

## An unexpected possible extraction of $\alpha_s$ using EEC in the post-confinement region

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We present precision predictions for the quantum scaling of the post-confinement plateau of the energy-energy correlator (EEC). The analysis follows the light-ray operator product expansion (OPE) description of the near-side EEC, in which the plateau is controlled by the leading  $J = 5$  channel and its timelike anomalous dimension. We assess the impact of the plateau prediction on possible  $\alpha_s$  extraction and find that the present experimental setup already supports a meaningful sensitivity study.

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