

Tripartite Entanglement in $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z$

Alberto Navarro
Seoultech



Based on arxiv.2606.11296 with D. Gonçalves and K. Sakurai

July 15, 2026

Introduction

- ❑ Recent interest on interpreting polarization and spin correlations observables as a density matrix to study quantum information phenomena at colliders.
- ❑ Extensive work on bipartite systems: top-quark pairs, di-boson pairs, tau-pairs, etc.

See D. Gonçalves and DW. Kang's talks.

- ❑ Colliders offer an environment to study multipartite systems. Multipartite systems exhibit other types of separability, not present in bipartite systems.
- ❑ Few studies for multi-partite systems under certain assumptions
 - Sakurai, Spanowsky (2024)
 - Horodecki et al (2024)
 - Aguilar-Saavedra (2024)
 - Morales (2024)
- ❑ Need a general framework to study multipartite entanglement. In particular, one that can be apply to mixed quantum states.
- ❑ This talk will introduce the theoretical framework for studying tripartite entanglement in colliders. This will be applied to $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z$.

Density Matrix

- ❑ In QM the state of a system is fully described by a state vector
- ❑ This is only true for the so-called “pure states”, though. In general, one can have statistical mixtures of pure states, i.e., a “mixed state”.
- ❑ The density matrix generalizes the state vector to pure and mixed states

$$\rho = \sum_i p_i |\Psi_i\rangle \langle \Psi_i|, \quad \sum_i p_i = 1, \quad p_i \geq 0.$$

- 
- ▶ Hermitian
 - ▶ Unit trace
 - ▶ Positive semidefinite

- ❑ In the density matrix formalism

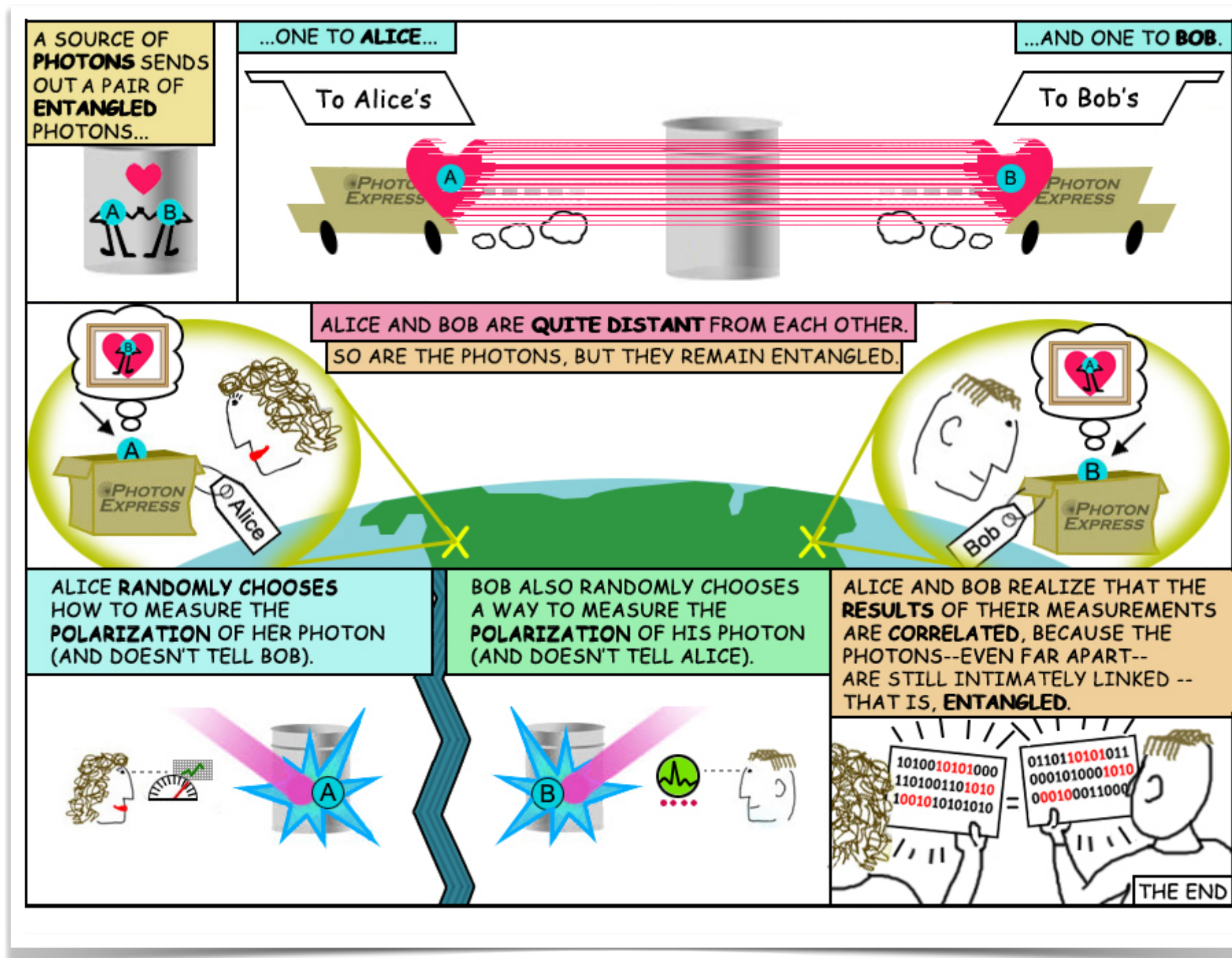
Pure states

$$\begin{aligned} &|\Psi\rangle \text{ or } \rho = |\Psi\rangle \langle \Psi| \\ &\langle \Psi | \mathcal{O} | \Psi \rangle \text{ or } \text{Tr}[\rho \mathcal{O}] \\ &\rho^2 = \rho \quad \text{Tr}[\rho^2] = 1 \end{aligned}$$

Mixed states

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \sum_i p_i |\Psi_i\rangle \langle \Psi_i| \\ &\text{Tr}[\rho \mathcal{O}] \\ &\text{Tr}[\rho^2] < 1 \end{aligned}$$

Entanglement



Bi-partite Separability (Entanglement)

- A system composed of two subsystems A and B is separable if it can be written as a convex sum

$$\rho_{\text{sep}}^{AB} = \sum_i q_i \rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B, \quad \rho_i^A \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}_A), \quad \rho_i^B \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}_B).$$

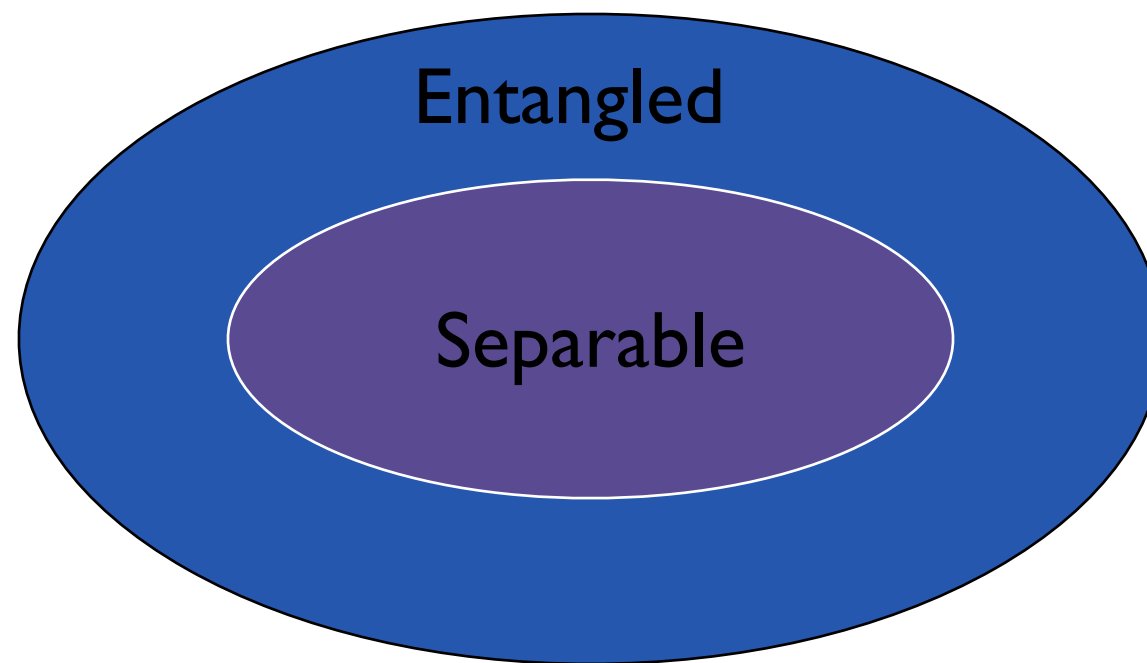
- Non-separable systems are said to be entangled.

Bi-partite Separability (Entanglement)

- A system composed of two subsystems A and B is separable if it can be written as a convex sum

$$\rho_{\text{sep}}^{AB} = \sum_i q_i \rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B, \quad \rho_i^A \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}_A), \quad \rho_i^B \in \mathcal{S}(\mathcal{H}_B).$$

- Non-separable systems are said to be entangled.



Peres-Horodecki Criterion

- If a quantum state is separable over some partition M , its partial transpose is

$$\rho^{T_M} = \sum_i q_i (\rho_i^M)^T \otimes \rho_i^{\overline{M}}, \quad q_i \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_i q_i = 1.$$

- The presence of at least one negative eigenvalue for ρ^{T_M} implies entanglement.
- The converse also holds for systems with 2×2 and 2×3 dimensions.
- States with positive partial transpose are called PPT-states whereas states with negative partial transpose are NPT.

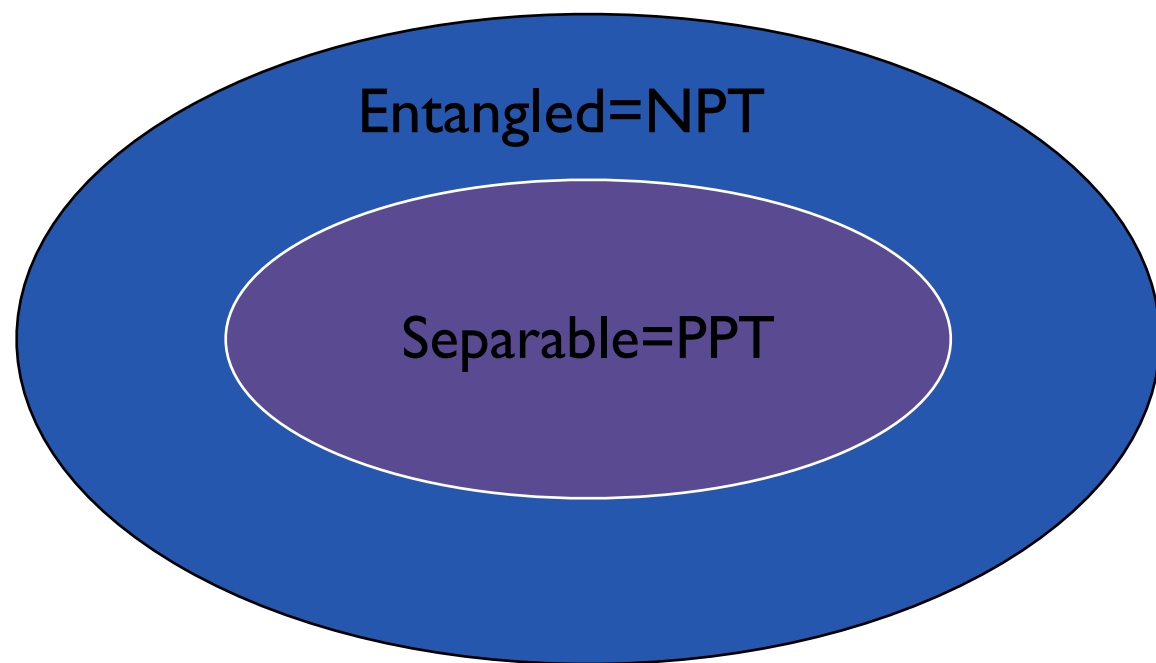
Peres-Horodecki Criterion

- If a quantum state is separable over some partition M , its partial transpose is

$$\rho^{T_M} = \sum_i q_i (\rho_i^M)^T \otimes \rho_i^{\overline{M}}, \quad q_i \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_i q_i = 1.$$

- The presence of at least one negative eigenvalue for ρ^{T_M} implies entanglement.
- The converse also holds for systems with 2×2 and 2×3 dimensions.
- States with positive partial transpose are called PPT-states whereas states with negative partial transpose are NPT.

$2 \times 2, 2 \times 3$



$t\bar{t}, tZ, \bar{t}Z$

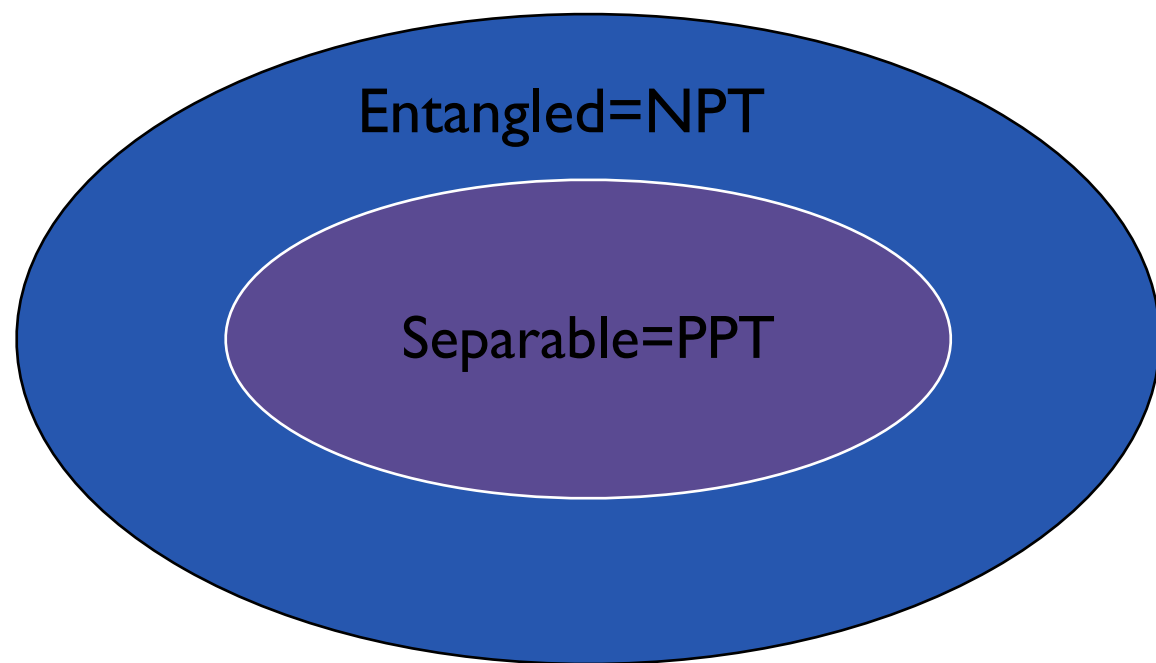
Peres-Horodecki Criterion

- If a quantum state is separable over some partition M , its partial transpose is

$$\rho^{T_M} = \sum_i q_i (\rho_i^M)^T \otimes \rho_i^{\overline{M}}, \quad q_i \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_i q_i = 1.$$

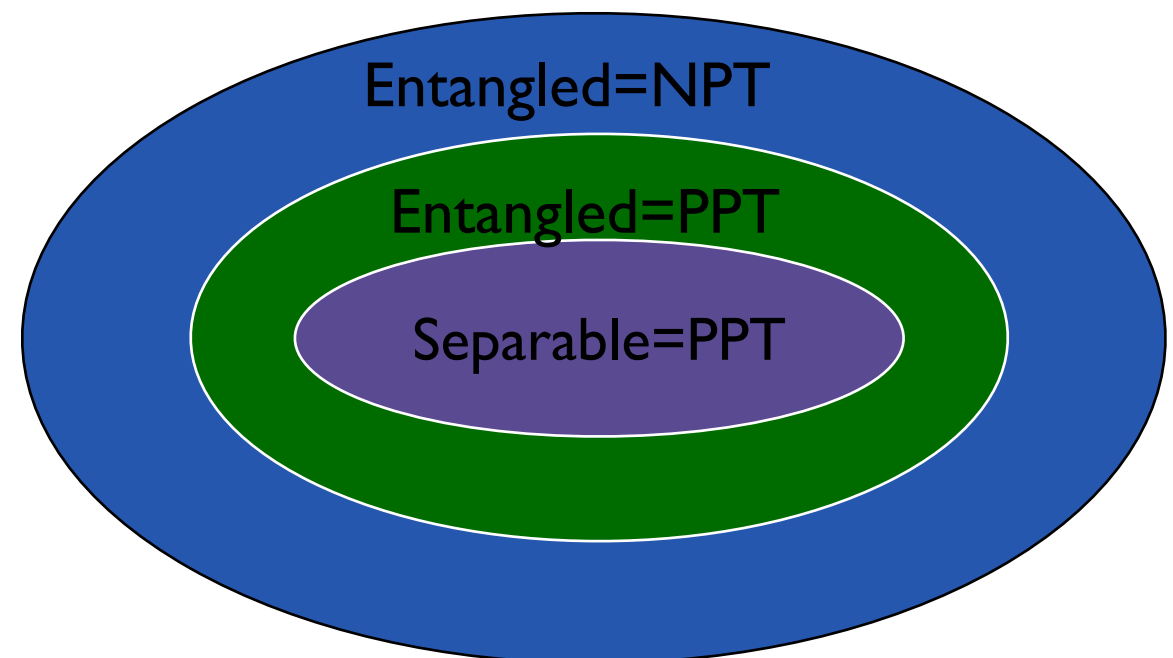
- The presence of at least one negative eigenvalue for ρ^{T_M} implies entanglement.
- The converse also holds for systems with 2×2 and 2×3 dimensions.
- States with positive partial transpose are called PPT-states whereas states with negative partial transpose are NPT.

$2 \times 2, 2 \times 3$



$t\bar{t}, tZ, \bar{t}Z$

$d_M \times d_{\overline{M}} > 6$



$Z|t\bar{t}, t|\bar{t}Z, \bar{t}|tZ$

Separability in Tripartite Systems

- A system composed of three parties A, B and C, is called **fully separable** if it admits a convex decomposition

$$\rho^{\text{fs}} = \sum_i q_i \rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B \otimes \rho_i^C, \quad q_i \geq 0, \text{ and } \sum_i q_i = 1.$$

- Fully separable states contain only classical correlations among the three subsystems.
- All entanglement measures vanish for such states.
- It is called **M-separable** if it admits a decomposition

$$\rho^{M|\overline{M}} = \sum_i q_i \rho_i^M \otimes \rho_i^{\overline{M}}, \quad q_i \geq 0, \text{ and } \sum_i q_i = 1.$$

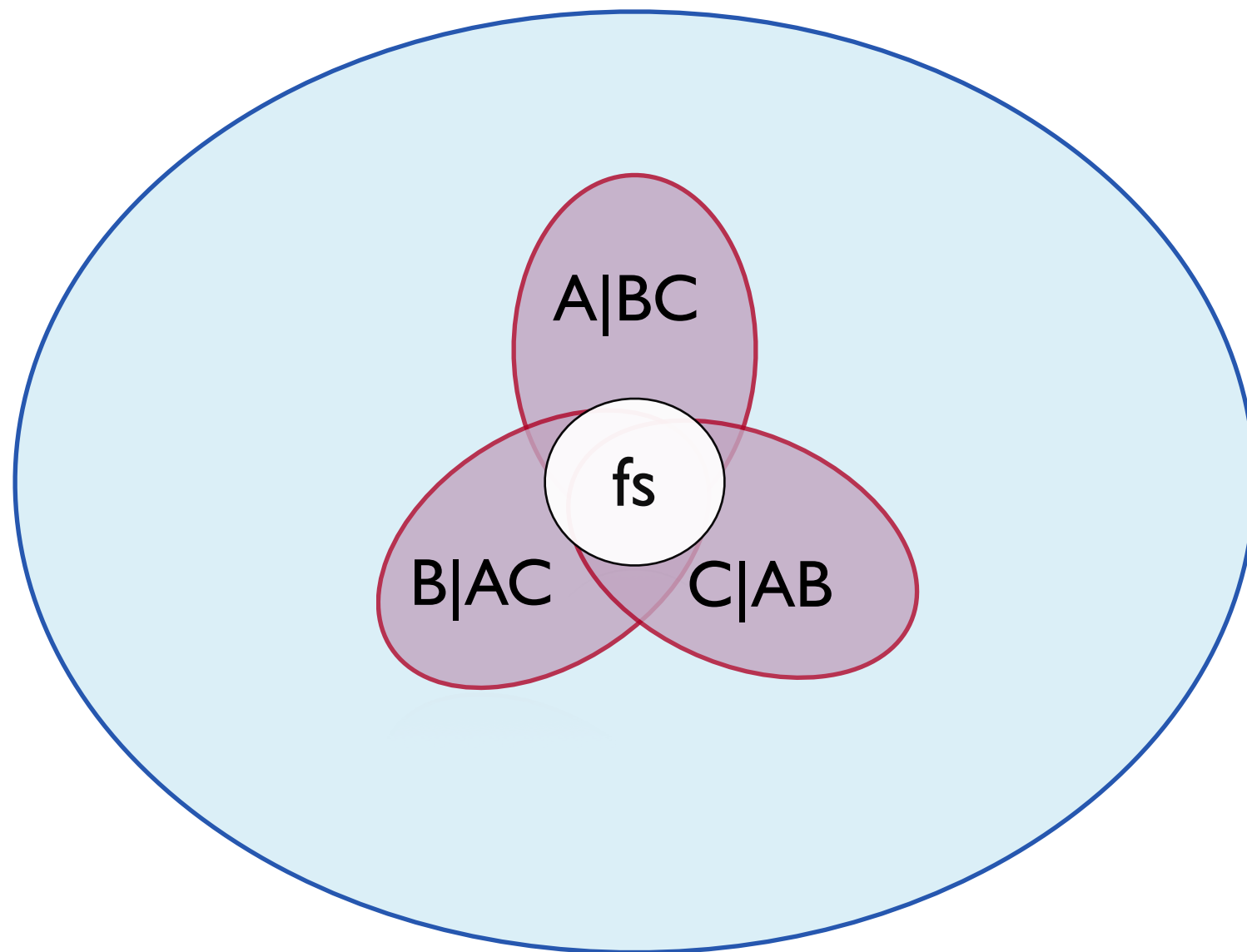
Separability in Tripartite Systems

- A system composed of three parties A, B and C, is called **fully separable** if it admits a convex decomposition

$$\rho^{\text{fs}} = \sum_i p_i \rho_i^A \otimes \rho_i^B \otimes \rho_i^C \quad p_i \geq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \sum_i p_i = 1.$$

- Fully separable states.
- All entanglement is along the three
- It is called **M-separable**

$$\rho^M$$



long the three

$$= 1.$$

Separability in Tripartite Systems

- A tripartite state is called **bi-separable** if it can be expressed as a convex mixture of states that are separable across different bipartitions:

$$\rho^{\text{bs}} = q_1 \rho^{A|BC} + q_2 \rho^{B|AC} + q_3 \rho^{C|AB}, \quad q_i \geq 0 \text{ and } q_1 + q_2 + q_3 = 1.$$

- A general mixed state may be bi-separable even if it is non-M-separable for all cuts.
- A state that is not bi-separable is called **genuine multipartite entangled** (GME).

Separability in Tripartite Systems

- A tripartite state is called **bi-separable** if it can be expressed as a convex mixture of states that are separable across different bipartitions:

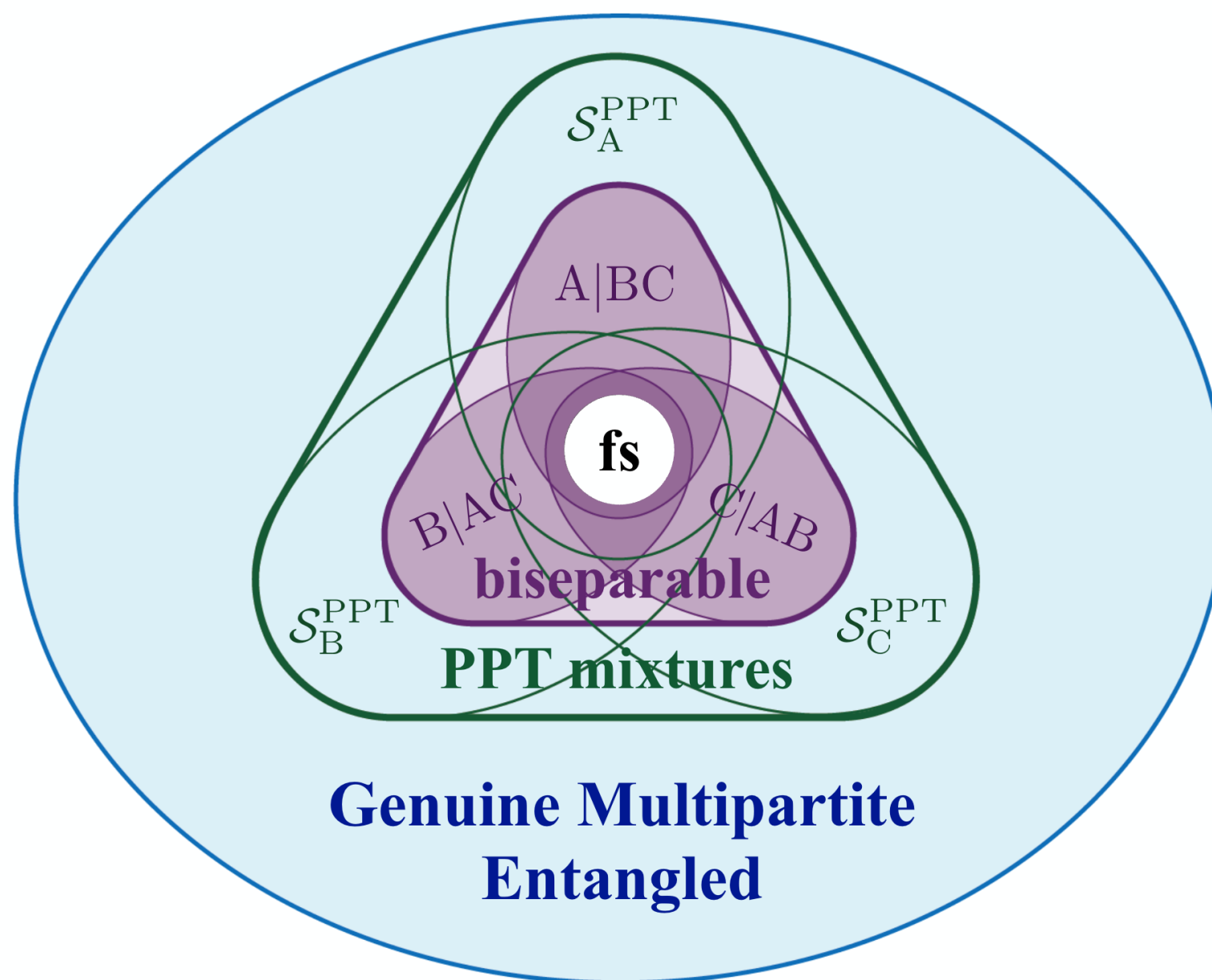
$$\rho^{\text{bs}} = q_1 \rho^{A|BC} + q_2 \rho^{B|AC} + q_3 \rho^{C|AB}, \quad q_i \geq 0 \text{ and } q_1 + q_2 + q_3 = 1.$$

- A general n cuts.

- A state that

separable for all

ignored (GME).



Entanglement Measures

- ❑ An entanglement measure, $E(\rho) \geq 0$. It has the property of vanishing for all separable states. Moreover, if such function is positive for all entangled states is also called **faithful**.
- ❑ Another property is the monotonicity. An entanglement measure is called an **entanglement monotone** if it is non-increasing under local operations and classical communication (LOCC).

$$E(\Lambda_{\text{LOCC}}(\rho)) \leq E(\rho).$$

- ❑ The magnitude of the entanglement measure acquires a operational meaning: imposes a partial ordering on entangled states.
- ❑ And the convexity. An entanglement measure E is said to be **convex** if it does not increase under probabilistic mixing

$$E\left(\sum_i q_i \rho_i\right) \leq \sum_i q_i E(\rho_i).$$

Entanglement Measures

- Recall the entanglement measure, $E(\rho) \geq 0$. It has the property of vanishing for all separable states. Moreover, if such function is positive for all entangled states is also called **faithful**.
- Another property is the monotonicity. An entanglement measure is called an **entanglement monotone** if it is non-increasing under local operations and classical communication (LOCC).

$$E(\Lambda_{\text{LOCC}}(\rho)) \leq E(\rho).$$

- The imp - And not	Concurrence	2×2	Higher dim	meaning: does
	Pure	Faithful Easy to compute	Faithful Easy to compute	
	Mixed	Faithful Easy to compute	Faithful Hard to compute	

\ i / i

Negativity

- The Negativity for a state, ρ , is defined as $N_M(\rho) = \frac{||\rho^{T_M}||_1 - 1}{2}$. Vidal and Werner (2002)
- It can also be computed in terms of the negative eigenvalues of ρ^{T_M}

$$N_M(\rho) = \sum_i \frac{|\lambda_i| - \lambda_i}{2} = \sum_{\lambda_i < 0} |\lambda_i|.$$

- Is positive iff the state is NPT. Vanishes for all separable states since separable states are PPT.

Negativity

- The Negativity for a state, ρ , is defined as $N_M(\rho) = \frac{||\rho^{T_M}||_1 - 1}{2}$. Vidal and Werner (2002)
- It can also be computed in terms of the negative eigenvalues of ρ^{T_M}

$$N_M(\rho) = \sum_i \frac{|\lambda_i| - \lambda_i}{2} = \sum_{\lambda_i < 0} |\lambda_i|.$$

- Is positive iff the state is NPT. Vanishes for all separable states since separable states are PPT.

Negativity	$2 \times 2, 2 \times 3$	Higher dim
Pure	Faithful Easy to compute	Faithful Easy to compute
Mixed	Faithful Easy to compute	Non-faithful Easy to compute

Negativity

- The Negativity for a state, ρ , is defined as $N_M(\rho) = \frac{||\rho^{T_M}||_1 - 1}{2}$. Vidal and Werner (2002)
- It can also be computed in terms of the negative eigenvalues of ρ^{T_M}

$$N_M(\rho) = \sum_i \frac{|\lambda_i| - \lambda_i}{2} = \sum_{\lambda_i < 0} |\lambda_i|.$$

- Is positive iff the state is NPT. Vanishes for all separable states since separable states are PPT.

Negativity	$2 \times 2, 2 \times 3$	Higher dim
Pure	Faithful Easy to compute	Faithful Easy to compute
Mixed	Faithful Easy to compute	Non-faithful Easy to compute

- It is bounded.

$$N_M(\rho) \leq \frac{d_{\min} - 1}{2}, \quad d_{\min} \equiv \min(d_M, d_{\overline{M}}).$$

Negativity in the $t\bar{t}Z$ System

- Negativity can be used to test for entanglement between any two partition, A and B, after tracing out the other

$$\rho_{t\bar{t}} = \text{Tr}_Z[\rho] \quad (2 \times 2), \quad \rho_{tZ} = \text{Tr}_{\bar{t}}[\rho] \quad (2 \times 3), \quad \rho_{\bar{t}Z} = \text{Tr}_t[\rho] \quad (2 \times 3).$$

- We call this **one-to-one entanglement**.

$$\text{(separable)} \quad 0 \leq N_{t\bar{t}}, N_{tZ}, N_{\bar{t}Z} \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{(maximally entangled)}.$$

- Can also consider entanglement between one partition and the rest of the system

$$N(Z|t\bar{t}) \equiv N_Z(\rho) \quad (3 \times 4), \quad N(t|\bar{t}Z) \equiv N_t(\rho) \quad (2 \times 6), \quad N(\bar{t}|tZ) \equiv N_{\bar{t}}(\rho) \quad (2 \times 6).$$

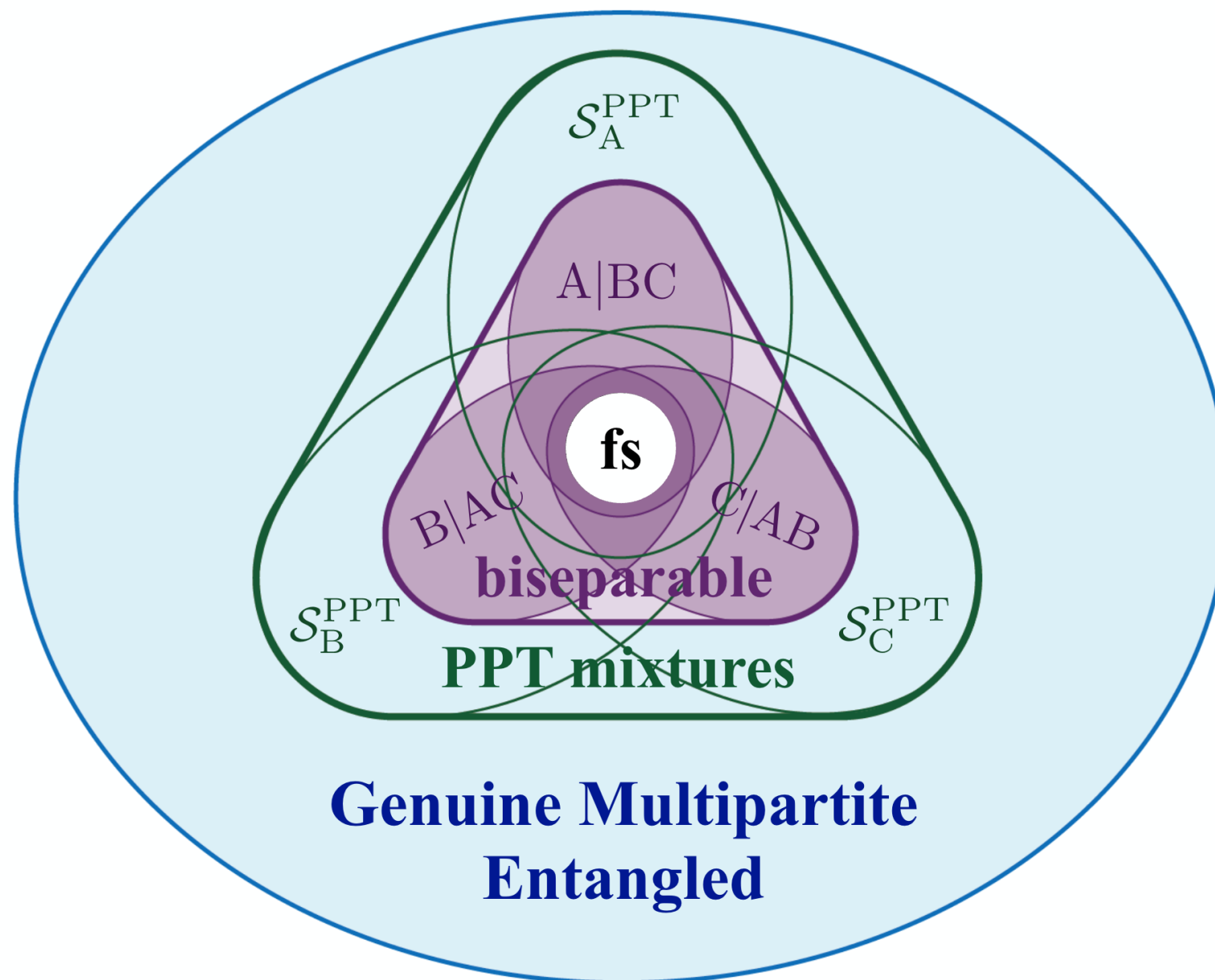
- This type of entanglement is called **one-to-other entanglement**.

$$\begin{aligned} & 0 \leq N(Z|t\bar{t}) \leq 1 \\ \text{(PPT)} \quad & 0 \leq N(t|\bar{t}Z), N(\bar{t}|tZ) \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad \text{(maximally entangled)} \end{aligned}$$

Genuine Multipartite Negativity

□ First define PPT mixtures

$$\rho^{\text{PPT-mix}} = p_A \rho_A^{\text{PPT}} + p_B \rho_B^{\text{PPT}} + p_C \rho_C^{\text{PPT}}, \quad p_M \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_M p_M = 1$$



Genuine Multipartite Negativity

- First define PPT mixtures

$$\rho^{\text{PPT-mix}} = p_A \rho_A^{\text{PPT}} + p_B \rho_B^{\text{PPT}} + p_C \rho_C^{\text{PPT}}, \quad p_M \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_M p_M = 1$$

- We want to construct a witness that detects non-PPT-mixtures. Follow the construction of Jungnitsch, Moroder and Gühne (JMG). [Jungnitsch, Moroder, Gühne \(2011\)](#)

- Consider a fully decomposable hermitian witness

$$\mathcal{W} = P_M + Q_M^{T_M}, \quad 0 \leq P_M, \quad 0 \leq Q_M \leq 1,$$

- To quantify how strongly a state violates the PPT mixture condition, we minimize over the set of all fully decomposable witnesses

$$\overline{\mathcal{N}}_G(\rho) \equiv \min_{\{P_M, Q_M\}} \text{Tr}[\rho \mathcal{W}].$$

- The genuine multipartite negativity (GMN) is then defined as

$$\mathcal{N}_G(\rho) \equiv -\overline{\mathcal{N}}_G(\rho) \geq 0.$$

- By construction

$$\rho \notin \mathcal{S}^{\text{PPT-mix}} \iff \mathcal{N}_G(\rho) > 0.$$

Genuine Multipartite Negativity

- First define PPT mixtures

$$\rho^{\text{PPT-mix}} = p_A \rho_A^{\text{PPT}} + p_B \rho_B^{\text{PPT}} + p_C \rho_C^{\text{PPT}}, \quad p_M \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_M p_M = 1$$

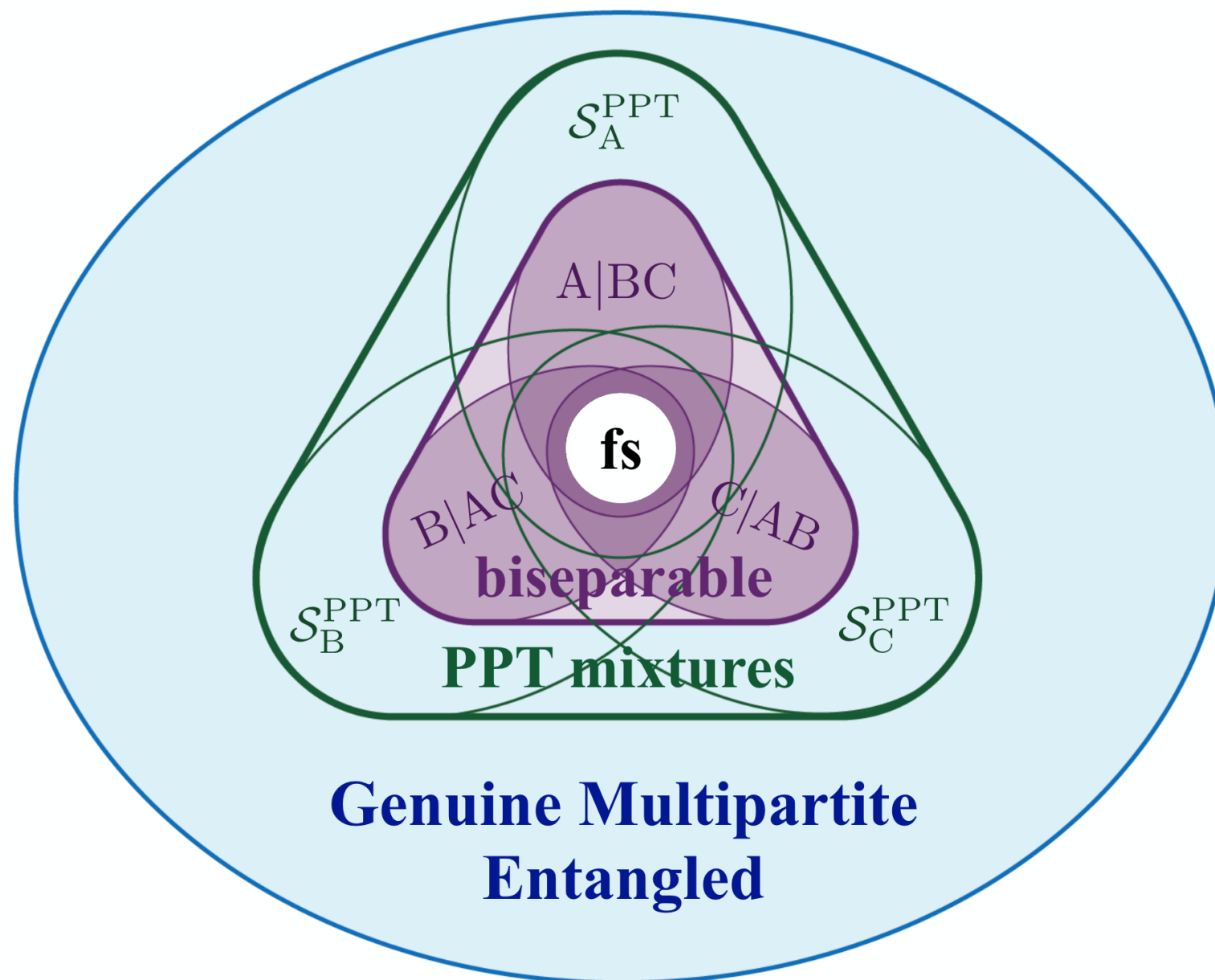
- We want to construct a witness that detects non-PPT-mixtures. Follow the construction [der, Gühne \(2011\)](#)

- Consider a f

- To quantify f over the set

- The genuine

- By construct



n, we minimize

Genuine Multipartite Negativity

- First define PPT mixtures

$$\rho^{\text{PPT-mix}} = p_A \rho_A^{\text{PPT}} + p_B \rho_B^{\text{PPT}} + p_C \rho_C^{\text{PPT}}, \quad p_M \geq 0 \text{ and } \sum_M p_M = 1$$

- We want to construct a witness that detects non-PPT-mixtures. Follow the construction of Jungnitsch, Moroder and Gühne (JMG). [Jungnitsch, Moroder, Gühne \(2011\)](#)

- Consider a fully decomposable hermitian witness

$$\mathcal{W} = P_M + Q_M^{T_M}, \quad 0 \leq P_M, \quad 0 \leq Q_M \leq 1,$$

- To quantify how strongly a state violates the PPT mixture condition, we minimize over the set of all fully decomposable witnesses

$$\overline{\mathcal{N}}_G(\rho) \equiv \min_{\{P_M, Q_M\}} \text{Tr}[\rho \mathcal{W}].$$

- The genuine multipartite negativity (GMN) is then defined as

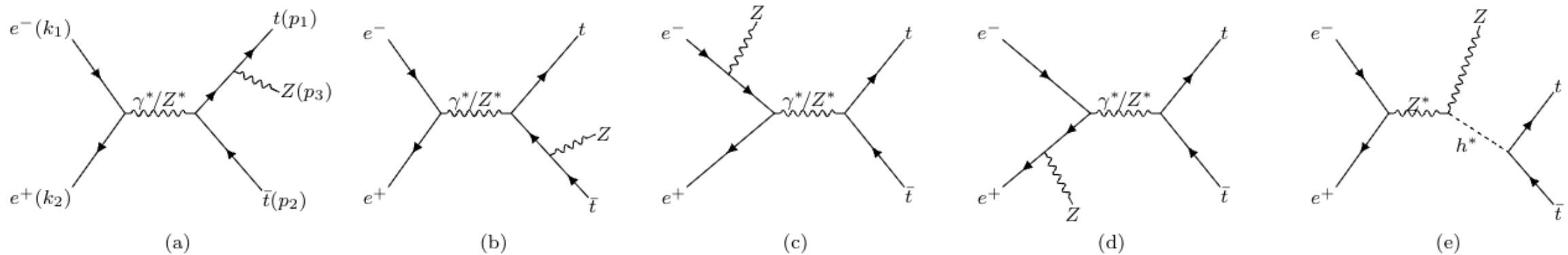
$$\mathcal{N}_G(\rho) \equiv -\overline{\mathcal{N}}_G(\rho) \geq 0.$$

- For the $2 \times 2 \times 3$ systems

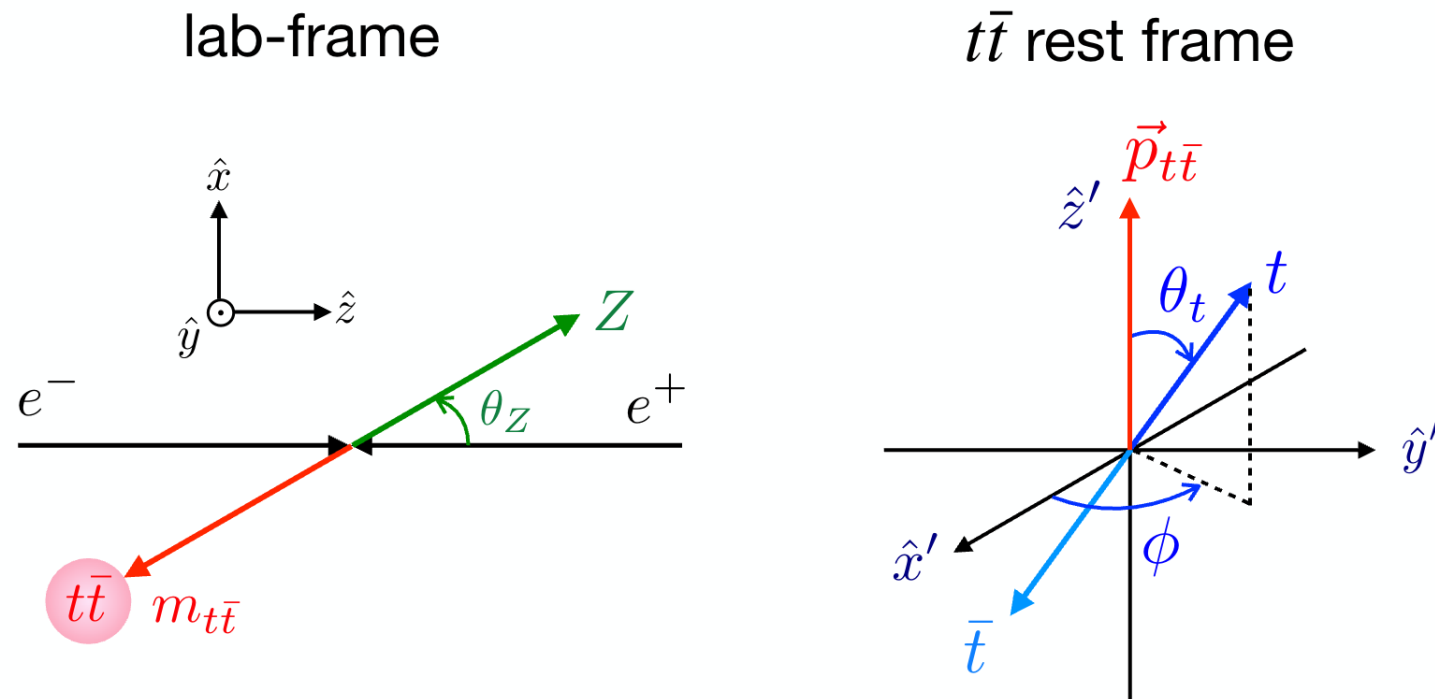
$$\text{(PPT-mixture)} \quad 0 \leq \mathcal{N}_G(\rho) \leq \frac{1}{2} \quad (\text{maximally GME}).$$

The $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z$ System

- Consider $t\bar{t}Z$ production at electron-positron colliders.

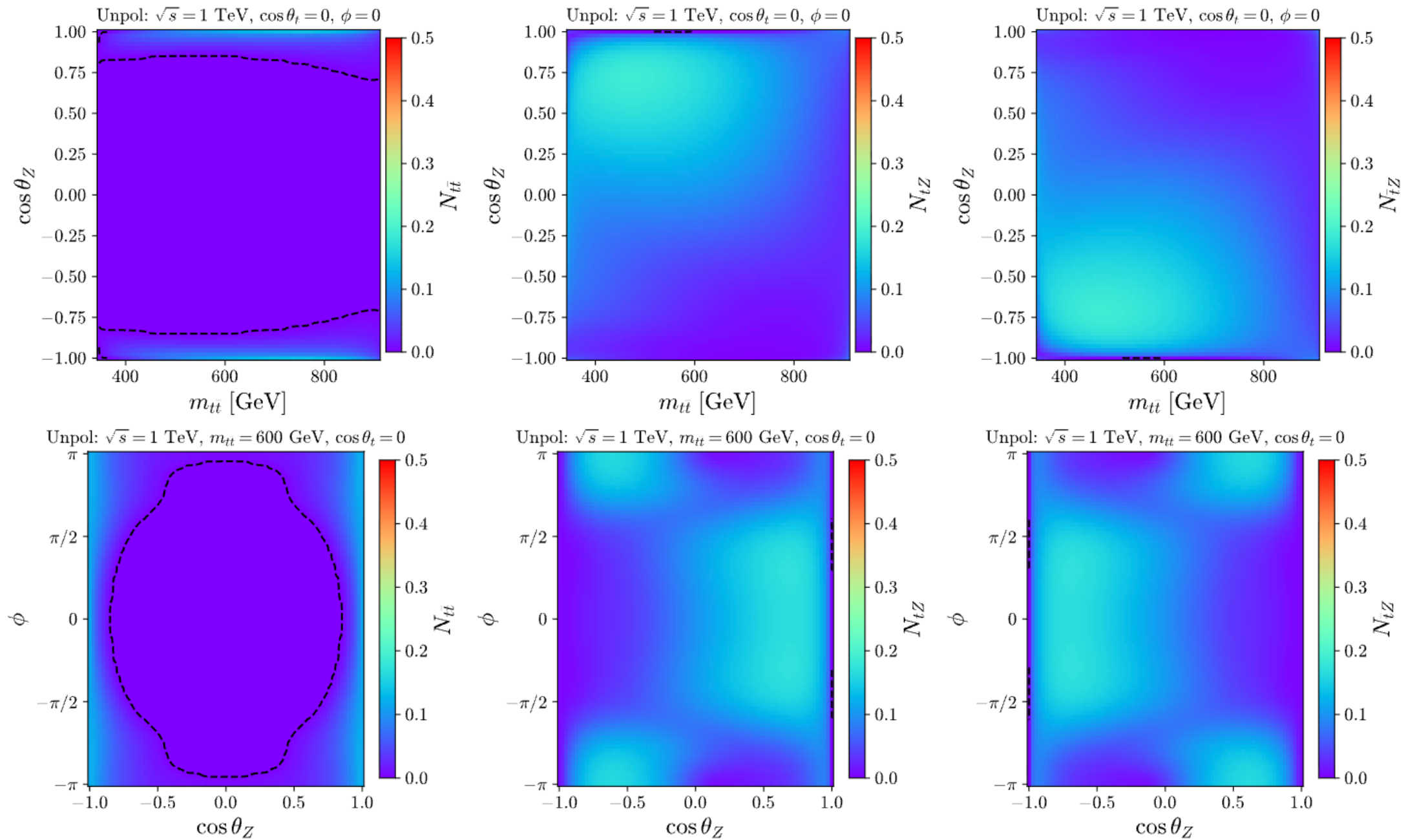


- Describe the kinematics by four observables



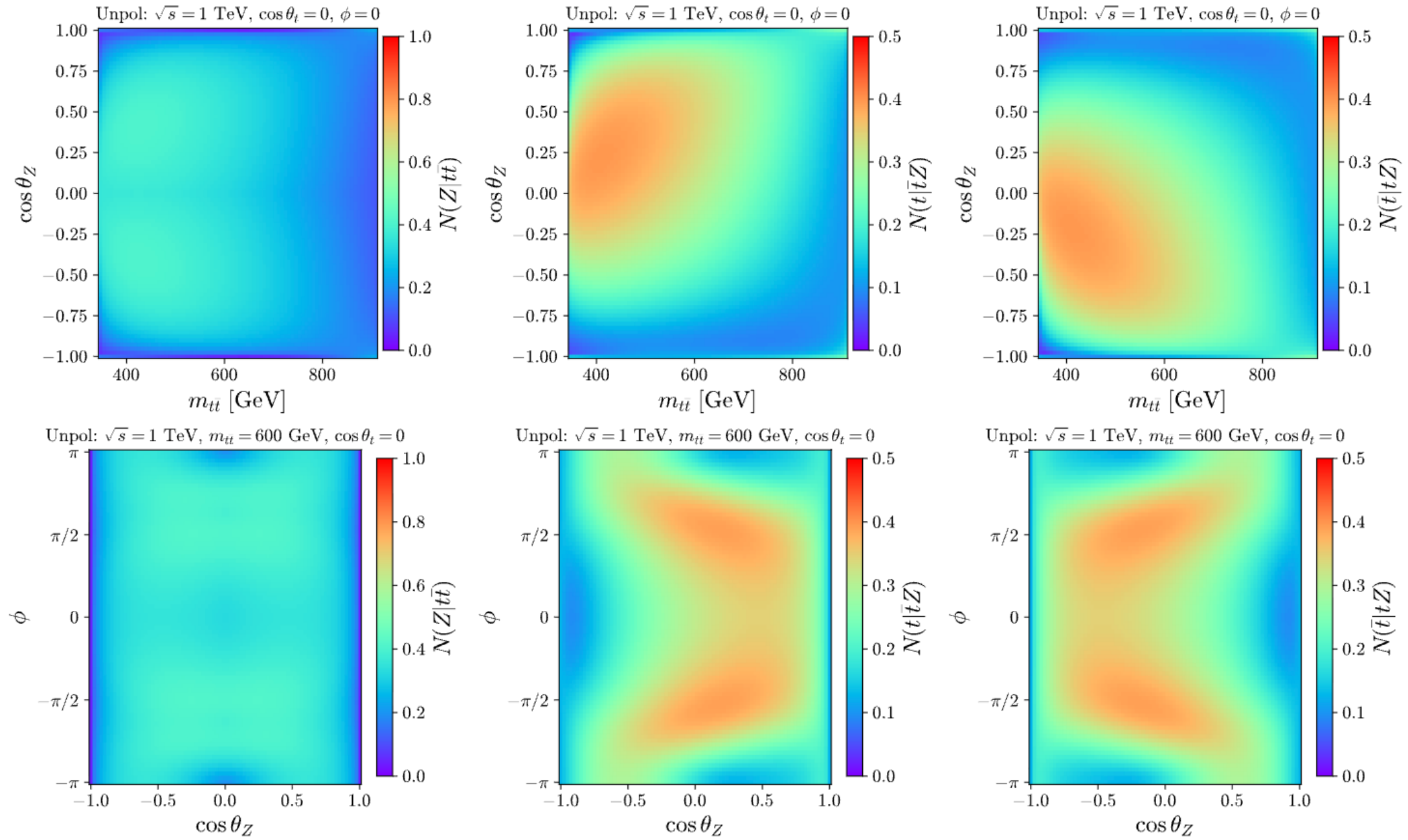
Entanglement Across the Phase Space

□ One-to-one negativities



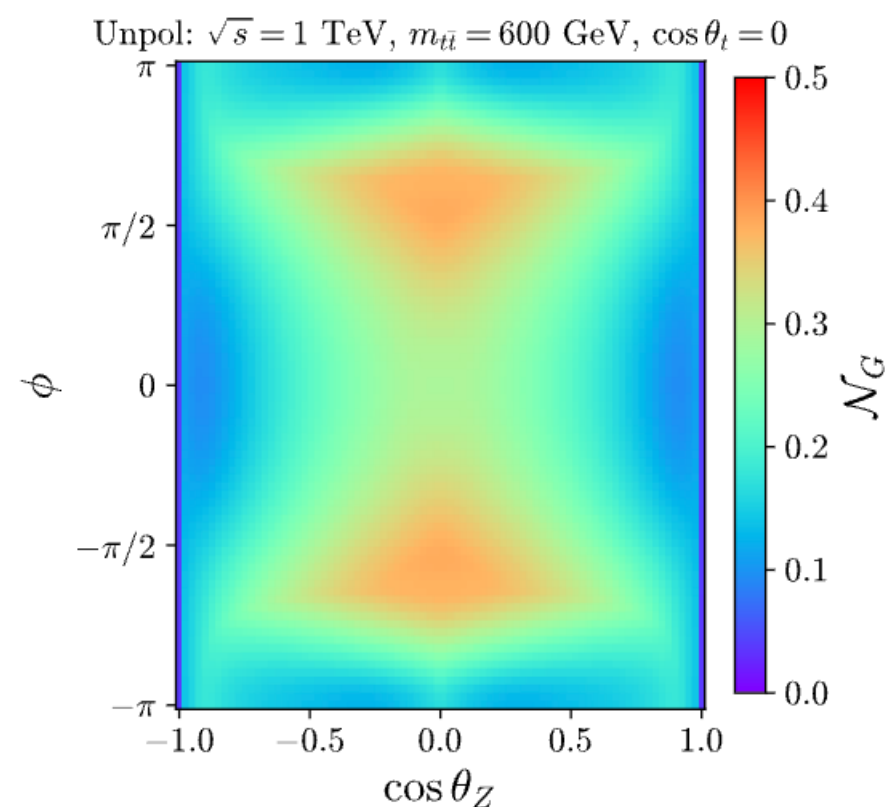
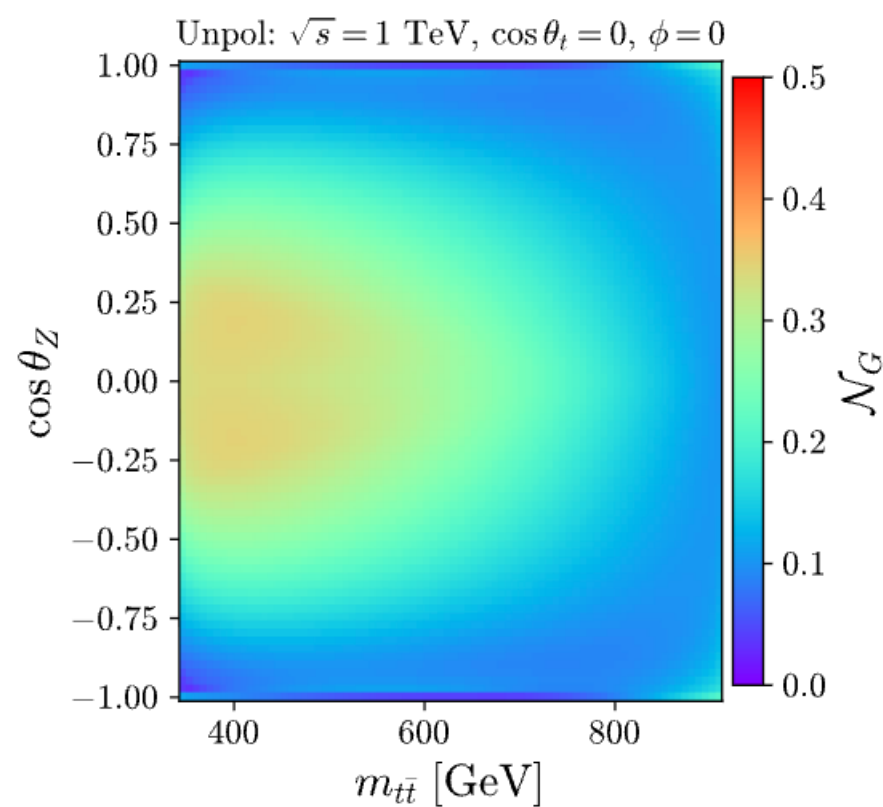
Entanglement Across the Phase Space

□ One-to-other negativities

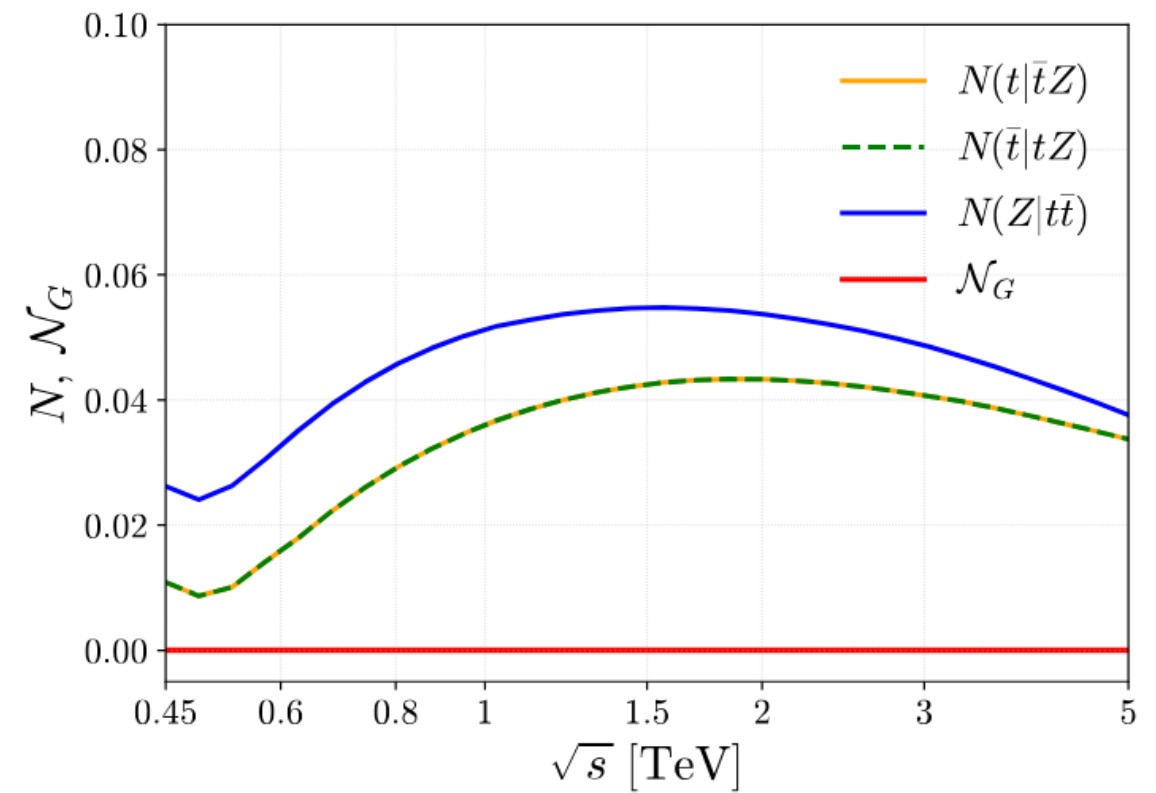
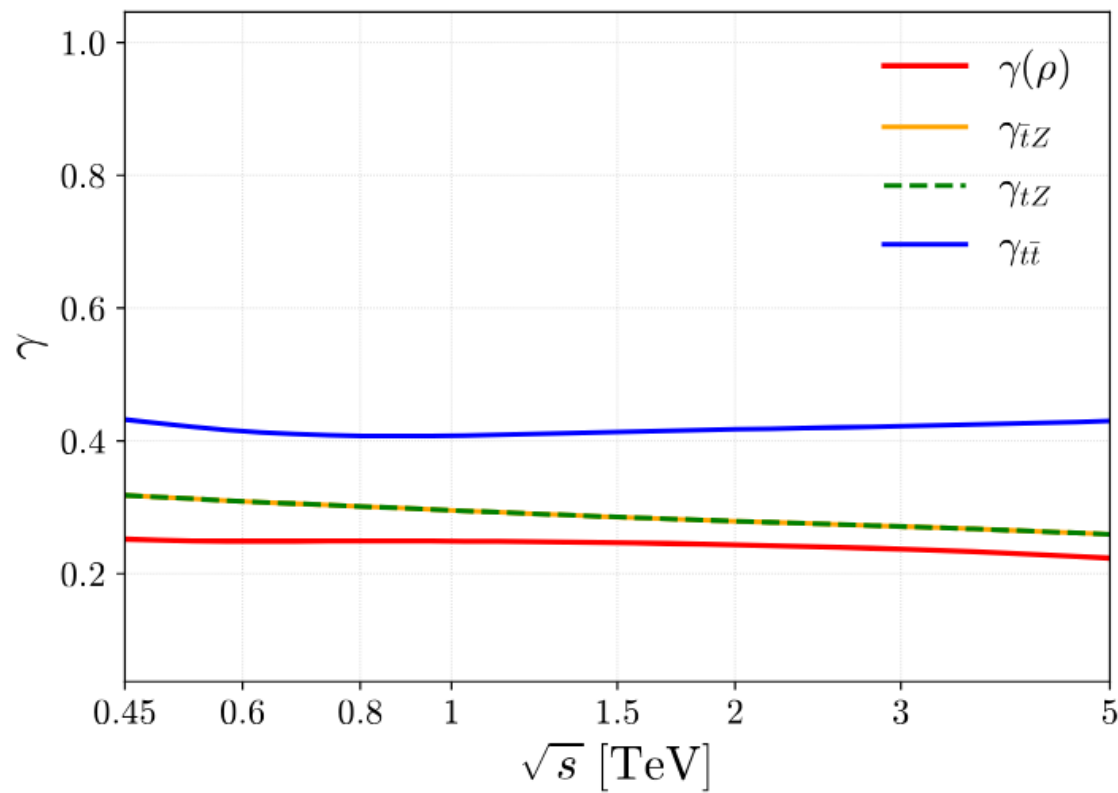


Entanglement Across the Phase Space

□ GMN



Entanglement in the Inclusive Phase Space



Predictions for Future Colliders

□ Projections for probing in two semi-inclusive regions

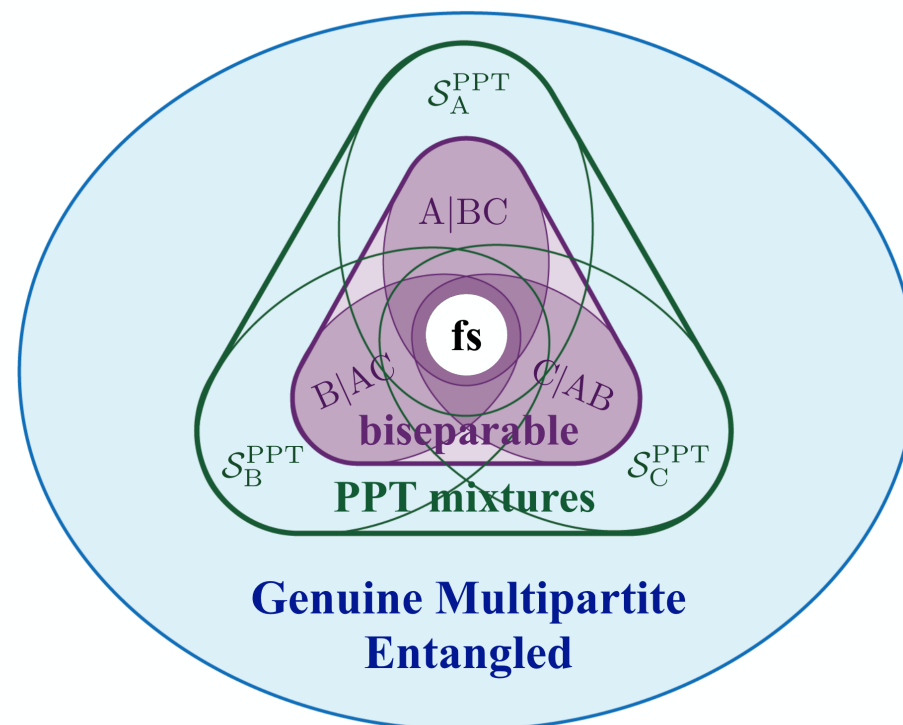
$$\Sigma_{1|2} : \quad |\cos \theta_Z| < 0.7 \quad \text{and} \quad m_{t\bar{t}} < 550 \text{ GeV}.$$

$$\Sigma_{\text{GME}} : \quad |\cos \theta_Z| < 0.5 \quad \text{and} \quad m_{t\bar{t}} < 420 \text{ GeV}.$$

	$N(Z t\bar{t})$			$N(t \bar{t}Z)$			$\mathcal{N}_G$		
significance, luminosities	σ_v	$\mathcal{L}_{1\sigma}$	$\mathcal{L}_{2\sigma}$	σ_v	$\mathcal{L}_{1\sigma}$	$\mathcal{L}_{2\sigma}$	σ_v	$\mathcal{L}_{1\sigma}$	$\mathcal{L}_{2\sigma}$
Unpol	1.1	6.2	24.8	1.5	3.3	13.2	0.65	19.1	76.4
Pol+	1.0	7.9	31.7	1.4	4.1	16.4	0.57	24.6	98.4
Pol−	1.9	2.3	9.1	2.6	1.2	4.7	1.01	7.8	31.1

Summary

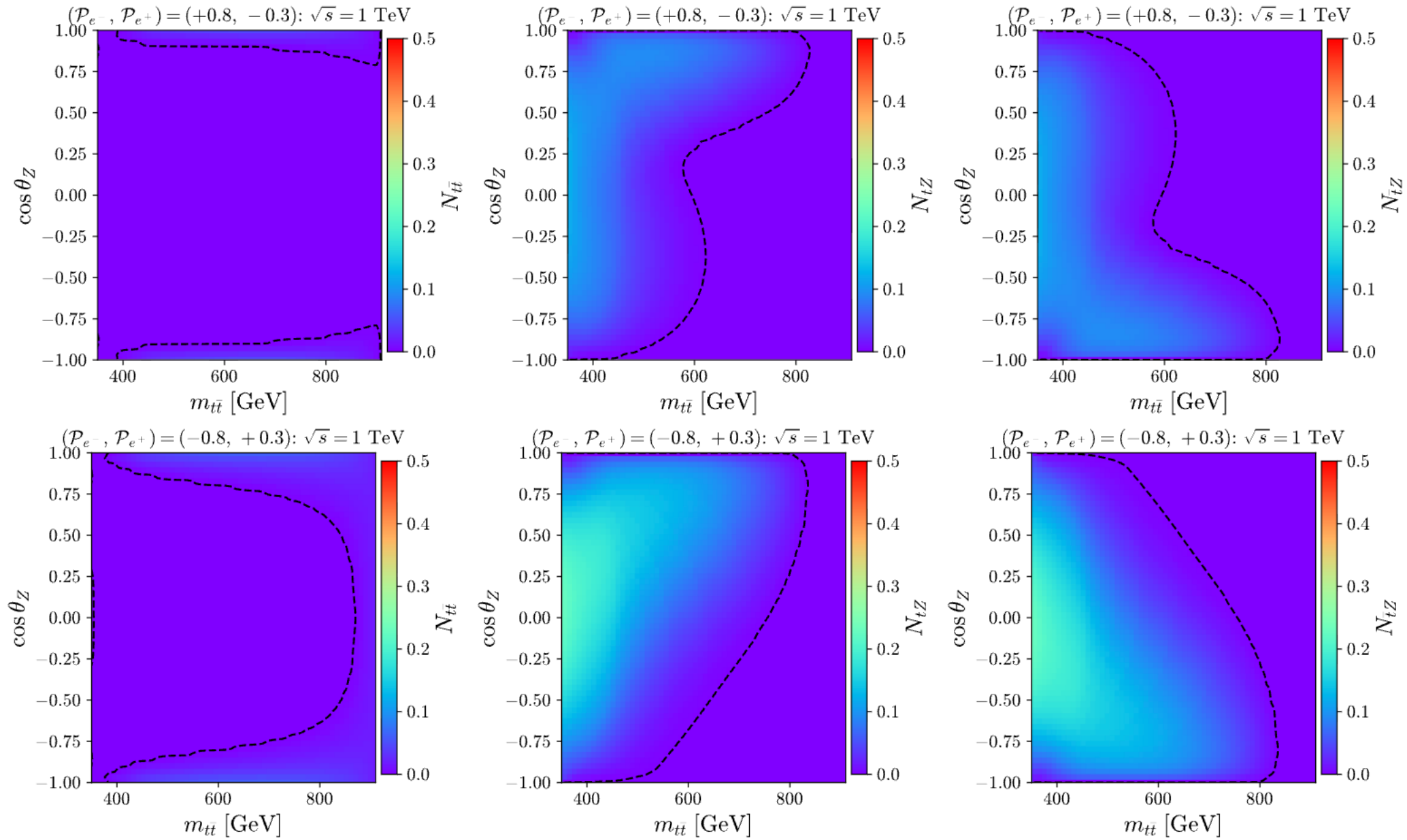
- ❑ Introduced a general framework to study multipartite entanglement in collider environments.
- ❑ Applied this formalism to $e^+e^- \rightarrow t\bar{t}Z$ and showed that bi-partite and GME is present in certain kinematic regions. Integration over the full phase space reduces the entanglement significantly. Nevertheless, one can consider partially inclusive regions.
- ❑ Possibility to extend this study to other tripartite systems or future colliders.



Thank you!

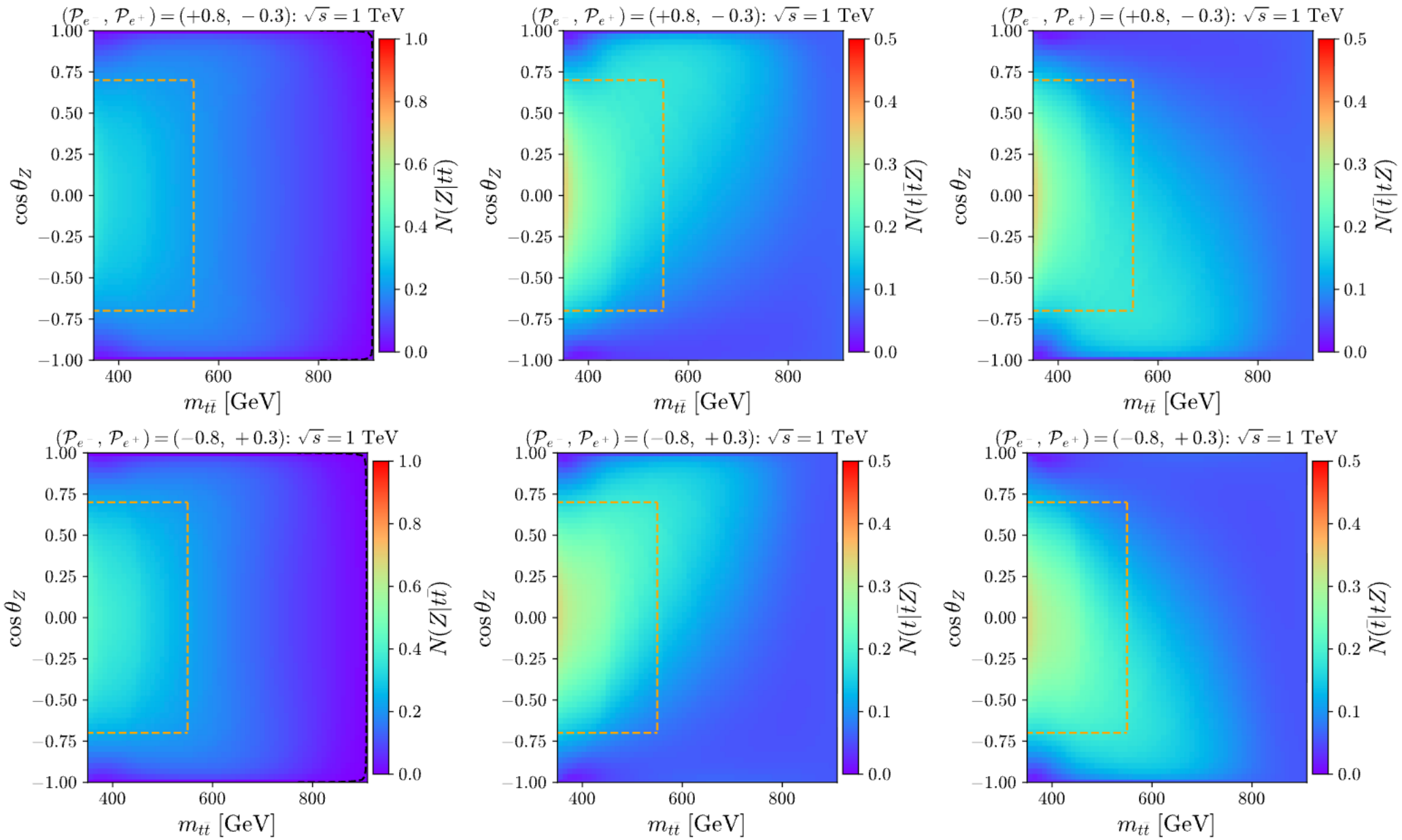
Beam Polarization Effects

- Weak dependence on beam polarizations



Beam Polarization Effects

- Weak dependence on beam polarizations



Quantum Tomography

□ Density matrix parametrized in terms of the irreducible tensor operators

$$\rho = \frac{1}{12} \left(\mathbb{I}_{12} + A_{L_1 M_1}^1 t_{M_1}^{L_1} \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes \mathbb{I}_3 + A_{L_2 M_2}^2 \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes t_{M_2}^{L_2} \otimes \mathbb{I}_3 + A_{L_3 M_3}^3 \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes T_{M_3}^{L_3} \right. \\ \left. + C_{L_1 M_1 L_2 M_2}^{12} t_{M_1}^{L_1} \otimes t_{M_2}^{L_2} \otimes \mathbb{I}_3 + C_{L_1 M_1 L_3 M_3}^{13} t_{M_1}^{L_1} \otimes \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes T_{M_3}^{L_3} + C_{L_2 M_2 L_3 M_3}^{23} \mathbb{I}_2 \otimes t_{M_2}^{L_2} \otimes T_{M_3}^{L_3} \right. \\ \left. + C_{L_1 M_1 L_2 M_2 L_3 M_3}^{123} t_{M_1}^{L_1} \otimes t_{M_2}^{L_2} \otimes T_{M_3}^{L_3} \right),$$

□ Full differential distribution described in term of spherical harmonics

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3} = \frac{1}{(4\pi)^3} \left[1 + A_{L_1 M_1}^1 B_{L_1}^1 Y_{L_1}^{M_1}(\Omega_1) + A_{L_1 M_1}^2 B_{L_2}^2 Y_{L_2}^{M_2}(\Omega_2) \right. \\ \left. + A_{L_3 M_3}^3 B_{L_3}^3 Y_{L_3}^{M_3}(\Omega_3) + C_{L_1 M_1 L_2 M_2}^{12} B_{L_1}^1 B_{L_2}^2 Y_{L_1}^{M_1}(\Omega_1) Y_{L_2}^{M_2}(\Omega_2) \right. \\ \left. + C_{L_1 M_1 L_3 M_3}^{13} B_{L_1}^1 B_{L_3}^3 Y_{L_1}^{M_1}(\Omega_1) Y_{L_3}^{M_3}(\Omega_3) + C_{L_2 M_2 L_3 M_3}^{23} B_{L_2}^2 B_{L_3}^3 Y_{L_2}^{M_2}(\Omega_2) Y_{L_3}^{M_3}(\Omega_3) \right. \\ \left. + C_{L_1 M_1 L_2 M_2 L_3 M_3}^{123} B_{L_1}^1 B_{L_2}^2 B_{L_3}^3 Y_{L_1}^{M_1}(\Omega_1) Y_{L_2}^{M_2}(\Omega_2) Y_{L_3}^{M_3}(\Omega_3) \right]$$

$L_{1,2} = 1, -L_{1,2} \leq M_{1,2} \leq L_{1,2}, L_3 = 1, 2 \text{ and } -L_3 \leq M_3 \leq L_3, \text{ and}$
 $B_1^{1,2} = \frac{2\sqrt{\pi}}{3}\beta_{1,2}, B_1^3 = -\sqrt{2\pi}\eta_3 \text{ and } B_2^3 = \sqrt{2\pi/5}(1 - 3\delta_3)$

□ Density matrix parameters extracted using the orthogonality of the spherical harmonics

$$\int \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3} Y_{L_i}^{M_i}(\Omega_i)^* d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3 = \frac{B_{L_i}^i}{4\pi} A_{L_i M_i}^i, \quad i = 1, 2, 3$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3} Y_{L_i}^{M_i}(\Omega_i)^* Y_{L_j}^{M_j}(\Omega_j)^* d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3 = \frac{B_{L_i}^i}{4\pi} \frac{B_{L_j}^j}{4\pi} C_{L_i M_i L_j M_j}^{ij}, \quad i \neq j,$$

$$\int \frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3} Y_{L_1}^{M_1}(\Omega_1)^* Y_{L_2}^{M_2}(\Omega_2)^* Y_{L_3}^{M_3}(\Omega_3)^* d\Omega_1 d\Omega_2 d\Omega_3 = \frac{B_{L_1}^1}{4\pi} \frac{B_{L_2}^2}{4\pi} \frac{B_{L_3}^3}{4\pi} C_{L_1 M_1 L_2 M_2 L_3 M_3}^{123}.$$