

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

**XL RSEF Physics Biennial**

**ETSI, University of Seville, Spain – July 20th-24th, 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.**

# Quantum entanglement

Is quantum mechanics complete with a probabilistic interpretation?

**“The quantum state of a particle cannot be described independently  
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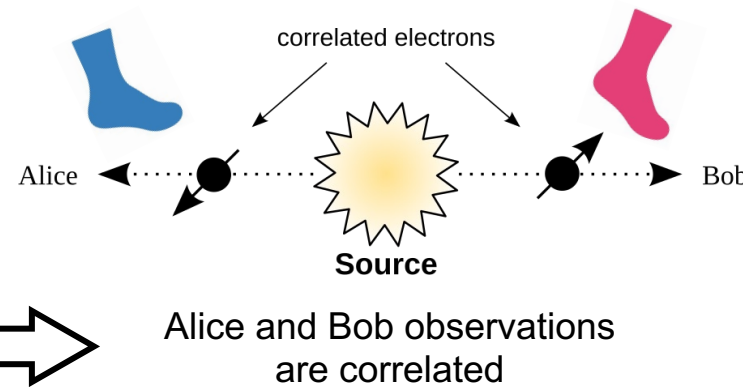
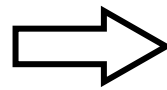
Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, Albert Einstein

**TWO-QUIBIT SYSTEM:**      **Separable** density matrix:  $\rho = \sum_{ij} p_{ij} \rho_i^{(A)} \otimes \rho_j^{(B)}$

**THE EPR THOUGHT EXPERIMENT:**

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

Singlet ( $S = 1$ ) → Maximally entangled state



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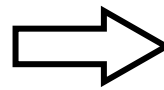
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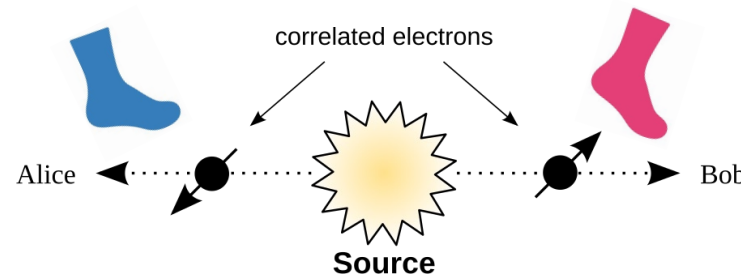
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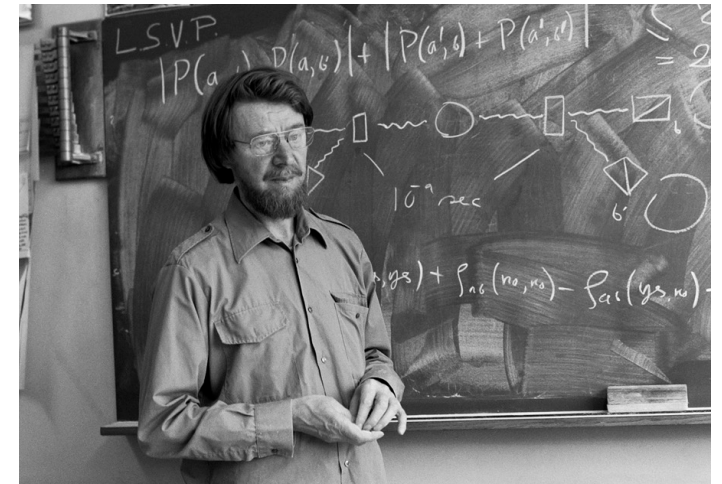


**BELL TESTS:**      Classical maximum      Quantum maximum

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



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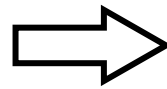
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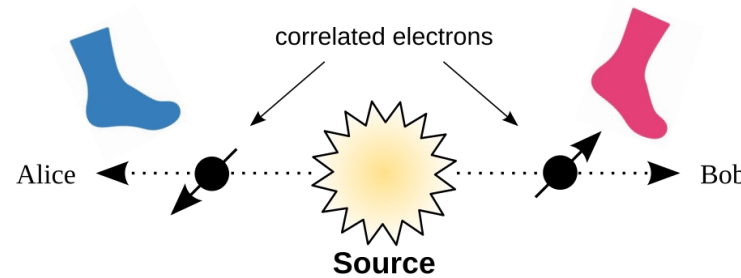
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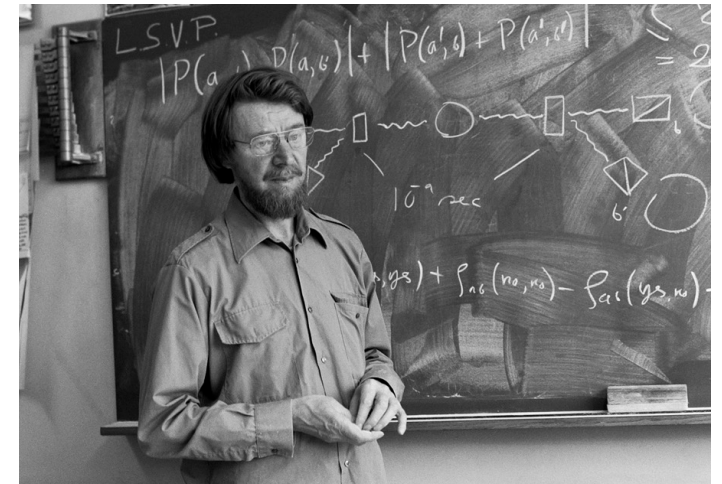
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**Aspect's experiment:** First test of Bell's inequaties → photons with distant detectors



Niels Bohr, Werner Heisenberg, Albert Einstein



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Aspect, Clauser, Zeilinger, 2022 Nobel Prize

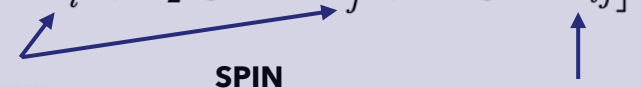
# Quantum state tomography

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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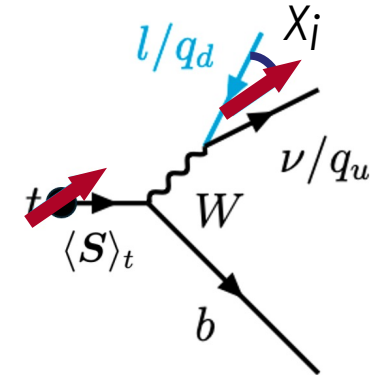
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2 → Angular distribution for the decay width of the heavy fermions:

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

$\chi_i$  : angle between  $i$ -th particle momentum and parent spin vector

$\alpha$  : spin analysing power



- Daughter particle's momenta **correlated with the spin direction** of mother fermion.

- Strength of the correlation depends on the particle  $\alpha = 1$

In  $t\bar{t} \rightarrow (e/\mu)$  or (d/s) quarks  
In  $\tau^+\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^\pm$ .

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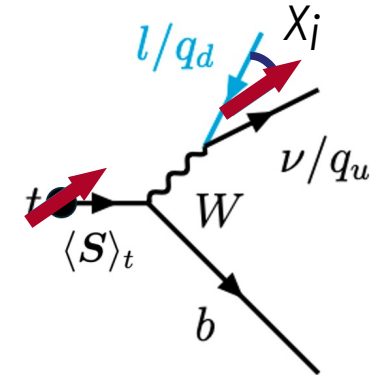
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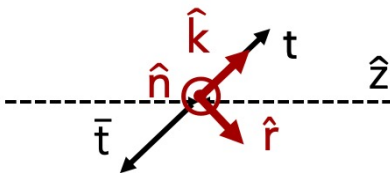
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4 → The axis system chosen is the **helicity base**:

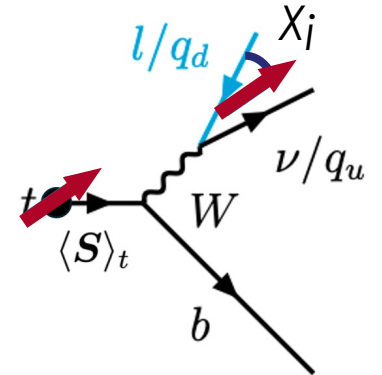


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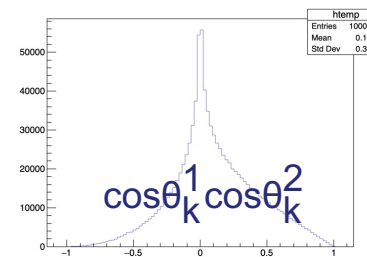
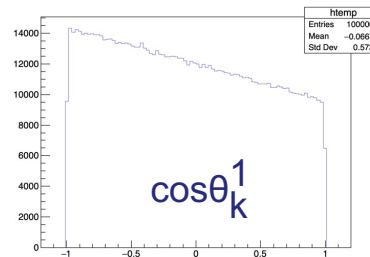
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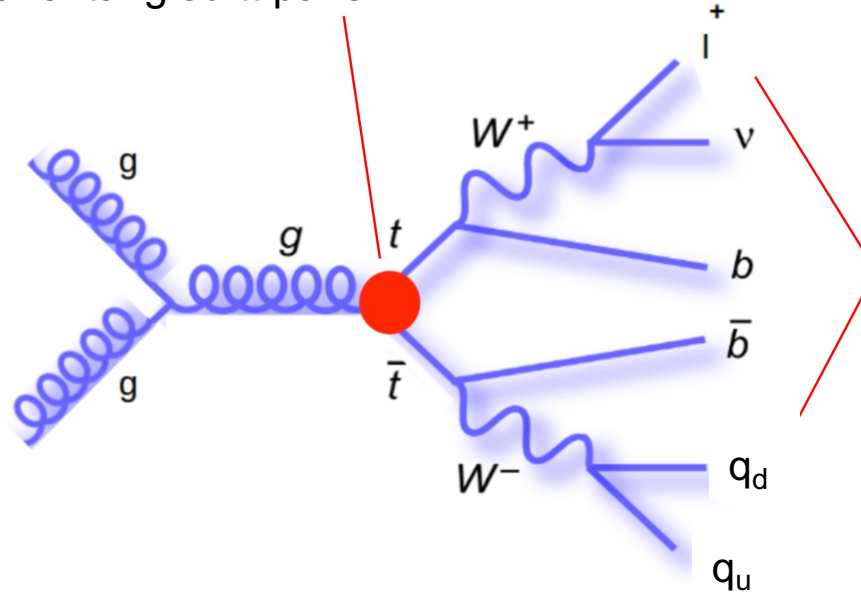
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# The top quark as an instrument for QI tests at the LHC

Hard-scattering  $\rightarrow$  Source of entangled  $t\bar{t}$  pairs



Two-polarimeters from the top quark decay:

$\rightarrow$  leptons or down-type quark

$$\alpha = 1$$

$\rightarrow$  neutrinos or up-type quark

$$\alpha = 0.4$$

♦ Top quarks  $\rightarrow$  Ideal measurment for quantum entanglement:

$\rightarrow$  Lifetime ( $\sim 10^{-25}$  s) is shorter than:

$\rightarrow$  Spin decorrelation ( $\sim 10^{-21}$  s)

$\rightarrow$  Hadronization ( $\sim 10^{-24}$  s)

# State of art of quantum entanglement observations at the LHC

♦ First **observation of quantum spin entanglement** in 2024 by ATLAS:

- $t\bar{t}$  pairs using a dilepton final state.
- Threshold region  $340 \text{ GeV} < m_{t\bar{t}} < 380 \text{ GeV}$ .

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♦ Second **observation of quantum spin entanglement** in 2024 by CMS:

- $t\bar{t}$  pairs using a lepton+jets final state.
- Inclusive, in bins of  $m_{t\bar{t}}$  and the top scattering angle.

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Article | [Open access](#) | Published: 18 September 2024

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

[The ATLAS Collaboration](#)

[Nature volume 633, pages 542–547 \(2024\)](#)

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IOP Publishing

Rep. Prog. Phys. **87** (2024) 117801 (33pp)

Reports on Progress in Physics

<https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6633/ad7e4d>

## Observation of quantum entanglement in top quark pair production in proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

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[Rep. Prog. Phys. 87 117801](#)

PHYSICAL REVIEW D **110**, 112016 (2024)

## Measurements of polarization and spin correlation and observation of entanglement in top quark pairs using lepton + jets events from proton–proton collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13 \text{ TeV}$

A. Hayrapetyan *et al.*<sup>\*</sup>  
(CMS Collaboration)

[Phys. Rev. D 110, 112016](#)

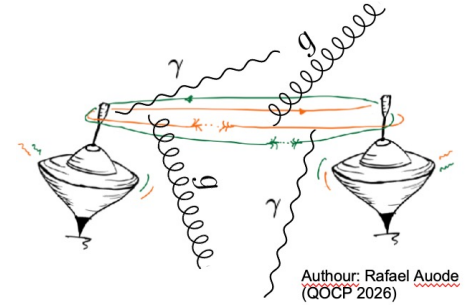
# A step further: Quantum decoherence

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

- ♦ **Fundamental puzzle** → What is a measurement → “*Measurement problem*”
  - ♦ Understanding the wavefunction collapse → connection between quantum and classical mechanical worlds
  - ♦ **Decoherence** → disturbance of “quantumness” from the interaction with environment → study the wavefunction collapse by the progressive loss of entanglement.

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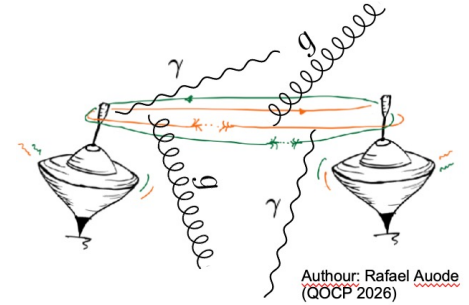


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  - ♦ Aoude et. al. (2025)<sup>1</sup> → Model environment interactions using **energetic radiation** —of gluons or photons—

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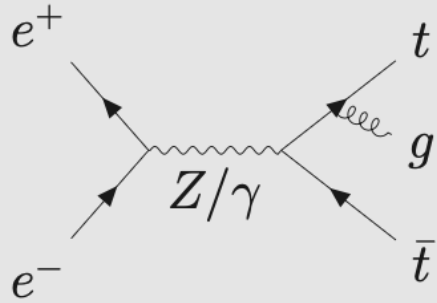
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- ♦ **Experimental study:** Prospects of the **effects of energetic final-state radiation (FSR)** in the **entanglement of heavy fermion pairs** in **current** and future colliders:
  - ♦  $t\bar{t}$  production at **LCF** and **LHC —Run 2 & HL-LHC—**
  - ♦  $\tau^+\tau^-$  production at **Belle II —recorded & target—** and **FCC-ee**.
  - ♦ Produce statistical significance for the experimental feasibility.

Radiation effects on the entanglement of fermion pairs at colliders

Rafael Aoude,<sup>1,✉</sup> José Manuel Camacho,<sup>2,✉</sup> Valentin Durupt,<sup>3,✉</sup> Guillermo García Mir,<sup>2,✉</sup>  
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# Decoherence prospects for simulated $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}+g$ events



Sample characteristics:

- *Parton-level, leading order samples.*
- **Computation:** MadGraph5\_aMC@NLO.  
J. Alwall et al., arXiv:1405.0301 [hep-ph].
- **Decay mode:**  $\mu^+\mu^-$  ( $b\nu\bar{b}\bar{\nu}$ )

## D & $D_n$ MARKERS

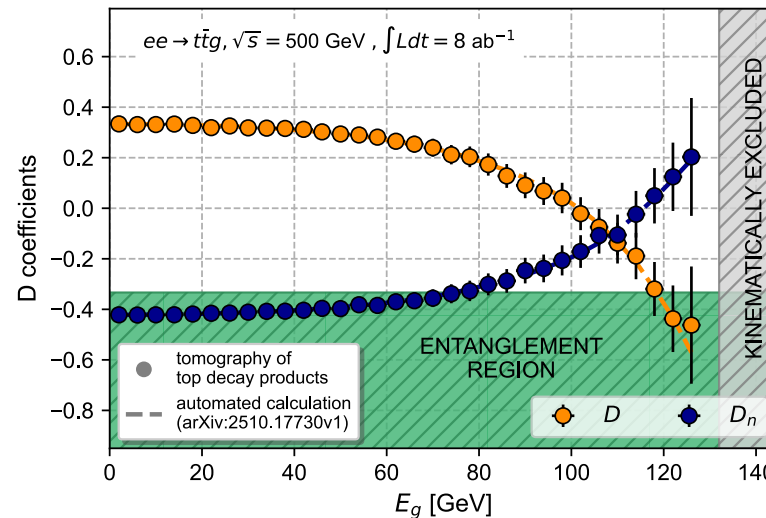
Provide with sufficient enough criteria for entanglement via linear expressions:

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

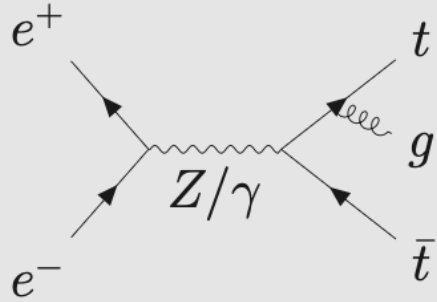
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$$D < -1/3 \text{ or } D_n < -1/3$$



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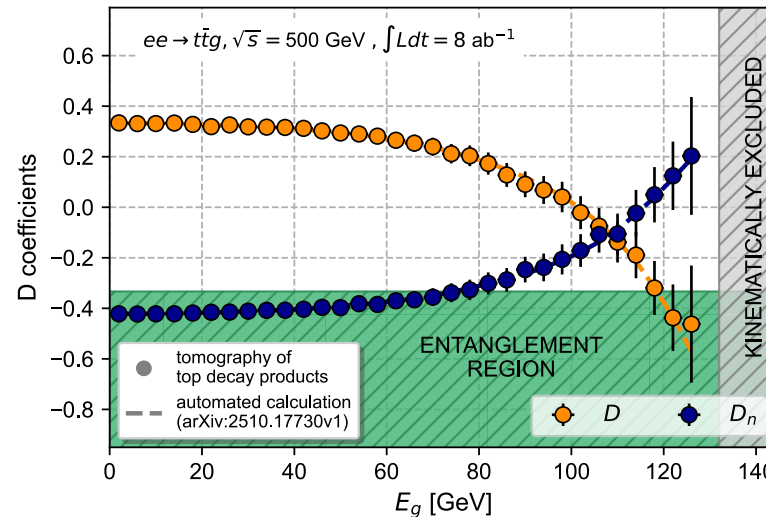
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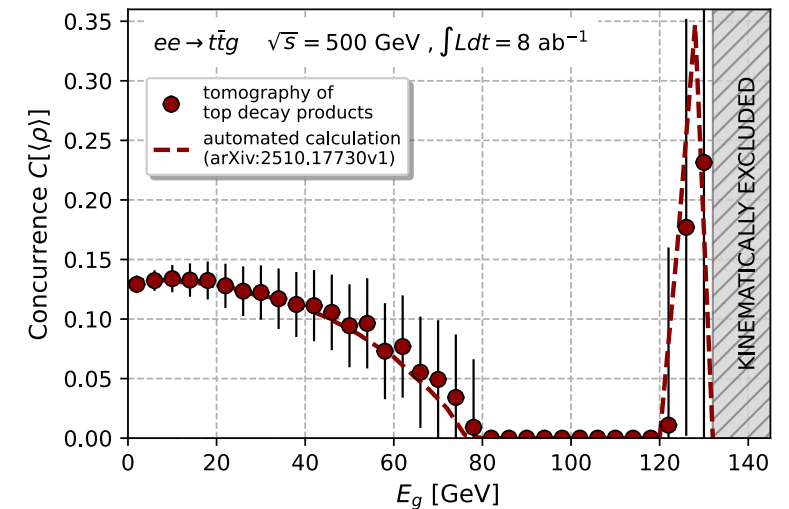
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Provides with a quantitative **non-linear** measurement of the degree of entanglement.

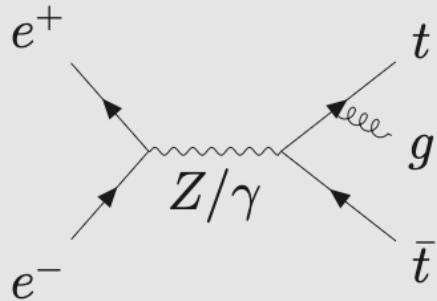
$$C[\langle\rho\rangle] = \max(0, \lambda_1 - \lambda_2 - \lambda_3 - \lambda_4)$$

$\lambda_i$  increasing eigenvalues of

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



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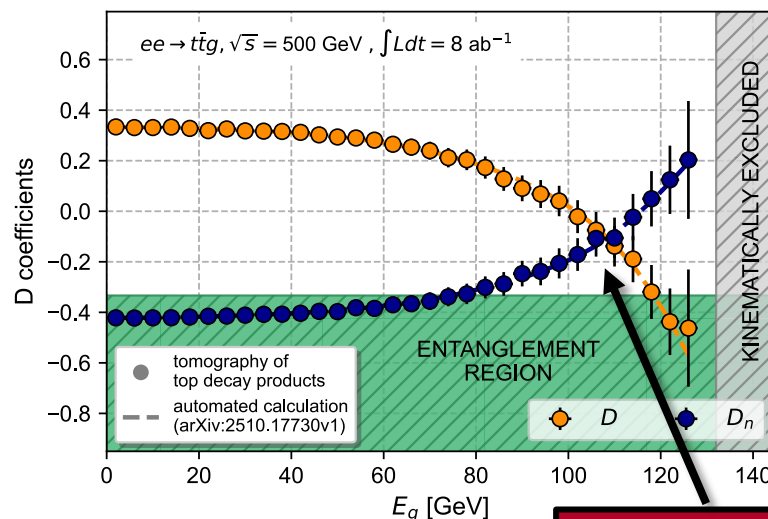
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**DECOHERENCE!**

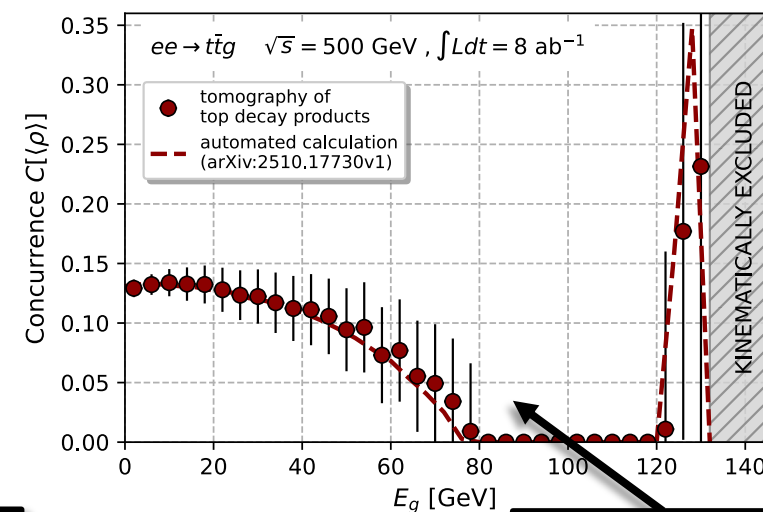
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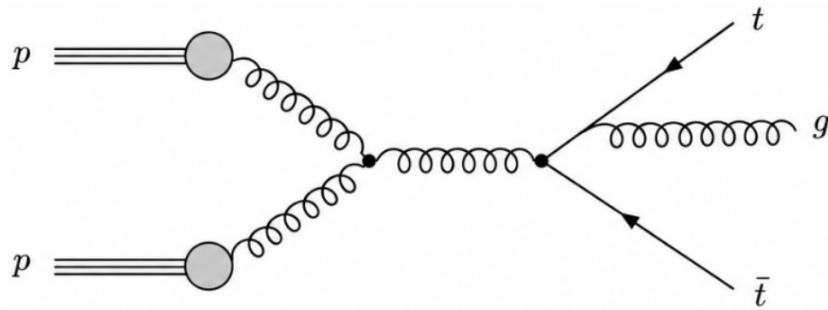
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**DECOHERENCE!**

Spin-spin transition! →  
Modification from the **triplet** ( $D_n < -1/3$ ) to a **singlet** ( $D < -1/3$ )

# Quantum decoherence study at the ATLAS experiment



Decoherence study at LHC (Run 2) →

- Boosted ( $m_{t\bar{t}} > 800 \text{ GeV}$ ) + Transverse regions ( $|\cos \theta_t| < 0.4$ )
- Semi-leptonic decay channel:
  - Greater statistics + single neutrino MET
  - Optimal hadronic polarimeter for the hadronic channel →  $\alpha = 0.64$

## Experimental approach:

- $D_n$  can be retrieved from  **$\cos(\phi)$**  distributions  $D_n = 3 \frac{\langle \cos \phi \rangle}{\alpha_1 \alpha_2}$ 
  - $\phi$ : angle of one polarimeter and the reflection of the other
- **$\cos(\phi)$**  distributions are obtained for the inclusive sample and selecting  $p_T^{\text{jet}} > 150 \text{ GeV}$ .
- $D_n$  extracted from a profile-likelihood unblinding of the observable  **$\cos(\phi)$** .
- Previous iterations used detector-level jets; new results are being produced to make use of parton-level jets obtained from TOPQ7 new derivation formats.

## Results:

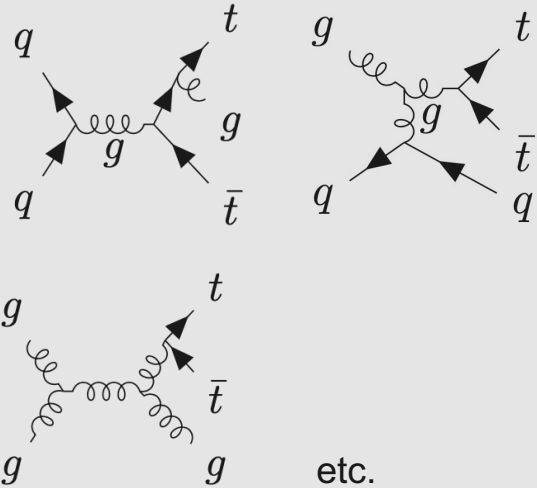
$$D_n^{\text{incl.}} = -0.59$$

$$D_n^{pT_j > 150 \text{ GeV}} = -0.38$$

$$\text{Significance} = \sim 2\sigma$$

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



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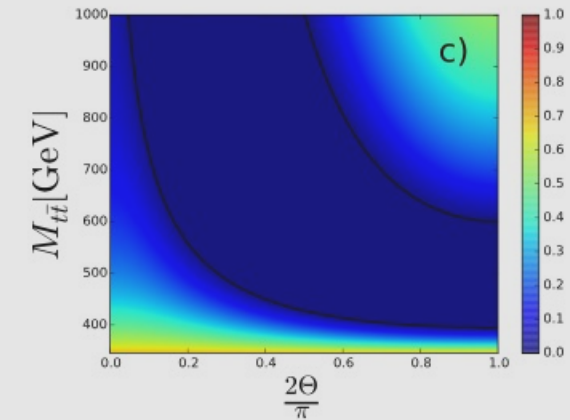
Restrict to the **fiducial region**:

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

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

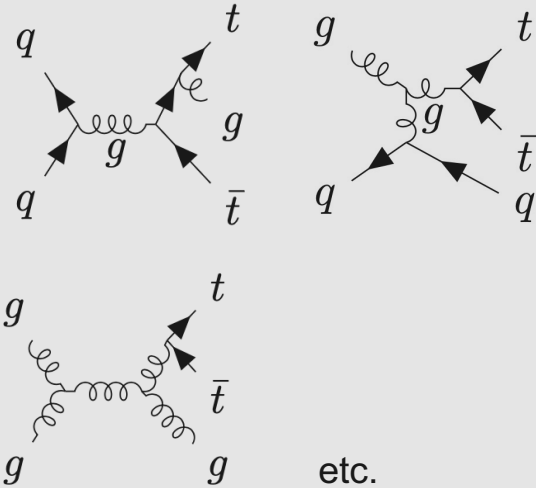
Concurrence as a function  
of  $m_{t\bar{t}}$  and  $\cos\Theta_t^{t\bar{t}RF}$

Afik, Muñoz de Nova  
[Eur. Phys. J. Plus \(2021\) 136:907](#)



# Decoherence prospects for simulated $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}+g$ events

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



## Sample characteristics:

- **Parton-level, leading order samples.**
- **Computation:** MadGraph5\_aMC@NLO.  
J. Alwall et al., arXiv:1405.0301 [hep-ph]).
- **Decay mode:**  $\mu^+\mu^- (b\bar{v}\bar{v})$

## FIDUCIAL REGION:

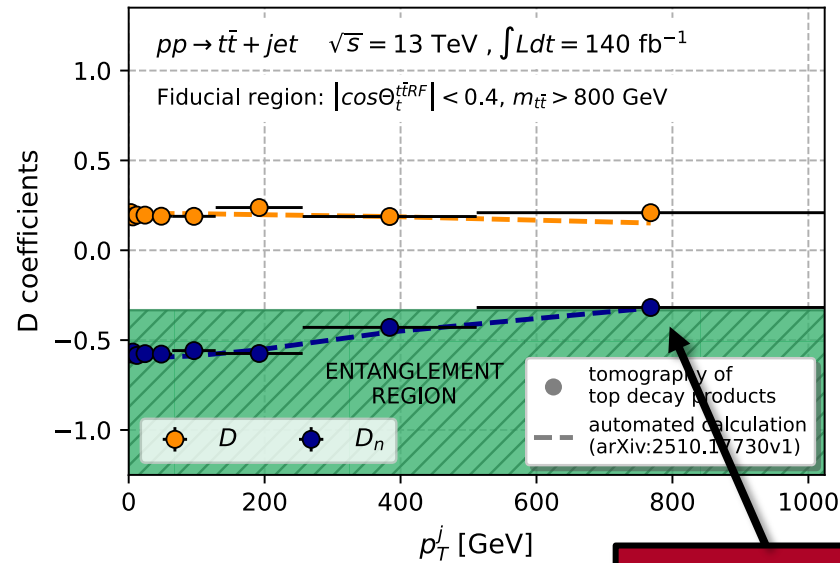
Restrict to the **fiducial region**:

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

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

**LHC Run 2 predictions**

## D MARKERS



**Decoherence** present above  
**250 GeV. 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 ( $C_{\text{inc}} > 0$ )

→ **Exclusive region with FSR** → establish decoherence ( $C_{\text{exc}} < C_{\text{inc}}$ )

Statistical significance

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

→ Decoherence quotient

→ Null hypothesis.

→ Statistical uncertainty

**LHC:**

| Machine   | $\sqrt{s}$ [TeV] | $C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$ | $C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}+jet}$       | $\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$           |
|-----------|------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| LHC Run 2 | 13               | 0.310                | 0.118<br>( $p_T^j > 250 GeV$ ) | $4.0 \sigma$ / $11 \sigma$<br>dilep. / all ch. |

(current operations)

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| HL-LHC    | 14               | 0.431                | 0.096<br>( $p_T^j > 250 \text{ GeV}$ ) | <b>12 <math>\sigma</math></b> / <b>34 <math>\sigma</math></b><br>dilep. / all ch.  |

## Linear Collider Facility

| Machine         | $\sqrt{s}$ [TeV] | $C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}}$ | $C[\rho]_{t\bar{t}g}$                  | $\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$                                                |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| LCF             | 0.5              | 0.133                | 0.041<br>( $p_T^g > 30 \text{ GeV}$ )  | <b>3.0 <math>\sigma</math></b> / <b>8.2 <math>\sigma</math></b><br>dilep. / all ch. |
| linear $e^+e^-$ | 1.0              | 0.249                | 0.081<br>( $p_T^g > 120 \text{ GeV}$ ) | <b>4.6 <math>\sigma</math></b> / <b>13 <math>\sigma</math></b><br>dilep. / all ch.  |

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## Prospects $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$

| Machine  | $\sqrt{s} [\text{GeV}]$ | $C[\rho]_{\tau^+\tau^-}$ | $C[\rho]_{\tau^+\tau^-\gamma}$             | $\mathcal{S} = \frac{R-1}{\sigma_R}$                                                                             |
|----------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Belle II | 10.58                   | 0.727                    | 0.235<br>( $p_T^\gamma > 2 \text{ GeV}$ )  | <b>28 <math>\sigma</math></b> / <b><math>\gg 5 \sigma</math></b><br>0.5 ab <sup>-1</sup> / 50.0 ab <sup>-1</sup> |
| FCC-ee   | 91.20                   | 0.858                    | 0.102<br>( $p_T^\gamma > 30 \text{ GeV}$ ) | <b>16 <math>\sigma</math></b> / <b><math>\gg 5 \sigma</math></b><br>0.1 ab <sup>-1</sup> / 300 ab <sup>-1</sup>  |

(current operations)

$\tau^+\tau^-\gamma$  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**.
- ✦ The current boosted  $t\bar{t}$  lepton+jets analysis at ATLAS is expected to provide with the **first evidence of quantum decoherence** late 2026 or early 2027.
- ✦ The **observation of decoherence is already possible** at **Belle II**.
- ✦ The outlook is very promising for future  $e^+e^-$  accelerators, whether linear or circular:
  - ✦ The **target** data sets of Belle II, as well as the FCC-ee prospects, will allow a **precision differential measurement** of decoherence.

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Based on the paper arXiv:2604.16268.



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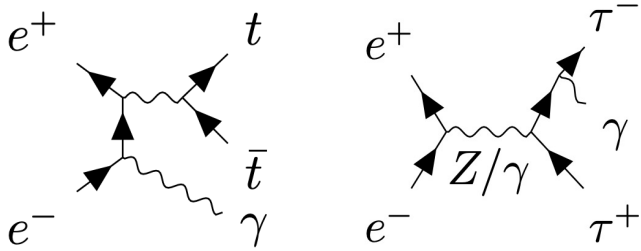


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**BACK UP**

# Decoherence prospects for simulated $e^+e^- \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- + \gamma$ events

This processes may involve the FSR and ISR:



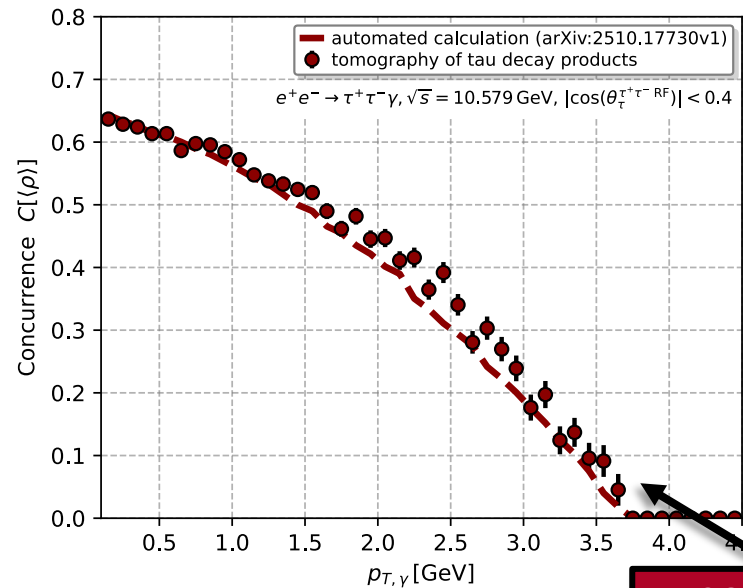
We perform a tomography of hadronic **one-prong decays** (Fabbrichesi et. al.):

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

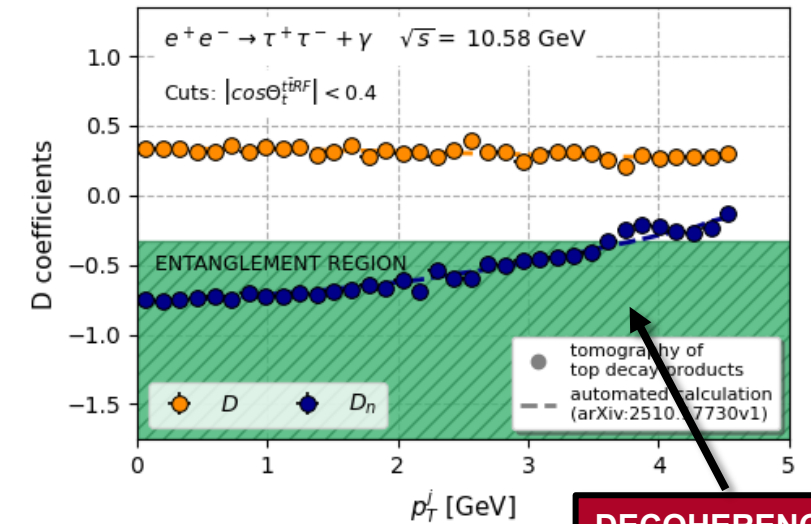
$$\left| \cos(\Theta_{\tau}^{\tau^+\tau^-RF}) \right| < 0.4$$

Restrict to central events to reduce contributions from ISR photons.

## CONCURRENCE



## D MARKERS



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

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