

Constructing Quantum Entanglement Criteria for Collider Processes

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arXiv: [2505.09280](#), [2505.09931](#), [2510.08031](#)

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CLHCP2025

October 31, 2025

N-particle system:

$$|P_1 P_2 \dots P_N\rangle = \sum_{k_1=-s_1}^{s_1} \sum_{k_2=-s_2}^{s_2} \dots \sum_{k_N=-s_N}^{s_N} \alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N} |k_1\rangle_{P_1} |k_2\rangle_{P_2} \dots |k_N\rangle_{P_N} \quad (1)$$

- s_i (for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N$) represent **the spins of particles P_i** (e.g., $1/2$ for fermions, 1 for vector bosons).
- k_i denote **the spin projection quantum numbers for particles P_i** , which are defined **along the respective momentum directions**, labeled as $\hat{e}_i$.
- The **normalization condition**:

$$\sum_{k_1=-s_1}^{s_1} \sum_{k_2=-s_2}^{s_2} \dots \sum_{k_N=-s_N}^{s_N} |\alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N}|^2 = 1 \quad (2)$$

Quantum entanglement in polarization state

N-particle system:

$$|P_1 P_2 \dots P_N\rangle = \sum_{k_1=-s_1}^{s_1} \sum_{k_2=-s_2}^{s_2} \dots \sum_{k_N=-s_N}^{s_N} \alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N} |k_1\rangle_{P_1} |k_2\rangle_{P_2} \dots |k_N\rangle_{P_N}$$

- When the N-particle system exhibits **no quantum entanglement** (QE), all coefficients $\alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N}$ satisfy the following **factorization relation**:

$$\alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N} = \tilde{\alpha}_{k_1}^{(1)} \tilde{\alpha}_{k_2}^{(2)} \dots \tilde{\alpha}_{k_N}^{(N)}. \quad (3)$$

Here, each $\tilde{\alpha}_{k_i}^{(i)}$ ($i = 1, 2, \dots, N$) completely characterizes the **polarization state of particle P_i** and satisfies the normalization condition of $\sum_{k_i=-s_i}^{s_i} |\tilde{\alpha}_{k_i}^{(i)}|^2 = 1$.

- Conversely, the existence of a factorized product structure in Eq. (3) constitutes both a necessary and sufficient condition for the system to be unentangled.

Fundamental questions

To build an effective communication bridge between QE theory and high-energy phenomenology, it is essential to address the following fundamental questions:

- The conditions $\alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N} = \tilde{\alpha}_{k_1}^{(1)} \tilde{\alpha}_{k_2}^{(2)} \dots \tilde{\alpha}_{k_N}^{(N)}$ serve as the necessary and sufficient criterion for no QE in multi-particle systems. The central challenge reduces to establishing experimental protocols to detect the existence of this factorization.
- For an arbitrary physical observable, under what conditions can its measured values constitute a sufficient criterion for entanglement existence in multi-particle systems? What would be the corresponding entanglement criterion based on such observable measurements?

$$|\Lambda \bar{\Lambda}\rangle = \sum_{k,j=\pm\frac{1}{2}} \alpha_{k,j} |k\rangle_{\Lambda} |j\rangle_{\bar{\Lambda}} , \quad \sum_{k,j=\pm\frac{1}{2}} |\alpha_{k,j}|^2 = 1 \quad (4)$$

- The weak decay processes:

$$\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^{-} , \quad \bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p} + \pi^{+} \quad (5)$$

- In the rest frames of Λ and $\bar{\Lambda}$, the polar angle distributions of final-state p and $\bar{p}$ satisfy

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_{\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^{-}}} \frac{d\Gamma_{\Lambda \rightarrow p + \pi^{-}}}{d \cos \theta_p} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \alpha_{\Lambda} \cos \theta_p) \quad (6)$$

$$\frac{1}{\Gamma_{\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p} + \pi^{+}}} \frac{d\Gamma_{\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p} + \pi^{+}}}{d \cos \theta_{\bar{p}}} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} \cos \theta_{\bar{p}}) \quad (7)$$

Decay processes

- We parameterize the momentum directions of p in the Λ rest frame and $\bar{p}$ in the $\bar{\Lambda}$ rest frame using spherical coordinates:

$$p : (\theta_1, \phi_1) \rightarrow \hat{e}_p = (\sin \theta_1 \cos \phi_1, \sin \theta_1 \sin \phi_1, \cos \theta_1) \quad (8)$$

$$\bar{p} : (\theta_2, \phi_2) \rightarrow \hat{e}_{\bar{p}} = (\sin \theta_2 \cos \phi_2, \sin \theta_2 \sin \phi_2, \cos \theta_2) \quad (9)$$

- Decay amplitudes:

$$\langle p, \pi^- | k \rangle_{\Lambda} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{i(k-\lambda_p)\phi_1} d_{k,\lambda_p}^{1/2}(\theta_1) H_{\Lambda}(\lambda_p) \quad (10)$$

$$\langle \bar{p}, \pi^+ | j \rangle_{\bar{\Lambda}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}} e^{-i(j+\lambda_{\bar{p}})\phi_2} d_{\lambda_{\bar{p}},j}^{1/2}(\pi - \theta_2) H_{\bar{\Lambda}}(\lambda_{\bar{p}}) \quad (11)$$

- $\alpha_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}$ are related to $H_{\Lambda}(\lambda_p)/H_{\bar{\Lambda}}(\lambda_{\bar{p}})$ by

$$\alpha_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}} = \frac{|H_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}(-\frac{1}{2})|^2 - |H_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}(\frac{1}{2})|^2}{|H_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}(\frac{1}{2})|^2 + |H_{\Lambda/\bar{\Lambda}}(-\frac{1}{2})|^2}. \quad (12)$$

Observables

Any observable constructed from the angular variables can be expressed as

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle = \sum_{k,j,m,n=\pm\frac{1}{2}} \mathcal{O}_{k,j;m,n} \alpha_{k,j} \alpha_{m,n}^* . \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{O}_{k,j;m,n} = & \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \sum_{\lambda_P, \lambda_{\bar{P}}=\pm\frac{1}{2}} (1 - 2\lambda_P \alpha_\Lambda) (1 - 2\lambda_{\bar{P}} \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}) \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta_1 \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta_2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_1 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_2 \\ & \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) e^{i(k-m)\phi_1} e^{i(n-j)\phi_2} d_{k,\lambda_P}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\theta_1) d_{m,\lambda_P}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\theta_1) d_{\lambda_{\bar{P}},j}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\pi - \theta_2) d_{\lambda_{\bar{P}},n}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\pi - \theta_2) . \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

- $\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle$ can also be written as

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle = \mathcal{O}_0 + \mathcal{O}_1 \alpha_\Lambda + \mathcal{O}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + \mathcal{O}_3 \alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} . \quad (15)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle = \mathcal{O}_0 + \mathcal{O}_1 \alpha_{\Lambda} + \mathcal{O}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + \mathcal{O}_3 \alpha_{\Lambda} \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} \quad (16)$$

Observables	Ranges	Ranges under $\alpha_{k_1, k_2, \dots, k_N} = \tilde{\alpha}_{k_1}^{(1)} \tilde{\alpha}_{k_2}^{(2)} \dots \tilde{\alpha}_{k_N}^{(N)}$	Criteria for QE
$\langle \mathcal{O} \rangle$	R_1	$R_2 (\in R_1)$	$R_1 \setminus R_2$

- The critiques [2507.15947](#) and [2507.15949](#) argue that if the purpose of an experiment is to test quantum mechanics, then **no conclusion derived from quantum mechanics or quantum field theory may be used** at any stage of the analysis.
- In their view, present measurements rely on angular correlations among the momentum directions of different final-state particles to **tomographically reconstruct correlations in the initial-state polarizations**. The relation connecting the two (for example, in a fermion–antifermion system) involves **the initial-state fermion's parameter governing parity (P) violation**.
- Any independent determination of this parameter inevitably relies on **theoretical calculations based on quantum mechanics or quantum field theory**.

Observables independent of α_Λ and $\alpha_{\bar\Lambda}$

For $\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle$ does not depend on α_Λ and $\alpha_{\bar\Lambda}$, i.e.

$$\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle = \mathcal{O}_0 = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta_1 \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta_2 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_1 \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi_2 \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2). \quad (17)$$

- Since $\mathcal{O}_0$ does not depend on $\alpha_{k,j}$ ($k, j = \pm\frac{1}{2}$), $\langle \mathcal{O}(\theta_1, \theta_2, \phi_1, \phi_2) \rangle$ cannot provide a quantum-entanglement criterion.
- It is impossible to extract any information about the initial system's spin polarization from angular observables when there is no violation of parity ($\alpha_\Lambda = \alpha_{\bar\Lambda} = 0$).

Inequality-type criteria

If $\mathcal{O}_p$ and $\mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}}$ depend solely on the angular variables of p (θ_1 and ϕ_1) and $\bar{p}$ (θ_2 and ϕ_2), respectively, then for pure states there exists a sufficient condition for quantum entanglement of the form

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle \neq \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle . \quad (18)$$

For example,

$$\langle \cos \theta_1 \rangle = \frac{\alpha_\Lambda}{3} \left(\left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 + \left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 \right) , \quad (19)$$

$$\langle \cos \theta_2 \rangle = -\frac{\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{3} \left(\left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 + \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 \right) , \quad (20)$$

$$\langle \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \rangle = -\frac{\alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{9} \left(\left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 + \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 \right) . \quad (21)$$

Inequality-type criteria

For a two-component mixed state in which each component is unentangled, one finds

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle = (p_1 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle_1 + p_2 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle_2) (p_1 \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_1 + p_2 \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_2) , \quad (22)$$

$$\langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle = p_1 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_1 + p_2 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_2 = p_1 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle_1 \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_1 + p_2 \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle_2 \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle_2 . \quad (23)$$

In this case, $\langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle$ and $\langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle$ need not be equal. Thus, a mixed state satisfying $\langle \mathcal{O}_p \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle \neq \langle \mathcal{O}_p \rangle \langle \mathcal{O}_{\bar{p}} \rangle$ is likewise unentangled (separable).

Ratio-type criteria

For two distinct physical observables A and B ,

$$\frac{\langle A \rangle}{\langle B \rangle} = \frac{A_0 + A_1\alpha_\Lambda + A_2\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + A_3\alpha_\Lambda\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{B_0 + B_1\alpha_\Lambda + B_2\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + B_3\alpha_\Lambda\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}} . \quad (24)$$

If $\langle A \rangle / \langle B \rangle$ is independent of α_Λ and $\alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}$, there are two possibilities:

- A_0 and B_0 are both nonzero. Since A_0 and B_0 do not depend on $\alpha_{k,j}$ ($k, j = \pm \frac{1}{2}$), in this case $\langle A \rangle / \langle B \rangle = A_0 / B_0$ likewise does not depend on $\alpha_{k,j}$ and therefore cannot provide an entanglement criterion.
- A_0 and B_0 both vanish.

Ratio-type criteria: A_0 and B_0 both vanish

- Four points in the $\alpha_{k,j}$ space as follows:

$$P_1 : \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} = 1, \quad P_2 : \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} = 1, \quad P_3 : \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} = 1, \quad P_4 : \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} = 1. \quad (25)$$

- At P_1 , we write $\langle B \rangle$ as

$$\langle B \rangle_{P_1} = \tilde{B}_1 \alpha_\Lambda + \tilde{B}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + \tilde{B}_3 \alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}, \quad (26)$$

Then, at the other points we have

$$\langle B \rangle_{P_2} = \tilde{B}_1 \alpha_\Lambda - \tilde{B}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} - \tilde{B}_3 \alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}, \quad (27)$$

$$\langle B \rangle_{P_3} = -\tilde{B}_1 \alpha_\Lambda + \tilde{B}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} - \tilde{B}_3 \alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}, \quad (28)$$

$$\langle B \rangle_{P_4} = -\tilde{B}_1 \alpha_\Lambda - \tilde{B}_2 \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} + \tilde{B}_3 \alpha_\Lambda \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}. \quad (29)$$

- It follows that

$$\sum_{i=1}^4 \langle B \rangle_{P_i} = 0. \quad (30)$$

Ratio-type criteria: obstruction

$$A = \cos(\phi_1 + \phi_2) \implies \langle A \rangle = \kappa \left(\alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}}^* + \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}^* \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right) \quad (31)$$

$$B = \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \implies \langle B \rangle = \kappa \left(\alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}^* + \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}}^* \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right) \quad (32)$$

$$\kappa = -\frac{\pi^2}{32} \alpha_{\Lambda} \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}} \quad (33)$$

Observables	R_1	R_2	$R_1 \setminus R_2$
$\langle A \rangle / \kappa$	$[-1, 1]$	$[-1/2, 1/2]$	$[-1, -1/2) \cup (1/2, 1]$
$\langle B \rangle / \kappa$	$[-1, 1]$	$[-1/2, 1/2]$	$[-1, -1/2) \cup (1/2, 1]$
$\langle A \rangle / \langle B \rangle$	$(-\infty, +\infty)$	$(-\infty, +\infty)$	$\emptyset$

Because $\langle B \rangle$ has zeros, the value ranges of $\langle A \rangle / \langle B \rangle$ over the general and separable spaces of $\alpha_{k,j}$ (denoted R_1 and R_2) both span the entire real line. $\langle A \rangle / \langle B \rangle$ cannot be used to furnish a quantum-entanglement criterion.

Ratio-type criteria with additional spin information

- For **on-shell J/ψ mesons produced at e^+e^- colliders**, experiments indicate that their **spin projection quantum number along the beam axis is ± 1** .
- For the process **$e^+ + e^- \rightarrow J/\psi \rightarrow \Lambda + \bar{\Lambda}$** , if we restrict to **$\Lambda\bar{\Lambda}$ pairs emitted back-to-back along the beam direction**, then by angular-momentum conservation each event places the pair **entirely in either $|\frac{1}{2}\rangle_{\Lambda} |\frac{1}{2}\rangle_{\bar{\Lambda}}$ or $|\frac{1}{2}\rangle_{\Lambda} |-\frac{1}{2}\rangle_{\bar{\Lambda}}$** .
- Consequently, **for these events** we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} & \langle \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \rangle_{\text{beam}} \\ &= -\frac{\alpha_{\Lambda} \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{9} \left(\left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 - \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 + \left| \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right|^2 \right) \\ &= \frac{\alpha_{\Lambda} \alpha_{\bar{\Lambda}}}{9}. \end{aligned} \tag{34}$$

Ratio-type criteria with additional spin information

Using the information provided by $\langle \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \rangle_{\text{beam}}$, we define

$$f_1 = -\frac{32}{9\pi^2} \frac{\langle \cos(\phi_1 + \phi_2) \rangle}{\langle \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \rangle_{\text{beam}}} = \left(\alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}}^* + \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}^* \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \right), \quad (35)$$

$$f_2 = -\frac{32}{9\pi^2} \frac{\langle \cos(\phi_1 - \phi_2) \rangle}{\langle \cos \theta_1 \cos \theta_2 \rangle_{\text{beam}}} = \left(\alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}} \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}}^* + \alpha_{-\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{1}{2}}^* \alpha_{\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}} \right). \quad (36)$$

Observables	Ranges	Ranges under $\alpha_{k,j} = \beta_k \gamma_j$	criteria for entanglement
f_1	$[-1, 1]$	$[-1/2, 1/2]$	$[-1, -1/2) \cup (1/2, 1]$
f_2	$[-1, 1]$	$[-1/2, 1/2]$	$[-1, -1/2) \cup (1/2, 1]$

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Precise Measurements of Decay Parameters and CP Asymmetry with Entangled $\Lambda-\bar{\Lambda}$ Pairs

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Phys. Rev. Lett. **129**, 131801 – Published 22 September, 2022

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevLett.129.131801>

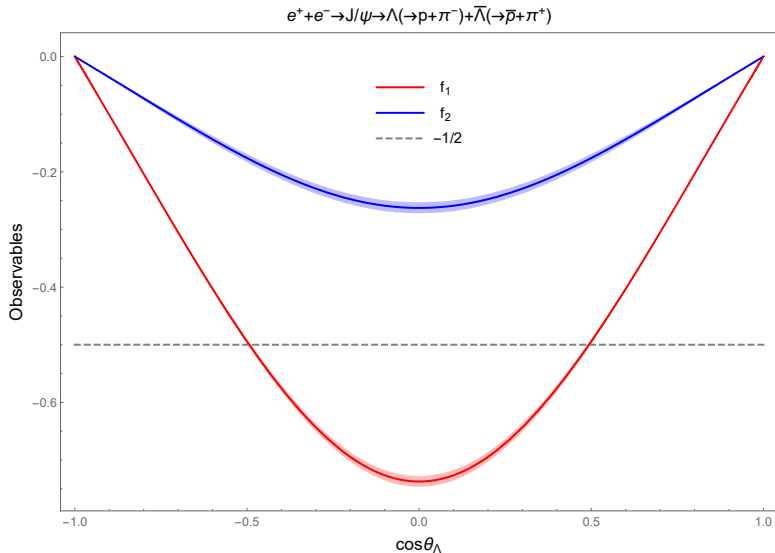
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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS **129**, 131801 (2022)

TABLE I. The angular distribution parameters, $\alpha_{J/\psi}$, $\Delta\Phi$ and the asymmetry parameters α_- for $\Lambda \rightarrow p\pi^-$, α_+ for $\bar{\Lambda} \rightarrow \bar{p}\pi^+$ obtained in this Letter and in previous BESIII measurements [12] for comparison. The first uncertainty is statistical, the second one is systematic.

Parameter	This Letter	Previous results [12]
$\alpha_{J/\psi}$	$0.4748 \pm 0.0022 \pm 0.0031$	$0.461 \pm 0.006 \pm 0.007$
$\Delta\Phi$	$0.7521 \pm 0.0042 \pm 0.0066$	$0.740 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.009$
α_-	$0.7519 \pm 0.0036 \pm 0.0024$	$0.750 \pm 0.009 \pm 0.004$
α_+	$-0.7559 \pm 0.0036 \pm 0.0030$	$-0.758 \pm 0.010 \pm 0.007$
A_{CP}	$-0.0025 \pm 0.0046 \pm 0.0012$	$0.006 \pm 0.012 \pm 0.007$
α_{avg}	$0.7542 \pm 0.0010 \pm 0.0024$	...

Measurements



Conclusion

- For the decay approach, we present **a comprehensive framework to detect QE in high-energy multi-particle systems**.
- By leveraging phase-space integration and the orthogonality properties of Wigner d -functions, we derive **diverse observables through angular correlations in decay products and establish key criteria for QE** by calculating the exact quantum ranges and classical ranges.
- These results establish model-independent methodologies for probing QE across collider experiments, **bridging QE theory with high-energy phenomenology**, while **offering novel pathways to explore exotic particles and quantum properties in multi-particle systems**.