

# On two-body and three-body spin correlations in leptonic $t\bar{t}Z$ production and anomalous couplings at the LHC

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Polarization and spin correlations
- 3 Probing  $t\bar{t}Z$  anomalous couplings
- 4 Summary

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# Introduction

- Precision measurements at the electroweak (EW) scale are essential to look for the remnant of BSM physics probably sitting at a high energy scale.
- Top quark interactions play a key role in exploring BSM theories because of their heavy mass, which is the same order as the electroweak scale.
- Polarizations of top quark and massive gauge bosons are interesting tools for precision measurement, as they are sensitive to the modification of the interactions involved.
- The top quark,  $Z$  and  $W$  bosons being massive, they decay immediately after they are produced, letting their decay products carry their polarization as well as spin correlation information.
- Polarization and spin correlation parameters can be calculated from the production process as well as from the angular distributions of the decay products.

- Here, we focus on the top quark interaction with the  $Z$  boson in the  $t\bar{t}Z$  production process, sensitive for direct measurement.
- The  $t\bar{t}Z$  is important background for search for BSM phenomena in multi-lepton and  $b$ -quark final state, and  $t\bar{t}H$ .
- We study the potential of polarization of top quarks and  $Z$ , two-body ( $t\bar{t}$ ,  $t/\bar{t}-Z$ ) and three-body ( $t\bar{t}-Z$ ) spin correlation in probing  $t\bar{t}Z$  anomalous couplings.

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$$P_f(\lambda, \lambda') = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} + \vec{p} \cdot \vec{\tau} \right], \quad (\lambda, \lambda' \in [+1, -1]),$$

$$P_V(\lambda, \lambda') = \frac{1}{3} \left[ \mathbb{I}_{3 \times 3} + \frac{3}{2} \vec{p} \cdot \vec{S} + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} T_{ij} (S_i S_j + S_j S_i) \right], \quad (\lambda, \lambda' \in [+1, 0, -1])$$

C. Bourrely, J. Soffer, E. Leader, Phys. Rep. 59 (1980) 95–297

$$\frac{1}{\sigma_f} \frac{d\sigma_f}{d\Omega} = \frac{1}{4\pi} \left[ 1 + \alpha p_x \sin \theta \cos \phi + \alpha p_y \sin \theta \sin \phi + \alpha p_z \cos \theta \right],$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sigma_V} \frac{d\sigma_V}{d\Omega} &= \frac{3}{8\pi} \left[ \left( \frac{2}{3} - (1 - 3\delta) \frac{T_{zz}}{\sqrt{6}} \right) + \alpha p_z \cos \theta + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} (1 - 3\delta) T_{zz} \cos^2 \theta \right. \\ &+ \left( \alpha p_x + 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} (1 - 3\delta) T_{xz} \cos \theta \right) \sin \theta \cos \phi \\ &+ \left( \alpha p_y + 2\sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} (1 - 3\delta) T_{yz} \cos \theta \right) \sin \theta \sin \phi \\ &+ (1 - 3\delta) \left( \frac{T_{xx} - T_{yy}}{\sqrt{6}} \right) \sin^2 \theta \cos(2\phi) \\ &\left. + \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} (1 - 3\delta) T_{xy} \sin^2 \theta \sin(2\phi) \right]. \end{aligned}$$



$$\mathcal{A}_i[p/T] = \frac{\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i^{p/T} > 0) - \sigma(\mathcal{E}_i^{p/T} < 0)}{\sigma(\mathcal{E}_i^{p/T} > 0) + \sigma(\mathcal{E}_i^{p/T} < 0)} \propto p/T_{ij}$$

$$\mathcal{E}_i^p \in [c_x, c_y, c_z]$$

$$\mathcal{E}_i^T \in [c_x c_y, c_x c_z, c_y c_z, c_x^2 - c_y^2, |\sqrt{c_x^2 + c_y^2}|(4c_z^2 - 1)] .$$

$$c_x = \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad c_y = \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad c_z = \cos \theta$$

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# Spin correlation

## Spin-1/2 – spin-1/2 correlations

$$P^{AB}(\lambda_A, \lambda'_A, \lambda_B, \lambda'_B)$$
$$= \frac{1}{(2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 1)^2} \left[ \underbrace{\mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2}}_{\mathbb{I}_{4 \times 4}} + \vec{p}^A \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} + \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \vec{p}^B \cdot \vec{\tau} + pp_{ij}^{AB} \tau_i \otimes \tau_j \right],$$
$$(i, j \in [x \equiv 1, y \equiv 2, z \equiv 3]),$$

W. Bernreuther and A. Brandenburg, Phys. Lett. B 314 (1993) 104–111

## Spin-1/2 – spin-1/2 correlations

$$P^{AB}(\lambda_A, \lambda'_A, \lambda_B, \lambda'_B) = \frac{1}{(2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 1)^2} \left[ \underbrace{\mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2}}_{\mathbb{I}_{4 \times 4}} + \vec{p}^A \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} + \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \vec{p}^B \cdot \vec{\tau} + pp_{ij}^{AB} \tau_i \otimes \tau_j \right],$$

$(i, j \in [x \equiv 1, y \equiv 2, z \equiv 3]),$

W. Bernreuther and A. Brandenburg, Phys. Lett. B 314 (1993) 104–111

## Spin-1/2 – spin-1 correlations

$$P^{AB}(\lambda_A, \lambda'_A, \lambda_B, \lambda'_B) = \frac{1}{(2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 1)} \frac{1}{(2 \times 1 + 1)} \left[ \underbrace{\mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{3 \times 3}}_{\mathbb{I}_{6 \times 6}} + \vec{p}^A \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{3 \times 3} + \frac{3}{2} \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \vec{p}^B \cdot \vec{S} \right. \\ \left. + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes T_{ij}^B (S_i S_j + S_j S_i) + pp_{ij}^{AB} \tau_i \otimes S_j + p T_{ijk}^{AB} \tau_i \otimes (S_j S_k + S_k S_j) \right]$$

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## $t\bar{t}Z$ spin correlations

$$\begin{aligned}
 P^{t\bar{t}Z}(\lambda_t, \lambda'_t, \lambda_{\bar{t}}, \lambda'_{\bar{t}}, \lambda_Z, \lambda'_Z) = & \\
 & \frac{1}{(2 \times \frac{1}{2} + 1)^2} \frac{1}{(2 \times 1 + 1)} \left[ \mathbb{I}_{12 \times 12} + \vec{p}^t \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{6 \times 6} + \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \vec{p}^{\bar{t}} \cdot \vec{\tau} \otimes \mathbb{I}_{3 \times 3} \right. \\
 + & \frac{3}{2} \mathbb{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes \vec{p}^Z \cdot \vec{S} + \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \mathbb{I}_{4 \times 4} \otimes T_{ij}^Z (S_i S_j + S_j S_i) + pp_{ij}^{t\bar{t}} \tau_i \otimes \tau_j \otimes \mathbb{I}_{3 \times 3} \\
 + & pp_{ij}^{tZ} \tau_i \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes S_j + pT_{ijk}^{tZ} \tau_i \otimes \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes (S_j S_k + S_k S_j) \\
 + & pp_{ij}^{\bar{t}Z} \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \tau_i \otimes S_j + pT_{ijk}^{\bar{t}Z} \mathbb{I}_{2 \times 2} \otimes \tau_i \otimes (S_j S_k + S_k S_j) \\
 + & \underbrace{ppp_{ijk}^{t\bar{t}Z} \tau_i \otimes \tau_j \otimes S_k + ppT_{ijkl}^{t\bar{t}Z} \tau_i \otimes \tau_j \otimes (S_k S_l + S_l S_k)}_{\text{Three body correlation}} \left. \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

# Angular distribution and asymmetries

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega_a d\Omega_b} = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[ 1 + \alpha_A p_i^A c_i^a + \alpha_B p_i^B c_i^b + \alpha_A \alpha_B p p_{ij}^{AB} c_i^a c_j^b \right]$$

$$c_x = \sin \theta \cos \phi, \quad c_y = \sin \theta \sin \phi, \quad c_z = \cos \theta$$

$$\mathcal{A}[pp_{ij}^{AB}] \equiv \frac{\sigma(c_i^a c_j^b > 0) - \sigma(c_i^a c_j^b < 0)}{\sigma(c_i^a c_j^b > 0) + \sigma(c_i^a c_j^b < 0)} = \frac{1}{4} \alpha_A \alpha_B p p_{ij}^{AB}.$$

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$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d^2\sigma}{d\Omega_a d\Omega_b} &= \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \left[ \alpha_A (1 - 3\delta_B) p T_{ijk}^{AB} c_i^a c_j^b c_k^b \quad (j \neq k) \right. \\ &+ \frac{1}{2} \alpha_A (1 - 3\delta_B) \left( p T_{i11}^{AB} - p T_{i22}^{AB} \right) c_i^a \left( (c_1^b)^2 - (c_2^b)^2 \right) \\ &\left. + \frac{1}{2} \alpha_A (1 - 3\delta_B) p T_{i33}^{AB} c_i^a \left( 3(c_3^b)^2 - 1 \right) \right] \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{A}[pT^{AB}] \equiv \frac{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^P \mathcal{C}_j^T > 0) - \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^P \mathcal{C}_j^T < 0)}{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^P \mathcal{C}_j^T > 0) + \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^P \mathcal{C}_j^T < 0)} \propto \alpha_A \times pT^{AB}$$

$$\mathcal{C}_i^P \in [c_x, c_y, c_z]$$

$$\mathcal{C}_i^T \in \left[ c_x c_y, c_x c_z, c_y c_z, c_x^2 - c_y^2, \sqrt{c_x^2 + c_y^2} (4c_z^2 - 1) \right].$$



$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d^3\sigma}{d\Omega_{l_t} d\Omega_{l_{\bar{t}}} d\Omega_{l_Z}} =$$

$$\frac{1}{64\pi^3} \left[ 1 + \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} \alpha_Z \, ppp^{t\bar{t}Z} \, c_i^{l_t} c_j^{l_{\bar{t}}} c_k^{l_Z} \right.$$

$$+ \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} (1 - 3\delta_Z) ppT_{ijkl}^{t\bar{t}Z} c_i^{l_t} c_j^{l_{\bar{t}}} c_k^{l_Z} c_l^{l_Z} \quad (k \neq l)$$

$$+ \frac{1}{2} \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} (1 - 3\delta_Z) \left( ppT_{ijxx}^{t\bar{t}Z} - pT_{ijyy}^{t\bar{t}Z} \right) c_i^{l_t} c_j^{l_{\bar{t}}} \left( (c_x^{l_Z})^2 - (c_y^{l_Z})^2 \right)$$

$$+ \left. \frac{1}{2} \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} (1 - 3\delta_Z) ppT_{ijzz}^{t\bar{t}Z} c_i^{l_t} c_j^{l_{\bar{t}}} \left( 3(c_z^{l_Z})^2 - 1 \right) \right]$$

$$\mathcal{A}[ppp^{t\bar{t}Z}] \equiv \frac{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^p > 0) - \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^p < 0)}{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^p > 0) + \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^p < 0)} \propto \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} \alpha_Z \times ppp^{t\bar{t}Z}$$

$$\mathcal{A}[ppT^{t\bar{t}Z}] \equiv \frac{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^T > 0) - \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^T < 0)}{\sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^T > 0) + \sigma(\mathcal{C}_i^p \mathcal{C}_j^p \mathcal{C}_k^T < 0)} \propto \alpha_t \alpha_{\bar{t}} \times ppT^{t\bar{t}Z}$$

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$$\mathcal{L}_{t\bar{t}Z} = e\bar{t} \left[ \gamma^\mu \left( C_1^V + \gamma_5 C_1^A \right) + \frac{i\sigma^{\mu\nu} q_\nu}{m_Z} \left( C_2^V + i\gamma_5 C_2^A \right) \right] tZ_\mu,$$

$$\sigma^{\mu\nu} = \frac{1}{2} [\gamma^\mu, \gamma^\nu], \quad q_\nu = (p_t - p_{\bar{t}})_\nu$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{uB}^{ij} = (\bar{Q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} u_j) \tilde{\varphi} B_{\mu\nu}, \quad \mathcal{O}_{uW}^{ij} = (\bar{Q}_i \sigma^{\mu\nu} \tau^I u_j) \tilde{\varphi} W_{\mu\nu}^I,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\varphi u}^{ij} = (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu \varphi) (\bar{u}_i \gamma^\mu u_j), \quad \mathcal{O}_{\varphi Q}^{1(ij)} = (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu \varphi) (\bar{Q}_i \gamma^\mu Q_j),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{\varphi Q}^{3(ij)} = (\varphi^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu^I \varphi) (\bar{Q}_i \gamma^\mu \tau^I Q_j).$$

$Q$ : left-handed quark doublet;

$u$ : right-handed singlet quark;

$\varphi$ : Higgs doublet

$$\overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu = D_\mu - \overleftarrow{D}_\mu$$

$$C_1^V = C_{1,\text{SM}}^V + \frac{v^2}{2\Lambda^2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W} \text{Re} \left[ -c_{\varphi t} - c_{\varphi Q}^- \right],$$

$$C_1^A = C_{1,\text{SM}}^A + \frac{v^2}{2\Lambda^2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W} \text{Re} \left[ -c_{\varphi t} + c_{\varphi Q}^- \right],$$

$$C_2^V = \frac{\sqrt{2}v^2}{2\Lambda^2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W} c_{tZ}, \quad C_2^A = \frac{\sqrt{2}v^2}{2\Lambda^2 \sin \theta_W \cos \theta_W} c_{tZ}^I$$

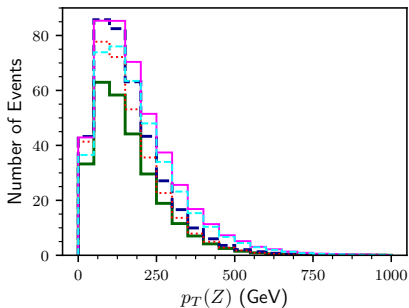
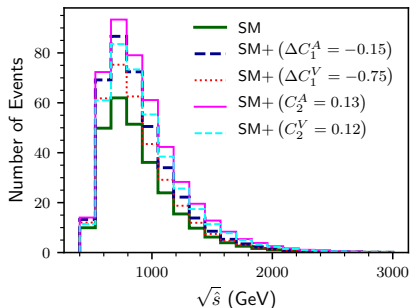
$$c_{tZ} = \text{Re} \left[ -\sin \theta_W C_{uB}^{33} + \cos \theta_W C_{uW}^{33} \right],$$

$$c_{tZ}^I = \text{Im} \left[ -\sin \theta_W C_{uB}^{33} + \cos \theta_W C_{uW}^{33} \right],$$

$$c_{\varphi t} = C_{\varphi u}^{33},$$

$$c_{\varphi Q}^- = C_{\varphi Q}^{1(33)} - C_{\varphi Q}^{3(33)}.$$

# Distributions with anomalous $t\bar{t}Z$ couplings



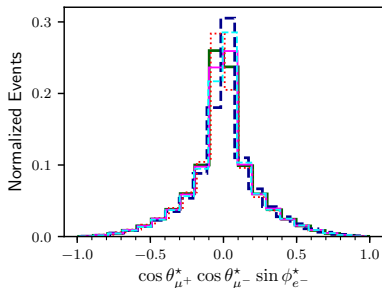
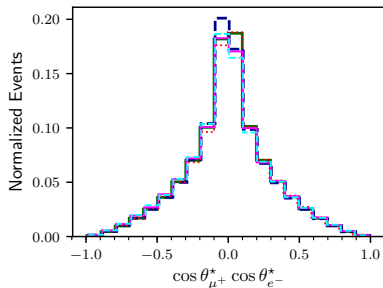
$$Bin_1 \equiv p_T(Z) < 250 \text{ GeV},$$

$$Bin_2 \equiv p_T(Z) \in [250, 500] \text{ GeV},$$

$$Bin_3 \equiv p_T(Z) \in [500, 750] \text{ GeV},$$

$$Bin_4 \equiv p_T(Z) > 750 \text{ GeV}.$$

# Distributions with anomalous $t\bar{t}Z$ couplings



$$pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z, \quad t \rightarrow b(W^+ \rightarrow \mu^+\nu_\mu), \quad \bar{t} \rightarrow \bar{b}(W^- \rightarrow \mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu), \quad Z \rightarrow e^-e^+,$$

## Reconstruction of neutrinos

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{p}_T &= \vec{p}_T(\nu_\mu) + \vec{p}_T(\bar{\nu}_\mu), \\ m_{\mu^+\nu_\mu}^2 &= m_W^2 = m_{\mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu}^2, \\ m_{b\mu^+\nu_\mu}^2 &= m_t^2 = m_{\bar{b}\mu^-\bar{\nu}_\mu}^2.\end{aligned}$$

$$\chi^2(C_i) = \sum_{n=1}^N \left| \frac{\mathcal{O}_n(C_i) - \mathcal{O}_n(C_i = 0)}{\delta \mathcal{O}_n} \right|^2,$$

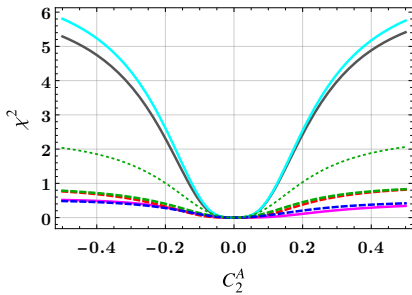
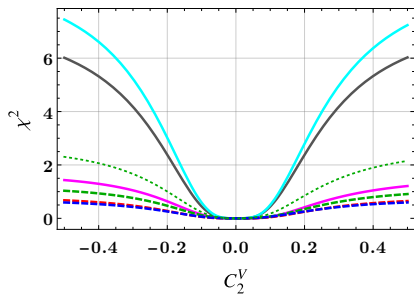
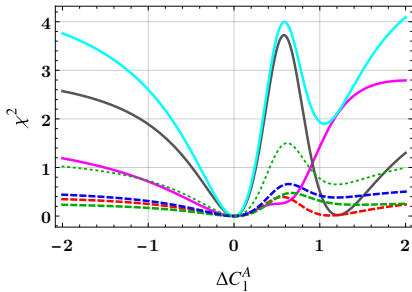
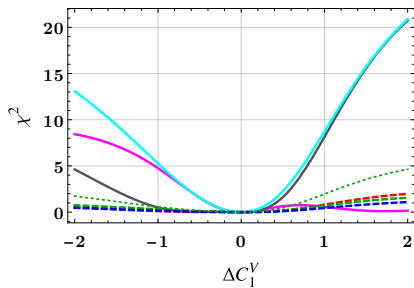
$$\delta \sigma_i = \sqrt{\frac{\sigma_i}{\mathcal{L}} + (\epsilon_{\sigma_i} \sigma_i)^2}, \quad \delta \mathcal{A}_i = \sqrt{\frac{1 - \mathcal{A}_i^2}{\mathcal{L} \times \sigma} + \epsilon_{\mathcal{A}}^2},$$

$$\epsilon_{\sigma} = 0.1 \quad [\text{CMS, JHEP 03 (2020) 056}]$$

$$\epsilon_{\mathcal{A}} = 0.01 \quad [\text{CMS, Phys. Rev. D 100 (2019) 072002}].$$

$$\mathcal{L} = 3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$$

—  $Pol[t, \bar{t}]$    
 —  $Pol[Z]$    
 —  $Pol[All]$    
 - - -  $Cor[t\bar{t}]$   
- - -  $Cor[tZ, \bar{t}Z]$    
 - - -  $Cor[t\bar{t}Z]$    
 - · - ·  $Cor[All]$





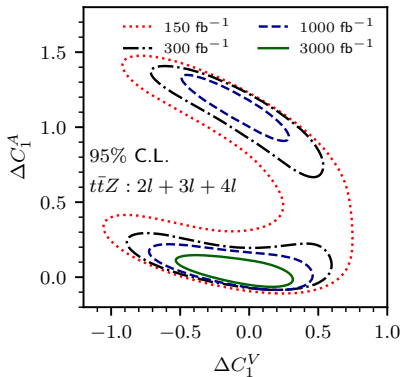
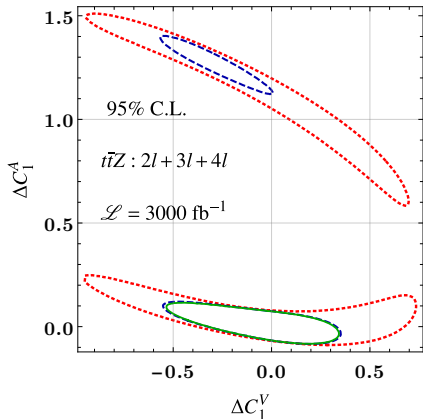
## Combining different channels (2l + 3l + 4l)

- $Z \rightarrow l^+l^-$ ,  $t/\bar{t} \rightarrow$  hadronic (2l) : Only the Z polarizations are obtained in this case,
- $Z \rightarrow l^+l^-$ ,  $t \rightarrow$  leptonic,  $\bar{t}$  hadronic (3l): Top quark polarizations are obtained along with the  $t$ -Z spin correlations by reconstructing the missing neutrino. The  $\bar{t}$  polarizations and  $\bar{t}$ -Z spin correlations are obtained by reversing the top and anti-top decay,
- Fully leptonic (4l): In this case,  $t\bar{t}$  and  $t\bar{t}Z$  spin correlations are obtained.

Systematic uncertainty ( $\sigma$ )  $\Rightarrow$  4l: 3l: 2l = 0.1: 0.13: 0.16

# Constraints on couplings

---  $XSec$     ---  $XSec + Pol[All]$     ---  $XSec + Pol[All] + Cor[All]$



Two-parameter fit

Simultaneous fit

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- We bring the spin correlations of  $t/\bar{t}$ - $Z$  and  $t$ - $\bar{t}$ - $Z$  in market to study new physics.
- The polarizations and spin correlations help in tightening the region of parameters space, especially for the vector and axial-vector couplings ( $\Delta C_1^V - \Delta C_1^A$ ) in comparison to the cross section by a considerable amount.
- Spin-correlations further helps in finding direction to the anomalous couplings.
- Our strategy in this analysis can serve as an extra handle in interpreting anomalous interactions on the data at the high energy and high luminosity LHC.

*Thank you*