

Quantum Information with Top Quarks

Y. Afik, JRMdN, EPJ Plus 136, 907 (2021)

Y. Afik, JRMdN, Quantum 6, 820 (2022)

Y. Afik, JRMdN, PRL 130, 221801 (2023)

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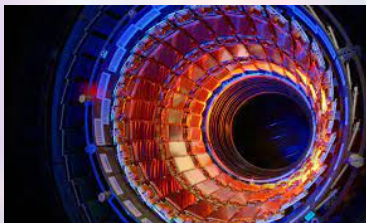
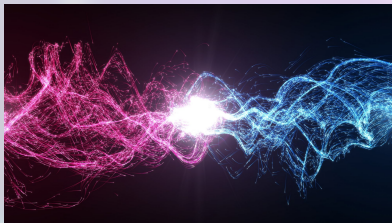
CKM 2023, Santiago, España 21/09/2023



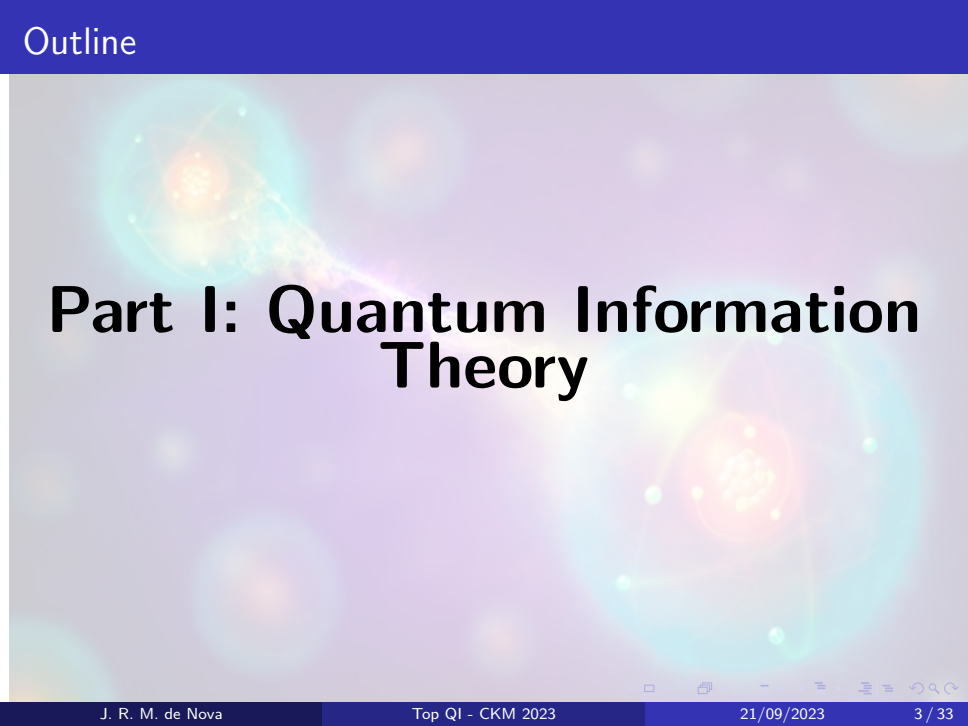
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Motivation

- Standard Model is a Relativistic Quantum Field Theory = Special Relativity + Quantum Mechanics.
- Quantum Mechanics can be tested via Standard Model.
- Implementation of canonical techniques of Quantum Information \rightarrow Quantum Information Theory at High-Energy Colliders.
- Highest-energy study at the frontier of the known Physics!
- Interest: Genuinely relativistic environment, exotic interactions and symmetries, fundamental nature...

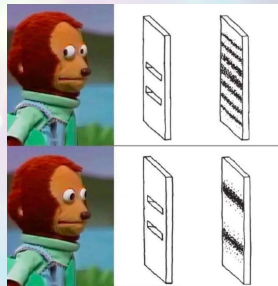


Part I: Quantum Information Theory



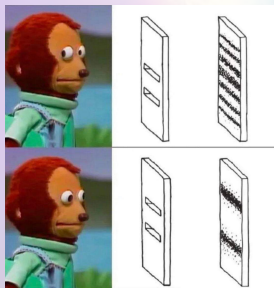
Quantum vs. Classical

- Quantum Mechanics: Particles are in superposition of states → Probabilistic description of measurements.
- Classical Mechanics can also describe random outputs using classical probability distributions (noise, experimental variations...).
- Something genuinely quantum? Yes: Wave nature of quantum mechanics!
- Quantum Correlations=Correlations not accounted by classical theories.
 - Quantum Discord
 - Entanglement
 - Steering
 - Bell nonlocality



Quantum State

- Quantum descriptions:
 - **Pure state** → Wave function → Coherent mixture of quantum states
→ $|\Psi\rangle = \sum_n \alpha_n \cdot |\phi_n\rangle$, α_n are amplitudes
 - **Mixed state** → Density matrix → Incoherent mixture of quantum states
→ $\rho = \sum_n p_n \cdot |\phi_n\rangle \langle \phi_n|$, p_n are probabilities
- Density matrix: Most general quantum state.
- Classical descriptions accounted by density matrices.



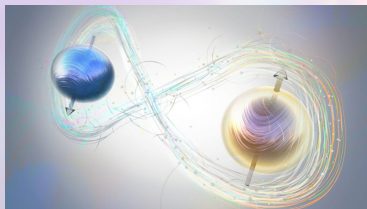
Qubits

- Qubit: Two-level quantum system $|\uparrow\rangle, |\downarrow\rangle \rightarrow$ Most simple quantum system.
- General density matrix (2×2) for 1 qubit \rightarrow 3 parameters B_j :

$$\rho = \frac{1 + \sum_i B_i \sigma^i}{2}$$

- Two qubits \rightarrow Most simple example of quantum correlations.
- General density matrix (4×4) for 2 qubits \rightarrow 15 parameters B_i^\pm, C_{ij}

$$\rho = \frac{1 + \sum_i (B_i^+ \sigma^i \otimes 1 + B_i^- 1 \otimes \sigma^i) + \sum_{i,j} C_{ij} \sigma^i \otimes \sigma^j}{4}$$



Quantum Discord

- Classically, two equivalent expressions for mutual information of bipartite system A and B (Alice and Bob):

$$I(A, B) = H(A) + H(B) - H(A, B) = H(A) - H(A|B)$$

$$H(A, B) = - \sum_{x,y} p(x, y) \log_2 p(x, y)$$

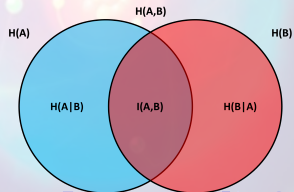
$$H(A|B) = \sum_y p(y) H(A|B = y)$$

- Quantum mechanics can introduce a “discord” between both expressions:

$$\mathcal{D}(A, B) \equiv H(B) - H(A, B) + H(A|B) \neq 0$$

- Most basic form of quantum correlations!
- Quantum Discord is asymmetric
 $\mathcal{D}(A, B) \neq \mathcal{D}(B, A)$

Ollivier, Zurek PRL 88,
017901 (2001)



Quantum Discord: Two qubits

- How do we translate classical into quantum?

Quantum Discord: Two qubits

- How do we translate classical into quantum?
- Shannon entropy \rightarrow Von Neumann entropy ($p_n \geq 0$, ρ eigenvalues)

$$H(A, B) \rightarrow H(\rho) = - \sum_n p_n \log_2 p_n$$

$$H(A) \rightarrow H(\rho_A), H(B) \rightarrow H(\rho_B), \rho_{A,B} = \text{Tr}_{B,A} \rho$$

- Conditional probability \rightarrow Conditional state $\rho_{A|B}$ = One-qubit state after Bob's spin measurement along \hat{n} :

$$H(A|B) = p_{\hat{n}} H(\rho_{\hat{n}}) + p_{-\hat{n}} H(\rho_{-\hat{n}})$$

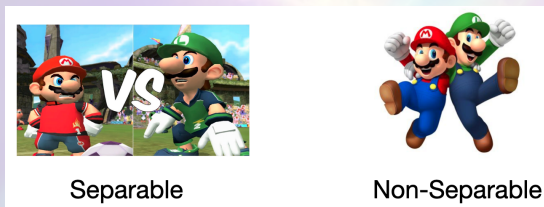
$$\rho_{\hat{n}} = \frac{\Pi_{\hat{n}}^B \rho \Pi_{\hat{n}}^B}{p_{\hat{n}}} = \frac{1 + \mathbf{B}_{\hat{n}}^+ \cdot \sigma}{2}, \mathbf{B}_{\hat{n}}^+ = \frac{\mathbf{B}^+ + \mathbf{C} \cdot \hat{n}}{1 + \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{B}^-}, p_{\hat{n}} = \frac{1 + \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{B}^-}{2}$$

- Genuine quantumness \rightarrow Minimization over all spin directions:

$$\mathcal{D}(A, B) = H(\rho_B) - H(\rho) + \min_{\hat{n}} p_{\hat{n}} H(\rho_{\hat{n}}) + p_{-\hat{n}} H(\rho_{-\hat{n}}) \neq 0$$

Entanglement

- Entanglement: Most genuine feature of Quantum Mechanics. Key resource for quantum technologies.
- Separability: $\rho = \sum_n p_n \rho_n^a \otimes \rho_n^b$, $\sum_n p_n = 1$, $p_n \geq 0$
- Classically correlated state in $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow$ Separable.
- Non-separability=Entanglement \rightarrow Non-classical state.



R. F. Werner, PRA 40, 4277 (1989)

Entanglement: Two qubits

- Two qubits: Separability=Positive P -representation $P(\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B) \geq 0$:

$$\rho = \int d\Omega_A d\Omega_B P(\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B) |\mathbf{n}_A \mathbf{n}_B\rangle \langle \mathbf{n}_A \mathbf{n}_B|, \quad \int d\Omega_A d\Omega_B P(\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B) = 1$$

- Classical spins pointing at directions $\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B$!
- Separability=Purely classical correlations

$$C_{ij} = \langle \sigma^i \otimes \sigma^j \rangle = \int d\Omega_A d\Omega_B P(\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B) n_A^i n_B^j$$

- Entanglement=NO probability distribution \rightarrow Genuine non-classical!



Steering: Two qubits

- Measurements of Bob can “steer” quantum state of Alice.
- Steering: Original conception of Schrödinger of EPR paradox → Only well-defined in 2007! ([Wiseman, Jones, Doherty, PRL 98, 140402 \(2007\)](#))
- Alice post-measurement state described by local-hidden states:

$$\tilde{\rho}_{\hat{n}}^A = \Pi_{\hat{n}}^B \rho \Pi_{\hat{n}}^B = \int d\lambda p(1|\hat{n}\lambda) p(\lambda) \rho_B(\lambda)$$

- If not, quantum state is **steerable**.

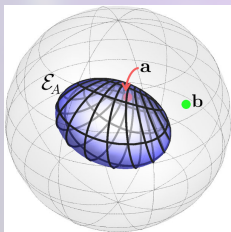


Steering: Two qubits

- Alice post-measurement state: same as for quantum discord.

$$\rho_{\hat{n}} = \frac{\tilde{\rho}_{\hat{n}}}{\text{Tr}\tilde{\rho}_{\hat{n}}} = \frac{1 + \mathbf{B}_{\hat{n}}^+ \cdot \sigma}{2}, \quad \mathbf{B}_{\hat{n}}^+ = \frac{\mathbf{B}^+ + \mathbf{C} \cdot \hat{n}}{1 + \hat{n} \cdot \mathbf{B}^-}$$

- Set of conditional polarizations $\mathbf{B}_{\hat{n}}^+$ describes an ellipsoid.
- Steering ellipsoid: Fundamental QI object, containing all information about the system.
- Similar for Bob \rightarrow Steering: also asymmetric between Alice and Bob.



Jevtic, Pusey, Jennings, Rudolph
PRL 113, 020402 (2014)

Bell inequality: Two qubits

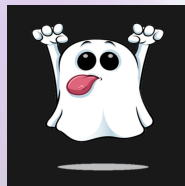
- Local realism: Joint Alice and Bob measurements M_A, M_B accounted by local hidden-variable model

$$p(a, b | M_A M_B) = \int d\lambda p(a | M_A \lambda) p(b | M_B \lambda) p(\lambda)$$

- Local realism holds if Bell inequality is satisfied. Two qubits \rightarrow **CHSH inequality** ($\mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{b}_i$ spin axes of measurements M_A, M_B)

$$|\mathbf{a}_1^T \mathbf{C} (\mathbf{b}_1 - \mathbf{b}_2) + \mathbf{a}_2^T \mathbf{C} (\mathbf{b}_1 + \mathbf{b}_2)| \leq 2$$

- Stronger condition than entanglement \rightarrow "Spooky action at distance"



Hierarchy of Quantum Correlations

- Steering and Discord can be asymmetric between Alice and Bob.
- Bell Nonlocality and Entanglement are always symmetric.
- Quantum Hierarchy:

Bell Nonlocality \subset Steering \subset Entanglement \subset Discord



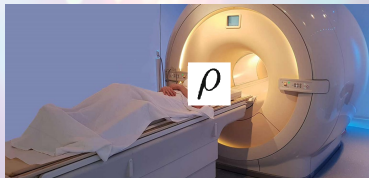
Quantum Tomography: Two qubits

- **Quantum Tomography:** Reconstruction of quantum state from measurement of a set of observables.
- Quantum tomography \rightarrow Measurement of ALL quantum correlations.
- Most general density matrices for 1, 2 qubits:

$$\rho = \frac{1 + \sum_i B_i \sigma^i}{2}, \quad \rho = \frac{1 + \sum_i (B_i^+ \sigma^i + B_i^- \bar{\sigma}^i) + \sum_{i,j} C_{ij} \sigma^i \bar{\sigma}^j}{4}$$

- One-qubit quantum tomography=Measurement of 3 parameters, polarization vector \mathbf{B} : $B_i = \langle \sigma^i \rangle$
- Two-qubit quantum tomography=Measurement of 15 parameters, polarization vectors \mathbf{B}^\pm and correlation matrix \mathbf{C} :

$$B_i^+ = \langle \sigma^i \rangle, \quad B_i^- = \langle \bar{\sigma}^i \rangle, \quad C_{ij} = \langle \sigma^i \bar{\sigma}^j \rangle$$

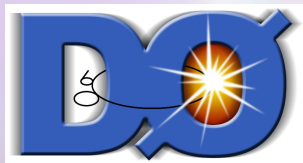


Part II: Top Quark Physics

The background of the slide features a soft, ethereal glow in shades of purple and blue. Two stylized atomic models are visible, one in the upper left and one in the lower right. Each model consists of a central nucleus of yellow and orange particles, surrounded by a glowing cyan sphere representing the electron cloud. A bright, multi-colored particle track, transitioning from purple to yellow, streaks across the center of the slide, passing behind the main title.

Who Top Quarks?

- Top quark is the most massive fundamental particle known to exist ($m_t c^2 \approx 173 \text{ GeV}$).
- First discovered by the D0 and CDF collaborations at the Tevatron in 1995.
- Top quarks produced in top-antitop ($t\bar{t}$) pairs through QCD or Electroweak processes.



Why Top Quarks?

- Large Width $\Gamma_t \sim 1 \text{ GeV} \rightarrow$ Very short lifetime $\tau = 1/\Gamma_t \sim 10^{-25} \text{ s}$
- Tops decay before
 - Hadronisation $\sim 10^{-23} \text{ s}$.
 - Spin-decorrelation $\sim 10^{-21} \text{ s}$.
- \rightarrow NO DECOHERENCE OR RANDOMIZATION!
- Rotational invariance in $t\bar{t}$ rest frames $\rightarrow t\bar{t}$ spins measured from decay products.
- Measurements by D0 and CDF (Tevatron), ATLAS and CMS (LHC)
 \rightarrow Well-established technique!



Top pair kinematics

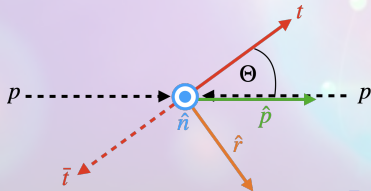
- $t\bar{t}$ pair kinematically described by invariant mass $M_{t\bar{t}}$ and top direction \hat{k} in c.m. frame

$$k_t^\mu = (k_t^0, \mathbf{k}), k_{\bar{t}}^\mu = (k_{\bar{t}}^0, -\mathbf{k})$$
$$M_{t\bar{t}}^2 \equiv s_{t\bar{t}} \equiv (k_t + k_{\bar{t}})^2$$

- Invariant mass is simply related to top c. m. velocity β

$$M_{t\bar{t}} = \frac{2m_t}{\sqrt{1 - \beta^2}} \rightarrow \beta = 0 \rightarrow M_{t\bar{t}} = 2m_t$$

- Threshold production: $M_{t\bar{t}} = 2m_t \approx 346$ GeV



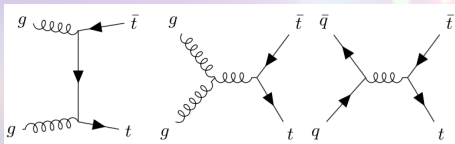
LO QCD Elementary Process

- Illustrative example: QCD analytical LO calculation.
 - Analytical results.
 - NLO corrections are small.
 - Building blocks of actual high-energy processes.
- Most elementary QCD processes:

$$q + \bar{q} \rightarrow t + \bar{t}, \quad q = u, d, \dots$$

$$g + g \rightarrow t + \bar{t}$$

- Each initial state $I = q\bar{q}, gg$ gives rise to quantum state $\rho^I(M_{t\bar{t}}, \hat{k})$



LO QCD Realistic

- No free quarks or gluons \rightarrow Hadrons: Bound states of quarks and gluons (partons).
- LHC, Tevatron: pp , $p\bar{p}$ collisions at high c.m. energies \sqrt{s} .

$$p + p \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow t + \bar{t} \quad \text{LHC}$$

$$p + \bar{p} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow t + \bar{t} \quad \text{Tevatron}$$

- Quantum state depends now on c.m. energy \sqrt{s} :

$$\rho(M_{t\bar{t}}, \hat{k}) = \sum_{l=q\bar{q}, gg} w_l(M_{t\bar{t}}, \sqrt{s}) \rho^l(M_{t\bar{t}}, \hat{k})$$

- Total QCD process: *Incoherent* sum of elementary QCD processes with probability w_l .
- QCD Input: $w_l(M_{t\bar{t}}, \sqrt{s})$, $\rho^l(M_{t\bar{t}}, \hat{k}) \rightarrow$ QI
Output: Textbook problem of *convex sum* of quantum states!



Part III: Quantum Tops

The background features two stylized quantum atom models. Each model consists of a central nucleus of yellow and orange particles, surrounded by a glowing cyan sphere representing the electron cloud. A bright, multi-colored beam of light (purple, blue, and yellow) connects the two atoms, suggesting a quantum interaction or entanglement. The overall background is a soft, light purple gradient.

$t\bar{t}$ Quantum Correlations

- Quantum state $\rho(M_{t\bar{t}}, \hat{k})$: Function of scattering angle Θ and $M_{t\bar{t}}$.
- Two main regions of quantumness:
 - High- p_T for both $q\bar{q}$ and gg (spin triplet)
 - Threshold for gg (spin singlet).

• Colorbar: Discord.

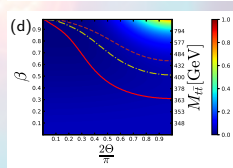
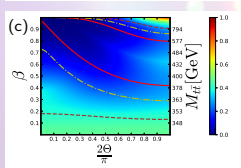
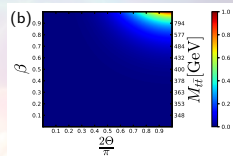
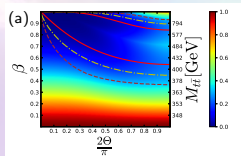
• Solid, dashed-dotted, dashed:
Boundaries of Entanglement,
Steering, Bell Nonlocality \rightarrow
Hierarchy!

a) $gg \rightarrow t\bar{t}$

b) $q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$

c) Run 2 LHC $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

d) Tevatron $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$ TeV

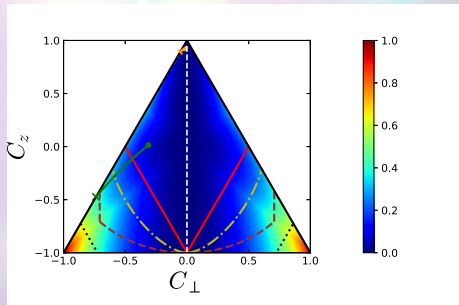


Total Quantum State

- Realistic measurement: Average over many different processes.
- Total quantum state: Events in window $[2m_t, M_{t\bar{t}}]$

$$\rho(M_{t\bar{t}}) \equiv \frac{1}{\sigma(M_{t\bar{t}})} \int_{2m_t}^{M_{t\bar{t}}} dM \int d\Omega \frac{d\sigma}{dM d\Omega} \rho(M, \hat{k})$$

- Intuitively: Total quantum state = Sum of $t\bar{t}$ quantum states weighted with the differential cross-section.
- Rotational invariance around beam axis \rightarrow Correlation matrix diagonal in beam basis
 $C_{ij} = C_i \delta_{ij}$, $C_x = C_y = C_{\perp} \rightarrow$ 2D dependence on C_{\perp}, C_z .
- **Green:** LHC.
Orange: Tevatron.
- **Cross:** $\beta = 0$; **Circle:** $\beta = 1$.



Part IV: Experimental Analysis

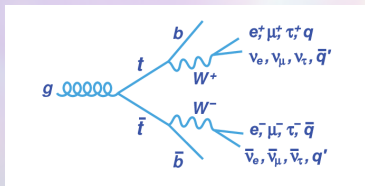


Top pair Quantum Tomography

- $\rho(M_{t\bar{t}}) \rightarrow$ Two qubit quantum state \rightarrow Quantum tomography = Measurement of spin polarizations and spin correlations.
- Spin polarizations \mathbf{B}^\pm and spin correlation matrix \mathbf{C} extracted from cross-section $\sigma_{\ell\bar{\ell}}$ of dileptonic decay

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} \frac{d\sigma_{\ell\bar{\ell}}}{d\Omega_+ d\Omega_-} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} \left[1 + \mathbf{B}^+ \cdot \hat{\ell}_+ - \mathbf{B}^- \cdot \hat{\ell}_- - \hat{\ell}_+ \cdot \mathbf{C} \cdot \hat{\ell}_- \right]$$

- $\hat{\ell}_\pm$: lepton directions in each top (antitop) rest frames.

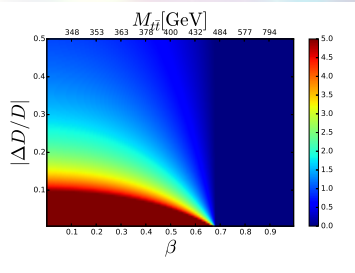
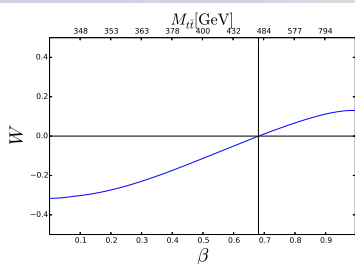


Entanglement in $t\bar{t}$ production at LHC $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV

- Entanglement witness:
 $W = D + 1/3 < 0$, $D \equiv \text{tr } \mathbf{C}/3 \rightarrow$
Entanglement only close to threshold.
- D directly measurable from decay cross-sections:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d \cos \varphi} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - D \cos \varphi)$$

- Entanglement detection from one single magnitude! \rightarrow No need for Quantum Tomography!
- High-statistical significance!
- Entanglement also at high- p_T :
Fabbrichesì, Floreanini, Panizzo, PRL 127, 161801 (2021), Severi, Boschi, Maltoni, Sioli, EPJC 82, 285 (2022)



Discord and Steering

- Normalized dileptonic cross-section \rightarrow Angular probability distribution:

$$\rho(\hat{\ell}_+, \hat{\ell}_-) = \frac{1}{\sigma_{\ell\bar{\ell}}} \frac{d\sigma_{\ell\bar{\ell}}}{d\Omega_+ d\Omega_-} = \frac{1 + \mathbf{B}^+ \cdot \hat{\ell}_+ - \mathbf{B}^- \cdot \hat{\ell}_- - \hat{\ell}_+ \cdot \mathbf{C} \cdot \hat{\ell}_-}{(4\pi)^2}$$

- Direct one-qubit tomography of $\rho_{A,B}, \rho_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}$ from Bloch vectors $\mathbf{B}^\pm, \mathbf{B}_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}^\pm$:

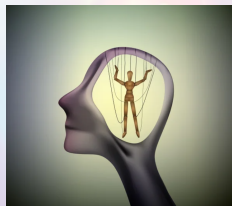
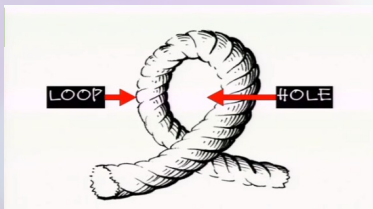
$$\rho(\hat{\ell}_\pm) = \int d\Omega_\mp \rho(\hat{\ell}_+, \hat{\ell}_-) = \frac{1 \pm \mathbf{B}^\pm \cdot \hat{\ell}_\pm}{4\pi}$$

$$\rho(\hat{\ell}_\pm | \hat{\ell}_\mp = \mp \hat{\mathbf{n}}) = \frac{\rho(\hat{\ell}_\pm, \hat{\ell}_\mp = \mp \hat{\mathbf{n}})}{\rho(\hat{\ell}_\mp = \mp \hat{\mathbf{n}})} = \frac{1 \pm \mathbf{B}_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}^\pm \cdot \hat{\ell}_\pm}{4\pi}$$

- Actual discord \rightarrow Evaluated from minimization over $\hat{\mathbf{n}}$.
- Measurement of $\mathbf{B}_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}}^\pm \rightarrow$ Reconstruction of t, \bar{t} steering ellipsoids.
- Highly-challenging measurements in conventional setups \rightarrow Natural implementation in colliders!

Bell Test Loopholes in a Collider Experiment

- Loopholes: Experimental tests of Bell's inequality may not fulfill all hypotheses of Bell's theorem.
- Collider experiment:
 - Free-will loophole: Spin measurement directions should be free, independent from hidden-variables. → Not even single-detection events from Alice and Bob!
 - Detection loophole: Only a subset of events selected for measurement → Bias!
- Quite natural: Colliders were not designed to test Bell's Inequality!



New Physics Witnesses

- Approximate CP -invariance of Standard Model $\rightarrow \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}^T, \mathbf{B}^+ = \mathbf{B}^-$
 \rightarrow Symmetric discord and steering!
- Therefore: Discord and/or Steering asymmetry \rightarrow New Physics!
- New physics witnesses: Symmetry protected observables by SM, only non-zero for New Physics:
 - $\Delta \mathcal{D}_{t\bar{t}} \equiv \mathcal{D}_t - \mathcal{D}_{\bar{t}}$
 - Asymmetries in ellipsoid centers and/or semiaxes.
- No SM contribution to New Physics witnesses!



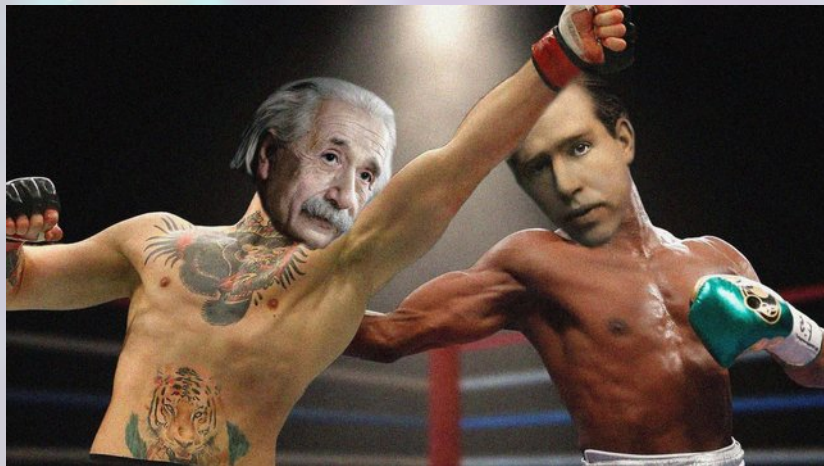
Conclusions and outlook

- Quantum Information theory \longleftrightarrow High-Energy Physics.
Interdisciplinary, huge potential and great interest!
- QI perspective:
 - ① Highest-energy observation of entanglement ever!
 - ② Genuinely relativistic, exotic symmetries and interactions, fundamental nature \rightarrow Frontier of known Physics!
 - ③ Highly-demanding measurements naturally implemented at LHC.
- HEP perspective:
 - ① Quantum Tomography: Novel experimental tool.
 - ② QI techniques can inspire new approaches for searching New Physics:
 - [Aoude, Madge, Maltoni, Mantani, PRD \(2022\)](#).
 - [Severi, Vryonidou, JHEP \(2023\)](#).
 - [Fabbrichesi, Floreanini, Gabrielli, EPJC \(2023\)](#).
- Extension to e^+e^- colliders: Spin of initial state can be controlled!
 \rightarrow Manipulation of qubits? Quantum gates?
- Adaptation to τ leptons, qutrits W^\pm, Z^0 .

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 - [Fabbrichesi, Floreanini, Gabrielli, EPJC \(2023\)](#).
- The first measurements of entanglement between a pair of top-quarks are ongoing within ATLAS and CMS.
- **The results are expected to be public soon - stay tuned!**

Thank You





Backup

Quantum Discord: Two qubits

- Classical two-qubit state:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho &= p_{++} |\hat{\mathbf{n}} \hat{\mathbf{n}}'\rangle \langle \hat{\mathbf{n}} \hat{\mathbf{n}}'| + p_{+-} |\hat{\mathbf{n}} - \hat{\mathbf{n}}'\rangle \langle \hat{\mathbf{n}} - \hat{\mathbf{n}}'| \\ &+ p_{-+} |-\hat{\mathbf{n}} \hat{\mathbf{n}}'\rangle \langle -\hat{\mathbf{n}} \hat{\mathbf{n}}'| + p_{--} |-\hat{\mathbf{n}} - \hat{\mathbf{n}}'\rangle \langle -\hat{\mathbf{n}} - \hat{\mathbf{n}}'|\end{aligned}$$

- Incoherent statistical mixture of $|\pm \hat{\mathbf{n}} \pm \hat{\mathbf{n}}'\rangle$ states \rightarrow Quantum mechanics if it was just some probabilistic theory
- Classical states \iff Zero discord when measuring B along $\hat{\mathbf{n}}'$ direction!

$$\mathcal{D}(A, B) = H(\rho_B) - H(\rho) + p_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}'} H(\rho_{\hat{\mathbf{n}}'}) + p_{-\hat{\mathbf{n}}'} H(\rho_{-\hat{\mathbf{n}}'}) = 0$$

- Classical states included in separable states:

$$\rho = \int d\Omega_A d\Omega_B P(\mathbf{n}_A, \mathbf{n}_B) |\mathbf{n}_A \mathbf{n}_B\rangle \langle \mathbf{n}_A \mathbf{n}_B|$$

- Entanglement \rightarrow Quantum discord