

# Energy correlators for a gluon splitting to heavy quarks

João M. Silva  
(Granada U./LIP - Lisbon)

In collaboration with:

J. Barata (CERN)

J. Brewer (Oxford U.)

K. Lee (MIT, CTP)

Quark Matter 2025

Frankfurt, April 10th 2025

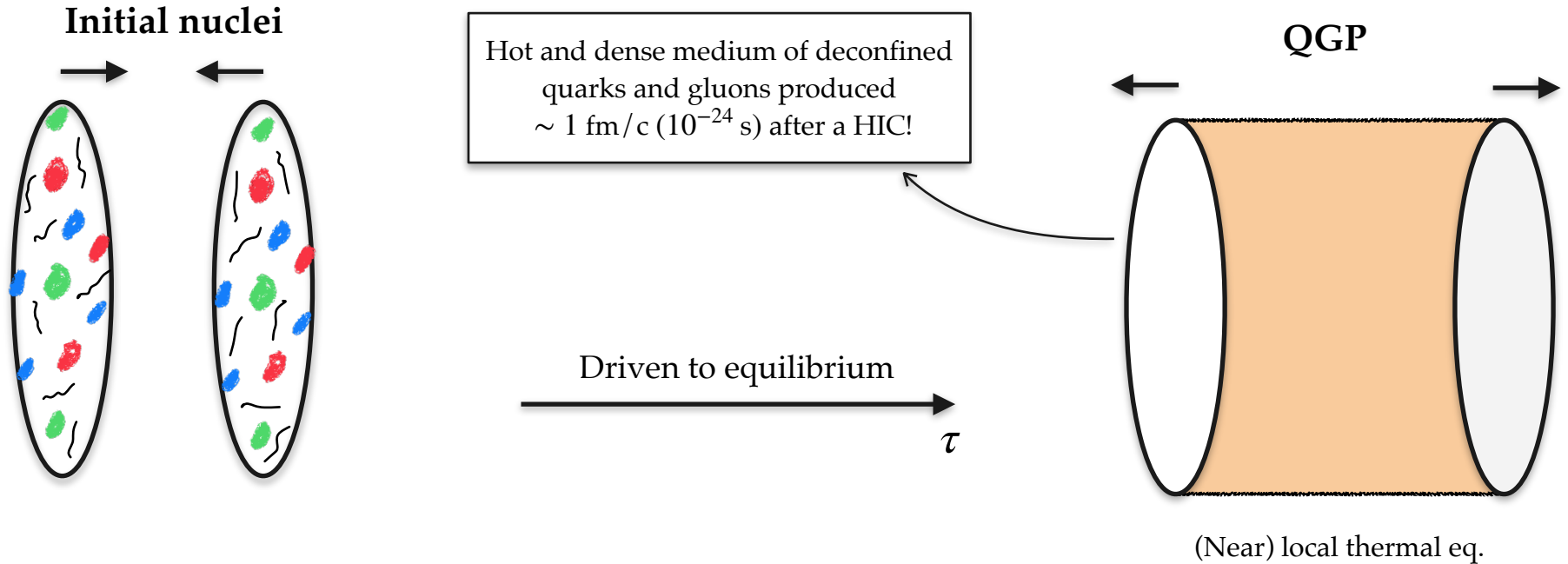


UNIVERSIDAD  
DE GRANADA



European Research Council  
Established by the European Commission

# Quark-gluon plasma in HICs

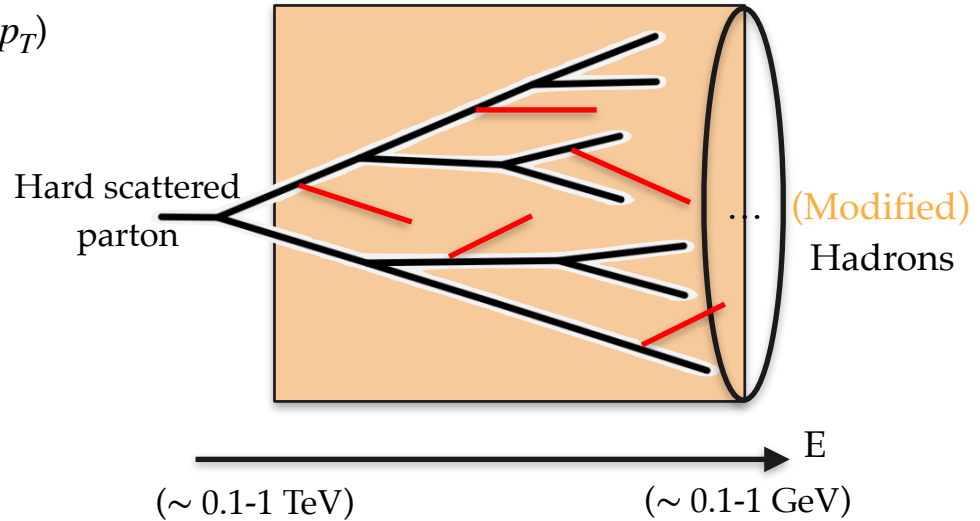


nuclear matter lifetime  $\sim 10 \text{ fm}$   $\longrightarrow$  use hard probes!

# Probing the QGP with jets

- ◆ Jets are produced **early** in the collision ( $\tau \sim 1/p_T$ )
- ◆ Jets are extended in time and **evolve simultaneously with the QGP**.
- ◆ Jets carry **imprints of medium interactions** (energy loss, substructure modifications, medium response, etc) - **jet quenching**.

jets - high energy, collimated QCD cascades



By **comparing heavy-ion jets** with their vacuum counterparts (**p-p jets**), dedicated observables can be used to access the **QGP's transport properties**.

# Energy-correlators inside jets

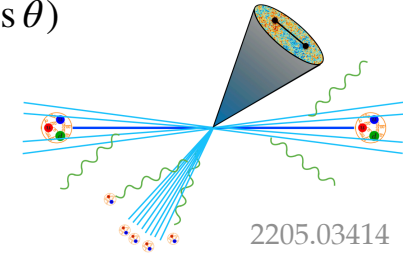
see e.g., [Sveshnikov et al., arXiv:hep-ph/9512370]

[Hofman et al., arXiv: 0803.1467]

[Chen et al., arXiv: 2004.113811]

- ◆ Energy-correlators (ENCs) are **angular projections** of correlation functions of **energy flow operators**:

$$\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}) = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \int dt r^2 \underbrace{n^i T^{0i}(t, r\vec{n})}_{\text{EM tensor}} \xrightarrow{\text{EEC}} \frac{d\Sigma^{(2)}}{d\theta} = \int_{\vec{n}_1, \vec{n}_2} \frac{\langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1) \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2) \rangle}{p_t^2} \delta(\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 - \cos \theta)$$



# Energy-correlators inside jets

see e.g., [Sveshnikov et al., arXiv:hep-ph/9512370]

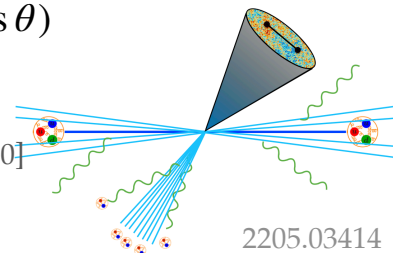
[Hofman et al., arXiv: 0803.1467]

[Chen et al., arXiv: 2004.113811]

- ◆ Energy-correlators (ENCs) are **angular projections** of correlation functions of **energy flow operators**:

$$\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}) = \lim_{r \rightarrow +\infty} \int dt r^2 \underbrace{n^i T^{0i}(t, r\vec{n})}_{\text{EM tensor}} \xrightarrow{\text{EEC}} \frac{d\Sigma^{(2)}}{d\theta} = \int_{\vec{n}_1, \vec{n}_2} \frac{\langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1) \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_2) \rangle}{p_t^2} \delta(\vec{n}_1 \cdot \vec{n}_2 - \cos \theta)$$

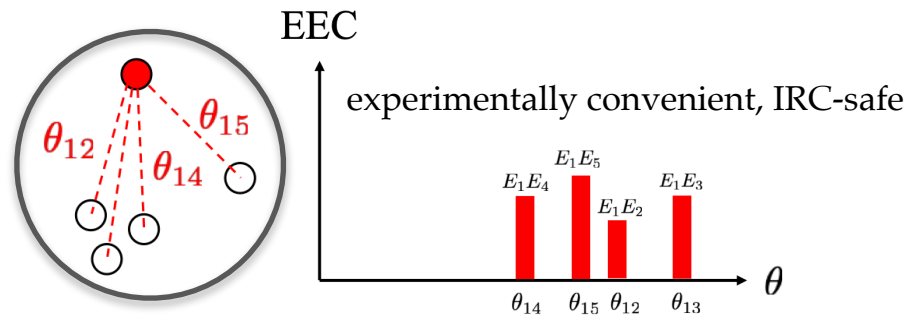
[Dixon et al, arXiv: 1905.01310]



- ◆ The **collinear limit** of EEC is particularly useful in accessing jet substructure.

$$\frac{d\Sigma^{(2)}}{d\theta} = \int_0^1 dz z(1-z) \frac{d\sigma}{\sigma dz d\theta}$$

can be **systematically** calculated at higher orders in perturbation theory



# Heavy flavour hadron EEC inside the QGP

- ◆ EECs organize different physics into **small/large angle information**.

→ Useful to **sort out QGP-induced modifications!**

- ◆ Focus on EEC for  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$  inside heavy-ion jets. Why?

→  $m_Q \gg T_{QGP}, \Lambda_{QCD}$  → produced in hard scattering or in high energy  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$

→ Access splitting kinematics by tagging a  $Q\bar{Q}$  pair in jets with **two heavy flavour hadrons**.

see e.g. ENCs in QGP

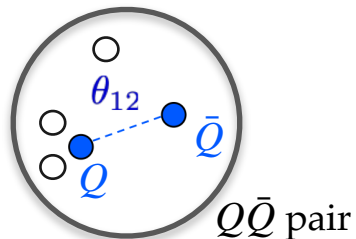
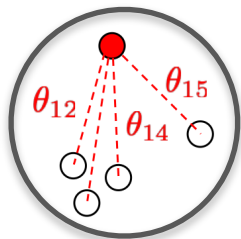
[Andres et al., 2307.15110]

[Barata et al., 2308.01294]

[Bossi et al., 2407.13818]

[Barata et al., 2503.13603]

all jet constituents



**Heavy flavour hadron EEC** provides unique opportunity to probe **medium modifications** to the  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$  splitting.

This talk: **partonic  $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$  EEC**

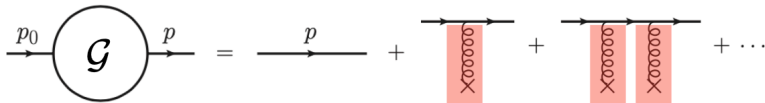
# Partonic splittings inside the QGP

How can one describe partonic splittings in a *dense QCD medium*?

Perturbative QCD

+

Medium model



$$\langle \mathcal{A}_a^-(x^+, \mathbf{x}), \mathcal{A}_b^{*-}(y^+, \mathbf{y}) \rangle$$


Resummation of *single* gluon exchanges with the medium (**BDMPS-Z**)  
 $(p^+ \gg |\mathbf{p}|, |\Delta\mathbf{p}|)$   
 + color precession

Stochastic gauge field in light-cone gauge  
**Gaussian white noise model**

# Partonic splittings inside the QGP: medium model

- ◆ Some assumptions reflected on the **two-point correlator** of the medium field:

$$\langle \mathcal{A}_a^-(x^+, \mathbf{x}), \mathcal{A}_b^{*-}(y^+, \mathbf{y}) \rangle = \delta^{ab} n(x^+) \delta(x^+ - y^+) \gamma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$$

matter density  collision kernel 

- ◆  $n(x^+) = n$  (*static*)
- ◆  $\gamma(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \gamma(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x})$  (*homogeneous*, i.e., translation invariant)
- ◆  $\gamma(\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}) = \gamma(|\mathbf{y} - \mathbf{x}|)$  (*isotropic*, i.e., rotationally invariant)

$$\boxed{\gamma(0) - \gamma(\mathbf{r}) \sim \hat{q} r^2} + \mathcal{O}(r^2 \log r^2) \longrightarrow \hat{q} \sim \text{accumulated } k_{\perp}^2 \text{ per mean free path}$$

(multiple soft scattering approximation)

# $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$ splitting in the QGP

[Attems et al., arXiv: 2203.11241]

[Barata et al., arXiv: 2407.04774]

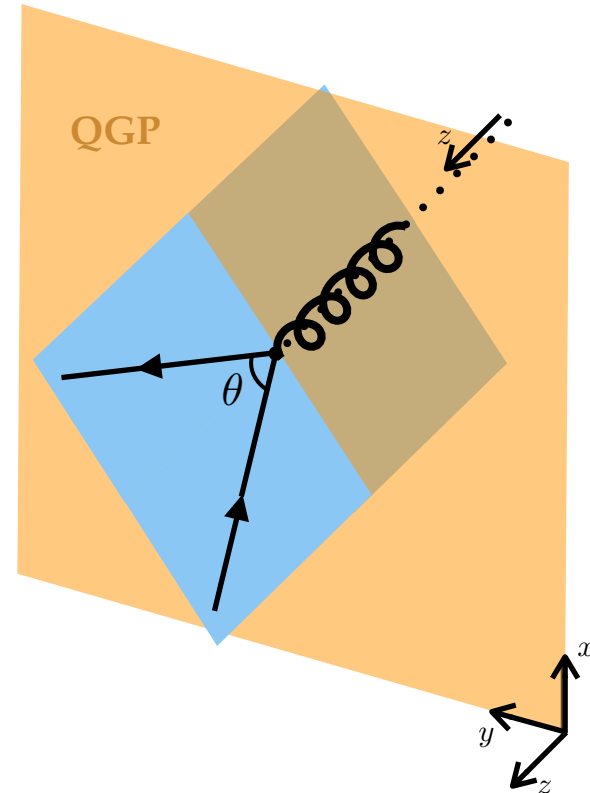
$$\frac{d^2\sigma}{dzd\theta}(L, \hat{q}, \dots)$$

$L$  - length of the medium

$\hat{q}$  - average  $k_{\perp}^2$  acquired in a mean free path

$\theta$  - opening angle of  $Q\bar{Q}$  antenna

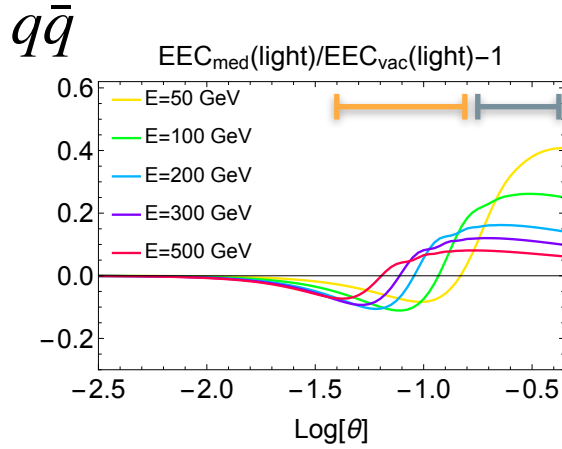
- ◆ More energetic  $Q\bar{Q}$  pairs are less modified (**antenna formation time dependence**)
- ◆ Depletion at small to intermediate  $k_{\perp} \sim E\theta$  (**final state broadening**)



# In-medium EEC for $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$

[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

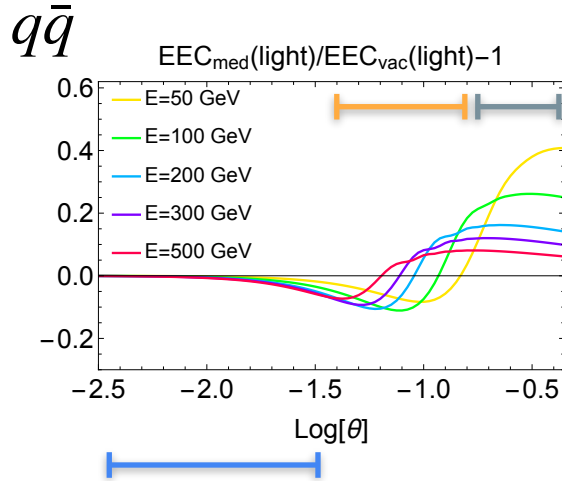
Depletion at intermediate  $\theta$  (**broadening effect**) and enhancement at large  $\theta$



# In-medium EEC for $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$

[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

Depletion at intermediate  $\theta$  (**broadening effect**) and enhancement at large  $\theta$



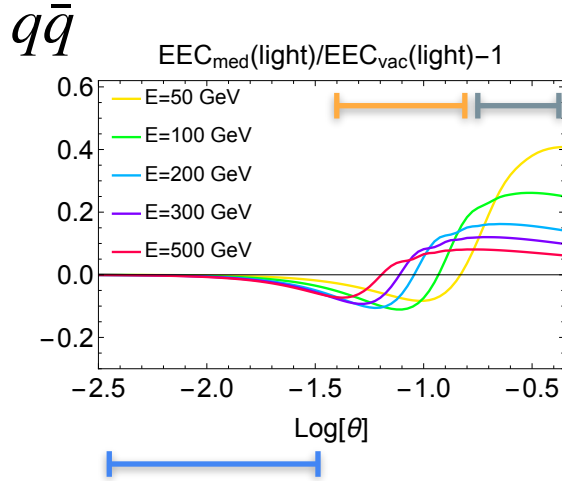
No modification at small  $\theta$   
 ( $\sim$  light  $q\bar{q}$  produced  
 outside the medium)

$$\tau_{q\bar{q}} \sim \frac{z(1-z)E}{m_Q^2 + z^2(1-z)^2 E^2 \theta^2} \sim \frac{1}{z(1-z)E\theta^2}$$

# In-medium EEC for $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$

[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

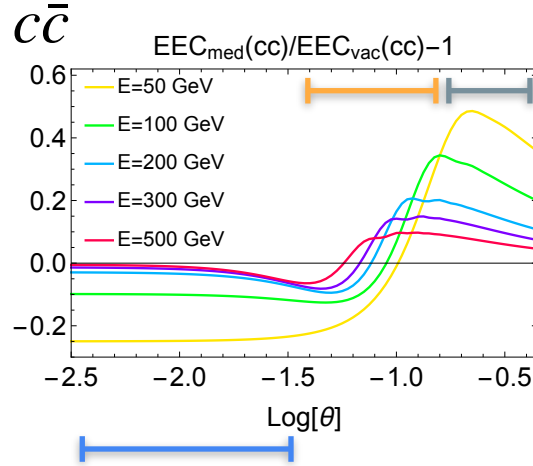
Depletion at intermediate  $\theta$  (broadening effect) and enhancement at large  $\theta$



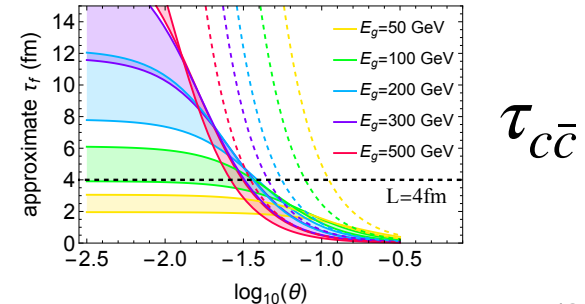
No modification at small  $\theta$   
(~ light  $q\bar{q}$  produced  
outside the medium)

$$\tau_{Q\bar{Q}} \sim \frac{z(1-z)E}{m_Q^2 + z^2(1-z)^2 E^2 \theta^2}$$

see J. Brewer (10:20 Thu, Pa.7)



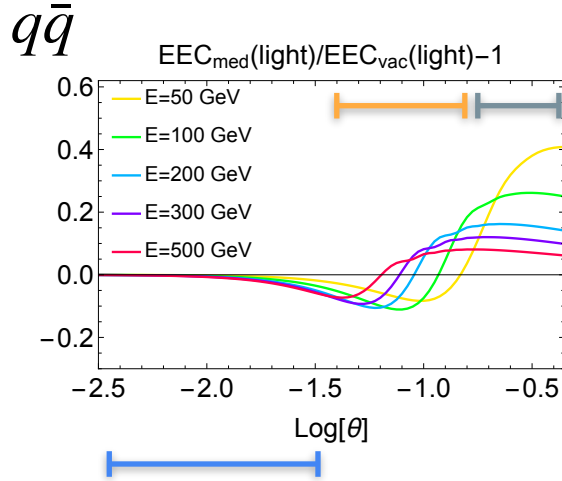
Suppression at small  $\theta$   
(~ heavy  $Q\bar{Q}$  can be produced  
inside the medium for all  
angles)



# In-medium EEC for $g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$

[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

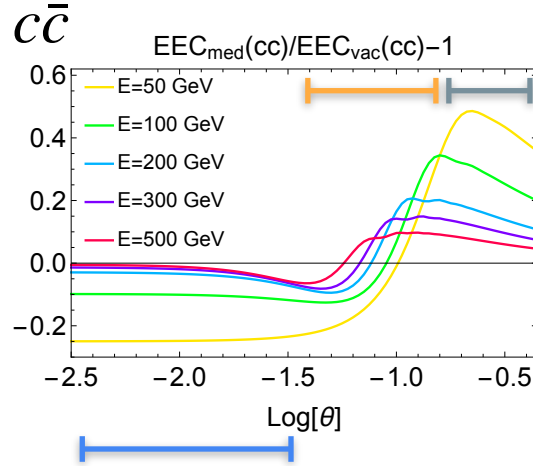
Depletion at intermediate  $\theta$  (broadening effect) and enhancement at large  $\theta$



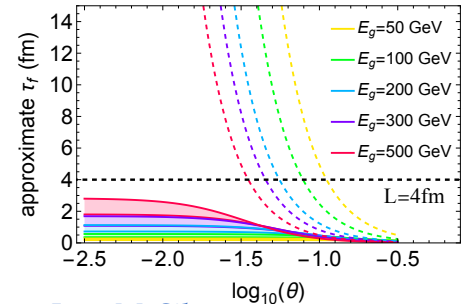
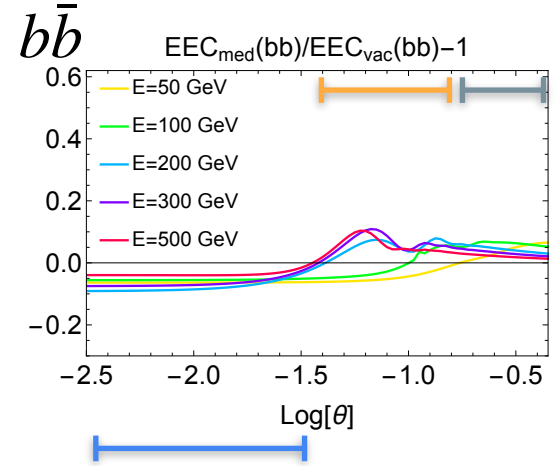
No modification at small  $\theta$   
( $\sim$  light  $q\bar{q}$  produced outside the medium)

$$\tau_{Q\bar{Q}} \sim \frac{z(1-z)E}{m_Q^2 + z^2(1-z)^2 E^2 \theta^2}$$

see J. Brewer (10:20 Thu, Pa.7)



Suppression at small  $\theta$   
( $\sim$  heavy  $Q\bar{Q}$  can be produced inside the medium for all angles)



$\tau_{b\bar{b}}$

# Anisotropies in a pre-QGP state

[Hauksson, Iancu, 2303.03914] (applied to  $g \rightarrow gg$  splitting)

The state **preceeding** the QGP is expected to be **far from local thermal eq.**  
In principle, it is **highly anisotropic**, e.g.:

expansion of the medium  
along the collision axis:



anisotropic momentum  
distribution of medium  
constituents

This generates *jet-medium momentum exchanges* which have a *preferred direction*

$$\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{q}) \neq \tilde{\gamma}(|\mathbf{q}|) \longrightarrow \boxed{\gamma(0) - \gamma(\mathbf{r}) \sim \hat{q}_x r_x^2 + \hat{q}_y r_y^2} + \mathcal{O}(\mathbf{r}^2 \log \mathbf{r}^2)$$

relevant anisotropy is in the  
plane transverse to jet axis

If this state evolves **slowly to isotropy**, a non-negligible anisotropy strength may persist at large times - may be **relevant for heavy-ion jet pheno.**

Anisotropic broadening  
has been approached in:

Glasma

e.g. [Ipp et al., 2009.14206]

Kinetic theory

e.g. [Boguslavski et al., 2303.12595]

Hard thermal loop

e.g. [Hauksson et al., 2109.04575]

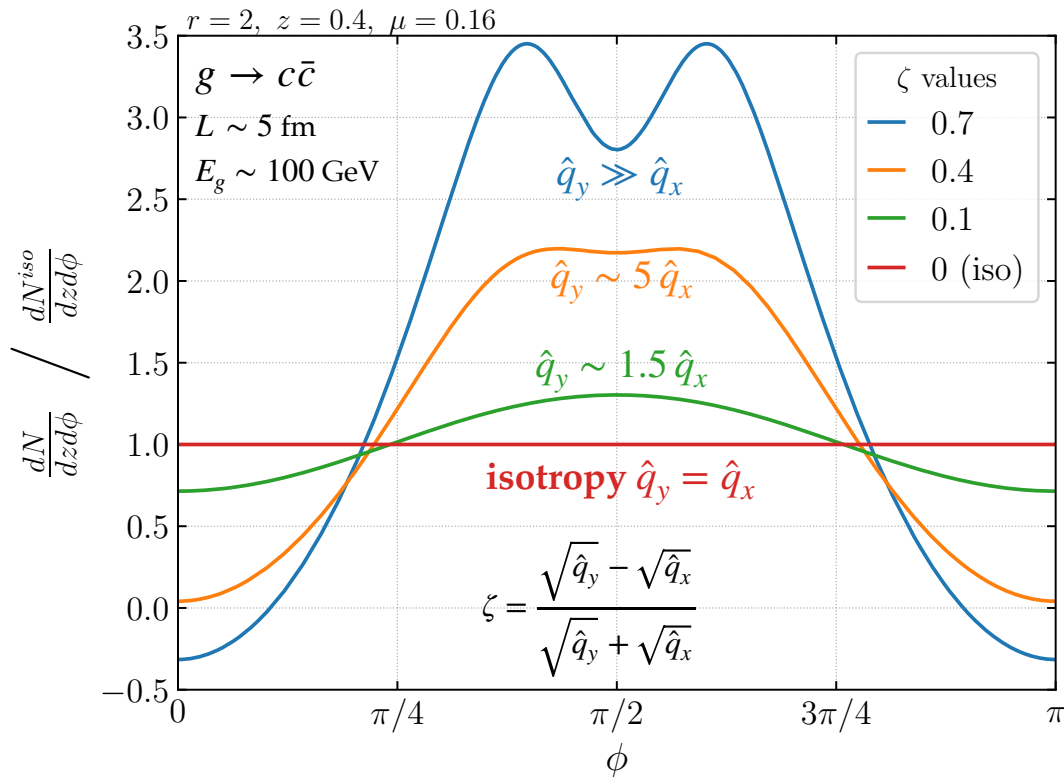
...



# Anisotropies in the azimuthal spectrum

[Barata, Salgado, JMS; arXiv: 2407.04774]

Ratio wrt. isotropic distribution ( $dN \equiv d\sigma/\sigma$ )



◆ **Isotropic**  $dN$  is flat in  $\phi$ .

◆ **Angular modulation** gets stronger the **larger the anisotropy strength**.

◆ For **small anisotropies**, it is simply described by an **elliptic** type modulation:

$$\left. \frac{2\pi}{dN/dz} \frac{dN}{dz d\phi} \right|_{\zeta \ll 1} = 1 + \underbrace{\zeta v_2^{jet}}_{\zeta \ll 1} \cos(2\phi)$$

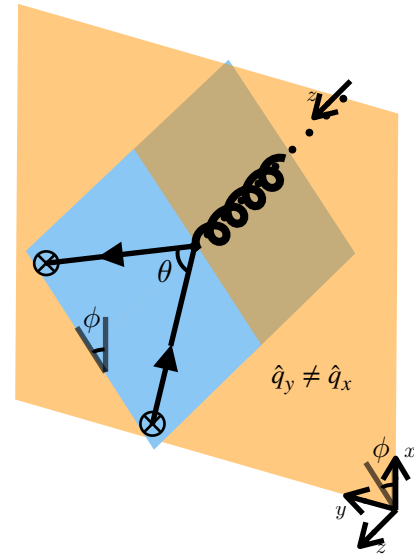
◆ For **larger anisotropies**, higher harmonics play a role.

# Azimuth dependent EEC

[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

- ◆ Azimuth dependent EECs were applied in e.g. 2104.00009 (Chen, Moutl, Zhu), to study correlations between planes of successive splittings in vacuum.
- ◆ In our case, we correlate a physical direction from the medium (e.g. the direction of maximal anisotropy) and the  $Q\bar{Q}$  splitting plane.

$$\frac{d\Sigma_{g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}}^{\text{med}}}{d\theta d\phi} = \frac{1}{\sigma} \int_0^1 dz z(1-z) \frac{d\sigma_{g \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}}^{\text{med}}}{dz d\theta d\phi}$$



# Anisotropies in the azimuth dependent EEC

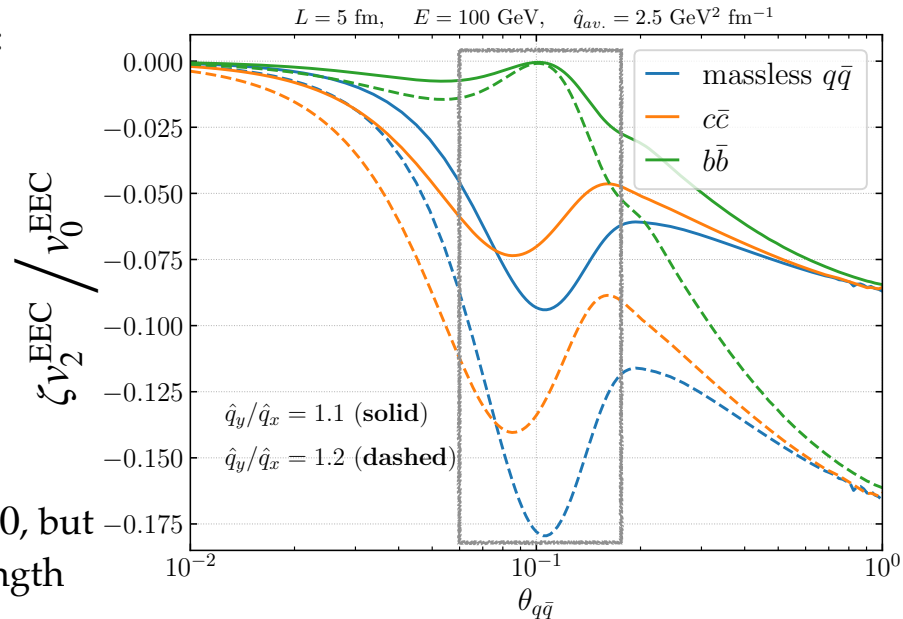
[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

As we saw, for small anisotropies ( $\zeta \ll 1$ ) we have:

$$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\theta d\phi} \sim v_0^{\text{EEC}}(\theta) + \zeta v_2^{\text{EEC}}(\theta) \cos 2\phi$$

$$\left( \zeta = \frac{\sqrt{\hat{q}_y} - \sqrt{\hat{q}_x}}{\sqrt{\hat{q}_y} + \sqrt{\hat{q}_x}} \right)$$

Heavier mass seems to suppress the sensitivity to  $\zeta \neq 0$ , but  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  still shows a non-negligible modulation strength when compared to the isotropic EEC ( $v_0^{\text{EEC}}$ ).



Mass dependent anisotropy effect

# Anisotropies in the azimuth dependent EEC

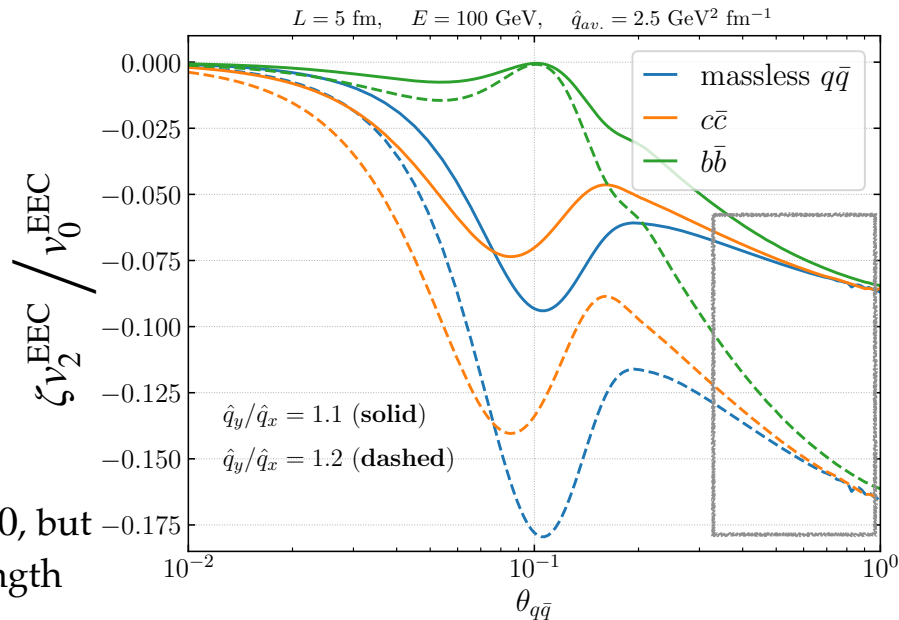
[in prep. J. Barata, J. Brewer, K. Lee, JMS]

As we saw, for small anisotropies ( $\zeta \ll 1$ ) we have:

$$\frac{d\Sigma}{d\theta d\phi} \sim v_0^{\text{EEC}}(\theta) + \zeta v_2^{\text{EEC}}(\theta) \cos 2\phi$$

$$\left( \zeta = \frac{\sqrt{\hat{q}_y} - \sqrt{\hat{q}_x}}{\sqrt{\hat{q}_y} + \sqrt{\hat{q}_x}} \right)$$

Heavier mass seems to suppress the sensitivity to  $\zeta \neq 0$ , but  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  still shows a non-negligible modulation strength when compared to the isotropic EEC ( $v_0^{\text{EEC}}$ ).



Mass independent  
anisotropy effect

# Summary and outlook

## Summary:

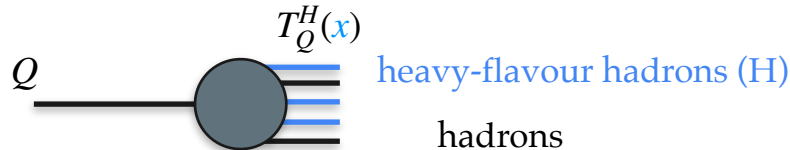
- ◆ EEC for gluon splitting to a massive  $Q\bar{Q}$  provides insight into:
  - ❖ formation time dependent modifications induced by the QGP;
  - ❖ interplay between heavy quark mass and anisotropies in pre-QGP state.

## Outlook:

- ◆ Comparison between analytic results and medium modified shower with hadronization:
  - ❖ Heavy flavour hadron EEC obtained from partonic EEC by multiplying by track function moments.

[Chang et al., 1303.6637]

[Chen et al., 2210.10058]



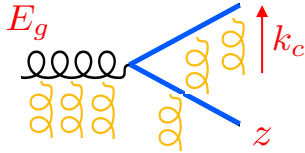
THANKS!

# Back up slides

---

CERN TH Institute - High energy probes of the initial stages  
 Estimating the modification of  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  splittings in jets

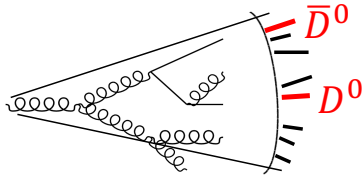
- Calculated medium-modified  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  splitting function



$$P_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}(E_g, k_c^2, z) = P_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}^{\text{vac}}(k_c^2, z) + P_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}^{\text{med}}(E_g, k_c^2, z)$$

Attems, JB, Innocenti, Mazeliauskas, Park, van der Schee, Wiedemann *JHEP 01 (2023) 080* [2203.11241]

- Estimate the modification inside jets



Get kinematics of  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$

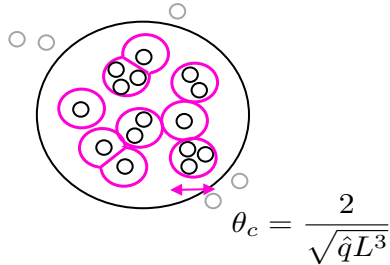
Reweight each splitting by  $w_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}^{\text{med}}(E_g, k_c^2, z) = 1 + \frac{\left(\frac{1}{Q^2} P_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}\right)^{\text{med}}(E_g, k_c^2, z)}{\left(\frac{1}{Q^2} P_{g \rightarrow c\bar{c}}\right)^{\text{vac}}(k_c^2, z)}$

Attems, JB, Innocenti, Mazeliauskas, Park, van der Schee, Wiedemann *Phys.Rev.Lett.* 132 (2024) 21 [2209.13600]

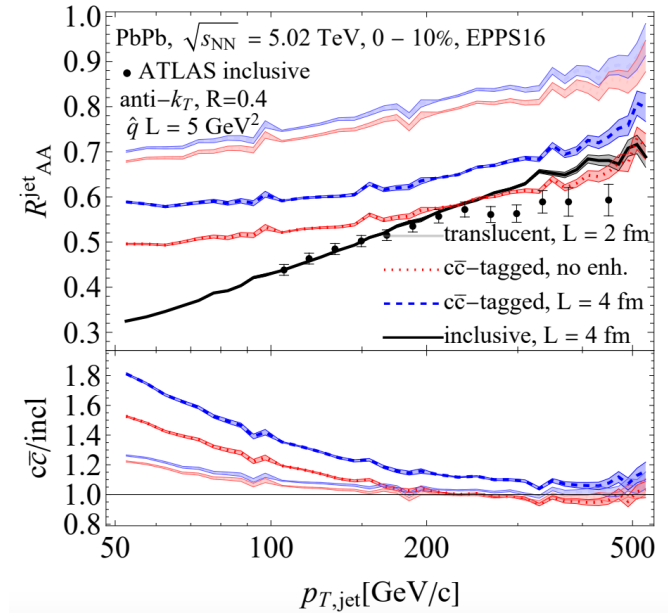
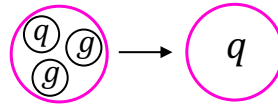
• Calculate energy loss for jet as a whole

- parton-level jets in Pythia with nuclear pdfs
- assume coherence of particles within  $\theta_c$

jet constituents →  
“clusters” of radius  $\theta_c$



cluster flavor assigned  
from parton content



- Jet energy loss from quenching each cluster with weights

Barata, Caucal, Soto-Ontoso, Szafron [2312.12527]

$$Q_i = \exp \left[ - \int d\omega \int d^2\mathbf{k} \frac{d\mathcal{P}_i^{\text{med}}}{d\omega d^2\mathbf{k}} (1 - e^{-\frac{n\omega}{p_t}}) \right] = \exp \left[ \underbrace{- \int_T^{\omega_s} d\omega \int d^2\mathbf{k} \frac{d\mathcal{P}_i^{\text{med}}}{d\omega d^2\mathbf{k}} (1 - e^{-\frac{n\omega}{p_t}})}_{\text{rapid turbulent thermalization; } \omega \ll \omega_c} - \underbrace{\int_{\omega_s}^{\infty} d\omega \int d^2\mathbf{k} \frac{d\mathcal{P}_i^{\text{med}}}{d\omega d^2\mathbf{k}} (1 - e^{-\frac{n\omega}{p_t}})}_{\text{semi-hard perturbative gluon emission}} \right]$$

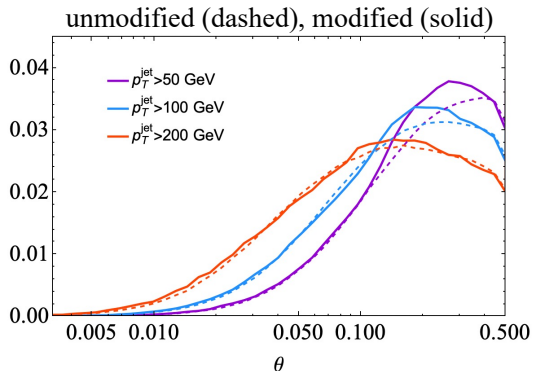
Quenching weights

rapid turbulent  
thermalization;  $\omega \ll \omega_c$

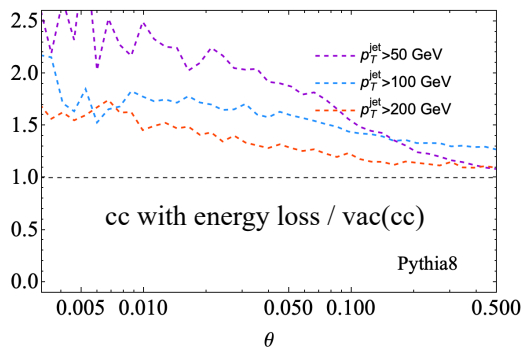
semi-hard perturbative  
gluon emission

# Effects of energy loss on energy correlators of jets with two heavy quarks

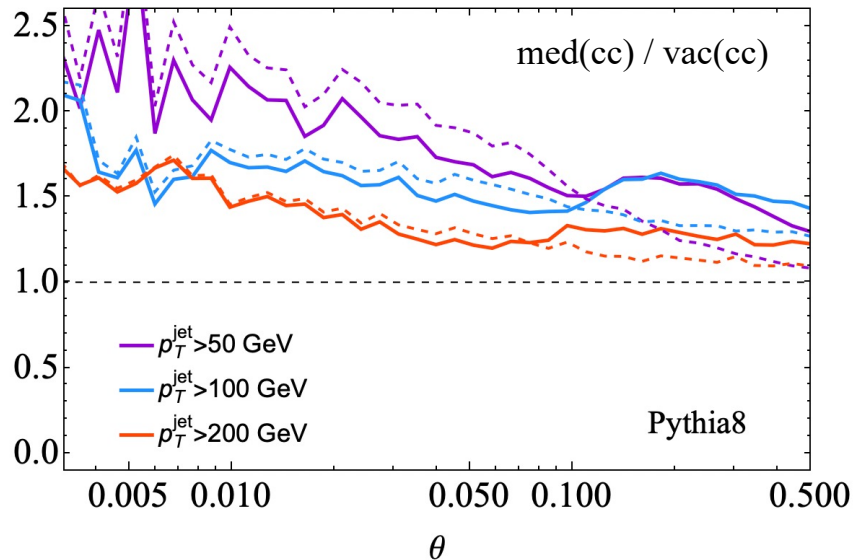
Energy loss shifts the EEC toward smaller angles...



...and enhances the charm yield\*



Putting it together: interplay of medium-modified  $g \rightarrow c\bar{c}$  splitting with energy loss



To dig out formation time effects, would like new ways to reduce energy loss effects