# Energy Correlators at the Collider Frontier

## Ian Moult



Jets!



#### **Exclusive Processes**

• Tremendous progress in the understanding of exclusive scattering processes: analytic structure, multi-loop perturbative data, amplituhedron, S-matrix bootstrap,...



Practical Outcome: Ability to accurately describe complicated SM scattering processes.

#### The High Multiplicity Regime

- A complementary regime: high multiplicity
  - Collisions with  $E \gg m_{gap}$
  - Conformal Field Theories





• Good observables are correlations in fluxes at (null) infinity.

#### Motivation

- How can we characterize a theory using asymptotic data?
- Theoretical motivation:
  - What is the space of observables at null infinity?
  - How are they related to (C)FT data?
  - How do we constrain theories in the absence of S-matrix and/ or local ops (e.g. CFT coupled to gravity)
- Phenomenological motivation:
  - Can we relate asymptotic measurements to parameters of the underlying theory? (couplings, transport coefficients, ....)
  - Can we identify universal features that can be computed to high precision?



• Wealth of collider data provides a practical testing ground.



#### Jet Substructure: Searches

• Jet Substructure uses the internal structure of jets to provide qualitatively new ways to study physics at the LHC.



• Its introduction in 2008 by Butterworth, Davison, Rubin and Salam, along with anti- $k_T$  by Cacciari, Soyez, Salam, and the starting of the LHC, reinvigorated the study of jets in QCD.

#### Jet Substructure: Quantum Field Theory

• Beyond searching for new physics, much more subtle questions about QCD are imprinted in collider energy flux:







#### Energy Correlators in Data

#### • Progress bridging theory and experiment across collider systems!



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#### Outline

• Decoding Energy Flux

• Energy Correlators: Scaling and Multi-Point Correlators





• Imaging Intrinsic and Emergent Scales of QCD



# Decoding Energy Flux



#### **Correlation Functions**

• In condensed matter physics or cosmology we decode the underlying dynamics using correlation functions.



#### • Can we achieve a similarly coherent picture of collider physics?

#### Defining the Problem

• What is a detector?



[Caron Huot, Kologlu, Kravchuk, Meltzer, Simmons Duffin]



• To be able to understand subtle signals in energy flux, we must understand what a detector is in Quantum Field Theory.

#### Calorimeter Cells in Field Theory

• Calorimeter cells can be given a field theoretic definition in terms of

light-ray operators.

[Hofman, Maldacena], [Belitsky, Hohenegger, Korchemsky, Sokatchev, Zhiboedov] [Korchemsky, Sterman] Ore, Sterman] Basham, Brown, Ellis, Love]



• From the perspective of QFT, jet substructure is the study of correlation functions of energy flow operators.

#### **Energy Correlators**

• Correlation functions  $\langle 0|\mathcal{O}^{\dagger}\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1)\cdots\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_k)\mathcal{O}|0\rangle$  take an interesting intermediate position between amplitudes and correlation functions.



• Provide an interesting example of observables that are well defined at weak coupling, strong coupling, in a CFT, with gravity, ....

# Energy Correlators: Scaling and Multi-Point Correlators



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### **Scaling Behavior**



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#### Scaling Behavior in QFT

• Scaling behavior in Euclidean regime well understood.

#### $\lambda\text{-point}$ of Helium







$$\mathcal{O}(x)\mathcal{O}(0) = \\ \sum x^{\gamma_i} c_i \mathcal{O}_i$$

#### The OPE Limit of Lightray Operators

• Energy flow operators admit a Lorentzian OPE: "the lightray OPE"



[Hofman, Maldacena] [Chang, Kologlu, Kravchuk, Simmons Duffin, Zhiboedov] QCD: [Dixon, Moult, Zhu]

• Predicts universal scaling behavior in correlations of energy flux at energies  $E\gg\Lambda_{\rm QCD}$  . See early work by [Konishi, Ukawa, Veneziano]

#### Scaling Behavior in Jets

• Scaling measured inside jets by STAR, ALICE and CMS from 15 GeV to 1784 GeV:

An experimental realization of the detector OPE!



• Can we accurately extract anomalous exponents of different detectors?

#### The Spectrum of a Jet

• The light-ray OPE predicts that the *N*-point correlators develop an anomalous scaling that depends on *N*.



• Directly probes the spectrum of (twist-2) lightray operators from asymptotic energy flux.



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#### Anomalous Scaling



Uses scaling anomalous dimensions at three-loop order.

Beautiful quantitative test of QFT!

#### The Strong Coupling

• Use scaling to extract value of the strong coupling constant  $\alpha_s$  at 4% accuracy.



• Very clear target for improved perturbative calculations. e.g. NNLO  $2 \rightarrow 3$  hard functions, NP corrections, ... not yet included.

## Higher Point Functions in Energy Flux



#### **Multipoint Correlators**

• Higher-point correlators probe detailed aspects of the underlying microscopic interactions. e.g. CMB three-point functions allow to distinguish models of inflation.



#### • What is the structure of higher-point functions of energy flux?

#### Multipoint Correlators

• The only explicit results for correlators with N>2 were the remarkable strong coupling results of Hofman and Maldacena:

$$\begin{split} \langle \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1) \cdots \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_n) \rangle &= \left(\frac{q}{4\pi}\right)^n \left[ 1 + \sum_{i < j} \frac{6\pi^2}{\lambda} [(\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_j)^2 - \frac{1}{3}] + \right. \\ &\left. + \frac{\beta}{\lambda^{3/2}} [\sum_{i < j < k} (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_j) (\vec{n}_j \cdot \vec{n}_k) (\vec{n}_i \cdot \vec{n}_k) + \cdots ] + o(\lambda^{-2}) \right] \end{split}$$

• The wealth of techniques developed to compute perturbative scattering amplitudes can be applied to multi-point correlators at weak coupling.



#### Correlators in Perturbation Theory

- Two approaches to calculate energy correlators:
  - 1 Light transforming N-point functions of stress tensors:

$$\langle 0|\mathcal{O}^{\dagger}T\cdots T\mathcal{O}|0\rangle \rightarrow \langle 0|\mathcal{O}^{\dagger}\mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_{1})\cdots \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_{k})\mathcal{O}|0\rangle$$

Two Point NLO in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ : [Belitsky, Hohenegger, Korchemsky, Sokatchev, Zhiboedov] Two Point NNLO in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ : [Henn, Sokatchev, Yan, Zhiboedov] LO Charge-Charge Correlator in QCD: [Chicherin, Henn, Sokatchev, Yan]

**2** Perturbative phase space integrals using (squared) form factors:



$$\frac{\langle \Psi | \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_1) \cdots \mathcal{E}(\vec{n}_k) | \Psi \rangle}{\langle \Psi | \Psi \rangle} = \sum_{i_1, \dots, i_k} \int d\sigma \prod_{j=1}^k E_{i_j} \delta(\vec{n}_j - \vec{p}_{i_j}/p_{i_j}^0)$$

Two Point LO in QCD: [Basham, Ellis, Brown, Love] Two Point NLO in QCD: [Dixon, Luo, Shtabovenko, Yang, Zhu] Three Point Collinear LO in QCD: [Chen, Luo, Moult, Yang, Zhang, Zhu] Three Point General Angle LO in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ : [Yan, Zhang] Three Point General Angle LO in QCD: [Yang, Zhang] Four Point Collinear LO in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$ : [Chicherin, Moult, Sokatchev, Yan, Zhu]

#### Correlators in Perturbation Theory

• For generic angles, the correlator depends on the cross ratios  $\zeta_{ij} = \frac{1 - \cos \theta_{ij}}{2}$ , and the source.



- In the collinear (OPE) limit,  $\zeta_{ij} \rightarrow 0$ , it becomes a function of 2(N-2) variables that is independent of the source.
- The LO contribution to the N-point function is given by a *finite* integral in (N-1) dimensional projective space of the *universal* splitting functions:



 This limit can be physically measured inside high energy jets at the LHC.

#### Three-Point Correlator at Weak Coupling

- First non-trivial correlator: tree level three-point correlator in the collinear limit  $G(z, \bar{z})$ . [Chen, Luo, Moult, Yang, Zhang, Zhu]
- Turns out to have an elegant perturbative structure. e.g. in  $\mathcal{N}=4$

$$G_{\mathcal{N}=4}(z) = \frac{1+u+v}{2uv}(1+\zeta_2) - \frac{1+v}{2uv}\log(u) - \frac{1+u}{2uv}\log(v) - (1+u+v)(\partial_u + \partial_v)\Phi(z) + \frac{(1+u^2+v^2)}{2uv}\Phi(z) + \frac{(z-\bar{z})^2(u+v+u^2+v^2+u^2v+uv^2)}{4u^2v^2}\Phi(z) + \frac{(u-1)(u+1)}{2uv^2}D_2^+(z) + \frac{(v-1)(v+1)}{2u^2}D_2^+(1-z) + \frac{(u-v)(u+v)}{2uv}D_2^+\left(\frac{z}{z-1}\right)$$

• where  $\Phi$  and  $D_2^+$  are

$$\Phi(z) = \frac{2}{z - \bar{z}} \left( \operatorname{Li}_2(z) - \operatorname{Li}_2(\bar{z}) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \log(1 - z) - \log(1 - \bar{z}) \right) \log(z\bar{z}) \right)$$
$$D_2^+(z) = \operatorname{Li}_2(1 - |z|^2) + \frac{1}{2} \log(|1 - z|^2) \log(|z|^2)$$

• Provides important perturbative data for the development of the lightray OPE.

#### Shape Dependence of Non-Gaussianities

• Multipoint correlators can be directly measured in high energy jets: Simple analytic functions for the *actual measured observable!* 

• Non-Gaussianities inside high energy jets at the LHC:

CMS Open Data,  $R_L \in (0.3, 0.4)$ 

LL + LO prediction,  $R_L = 0.35$ 



#### Four Point Correlator

[Chicherin, Moult, Sokatchev, Yan, Zhu]

- Simple structure makes energy correlators a nice playground for exploration of *physical observables* in perturbation theory.
- Four point correlator computed in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  SYM by direct integration in parameter space, using simple form of  $1 \rightarrow 4$  splitting function.





Kai Yan

- Compact result expressed in terms of weight three polylogarithms: much structure still to be explored.
- Would be interesting to extend to QCD using known  $1\to 4$  splitting functions. [Del Duca, Duhr, Haindl, Lazopoulos, Michel]
- Can one push to higher points or make general statements?.

#### The Four Point Correlator

• Intricate view of correlations of energy flow. Access to OPE limits, spinning operators, ...



#### The Four Point Correlator

# Experimental tour de force to enable precision measurements of higher point correlators. $p_T > 100 \text{ GeV}$ $0.1 < R_L < 0.2$

#### Thanks to Simon Rothman and Phil Harris + Kyle Lee

#### The Four Point Correlator

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#### Multi-point Correlators at Weak Coupling

- Has motivated the theoretical exploration of higher point correlators.
- Integrand up to 11 points in  $\mathcal{N} = 4$  super Yang-Mills.
- Hints of elliptic and Calabi-Yau structures in integrals for 5 points and [He, Jiang, Yang, Zhang]



• Nice interplay between theory and experiment.

#### Structure in Perturbative Gravity

[Herrmann, Kologlu, Moult]

• Also have an interesting structure in perturbative quantum gravity.



• Currently investigating higher point correlators...

### Imaging Intrinsic and Emergent Scales of QCD



#### LHC Targets:

- Measurements on more complicated states:
  - Imaging the Quark Gluon Plasma













[Andres, Dominguez, Holguin, Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, Marquet, Moult]

#### Quark Gluon Plasma

• Heavy ion collisions provide an example of an extremely complicated asymptotic state, where we do not understand the microscopic dynamics that created it.





• Nice interplay between *pp* and heavy ion jet substructure communities.

• QGP scales cleanly imprinted in two-point correlation.



[CMS-PAS-HIN-23-004]

[Andres, Dominguez, Holguin, Kunnawalkam Elayavalli, Marquet, Moult]

• Large angle enhancement visible in ratio.



• Theory calculations in heavy ion extremely complicated, and require large computing power.



• Can we identify robust scalings?

• Lightray OPE allows us to reduce the transverse structure of energy correlator to well defined scaling laws, with coefficients given by matrix elements of lightray operators in nuclear states:



$$\mathcal{E}(n_1)\mathcal{E}(n_2) = \frac{1}{\theta^2} \mathbb{O}_{\tau=2}^{[j=3]} + \mathbb{O}_{\tau=4}^{[j=3]} + \cdots$$

- An old argument of Sterman and Qiu shows that matrix elements of higher twist operators are enhanced in nuclear medium.
- Predicts that the result in Pb-Pb and p-Pb should in fact give a simple scaling law.



$$\frac{\langle \Psi_{QGP}|\mathcal{E}(n_1)\mathcal{E}(n_2)|\Psi_{QGP}\rangle}{\langle \Psi_{pp}|\mathcal{E}(n_1)\mathcal{E}(n_2)|\Psi_{pp}\rangle} = \frac{\langle \Psi_{QGP}|\frac{1}{\theta^2}\mathbb{O}_{\tau=2}^{[j=3]} + \mathbb{O}_{\tau=4}^{[j=3]} + \cdots |\Psi_{QGP}\rangle}{\langle \Psi_{QGP}|\mathbb{O}_{\tau=2}^{[j=3]}|\Psi_{QGP}\rangle} + \theta^2 \frac{\langle \Psi_{QGP}|\mathbb{O}_{\tau=4}^{[j=3]}|\Psi_{QGP}\rangle}{\langle \Psi_{pp}|\mathbb{O}_{\tau=2}^{[j=3]}|\Psi_{pp}\rangle} + \theta^2 \frac{\langle \Psi_{QGP}|\mathbb{O}_{\tau=4}^{[j=3]}|\Psi_{QGP}\rangle}{\langle \Psi_{pp}|\mathbb{O}_{\tau=2}^{[j=3]}|\Psi_{pp}\rangle}$$

• Simple OPE picture provides excellent description of CMS data.



• Allows us to use jet substructure to study matrix elements of higher twist operators, and their evolution.



[Bossi, He, Kudinoor, Moult, Pablos, Rai, Rajagopal]



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- The top quark mass is one of the most important parameters of the SM. e.g. electroweak vacuum stability/criticality, electroweak fits, etc.
- Need simple observables with top mass sensitivity that can be computed from first principles field theory.







• Extract the mass ratio between the W and top quark from the shape of the three-point correlator.  $3 p_{pp \to tX} + \frac{1}{T(c,0,\infty)}$ 



[Holguin, Moult, Pathak, Procura, Schofbeck, Schwarz] See also: [Xiao, Ye, Zhu]



• Motivates precision calculations of correlators on top decays.

• Initial investigations illustrate has minor sensitivity to experimental systematics, and global event: successfully isolates dynamics of top decay.



Figure 2. The expected uncertainties of  $m_t$  (in % of  $m_t = 171$  GeV) using E3C and  $m_{jet}$ distributions, at  $\mathcal{L} = 36\,\mathrm{h^{-1}}$ . The statistical uncertainties and a breakdown of the systematic uncertainties are shown.

Contamination 175-----175. \_\_\_\_\_  $pp \rightarrow tX$ , Pythia 8.3, MPI+Had VZi/Zw [GeV] Zw [GeV]  $pp \rightarrow tX$ , Pythia 8.3, MPI+Had Jet Energy Scale Variation Color Reconnection M CP5CR1 17 17 CP5CR2 Dowr 4 173 173 , Muu 172Pvthiz ĝ 400 425 450 475 500 525 550 575 600 400 425 450 475 500 525 550 575 600 PT. iet GeV pr. iet [GeV]

DGLAP evoluti

[Xiao, Ye, Zhu]

- Motivates precision calculations of correlators on top decays, and further experimental investigation.
  - BAPTS

#### Summary

• Significant recent progress in the theoretical characterization of asymptotic energy flux.

• Scaling and shape dependence of multi-point energy correlators can be directly measured at the LHC: How can we best use them?

 Provides the opportunity to use theoretically beautiful objects to learn about the real world.



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