

An Investigation of Flavor Dependence of Jet Shape Modifications in Au+Au Collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV

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1 Abstract

Partons i.e. quarks and gluons in heavy-ion collisions interact strongly with the Quark-Gluon Plasma (QGP), and hence have their energy and shower structure modified compared to those in vacuum, e.g., those produced in proton-proton collisions. Theoretical calculations predict that radiative energy loss, which is the dominant mode of energy loss for gluons and light quarks in the QGP, is suppressed for heavy quarks, such as charm and bottom, at low transverse momenta (p_T). A measurement of the $D^0(c\bar{u})$ meson radial profile in jets from the CMS experiment at the LHC hints at its modification at low D^0 p_T in heavy-ion collisions, which is qualitatively different from that of the inclusive hadrons. The excellent secondary vertex resolution provided by the Heavy Flavor Tracker in the STAR experiment at RHIC enables reconstruction of D^0 mesons at low p_T with high significance of signal over the background, making STAR ideal for similar measurements.

We report the first measurements of the D^0 meson tagged jet p_T spectra and D^0 meson radial profile in anti- k_T jets from Au+Au collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 200$ GeV at RHIC, collected by the STAR experiment in 2014. We also report the nuclear modification factor R_{CP} for these D^0 meson tagged jets. Such measurements are expected to shed light on parton flavor and mass dependencies of jet quenching, and constrain theoretical models.