Missing top properties

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Missing top properties?

Focus not on what you already know from TOP ≤ 2013 but on what you may not know [yet no claim this is all new and revolutionary, ok?]

The anomalous A_{FB} at Tevatron — not settled despite claims — has fostered the study of top properties. JAAS et al. RMP '14 not only A_{FB}



Discuss observables which are simple and interesting [sensitive to new physics] but have not been yet measured.

• framework

Outlook: O top polarisation at Tevatron

• top polarisation at LHC

AFB / AC not explicitly covered but will always be around

Production and decay of top quarks

The top is not stable but decays. The full matrix element contains a top propagator. Since the top is a narrow resonance $[\Gamma_t/m_t \ll I]$, the <u>amplitude</u> can decomposed into production \times decay.



Therefore, the squared matrix element [and the differential cross section] can be written as



By introducing ρ we are "ignoring" on purpose the details of the top production process. This applies to tops produced singly, in pairs, from a black hole, etc.

Here, we are taking the z direction as the top momentum in the CM frame [helicity].

As it is clear, we can measure not only $\langle S_z \rangle$ but also $\langle S_x \rangle$ and $\langle S_y \rangle$.

Obviously, to do that we must further specify the reference system, not only the z direction.



Similar thing already proposed and measured for W decays.

Top = tau! | 6 years back, the same was done at LEP.

N·H
ELSEVIER

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Measurement of the weak dipole moments of the τ lepton

L3 Collaboration

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Fig. 1. Reference system used in this analysis. The z axis points in the τ flight direction and the x axis is fixed by the plane containing the τ and the electron flight directions.

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Measuring top polarisation

As always, one can use the charged lepton momentum in the top quark rest frame.



 $\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta_{\ell} d\varphi_{\ell}} = \frac{1}{4\pi} (1 + P_z \cos\theta_{\ell} + P_x \sin\theta_{\ell} \cos\varphi_{\ell} + P_y \sin\theta_{\ell} \sin\varphi_{\ell})$

Godbole et al. '06

for example

Alternatively,



$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta_x} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + P_x \cos\theta_x)$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\sigma} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - P_x \cos\theta_x)$$

$$\frac{1}{\sigma}\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta_y} = \frac{1}{2}(1+P_y\cos\theta_y)$$

Baumgart & Tweedie '13 for example

It may be more convenient experimentally to reduce 2D to ID measurements and clearly no information is lost.

Warning!

We have been speaking about expectation values of spin operators.

Nowhere have I mentioned such thing as that top quarks are produced with a definite helicity [spin].

Saying that a top quark is produced with a definite helicity is in general incorrect: the differential cross section does <u>not</u> factorise into production \times decay of helicity states.

We are not performing a Stern-Gerlach-like experiment on top quarks to force them into helicity eigenstates [before they decay].

However, we often see mentions to top spin, for example:

The angles θ_X , $\theta_{\bar{X}'}$ are measured using as spin axis the parent top (anti)quark momentum in the $t\bar{t}$ CM system. The factor

$$C \equiv \frac{\sigma(t_{\rm R}\bar{t}_{\rm R}) + \sigma(t_{\rm L}\bar{t}_{\rm L}) - \sigma(t_{\rm R}\bar{t}_{\rm L}) - \sigma(t_{\rm L}\bar{t}_{\rm R})}{\sigma(t_{\rm R}\bar{t}_{\rm R}) + \sigma(t_{\rm L}\bar{t}_{\rm L}) + \sigma(t_{\rm R}\bar{t}_{\rm L}) + \sigma(t_{\rm L}\bar{t}_{\rm R})}$$
(18) Paper #1

is the relative number of like helicity minus opposite helicity $t\bar{t}$ pairs, and measures the spin correlation between the

$$C = \frac{N_{\text{like}} - N_{\text{unlike}}}{N_{\text{like}} + N_{\text{unlike}}} = \frac{N(\uparrow\uparrow) + N(\downarrow\downarrow) - N(\uparrow\downarrow) - N(\downarrow\uparrow)}{N(\uparrow\uparrow) + N(\downarrow\downarrow) + N(\uparrow\downarrow) + N(\downarrow\uparrow)},$$
(3)

where $N_{\text{like}} = N(\uparrow\uparrow) + N(\downarrow\downarrow)$ is the number of events where the top quark and top antiquark spins are parallel, and $N_{\text{unlike}} = N(\uparrow\downarrow) + N(\downarrow\uparrow)$ is the number of events where they are anti-parallel. The strength of the spin correlation is defined by

Paper #2

Given the previous remarks, several questions arise:

- Speaking about "parallel spins" or "like helicity" makes sense at all? Or should I withdraw my paper from EPJC?
- If it does in some sense, are we measuring what it is written?
- Ok, imagine we are, then why?

Notice that the same questions / concerns apply to W helicity fractions. The W bosons are not produced on shell and their spin is not measured.

Does it make sense?

Of course, one can always calculate C pretending that the top spin is measured. As if tops were electrons.

just use your Feynman rules for tops as external particles





Then, the problem comes to whether the experimental measurement with decaying tops whose spins are not measured, <u>correspond to</u> this *C*.

Are we measuring what is written? Why?

The measurement corresponds to the theoretical calculation for on-shell stable tops when you measure C using

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos(\theta_+) \ d\cos(\theta_-)} = \frac{1}{4} \left(1 + \chi \alpha_+ \alpha_- \cos(\theta_+) \cos(\theta_-) \right) ,$$
(2)

because the off-diagonal matrix elements [interference $A_{\lambda} A^*_{\lambda'}$] do not contribute to this distribution



the off-diagonal density matrix terms cancel when integrating over lepton azimuthal angles [slide 7]

and for this observable measured with this distribution the production \times decay interpretation of tops with definite spin is correct.

[sighs of relief here]

Moral from all this

- One has to be especially careful when studying spin.
- Being overconfident is dangerous. Spins of particles can be considered classically only under certain conditions.
- For example, they cannot when computing A¹FB.
- The language used may hide all this for brevity, but one should be aware of all the caveats. Especially when attempting to do something new.

once this is remarked we can proceed with "missing top properties"

Top pair production at Tevatron

The x direction can be taken in the plane spanned by the top quark momentum and the proton, in CM frame. The y direction is perpendicular to that plane.



The transverse and normal polarisations provide independent probes for new physics.

Example: P_x and P_z for new colour octet M = 250 GeV with reasonable couplings to generate a FB asymmetry at Tevatron. JAAS '14



A normal polarisation P_y requires some nontrivial complex phase in the amplitude.



and Re [$i \in ...$] = 0 unless there are nontrivial complex phases in the amplitude [interference]:

• complex anomalous couplings $V_i V_j^*$ JAAS & Santos '14 JAAS & Bernabéu '10 • large particle widths $\int Baumgart & Tweedie '13$



Top pair production at LHC

At the LHC we have two protons, we need to choose between them to build our reference system.

Let us, for example, choose the proton in direction Saint-Genis.



Since the interactions mediating $q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ do not really care where Saint-Genis is, we have [differentially]



so that P_x and P_y vanish after integration over θ .

This is of course because the quark (antiquark) can come from either proton with equal probability.



Good exercise for students: derive the relations between $P(\theta)$ and $P(\pi - \theta)$ using this fact and the symmetries of the problem.

Possible solutions to yield non-zero P_x and P_y :

 Include sign(cos θ) in the definition of observables. In other words: integral in *forward* – integral in *backward*

Bernreuther, Brandenburg & Uwer '95 ... Bernreuther & SI '13

• Select among protons based on the momentum of the top pair in the LAB frame [try to guess the quark direction]

Baumgart & Tweedie '13; JAAS '14



From Tevatron to LHC



Main penalty: large gg fraction

Photon handle for polarisation?

Already proposed for charge asymmetry A_C





Azimuthal distributions

A different reference system [call it (u,v,w)] is chosen by \checkmark with the w axis in the direction of one of the protons [fixed].



The azimuthal distribution of the charged lepton in this reference system depends on P_u and P_v .

Godbole et al.'10

What about P_x , P_y , P_z ?

Azimuthal distributions for the colour octet benchmark



these azimuthal distributions, sensitive to P_u and P_v , are in fact only sensitive to P_z and <u>not</u> to P_x nor P_y .

[this was clear from the beginning since we don't distinguish protons]

Single top production at LHC

Since long, we know that in the *t*-channel process the tops have a large polarisation in the spectator quark direction. Mahlon & Parke '00

But what about other directions?



Of course, P_x and P_y cannot be very large since $P_x^2 + P_y^2 + P_z^2 \le 1$

Transverse and normal polarisation in single top t-channel

JAAS & Santos '14



If the polarisation is so small, why should it be interesting? Because this can easily change with anomalous Wtb couplings!



And how to choose among the two protons? Obvious: follow the jet.



Correct id of the initial quark [parton level]

95% for t**90% for** \overline{t}

Unconclusions

Oh! But the polarisations you showed are so small...



The benchmark points were chosen just for illustration. P_x can be as large as the P_z that you have measured. It can be increased with cuts, etc.

Maybe the experimental systematics on these observables are large...



These observables are not radically different from the ones already measured, I expect similar uncertainties in the measurement.



Does the polarisation depend a lot on the PDFs?

Conclusions

We have been discussing new observables that might be measured



They provide independent unexplored information on top production



- And this is just the beginning, because we have considered only polarisation, not correlations.
 Baumgart & Tweedie '11
- I'm around and happy to discuss physics also about the asymmetry.





Why is production \times decay correct? More details, please.

Let us describe the decay of an ensemble of top quarks in a S_z eigenstate using the helicity formalism. Jacob & Wick '59



$$A_{M\lambda_1\lambda_2} = a_{\lambda_1\lambda_2} D_{M\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}*}(\phi,\theta,0)$$
$$D_{m'm}^{j}(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) \equiv \langle jm' | e^{-i\alpha J_z} e^{-i\beta J_y} e^{-i\gamma J_z} | jm \rangle$$

 $M = top S_z eigenvalue$ $\lambda_1 = W helicity \lambda_2 = b helicity$ $\Lambda = \lambda_1 - \lambda_2$

 θ , ϕ : spherical coordinates of the W 3-momentum in this reference system. The *b* quark moves in the opposite direction. The [leptonic] decay of the W can be described in a similar fashion introducing a (x', y', z') coordinate system in the W rest frame





 $m = W S_z$ eigenvalue $\lambda_3 = l^+$ helicity $\lambda_4 = v$ helicity $\lambda = \lambda_3 - \lambda_4$

 θ^*, ϕ^* : spherical coordinates of the *l*⁺ 3-momentum in this reference system.

Now, the decay chain can be connected by choosing z' precisely in the direction of \vec{p}_W , so that $m = \lambda_1$



Then, the differential decay width looks as terrible as



[we have assumed that W decay is SM-like to simplify the expression]

Notice we have not forgotten our quantum-mechanics course:

• we are summing over top $S_z[M,M']$ at the amplitude level

• we are summing over possible helicities of intermediate W [λ₁,λ₁] at the amplitude level

The integration over azimuthal angles is easy since $J_z |jm\rangle = m |jm\rangle$

$$D^{j}_{m'm}(\alpha,\beta,\gamma) = \langle jm'|e^{-i\alpha J_{z}}e^{-i\beta J_{y}}e^{-i\gamma J_{z}}|jm\rangle = e^{-i\alpha m'}e^{-i\gamma m}\langle jm'|e^{-i\beta J_{y}}|jm\rangle$$
$$\equiv e^{-i\alpha m'}e^{-i\gamma m}d^{j}_{m'm}(\beta)$$

$$\int d\phi = 2\pi \delta_{MM'} \int d\phi^* = 2\pi \delta_{\lambda_1 \lambda_1'}$$

kills off-diagonal
density matrix
contributions kills interference
of different W
polarisations

By integrating over ϕ, ϕ^* we have erased all quantum interference effects! And the result is

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{d\cos\theta\,d\cos\theta^*} = 4\pi^2 C |b_{\lambda_3\lambda_4}|^2 \sum_{M\lambda_1\lambda_2} \rho_{MM} |a_{\lambda_1\lambda_2}|^2 \left[d_{M\lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}}(\theta) d_{\lambda_1\lambda}^{1}(\theta^*) \right]^2$$

In the case of *C* it is more complicated but essentially equivalent: integrating over φ_l

eliminates dependence on P_x and P_y

Nice! Where can I get these d's?

40. CLEBSCH-GORDAN COEFFICIENTS, SPHERICAL HARMONICS, AND d FUNCTIONS



Warning!

Observables involving top decay products in general <u>do depend</u> on the interference. Example: A_{FB}^{I} at Tevatron [interference missed in Berger et al. '12 '13]

