Probing the Higgs Yukawa coupling to the top quark at the LHC via single top ⁺ Higgs production

Vernon Barger,^{[1,*](#page-0-0)} Kaoru Hagiwara,^{2,3,[†](#page-0-1)} and Ya-Juan Zheng^{4,[‡](#page-0-2)}

¹Department of Physics, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, USA $\frac{2}{\mathcal{E}E\mathcal{F}}$ Theory Canter and Sokandai. Tsukuha, Ibaraki 305,0801, Japan

 K^2 KEK Theory Center and Sokendai, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 305-0801, Japan

 3 PITT-PACC, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15260, USA

⁴Department of Physics, Osaka University, Osaka 560-0043, Japan

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The conjoined production at the LHC of the single top and Higgs boson via t -channel weak boson exchange is ideal to probe the top-quark Yukawa coupling due to a delicate cancellation between the amplitudes with the *htt* and the hWW couplings. We find that the top quark is produced with 100% polarization in the leading order, and its quantum state is determined by the spin-vector direction in the t-quark rest frame. We relate the spin direction to the four-momenta of the top, Higgs and a jet in the helicity amplitude framework. We identify a polarization asymmetry that is sensitive to CP violation, even after partial integration over the forward jet momentum. This CP violating asymmetry may be observed at the LHC via the component of the top-quark polarization that is perpendicular to the th scattering plane.

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The coupling of the 125 GeV Higgs boson (h) to the top quark, which is the largest of the Standard Model (SM) couplings, is an important target of the LHC experiments. Measurements of the loop-induced hgg and $h\gamma\gamma$ transitions constrain htt indirectly, but these are subject to possible contributions from new physics loops beyond the SM. Direct measurements of *htt* at the LHC can be made through the QCD production of a $t\bar{t}$ pair and h and also through the electroweak production of single t (or \bar{t}) and h. The latter process proceeds via *t*-channel *W* exchange. It is particularly promising, because the SM production cross section in pp collisions at 13 TeV c.m. energy are sizeable, 48.8 fb in next-to-leading order (NLO) for $t + h$ and 25.7 fb for $\bar{t} + h$ [\[1\],](#page-5-0) and also because the prediction is known to be extremely sensitive to the relative sign of the htt and hWW couplings [\[2,3\]](#page-5-1). Reversing of the sign of the htt coupling makes the total cross section 10 times larger than the SM prediction, and LHC experiments [\[4](#page-5-2)–7] have already ruled out the possibility. This extreme sensitivity is due to the cancellation between the amplitudes with the htt coupling and those with the hWW coupling, which thereby enhances a probe of a non-SM htt coupling through the interferences

[*](#page-0-4) barger@pheno.wisc.edu

[†](#page-0-4) kaoru.hagiwara@kek.jp

[‡](#page-0-4) yjzheng@het.phys.sci.osaka-u.ac.jp

with the amplitudes of the well-constrained hWW coupling. Tentative attempts in understanding this structure for single top plus Higgs production at hadron colliders and the QCD background [\[8\],](#page-5-3) with Higgs decay channels $h \rightarrow WW/ZZ$ [\[9\],](#page-5-4) $\gamma \gamma$ [10–[12\]](#page-5-5), and $b\bar{b}$ [\[13\],](#page-5-6) have been performed. CP phases of top Yukawa couplings are studied in $t + h$ production [10–[12,14\],](#page-5-5) $h t\bar{t}$ production [\[12\],](#page-5-7) and in the loop-induced vertices hqq or $h\gamma$ [\[15\]](#page-5-8).

In this article, we present the helicity amplitudes of the processes

$$
ub \to dth \quad \text{and} \quad \bar{d}b \to \bar{u}th \tag{1}
$$

in the massless b-quark approximation, from which we can obtain all possible observables that can probe the Higgs couplings.

We adopt the following minimal non-SM modification to the top Yukawa coupling,

$$
\mathcal{L} = -g_{\text{htt}} h \bar{t} (\cos \xi_{\text{htt}} + i \sin \xi_{\text{htt}} \gamma_5) t, \tag{2}
$$

where $g_{\text{htt}} = (m_t/v) \kappa_{\text{htt}}$, ($\kappa_{\text{htt}} > 0$) and $-\pi \leq \xi_{\text{htt}} \leq \pi$. The SM values are $\kappa_{\text{htt}} = 1$ and $\xi_{\text{htt}} = 0$. CP invariance is violated in Eq. [\(2\)](#page-0-3) when $\sin \xi_{\text{htt}} \neq 0$, so we study observables that are proportional to $\sin \xi_{\text{htt}}$, as signals of CP violation. We set $\kappa_{\text{hit}} = 1$ in the following numerical results.

The Feynman diagrams of the subprocess $ub \rightarrow dth$ are shown in Fig. [1](#page-1-0). The left diagram (a) has the hWW coupling, while the right diagram (b) has the *htt* coupling. The $u \rightarrow dW^+$ emission part is common to both diagrams. By combining the $u \rightarrow dW^+$ emission amplitudes with the

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 $W^+b \rightarrow th$ amplitudes in the W^+b rest frame, we obtain the full helicity amplitudes for the process $ub \rightarrow dth$ ¹

$$
M_{+} = \frac{1 - \tilde{c}}{2} e^{i\phi} \sin \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} A \frac{1 + \cos \theta^{*}}{2}
$$

+
$$
\frac{1 + \tilde{c}}{2} e^{-i\phi} \sin \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} \left[A \left(\frac{1 + \cos \theta^{*}}{2} + \epsilon_{1} \right) \right]
$$

$$
- B (e^{-i\xi} + \delta \delta' e^{i\xi}) \right]
$$

$$
+ \frac{\tilde{s}}{2} \cos \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} \frac{W}{Q} \left[A \left(\frac{q^{*} E_{h}^{*} + q^{0*} p^{*} \cos \theta^{*}}{W p^{*}} + \epsilon_{1} \right) \right]
$$

$$
- B (e^{-i\xi} + \delta \delta' e^{i\xi}) \right], \tag{3a}
$$

$$
M_{-} = -\frac{1-\tilde{c}}{2} e^{i\phi} \cos \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} A \delta \frac{1-\cos \theta^{*}}{2}
$$

$$
-\frac{1+\tilde{c}}{2} e^{-i\phi} \cos \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} \left[A \left(\delta \frac{1-\cos \theta^{*}}{2} - \epsilon_{2} \right) + B(\delta e^{-i\xi} + \delta' e^{i\xi}) \right]
$$

$$
-\frac{\tilde{s}}{2} \sin \frac{\theta^{*}}{2} \frac{W}{Q} \left[A \left(\delta \frac{q^{*} E_{h}^{*} + q^{0*} p^{*} \cos \theta^{*}}{W p^{*}} + \epsilon_{2} \right) - B(\delta e^{-i\xi} + \delta' e^{i\xi}) \right].
$$
 (3b)

In the Breit frame [\[18\]](#page-5-9), the u and the d quark four momenta are specified by

$$
p_{u}^{\mu} = \tilde{\omega}(1, \sin \tilde{\theta} \cos \phi, -\sin \tilde{\theta} \sin \phi, \cos \tilde{\theta}), \qquad (4a)
$$

$$
p_d^{\mu} = \tilde{\omega}(1, \sin \tilde{\theta} \cos \phi, -\sin \tilde{\theta} \sin \phi, -\cos \tilde{\theta}), \quad (4b)
$$

where $2\tilde{\omega}\cos\tilde{\theta} = Q$ and $2\tilde{\omega} = Q(2\hat{s}/(W^2 + Q^2) - 1)$, $\hat{s} = (p_u + p_b)^2$ and $W = \sqrt{P_{th}^2} = \sqrt{(p_t + p_h)^2}$. The factors A and B normalize the hWW and htt contributions, respectively,

$$
A = 2g^2 D_W(q)\tilde{\omega}\sqrt{2q^*(E^* + p^*)} \frac{mp^*}{m_W^2} g_{hWW} D_W(q'), \quad (5a)
$$

$$
B = -2g^2 D_W(q)\tilde{\omega}\sqrt{2q^*(E^* + p^*)} W g_{\hat{h}tt} D_t(P_{\hat{t}h}). \tag{5b}
$$

We introduce the azimuthal angle about the common \vec{q} axis between the $u \rightarrow dW^+$ emission plane and the $W^+b \rightarrow th$ production plane. With the orientation of Eq. [\(4b\),](#page-1-1) the t momentum is in the z-x plane with $\phi = 0$.

The negative sign in B makes both A and B positive, since the propagator factors $D_W(q) = 1/(q^2 - m_W^2)$ and $D_W(q')$ are negative with $q' = q - p_h$, while $D_t(P_{th}) =$ $1/(P_{th}^2 - m_t^2)$ is positive. We keep the hWW coupling $g_{hWW} = (2m_W^2/v)\kappa_{hWW}$ standard $(\kappa_{hWW} = 1)$ in this report. We introduce notation for $\tilde{c} = \cos \tilde{\theta}$ and $\tilde{s} = \sin \tilde{\theta}$ for the Breit frame angles, while $\xi = \xi_{\text{htt}}$. The starred momenta are defined in the th rest frame, $q^{\mu} = (q^{0*}, 0, 0, q^*)$, $p_t^{\mu} =$ $(E^*, p^* \sin \theta^*, 0, p^* \cos \theta^*)$ and $E_t^* + E_h^* = q^{0*} + q^* = W$ gives the invariant mass of the th system. The factors $\delta =$ $m_t/(E^* + p^*)$ and $\delta' = m_t/W$, $\epsilon_1 = m_W^2/[p^*(E^* + p^*)]$, and $\epsilon_2 = m_W^2/(m_t p^*)$, are small at large W.

All the θ^* dependences of the amplitudes, except for those in $D_W(q')$, are expressed in terms of $J = 1/2$ and $3/2$ d functions. In particular, the first term in Eq. $(3a)$ and Eq. [\(3b\)](#page-1-3) give amplitudes for the collision of $\lambda = +1$ W⁺ and the helicity $-1/2$ b quark and, hence, only $J_z = 3/2$ d functions appear, with no s-channel top contribution. The second $(\lambda = -1)$ and the third $(\lambda = 0)$ terms have both t-channel W and s-channel top propagator amplitudes. More importantly, we note the $\lambda = 0$ (longitudinal W) enhancement factor of W/Q in both amplitudes. It's typical value is $W/Q \sim 6$ since the cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV peaks at $W \sim 350$ GeV and $Q \sim 60$ GeV when $p_T >$ 30 GeV forward jet tag is applied. In the high W limit where $\delta = \delta'$, the amplitudes are proportional to the factors

$$
M_{+} \sim \frac{W}{2Q} \sin \tilde{\theta} \cos \frac{\theta^*}{2} \left[\frac{1 + \cos \theta^*}{2} A - e^{-i\xi} B \right],\tag{6a}
$$

$$
M_{-} \sim -\frac{W}{2Q}\sin\tilde{\theta}\sin\frac{\theta^*}{2}\left[\frac{1+\cos\theta^*}{2}A - 2\cos\xi B\right]\delta,\quad(6b)
$$

where we keep the relative phase and the normalizations of the amplitudes. The helicity $+1/2$ top amplitudes M_+ dominate at high W because of the chirality flip Yukawa coupling from the left handed b quark, including the Goldstone component of the second W^+ propagator in the diagram Fig. [\(1a\)](#page-1-0), while $M_$ is suppressed by the top helicity flip factor, $\delta = m_t/(E^* + p^*)$. The destructive interference for $\xi = 0$ is manifest in both amplitudes because both A and B in Eqs. [\(5\)](#page-1-4) are positive definite. We further note that the amplitude $M_$ is almost real because $\delta e^{-i\xi} + \delta' e^{i\xi} \sim 2\delta \cos \xi$ at large W, while M_+ can

FIG. 1. Feynman diagrams of $ub \rightarrow dth$ process. The four momenta q^{μ} and q'^{μ} along the W^+ and P^{μ}_{th} along the top propogators are shown with arrows.

¹The amplitudes (3) agree exactly with the numerical HELAS code [\[16\]](#page-5-10) which is generated by Madgraph [\[17\].](#page-5-11)

FIG. 2. $d\sigma/dQ$ (upper) and $d\sigma/dW$ (lower). $Q = \sqrt{-q^2}$ is the invariant momentum transfer of the virtual W^+ , $W = \sqrt{P_{th}^2}$ $m(th)$ is the invariant mass of th system. The red curves show contributions of the longitudinal $W(\lambda = 0)$, while the green curves show those of the transverse $W(\lambda = \pm 1)$.

become complex, being proportional to $e^{-i\xi} = \cos \xi - i \sin \xi$ in the same limit. With finite b -quark mass, we have additional amplitudes with b-helicity $+1/2$, which give different spin correlations. Such amplitudes are suppressed by m_b/W and since they don't interfere with the leading amplitudes of Eq. [\(3\),](#page-1-2) the observable effects should be of order $(m_b/W)^2$, just like in the kinematical factors.

We note in passing that the amplitudes for the process $cb \rightarrow sth$ are exactly the same as those of $ub \rightarrow dth$ in Eq. [\(3\)](#page-1-2), whereas those for the process $\overline{d}b \rightarrow \overline{u}$ and $\bar{s}b \rightarrow \bar{c}th$ are obtained from Eq. [\(3\)](#page-1-2) simply by changing the Breit frame angle, $\cos \tilde{\theta} \rightarrow -\cos \tilde{\theta}$, $(\tilde{c} \rightarrow -\tilde{c})$. This does not affect the leading part of the $\lambda = 0$ helicity amplitude, but it changes the subleading transverse W amplitude such that $e^{-i\phi}$ becomes $e^{i\phi}$. Therefore, antiquark contribution to the $th + j$ process reduces the asymmetry in ϕ distributions.

Let us now study the property of the amplitudes quantitatively. Figure [2](#page-2-0) shows $d\sigma/dQ(a)$ and $d\sigma/dW(b)$ of the subprocess $ub \rightarrow dth$, convoluted with the u and b

FIG. 3. $d\sigma/dW/d\phi$ v.s. ϕ at $W = 400$ and 600 GeV for $Q > 100$ GeV. Black, red and green curves are for the SM $(\xi = 0), \xi = \pm 0.1\pi, \pm 0.2\pi, \text{ and all for } \kappa_{\text{hit}} = 1.$

PDF² in *pp* collisions at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV. We set the factorization scale at $\mu = (m_t + m_h)/4$ and impose cuts on *d* jet at $p_T^j > 30 \text{ GeV}, |\eta_j| < 4.5$ to reproduce the results of Ref. [\[1\]](#page-5-0) in the LO. Shown by red and green curves are the contribution of the longitudinal $(\lambda = 0)$ and the transverse ($\lambda = \pm 1$) W contributions. It is clearly seen that W_L dominates at low $Q(Q \le 100 \text{ GeV})$ and large $W(W \ge 100 \text{ GeV})$ 400 GeV), while $W_T(\lambda = -1)$ contribution is significant at large $Q(Q > 100 \text{ GeV})$ and small $W(W < 400 \text{ GeV})$, as expected from our analytic amplitudes.

In Fig. [3,](#page-2-1) we show distributions of the azimuthal angle between the $u \rightarrow dW^+$ emission plane and the $W^+b \rightarrow th$ production plane about the common W^+ momentum direction in the W^+b rest frame. The results are shown at $W = 400$ and 600 GeV for large $Q(Q > 100 \text{ GeV})$. The black, red and green curves are for the $SM(\xi = 0)$, $\xi = \pm 0.1\pi$, and $\pm 0.2\pi$, respectively. Solid curves are for $\xi \geq 0$ while dashed curves are for $\xi < 0$.

The ϕ distributions are proportional to

$$
|M_{+}|^{2} + |M_{-}|^{2}, \tag{7}
$$

where the top polarization is summed over. The interference between the $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = -1$ amplitudes gives terms proportional to $\sin \phi \sin \xi$, leading to the asymmetry

$$
\int_0^{\pi} d\phi \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi} - \int_{-\pi}^0 d\phi \frac{d\sigma}{d\phi}
$$
 (8)

that determines the sign of $\sin \xi$ ³. The asymmetry is large at small W and large Q because the subleading $\lambda = -1$

²We use CTEQ14 [\[19\]](#page-5-12) in this study, which gives practically the same results with the CTEQ10 PDF which was adopted in ref. [\[1\].](#page-5-0)

Asymmetries proportional to $\sin \xi$ can be regarded as indicators of CP violation in the process, whereas the $|\xi|$ dependences in total and differential cross sections can be mimicked e.g., by higher dimensional operators.

amplitudes are significant there, see Fig. [2](#page-2-0). The asymmetry remains significant at $W = 400$ GeV, however, even for events with $Q < 100$ GeV [\[20\].](#page-5-13)

We are now ready to discuss the polarization of the top quark in the single top $+h$ production processes. We first note that the helicity amplitudes M_+ and M_- in Eq. [\(3\)](#page-1-2) are purely complex numbers when production kinematics $(\sqrt{s}, Q, W, \cos \theta, \cos \theta^*, \phi)$ are fixed. This is a peculiar feature of the SM where only the left-handed u , d , and b quarks contribute to the process. It implies that the produced top-quark polarization state is expressed as the superposition

$$
|t\rangle = \frac{M_{+}|J_{z} = +\frac{1}{2}\rangle + M_{-}|J_{z} = -\frac{1}{2}\rangle}{\sqrt{|M_{+}|^{2} + |M_{-}|^{2}}}
$$
(9)

in the top quark rest frame, where the quantization axis is along the top momentum direction in the th rest frame. The top quark is, hence, in the pure quantum state with 100% polarization, with its orientation fixed by the complex number M_{-}/M_{+} . Its magnitude determines the polar angle and $arg(M_{-}/M_{+})$ determines the azimuthal angle of the top spin direction. Therefore, the kinematics dependence of the polarization direction can be exploited to measure the CP phase ξ , e.g., by combining the matrix element methods with the polarized top decay density matrix.⁴

In this article, we investigate the prospects of studying CP violation in the *htt* coupling through the top-quark polarization asymmetry in the single $t + h$ process, with partial integration over the final state phase space.

For this purpose, we introduce a matrix distribution

$$
d\sigma_{\lambda\lambda'} = \int dx_1 dx_2 D_{u/p}(x_1) D_{b/p}(x_2) \frac{1}{2\hat{s}} \overline{\sum} M_{\lambda} M_{\lambda'}^* d\Phi_{dth},
$$
\n(10)

where the energy fractions (x_1, x_2) and 3-body phase space $d\Phi_{dth}$ can be constrained to give kinematical distributions, $d\sigma = d\sigma_{++} + d\sigma_{--}$. The polarization density matrix is

$$
\rho_{\lambda\lambda'} = \frac{d\sigma_{\lambda\lambda'}}{d\sigma_{++} + d\sigma_{--}} = \frac{1}{2} \left[\delta_{\lambda\lambda'} + \sum_{k=1}^{3} P_k \sigma_{\lambda\lambda'}^k \right] \tag{11}
$$

for an arbitrary distribution. The coefficients of the three sigma matrices makes a three-vector, $\vec{P} = (P_1, P_2, P_3)$, whose magnitude $P = \sqrt{\vec{P} \cdot \vec{P}}$ gives the degree of polarization ($P = 1$ for 100% polarization, $P = 0$ for no polarization), while its spatial orientation gives the direction of the top quark spin in the top rest frame. For the helicity amplitudes (3) calculated in the *th* rest frame, the *z* axis is

FIG. 4. Predicted top-quark polarization parameters P_1 , P_2 , P_3 and $P = \sqrt{P_1^2 + P_2^2 + P_3^2}$ v.s. $\cos \theta^*$ in the $W^+b \to th$ scattering plane at $W = 400$ GeV for $Q \le m_W$. P_2 (denoted by the blue curves) is the polarization component perpendicular to the scattering plane. P_2 is nonzero if CP is violated.

along the top momentum in the th rest frame, and the y axis is along the $\vec{q} \times \vec{p}_t$ direction, perpendicular to the $W^+b \rightarrow$ th scattering plane.

We show in Fig. [4](#page-3-0) the degree of polarization P and its three components (P_1, P_2, P_3) at $W = 400$ GeV versus the top scattering angle $\cos \theta^{*},$ ⁵ when all the other kinematical variables are integrated over subject to the constraint $Q < 80$ GeV. The $Q < 80$ GeV restriction makes $\lambda = 0$ (longitudinal W) components dominate the amplitudes. Since the integration over the azimuthal angle ϕ kills interference between different λ amplitudes, the polarization given in Fig. [4](#page-3-0) shows essentially the interference of the $\lambda = 0$ components in M_+ and M_- . At $\cos \theta^* = -1(\theta^* = \pi), M_{-}$ dominates over M_{+} because $\sin \frac{\theta^*}{2} = 1$ and $\cos \frac{\theta^*}{2} = 0$ in Eq. [\(3\)](#page-1-2). $P_3 = -1$ and, hence, $P = 1$. M_+ grows quickly as cos θ^* deviates from -1 , and the interference between M_+ and M_- gives nontrivial polarization of the top quark. Most notably, $P_2 = 0$ for the SM ($\xi = 0$). The top-quark polarization lies in the scattering plane when no phase appears in the amplitudes. Strikingly, the polarization perpendicular to the scattering plane, P_2 grows quickly as ξ becomes nonzero. Figure [4](#page-3-0)

⁴The top quark decay polarization density matrices for its semi-leptonic and hadronic decays are given e.g., in Appendix A of Ref. [\[21\]](#page-5-14).

⁵The polar angle θ^* is measured from the W^+ momentum direction in the W^+b rest frame, whose reconstruction requires forward jet momentum. The polarization asymmetries shown in Figs. [4](#page-3-0) and [5](#page-4-0) are, however, insensitive to the precise direction of the polar axis because of low Q constraint. The same qualitative behavior is expected e.g., in the frame where the momentum of the proton with b -quark is chosen along the negative z axis.

shows that P_2 reaches 0.7 at $W = 400$ GeV for $\xi = 0.1\pi$. If $\xi = -0.1\pi$, instead, the sign of P_2 is reversed. The differential cross section is large near $\cos \theta^* = -1$, because of the *u*-channel *W* propagator factor $D_W(q')$ in A in Eq. [\(5a\)](#page-1-4). P_2 is uniformly positive in the region $\cos \theta^* \lesssim 0$ with $W \gtrsim 400$ GeV and $Q \lesssim 100$ GeV [\[20\]](#page-5-13). It should also be noted that the W_L dominance at low Q region is amplified with $\xi \neq 0$, because the destructive interference between the A and B terms in Eq. [\(6\)](#page-1-5) weakens. Accordingly, the degree of polarization P exceeds 90% over the entire $\cos \theta^*$ region for $|\xi| \gtrsim 0.2\pi$ at $W = 400$ GeV.

We, therefore, propose that the top-quark polarization component perpendicular to the scattering plane be measured subject to the restriction $Q \lesssim m_W$.

There is a notable advantage in a P_2 measurement in pp collisions, in that this allows CP violation to be clearly disentangled from T-odd $(T_N$ -odd) asymmetries. The azimuthal angle asymmetry in Eq. [\(8\)](#page-2-2) may be regarded as expectation value of the T_N -odd product

$$
\vec{p}_u \times \vec{p}_d \cdot \vec{p}_t \tag{12}
$$

where the product $\vec{p}_u \times \vec{p}_d$ determines the $u \rightarrow dW^+$ emission plane with orientation. Likewise, the polarization asymmetry P_2 is proportional to

$$
\vec{p}_h \times \vec{q} \cdot \vec{s}_t \tag{13}
$$

with the top quark spin vector \vec{s}_t in the top rest frame. Both asymmetries are T_N -odd and, hence, receive contributions from the final state interaction phases. Because the processes [\(1\)](#page-0-5) have color singlet W exchange, the QCD rescattering phase appears only at the two-loop level. The electroweak phase appears in the one-loop level and part of it can be approximated by the width of the s-channel top propagator, $D_t(P_{th}) = 1/(P_{th}^2 - m_t^2 + im_t\Gamma_t)$. Although we can calculate the SM contributions to the above T_N odd asymmetries, we can disentangle the absorption and CP phases contributions experimentally by measuring P_2 for both th production and $\bar{t}h$ production. The key observation is that the asymmetry P_2 given in Fig. [4](#page-3-0) is essentially the asymmetry of the process

$$
W_L^+ b \to t h \tag{14}
$$

where W_L stands for the $\lambda = 0$ component, whereas the asymmetry of the $\bar{t}h$ process is governed by

$$
W_L^- \bar{b} \to \bar{t}h \tag{15}
$$

Because the processes (14) and (15) are CP conjugates, the CP -phase (ξ) contribution to P_2 are opposite. The difference between the $P₂$ values gives CP violation, since rescattering contributions cancel. This gives a rare opportunity for direct measurement of CP violation in *pp* collisions.

In summary of our findings, we show in Fig. [5](#page-4-0) the polarization vector of Fig. [4](#page-3-0) in the $W^+b \rightarrow th$ scattering

FIG. 5. Flow map of the top-quark polarization in the $W^+b \rightarrow$ th scattering plane. Here, the th c.m. energy, denoted by W , specifies the radius of the semi-circle, and the polarizations are shown at increments in polar angle $\theta^* = n\pi/12(n = 0 \text{ to } 12)$. The arrows denote the polarization contributions in the scattering plane. The circles denote the component P_2 that is perpendicular to the scattering plane; the radius of the circles represent the magnitude of P_2 and the dot (cross) denote the sign of P_2 , positive (negative). SM predictions are in blue and CP violation predictions with $\xi = 0.1\pi$ are in red. Note that the SM polarization always lies in the scattering plane ($P_2 = 0$), so the circles apply only to the CP violating case.

plane. The solid blue arrows are the SM prediction, where all the arrows lie in the scattering plane, with length P. The predictions for $\xi = 0.1\pi$ are shown by red symbols, where (P_3, P_1) components are shown by arrows while P_2 components are given by circles as follows $|P_2| > 0.7$ (large circles), $0.7 > |P_2| > 0.4$ (medium circles), $0.4 >$ $|P_2| > 0.1$ (small circles) and $|P_2| < 0.1$ (no circles); the signs of P_2 are denoted by the dots (positive) or crosses (negative) within the circles. In addition to the $W =$ 400 GeV results shown in Fig. [4](#page-3-0), we also give top polarizations for $W = 600$ GeV [\[20\]](#page-5-13). The predicted pattern of the flow of top polarization in Fig. [5](#page-4-0) will determine ξ from the data, and thereby probe CP violation. The flow will also test the overall consistency of the model (our dimension-4 complex Higgs to top Yukawa coupling).

All our results are obtained in the leading order by using the perturbatively generated b-quark PDF. Higher order perturbative QCD and EW contributions to our polarization asymmetries and the uncertainty in the b-quark PDF are of great interest, which deserve dedicated efforts by experts in view of our promising findings.

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