

$b\bar{b}$ kinematic correlations in cold nuclear matterR. Vogt *Nuclear and Chemical Sciences Division, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, California 94551, USA
and Physics Department, University of California, Davis, California 95616, USA*(Received 14 August 2019; revised manuscript received 3 January 2020; accepted 27 January 2020;
published 18 February 2020)**Background:** The LHCb Collaboration has studied a number of kinematic correlations between B -hadron pairs through their subsequent decays to J/ψ pairs in $p + p$ collisions at 7 and 8 TeV for four minimum values of the J/ψ p_T .**Purpose:** In this work, these measurements are compared to calculations of $b\bar{b}$ pairs and their hadronization and inclusive decays to $J/\psi J/\psi$ are compared to the same observables. Potential cold matter effects on the $b\bar{b}$ pair observables are discussed to determine which are most likely to provide insights about the system and why.**Methods:** The calculations, employing the exclusive HVQMNR code, assume the same intrinsic k_T -broadening and fragmentation as in [R. Vogt, *Phys. Rev. C* **98**, 034907 (2018)]. The pair distributions presented by LHCb are calculated in this approach, both for the parent $b\bar{b}$ and the $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs produced in their decays. The sensitivity of the results to the intrinsic k_T broadening is shown. The theoretical uncertainties due to the b quark mass and scale variations on both the initial $b\bar{b}$ pairs and the resulting J/ψ pairs are also shown, as is the dependence of the results on the rapidity range of the measurement. Possible effects due to the presence of the nucleus are studied by increasing the size of the k_T broadening and modifying the fragmentation function.**Results:** Good agreement with the LHCb data is found for all observables. The parent $b\bar{b}$ distributions are more sensitive to the k_T broadening than are the final-state J/ψ pairs.**Conclusions:** Next-to-leading order calculations with k_T broadening, as in [R. Vogt, *Phys. Rev. C* **98**, 034907 (2018)], can describe all correlated observables. Multiple measurements of correlated observables are sensitive to different nuclear effects which can help distinguish between them.DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevC.101.024910](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevC.101.024910)**I. INTRODUCTION**

Heavy flavor pair production has long been of interest in elementary $p + p$ and $p + \bar{p}$ collisions as a way to test perturbative QCD. Measurements of heavy flavor correlations provide information about how heavy quark pairs are produced in perturbative QCD, indeed much more information that can be gained from single inclusive heavy flavor production alone. In the case of $b\bar{b}$ production, measurements of pair observables can improve measurements of $B^0 - \bar{B}^0$ mixing [1]. Finally, a good understanding of multiple correlated observables provides a better baseline for their production and modification in heavy-ion collisions.

Correlated $b\bar{b}$ studies have been carried out at hadron colliders. The first measurements were in $p + \bar{p}$ collisions and carried out at the CERN $S\bar{p}\bar{p}S$, UA1 ($\sqrt{s} = 0.63$ TeV) [1] and Fermilab Tevatron, D0 ($\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV) [2], and CDF ($\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV [3] and $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV [4]). These

measurements were primarily through studies of lepton pairs. The backgrounds for these measurements include $c\bar{c}$ decays, Drell-Yan dileptons and leptons from light meson decays. The light hadron decay leptons can be removed by like-sign subtraction. The Drell-Yan rate is much lower than the heavy flavor production rate because Drell-Yan is an electroweak process. In addition, if relatively high p_T leptons are selected, then the charm rate will be suppressed. CDF [3] and, more recently, at the LHC, ATLAS [5] studied B hadron pair production through $J/\psi +$ lepton final states in $p + \bar{p}$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV and $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 8$ TeV, respectively.

More recent measurements of heavy flavor contributions to low mass dilepton production in $p + p$ collisions have been reported by PHENIX at the BNL relativistic heavy-ion collider ($\sqrt{s} = 0.2$ TeV) [6] and ALICE at the LHC ($\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV [7] and 13 TeV [8]). In these measurements, the low mass kinematic region of interest makes the $c\bar{c}$ contributions larger so that both contributions have to be taken into account in the analysis.

Previous dilepton analyses [1–3,5] have generally focused on tests of NLO calculations, usually in conjunction with diagrams of different topologies in a leading order event generator such as ISAJET [9], HVQJET [10], HERWIG [11], or PYTHIA [12]. For example, UA1 favorably compared calculations at next-to-leading order made with the HVQMNR

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code [13] to ISAJET as long as the ISAJET “higher” order contributions (flavor excitation and gluon splitting) were included. They tried to separate different topologies but the results were rather inconclusive due to momentum requirements and low statistics. They did, however, determine that the NLO contribution was at least 40% of the measured cross section, depending on the muon p_T [1]. The D0 Collaboration compared their data to calculations with HVQJET. They showed that their measured azimuthal separation, $|\Delta\phi|$, between the decay leptons was compatible with HVQJET with higher-order corrections and not with the leading order contributions alone [2]. The CDF measurement at $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$ TeV [3] compared their final-state $J/\psi + \text{lepton}$ data to HVQMNR calculations as well as to PYTHIA and HERWIG simulations. They found that $\approx 25\%$ of the $b\bar{b}$ production as a function of azimuthal separation was found at $|\Delta\phi| < 90^\circ$, suggesting the importance of higher-order corrections. CDF also studied the dependence of the $|\Delta\phi|$ distribution to the bottom quark mass, factorization and renormalization scales, and the intrinsic k_T . They found that mass and scale variations could alter the magnitude of the cross section but not its shape: changing the shape of the distribution was only possible by modifying the k_T [3]. These findings are in accord with the hadron-level studies of $b\bar{b}$ correlations in Ref. [14]. ATLAS compared their final-state $J/\psi + \text{lepton}$ results with several event generators, finding good agreement between the simulations and the data [5]. The low mass dilepton measurements of PHENIX attempted to separate the dilepton data into $c\bar{c}$ and $b\bar{b}$ components, as well as separating the heavy flavor cross sections into their topological components, as if they were independent production mechanisms [6].

Most of the measurements mentioned so far have focused on the central rapidity region. The LHCb Collaboration [15] is the first to study $b\bar{b}$ correlations through $J/\psi J/\psi$ final states as well as at forward rapidity. While such a measurement is less direct than reconstructed D or B mesons, as discussed in Ref. [14], along with comparison to $D\bar{D}$ pairs measured by CDF at $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV [16] and by LHCb at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV [17] and B hadron- b jet pairs measured by CMS at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV [18], it allows a more straightforward comparison to calculations than the dilepton decay channel.

In this work, the model of $Q\bar{Q}$ production developed in Ref. [14], with modified fragmentation function parameters and k_T broadening, is employed to study $b\bar{b} \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi$ pair production. The measurement is discussed in more detail in Sec. II. In Sec. III, the model employed for $b\bar{b}$ production is briefly discussed. The pair observables are calculated both for the initial $b\bar{b}$ production and the final $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs, assuming the same minimum p_T for both the parent B meson and the decay J/ψ in Sec. IV. The results are compared to the LHCb observables and their dependence on the experimental p_T cut is shown. Section V shows how neglecting k_T broadening affects the calculated observables. The mass and scale dependence of the results and how they change with p_T cut is discussed in Sec. VI while the dependence of the results on the rapidity range of the measurement is shown in Sec. VII. Section VIII describes possible nuclear effects on the correlations. The work is then summarized in Sec. IX.

II. LHCb MEASUREMENT OF $b\bar{b} \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi X$

LHCb reconstructed two J/ψ s from their decays to dimuons in the forward rapidity region, $2 < y < 4.5$. The two J/ψ s must be associated with the same primary vertex to ensure that they came from the same collision. The J/ψ s were also required to be displaced from their primary vertex to be b -decay candidates. This requirement essentially eliminated prompt J/ψ s from different collisions as well as events with two prompt J/ψ s and associated J/ψ and b quark production.

They chose different minimum J/ψ transverse momenta, p_T , to study the effect of an increasing minimum p_T on the pair correlations. The data from proton-proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV were combined for greater statistics. Because the shapes of the distributions at this energy are independent of \sqrt{s} even if the integrated production cross sections differ, the results were presented as $(1/\sigma)d\sigma/dX$ where X refers to the pair observable. This way of displaying the data makes it easier to compare the shapes of the distributions with different minimum p_T .

LHCb presented results for six pair observables, $|\Delta\phi^*|$, the difference in azimuthal angle between the b and \bar{b} mesons; $|\Delta\eta^*|$, the difference in pseudorapidity between the b and \bar{b} mesons; A_T , the asymmetry between the transverse momenta of the J/ψ s; and the mass, M , transverse momentum, $p_{T,p}$, and rapidity, y_p of the J/ψ pair. The first two observables, $|\Delta\phi^*|$ and $|\Delta\eta^*|$, were assumed to be directly related to the parent b mesons because ϕ^* and η^* were estimated from the direction of the vector from the primary vertex to the J/ψ decay vertex [15]. They also included, in an Appendix, the distributions $|\Delta\phi|$, $|\Delta\eta|$, and $|\Delta y|$, the differences in azimuthal angle, pseudorapidity, and rapidity, respectively, between the J/ψ mesons themselves. In this work, $|\Delta y|$ is presented rather than $|\Delta\eta|$ for the parent $b\bar{b}$. All the pair observables studied by LHCb will be calculated for both the parent $b\bar{b}$ mesons and the subsequent $J/\psi J/\psi$ decays.

In Ref. [15], the LHCb Collaboration compared their data to PYTHIA [19,20] and POWHEG [21] calculations as well as simulations of uncorrelated $b\bar{b}$ production [22,23] based on the transverse momentum and rapidity distributions for single $b \rightarrow J/\psi X$ decays measured by LHCb. They noted that the pair distributions generated by both PYTHIA6 [19] and PYTHIA8 [20] were identical and thus the results from the two simulations were combined in their comparison to the data.

As in a number of the previous $b\bar{b}$ measurements analyzed via dilepton decays [1–3], LHCb looked for evidence of different topological contributions to heavy flavor production in their data: gluon splitting, flavor excitation and flavor creation.

As discussed in detail in Ref. [14], these artificial designations are not indicative of different production mechanisms but of distinct diagram topologies at leading order (flavor creation) and next-to-leading order (including gluon splitting and flavor excitation). These processes are distinguished by having two (flavor creation), one (flavor excitation), or no (gluon splitting) heavy quarks in the hard scattering. Heavy quarks not involved in the hard scattering are produced in an initial- or final-state parton shower [24]. This separation is necessary because PYTHIA includes only LO diagrams.

While all three topological contributions are part of the $gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}X$ production process, when they are treated as individual components, not all NLO production diagrams are actually included (such as virtual corrections) and the interferences between diagrams are not accounted for. However, none of these contributions to $b\bar{b}$ production constitute a new production mechanism. The implementation of heavy flavor production in PYTHIA is more completely described in Ref. [24].

There are parameters that can be tuned, depending on the generator employed, that can match the distributions from the LO generator to those of a NLO calculation, see for example Ref. [25] for more detail. However, such tuning may change the relative contributions of distinct topologies from the same initial state in PYTHIA relative to a NLO calculation. Double counting of these processes is avoided by requiring that the hard scattering should be of greater virtuality than the parton shower [25]. The parton showers also effectively provide a leading-log resummation of light emissions while keeping the pair distributions finite over all phase space.

POWHEG, a NLO generator using PYTHIA for hadronization and decay [21], does not separate these topologies in the same way that PYTHIA does, all diagrams, with their interference terms, are included. In Ref. [15], they conclude that, because POWHEG and PYTHIA both describe the data, NLO effects on $b\bar{b}$ production are small. They also note that, aside from the $|\Delta\phi^*|$ distributions, the data are consistent with uncorrelated $b\bar{b}$ production. They reach this conclusion by suggesting that gluon splitting is a small contribution to $b\bar{b}$ production. However, it is not feasible to separate this diagram from all other NLO contributions because it interferes with the amplitudes of other gg diagrams.

The conclusion the NLO contributions to $b\bar{b}$ production are small, reached by the LHCb Collaboration in Ref. [15], can be tested by comparison to a NLO calculation of both the $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ final states. This comparison, in Sec. IV, is at the center of this work.

III. MODEL DESCRIPTION

The calculations here, using the HVQMNR code [13] designed to calculate $Q\bar{Q}$ pair production at NLO, follow those outlined in Ref. [14]. The bottom quark mass, m_b , factorization scale, μ_F , and renormalization scale μ_R and their uncertainties were set by comparison to the $b\bar{b}$ total cross section data with $m_b = 4.65 \pm 0.09$ GeV, $\mu_F/m = 1.40^{+0.77}_{-0.49}$, and $\mu_R/m = 1.10^{+0.22}_{-0.20}$ [14].

Hadronization was accomplished through the use of the Peterson fragmentation function [26] and k_T broadening. The value of ϵ_p , the Peterson function parameter, was set by comparison to the FONLL B meson p_T distribution in Ref. [14] while $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$, the average broadening, was fixed previously by comparing the measured Υ p_T distributions to calculations of Υ production in the color evaporation model. Here, for $b\bar{b}$ production,

$$\epsilon_p = 0.0004, \tag{1}$$

$$\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 1 + \frac{\Delta}{3} \ln \left(\frac{\sqrt{s}}{20 \text{ GeV}} \right) \text{ GeV}^2, \tag{2}$$

where the parameter Δ was introduced to study the sensitivity of the azimuthal correlations to the amount of broadening. The value $\Delta = 1$ is the default value [14], resulting in $\langle k_T^2 \rangle \approx 3 \text{ GeV}^2$ for $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$. For further details on the determination of ϵ_p and the sensitivity of the $Q\bar{Q}$ results to the magnitude of $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$, see Ref. [14].

Note that it is necessary to use a code such as the exclusive HVQMNR calculation because the $Q\bar{Q}$ pair quantities are calculable in such an approach while only single inclusive quark distributions are so far available with the FONLL [27] and generalized mass—variable flavor number approaches [28,29].

The HVQMNR code [13] uses negative weight events to cancel divergences numerically. Without a k_T kick there can be a mismatch in the cancellation, leading to a negative value of the cross section for pair p_T at $p_{T_p} = 0$ and azimuthal separation at $\phi = \pi$, as can be seen in some of the $b\bar{b}$ distributions with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$. Smearing the parton momentum through the introduction of intrinsic transverse momenta, k_T , reduces the importance of the negative weight events at low p_T .

HVQMNR does not include any resummation; the broadening plays this role in the code at low p_T [30]. Open charm results at fixed-target energies required transverse momentum broadening to obtain agreement with the data after fragmentation was applied [31]. Such broadening was also used as a proxy for resummation in Drell-Yan production, see, e.g., Refs. [30,32,33].

In HVQMNR, the kick is added in the final state using the Gaussian function $g_p(k_T)$ [31],

$$g_p(k_T) = \frac{1}{\pi \langle k_T^2 \rangle} \exp(-k_T^2 / \langle k_T^2 \rangle), \tag{3}$$

which multiplies the parton distribution functions, assuming the x and k_T dependencies factorize. As explained in Ref. [31], it does not matter whether the k_T dependence is added in the initial or final state as long as the kick is not too large.

The application of the k_T is now described. The $Q\bar{Q}$ system is first boosted to the rest frame from its longitudinal center-of-mass frame. The intrinsic transverse momenta of the incoming partons, \vec{k}_{T1} and \vec{k}_{T2} , are chosen at random with k_{T1}^2 and k_{T2}^2 distributed according to Eq. (3). The quarks are then boosted out of the pair rest frame, changing the initial transverse momentum of the hard scattering from \vec{p}_T to $\vec{p}_T + \vec{k}_{T1} + \vec{k}_{T2}$. While the k_T is here applied to the $Q\bar{Q}$ pair, it could have alternatively been given to the entire final-state system, including the light parton in $2 \rightarrow 3$ processes, as if it were applied directly to the initial state. The two methods of introducing k_T are equivalent if the calculation is LO but at NLO a light parton in the final state can make the correspondence inexact.

The effect of a k_T kick on p_T -related distributions (p_{T_p} , M , A_T) should decrease as \sqrt{s} increases because $\langle p_T \rangle$ also increases with \sqrt{s} . Because $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ is assumed to increase with \sqrt{s} , see Eq. (2), the effect is most important at low p_T . The effect of a k_T kick also decreases with increasing quark mass, as shown in Ref. [14], requiring a larger $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ for bottom quarks relative to charm quarks to have a non-negligible effect on bottom production at higher energies.

Although LHCb suggested in Ref. [15] that the similarity of the PYTHIA and POWHEG simulations are indicative of a small NLO contribution, it is important to recall that gluon splitting is an explicit contribution to $gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}X$ at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^3)$ and thus a real NLO contribution, as is flavor excitation. As previously discussed, it is not feasible to separate individual diagrams since such a procedure no longer allows for interferences between diagrams. The LO flavor creation contributions, $gg \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$ and $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Q\bar{Q}$, only produce back-to-back $Q\bar{Q}$ pairs, a delta function for $|\Delta\phi^*| = \pi$, $A_T = 0$ and $p_{T_p} = 0$ without broadening. The NLO contributions are modeled in PYTHIA by flavor excitation and gluon splitting. These contributions have a significantly weaker $\Delta\phi$ dependence in PYTHIA. Flavor excitation is weakly enhanced at $|\Delta\phi| \approx \pi$ while, since gluon splitting generally produces collinear $Q\bar{Q}$ pairs, it results in a weak enhancement at $|\Delta\phi| \approx 0$ [24]. These contributions and summed together with flavor creation at $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s^2)$, without interference terms but with parton showers.

The introduction of k_T broadening at NLO in HVQMNR softens and widens the peak at $|\Delta\phi| = \pi$ for $b\bar{b}$ with a finite tail as $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$. It does not produce a significant enhancement at $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$ as it does for charm pairs at similar values of p_T because $\langle k_T^2 \rangle < m_b^2$ while, for charm, $\langle k_T^2 \rangle \approx m_c^2$ [14]. The effect of k_T broadening also depends strongly on the quark momentum, as discussed for the $|\Delta\phi|$ distributions in Ref. [14].

Observables related to the rapidity, either the rapidity difference or the pair rapidity, should be independent of the broadening. However, the other pair observables studied by LHCb should be affected by broadening, at least for the parent b quarks. Thus, the calculations here compare results with and without k_T broadening on both the initial $b\bar{b}$ pairs and the final state $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs.

IV. COMPARISON TO THE LHCb DATA

In this section, the pair quantities, $|\Delta\phi|$, $|\Delta y|$, y_p , A_T , p_{T_p} , and M are calculated and compared to the LHCb data. The $b\bar{b}$ pair distribution include both fragmentation and k_T broadening as described in the previous section. The $J/\psi J/\psi$ pair distributions are calculated with the $B \rightarrow J/\psi X$ decay with a 1.094% branching ratio [34].

All results are shown for the minimum p_T cuts of 2, 3, 5, and 7 GeV on the J/ψ and the parent B meson. Note that the J/ψ s from B decay would, of course, generally arise from parent B mesons with p_T larger than those of the final-state J/ψ .

The LHCb data are also shown for comparison on each plot. All quantities are divided by the total cross section, $(1/\sigma)(d\sigma/dX) \equiv d \ln \sigma / dX$ where X denotes the observables on the y axes of the plots, so that the 7 and 8 TeV LHCb measurements can be combined for improved statistics. Note that even though the LHCb data shown here are from the $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV runs combined, the $\approx 15\%$ difference in \sqrt{s} between the two data sets gives only a 1–2% change in $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ based on Eq. (2). Given the small change in $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ for $p + p$ collisions and the uniform shapes of $d \ln \sigma / dX$, the calculations compared to the data in this section are all done for $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV. It was verified that the normalized pair

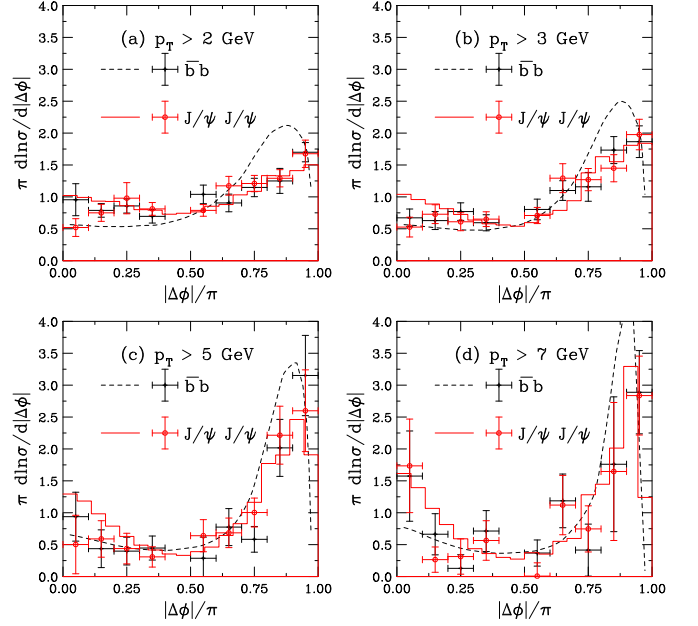


FIG. 1. The azimuthal angle difference between the b and \bar{b} (black dashed curves) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red histograms) are shown compared to the LHCb data [15] (black for $b\bar{b}$, red circles for J/ψ pairs) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

distributions calculated here remain unchanged at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ and 8 TeV in $p + p$ collisions.

Note that, in the calculations, the J/ψ s from B decays have lower statistics than the parent B mesons, especially as the minimum p_T increases. Thus, red histograms are generally used to represent the J/ψ pair quantities while black curves are used for the $b\bar{b}$ pair distributions. The LHCb results for J/ψ pairs are rendered as red points, while the reported $b\bar{b}$ quantities are given as black points.

A. $|\Delta\phi|$ and $|\Delta\phi^*|$

LHCb presented $|\Delta\phi|$ distributions for both the initial B meson pair, reported as $b\bar{b}$ in Fig. 1 and in all the figures in this section, and the J/ψ pairs. Recall that LHCb estimated the azimuthal angle of each B meson from the direction of the vector from the primary vertex to the J/ψ decay vertex. They also determined the azimuthal angles for the J/ψ s individually. As shown in Fig. 1, the $|\Delta\phi^*|$ and $|\Delta\phi|$ distributions for $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$, respectively, are compatible with each other within the uncertainties.

The $b\bar{b}$ $|\Delta\phi^*|$ distribution has a peak slightly below $|\Delta\phi^*| \approx \pi$ with a flatter distribution as $|\Delta\phi^*| \rightarrow 0$ relative to that of the J/ψ pair. As the minimum p_T grows, the peak near back-to-back ($|\Delta\phi^*| \approx \pi$) grows higher and becomes narrower for the $b\bar{b}$ pairs. Likewise, the distribution at $|\Delta\phi^*| \approx 0$ starts to increase from approximately flat at low $|\Delta\phi^*|$ to a slight enhancement that becomes more pronounced with increasing minimum p_T . This is because that, as the minimum p_T grows from 2 to 7 GeV, the relative values of $\langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2}$ and $m_T = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_b^2}$ change from $m_T / \langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2} \approx 3$ to

$m_T / \langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2} \approx 4.9$. The larger m_T allows the development of a double-peaked $\Delta\phi^*$ distribution, more closely connected to diagrams with a high p_T $b\bar{b}$ pair balanced against a hard parton in the opposite direction, such as “gluon splitting.”

This trend in the increase of $(\pi/\sigma)d\sigma/d|\Delta\phi|$ can especially be seen for the lighter mass J/ψ decay products. In this case, because $m_{J/\psi}/m_b \approx 2/3$ and the minimum J/ψ p_T is generally smaller than that of the parent B meson and the k_T kick is applied to the parent meson, not the J/ψ decay product, the enhancement seen in the $b\bar{b}$ distributions sets in at lower p_T for J/ψ pairs and is correspondingly larger. Here, $m_{T_\psi} = \sqrt{p_T^2 + m_\psi^2}$ so that $m_{T_\psi} / \langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2} \approx 2.1$ to $m_{T_\psi} / \langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2} \approx 4.4$, assuming $p_T^{J/\psi} \equiv p_T^B$. Because the k_T kick is on the bottom quarks as they hadronize rather than on the J/ψ itself, the p_T selected is larger relative to the primary B hadron so that the enhancement grows faster with minimum p_T for J/ψ pairs, as shown in Fig. 1. If a higher minimum p_T were chosen for B mesons, to more closely match the average p_T of the B meson producing the minimum J/ψ p_T , then the enhancement at $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$ would grow larger, closer to matching the peak at $|\Delta\phi| \approx \pi$, as shown for $c\bar{c}$ correlations with $p_T > 10$ GeV in Ref. [14].

B. $|\Delta y|$ and y_p

The difference in rapidity, Δy (or, in the case of the LHCb measurement, $\Delta\eta$), was determined both for the initial $b\bar{b}$ pairs and the final-state J/ψ pairs. The pair rapidity, y_p , was only determined for the J/ψ pairs. Given the acceptance of the LHCb spectrometer of $2 < y < 4.5$, the limits on Δy is

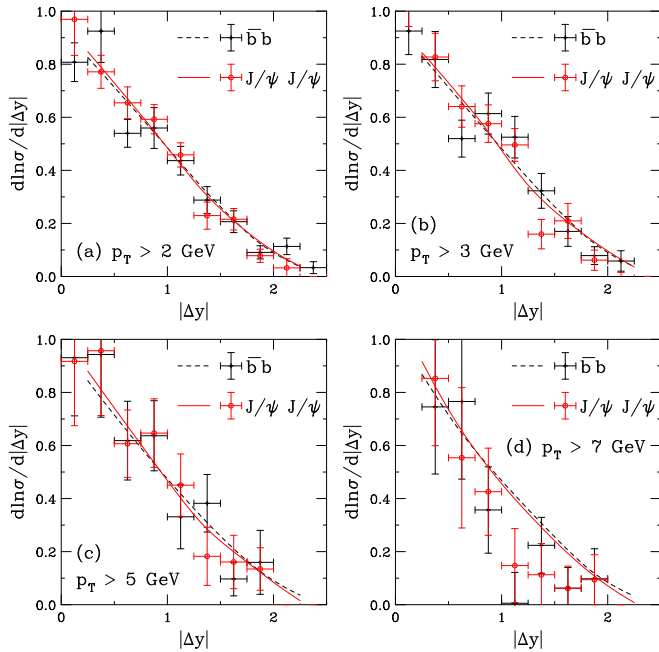


FIG. 2. The rapidity difference $|\Delta y|$ between the b and \bar{b} (black dashed curve) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red solid curve) are shown compared to the LHCb data [15] (black for $b\bar{b}$, red circles for J/ψ pairs) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

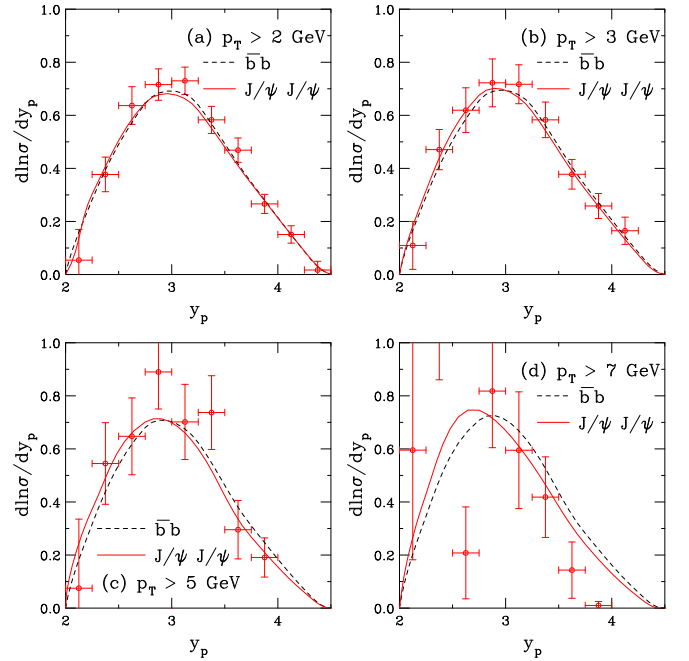


FIG. 3. The pair rapidity of the b and \bar{b} (black dashed curves) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red solid curves) are shown compared to the LHCb J/ψ pair data [15] (red circles) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

constrained to be in the range $0 < \Delta y < 2.5$ while the pair rapidity reported by LHCb lies in the range $2 < y_p < 4.5$.

As is evident from Fig. 2, the $|\Delta y|$ distribution for $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ are in good agreement. They decrease from a peak at $|\Delta y| = 0$ to 0 at $|\Delta y| = 2.5$. The shape of both distributions is more concave than linear but is approximately identical for $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$. The behavior is also relatively independent of the minimum p_T . In the case of the $b\bar{b}$ pairs, the average $|\Delta y|$ decreases from 0.75 for $p_T > 2$ GeV to 0.73 for $p_T > 7$ GeV, only a 2% difference. However, the average values of $|\Delta y|$ for the J/ψ pairs decreases from 0.74 to 0.69 as the minimum p_T increases from 2 to 7 GeV. At the highest minimum p_T , the average $|\Delta y|$ is reduced by 5% for J/ψ pairs relative to $b\bar{b}$ pairs. The differences, while not significant, are not zero.

The pair rapidity distributions, shown in Fig. 3, exhibit a similarly small decrease in the average y_p with increasing minimum p_T , a 2% decrease in the average for $b\bar{b}$ pairs between $p_T > 2$ and >7 GeV, from 3.07 to 3.00, respectively. There is a 5% decrease in average y_p for the J/ψ pairs, from 3.07 with $p_T > 2$ GeV to 2.93 with $p_T > 7$ GeV. This small difference on average is sufficient for a small backward shift between the $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ curves for $p_T > 7$ GeV, especially given the average p_T for the parent B mesons of J/ψ s with the same minimum p_T .

C. A_T

The p_T asymmetry, $A_T = |(p_{T1} - p_{T2}) / (p_{T1} + p_{T2})|$, shown in Fig. 4, would be zero for $b\bar{b}$ pairs produced in a back-to-back configuration at leading order. At NLO, the

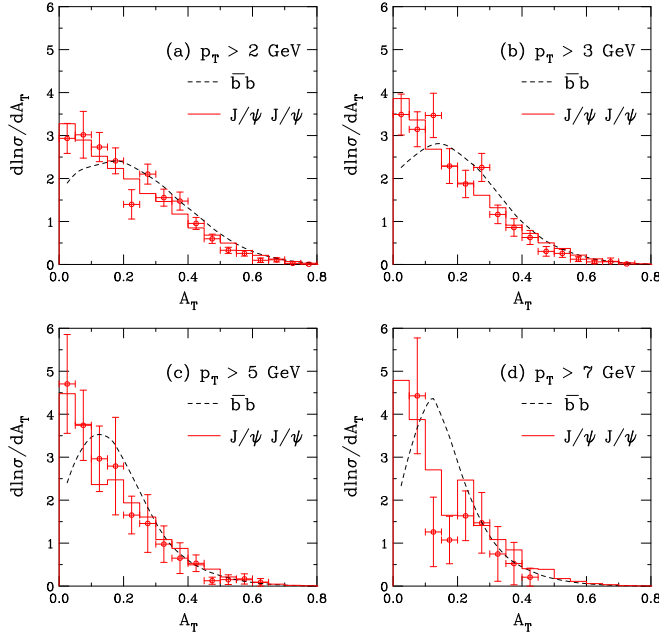


FIG. 4. The p_T asymmetry between the b and \bar{b} (black dashed lines) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red histograms) are shown compared to the LHCb J/ψ pair data [15] (red circles) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

pairs are no longer back-to-back and $d \ln \sigma / d A_T$ decreases with increasing A_T . The A_T distribution for the J/ψ pairs is maximal at $A_T = 0$, in accord with the maximum $|\Delta\phi| \approx \pi$. This same relation also results in a steeper A_T distribution for higher minimum p_T . The distribution goes to zero at $A_T = 1$ if the p_T of one of the b quarks or J/ψ mesons is very soft or the final states are in alignment.

However, the $b\bar{b}$ distributions peak away from $A_T = 0$ due to the inclusion of k_T broadening, as discussed further in Sec. V. The peak of the A_T distribution is at $A_T \approx 0.25$ for $p_T > 2$ GeV. As the minimum p_T is increased, the distribution for $b\bar{b}$ pairs becomes narrower with a higher peak, akin to the $|\Delta\phi^*|$ distributions shown in Fig. 1. The average value of A_T decreases from 0.025 at $p_T > 2$ GeV to 0.17 at $p_T > 7$ GeV.

As previously mentioned, the J/ψ pair A_T distribution is maximum at $A_T = 0$ instead of a finite A_T , as for $b\bar{b}$. At lower minimum p_T , the distribution is narrower for the $J/\psi J/\psi$, with an average of $A_T \approx 0.21$ for $p_T > 2$ GeV. By the highest minimum p_T , $p_T > 7$ GeV, the average is approximately the same for both, $A_T \approx 0.16$ for $J/\psi J/\psi$.

The trends for the calculated J/ψ pairs are in very good agreement with the data for all values of minimum p_T studied. Note also that, above $A_T \approx 0.4$, the calculated $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ distributions are in agreement.

D. p_{T_p} and M

The last two pair observables measured by LHCb were the pair transverse momentum, p_{T_p} , and pair mass, M , distributions, shown in Figs. 5 and 6, respectively.

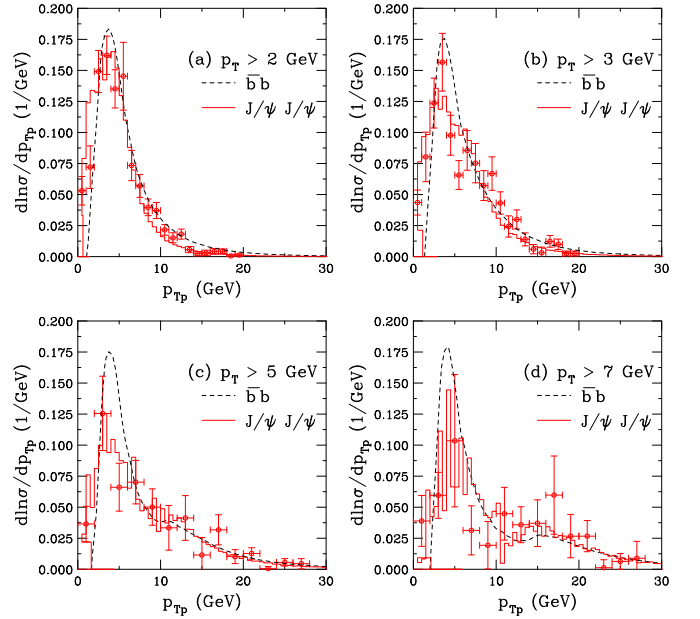


FIG. 5. The transverse momentum of the b and \bar{b} (black dashed lines) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red histograms) are shown compared to the LHCb J/ψ pair data [15] (red circles) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

The p_T of the pair, shown on a linear scale in Fig. 5, peaks at low p_{T_p} for both the $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs. With the lowest minimum single meson p_T , while the peaks of the two calculated distributions are of similar magnitude, the J/ψ pair

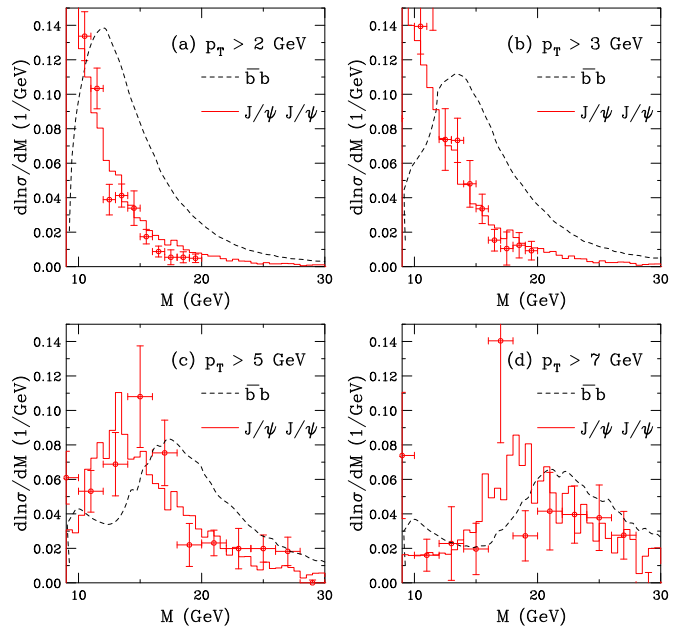


FIG. 6. The pair mass of the b and \bar{b} (black dashed lines) and the J/ψ 's resulting from the bottom quark decays (red histograms) are shown compared to the LHCb J/ψ pair data [15] (red circles) for the p_T cuts on the b quarks and the J/ψ of 2 (a), 3 (b), 5 (c), and 7 GeV (d).

peak is shifted backward by about 1.7 GeV relative to the $b\bar{b}$, as is evident in Fig. 5(a). At $p_T > 3$ GeV, while the average p_{T_p} is still about 1.3 GeV smaller for the J/ψ pairs, most of the difference is at $p_{T_p} < 5$ GeV. Above this value, the distribution is significantly broader than for $p_T > 3$ GeV.

As the minimum p_T is increased, the average values of p_{T_p} for the initial $b\bar{b}$ and the final $J/\psi J/\psi$ become more similar. In addition, a feature develops at high p_{T_p} , a shoulder in the distribution that appears at effectively twice the minimum p_T , independent of whether the calculation is for the initial $b\bar{b}$ pairs or the decay J/ψ pairs although the statistics at high pair p_T is significantly degraded for $p_T > 7$ GeV. The rise of this shoulder appears to correspond to the rise of the peak at $|\Delta\phi| = 0$ in Fig. 1 where the $b\bar{b}$ and J/ψ pairs are aligned. In all cases, the calculated $J/\psi J/\psi$ pair distributions agree quite well with the LHCb data.

A similar trend seen for the pair mass distributions in Fig. 6. The minimum $b\bar{b}$ pair mass is $2m_b = 9.3$ GeV for $m_b = 4.65$ GeV. Assuming that the p_T of both of the individual mesons are equal, the square of the pair mass can be written as $M^2 = 2m_T^2[1 + \cosh(\Delta y)]$. Thus, as the minimum single meson p_T increases, m_T also increases and the average pair mass moves to higher M . This estimate is accurate for $2 \rightarrow 2$ processes but is an underestimate for the $2 \rightarrow 3$ diagrams that dominate NLO $b\bar{b}$ production. Nonetheless, one can see a clear trend that the $b\bar{b}$ peak shifts to higher mass with an increase in minimum p_T , with a residual enhancement at $2m_b$ for the highest minimum p_T .

When J/ψ pairs from b decays are considered, the pair mass does not have a specific threshold any longer. As shown for $M > 2m_b$, the J/ψ pair mass is steeply decreasing for $p_T > 2$ and 3 GeV while for $p_T > 5$ and 7 GeV, a peak at higher M also develops. The average mass of the J/ψ pairs for the higher minimum p_T is shifted backward by several GeV: compare the black curves and the red histograms in Figs. 6(c) and 6(d). The calculations of the J/ψ pairs follow the LHCb data very closely.

In general, the calculations presented here are in very good agreement for the pair observables obtained by LHCb for all values of the minimum p_T chosen.

V. SENSITIVITY OF $d\sigma/d\phi$ TO $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$

In this section, the sensitivity of observables to the presence of an intrinsic $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ is explored. While in Ref. [14], the sensitivity was studied by gradually dialing up $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ to its default value, here only the results with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$ and the default 3 GeV² (at $\sqrt{s} = 7$ TeV) are compared. The comparison is made for both the $b\bar{b}$ pairs and the final $J/\psi J/\psi$.

Because $|\Delta y|$ and y_p are independent of $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$, the comparison is only shown for $|\Delta\phi|$, M , p_{T_p} and A_T in Fig. 7. The left-hand side of the figure shows the results for $p_T > 2$ GeV while calculations for $p_T > 7$ GeV are shown on the right-hand side. The behavior of calculations with $p_T > 3$ and 5 GeV follow similar trends. All results with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$ are given in black, curves for $b\bar{b}$ and histograms for $J/\psi J/\psi$.

It is clear that the $b\bar{b}$ distributions are most affected by the presence of broadening. The peaks at $|\Delta\phi^*| \approx \pi$, low

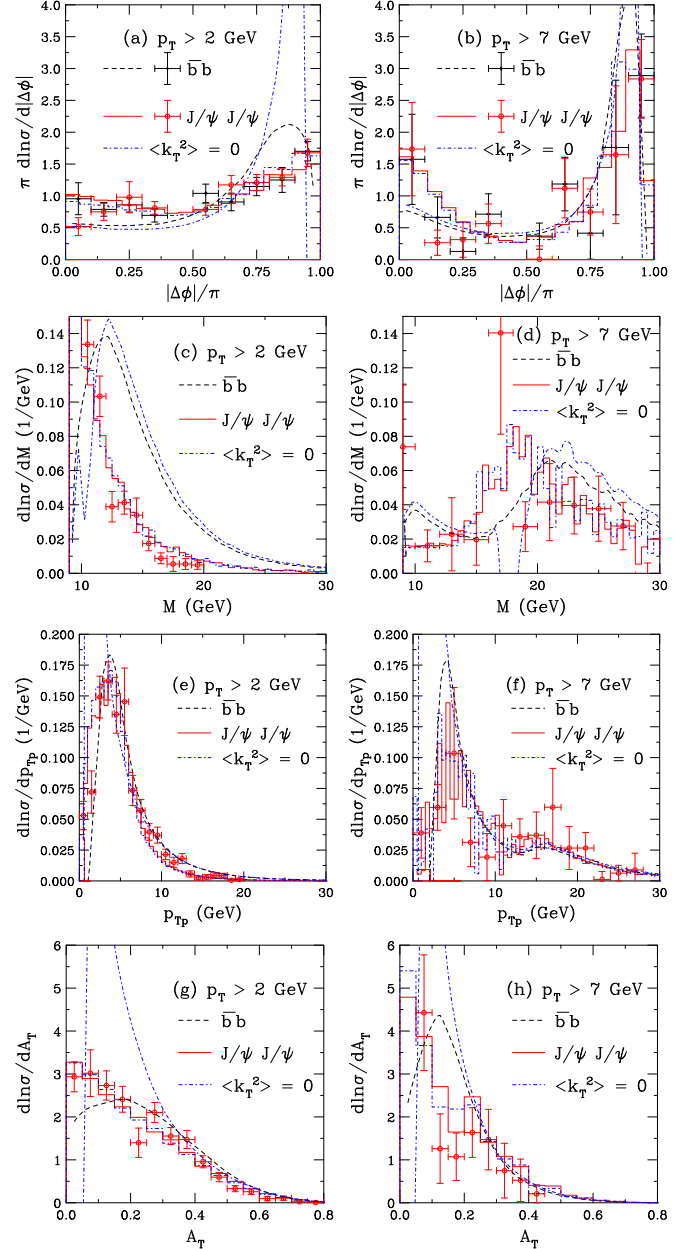


FIG. 7. The difference in the $b\bar{b}$ and $J/\psi J/\psi$ pair results for $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$ and the default k_T kick. The $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$ results are shown by the blue dot-dashed curves ($b\bar{b}$) and blue dot-dashed histograms ($J/\psi J/\psi$) and with the default k_T kick by the black dashed curves ($b\bar{b}$) and red histograms ($J/\psi J/\psi$). Results are shown for the azimuthal angle difference (a) and (b); pair mass (c) and (d); pair transverse momentum (e) and (f); and p_T asymmetry (g) and (h). The results on the left-hand side (a), (c), (e), and (g) are shown for $p_T > 2$ GeV while those on the right-hand side (b), (d), (f), and (h) are shown for $p_T > 7$ GeV. The LHCb data [15] (black for $b\bar{b}$, red circles for J/ψ pairs) are also shown.

p_{T_p} and low A_T are enhanced. They are not delta functions without broadening, as they would be at leading order, but have finite tails indicative of a NLO process. There is no significant change in the pair mass distributions, independent of minimum p_T .

Note that the bins at $|\Delta\phi^*| \approx \pi$, $p_{T_p} \rightarrow 0$ and $A_T \rightarrow 0$ do not go directly to zero but show enhanced peaks due to the incomplete numerical cancellation of divergences with HVQMNR, as discussed in Sec. III. For example, with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$, the normalized A_T distribution would still have a peak at finite A_T but it would be closer to $A_T \approx 0$ and decrease faster with A_T . The addition of k_T broadening smears out this behavior, particularly at lower p_T .

However, the J/ψ pair distributions are largely unaffected by k_T broadening even though the parent b meson pairs are sensitive to the presence of k_T broadening. This is because the decay randomizes the direction of the J/ψ relative to the b meson parent, independent of the choice of k_T . Thus, it is not possible to learn much about broadening in the initial state by studying the final-state decay products. It would be better to look at the B meson pair correlations themselves than studying pair observables through the J/ψ decay products.

VI. THEORETICAL UNCERTAINTIES

Finally, the mass and scale uncertainties on the $b\bar{b}$ distributions and their transition to the J/ψ pair decay products are discussed here. The results for all pair observables are shown for the lowest and highest minimum p_T values, $p_T > 2$ GeV in Fig. 8 and $p_T > 7$ GeV in Fig. 9.

The mass and scale uncertainties are calculated based on results using the one standard deviation uncertainties on the quark mass and scale parameters. If the central, upper, and lower limits of $\mu_{R,F}/m$ are denoted as C , H , and L , respectively, then the seven sets used to determine the scale uncertainty are $\{(\mu_F/m, \mu_R/m)\} = \{(C, C), (H, H), (L, L), (C, L), (L, C), (C, H), (H, C)\}$. The uncertainty band can be obtained for the best fit sets [35,36] by adding the uncertainties from the mass and scale variations in quadrature. The envelope contained by the resulting curves,

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\max}}{dX} = \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX} + \sqrt{\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\mu, \max}}{dX} - \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{m, \max}}{dX} - \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX}\right)^2}, \quad (4)$$

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\min}}{dX} = \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX} - \sqrt{\left(\frac{d\sigma_{\mu, \min}}{dX} - \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{d\sigma_{m, \min}}{dX} - \frac{d\sigma_{\text{cent}}}{dX}\right)^2}, \quad (5)$$

defines the uncertainty on the cross section. Here X is the individual pair observable for a given minimum p_T . In the calculation labeled ‘‘cent,’’ the central values of m , μ_F , and μ_R are used while in the calculations with subscript μ , the mass is fixed to the central value while the scales are varied and in the calculations with subscript m , the mass is varied while the scales are held fixed. The central values of the bottom quark mass, μ_F/m and μ_R/m , as well as their one standard deviation uncertainties, can be found in Sec. III.

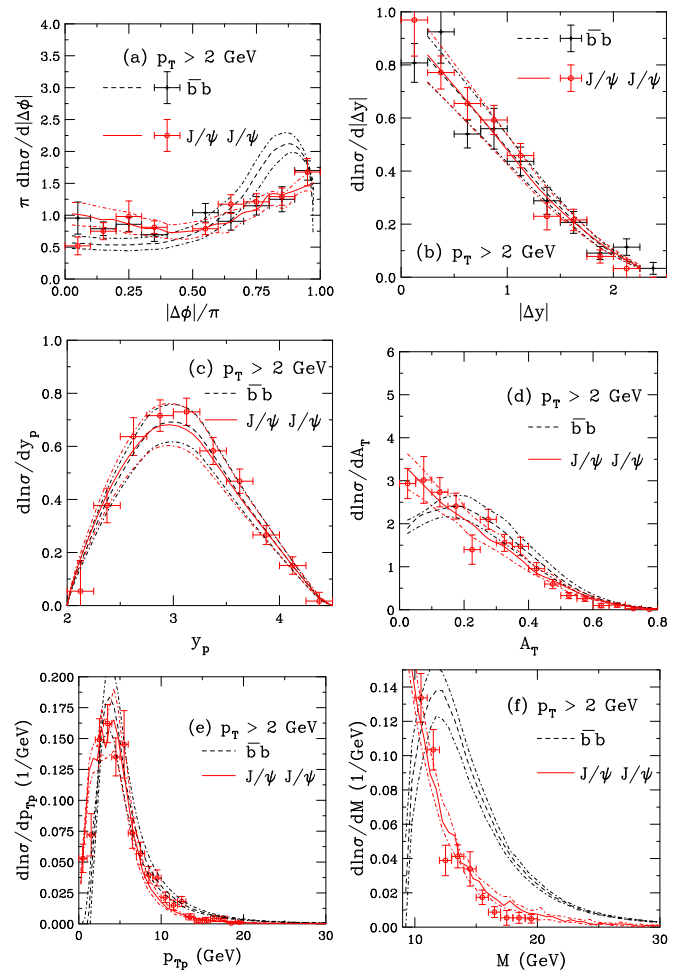


FIG. 8. The mass and scale uncertainty bands are shown for the $b\bar{b}$ pairs (black dashed curves) and $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs (red solid curves) and compared to the LHCb data [15] for $p_T > 2$ GeV. The limits on the uncertainties are shown by dot-dashed curves in both cases. Results are given for the azimuthal difference (a); rapidity difference (b); pair rapidity (c); p_T asymmetry (d); pair p_T (e); and pair mass (f).

Note that in the calculation of the uncertainties in the normalized ratios, all distributions are divided by the central value of the total cross section before calculating the uncertainty as in Eqs. (4) and (5). This is consistent with calculating the uncertainty on the distributions via these equations and then dividing by the central value of the integrated cross section and is more consistent with the uncertainties obtained on the distributions themselves [37]. If one instead divided by the total cross section for each mass and scale combination, then the uncertainties would be underestimated [37].

The mass and scale variations do not significantly change the shapes of the distributions relative to the shape of the central distribution. In the case of bottom quark production, the mass uncertainties on the integrated cross section are smaller than those due to the scales by a few percent. The uncertainties on the integrated $b\bar{b}$ cross section are smaller for the higher p_T cuts, decreasing by about a factor of 10 between $p_T > 2$ GeV and 7 GeV.

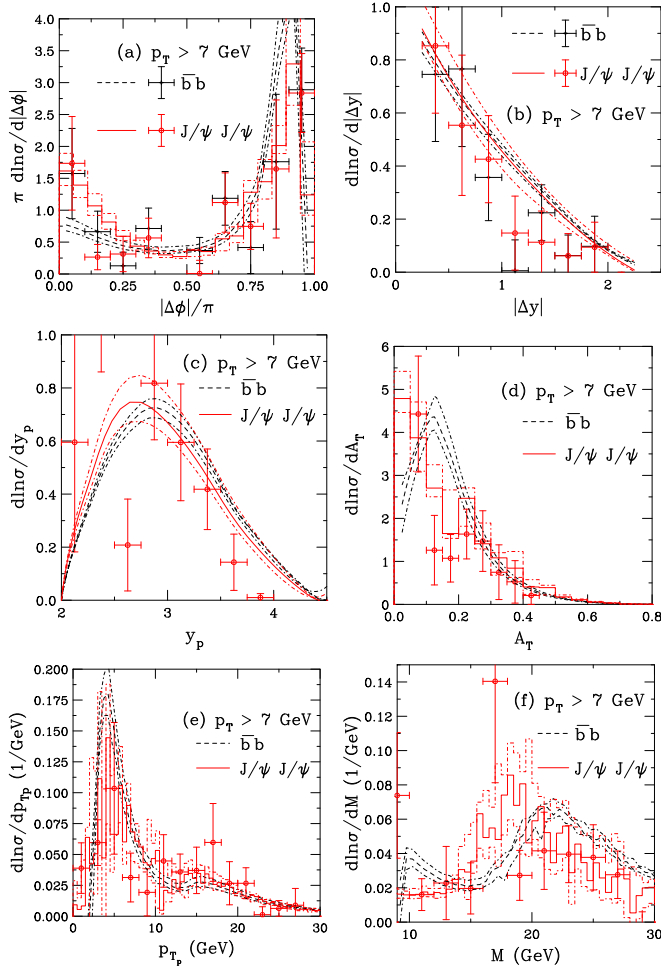


FIG. 9. The mass and scale uncertainty bands are shown for the $b\bar{b}$ pairs (black dashed curves) and $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs (red solid curves) and compared to the LHCb data [15] for $p_T > 7$ GeV. The limits on the uncertainties are shown by dot-dashed curves in both cases. Results are given for the azimuthal difference (a); rapidity difference (b); pair rapidity (c); p_T asymmetry (d); pair p_T (e); and pair mass (f).

The J/ψ pair cross sections generally reflect these trends. The J/ψ pair integrated cross sections are smaller and decrease faster with p_T cut, resulting in a factor of ≈ 100 decrease between minimum p_T of 2 and 7 GeV. This relative difference in cross section is due to the fact, as mentioned previously, that a J/ψ satisfying the same minimum p_T originates from a higher p_T bottom quark. In addition, due to the decay kinematics, some of the J/ψ 's will no longer fall within the acceptance and J/ψ pairs will not be measured.

VII. RAPIDITY DEPENDENCE

The rapidity dependence of the correlation is studied by calculating the same pair quantities considered by LHCb in the midrapidity region, $|y| \leq 0.8$. The results for both the parent $b\bar{b}$ and the J/ψ pair decay productions are shown in Fig. 10 for $p_T > 2$ and 7 GeV.

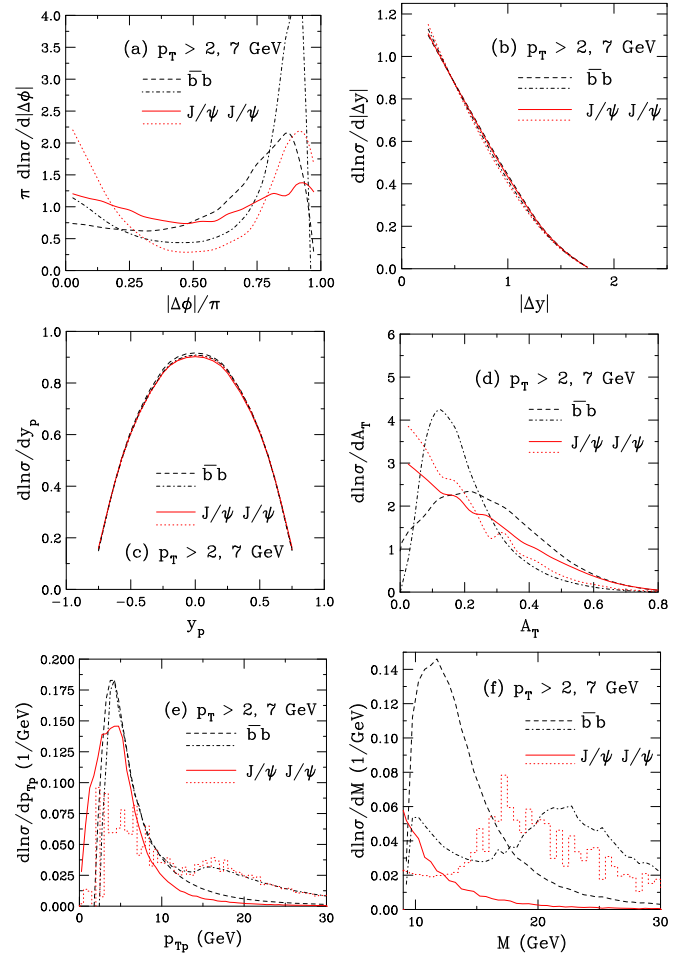


FIG. 10. The results are shown for $b\bar{b}$ pairs (black curves) and $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs (red curves) for $p_T > 2$ (dashed for $b\bar{b}$ and solid J/ψ) and 7 GeV (dot dashed for $b\bar{b}$ and dotted J/ψ). Results are given for the azimuthal difference (a); rapidity difference (b); pair rapidity (c); p_T asymmetry (d); pair p_T (e); and pair mass (f).

Generally, the shapes of the distributions at mid and forward rapidity are rather similar. While there are some differences between the shapes in the two rapidity regions, they are not large. Most of the differences are due to the narrower rapidity acceptance employed at midrapidity, 1.6 units rather than 2.5 units at forward rapidity.

The main difference in the azimuthal distributions is the behavior at small $|\Delta\phi|$. The peak at $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$ is higher at midrapidity, particularly for larger p_T b mesons and J/ψ 's. Thus, the narrower rapidity distribution covered at midrapidity seems to favor production topologies where the $b\bar{b}$ is produced at smaller angles, i.e., $gg \rightarrow b\bar{b}g$ where the final-state gluon is hard and balanced against the $b\bar{b}$ pair. In addition, at $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow \pi$, the back-to-back peak is narrower. The ratios of the distributions at $|\Delta\phi| = \pi$ to that at $|\Delta\phi| = 0$ are reduced at midrapidity, particularly for the J/ψ pairs where the results at $|\Delta\phi| = \pi$ and 0 are $\approx 1:1$ for both p_T values while it is $\approx 2:1$ for the azimuthal separation between J/ψ pairs at forward rapidity. The differences between the peaks for

$b\bar{b}$ pairs are less pronounced between central and forward rapidities but are still visible.

The rapidity gap distributions, $|\Delta y|$, are steeper in the chosen central rapidity region, simply because the rapidity range is ≈ 1 unit of rapidity narrower than the forward region studied so far. The pair rapidity distribution, y_p , is now symmetric around $y_p = 0$ at midrapidity where there is ample phase space for production. However, at forward rapidity, the average pair rapidity is not symmetric around the center of the rapidity bin ($\langle y_p \rangle = 3.25$) but closer to the lower end of the range with the calculated $\langle y_p \rangle = 3.08$. Regardless of the rapidity region, the $|\Delta y|$ and y_p distributions are independent of p_T minimum and whether $b\bar{b}$ or $J/\psi J/\psi$ pairs are considered.

The average value of the p_T asymmetry, A_T , is somewhat larger for central rapidity. However, the average pair p_T , p_{T_p} , is higher for midrapidity. This is not unexpected because the average b hadron p_T is reduced at forward rapidity relative to central. The average p_{T_p} is ≈ 1 GeV higher at central rapidity for $p_T > 2$ GeV and 3 GeV higher for $p_T > 7$ GeV. Finally, the average pair mass does not vary significantly with rapidity. It increases slightly for forward rapidity, especially for $p_T > 7$ GeV, likely because of the smaller Δy for the midrapidity interval chosen.

VIII. COLD NUCLEAR MATTER EFFECTS

In Ref. [14], the effects of shadowing and enhanced k_T broadening on $c\bar{c}$ production in cold nuclear matter, with the focus on 5.02 TeV $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions, was studied. As discussed there, it has been suggested [38–41] that energy loss by heavy quarks in heavy-ion collisions could change the azimuthal correlations.

However, it must first be ascertained how the heavy flavor pair distributions are influenced by the presence of cold nuclear matter. For example, additional k_T broadening may be present with a nuclear target due to multiple scattering with nucleons along the path of the initial proton (or nucleus). The strength of the effect depends on the impact parameter of the collision. Energy loss in matter, however, may result in a shift of the transverse momentum of the heavy quark, akin to a change in the fragmentation function. These effects would be in addition to the modification of the parton densities in the nucleus, referred to as shadowing or nPDF effects, calculated assuming collinear factorization.

Here the focus is on the parent $b\bar{b}$ correlations instead of their decays to J/ψ which do not convey as clear of an effect because the decay is isotropic in the rest frame of the b meson. For illustrative purposes, two particular pair variables are studied out of the six discussed previously: the pair rapidity and the azimuthal separation. Several different scenarios are studied: shadowing alone for both $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ and ϵ_P given in Eqs. (1) and (2); enhanced broadening in $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions; and enhanced broadening with energy loss, represented by an increase in the Peterson function parameter, in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions. Shadowing is represented by the central EPS09 NLO shadowing ratio [42] for each of the LHCb p_T cuts. As noted in Ref. [14] and in Figs. 8 and 9, if $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ is kept fixed, then the mass and

scale uncertainties do not substantially change the shapes of the distributions.

The central gluon modification of the latest nPDF set, EPPS16 [43], is not significantly different from EPS09. However, EPPS16 has five additional parameters relative to EPS09, resulting in larger uncertainty bands with an uncertainty of 25–30% due to shadowing [44]. Although the uncertainty due to shadowing is significant, it is smaller than the uncertainties due to the heavy quark mass and scale variations, particularly for charm quarks [37]. The larger bottom quark mass and comparably larger scales reduce both the overall uncertainty in the baseline $p + p$ cross section and the shadowing effect in $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions because of the larger parton momentum fraction accessed and the evolution of the shadowing due to the larger factorization scale. To avoid overlapping ratios in the following figures and better illustrate the effects, only results with the central nPDF set are shown.

In Ref. [14], the sensitivity to the magnitude of k_T broadening was studied, varying the factor Δ in Eq. (2) between 0 and 1. So far, in this work, $\Delta = 1$ has been used as a default. Here, to model broadening in medium, $\Delta = 2$ is used for $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions and $\Delta = 4$ is used in the $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ calculations relative to $p + p$ collisions with $\Delta = 1$. In the case with “shadowing only,” $\Delta = 1$ is still employed. In addition, energy loss in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions is modeled by changing the Peterson function parameter, ϵ_P from the value used in these calculations heretofore, $\epsilon_P = 0.0004$ [14], to the default value used previously, $\epsilon_P = 0.006$ [26]. This change reduces the average z in the Peterson function from 0.93 to 0.83, a difference of about 10%. See Ref. [14] for the sensitivity of the single B meson p_T distribution to ϵ_P .

The calculations shown here are done at 8.16 TeV for $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions and 5 TeV for $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions. The $p + p$ results used to calculate the nuclear modification factors, $R_{p\text{Pb}}$ and R_{PbPb} , respectively, are calculated at the same energies. The results are calculated both at central ($|y| \leq 0.8$) and forward ($2 < y < 4.5$) rapidity.

Note that there is a rapidity shift in $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions due to the requirement of equal velocity beams at the LHC. The calculations shown assume the proton is moving in the positive y direction so that the parton momentum fraction, x , probed by the nucleus, is low. The change in the shadowing ratios is then small. If the beam directions were switched, then the momentum fraction in the nucleus is in the antishadowing region. In $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions, the parton from the forward-going nucleus is large (in the antishadowing region) while that in the backward-going direction is small (shadowing) and the collisions are again forward-backward symmetric, as in $p + p$.

First, the $p + p$ distributions calculated at 5 and 8.16 TeV were checked to see if the shapes of the pair distributions were modified at different energies. The shapes remain the same for all p_T cuts, even at the lowest energy and highest minimum p_T . Note that this agreement will eventually break down at lower energies, especially for higher p_T , as one reaches the edge of available phase space, particularly at forward rapidity. Because the shapes of the distributions remain unchanged between 5 and 8.16 TeV, these results are not illustrated.

There will be some uncorrelated background to the correlated calculations shown here, particularly in ion-ion collisions. The background would be larger for $c\bar{c}$ pairs due to the larger production cross section. Scaling $p + p$ production by the number of binary nucleon-nucleon collisions, several hundred $c\bar{c}$ pairs can be produced in a single Pb + Pb collision at the LHC [45]. This uncorrelated background would be reduced for $b\bar{b}$ production because of its relatively smaller production cross section: only a few $b\bar{b}$ pairs would be produced in a given Pb + Pb event. Even so, the correlated pair signals suggested here could be substantially washed out if they are not seen to be arising from a common decay vertex. Uncorrelated production may also arise in high multiplicity $p + p$ and $p + \text{Pb}$ events which could also affect the proposed correlation in these collisions. In lepton pair channels, uncorrelated background could be removed by like-sign pair subtraction [46] although, for $b\bar{b}$ production, correlated $b\bar{b}$ pair decays can also lead to like-sign lepton pairs [47].

Aside from independent uncorrelated production, two relatively independent $Q\bar{Q}$ pairs can be produced in double parton scattering in all these collision systems. The double parton scattering contribution has been calculated in Ref. [48] for DD and DD production. The probability of such contributions should be reduced for bottom pair production due to the larger bottom quark mass and higher associated scales.

This section is divided into three subsections. To set the stage, first the single b meson modifications are shown as a function of p_T for all four cases ($p + \text{Pb}$ with shadowing alone; $p + \text{Pb}$ with shadowing and $\Delta = 2$; $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ with shadowing only; and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ with shadowing, $\Delta = 4$ and $\epsilon_P = 0.006$) at both forward and central rapidity. The pair results are then shown for the pair rapidity and the azimuthal separation between the heavy mesons. Here the nuclear modifications are shown for forward and central $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions, both with shadowing alone and then including enhanced k_T broadening, as well as modification of the fragmentation function in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions. However, now the results are shown for the same minimum p_T cuts on the b mesons used by LHCb for their $b\bar{b} \rightarrow J/\psi/J/\psi$ analysis. All results will be presented as the modification factors, $R_{p\text{Pb}}$ and R_{PbPb} , calculated as the per nucleon cross section in $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions, respectively, relative to the $p + p$ result at the same energy.

It has already been noted that there is no modification of the $p + p$ distributions, $d \ln \sigma / dX$, as a function of center of mass energy. However, some modification of the distributions can be observed in $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions relative to $p + p$, as will also be shown. Differences can arise with nuclear beams because the momentum fraction probed changes with changing \sqrt{s} . The $\approx 40\%$ increase in \sqrt{s} between 5 and 8.16 TeV reduces the x values correspondingly. Thus, the shadowing effect could potentially lead to a modification, especially in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions where one of the lead nuclei is probed at relatively high momentum fraction, $x \approx 0.02$, in the forward rapidity region. Choosing a higher p_T cut also probes higher x and larger scales. Nonetheless, shadowing alone does not modify the shapes of the distributions at different energies. Observable differences only appear with enhanced broadening

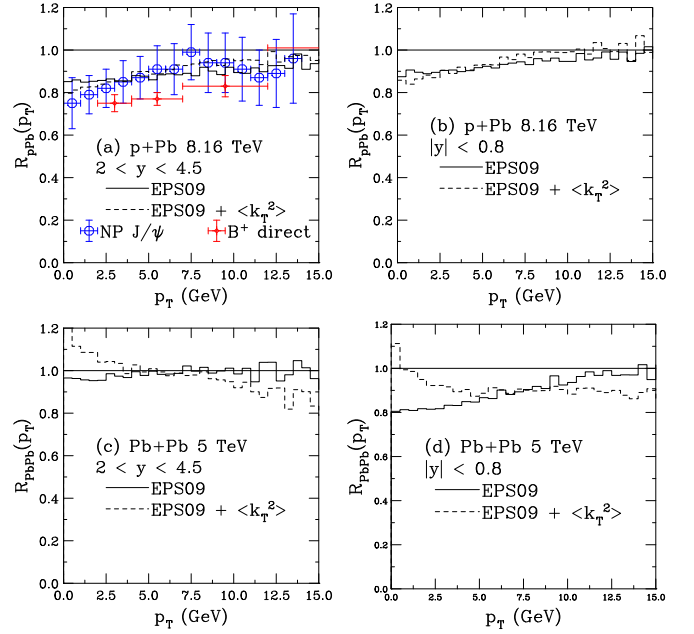


FIG. 11. Cold nuclear matter effects on b quark p_T distributions for (a), (b) $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions at 8.16 TeV with central EPS09 and the same k_T kick as in $p + p$ (solid) and additional k_T broadening in Pb (dashed); (c), (d) $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions at 5 TeV with central EPS09 with the same k_T kick in $p + p$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ (solid) and additional k_T broadening in the Pb nuclei with a modified fragmentation function in Pb (dashed). Results are shown for forward rapidity in (a), (c), central rapidity in (b), (d). In (a) the calculations are compared to the LHCb data on nonprompt J/ψ s [49] and direct B^+ [50].

or modification of the fragmentation function, as is discussed in the remainder of this section.

A. Modification of single b meson p_T spectra

Figure 11 shows the ratios $R_{p\text{Pb}}(p_T)$ (a), (b) and $R_{\text{PbPb}}(p_T)$ (c), (d) at forward (a), (c) and central (b), (d) rapidities for single b mesons. These calculations can inform the results shown later for $b\bar{b}$ pairs.

The results for $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions at forward rapidity are compared to LHCb data from nonprompt J/ψ [49] and direct B^+ mesons [50]. The calculations, using the central EPS09 NLO set only, with or without any additional k_T kick, agree very well with the LHCb data, especially that for nonprompt J/ψ s, shown in blue. While the direct B^+ data, shown in red, are within one standard deviation of the nonprompt J/ψ uncertainty, they are below the central EPS09 NLO calculation for $p_T < 7$ GeV. If the full EPS09 NLO uncertainty band was shown, however, then the B^+ data should be within the limits of the calculated band. The ratios including a higher k_T kick for $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions are very similar to those with shadowing only, similar to the midrapidity calculations shown for single D mesons at midrapidity in Ref. [14]. The maximum shadowing effect on b mesons at low p_T is $\approx 15\%$ at forward rapidity and $\approx 10\%$ at midrapidity.

The single bottom $R_{p\text{Pb}}(p_T)$ at forward, backward and mid-rapidity was also calculated for shadowing only at 8 TeV

[51] employing a p_T and rapidity dependent parametrization of the $p + p$ cross section. Bands were shown for several nuclear parton densities and compared to calculations with k_T broadening and energy loss [52] in Ref. [44]. The shadowing parametrizations employed in Ref. [44] ranged from $\approx 5\text{--}40\%$ effects at $p_T \approx 5$ GeV at forward rapidity with a slightly weaker effect at central rapidity. However, for the same p_T , a 0–8% enhancement was seen for the calculations with broadening and energy loss [44].

While not shown, the calculated ratio at backward rapidity is subject to 5–20% antishadowing at low p_T . This is consistent with the p_T -integrated modification factor R_{pPb} shown as a function of rapidity in Ref. [44]: antishadowing at backward rapidity and increasing shadowing at central and forward rapidity. The LHCb B meson data at forward and backward rapidity are consistent with this trend [49,50].

The NLO results calculated for $p + Pb$ collisions shown here with the central EPS09 NLO set at forward and central rapidity are in good agreement with the bands shown for the parametrizations with EPS09 NLO shadowing applied to the parametrization of the cross section in Refs. [44,51].

The results shown in Figs. 11(c) and 11(d) for Pb + Pb collisions are, perhaps, somewhat more surprising. First, for shadowing only, it is notable that, at forward rapidity, $R_{PbPb}(p_T)$ is approximately unity with a negligible p_T dependence while the modification factor is a rather strong function of p_T at midrapidity. These results are easily explained, however. The Pb + Pb modification factor at forward rapidity is the product of the $p + Pb$ results at forward and backward rapidity, $R_{AA}(y; X) = R_{pA}(y; X) \times R_{pA}(-y; X)$ [53] where X is another kinematic quantity such as p_T or $|\Delta\phi|$.

The combination of $\approx 15\%$ suppression at forward rapidity with a $\approx 15\%$ enhancement at backward rapidity is effectively unity. (Because Pb + Pb collisions are symmetric about midrapidity, one would see a similar modification factor for Pb + Pb collisions at backward rapidity.) However, the midrapidity shadowing results are effectively the $R_{pPb}(p_T)$ result in Fig. 11(b) squared. Note that the analogy between R_{PbPb} and the product of R_{pPb} at forward and backward rapidity here is not exact because of the different energies of the two collisions: the lower energy Pb + Pb collisions would be at higher x than the corresponding rapidity in $p + Pb$ collisions. However, the difference between the two should be small.

The Pb + Pb calculations shown in the dashed histograms, including increased broadening and a modified fragmentation function parameter, exhibit quite different behavior. As shown in Figs. 11(a) and 11(b), increasing the relative k_T broadening in the lead nucleus does not strongly change the modification factor. Therefore the change in slope seen in these results is due to the change in the fragmentation parameter ϵ_p . Increasing ϵ_p changes the slope of the p_T distribution, enhancing the low p_T part of the spectrum and depleting the high p_T contribution, see the b meson p_T distributions in Ref. [14]. Thus, this behavior, while perhaps initially surprising, is easily understood.

In the following subsections, the pair results will be presented. In these, the p_T cuts used by LHCb are applied. One must keep in mind that pair quantities are all integrated over p_T from the minimum value and thus probe, on average,

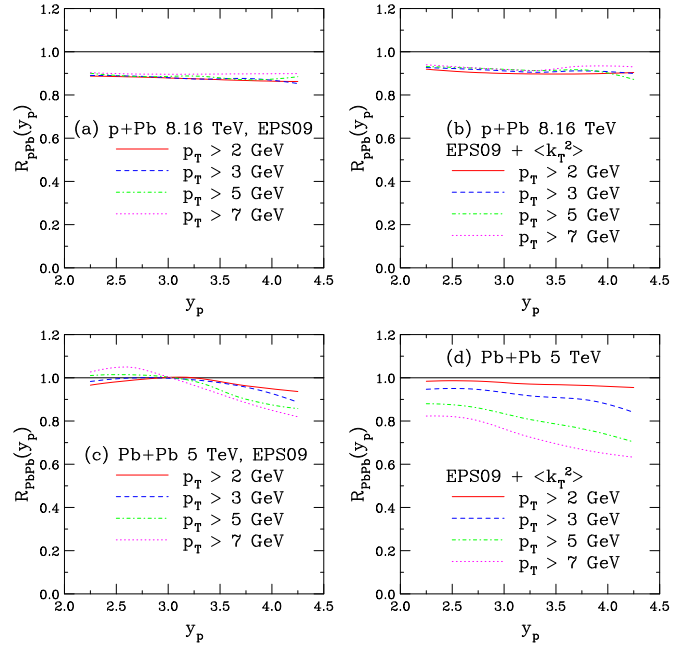


FIG. 12. Cold nuclear matter effects at forward rapidity ($2 < y < 4.5$) on the $b\bar{b}$ pair rapidity for $p_T > 2$ (solid red), 3 (dashed blue), 5 (dot-dashed green), and 7 GeV (dotted magenta) for (a) $p + Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV with central EPS09 and the same k_T kick as in $p + p$; (b) R_{pPb} at 8.16 TeV with EPS09 and additional k_T broadening in Pb; (c) Pb + Pb collisions at 5 TeV with central EPS09 with the same k_T kick in $p + p$ and $p + Pb$; and (d) R_{AA} at 5 TeV with EPS09, additional k_T broadening in the Pb nuclei, and a modified fragmentation function in Pb.

higher p_T and, consequently, somewhat larger x than the single meson quantities shown here.

B. Modifications of y_p

The modifications of the pair rapidity are shown in Figs. 12 and 13 for forward and central rapidities, respectively. In $p + Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV, for an average pair rapidity of 3 in the LHCb acceptance, $x \approx 10^{-4}$ for b quark production for the minimum p_T of 2 GeV. The minimum x remains of this order for all values of the minimum p_T . Thus, $R_{pPb} < 1$ for all minimum p_T values.

Given the x range, it is not surprising that R_{pPb} is nearly independent of y_p since the EPS09 NLO gluon nPDF ratio is approximately flat for $x < 0.001$ [42]. The factorization scale is also important for the nPDF ratio because the QCD evolution reduces the shadowing effect at higher p_T as well. In addition, the average pair mass, which should be considered when calculating x instead of the transverse mass of a single b quark, is ≈ 15 GeV for $p_T > 2$ GeV and ≈ 23 GeV for $p_T > 7$ GeV. Thus, one sees a mild tendency for $R_{pPb}(y_p)$ to increase slightly as the minimum p_T increases, an effect more visible at central rapidity since the b meson $R_{pPb}(p_T)$ rises faster with p_T at central than at forward rapidity.

When the average k_T broadening is effectively doubled, as in Figs. 12(b) and 13(b), the ratios are still relatively independent of y_p but the values of R_{pPb} increase by a few

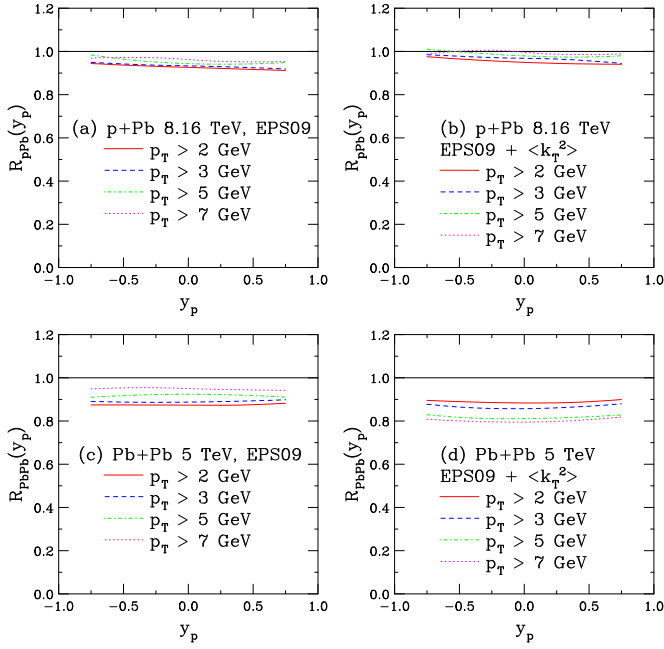


FIG. 13. Cold nuclear matter effects at central rapidity ($|y| \leq 0.8$) on the $b\bar{b}$ pair rapidity for $p_T > 2$ (solid red), 3 (dashed blue), 5 (dot-dashed green), and 7 GeV (dotted magenta) for (a) $p + Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV with central EPS09 and the same k_T kick as in $p + p$; (b) R_{pPb} at 8.16 TeV with EPS09 and additional k_T broadening in Pb; (c) Pb + Pb collisions at 5 TeV with central EPS09 with the same k_T kick in $p + p$ and $p + Pb$; and (d) R_{AA} at 5 TeV with EPS09, additional k_T broadening in the Pb nuclei, and a modified fragmentation function in Pb.

percent relative to calculations with shadowing alone. A large effect is not expected because, even for a doubling of the k_T kick, $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 5 \text{ GeV}^2$ in this case, m_T is still larger than $\langle k_T^2 \rangle^{1/2}$ and, as seen in Ref. [14], changing the k_T kick does not have a large effect on the shape of the single b meson p_T distributions. The change in $R_{pPb}(p_T)$ is also minimal, see Fig. 11. A much larger effect was seen on the c and b quark p_T distributions by modifying the fragmentation function [14].

Figure 12(c) shows the effect of shadowing alone on results at forward rapidity from Pb + Pb collisions at 5 TeV. As noted earlier, the x range probed is slightly higher even though the factorization scale remains the same, due to the lower energy. Now, however, the ratio R_{PbPb} is no longer independent of y_p but shows some structure due to the combination of nuclear effects from both nuclei. This is because one of the lead nuclei is now also probing the nPDFs at higher x , $x \geq 0.01$, and moves through the antishadowing region as y_p increases.

The increase in curvature with minimum p_T is primarily due to the antishadowing contribution from backward rapidity. As p_T and thus the input scale of the nPDF increases, the antishadowing peak both reduces its maximum and moves closer to midrapidity. At the same time, the modification in the shadowing region at forward rapidity is reduced but remains relatively independent of rapidity. Thus, the results for shadowing only shows more change with y_p for $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$ than 2 GeV.

Perhaps the most intriguing result is seen in Fig. 12(d) where the average k_T kick is again doubled over that employed in $p + Pb$ collisions, to $\langle k_T^2 \rangle \approx 8.4 \text{ GeV}^2$. [There are, of course, some small variations in $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ between 5 and 8.16 TeV due to the energy dependence assumed for $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$, given in Eq. (2).] If that was the only effect assumed for Pb + Pb collisions, then one would have expected R_{PbPb} to be similar to the $p + Pb$ results in Fig. 12(b).

However, here the ratio with the highest minimum p_T is now lowest at the largest y_p . This is because, in addition to the k_T broadening, an effective energy loss has been introduced by changing the Peterson fragmentation function parameter from the value determined in Ref. [14], to agree with the FONLL b meson p_T distribution, to the e^+e^- default value, $\epsilon_P = 0.006$. As stated in Sec. VIII A, this is an effective reduction in the average fraction of momentum transferred from the quark to the meson, from $\approx 93\%$ with $\epsilon_P = 0.0004$ to $\approx 83\%$ for $\epsilon_P = 0.006$ [14]. As seen in Fig. 11(c), integration starting from $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$ includes the peak of the shifted p_T distribution where there is an enhancement while $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$ includes a region of relative suppression compared to $p + p$, resulting in stronger modification for the higher p_T cut than the lower. This is an inversion of normally expected behavior for heavy flavor R_{PbPb} . Note that this is in no way intended to replace a real energy loss calculation but is rather intended to illustrate the possible effect on R_{PbPb} for correlated observables.

Results as a function of y_p in the central rapidity region are shown in Fig. 13. The trends are quite similar for $p + Pb$ collisions although the level of shadowing is reduced in both cases and a slightly larger separation of the results for different minimum p_T values can be seen. However, for Pb + Pb collisions, the results are now also independent of y_p . This is because, around the narrow midrapidity window, the x values probed do not change significantly and whatever change occurs is probed symmetrically around $y_p = 0$. The stronger modification for higher p_T with the increase of ϵ_P is still evident here, albeit with less separation between results for different minimum p_T .

The y_p distributions are shown for $p + p$ collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ (blue); $p + Pb$ at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 8.16 \text{ TeV}$ (red); and Pb + Pb collisions at $\sqrt{s_{NN}} = 5 \text{ TeV}$ (black) for $p_T > 2$ and 7 GeV in Fig. 14, including all cold matter effects. As one might expect from the discussion in Sec. IV, the Δy and y_p distributions are unaffected by k_T broadening. Thus, the y_p distributions for $p + p$ and $p + Pb$ collisions are the same shape. However, the Pb + Pb distribution is clearly shifted backward to lower y_p , a small but visible effect that increases with minimum p_T . This is due to the change in ϵ_P . The effect is stronger for $p_T > 7 \text{ GeV}$ than $p_T > 2 \text{ GeV}$ since the larger lower limit of p_T integration is more sensitive to the fragmentation function. The steeper p_T distributions with the higher value of ϵ_P mean that fewer b quarks may be found at higher rapidity, especially for higher values of the minimum p_T , reducing the average y_p in Pb + Pb collisions relative to the other cases.

C. Modifications of $|\Delta\phi|$

Figures 15 and 16 show R_{pPb} and R_{PbPb} as a function of the azimuthal separation between the b and \bar{b} , at forward and

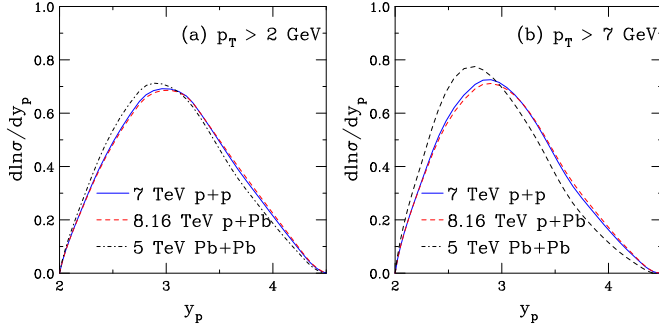


FIG. 14. The $b\bar{b}$ pair rapidity in the range $2 < y_p < 4.5$ for $p_T > 2$ (a) and 7 GeV (b) for $p+p$ collisions at 7 TeV (solid blue), $p+Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV (dashed red), and $Pb+Pb$ collisions at 5 TeV (dot-dashed black). The $p+Pb$ calculations include shadowing and enhanced broadening (2Δ) while the $Pb+Pb$ calculations include shadowing, broadening (4Δ), and fragmentation function modification.

central rapidities, respectively. Note that for shadowing only at forward rapidity, the modification factors are rather independent of $|\Delta\phi|$, with a mild decrease in the ratio as $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow \pi$. At central rapidity, the shadowing only results show a somewhat stronger decrease in the modification factor as $|\Delta\phi|$ increases. A similar result was obtained for $c\bar{c}$ production at 5 TeV in Ref. [14] where the p_T - and rapidity-integrated R_{pPb}

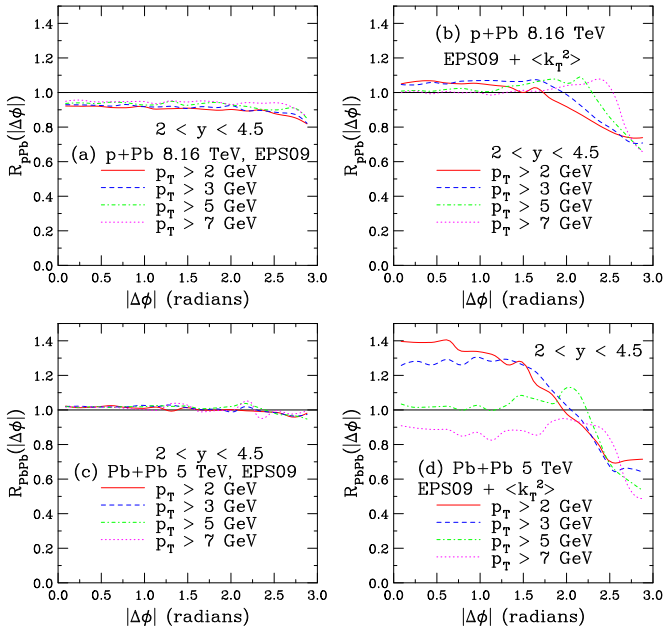


FIG. 15. Cold nuclear matter effects at forward rapidity ($2 < y < 4.5$) on the $b\bar{b}$ azimuthal angle difference for $p_T > 2$ (solid red), 3 (dashed blue), 5 (dot-dashed green), and 7 GeV (dotted magenta) for (a) $p+Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV with central EPS09 and the same k_T kick as in $p+p$; (b) R_{pPb} at 8.16 TeV with EPS09 and additional k_T broadening in Pb ; (c) $Pb+Pb$ collisions at 5 TeV with central EPS09 with the same k_T kick in $p+p$ and $p+Pb$; and (d) R_{AA} at 5 TeV with EPS09, additional k_T broadening in the Pb nuclei and a modified fragmentation function in Pb .

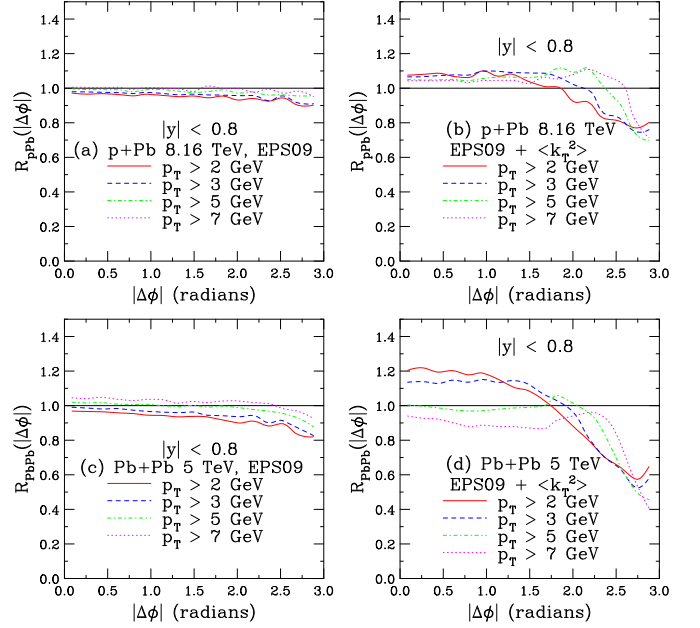


FIG. 16. Cold nuclear matter effects at central rapidity ($|y| < 0.8$) on the $b\bar{b}$ azimuthal angle difference for $p_T > 2$ (solid red), 3 (dashed blue), 5 (dot-dashed green), and 7 GeV (dotted magenta) for (a) $p+Pb$ collisions at 8.16 TeV with central EPS09 and the same k_T kick as in $p+p$; (b) R_{pPb} at 8.16 TeV with EPS09 and additional k_T broadening in Pb ; (c) $Pb+Pb$ collisions at 5 TeV with central EPS09 with the same k_T kick in $p+p$ and $p+Pb$; and (d) R_{AA} at 5 TeV with EPS09, additional k_T broadening in the Pb nuclei and a modified fragmentation function in Pb .

shadowing ratios were independent of $|\Delta\phi|$ with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$ but showed a slight decrease with increasing $|\Delta\phi|$ with $\langle k_T^2 \rangle \neq 0$.

Note that in Figs. 15(a) and 16(a), 16(c) the modification factor decreases rather gradually with $|\Delta\phi|$ over most of $|\Delta\phi|$ with an increase in the slope as $|\Delta\phi|$ approaches π . [All the ratios are compatible with unity for $Pb+Pb$ collisions with shadowing alone in Fig. 15(c), as might be expected from the result in Fig. 11(c).] When the minimum p_T is increased, the ratios are independent of $|\Delta\phi|$ until they begin to decrease at larger $|\Delta\phi|$. This can be attributed to the narrowing and sharpening of the peak in the $|\Delta\phi|$ distribution with increasing p_T , seen in Fig. 1, while the enhancement at $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$ is increasing more slowly.

The more striking effect is for $p+Pb$ and, in particular, $Pb+Pb$ collisions with enhanced k_T broadening. As shown in Fig. 17, the effect of broadening on the azimuthal distributions in $p+Pb$ and $Pb+Pb$ collisions reduces and broadens the peak at $|\Delta\phi| \approx \pi$ and enhances the distribution at $|\Delta\phi| \approx 0$. Recall that these distributions are the same shape in $p+p$ collisions so that the differences seen in the figure arise primarily from enhanced broadening. Only the results for the lowest and highest minimum p_T values are again shown to illustrate the effect.

There is an interesting change of behavior at $|\Delta\phi| \approx 0$ in $p+Pb$ relative to $Pb+Pb$ collisions for the two different p_T cuts. At lower p_T , where a change in broadening has a larger effect on the shape of the $|\Delta\phi|$ distribution: the $Pb+Pb$ result

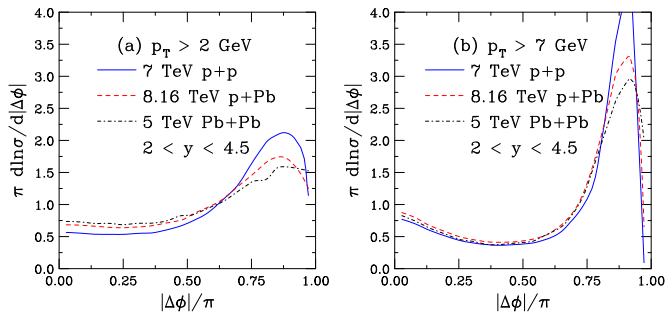


FIG. 17. The $b\bar{b}$ azimuthal separation at forward rapidity ($2 < y < 4.5$) for $p_T > 2$ (a) and 7 GeV (b) for $p + p$ collisions at 7 TeV (solid blue), $p + \text{Pb}$ collisions at 8.16 TeV (dashed red) and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions at 5 TeV (dot-dashed black). The $p + \text{Pb}$ calculations include shadowing and enhanced broadening (2Δ) while the $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ calculations include shadowing, broadening (4Δ), and fragmentation function modification.

is slightly enhanced over that of $p + \text{Pb}$ since $\Delta = 2$ for $p + \text{Pb}$ and 4 for $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ [14]. However, for the higher p_T cut, the enhancement due to broadening is reduced and the change in the fragmentation function parameter suppresses the $|\Delta\phi|$ enhancement at $|\Delta\phi| \approx 0$ in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ relative to $p + \text{Pb}$, even though the k_T broadening is larger in $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions, see Ref. [14].

The $p + \text{Pb}$ ratios with enhanced k_T broadening in both rapidity regions exhibit a kink that occurs at higher $\Delta\phi$ for increasing minimum p_T . This can be understood from the ratios of increasing $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ relative to the results with no broadening, $\langle k_T^2 \rangle = 0$. Reference [14] studied the turn on of the effect at $\langle k_T^2 \rangle > 0$, becoming increasingly isotropic as $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ increases. As shown in Ref. [14], the $|\Delta\phi|$ distributions peak more sharply at both $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow \pi$ and $|\Delta\phi| \rightarrow 0$. The effect at $|\Delta\phi| = 0$ is reduced in $b\bar{b}$ production relative to $c\bar{c}$ since it requires a much harder gluon to balance a more massive $b\bar{b}$ pair than the lighter $c\bar{c}$ pair. This change in relative height of the peak for fixed $\langle k_T^2 \rangle$ and increasing minimum p_T causes the location of the kink in the ratio to increase from $|\Delta\phi| \approx 1.7$ to 2.5 radians as the minimum p_T increases from 2 to 7 GeV.

The hierarchy is more clearly reversed for $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions, shown in Figs. 15(d) and 16(d). The fragmentation function parameter ϵ_p has almost no effect on the shape of the $\Delta\phi$ distribution, as also shown in Ref. [14] when integrated over all p_T . However, it will change the number of $b\bar{b}$ pairs with both quarks in the rapidity acceptance, as illustrated in Fig. 14, producing the inverted hierarchy of ratios seen here.

Note that the larger k_T kick assumed for $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions also result in the kink in $R_{p\text{Pb}}$ seen in Figs. 15(b) and 16(b), moving to lower $\Delta\phi$, now between 1.5 to 2.4 radians in Figs. 15(d) and 16(d).

IX. SUMMARY

The $b\bar{b} \rightarrow J/\psi J/\psi$ pair observables measured by LHCb in $p + p$ collisions were studied in detail in an exclusive NLO calculation with fragmentation and k_T broadening, as first described in Ref. [14]. The calculations reproduced the data very well in all cases and for all p_T cuts. The sensitivity of the results to the k_T broadening is shown and, while the direct $b\bar{b}$ observables are indeed sensitive to the k_T broadening, the resulting J/ψ pairs are not since the decays produce a decorrelation of the J/ψ s relative to the parent b hadrons. The mass and scale dependence has also been studied and shown not to be large, as expected for $b\bar{b}$ production. The dependence of the results on rapidity were also shown.

Finally, the nuclear modification factors for enhanced k_T broadening and fragmentation function modification in cold nuclear matter were presented. The potential cold nuclear matter effects calculated here for $p + \text{Pb}$ and $\text{Pb} + \text{Pb}$ collisions are not intended to be definitive but illustrative only. The calculations have demonstrated how effects like broadening and energy loss could be disentangled by specific correlated observables more sensitive to each. Although both observables discussed are affected by the two effects, the pair rapidity is more sensitive to fragmentation while the azimuthal correlation depends most strongly on the k_T broadening. While the effects were modeled in the context of cold nuclear matter, similar decorrelation, as produced by enhanced k_T broadening, could be due to hot matter effects, as produced in the quark-gluon plasma [38]. A thermal medium also results in heavy quark energy loss, as modeled by the modified ϵ_p . These calculations thus suggest that additional correlated observables are required to better quantify such effects, regardless of the medium.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I thank A. Mischke, T. Dahms, and M. Winn for discussions. This work was performed under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Energy by Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory under Contract No. DE-AC52-07NA27344 and supported by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Physics (Nuclear Theory) under Contract No. DE-SC-0004014.

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