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Jet reconstruction in heavy ion collisions

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Jet algorithms cluster final state particles in high energy collisions with the aim of identifying “jets” that can be considered as proxies of the original hard partons, and therefore allow one to study their production mechanism and subsequent evolution. In heavy ion collisions, this task is severely complicated by the huge underlying event that accompanies the hard one: the particle content of jet is contaminated by a multitude of low-momentum particles, unrelated to the hard collision. This contamination must be understood and removed before the genuinely hard content of a jet can be studied. We will present a proposal for doing so using standard jet-algorithms (so as to facilitate the comparison with proton-proton results) and an entirely data-driven technique.

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