

# The quantum life of a Feynman propagator as a qubit

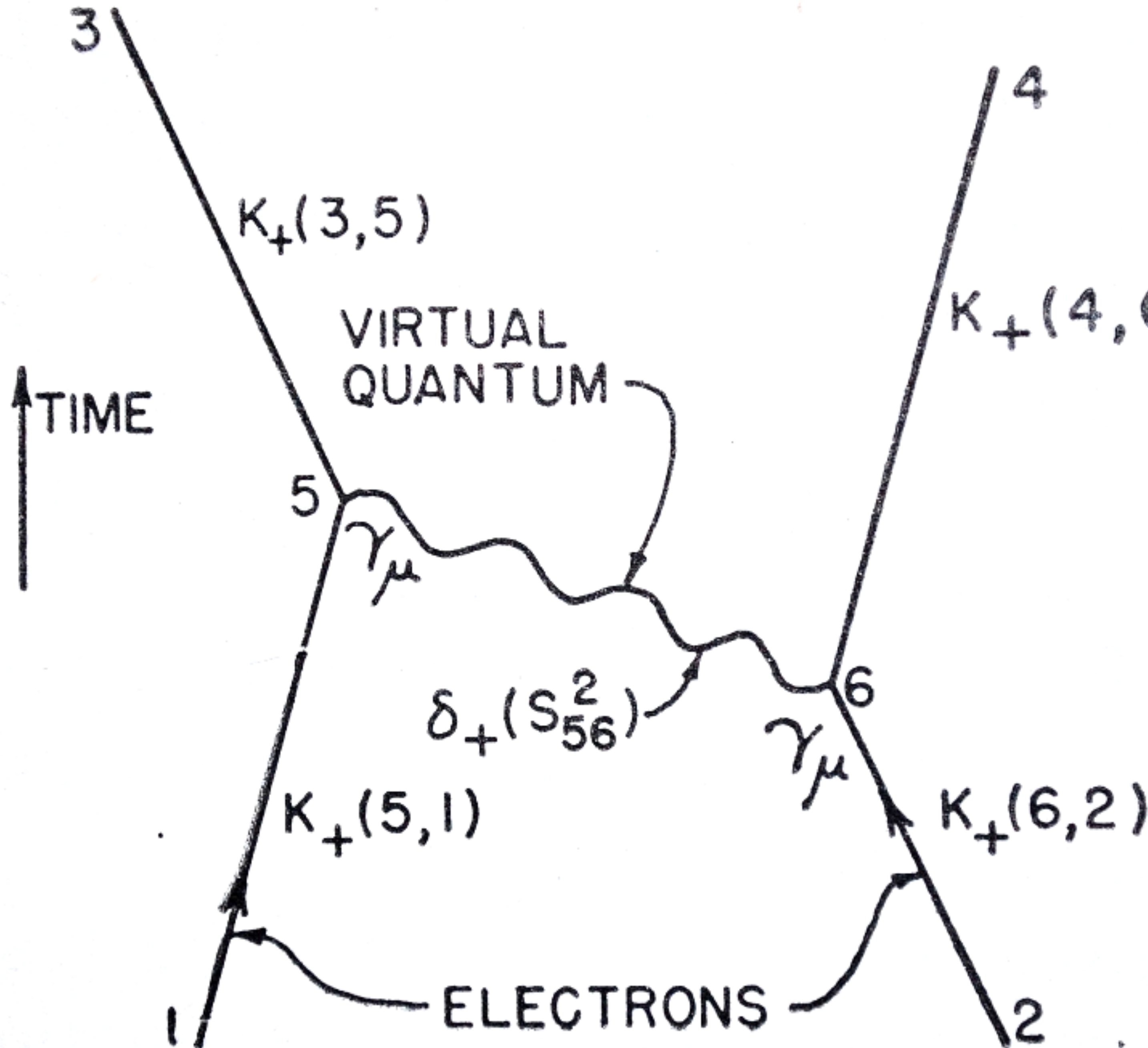
Germán RODRIGO

IFIC  
INSTITUT DE FÍSICA  
CORPUSCULAR

EXCELENCIA  
SEVERO  
OCHOA

CSIC

VNIVERSITAT  
DE VALÈNCIA



IQ> QUANTUM  
TECHNOLOGY  
INITIATIVE

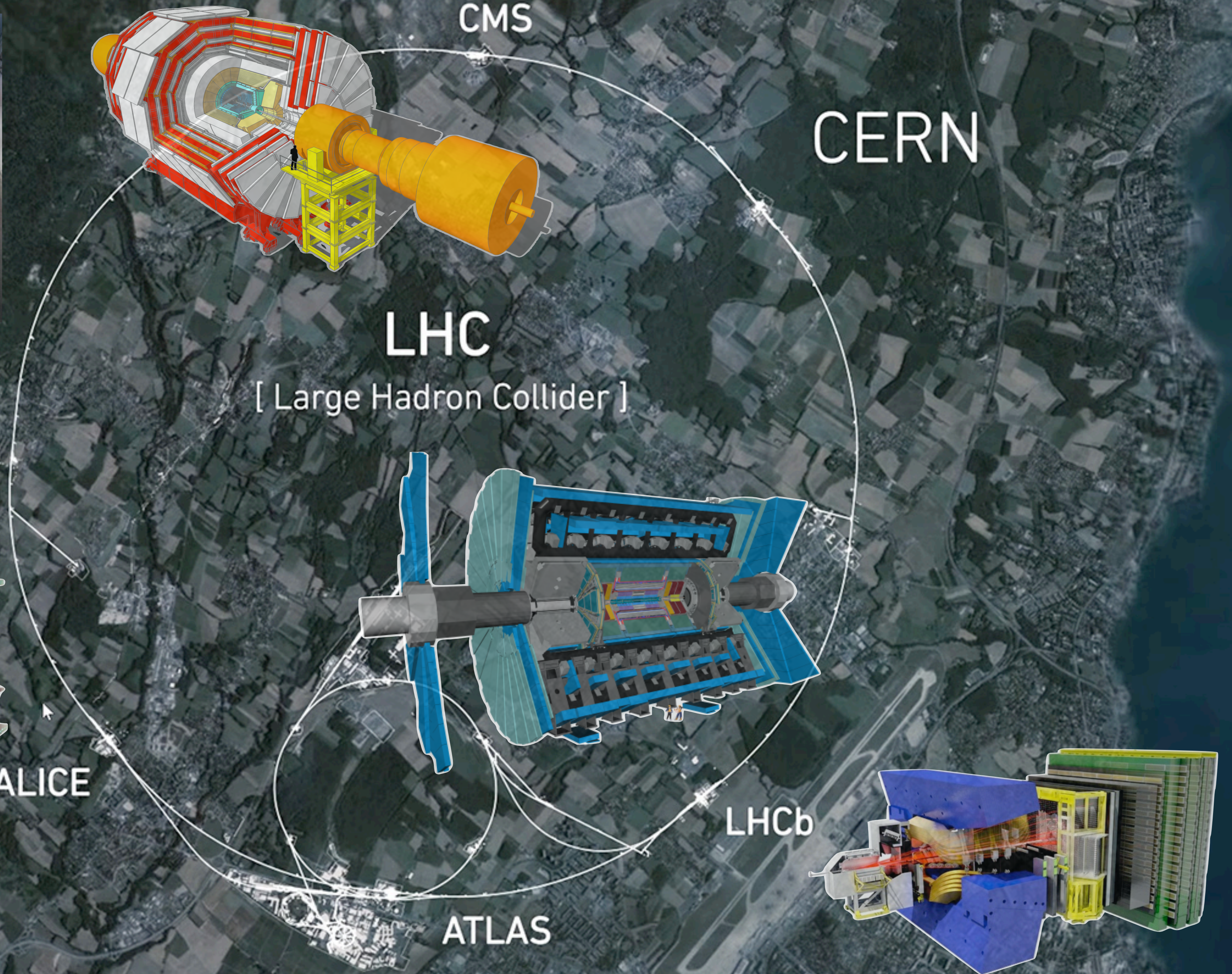
CERN Main Auditorium



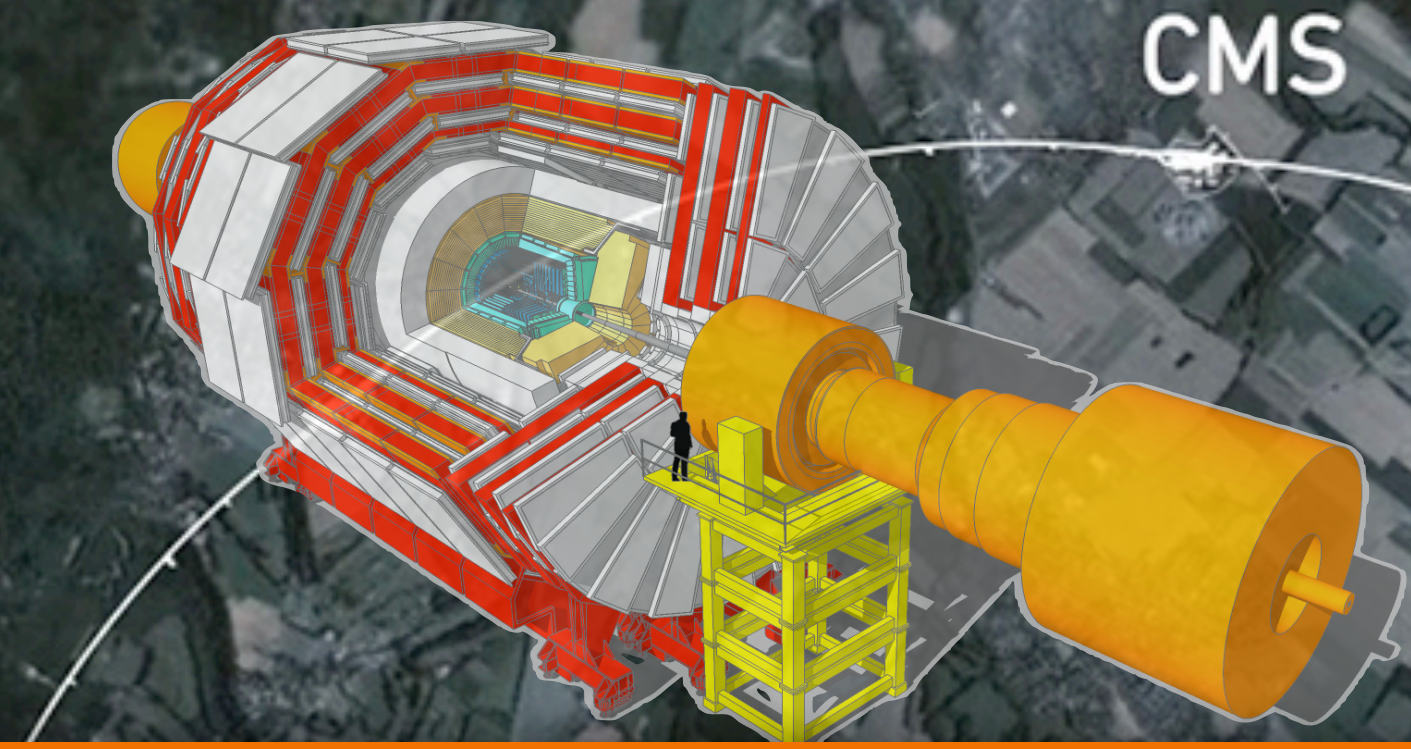
QUANTUM  
TECHNOLOGY  
CONFERENCE

QT4HEP 20-24 January 2025





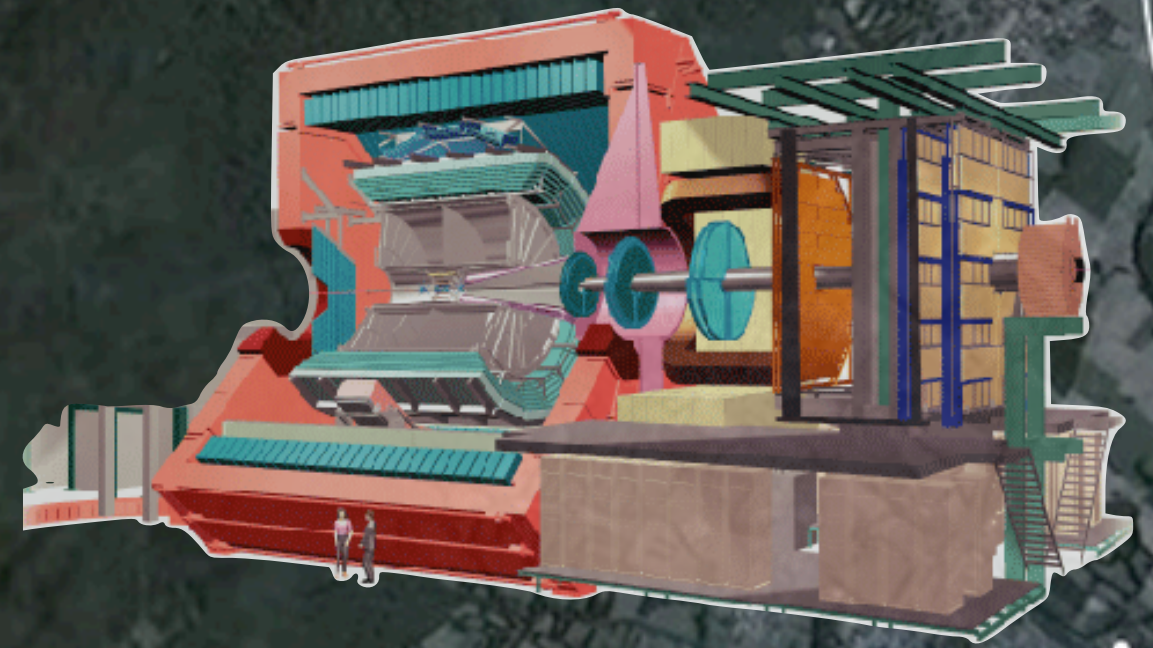




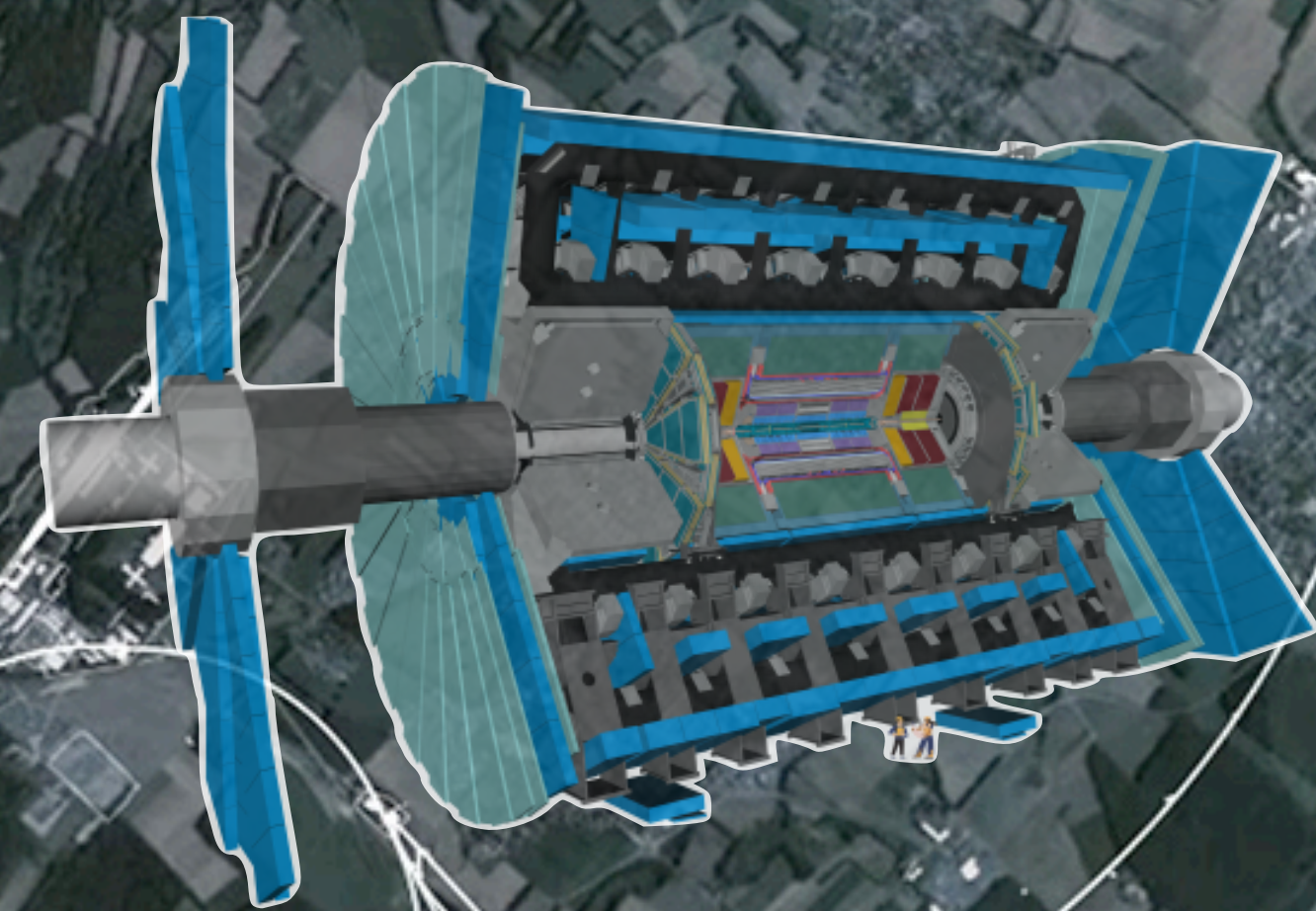
CMS

CERN

Quantum Field Theory (QFT)  
is quantum

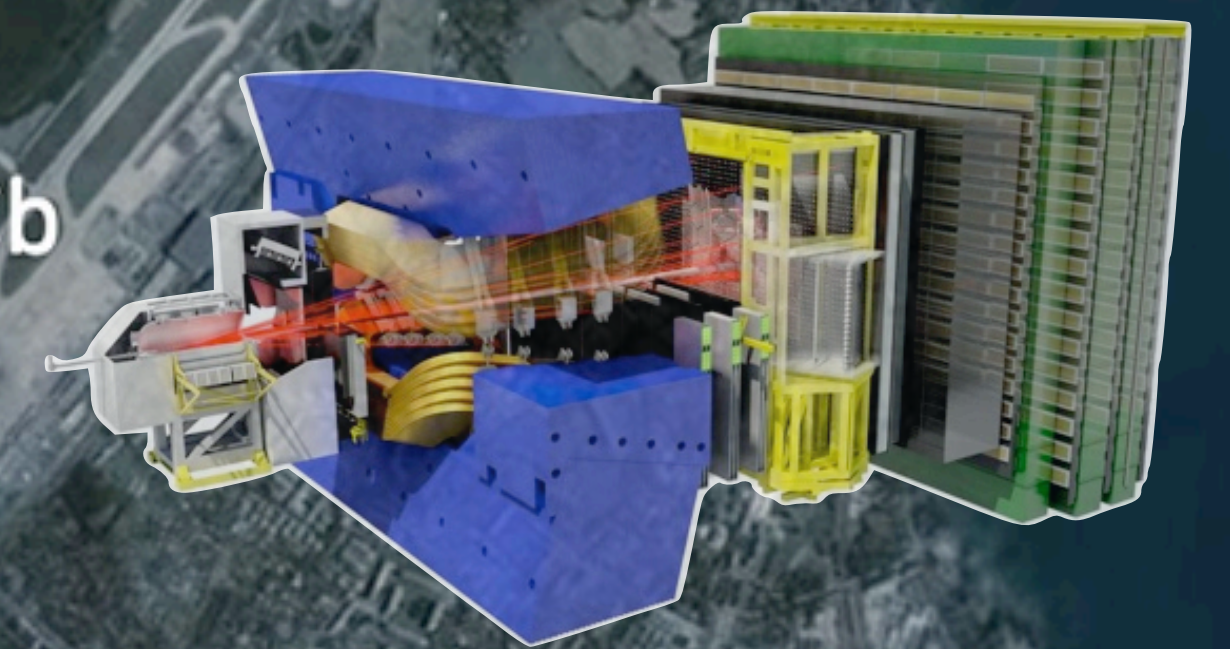


ALICE

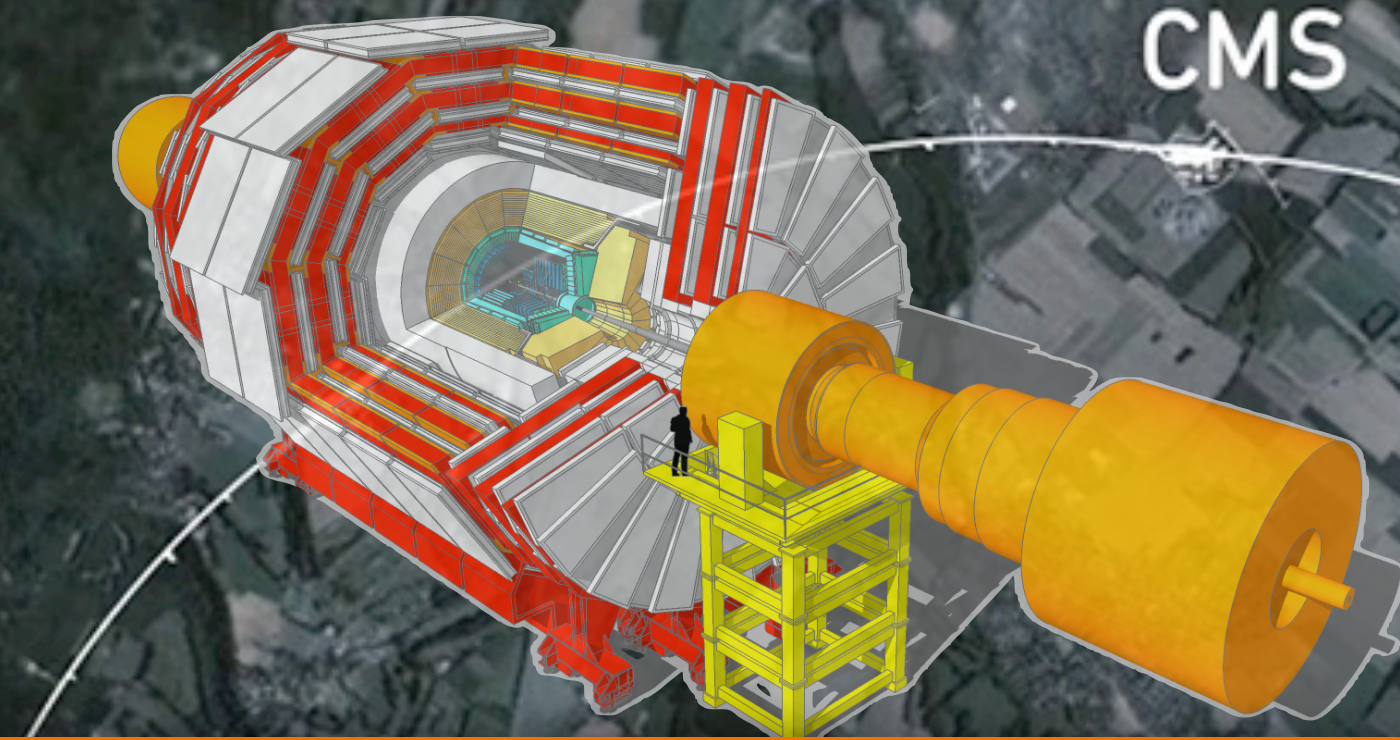


ATLAS

LHCb



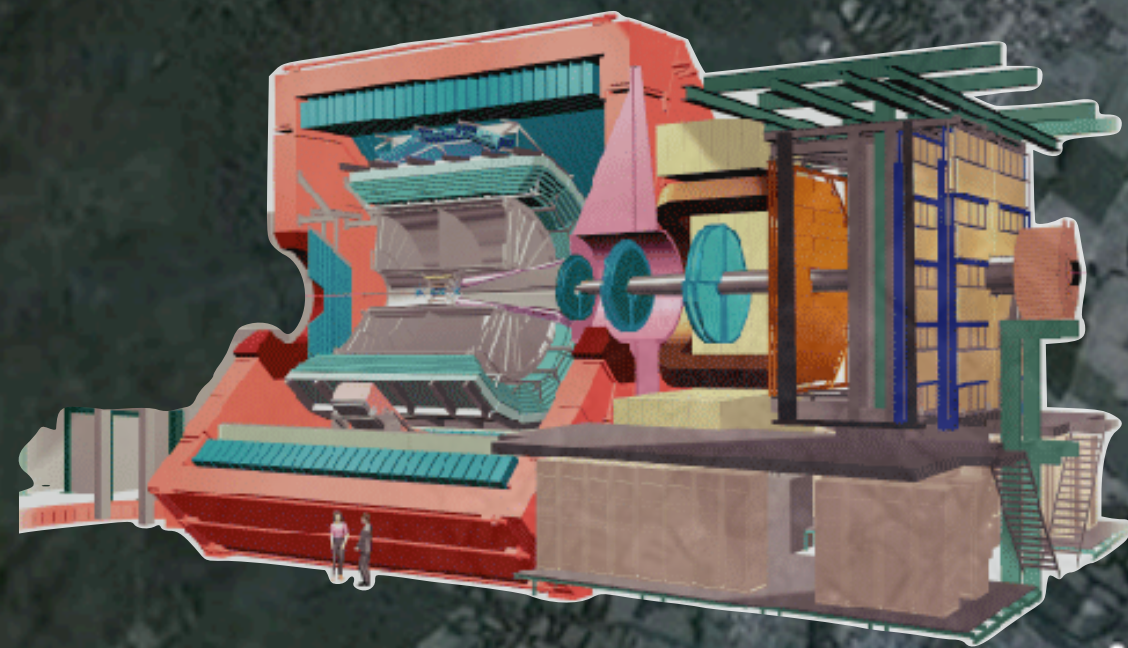




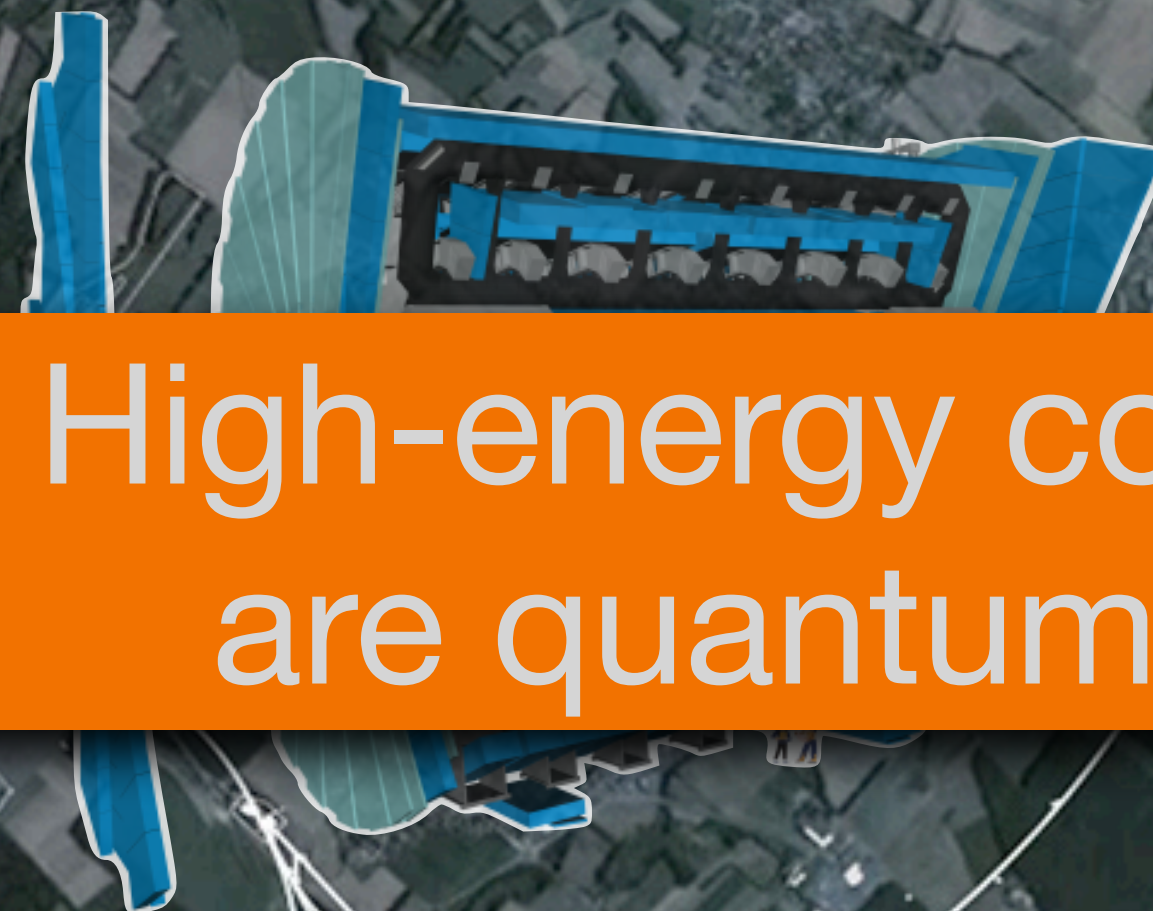
CMS

CERN

Quantum Field Theory (QFT)  
is quantum



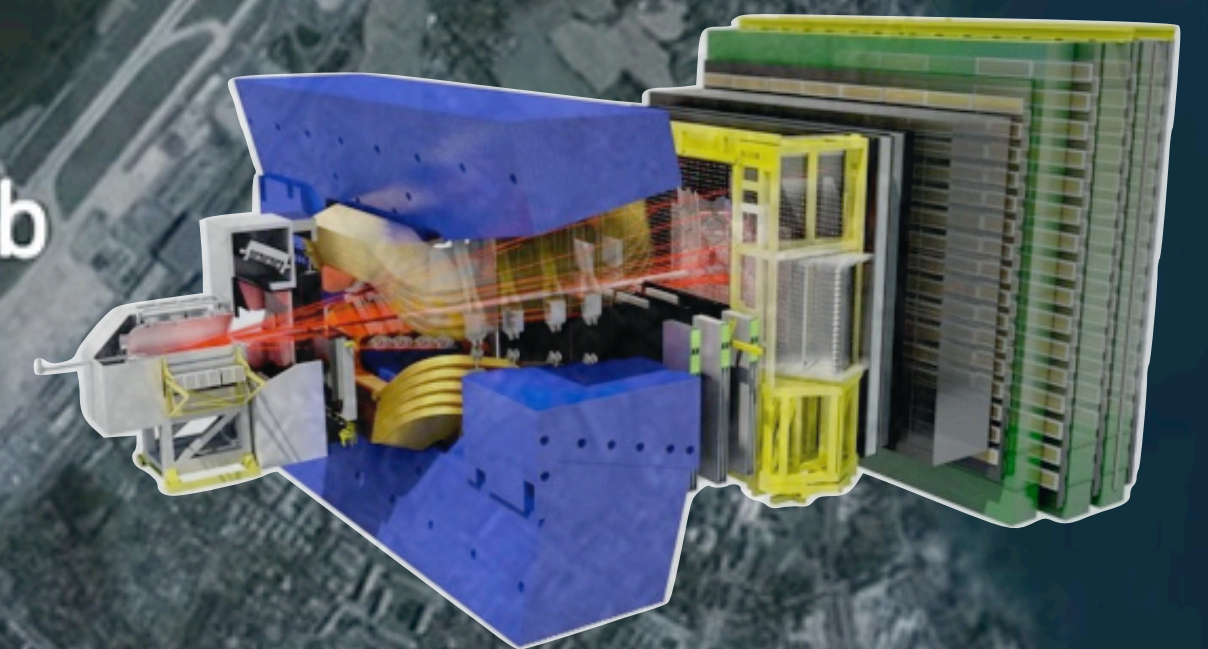
ALICE



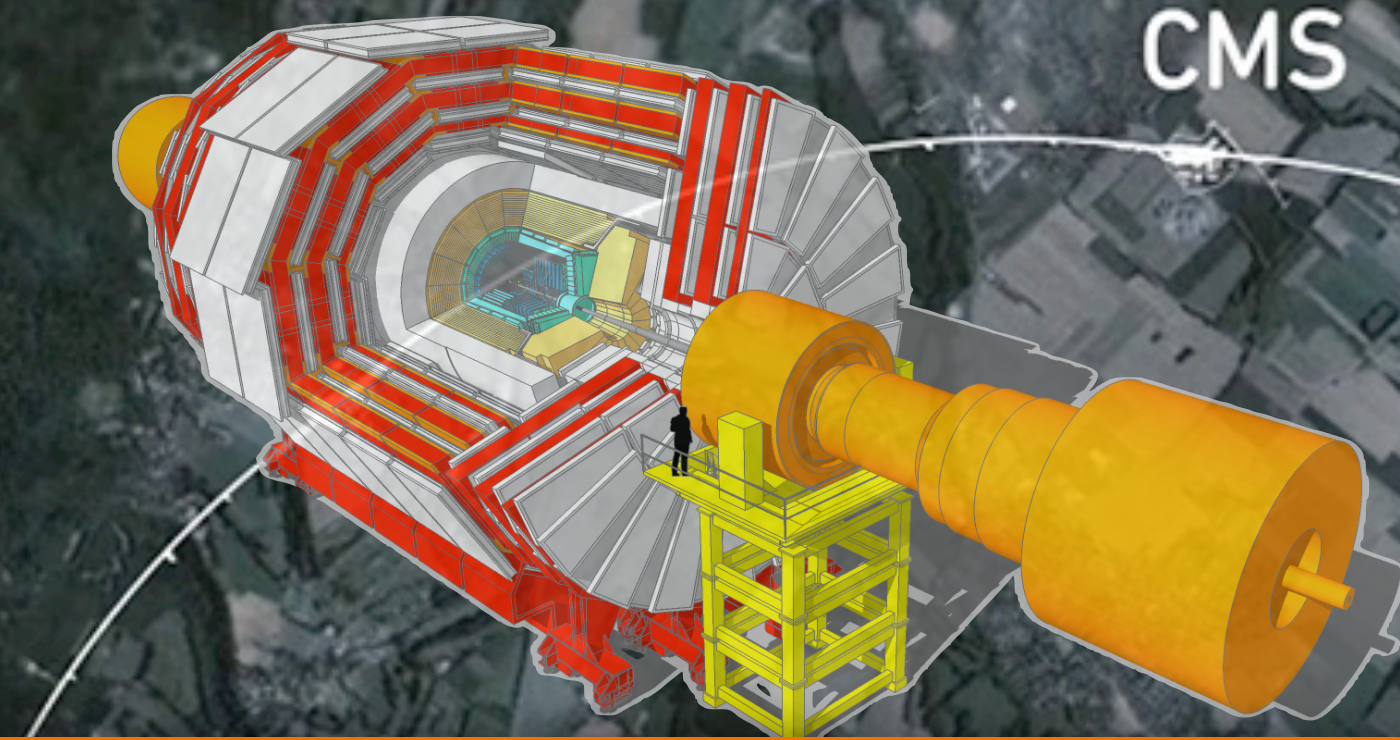
ATLAS

High-energy colliders (LHC)  
are quantum machines

LHCb



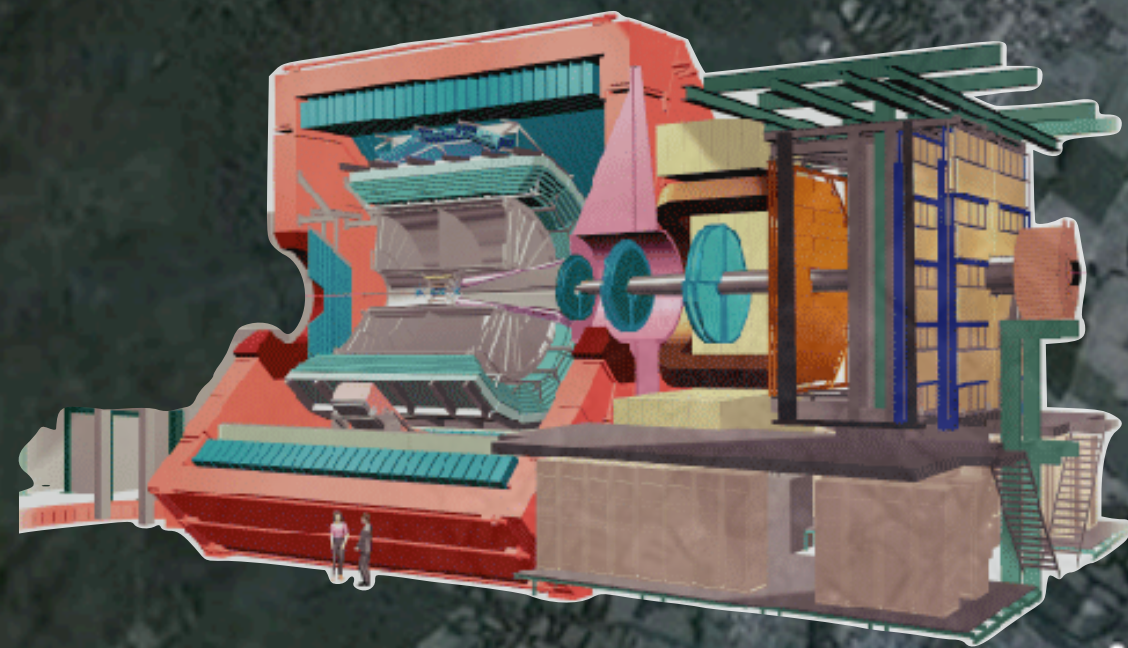




CMS

CERN

Quantum Field Theory (QFT)  
is quantum



ALICE



High-energy colliders (LHC)  
are quantum machines

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

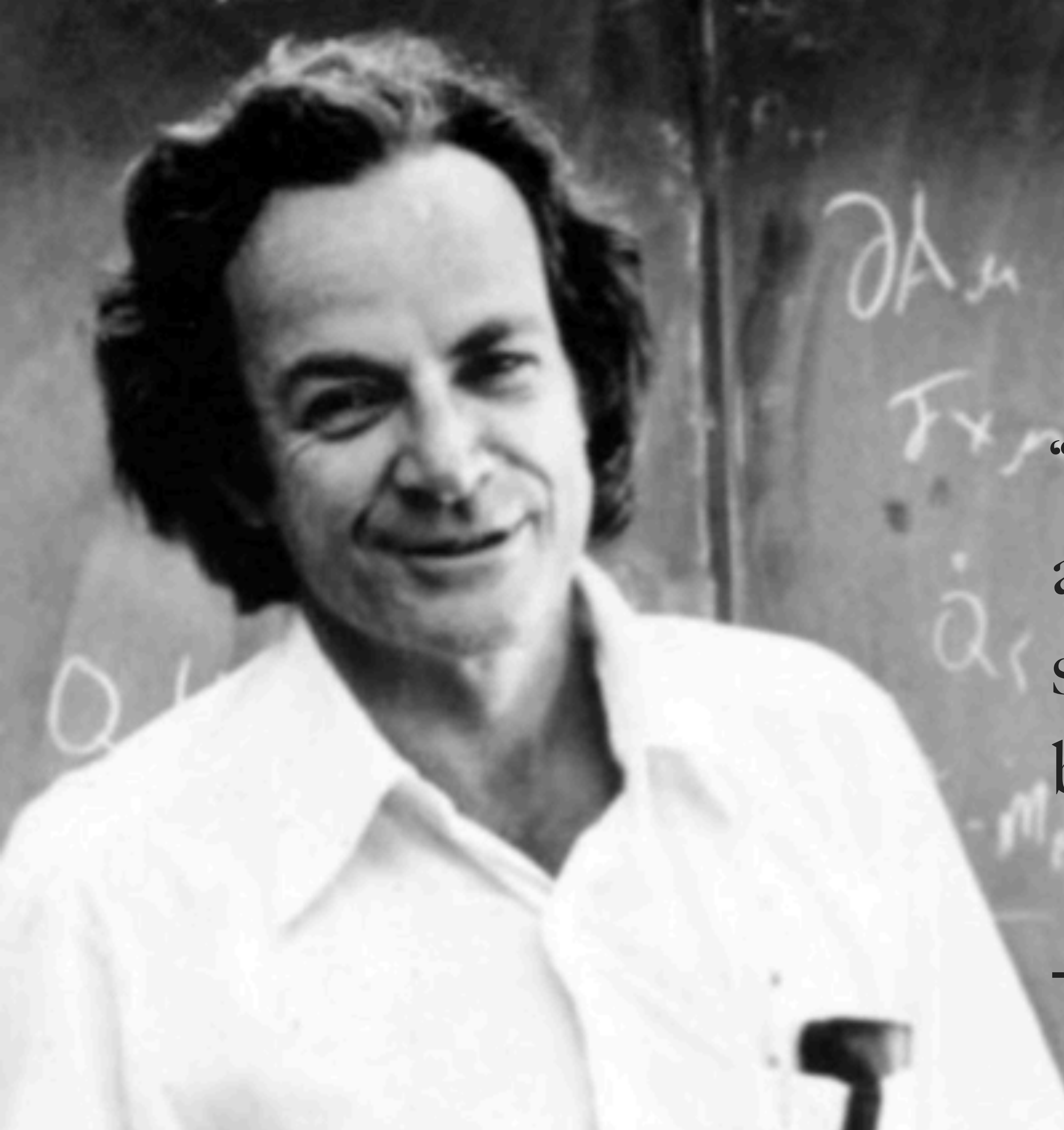
## Observation of quantum entanglement with top quarks at the ATLAS detector

[The ATLAS Collaboration](#)

*Nature* 633, 542–547 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)



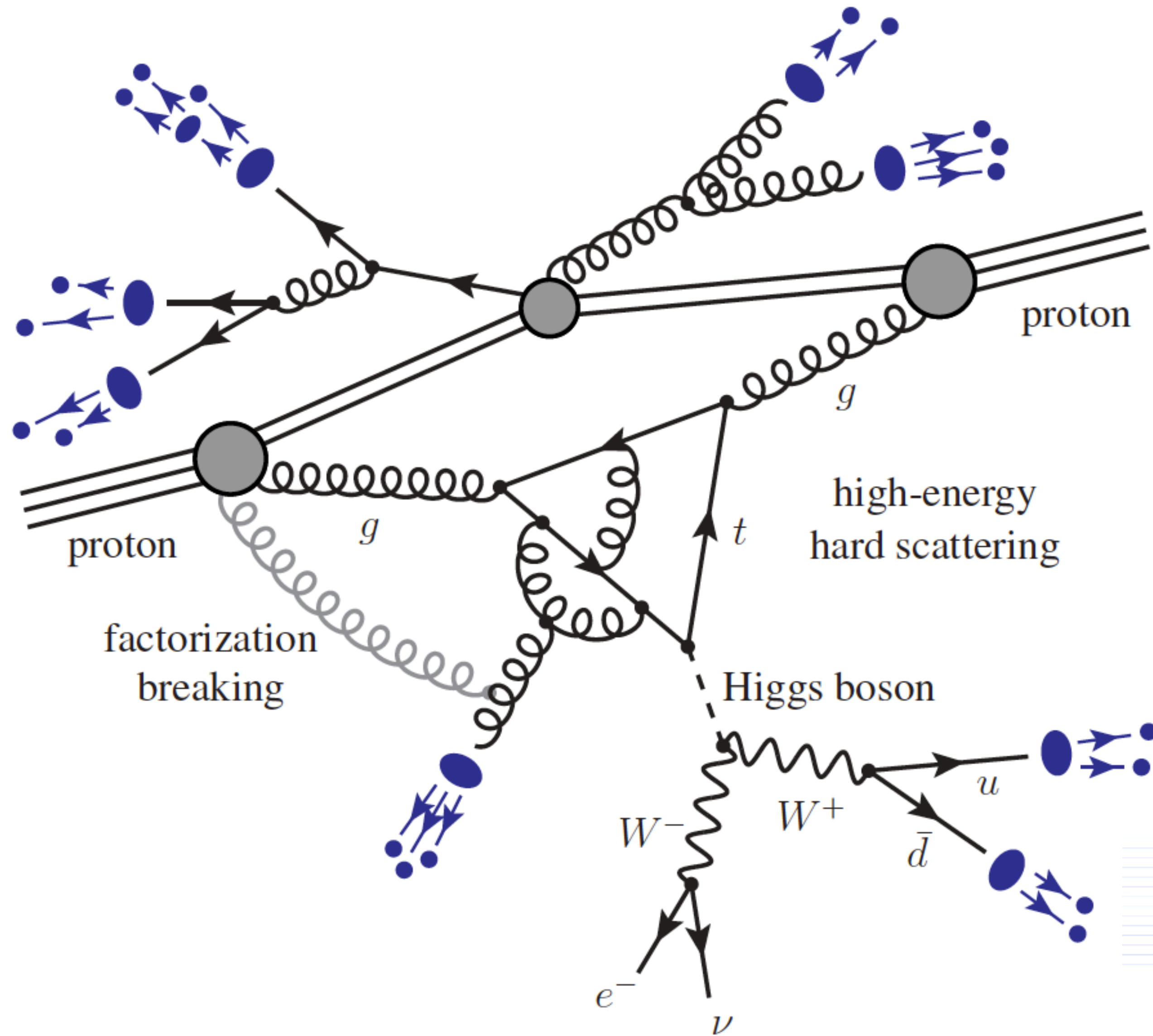




“Nature isn’t classical, dammit,  
and if you want to make a  
simulation of nature, you  
better make it quantum”

- Richard P. Feynman

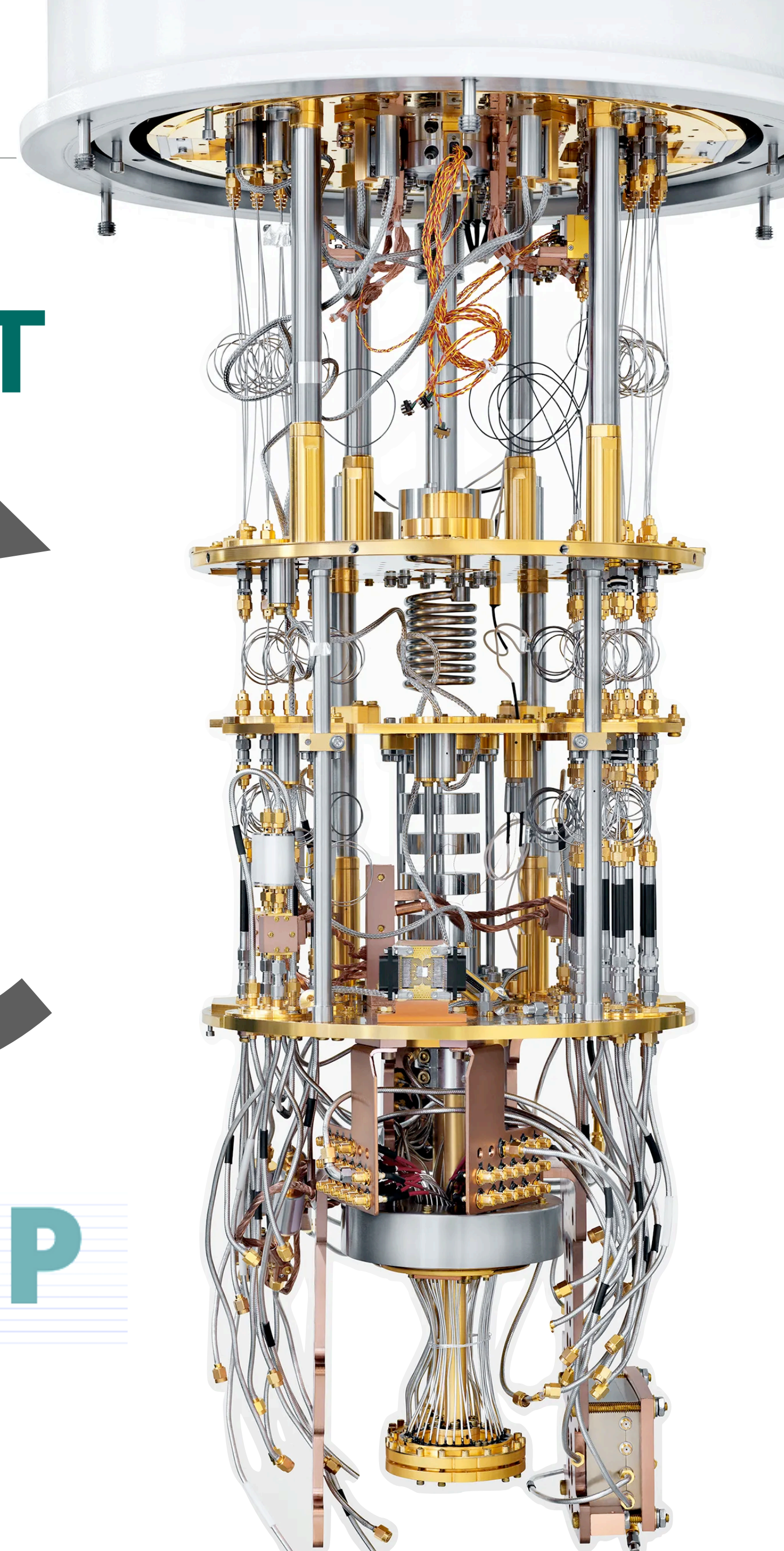




HEP4QT



QT4HEP





# Quantum at colliders

○ track reconstruction:

Mangano et al., [PRD 105, 076012 \(2022\)](#)  
 Duckett, Facini, Jastrzebski, Malik, Scanlon, Rettie, [PRD 109, 052002 \(2024\)](#)  
 Schwägerl, Issever, Jansen, Khoo, Kühn, Tüysüz, Weber, [2303.13249](#)

○ parton densities:

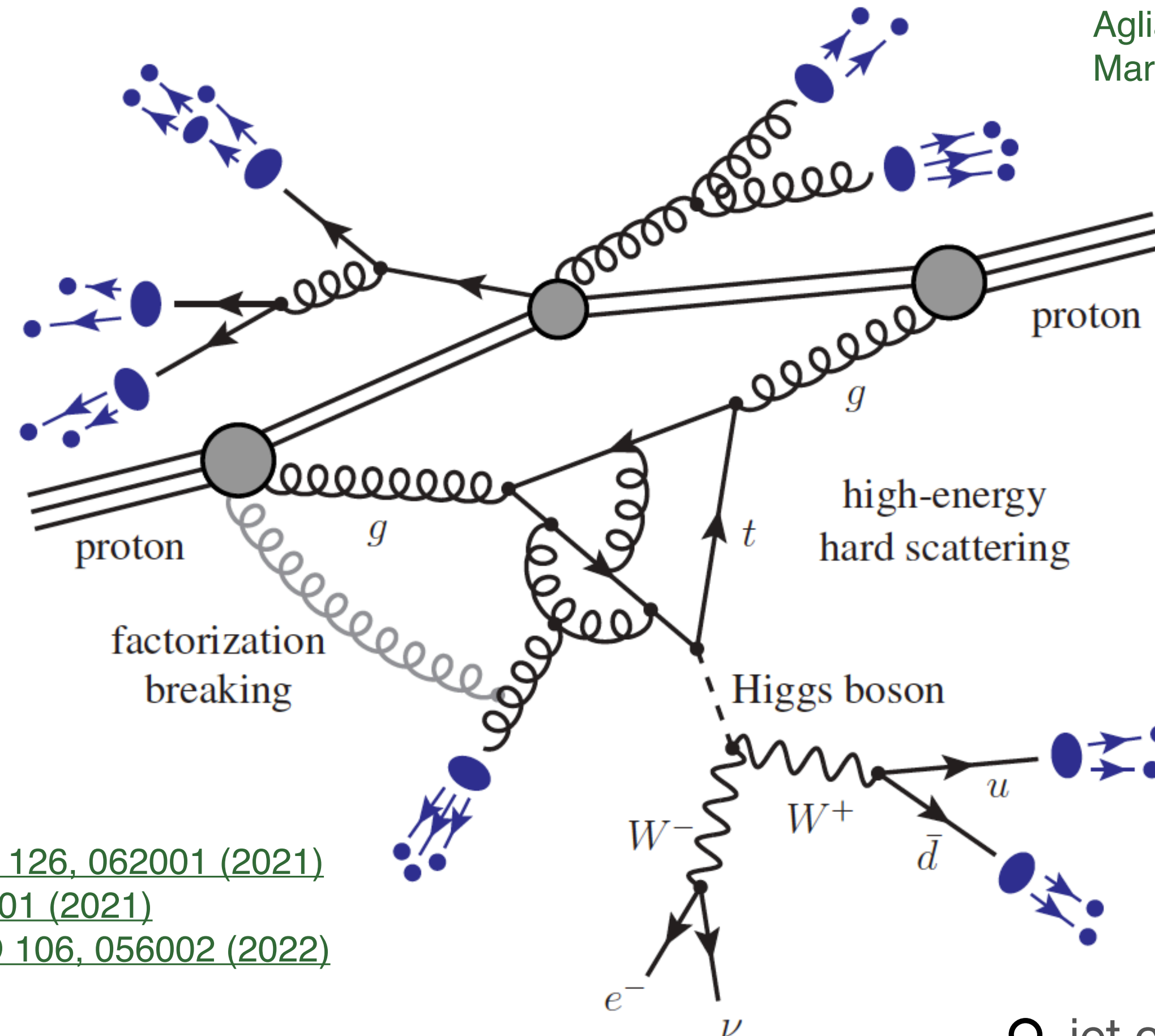
Pérez-Salinas, Cruz-Martínez, Alhajri, Carrazza, [PRD 103, 034027 \(2021\)](#)

○ parton showers:

Bauer, de Jong, Nachman, Provasoli, [PRL 126, 062001 \(2021\)](#)  
 Bauer, Freytsis, Nachman, [PRL 127, 212001 \(2021\)](#)  
 Bepari, Malik, Spannowsky, Williams, [PRD 106, 056002 \(2022\)](#)

○ quantum machine learning:

Guan, Perdue, Pesah, Schuld, Terashi, Vallecorsa, Vlimant, [MLST 2, 011003 \(2021\)](#)  
 Wu et al., [JPG 48, 125003 \(2021\)](#)  
 Felser, Trenti, Sestini, Gianelle, Zuliani, Lucchesi, Montangelo, [npjQI 7, 111 \(2021\)](#)



○ Monte Carlo integration:

Herbert, [Q6, 823 \(2022\)](#)  
 Agliardi, Grossi, Pellen, Prati, [PLB 832, 137228 \(2022\)](#)  
 Martínez de Lejarza, Grossi, Cieri, GR, [2305.01686](#)

○ tree-level helicity amplitudes:

Bepari, Malik, Spannowsky, Williams, [PRD 103, 076020 \(2021\)](#)

○ multiloop scattering amplitudes:

Ramírez, Rentería, GR, Sborlini, Vale Silva, [JHEP 2205, 100 \(2022\)](#)  
 Clemente, Crippa, Jansen, Ramírez, Rentería, GR, Sborlini, Vale Silva, [PRD 108, 096035 \(2023\)](#)

○ jets in a medium:

Barata, Du, Li, Qian, Salgado, [PRD 106, 074013 \(2022\)](#)  
 Barata, Salgado, [EPJC 81, 862 \(2021\)](#)

○ jet clustering:

Wei, Naik, Harrow, Thaler, [PRD 101, 094015 \(2020\)](#)  
 Pires, Bargassa, Seixas, Omar, [2101.05618](#)  
 Pires, Omar, Seixas, [2012.14514](#)  
 Martinez de Lejarza, Cieri, GR, [PRD 106, 036021 \(2022\)](#)



# Quantum at colliders

○ track reconstruction:

Mangano et al., [PRD 105, 076012 \(2022\)](#)  
 Duckett, Facini, Jastrzebski, Malik, Scanlon, Rettie, [PRD 109, 052002 \(2024\)](#)  
 Schwägerl, Issever, Jansen, Khoo, Kühn, Tüysüz, Weber, [2303.13249](#)

○ parton densities:

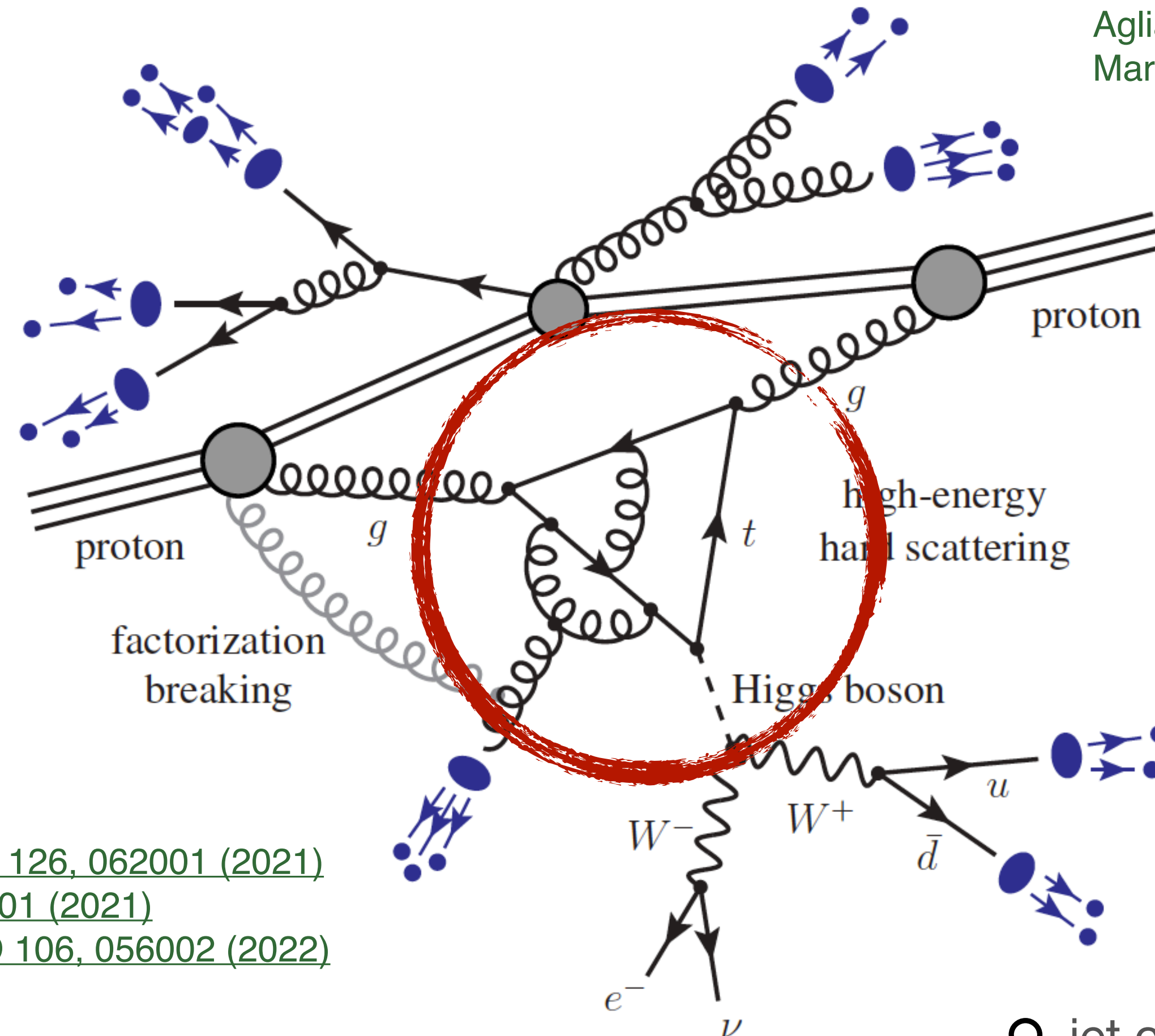
Pérez-Salinas, Cruz-Martínez, Alhajri, Carrazza, [PRD 103, 034027 \(2021\)](#)

○ parton showers:

Bauer, de Jong, Nachman, Provasoli, [PRL 126, 062001 \(2021\)](#)  
 Bauer, Freytsis, Nachman, [PRL 127, 212001 \(2021\)](#)  
 Bepari, Malik, Spannowsky, Williams, [PRD 106, 056002 \(2022\)](#)

○ quantum machine learning:

Guan, Perdue, Pesah, Schuld, Terashi, Vallecorsa, Vlimant, [MLST 2, 011003 \(2021\)](#)  
 Wu et al., [JPG 48, 125003 \(2021\)](#)  
 Felser, Trenti, Sestini, Gianelle, Zuliani, Lucchesi, Montangero, [npjQI 7, 111 \(2021\)](#)



○ Monte Carlo integration:

Herbert, [Q6, 823 \(2022\)](#)  
 Agliardi, Grossi, Pellen, Prati, [PLB 832, 137228 \(2022\)](#)  
 Martínez de Lejarza, Grossi, Cieri, GR, [2305.01686](#)

○ tree-level helicity amplitudes:

Bepari, Malik, Spannowsky, Williams, [PRD 103, 076020 \(2021\)](#)

○ multiloop scattering amplitudes:

Ramírez, Rentería, GR, Sborlini, Vale Silva, [JHEP 2205, 100 \(2022\)](#)  
 Clemente, Crippa, Jansen, Ramírez, Rentería, GR, Sborlini, Vale Silva, [PRD 108, 096035 \(2023\)](#)

○ jets in a medium:

Barata, Du, Li, Qian, Salgado, [PRD 106, 074013 \(2022\)](#)  
 Barata, Salgado, [EPJC 81, 862 \(2021\)](#)

○ jet clustering:

Wei, Naik, Harrow, Thaler, [PRD 101, 094015 \(2020\)](#)  
 Pires, Bargassa, Seixas, Omar, [2101.05618](#)  
 Pires, Omar, Seixas, [2012.14514](#)  
 Martinez de Lejarza, Cieri, GR, [PRD 106, 036021 \(2022\)](#)



# A Feynman propagator is a qubit



- A Feynman propagator describes a **quantum superposition** of propagation in both directions

$$G_F(q_i) = \frac{1}{q_i^2 - m_i^2 + i0} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$$

- A Feynman diagram is a superposition of  $2^n$  states



# A Feynman propagator is a qubit



- A Feynman propagator describes a **quantum superposition** of propagation in both directions

$$G_F(q_i) = \frac{1}{q_i^2 - m_i^2 + i0} \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle + |1\rangle)$$

- A Feynman diagram is a superposition of  $2^n$  states
- If a particle returns to the point of emission: it **travels back in time** and thus **breaks causality**  $\equiv$  **cyclic configurations are nonphysical**
- Causal configurations of Feynman diagrams are **directed acyclic graphs (DAG)** in graph theory



# A Grover's based quantum algorithm

- The  $|e\rangle$  register encodes the states of the edges/internal propagators: the qubit  $e_i$  is in the state  $|1\rangle$  if the momentum flow of the corresponding edge is oriented in the direction of the original assignment, and  $|0\rangle$  if it is in the opposite direction
- The  $|a\rangle$  register stores the loop clauses that probe if all the qubits (edges) in each subloop form a cyclic circuit: constructed with **multi-controlled Toffoli gates** and NOT (Pauli-X) gates.

- The Grover's marker initialized to the Bell state  $|out\rangle = |-\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|0\rangle - |1\rangle)$

- The oracle operator

$$U_w |e\rangle |a\rangle |out\rangle = |e\rangle |a\rangle |out \otimes f(a, q)\rangle$$

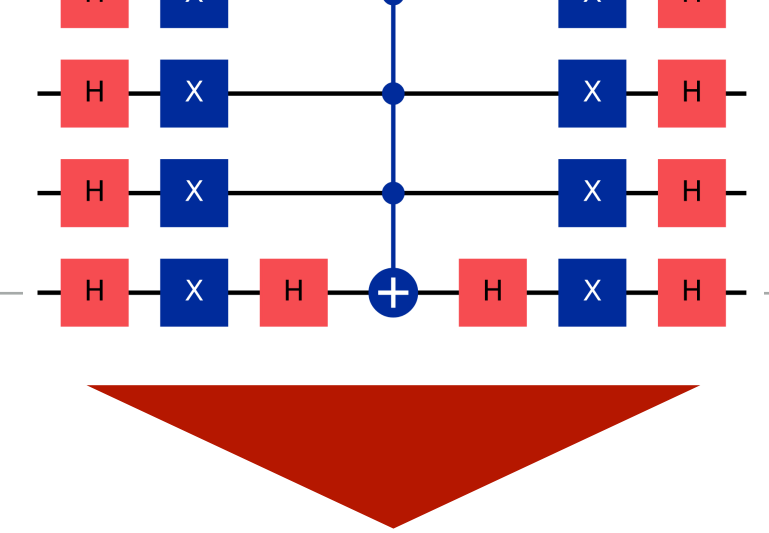
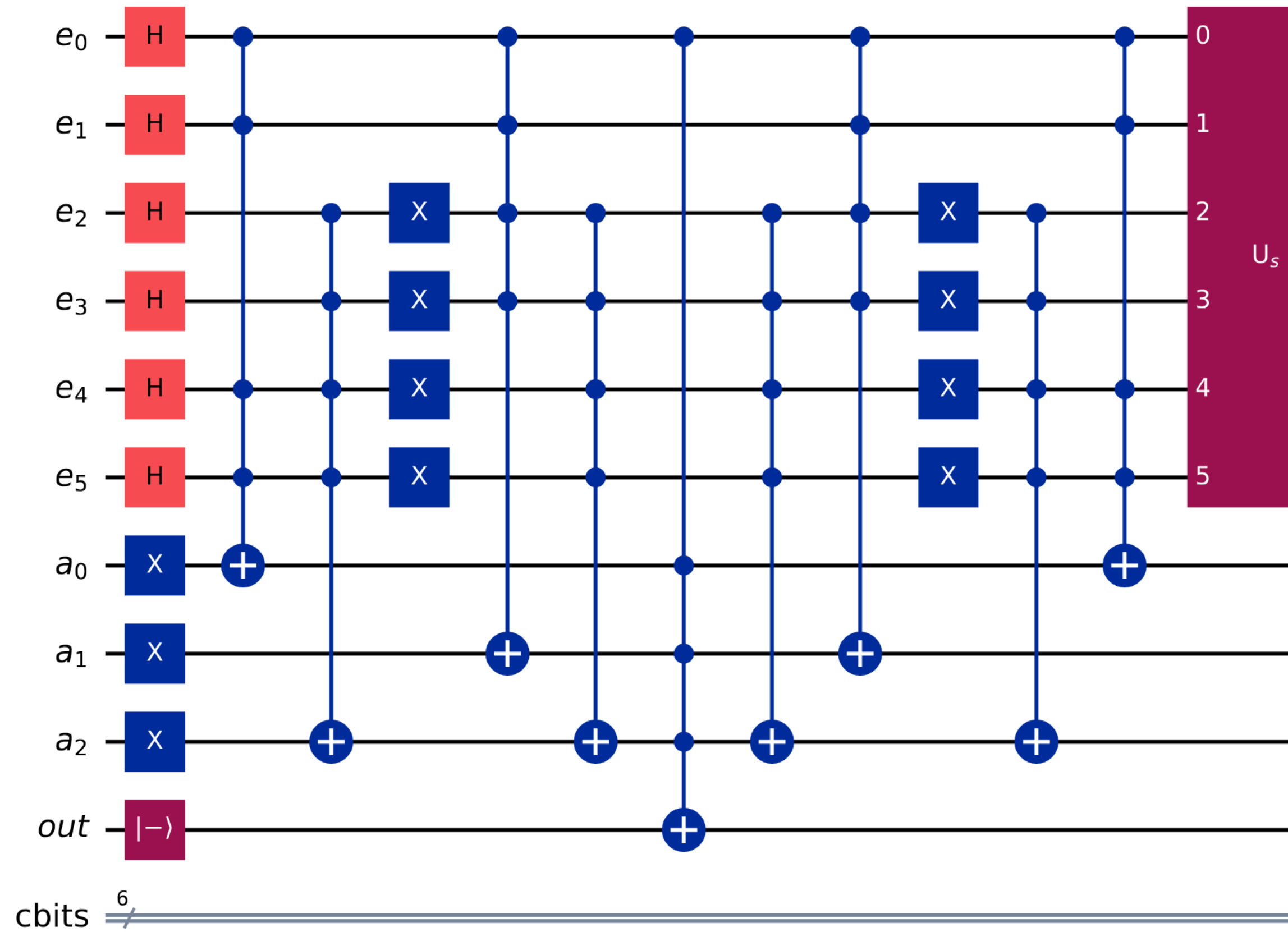
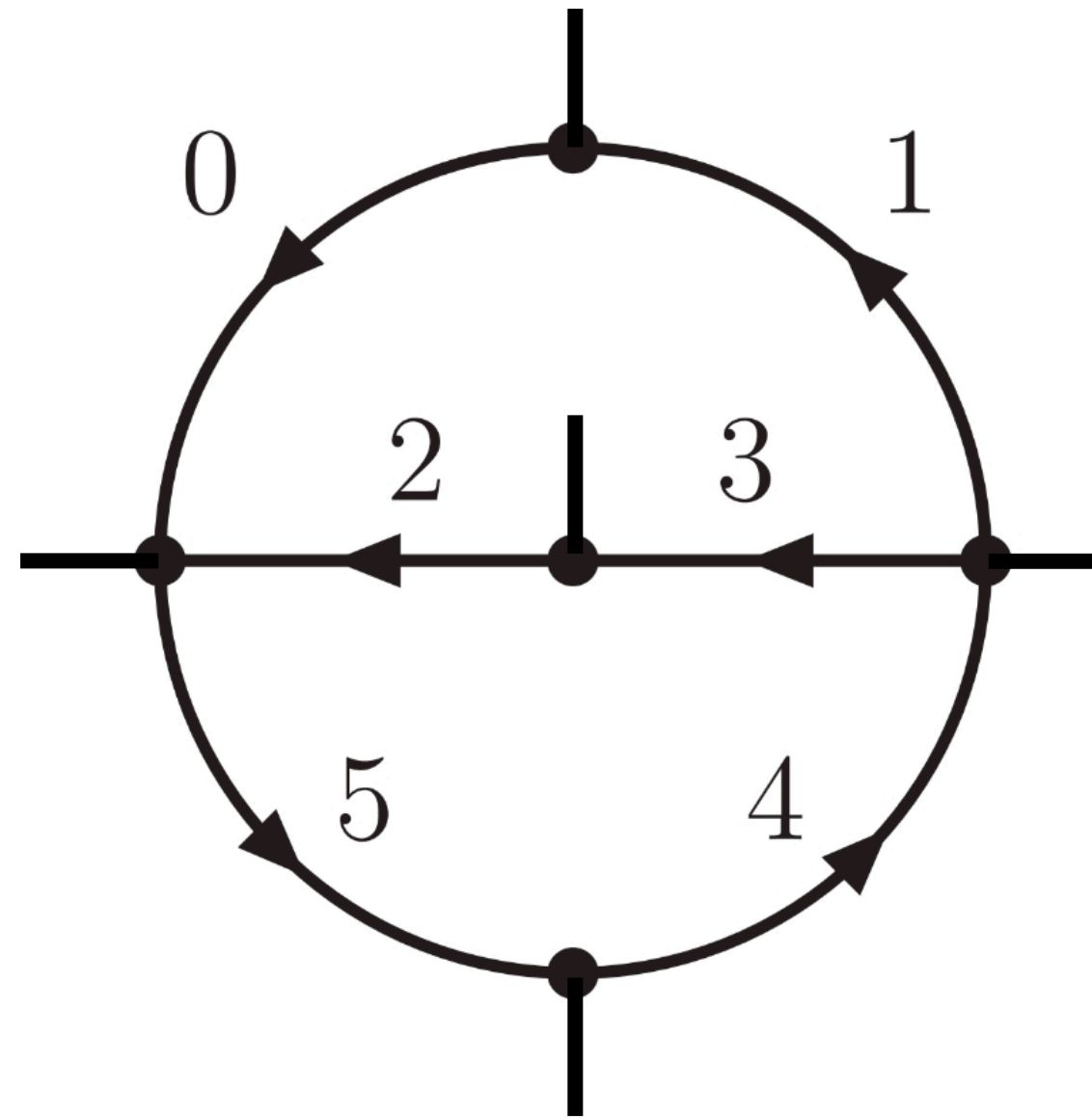
$$|out \otimes 0\rangle = |out\rangle$$

$$|out \otimes 1\rangle = -|out\rangle$$

- The diffuser operator  $U_s$



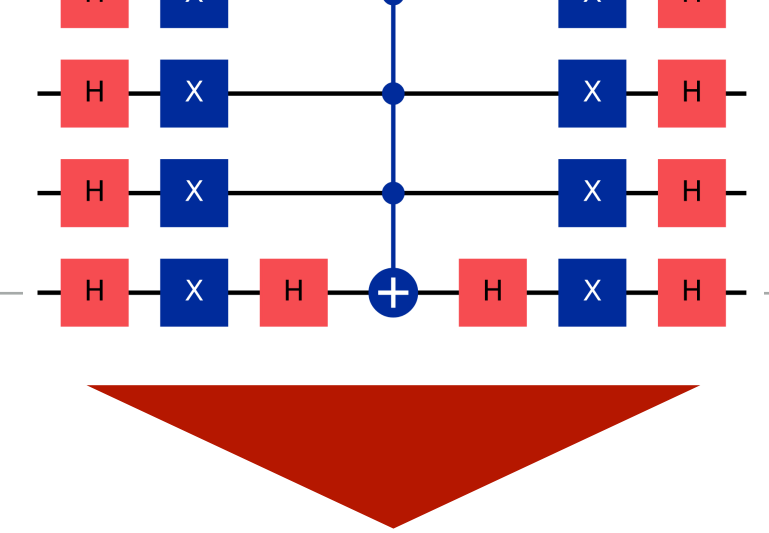
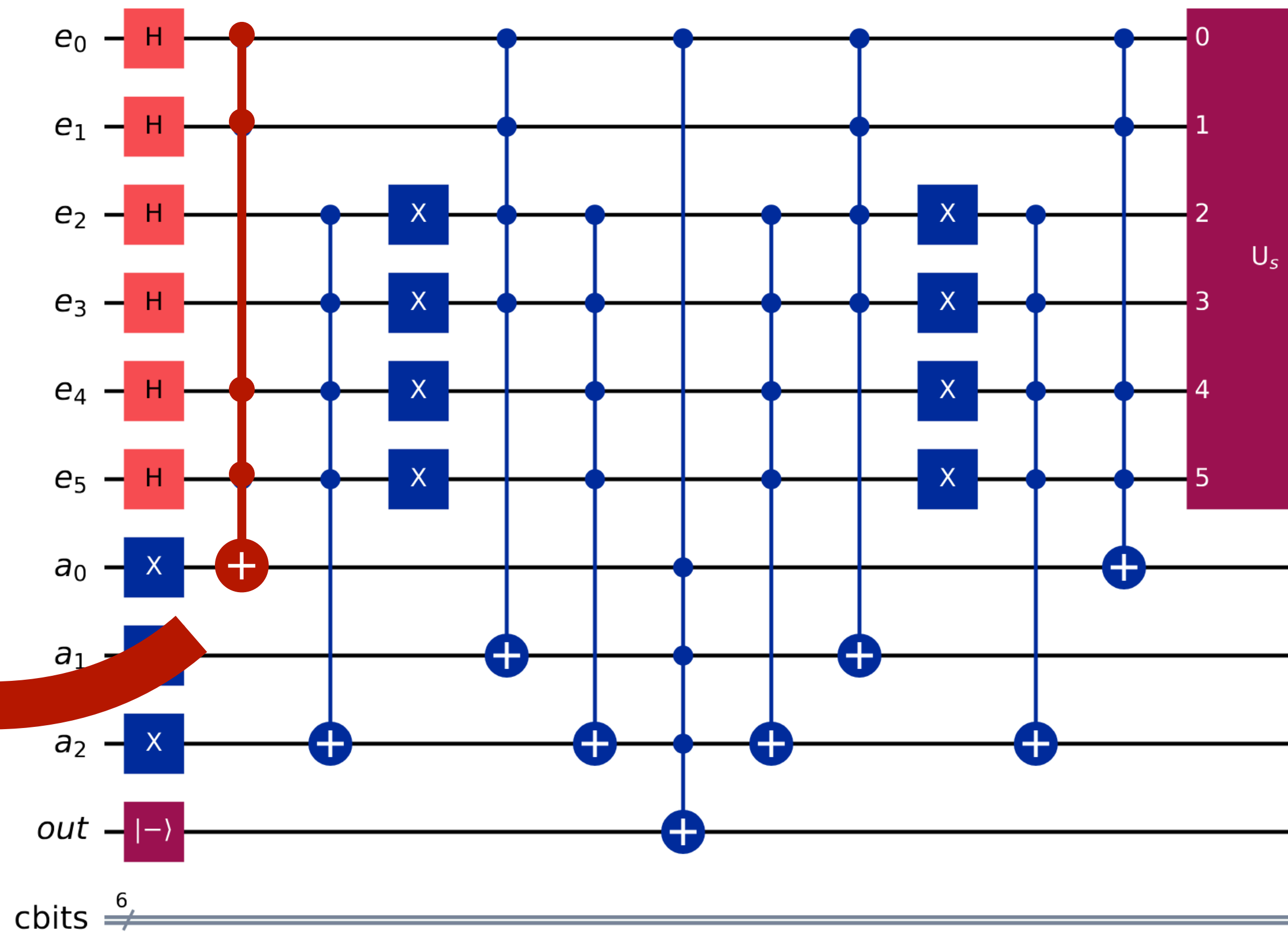
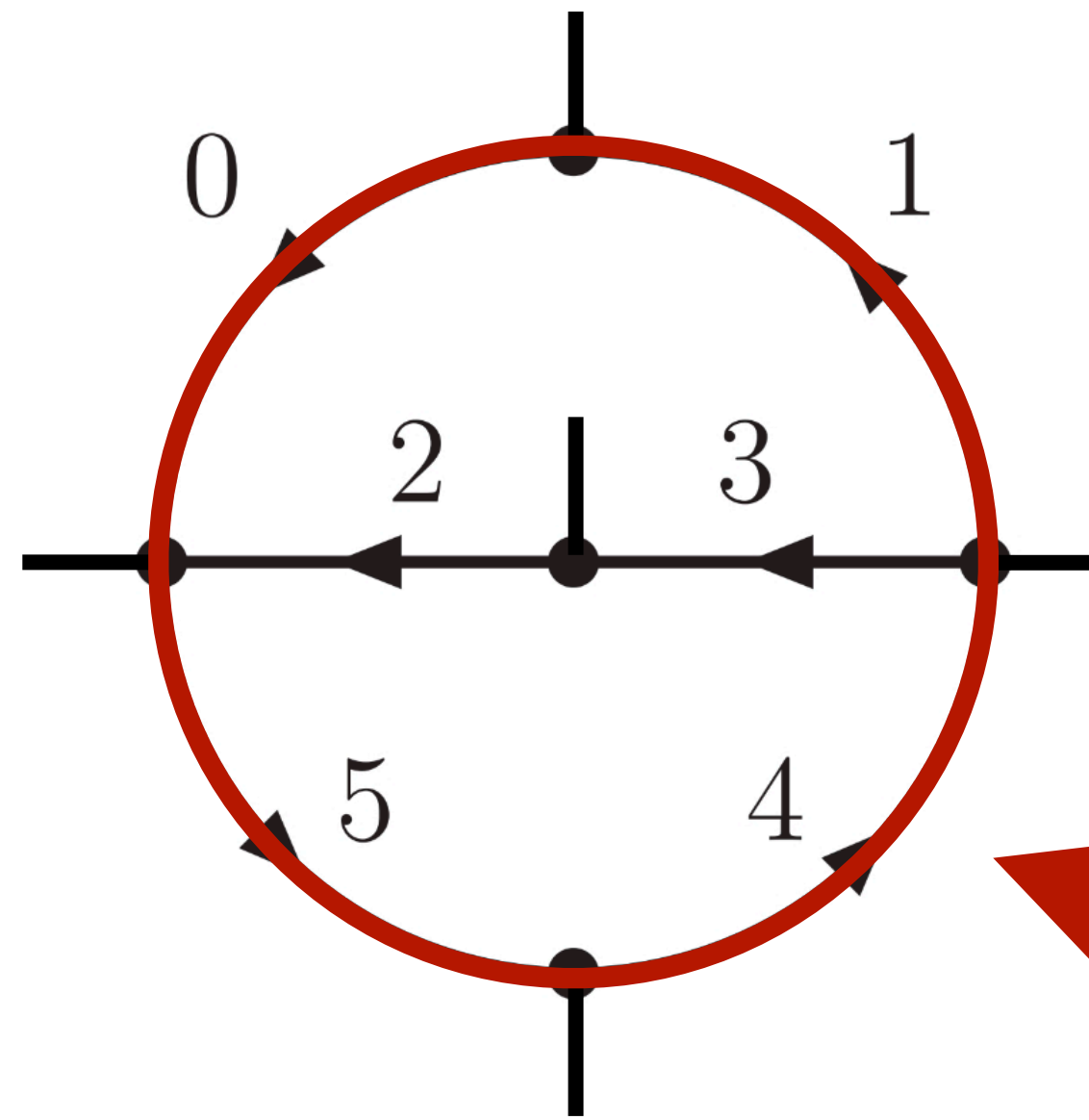
# A two-loop example



| eloops (edges) | Qubits  | Quantum Depth | $\theta$ | $\sin^2(\theta_t)$ | Causal states | Total states |
|----------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| two (6)        | 10   16 | 14   22       | 36.8°    | 0.87               | 23            | 64           |



# A two-loop example



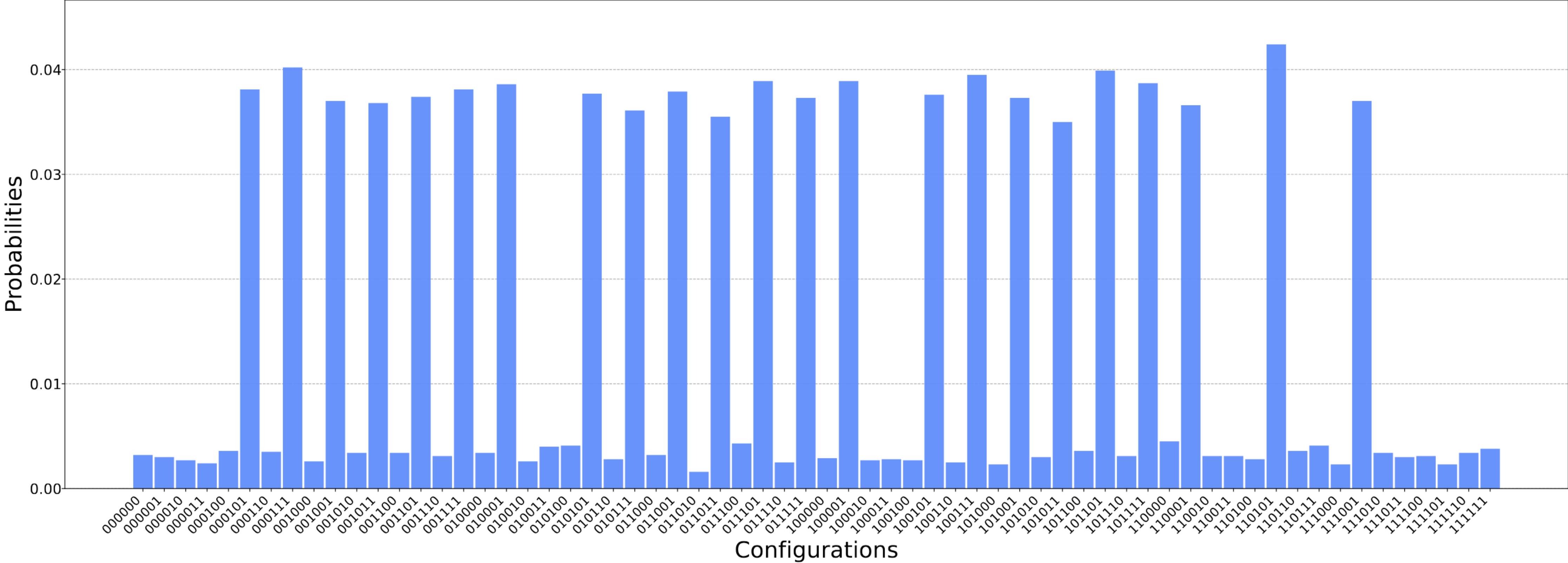
| eloops (edges) | Qubits  | Quantum Depth | $\theta$ | $\sin^2(\theta_t)$ | Causal states | Total states |
|----------------|---------|---------------|----------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| two (6)        | 10   16 | 14   22       | 36.8°    | 0.87               | 23            | 64           |

MCX | BC (binary clauses)



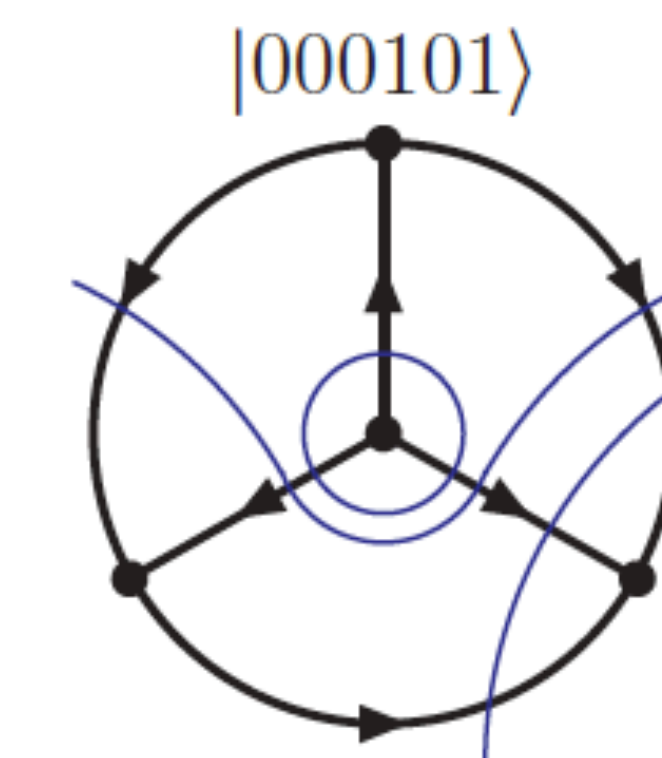
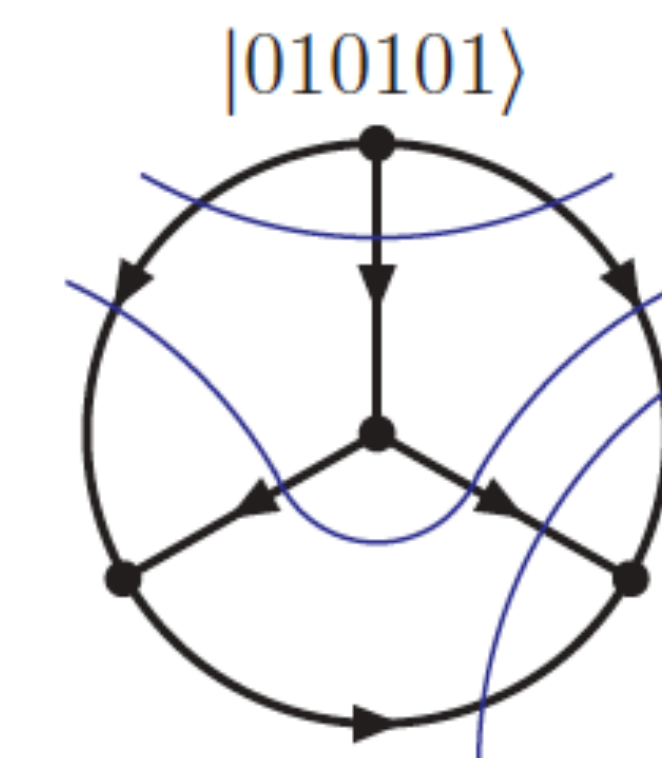
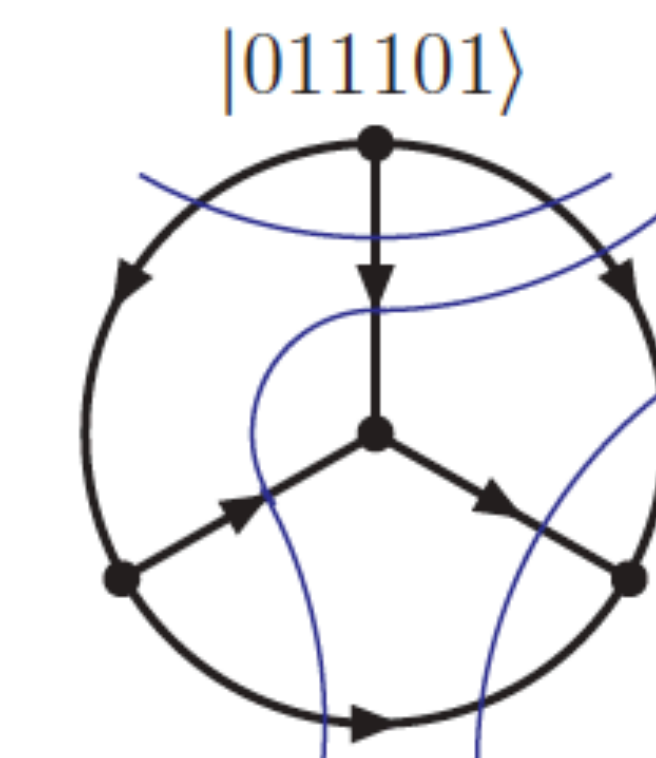
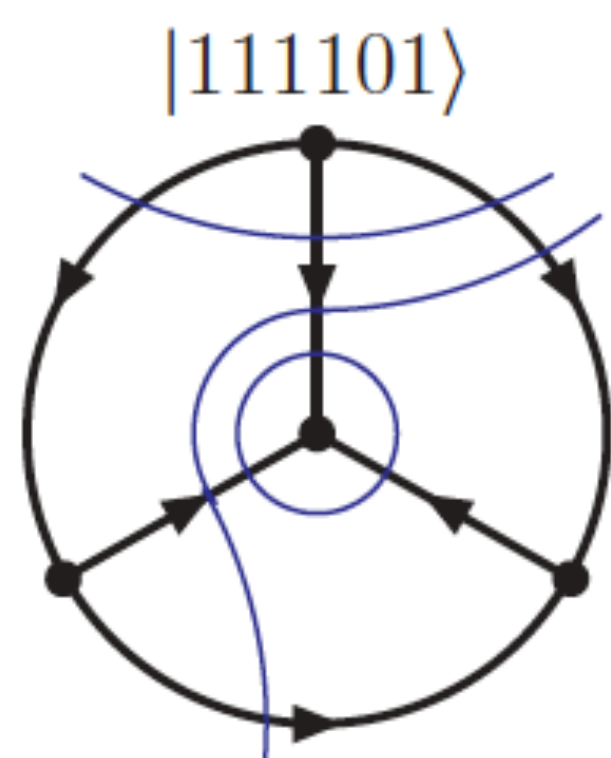
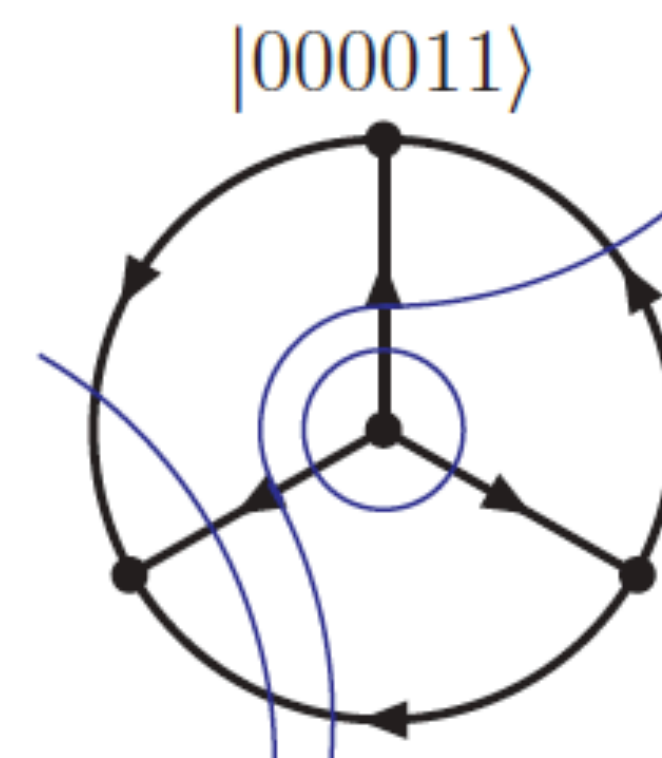
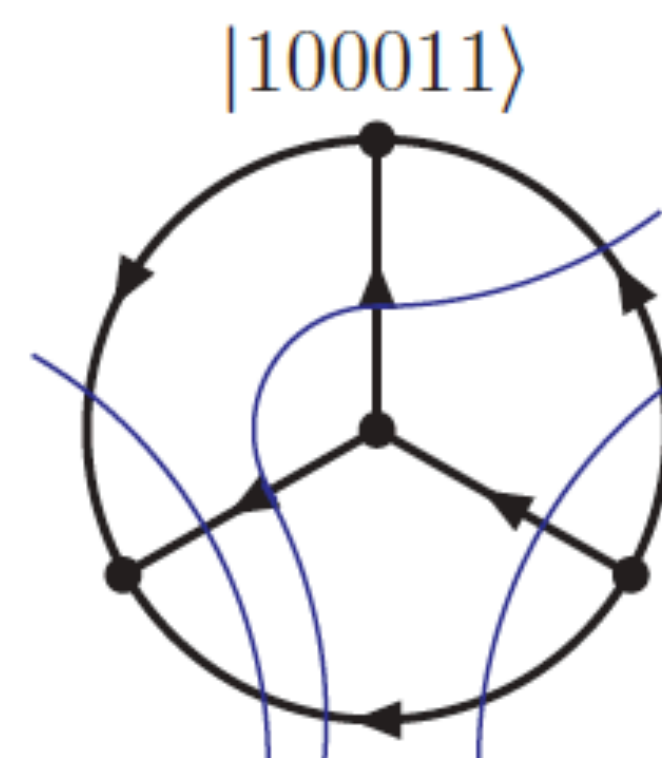
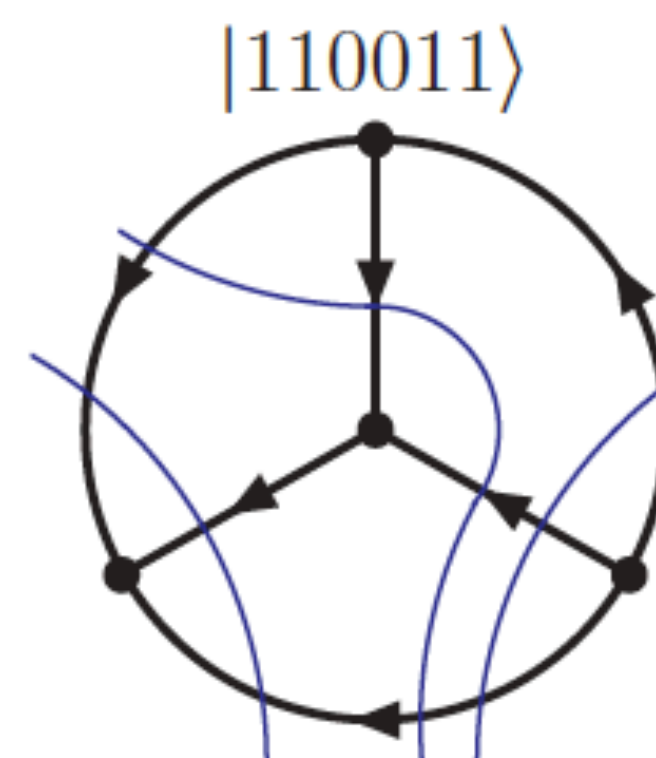
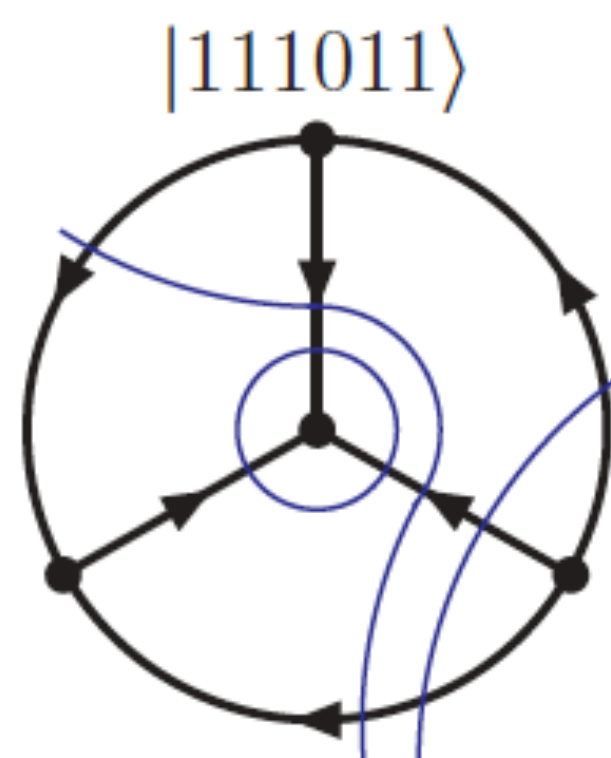
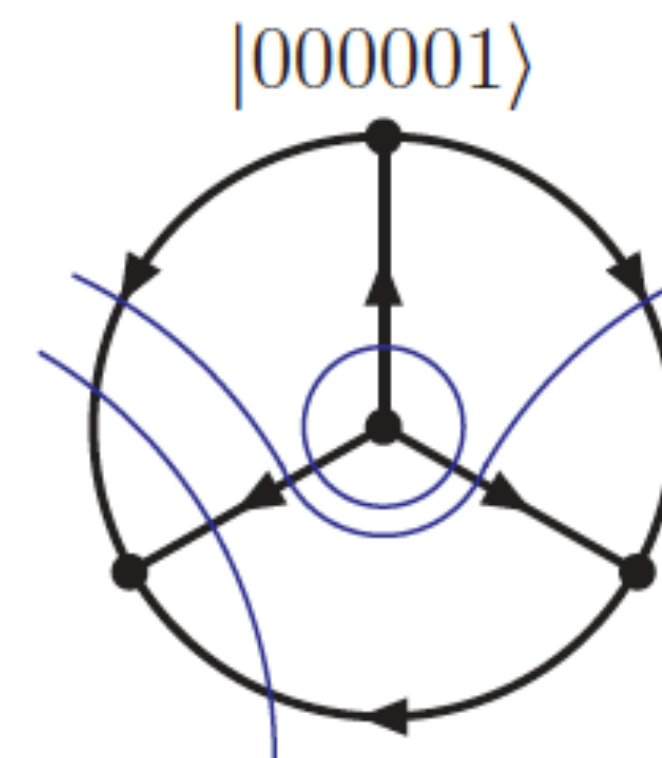
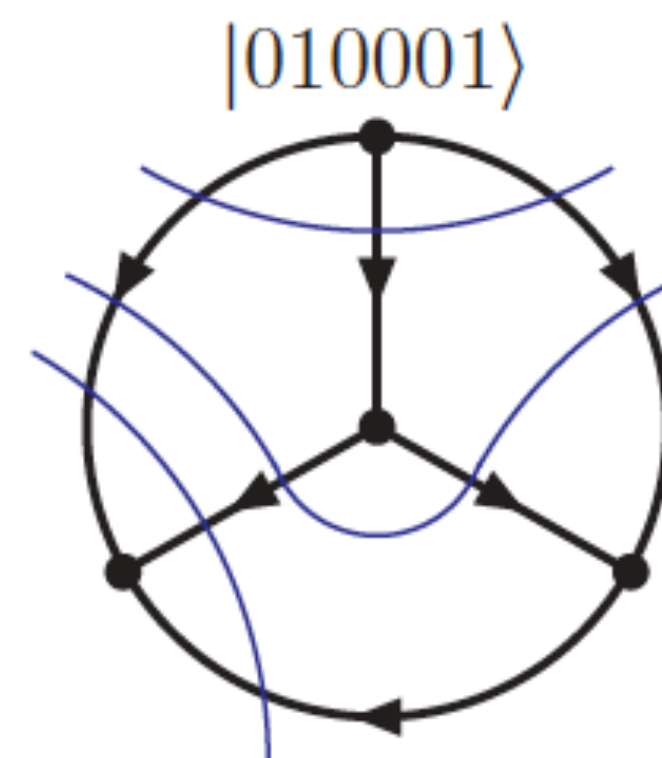
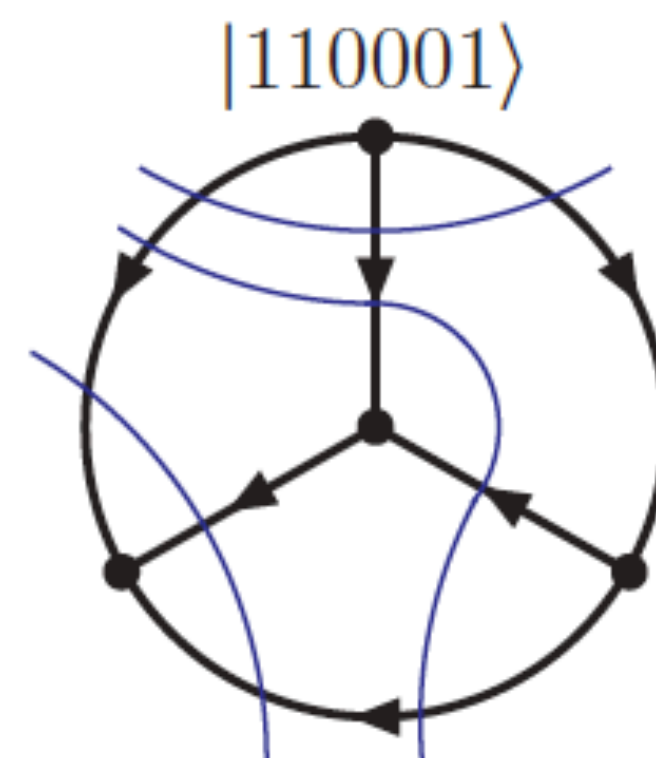
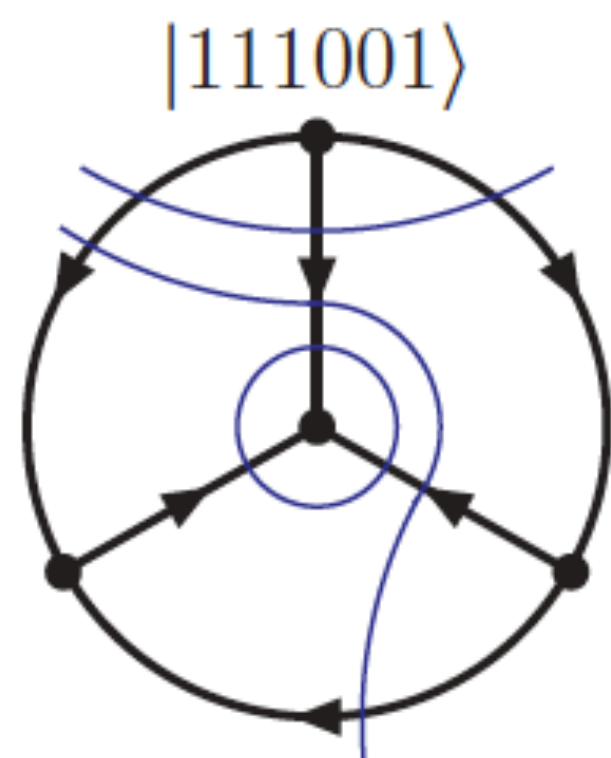
# Probability distribution

Two eloops, six edges.



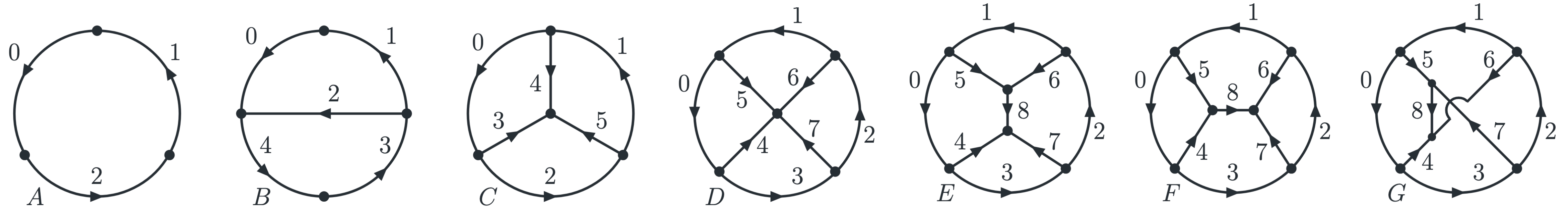


# Causal interpretation





# Quantum resources and depth

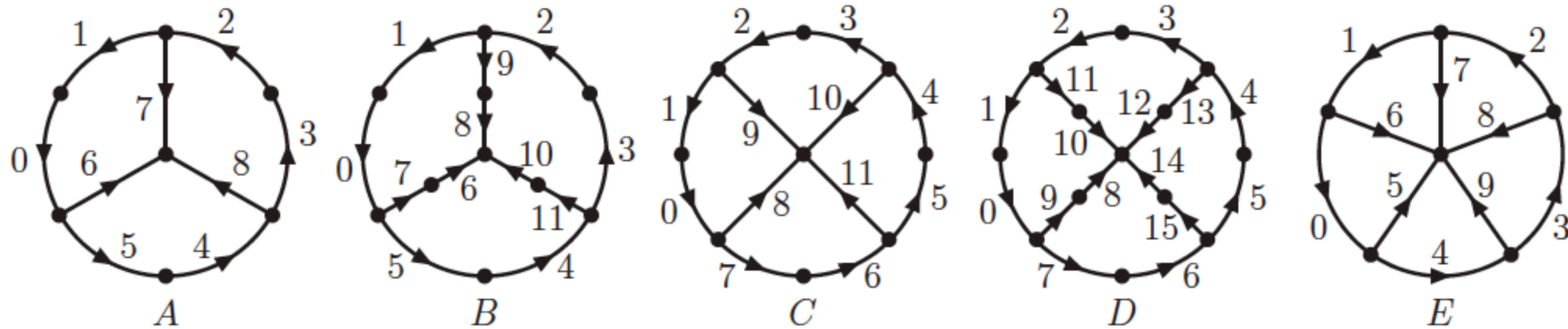


| Fig.   | eloops (edges)            | Qubits  | Quantum Depth | $\theta$     | $\sin^2(\theta_t)$ | Causal states | Total states |
|--------|---------------------------|---------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1A     | one (3)                   | 5   7   | 6   18        | $37.7^\circ$ | 0.84               | 3             | 8            |
| 1B     | two (5)                   | 9   14  | 12   21       | $32.0^\circ$ | 0.99               | 9             | 32           |
| 1C     | three (6)                 | 11   19 | 18   24       | $25.7^\circ$ | 0.95               | 12            | 64           |
| 1D     | four <sup>(c)</sup> (8)   | 14   25 | 16   23       | $33.5^\circ$ | 0.97               | 39            | 256          |
| 1E, 1F | four <sup>(t,s)</sup> (9) | 15   28 | 20   25       | $26.5^\circ$ | 0.97               | 102           | 512          |
| 1G     | four <sup>(u)</sup> (9)   | 19   33 | 32   28       | $28.3^\circ$ | 0.99               | 115           | 512          |

MCX | BC



# Quantum resources and depth

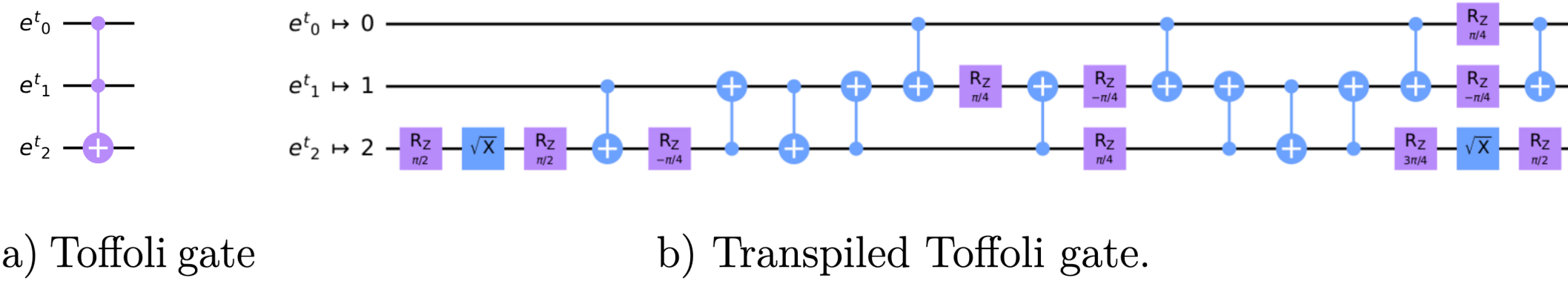


| eloops(edges)            | Total Qubits | Quantum Depth | $\theta$     | $\sin^2(\theta_t)$ | $ e\rangle$ | $ a\rangle$ | Toffoli Gates | NOT Gates | Causal States | Total states |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| three (9)                | 14   25      | 18   27       | $35.2^\circ$ | 0.93               | 9           | 4           | 14            | 45        | 170           | 512          |
| three(12)                | 21   36      | 32   33       | $28.0^\circ$ | 0.99               | 13          | 7           | 21            | 48        | 1804          | 8192         |
| four <sup>(c)</sup> (12) | 18   33      | 16   31       | $32.8^\circ$ | 0.98               | 12          | 5           | 17            | 66        | 1199          | 4096         |
| four <sup>(c)</sup> (16) | 31   50      | 46   53       | $27.7^\circ$ | 0.98               | 17          | 13          | 39            | 85        | 28343         | 131072       |
| five <sup>(c)</sup> (10) | 17   31      | 24   25       | $28.9^\circ$ | 0.99               | 10          | 6           | 25            | 37        | 240           | 1024         |

MCX | BC

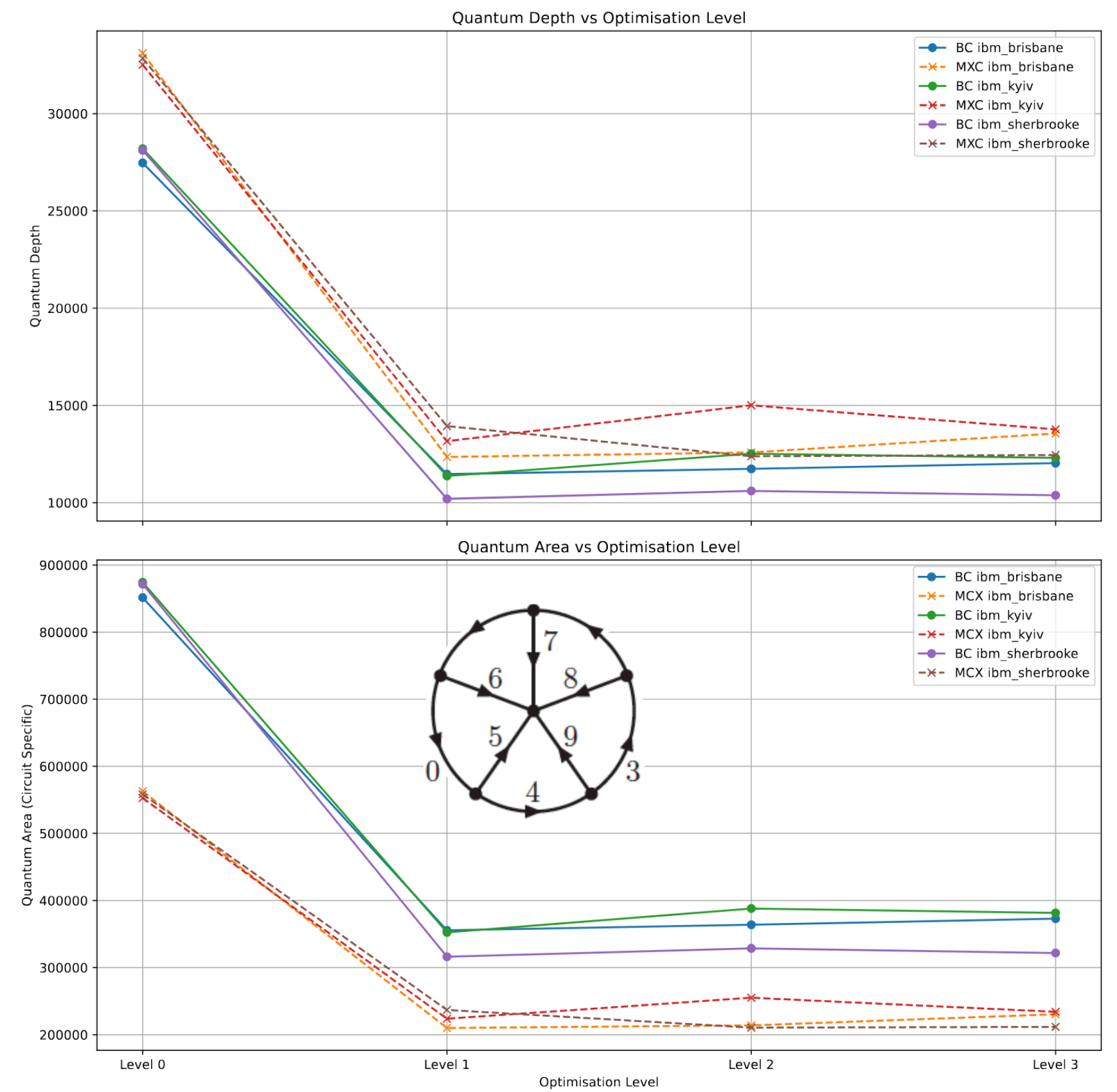
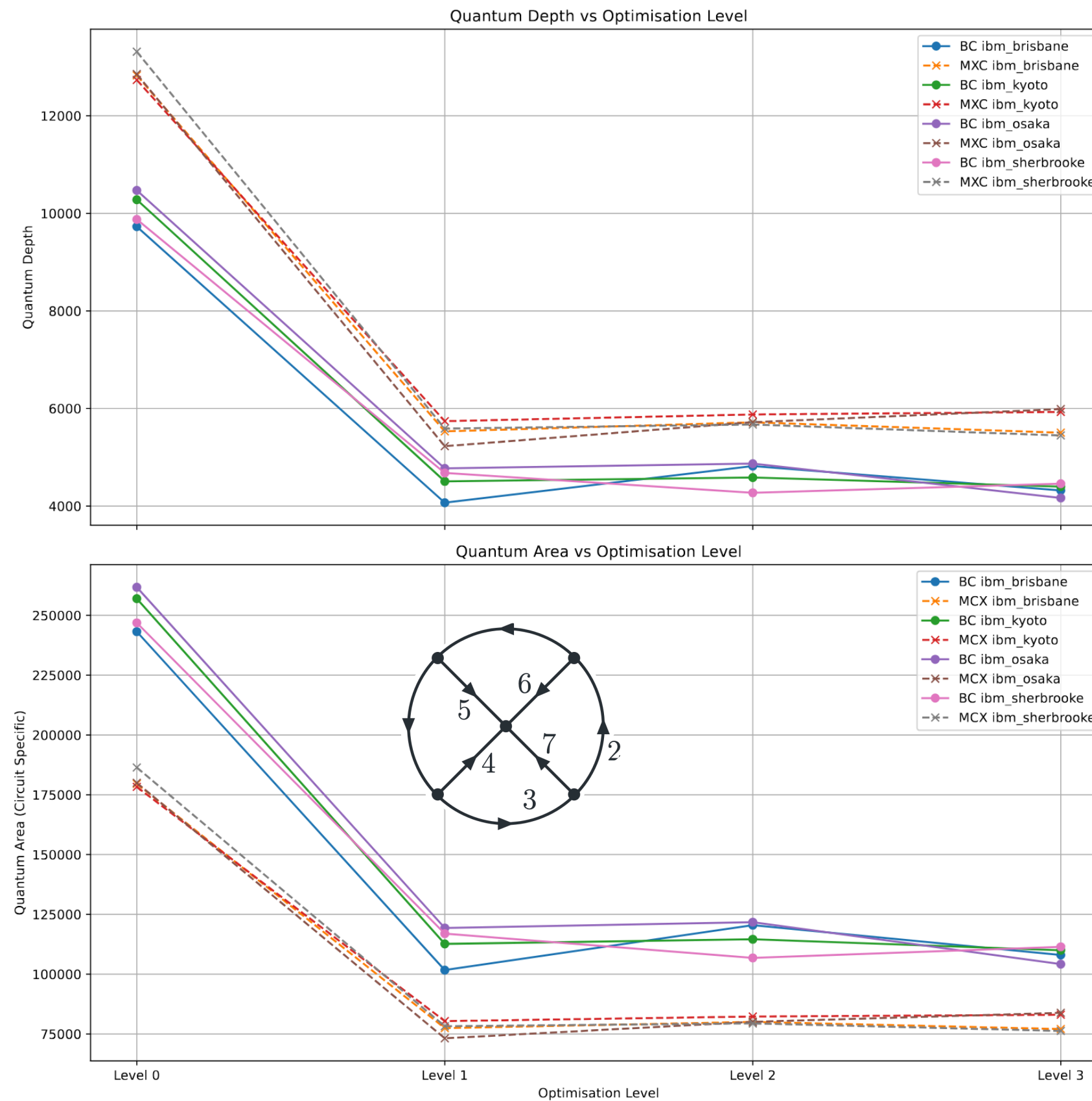


# The quantum area

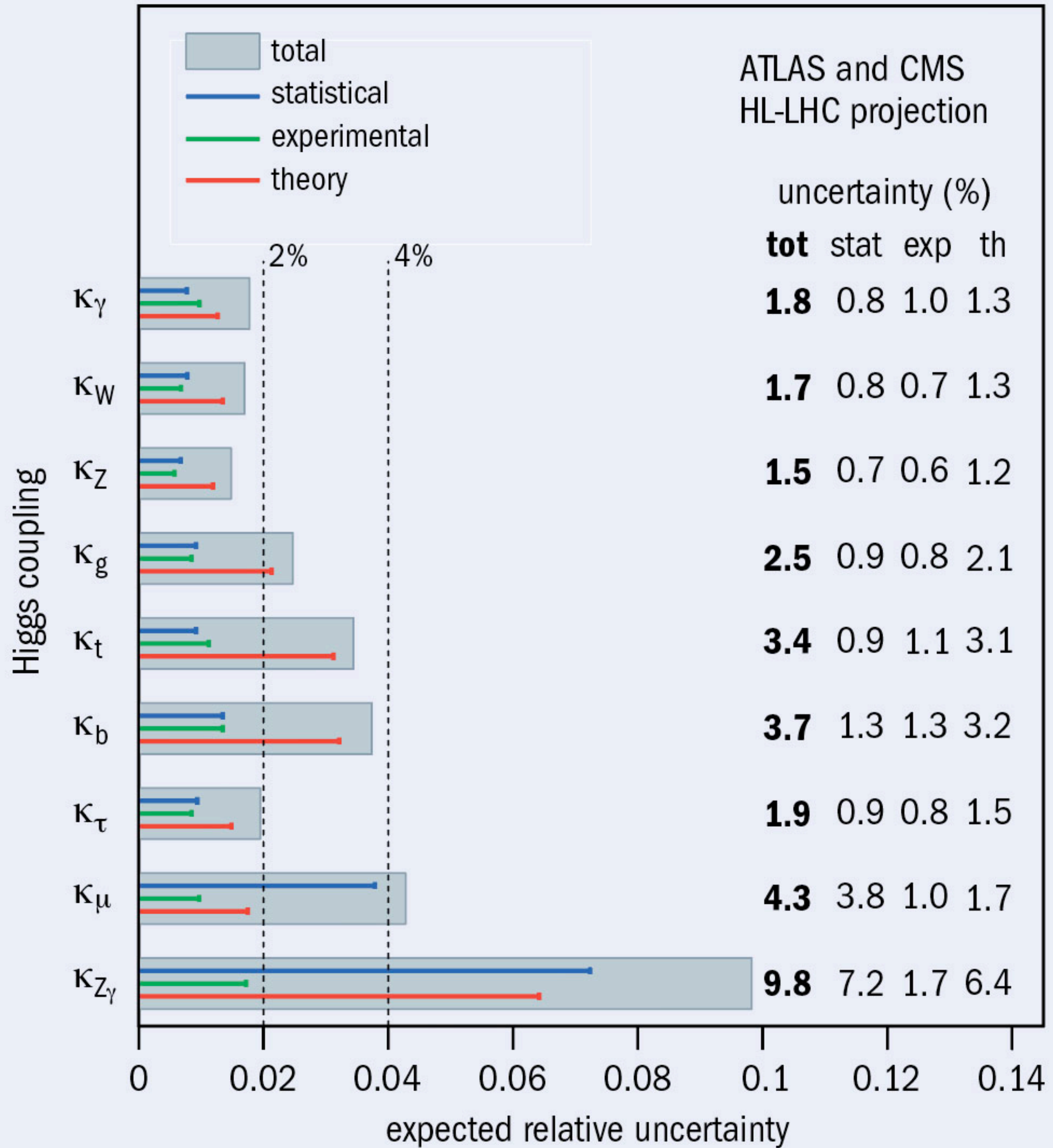


- Huge difference between the theoretical quantum depth and the quantum depth of the **transpiled** quantum circuit
- **Transpilation** may involve more qubits than initially thought

- **Quantum area:** the product of the quantum depth and number of qubits required for the transpiled quantum circuit
- Hardware dependent
- Good measure of the dramatic difference in running times (**from minutes to seconds**)



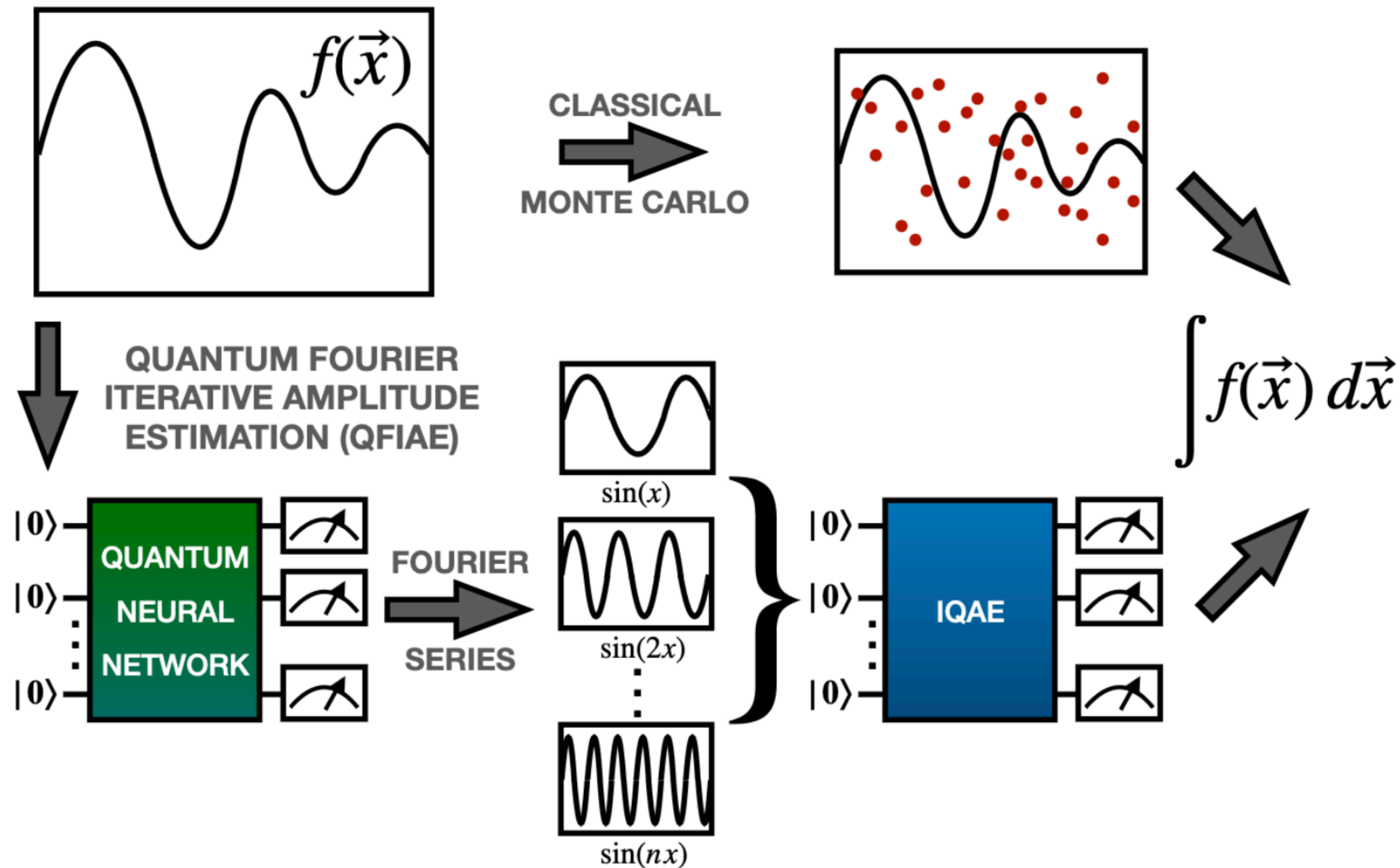




○ Need to go beyond the current state of the art in **theory predictions** to match precision measurements and unveil potential discoveries



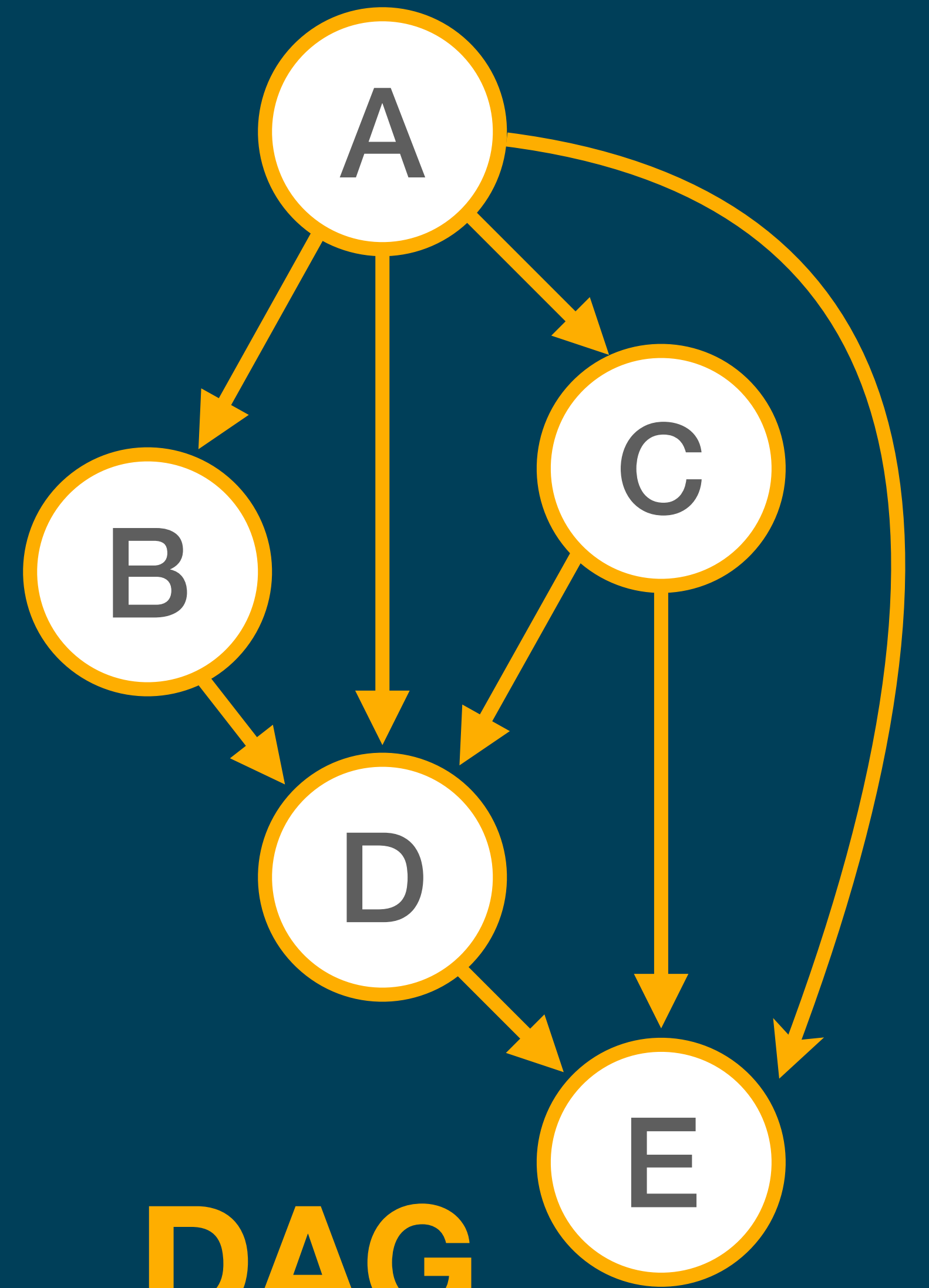
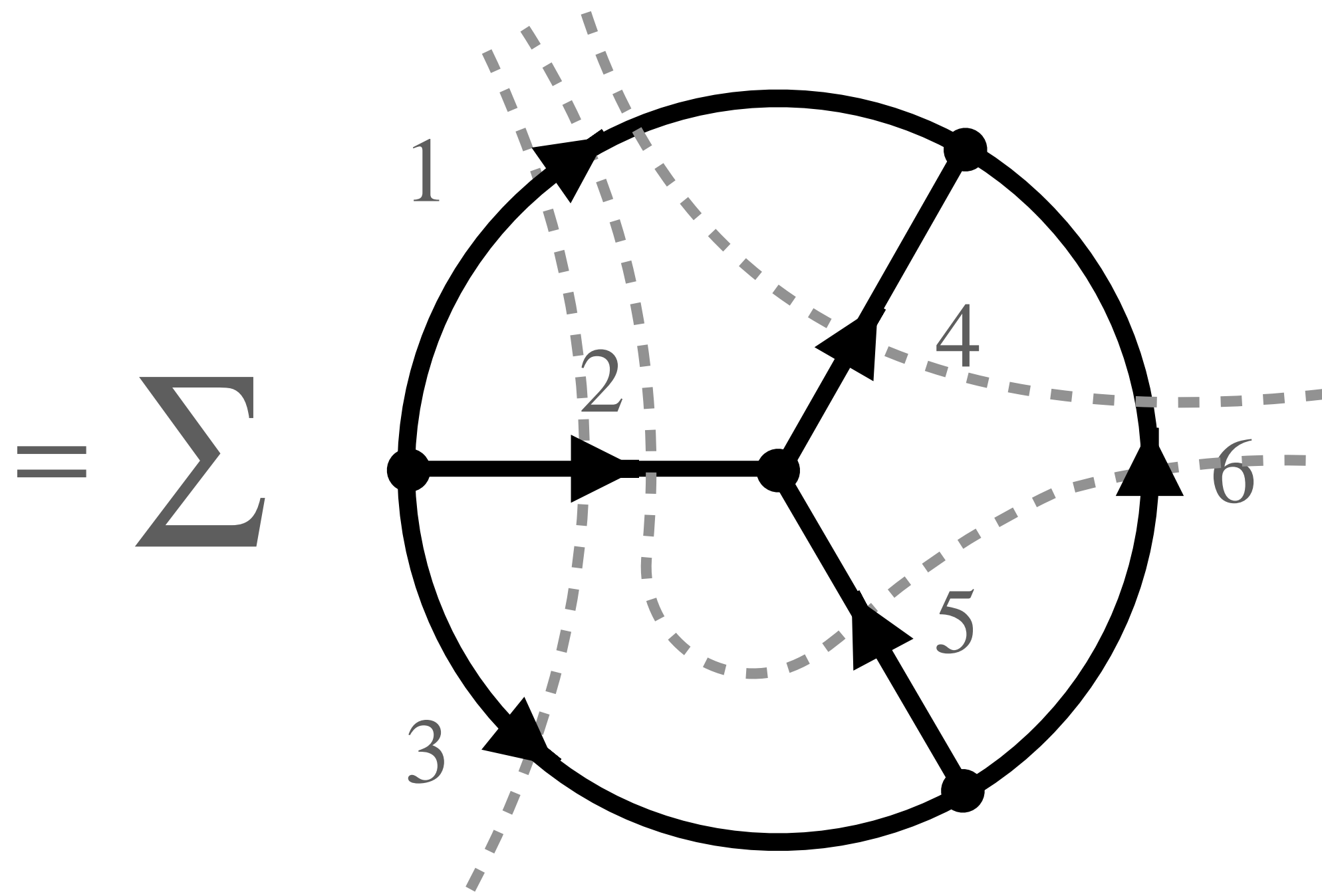
# Quantum Fourier Iterative Amplitude Estimation (QFIAE)



- Integration of multidimensional functions
- Quantum Machine Learning + Grover's amplification
- Fourier series using a **Quantum Neural Network (QNN)**
- Integrates each trigonometric component using Iterative Quantum Amplitude Estimation (IQAE) [Grinko, Gacon, Zoufal, Woerner, npj QI 7, 52 (2021)], a variant of Grover's algorithm
- Long-term dream: a **quantum event generator**



- **Vacuum amplitudes** (scattering amplitudes without external particles) as the optimal building blocks in the loop-tree duality (LTD), because it is **manifestly causal**



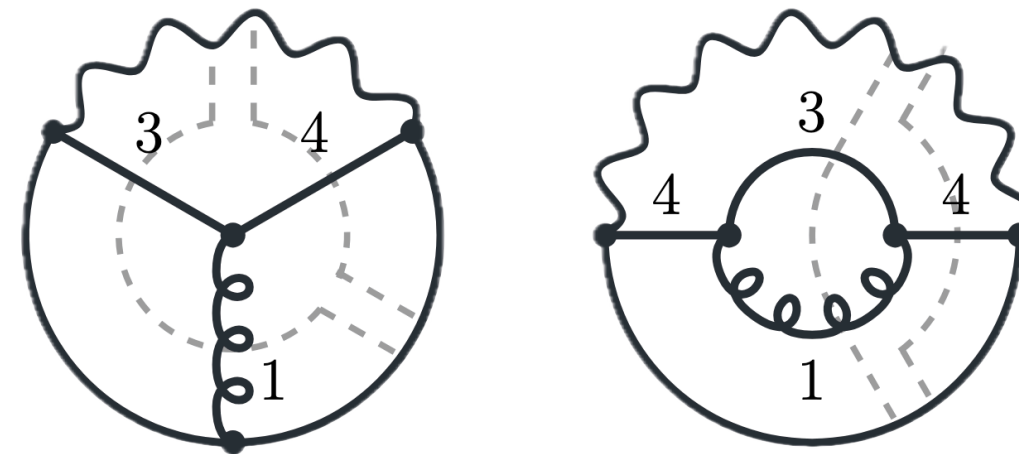
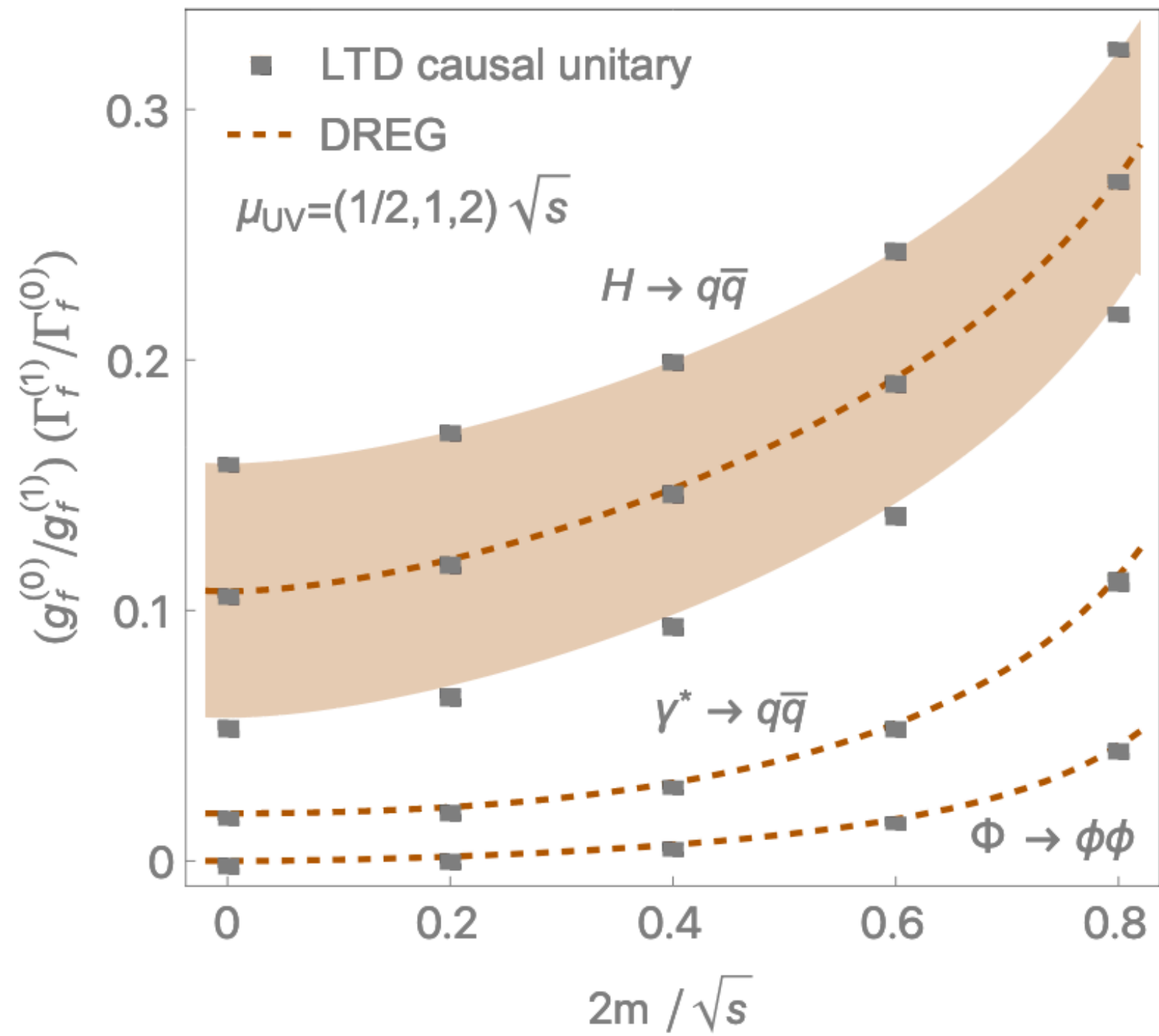
**DAG**

**Directed Acyclic Graph**

- S. Ramírez Uribe, P.K. Dhani, G.F.R. Sborlini, GR, "*Rewording theoretical predictions at colliders with vacuum amplitudes,*" [PRL133, 211901 \(2024\)](#)

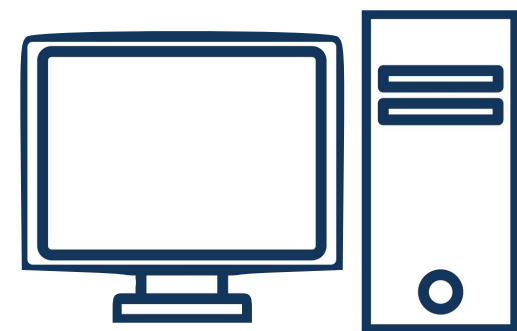
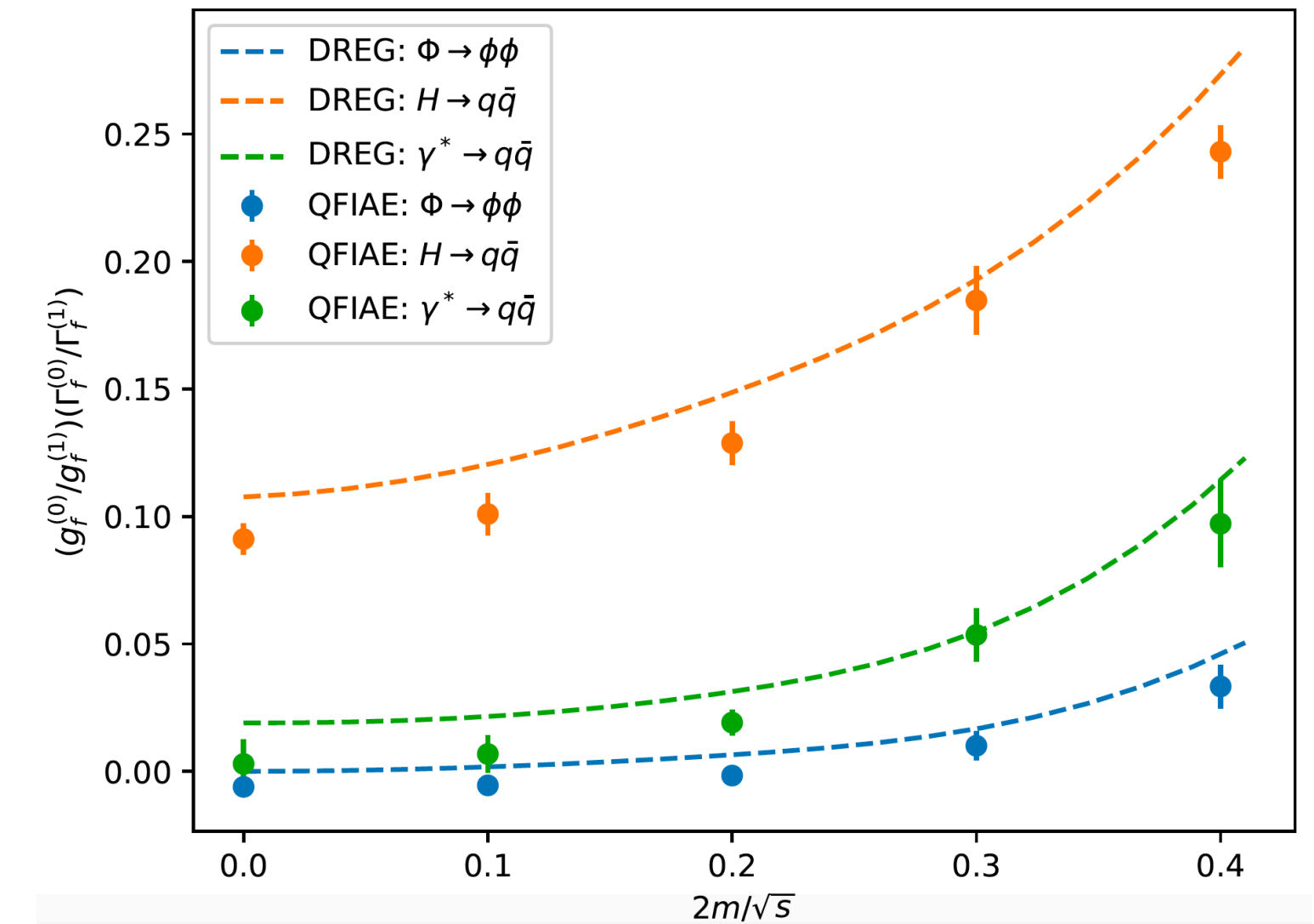
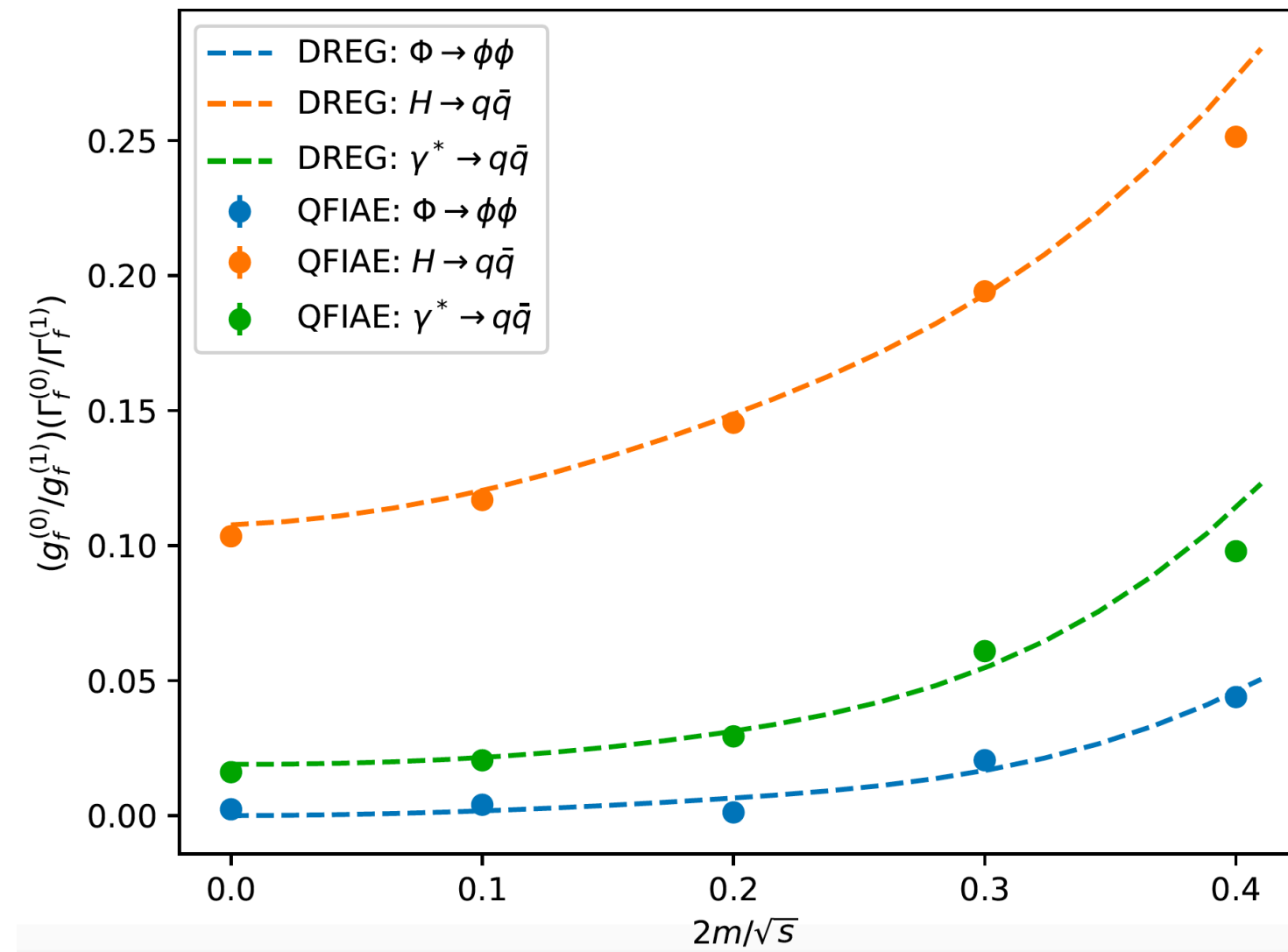


# Decay rate of the Higgs/photon/toy-scalar at NLO



## Quantum integration of decay rates at second order in perturbation theory

J.J. Martínez de Lejarza, D.F. Rentería Estrada, M. Grossi, GR, to appear in QST [2409.12236]



○ Classical Monte Carlo

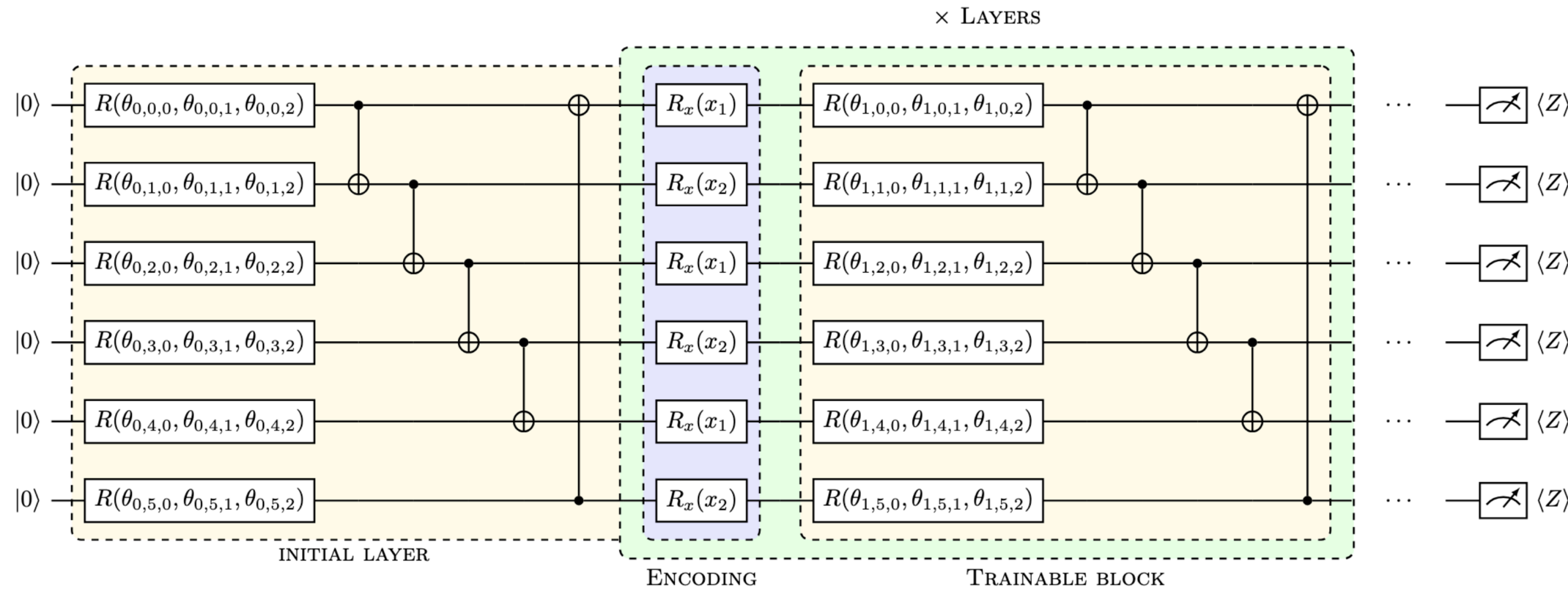
○ Quantum simulator

○ Partially in quantum hardware

Vacuum amplitudes and time-like causal unitary in the loop-tree duality, LTD Collaboration, to appear in JHEP [2404.05492]



# Technical details



| Decay                              | $2m/\sqrt{s}$ | Hardware    | Simulator  | DREG   |
|------------------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------|--------|
| $\Phi \rightarrow \phi\phi(\phi)$  | 0.0           | -0.0061(28) | 0.0023(5)  | 0.0000 |
|                                    | 0.1           | -0.0055(31) | 0.0040(6)  | 0.0018 |
|                                    | 0.2           | -0.0016(30) | 0.0011(6)  | 0.0065 |
|                                    | 0.3           | 0.0101(56)  | 0.0205(11) | 0.0167 |
|                                    | 0.4           | 0.0333(85)  | 0.0439(15) | 0.0459 |
| $H \rightarrow q\bar{q}(g)$        | 0.0           | 0.0911(61)  | 0.1034(13) | 0.1077 |
|                                    | 0.1           | 0.1009(83)  | 0.1169(14) | 0.1204 |
|                                    | 0.2           | 0.1288(85)  | 0.1455(14) | 0.1486 |
|                                    | 0.3           | 0.1847(135) | 0.1941(20) | 0.1928 |
|                                    | 0.4           | 0.2431(104) | 0.2513(30) | 0.2730 |
| $\gamma^* \rightarrow q\bar{q}(g)$ | 0.0           | 0.0029(96)  | 0.0161(14) | 0.0190 |
|                                    | 0.1           | 0.0068(74)  | 0.0205(13) | 0.0215 |
|                                    | 0.2           | 0.0191(50)  | 0.0293(13) | 0.0313 |
|                                    | 0.3           | 0.0535(103) | 0.0609(20) | 0.0547 |
|                                    | 0.4           | 0.0971(171) | 0.0979(30) | 0.1140 |

- Pennylane to construct and train the QNN (6-qubit Ansatz), 20 layers
- IQAE module implemented with Qibo on quantum simulators, and with Qiskit on a real hardware (5 qubits), executed on the 27-qubit IBMQ superconducting device *ibmq\_mumbai*
- error mitigation: pulse-efficient transpilation, error suppression Dynamical Decoupling (DD) within the circuit execution and error mitigation Zero Noise Extrapolation (ZNE) to the output



# Conclusions

- Departing from the **starting hypothesis** that a Feynman propagator is a qubit, in the sense that it represents the quantum superposition of propagation in both directions
- Stress test of quantum algorithms for querying of causal states or DAG configurations, and a new indicator of algorithmic complexity, the **transpiled quantum area**
- To the quantum integration of multidimensional integrals, in particular, loop and phase-space integrals
- And a **quantum event generator** (with NNLO, ...,  $N^k\text{LO} + N^k\text{LL}$  accuracy), as a challenging long-term goal.