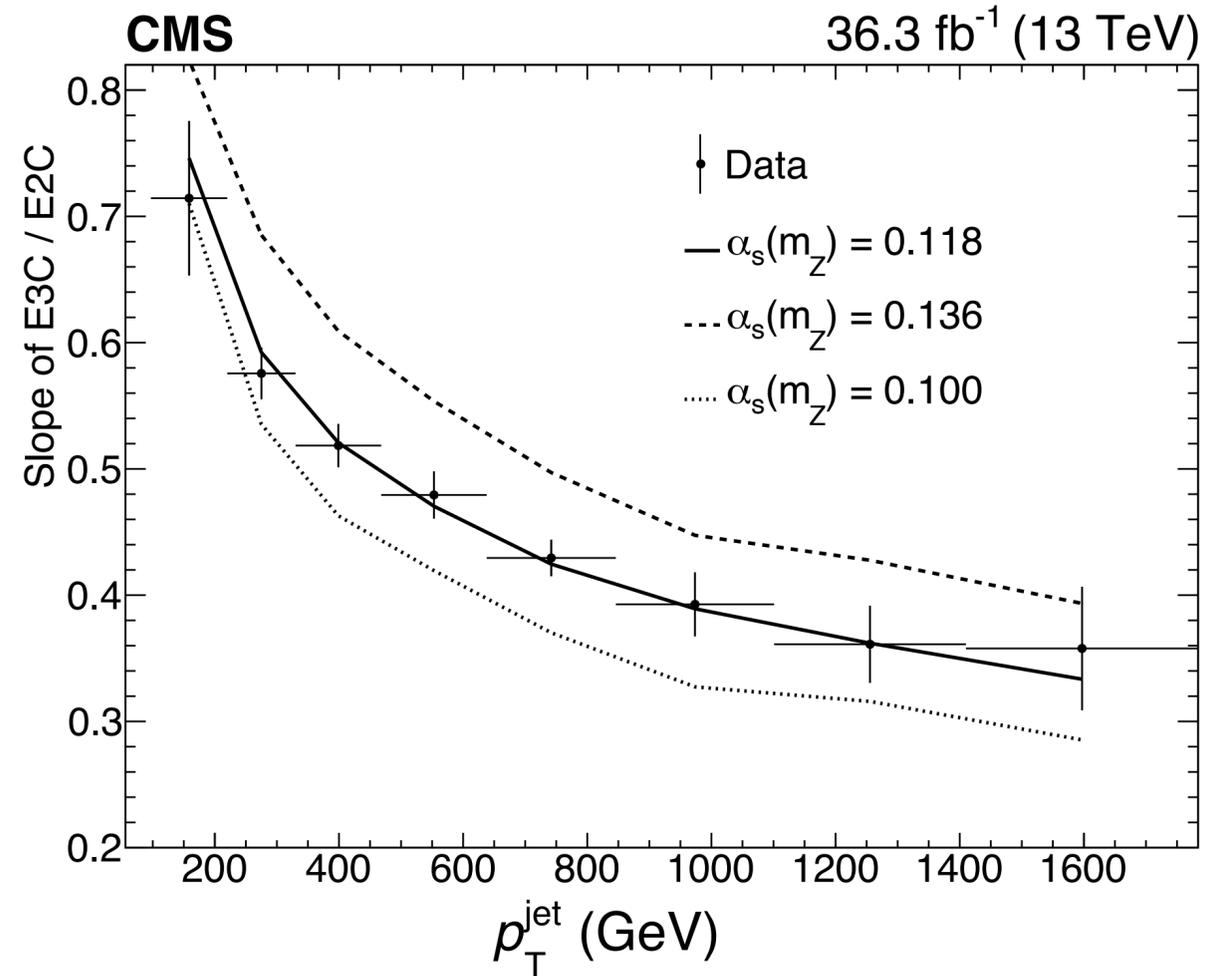
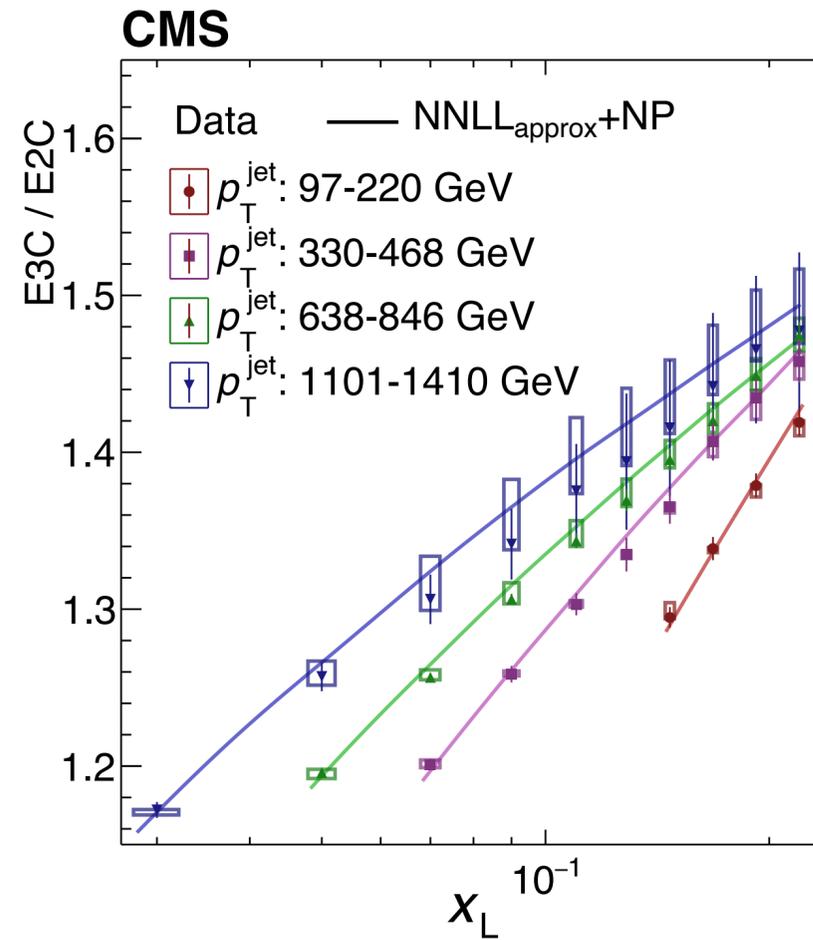
- Opportunity: charged particle tracks offer amazing angular resolution.
- **Precise data & theory: NNLL collinear + N⁴LL back-to-back.**

Break (α_s, Ω) degeneracy



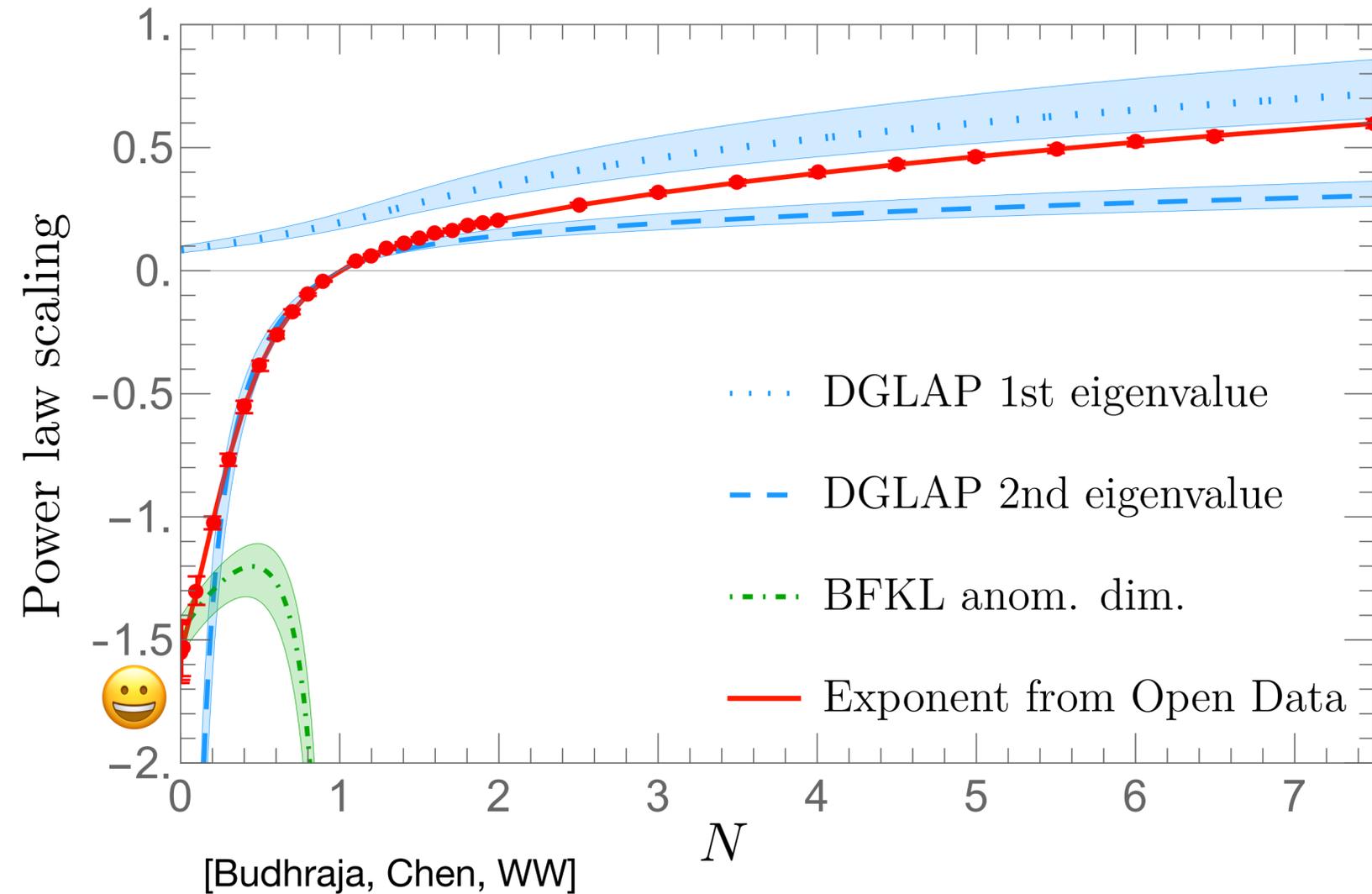
- Problem: α_s from event shapes correlated with leading nonperturbative effect.
- Potential solution: combine collinear and back-to-back region.

α_s from higher-point correlators



- Most precise α_s from jet substructure: extract from power law of E3C/EEC.

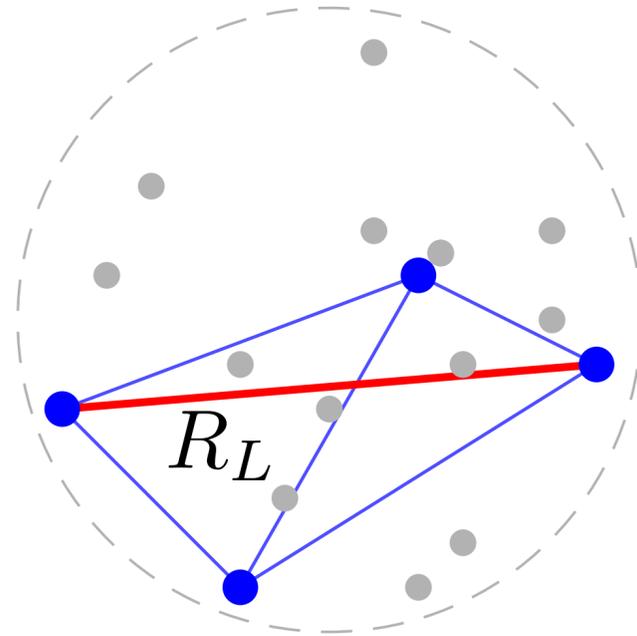
Small- x in jets from lower-point correlators



- Analytically continue N -point energy correlator in N [Chen, Moult, Zhang, Zhu].
- $N \rightarrow 0$ corresponds to small- x , **tantalizing hint** in CMS open data.

Making higher-point correlators practical

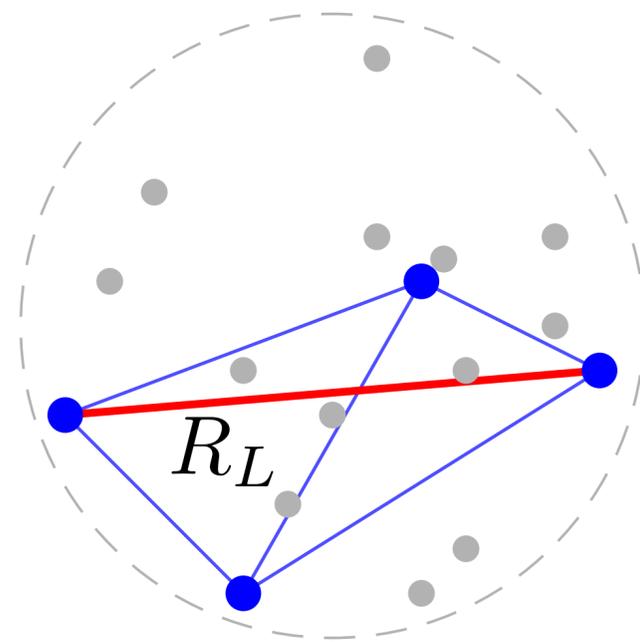
Fast N-point projected correlator



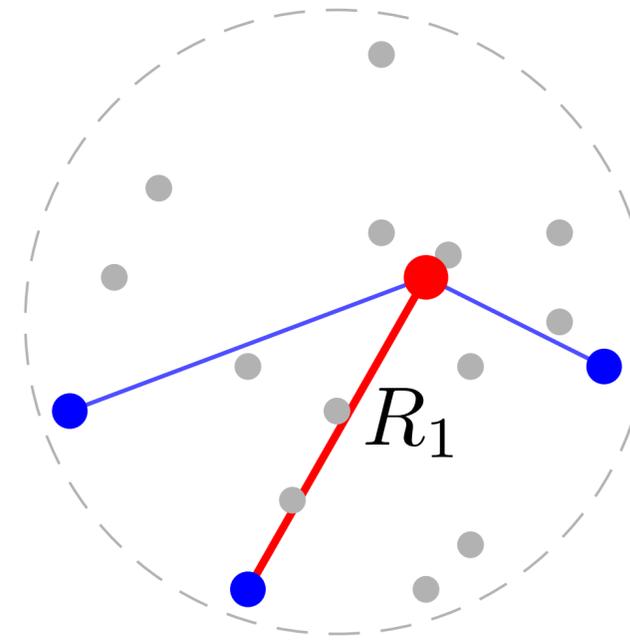
traditional

- Problem: computation time is $\mathcal{O}(M^N)$ for M particles, $\mathcal{O}(2^{2M})$ for non-integer N .

Fast N-point projected correlator



traditional



new

- Problem: computation time is $\mathcal{O}(M^N)$ for M particles, $\mathcal{O}(2^{2M})$ for non-integer N .
- Solution: isolate a **special** particle and only consider distances to it

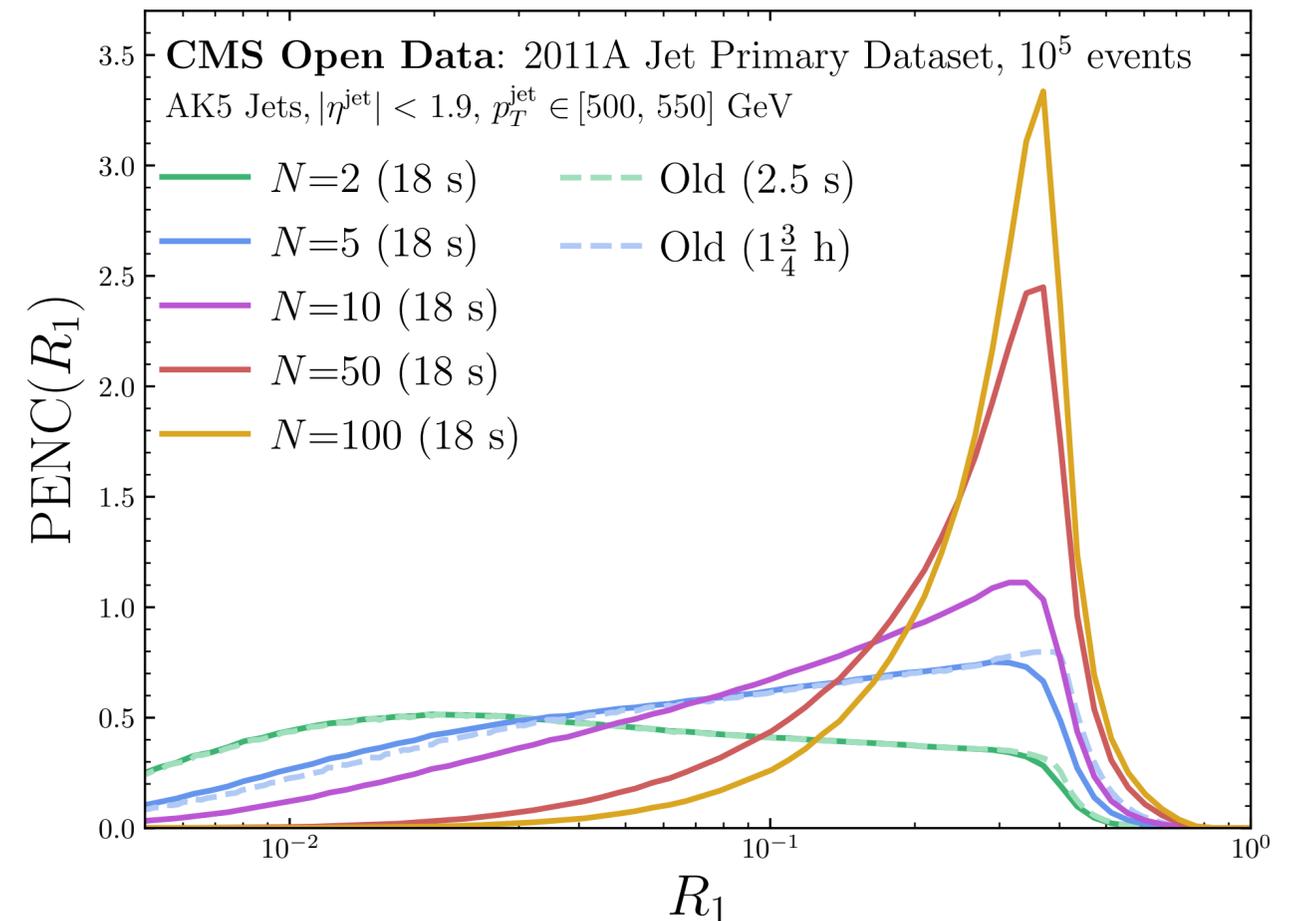
$$\frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dR_1} = \int d\sigma \sum_{\mathbf{s}} z_{\mathbf{s}} \sum_{i_1, i_2, \dots} z_{i_1} z_{i_2} \cdots \delta(R_1 - \max\{R_{\mathbf{s}i_1}, R_{\mathbf{s}i_2}, \dots\})$$

[Alipour-Fard, Budhraj, Thaler, WW]

Fast N-point projected correlator

- Time is $\mathcal{O}(M^2 \ln M)$ for projected correlator for **all** N !
- Follows from cumulative:

$$\int^{R_1} dR_1 \frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dR_1'} = \int d\sigma \sum_{\mathbf{s}} z_{\mathbf{s}} z_{\text{disk}}(\mathbf{s}, R_1)^{N-1}$$

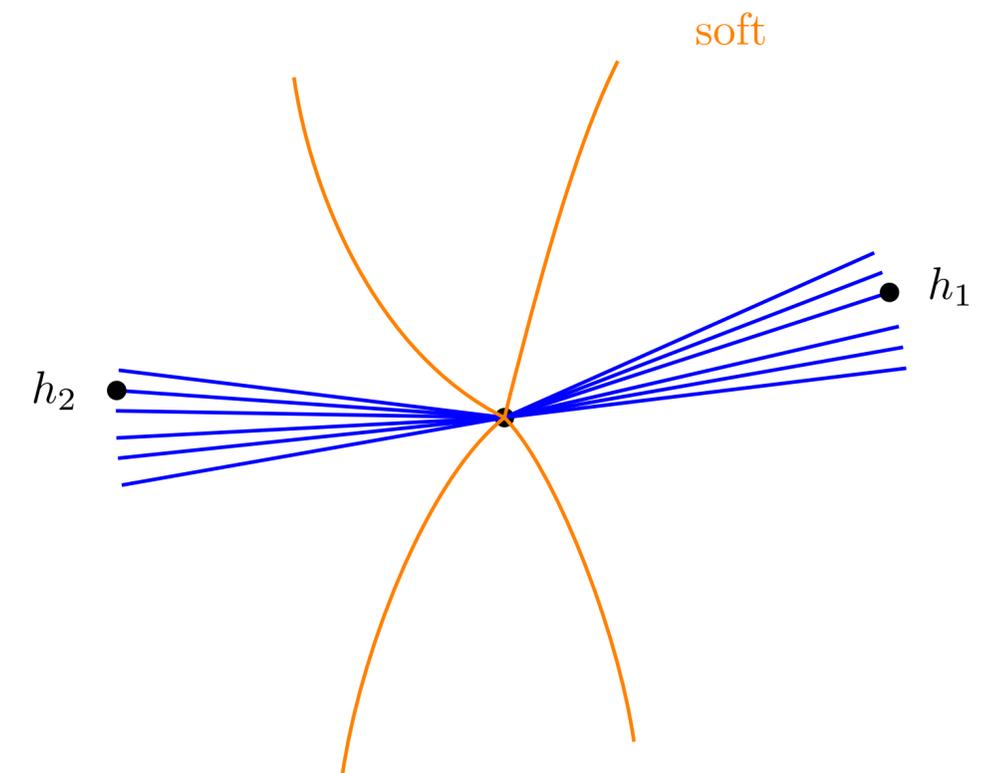


Factorization in back-to-back regime

Factorization for EEC in back-to-back regime

- Follows from TMD factorization for $e^+e^- \rightarrow 2$ hadrons [Moult, Zhu]

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_0} \frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dx} = H(Q; \mu) \int d^2\mathbf{p}_n J(\mathbf{p}_n^2; \mu, \nu) \int d^2\mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}} S(\mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}}^2; \mu, \nu) \int d^2\mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}} J(\mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}}^2; \mu, \nu) \times \delta\left[1 - x - \frac{1}{Q^2} (\mathbf{p}_n + \mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}} - \mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}})^2\right]$$



Factorization for EEC in back-to-back regime

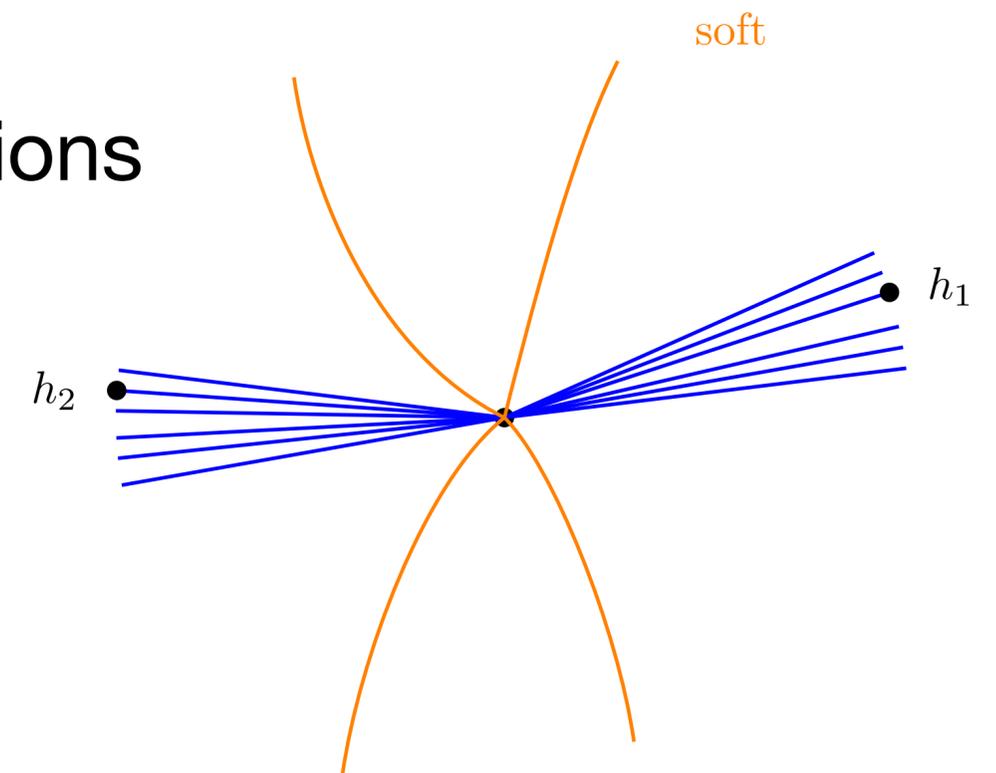
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- **Jet functions** are integral of TMD fragmentation functions

$$J(\mathbf{p}; \mu, \nu) = \sum_h \int dz z D_{q \rightarrow h}(z, \mathbf{p}; \mu, \nu)$$

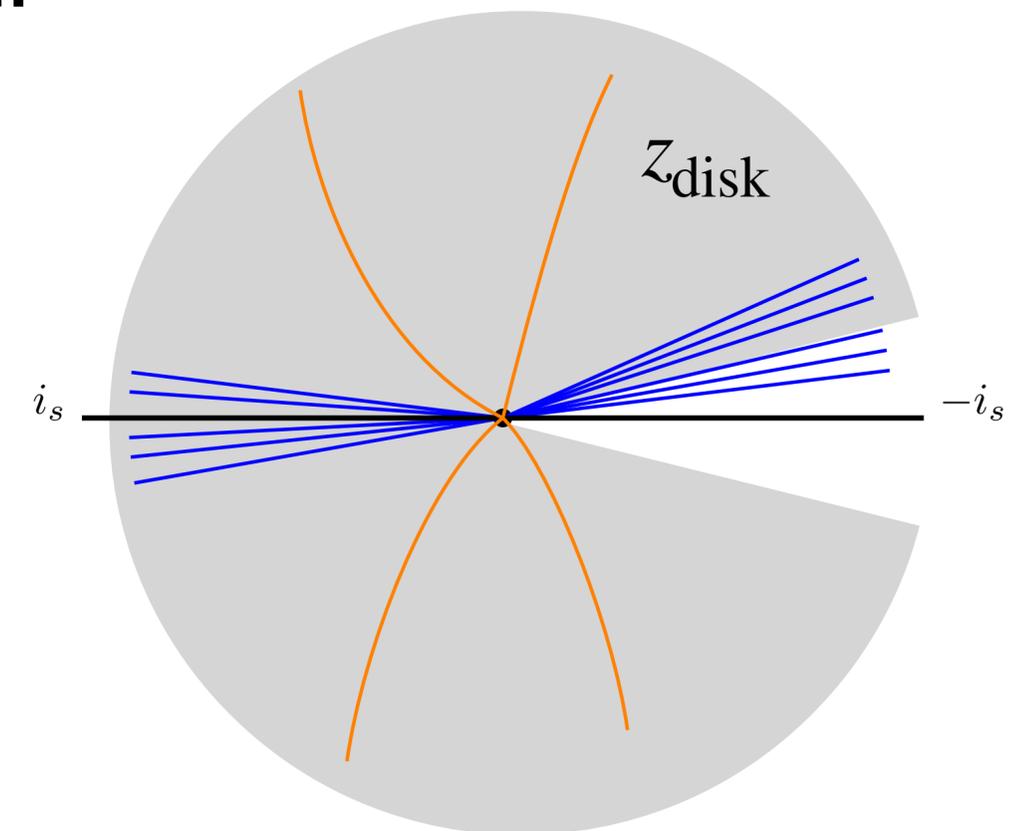
- **Soft radiation** not measured but provides recoil.



Factorization for N-point correlator in back-to-back

- **Summary: only one jet function changes.**
 - ▶ Hard function: same hard scattering.
 - ▶ **Soft function**: only provides recoil.
 - ▶ **Jet function** for jet with **special particle**: unchanged.
 - ▶ **Other jet function** depends on special particle

$$\int^{R_1} dR_1 \frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dR'_1} = \int d\sigma \sum_s z_s z_{\text{disk}}(\mathbf{s}, R_1)^{N-1}$$



Factorization for N-point correlator in back-to-back

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sigma_0} \frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dx} &= H(Q; \mu) \int d^2\mathbf{p}_n J(\mathbf{p}_n^2; \mu, \nu) \int d^2\mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}} S(\mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}}^2; \mu, \nu) \\ &\times \int d^2\mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}} J_{N-1}(\mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}}^2, \boxed{-\mathbf{p}_n + \mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}}}; \mu, \nu) \\ &\times \delta\left[1 - x - \frac{1}{Q^2} (\mathbf{p}_n + \mathbf{p}_{\bar{n}} - \mathbf{p}_{\text{soft}})^2\right] + (n \leftrightarrow \bar{n}) \end{aligned}$$

- Other jet function depends on special particle through **distance to antipode**

Jet function

- At LO, the new jet function is trivial

$$J_{N-1}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}_{\text{ap}}; \mu, \nu) = (2^{N-1} - 1^{N-1}) \delta^2(\mathbf{p})$$

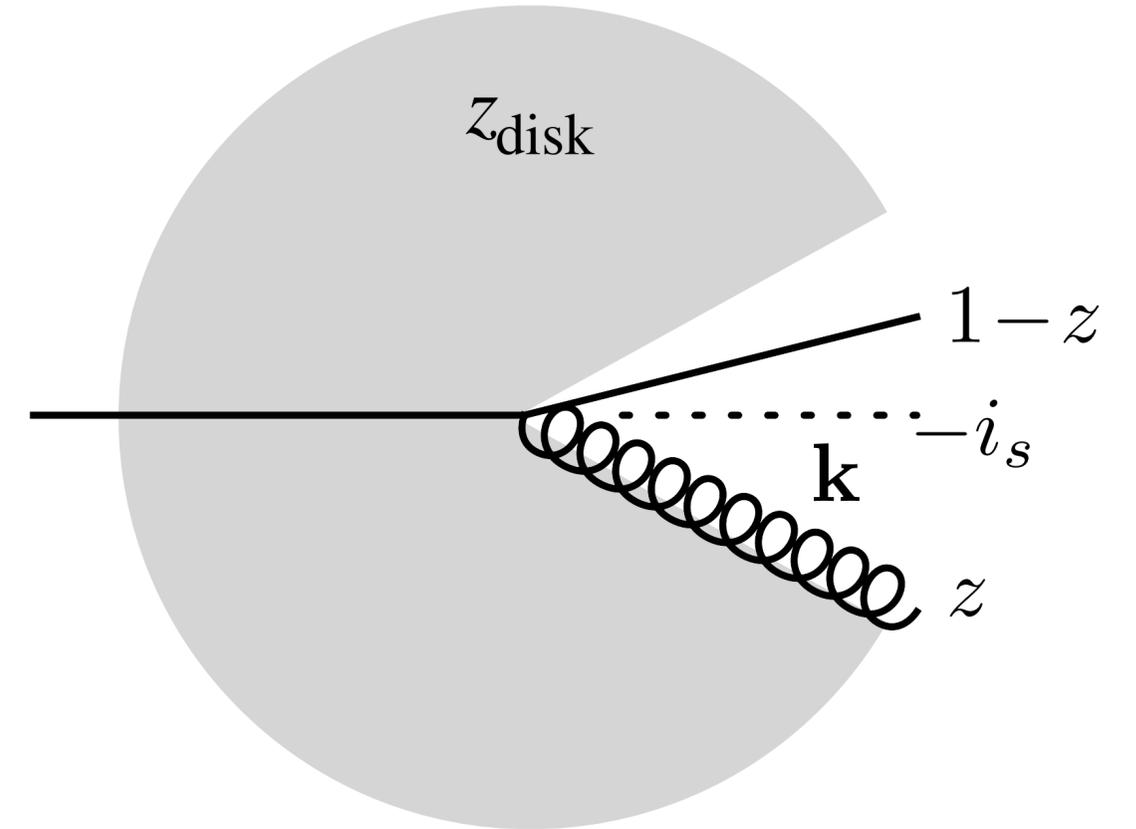
both jets in z_{disk} only jet with special particle

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- At NLO, without recoil ($\mathbf{p}_{\text{ap}} = 0$), the measurement is:

$$\Theta\left(z < \frac{1}{2}\right) \left\{ [(1+z)^{N-1} - 1^{N-1}] \delta^2\left(\mathbf{p} - \frac{\mathbf{k}}{z}\right) + \right.$$

particle with z furthest from antipode

difference of z_{disk}^{N-1}

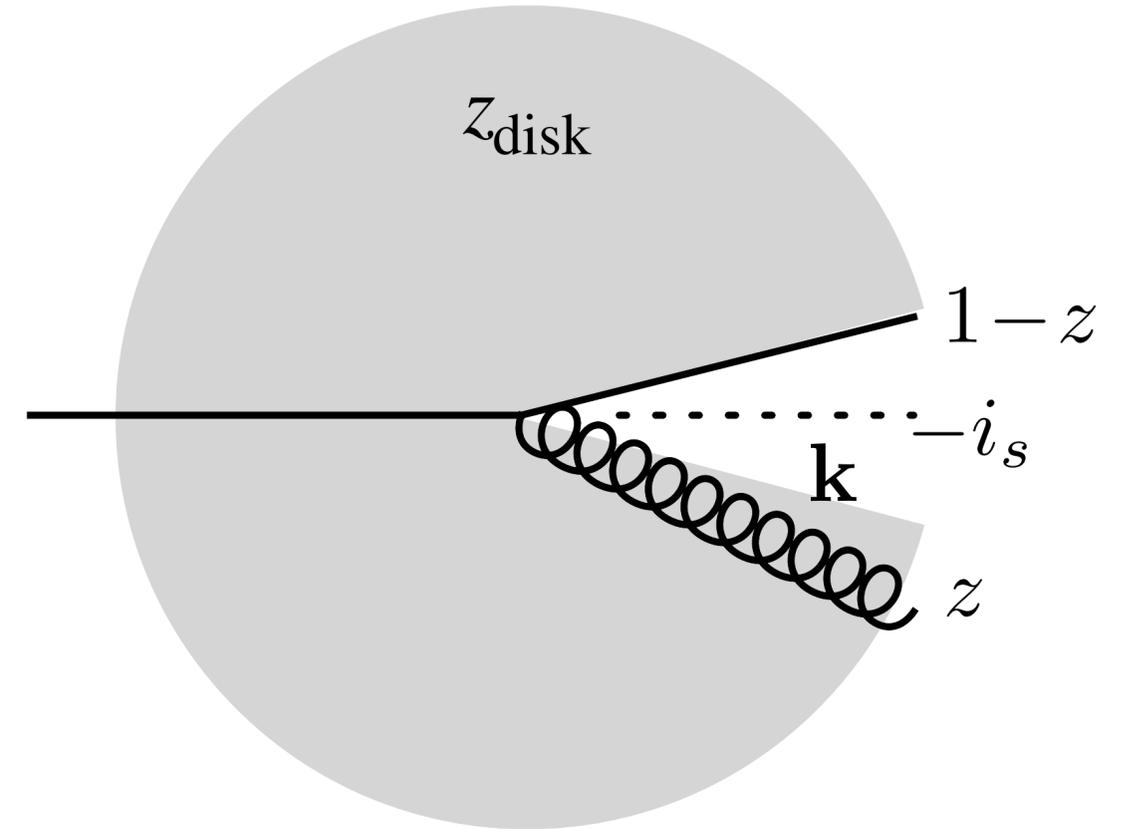
“angle” of particle with z

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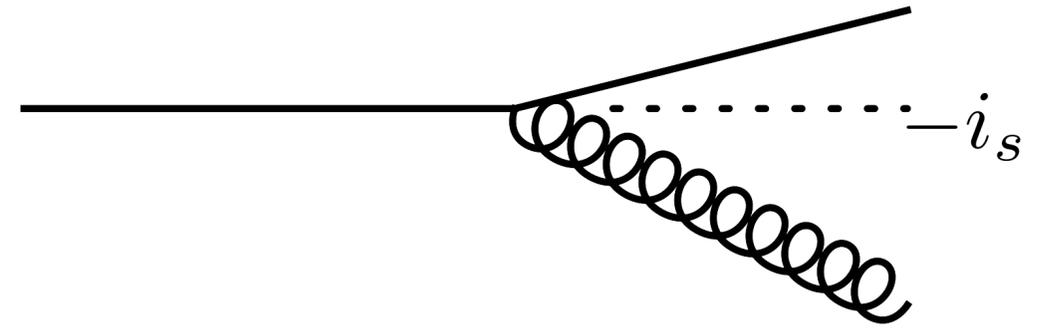
$$\Theta\left(z < \frac{1}{2}\right) \left\{ [(1+z)^{N-1} - 1^{N-1}] \delta^2\left(\mathbf{p} - \frac{\mathbf{k}}{z}\right) + [2^{N-1} - (1+z)^{N-1}] \delta^2\left(\mathbf{p} + \frac{\mathbf{k}}{1-z}\right) \right\} + (z \leftrightarrow 1-z)$$

particle with z furthest from antipode

difference of z_{disk}^{N-1}

“angle” of particle with z

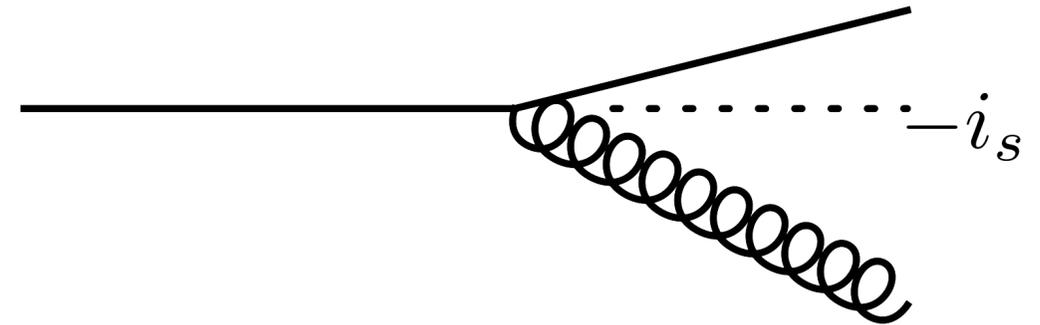
Jet function



- Jet function **without recoil**:

$$\frac{J_{N-1}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{0}; \mu, \nu)}{2^{N-1} - 1} = \delta^2(\mathbf{p}) + \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{\pi} \left\{ j_{N-1} \delta^2(\mathbf{p}) + \left[2 \ln \left(\frac{Q}{\nu} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right] \frac{1}{2\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{1}{\mathbf{p}^2/\mu^2} \right]_+ \right\}$$

Jet function



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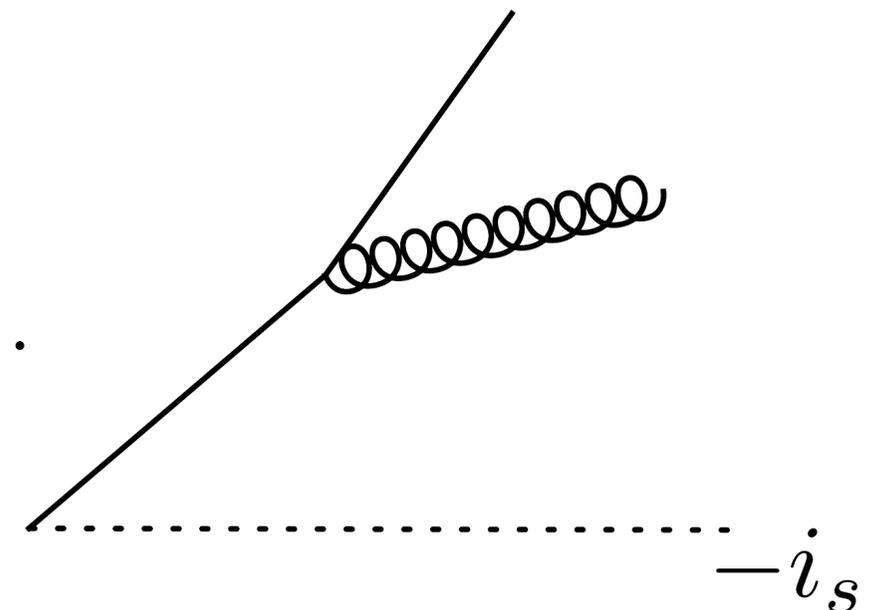
$$\frac{J_{N-1}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{0}; \mu, \nu)}{2^{N-1} - 1} = \delta^2(\mathbf{p}) + \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{\pi} \left\{ j_{N-1} \delta^2(\mathbf{p}) + \left[2 \ln \left(\frac{Q}{\nu} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right] \frac{1}{2\pi\mu^2} \left[\frac{1}{\mathbf{p}^2/\mu^2} \right]_+ \right\}$$

- Jet function in **infinite recoil limit**:

- ▶ Boundary $\phi = \frac{\pi}{2}$ instead of $z = \frac{1}{2}$

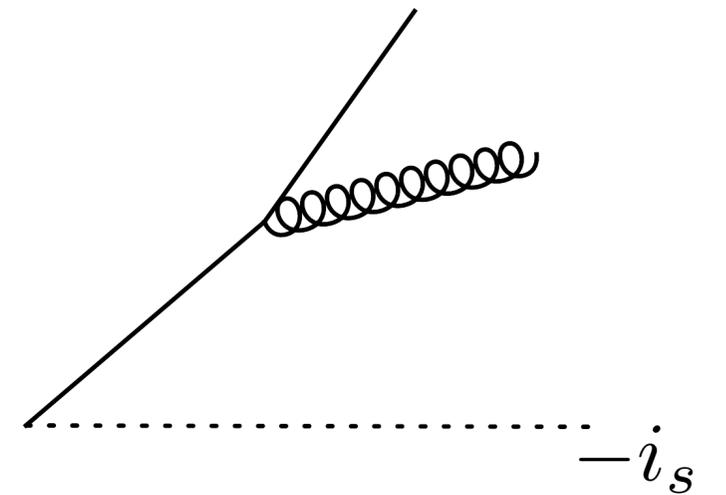
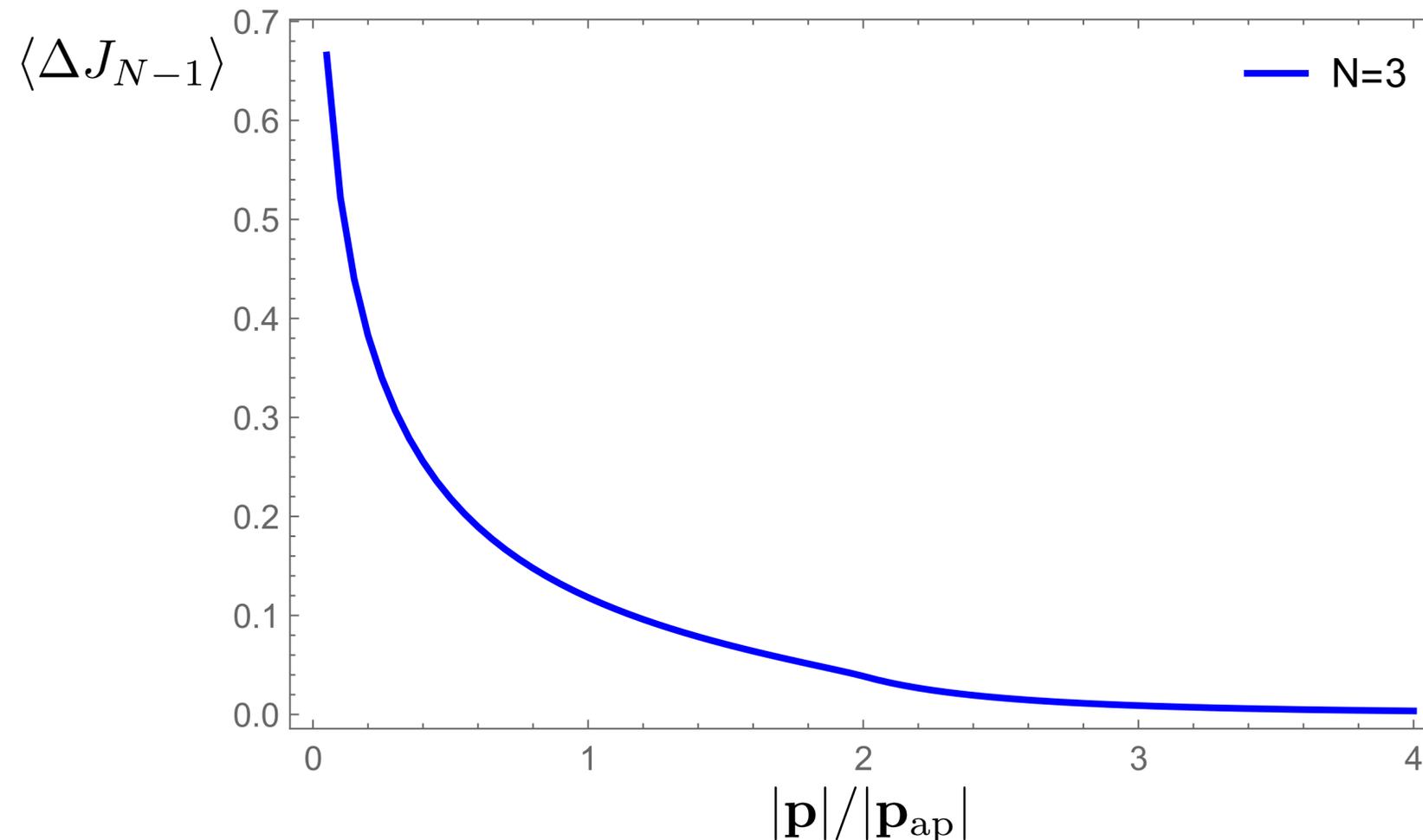
- ▶ Only modifies constant:

$$\frac{\Delta J_{N-1}}{2^{N-1} - 1} \Big|_{|\mathbf{p}| \rightarrow 0} \equiv \frac{\alpha_s C_F}{\pi} j'_{N-1} \delta^2(\mathbf{p}), \quad j'_2 = -\frac{1}{24} - \frac{1}{2} \ln 2.$$



Jet function with recoil

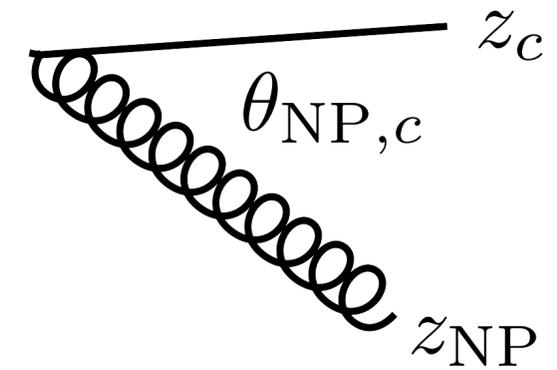
- Effect of recoil is finite correction: $\Delta J_{N-1}(|\mathbf{p}|/|\mathbf{p}_{\text{ap}}|, \phi)$



✓ Checked against large recoil limit.

Nonperturbative effects in collinear regime

Leading nonperturbative effects



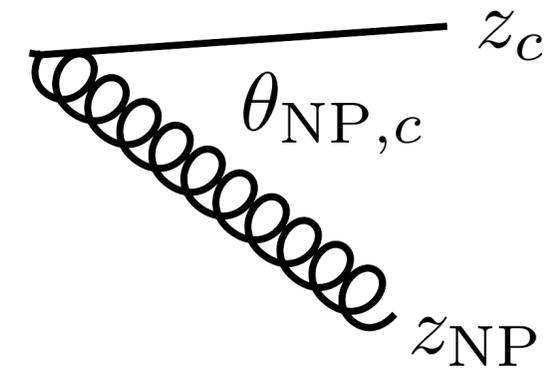
- Contribution to energy correlator from collinear and nonperturbative particle:

collinear is special particle

nonperturbative is special

$$\left\{ z_c [(z_c + z_{NP})^{N-1} - z_c^{N-1}] + z_{NP} [(z_c + z_{NP})^{N-1} - z_{NP}^{N-1}] \right\} \delta(\theta - \theta_{NP,c})$$

Leading nonperturbative effects



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$$\left\{ z_c \left[(z_c + z_{\text{NP}})^{N-1} - z_c^{N-1} \right] + z_{\text{NP}} \left[(z_c + z_{\text{NP}})^{N-1} - z_{\text{NP}}^{N-1} \right] \right\} \delta(\theta - \theta_{\text{NP},c})$$

$$\approx \left[N z_c^{N-1} z_{\text{NP}} - z_{\text{NP}}^N \right] \delta(\theta - \theta_{\text{NP},c})$$

- ▶ First term yields familiar result for $N \geq 2$ [Lee, Pathak, Stewart, Sun; Chen, Monni, Xu, Zhu].
- ▶ **Second term** dominates for $N < 1$.

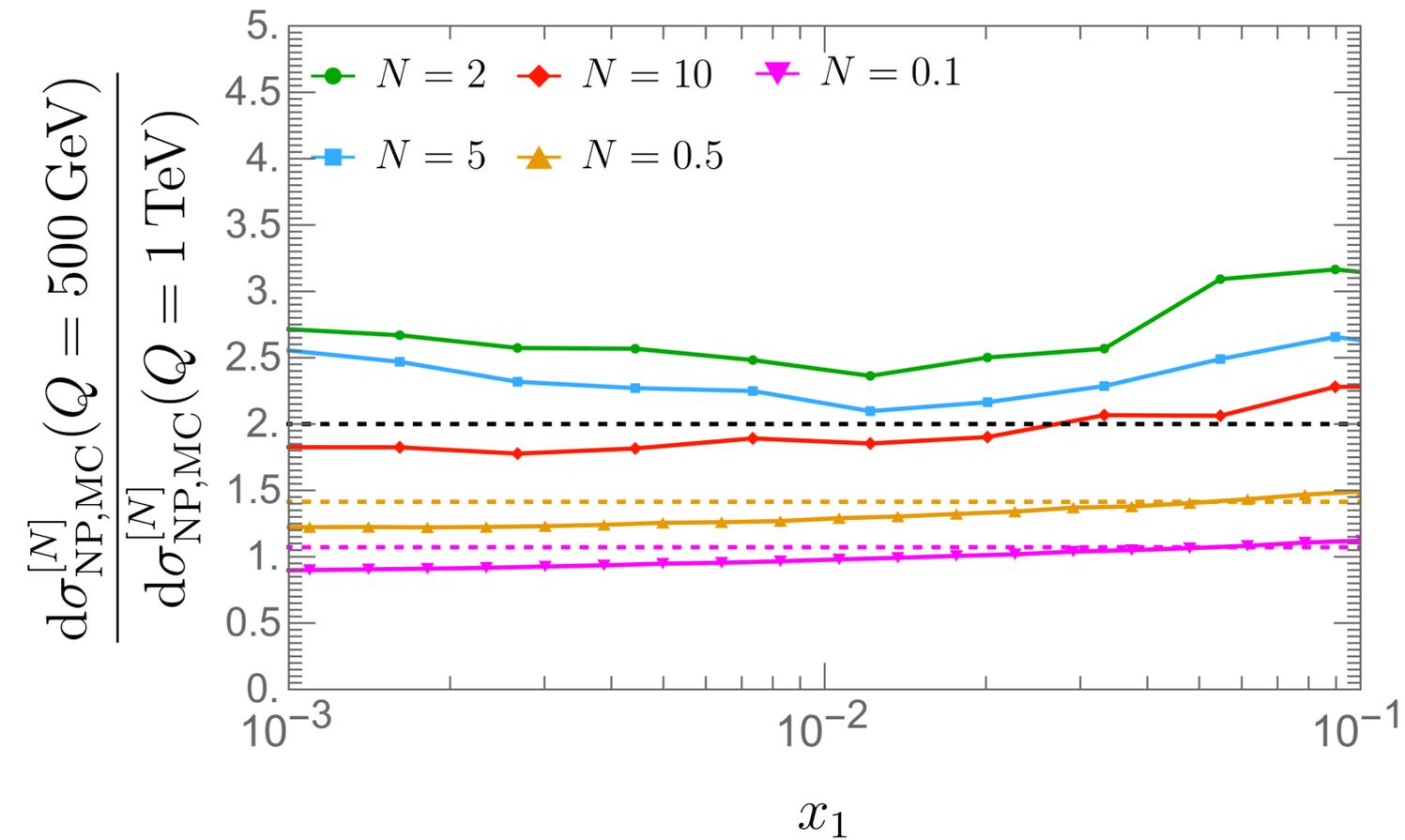
Leading nonperturbative effects

- Leading nonperturbative corrections to cross section in collinear region:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma_{\text{NP}}}{dx_1} = \frac{N\Omega_1}{2^N Q x_1^{3/2}} + \frac{\Omega^{[N]}}{2^N Q^N x_1^{1+N/2}}$$

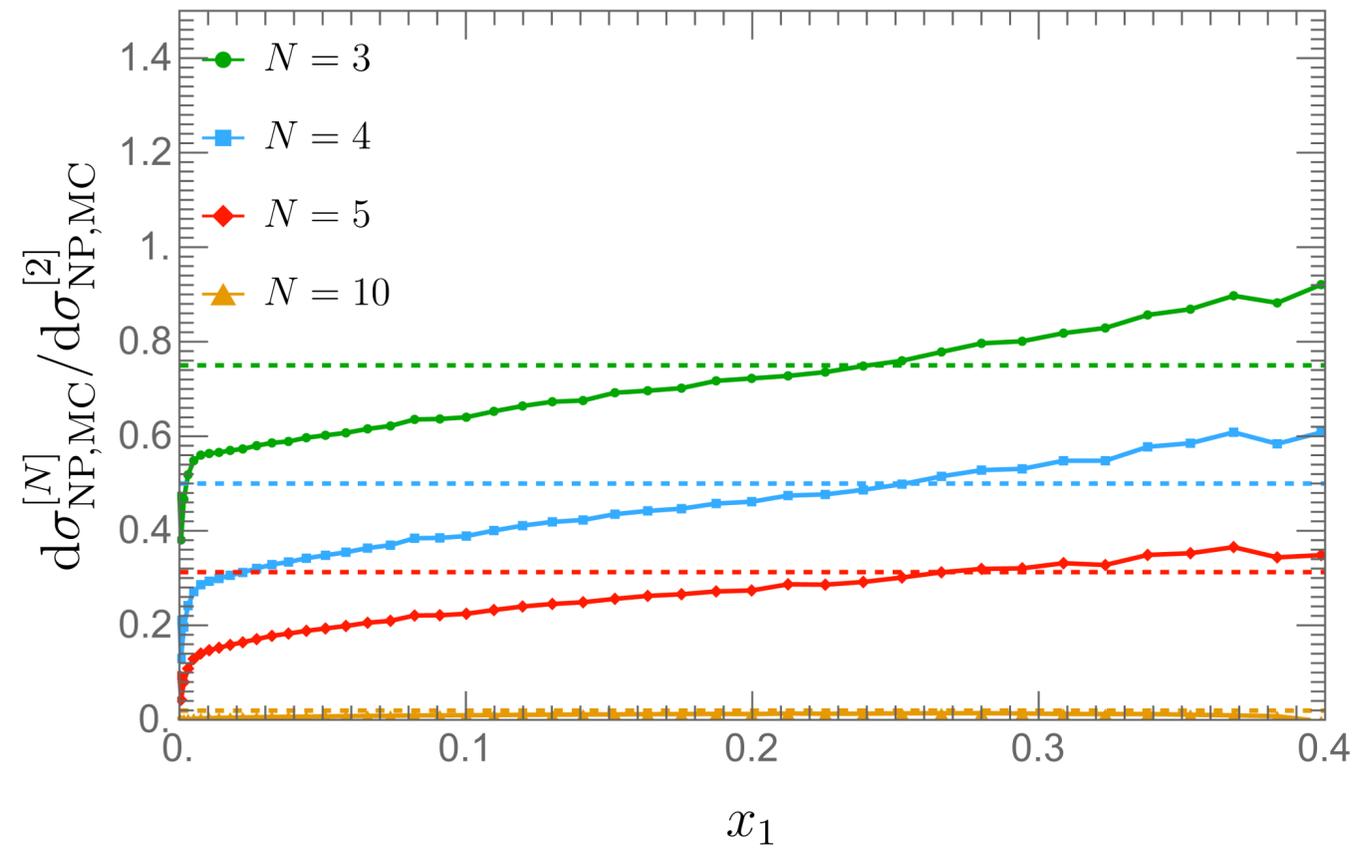
- Features of **second term**:
 - ▶ Classical scaling modified $1/x_1^{3/2} \rightarrow 1/x_1^{1+N/2}$.
 - ▶ Expect $\Omega^{[N]} \approx (\Omega_1)^N$, though $\langle z_{\text{NP}}^N \rangle \neq \langle z_{\text{NP}} \rangle^N$ in general.
- Study in Pythia: taking the difference between hadronization on/off.

Dependence on Q



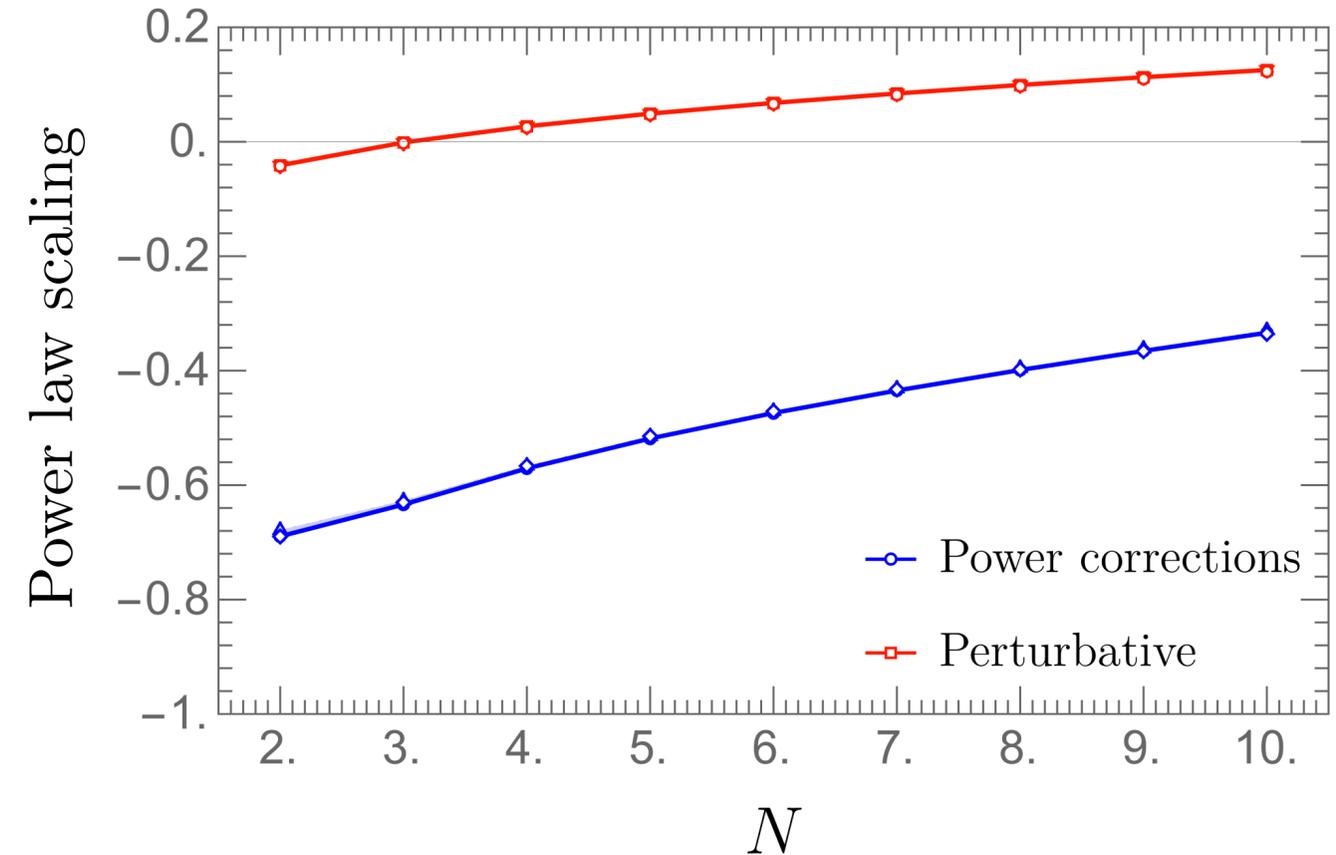
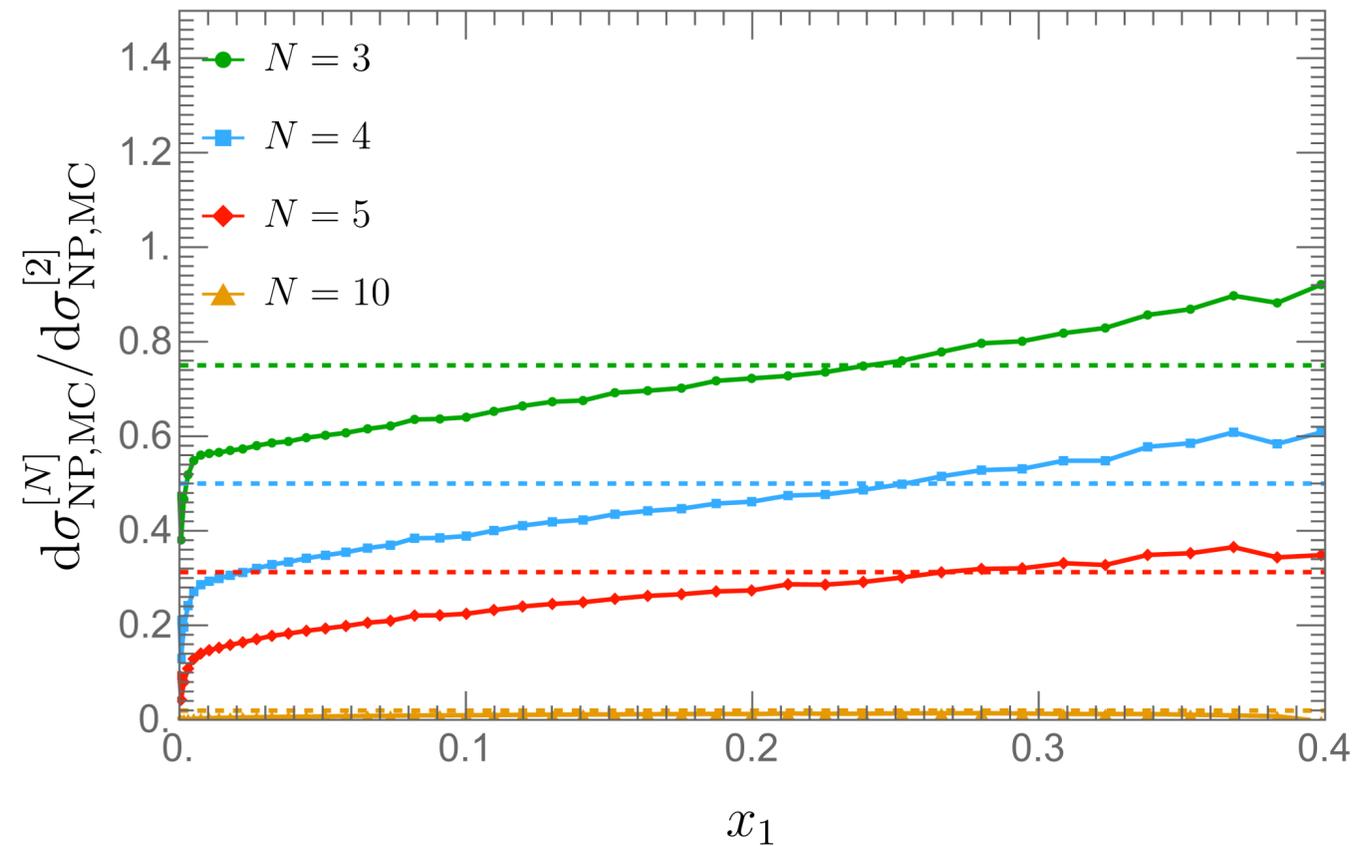
- For $N \geq 2$, the $1/Q$ scaling is not so clear in Pythia.
- For $N < 1$, the $1/Q^N$ scaling is clearly present.

Dependence on N for $N \geq 2$



- Normalization is correct, but power-law in x_1 also changes.

Dependence on N for $N \geq 2$

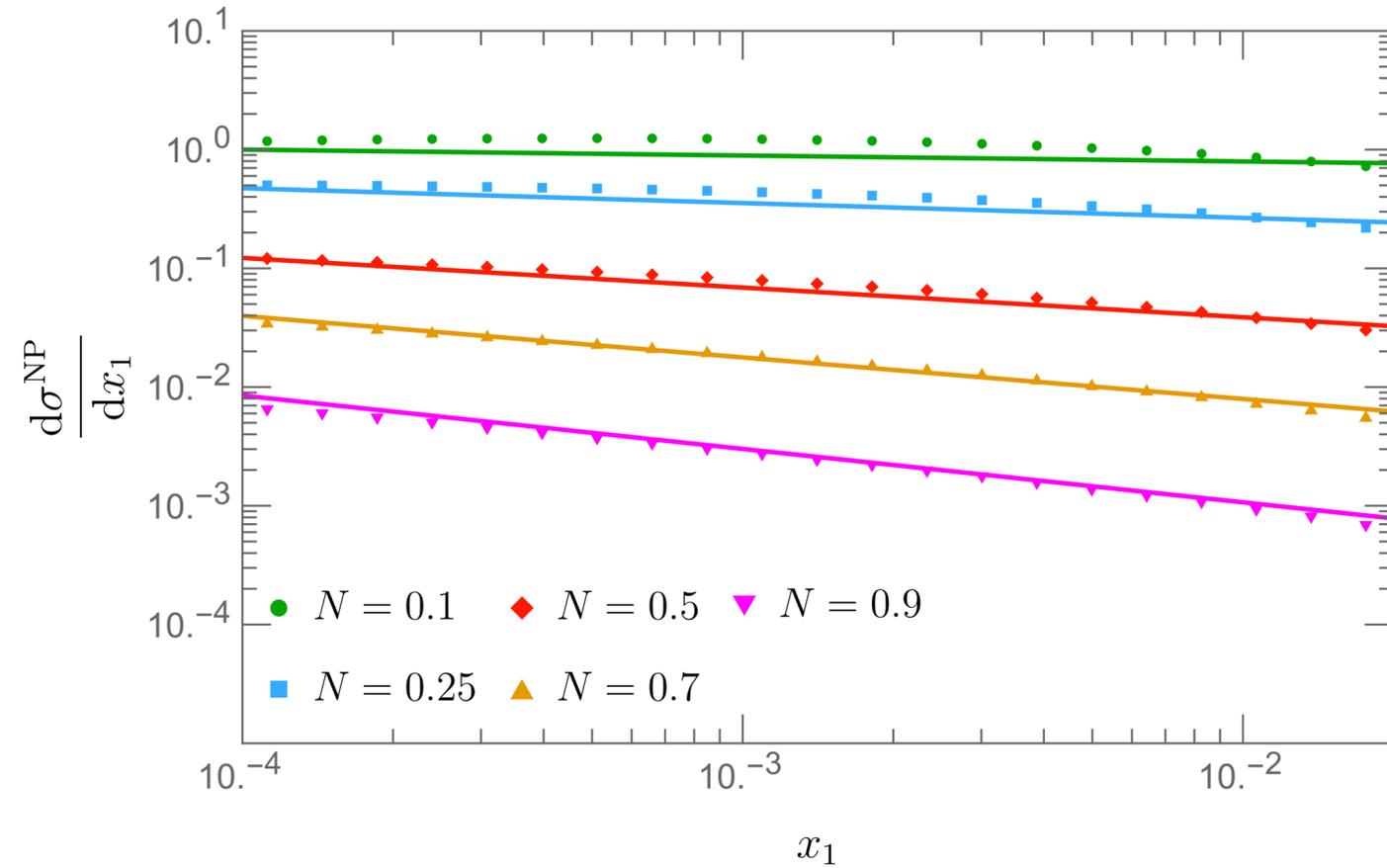


- Normalization is correct, but power-law in x_1 also changes.
- Power-law of nonperturbative: similar to perturbative, qualitatively follows

$$\gamma_{\text{nonp}}^{[N]} = -\frac{1}{2} + \gamma_{\text{pert}}^{[N-1]} \quad [\text{Lee, Pathak, Stewart, Sun}]$$

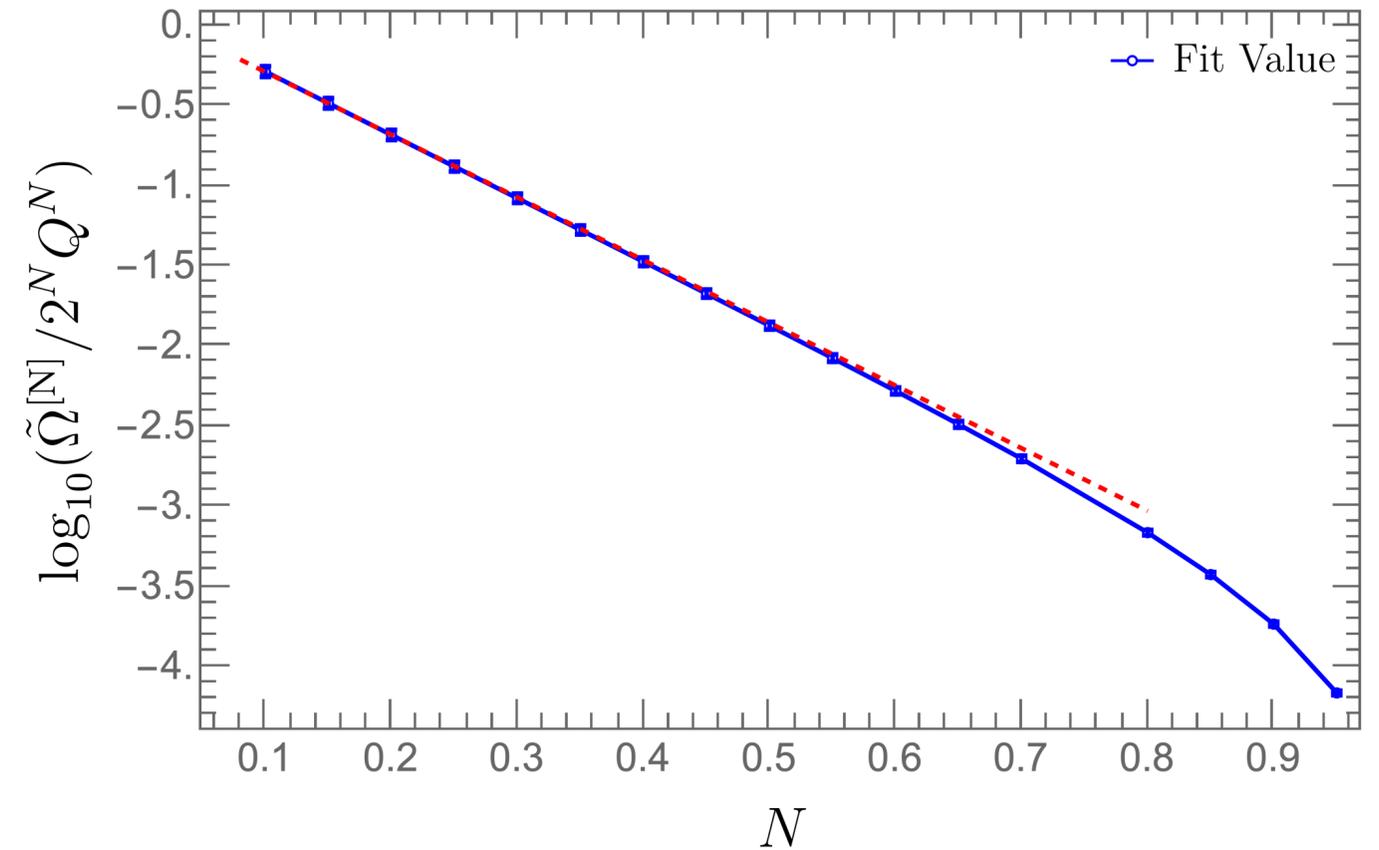
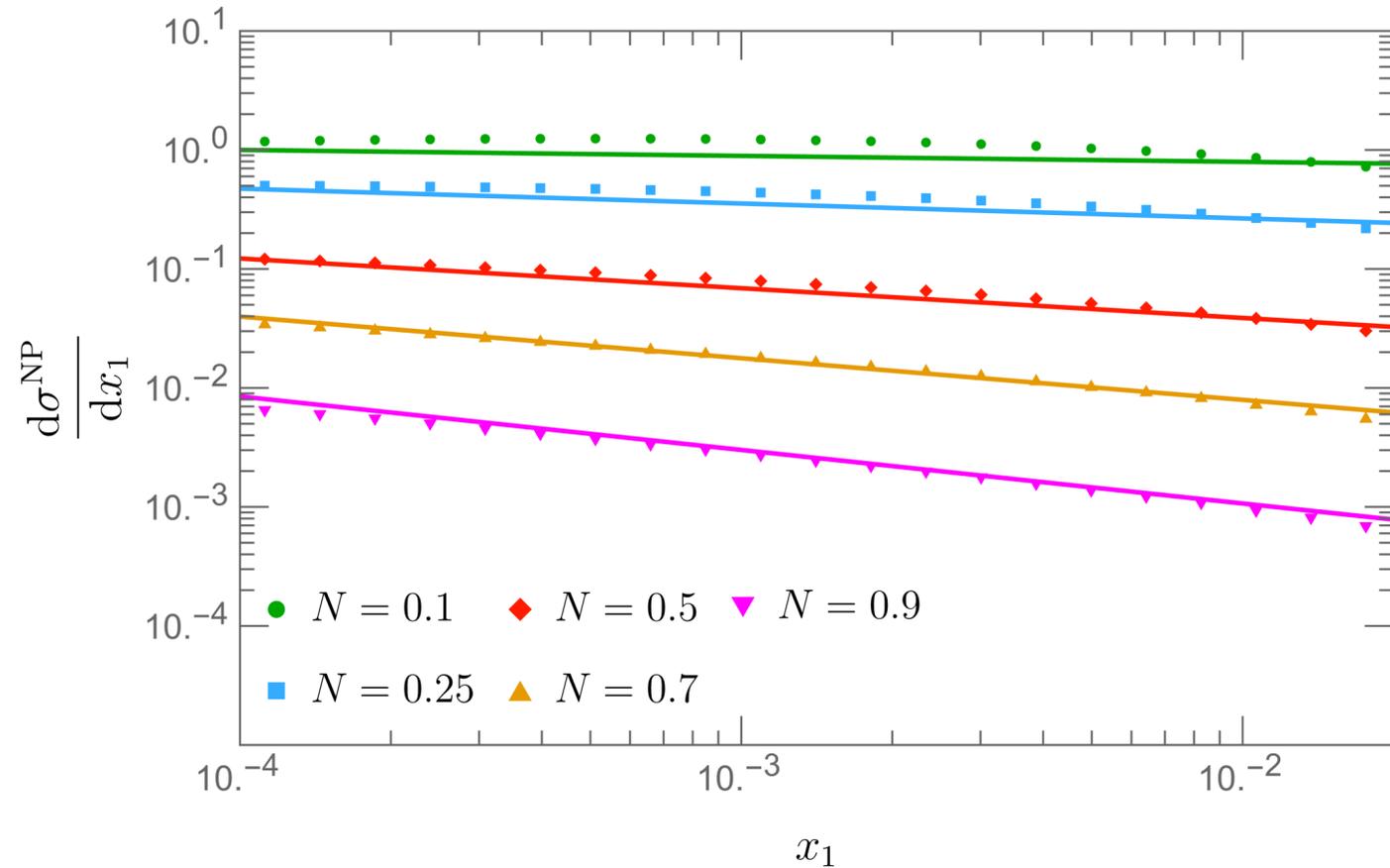
\nearrow
 classical scaling changed from $1/x_1$ to $1/x_1^{3/2}$

Dependence on N for $N < 1$



- For $N < 1$, modification of classical scaling is observed: $1/x_1^{3/2} \rightarrow 1/x_1^{1+N/2}$.

Dependence on N for $N < 1$



- For $N < 1$, modification of classical scaling is observed: $1/x_1^{3/2} \rightarrow 1/x_1^{1+N/2}$.
- We fit the nonperturbative parameter, finding $\Omega^{[N]} \approx (\Omega_1)^N$.

Conclusions

- Higher-point correlators are
 - Interesting: α_s , small x in jets, ...
 - Feasible: speed up from new parametrization.
- Factorization in back-to-back regime: one modified jet function.
- Nonperturbative effects in collinear regime: new contribution for $N < 1$.

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감사합니다 (*gam-sa-ham-ni-da*)

Backup

Factorization in the collinear regime

- Factorization for standard projected correlator:

$$\int^{R_L} dR'_L \frac{d\sigma^{[N]}}{dR'_L} = \int_0^1 dx x^N \vec{H}\left(x, \frac{Q}{\mu}\right) \cdot \vec{J}^{[N]}\left(\ln \frac{R_L x Q}{\mu}\right)$$

[Dixon, Moult, Zhu; Chen, Moult, Zhang, Zhu]

hard scattering

jet formation

- New parametrization only affects jet function:
 - Difference arises for 3 or more particles in jet, so NNLL effect.
 - Triangle inequality: $R_1 \leq R_L \leq 2R_1$, NNLL implies $R_L = R_1 [1 + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)]$.