

# Experimental Prospects for Decoherence of Fermion Qubit Pairs from Radiation Emission at Colliders

***FlipPhysics* – Jardín Botánico de la Universidad de València – May 26th-29th, 2026**

**Speaker: Guillermo Garcia-Mir**

**In collaboration with Jose Manuel Camacho, Marcel Vos, María Moreno Llácer (IFIC, CSIC-UV),**

Many thanks to Rafael Aoude (Hamburg-DESY), Fabio Maltoni (Bologna/Louvain/CERN), Leonardo Satrioni, Valentin Durupt (Louvain)

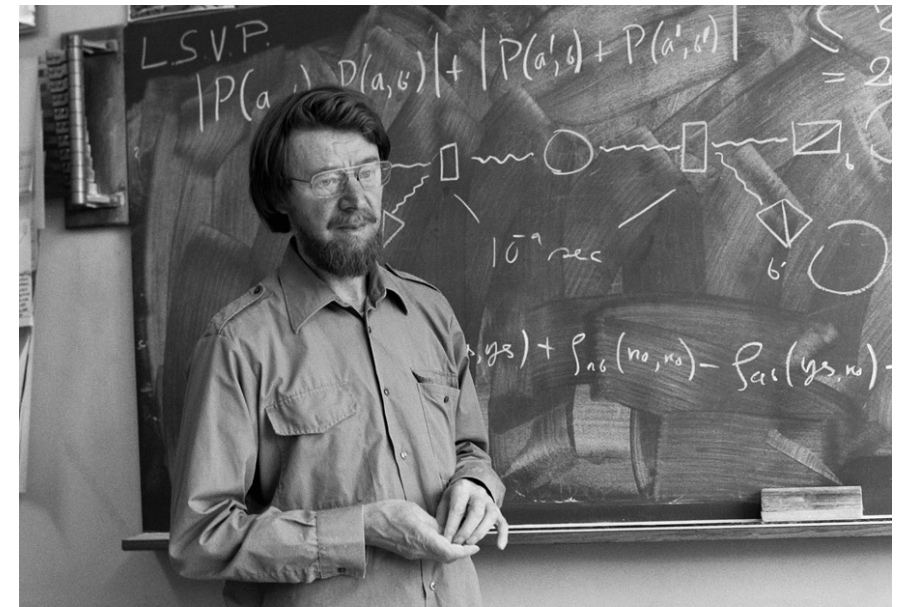
**Based on the paper arXiv:2604.16268. Soon to appear in XXX (2026)**

# The role of quantum entanglement

Is quantum mechanics complete with a probabilistic interpretation?



Niels Bohr – Werner Heisenberg – Albert Einstein



Jonh S. Bell at CERN, 1982

References: H. Kragh (2002). *Quantum generations*;  
W. H. Zurek (1025). *Decoherence and Quantum Darwinism*

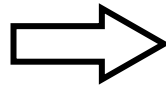
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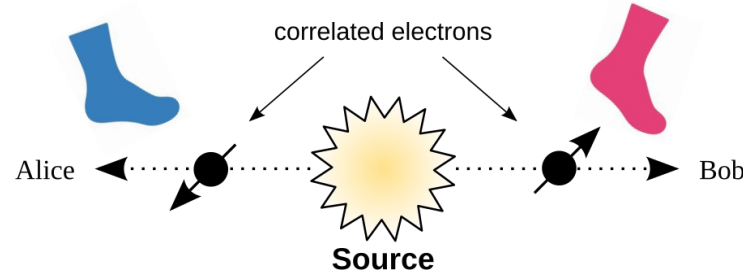
THE EPR THOUGHT EXPERIMENT:

$$|\psi\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|\uparrow\downarrow\rangle - |\downarrow\uparrow\rangle)$$

Singlet (S = 1) → Maximally entangled state



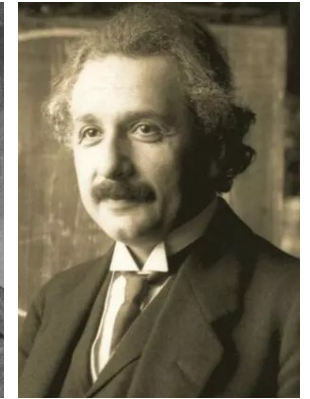
Alice and Bob observations are correlated



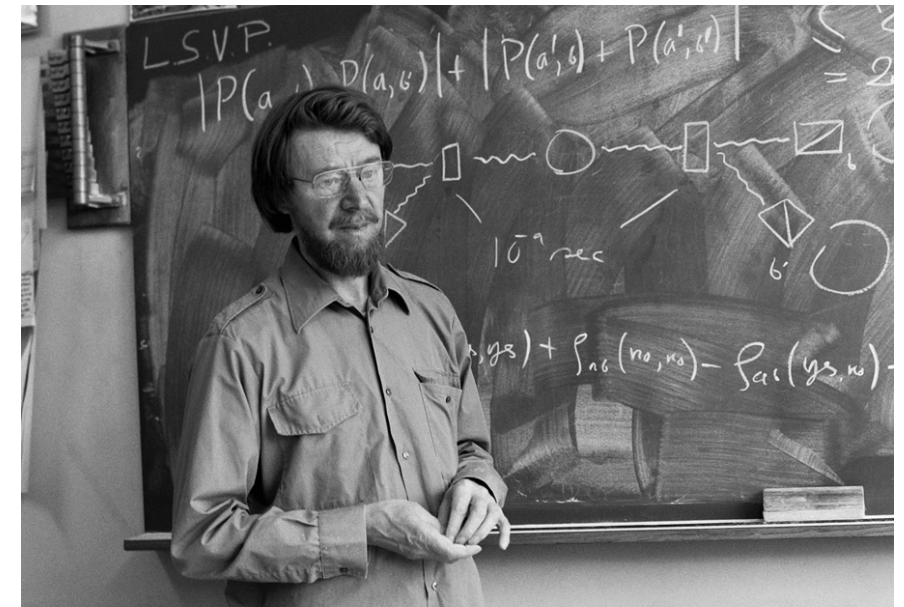
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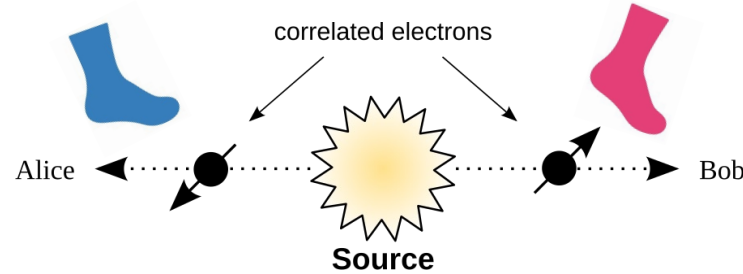
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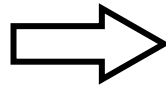
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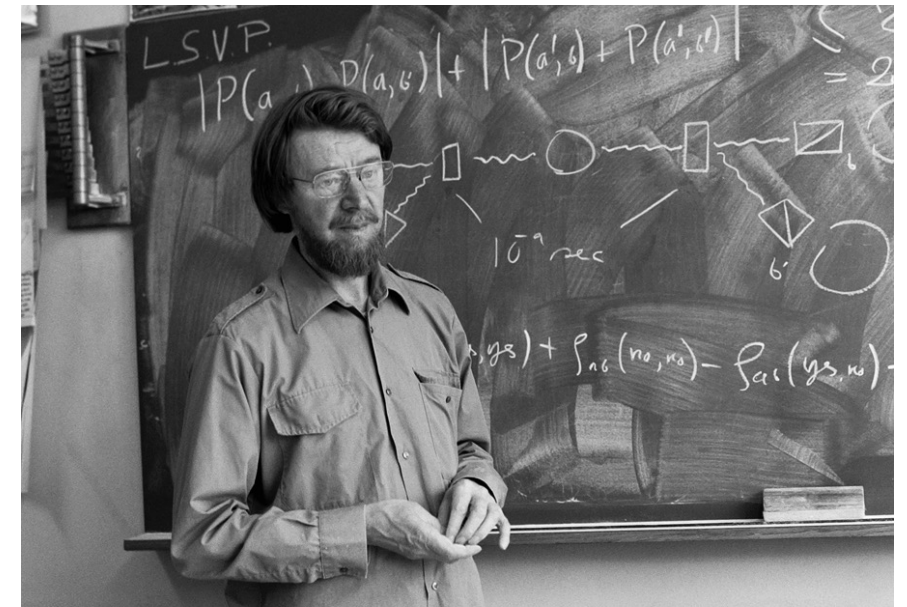


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Hidden variable theory that predetermines the observation from source?



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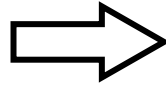
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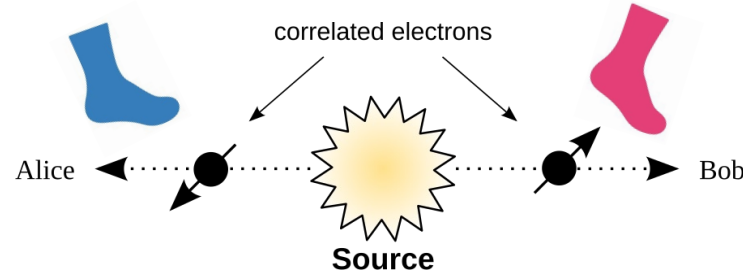
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Hidden variable that predetermines the observation from source?



**BELL THEOREM:**  $2 \leq |E(A_1, B_1) + E(A_1, B_2) + E(A_2, B_1) - E(A_2, B_2)| \leq 2\sqrt{2}$

Classical maximum

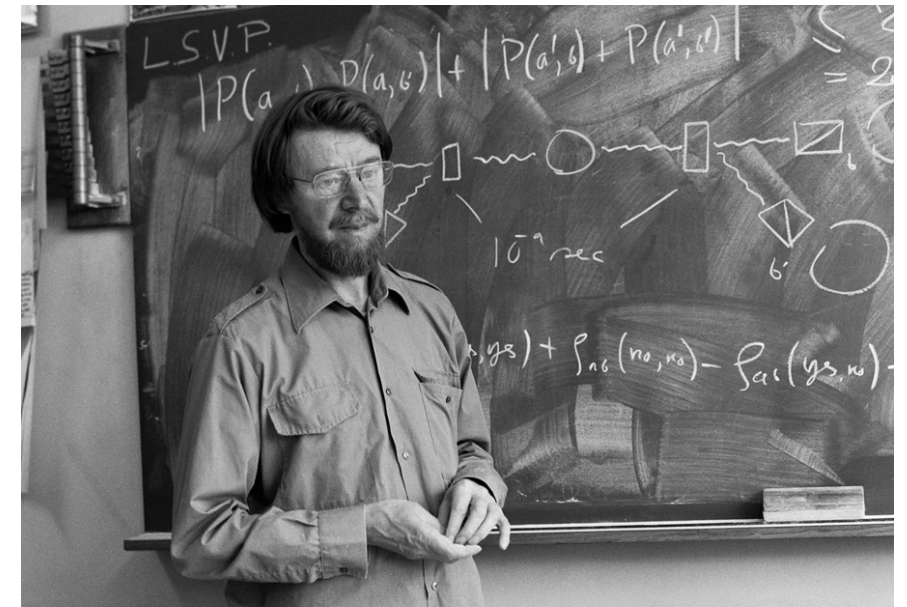
Quantum maximum



Aspect, Clauser, Zeilinger (2022 Nobel Prize)



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# Quantum decoherence. Motivations

How do the classical rules emerge from a fundamentally quantum world?

◆ First **observation of quantum spin entanglement** in 2024

→  $t\bar{t}$  pairs by ATLAS and CMS at LHC.

Article

**Observation of quantum entanglement with top quarks at the ATLAS detector**

ATLAS Collaboration. Nature 633, 542 (2024)

**Measurement of the top quark polarization and  $t\bar{t}$  spin correlations using dilepton final states in proton-proton collisions at  $\sqrt{s} = 13$  TeV**

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- ◆ Decoherence —loss of *quantumness*— is at the heart of this topic → measurement problem and collapse of wave function.

- ◆ **OUR STUDY:** Minimal protocol for prospects of the **effects of energetic final-state radiation (FSR)** in the **entanglement of heavy fermion pairs:**

- ◆ Modelling the source of decoherence → gluon and photon radiation (FSR) from  $f\bar{f}$  → understood as interaction with the environment (Aoude, Barr, Maltoni and Satrioni. <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2504.07030>).
- ◆ Two process studied: ⇒  $t\bar{t}$  production at **LCF and LHC.** ⇒  $\tau^+\tau^-$  production at **Belle II** and **Z-pole FCC-ee.**
- ◆ We assess the experimental feasibility naively ⇒ statistical significance for observation of decoherence.

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# Quantum state tomography

How do we “observe” quantum mechanical systems in High Energy Physics?

1 → General two-qubit (spin  $\frac{1}{2}$ ) density matrix  $\rho$ :

$$\rho = \frac{1}{4} [\mathbb{1}_4 + \sigma^i \otimes \mathbb{1}_2 \cdot B_i^1 + \mathbb{1}_2 \otimes \sigma^j \cdot B_j^2 + \sigma^i \otimes \sigma^j C_{ij}]$$

**SPIN  
POLARIZATION  
VECTOR**

$$B_i^a = \langle S_i \rangle^a$$

**SPIN  
CORRELATION  
MATRIX**

$$C_{ij} = \langle S_i S_j \rangle$$

References: W. Bernreuther et. al. (2015)

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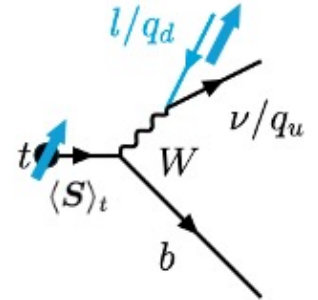
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SPIN POLARIZATION VECTOR  $B_i^a = \langle S_i \rangle^a$       SPIN CORRELATION MATRIX  $C_{ij} = \langle S_i S_j \rangle$

2 → Angular distribution for the differential decay width of the top quark:

Expected value of the decay products 3-momenta → **correlated with the spin direction** of their parent top-quark.



$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_T} \frac{d\Gamma}{d \cos \chi_i} = (1 + \alpha_i \cos \chi_i)/2$$

$\alpha$  : spin analysing power

In  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow$  charged lepton (e/ $\mu$ )  
 or down-type (d/s) quarks  
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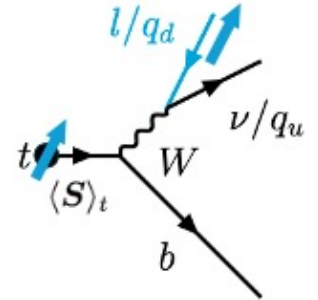
3 → Normalized differential cross-section distribution:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_+ d\Omega_-} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left( 1 + \mathbf{B}'_1 \cdot \hat{\ell}_+ + \mathbf{B}'_2 \cdot \hat{\ell}_- - \hat{\ell}_+ \cdot \mathbf{C}' \cdot \hat{\ell}_- \right)$$

$$B_i^a = \langle S_i \rangle^a = 3 \frac{1}{\alpha} \langle \cos\theta_i^a \rangle \quad C_{ij} = \langle S_i S_j \rangle = -9 \frac{1}{\alpha_1 \alpha_2} \langle \cos\theta_i^a \cos\theta_j^b \rangle$$

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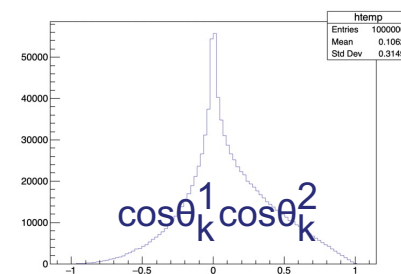
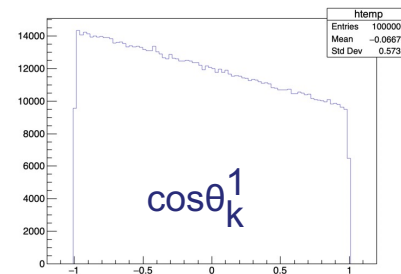
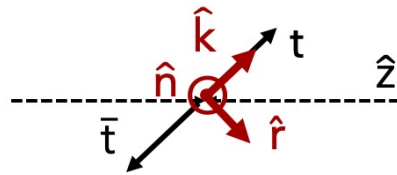
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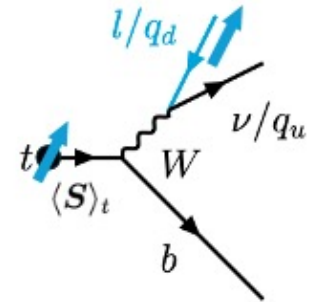
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4 → The axis system chosen is the **helicity base**:



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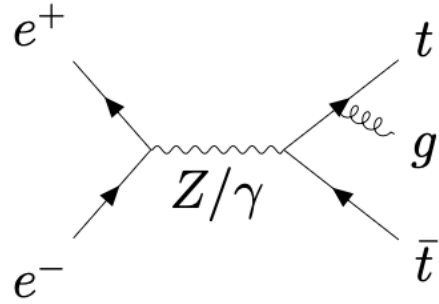
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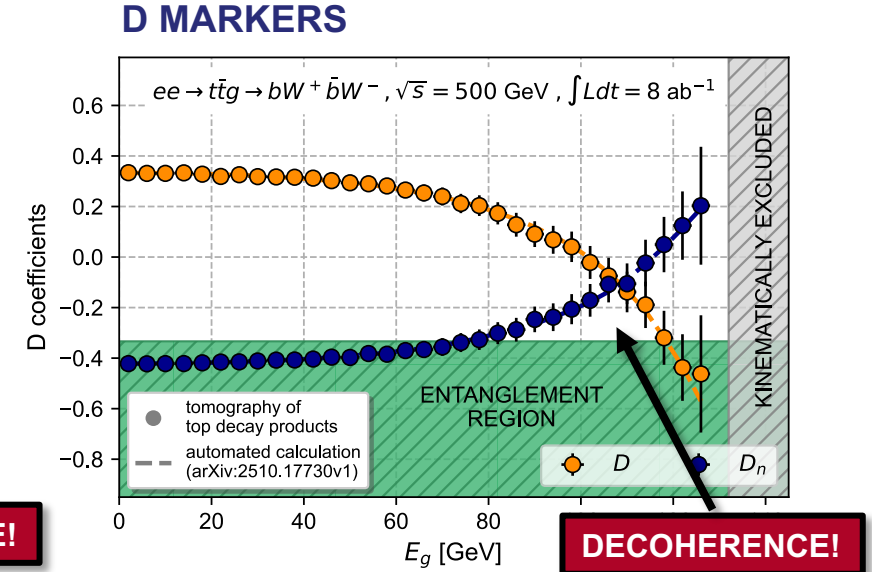
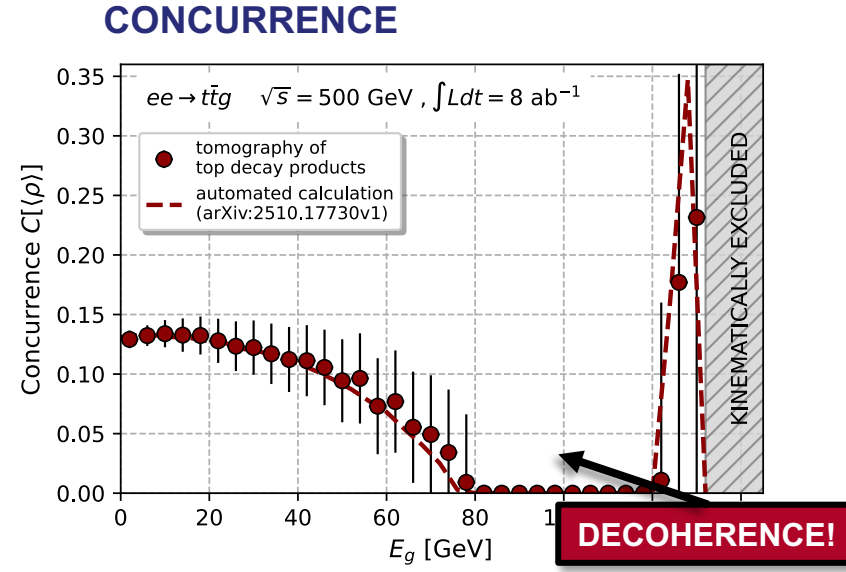
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# Decoherence prospects for $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ from gluon FSR



Simulation: MADGRAPH 5  
[10.1007/jhep07(2014)079]

Decay mode:  $\mu^+\mu^-$



## Concurrence (C[ρ]):

Provides with a quantitative measurement of the degree of entanglement. Non-linear:

$$C[\langle \rho \rangle] = \max(0, \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 - \lambda_3 - \lambda_4)$$

$\lambda_i$  increasing eigenvalues of

$$R = \sqrt{\sqrt{\rho} \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \rho^* \sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2 \sqrt{\rho}}$$

## D and D<sub>n</sub> markers:

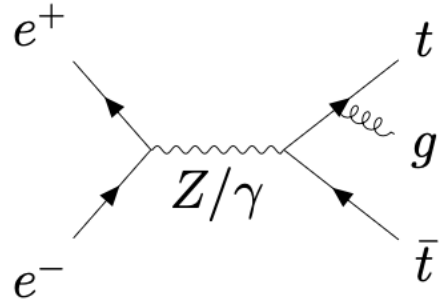
Provide with sufficient enough criteria for entanglement via linear expressions:

$$D = -\frac{1}{3} (C_{nn} + C_{rr} + C_{kk})$$

$$D_n = -\frac{1}{3} (C_{nn} - C_{rr} - C_{kk})$$

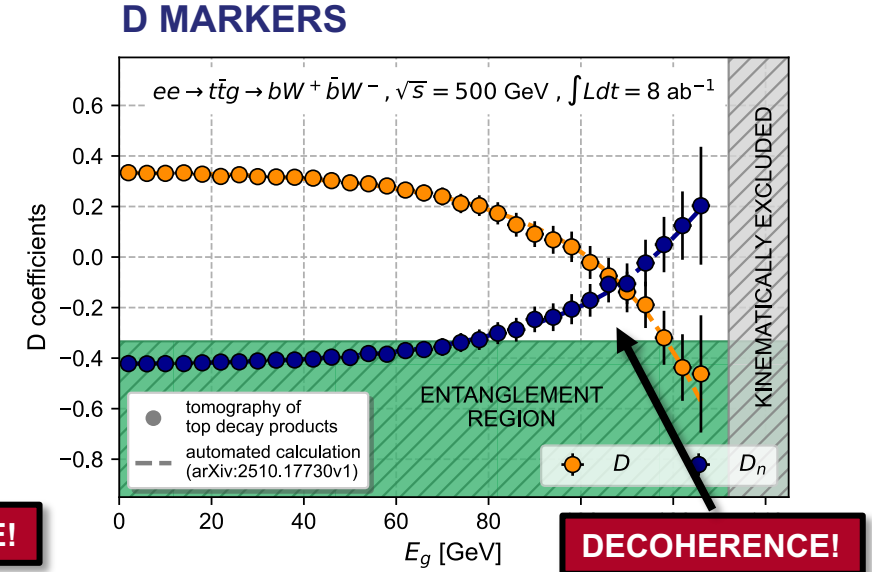
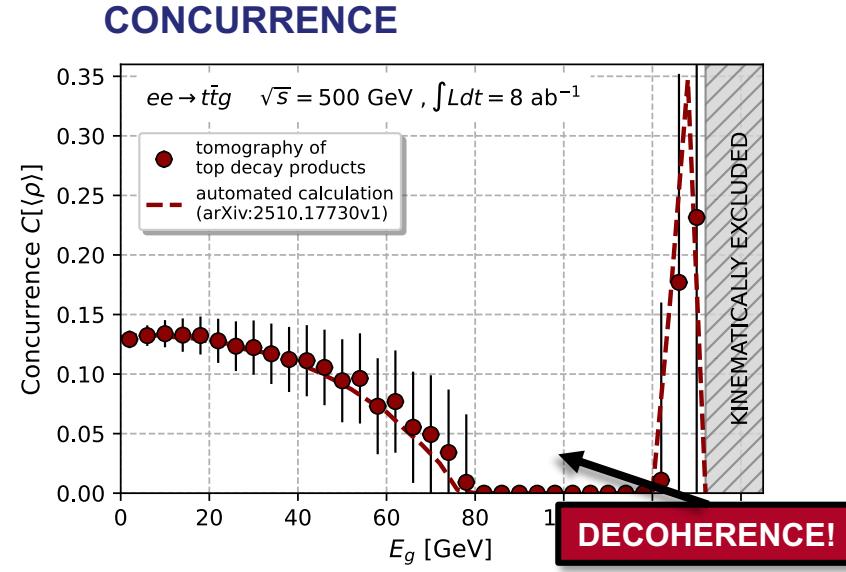
$D < -1/3$  or  $D_n < -1/3 \rightarrow$  ENTANGLEMENT

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Spin-spin transition!  $\rightarrow$   
Modification from the **triplet** ( $D_n < -1/3$ ) at  $E_g < 80$  GeV, to a **singlet** ( $D < -1/3$ ), at the kinematic limit.

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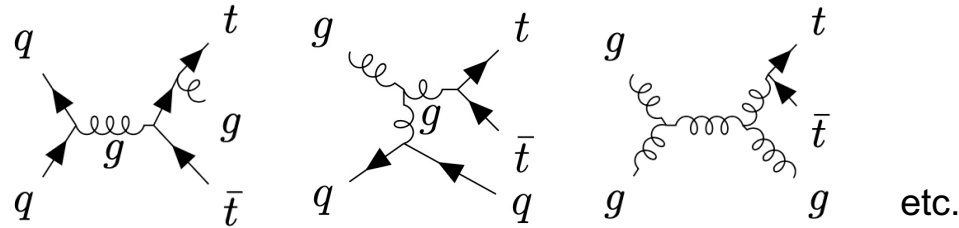
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# Decoherence prospects for $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ from gluon FSR

This processes may involve the radiation of quark and gluon jets:



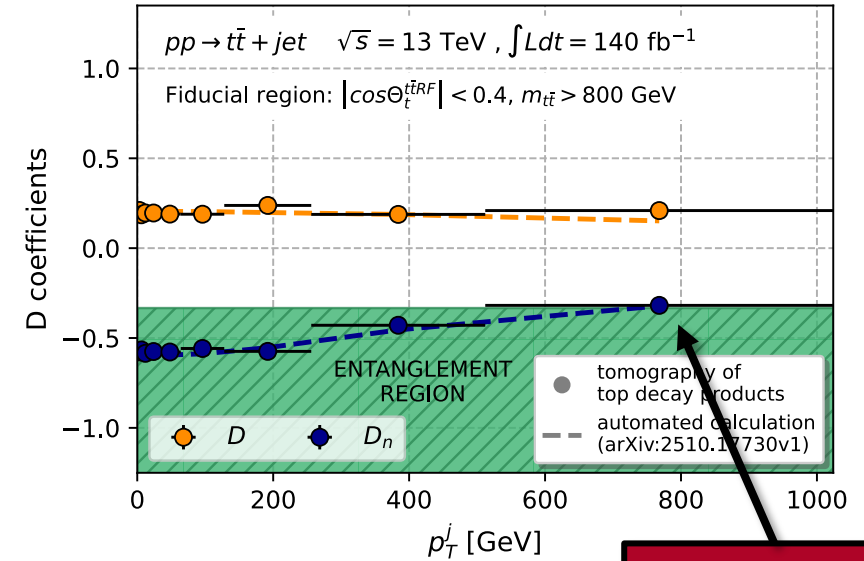
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$$|\cos\Theta_t^{t\bar{t}RF}| < 0.4, \quad m_{t\bar{t}} > 800 \text{ GeV}$$

Restrict to the **fiducial region**:

- Isolate  $qq \rightarrow t\bar{t} + \text{jet}$  topologies
- reduce contributions from ISR jets.

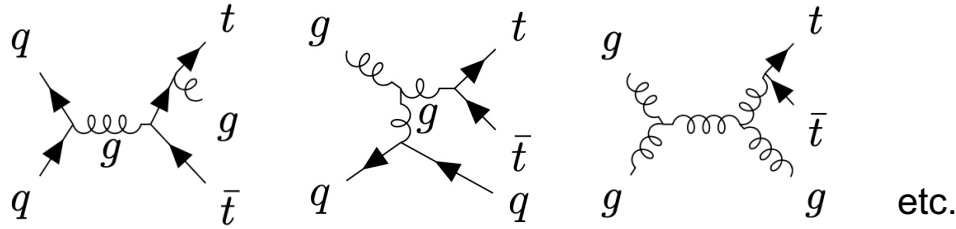
## D MARKERS



**DECOHERENCE!**

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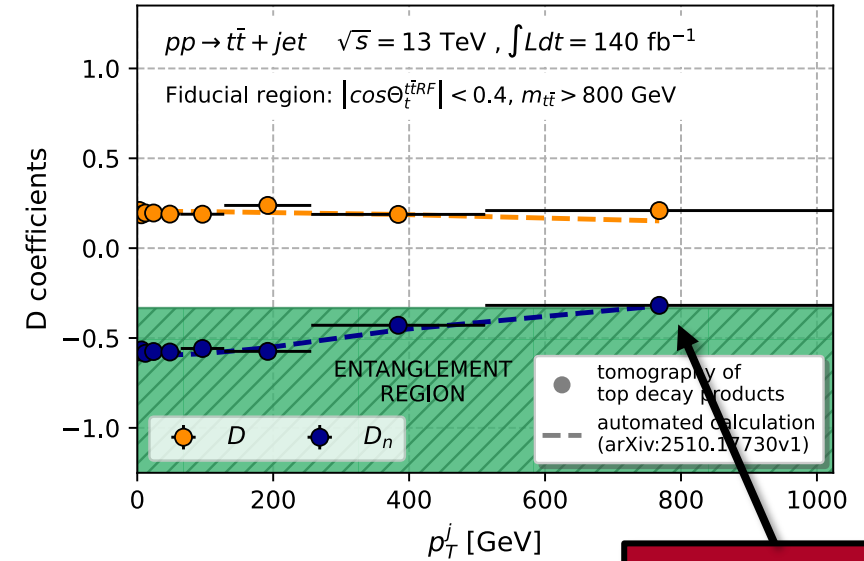
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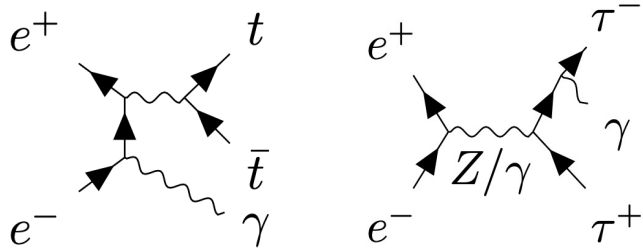
## D MARKERS



Decoherence present above 250 GeV.  
 Total separability found above 500 GeV.

# Decoherence prospects for $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ from gamma FSR

This processes may involve the FSR and ISR:



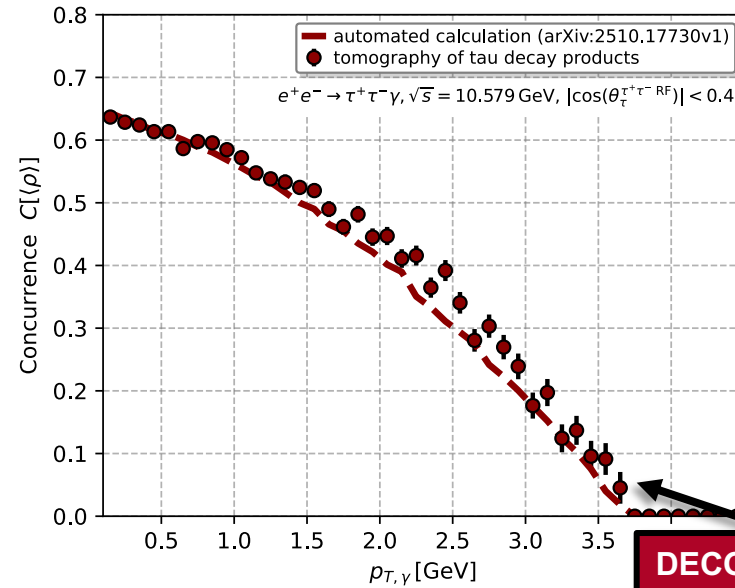
We perform a tomography of hadronic **one-prong decays** (Fabbrichesi et. al.):

$\tau^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm \nu$   
**spin analysing**  
**power  $\alpha = 1$**

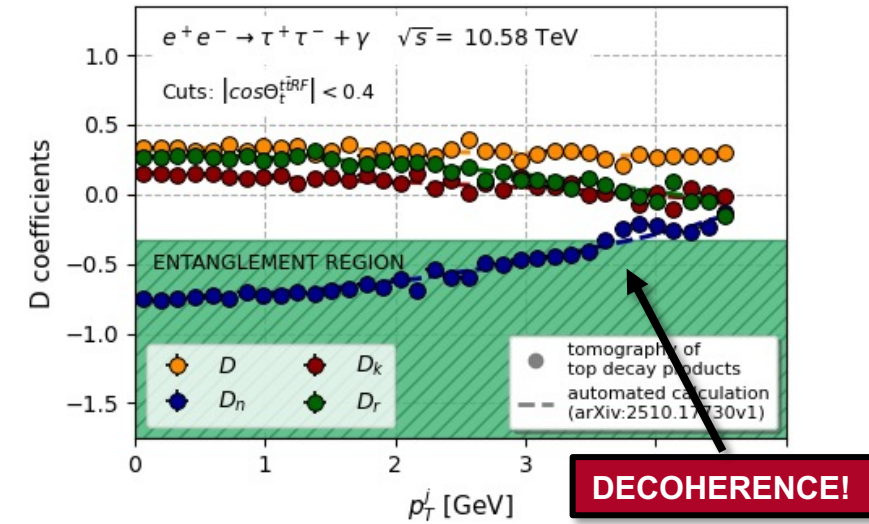
$$\left| \cos(\Theta_{\tau^+\tau^-}^{RF}) \right| < 0.4$$

Restrict to central events to reduce contributions from ISR photons.

## CONCURRENCE



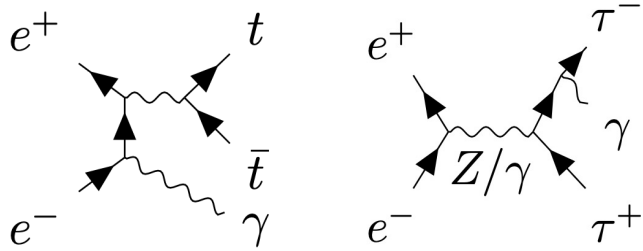
## D MARKERS



Example for Belle II experiment ( $\sqrt{s} = 10.58 \text{ GeV}$ ).

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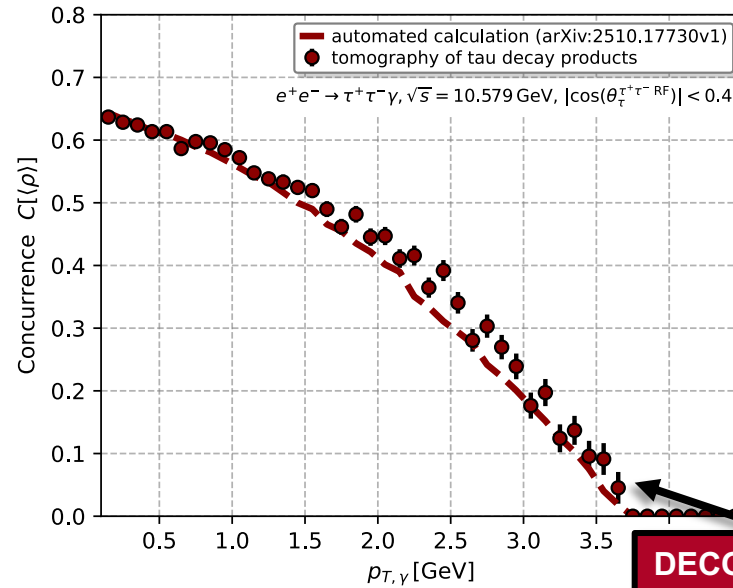
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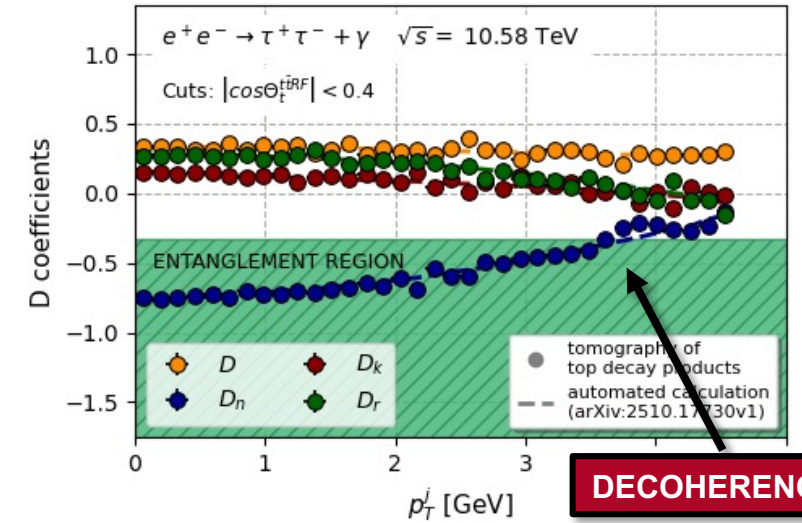
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## CONCURRENCE



## D MARKERS



Example for Belle II experiment ( $\sqrt{s} = 10.58 \text{ GeV}$ ).

Decoherence marked by the  $D_n$  marker  
 Total separability found above 500 GeV.

# Statistical significances for the observation of decoherence

A simple feasibility study separates the data set in two regions

- **Inclusive region** → establish entanglement of the fermion pair ( $C_{inc} > 0$ )
- **Exclusive region with FSR** → establish decoherence ( $C_{exc} < C_{inc}$ )

**Statistical significance**

$$S = \frac{R - 1}{\sigma_R}$$

Decoherence quotient  
Null hypothesis.  
Statistical uncertainty

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 → Null hypothesis.  
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## $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}g$ SIGNIFICANCE

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = 8 \text{ ab}^{-1}$$

$\sqrt{s}$ [TeV]	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}g}$	$R = C_{t\bar{t}g}/C_{t\bar{t}}$	$\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$
0.5	0.133	0.041 ( $p_T^g > 30\text{GeV}$ )	$0.310 \pm 0.2 / 0.008$ dilep. all ch.	<b>3.0 <math>\sigma</math> / 8.2 <math>\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.
1.0	0.249	0.081 ( $p_T^g > 120\text{GeV}$ )	$0.33 \pm 0.14 / 0.05$ dilep. all ch.	<b>4.6 <math>\sigma</math> / 13 <math>\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.

## $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + \text{jet}$ SIGNIFICANCE

$\sqrt{s}$ [TeV]	$\int \mathcal{L} dt$ [ $\text{ab}^{-1}$ ]	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t} + \text{jet}}$	$R = C_{t\bar{t} + \text{jet}}/C_{t\bar{t}}$	$\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$
13	0.14	0.310	0.118 ( $p_T^j > 250\text{GeV}$ )	$0.38 \pm 0.16 / 0.07$ dilep. all ch.	<b>4.0 <math>\sigma</math> / 11 <math>\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.
14	3.00	0.431	0.096 ( $p_T^j > 250\text{GeV}$ )	$0.22 \pm 0.06 / 0.02$ dilep. all ch.	<b>12 <math>\sigma</math> / 34 <math>\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.

Significances above **5.0 $\sigma$**  if considering **leptonic and hadronic** final states.

# Statistical significances for the observation of decoherence

A simple feasibility study separates the data set in two regions

- Inclusive region** → establish entanglement of the fermion pair ( $C_{inc} > 0$ )
- Exclusive region with FSR** → establish decoherence ( $C_{exc} < C_{inc}$ )

**Statistical significance**

$$S = \frac{R - 1}{\sigma_R}$$

→ Decoherence quotient  
 → Null hypothesis.  
 → Statistical uncertainty

**$e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}g$  SIGNIFICANCE**

$$\int \mathcal{L} dt = 8 \text{ ab}^{-1}$$

$\sqrt{s}$ [TeV]	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}g}$	$R = C_{t\bar{t}g}/C_{t\bar{t}}$	$\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$
0.5	0.133	0.041 ( $p_T^g > 30 \text{ GeV}$ )	$0.310 \pm 0.2 / 0.008$ dilep. all ch.	<b><math>3.0\sigma / 8.2\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.
1.0	0.249	0.081 ( $p_T^g > 120 \text{ GeV}$ )	$0.33 \pm 0.14 / 0.05$ dilep. all ch.	<b><math>4.6\sigma / 13\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.

**$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t} + \text{jet}$  SIGNIFICANCE**

$\sqrt{s}$ [TeV]	$\int \mathcal{L} dt$ [ $\text{ab}^{-1}$ ]	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$	$C[\rho]_{t\bar{t} + \text{jet}}$	$R = C_{t\bar{t} + \text{jet}}/C_{t\bar{t}}$	$\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$
13	0.14	0.310	0.118 ( $p_T^j > 250 \text{ GeV}$ )	$0.38 \pm 0.16 / 0.07$ dilep. all ch.	<b><math>4.0\sigma / 11\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.
14	3.00	0.431	0.096 ( $p_T^j > 250 \text{ GeV}$ )	$0.22 \pm 0.06 / 0.02$ dilep. all ch.	<b><math>12\sigma / 34\sigma</math></b> dilep. all ch.

Significances above  **$5.0\sigma$**  if considering **leptonic and hadronic** final states.

**$e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-\gamma$  SIGNIFICANCE**

$\sqrt{s}$ [GeV]	$C[\rho]_{\tau^+\tau^-}$	$C[\rho]_{\tau^+\tau^-\gamma}$	$R = C_{t\bar{t} + \text{jet}}/C_{t\bar{t}}$	$\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$
10.58 Belle II [9]	0.727	0.235 $p_T^\gamma > 2 \text{ GeV}$	$0.323 \pm 0.02 / 0.002$ $0.5 \text{ ab}^{-1} / 50.0 \text{ ab}^{-1}$	$28\sigma / \ggg 5\sigma$ $0.5 \text{ ab}^{-1} / 50.0 \text{ ab}^{-1}$
91.20 Z-Pole [10]	0.858	0.102 $p_T^\gamma > 30 \text{ GeV}$	$0.1190 \pm 0.05 / 0.0009$ $0.1 \text{ ab}^{-1} / 300 \text{ ab}^{-1}$	$16\sigma / \ggg 5\sigma$ $0.1 \text{ ab}^{-1} / 300 \text{ ab}^{-1}$

**$\tau^+\tau^-\gamma$  production** provides the **cleanest measurement of FSR** decoherence, in a single decay channel.

# Conclusions

- ◆ Fermion pairs produced at colliders show a **significant loss of entanglement** when considering **gluon and photon FSR**.
- ◆ Measurements of entanglement in the FSR samples **deviate more than  $5.0\sigma$**  from the inclusive reference measurement.
- ◆ A minimal protocol, only considering the statistical significances, yields the greatest statistics for this observation at FCC-ee (in  $\tau^+\tau^-$  production), in comparison with LHC, LCF and Belle II.
- ◆ The **target** data sets of Belle II, the HL-LHC phase, and the FCC-ee collider can perform **precision differential measurements**, with even greater statistical significance.

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