

Quantum information and CP measurement in $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$ at future lepton colliders

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(Received 23 January 2023; accepted 17 April 2023; published 9 May 2023)

We introduce a methodology and investigate the feasibility of measuring quantum properties of tau lepton pairs in the $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$ decay at future lepton colliders. In particular, observation of entanglement, steerability, and violation of Bell inequalities are examined for the International Linear Collider (ILC) and Future Circular $e^+ e^-$ Collider (FCC-ee). We find that detecting quantum correlation crucially relies on precise reconstruction of the tau lepton rest frame, and a simple kinematics reconstruction does not suffice due to the finite energy resolution of the colliding beams and detectors. To correct for energy mismeasurements, a log-likelihood method is developed that incorporates the information of impact parameters of tau lepton decays. We demonstrate that an accurate measurement of quantum properties is possible with this method. As a by-product, we show that a novel model-independent test of CP violation can be performed and the CP phase of $H\tau\tau$ interaction can be constrained with an accuracy comparable to dedicated analyses, i.e., up to 7.9° and 5.4° at ILC and FCC-ee, respectively.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.107.093002](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.107.093002)

I. INTRODUCTION

After almost one century since it was named by Born and an outstanding number of predictions and experimental confirmations, quantum mechanics has become the founding aspect of all theories aiming to describe phenomena at the fundamental level. Together with special relativity, it provides the foundation of quantum field theory, on which the Standard Model (SM) of particle physics has been built. The most peculiar (and spectacular) trait of quantum mechanics is *entanglement* [1,2], a type of correlations between two (or more) subsystems that can survive even if

they are spacelike separated. After having puzzled physicists for decades, entanglement has now become part of our everyday life, being the key to many advanced technologies, such as quantum computation, cryptography, and teleportation (see, e.g., [3]). The nature of entanglement and quantum correlations has been studied intensively with the methods of quantum information theory, revealing multiple levels of quantum correlations within entangled states. In the strongest end, a correlation exists that no classical system can account for it. Such a correlation can be detected as violation of Bell-type inequalities [4–6]. In the low-energy regime, violation of those inequalities has been observed in a number of experiments [7–13].¹

High-energy colliders, such as the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN, provide a unique and interesting environment to test entanglement and other quantum correlations at the highest scales and shortest distances. Recently, tests of entanglement and Bell-type inequalities

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¹Relatively recently, “loophole-free” tests of Bell-type inequalities have been performed [14–16], and the violation has been observed.

at the LHC have been proposed in the final states of $t\bar{t}$ [17–22] and a pair of weak bosons [23–25,25–27]. A theoretical discussion of entanglement in the production of a pair of photons and tau leptons has also been given [28]. The effect of beyond the Standard Model physics on entanglement measurements has been studied in the Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT) framework [29,30].

In this paper, we introduce a new methodology and study the feasibility to measure various quantum correlations within the tau pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ at future lepton colliders, in particular, the International Linear Collider (ILC) [31,32] and the Future Circular e^+e^- Collider (FCC-ee) [33]. Our aim is to access observables that signal different levels of quantum correlations: entanglement, steering, and Bell nonlocality, which we will define and discuss in detail in the next section. We find that, employing standard reconstruction methods, an accurate measurement of quantum correlations is quite challenging even at lepton colliders because of the presence of neutrinos in the final state and finite beam and detector energy resolutions. To improve the measurement accuracy, a log-likelihood method is proposed that incorporates the information of the impact parameters of tau lepton decays. The spin correlation of tau lepton pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ is sensitive to the CP phase of the $H\tau\tau$ interaction. Exploiting this fact, we propose a model-independent test of CP violation. We estimate the expected resolution of the CP phase at the ILC and FCC-ee via quantum property measurements.

The paper is organized as follows. In the next section, we review the main properties of a qubit system and introduce the notion of three types of quantum correlations: entanglement, steerability, and Bell nonlocality. We discuss their relations and define some observables that are sensitive to each type of correlation. In Sec. III, we study the quantum state of the ditau system in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ with general $H\tau\tau$ interactions. Section IV describes our strategy to measure the quantum spin correlation of the tau pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$. Our assumptions on the future e^+e^- colliders are spelled out in Sec. V. In Sec. VI, we describe the details of our Monte Carlo (MC) simulation and event analysis. The result of the quantum property measurements (based on MC simulations) is also shown. As a by-product of our analysis, we propose a novel model-independent test of CP violation and the resolution for the CP phase of the $H\tau\tau$ coupling is estimated in Sec. VII. Section VIII is devoted to the conclusion and discussion.

II. QUANTUM NATURE OF BIPARTICLE SYSTEMS

A. Entanglement

The Hilbert space of the spin-1/2 biparticle system is spanned by the four basis kets $\{|1\rangle, |2\rangle, |3\rangle, |4\rangle\} = \{|+, +\rangle, |+, -\rangle, |-, +\rangle, |-, -\rangle\}$. On the rhs, $|m_A, m_B\rangle$ is a simultaneous eigenstate of the spin z component, \hat{s}_z^I , of

particles A and B , respectively, i.e., $\hat{s}_z^A|\pm, m_B\rangle = \pm|\pm, m_B\rangle$ and $\hat{s}_z^B|m_A, \pm\rangle = \pm|m_A, \pm\rangle$.² In this basis, the density operator ρ for a general mixed state is represented by a 4×4 matrix:

$$\rho = \frac{1}{4}[\mathbf{1} \otimes \mathbf{1} + B_i \sigma_i \otimes \mathbf{1} + \bar{B}_i \mathbf{1} \otimes \sigma_i + C_{ij} \sigma_i \otimes \sigma_j], \quad (1)$$

where the summation of $i, j = 1, 2, 3$ indices is implicit and σ_i are the Pauli matrices. The physical density matrix is Hermitian, $\text{Tr}(\rho) = 1$ and positive definite. The Hermiticity condition implies the coefficients B_i, \bar{B}_i , and C_{ij} are real. The expectation value of a physical observable \hat{O} is given as $\langle \hat{O} \rangle = \text{Tr}(\hat{O}\rho)$. It follows that $B_i = \langle \hat{s}_i^A \rangle$, $\bar{B}_i = \langle \hat{s}_i^B \rangle$, and $C_{ij} = \langle \hat{s}_i^A \hat{s}_j^B \rangle$, giving clear interpretation to these coefficients: B_i (\bar{B}_i) is the spin polarization of A (B), and C_{ij} is the spin correlation. From this interpretation, it is apparent that the magnitude of these coefficients is less than or equal to 1.

If a density matrix can be written in the form

$$\rho = \sum_k p_k \rho_k^A \otimes \rho_k^B, \quad (2)$$

with $p_k \geq 0$ and $\sum_k p_k = 1$, the state is said to be *separable*. Conversely, nonseparable states are called *entangled*. A sufficient condition of entanglement is obtained by taking a partial transpose for the B part:

$$\rho^{T_B} \equiv \sum_k p_k \rho_k^A \otimes (\rho_k^B)^T. \quad (3)$$

If the state is separable, ρ^{T_B} must still be a physical density matrix, in particular, positive definite. If one finds a negative eigenvalue for ρ^{T_B} , the system must therefore be entangled. This condition, known as the Peres-Horodecki criterion [34,35], is also a necessary condition of entanglement for spin-1/2 biparticle systems. A simple sufficient condition that ρ^{T_B} has a negative eigenvalue is given by (see, e.g., [17,21])

$$E \equiv \max_i \{ |\text{Tr}(C) - C_{ii}| - C_{ii} \} > 1. \quad (4)$$

A more quantitative measure of the entanglement of two qubits is given by the *concurrence* [36], which is defined by

$$\mathcal{C}[\rho] \equiv \max(0, \eta_1 - \eta_2 - \eta_3 - \eta_4), \quad (5)$$

where η_i is the eigenvalues of a matrix $\mathcal{R} \equiv \sqrt{\sqrt{\rho} \tilde{\rho} \sqrt{\rho}}$ in the descendent order, $\eta_i \geq \eta_j$ ($i < j$), and $\tilde{\rho} \equiv (\sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2) \rho^* (\sigma_2 \otimes \sigma_2)$. Although \mathcal{R} is generally non-Hermitian, the

²We use the spin operators \hat{s}_i^I that are scaled by a factor of $2/\hbar$ compared to the usual ones, so that the eigenvalues are ± 1 .

eigenvalues are real and non-negative. The concurrence takes a value in the range $0 \leq C[\rho] \leq 1$. For separable states $C[\rho] = 0$, while $C[\rho] = 1$ for maximally entangled states.

B. Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt inequality

Consider the following experiment. Four identical (statistical) samples of spin-1/2 biparticle systems are prepared, labeled by ρ_{ab} , $\rho_{a'b}$, $\rho_{ab'}$, and $\rho_{a'b'}$ ($\rho_{ab} = \rho_{a'b} = \rho_{ab'} = \rho_{a'b'} \equiv \rho$). Alice and Bob measure the spin components of particles A and B , respectively. Their measurements are spacelike separated. Alice can measure the spin in the directions of either \mathbf{a} or \mathbf{a}' , while Bob can choose between \mathbf{b} or \mathbf{b}' . For the samples labeled by ρ_{aX_b} ($X_b = b, b'$), Alice uses the \mathbf{a} direction for her measurements, while she uses the \mathbf{a}' direction for the samples labeled by $\rho_{a'X_b}$. Similarly, Bob measures the spin in the \mathbf{b} (\mathbf{b}') direction for the samples labeled by $\rho_{X_a b(b')}$ ($X_a = a, a'$).

Let \mathcal{M}_A and \mathcal{M}_B be all possible measurement axes of Alice and Bob, respectively. If their measurement axes are $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{M}_A$ and $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{M}_B$, the conditional probability of observing the outcomes $a = \pm 1$ and $b = \pm 1$, respectively, is written by $p(a, b|\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$. If this probability can be written in terms of a set of ‘‘hidden’’ variables λ with probability distribution $P(\lambda)$ as

$$p(a, b|\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \sum_{\lambda} P(\lambda) p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) p(b|\mathcal{B}, \lambda), \quad (6)$$

for all \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{B} , a , and b , the state ρ is said to be *Bell local* [4,5], where $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda)$ and $p(b|\mathcal{B}, \lambda)$ are the conditional probabilities for Alice and Bob, respectively, when hidden variables take value λ .

After the measurements, various spin correlations can be computed. In particular, we are interested in the following quantity [6]:

$$R_{\text{CHSH}} = \frac{1}{2} |\langle \hat{s}_a^A \hat{s}_b^B \rangle - \langle \hat{s}_a^A \hat{s}_{b'}^B \rangle + \langle \hat{s}_{a'}^A \hat{s}_b^B \rangle + \langle \hat{s}_{a'}^A \hat{s}_{b'}^B \rangle|. \quad (7)$$

It has been shown that for any Bell-local state R_{CHSH} is bounded from above by 1 for any four measurement axes. Namely,

$$R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}} \equiv \max_{a, a', b, b'} R_{\text{CHSH}} \leq 1 \quad (\text{Bell local}), \quad (8)$$

where the maximum is taken over all unit vectors \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{a}' , \mathbf{b} , and \mathbf{b}' . This bound is known as the Clauser-Horne-Shimony-Holt (CHSH) inequality [6], which is one of the Bell-type inequalities [4]. Experimental observation of violation of the CHSH inequality would confirm Bell nonlocality and falsify all local-real hidden variable theories. Quantum mechanics, on the other hand, can violate the CHSH inequality up to $\sqrt{2}$:

$$R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}} \leq \sqrt{2} \quad (\text{QM}). \quad (9)$$

This quantum mechanical bound is known as the Tsirelson bound [37].

For two-qubit systems, $R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}}$ can be analytically calculated as

$$R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}} = \sqrt{\mu_1 + \mu_2}, \quad (10)$$

where μ_i ($\mu_1 \geq \mu_2 \geq \mu_3$) are the eigenvalues of the matrix $C^T C$. The set of unit vectors \mathbf{a}_* , \mathbf{a}'_* , \mathbf{b}_* , and \mathbf{b}'_* which maximizes R_{CHSH} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_* &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_1}} C \mathbf{d}_1, & \mathbf{a}'_* &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu_2}} C \mathbf{d}_2, \\ \mathbf{b}_* &= \cos \varphi \mathbf{d}_1 + \sin \varphi \mathbf{d}_2, \\ \mathbf{b}'_* &= -\cos \varphi \mathbf{d}_1 + \sin \varphi \mathbf{d}_2, \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where $\varphi \equiv \arctan(\sqrt{\mu_1/\mu_2})$ and \mathbf{d}_1 and \mathbf{d}_2 are the normalized eigenvectors of the matrix $C^T C$; $(C^T C) \mathbf{d}_i = \mu_i \mathbf{d}_i$.

C. Steerability

Nonlocality of quantum states was first pointed out by Einstein, Podolsky, and Rosen in 1935 [38]. Schrödinger reacted to this work and introduced a concept called *steering* together with entanglement in his 1935 paper [2]. In the previous biparticle system of Alice and Bob, steering by Alice is Alice’s ability to affect Bob’s state by her measurement. Although the concept is old, the formal definition of steering was found relatively recently [39,40]. The state ρ is said to be *steerable* by Alice if it is *not* possible to write the probability distribution of measurement outcomes as

$$p(a, b|\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \sum_{\lambda} P(\lambda) p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) p_{\mathcal{Q}}(b|\mathcal{B}, \lambda), \quad (12)$$

with

$$p_{\mathcal{Q}}(b|\mathcal{B}, \lambda) \equiv \text{Tr}[\rho_B(\lambda) F_b^{\mathcal{B}}], \quad (13)$$

for all \mathcal{A} , \mathcal{B} , a , and b , where $\rho_B(\lambda)$ is Bob’s local state and $F_b^{\mathcal{B}}$ is Bob’s positive operator valued measure [3]. An operational definition of steerability is also given in Appendix A.

By definition, all Bell-nonlocal states are steerable. Also, if states are separable, the probability of measurement outcomes can be written in the form of Eqs. (12) and (13). Namely, the following hierarchy is established [39]:

$$\text{entangled} \supset \text{steerable} \supset \text{Bell nonlocal}. \quad (14)$$

III. QUANTUM AND CP PROPERTIES OF $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$

In the $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$ decay, the spins of two tau leptons form a two-qubit system and can be used to test various quantum information properties. We now calculate the observables introduced in the previous section for the two-qubit system in the $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$ decay.

A generic interaction between a Higgs boson and tau leptons can be written as

$$\mathcal{L} \ni -\frac{m_\tau}{v_{\text{SM}}} \kappa H \bar{\psi}_\tau (\cos \delta + i\gamma_5 \sin \delta) \psi_\tau, \quad (15)$$

where m_τ and v_{SM} are the tau lepton mass and the SM Higgs vacuum expectation value, respectively. The real parameters $\kappa \in \mathbb{R}_+$ and $\delta \in [0, 2\pi]$ describe the magnitude of the Yukawa interaction and the CP phase. Within this parametrization, the Standard Model corresponds to $(\kappa, \delta) = (1, 0)$.

The spin density matrix for the two tau leptons is given by

$$\rho_{mn, \bar{m}\bar{n}} = \frac{\mathcal{M}^{*n\bar{n}} \mathcal{M}^{m\bar{m}}}{\sum_{\bar{m}\bar{n}} |\mathcal{M}^{m\bar{m}}|^2}, \quad (16)$$

where

$$\mathcal{M}^{m\bar{m}} = c \bar{u}^m(p) (\cos \delta + i\gamma_5 \sin \delta) v^{\bar{m}}(\bar{p}) \quad (17)$$

is the amplitude of $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$ and $c = -i\kappa m_\tau / v_{\text{SM}}$. Here, $p^\mu = (\frac{m_H}{2}, 0, 0, p_z)$ and $\bar{p}^\mu = (\frac{m_H}{2}, 0, 0, -p_z)$ are the momenta of τ^- and τ^+ , respectively, in the Higgs boson rest frame. The indices m, n (\bar{m}, \bar{n}) label the $\tau^{-(+)}$ spin in the direction of the z axis (the direction of τ^- momentum). A straightforward calculation leads to [41,42]

$$\rho_{mn, \bar{m}\bar{n}} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & e^{-i2\delta} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i2\delta} & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

up to the term of the order of m_τ^2/m_H^2 . On the rhs, the column (mn) and row ($\bar{m}\bar{n}$) are ordered as $(+, +)$, $(+, -)$, $(-, +)$, $(-, -)$. From this, the expansion coefficients in Eq. (1) can readily be obtained as $B_i = \bar{B}_i = 0$ and

$$C_{ij} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos 2\delta & \sin 2\delta & 0 \\ -\sin 2\delta & \cos 2\delta & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (19)$$

The signature of entanglement (4) is calculated to be

$$E(\delta) = 2|\cos 2\delta| + 1. \quad (20)$$

This is greater than 1 unless $\delta = \frac{\pi}{4}, \frac{3\pi}{4}, \frac{5\pi}{4}$ and reaches the maximum $[E(\delta) = 3]$ at $\delta = 0$ (SM), $\pi/2$ (CP odd), and π (negative Yukawa coupling).

The concurrence is also calculable. Equation (18) leads to $\bar{\rho} = \rho$ and $\mathcal{R} = \rho$. It also implies $\eta_i = (1, 0, 0, 0)$, and we therefore have $\mathcal{C}[\rho] = 1$. The $\tau^+ \tau^-$ pair is maximally entangled regardless of the CP phase δ [28].

For states with vanishing Bloch vectors, $B_i = \bar{B}_i = 0$, a convenient sufficient and necessary condition for steerability is known [43–45]. The state is steerable if and only if $S[\rho] > 1$ with

$$S[\rho] \equiv \frac{1}{2\pi} \int d\Omega_{\mathbf{n}} \sqrt{\mathbf{n}^T \mathbf{C}^T \mathbf{C} \mathbf{n}}, \quad (21)$$

where \mathbf{n} is a unit vector to be integrated out. In $H \rightarrow \tau^+ \tau^-$, we obtain $S[\rho] = 2$ (steerable) from Eq. (19). We use $S[\rho]$ as a measure of steering in the following sections.

The variable $R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}}$ can be calculated immediately from Eq. (10) as

$$R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}} = \sqrt{2}, \quad (22)$$

which violates the classical bound and saturates the quantum mechanical one. Since $R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}}$ is independent of δ , a test of Bell nonlocality can be done regardless of the CP property of the $H\tau\tau$ interaction.

The state in Eq. (18) is pure, i.e., $\text{Tr}\rho^2 = 1$. The corresponding pure state can be found as [46]

$$|\Psi_{H \rightarrow \tau\tau}(\delta)\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+, -\rangle + e^{i2\delta} |-, +\rangle). \quad (23)$$

In the Standard Model ($\delta = 0$), this state is the triplet state $(s, m) = (1, 0)$, where s and m are the magnitude and the z component of the total spin, respectively. This can be understood as follows. Since the SM Higgs is CP even scalar, the final state must have even parity and zero total angular momentum, $J^P = 0^+$, provided the parity is conserved in the $H\tau\tau$ interaction. In the final state, the total parity is given by $P = (\eta_{\tau^-} \eta_{\tau^+}) \cdot (-1)^\ell$, where $\eta_{\tau^{-(+)}}$ is the intrinsic parity of $\tau^{-(+)}$ and ℓ is the orbital angular momentum. The intrinsic parities of a fermion and its antifermion are opposite, $(\eta_{\tau^-} \eta_{\tau^+}) = -1$, and the spin state of the final state must be $s = 0$ or 1. The only consistent choice to obtain $J^P = 0^+$ is $\ell = 1$ and $s = 1$. The same line of argument leads to a conclusion that, if $\tau^+ \tau^-$ are produced from the decay of a particle with $J^P = 0^-$ ($\delta = \frac{\pi}{2}$), the final state must have $\ell = s = 0$; namely, it must be the singlet state $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (|+, -\rangle - |-, +\rangle)$. This observation is consistent with Eq. (23).

IV. MEASUREMENT STRATEGY

The spin of the tau leptons is not directly measurable at colliders. What can be measured instead is the direction of a decay product with respect to the motion of the tau. In order to sensibly compare the directions of decay products among different events, we adopt a coordinate system called the helicity basis [47]. The three normalized basis vectors (\mathbf{r} , \mathbf{n} , \mathbf{k}) are introduced (see Fig. 1) at the center of mass frame of $\tau^+\tau^-$ in the following way: \mathbf{k} is the direction of τ^- , \mathbf{r} is on the plane spanned by \mathbf{k} and \mathbf{h} , which is the motion of the Higgs in the $\tau^+\tau^-$ rest frame, and defined as $\mathbf{r} \equiv (\mathbf{h} - \mathbf{k} \cos \theta) / \sin \theta$ with $\cos \theta \equiv \mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{h}$, and $\mathbf{n} \equiv \mathbf{k} \times \mathbf{r}$.

Suppose that at the rest frame of τ^- the tau spin is polarized into the \mathbf{s} direction ($|\mathbf{s}| = 1$). The τ^- decays into a decay mode f , producing a detectable particle d . The conditional probability that the particle d takes the direction \mathbf{u} ($|\mathbf{u}| = 1$) when the τ^- spin is polarized in the \mathbf{s} direction is given by [48]

$$P(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) = 1 + \alpha_{f,d} \mathbf{s} \cdot \mathbf{u}, \quad (24)$$

with the normalization $\int \frac{d\Omega}{4\pi} P(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) = 1$, where $\alpha_{f,d} \in [-1, 1]$ is called the spin analyzing power. For the CP counterpart, $(f, d) \xleftrightarrow{CP} (\bar{f}, \bar{d})$, $\alpha_{\bar{f},\bar{d}} = -\alpha_{f,d}$.

We denote the τ^+ polarization by $\bar{\mathbf{s}}$ ($|\bar{\mathbf{s}}| = 1$). The direction of its decay product, d' , measured at the rest frame of the τ^+ , is represented by a unit vector $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$. We want to relate the spin correlation $\langle \mathbf{s} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{s}} \rangle$ with the angular correlation $\langle \mathbf{u} \otimes \bar{\mathbf{u}} \rangle$ since the latter is measurable. Using the probability distribution (24), it is not hard to show (see Appendix B)

$$\langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle = \frac{\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'}}{9} \langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle, \quad (25)$$

where $u_a \equiv \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{a}$, $\bar{s}_b \equiv \bar{\mathbf{s}} \cdot \mathbf{b}$, etc., are the components with respect to arbitrary unit vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} . Using this relation, we can obtain R_{CHSH} in terms of the angular correlations:

$$R_{\text{CHSH}} = \frac{9}{2|\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'}|} |\langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle - \langle u_a \bar{u}_{b'} \rangle + \langle u_{a'} \bar{u}_b \rangle + \langle u_{a'} \bar{u}_{b'} \rangle|. \quad (26)$$

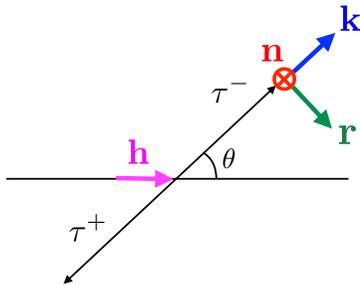


FIG. 1. Helicity basis.

In $H \rightarrow \tau\tau$, a set of four unit vectors that maximizes R_{CHSH} can be chosen as [see Eqs. (11) and (19)]

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{a}_* &= \mathbf{r}, & \mathbf{a}'_* &= \mathbf{n}, & \mathbf{b}_* &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\mathbf{n} + \mathbf{r}), \\ \mathbf{b}'_* &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(\mathbf{n} - \mathbf{r}). \end{aligned} \quad (27)$$

We use the above unit vectors and consider a direct measurement of $R_{\text{CHSH}}^* \equiv R_{\text{CHSH}}(\mathbf{a}_*, \mathbf{a}'_*, \mathbf{b}_*, \mathbf{b}'_*)$ to test the Bell nonlocality in Sec. VI.

From Eq. (24), one can also show [49]

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d(u_a \bar{u}_b)} = \frac{1 + \alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'} C_{ab} u_a \bar{u}_b}{2} \ln \left(\frac{1}{u_a \bar{u}_b} \right). \quad (28)$$

This allows us to measure the C_{ab} component by fitting the $\frac{d\sigma}{d(u_a \bar{u}_b)}$ distribution with the function on the rhs [19]. It has been pointed out that the components of the C matrix can also be measured from the forward-backward asymmetry [21]:

$$C_{ab} = \frac{4}{-\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'}} \frac{N(u_a \bar{u}_b > 0) - N(u_a \bar{u}_b < 0)}{N(u_a \bar{u}_b > 0) + N(u_a \bar{u}_b < 0)}. \quad (29)$$

The simplest approach to measure the C matrix is to use Eq. (25):

$$C_{ab} = \langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle = \frac{9}{\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'}} \langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle. \quad (30)$$

We have tested the above three approaches to measure C_{ab} and found very similar results. Our final result in the following sections is based on the simplest method (30), since it has given the most precise result among the three approaches.

For the steering measurement, we calculate $\mathcal{S}[\rho]$ by directly performing the integral in Eq. (21) with the measured C matrix.

In the Standard Model ($\delta = 0$), the C matrix in the helicity basis is given by

$$C_{rr} = C_{nn} = 1, \quad C_{kk} = -1, \quad C_{ij} = 0 \quad (i \neq j), \quad (31)$$

and the entanglement signature becomes

$$E = E_k \equiv C_{rr} + C_{nn} - C_{kk}. \quad (32)$$

There is a way to measure this combination directly [21]. We introduce a metric $\eta_k = \text{diag}(1, 1, -1)$ and define $\cos \theta_k \equiv \mathbf{u}^T \eta_k \bar{\mathbf{u}} = u_r \bar{u}_r + u_n \bar{u}_n - u_k \bar{u}_k$. This quantity distributes as

$$\frac{1}{\sigma} \frac{d\sigma}{d \cos \theta_k} = \frac{1}{2} (1 - \alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d'} E_k \cos \theta_k), \quad (33)$$

and E_k can be measured as a forward-backward asymmetry:

$$E_k = \frac{6}{-\alpha_{f,d}\alpha_{f',d'}} \frac{N(\cos\theta_k > 0) - N(\cos\theta_k < 0)}{N(\cos\theta_k > 0) + N(\cos\theta_k < 0)}. \quad (34)$$

In our numerical analysis, we calculate E_k with Eq. (34). Entanglement is detected if $E_k > 1$.

For the concurrence measurement, we assume $R = \rho$, as suggested in Eq. (18). Using $\text{Tr}\rho = 1$, the concurrence can be expressed by $\mathcal{C}[\rho] = \max(0, 2\eta_1 - 1)$, where η_1 is the largest eigenvalue of ρ . Assuming all off-diagonal entries of C , except for C_{rn} and C_{nr} , vanish, we have

$$\mathcal{C}[\rho] = \max \left[0, \frac{D_+ + C_{kk} - 1}{2}, \frac{D_- - C_{kk} - 1}{2} \right] \quad (35)$$

with $D_{\pm} \equiv \sqrt{(C_{rn} \pm C_{nr})^2 + (C_{rr} \mp C_{nn})^2}$. In our measurement, we construct the concurrence from measured C -matrix entries using the above expression. $\mathcal{C}[\rho] > 0$ signals a formation of entanglement, and $\mathcal{C}[\rho] = 1$ implies maximally entangled states.

V. HIGH-ENERGY e^+e^- COLLIDERS

For testing entanglement and Bell nonlocality in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, high-energy e^+e^- colliders have two main advantages over hadron colliders. First, the background is much smaller for lepton colliders. At pp colliders, the main production mode is $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, which is loop induced. This final state is generally contaminated by the tree-level $q\bar{q} \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ process, in which the final state tau pair belongs to a different quantum state than in the signal. The main handle for signal-background separation is the invariant mass of the visible decay products of two tau leptons, $m_{\text{vis}}(\tau^+\tau^-)$. However, due to the presence of neutrinos in tau decays, the $m_{\text{vis}}(\tau^+\tau^-)$ distributions have long tails, and the signal and background distributions overlap significantly. A usual practice to overcome this problem is to try to reconstruct the tau momenta by making some assumption on the neutrino momenta, based on either kinematics (e.g., collinear approximation) or the knowledge of the Standard Model (e.g., likelihood approach). However, this is not an option here, since our aim is to measure the angular distribution. Assuming the Standard Model distribution simply defeats the purpose of the measurement.

At e^+e^- colliders, the main production channel near the threshold, $\sqrt{s} \sim (m_H + m_Z)$, is $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZH$ followed by $Z \rightarrow q\bar{q}/\ell^+\ell^-$ and $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$. The main background is $e^+e^- \rightarrow Z\tau^+\tau^-$, where the pair of taus comes from an exchange of γ^*/Z^* . Unlike hadron colliders, the full 4-momentum P_{in}^μ of the initial state (e^+e^- pair) is precisely known at lepton colliders. From this and the measured Z -boson momentum $p_Z^\mu = (p_{q/\ell^-} + p_{\bar{q}/\ell^+})^\mu$, one can reconstruct the Higgs momentum as

TABLE I. Parameters for benchmark lepton colliders [31,33]. Only the main background $e^+e^- \rightarrow Z\tau^+\tau^-$ is considered, where $\tau^+\tau^-$ are produced from off-shell Z/γ . The numbers of signal and background reported here include the decay branching ratios and the efficiency of the event selection, $|m_{\text{recoil}} - m_H| < 5$ GeV.

| | ILC | FCC-ee |
|---|-------|-----------------------|
| Energy (GeV) | 250 | 240 |
| Luminosity (ab^{-1}) | 3 | 5 |
| Beam resolution e^+ (%) | 0.18 | 0.83×10^{-4} |
| Beam resolution e^- (%) | 0.27 | 0.83×10^{-4} |
| $\sigma(e^+e^- \rightarrow HZ)$ (fb) | 240.1 | 240.3 |
| Number of signals ($\sigma \cdot \text{BR} \cdot L \cdot \epsilon$) | 385 | 663 |
| Number of backgrounds ($\sigma \cdot \text{BR} \cdot L \cdot \epsilon$) | 20 | 36 |

$$p_H^\mu = P_{\text{in}}^\mu - p_Z^\mu \quad (36)$$

in a good accuracy independently from the Higgs decays. The distribution of the recoil mass, $m_{\text{recoil}} = \sqrt{(P_{\text{in}} - p_Z)^2}$, therefore sharply peaks at the Higgs mass in the signal [50]. By selecting events that fall within a narrow window, $|m_{\text{recoil}} - m_H| < 5$ GeV, one can achieve background/signal ~ 0.05 with a signal efficiency of 93% and 96% for the ILC and FCC-ee, respectively.

The second advantage of e^+e^- colliders over hadron colliders is the ability of reconstructing two tau momenta by solving kinematical constraints. This is possible thanks to the fact that the initial state 4-momentum P_{in}^μ is known in a good precision. This is important for the C -matrix measurement and the Bell inequality test, since they are based on the angular distributions of \mathbf{u} and $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$, which must be performed at the rest frames of τ^- and τ^+ , respectively. Since taus are heavily boosted, a small error on the tau momentum leads to a large error on the angular distribution when boosted to the tau rest frame. Precise reconstruction of the tau momenta is therefore crucial for the C -matrix measurement and Bell inequality test.

We consider two benchmark collider scenarios labelled by ‘‘ILC’’ [31] and ‘‘FCC-ee’’ [33]. The relevant parameters we use in our simulation are listed in Table I.

We notice that the beam energy resolution is significantly better for FCC-ee, which will have a significant impact on the Bell inequality test as we will see in the next section. We assume the e^+e^- beams are unpolarized for both ILC and FCC-ee.

VI. EVENT ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

In our analysis, we focus on the tau decay modes:

$$\tau^- \rightarrow \nu_\tau \pi^-, \quad \tau^+ \rightarrow \bar{\nu}_\tau \pi^+ \quad (37)$$

with $\text{Br}(\tau^- \rightarrow \nu_\tau \pi^-) = 0.109$ [51]. For these decay modes, the spin analyzing power is maximum: $\alpha_{f,d}\alpha_{\bar{f},\bar{d}} = -1$. We generate signal and background events with MadGraph5_aMC@NLO [52] at leading order in the

TABLE II. Result of quantum property measurements with a simple kinematical reconstruction method.

| | ILC | FCC-ee |
|---------------------|--|---|
| C_{ij} | $\begin{pmatrix} -0.600 \pm 0.210 & 0.003 \pm 0.125 & 0.020 \pm 0.149 \\ 0.003 \pm 0.125 & -0.494 \pm 0.190 & 0.007 \pm 0.128 \\ 0.048 \pm 0.174 & 0.0007 \pm 0.156 & 0.487 \pm 0.193 \end{pmatrix}$ | $\begin{pmatrix} -0.559 \pm 0.143 & -0.010 \pm 0.095 & -0.014 \pm 0.122 \\ -0.010 \pm 0.095 & -0.494 \pm 0.139 & -0.002 \pm 0.111 \\ 0.012 \pm 0.124 & 0.020 \pm 0.105 & 0.434 \pm 0.134 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| E_k | -1.057 ± 0.385 | -0.977 ± 0.264 |
| $\mathcal{C}[\rho]$ | 0.030 ± 0.071 | 0.005 ± 0.023 |
| $\mathcal{S}[\rho]$ | 1.148 ± 0.210 | 1.046 ± 0.163 |
| R_{CHSH}^* | 0.769 ± 0.189 | 0.703 ± 0.134 |

Standard Model, i.e., $(\kappa, \delta) = (1, 0)$. We employ the TauDecay package for τ decays [53]. The beam energies are smeared according to the parameters in Table I. All “neutrinoless” Z -boson decay modes, $Z \rightarrow x\bar{x}$ with $x\bar{x} = q\bar{q}, e^+e^-, \mu^+\mu^-$, are included in the analysis. The expected signal events [$e^+e^- \rightarrow HZ, Z \rightarrow x\bar{x}, H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-, \tau^\pm \rightarrow \nu\pi^\pm$] produced at the ILC and FCC-ee are 414 and 691, respectively. At the ILC and (FCC-ee), after imposing the requirement $|m_{\text{recoil}} - m_H| < 5$ GeV, 385 (663) signal events survive. We estimated that 20 (36) background events contribute to this phase-space region. We perform 100 pseudoexperiments for each benchmark collider and estimate the statistical uncertainties on the measurements.

To take into account the energy mismeasurement, we smear the energies of all visible particles in the final state as

$$E^{\text{true}} \rightarrow E^{\text{obs}} = (1 + \sigma_E \cdot \omega) \cdot E^{\text{true}} \quad (38)$$

with the energy resolution $\sigma_E = 0.03$ [32,33] for both ILC and FCC-ee, where ω is a random number drawn from the normal distribution.

A. Solving kinematical constraints

Because of the presence of neutrinos in Eq. (37), the momenta of two taus are not measured. To perform measurements of the C matrix and R_{CHSH}^* , the momenta of two neutrinos must be reconstructed by solving kinematical constraints. For six unknown momentum components, there are two mass-shell constraints— $m_\tau^2 = (p_{\nu_\tau} + p_{\pi^-})^2$ and $m_\tau^2 = (p_{\bar{\nu}_\tau} + p_{\pi^+})^2$ —and four conditions from the energy-momentum conservation— $(P_{\text{in}} - p_Z)^\mu = (p_{\nu_\tau} + p_{\pi^-} + p_{\bar{\nu}_\tau} + p_{\pi^+})^\mu$. By solving those six constraints for the six unknowns, an event can be fully reconstructed up to twofold solutions: $i_s = 1, 2$ (see Appendix C for details).

The system is first boosted to the rest frame of H . For each solution i_s , we then boost the system to the reconstructed rest frame of τ^- and calculate the r, n, k components of the π^- direction, i.e., $(u_r^{i_s}, u_n^{i_s}, u_k^{i_s})$. In the same way, the π^+ direction, $(\bar{u}_r^{i_s}, \bar{u}_n^{i_s}, \bar{u}_k^{i_s})$, are obtained at the reconstructed rest frame of τ^+ . We estimate the

C -matrix elements with Eq. (30). For the Bell inequality test, $R_{\text{CHSH}}^* \equiv R_{\text{CHSH}}(\mathbf{a}_*, \mathbf{a}'_*, \mathbf{b}_*, \mathbf{b}'_*)$ is calculated using Eqs. (26) and (27). Both solutions $i_s = 1, 2$ are included in the calculation of C_{ab} and R_{CHSH}^* .

The result of the measurements for $C_{ab}, E_k, \mathcal{C}[\rho], \mathcal{S}[\rho]$, and R_{CHSH}^* is summarized in Table II. We see that the C matrix is measured as a diagonal form with good accuracy. However, the diagonal elements are far off from the true values, $C = \text{diag}(1, 1, -1)$. Not only are the magnitudes significantly less than one, but also the signs are flipped for all diagonal components. We also see no clear indication of the quantum correlations, i.e., entanglement ($E_k > 1, \mathcal{C}[\rho] > 0$), steerability ($\mathcal{S}[\rho] > 1$), and CHSH violation ($R_{\text{CHSH}}^* > 1$).

We identify two main reasons for this disappointing result. The first is the effect of false solutions of the kinematic reconstruction. The false solutions contribute to the measurements as much as the true solutions.³ The other effect is the smearing of the beam energies and the energy mismeasurements for the final state particles. These impact the reconstruction of the tau momenta, in particular, the direction of the tau leptons. In addition, since the tau leptons are highly boosted, a small error on their directions results in a large error on the π^\pm distribution measured at the reconstructed τ^\pm rest frame.

B. Log-likelihood with the impact parameters

We now discuss how to overcome the limitations identified in the previous section. We note that the information obtained from the impact parameter measurements of tau decays has not been employed. Since tau leptons are marginally long-lived, $c\tau = 87.11 \mu\text{m}$ [51], and highly boosted, one can observe a mismatch between the interaction point and the origin of the π^\pm in $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \nu\pi^\pm$. The impact parameter \vec{b}_\pm is the minimal displacement of

³We, however, checked that when smearing is turned off, even if only false solutions are used for the measurements, the true values for C_{ab} (and, therefore, also for R_{CHSH}^* and E_k) are recovered as in the case where only true solutions are used. When smearing is switched on, both solutions are different from the MC truth, and we, therefore, lose the notion of true and false solutions.

the extrapolated π^\pm trajectory from the interaction point. The magnitude of the impact parameter $|\vec{b}_\pm|$ follows an exponentially falling distribution with the mean $|\vec{b}_\pm| \sim 100 \mu\text{m}$ for $E_{\tau^\pm} \sim m_H/2$, which is significantly larger than the experimental resolutions [32]. In our numerical simulation, we take constant values $\sigma_{b_T} = 2 \mu\text{m}$ (transverse) and $\sigma_{b_z} = 5 \mu\text{m}$ (longitudinal) for the impact parameter resolutions, although the actual resolutions are functions of the track momentum and the polar angle θ^* from the beam direction. The above modeling with the constant parameters gives a reasonable approximation for the track momentum $\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ and $\theta^* \gtrsim 20^\circ$ as can be seen in Fig. II-3.10 in Ref. [32].

If all quantities are accurately measured, the impact parameter \vec{b}_\pm , from the $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \nu\pi^\pm$ decay, is related to the directions of τ^\pm and π^\pm and their angle Θ_\pm by [54]

$$\vec{b}_\pm = |\vec{b}_\pm| \cdot [\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm} \cdot \sin^{-1}\Theta_\pm - \mathbf{e}_{\pi^\pm} \cdot \tan^{-1}\Theta_\pm] \equiv \vec{b}_\pm^{\text{reco}}(\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm}), \quad (39)$$

where \mathbf{e}_{τ^\pm} and \mathbf{e}_{π^\pm} are the unit vectors pointing to the directions of τ^\pm and π^\pm , respectively, and $\cos\Theta_\pm \equiv (\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm} \cdot \mathbf{e}_{\pi^\pm})$. In the second line, we defined a 3-vector function $\vec{b}_\pm^{\text{reco}}(\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm})$ and emphasized its dependence on \mathbf{e}_{τ^\pm} .

We use this information to curb the effects of energy mismeasurement. First, we shift the energy of a visible particle α ($\alpha = \pi^\pm, x, \bar{x}$) from the observed value as

$$E_\alpha^{\text{obs}} \rightarrow E_\alpha(\delta_\alpha) = (1 + \sigma_E \cdot \delta_\alpha) \cdot E_\alpha^{\text{obs}}, \quad (40)$$

where δ_α is a nuisance parameter characterizing the amount of the shift with respect to the energy resolution σ_E . Using these shifted energies, we solve the kinematical constraints, as outlined in Appendix C, and obtain the tau directions as functions of the nuisance parameters, $\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta})$, up to twofold solutions, $i_s = 1, 2$, where $\boldsymbol{\delta} = \{\delta_\pi^+, \delta_\pi^-, \delta_x, \delta_{\bar{x}}\}$. Based on the mismatch between the *observed* and *reconstructed* impact parameters,

$$\vec{\Delta}_{b_\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta}) \equiv \vec{b}_\pm - \vec{b}_\pm^{\text{reco}}(\mathbf{e}_{\tau^\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta})), \quad (41)$$

we define a contribution to the log-likelihood for a solution i_s as

$$L^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta}) = L_+^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta}) + L_-^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta}) \quad (42)$$

with

$$L_\pm^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta}) = \frac{[\Delta_{b_\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta})]_x^2 + [\Delta_{b_\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta})]_y^2}{\sigma_{b_T}^2} + \frac{[\Delta_{b_\pm}^{i_s}(\boldsymbol{\delta})]_z^2}{\sigma_{b_z}^2}. \quad (43)$$

The total log-likelihood function is then defined as

$$L(\boldsymbol{\delta}) = \min[L^1(\boldsymbol{\delta}), L^2(\boldsymbol{\delta})] + \delta_{\pi^+}^2 + \delta_{\pi^-}^2 + \delta_x^2 + \delta_{\bar{x}}^2. \quad (44)$$

The log-likelihood function $L(\boldsymbol{\delta})$ is to be minimized over the nuisance parameters $\boldsymbol{\delta}$. We denote the location of the minimum by $\boldsymbol{\delta}^*$. We define ‘‘the most likely’’ solution i_* as the solution that gives the smaller L^{i_s} , i.e., $L^{i_*}(\boldsymbol{\delta}^*) = \min[L^1(\boldsymbol{\delta}^*), L^2(\boldsymbol{\delta}^*)]$. Our best guess for the tau lepton momenta is, therefore, given by

$$p_{\tau^\pm}^* = p_{\tau^\pm}^{i_*}(\boldsymbol{\delta}^*). \quad (45)$$

In what follows, we use $p_{\tau^\pm}^*$ in the quantum property measurements.

In Table III, we show the result of our quantum property measurements when the impact parameter information of tau decays is incorporated in the log-likelihood. We see that for both ILC and FCC-ee the components of the C matrix are correctly measured including the sign. The entanglement signature E_k and the concurrence $\mathcal{C}[\rho]$ are also measured with a good accuracy, and the formation of entanglement ($E_k > 1$ and $\mathcal{C}[\rho] > 0$) is observed at more than 5σ . The steerability variable $\mathcal{S}[\rho]$ is also well measured, and the Standard Model value $\mathcal{S}[\rho] = 2$ is more or less reproduced. The steerability condition $\mathcal{S}[\rho] > 1$ is observed at $\sim 4\sigma$ for the ILC and $\gg 5\sigma$ for the FCC-ee. Observation of Bell nonlocality is the most challenging one, since it is the strongest quantum correlation. As can be seen in the last line in Table III, the violation of the CHSH inequality is confirmed at the FCC-ee at $\sim 3\sigma$ level, while $R_{\text{CHSH}}^* > 1$ is not observed at the ILC beyond the statistical

TABLE III. Result of quantum property measurements with a log-likelihood method incorporating the impact parameter information.

| | ILC | FCC-ee |
|---------------------|--|--|
| C_{ij} | $\begin{pmatrix} 0.830 \pm 0.176 & 0.020 \pm 0.146 & -0.019 \pm 0.159 \\ -0.034 \pm 0.160 & 0.981 \pm 0.1527 & -0.029 \pm 0.156 \\ -0.001 \pm 0.158 & -0.021 \pm 0.155 & -0.729 \pm 0.140 \end{pmatrix}$ | $\begin{pmatrix} 0.925 \pm 0.109 & -0.011 \pm 0.110 & 0.038 \pm 0.095 \\ -0.009 \pm 0.110 & 0.929 \pm 0.113 & 0.001 \pm 0.115 \\ -0.026 \pm 0.122 & -0.019 \pm 0.110 & -0.879 \pm 0.098 \end{pmatrix}$ |
| E_k | 2.567 ± 0.279 | 2.696 ± 0.215 |
| $\mathcal{C}[\rho]$ | 0.778 ± 0.126 | 0.871 ± 0.084 |
| $\mathcal{S}[\rho]$ | 1.760 ± 0.161 | 1.851 ± 0.111 |
| R_{CHSH}^* | 1.103 ± 0.163 | 1.276 ± 0.094 |

uncertainty. The superior performance of FCC-ee is attributed to the fact that the beam energy resolution of FCC-ee is much better than ILC. The precise knowledge of the initial state momentum is crucial to accurately reconstruct the rest frame of τ^\pm .

VII. CP MEASUREMENTS

Since the C matrix is sensitive to the CP phase δ , one can use the result of C -matrix measurement and derive a constraint on δ . From Eq. (19), we see that only the rn part (i.e., the upper-left 2×2 part) of the C matrix is sensitive to δ . By comparing the measured C -matrix entries in the rn part and the prediction in Eq. (19), we construct the χ^2 function as

$$\chi^2(\delta) = \frac{(C_{rr} - \cos 2\delta)^2}{\sigma_{rr}^2} + \frac{(C_{rn} - \sin 2\delta)^2}{\sigma_{rn}^2} + \frac{(C_{nn} - \cos 2\delta)^2}{\sigma_{nn}^2} + \frac{(C_{nr} + \sin 2\delta)^2}{\sigma_{nr}^2}, \quad (46)$$

where C_{ij} and σ_{ij} are the central value and the standard deviation, respectively, obtained from the analysis in Sec. VI B. The goodness of fits are found to be $\chi^2_{\min}(\text{ILC})/\text{d.o.f.} = 0.93/3$ and $\chi^2_{\min}(\text{FCC-ee})/\text{d.o.f.} = 0.86/3$ for each benchmark collider.

The minimum of χ^2 appears at the vicinity of three CP conserving points: $\delta = 0, \pm 180^\circ$ (CP -even), and $\pm 90^\circ$ (CP odd). Focusing on the minimum around $\delta = 0$, the 1, 2, and 3 σ regions of δ obtained from this analysis are listed in Table IV. The analysis is based on $\Delta\chi^2(\delta) \equiv \chi^2(\delta) - \chi^2_{\min}$, whose values around $\delta = 0$ are plotted in Fig. 2. We note that the allowed windows are asymmetric. This is due to the statistical uncertainty of the 100 pseudoexperiments.

We see that the resolution of δ obtained from this analysis is roughly $\sim 7.5^\circ$ (ILC) and $\sim 5^\circ$ (FCC-ee) at 1 σ level. These results should be compared with the resolutions obtained in the standard approach for the $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$, $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\nu$ channel, which exploits the angle φ^* [55,56] defined between the two planes, each spanned by the pair of momentum 3-vectors $(\vec{p}_{\pi^+}, \vec{p}_{\tau^+})$ and $(\vec{p}_{\pi^-}, \vec{p}_{\tau^-})$ in the Higgs rest frame. Using the same event reconstruction technique described in Sec. VI B and the statistical method based on 100 pseudoexperiments, we find the resolution of the CP phase with the φ^* method is 6.4° for FCC-ee. This shows that the proposed method

TABLE IV. Expected sensitivities on the CP phase δ .

| C.L. | ILC | FCC-ee |
|-------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 68.3% | $[-7.94^\circ, 6.20^\circ]$ | $[-5.17^\circ, 5.11^\circ]$ |
| 95.5% | $[-10.89^\circ, 9.21^\circ]$ | $[-7.36^\circ, 7.31^\circ]$ |
| 99.7% | $[-13.84^\circ, 12.10^\circ]$ | $[-9.21^\circ, 9.21^\circ]$ |

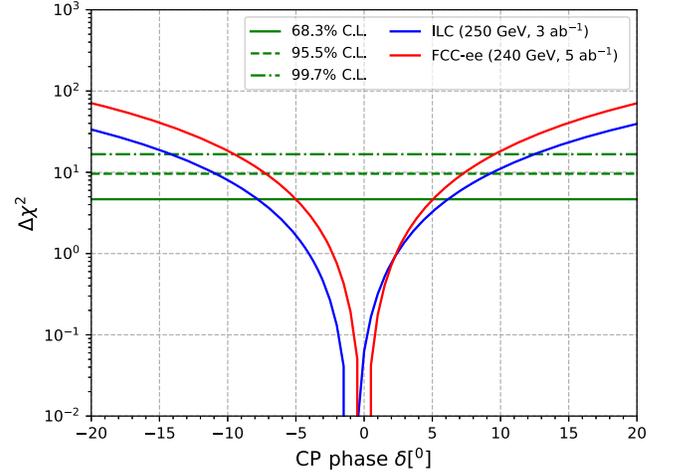


FIG. 2. $\Delta\chi^2$ as a function of the CP phase δ .

based on Eq. (46) is at least as good as the standard method with φ^* .

In the literature, the $H\tau\tau$ CP phase measurements at ILC using different tau decay modes have also been explored [42,57]. The studies in Refs. [58,59] exploit the $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm\nu$ channel and suggest that the sensitivity can reach $\sim 4^\circ$,⁴ which is in line with the expectations of first theoretical studies, i.e., 2.8° [60], including also other decay modes, e.g., $\tau^\pm \rightarrow a^\pm\nu$ and $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \ell^\pm\nu\ell$. A recent study [61] using a likelihood analysis based on the matrix-element claim that the CP phase can be measured in the accuracy of 2.9° at the ILC.

At the HL-LHC, the resolution of the $H\tau\tau$ CP phase measurement is expected to reach $\sim 11^\circ$ using the tau decay modes $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\nu$ [54] and $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \rho^\pm\nu$ [58]. Combining comprehensive decay modes with the matrix-element likelihood method, the resolution may reach 5.2° [62]. On the other hand, however, Ref. [63] claims that the detector effect severely impacts on the performance of CP measurements at the HL-LHC and the CP phase hypothesis $\delta = 0$ can be distinguished from $\delta = 90^\circ$ only at 95% C.L. with the $\tau^\pm \rightarrow \pi^\pm\nu$ channel.

A. Model-independent CP test

Under the CP conjugation, the C matrix transforms as $C \xrightarrow{CP} C^T$. This fact can be used for a model-independent test for CP violation. To measure the asymmetry in the C matrix, we define

$$A = (C_{rn} - C_{nr})^2 + (C_{nk} - C_{kn})^2 + (C_{kr} - C_{rk})^2 \geq 0. \quad (47)$$

⁴Note, however, that these analyses do not include the effect of energy mismeasurement.

An experimental verification of $A \neq 0$ immediately confirms violation of CP .

From the analysis described in Sec. VI B, A is measured as

$$A = \begin{cases} 0.168 \pm 0.131 & (\text{ILC}), \\ 0.081 \pm 0.060 & (\text{FCC-ee}). \end{cases} \quad (48)$$

Here, the error corresponds to a 1σ statistical uncertainty obtained from 100 pseudoexperiments. The result is consistent with the Standard Model (i.e., absence of CP violation) at $\sim 1\sigma$ level.

In the explicit model defined by Eq. (15), we have set $A = 4 \sin^2(2\delta)$. One can interpret the above model-independent result within this model and derive bounds on δ . In the domain around $\delta = 0$, the following limits are obtained at 1σ :

$$|\delta| < \begin{cases} 7.9^\circ & (\text{ILC}), \\ 5.4^\circ & (\text{FCC-ee}), \end{cases} \quad (49)$$

consistently with the limits obtained in the χ^2 analysis (see Table IV).

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

We have investigated the feasibility of testing various quantum properties, such as entanglement, steering, and Bell nonlocality, with the tau spin pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ at the future e^+e^- colliders. Two collider benchmark scenarios, ILC and FCC-ee, have been considered with the parameters listed in Table I. We found that, although the tau spin pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ are maximally entangled ($\mathcal{C}[\rho] = 1$) and saturate the upper bounds of the steering and Bell-nonlocality measures ($\mathcal{S}[\rho] = 2$ and $R_{\text{CHSH}}^{\text{max}} = \sqrt{2}$), experimental observation of those quantum properties is nontrivial, since quantum correlation is easily smeared away once the detector and beam energy resolution are taken into account (see Table II). In order to curb the effect of energy mismeasurements, we developed a log-likelihood method by measuring and utilizing the consistency between the reconstructed tau momenta and the measured direction of impact parameters of tau decays.

Using MC simulations of 100 pseudoexperiments (for each of ILC and FCC-ee), we have demonstrated that accurate quantum property measurements are possible at ILC and FCC-ee, including the effects of the detector and beam energy resolution. Our main result is summarized in Table III. Table V summarizes our results by showing the statistical significance for observation of the quantum properties: entanglement, steerability, and Bell nonlocality. Our analysis shows that violation of the CHSH inequality cannot be observed even at 1σ level at ILC due to large beam energy resolutions, while it can be observed at 3σ level at FCC-ee.

TABLE V. Expected performance of the quantum property measurements. The last two lines indicate the 1σ resolution for the CP phase of the $H\tau\tau$ coupling obtained from the $\Delta\chi^2$ analysis and the asymmetry (A) measurement, respectively.

| | ILC | FCC-ee |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Entanglement | $> 5\sigma$ | $\gg 5\sigma$ |
| Steerability | $\sim 4\sigma$ | $\gg 5\sigma$ |
| Bell nonlocality | \dots | $\sim 3\sigma$ |
| CP phase δ ($\Delta\chi^2$) | $[-7.94^\circ, 6.20^\circ]$ | $[-5.17^\circ, 5.11^\circ]$ |
| CP phase $ \delta $ (A) | $< 7.9^\circ$ | $< 5.4^\circ$ |

The spin correlation of tau pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ is sensitive to the CP phase of the $H\tau\tau$ interaction. We have proposed a model-independent test of CP violation with the measurement of the spin correlation matrix. We found this method can constrain the CP phase of the $H\tau\tau$ interaction up to 7.9° and 5.4° at ILC and FCC-ee, respectively, at 1σ level (see Table V), similarly to dedicated analyses at the corresponding colliders.

Finally, we comment on a subtlety of the collider test of Bell nonlocality [64]. In collider experiments, the spin of particles is not directly measured but only inferred from angular distributions of their decay products. For example, in our analysis we calculated R_{CHSH} with Eq. (25), which relates the spin correlation to the angular correlation. The problem is this relation is based on Eq. (24), which is derived using quantum mechanics, quantum field theory in particular. In fact, one could think of a class of local hidden variable (LHV) theories that predict the pion directions directly through a set of hidden variables as $\mathbf{u}(\lambda)$ and $\bar{\mathbf{u}}(\lambda)$. In that case, analogously to Eq. (7), Bell's argument derives a CHSH inequality directly about the pion directions:

$$\tilde{R}_{\text{CHSH}} \equiv \frac{1}{2} |\langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle - \langle u_a \bar{u}_{b'} \rangle + \langle u_{a'} \bar{u}_b \rangle + \langle u_{a'} \bar{u}_{b'} \rangle| \leq 1. \quad (50)$$

Although this inequality is more general and applicable for any LHV theories, it is too weak. Since $\tilde{R}_{\text{CHSH}} = \frac{|\alpha_f, d \alpha_{f', d'}|}{9} R_{\text{CHSH}}$ and $R_{\text{CHSH}} \leq \sqrt{2}$ in quantum mechanics, the inequality (50) is not violated even in quantum mechanics and cannot be used to falsify LHV theories.

Having said that, the angular distribution (24) is well tested elsewhere experimentally. As long as one believes the physical picture in which the tau lepton is a spin-1/2 particle and its decay products obey the angular distribution (24), observation of $R_{\text{CHSH}} > 1$ excludes the LHV theories that try to explain the spin correlation of tau pairs in $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

K. S. thanks Zbigniew Was and Elzbieta Richter-Was for valuable discussions. K. S. also thanks Iwate University for

a visit. P. L. is partially supported by the National Science Centre, Poland, under research Grant No. 2017/26/E/ST2/00135. The work of M. M. A. was supported by the French Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) Grant No. ANR-21-CE31-0023 (Projet de Recherche Collaborative International Statistically Learning Dispersed New Physics at the LHC) and by the National Science Centre, Poland, under research Grant No. 2017/26/E/ST2/00135. The work of K. M. is supported in part by JSPS KAKENHI Grants No. 20H05239, No. 21H01077, and No. 21K03583. K. S. is partially supported by the National Science Centre, Poland, under research Grant No. 2017/26/E/ST2/00135 and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism for years 2014–2021, Grant No. DEC-2019/34/H/ST2/00707. F. M. is partially supported by the F. R. S.-FNRS under the “Excellence of Science” EOS be.h Project No. 30820817.

APPENDIX A: AN OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF STEERABILITY

In this section, we provide an operational definition of steerability [39,40] and derive the mathematical definition given in the main text [Eqs. (12) and (13)] from it.

Consider the following experiment. Prior to the experiment, Alice and Bob agree that Alice prepares a biparticle quantum state ρ , keeps one particle with her, and sends the other one to Bob. Bob’s task is to prove, without trusting Alice, that Alice can “steer” (change) the state of his particle by her measurement. He carries out his task by asking Alice to perform some measurement on her particle and report the outcome via a classical communication. He can also make a measurement on his particle. Bob can repeat the process any number of times. If he succeeds the task, the state ρ is said to be steerable by Alice.

Without any information from Alice, the local state of Bob’s particle is

$$\rho_B = \text{Tr}_A(\rho), \quad (\text{A1})$$

where Tr_A is the partial trace for Alice’s particle. Let \mathcal{M}_A and \mathcal{M}_B be the sets of all possible observables of Alice and Bob, respectively. If Alice measures an observable $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{M}_A$, the probability of observing the outcome a is

$$q_a^A = \text{Tr}[F_a^A \rho (F_a^A)^\dagger], \quad (\text{A2})$$

where F_a^A is Alice’s positive operator-valued measure (POVM) with $F_a^A \geq 0$ and $\sum_a (F_a^A)^\dagger F_a^A = 1$. For projective measurements (closed systems), $F_a^A = |a\rangle\langle a|$, with $\mathcal{A}|a\rangle = a|a\rangle$. Because of Alice’s measurement, the quantum state collapses into the postmeasurement state as

$$\rho \xrightarrow{a, \mathcal{A}} \rho_{a, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{post}} = \frac{F_a^A \rho (F_a^A)^\dagger}{q_a^A}. \quad (\text{A3})$$

After this event, Bob’s local state becomes

$$\rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}} = \text{Tr}_A(\rho_{a, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{post}}). \quad (\text{A4})$$

To test whether Alice can indeed steer Bob’s state, Bob would first check if she reports the outcome a with the correct frequency q_a^A , which he can calculate from ρ . Second, he makes measurements on his particles (one measurement at each time, but he makes many different measurements in different times) and checks if his state is indeed changed from ρ_B to $\rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}}$ when she measures \mathcal{A} and reports a . Bob does these checks for all possible observables of Alice. If all of these checks pass, Bob would be inclined to agree that Alice can steer Bob’s particle. However, he must consider the following “cheating” scenario.

In the cheating scenario, Alice sends Bob a one-particle local state ρ_B^λ , parametrized by some variables λ with probability distribution $P(\lambda)$, such that $\rho_B = \sum_\lambda P(\lambda) \rho_B^\lambda$. Alice has the full information of λ and ρ_B^λ every time she sends it. If Bob asks Alice to measure \mathcal{A} , Alice will tell him the outcome is a with some frequency $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda)$, depending on λ . Bob’s first check will pass, if this function satisfies

$$\sum_\lambda p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) P(\lambda) = q_a^A. \quad (\text{A5})$$

For his second check, he would collect all the states in which Alice reported the outcome a in her \mathcal{A} measurement. Then, he makes measurements on this correction to check if it is indeed $\rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}}$. In the above scenario, he has a local state ρ_B^λ with the probability $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) P(\lambda) / q_a^A$, so this collection is a mixed state $\sum_\lambda p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) P(\lambda) \rho_B^\lambda / q_a^A$. Therefore, Bob’s second check would pass if $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda)$ satisfies

$$\frac{1}{q_a^A} \sum_\lambda p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) P(\lambda) \rho_B^\lambda = \rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}}. \quad (\text{A6})$$

The above consideration tells that if there exists a function $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda)$ satisfying both Eqs. (A5) and (A6) for all $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{M}_A$, Bob cannot exclude the possibility that Alice is cheating. Conversely, if such functions do not exist, Bob must conclude Alice can indeed steer the local state of his particle. Since q_a^A and $\rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}}$ depend on ρ and the statement is about all $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{M}_A$, Alice’s steerability depends only on ρ .

In the cheating scenario, Bob’s local state after the Alice’s measurement (a, \mathcal{A}) is given by Eq. (A6). If he measures $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{M}_B$ on his particle, the probability of obtaining the outcome b is

$$\text{Tr}[\rho_B^{a, \mathcal{A}} F_b^{\mathcal{B}}] = \frac{1}{q_a^A} \sum_\lambda p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) P(\lambda) \text{Tr}[\rho_B^\lambda F_b^{\mathcal{B}}], \quad (\text{A7})$$

where $F_b^{\mathcal{B}}$ is Bob’s POVM. At the same time, the probability that Alice reports a when Bob asks her to measure \mathcal{A}

is q_a^A . The joint conditional probability under which Alice and Bob measure \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} , respectively, and then Alice reports a and Bob finds b is the product of these two probabilities, i.e.,

$$p(a, b|\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}) = \sum_{\lambda} P(\lambda) p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda) \text{Tr}[\rho_B^\lambda F_b^{\mathcal{B}}]. \quad (\text{A8})$$

This means that the definition of steerability can also be phrased in the following way: *The state ρ is steerable by Alice if there does not exist a set of functions $p(a|\mathcal{A}, \lambda)$ and one-particle local states ρ_B^λ , such that the joint conditional probability $p(a, b|\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$ is described by Eq. (A8) for all $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{M}_A$ and $\mathcal{B} \in \mathcal{M}_B$. This agrees with the mathematical definition provided in the main text [Eqs. (12) and (13)].*

APPENDIX B: SPIN VS ANGULAR CORRELATIONS

The spin correlation $\langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle$ of $\tau^- \tau^+$ and the angular correlation $\langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle$ between the $\tau^- \tau^+$ decay products are related by Eq. (25). To derive this result, we start by recalling Eq. (24), i.e., the conditional probability that the decay product d takes the direction \mathbf{u} (at the rest frame of τ^-), when the tau spin is polarized into the \mathbf{s} direction, is given by

$$P(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) = 1 + \alpha_{f,d} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{s}$$

with the normalization $\int \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{u}}}{4\pi} P(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) = 1$.

We introduce the joint probability that τ^- and τ^+ are polarized into \mathbf{s} and $\bar{\mathbf{s}}$ and write it as $P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}})$ with normalization $\int \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}) = 1$. For arbitrary unit vectors \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{b} , the correlation between the τ^- and τ^+ spin components, $s_a \equiv \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{s}$ and $\bar{s}_b \equiv \mathbf{b} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}$, can be written as

$$\langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle = \int \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{s})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}) P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}). \quad (\text{B1})$$

Similarly, the correlation between the components of the \mathbf{u} and $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ vectors is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle &= \int \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{u}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{u}}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} (\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{u})(\mathbf{b} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{u}}) \\ &\times P(\mathbf{u}|\mathbf{s}) P(\bar{\mathbf{u}}|\bar{\mathbf{s}}) P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B2})$$

We carry out the integration $d\Omega_{\mathbf{u}}$ by expressing \mathbf{u} in a polar coordinate where the pole is taken into the \mathbf{s} direction (we call this the z direction). Similarly, we represent $\bar{\mathbf{u}}$ in a polar coordinate with the pole in the $\bar{\mathbf{s}}$ direction (z' direction). Using these two coordinate systems, we have

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{s} &= c_\theta, & \bar{\mathbf{u}} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}} &= c_{\theta'}, \\ \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{u} &= a_x s_\theta c_\phi + a_y s_\theta s_\phi + a_z c_\theta, \\ \mathbf{b} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{u}} &= b_{x'} s_{\theta'} c_{\phi'} + b_{y'} s_{\theta'} s_{\phi'} + b_{z'} c_{\theta'}, \\ a_z &= \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{s} = s_a, & b_{z'} &= \mathbf{b} \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}} = \bar{s}_b, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B3})$$

and Eq. (B2) is expressed as

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle &= \int \frac{dc_\theta d\phi}{4\pi} \frac{dc_{\theta'} d\phi'}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} \\ &\times (a_x s_\theta c_\phi + a_y s_\theta s_\phi + a_z c_\theta) \\ &\times (b_{x'} s_{\theta'} c_{\phi'} + b_{y'} s_{\theta'} s_{\phi'} + b_{z'} c_{\theta'}) \\ &\times (1 + \alpha_{f,d} c_\theta)(1 + \alpha_{f',d} c_{\theta'}) P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}). \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B4})$$

Any terms depending on ϕ or ϕ' will drop out by performing $d\phi$ and $d\phi'$ integrals, respectively. The remainder is

$$\begin{aligned} \langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle &= \int \frac{dc_\theta}{2} \frac{dc_{\theta'}}{2} \frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} \\ &\times a_z c_\theta b_{z'} c_{\theta'} (1 + \alpha_{f,d} c_\theta)(1 - \alpha_{f',d} c_{\theta'}) P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}) \\ &= \int \left(\frac{d\Omega_{\mathbf{s}}}{4\pi} \frac{d\Omega_{\bar{\mathbf{s}}}}{4\pi} s_a \bar{s}_b P(\mathbf{s}, \bar{\mathbf{s}}) \right) \\ &\times \left(\int \frac{dc_\theta}{2} \frac{dc_{\theta'}}{2} c_\theta c_{\theta'} (1 + \alpha_{f,d} c_\theta)(1 + \alpha_{f',d} c_{\theta'}) \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{B5})$$

where the first bracket on the rhs is nothing but $\langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle$ in Eq. (B1). The second bracket produces $\frac{\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d}}{9}$, and one obtains the result [64,65]

$$\langle u_a \bar{u}_b \rangle = \frac{\alpha_{f,d} \alpha_{f',d}}{9} \langle s_a \bar{s}_b \rangle.$$

APPENDIX C: EVENT RECONSTRUCTION

Since neutrinos are invisible in the detector, one has to reconstruct the neutrino momenta (or, equivalently, the tau momenta) by solving kinematical constraints. The 4-momentum of the initial $e^+ e^-$ pair, P_{in}^μ , and the Z boson, p_Z^μ , are relatively accurately measured. This motivate us to write the Higgs momentum as

$$p_H^\mu = P_{\text{in}}^\mu - p_Z^\mu. \quad (\text{C1})$$

The tau momenta $p_{\tau^+}^\mu$ and $p_{\tau^-}^\mu$ are unknown, but the sum is constrained by

$$p_{\tau^+}^\mu + p_{\tau^-}^\mu = p_H^\mu. \quad (\text{C2})$$

Each tau momentum is a 4-vector, so they can be expanded by four independent 4-vectors. We choose p_H^μ , $p_{\pi^+}^\mu$, $p_{\pi^-}^\mu$,

and q^μ as the basis vectors (neither orthogonal nor normalized), where we introduced

$$q^\mu \equiv \frac{1}{m_H^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} p_H^\nu p_{\pi^+}^\rho p_{\pi^-}^\sigma, \quad (\text{C3})$$

which is orthogonal to the other basis vectors, $(q \cdot p_h) = (q \cdot p_{\tau^+}^\mu) = (q \cdot p_{\tau^-}^\mu) = 0$. In terms of these basis vectors, the tau momenta are expanded as [66–68]

$$p_{\tau^\pm}^\mu = \frac{1 \mp a}{2} p_H^\mu \pm \frac{b}{2} p_{\pi^+}^\mu \mp \frac{c}{2} p_{\pi^-}^\mu \pm d q^\mu. \quad (\text{C4})$$

The advantage of this expansion is that the constraint (C2) is automatically satisfied. We traded the remaining unknown 4-vector $(p_{\tau^+}^\mu - p_{\tau^-}^\mu)$ by the four unknown coefficients, a , b , c , and d . Our first goal is to determine these coefficients by solving four mass-shell constraints.

The first two mass-shell constraints are $(p_{\tau^+} - p_{\pi^+})^2 = m_\nu^2 = 0$ and $(p_{\tau^-} - p_{\pi^-})^2 = m_\nu^2 = 0$. They can be recast into

$$\begin{aligned} m_\tau^2 + m_\pi^2 - x + ax - bm_\pi^2 + cz &= 0, \\ m_\tau^2 + m_\pi^2 - y - ay + bz - cm_\pi^2 &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C5})$$

where we introduced $[x, y, z] \equiv [(p_h \cdot p_{\pi^+}), (p_h \cdot p_{\pi^-}), (p_{\pi^+} \cdot p_{\pi^-})]$. Similarly, the remaining two mass-shell conditions $p_{\tau^+}^2 = m_\tau^2$ and $p_{\tau^-}^2 = m_\tau^2$ can be written as

$$\begin{aligned} m_\tau^2 &= \left(\frac{1-a}{2}\right)^2 m_h^2 + \frac{b^2+c^2}{4} m_\pi^2 + d^2 q^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{(1-a)b}{2} x - \frac{(1-a)c}{2} y - \frac{bc}{2} z, \\ m_\tau^2 &= \left(\frac{1+a}{2}\right)^2 m_h^2 + \frac{b^2+c^2}{4} m_\pi^2 + d^2 q^2 \\ &\quad - \frac{(1+a)b}{2} x + \frac{(1+a)c}{2} y - \frac{bc}{2} z. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C6})$$

By subtracting these, we get

$$am_h^2 - bx + cy = 0. \quad (\text{C7})$$

The three equations in Eqs. (C5) and (C7) can be organized in a matrix form:

$$[\mathbf{M}] \cdot \mathbf{v} = \mathbf{\Lambda}, \quad (\text{C8})$$

with

$$[\mathbf{M}] = \begin{pmatrix} -x & m_\pi^2 & -z \\ y & -z & m_\pi^2 \\ m_h^2 & -x & y \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = \begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \\ c \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{\Lambda} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_x \\ \lambda_y \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (\text{C9})$$

and $(\lambda_x, \lambda_y) = (m_\tau^2 + m_\pi^2 - x, m_\tau^2 + m_\pi^2 - y)$. The solution can be readily obtained by inverting Eq. (C8) as

$$\mathbf{v} = [\mathbf{M}]^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{\Lambda}. \quad (\text{C10})$$

The last coefficient, d , can be obtained by considering the sum of the two equations in Eq. (C6). This leads to

$$\begin{aligned} d^2 &= \frac{1}{-4q^2} \left[(1+a^2)m_h^2 + (b^2+c^2)m_\pi^2 - 4m_\tau^2 \right. \\ &\quad \left. + 2(acy - abx - bcz) \right]. \end{aligned} \quad (\text{C11})$$

For physical solutions, the rhs must be positive. For positive d^2 , there are twofold solutions for p_{τ^+} and p_{τ^-} , denoted by $p_{\tau^+}^i$ and $p_{\tau^-}^i$, corresponding to $d > 0$ ($i = 1$) and $d < 0$ ($i = 2$), respectively.

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