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Direct observation of the dead-cone effect in QCD

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Abstract

At particle collider experiments, elementary particle interactions with large momentum transfer produce quarks and gluons (known as partons) whose evolution is governed by the strong force, as described by the theory of quantum chromodynamics (QCD) [1]. The vacuum is not transparent to the partons and induces gluon radiation and quark pair production in a process that can be described as a parton shower [2]. Studying the pattern of the parton shower is one of the key experimental tools in understanding the properties of QCD. This pattern is expected to depend on the mass of the initiating parton, through a phenomenon known as the dead-cone effect, which predicts a suppression of the gluon spectrum emitted by a heavy quark of mass m and energy E , within a cone of angular size m/E around the emitter [3]. A direct observation of the dead-cone effect in QCD has not been possible until now, due to the challenge of reconstructing the cascading quarks and gluons from the experimentally accessible bound hadronic states. We report the first direct observation of the QCD dead-cone by using new iterative declustering techniques [4, 5] to reconstruct the parton shower of charm quarks. This result confirms a fundamental feature of QCD, which is derived more generally from its origin as a gauge quantum field theory. Furthermore, the measurement of a dead-cone angle constitutes a direct experimental observation of the non-zero mass of the charm quark, which is a fundamental constant in the standard model of particle physics.

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*See Appendix A for the list of collaboration members

1 Introduction

In particle colliders, quarks and gluons interact at high energies, producing further partons via large momentum-transfer processes that are calculable and well described by QCD. However, the vacuum is not transparent to these partons and induces them to radiate gluons, which themselves undergo further emissions. This evolution can be described by a cascade process known as a parton shower, that transfers the original parton energy to multiple lower energy particles. This shower then evolves into a multi-particle final state, with the partons combining into a spray of experimentally detectable hadrons known as a jet [6]. The pattern of the parton shower is expected to depend on the mass of the emitting parton, through a phenomenon known as the dead-cone effect, whereby the radiation from an emitter of mass m and energy E is suppressed at angular scales smaller than m/E , relative to the direction of the emitter. The dead-cone effect is a fundamental feature of all gauge quantum field theories (see [3] for the derivation of the dead-cone in QCD).

The dead-cone effect is expected to have sizeable implications for charm and beauty quarks, which have masses of $1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and $4.18 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [7], respectively, at energies on the GeV scale. The emission phase space in the collinear region, which is the divergent limit of QCD where the radiation is most intense, is reduced with increasing mass of the quark. This leads to a decrease in the mean number of particles produced in the parton shower. The DELPHI Collaboration at the LEP e^+e^- collider measured the multiplicity difference between events containing jets initiated by heavy beauty quarks and those containing light quarks (up, down, or strange). They found that the differences depend only on the quark mass [8], which was attributed to the suppression of collinear gluon radiation from the heavy quark due to the dead-cone effect. As hard (large transverse momentum) emissions are preferentially emitted at small angles, and are therefore suppressed for massive emitters, heavy quarks also retain a larger fraction of their original momentum compared to lighter quarks, leading to a phenomenon known as the leading-particle effect. This has been well established experimentally, with the fraction of the jet momentum carried by the leading (highest transverse momentum) hadron containing a charm or beauty quark (heavy-flavour hadron) in jets, peaking at 0.6–0.7 and 0.8–0.9, respectively, while the corresponding fraction carried by the leading hadron in light quark-initiated jets peaks at values close to zero [9–13].

Until now, a direct experimental measurement of the dead-cone effect has been subject to two main challenges. First, the dead-cone angular region can be filled by hadronisation effects or particles that do not originate from the gluon radiation from the heavy-flavour quark, such as the decay products of heavy-flavour hadrons. The second difficulty lies in the accurate determination of the dynamically evolving direction of the heavy-flavour quark, relative to which the radiation is suppressed, throughout the shower process. The development of new experimental declustering techniques [4] allows to overcome these aforementioned difficulties by reconstructing the evolution of the jet shower, giving access to the kinematic properties of each individual emission. These techniques reorganise the particle constituents of an experimentally reconstructed jet, in order to access the building blocks of the shower and trace back the cascade process. Isolated elements of the reconstructed parton shower which are likely to be unmodified by hadronisation processes provide a good proxy for real quark and gluon emissions (splittings). These reclustering techniques have been demonstrated in inclusive (without tagging the initiating parton flavour) jets to successfully reconstruct splittings that are connected to or that preserve the memory of the parton branchings. This is demonstrated by measurements such as the DGLAP splitting function [14] and the Lund plane [15], which expose the running of the strong coupling with the scale of the splittings.

Reclustering techniques are extended in this work, for the first time, to jets containing a charm quark based on the prescription given in [16]. These jets are tagged via the presence of a reconstructed D^0 meson amongst their constituents, which has a mass of $1.86 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ and is composed of a heavy charm quark and a light anti-up quark. The measurement is performed in proton–proton (pp) collisions at a centre-of-mass energy of $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$ at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), using the ALICE detector.

Further details on the detector apparatus and data taking can be found in the Methods section. As the charm-quark flavour is conserved through the shower process, this allows for the opportunity to isolate and trace back the emission history of the charm quark. In this way, by comparing the emission patterns of charm quarks to those of light quarks and gluons, the QCD dead-cone can be directly revealed for the first time.

2 Selecting jets containing a D^0 meson

In order to select jets initiated by a charm quark, through the presence of a D^0 meson in their list of constituents, the D^0 mesons and jets need to be reconstructed in the events. The D^0 -meson candidates (and their anti-particles) were reconstructed in the transverse-momentum interval $2 < p_T^{D^0} < 36$ GeV/c, through the $D^0 \rightarrow K^- \pi^+$ (and charged conjugate) hadronic decay channel, which has a branching ratio of $3.95 \pm 0.03\%$ [7]. The D^0 -meson candidates were identified via topological selections based on the displacement of the D^0 -meson candidate decay vertex, in addition to applying particle identification on the D^0 -meson candidate decay particles. These selection criteria largely suppress the combinatorial background of $K^\mp \pi^\pm$ pairs that do not originate from the decay of a D^0 meson. Further details on the selection criteria are provided in [17].

Tracks (reconstructed charged-particle trajectories) corresponding to the D^0 -meson candidate decay particles were replaced by the reconstructed D^0 -meson candidate in the event, with the D^0 -meson candidate four-momentum being a sum of the decay-particle four-momenta. One benefit of this procedure is to avoid the case where the decay products of the D^0 -meson candidate fill the dead-cone region. A jet-finding algorithm was then used to cluster the particles (tracks and the D^0 -meson candidate) in the event, in order to reconstruct the parton shower by sequentially recombining the shower particles into a single object (the jet). The jet containing the D^0 -meson candidate was then selected. The four-momentum of the jet is a proxy for the four-momentum of the charm quark initiating the parton shower. The jet-finding algorithm used was the anti- k_T algorithm [18] from the Fastjet package [19], which is a standard choice for jet reconstruction due to its high performance in reconstructing the original parton kinematics. More details on the jet finding procedure can be found in the Methods section.

3 Reconstructing the jet shower

Once jets containing a D^0 -meson candidate amongst their constituents are selected, the internal cascade process is reconstructed. This is done by reorganising (reclustering) the jet constituents according to the Cambridge-Aachen (C/A) algorithm [20], which clusters these constituents based solely on their angular distance from one another. A pictorial representation of this reclustering process, which starts by reconstructing the smallest angle splittings, is shown in the top panels of Fig. 1. Since QCD emissions approximately follow an angular-ordered structure [21], the C/A algorithm was chosen as it also returns an angular-ordered splitting tree.

This splitting tree is then iteratively declustered by unwinding the reclustering history, to access the building blocks of the reconstructed jet shower. At each declustering step, two prongs corresponding to a splitting are returned. The angle between these splitting daughter prongs, θ , the relative transverse momentum of the splitting, k_T , and the energy of the parton initiating the splitting (the radiator), E_{Radiator} , are registered. Since the charm flavour is conserved throughout the showering process, the full reconstruction of the D^0 -meson candidate allows for the isolation of the emissions of the charm quark in the parton shower, by following the daughter prong containing the fully reconstructed D^0 -meson candidate at each declustering step. This can be seen in the bottom part of Fig. 1, which shows the evolution of the charm quark reconstructed from the measured final state particles. Moreover, the kinematic properties of the charm quark are updated along the splitting tree, allowing for an accurate reconstruction of each emission angle against the dynamically evolving charm-quark direction. It was verified that in

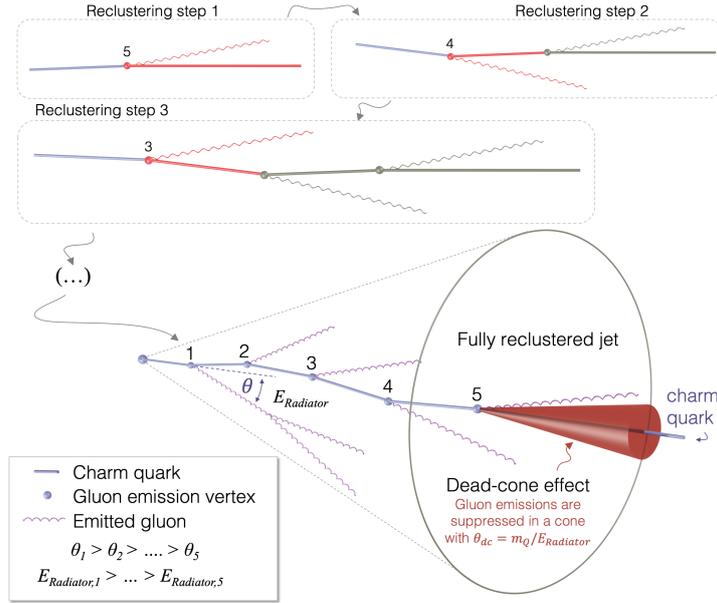


Figure 1: A sketch detailing the reconstruction of the showering charm quark, using iterative declustering, is presented. The top panels show the initial reclustering procedure with the C/A algorithm, where the particles separated by the smallest angles are brought together first. Once the reclustering is complete, the declustering procedure is carried out by unwinding the reclustering history. Each splitting node is numbered according to the declustering step in which it is reconstructed. With each splitting, the charm quark energy, $E_{Radiator,n}$, is reduced and the gluon is emitted at a smaller angle, θ_n , with respect to previous emissions. At each splitting, gluon emissions are suppressed in the dead-cone region (shown by a red cone for the last splitting), which increases in angle as the quark energy decreases throughout the shower.

more than 99% of the cases the prong containing the D^0 -meson candidate at each splitting coincided with the leading prong. This means that following the D^0 -meson candidate or leading prong at each step is equivalent and therefore a complementary measurement for an inclusive jet sample, where no flavour tagging is available, can be made by following the leading prong through the reclustering history. Since the inclusive sample is dominated by massless gluon and nearly massless light quark-initiated jets, it acts as a reference to highlight the mass effects present in the charm-tagged sample.

4 Extracting the true charm splittings

The selected sample of splittings has contributions from jets tagged with combinatorial $K^\mp \pi^\pm$ pairs, which are not rejected by the applied topological and particle identification selections. The measured invariant mass of real D^0 mesons, which corresponds to the rest mass, is distributed in a Gaussian (due to uncertainties in the measurement of the momenta of the $K^\mp \pi^\pm$ pairs) with a peak at the true D^0 -meson mass. This allows for the implementation of a statistical 2D side-band subtraction procedure, which characterises the background distribution of splittings by sampling the background-dominated regions of the D^0 -meson candidate invariant mass distributions, far away from the signal peak. In this way the combinatorial contribution can be accounted for and removed. Furthermore, the selections on the D^0 -meson candidates also select a fraction of D^0 mesons originating as a product of beauty-hadron decays. These were studied using Monte-Carlo (MC) PYTHIA 6 [22] simulations (this generator was used for all MC based corrections in this work) and found to contribute 10–15% of the reconstructed splittings. Their impact on the results is small and will be discussed later. The finite efficiency of selecting real D^0 -meson tagged jets, through the chosen selection criteria on the D^0 -meson candidates, as well as kinematic selections on the jets, was studied and accounted for through MC simulations. This efficiency was found to be strongly $p_T^{D^0}$ dependent and different for D^0 mesons originating from the hadronisation of charm

quarks or from the decay of beauty hadrons. Further details on these analysis steps can be found in the Methods section.

Since the reconstructed jet shower is built from experimentally detectable hadrons, as opposed to partons, hadronisation effects must be accounted for. As hadronisation processes occur at low non-perturbative scales, they are expected to distort the parton shower by mainly adding low- k_T splittings [23]. A selection of $k_T > \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}$ ($\Lambda_{\text{QCD}} = 200 \text{ MeV}/c$), corresponding to transverse sizes smaller than the size of a hadron, is used to suppress such hadronisation effects. Other choices of k_T selection were also explored, with stronger k_T selections further removing non-perturbative effects from the measurement, at the expense of statistical precision.

Detector effects also distort the reconstructed parton shower via inefficiencies and irresolution in the tracking of charged particles. However, these have been tested to largely cancel in the final observable and any residual effects are quantified in a data-driven way and included in the systematic uncertainties.

It should be noted that in addition to direct heavy-flavour pair creation in the elementary hard scattering, charm quarks can also be produced in higher-order processes as a result of gluon splitting. Therefore, the shower history of D^0 mesons containing such charm quarks will also have contributions from splittings originating from gluons. Furthermore, in the case of high transverse momentum gluons where the charm quarks are produced close in angle to each other, the dead-cone region of the charm quark hadronising into the reconstructed D^0 meson can be populated by particles produced in the shower, hadronisation and subsequent decays of the other (anti-)charm quark. The impact of such contaminations through gluon splittings were studied with MC simulations and found to be negligible.

5 The observable: $R(\theta)$

The observable used to reveal the dead-cone is built by constructing the ratio of the splitting angle (θ) distributions for D^0 -meson tagged jets and inclusive jets, in bins of E_{Radiator} . This is given by,

$$R(\theta) = \frac{1}{N^{\text{D}^0 \text{ jets}}} \frac{dn^{\text{D}^0 \text{ jets}}}{d\ln(1/\theta)} \bigg/ \frac{1}{N^{\text{inclusive jets}}} \frac{dn^{\text{inclusive jets}}}{d\ln(1/\theta)} \bigg|_{k_T, E_{\text{Radiator}}} \quad (1)$$

where the θ distributions were normalised to the number of jets which contribute with n splittings (where $n > 1$) for the given E_{Radiator} and k_T selection, denoted by $N^{\text{D}^0 \text{ jets}}$ and $N^{\text{inclusive jets}}$ for the D^0 -meson tagged and inclusive jet samples, respectively. Expressing 1 in terms of the inverse logarithm of the angle is natural given that at leading order the QCD probability for a parton to split is proportional to $\ln(1/\theta) \ln(k_T)$.

A selection on the transverse momentum of the leading track in the leading prong of each registered splitting in the inclusive jet sample, $p_{T, \text{inclusive jets}}^{\text{ch, leading track}} \geq 2.8 \text{ GeV}/c$, was applied. This corresponds to the transverse mass (obtained through the quadrature sum of the rest mass and transverse momentum) of a $2 \text{ GeV}/c$ D^0 -meson and accounts for the $p_T^{\text{D}^0}$ selection in the D^0 -meson tagged jet sample, allowing for a fair comparison of the two samples.

In the absence of mass effects, the charm quark is expected to have the same radiating properties as a light quark. In this limit, Eq. 1 can be rewritten as,

$$R(\theta)_{\text{no dead-cone limit}} = \frac{1}{N^{\text{LQ jets}}} \frac{dn^{\text{LQ jets}}}{d\ln(1/\theta)} \bigg/ \frac{1}{N^{\text{inclusive jets}}} \frac{dn^{\text{inclusive jets}}}{d\ln(1/\theta)} \bigg|_{k_T, E_{\text{Radiator}}}, \quad (2)$$

where the superscript LQ refers to light quarks, while the inclusive sample contains both light-quark and gluon-initiated jets. This indicates that the $R(\theta)_{\text{no dead-cone limit}}$ ratio depends on the differences between

light-quark and gluon radiation patterns, which originate from the fact that gluons carry two colour charges (the charge responsible for strong interactions) whilst quarks only carry one. These differences result in quarks fragmenting at a lower rate and more collinearly than gluons. Therefore in the limit where the dead-cone effect is not present, the ratio of the θ distributions for D^0 -meson tagged jets and inclusive jets becomes $R(\theta)_{\text{no dead-cone limit}} > 1$. This was verified through SHERPA [24] and PYTHIA 8 [25] MC generator calculations, with the specific $R(\theta)_{\text{no dead-cone limit}}$ value dependent on the quark and gluon fractions in the inclusive sample. SHERPA and PYTHIA are two MC generators commonly utilised in high-energy particle physics and are based on different prescriptions for both the ordering of the parton shower and hadronisation modelling. Both models implement the dead-cone effect.

6 Results

The main sources of systematic uncertainties considered relate to the reconstruction and signal extraction of D^0 -meson tagged jets, as well as detector inefficiencies in the reconstruction of charged tracks in both the D^0 -meson tagged and inclusive jet samples. More details on the study of systematic uncertainties can be found in the Methods section. The measurements of $R(\theta)$, in the three radiator (charm-quark) energy intervals $5 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 10$ GeV, $10 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 20$ GeV and $20 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 35$ GeV, are presented in Fig. 2. A significant suppression in the rate of small-angle splittings is observed in D^0 -meson tagged jets relative to the inclusive jet population. The data are compared with particle-level SHERPA (green) and PYTHIA 8 (blue) MC calculations, with SHERPA providing a better agreement with the data. The no dead-cone baseline, as described in Eq. 2, is also provided for each MC generator (dashed lines). The suppression of the measured data points relative to the no dead-cone limit, directly reveals the dead-cone within which the charm-quark emissions are suppressed. The coloured regions in the plots correspond to the dead-cone angles in each E_{Radiator} interval, $\theta_{\text{dc}} < m_c/E_{\text{Radiator}}$, where emissions are suppressed. For a charm-quark mass of $1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ [7], these angles correspond to $\ln(1/\theta_{\text{dc}}) \geq 1.37$, 2 and 2.75 for the intervals $5 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 10$ GeV, $10 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 20$ GeV and $20 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 35$ GeV, respectively. These values are in qualitative agreement with the angles at which the data starts to show suppression relative to the MC limits for no dead-cone effect. The magnitude of this suppression increases with decreasing radiator energy, as expected from the inverse dependence of the dead-cone angle on the energy of the radiator.

A lower limit for the significance of the small-angle suppression is estimated by comparing the measured data to $R(\theta) = 1$, which represents the limit of no dead-cone effect in the case where the inclusive sample is entirely composed of light quark-initiated jets. In order to test the compatibility of the measured data with the $R(\theta) = 1$ limit, a statistical test was performed by generating pseudodata distributions consistent with the statistical and systematic uncertainties of the measured data. A chi-square test was then carried out against this hypothesis for each of the pseudodata distributions. The mean p -values correspond to significances of 7.7σ , 3.5σ and 1.0σ , for the $5 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 10$ GeV, $10 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 20$ GeV and $20 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 35$ GeV intervals, respectively. A σ value greater than 5 is considered the criteria for a definitive observation, whilst the value of 1.0 is consistent with the null hypothesis.

The MC distributions shown were generated separately for prompt (charm-quark initiated) and non-prompt (beauty-quark initiated) D^0 -meson tagged jet production and were then combined using the prompt and non-prompt fractions in data calculated with POWHEG [26] plus PYTHIA 6 [27] simulations. The non-prompt fraction was found to be independent of the splitting angle and corresponds to $\approx 10\%$ of the splittings in the $5 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 10$ GeV interval and $\approx 15\%$ of the splittings in both the $10 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 20$ GeV and $20 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 35$ GeV intervals. It was verified through the MC simulations that non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jets should exhibit a smaller suppression at small angles in $R(\theta)$ compared to inclusive jets than their prompt counterparts. This is due to the additional decay products accompanying non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jets that are produced in the decay of the beauty hadron. These may populate the dead-cone region, leading to a smaller observed suppression in $R(\theta)$, despite the

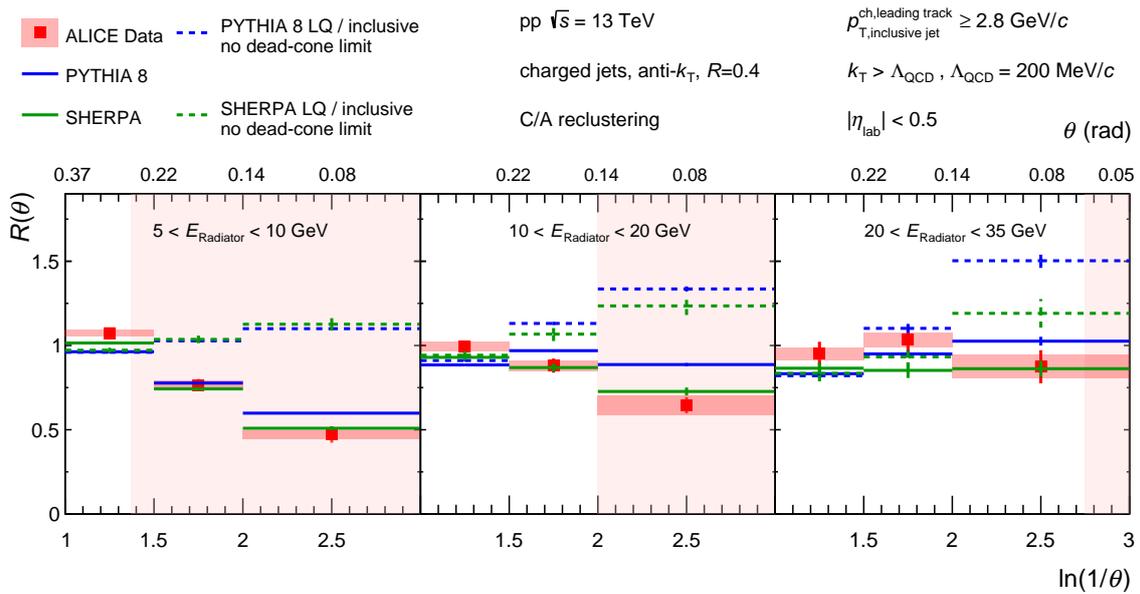


Figure 2: The ratios of the splitting-angle probability distributions for D^0 -meson tagged jets to inclusive jets, $R(\theta)$, measured in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, are shown for $5 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 10$ GeV (left panel), $10 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 20$ GeV (middle panel) and $20 < E_{\text{Radiator}} < 35$ GeV (right panel). The data are compared with PYTHIA 8 and SHERPA simulations, including the no dead-cone limit given by the ratio of the angular distributions for light-quark jets (LQ) to inclusive jets. The pink shaded areas correspond to the angles within which emissions are suppressed by the dead-cone effect, assuming a charm-quark mass of $1.275 \text{ GeV}/c^2$.

larger dead-cone angle of the heavier beauty quark.

7 Conclusions

We have reported the first direct measurement of the QCD dead-cone, using iterative declustering of jets tagged with a fully reconstructed charmed hadron. The dead-cone is a fundamental phenomenon in QCD, dictated by the non-zero quark masses, whose direct experimental observation has remained elusive until now. This measurement provides new insight into the influence of mass effects on jet properties and provides new constraints for MC models. The results pave the way for a study of the mass dependence of the dead-cone effect, by measuring the dead-cone of beauty jets tagged with a reconstructed beauty hadron.

A future study of the dead-cone effect in heavy-ion collisions, where partons interact strongly with the hot QCD medium that is formed and undergo energy loss through (dominantly) medium-induced radiation, is also envisaged. If a dead-cone were observed for these medium-induced emissions, it would be a confirmation of the theoretical understanding of in-medium QCD radiation, which is a primary tool to characterise the high-temperature phase of QCD matter [28–30].

The quark masses are fundamental constants of the standard model of particle physics and needed for all numerical calculations within its framework. Experimental access to the property of quark masses has not been realised up until now, as these masses are masked by the binding energy inside hadrons. The only exception is the top quark, which decays before it can hadronise (see [31] for a review of top mass measurements at the Fermilab Tevatron and CERN LHC). By accessing the kinematics of the showering charm quark, prior to hadronisation, and directly uncovering the QCD dead-cone effect, we also provide direct experimental evidence of the non-zero mass of the charm quark. Furthermore, future high-precision measurements using this technique on charm and beauty-tagged jets, potentially

in conjunction with machine-learning tools to separate quark and gluon emissions, could experimentally constrain the magnitude of the quark masses.

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B Methods

B.1 Detector setup and data set

The analysis was performed with the ALICE detector at the CERN LHC [32]. The ALICE Inner Tracking System [33] and Time Projection Chamber (TPC) [34] were used for charged-particle reconstruction, whilst particle identification (PID) was obtained using the combined information from the TPC and the Time-Of-Flight (TOF) detectors [35]. These detectors are located in the ALICE central barrel, which has full azimuthal coverage and a pseudorapidity range of $|\eta| < 0.9$. The data set used in this analysis was collected in 2016, 2017, and 2018 in pp collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV, with a minimum-bias trigger condition defined by the presence of at least one hit in each of the two V0 scintillators [36]. This trigger accepts all events of interest for this analysis and the collected data sample corresponds to an integrated luminosity of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = 25 \text{ nb}^{-1}$.

B.2 Jet finding and tagging

Jet finding was performed using the anti- k_T algorithm, with a jet resolution parameter of $R = 0.4$. The E -scheme recombination strategy was chosen to combine the tracks of the jet by adding their four-momenta, with a geometric constraint on the pseudorapidity of $|\eta| < 0.5$ enforced on the jet axis, to ensure that the full jet cone was contained in the acceptance of the central barrel of the ALICE detector. The ALICE detector has excellent tracking efficiency down to low p_T ($\approx 80\%$ at $p_T = 1 \text{ GeV}/c$) [32] with a very good angular resolution of about 20% down to splitting angles of 0.05 radians, which motivated a track-based jet measurement as opposed to a full jet measurement using calorimetric information. Recent studies [14, 15] have shown that track-based jet measurements are successful at reconstructing the parton shower information through declustering techniques, despite missing the information from the neutral component of the jet.

Jets with a transverse momentum in the interval of $5 \leq p_{T,\text{jet}}^{\text{ch}} < 50 \text{ GeV}/c$ were selected for this analysis. To mitigate against the cases where two D^0 -meson candidates share a common decay track, jet-finding passes were performed independently for each D^0 -meson candidate in the event, each time replacing only the decay tracks of that candidate with the corresponding D^0 -meson candidate. In each pass the jet containing the reconstructed D^0 -meson candidate of that pass was subsequently tagged as a charm-initiated jet candidate.

B.3 Subtraction of the combinatorial background in the D^0 -meson candidate sample

To extract the true D^0 -meson tagged jet $R(\theta)$ distributions and remove the contribution from combinatorial $K^\mp \pi^\pm$ pairs surviving the topological and PID selections, a side-band subtraction procedure was employed. This involved dividing the sample in $p_T^{D^0}$ intervals and fitting the invariant-mass distributions of the D^0 candidates in each interval with a Gaussian function for the signal, and an exponential function for the background. The width (σ) and mean of the fitted Gaussian were used to define signal and side-band regions, with the 2D distributions of θ and E_{Radiator} for D^0 -meson tagged jet candidates, $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet candidate}}$, obtained in each region. The signal region was defined to be within 2σ on either side of the Gaussian mean and contained most of the real D^0 mesons, with some contamination present from the combinatorial background. The side-band regions were defined to be from 4 to 9σ away from the peak in either direction and were composed entirely of background D^0 -meson candidates. The combined $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet candidate}}$ distributions measured in the two side-band regions represent the structural form of the contribution of background candidates to the $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet candidate}}$ distribution measured in the signal region. In this way, the background component of the total $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet candidate}}$ measured in the signal region can be subtracted, using the following equation,

$$\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet}} = \sum_i \frac{1}{\varepsilon_i} \left[(\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})_S)^{D^0\text{jet candidate}} - \frac{A_S}{A_B} \rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})_B^{D^0\text{jet candidate}} \right] \quad (\text{B.1})$$

where the subscripts S and B denote the signal and side-band regions of the invariant-mass distributions, respectively. The A_S and A_B variables are the areas under the background fit function in the signal and combined side-band regions, respectively, and were used to normalise the magnitude of the background in the side-band regions to that in the signal region. The D^0 -meson tagged jet selection efficiency (discussed in more detail in B.4) is denoted by ε , with the index i running over the $p_T^{D^0}$ bins. The result of this side-band subtraction are the true D^0 -meson tagged jet $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet}}$ distributions, in the different intervals of $p_T^{D^0}$.

B.4 D^0 -meson tagged jet reconstruction efficiency correction

The topological and PID selections used to identify the D^0 mesons, in the chosen jet kinematic interval, have a limited efficiency, which exhibits a strong p_T dependence. Therefore, before integrating the side-band subtracted $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet}}$ distributions across the measured $p_T^{D^0}$ intervals, the $\rho(\theta, E_{\text{Radiator}})^{D^0\text{jet}}$ distributions were corrected for this efficiency. The efficiency, ε , was estimated from PYTHIA 6 MC studies and varies strongly with $p_T^{D^0}$, from ≈ 0.01 at $p_T^{D^0} = 2.5$ GeV/ c to ≈ 0.3 at $p_T^{D^0} = 30$ GeV/ c for prompt D^0 -meson tagged jets and from ≈ 0.01 at $p_T^{D^0} = 2.5$ GeV/ c to ≈ 0.2 at $p_T^{D^0} = 30$ GeV/ c for non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jets. As the prompt and non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jet reconstruction efficiencies were different, the final efficiency was obtained by combining the prompt and non-prompt D^0 -tagged jet reconstruction efficiencies, evaluated separately. These were combined with weights derived from simulations, corresponding to the admixture of prompt and non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jets in the reconstructed sample. The fractions of this admixture were obtained in bins of $p_T^{D^0}$ by calculating the prompt and non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jet production cross sections with POWHEG [26] combined with PYTHIA 6 showering.

B.5 Evaluation of systematic uncertainties

Considered sources of systematic uncertainty in the measurement pertain to the reconstruction and signal extraction of D^0 -meson candidates, with the former contributing as the leading source. These uncertainties were estimated by varying the topological and PID selections, as well as the fitting and side-band subtraction configurations applied to the D^0 -meson candidate invariant mass distributions. Variations were chosen which tested the influence of selected analysis parameters as much as possible, whilst maintaining a reasonable significance in the signal extraction. For each of these categories, the root-mean-square of all deviations was taken as the final systematic uncertainty. Theoretical uncertainties on the prompt and non-prompt D^0 -meson tagged jet production cross sections from POWHEG were also considered in the calculation of the reconstruction efficiency, with the largest variation taken as the uncertainty. For each category, the final systematic uncertainty was symmetrised before adding up the uncertainties in quadrature across all categories to obtain the total systematic uncertainty of the D^0 -meson tagged jet measurement.

For the inclusive-jet results, the minimum p_T requirement on the track with the highest transverse momentum within the leading prong of each splitting was varied. The magnitude of the variation was taken to be the resolution of the transverse momentum of a D^0 -meson with $p_T^{D^0} = 2$ GeV/ c , which was found to be 0.06 GeV/ c . Variations above and below the nominal selection value were made and the largest deviation was symmetrised. Systematic detector effects are dominated by the tracking efficiency and were shown in detector simulations to affect both the D^0 -meson tagged jet and inclusive-jet samples equally and largely canceled in the $R(\theta)$ ratio. Therefore, the systematic uncertainty of $R(\theta)$ due to detector effects was estimated directly on the ratio by randomly removing 15% of the reconstructed tracks, as given by the tracking efficiency of the ALICE detector, in the track samples used for clustering both the D^0 -tagged jets and inclusive jets. The ratio of the resulting $R(\theta)$ distribution to the case with no track removal was taken, to obtain the uncertainty, which was symmetrised.

The relative uncertainty of $R(\theta)$ resulting from the separate D^0 -tagged jet and inclusive-jet uncertainties

was calculated, with the resulting absolute uncertainty added in quadrature to the detector effects uncertainty to obtain the total systematic uncertainty of the $R(\theta)$ measurement. The magnitude of each of these sources of systematic uncertainty is shown in Table B.1, for the smallest-angle splittings corresponding to the interval $2 \leq \ln(1/\theta) < 3$, where the uncertainties are largest.

Table B.1: The percentage magnitude of the systematic uncertainties of each source considered, as well as the total systematic uncertainty, for the $R(\theta)$ variable are shown for the smallest splitting-angle interval $2 \leq \ln(1/\theta) < 3$

$R(\theta)$ systematic uncertainties (%)			
Source	E_{Radiator} (GeV)		
	5 – 10	10 – 20	20 – 35
Invariant-mass fitting	2.3	1.4	3.0
Side-band subtraction	2.0	1.8	1.4
D ⁰ -jet selection stability	4.1	5.0	7.2
Non-prompt contribution	1.0	3.5	1.1
Leading hadron p_{T} selection	2.0	3.2	0.2
Detector effects	0.7	5.2	0.9
Total	5.6	8.9	8.1