Another Look at Charged Higgs Boson Production at LEP

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The current atmospheric and solar neutrino experimental data favors the bi-maximal mixing solution of the Zee-type neutrino mass matrix in which neutrino masses are generated radiatively. This model requires the existence of a weak singlet charged Higgs boson. While low energy data are unlikely to further constrain the parameters of this model, the direct search of charged Higgs production at the CERN LEP experiments can provide useful information on this mechanism of neutrino mass generation by analyzing their data with electrons and/or muons (in contrast to taus or charms) in the final state with missing transverse energies. We also discuss the difference in the production rates of a weak singlet from a weak doublet charged Higgs boson pairs at LEP.

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I. INTRODUCTION

Despite of the success of the Standard Model (SM), searching for new physics beyond the SM has always been one important part of the current and future collider program. One such example is to detect the production of a charged Higgs boson at the CERN LEP experiments. The most commonly studied new physics model other than the minimal supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) is the general two-Higgs doublet model (THDM), which includes a pair of charged Higgs boson ($H^{\pm}$). Since $H^{\pm}$ is a component of the Higgs doublets, it carries a nonvanishing weak quantum number. At electron-positron colliders, the production rate of the charged Higgs boson pair via the tree level process $e^-e^+ \rightarrow \gamma,Z \rightarrow H^+H^-$ is uniquely predicted. This is because the coupling of $\gamma H^+H^-$ is determined by the electric charge of $H^{\pm}$, and the coupling of $ZH^+H^-$ is determined by the weak charge (as well as electric charge) of the charged Higgs boson. Furthermore, in the general THDM, the coupling of $H^{\pm}$ to fermions is determined by the Yukawa interaction. Usually, its strength is proportional to the fermion masses, so that the $H^-$ predominantly decays into $\tau\tau$, $c\bar{c}$, and $s\bar{s}$. By examining the above decay modes, the LEP-II experimental groups have constrained the decay branching ratios of $H^- \rightarrow \tau\nu$, and/or $H^- \rightarrow s\bar{s}$ as a function of the charged Higgs boson mass.

In this letter, we propose to reexamine the LEP experimental data on the detection of a charged Higgs boson to test new physics models in which a light weak singlet (not doublet) charged Higgs boson is present. To clarify our discussions, we consider the Zee-model as an example. From the observations of atmospheric and solar neutrinos, there are increasing evidences for neutrino oscillations. If this is the correct interpretation, the SM has to be extended to incorporate the small neutrino masses suggested by data. There been several ideas proposed in the literature to generate small neutrino masses. The Zee-model is one of such attempts, in which the three different flavor neutrinos are massless at the tree level, and their small masses are generated at the one-loop level. For such a mass-generation mechanism to work, it is necessary to extend the Higgs sector of the SM to contain at least two weak-doublet scalar fields and one weak-singlet charged scalar field. To generate a tiny neutrino mass through radiative corrections, this singlet charged Higgs boson has to couple to leptons in different families.

According to the recent analysis in Ref. [4], the favored solution for having a bi-maximal mixing in the Zee-type neutrino mass matrix is the MSW large angle solution, with the mass relation $|m_{\nu_1}| \simeq |m_{\nu_2}| \gg |m_{\nu_3}|$, where $m_{\nu_i}$ ($i = 1-3$) are the three neutrino masses. We shall show that, in such a case, the phenomenology of the singlet charged Higgs boson is completely different from that of the ordinary weak-doublet charged Higgs boson, especially in its decay pattern. In general, these two charged Higgs bosons will mix. When the lighter charged Higgs boson ($S^+_2$) is the weak singlet, the dominant decay modes of $S^+_2$ are $e^-H_T$ and $\mu^-H_T$, while the $\tau^-H_T$ mode is highly suppressed and the $c\bar{s}$ mode is not allowed at tree level. The production rate of the $S^+_2S^-_2$ pair at LEP-II is about 80% of that of the $H^+H^-$ pair production for the charged Higgs boson mass to be around 100 GeV. (Again, we denote $H^{\pm}$ as the charged Higgs boson in the usual THDM.) Therefore, the expected signal would escape the current analysis performed by the LEP-II experimental groups. To shed lights on this type of model (with a weak singlet charged Higgs boson), LEP-II collaborations should examine their data sample that contains $e^{\pm}$ and/or $\mu^{\pm}$ with the missing transverse energy ($E_T$).
II. ZEE MODEL

The Zee-model requires a $SU(2)_L$ singlet charged scalar field ($\phi^-$) in addition to two $SU(2)_L$ doublet fields ($\phi_1, \phi_2$). The Lagrangian can be written as:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} - V(\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi^-),$$  

(1)

where $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kin}}$ is the kinematic term and $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}}$ is the usual Yukawa interaction term of the THDM. The interactions among $\phi^-$ and leptons are defined by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} = f_{ij} \overline{\tilde{\ell}_i} (\tilde{\tau}_2) (\ell_{jL})^C \phi^- + f_{ij} \overline{\tilde{\ell}_i} (\tilde{\tau}_2) \ell_{jL} \phi^+, \quad (2)$$

where $i = 1, 2, 3$ is the generation index, and the left-handed lepton doublet $\ell_L$ is defined as $\begin{pmatrix} \nu_L \ell_L \end{pmatrix}_L$.

The charge conjugation of a fermion field is defined as $\psi^C = C \overline{\psi}$, where $C$ is the charge conjugation matrix ($C^{-1} \gamma^5 C = -\gamma^5$) with the super index $T$ indicating the transpose of a matrix. The Higgs potential is given by

$$V(\phi_1, \phi_2, \phi^-) = m_1^2 |\phi_1|^2 + m_2^2 |\phi_2|^2 + m_3^2 |\phi^-|^2 - m_{10}^2 \phi_1^* \phi_1 + m_{12}^2 \phi_2^* \phi_2 + m_{13}^2 \phi^-^* \phi^- + h.c.$$  

(3)

where $\phi_{m} = (\phi_m^0, \phi_m^\pm)$ and $\phi_{m}^* \equiv (i\tau_2) \phi_m^* \phi_m^0$ with $m = 1, 2$. Without loss of generality, we can take the anti-symmetric matrix $f_{ij}$ and the coupling $\mu$ to be real.

In order to suppress the flavor changing neutral current (FCNC) at the tree level, a discrete symmetry (with $\phi_1 \to +\phi_1, \phi_2 \to -\phi_2, \phi^- \to +\phi^-$) is imposed, which is broken only softly by the $m_3^2$ term and the $\mu$ term in Eq. (3). Under this discrete symmetry, there are two possible forms of the Yukawa interaction term, $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}}$, which are the same as that in the type-I and type-II THDM. Hereafter, we shall refer to these two possible forms of $\mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}}$ as the type-I and type-II Zee-model, respectively.

We assume that the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ symmetry is broken to $U(1)_{em}$ by the vacuum expectation values of $\phi_1^0$ and $\phi_2^0$. The number of physical Higgs bosons are two CP-even Higgs bosons ($H, h$), one CP-odd Higgs boson ($A$) and two pairs of charged Higgs bosons ($S_1, S_2$). We adopt the convention, in which $m_H > m_h$ and $m_S > m_{S^\pm}$. In the basis where the two Higgs doublets are rotated by the vacuum angle $\beta$, with $\tan \beta = \frac{\langle \phi_1 \rangle}{\langle \phi_2 \rangle}$, the mass matrix for the charged Higgs bosons is given by

$$M_S^2 = \begin{pmatrix} M^2 - \frac{\lambda_1 + \lambda_2}{2} \sigma_2^0 & \frac{-\mu}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{-\mu}{\sqrt{2}} & m_0^2 + \left(\frac{\sigma_2}{2} \cos \beta + \frac{2}{\sqrt{2}} \sin \beta \right) v^2 \end{pmatrix},$$

(4)

where $M^2 = m_0^2/(\sin \beta \cos \beta)$. By diagonalizing this mass matrix, the original fields $\phi_1^-, \phi_2^-$ and $\omega^-$ can be written as

$$\phi_1^- = G^- \cos \beta - (S_1^- \cos \chi - S_2^- \sin \chi) \sin \beta,$$

(5)

$$\phi_2^- = G^- \sin \beta + (S_1^- \cos \chi - S_2^- \sin \chi) \cos \beta,$$

(6)

$$\omega^- = S_1^- \sin \chi + S_2^- \cos \chi,$$

(7)

where $G^\pm$ are the charged Nambu-Goldstone bosons, and the mixing angle $\chi$ characterizes the mixing between the two mass eigenstates $S_1^-$ and $S_2^-$. Although neutrinos are massless at the tree level, loop diagrams involving the charged Higgs bosons can generate the Majorana mass terms for all three neutrinos. At the one-loop order, the neutrino mass matrix ($M_\nu$) is real and symmetric with vanishing diagonal elements in the basis where the charged lepton mass matrix is diagonal. The $(i,j)$ component of $M_\nu$ is given by

$$m_{ij} = f_{ij} (m_{c_i}^2 - m_{c_j}^2) \frac{\mu \cot \beta}{16 \pi^2} \frac{1}{m_{S_1}^2 - m_{S_2}^2} \ln \frac{m_{S_1}^2}{m_{S_2}^2},$$

(8)

where $m_{c_i}$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) is the charged lepton mass for the type-I Zee-model. For the type-II model, $\cot \beta$ should be replaced by $\tan \beta$.

The phenomenological analysis of the above mass matrix in the Zee-model was performed in Refs. [2]. It was concluded that the bi-maximal mixing is the only possibility to reconcile the atmospheric and solar neutrino data. In terms of the three eigenvalues of the neutrino mass matrix, denoted as $m_{\nu_1}, m_{\nu_2}$, and $m_{\nu_3}$, the only possible pattern of the neutrino mass spectrum is $m_{\nu_1} \simeq |m_{\nu_2}| \gg |m_{\nu_3}|$, with $m_{\nu_1} - m_{\nu_2} \simeq m_{\nu_2} - m_{\nu_3} = \Delta m_{\text{ atm}}$, and $|\Delta m_{12}^2| = m_{\nu_1} - m_{\nu_2}^2 = \Delta m_{\text{ solar}}^2$, where from the atmospheric neutrino data, $\Delta m_{\text{ atm}}^2 = O(10^{-3}) \ eV^2$, and from the solar neutrino data, $\Delta m_{\text{ solar}}^2 = O(10^{-5}) \ eV^2$ (the MSW large angle solution). The above results imply

$$\left| \frac{f_{12}}{f_{13}} \right| \simeq \frac{m_{12}^2}{m_{13}^2} \simeq 3 \times 10^2,$$

(9)

$$\left| \frac{f_{13}}{f_{23}} \right| \simeq \frac{\sqrt{2} \Delta m_{\text{ atm}}}{\Delta m_{\text{ solar}}} \simeq 10^2.$$  

(10)

Therefore, the magnitudes of the three coupling constants should satisfy the relation $|f_{12}| \gg |f_{13}| \gg |f_{23}|$, which is crucial for studying the phenomenology of the singlet charged Higgs boson.

For a given value of the parameters $m_{S_1}, m_{S_2}, \tan \beta$, and $\mu$, the coupling $f_{ij}$ can be calculated from Eq. (3). For example, for $m_{S_1} = 500 \text{ GeV}, m_{S_2} = 100 \text{ GeV}$, $\tan \beta = 1$, and $\mu = 100 \text{ GeV}$, we obtain $|f_{12}| \sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$, assuming $m_{12} = 3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$. In the case that $m_{S_1}$ is
large, the lighter charged Higgs boson $S_2^-$ is almost a weak singlet, i.e. the mixing angle $\chi$ approaches to zero. For such values of $f_{ij}$ and $m_{S_2}$, it is unlikely to have an observable effect from the Zee-model to the low energy data, e.g., the muon life-time, the universality of tau decay into electron or muon, the rare decay of $\mu \to e\gamma$, the universality of $W$-boson decay into electron, muon or tau, and the decay width of $Z$ boson. Since $|f_{ij}|$ are small, we do not expect a large rate in the lepton flavor violation decay of a light neutral Higgs boson, such as $h \to \mu^+\mu^-$ (the largest one), $h \to e^+\tau^+$, or $h \to \mu^+\tau^-$ (the smallest one). On the contrary, the decay width of $h \to \gamma\gamma$ can change by about 20% as compared to the SM prediction, whose details will be given elsewhere. The direct search of a weak singlet charged Higgs boson at the LEP experiments can further test this model as discussed in the following section.

### III. DECAY AND PRODUCTION OF $S_2^\pm$

In the Zee-model, two kinds of charged Higgs bosons appear. If there is no mixing between them ($\chi = 0$), the mass eigenstates $S_2^+$ and $S_2^-$ correspond to the THDM-like charged Higgs boson $H^\pm$ and the singlet Higgs boson $\omega^\pm$, respectively. Thus, the detection of $S_2^\pm$ can be a strong support of the Zee-model. Here, we discuss how this extra charged boson $S_2^\pm$ can be detected at collider experiments. For simplicity, we only consider cases with $\chi = 0$. Since $m_{S_2} < m_{S_1}$, $\chi = 0$ implies that the singlet charged Higgs is lighter than the double charged Higgs boson.

The $S_2^-$ boson decays into a lepton pair $e_i^- e_j^-$ with the coupling constant $f_{ij}$. The decay rate, $\Gamma_{ij}^{S_2^-} = \Gamma(S_2^- \to e_i^- e_j^-)$, is calculated as

$$\Gamma_{ij}^{S_2^-} = \frac{m_{S_2} f_{ij}^2}{4\pi} \left(1 - \frac{m_{S_2}^2}{m_{S_2}^2}\right)^2,$$

and the total decay width is given by

$$\Gamma_{\text{total}}^{S_2^-} = \sum_{i,j} \Gamma_{ij}^{S_2^-}.$$

Taking into account the hierarchy of $f_{ij}$ (c.f. Eqs. 10 and 11), and assuming $\vert f_{12} \vert \sim 3 \times 10^{-4}$, we estimate the total decay width ($\Gamma_{\text{total}}^{S_2^-}$) and the life time ($\tau$) as

$$\Gamma_{\text{total}}^{S_2^-} \sim \Gamma_{12}^{S_2^-} + \Gamma_{21}^{S_2^-} \sim 1.6 \text{ keV},$$

$$\tau \sim 1/\Gamma_{\text{total}}^{S_2^-} \sim 10^{-18} \text{ sec},$$

for $m_{S_2} \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$. Therefore, $S_2^-$ decays promptly after its production, and can be detected at collider experiments.

We note that $S_2^\pm$ only decays leptonically with branching ratios estimated to be

$$B(S_2^- \to e^- B_T) \sim 0.5,$$

$$B(S_2^- \to \mu^- B_T) \sim 0.5,$$

$$B(S_2^- \to \tau^- B_T) \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_\mu^2}{m_\tau^2}\right) \sim 10^{-5},$$

where we have used Eqs. 10 and 11. Clearly, the branching ratio into the $\tau^- B_T$ mode is very small, so that it is not as useful for detecting $S_2^\pm$. This is different from the case of detecting the ordinary THDM-like charged Higgs boson, which preferentially decays into heavy fermion pairs (e.g. $\tau\nu$ and $c\bar{s}$).

The main production channel for $S_2^\pm$ at the LEP-II experiment is the pair production process $e^+ e^- \to S_2^+ S_2^-$, similar to the production of the THDM-like charged Higgs boson $S_1^\pm$. The matrix-element squares for the $S_1^+ S_2^-$ production ($i = 1, 2$) are calculated as

$$\left|\mathcal{M}(e^- e^+ R \to S_1^+ S_2^-)\right|^2 = \left\{ \frac{Q_2 e^2}{s} + \frac{1}{c_W^2} (s \beta_W - c_W)\, \text{with} \, s \beta_W = \text{scattering angle of } S_1^+ \text{ in the } e^+ e^- \text{ center-of-mass frame whose energy is } \sqrt{s}. \right.$$
for the process. The cross sections for mode is the pair production through the Drell-Yan-type bosons \[8\]. At hadron colliders, the dominant production mainly through electrons at hadron colliders and future linear colliders are mainly through e\(^{+}\)e\(^{-}\)→ W\(^{+}\)W\(^{-}\)→ ℓ\(^{+}\)ℓ\(^{-}\) \(\not{E}\)T at \(\sqrt{s} = 210\) GeV is also shown, for comparison.

\[
\sigma(e^{+}e^{-} \rightarrow W^{+}W^{-} \rightarrow \ell^{+}\ell^{-} \not{E}\)T \). Therefore, we expect that, by carefully examining the \(\ell^{+}\ell^{-} \not{E}\)T events (\(\ell^{+}\ell^{-} = e^{+}e^{-}, e^{\pm}\mu^{\mp}\) and \(\mu^{\pm}\mu^{-}\), in contrast to \(\tau^{+}\tau^{-}\) for the \(S^{\pm}\) case) in the LEP-II data, the lower bound on the mass of \(S^{\pm}\) can be determined.

Finally, we comment on the \(S^{\pm}\)-production cross sections at hadron colliders and future linear colliders (LC's), assuming no mixing between the charged Higgs bosons \[4\]. At hadron colliders, the dominant production mode is the pair production through the Drell-Yan-type process. The cross sections for \(p\bar{p} \rightarrow S_{2}^{\pm}S_{2}^{-}\) at the Tevatron Run-II energy (\(\sqrt{s} = 2\) TeV) are about 24, 11, and 2 fb for \(m_{S_{2}} = 80, 100\), and 150 GeV, respectively. At the LHC (\(\sqrt{s} = 14\) TeV), the cross sections for \(pp \rightarrow S_{2}^{+}S_{2}^{-}\) are 33, 3.3, and 0.77 fb for \(m_{S_{2}} = 100, 200\), and 300 GeV, respectively. At future LC's, the \(S^{\pm}\) bosons are produced mainly through e\(^{+}\)e\(^{-}\) → \(S_{2}^{\pm}S_{2}^{-}\) for \(\sqrt{s}/2 > m_{S_{2}}\), and its cross section is about the same as that for the pair production of the ordinary weak doublet charged Higgs bosons in the THDM or the MSSM.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

In summary, we pointed out that the phenomenology of the singlet charged Higgs boson can be completely different from that of the THDM-like charged Higgs boson. For example, the singlet charged Higgs boson \(S_{2}^{\pm}\) can decay into \(e^{\pm}\mu\) through the \(f_{ij}\) couplings, where \(e_{i}\) is \(e^{-}\) or \(\mu^{-}\). The decay branching ratio into the \(\tau\nu\) mode is almost negligible for \(|f_{12}| \gg |f_{14}| \gg |f_{23}|\), which results from fitting the neutrino oscillation data to the Zee-model mass matrix. On the other hand, the THDM-like charged Higgs boson \(S_{2}^{\pm}\) decays mainly into \(\tau^{-}\nu\) and \(s\) through the usual Yukawa interactions. Therefore, to detect the singlet charged Higgs boson at LEP-II, one should examine the \(\ell^{+}\ell^{-} \not{E}\)T signal with \(\ell^{+}\ell^{-} = e^{+}e^{-}, e^{\pm}\mu^{\mp}\) or \(\mu^{\pm}\mu^{-}\), in contrast to the usual detection modes of \(\tau^{+}\tau^{-} \not{E}\)T, \(\tau^{\pm}\nu\) \(\not{E}\)T, etc. The phenomenology of the Zee-model Higgs sector will be further discussed elsewhere \[3\].

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