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# **Dead-cone searches in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree**

Leticia Cunqueiro Méndez

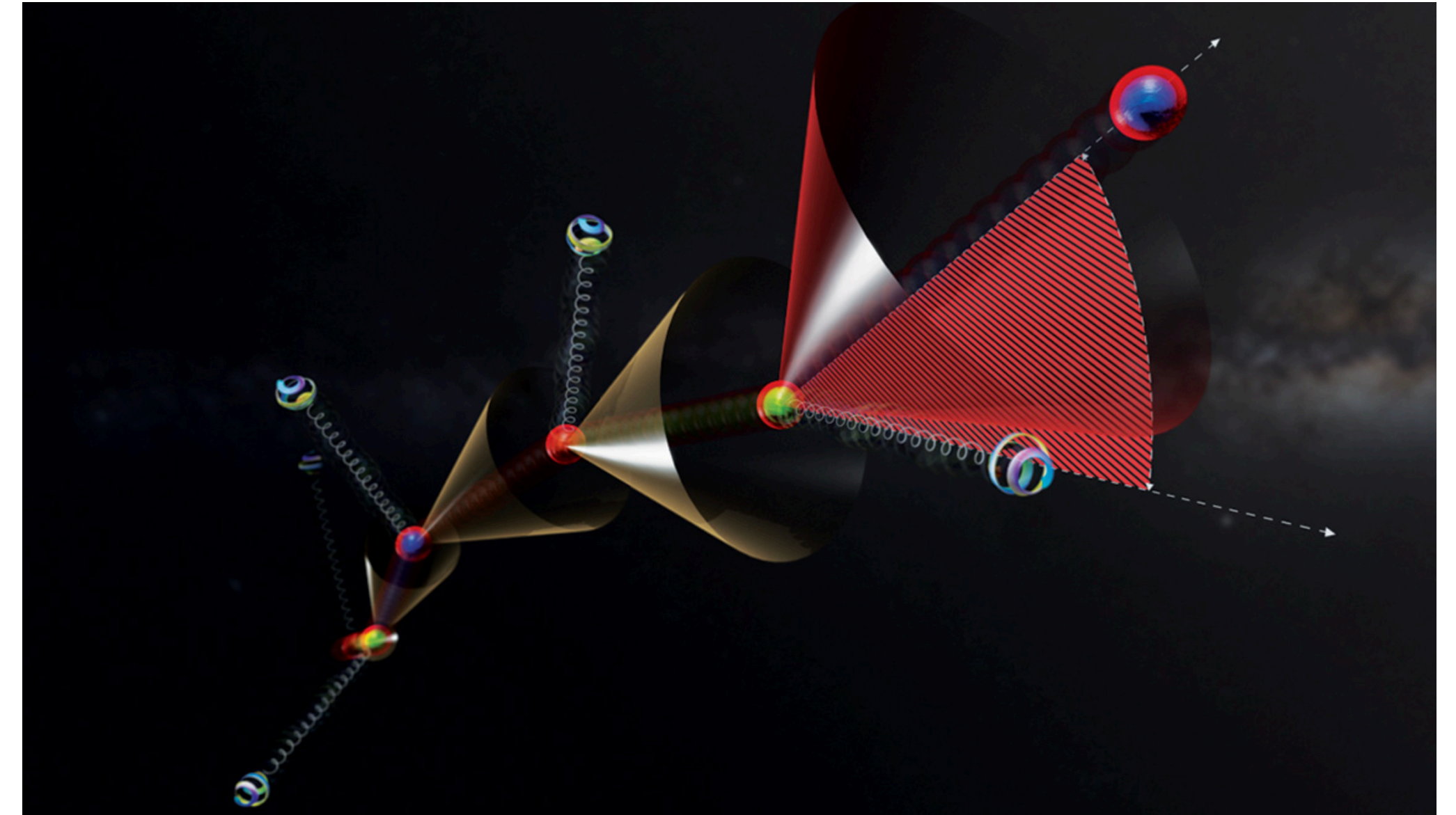
based on: LCM, Alba Soto-Ontoso, Davide Napoletano <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.11789.pdf>

**Hard Probes 2023, Aschaffenburg**

# The dead-cone effect in QCD

Gluon radiation by a particle of mass  $m$  and energy  $E$  is suppressed within a cone of angular size  $m/E$  around the emitter

$$\frac{\frac{dN_Q}{d\theta}}{\frac{dN_q}{d\theta}} \propto \frac{\theta^4}{(\theta^2 + \theta_0^2)^2} \quad \theta_0 = \frac{m_Q}{E_Q}$$

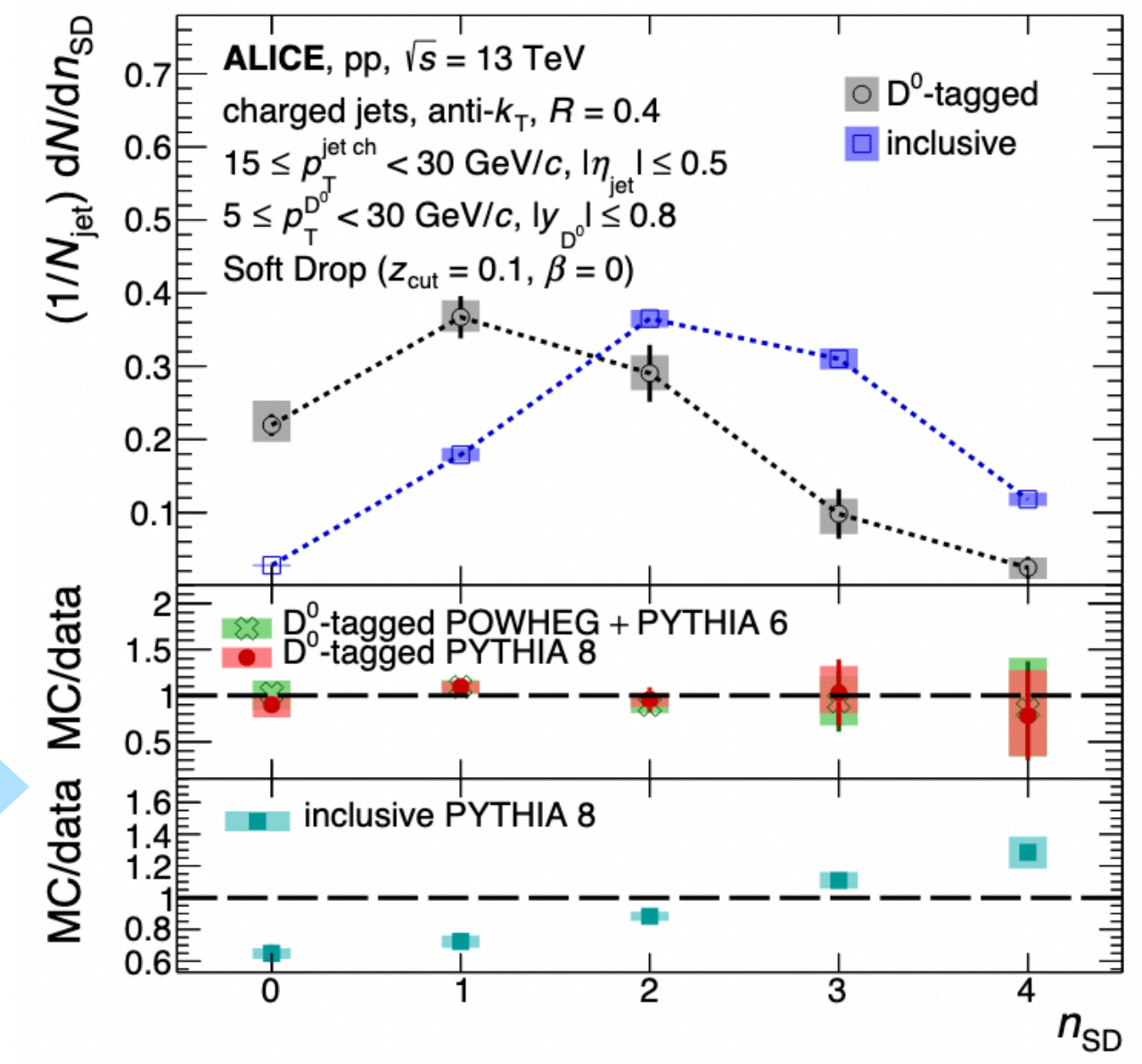
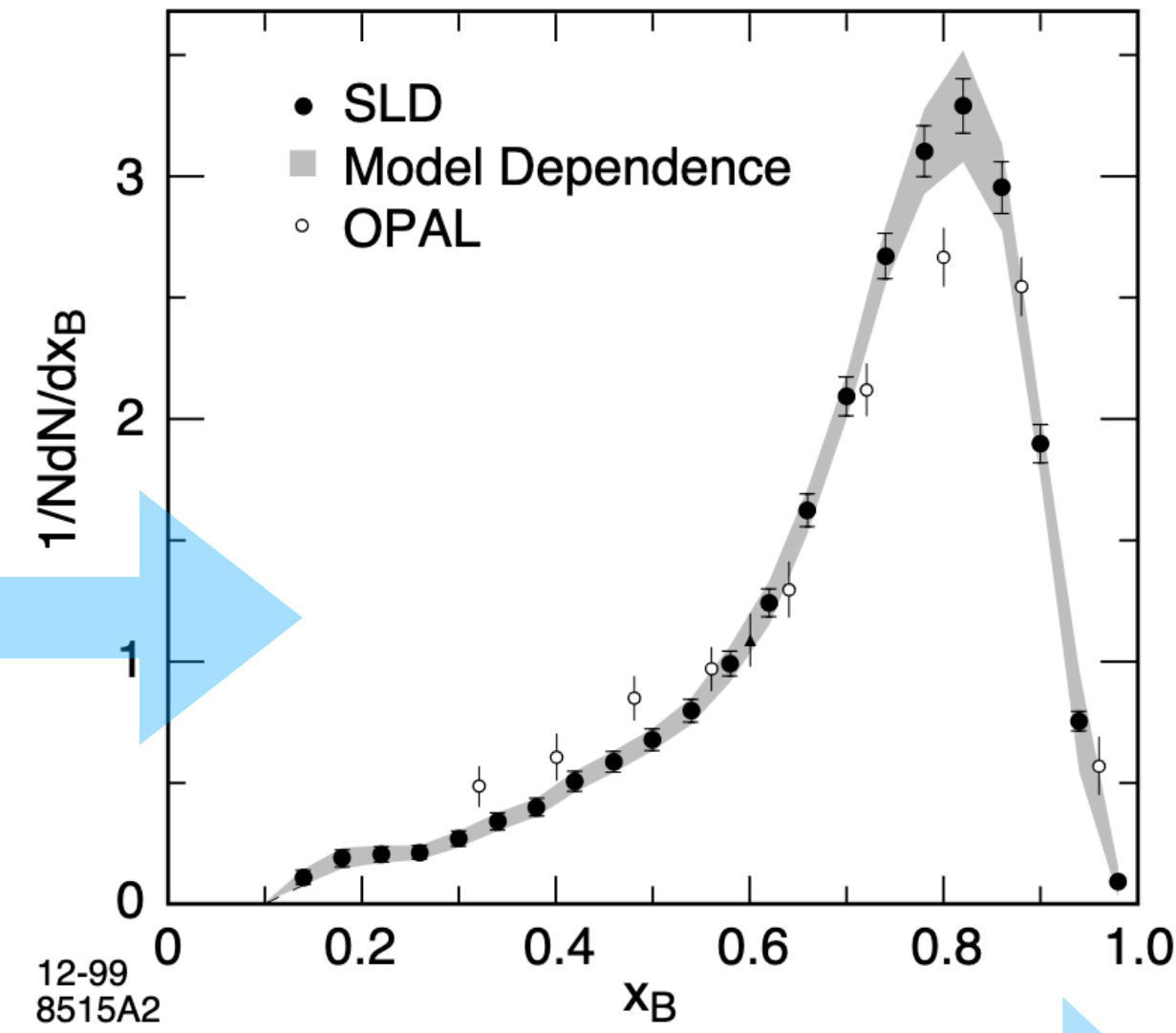




# The dead-cone effect

## Consequences of the dead cone:

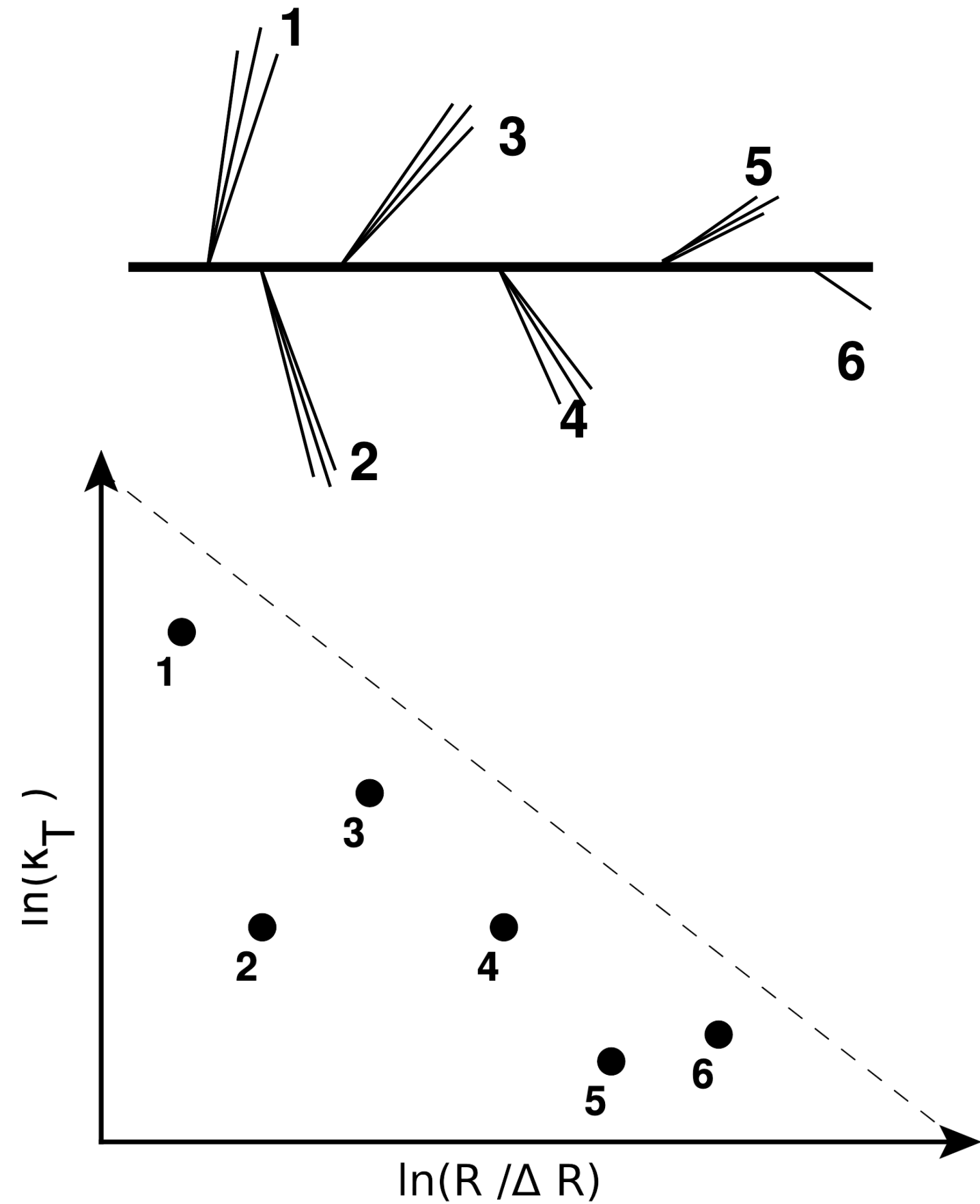
- Restriction of hard gluons with small  $k_T$   
 —> reduction of emissions, FF peaked a larger  $z$
- Lower intrajet multiplicities



## Experimental challenges for a direct measurement

- The decays of the heavy flavour particles happen at similar angular scales and fill the dead cone
- Accurate determination of the dynamically evolving direction of the heavy-flavour particle relative to which radiation is suppressed

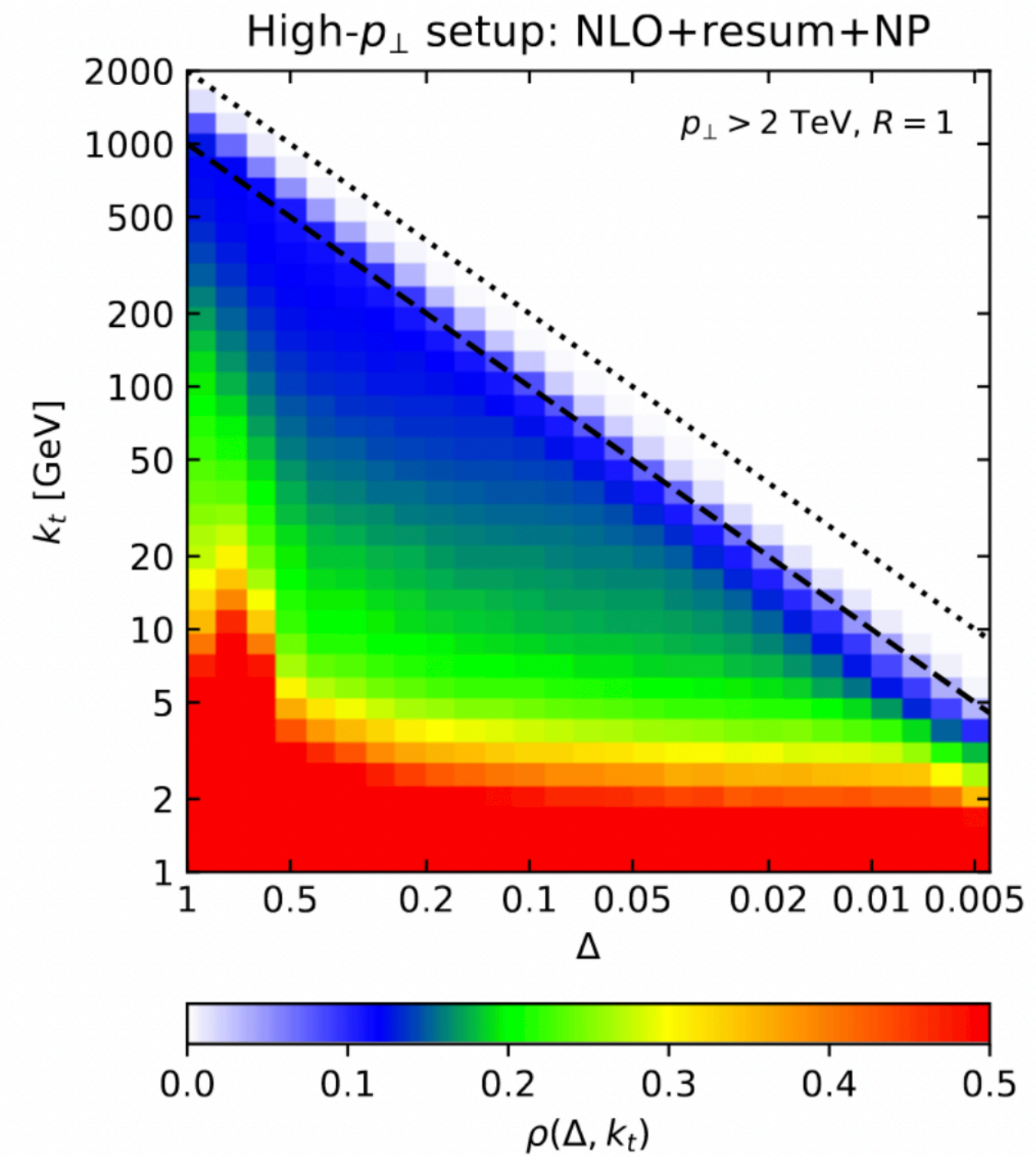
# The jet tree and the primary Lund plane



- Unwind the Cambridge-Aachen clustering history
- At each step register  $(k_T, \theta)$  onto the Lund plane
- Follow the leading branch at each step

At leading order, emissions populate the plane uniformly and the running of the coupling sculpts the plane

$$d^2 P = 2 \frac{\alpha_s(k_\perp) C_R}{\pi} d \ln(z\theta) d \ln\left(\frac{1}{\theta}\right)$$



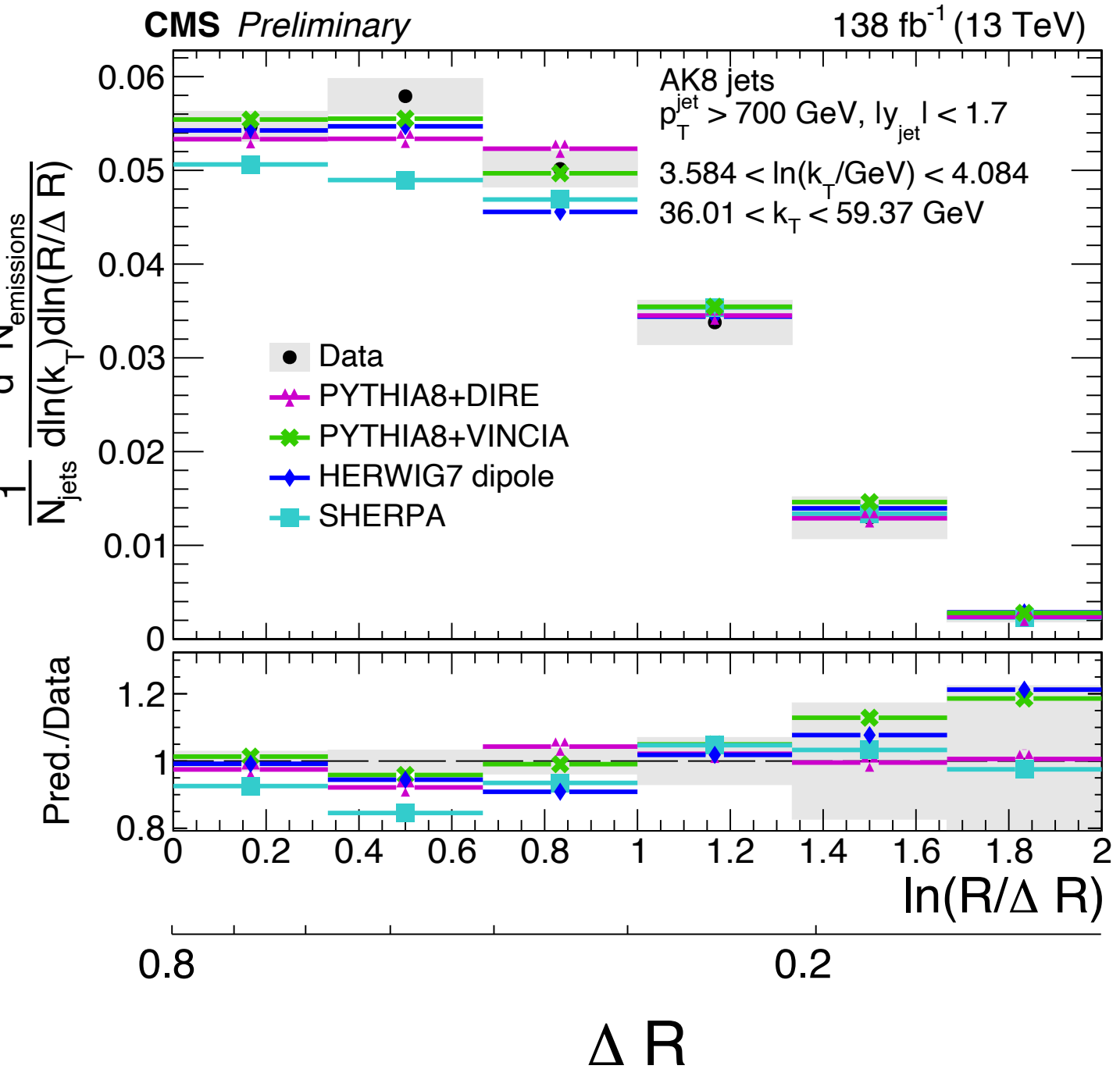
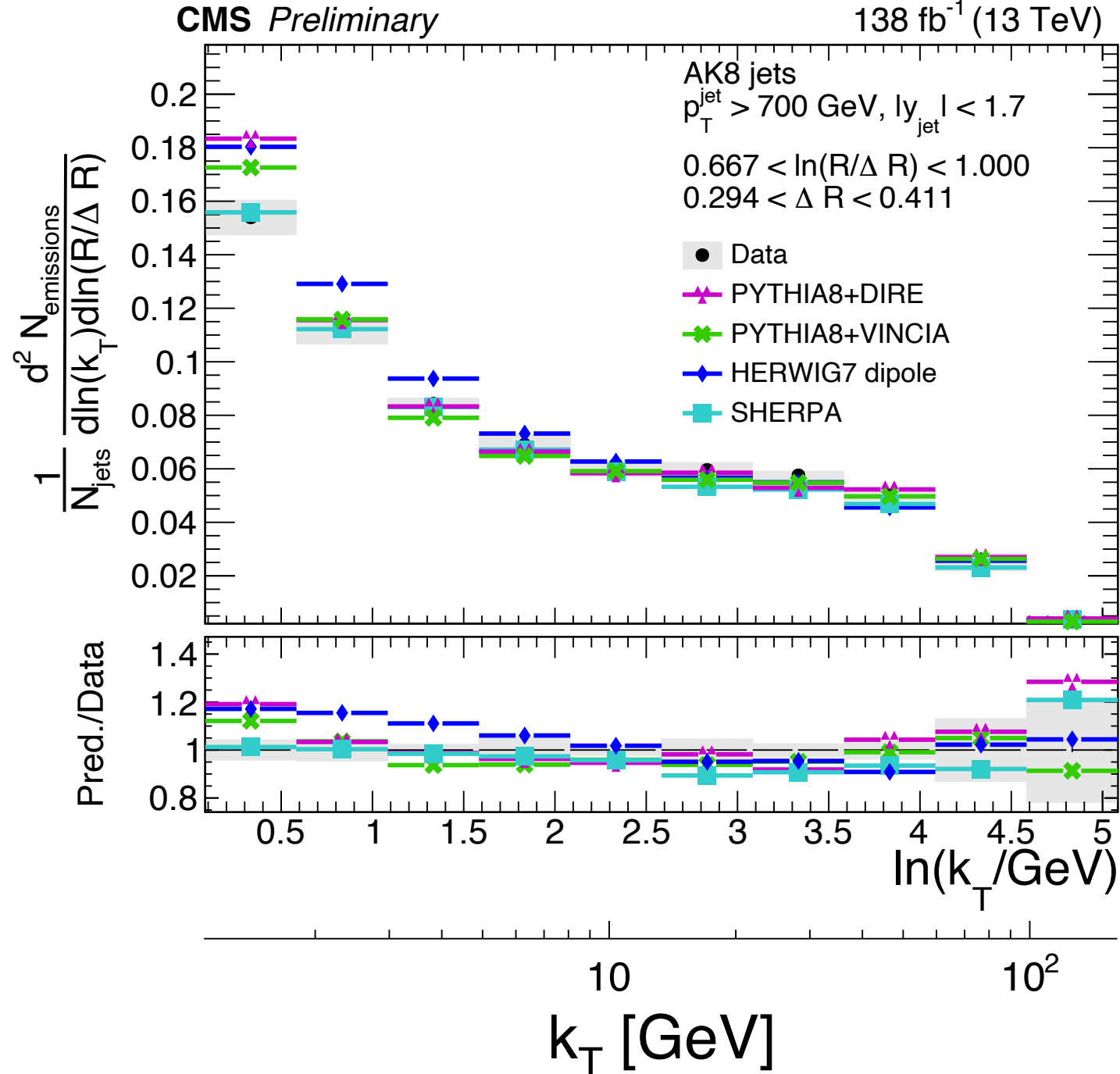
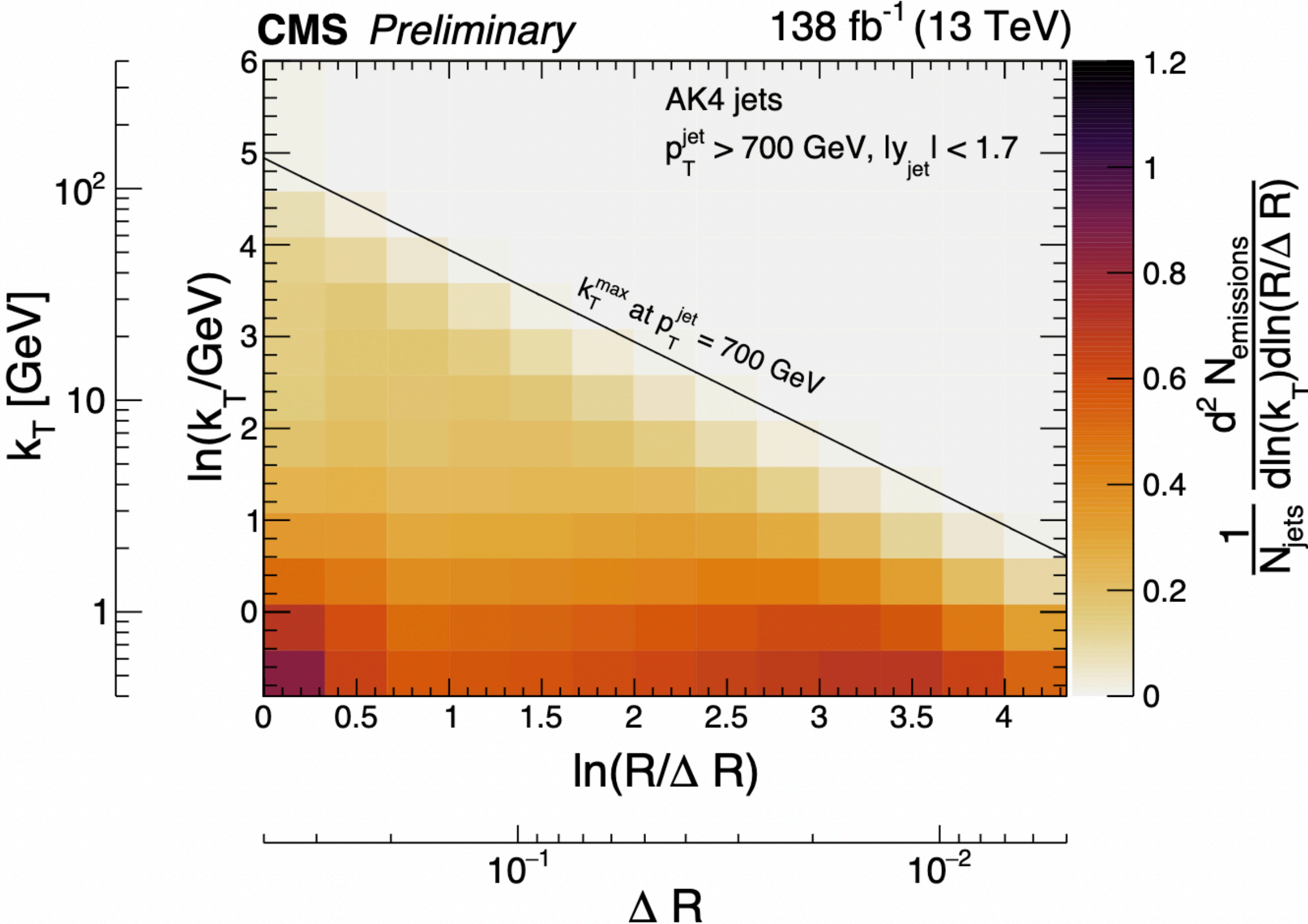
*Lifson, Salam, Soyez, JHEP 10 (2020)*  
*Dreyer, Salam, Soyez, JHEP 12 (2018) 064*



# The jet tree (filling the primary Lund plane)

[CMS-PAS-SMP-22-007](#)

and Cristian Baldenegro's talk at Moriond QCD

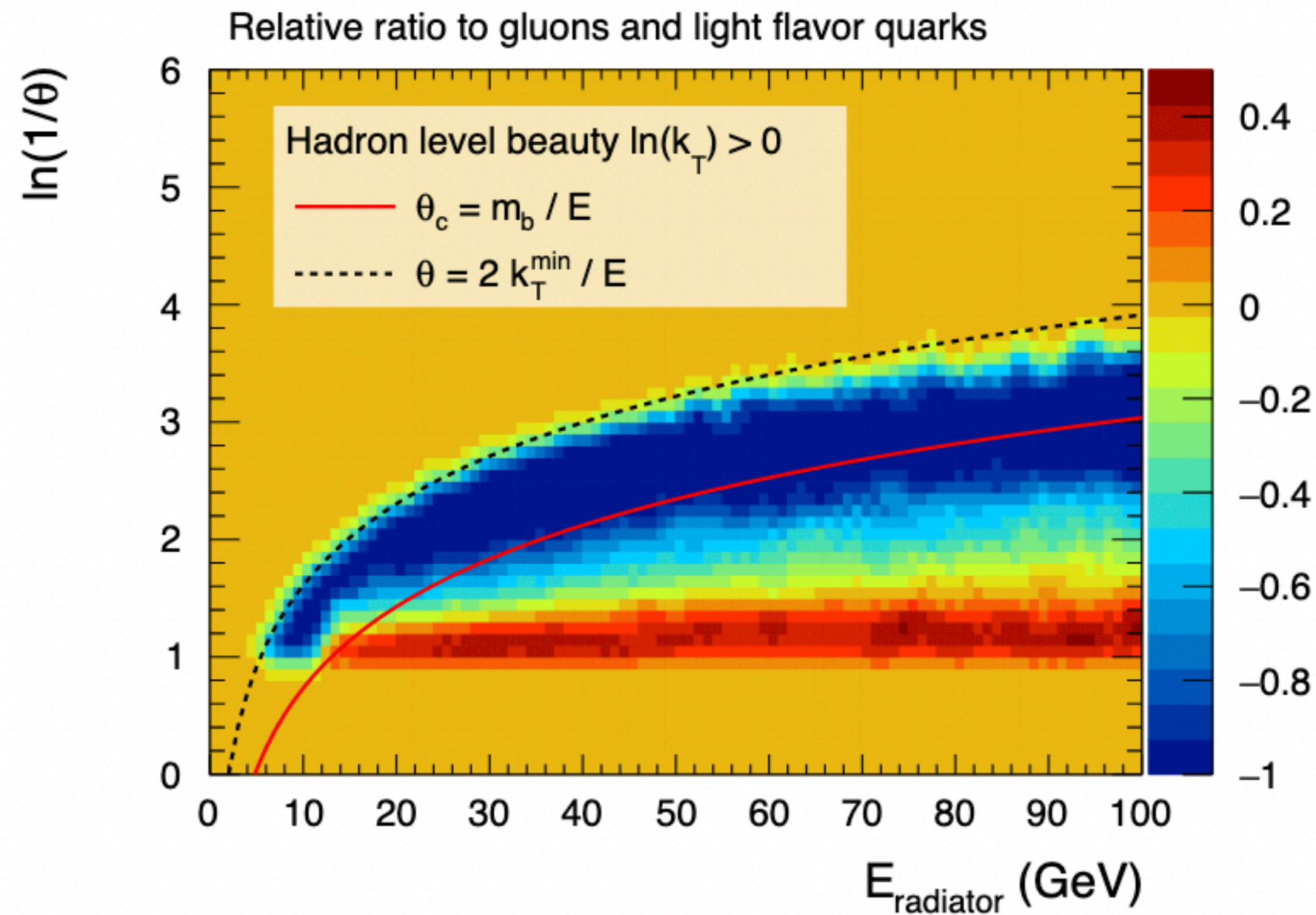


- Multiple physics effects contribute beyond the LO uniformly-filled plane
- However the measurement captures salient features of the q/g parton shower: the running of the coupling sculpts the plane



# The heavy-flavour jet tree and the dead cone

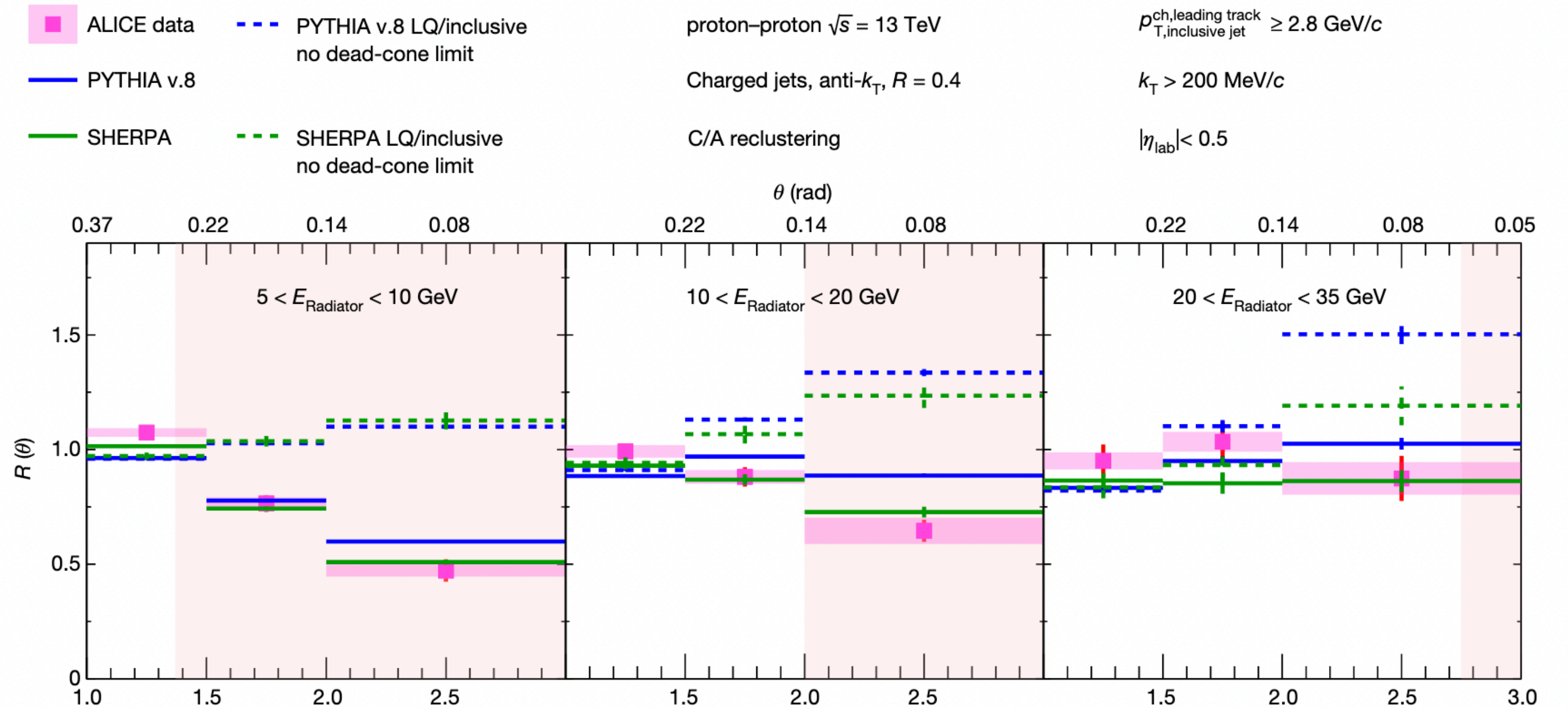
[Cunqueiro, Ploskon, Phys.Rev.D 99 \(2019\) 7, 074027](#)



**Strong suppression of splittings relative to inclusive jets**

$E_{\text{radiator}}$  is the sum energy of the daughter prongs at each node of the jet tree  
 -> proxy for the quark energy

[ALICE, Nature 605, 440-446 \(2022\)](#)



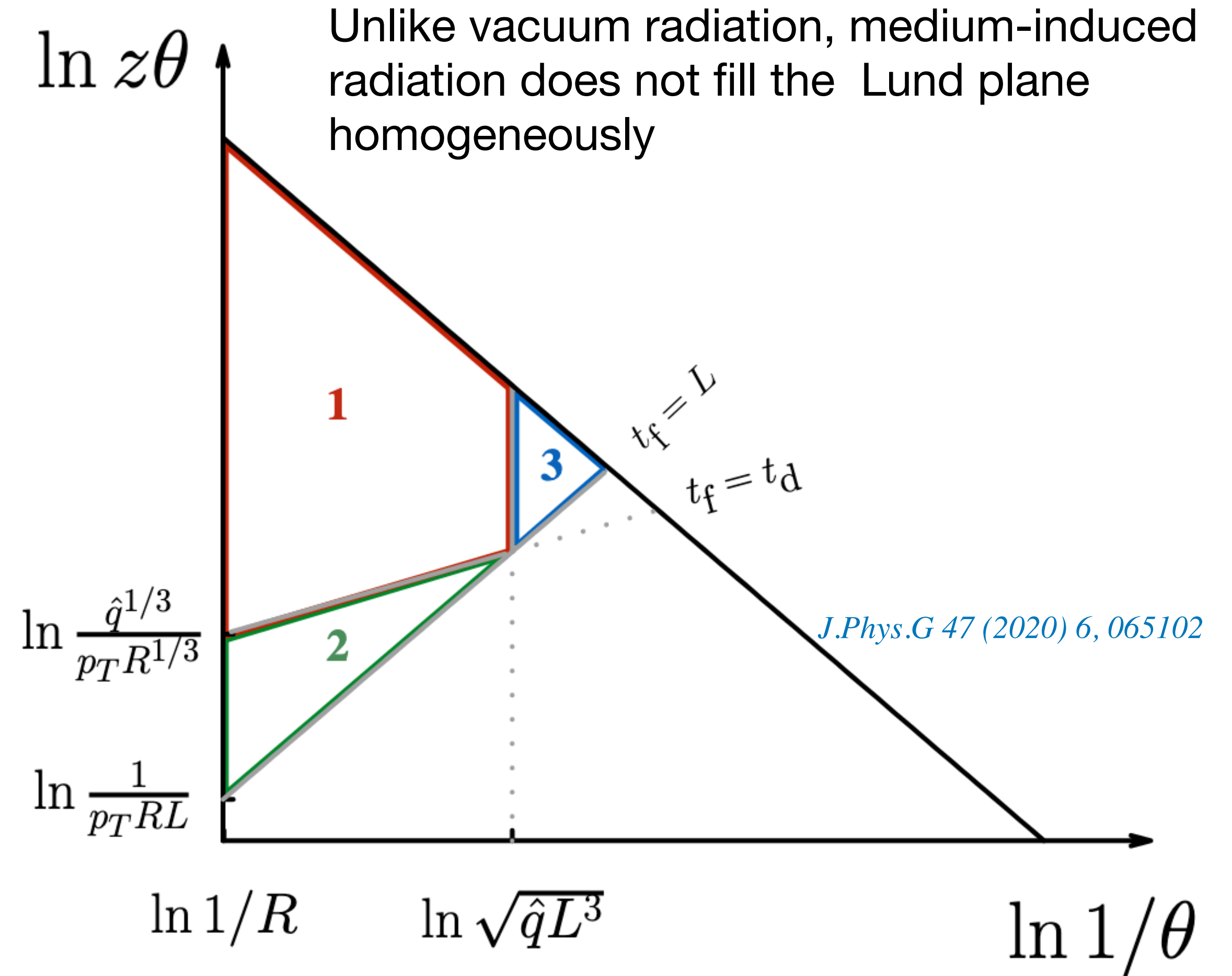
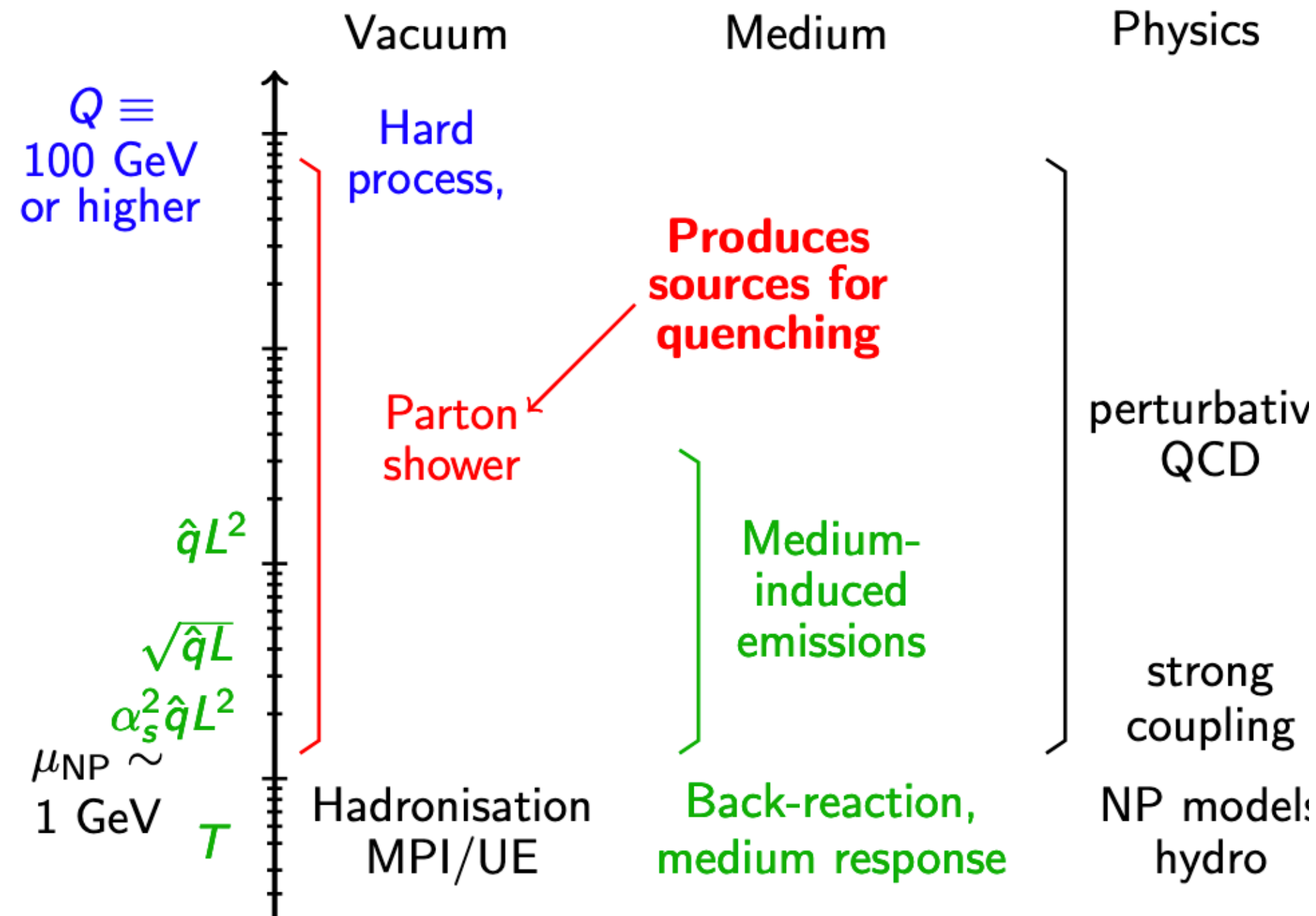
$$R(\theta) = \frac{1}{n^{D^0 \text{ jets}}} \frac{dn^{D^0 \text{ jets}}}{d \ln(1/\theta)} \bigg/ \frac{1}{n^{\text{inclusive jets}}} \frac{dn^{\text{inclusive jets}}}{d \ln(1/\theta)} \bigg|_{k_T > x \Lambda_{QCD}}$$

Strong suppression in the lowest  $E_{\text{radiator}}$  bin

Pink areas represent the vetoed regions given by  $m_c/E$



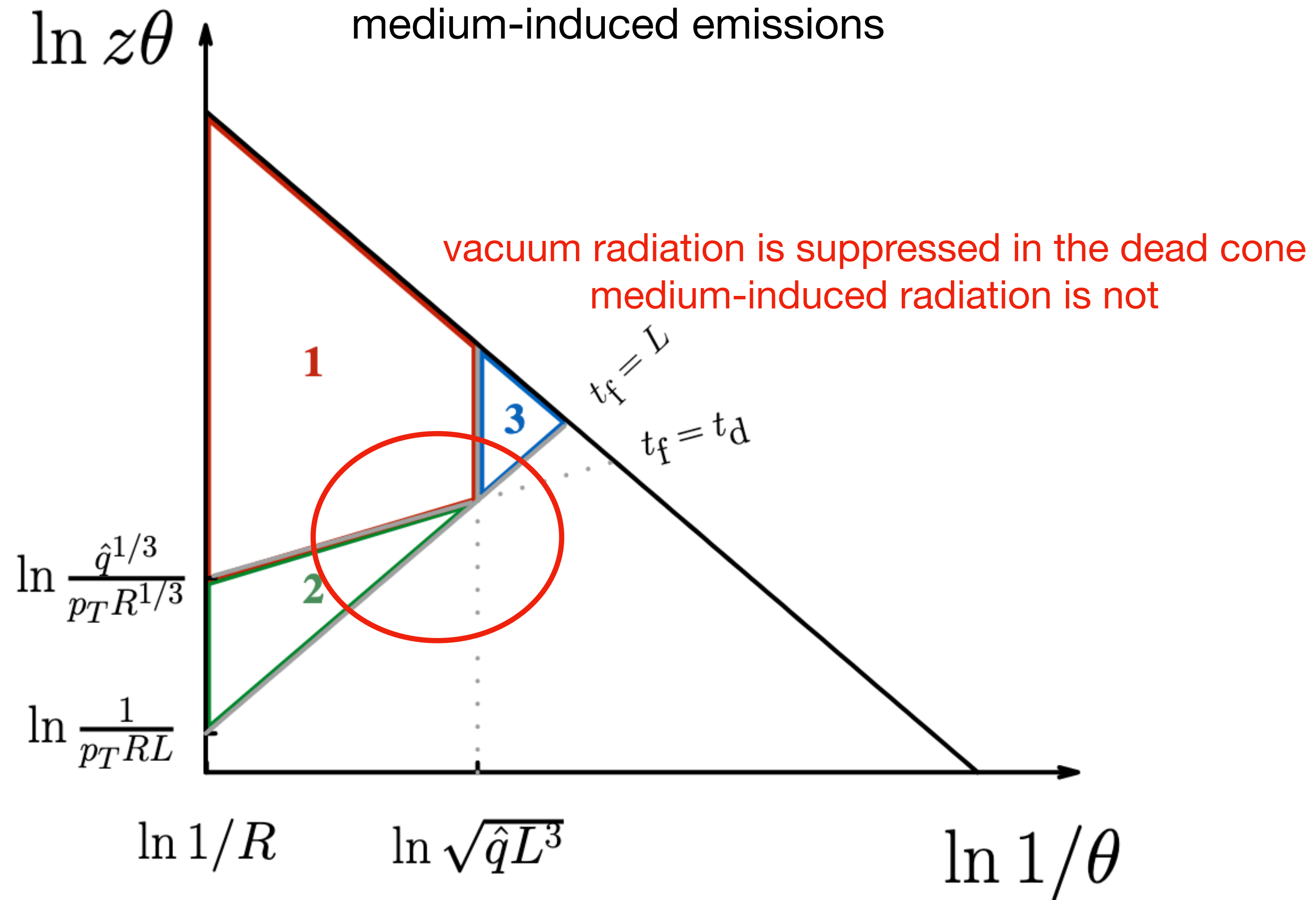
# The heavy-ion case



New scales appear, jet evolution embedded into a hot coloured medium of temperature  $T$  and length  $L$   
 Expected dominant mechanism for jet-medium interaction: medium-induced gluon radiation

# The heavy-ion case

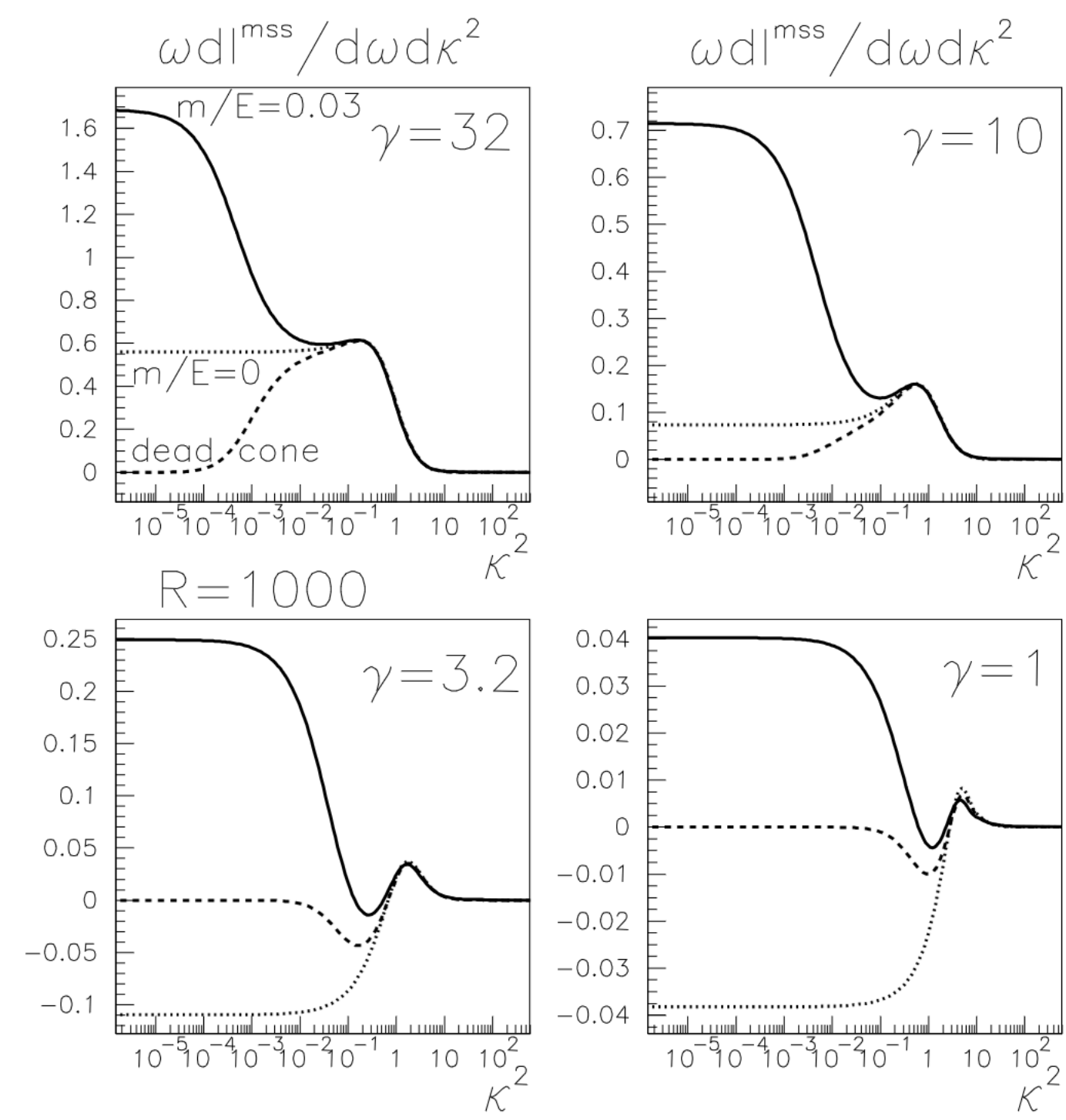
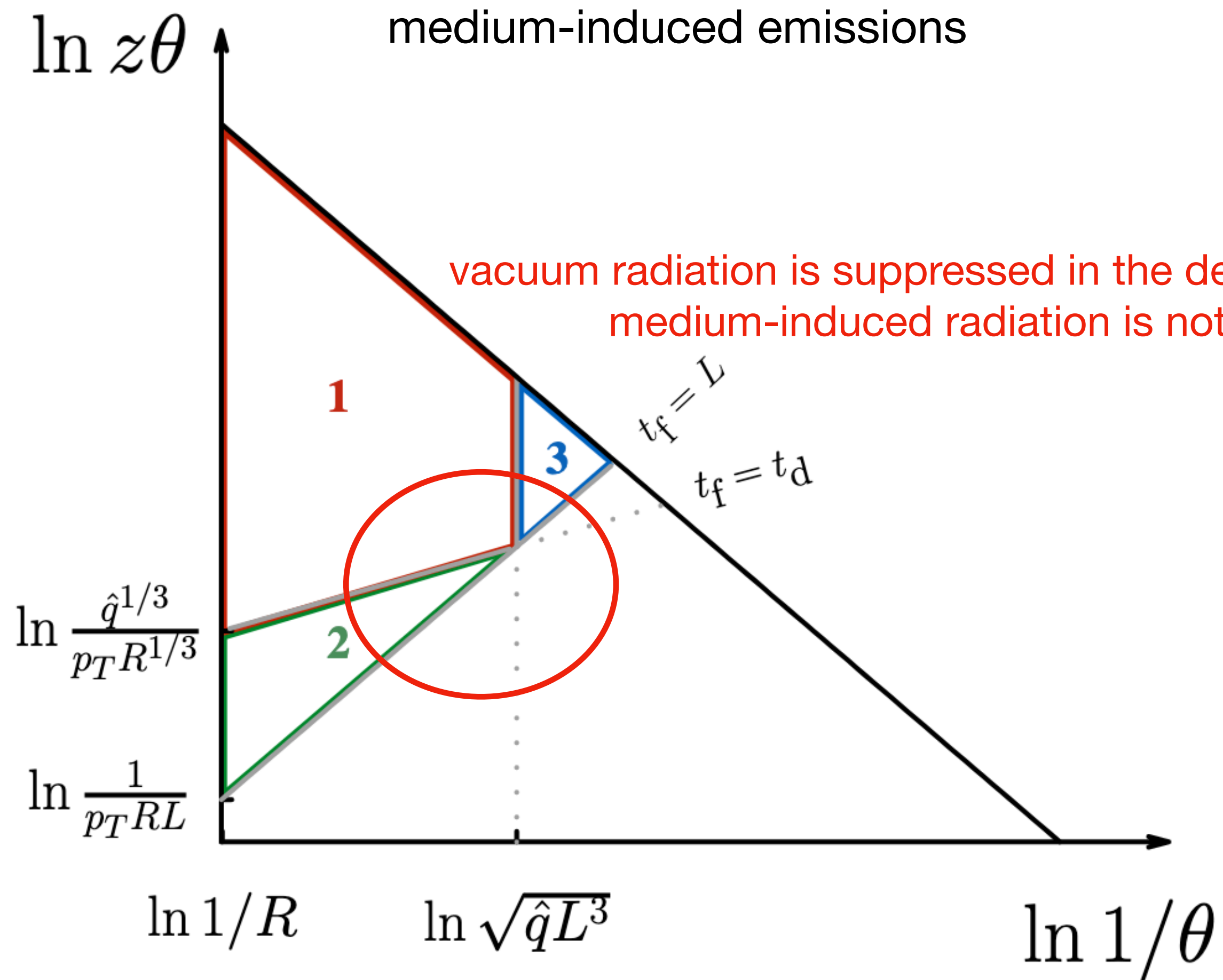
IDEA: Exploit dead-cone suppression of vacuum radiation to access a clean, pQCD regime of medium-induced emissions





# The heavy-ion case

IDEA: Exploit dead-cone suppression of vacuum radiation to access a clean, pQCD regime of medium-induced emissions



Early studies showed that medium-induced gluon radiation is expected to fill the dead cone

[Armesto, Salgado, Wiedemann, Phys.Rev.D 69 \(2004\) 114003](#)

# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$

## In order to be sensitive to mass effects in PbPb:

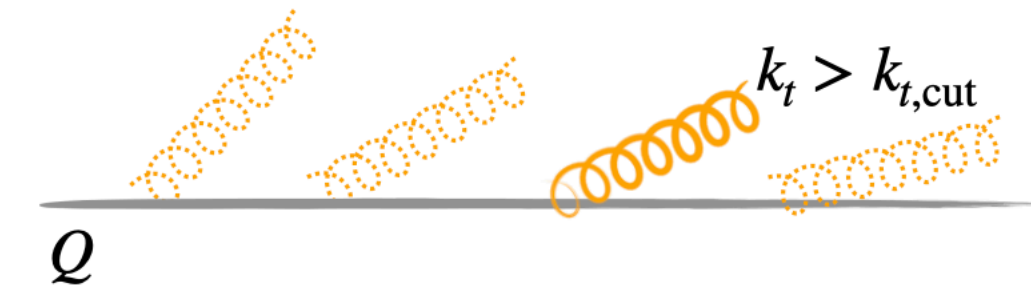
Look at the region of small angles in the Lund plane  
Suppress hadronisation effects  
Avoid fake background splittings

## Our proposal:

Select the smallest-angle perturbative emission

## In practice:

Select the last splitting of the CA tree with  $k_T$  above a cutoff



## The Late- $k_T$ algorithm:

1. Undo the last clustering step in the angular ordered jet to produce two pseudojets with momenta  $p_a$  and  $p_b$ .
2. Calculate the relative  $k_t$  of the pair

$$k_t = \min(p_{t,a}, p_{t,b}) \Delta_{ab}, \quad (3)$$

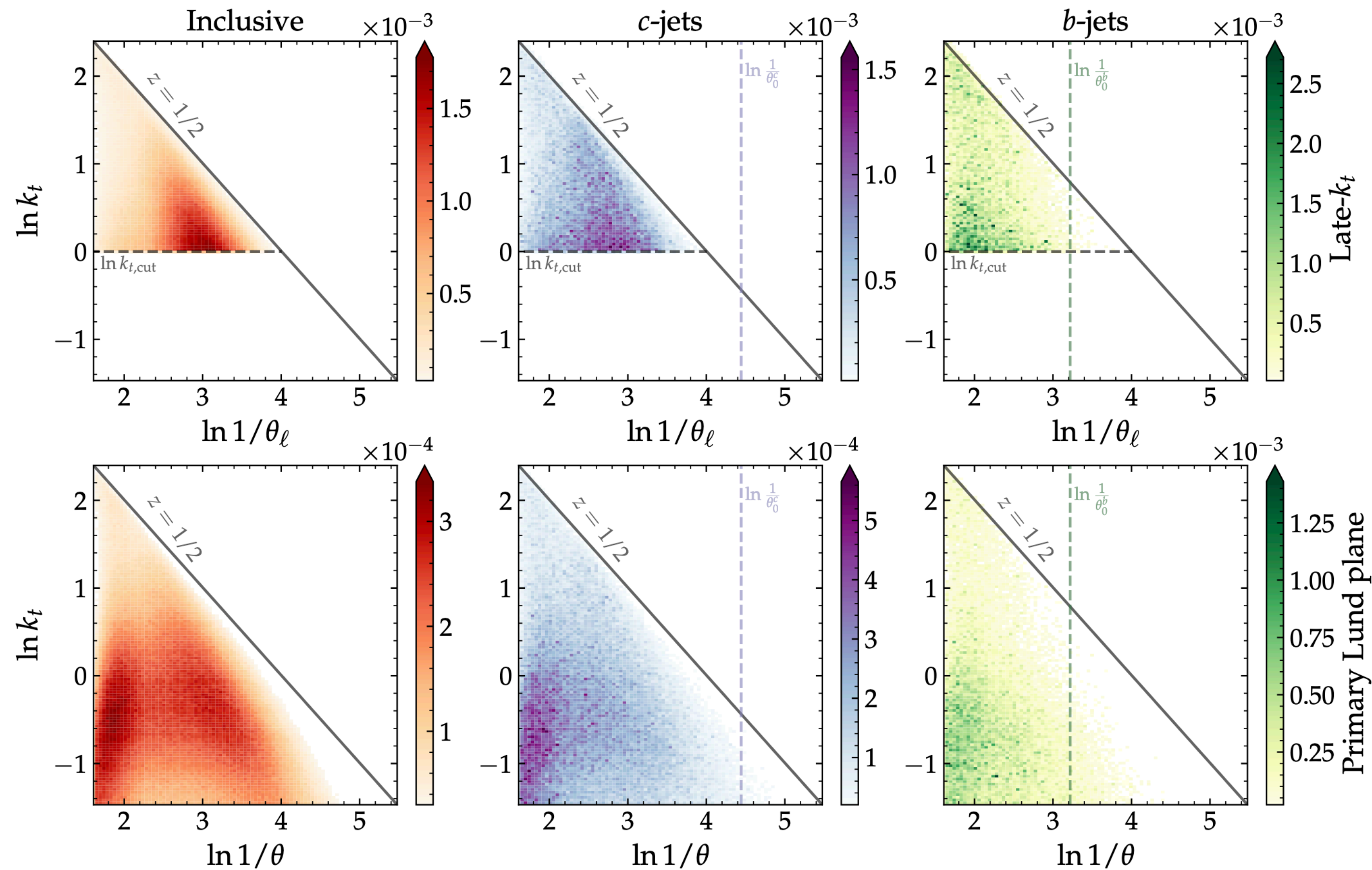
with  $\Delta_{ab}^2$  being the relative distance in the rapidity-azimuth plane, i.e.  $\Delta_{ab}^2 = (y_a - y_b)^2 + (\phi_a - \phi_b)^2$ . Note that this definition coincides with the Lund- $k_t$  variable introduced in Ref. [5].

3. Store the value of  $\Delta_{ab}$  only if  $k_t > k_{t,cut}$ , and repeat from step 1 following the hardest branch.
4. Finally, find the minimal value in the list of  $\Delta_{ab}$  values and drop all branches at larger angles, that is, prior in the C/A sequence.



# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$

E=100 GeV, Pythia8 at hadron level

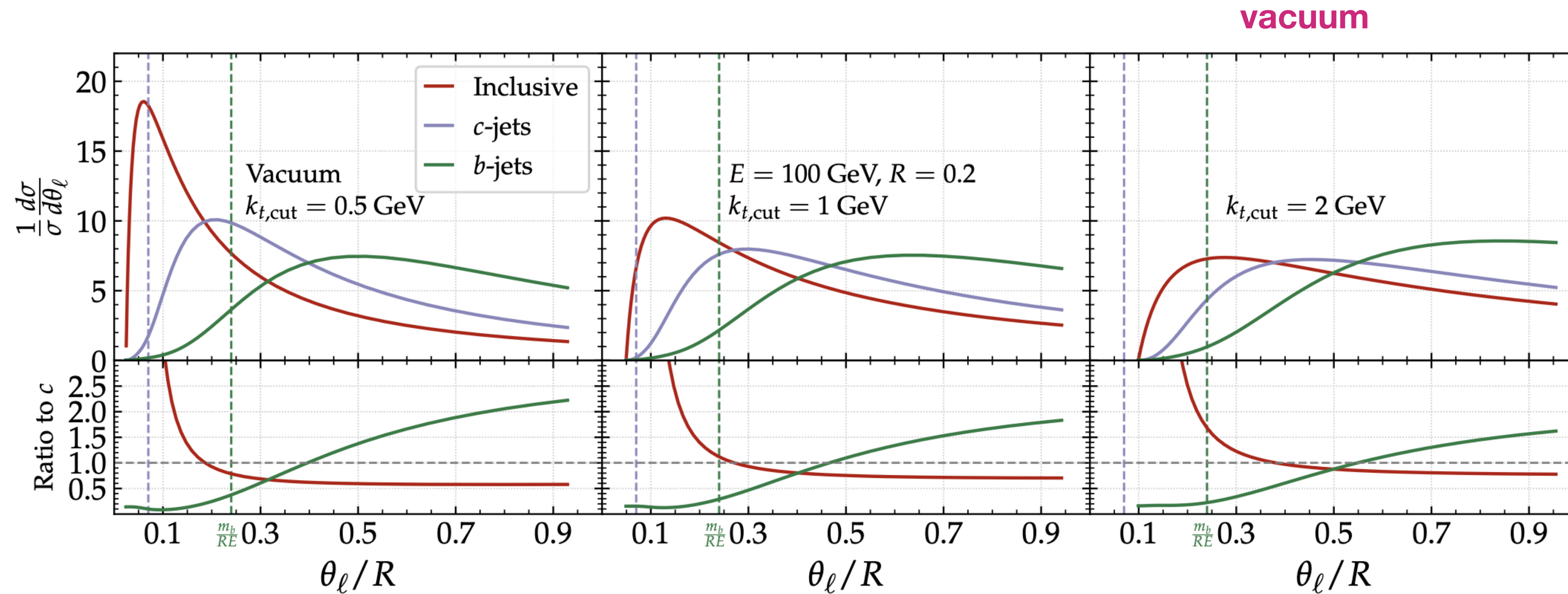


Late- $k_T$  splittings populate the plane at small angles

The differences between the first or the last splitting above cutoff are smaller for the higher quark mass due to the reduced phase space

Dashed lines represent the dead cone of the first splitting in the massive cases (minimum dead cone in the shower)

# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$



$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\theta_\ell} = \frac{1}{1 - \Sigma(R)} \int_0^1 dz \mathcal{P}_i(z, \theta_\ell) \Theta(z\theta_\ell - \bar{k}_{t,\text{cut}}) \Sigma(\theta_\ell);$$

Proof of principle: analytical vacuum calculation at modified leading log accuracy

Clear separation power for inclusive, c and b jets

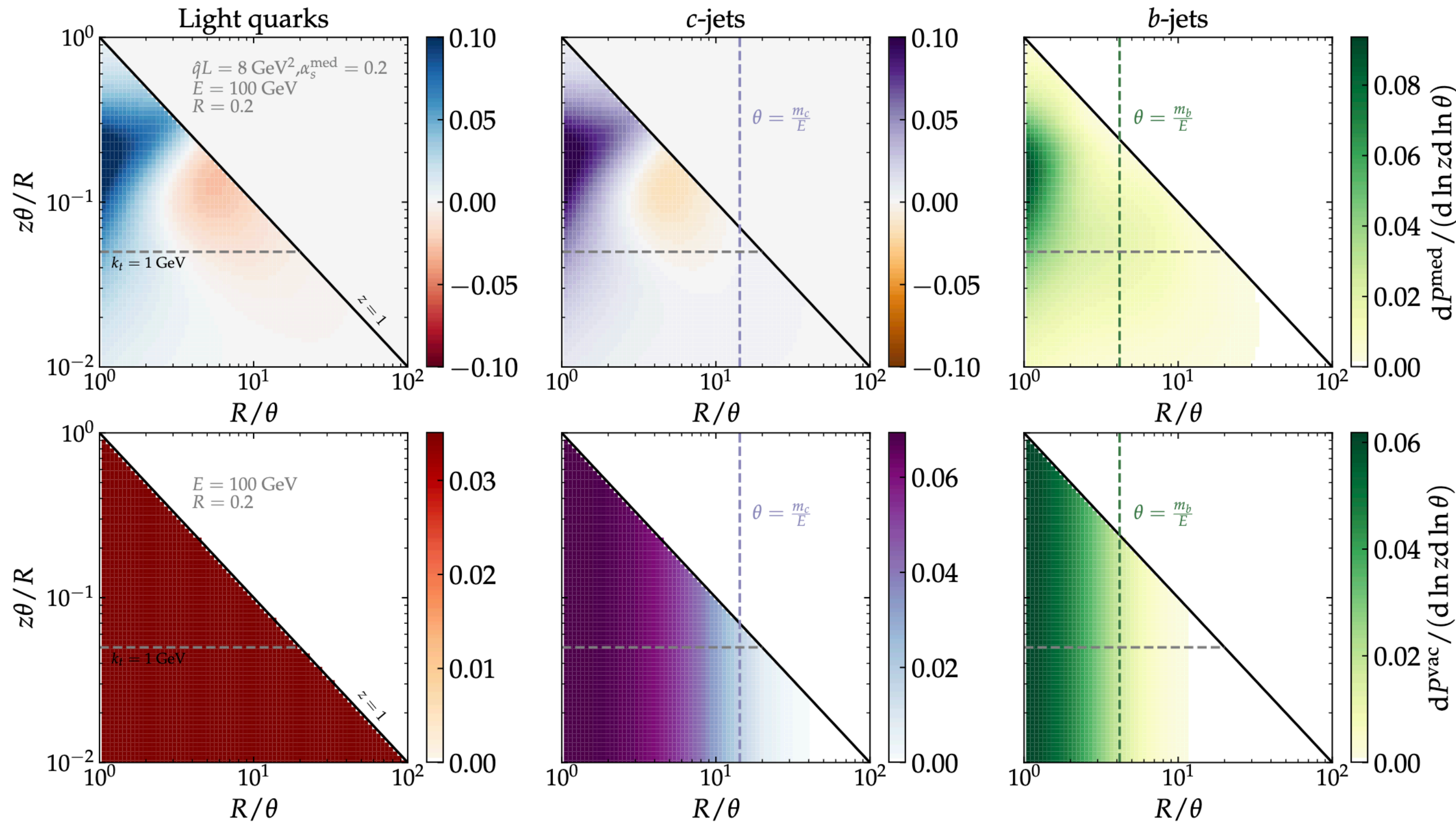
$k_{T,\text{cut}}$  can be optimized: separation power vs suppression of hadronisation

Dashed lines indicate position of the dead cone angle of the first splitting of the jet tree



# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$

## Lund plane filled by medium-induced radiation



Radiation clumps around typical transverse momentum scale acquired by diffusion in transverse space  $Q_s^2 = \hat{q} L$   
 (L is the medium length and  $\hat{q}$  is the transport coefficient of the QGP)

Medium induced radiation in b-jets is filling region that is empty in vacuum, mostly soft gluons at small angles

Simplified medium model: static brick of length L, diffusion parameter  $\hat{q}$   
 multiple soft scattering limit

# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$

Interesting interplay of scales

$$\theta_C < \theta < \theta_{dead}$$

with  $\theta_C$  the minimal decoherence angle  $\theta_C \approx 1/\sqrt{(\hat{q}L^3)}$

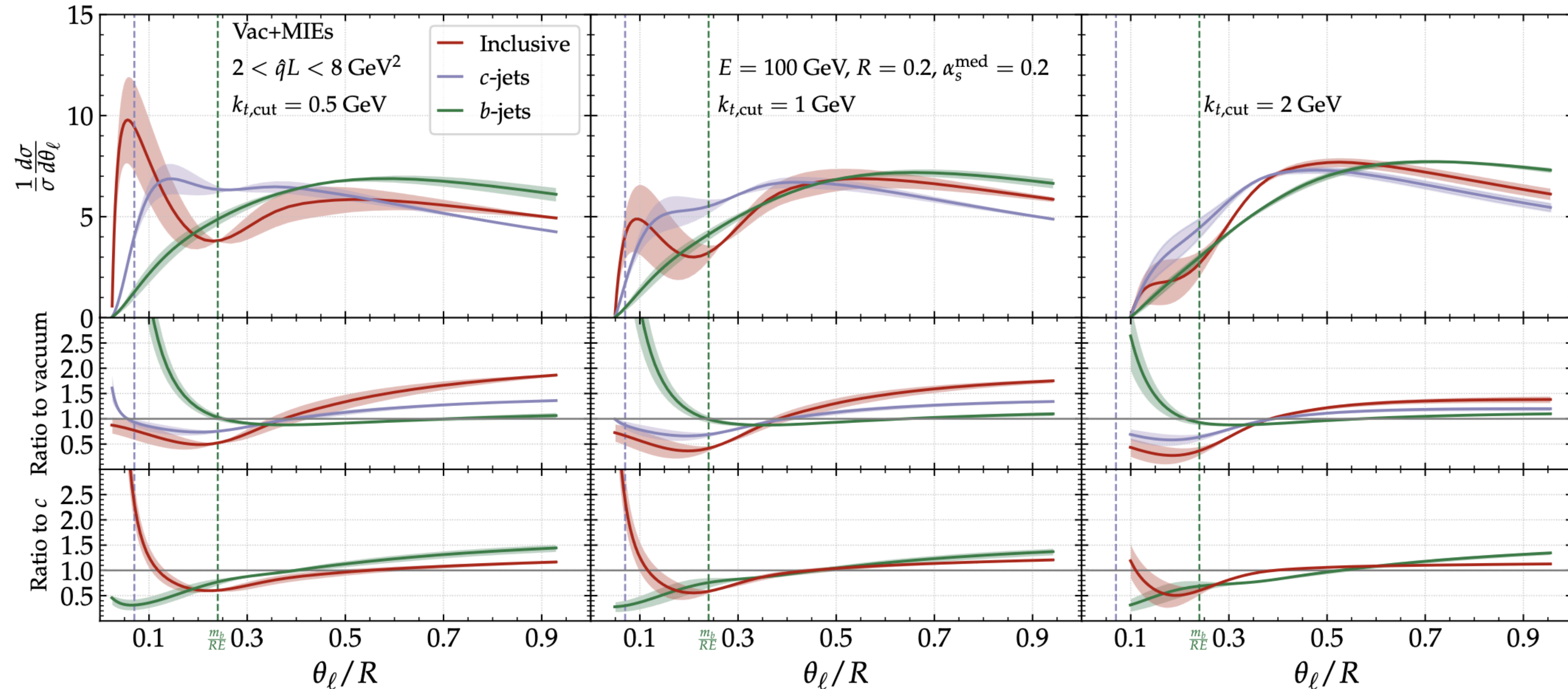
The dead cone angle needs to be wider than the decoherence angle for it to be filled with medium emission

For our choice of parameters, kinematic cuts and approximations:

minimum dead cone angle for D remains intact  $\theta_{dead}^{charm} < \theta_C$   
minimum dead cone angle for B gets filled  $\theta_{dead}^{beauty} > \theta_C$



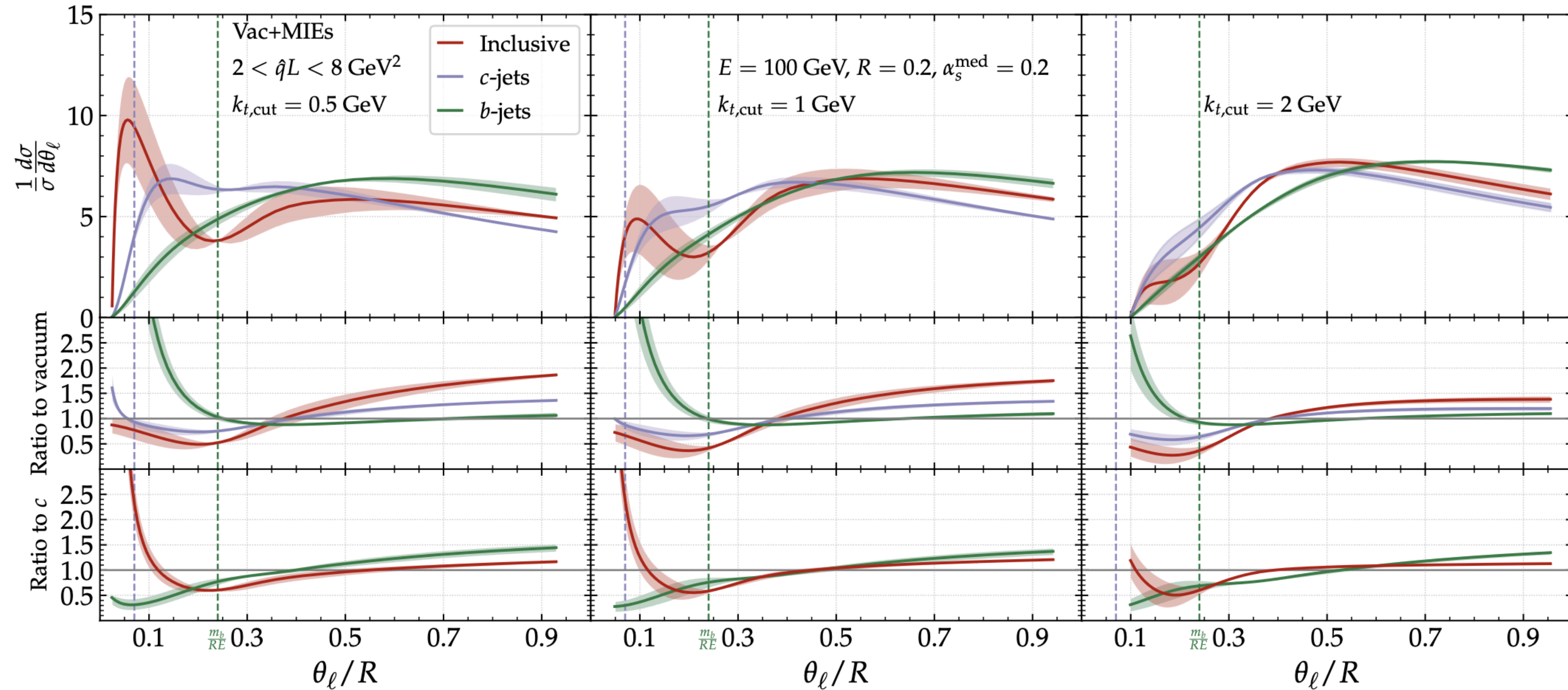
# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$



The splitting angle selected by late- $k_T$ ,  $\theta_\ell$ , shows a strong enhancement of medium-induced collinear radiation relative to vacuum at small angles for b-jets. Detectable!

D-jets and inclusive jets show transverse momentum broadening

# The dead cone in heavy-ion collisions using the jet tree: Late- $k_T$



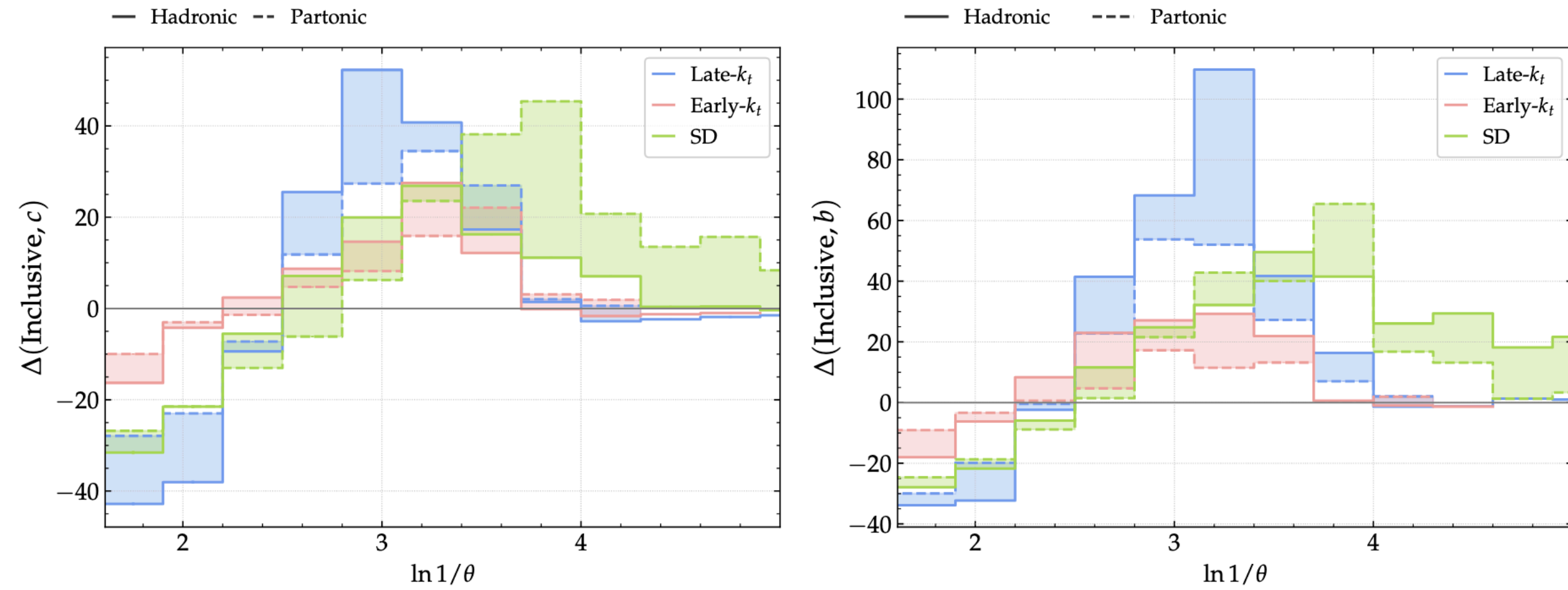
Note: qualitative picture that arises from the interplay of scales

The impact of energy loss not taken into account. Color coherence dynamics can narrow all  $\theta_\ell$  distributions!

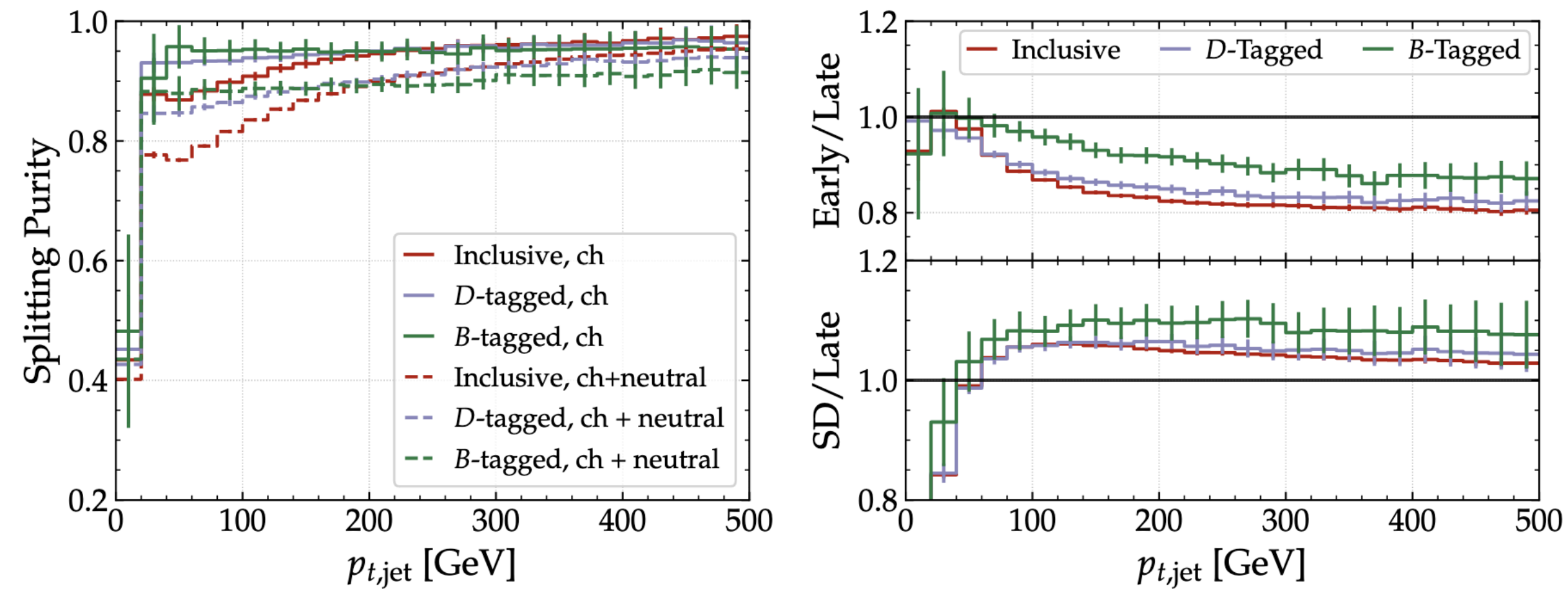


# Separation power and resilience of Late- $k_T$

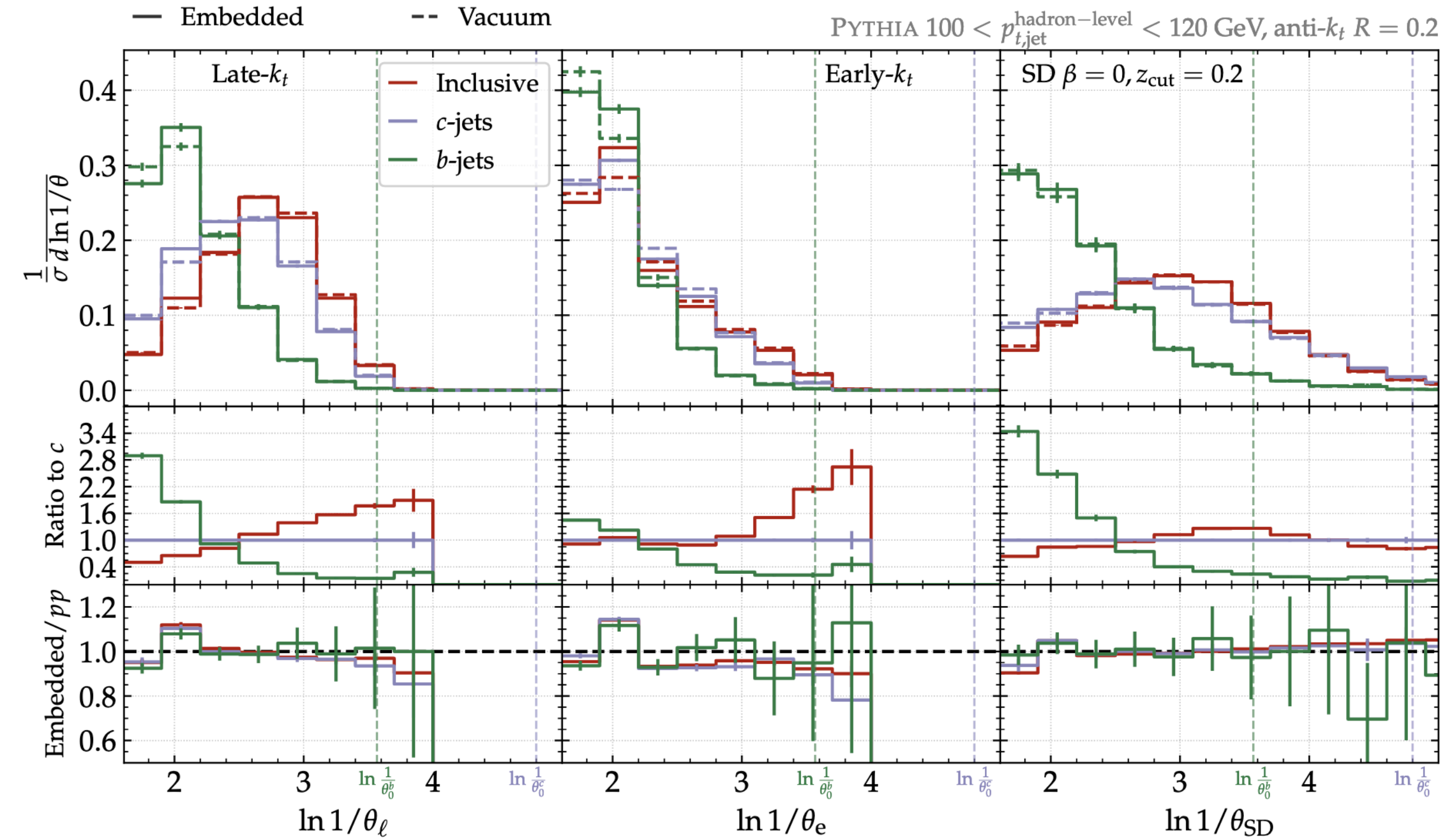
## Separation power at parton and hadron level



## Splitting purity



## Resilience to heavy ion background



# The dead-cone effect: Summary

The iterative clustering of the jet tree has given direct access to the dead cone in pp collisions

Fully corrected measurements of the Lund plane of heavy-flavour jets will allow quark mass and quark energy scans of the effect

Interesting prospects for heavy ion collisions: **use the dead cone as a region to isolate QGP-induced signal**

The filling of the D and B dead cones in medium is dictated by the interplay of their dead cone angles and the decoherence angle

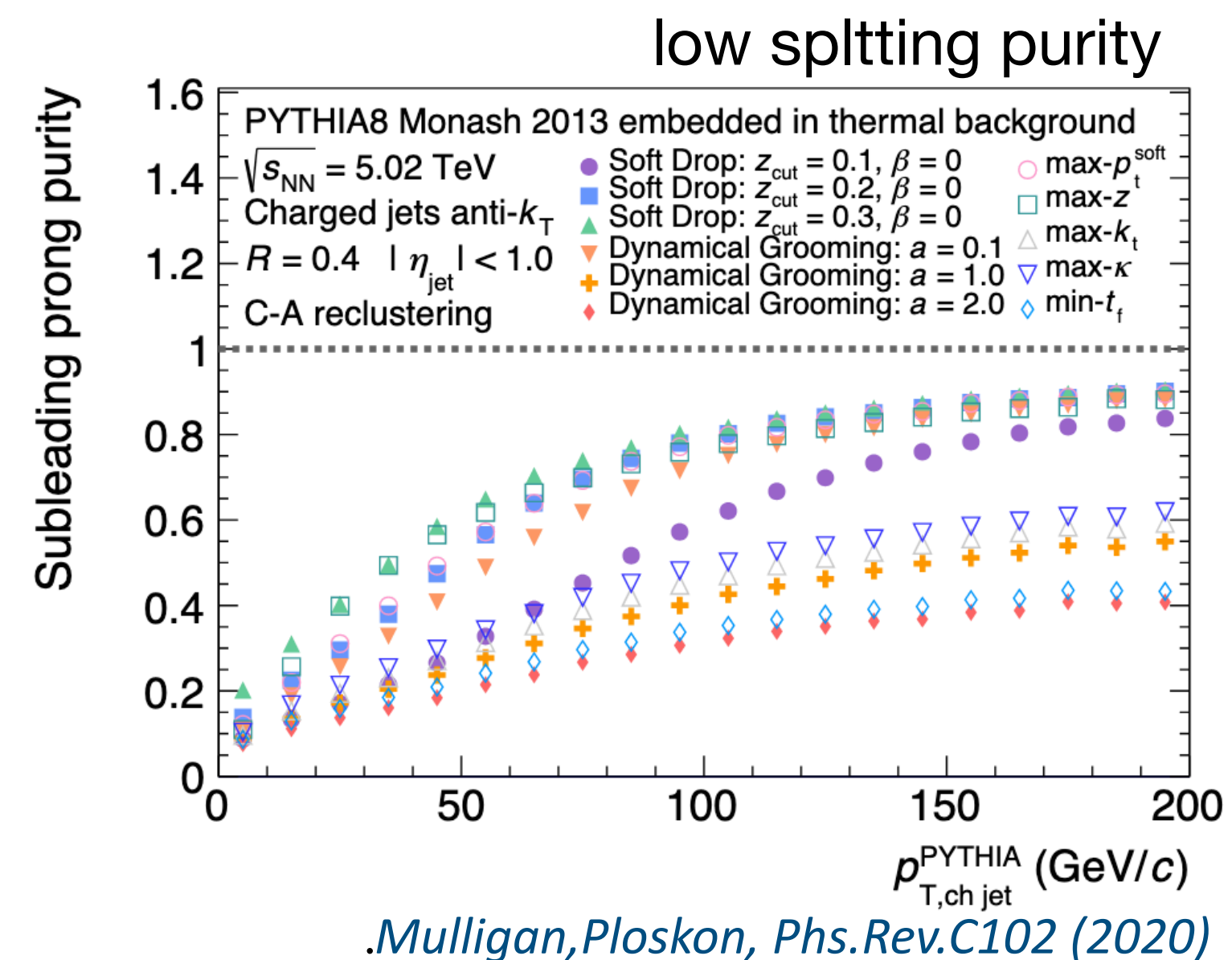
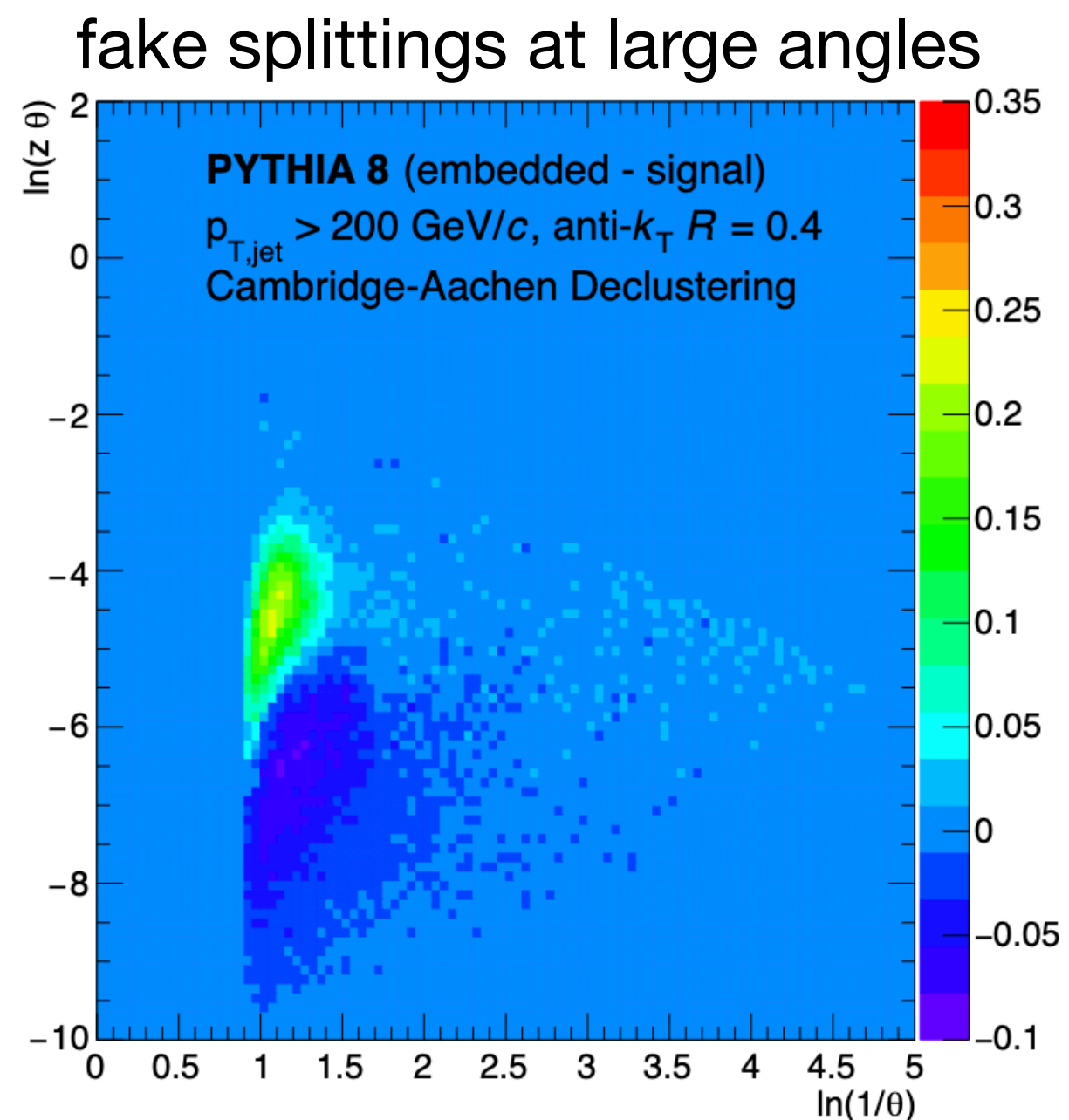
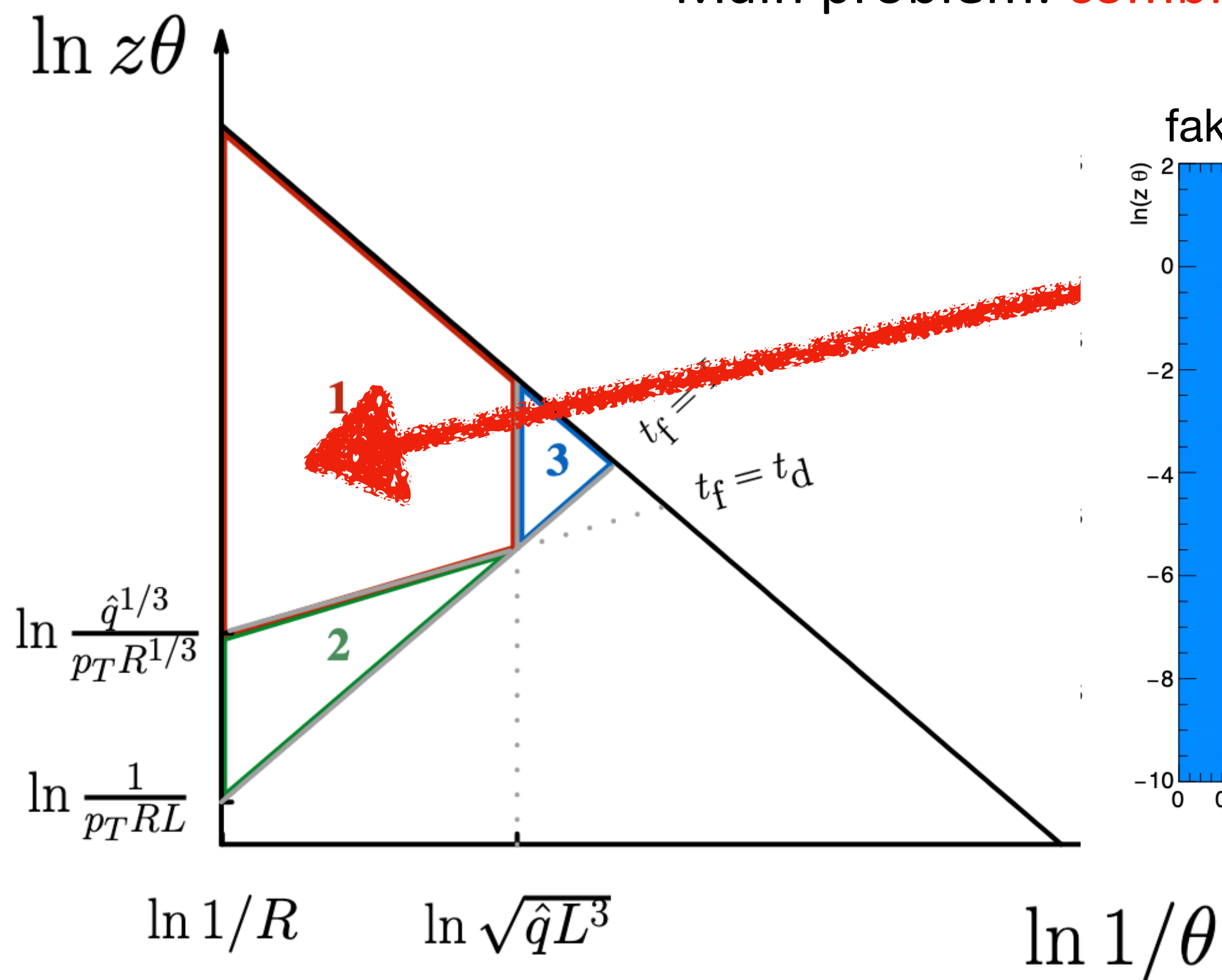
Such interplay is experimentally testable and we have proposed a strategy and an observable





# The heavy-ion case: distortion of the jet tree

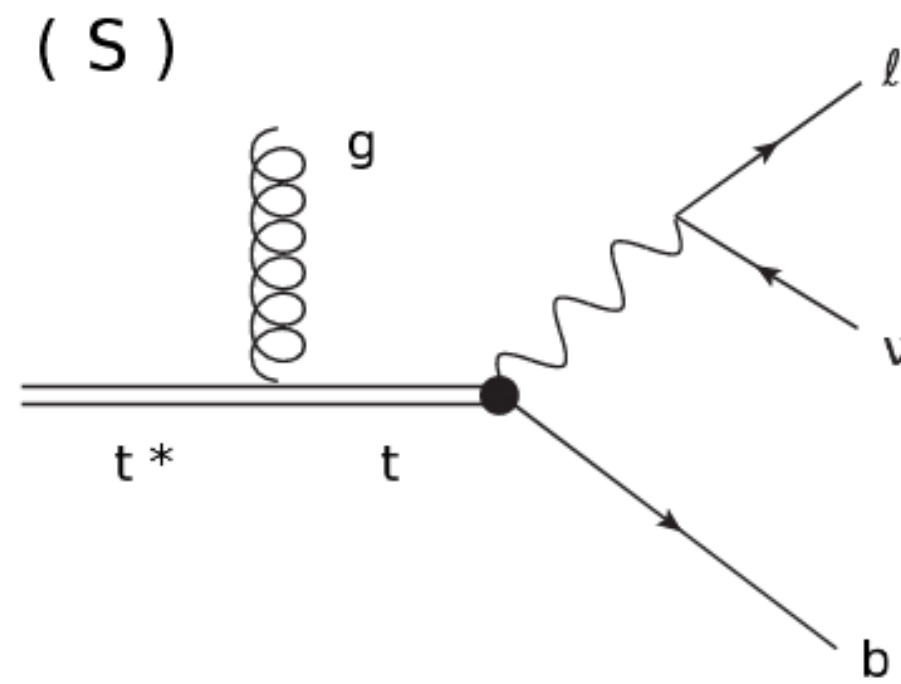
Main problem: **combinatorial background** from the large underlying event



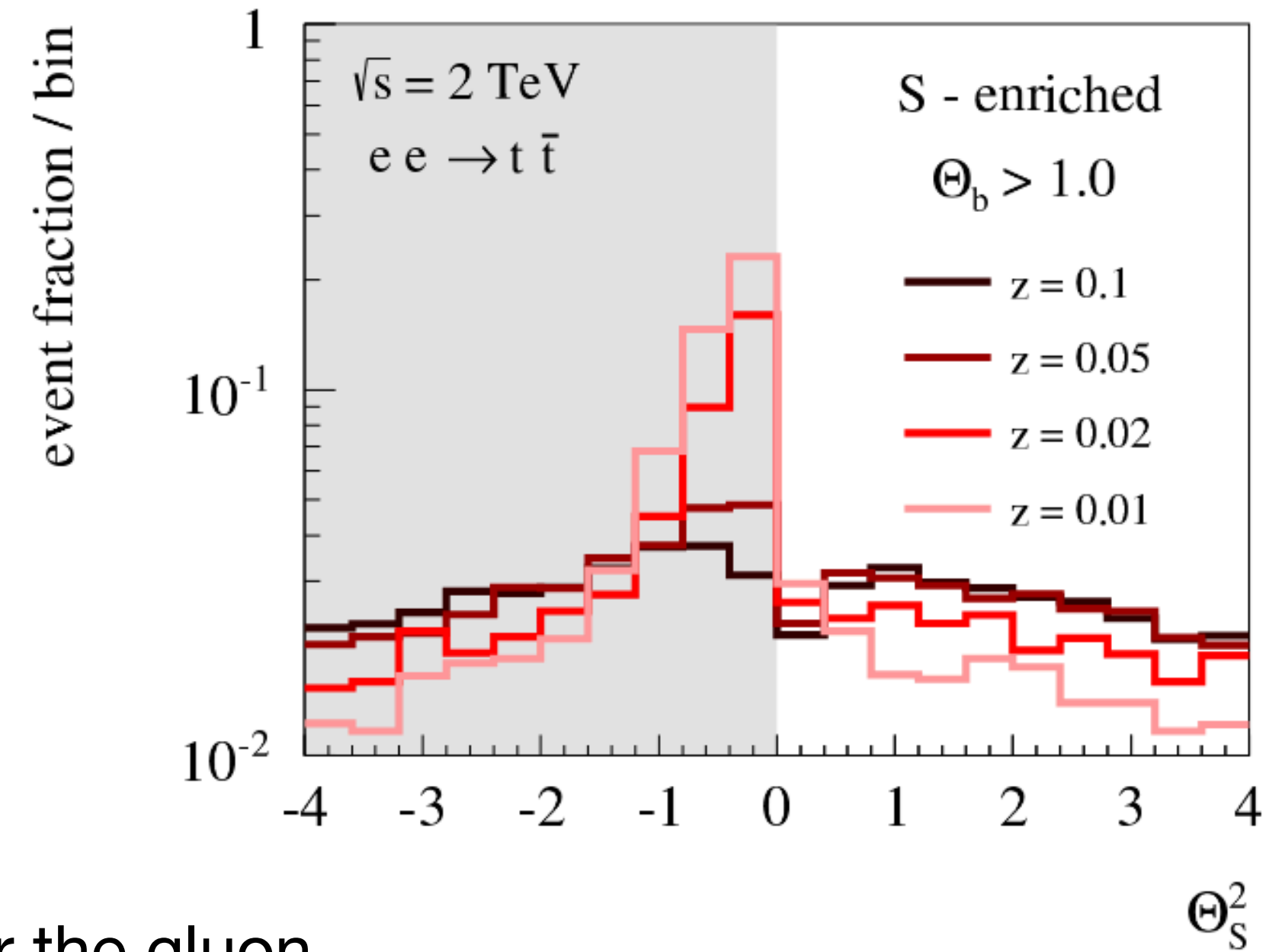
The underlying event creates fake subleading prongs at large angles (where area is maximal)  
 Full measurement of the Lund plane problematic



# The dead cone for heavier quarks: top quarks using SoftDrop



Focus on: a top quark can emit a FSR gluon before decaying into a lepton, neutrino and b-jet



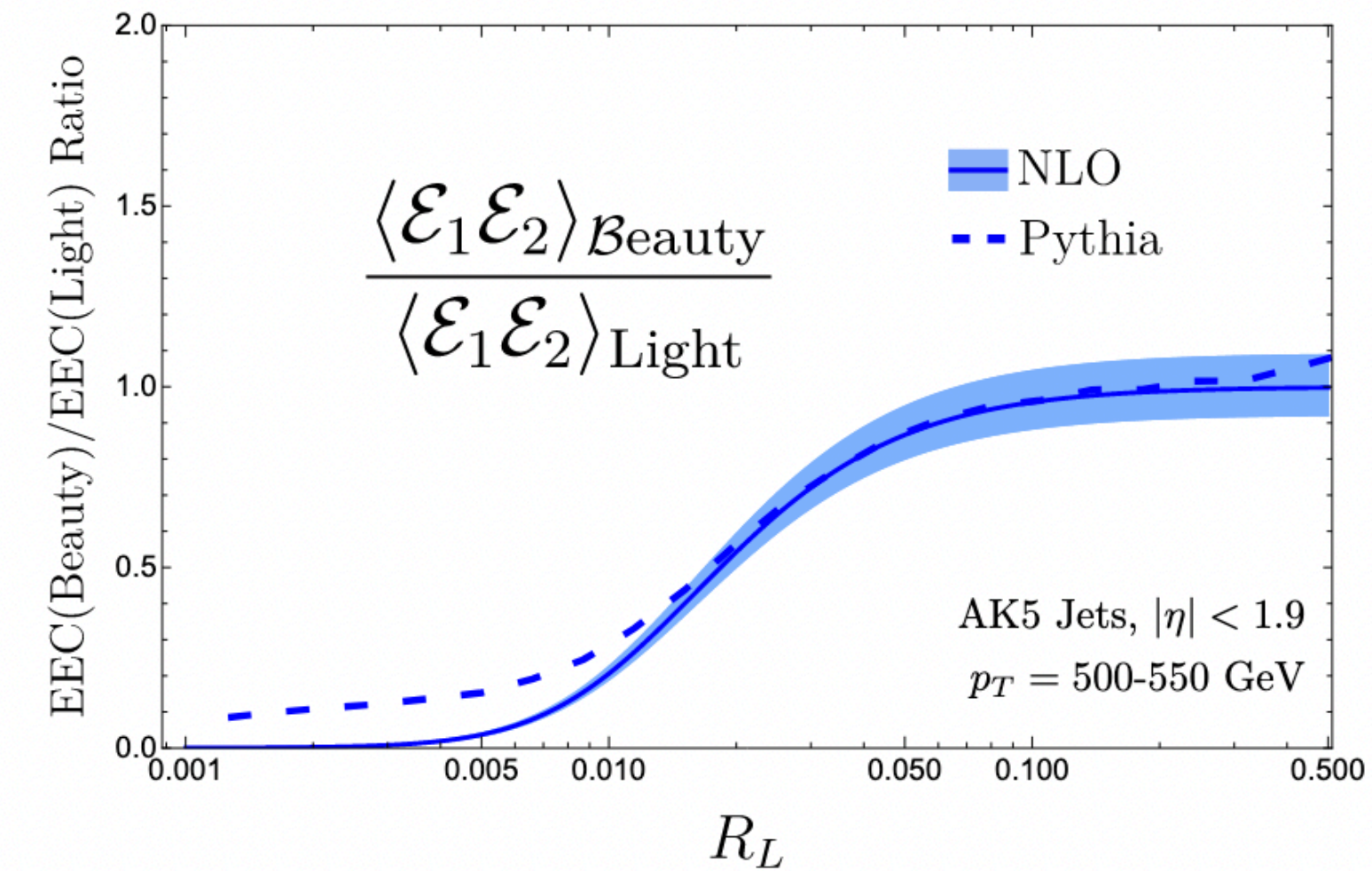
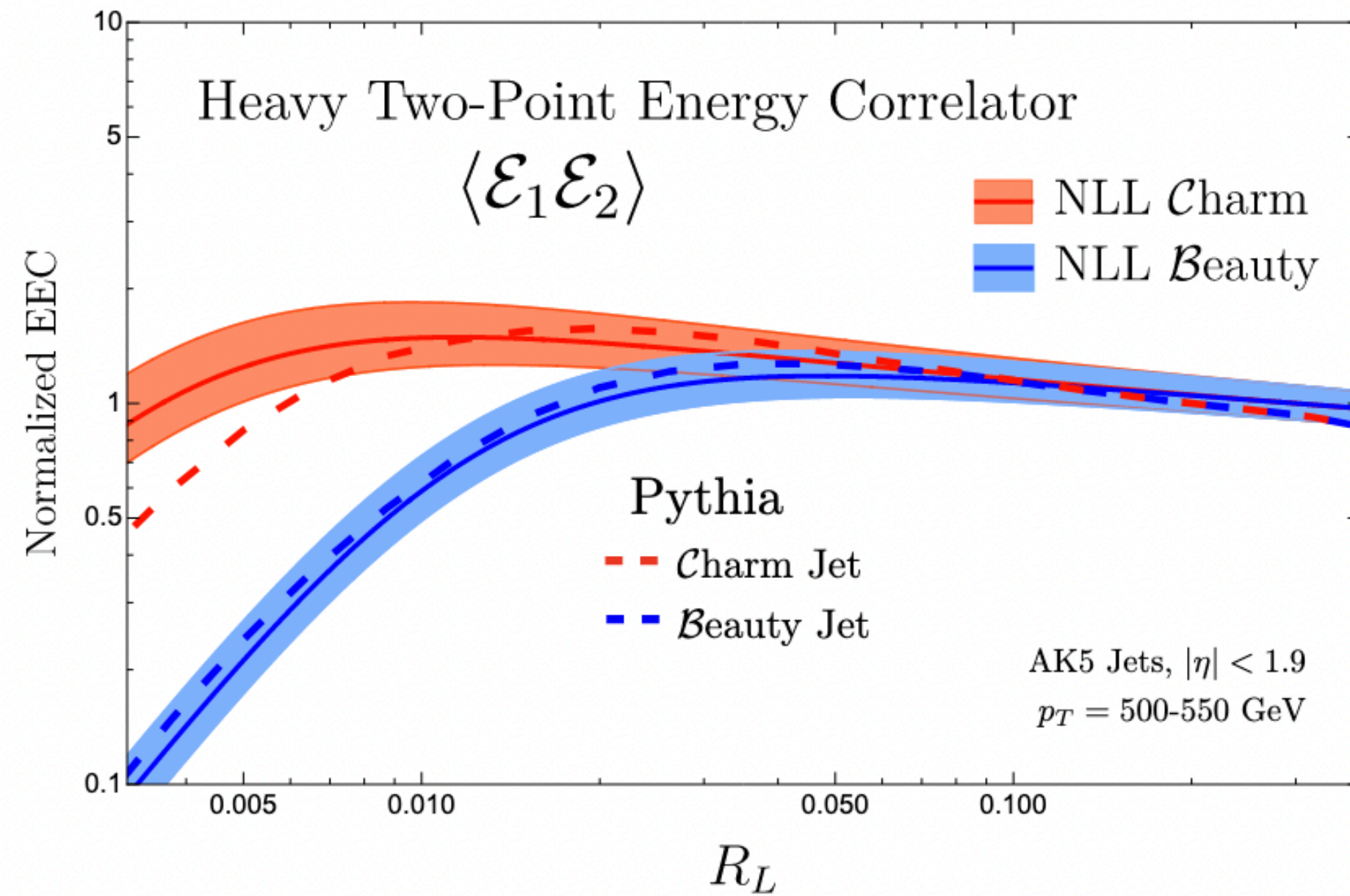
SoftDrop leading prong is b-tagged, subleading prong is proxy for the gluon

Main difficulty: separating radiation from the b and the top quarks and suppression of the background process where the on-shell top decays

for  $z = p_{Tg}/p_{Tt} > 0.05$ , dead cone suppression in the region of  $\Theta_S < 1$

*Maltoni, Selvaggi, Thaler, Phys.Rev.D 94 (2016) 4, 054-15*

# The dead-cone effect, searches using the energy-energy correlators



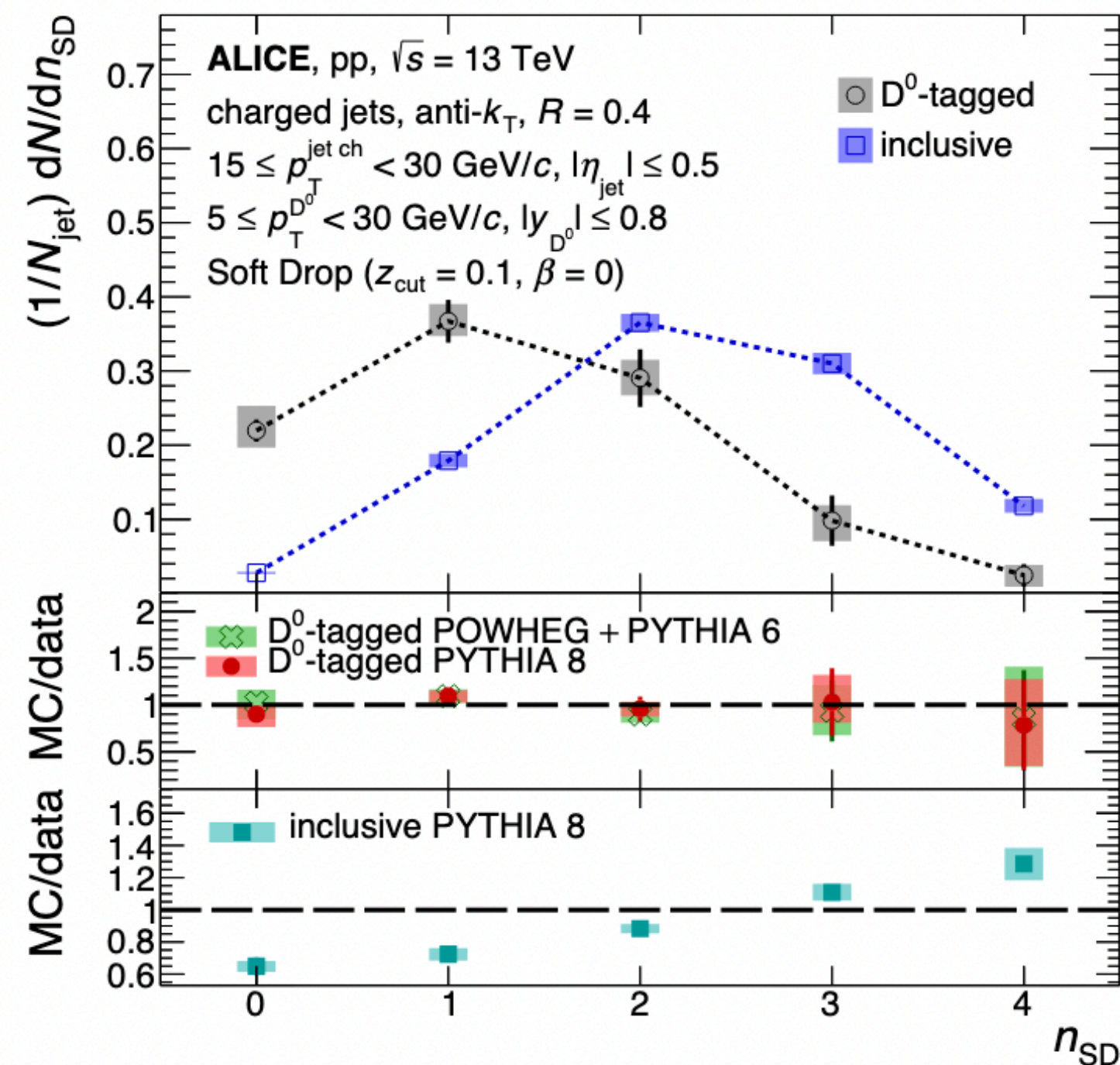
First NLL calculation of a heavy-flavoured jet substructure observable in pp collisions  
 Clear suppression of small angles for b-jets, same scaling behaviour as massless for large angular scales

Craft, Lee, Mecca, Moulton, [2210.09311](#)

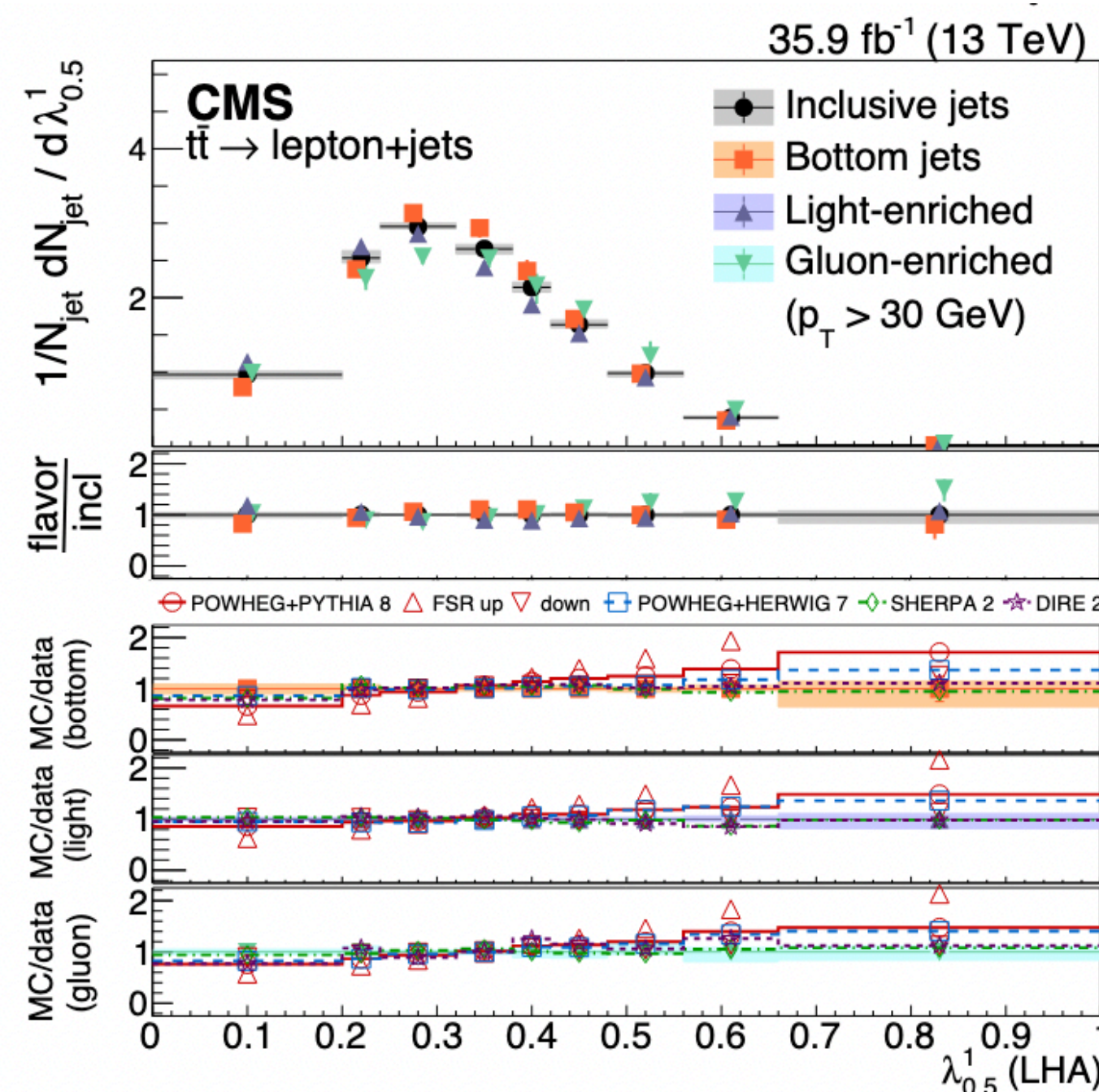


# Indirect measurements of the dead cone: a selection

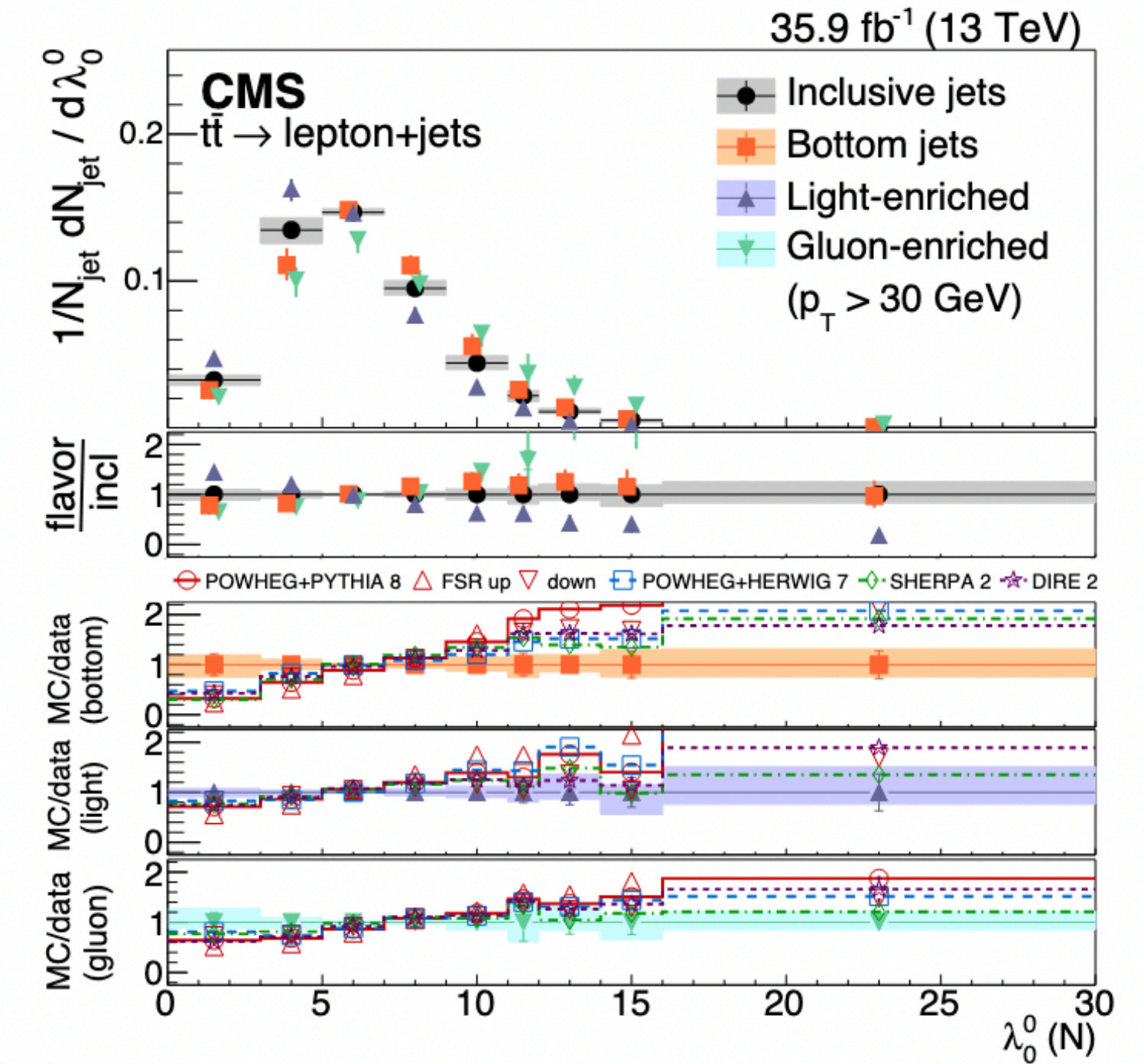
## Number of hard prongs



## intrajet multiplicity



## Angularities

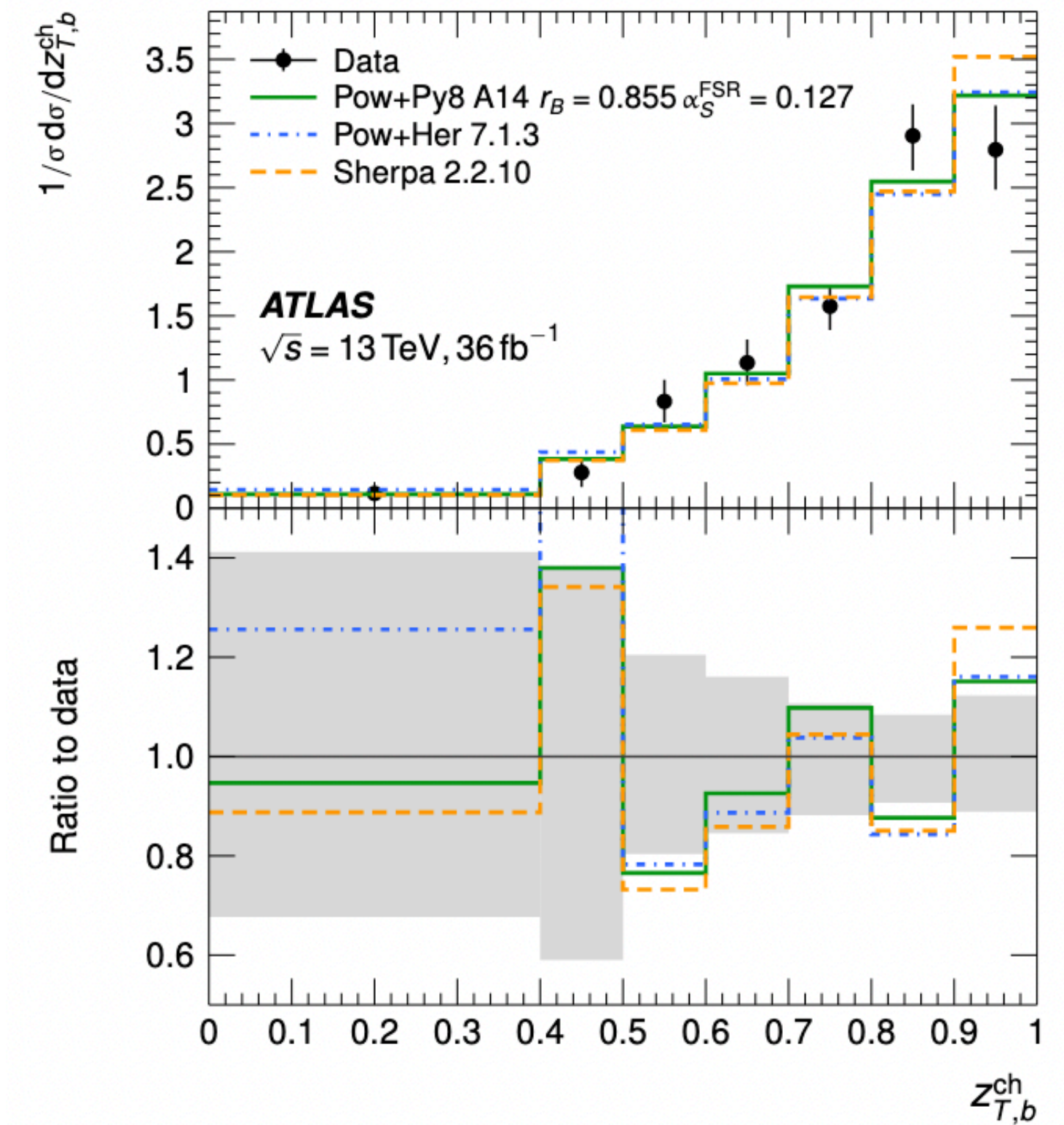
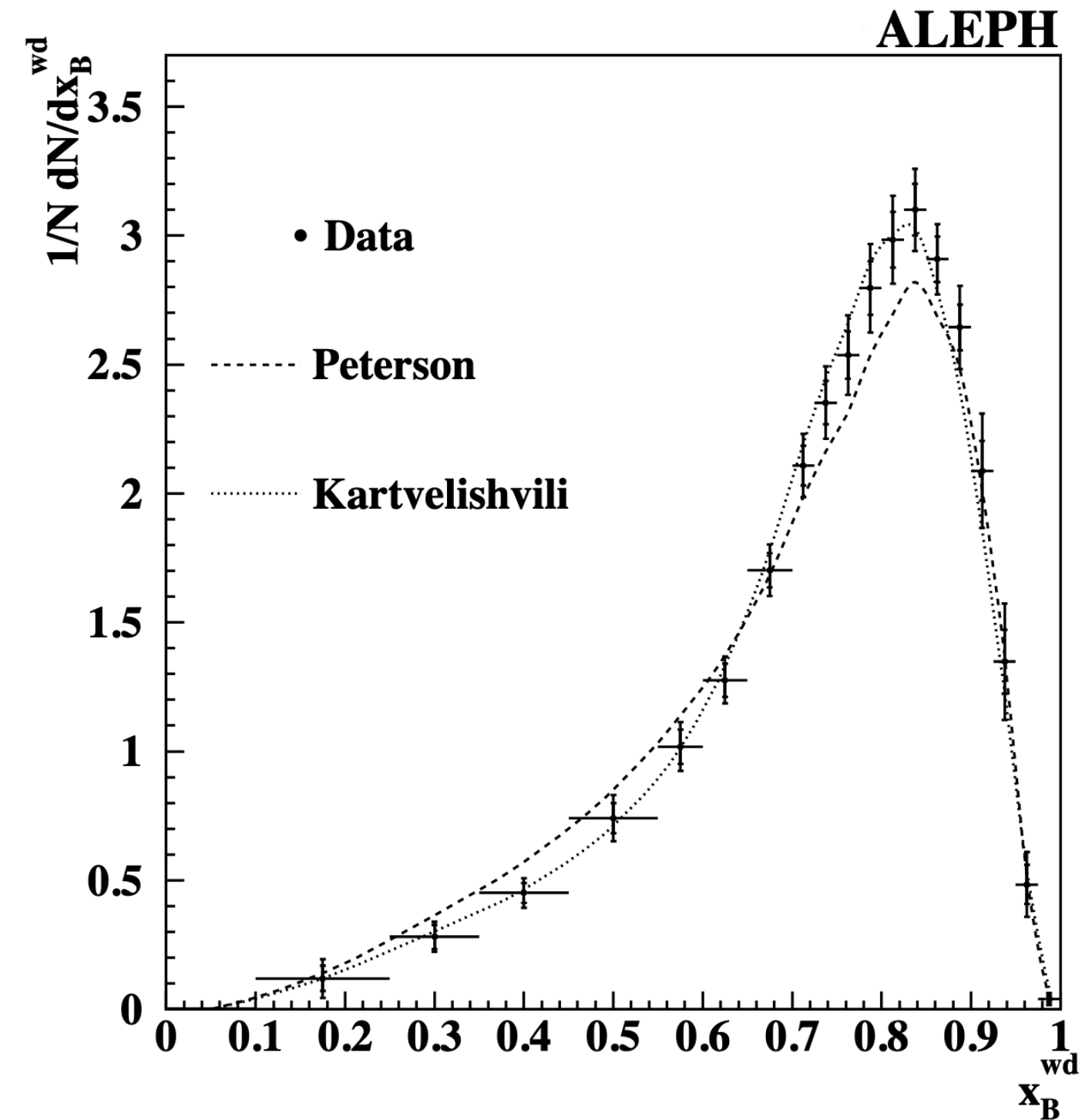
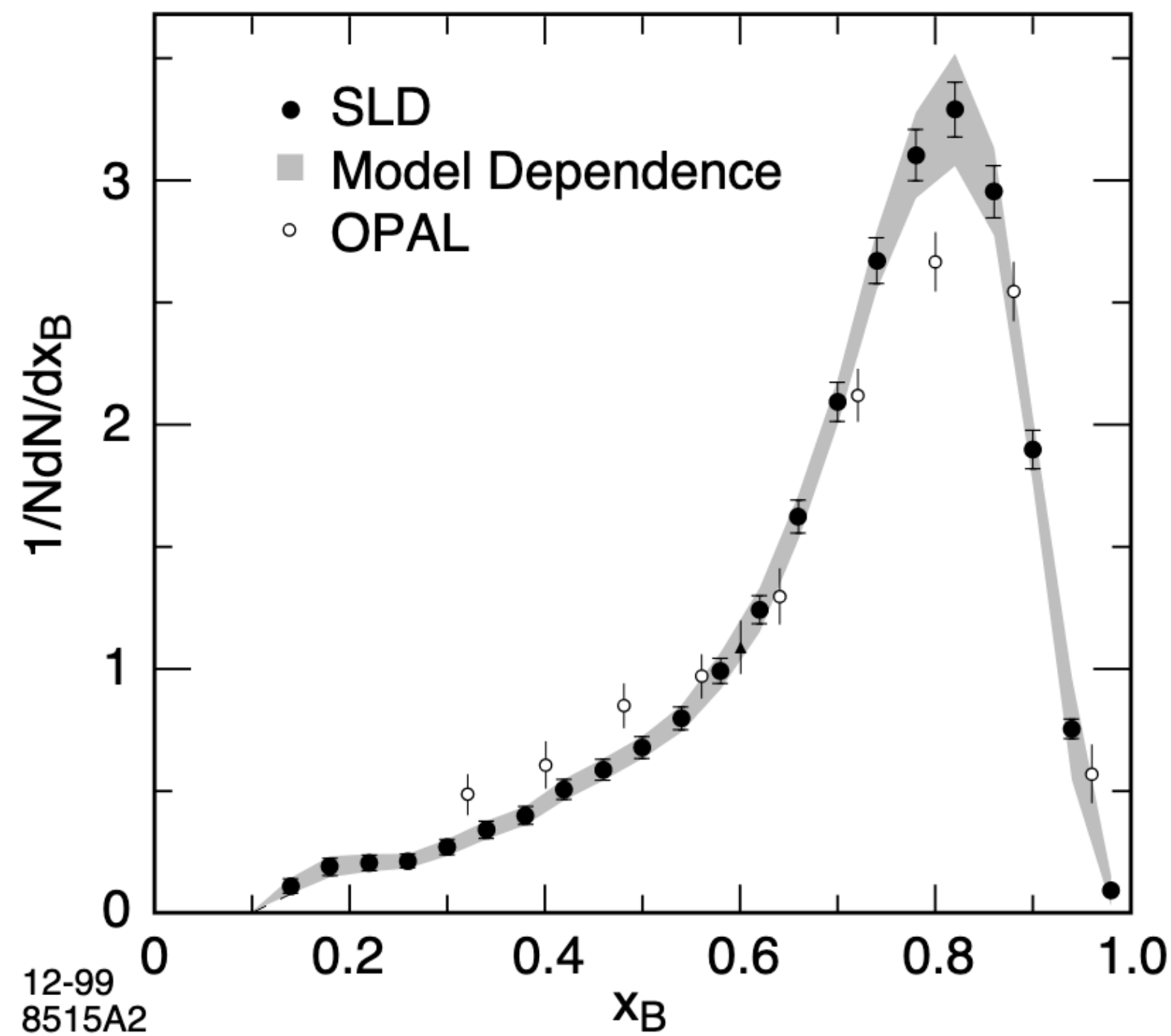


Lower intrajet multiplicities (measured via the number of SoftDrop prongs) in D-jets  
 Comparison to inclusive includes q/g differences

Bottom jet multiplicity and angularity very similar to inclusive's  
 Light-enriched jets have smaller multiplicities than b-jets  
 Impact of the heavy flavour hadron decay daughters?



# Impact of the dead cone on fragmentation: a selection



[SLD, Phys.Rev.Lett 84, 4300-4304 \(2000\)](#)

[ALPEH, Phys.Lett.B512, 30-40 \(2001\)](#)

[OPAL, Phys.Lett.B 364, 93-106 \(1995\)](#)

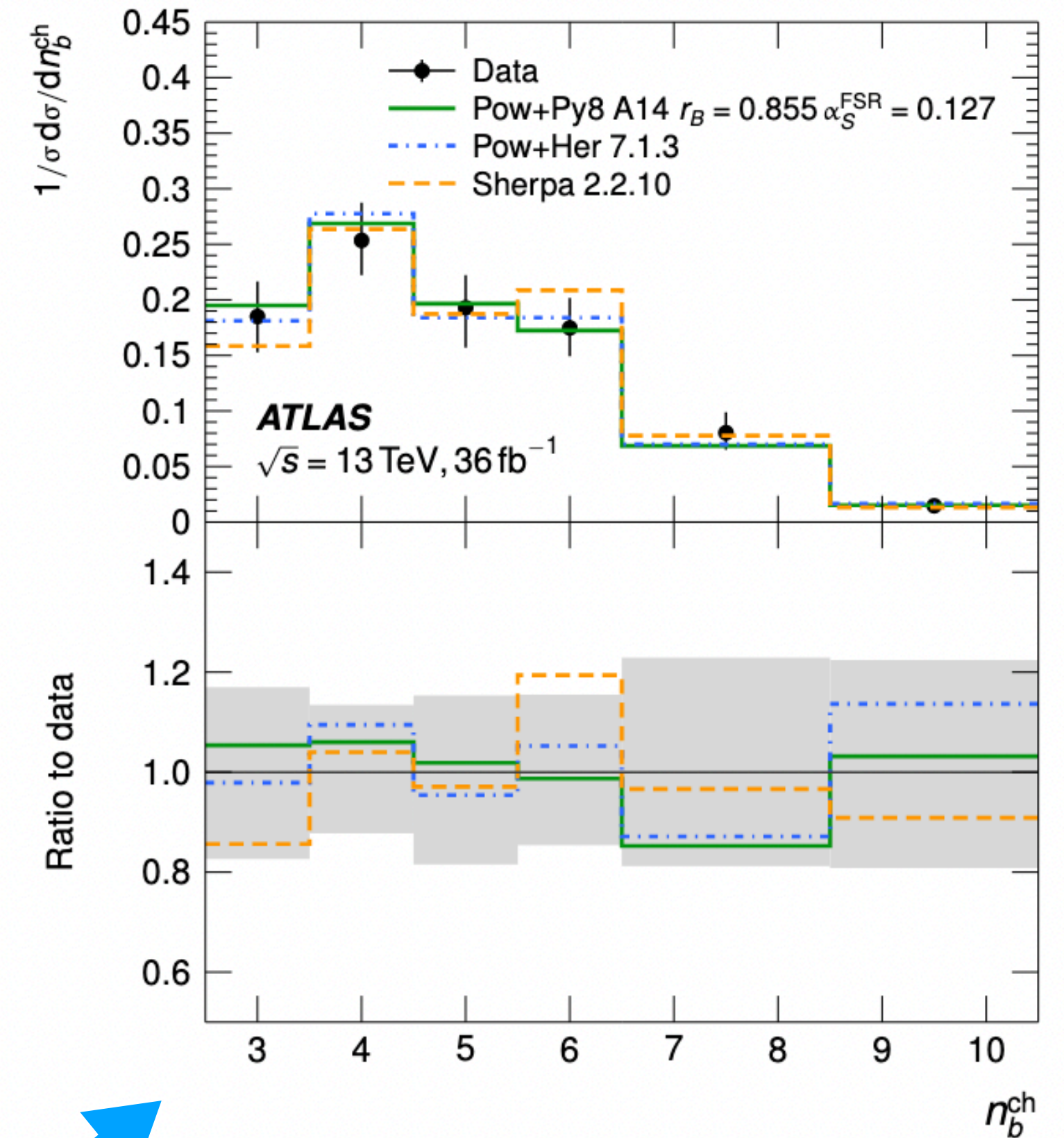
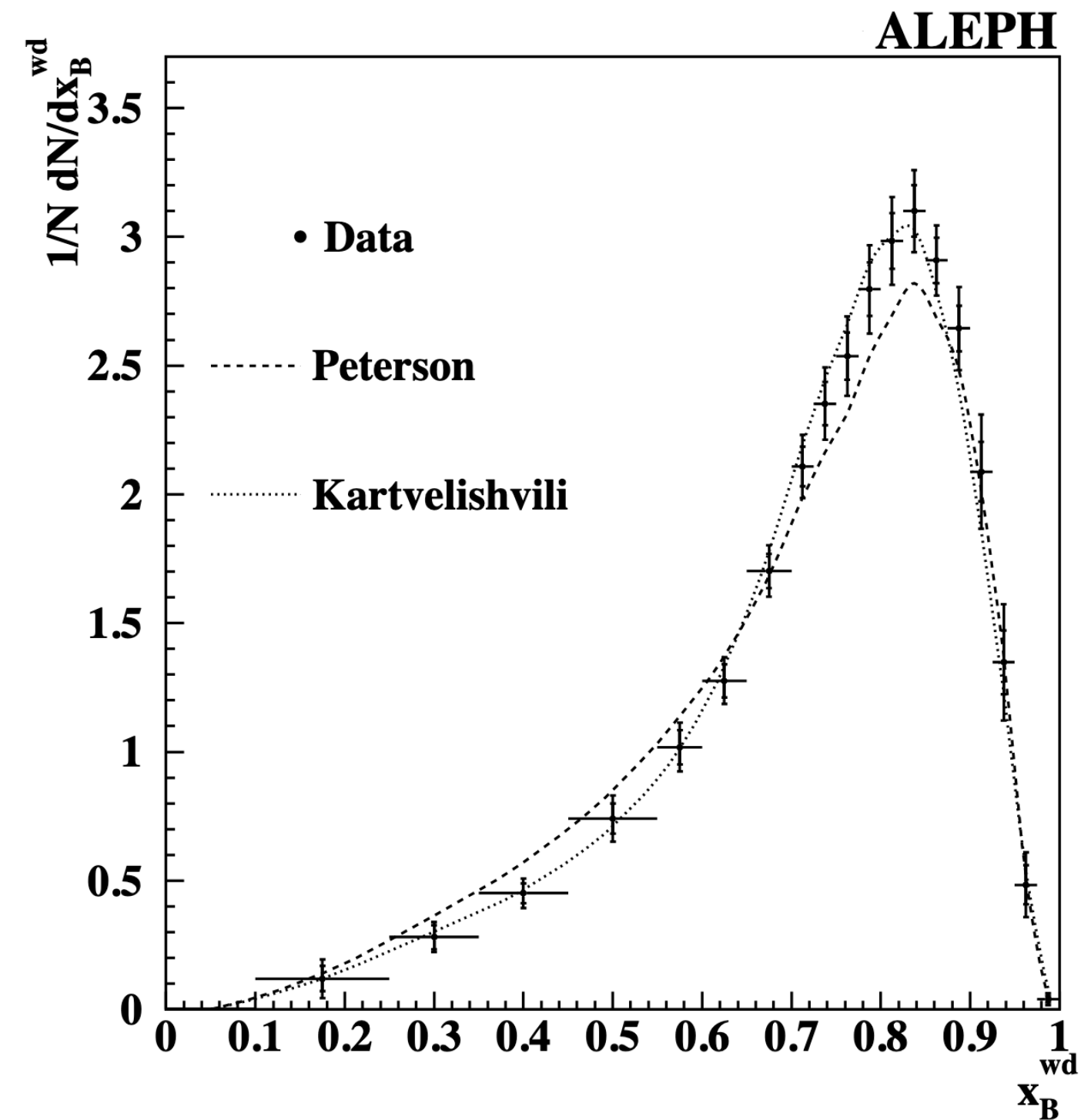
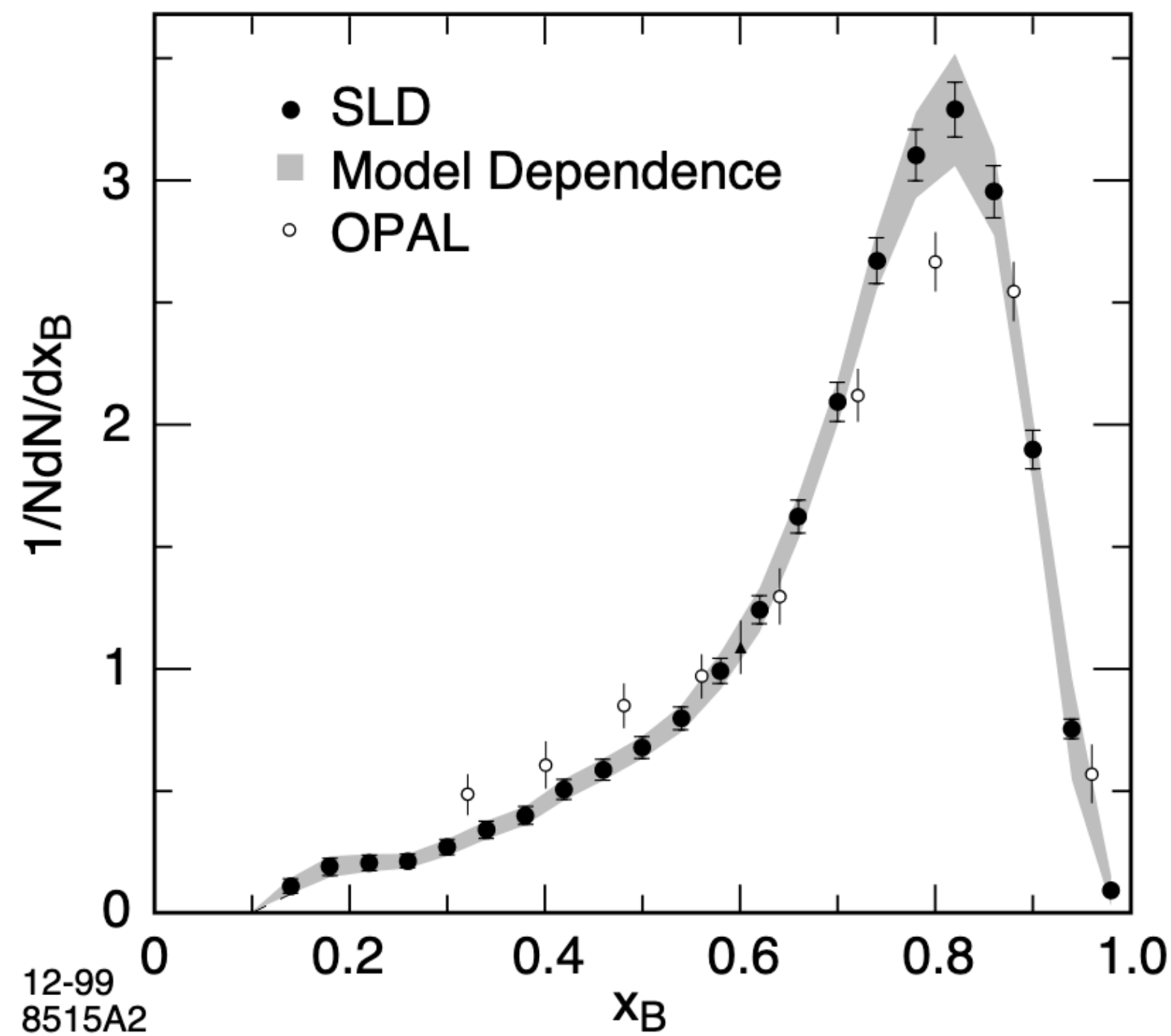
[DELPHI, Z.Phys.C57 181-196 \(1993\)](#)

[ATLAS, Phys.Rev.D 106 \(2022\) 032008](#)

Distinct peak of the fragmentation function at high values of  $x_B$  -> hard fragmentation  
 ATLAS uses b-tagging and aggregates the charged particles from the secondary vertex to access the B-hadron transverse momentum



# Impact of the dead cone on fragmentation: a selection

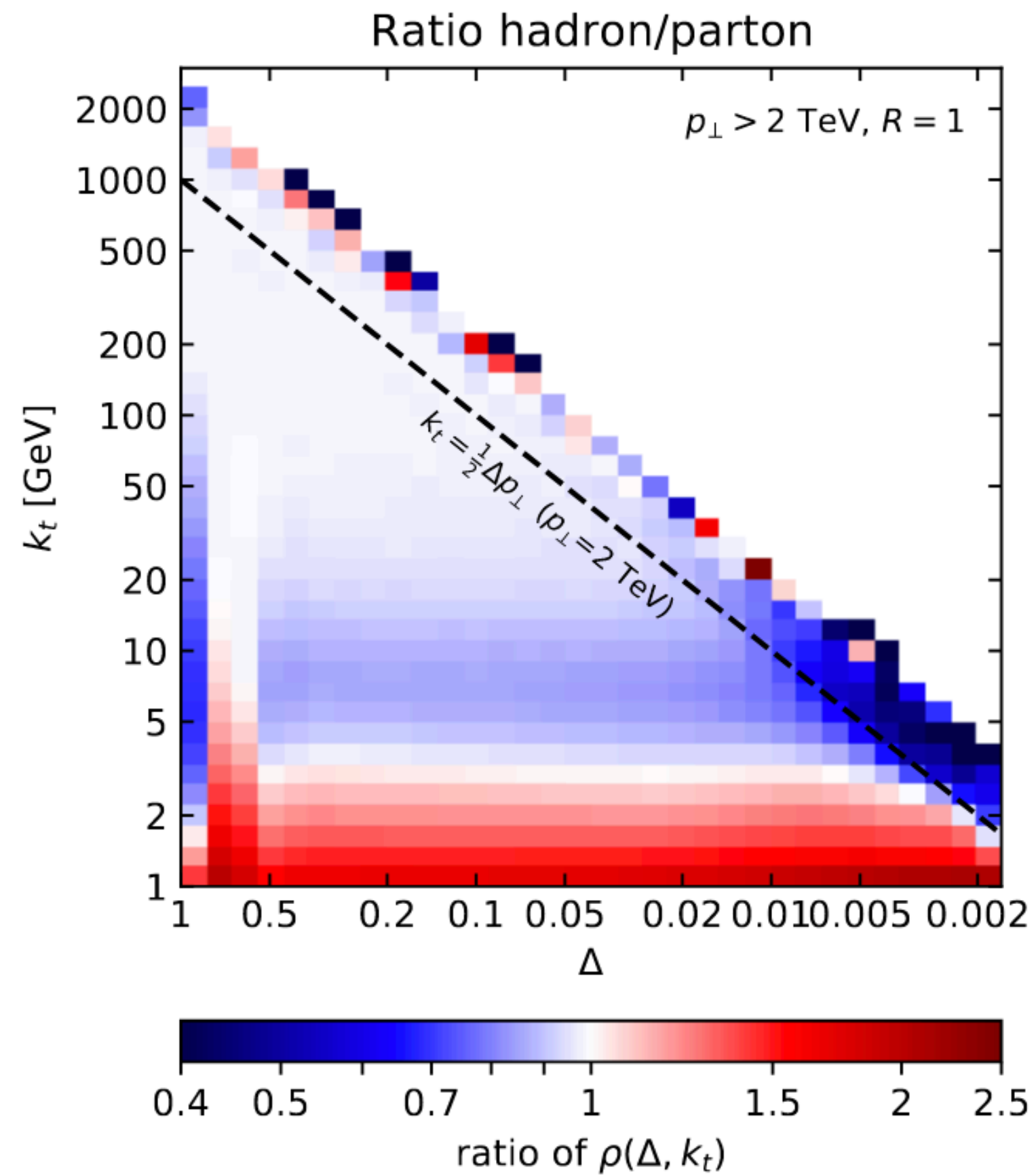


SLD, *Phys.Rev.Lett* 84, 4300-4304 (2000)  
 ALPEH, *Phys.Lett.B*512, 30-40 (2001)  
 OPAL, *Phys.Lett.B* 364, 93-106 (1995)  
 DELPHI, *Z.Phys.C*57 181-196 (1993)  
 ATLAS, *Phys.Rev.D* 106 (2022) 032008

Number of charged aggregated particles in the secondary vertex has a broad distribution that can contaminate the jet tree or the substructure observable if not taken care of

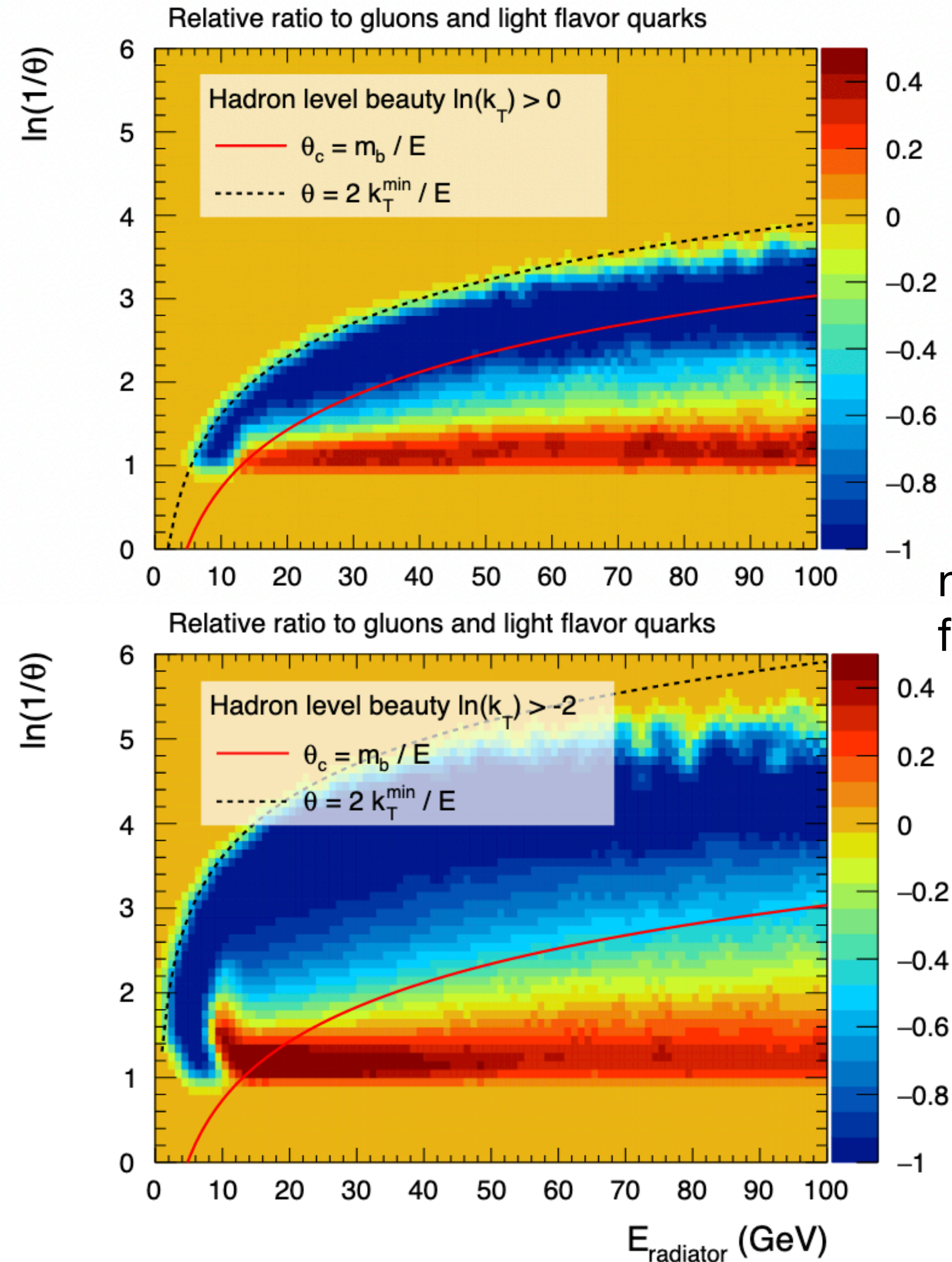


# The darkening of the dead cone: hadronisation



Hadronisation naturally dominates the low- $k_T$  region

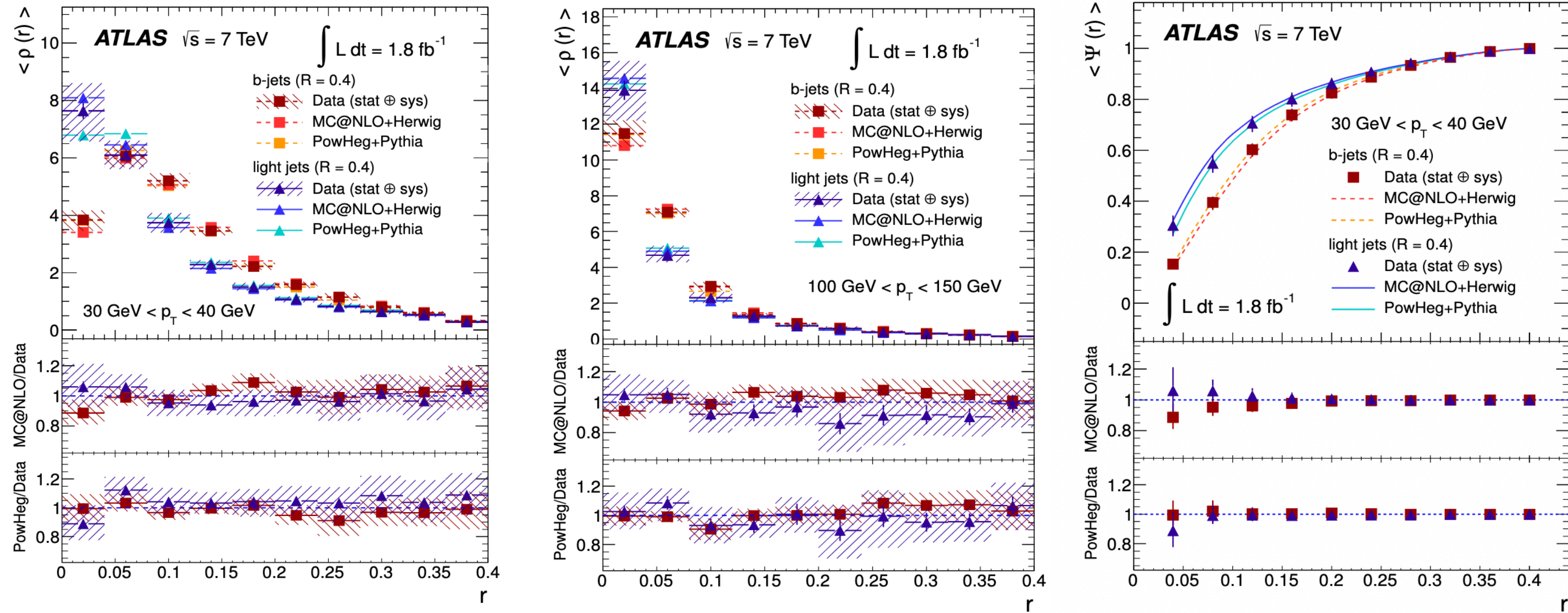
*Lifson, Salam, Soyez, JHEP 10 (2020)*



non-perturbative splittings  
fill the dead cone

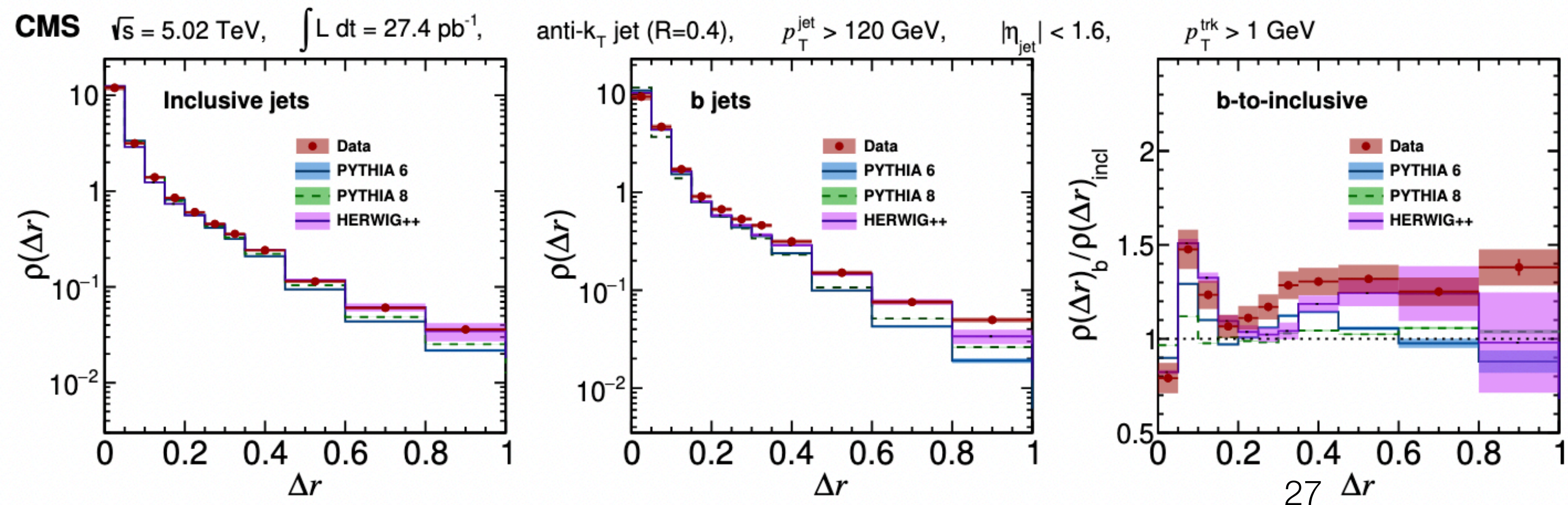


# Impact of the dead cone on fragmentation: a selection



Jet transverse profiles in top-quark pair events  
 The cores of light jets have a larger energy density than those of b-jets  
 Differences are smaller for higher jet transverse momentum as expected for mass effects

*ATLAS, Eur.Phys.J.C (2013)73:2676*



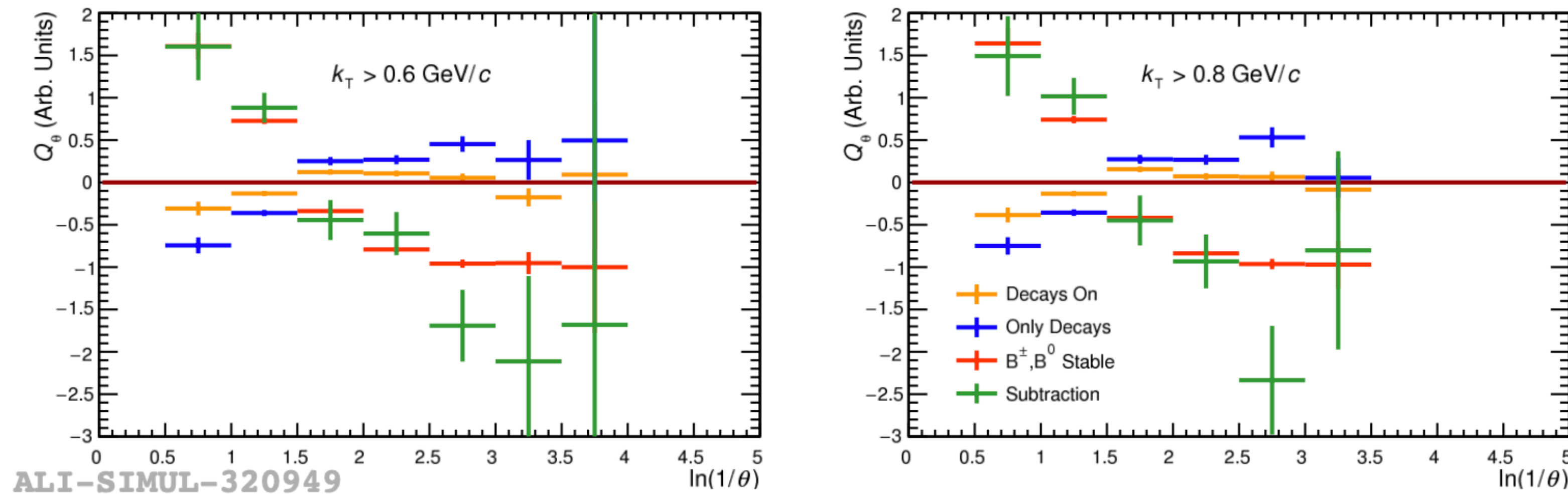
Similar qualitative picture in dijet events and high jet  $p_T$   
 Reference is inclusive jets (q/g effects)

*CMS, JHEP05 (2021) 054*



# The darkening of the dead cone: decays

*K.Garner, QM19*



Crucial to fully reconstruct the heavy flavour hadron, otherwise decays create extra splittings in the jet tree

See in the plot: **B hadrons are stable** vs **B hadrons decay**

When decays are on, no dead cone is visible!

See the **purely decay splittings in blue**

Full reconstruction of the heavy flavour hadron is statistically painful, new strategies are needed if b/c-tagging techniques are used