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TOP QUARK SPIN CORRELATION & ENTANGLEMENT

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TOP QUARK PRODUCTIONS AT THE LHC

- ► Top quark is the **most massive** known fundamental particle.
 - ~36 times heavier than the bottom quark. Any reason?
- > Top quark is **extremely short lived**:





- Decays before its hadronization & spin decorrelation
 - ⇒ Allow to probe bare quark properties!
- The decay preserves the spin information in the **angular distribution of the decay products**.

Top pair productions at LHC are ideal for studying polarization and spin correlation!

TOP POLARIZATION & SPIN CORRELATI

- Measuring tī polarization and spin correla in the helicity basis: {k̂, r̂, n̂}
- ► Angular distribution for the decay daughter e.g. dilepton tī events $\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d^4 \sigma}{d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^2} (1 + \mathbf{B_1} \cdot \hat{\ell}_1 + \mathbf{B_2} \cdot \hat{\ell}_2 - \hat{\ell}_1)$ $\mathbf{B_{1,2}} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ x \\ x \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}$
- Spin information is fully described by the polarization vectors and correlation matrix
- These coefficients can be probed by 1D and distributions individually:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{dX} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + [Coefficient])^{\dagger}$$

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\mathbf{ION}	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	CM Frame	
ation top	$\frac{1}{r}$	Coofficient	Cooff fu
\hat{k}	$\cos \theta_1^k$	B_1^k	b_k^+
ers: n	$\cos \theta_2^k$	B_2^k	b_k^{κ}
	$\cos \theta_1^r$	B_1^r	b_r^+ b^-
n correlation	$\cos \theta_2$ $\cos \theta_1^n$	B_2 B_1^n	b_r b_r^+
$2 \cdot \mathbf{C} \cdot \hat{\boldsymbol{\ell}}_{\boldsymbol{\lambda}}$	$\cos \theta_1^n$	B_1^n	b_n^-
	$\cos heta_1^{ ilde{k}*}$	$B_1^{ ilde{k}*}$	b_k^+
$\begin{pmatrix} X & X & X \end{pmatrix}$	$\cos heta_2^{k*}$	B_2^{k*}	b_k^-
$= \left(\begin{array}{ccc} X & X & X \\ - & - & - \end{array} \right)$	$\cos \theta_1^{r*}$	B_1^{r*}	b_r^+
X X X X/	$\cos \theta_2^{\prime \star}$	$B_2^{\prime*}$	<i>b</i> _r
	$\cos \theta_1^k \cos \theta_2^k$	C_{kk}	c_{kk}
v alomonto	$\cos \theta_1' \cos \theta_2'$	C_{rr}	C _{rr}
x elements.	$cos v_1 cos v_2$	C_{nn}	c _{nn}
oulor	$\cos \theta_1^r \cos \theta_2^k + \cos \theta_1^k \cos \theta_2^r$ $\cos \theta_1^r \cos \theta_2^k - \cos \theta_1^k \cos \theta_1^r$	$C_{rk} + C_{kr}$ $C_{k} - C_{kr}$	c_{rk}
Igulai	$\cos \theta_1^n \cos \theta_2^r - \cos \theta_1^r \cos \theta_2^r \\ \cos \theta_1^n \cos \theta_2^r + \cos \theta_1^r \cos \theta_2^n$	$C_{rk} C_{kr}$ $C_{nr} + C_{rn}$	C_n
	$\cos\theta_1^n\cos\theta_2^r - \cos\theta_1^r\cos\theta_2^n$	$C_{nr} - C_{rn}$	C_k
	$\cos \theta_1^n \cos \theta_2^k + \cos \theta_1^k \cos \theta_2^n$	$C_{nk} + C_{kn}$	c_{kn}
\mathbf{T}	$\cos\theta_1^n\cos\theta_2^k - \cos\theta_1^k\cos\theta_2^n$	$C_{nk} - C_{kn}$	$-c_r$
$\cdot X)f(X)$	$\cos \varphi$	D -	$-(c_{kk}+c_{rr}+c_{nr})$
	$\cos \varphi_{\text{lab}}$	$A^{\text{lab}}_{\cos \varphi}$	• • •
	$ \Delta \phi_{\ell\ell} $	$A_{ \Delta \phi_{\ell\ell} }$	• • •



Inc



MEASURING TOP QUARK SPINS

► In the SM tī production is ~unpolarized:

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta_{1,2}^i} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \mathbf{B_{1,2}^i} \cdot \cos\theta_{1,2}^i) - \begin{bmatrix} - & \mathbf{B_{1,2}^i} \\ \mathbf{B_{1,2}^i} \end{bmatrix} - \begin{bmatrix} - & \mathbf{B_{1,2}^i} \\ \mathbf{B_{1,2}^i} \end{bmatrix}$$

However top/anti-top spins are strongly correlated:

- Rich spin correlation structure!
- Spin correlation coefficient **D** is related to the **C** matrix diagonal terms.
- Sensitivity to the alignment of top/anti-top quark spins \bigcirc ⇒ access to **entanglement measurement**!

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\phi} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \mathbf{D} \cdot \cos\phi) - \frac{\text{Non-zero}}{\text{mos}}$$

$$\frac{\cos\phi}{\cos\phi} = \hat{\ell}_1 \cdot \hat{\ell}_2 \quad \mathbf{D} = -\frac{\text{Tr}[C]}{3} = -\left(\frac{C_k}{3}\right)$$

Ref. CMS PRD 100 (2019) 072002





0.5

0.5

TOP QUARKS ARE ENTANGLED OR NOT?

- Entanglement = inseparability of quantum states
- Can be studied with spin correlations observables.
- The SM predicts entangled of top/anti-top:
 - **boosted region** for central production of tt.
 - **near the production threshold** in g-g fusion production; \bigcirc

The strength depends on production modes, $M(t\bar{t})$, and top scattering angle Θ



Relatively lower velocity top quarks \rightarrow time-like separated events

Relatively higher velocity top quarks \rightarrow space-like separated events

top



anti-top





	1.0
-	0.9
-	0.8
-	0.7
-	0.6
-	0.5
-	0.4
-	0.3
-	0.2
	0.1
	0.0

5

DILEPTON ANALYSIS FOR LOW M(tt)

> The **Peres-Horodecki criterion**:

- For tt system, states are separable if eigenvalues of the spin density matrix are all positive;
- Top quarks are entangled in a certain phase space if <u>at least one negative eigenvalue</u>! > A sufficient condition to observe entanglement in top quarks is:

 $\Delta E = C_{nn} + |C_{rr} + C_{kk}| > 1$

Consider a dilepton tt analysis focused in low m(tt) region: 900

- Top spin information 100% goes to charged leptons!
- Spin-singlet state \Rightarrow positive C_{rr} and C_{kk} :

$$\Delta E = C_{nn} + C_{rr} + C_{kk} = \operatorname{Tr}[C] = -3$$

• The sufficient condition is then translated as:

$$\mathbf{D} = -\frac{\mathrm{Tr}[\mathbf{C}]}{3} < -\frac{1}{3}$$
 Measure of the second sec



Ref. Peres PRL 77 (1996) 1413 Horodecki PLA 232 (1997) 5

Ref. <u>Afik, De Nova, EPJ Plus 136 (2021) 907</u>



ATLAS OBSERVATION OF TOP ENTANGLEMENT AT LOW M(tt)

- clearly away from the threshold.



> ATLAS performed a analysis using very clean $e\mu$ +jets events with 140 fb⁻¹ data. > A measurement of proxy D at particle level in the region of $340 < m(t\bar{t}) < 380$ GeV

Particle-level Invariant Mass Range [GeV]

CMS ANALYSIS STRATEGY: DILEPTON

- > Based on 36.3 fb⁻¹ data collected in 2016.
- Strength of entanglement depends on the phase-space:
 - Scan over $m(t\bar{t})$ vs $\cos\Theta$ vs $\beta z(t\bar{t})$ to determine most sensitive region + minimizing total uncertainty.
 - Focus on low-mass region: $345 < m(t\bar{t}) < 400 \text{ GeV}$.
 - $\circ \text{ Increase gg/q\bar{q} fraction} \\ \text{with cut on the velocity } \beta_z(t\bar{t}) = \left| \frac{p_z^t p_z^{\bar{t}}}{E^t E^{\bar{t}}} \right| < 0.9$ along the beam:
- ► The tt four-momentum are calculated using a kinematic reconstruction algorithm. Ref. CMS JHEP 02 (2019) 149
- > The distribution of **helicity angle** $\cos \phi = \hat{\ell}_1 \cdot \hat{\ell}_2$ is measured and perform a profiled maximum likelihood fit to extract the **D** value of the events in the signal region.

Entanglement vs phase-space

CMS Simulation (13 TeV) m(t<u>1</u>) [GeV] 000 [GeV] 600 550 500 450 400 350 -0.5 0.0 0.5 1.0 $\cos\Theta$ **CMS** Simulation (13 TeV) m(tī) [GeV] 002 [GeV] 82 (2022) 666 600 550 500 450 400 350 0.0 0.6 8.0 0.4 0.2 1.0 $\beta_{\rm z}({ m t}{ m t})$

Ref. <u>Aguilar-Saavedra,</u> <u>Casas,</u>

NEAR THRESHOLD tt MODELING

> The tt simulated samples are described by **PowhegBox+Pythia8(NLO)**:

- EWK corrections at NLO with HATHOR included. Ref. <u>HATHOR Comput. Phys. Commun. 182 (2011) 1034</u>
- Reweighed to NNLO QCD calculations. Ref. Mazzitelli at el PRL 127 (2021) 062001
- However mis-modeling of the events near the threshold has been observed in several CMS/ATLAS differential cross section analyses already:

O(10%) discrepancy, consistent between dilepton and lepton+jets analyses from both CMS and ATLAS

NEAR THRESHOLD tt MODELING (CONT.)

- Consider a potential "toponium" contribution:
 - NRQCD predicts a quasi-bound state at 343 GeV and a width of 7 GeV.
- - Consider a pseudoscalar colour singlet spin-0 state η_t .
 - Improves the modeling near the threshold!

Perform the full entanglement measurement w/ and w/o toponium model included.

Not considered in ATLAS analysis, although the conclusion should not be affected.

Ref. Ju et al JHEP 06 (2020) 158

• Modifies both the invariant mass and spin correlations. Ref. Maltoni et al JHEP 03 (2024) 099

► Toponium model generated with MG5 aMC@NLO(LO) + Pythia8: Ref. Fuks et al, PRD 104 (2021) 034023

See also the CMS H/A->tt analysis! (HIG-22-013) O Strong excess above the background if no nt considered. \$\sigma(n_t) = 7.14 \pm 0.77 \text{ pb}\$
 \$\see \L.Jeppe's talk @
 \$\text{TOP2024 for details.}\$

EXTRACTION OF ENTANGLEMENT

\blacktriangleright Binned profiled likelihood fit to the distribution with ~48k signal candidates:

- is accessible.
- All systematic effects included as nuisance parameters.

Excellent description of the events: good agreement with the SM predictions.

• Signal templates with different proxy **D** value are derived from mixed samples generated w/ and w/o spin correlations \Rightarrow any possible value of D between ± 1

SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTIES

- As the analysis heavily rely on the knowledge for the near-threshold tt events, the uncertainties associated with signal tt modeling are unavoidable.
- Uncertainties related to Toponium:
 - Toponium cross section varied by ±50% due to missing the octet contributions.
 - Binding energy uncertainty varied by ±0.5 GeV.
- ► Other leading uncertainties:
 - Jet energy scale
 - NNLO QCD reweighing
 - Parton Shower

OBSERVATION OF tT ENTANGLEMENT AT THRESHOLD

- Scan of the likelihood value versus D at parton level, with all detector effects accounted.
- ► If toponium contribution is not included:
 - Pushes to a more negative *D* value / stronger entanglement.
 - $\circ \sim 1.5\sigma$ tension with respect to the expectation.

Observation of top quarks being entangled at tt threshold!

 $D_{\rm obs} = -0.480^{+0.016}_{-0.017} (\text{stat.})^{+0.020}_{-0.023} (\text{syst.})$ $D_{\rm exp} = -0.467^{+0.016}_{-0.017} ({\rm stat.})^{+0.021}_{-0.024} ({\rm syst.})$

Significance: 5.1σ Obs (4.7σ Expt.)

13

LEPTON+JETS ANALYSIS

- Consider the differential cross section direction $\Omega(\overline{\Omega})$:
- large spin analyzing power κ (~unity at LO).
- > Entangled or not via the **Peres-Horodecki criterion**:
- ► Two analysis approaches:
 - Use the full angular information of decay **products** to measure spin matrix and then derive ΔE .
 - Measure **proxies D** and **D** via simpler 1D χ and $\tilde{\chi}$ angular distributions.

 $\Delta E = C_{nn} + |C_{rr} + C_{kk}| > 1$

> The charged lepton and down-type quark decaying from W bosons are used, which has a

14

LEPTON+JETS ANALYSIS (CONT.)

 $\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\chi} \propto 1 + \mathbf{D} \kappa \overline{\kappa} \cdot \cos\chi \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \Delta E = -3\mathbf{D} > 1 \quad \Longrightarrow \quad \mathbf{D} < -\frac{1}{3} \quad < \text{Basically the same as the dilepton analysis}$

- both qq & gg productions, can be probed with the $\tilde{\chi}$ distribution: $\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\tilde{\chi}} \propto 1 + \tilde{\mathbf{D}}\,\kappa\overline{\kappa}\cdot\cos\tilde{\chi}$
- > With negative C_{rr} and C_{kk} , the sufficient condition is then translated as:

$$\Delta E = C_{nn} - C_{rr} - C_{kk} = 3\tilde{\mathbf{D}} > 1 \quad or \qquad \tilde{\mathbf{D}} > 1$$

Measure the proxies D & D to prob entanglement!

> Study the angular distribution of χ for at low m(tt) region for gg fusion events:

> The entanglement in a spin-triplet state at high $m(t\bar{t})$ and central region, via

CMS ANALYSIS STRATEGY & EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

- ► Based on full Run-2 138 fb⁻¹ data at 13 TeV.
- ► Target: determine the full correlation matrix & polarization vectors + measure D & \tilde{D} .
 - Differential measurements in bins of $m(t\bar{t})$, $p_T(t)$, and/or the top scattering angle $|\cos\Theta|$
 - Inclusive measurement by combining differential bins.
- ► Nominal tt sample is prepared with the same prescription: PowhegBox+Pythia8 + EWK corrections/NNLO weights.
- ► Reconstruction of the tī system is performed using an artificial NN:
 - For identifying detector-level physics objects and in particular up/down jet assignments.
 - Inputs include lepton kinematics, missing energy, jet kinematics, b-tagging scores (up to 8 jets).

Events / 0.02

EVENT CATEGORIZATION

- > ANN is trained with "correct permutation" vs. "wrong *permutations*" \Rightarrow the permutation with the highest score is used in the final analysis.
- Events divided into categories based on lepton flavor (e/μ) , number of b-tagged jets, and the S_{NN} score.
 - Drop the events with low S_{NN} score (<0.1) to avoid the events with low fraction of correctly assigned permutation & larger background contribution.

	# of b-tags	S_{low}	
4 event	2b	$0.1 < S_{\rm NN} < 0.36$	0.3
C1077-67	1b	$0.1 < S_{\rm NN} < 0.30$	0.3

Reaches ~50% correct jet assignment rate (including) the down-type quark assignment too!).

Shigh

 $36 < S_{NN}$

 $30 < S_{NN}$

EXTRACTION OF POLARIZATION & SPIN CORRELATION

> Differential cross section Σ_{tot} as a linear combination of template functions $\Sigma_m \times P \& C$ coefficients Q_m :

$$\Sigma_{\text{tot}} = \Sigma_0 + \sum_{m=1}^{15} Q_m \Sigma_m$$

 $\Sigma_m \propto \sigma_{\text{norm}} \{ \sin \theta_p \cos \phi_p, \sin \theta_p \sin \phi_p, \dots, \cos \theta_p \cos \theta_{\overline{p}} \}$

- \succ Coefficients Q_m are extracted by fitting Σ_{tot} in bins of $m(t\bar{t})$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$ or $p_T(t)$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$.
- > Reweighting technique $(\Sigma_m / \Sigma_{tot})$ to evaluate the detectorlevel template T_m for each Q_m .
- > The gen-level template Σ_m should be independent from top kinematics, but not the case of T_m .
- > The binning should be narrow enough to minimize the bias due to top kinematics dependence of T_m within a bin.

T_m: detector-level template

FULL POLARIZATION & SPIN MATRIX FITS

- periods = 16 categories in total.
- > Post-fit distributions for full matrix analysis in $m(t\bar{t})$ vs $|cos\Theta|$ bins:

> A maximum likelihood fit combining the information of the 4 event classes × 4 data-taking

RESULTS: FULL POLARIZATION & SPIN MATRIX

> Inclusive & Differential measurements in bins of $m(t\bar{t})$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$ and $p_T(t)$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$. • Evaluation of full correlation matrix and polarization vectors. Ref. CMS arXiv:2409.11067

- Good agreement with SM prediction!

• Good agreement with SM prediction still!

RESULTS: ENTANGLEMENT FITS

• Good agreement with SM prediction as well!

> Inclusive & differential measurements of D & D proxies in bins of $m(t\bar{t})$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$ and $p_T(t)$ vs $|\cos\Theta|$.

In order to "see" the entanglement we have to go to specific phasespace regions!

ENTANGLED OR NOT?

- > Test of entanglement with **D** & **D** proxies or with full correlation **matrix** in specific phase-space regions.
 - Observation of tt entanglement at high m(tt) for the first time! \bigcirc
 - Modest sensitivity for low $m(t\bar{t})$.

Best sensitivity here!

SPACE-LIKE EVENTS: ENTANGLED OR NOT?

- > Fraction of **space-like** separation events increases with $m(t\bar{t})$:
 - For $m(t\bar{t}) > 800GeV$ the fraction of space-like separated decays is ~90%.
- > A more stringent criterion for entanglement that cannot be explained exchange of information at $v \le c$ alone ("*critical entanglement*") is defined:

$$\Delta E_{\rm crit} = f \Delta E_{\rm sep} + (1 - f) \Delta E_{\rm max} \approx 1.2$$

Regular criterion for from space-like events: from time-like events: $\Delta E_{sep} = 1$

Maximized contribution $\Delta E_{max} = 3$

Criterion for entangled $\Delta E > \Delta E_{\rm crit}$ space-like events

WHAT'S THE NEXT?

- ► Observation of tī entanglement is just the beginning of the journey!
- > Analysis of high m(tt) region has the potential to find the violation of Bell's Inequality!
 - Phrased in terms of Clauser, Horne, Shimony, and Holt (CHSH) **Ref. Clauser et al** inequality. PRL 23(15) (1969) 880
 - For tī the criterion can be expressed as: $\sqrt{2} | - C_{rr} + C_{nn} | \le 2$
 - To be examined in the near future \bigcirc with a much larger data set!

SUMMARY & OUTLOOK

> Top quark entanglement has been observed:

- A potential "toponium" bound state at the threshold improves the data modeling.
- Using the lepton+jets events at high $m(t\bar{t})$ confirms the space-like separated events are entangled.

> At future e⁺e⁻ machines:

- A much cleaner environment for better understanding of top quark properties & modeling (including the threshold effects)!
- Similar formulation can be introduced for spin correlation studies; level of entanglement depends on m(tt̄) as well — higher \sqrt{s} is preferred!

Also see the related talks yesterday!

CMS SEARCH FOR H/A \rightarrow tt

- ► Heavy A/H to tt dilepton and lepton+jets, 138 fb⁻¹ at CMS.
- > Significant excess at tt threshold, favors the pseudoscalar signal hypothesis.
- > Perform fits to the invariant masse and helicity angle distributions.

Ref. <u>CMS-PAS-HIG-22-013</u>

