

Observation of ten-photon entanglement using thin BiB_3O_6 crystals

LUO-KAN CHEN,^{1,2,3,6} ZHENG-DA LI,^{1,2,3} XING-CAN YAO,^{1,2,3} MIAO HUANG,^{1,2,3} WEI LI,^{1,2,3} HE LU,^{1,2,3} XIAO YUAN,⁴ YAN-BAO ZHANG,⁵ XIAO JIANG,^{1,2,3} CHENG-ZHI PENG,^{1,2,3} LI LI,^{1,2,3} NAI-LE LIU,^{1,2,3} XIONGFENG MA,⁴ CHAO-YANG LU,^{1,2,3} YU-AO CHEN,^{1,2,3} AND JIAN-WEI PAN^{1,2,3}

¹Shanghai Branch, National Laboratory for Physical Sciences at Microscale and Department of Modern Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Hefei, Anhui 230026, China

²CAS Center for Excellence and Synergetic Innovation Center in Quantum Information and Quantum Physics, University of Science and Technology of China, Shanghai 201315, China

³CAS-Alibaba Quantum Computing Laboratory, Shanghai 201315, China

⁴Center for Quantum Information, Institute for Interdisciplinary Information Sciences, Tsinghua University, Beijing 100084, China

⁵Institute for Quantum Computing and Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1, Canada

⁶e-mail: lkchen@ustc.edu.cn

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Coherently manipulating a number of entangled qubits is the key task of quantum information processing. In this paper, we report on the experimental realization of a ten-photon Greenberger–Horne–Zeilinger state using thin BiB_3O_6 crystals. The observed fidelity is 0.606 ± 0.029 , demonstrating a genuine entanglement with a standard deviation of 3.6σ . This result is further verified using p -value calculation, obtaining an upper bound of 3.7×10^{-3} under an assumed hypothesis test. Our experiment paves a new way to efficiently engineer BiB_3O_6 crystal-based multi-photon entanglement systems, which provides a promising platform for investigating advanced optical quantum information processing tasks such as boson sampling, quantum error correction, and quantum-enhanced measurement. © 2017 Optical Society of America

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1. INTRODUCTION

Quantum entanglement is fundamental to the field of quantum information processing and to the broader foundations of quantum physics [1]. Over the course of the last few decades, numerous efforts have been devoted to entanglement realization using various physical systems, which include photons [2], ion traps [3], and superconducting qubits [4]. Being ideal carriers of quantum information, photons are the main building blocks in the fields of quantum communications [5–11], quantum metrology [12], and quantum computing [13–27]. The experimental abilities to address and control a large number of entangled photons [28–33] underpin the power of optical quantum technologies. For instance, Aaronson and Arkhipov have predicted that given $\gtrsim 20$ indistinguishable single photons, boson sampling can reach a computational complexity intractable for classical computers [34].

However, increasing the number of entangled photons in a given setup presents many challenges, where despite significant improvements in developing experimental techniques that generate multi-photon entangled states, the current record number of entangled photons is still eight, in a system that has been demonstrated only recently [32,33].

When using spontaneous parametric down conversion (SPDC) [35] to create a large number of entangled photons, it is crucial to increase the brightness of the entangled photon pairs. This can be established by enhancing the photons' collection efficiency ξ rather than increasing the total pair generation rate R_T in order to suppress the contamination associated with double pair emission [36,37]. Note that the spatial walk-off resulting from the birefringence of SPDC crystals significantly influences ξ . For a given SPDC crystal, a higher ξ can be obtained by decreasing the walk-off of the SPDC photons in the crystal [38], which can be realized by reducing the crystal's length. However, a thinner crystal can lead to a lower R_T [39], which implies that the observation of a larger number of entangled photons is challenging, even when thin type-II BBO crystals are employed.

In this study, BiB_3O_6 (BiBO) crystals are used to eliminate the spatial walk-off while maintaining a moderate R_T . Compared to the BBO crystals, BiBO crystals have a smaller spatial walk-off angle δ_θ and a higher type-II second-order non-linear coefficient $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ [40]. The generation of entangled photons through BiBO crystals has been reported, which was achieved using the type-I [41] or the type-II [42] SPDC process. However, these

techniques are not advanced enough for the realization of ten-photon entanglement. Here, we present a technique for producing ultrabright entangled photon pairs, which relies on utilizing the Bell state synthesizer architecture [43] for thin BiBO crystals. Our numerical calculations and experimental results demonstrate an enhanced ξ when using thin BiBO crystals. Consequently, this technique can be used to efficiently generate multi-photon entangled systems using type-II BiBO crystals.

The following sections provide a detailed description of our BiBO crystal-based ten-photon entanglement system. In Section 2, a BiBO-based Bell state synthesizer is introduced. Section 3 presents the experimental implementation of our ten-photon entanglement system. The experimental results are presented in Section 4. In Section 5 we provide a summary of this work and discuss its potential applications. Further details regarding BiBO crystals and the p -value that concerns the readability of the research paper are given in Section 6.

2. SPDC SOURCE BASED ON BIBO CRYSTALS

When compared with a BBO crystal, BiBO is expected to have a smaller δ_θ and a higher $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ (see Section 6.A). These two advantages indicate that a relatively thin BiBO structure can yield a large ξ with negligible effects on R_T , compared to BBO crystals. Since ξ is inversely proportional to L , whereas R_T is directly proportional to L (see Section 6.A), selecting a suitable BiBO length (L) is crucial to optimize the trade-off between ξ and R_T .

After comparing the parameters of the entangled photon pairs generated from the different SPDC crystals (see Section 6.A), we finally choose a 0.6 mm BiBO crystal to implement the Bell state synthesizer [43], as illustrated in Fig. 2(b). In this setup, two birefringent compensators, constituted by the first two half-wave plates (HWPs) and 0.3 mm BiBO crystals, are used to eliminate the walk-off between the SPDC photons [45]. As illustrated in Fig. 1(a), the polarizations of the SPDC photons emitted from the BiBO crystal are labeled as fast (F) and slow (S), respectively. The last two HWPs are introduced to not only ensure the identical polarization for the SPDC photon pairs when reaching the polarizing beam splitter (PBS) but also transform the polarizations

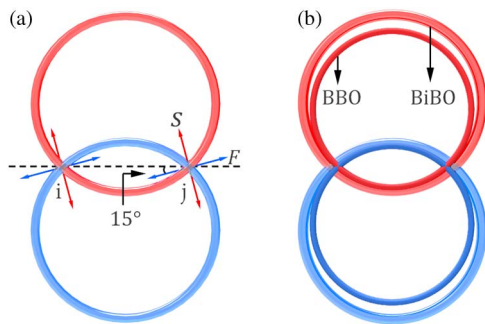


Fig. 1. Numerical simulations for the SPDC photon rings through a 3 nm bandpass filter. (a) Different polarizations of the birefringent rays in a BiBO crystal. The blue (red) ring represents the spatial distribution of the signal (idler) photons. If the vector that connects the two intersections of the SPDC rings is parallel to H , the F (S) has a 15° deflection from H (V) [46], which can be calculated using the electric field vector $\mathbf{E}$ for the $390 \text{ nm} \rightarrow 780 \text{ nm}$ type-II SPDC process. (b) Respective SPDC photon rings of BBO and BiBO crystals. The wave vector $\mathbf{k}$ is solely used to describe the spatial distributions within the system. In this simulation, the FWHM of the pump laser is assumed to be approximately 2.1 nm.

F and S into vertical (V) and horizontal (H), respectively. After interfering at the PBS, the SPDC photons with an (original) F (blue) and an (original) S polarization (red) are separated and then detected by different single photon counting modules (SPCMs). Note that this setup effectively disentangles the timing information from the polarization information for a given SPDC photon pair, therefore eliminating the need for spectral filtering.

As a biaxial crystal with a low degree of symmetry, the BiBO crystals present many complicated properties. For instance, as illustrated in Fig. 1(a), photons with identical polarizations at the two intersections of the SPDC rings, labeled as i (left) and j (right), possess different full width at half-maximum (FWHM) values (see Section 6.A). Besides, the final entangled photon pair generated from a non-collinear type-II BiBO crystal is not an ideal Bell state, which can be expressed as $|\phi^+\rangle_{ij} = \cos(7\pi/30)|HH\rangle_{ij} + \sin(7\pi/30)|VV\rangle_{ij}$ according to our theoretical calculations (see Section 6.A).

Figure 1(b) shows the respective spatial distributions of the SPDC photons generated from the BBO and BiBO crystals. It is seen that the SPDC photons generated from the BiBO possess a larger divergence. This is attributed to the difference in the dispersion value $dn/d\lambda$, where this value is much larger in a BiBO crystal, as indicated in Ref. [42]. Other detailed comparisons, involving $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ and δ_θ , can be found in Section 6.A.

3. EXPERIMENT IMPLEMENTATION

In this experiment, we aimed to produce a ten-photon Greenberger–Horne–Zeilinger (GHZ) state, which can be expressed as

$$|\text{GHZ}_{10}\rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(|H\rangle^{\otimes 10} + |V\rangle^{\otimes 10}). \quad (1)$$

The relevant experimental setup is shown in Fig. 2. Five independent entangled photon pairs were produced by sending an ultrafast laser with a central wavelength of 390 nm through five 0.6 mm BiBO crystals. A 1.05 W pump laser is focused onto each BiBO crystal with a beam waist of $\omega_0 \simeq 85 \text{ }\mu\text{m}$, to ensure having a suitable R_T . When the spectral filters are absent, the typical twofold coincidence counting rate for each entangled photon pair is approximately $1,880,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$, with an average $\xi = 46.5 \pm 1\%$. In this case, the visibility [2] in the $|D/A\rangle = (|H\rangle \pm |V\rangle)/\sqrt{2}$ and $|H/V\rangle$ basis is measured at 87.7% and 89.3%, respectively.

We assume the SPDC photon with an original F (S) polarization as signal (idler). In our setup, the average FWHM of the signal and idler photons is measured to be 7 and 14 nm, respectively. Considering both ξ and the coherence time of SPDC photons, bandpass filters with 3.6 and 7.8 nm are selected to spectrally filter the signal and idler photons. Eventually, the respective twofold coincidence counting rate of the five entangled photon pairs drops down to 605,000, 655,000, 590,000, 560,000, and 515,000 s^{-1} [47], with the corresponding ξ measured at 37.3%, 39.0%, 37.0%, 38.0%, and 36.8%, respectively. Thus, ξ is relatively improved by $\sim 40\%$ when compared with the 2 mm BBO crystals [32]. This makes the tenfold coincidence counting rate ($\sim R_T^5 \xi^{10}/16$) increase to approximately 0.5 counts per hour, which is 27 times higher than the case in which we directly adopt the techniques in Ref. [32] to demonstrate the ten-photon entanglement.

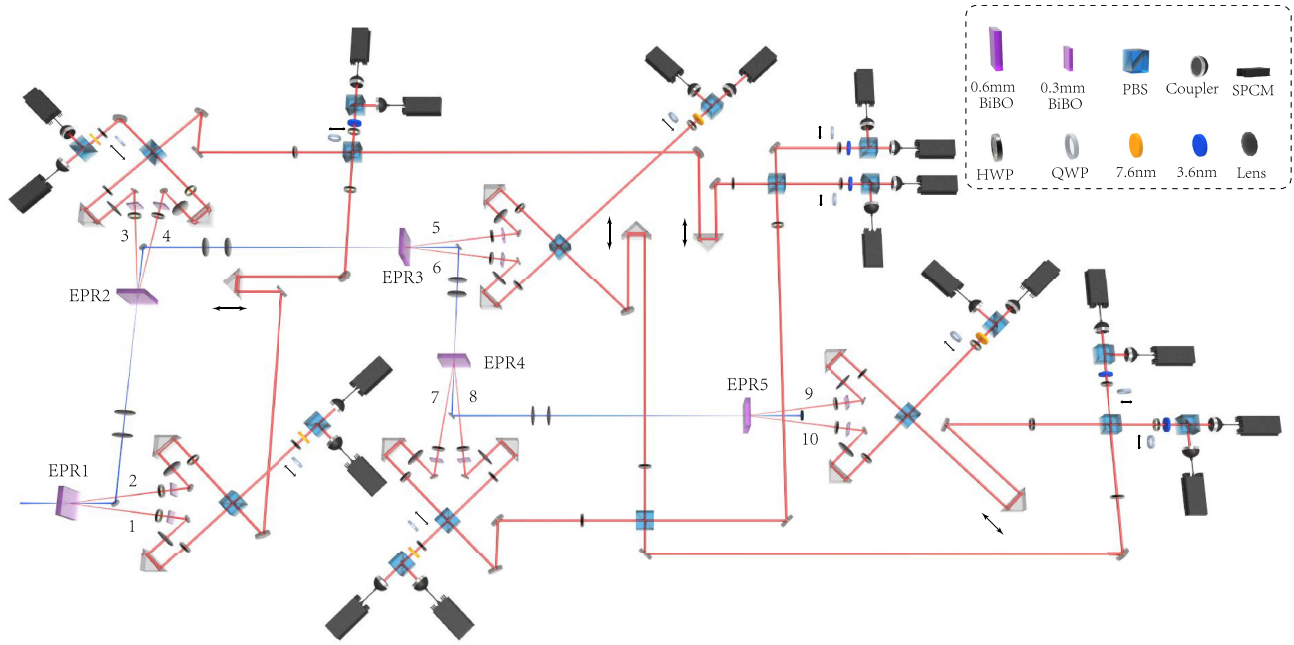


Fig. 2. Experimental setup for preparing ten-photon GHZ state. An ultrafast pump laser with a central wavelength of 390 nm and a FWHM of 2.1 nm is successively sent through the BiBO crystals to generate polarization-entangled photon pairs, i.e., EPR1 ~ EPR 5. The distance between the first and fifth BiBO crystals is 2.65 m. In each BiBO-based Bell state synthesizer architecture, lenses with the focal length of 400 mm are placed to maximize the ξ . The polarization of each output photon is analyzed using a combination of a quarter-wave plate (QWP), a HWP, and a PBS, together with a single-mode, fiber-coupled SPCM in each output of the PBS. Bandpass filters with $\Delta\lambda_{\text{FWHM}}^{\text{filter-}i} = 3.6$ nm on paths 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9 are used to erase the time information between the five entangled photon pairs [44]. The other bandpass filters with $\Delta\lambda_{\text{FWHM}}^{\text{filter-}i} = 7.8$ nm are chosen to achieve a maximum ξ . We engineer these five entangled photon pairs into a ten-photon GHZ state by combining five signal photons on a linear optical network consisting of four PBSs.

Next, the signal photons (paths 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9) are directed to the PBSs to ensure spatial indistinguishability between photons from the different SPDC sources. Through fine adjustment, the photons simultaneously arrive at the PBSs, resulting in an average visibility of 71.5%, a value that is obtained when photons experience a Hong–Ou–Mandel-type interference [48] at four PBSs.

Since each entangled photon pair from the BiBO crystals is an imperfect Bell state, the polarization of SPDC photons from the fourth and fifth BiBO crystals is rotated by 90° , which would transform the prepared two-photon entangled state to $|\phi^+\rangle'_{ij} = \cos(7\pi/30)|VV\rangle_{ij} + \sin(7\pi/30)|HH\rangle_{ij}$ to minimize the imbalance between the final $|H\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ and $|V\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ components. In this case, our final ten-photon entangled state can be formulated theoretically as $|\Phi^+\rangle = \cos(7\pi/30)|H\rangle^{\otimes 10} + \sin(7\pi/30)|V\rangle^{\otimes 10}$.

4. RESULT

We measure the fidelity of our prepared ten-photon state to show the existence of genuine entanglement. For an n -qubit GHZ state, one can have the following decomposition [49]:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{F} &= |\text{GHZ}_n\rangle\langle\text{GHZ}_n| \\ &= \frac{1}{2}(|H\rangle^{\otimes n} + |V\rangle^{\otimes n})(\langle H|^{\otimes n} + \langle V|^{\otimes n}) \\ &= \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \alpha_k M_k^{\otimes n} + \frac{1}{2}((|H\rangle\langle H|)^{\otimes n} + (|V\rangle\langle V|)^{\otimes n}), \quad (2) \end{aligned}$$

where $\alpha_k = (-1)^k/(2n)$ and $M_k = \cos(k\pi/n)\sigma_x + \sin(k\pi/n)\sigma_y$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$. Hence, to estimate the fidelity $\bar{F} = \text{tr}[\hat{F}\rho_n]$ of the prepared state ρ_n , one can measure the

correlations under local measurement settings $M_k^{\otimes n}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$, and also the probabilities of $(\sigma_{z,1}, \sigma_{z,2}, \dots, \sigma_{z,n}) = (H, H, \dots, H)$ and $(V, V, \dots, V)$ in the H/V basis. In experiment, the fidelity can be estimated by

$$\bar{F} = \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \alpha_k \frac{N_k^+ - N_k^-}{N_k} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{N_z^0 + N_z^1}{N_z}. \quad (3)$$

Here N_k^+ (N_k^-) is the number of trials with positive (negative) correlation under measurement setting $M_k^{\otimes n}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, n-1$, and N_z^0 (N_z^1) is the number of trials with outcomes $(\sigma_{z,1}, \sigma_{z,2}, \dots, \sigma_{z,n}) = (H, H, \dots, H)$ ($(V, V, \dots, V)$).

In our experiment, we post-select the tenfold coincidence counting events, in which only one SPCM on each path registers, as valid experimental data. Eventually, a complete set of 1024 tenfold coincidence events is simultaneously registered for entanglement verification by a homemade FPGA-based coincidence unit. All the 1024 polarization distributions in the H/V basis are illustrated in Fig. 3(a), from which we can see that $|H\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ and $|V\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ are the dominant parts in the overall tenfold coincidence events. This demonstrates a total signal-to-noise ratio of 3.36:1. Furthermore, measurements in the $M_k^{\otimes 10} = [\cos(k\pi/10)\sigma_x + \sin(k\pi/10)\sigma_y]^{\otimes 10}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, 9$ basis are performed to verify whether the $|H\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ and $|V\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ components are in coherent superposition, yielding an average signal-to-noise ratio of 2.58:1. The expectation values for each $M_k^{\otimes 10}$ are illustrated in Fig. 3(b). Note that the average visibility in $M_k^{\otimes 10}$ ($= 0.442 \pm 0.046$) is lower than that in the case of H/V ($= 0.542 \pm 0.070$) polarization. This is attributed to the imbalance between the $|H\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ and $|V\rangle^{\otimes 10}$ and the partial distinguishability

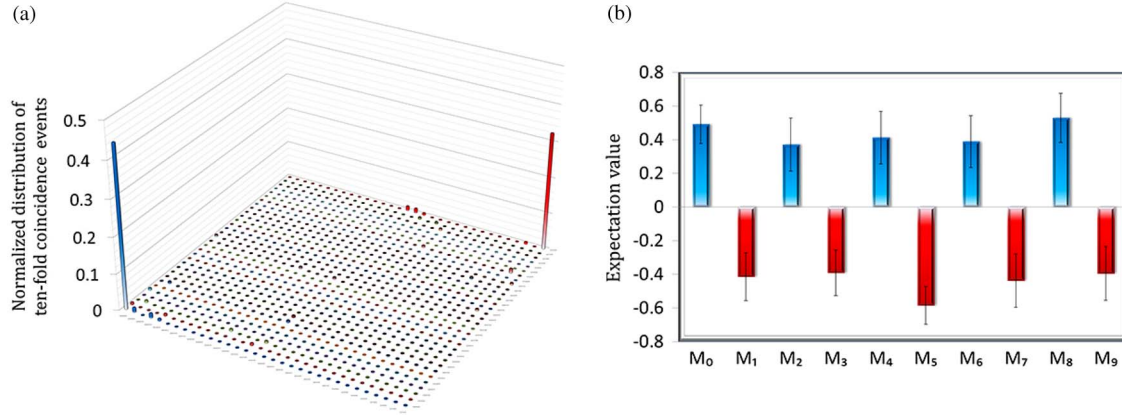


Fig. 3. Experimental results for the ten-photon GHZ state. (a) Population of the prepared tenfold coincidence events in the H/V basis. The total measured time is 300 h. (b) Expectation values in the basis of $M_k^{\otimes 10}$, $k = 0, 1, \dots, 9$. The $M_0(\sigma_x)$ and $M_5(\sigma_y)$ values are measured, respectively, for 110 h, while the remaining eight observables are measured for 80 h. Error bars indicate one standard deviation deduced from propagated Poissonian counting statistics of the raw detection events.

of the signal photons from the different SPDC sources. Given the aforementioned experimental results and Eq. (3), the calculated fidelity of our ten-photon GHZ state is $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}} = 0.606 \pm 0.029$. Reference [50] shows that the prepared multi-particle state is genuinely entangled as long as the average $\bar{F}$ value is larger than 0.5. Therefore, our experiment implements and proves the existence of a genuine ten-photon entanglement state, with a 3.6σ violation, based on Poisson's statistics hypothesis.

Furthermore, we characterize the effect of statistical fluctuation within finite data without the Poisson-distribution assumption. For any bi-separable state ρ_{bs} that satisfies $F_{\text{bs}} = \text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{bs}} \hat{F}) \leq 0.5$, one can predict an estimated fidelity higher than or equal to the observed one $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}}$ with non-zero probability. This probability is called a p -value, which determines the operational meaning of the experimental result in the hypothesis test of bi-separable states [51]. With a small enough p -value, we can conclude that the experimental result is significantly incompatible with any bi-separable state. With the data observed in our experiment, the p -value is upper bound by 3.7×10^{-3} (see Section 6.B). In the analysis of estimating the standard deviation of $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}}$, we assume the experiment data to be independent and identically distributed. It is worth mentioning that the estimation of the p -value is free of such assumptions.

5. CONCLUSION

In summary, we have demonstrated the successful generation and characterization of a ten-photon GHZ state using a thin BiBO crystal. By utilizing the entanglement witness, genuine ten-photon entanglement with 0.606 fidelity is demonstrated with a standard deviation of 3.6σ and a p -value of 3.7×10^{-3} . This work paves the way for multi-photon manipulation using thin non-linear crystals that simultaneously provide high R_T and ξ values, allowing us to tackle new challenges in the field of optical quantum technology. For instance, minor modifications can be conducted to our experimental setup, to achieve a quantum error correction code [52], which is one of quantum computation's long sought goals. Another immediate application for our setup is boson sampling with numerous photons. Further study of BiBO-based entangled photon pairs can be focused on the sandwich structure using beamlike type-II BiBO crystals. As

the signal-idler photon pairs are emitted into two separate circular beams instead of two diverging cones of (non-)collinear type-II SPDC, a greater ξ would be expected in the beamlike BiBO crystals. Furthermore, the imperfection of the output entangled photon state from non-collinear type-II BiBO crystals can also be eliminated by the aid of a beamlike BiBO-based sandwich structure. Recently, another ten-photon work with a fidelity of 0.573 ± 0.023 was reported in Ref. [53], using a beamlike BBO-based sandwich structure [54]. Combining the techniques present in these two ten-photon works, one could expect a further improvement of ξ using the beamlike BiBO-based sandwich structure.

6. METHOD

A. Details for BiBO Crystal

This section provides a theoretical description of type-II BiBO (BBO) phase-matching of $390 \text{ nm} \rightarrow 780 \text{ nm}$ SPDC. For BiBO and BBO crystals, the maximal collinear $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ is calculated to be 1.94 pm/V and 1.15 pm/V [55], respectively. Considering the $390 \text{ nm} \rightarrow 780 \text{ nm}$ non-collinear type-II phase-matching condition, the populations of emitted SPDC photon pairs are unbalanced owing to the low symmetry of BiBO crystals. For clarity, the photon that propagates from the left (right) intersection in Fig. 1(a) is labeled as i (j). When choosing the non-collinear type-II phase-matching angle present in Ref. [42], the $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ of the $|FS\rangle_{ij}$ and $|SF\rangle_{ij}$ components is calculated to be 1.84 and 2.02 pm/V , respectively. Consequently, the resulting two-photon entangled state can be written as $|\phi^+\rangle_{ij} = \cos(7\pi/30)|HH\rangle_{ij} + \sin(7\pi/30)|VV\rangle_{ij}$.

We further calculate the walk-off angle δ_θ for the BiBO and BBO crystals. For simplicity, δ_θ is considered to account solely for the SPDC rays. BBO is a uniaxial crystal where the walk-off only occurs for the SPDC photons that have an extraordinary (e) polarization. This walk-off is calculated to be $\delta_\theta^{\text{BBO}} = 0.072 \text{ rad}$. However, the BiBO crystal has a more complex biaxial symmetry, where both of the down-converted photons have respective spatial walk-off values of 0.020 and 0.063 rad . Nevertheless, the overall spatial walk-off magnitude in a BiBO

crystal is estimated to be equal to $\delta_{\theta}^{\text{BiBO}} = 0.066$ rad, which is smaller than $\delta_{\theta}^{\text{BBO}}$.

To determine a suitable crystal length L value for the BiBO crystal, four crystals are tested: 2 mm BBO, 1 mm BBO, 1.2 mm BiBO, and 0.6 mm BiBO. In the test, a 920 mW pump power with a pump beam waist of ~ 90 μm is used. This test reveals the different relationships among collection efficiency ξ , total pair generation rate R_T , and L . For comparison, all the experiment results are relative values with respect to those of a 2 mm BBO.

Table 1 shows the relationship between ξ and walk-off values. The FWHM values of SPDC photons are also given for different crystals, and ξ are measured without using the bandpass filters. According to Table 1, it can be seen that the increase of ξ is inversely proportional to the decrease of the walk-off value. In particular, the ξ of the 0.6 mm BiBO has relatively increased by $\sim 42.6\%$ compared to that of the 2 mm BBO.

The experimental relative R_T of the four crystals under different bandpass filters is shown in Table 2. For a given crystal (BiBO or BBO), one can conclude that R_T is nearly proportional to L in all of our bandpass filter configurations. However, when referring to different crystals, e.g., between BiBO and BBO, the relationship is not that clear since R_T is not simply determined by d_{eff} and L . According to Table 2, for the same L , the R_T of BiBO crystals can be relatively enhanced by $40\% \sim 50\%$ with respect to the R_T of BBO. To verify the experimental results, we perform theoretical calculations of R_T^{∞} [39] using

$$R_T^{\infty} \approx \left(\frac{d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{BiBO}}}{d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{BBO}}} \right)^2 \cdot \frac{L_{\text{BiBO}}}{L_{\text{BBO}}} \cdot \frac{[n_p n_s n_i (n_i - n_s)]_{\text{BiBO}}}{[n_p n_s n_i (n_i - n_s)]_{\text{BBO}}} \cdot \frac{\Omega_{\text{BiBO}}}{\Omega_{\text{BBO}}}. \quad (4)$$

Here, n_p , n_s , and n_i represent the refractive indices of the pump, signal, and idler lights, respectively. The spectral integral Ω depends on the walk-off parameter Δ [39]. We first calculate the n_p , n_s , n_i , and Δ values, which are shown in Table 3. Then by substituting these values, we obtain a theoretical R_T^{∞} of 0.424 for 0.6 mm BiBO crystals, which agrees with our experimental result of 0.413.

Moreover, we perform some theoretical simulations, such as the collinear type-II phase-matching angles, $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$, and the spatial walk-offs, in Fig. 4 [56]. It is remarkable that around the collinear type-II phase-matching region with minimal spatial walk-off angle (~ 0.011 rad) of BiBO crystals, $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ is calculated to be 1.1 pm/V, almost the same as that of BBO crystals. This region may offer opportunities to create entangled photon pairs with even higher ξ since it has an extremely small walk-off value.

B. Estimation of the p -Value

Due to statistical fluctuations in a finite number of data points, it is possible that a bi-separable state can predict a fidelity no less than the observed fidelity with non-zero probability. This prob-

Table 1. Experimental Relationship Between the Increase of ξ and Decrease of the Spatial Walk-Off Value

Crystal	Walk-Off $\downarrow$	ξ $\uparrow$	FWHM
2 mm BBO	0	0	7.5 nm (e), 15.5 nm (o)
1 mm BBO	54.1%	30.2%	9.6 nm (e), 15.5 nm (o)
1.2 mm BiBO	53.8%	30.0%	5.8 nm (F_1), 15.6 nm (S_1) 5.5 nm (F_2), 15.6 nm (S_2)
0.6 mm BiBO	72.5%	42.6%	6.8 nm (F_1), 17.5 nm (S_1) 7.3 nm (F_2), 16.2 nm (S_2)

Table 2. Experimental Relative R_T Under Different Bandpass Filters^a

Crystal	$R_T^{3,3}$	$R_T^{3,8}$	R_T^{∞}	$R_T^{3,6,7,8}$
2 mm BBO	1	1	1	—
1 mm BBO	0.517	0.569	0.455	—
1.2 mm BiBO	0.796	0.859	0.764	—
0.6 mm BiBO	0.449	0.483	0.413	0.488

^a $R_T^{3,3}$, $R_T^{3,8}$, R_T^{∞} , and $R_T^{3,6,7,8}$ represent the corresponding experimental relative R_T under different bandpass filter configurations of (3 nm, 3 nm), (3 nm, 8 nm), (no filters, no filters), and (3.6 nm, 7.8 nm), respectively. The $R_T^{3,6,7,8} = 0.488$ of 0.6 mm BiBO crystals is calculated with respect to $R_T^{3,8}$ of 2 mm BBO.

Table 3. Theoretical Values of n_p , n_s , n_i , and Δ in BBO and BiBO Crystals

Crystal	n_p	n_s	n_i	Δ
2 mm BBO	1.63	1.60	1.66	0.82
0.6 mm BiBO	1.84	1.78	1.90	0.28

ability is called a p -value, which determines the operational meaning of the experimental result [51]. To bound the p -value, we can think of the experiment as a hypothesis test of the inequality $\text{Tr}(\rho_{\text{bs}} \hat{F}) \leq F_0 = 0.5$, which is satisfied by all bi-separable states ρ_{bs} . We assume that the measurement outcomes from different trials are independent but not necessarily identical. In each trial of the test, one selects a measurement setting and records an outcome. When measurement $\sigma_k^{\otimes n}$ is performed, the trial outcome is $\pm \alpha_k N_i / N_k$, where $\alpha_k = (-1)^k / (2n)$ and the sign $\pm$ depends on whether the observed correlation is positive or negative. Here, $N_t = (N_z + \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} N_k)$ is the total number of trials in the test and N_z and N_k denote the coincidence counts in the H/V and M_k bases, respectively. When measurement $\sigma_z^{\otimes n}$ is performed, the trial outcome is $N_t / 2N_z$ or 0, depending on whether the measurement outcome is $(\sigma_{z,1}, \sigma_{z,2}, \dots, \sigma_{z,n}) = (H, H, \dots, H) / (V, V, \dots, V)$ or not.

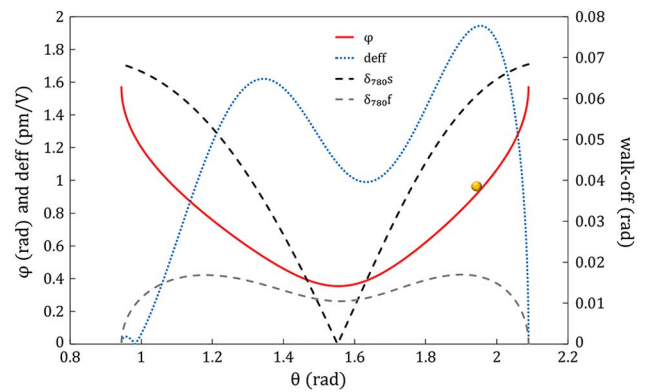


Fig. 4. Theoretical simulation curves of the collinear type-II phase-matching angles, $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$, and the spatial walk-off for a BiBO crystal. The collinear type-II phase-matching angles (θ, φ) in the main refractive index coordinates (solid red), $d_{\text{eff}}^{\text{II}}$ (dotted blue), δ_{θ} of 780 nm slow (dashed black) and fast (dashed gray) photons are simulated, respectively. The yellow dot represents the non-collinear type-II phase-matching angle (1.944, 0.962 rad) used in the experiment.

Table 4. Tenfold Coincidence Counting Events in the H/V and $M_k^{\otimes 10}$ Bases

N_z	N_0	N_1	N_2	N_3	N_4	N_5	N_6	N_7	N_8	N_9
144	53	34	46	35	41	59	33	34	32	36

Denote the value for the i th trial, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_t$, by F_i ; then the averaged experiment estimation is

$$\bar{F}_{\text{est}} = \frac{1}{N_t} \sum_{i=1}^{N_t} F_i. \quad (5)$$

It is straightforward to see that this estimation is the same as the one of fidelity $\bar{F}$ according to Eq. (3).

For bi-separable state ρ_{bs} , the average of F_i is smaller than $F_0 = 0.5$ [50]. Hence, by denoting a sequence F_{bs}^K by

$$F_{\text{bs}}^K = \sum_{i=1}^K (F_i - F_0), \quad (6)$$

we can easily prove that the sequence of F_{bs}^K is a super-martingale and $\bar{F}_{\text{bs}} = F_{\text{bs}}^{N_t}/N_t$. For such a super-martingale sequence, the p -value that the estimation $\bar{F}_{\text{bs}}$ achieves an observed value $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}}$ can be bounded according to Corollary 2.2 of Pinelis's paper [57]

$$p = \text{Prob}_{\text{bs}}(\bar{F}_{\text{bs}} \geq \bar{F}_{\text{exp}}) \leq D\left(\frac{N_t(\bar{F}_{\text{exp}} - F_0)}{S_{N_t}}\right), \quad (7)$$

where the function $D(x) = \min\{\exp(-x^2/2), 5!(e/5)^5 I(x)\}$ and the function $I(x)$ is the cumulative tail distribution function of the standard normal distribution. Here, $S_{N_t} = (s_1^2 + s_2^2 + \dots + s_{N_t}^2)^{1/2}$ and $s_i = (\max F_i - \min F_i)/2$, for $i = 1, 2, \dots, N_t$. For the i th trial, we have $s_i = N_t/(4N_z)$ and $s_i = \alpha_k N_t/(N_k)$ when the H/V basis and the M_k basis are chosen, respectively.

According to the definition of fidelity $\bar{F}$ in Eq. (3), S_{N_t} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} S_{N_t} &= \sqrt{\sum_{i=1}^{N_t} s_i^2} = \sqrt{\left(\frac{N_t}{4N_z}\right)^2 \times N_z + \sum_{k=0}^9 \left(\frac{\alpha_k N_t}{N_k}\right)^2 \times N_k} \\ &= N_t \sqrt{\frac{1}{16N_z} + \sum_{k=0}^9 \frac{\alpha_k^2}{N_k}}. \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

Therefore, the p -value can be upper bounded by

$$p = \text{Prob}_{\text{bs}}(\bar{F}_{\text{bs}} \geq \bar{F}_{\text{exp}}) \leq D\left(\frac{(\bar{F}_{\text{exp}} - F_0)}{\sqrt{\frac{1}{16N_z} + \sum_{k=0}^9 \frac{\alpha_k^2}{N_k}}}\right). \quad (9)$$

In experiment, we have an observed average fidelity $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}} = 0.606$ and the values of N_z and N_k summarized in Table 4. With our experiment results, we calculate the upper bound of the p -value to be $p \leq 3.7 \times 10^{-3}$.

The inequality of Eq. (7) reads as follows: the probability according to any bi-separable state of predicting a fidelity $\bar{F}_{\text{bs}}$ in the experiment not lower than the observed fidelity $\bar{F}_{\text{exp}}$ is not bigger than the p -value. In other words, the confidence that a genuine multipartite entangled state is prepared, given the observed results, is at least as high as $1 - p$.

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