Resonant Higgs-Sector CP Violation at the LHC

JAE SIK LEE

Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Manchester
Manchester M13 9PL, United Kingdom

ABSTRACT
We present the general formalism for studying CP-violating phenomena in the production, mixing and decay of a coupled system of CP-violating neutral Higgs bosons at high-energy colliders. Considering the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) Higgs sector in which CP violation is radiatively induced by phases of the soft supersymmetry-breaking parameters, we apply our formalism to neutral Higgs production via $\bar{b}b$, $gg$ and $W^+W^-$ collisions and their subsequent decays into $\tau^+\tau^-$ pairs at the LHC. We discuss CP asymmetries in the longitudinal polarizations of $\tau^+\tau^-$ pairs based on a scenario in which all neutral Higgs bosons are nearly degenerate and the CP-violating signatures are resonantly enhanced.

1. Introduction

In the presence of non-vanishing CP phases in the soft SUSY-breaking terms, radiative corrections naturally induce a mixing between CP-odd and CP-even Higgs states \[1\]. The main contribution comes from stop and sbottom loops due to the large Yukawa couplings, the size of the CP-violating mixing being proportional to \[2\]

$$\Delta_f \equiv \frac{3m(A_f\mu)}{(m_{f_2}^2 - m_{f_1}^2)}$$ (1)

with $f = t, b$. Here the $A_f$’s are complex trilinear soft-breaking parameters, $\mu$ is the complex supersymmetric Higgs(ino) mass parameter, and the $m_{f_i}$, $i = 1, 2$, are the squark mass eigenvalues. Even though the mixing is loop-suppressed, its effects can be sizable even for small values of $3m(A_f\mu)$, especially when two or more neutral Higgs bosons are nearly degenerate \[3\].

In the presence of this non-trivial mixing with non-vanishing CP phases, the neutral Higgs bosons do not have to carry any definite CP parity and the mixing among them is described by the orthogonal $3 \times 3$ matrix instead of a $2 \times 2$ one and, accordingly, the couplings of the Higgs bosons to the SM and SUSY particles are greatly modified. The most prominent example is the Higgs-boson coupling to a pair of vector bosons, which is responsible for the production of Higgs bosons at $e^+e^-$ colliders. In fact, the lightest Higgs boson $H_1$ lighter than 50 GeV could have been undetected at LEP2 for intermediate values of $\tan \beta$ \[4\].

Recently a computational tool called CPsuperH \[5\] has been developed for Higgs phenomenology in the MSSM with explicit CP violation. This code calculates the Higgs boson pole masses \[6\], Higgs-boson mixing matrix, all the couplings of Higgs bosons to the SM and SUSY particles, and the decay widths and branching fractions of the neutral...
and charged Higgs bosons [7].

2. Higgs-boson propagator matrix

In a situation where two or more neutral Higgs bosons are simultaneously involved in a process due to their mass differences comparable to their decay widths, the full $3 \times 3$ Higgs boson propagator matrix $D(\hat{s})$ should be considered:

$$D(\hat{s}) = \hat{s} \begin{pmatrix}
\hat{s} - M_{H_1}^2 + i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{11}(\hat{s}) & i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{12}(\hat{s}) & i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{13}(\hat{s}) \\
 i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{21}(\hat{s}) & \hat{s} - M_{H_2}^2 + i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{22}(\hat{s}) & i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{23}(\hat{s}) \\
 i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{31}(\hat{s}) & i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{32}(\hat{s}) & \hat{s} - M_{H_3}^2 + i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{33}(\hat{s})
\end{pmatrix}^{-1},$$

(2)

where $M_{H_i}$’s are Higgs-boson pole masses and for the absorptive parts of the Higgs-boson propagator matrix, $i\Im\hat{\Pi}_{ij}(\hat{s})$, we have included contributions from loops of fermions (third generation leptons and quarks, charginos, and neutralinos), vector bosons, associated pairs of Higgs and vector bosons, Higgs-boson pairs, and sfermions.

In Fig. 1 we show the absolute value of each component of the Higgs-boson propagator matrix $|D_{ij}(s)|$ with (red solid lines) and without (black dashed lines) including off-diagonal absorptive parts in the three-way mixing scenario with $\Phi_A = -\Phi_3 = 90^\circ$. Three Higgs-boson pole masses are presented with vertical lines.

| $|D_{11}(s)|$ | $|D_{12}(s)|$ | $|D_{13}(s)|$ |
|------------|------------|------------|
| ![Graph](image1.png) | ![Graph](image2.png) | ![Graph](image3.png) |

| $|D_{21}(s)|$ | $|D_{22}(s)|$ | $|D_{23}(s)|$ |
|------------|------------|------------|
| ![Graph](image4.png) | ![Graph](image5.png) | ![Graph](image6.png) |

| $|D_{31}(s)|$ | $|D_{32}(s)|$ | $|D_{33}(s)|$ |
|------------|------------|------------|
| ![Graph](image7.png) | ![Graph](image8.png) | ![Graph](image9.png) |

Figure 1: The absolute value of each component of the Higgs-boson propagator matrix $|D_{ij}(s)|$ with (red solid lines) and without (black dashed lines) including off-diagonal absorptive parts in the three-way mixing scenario with $\Phi_A = -\Phi_3 = 90^\circ$. Three Higgs-boson pole masses are presented with vertical lines.

In Fig. 1 we show the absolute value of each component of the Higgs-boson propagator matrix, $|D_{ij}(s)|$, in the so-called three-way mixing scenario, which is characterized by a

\[\text{Here we neglect the small off-diagonal absorptive parts between Goldstone and Higgs bosons.}\]
large value of $\tan \beta = 50$ and small $M_{H^\pm} = 155$ GeV with $\Phi_A = -\Phi_3 = 90^\circ$; $\Phi_A \equiv \arg(A_t \mu) = \arg(A_b \mu)$ and $\Phi_3 \equiv \arg(M_3 \mu)$ with $M_3$ the gluino mass parameter. We observe the inclusion of the off-diagonal absorptive parts significantly modifies the Higgs-boson propagators: the peak positions could be different from pole-mass positions and the off-diagonal transition propagators can be sizable and should not be neglected.

3. At the LHC

We have considered three main neutral Higgs-boson production mechanisms at the LHC and the significant mixing among Higgs bosons before decaying into $\tau$ leptons:

- $b$-quark fusion : $pp(b\bar{b}) \to H_{i\to j} X \to \tau^+\tau^- X$
- gluon fusion : $pp(gg) \to H_{i\to j} X \to \tau^+\tau^- X$
- $W$-boson fusion: $pp(W^+W^-) \to H_{i\to j} X \to \tau^+\tau^- X$

![Graphs showing differential total and CP-violating cross sections](image)

Figure 2: The differential total and CP-violating cross sections, $\tau \frac{d\sigma_{tot}}{d\hat{s}}$ and $\tau \frac{d\Delta\sigma_{CP}}{d\hat{s}}$, as functions of the tau-lepton invariant mass $\sqrt{\hat{s}} = \sqrt{(p_{\tau^+} + p_{\tau^-})^2}$ in the three-way mixing scenario with $(\Phi_A, \Phi_3) = (90^\circ, -90^\circ)$ (black solid lines) and $(\Phi_A, \Phi_3) = (90^\circ, -10^\circ)$ (red dashed lines). The vertical lines show the positions of three Higgs-boson pole masses in each case. The kinematic parameter $\tau = \hat{s}/s$ with $s$ the hadron-collider energy squared.

In Fig. 2 we show the differential total and CP-violating cross sections defined by:

$$\sigma_{tot} \equiv \sigma(pp \to \tau_R^+\tau_R^- X) + \sigma(pp \to \tau_L^+\tau_L^- X),$$
$$\Delta\sigma_{CP} \equiv \sigma(pp \to \tau_R^+\tau_R^- X) - \sigma(pp \to \tau_L^+\tau_L^- X).$$

(3)
It is indispensable to measure the longitudinal polarizations of tau leptons to construct the CP-violating cross section $\Delta \sigma_{\text{CP}}$ which is non-vanishing only in the presences of non-trivial CP phases and the absorptive parts in the Higgs-boson propagators or their vertices.

We observe that the $b$-quark fusion is the dominant production mechanism and the total cross section is at least five times larger than the gluon fusion cross section. This large cross-section reduces the would-be large CP asymmetry in the gluon-fusion channel below $1\%$ level after combining $b$-quark and gluon fusion channels. The reason is that in the scenario under consideration $b$-quark rescattering effects dominate the resonant transition amplitude, leading to a strong suppression of CP violation. We also note that the peak positions don’t exactly coincide with the Higgs-boson pole-mass positions and the resonance shape strongly depends on the production channels.

Though the WW-fusion cross section is the smallest one, this process can be discriminated experimentally from $b$-quark and gluon fusion ones and can be very promising for detecting Higgs sector CP violation at the LHC. We find that the CP asymmetry given by the ratio $\sigma_{\text{tot}}/\Delta \sigma_{\text{CP}}$ is large over wide range of CP phases. Especially, it can be easily larger than $30 \%$ even for small CP phases and reach to $80 \%$ when $\Phi_3 = -70^\circ$ as shown in Figs. 8–11 of Ref. [3].

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5. References

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