Minimal vectorlike model in supersymmetric unification

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Abstract Compared to the minimal supersymmetric standard model, an extension by vectorlike fermions is able to explain the Higgs mass while retains the grand unification. We investigate the minimal vectorlike model by focusing on the vectorlike electroweak sector. We firstly derive the mass spectrum in the electroweak sector, then calculate the one-loop effects on the Higgs physics, and finally explore either vectorlike or neutralino dark matter. Collider constraints are briefly discussed.

1 Introduction

With the discovery of Higgs scalar \cite{1,2} at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), identifying the nature of this scalar, which reveals the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB), is one of prior tasks at this facility. There are various scenarios in the literature that naturally explain the EWSB, among which supersymmetry (SUSY) has attracted much attention since the discovery. Nevertheless, the prospective on the minimal supersymmetric standard model (MSSM) is rather pessimistic. Some reasons for this include that the mass parameters related to the third-generation squarks are probably at least of order several TeVs \cite{3,4}, and also signals of neutralino dark matter are not yet observed at any dark matter direct detection facilities \cite{5,6}.

The status of MSSM motivates a diversity of extensions, of which vectorlike (VL) fermions are interesting because of a few features as follows.

\begin{itemize}
  \item First, the VL fermions are one of viable extensions which retain the perturbative unification \cite{7,8}, similar to a well-known example – the next-to-minimal supersymmetric model (NMSSM).
  \item Second, the issue of naturalness imposed by the Higgs mass in the MSSM can be resolved by new radiative correction to the Higgs mass due to the VL fermions of order TeV scale \cite{9–11}. It differs from the NMSSM, as in the later one the correction occurs at the tree level.
  \item Last, the stringent constraint on the neutralino dark matter from dark matter direct detection will be modified due to presence of neutral fermions in the VL sector.
\end{itemize}

This paper is devoted to study the minimal VL model as described in Table 1. We will explore this model by focusing on the VL leptons therein, the matter content of which is composed of one singlet and two doublets. A key point in this model is that the VL leptons directly couple to the Higgs doublets rather than mix with the SM leptons, which suggests that they may play important roles in both the Higgs physics and dark matter.

The paper is organized as follows. In Sect. 2, we introduce the minimal VL model, derive the EWSB conditions, and calculate mass spectrum in the electroweak sector for our purpose. Section 3 is devoted to estimate effects on the Higgs physics, where the one-loop radiative correction to Higgs mass and the modification on Higgs self coupling are presented in Sects. 3.1 and 3.2, respectively. Section 4 is devoted to discuss the dark matter physics in the presence of VL leptons, where in Sect. 4.1 we will show the VL dark matter is excluded by the large Yukawa coupling as required by the Higgs mass, whereas in Sect. 4.2 the parameter space of neutralino dark matter is expanded due to the relax of Higgs mass constraint. In Sect. 5, we briefly discuss the collider constraints on the VL leptons. Finally, we conclude in Sect. 6.

2 The model

In the minimal VL model, the matter content contains a singlet $N$, two down-type triplets $D$ and $\bar{D}$, and two VL doublets $L$ and $\bar{L}$ with hyper charge $1/2$ and $-1/2$, respectively. They
constitute a $5_V$ and a $\bar{5}_V$ representation of SU(5) consistent with grand unification [7, 8].

The superpotential for the VL electroweak sector reads as,

$$W_{VL} = k H_u \bar{L} N - h L H_d N + M_L \bar{L} L + \frac{1}{2} M_N N^2$$

(1)

where $M_{L,N}$ refer to VL masses and $k$ and $h$ are Yukawa coupling constants. The superpotential for MSSM is given by,

$$W_{MSSM} = Y_u q \bar{u} H_u + Y_d q \bar{d} H_d + Y_e \bar{e} H_d + \mu H_u H_d.$$  

(2)

Although the matter content in Eq. (1) is similar to that of NMSSM with two additional doublets [12], they are different as what follows. Following our purpose as mentioned above, we assume that the conservative $R$-parities of $5_V$ and $\bar{5}_V$ that contain $L$ and $\bar{L}$ are the same as those of the $5_H$ and $\bar{5}_H$ that include the Higgs doublets $H_u$ and $H_d$. Moreover, in order to ensure that the low-energy effective superpotential is precisely described by Eqs. (1) and (2), we impose a $Z_2$ parity, under which $\bar{N}$, $5_V$ and $\bar{5}_V$ referring to the VL sector are odd but $5_M$, $10_M$, $5_H$ and $\bar{5}_H$ referring to the MSSM sector are even. The $Z_2$ parity is spontaneously broken by the vacuum expectation values (vevs) in the VL sector. Since the triplets $D$ and $\bar{D}$ affect the phenomenological analysis\footnote{Neither they directly couple to the Higgs doublets nor mix with the neutralinos/VL electroweak fermions. Both the corrections to the Higgs physics and dark matter analysis are expected to be small. Note, although perturbative unification favors VL triplet mass $M_D \sim M_L$, it may be still intact even for a moderate mass splitting between $M_D$ and $M_L$. Because it is not only sensitive to the mass spectrum of VL sector but also that of MSSM sector, and even intermediate physics between the weak scale and unification scale.} only in terms of their interaction with heavy triplet fields in $5_H$ and $\bar{5}_H$, we will simply neglect them.

Apart from the superpotential, the soft mass Lagrangian $\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}$ is also expanded as,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}} \supset -\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}^{\text{MSSM}} + m_L^2 \mid L \mid^2 + m_{\bar{L}}^2 \mid \bar{L} \mid^2 + m_N^2 \mid N \mid^2 + (k A_k H_u L N - h A_k L H_d N + \text{H.c}) ,$$

(3)

where $m_{L,N,D}$ and $A_{k,h}$ represent soft mass parameters, and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}^{\text{MSSM}}$ contains MSSM soft mass terms as such,

$$-\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}^{\text{MSSM}} = m_{H_u}^2 \mid H_u \mid^2 + m_{H_d}^2 \mid H_d \mid^2 + (b H_u H_d + \text{H.c}).$$

Following the notation and conventions in [13], we express the Higgs and VL doublets as, respectively,

$$H_u = \begin{pmatrix} H_u^+ \\ H_u^0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_u + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (H_u^{0 R} + i H_u^{0 I}) \\ H_u^{0 R} - i H_u^{0 I} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$H_d = \begin{pmatrix} H_d^0 \\ H_d^- \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_d + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (H_d^{0 R} + i H_d^{0 I}) \\ H_d^{0 R} - i H_d^{0 I} \end{pmatrix}$$

(4)

and

$$L = \begin{pmatrix} E^+ \\ \eta \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} v_L + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\eta_R + i \eta_I) \\ \eta_R - i \eta_I \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\bar{L} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{E}^+ \\ \bar{\eta} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \bar{v}_L + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{\eta}_R + i \bar{\eta}_I) \\ \bar{\eta}_R - i \bar{\eta}_I \end{pmatrix}.$$  

(5)

Similarly, we write singlet $N$ as

$$N = n + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (N_R + i N_I).$$

(6)

Mass parameters $v_{u,d}, v_L, \bar{v}_L$ and $n$ denote vevs.

These vevs are determined by the minimization of scalar potential $V$ as given by

$$V = V_F + V_D - \mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}}$$

(7)

where

$$V_F = \left( \mu H_d + k \bar{L} N \right)^2 + \mid \mu H_u - h L N \mid^2 + \mid M_L \bar{L} - h H_d N \mid^2 + \mid k H_u \bar{L} - h L H_d + M_N N \mid^2,$$

$$V_D = \frac{g_1^2 + g_2^2}{8} (\mid H_u \mid^2 - \mid H_d \mid^2 + \mid L \mid^2 - \mid \bar{L} \mid^2)^2 + \frac{g_2^2}{2} \mid H_u H_d^+ + L \bar{L}^+ \mid^2.$$  

(8)

Here, $g_1$ and $g_2$ refers to $U(1)_Y$ and $SU(2)_L$ gauge coupling constant, respectively. Substituting Eqs. (5) and (6) into Eq.(7) gives rise to the EWSB conditions:

$$0 = F_N (-k \bar{v}_L) + F_L (kn) + F_{H_d} \mu - k A_k n \bar{v}_L + m_{H_u}^2 v_u - \frac{1}{2} M_Z^2 \cos 2\beta \nu_u (1 - \delta) - b \cot \beta \nu_u$$

$$0 = F_N (h \nu_L) + F_L (-hn) + F_{H_d} \mu + h A_k n \nu_L + m_{H_d}^2 v_d + \frac{1}{2} M_Z^2 \cos 2\beta \nu_d (1 - \delta) - b \tan \beta \nu_d$$

$$0 = h^2 n^2 v_L + F_N (h \nu_d) + h A_k n \nu_d + m_{\nu_L}^2 v_L - \frac{1}{2} M_Z^2 \cos 2\nu_L \delta$$

$$0 = k^2 n^2 \bar{v}_L + F_N (-k \nu_u) - k A_k n \nu_u + m_{\nu_u}^2 v_L + \frac{1}{2} M_Z^2 \cos 2\nu_U \delta$$

$$0 = F_N M_N + F_L (-h \nu_d) + F_L (k \nu_u) + n (k^2 \bar{v}_L + h^2 \nu_L^2) - k A_k \nu_u \bar{v}_L + h A_h \nu_d \nu_L + m_N^2 n,$$  

(9)
where $F_i$ refer to the $F$-terms related to chiral superfield $i = \{ N, L, \bar{L}, H_u, d \}$. For simplicity, we have neglected small cross terms from $D$-terms. In Eq. (9), $\tan\beta$, $\tan\gamma$, and $\delta$ are defined as

$$\tan\gamma = \frac{v_L}{\bar{v}_L}, \quad \delta = \frac{v_L^2 + \bar{v}_L^2}{(v/\sqrt{2})^2},$$

$$\tan\beta = \frac{v_U}{\bar{v}_U}, \quad 1 - \delta = \frac{v_U^2 + \bar{v}_U^2}{(v/\sqrt{2})^2},$$

with the expectation value for the weak scale $v \approx 246$ GeV.

With the conditions of EWSB described in Eq. (9), one can directly derive the scalar and fermion mass spectrum in the electroweak sector. We refer the reader to Appendix A and B for scalar mass spectrum such as CP-even, CP-odd, and CP-charged scalars, and fermion mass spectrum such as neutralinos and charginos, respectively. In the next section, we will discuss constraints on the model parameters from precision measurements on the Higgs couplings.

3 Higgs physics

3.1 Higgs couplings

The precision measurement on the Higgs couplings is one of major tasks at the LHC, for it reveals the pattern of EWSB in the sense that different new physics models predict different sets of Higgs couplings. The LHC has verified the SM-like Higgs coupling to SM fermions such as $b$ [14] and $\tau$ [15] as well as couplings to SM vector bosons such as $W$ [16]. These measurements tell us to what extent [17–19] $\nu$ is deviated from its SM reference value. Such data will be further improved in higher level of precision at the future HL-LHC [20] or ILC [21] in preparation.

The Higgs couplings to SM particles in our model are given as,

$$y_t = \frac{m_t}{v} \frac{c_\beta}{\sqrt{1 - \delta}} \mathcal{O}_{11},$$

$$y_b = \frac{m_b}{v} \frac{c_\beta}{\sqrt{1 - \delta}} \mathcal{O}_{12},$$

$$y_\tau = \frac{m_\tau}{v} \frac{c_\beta}{\sqrt{1 - \delta}} \mathcal{O}_{13},$$

$$y_W = \frac{2M_W^2}{v} \left[ \sqrt{1 - \delta} (s_\beta \mathcal{O}_{11} + c_\beta \mathcal{O}_{12}) + \sqrt{3} (\sqrt{2} s_\beta \mathcal{O}_{13} + c_\beta \mathcal{O}_{14}) \right],$$

$$y_Z = \frac{M_Z^2}{v} \left[ \sqrt{1 - \delta} (s_\beta \mathcal{O}_{11} + c_\beta \mathcal{O}_{12}) + \sqrt{3} (\sqrt{2} s_\beta \mathcal{O}_{13} + c_\beta \mathcal{O}_{14}) \right],$$

where the constant coefficients are the SM values. $\mathcal{O}_{ij}$ are components of the orthogonal matrix $\mathcal{O}$ which diagonalizes

$$\mathcal{O}_{ij} \mathcal{O}_{ij} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } i = j \\
0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}.$$
From Eq. (14), one observes that the components $O_3$ reach of HL-LHC (14 TeV, 3ab$^{-1}$) [20] and weak scale $v$ [19] at 68% CL. Mass parameter is in unit of GeV.

### Table 2 LHC constraints from global fits to SM-like Higgs couplings [22] and weak scale $v$ [19] at 68% CL. Mass parameter is in unit of GeV.

| Parameter | Fit |
|-----------|-----|
| $k_t$ | $0.81^{+0.19}_{-0.15}$ |
| $k_b$ | $0.74^{+0.31}_{-0.29}$ |
| $k_{1/2}$ | $0.84^{+0.19}_{-0.18}$ |
| $k_W$ | $0.95^{+0.14}_{-0.13}$ |
| $k_Z$ | $1.05^{+0.16}_{-0.16}$ |
| vev | $231^{+13}_{-15}$ |

$$\lambda^{\text{MSSM}} = \frac{3M_Z^2}{v^2} \cos(2\alpha) \sin(\alpha + \beta),$$

$$\lambda^{\text{SM}} = \frac{3M_Z^2}{v^2} cos^2(2\alpha).$$ (17)

The probe of Higgs self interaction is thus useful in discriminating this model from the others.

Following the constraints on $O_{11}$ and $O_{12}$ in the Table 2, we show in Fig. 1 the contour of $\lambda_{3h}/\lambda_{3h}^{\text{SM}}$ for tan $\beta = 20$ and $O_{12} = 0.05$, with the shaded region satisfying all constraints in the Table 2. Note the ratio $\lambda_{3h}/\lambda_{3h}^{\text{SM}}$ is more sensitive to scaling factor $\delta$ and $O_{11}$ rather than $O_{12}$ for large tan $\beta$. Under the limit $\delta \rightarrow 0$, the ratio approaches to the maximal value $\lambda_{\text{max}}^{\text{SM}}/\lambda_{3h}^{\text{SM}} \sim 0.52$. With $\delta \neq 0$, a suppression on the ratio appears. We find that the triangle region on the right side of green curve is in the reach of HL-LHC (14 TeV, 3ab$^{-1}$) [20], whereas the left side will be still invisible in the foreseeable future.

#### 3.3 Higgs mass

The soft mass parameters in Eq. (3) lead to mass splittings between the fermion and its scalar partner masses in VL superfield $L$, $\tilde{L}$ and $N$. It can be extracted via evaluating the one-loop correction to effective potential [23],

$$\Delta V = 2 \sum_{i=1}^{3} [F(M^2_{b_i}) - F(M^2_{b_i})],$$ (18)

with $F(x) = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \ln(x/Q^2) - 3/2 \right]/64\pi^2$. For simplicity, we consider the universal soft masses $m_L = m_{\tilde{L}} = m_N = m$, universal VL masses $M_L = M_{\tilde{L}} = M_N = M$ and large tan $\beta$ limit. Meanwhile, we take the good approximation $v_L = \tilde{v}_L = 0$. The neutral scalar mass squared matrix, which determines the mass eigenvalues $M^2_{b_i}$ in Eq. (18), is given by (see Eq. (A1))

$$M^2_{b_i} \simeq \begin{pmatrix} M^2 + m^2 & 0 & kMv_u \\ * & M^2 + m^2 + k^2v^2_u & -kX_k v_u \\ * & * & M^2 + m^2 + k^2v^2_u \end{pmatrix}$$ (19)
where $X_k \simeq M + A_k - \mu \cot \beta$. The neutral fermion mass squared matrix, which gives the mass eigenvalues $M^2_{fi}$ in Eq. (18), reads as (see also Eq. (B3))

$$M^2_{fi} = \begin{pmatrix} M^2 + k^2 v_u^2 & 0 & k M v_u \\ 0 & M^2 & k M v_u \\ * & * & M^2 + k^2 v_u^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

(20)

Substituting the mass eigenvalues in Eqs. (19) and (20) into Eq. (18), one obtains the one-loop correction to SM-like Higgs mass

$$\Delta M^2_h \simeq \frac{1}{4 \pi^2} k^4 v^2 \sin^4 \beta \left[ \ln(x) + \frac{1}{8} \left( \frac{\lambda(y)}{x} - \lambda_+ \right) - \frac{5}{192} \left( \frac{\lambda^2(y)}{x^2} - \lambda^2_+ \right) \right],$$

(21)

where $x = 1 + m^2/M^2$, $y = X_k^2/M^2$ and $\lambda_+ = \lambda(1)$, with $\lambda(y)$ defined as

$$\lambda(y) = 4 + 2y + 2 \sqrt{y^2 + 4y}.$$  

(22)

As clearly seen in Eq. (21), $\Delta M^2_h \to 0$ under the degenerate mass limit $x \to 1$ and $y \to 1$, where the scalar and fermion masses are degenerate. Conversely, large $\Delta M^2_h$ is expected in the situation with large $x$ and certain value of $y$.

Shown in Fig. 2 is the contour of Higgs mass with correction $\Delta M_h = \sqrt{(125 \text{ GeV})^2 - M_Z^2}$. The red curves represent the minimal VL model, which are compared with the non-minimal VL model [9] as shown in black curves. In individual case, the dashed and solid one refers to the small- and large-mixing effect, respectively. There are a few comments in order. (i) $X_k/M$, which is fixed by the condition of maximal-mixing effect, is equal to $12 x/5$ and $2(3 x - 1)$ in the minimal and non-minimal VL model, respectively. (ii) The discrepancies between the two models are small (large) in the situation with maximal (small)-mixing effect. (iii) All of four patterns in Fig. 2 favor large value of $x$. This suggests a large mass splitting ($m/M \sim 10$) between the scalars and fermions in the VL electroweak sector, if the Yukawa coupling $k$ is required to be in the perturbative region in high energy scales. For VL fermions of order $\sim 1$ TeV, the VL scalars have mass of order $\sim 10$ TeV, which implies that the later ones have no role to play either at the LHC or dark matter experiments.

4 Dark matter

In our model, the number of neutral fermions is seven, with four from the MSSM neutralino sector (for review, see, e.g. [33]) and the other three from the VL sector. The mass matrix for them is shown in Eq. (B3), where the complexity can be relatively reduced by taking the decoupling limit $v_L = 0$ as favored by precise measurements on the Higgs couplings. Moreover, a small but nonzero $n$ is sufficient to yield desired decays in the VL electroweak sector, with the first-order approximation to which the mass matrix in Eq. (B3) is further divided into two separate parts—the neutralino mass matrix $A$ and the VL mass matrix $B$.

4.1 VL dark matter

For VL dark matter $\tilde{\chi}_i^0$ is decomposed as,

$$\tilde{\chi}_i^0 = N_{i5}^+ \tilde{n} + N_{i6}^+ \tilde{\nu} + N_{i7}^+ \tilde{N},$$

(23)

where for simplicity we have neglected the neutralinos in Eq. (B3). The mass matrix $M_\chi$ is reduced to matrix $B$. Since all of scalars in the VL sector are decoupled, the Lagrangian in Eq. (1) most relevant for this situation is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_\text{VL} \supset k (H_u^+ \tilde{E}^- - H_u^0 \tilde{n}) \tilde{N} - h (H_d^0 \tilde{n} - H_d^- \tilde{E}^+ ) \tilde{N} - \frac{g}{4 c_W} \tilde{\eta}^\mu \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \tilde{Z} \mu \tilde{n} - \frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\tilde{E}^+ \gamma^\mu P_L \tilde{\eta} W^\mu_+ + H^+ \gamma^\mu P_R \tilde{\eta} W^\mu_-}{\sqrt{2}}. $$

(24)
From Eq. (24), the VL $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$ annihilation is mediated by Z boson, SM Higgs $h_{SM}$ and the charged fermion $E^\pm$, with SM final states $ff$, $ZZ$, $WW$ and $h_{SM} h_{SM}$.

Equation (24) also indicates that this dark matter model is a specific example of singlet-doublet dark matter [34–39]. The key feature in our model is that the coupling $k \simeq 1.1 - 1.2$ due to the observed Higgs mass. The other coupling $h$ can be neglected for $\tan \beta \gtrsim 10$, in which case we are left with two mass parameters $M_L$ and $M_N$. Using these mass parameters, one obtains the dark matter couplings to Higgs and $Z$ [39] given as respectively,

$$c_h \simeq - \frac{k^2}{2} \frac{m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1} \nu}{M_L^2 + \frac{k^2}{2} \nu^2 + 2M_N m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1} - 3m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1}^2},$$

$$c_Z \simeq - \frac{k^2}{2} \frac{M_Z \nu (m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1}^2 - M_L^2)}{m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1}^2 - M_L^2 + \frac{k^2}{2} \nu^2 (m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1}^2 + M_L^2)}.$$

Shown in Fig. 3 are the constraints on the parameter space projected to the two-parameter plane of $M_L - M_S$ with $k = 1.2$. The red curve therein refers to the relic density of VL dark matter $\Omega h^2 \simeq 0.12$. We show the latest results [40, 41] on the spin-independent (SI) and spin-dependent (SD) dark matter-\(\frac{n}{p}\) scattering cross sections in green dotted and green solid plots, respectively, where we have used the results $\sigma_{SI} \simeq c_0^2 \times (2.11 \times 10^3)$ zb and $\sigma_{SD}^n \simeq c_0^2 \times (8.97 \times 10^8)$ zb.

In order to be complete, indirect constraints are also shown in Fig. 3. Since the VL leptons do not directly mix with the SM leptons, constraints such as lepton flavor violations are weaker than the electroweak precision measurements [42] on the Z boson and Higgs decay widths. In Fig. 3, the experimental bounds $\Delta \Gamma_Z \lesssim 2\text{ MeV}$ [43] and $\Delta \Gamma_h \lesssim 0.16\Gamma_h$ [18] are shown in blue solid and blue dotted curves, respectively, parameter regions below which are excluded.

The combination of these limits exclude parameter regions on the top of green dotted curve and on the left side of green solid curve. It turns out that while VL dark matter with mass larger than 200 GeV may be still consistent with the LUX SD limit, it is totally excluded by the latest Xenon1T limit. The main reason for it is that $k \sim 1.2$ and large $\tan \beta$ lead to too large $c_0$ in Eq. (25) to evade the Xenon1T limit. In the above analysis, we have handled the dark matter relic density by an analytic treatment similar to Ref. [39] instead of numerical calculation such as MicrOMEGAs [44]. In particular, we have used our previous results in Ref. [45].

4.2 Neutralino dark matter

Although the VL dark matter is excluded, it still has a role to play in the case of neutralino dark matter. A neutralino dark matter $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$ mainly arises from following components:

$$\tilde{\chi}^0_1 = N_{11}^* \tilde{B}^0 + N_{12}^* \tilde{W}^0 + N_{13}^* \tilde{H}^0_d + N_{14}^* \tilde{H}^0_u,$$

whose relic density is affected by the VL sector in the following ways.

Firstly, $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$ pair may annihilate into the VL final states such as $E^+ E^-$, through either the $s$-channel exchange of $Z$ boson/Higgs scalar $h_1$ or the $t$- and $u$-channel exchange of VL scalars $E^\pm$. However, this channel is not kinetically allowed, since the masses of $E^\pm$ are larger than $m_{\tilde{\chi}^0_1}$ when $E^\pm$ share the same $R$-parity with the neutralino $\tilde{\chi}^0_1$. Moreover, the $t$ and $u$-channel exchange of VL scalars $E^\pm$ are both suppressed by large VL scalar masses.5

Second, the VL sector can mediate new Feynman diagrams for neutralino annihilation into $W^\pm$, with the neutralino-

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4 Of course, this statement is not true in the situation where smaller $k$ can fit the observed Higgs mass when the one-loop correction to the Higgs mass is dominated by the stop parameters in the MSSM sector rather than the the electroweak fermions in the VL sector.

5 If there are new sources to uplift the Higgs mass, the VL scalar masses can be of order sub-TeV, in which situation such process deserves a detailed study [46, 47].
neutralino, which rely on mixings between $\tilde{\chi}_i$ and VL sector fermions $\tilde{\eta}$ or $\tilde{\nu}$.

In the case of VL doublet-dominated correction, the ratio $\delta\sigma_{ann}/\sigma_{ann}$ as function of higgsino-like neutralino mass $m_{\tilde{\chi}_i}$ for $-h = k = 1.2, |M_L - m_{\tilde{\chi}_i}| < M_Z$, and different values of $n = \{5, 15, 25, 30\}$ GeV, where $\sigma_{ann} \approx 3 \times 10^{-27}\text{cm}^3/\text{s}$.

$\chi^+_E - W$ vertex given by

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{g}{\sqrt{2}} W^-_\mu (N_{61} P_L - N_{51} P_R) \tilde{\chi}_0^0 y^\mu \chi^+_E + \text{H.c.} \quad (27)$$

- Fermions $\tilde{\eta}$ and $\tilde{\nu}$ mediate $t$- or $u$-channel Feynman diagrams for neutralino annihilation into $Z$ bosons, with the neutralino-$\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}$-$Z$ vertex read as

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{g}{4c_W} Z_{\mu} \tilde{\chi}_0^0 y^\mu \gamma_S \left( N_{61} \tilde{\eta} - N_{51} \tilde{\nu} \right) \quad (28)$$

- Fermions $\tilde{\eta}$, $\tilde{\mu}$, $\tilde{\nu}$ and $\tilde{N}$ mediate $t$- or $u$-channel Feynman diagrams for neutralino annihilation into $hh$, with the neutralino-$\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}/\tilde{N}$-$h_{SM}$ vertex in the MSSM modified by

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} ( -k N_{51} s_\beta + h N_{61} c_\beta ) \tilde{\chi}_0^0 \tilde{\eta} h_{SM} + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} N_{71} ( -k s_\beta \tilde{\eta} + h c_\beta \tilde{\nu} ) \tilde{\chi}_0^0 h_{SM} \quad (29)$$

Equations (27) to (29) determine the deviation from ordinary neutralino, which rely on mixings between $\tilde{\chi}_0^0$ and VL sector as described by components $N_{ij}$ with $i = 5 - 7$. With the mass parameter $m \sim$ several TeVs, the conditions of EWSB in Eq. (9) imply that $n$ is at most of order $\sim 10$ GeV and $\delta$ is less than $\sim 0.01$. Thus, $N_{11}$ reaches to its maximal values in the case of higgsino-like $\tilde{\chi}_0^0$.

We divide the effects on higgsino-like $\tilde{\chi}_0^0$ into the VL doublets- and singlet-dominance. In the case of VL doublet-dominated correction, $M_L$ is smaller than $M_N$. The effect on the relic density of higgsino-like $\tilde{\chi}_0^0$ mainly arises from the neutralino-$\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}$-$Z$ vertex, which also contributes to the SD cross section. The first-order solution to the reduced 4 x 4 mass matrix in Eq. (B3) only composed of Higgs doublets and VL doublets is given by

$$k_{\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}} \tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu} \sim -k n/(\mu + M_L),$$

$$k_{\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}} \tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu} \sim -(+) k n/(\mu + M_L),$$

$$k_{\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu}} \tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu} \sim 0,$$

for $h = -k$ and $M_N > M_L$.

Substituting Eq. (30) into Eq. (28), we show in Fig. 4 the maximal correction to dark matter annihilation cross section $\sigma_{ann}$ that occurs in the mass region $|M_L - m_{\tilde{\chi}_i}| < M_Z$ for $k = 1.2$ and different values of $n = \{5, 15, 25, 30\}$ GeV. In the mass range of $m_{\tilde{\chi}_i} = 250 – 1000$ GeV, the ratio $\delta\sigma/\sigma_{ann}$ varies from $6\% (n = 30$ GeV) to less than $0.1\% (n = 5$ GeV). It is sensitive to $n$ since $\delta\sigma$ is proportional to factor $(n/\mu + M_L)^4$. In the case of singlet-dominated correction, similar order of $\delta\sigma/\sigma_{ann}$ is expected.

The modifications on the neutralino relic density, the SD and the SI cross sections, which are in percent level, suggest that the parameter space of neutralino dark matter is mainly expanded due to relaxing the Higgs mass constraint e.g. by lowering the values of $\tan\beta$ or gaugino masses in the case of universal soft masses.

5 Collider detection

Collider detections on VL electroweak fermions depend on their interactions with SM particles. If mixed with SM leptons such as $e$, $\mu$ or $\tau$, VL leptons can be constrained by mixing-relevant processes at collider constraints [48–50]. These constraints depend on both the VL lepton mass and its mixing with the SM leptons. In our case, the VL electroweak fermions $\chi^+_E (\tilde{\eta}/\tilde{\nu})$ directly mix with charginos (neutralinos) rather than SM leptons. The strategies of searching them at colliders thus differ from the case of lepton mixings.
The VL electroweak fermions can be produced via chargino (neutralino) decay when their masses are beneath chargino (neutralino) masses. Alternatively, they just imitate the electroweak productions of charginos (neutralinos). The main difference between these two processes are that the cross section for the former case depends on both the VL lepton masses and their mixings with chargino or neutralinos, while the cross section for the later one mainly relies on the VL electroweak fermion masses. Here, we stick to the later case, where the VL electroweak fermion pairs decay and are produced in terms of SM $Z$-, $W$- and Higgs-boson. Under the basis of gauge eigenstates as shown in Eq. (24), the interaction vertexes of these processes are fixed by the SM gauge interactions, so the numbers of events for VL lepton pairs are mainly sensitive to their mass parameters $m_{L}$ and $m_{N}$. We show in Table 3 the backgrounds for the productions of various VL electroweak fermion pairs at the LHC, where mass bounds on neutralinos and charginos can be found. $m_{\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}}$ or $m_{\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0}}$ up to ~550 GeV is excluded for $m_{\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}}$ less than ~100 GeV, and they are obviously relaxed when $m_{\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}}$ is above 100 GeV [53,54].

The mixing effects in the VL electroweak sector are described by the mass matrix $B$ in Eq. (B4), which is similar to the higgsino-bino benchmark scenario. See the reduced matrix $A$ with wino decoupled in Eq. (B4). We can infer the implications of LHC limits above to the parameter space of $M_{L} - M_{N}$ by introducing a ratio of signal strengths $\mu$. For example, for the process $pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_{E}^{\pm} \tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} +$ jets + leptons [53,54] we have

$$\mu = \frac{\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_{E}^{0} \tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} + \cdots)}{\sigma(pp \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{\pm} \tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} + \cdots)} \cdot \frac{\text{Br}(\tilde{\chi}_{E}^{\pm} \rightarrow W^{\pm} \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0})}{\text{Br}(\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{\pm} \rightarrow W^{\pm} \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0})} \cdot \frac{\text{Br}(\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} \rightarrow Z \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0})}{\text{Br}(\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} \rightarrow Z \tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0})},$$

(31)

where $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}$ in the numerators (denominators) refers to the lightest neutral fermion in the VL (higgsino-bino) sector. In the parameter regions with $M_{N} < M_{L}$, where $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0} \sim \tilde{\eta}_{0}$, $\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} \sim \tilde{\eta}_{0}$ and $\tilde{\chi}_{E}^{\pm} \sim \tilde{E}^{\pm}$, the number of events for $\tilde{\chi}_{E}^{0} \tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0}$ pair can be of same order as that of $\tilde{H}_{u,d}^{0,0}$ pair. So the pattern of LHC limits projected to the plane of $M_{N} - M_{L}$ is similar to Fig. 8(d) in Ref. [54]. In the parameter regions with $M_{N} > M_{L}$, where $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0} \sim \tilde{\eta}_{0}$, $\tilde{\chi}_{2}^{0} \sim \tilde{N}^{0}$, and $\tilde{\chi}_{E}^{\pm} \sim \tilde{E}^{\pm}$, the mass splitting between $\tilde{E}^{\pm}$ and $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}$ is small similar to the case of Higgsino-like $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{\pm}$ and $\tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0}$. In this situation, the decays [55] of charged fermion $c_{E}^{\pm} \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0} W^{\pm} \rightarrow \tilde{\chi}_{1}^{0} \cdots$ are rather sensitive to the mass splitting.

6 Conclusion

In this paper, we have studied the minimal VL model motivated by the grand unification. The key feature in such model is that the VL electroweak sector couples to the Higgs doublets rather than mixes with the SM leptons. Therefore, they can play important roles both in the phenomenologies of Higgs physics and dark matter.

For the Higgs physics, we have used the LHC bounds on the Higgs coupling constants to constrain the vevs in the VL electroweak sector, the magnitude of which are found to be small. Consequently, the magnitudes of the mixing effects between the Higgs doublets and the VL electroweak sector controlled by the vevs are small as well, leading to small deviation in the Higgs self coupling from the MSSM expectation. Moreover, we used the observed Higgs mass to constrain the other model parameters in the VL sector. The fit reveals that both large Yukawa coupling constant $k \sim 1.1$ and large mass splitting between scalar and fermion masses in the VL sector are required.

For the dark matter phenomenology, we have verified that the large Yukawa coupling $k$ excludes the possibility of VL dark matter. For it gives rise to too large dark matter coupling to Higgs to evade the Xenon1T limit. Nevertheless, they are still useful to reduce the tension on the neutralino dark matter by relaxing the constraint from Higgs mass.

Finally, in order to be complete we briefly discussed the constraints on the VL electroweak fermions at the LHC. Unlike in the 4th generation leptons which directly mix with SM leptons, the VL electroweak fermions can be either produced via the decays of charginos and neutralinos, or they imitate the electroweak productions of charginos and neutralinos. The prospect of the later class at the high luminosity-LHC will be explored elsewhere [56].

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Appendix A: Scalar mass matrix

1 CP-even scalar

In the basis $\phi^T = (H^0_R, H^0_d, \eta_R, \bar{\eta}_R, N_R)$, the matrix elements for symmetric mass matrix squared $M^2_S$ of CP-even scalars in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} \phi^T_S M^2_{S,ij} \phi^i_S$$

(A1)

are as follows,

$$M^2_{S,11} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{S,12} = b - khv_L \bar{v}_L$$
$$M^2_{S,13} = -h n \mu - khv_L v_L + k M_L n$$
$$M^2_{S,14} = 2k^2 u_L + k(M_N n + h u_L v_L) - k A_L n$$
$$M^2_{S,15} = 2k^2 n v_L - h v_L \mu - k M_L v_L - k A_L \bar{v}_L$$
$$M^2_{S,22} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{S,23} = 2h^2 v_d v_L + h(M_N n - k u_L \bar{v}_L) - h A_k n$$
$$M^2_{S,24} = kn \mu - khv_u v_d - h M_L n$$
$$M^2_{S,25} = 2h^2 n v_d + k \bar{v}_L \mu + k M_L v_L + h M_L \bar{v}_L + h A_k v_L$$
$$M^2_{S,33} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{S,34} = -khv_u v_d$$
$$M^2_{S,35} = 2h^2 n v_d - h u_d \mu - h M_N v_d + k M_L v_d + h A_k v_d$$
$$M^2_{S,44} = m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{S,45} = 2k^2 n \bar{v}_L + k u_d \mu - k M_N v_d - h M_L v_d - k A_k v_u$$
$$M^2_{S,55} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (v^2_L + v^2_d) + k^2 (v^2_L + v^2_d)$$

(A2)

where $D$-term contributions have been neglected. After diagonalizing the matrix $M^2_S$, we obtain five physical neutral scalars, one of which serves as the SM-like Higgs boson $h$ with mass 125 GeV [1,2].

2 CP-odd scalar

In the basis $\phi^T_A = (H_{a1}, H_{a2}, H_{a3}, \eta_I, \bar{\eta}_I, N_I)$ the matrix elements for CP-odd scalars in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} \phi^T_A M^2_{A,ij} \phi^i_A$$

(A3)

are given by,

$$M^2_{A,11} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{A,12} = b - khv_L \bar{v}_L$$
$$M^2_{A,13} = -h n \mu - khv_L v_L + k M_L n$$
$$M^2_{A,14} = -k(M_N n + h v_u v_L) + k A_k n$$
$$M^2_{A,15} = -h v_L \mu - k M_N \bar{v}_L - k M_L v_L + k A_k \bar{v}_L$$
$$M^2_{A,22} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{A,23} = -h(M_N n - k u_L \bar{v}_L) - h A_k n$$
$$M^2_{A,24} = kn \mu - khv_u v_d - h M_L n$$
$$M^2_{A,25} = +k \bar{v}_L \mu + h M_N v_L - h M_L \bar{v}_L - h A_k v_L$$
$$M^2_{A,33} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (n^2 + v^2_d)$$
$$M^2_{A,34} = -khv_u v_d$$
$$M^2_{A,35} = h u_d \mu + h M_N v_d + k M_L v_d - h A_k v_d$$
$$M^2_{A,44} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_u)$$
$$M^2_{A,45} = -k v_d \mu - h M_N u - h M_L v_d + k A_k v_u$$
$$M^2_{A,55} = M^2_{N,2} + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (v^2_L + v^2_d) + k^2 (v^2_L + v^2_d)$$

(A4)

where the $D$-term contributions have been neglected. Under the decoupling limit $v_L = \bar{v}_L = 0$ and $n = 0$, scalar $\eta_I$, $\bar{\eta}_I$ and $N_I$ decouple from $H_{a1}$ and $H_{a2}$, which results in the well known result $\text{Det} M^2_A = 0$.

3 CP-charged scalar

In the basis $\phi^T_c = (H^+_u, H^-_d, E^+, E^-)$ the matrix elements for charged scalars in the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \phi^T_c M^2_{C,ij} \phi^i_c$$

(A5)

read as

$$M^2_{C,11} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{C,12} = -khv_L \bar{v}_L$$
$$M^2_{C,13} = -h n \mu - khv_L v_L + k M_L n$$
$$M^2_{C,14} = k(M_N n - h u_L v_L) + k A_k n$$
$$M^2_{C,22} = \mu^2 + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (n^2 + v^2_L)$$
$$M^2_{C,23} = -h(M_N n - k u_L \bar{v}_L) - h A_k n$$
$$M^2_{C,24} = kn \mu - khv_u v_d - h M_L n$$
$$M^2_{C,33} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + h^2 (n^2 + v^2_d)$$
$$M^2_{C,34} = -khv_u v_d$$
$$M^2_{C,44} = M^2_{L,2} + m^2_{H_d} + k^2 (n^2 + v^2_u)$$

(A6)

Under the decoupling limit $v_L = \bar{v}_L = 0$ and $n = 0$, scalar $E^+$ and $E^-$ decouple from the others, due to which one recovers the relation $\text{Det} M^2_C = 0$.
Appendix B: Fermion mass matrix

1 Charged fermions

In the basis \( \psi_{\pm}^T = (W^+, \tilde{H}_u^+, \tilde{E}^+, \tilde{W}^-, \tilde{H}_d^-, \tilde{E}^-) \) the mass matrix in \( L \supset -\frac{1}{2} \hat{T}_{ij} M_{\psi_{\pm,ij}} \psi_{\pm} \) is given by,

\[
M_{\psi_{\pm,ij}} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & X^T \\
0 & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(B1)

with

\[
X = \begin{pmatrix}
\frac{M_2}{\sqrt{2(1-\delta)c_\gamma M_W}} & \frac{\sqrt{2\delta} s_\beta M_W}{\sqrt{2\delta c_\gamma M_W}} \\
\frac{\sqrt{2(1-\delta)c_\gamma M_W}}{\delta} & \frac{-h_n}{k_n} & \frac{M_L}{M_W}
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(B2)

where \( s_\beta = \sin \beta, c_\beta = \cos \beta, s_\gamma = \sin \gamma \) and \( c_\gamma = \cos \gamma \).

2 Neutral fermions

In the basis \( \chi_0^T = (\tilde{B}^0, \tilde{W}^0, \tilde{H}_u^0, \tilde{H}_d^0, \tilde{\eta}, \tilde{\eta}, \tilde{N}) \) the mass matrix in \( L \supset -\frac{1}{2} \hat{T}_{ij} M_{\chi_0,ij} \chi_0 \) reads as,

\[
M_{\chi} = \begin{pmatrix}
A & C \\
* & B
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(B3)

with

\[
A = \begin{pmatrix}
M_1 0 & -(1-\delta) M_{ZSW} c_\beta (1-\delta) M_{ZSW} s_\beta \\
0 M_2 & (1-\delta) M_{ZSW} c_\beta (1-\delta) M_{ZSW} s_\beta \\
* * 0 & -\mu & 0 \\
* * * & 0
\end{pmatrix}
\]

(B4)

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