N Jettiness: An Inclusive Event Shape to Veto Jets

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Jet vetoes are essential in many analyses at the LHC and Tevatron. Typical signals have a specific number of hard jets or leptons, while backgrounds have additional jets. Vetoing undesired jets efficiently discriminates signal and background. For a sample with $\geq N$ jets, the veto to give $N$ energetic jets defines an "exclusive" $N$-jet cross section. This strongly restricts the phase space and causes large double logarithms in perturbation theory that must be summed. Jet vetoes are typically implemented using jet algorithms, yielding complicated phase-space restrictions, and reliance on leading-log parton-shower Monte Carlo simulations. We introduce a global event shape "$N$ jettiness" $\tau_N$, which is defined for events with $N$ signal jets. Requiring $\tau_N \ll 1$ constrains radiation between the signal jets and provides a theoretically well-controlled jet veto. $N$ jettiness yields a factorization formula with inclusive jet and beam functions.

**Introduction.**—At the LHC or Tevatron, hard interactions involving Higgs boson or new-physics particles are identified by looking for signals with a characteristic number of energetic jets, leptons, or photons \[1\]. The backgrounds come from standard model processes producing the same signature of hard objects possibly with additional jets. An example are top quarks decaying into $W$ plus $b$-jet, which is a major background for $H \rightarrow WW$ \[2\]. When reconstructing masses and decay chains of new-physics particles, additional jets can cause large combinatorial backgrounds. Standard model processes can also fake a signal when a jet is misidentified as a lepton or photon, a typical example being $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$.

Thus, a veto on additional undesired jets is an effective and sometimes necessary method to clean up the events and discriminate signal and the various backgrounds. More generally, one would like to measure an "exclusive" $N$-jet cross section $pp \rightarrow XL(Nj)$ to produce $N$ signal jets $j$, where the remaining $X$ contains no hard (central) jets. Here, $N \geq 0$ and $L$ denotes the hard leptons or photons required as part of the signal.

We introduce an inclusive event shape "$N$ jettiness," denoted $\tau_N$ and defined below in Eq. (1). For an event with at least $N$ energetic jets, $\tau_N$ provides an inclusive measure of how $N$-jet-like the event looks. In the limit $\tau_N \rightarrow 0$ the event contains exactly $N$ infinitely narrow jets. For $\tau_N \sim 1$ the event has hard radiation between the $N$ signal jets. Requiring $\tau_N \ll 1$ constrains the radiation outside the signal and beam jets, providing an inclusive way to veto additional central jets. It yields an inclusive definition of an exclusive $N$-jet cross section with a smooth transition between the case of no jet veto, $\tau_N \sim 1$, and the extremely exclusive case $\tau_N \rightarrow 0$.

Vetoing additional jets imposes a phase-space restriction on the underlying inclusive $N$-jet cross section to produce $N$ or more jets with the same $L$. Irrespective of its precise definition, the jet veto introduces a jet resolution scale $\mu_j$ that characterizes this restriction, i.e., the distinction between $N$ and $N + 1$ jets. Hence, the exclusive $N$-jet cross section contains phase-space logarithms $\alpha_s^a \ln^m(\mu_j^2/\mu_H^2)$, where $m = 2n$ and $\mu_H$ is the scale of the hard interaction. For $\tau_N, \mu_j^2/\mu_H^2 \approx \tau_N \ll 1$. Generically, there is always a hierarchy $\mu_j \ll \mu_H$, which becomes larger the stronger the restrictions are. These large logarithms must be summed to obtain reliable predictions.

Jet vetoes are typically implemented by using a jet algorithm to find all jets in the event and veto events with too many energetic jets. Jet algorithms are good tools to identify the signal jets. However, they are not necessarily well-suited to veto unwanted jets, because the corresponding phase-space restrictions are complicated and depend in detail on the algorithm. This makes it difficult to incorporate the jet veto into explicit theoretical calculations and inhibits a systematic summation of the resulting large logarithms. In this case, usually the only way to predict the corresponding exclusive $N$-jet cross section is to rely on parton-shower Monte Carlo simulations to sum the leading logarithms (LL). For particular jet algorithms, the resolution $\gamma_{23}$ defines the transition from 2 to 3 jets. Next-to-leading logarithms for this and other hadron-collider event shapes were summed in Ref. \[3\].

Vetoing jets by cutting on an inclusive variable like $\tau_N$ has several advantages. First, we can go beyond LL order, because the logarithms from the phase-space restriction, $\alpha_s^a \ln^m \tau_N$, are simple enough to allow their systematic summation to higher orders. Moreover, the theory predictions with factorization can be directly compared with experiment without having to utilize Monte Carlo simulations for parton showering or hadronization. Experimentally, $\tau_N$ reduces the dependence on jet algorithms and might help improve the background rejection.

**Definition.**—$N$ jettiness is defined as

$$\tau_N = \frac{2}{Q^2} \sum_k \min\{q_a \cdot p_k, q_b \cdot p_k, q_1 \cdot p_k, \ldots, q_N \cdot p_k\}. \quad (1)$$

As we discuss below, this definition of $\tau_N$ yields a factor-
rization formula with inclusive jet and beam functions and allows the summation of logarithms to next-to-next-to-leading-logarithmic (NNLL) order. The sum over $k$ in Eq. (1) runs over the momenta $p_k$ of all measured (pseudo) particles in the final state excluding the signal leptons or photons in $L$. (Any other leptons or photons, e.g., from hadronic decays, are included in the sum.) For simplicity, we take all $p_k$ to be massless. The $q_a$, $q_b$, and $q_1, \ldots, q_N$ are a fixed set of massless reference momenta for the two beams and the $N$ signal jets:

$$q_{a,b}^\mu = \frac{1}{2} x_{a,b} E_{\text{cm}} n_{a,b}^\mu, \quad n_a^\mu = (1, \hat{z}), \quad n_b^\mu = (1, -\hat{z}),$$

$$q_f^\mu = E_f(1, \hat{n}_f), \quad J = \{1, \ldots, N\},$$

(2)

The $E_f$ and $\hat{n}_f$ correspond to the energies and directions of the $N$ signal jets (for both massive and massless jets). Their choice is discussed below. The beam reference momenta $q_a$ and $q_b$ are the large momentum components of the colliding partons along the beam axis (taken to be the $z$ axis). They are defined by

$$x_a E_{\text{cm}} = n_b \cdot (q_1 + \cdots + q_N + q)$$

(3)

and analogously for $x_b$ with $a \leftrightarrow b$. Here, $q$ is the total momentum of the nonhadronic signal $L$. In Eq. (1), $Q^2 = x_a x_b E_{\text{cm}}^2$ is the hard interaction scale, and the distance of a particle with momentum $p_k$ from the jets or beams is measured by $q_m \cdot p_k$. If $L$ contains missing energy, so $q$ and $x_{a,b}$ are not known, one can use a modified distance measure as we discuss below Eq. (11).

The minimum for each $k$ in Eq. (1) associates the particle with the closest beam or jet, appropriately dividing the hadronic initial-state radiation (ISR) and final-state radiation (FSR). Soft particles and energetic particles near any jet or beam give only small contributions to the hadronic ISR and final-state radiation (ISR) and final-state boost of the partonic center-of-mass frame. Hence, for $\tau_N \ll 1$ the final state contains two narrow jets. In this limit, $\tau_N^e = 1 - T$, and a factorization theorem exists for $d\sigma/d\tau_N^e$, which can be used to sum logarithms of $\tau_N^e$ [4]. For a given jet algorithm with resolution parameter $y$, the value $y_{23}$ marks the transition between 2 and 3 jets. Thus requiring $y_{23} \ll 1$ also vetoes events with $>2$ jets.

$$N = 0 \text{ for Drell-Yan.}$$

—Consider the isolated Drell-Yan process, $p p \rightarrow X \ell^+ \ell^-$ with no hard jets, shown in Fig. 1(b). We now have ISR from the incoming partons, but no FSR from jets. From Eq. (3) we have

$$x_a E_{\text{cm}} = e^+ \sqrt{q^2 + \vec{q}_T^2}, \quad x_b E_{\text{cm}} = e^- \sqrt{q^2 + \vec{q}_T^2},$$

(6)

where $q^2$ and $\vec{q}_T$ are the dilepton invariant mass and transverse momentum, respectively, and $Y$ equals the di-lepton rapidity. Now, $Q^2 = q^2 + \vec{q}_T^2$ and Eq. (1) becomes

$$\tau_0 = \frac{1}{Q} \sum_k |\vec{p}_k| \ln[1 - \cos \theta_k, 1 + \cos \theta_k],$$

(7)

where $|\vec{p}_k|$ and $\eta_k$ are the transverse momentum and rapidity of $p_k$. The $q_a$ and $q_b$ dependence in Eq. (1) explicitly accounts for the boost of the partonic center-of-mass frame. For $Y = 0$, the minimum in Eq. (7) divides all particles into two hemispheres perpendicular to the beam axis (analogous to $i$ above). For $Y \neq 0$, the hemispheres are boosted with their boundary now at $Y$, and the beam jet in the direction of the boost is narrower than the other, as depicted in Fig. 1(b). Contributions to $\tau_0$ from large rapidities are exponentially suppressed by

FIG. 1 (color online). Different situations for the application of $N$ jettiness.
Beam thrust [5] is given by \( \tau_B = \sqrt{1 + \hat{q}_T^2/q_0^2} \). It is obtained by choosing \( x_{a,b}F_{\text{cm}} = \sqrt{q^2 e^2 Y} \) in case \( q^2 \) and \( Y \) are measured rather than the longitudinal components \( n_{a,b} \cdot q \) in Eq. (6). For \( \tau_0 \approx 1 \) the hadronic final state can contain only soft radiation plus energetic radiation in the forward directions, so \( \hat{q}_T^2 \ll Q \) and \( \tau_T = \tau_0 \). A factorization theorem for \( d\tau/d\tau_B \) at small \( \tau_0 \) was derived and used to sum logarithms of \( \tau_B \) to NNLL in Ref. [5].

**General case.**—For \( pp \rightarrow XL(N) \) we have both ISR and FSR. We select candidate signal events by measuring \( L \) and running a jet algorithm to find the \( N \) signal jets and their momenta \( p_J \). The conditions on the jets and \( L \) that define the signal are encoded in the cross section by a measurement function \( F_N(p_J, L) \). Generically, \( F_N \) will ensure that there are at least \( N \) energetic jets that are sufficiently separated from each other and the beams. We now use the measured jet energies and directions to define the massless reference momenta \( q_J \) in Eq. (2):

\[
E_J = p_J^0, \quad \hat{n}_J = \hat{p}_J/|\hat{p}_J|,
\]

where \( q_J \) and \( q_s \) are given by Eqs. (2) and (3).

Taking the minimum in Eq. (1) combines the previous cases in Eqs. (5) and (7). It divides all particles into jet and beam regions that are unique for a given set of reference momenta and whose union covers all of phase space, as illustrated in Fig. 1(c). The boundary between any two neighboring regions is part of a cone and is such that the sum of the total invariant masses in the regions is minimized (or in the case of a beam region the virtuality of the incoming colliding parton).

For events with small \( \tau_N \) all jet algorithms should agree how energetic radiation is split up between the jets and beams and differ only in their treatment of softer particles. Thus, they all give the same \( \hat{n}_J \) and \( E_J \) up to power corrections, while the split up of the soft radiation is determined by \( \tau_N \) itself. Hence, the dependence of \( \tau_N \) on the jet algorithm is formally power suppressed: \( \tau_N^{\text{alg}} = \tau_N^{\text{orig}} + O(\tau_N^2) \), as seen in Eq. (14) below.

To measure \( \tau_N \), we still rely on having a suitable jet algorithm to find the \( N \) signal jets but not more so than if we were not measuring \( \tau_N \). Imagine the jet size in the algorithm is chosen too small such that the algorithm divides what should be a single signal jet into several narrow jets [6]. In this case, the jet algorithm yields a poorly reconstructed signal irrespective of measuring \( \tau_N \).

Since the jet veto is now provided by \( \tau_N \), this situation can be avoided because we do not have to rely on the jet algorithm to identify additional jets and so can use an algorithm that can be forced to always yield at most \( N \) jets. This is in fact the most natural thing to do when one is looking for \( N \) jets. Therefore, using \( \tau_N \) as a jet veto could also help improve the signal reconstruction.

**Generalizations.**—We can generalize \( \tau_N \) to

\[
\tau_N = \sum_x \min\{d_a(p_k), d_b(p_k), d_3(p_k),\ldots,d_N(p_k)\},
\]

where \( d_a(p_k) \) can be any infrared-safe distance measure. In Eq. (1), \( d_m(p_k) = 2m \cdot p_k/Q^2 \), with

\[
2q_a \cdot p_k = |\hat{p}_T| Q e^{-m},
\]

\[
2q_j \cdot p_k = |\hat{p}_T| |q_{JT}| (2 \cos \Delta \eta_{JK} - 2 \cos \Delta \phi_{JK}).
\]

Here, \( \Delta \eta_{JK} \) and \( \Delta \phi_{JK} \) are the rapidity and azimuthal distances between \( q_j \) and \( p_k \), respectively. If these are small, the factor in brackets reduces to the familiar \( R^2 = (\Delta \eta)^2 + (\Delta \phi)^2 \).

Different measures that are boost-invariant along the beam axis can be obtained by modifying the dependence on rapidity, \( |q_{JT}| \), and \( Q \) in Eq. (10). A geometric measure, which is independent of \( |q_{JT}| \), is

\[
d_a(p_k) = |\hat{p}_T| Q e^{-\eta_i}, \quad d_b(p_k) = |\hat{p}_T| Q e^{-\eta_i},
\]

\[
d_j(p_k) = |\hat{p}_T| Q (2 \cos \Delta \eta_{JK} - 2 \cos \Delta \phi_{JK}).
\]

It evenly divides the area rather than invariant mass between neighboring regions, such that more energetic jets also get more invariant mass.

If \( L \) contains missing energy, then \( x_{a,b} \) in Eq. (3) and thus \( Q \) and \( Y \) are not known. For \( Q \), one can use any hard scale, like the \( |q_{JT}| \) of the hardest jet or leave it out, since it serves only as an overall normalization. In the beam measure \( d_{a,b}(p_k) \) we can simply set \( Y = 0 \), which defines them in the hadronic center-of-mass frame.

\( N \) jettiness does not split events into \( N, N + 1, N + 2 \), etc., jets like a traditional jet algorithm. But we can consider using \( \tau_N \) to define an “exclusive \( N \)-jet algorithm” as follows: First, we use a geometric measure and find the directions \( \hat{n}_J \) and boost \( Y \) that minimize \( \tau_N \), analogous to finding \( \hat{t} \) for \( e^+ e^- \rightarrow \text{jets} \). This might actually allow one to get an estimate of \( Y \) even in the case of missing energy by exploiting the asymmetry in the beam jets. Second, we determine the jet energies by summing over the particles in each jet region. (To reduce the sensitivity to the underlying event and pileup, one can weight the sum over energies by the distance from \( \hat{n}_J \).)

**Factorization formula.**—We now use \( \tau_N \) again as defined in Eq. (1). For \( \tau_N \ll 1 \), QCD ISR and FSR can be described in soft-collinear effective theory [7] at leading power by \( N + 2 \) independent sectors for collinear particles close to each \( q_m \), with \( m = \{a, b, j\} \) and a separate sector for soft particles. By power counting, \( J \)-collinear particles are closest to \( q_J \), so for the \( J \)-collinear sector

\[
\sum_{k \in \text{coll}_j} \min\{2q_m \cdot p_k\} = \sum_{k \in \text{coll}_j} 2q_j \cdot p_k = s_J,
\]

where (up to power corrections) \( s_J \) is the total invariant mass in the \( J \)-collinear sector. Similarly, the sum over the
beam collinear sectors yields the total (transverse) virtuality of the colliding partons $t_a$ and $t_b$. Therefore,

$$\tau_N Q^2 = t_a + t_b + \sum_j s_j + \sum_{k=\text{soft}} m \min(2q_m \cdot p_k).$$

(13)

The sum in the last term is now restricted to the soft sector. Combining Eq. (13) with the analyses in Refs. [5,8] yields the factorization formula for $N$ jetness [9]:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\tau_N} = \int dx_a dx_b \int d^4q d\Phi_L(q) \int d\Phi_N(\{q_J\}) F_N(\{q_m\}, L) \times (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(q_a + q_b - \sum q_j - q) \times \sum_{i,j,k} \delta\hat{H}_{ij-k}(\{q_m\}, L, \mu) \prod_f \int ds_J J_{\kappa}(s_J, \mu) \times \int dt_a B_i(t_a, x_a, \mu) \int dt_b B_j(t_b, x_b, \mu) \times \tilde{S}_N^{i-j-k}(\tau_N Q^2, \{q_m\}, \mu)\right].$$

(14)

Here, $\hat{H}_{ij-k}(\{q_m\}, L)$ contains the underlying hard interaction $i(q_i) j(q_j) \rightarrow L(q) \kappa_i \kappa_j \kappa_N(\{q_n\})$, where $i, j, \kappa$ denote parton types, and the sum over $i, j, \kappa$ is over all relevant partonic channels. It is a matrix in color space given by the IR-finite parts (in pure dimensional regularization) of the squared partonic matrix elements in each channel. The $N$-body phase space for the massless momenta $q_j$ is denoted $d\Phi_N(\{q_J\})$ and that for $L$ by $d\Phi_L(q)$.

The inclusive jet and beam functions $J_{\kappa}(s_J)$ and $B_i(t_a, x_a, \mu)$, respectively, describe the final- and initial-state radiation emitted by the outgoing and incoming partons from the hard interaction. The latter also determine the momentum fractions $x_{a,b}$ of the colliding partons and are given by parton distribution functions $f_i(\xi, \mu)$ as [5,10]

$$B_i(t, x, \mu) = \int \xi \int \frac{d\xi}{\xi} I_{ii'}(t, \frac{x}{\xi}, \mu) f_i(\xi, \mu).$$

(15)

The $I_{ii'}$ are perturbative coefficients describing collinear ISR, and at tree level $B_i(t, x, \mu) = \delta(t) f_i(x, \mu)$. The last term in Eq. (13) is the contribution to $\tau_N$ from soft particles in the underlying event. It is described by the soft function $\tilde{S}_N^{i-j-k}(\tau_N Q^2, \{q_m\})$, which depends on the jet’s angles $\hat{n}_i \cdot \hat{n}_m$ and energy fractions $E_i/E_m$. Like $\hat{H}$, it is a color matrix, and the trace in Eq. (14) is over $\text{tr}(\hat{H} \tilde{S})$.

In Eq. (14), all functions are evaluated at the same renormalization scale $\mu$. Large logarithms of $\tau_N$ in $d\sigma/d\tau_N$ are summed by first computing $\hat{H}(\mu_H), J(\mu_J), B(\mu_B)$, and $\tilde{S}(\mu_S)$ at the scales $\mu_H \approx Q, \mu_J \approx \mu_B \approx \sqrt{\tau_N Q}, \mu_S \approx \tau_N Q$, where the functions contain no large logarithms, and then evolving them to the scale $\mu$. This evolution is known analytically [11], and the required anomalous dimensions are already known to NNLL [5,12], because we have inclusive jet and beam functions. NNLL also requires the $O(\alpha_s)$ corrections for each function, which are known for $J$ and $B$. The $O(\alpha_s)$ hard function is determined by the one-loop QCD matrix elements. For $\tau_N \gg \Lambda_{\text{QCD}}/Q$, $\tilde{S}(\mu_S)$ can be computed perturbatively and will be given in a future publication.

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[6] This can be tested by comparing the total energy in each region defined by $\tau_N$ with the energy from the jet algorithm. If these are very different, but at the same time $\tau_N$ is small, then there are additional energetic particles near the signal jets that the algorithm should have included.
[9] Here, $F_N$ enforces distinct collinear sectors with $1 - \hat{n}_i \cdot \hat{n}_m \gg \tau_N$ and $E_m/Q \gg \tau_N$. We assume $F_N$ depends only on the large components $q_J$ of the jet momenta, $p_J = q_J [1 + O(\tau_N)]$, and that $L$ only couples to the QCD subprocess via a hard interaction. We also assume that Glauber gluons do not spoil this factorization.