Could two NMSSM Higgs bosons be present near 125 GeV?

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We examine GUT-scale NMSSM scenarios in which both $h_1$ and $h_2$ lie in the 123–128 GeV mass range. Very substantially enhanced $\gamma\gamma$ and other rates are possible. Broadened mass peaks are natural.

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Data from the ATLAS and CMS collaborations [1] [2] provide an essentially 5\sigma signal for a Higgs-like resonance with mass of order 123–128 GeV. In the $\gamma\gamma$ final state, the ATLAS and CMS rates are roughly $1.9 \pm 0.4$ and $1.6 \pm 0.4$ times the Standard Model (SM) prediction. In the $ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$ channel, the ATLAS and CMS signals are roughly $1.1^{+0.5}_{-0.5}$ and $0.7^{+0.3}_{-0.3}$ times the SM expectation, respectively. In the $b\bar{b}, \tau^+\tau^-$ and $WW \rightarrow ℓ\nu\nu\nu$ channels, the central value ATLAS rates are somewhat suppressed relative to the SM prediction but error bars are very large. The CMS signals in these latter channels are also somewhat suppressed and lie at least 1\sigma below the SM prediction — no signal being observed in the $\tau^+\tau^-$ channel. Meanwhile, the CDF and D0 experiments have announced new results [3] that support the $\sim$125 GeV Higgs signal and suggest an enhancement relative to the SM of the $W+Higgs$ with $Higgs \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ rate by a factor of $2 \pm 0.6$.

Enhanced rates in the $\gamma\gamma$ channel have been shown to be difficult to achieve in the NMSSM [4], while remaining consistent with all relevant constraints, including those from LEP searches, $B$-physics, the muon anomalous magnetic moment, $a_\mu \equiv (g-2)_\mu/2$, and the relic density of dark matter, $\Omega h^2$, when parameters are semi-unified at the GUT scale. By “semi-unified” we mean a model in which $m_0$, $m_{1/2}$, and $A_0$ are universal at the GUT scale with NUHM relaxation for $m^2_{H^+}$, $m^2_A$, and $m^2_H$ and general $A_\lambda$ and $A_\kappa$. Enhancements appear to be possible only if large values of the superpotential coupling $\lambda$ are employed and the $a_\mu$ constraint is greatly relaxed [6]. (See [7] for the first discussion of an enhanced $\gamma\gamma$ rate at large $\lambda$ in the NMSSM with parameters defined at the weak scale.) In this Letter, we pursue the case of generally large $\lambda$ and uncover a particularly interesting set of scenarios in which the two lightest CP-even Higgs bosons, $h_1$ and $h_2$, both lie in the 123–128 GeV mass window. Phenomenological consequences are examined.

For the numerical analysis, we use NMSSMTools [8] [9] [10] version 3.2.0, which has improved convergence of RGEs in the case of large Yukawa couplings and thus allows us to explore parameter regions that where left uncharted in [5]. The precise constraints imposed are the following. Our ‘basic constraints’ will be to require that an NMSSM parameter choice be such as to give a proper GME solution, have no Landau pole, have a neutralino as the lightest SUSY particle (LSP) and obey Higgs and SUSY mass limits as implemented in NMSSMTools-3.2.0 (Higgs mass limits are from LEP, older TEVATRON, and early LHC data; SUSY mass limits are essentially from LEP.)

Regarding $B$ physics, the constraints considered are those on $\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow X_s\gamma)$, $\Delta M_s$, $\Delta M_d$, BR($B_s \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-$), BR($B^+ \rightarrow \tau^+\nu\gamma$) and BR($B \rightarrow X_s\mu^+\mu^-$) at 2\sigma as encoded in NMSSMTools-3.2.0, except that we updated the bounds on rare $B$ decays to 3.04 < $\text{BR}(B_s \rightarrow X_s\gamma) \times 10^4 < 4.06$ and $\text{BR}(B \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-) < 4.5 \times 10^{-9}$; theoretical uncertainties in $B$-physics observables are taken into account as implemented in NMSSMTools-3.2.0.

Regarding dark matter constraints, we accept all points that have $\Omega h^2 < 0.136$, thus allowing for scenarios in which the relic density arises at least in part from some other source. However, we single out points with $0.094 \leq \Omega h^2 \leq 0.136$, which is the ‘WMAP window’ defined in NMSSMTools-3.2.0 after including theoretical and experimental systematic uncertainties. In addition, we impose bounds on the spin-independent LSP–proton scattering cross section implied by the neutralino-mass-dependent Xenon100 bound [11]. (For points with $\Omega h^2 < 0.094$, we rescale these bounds by a factor of $0.11/\Omega h^2$.)

Our study focuses in particular on NMSSM parameter choices such that both $m_{h_1}$ and $m_{h_2}$ lie within 123–128 GeV. We focus moreover on $\lambda \geq 0.1$, a range for which it is known [6] [7] that some enhancement, relative to the SM of the Higgs signal in the $\gamma\gamma$ final state is possible. The degenerate situation is especially interesting in that an enhanced $\gamma\gamma$ rate at $\sim 125$ GeV could arise as a result of the $h_1$ and $h_2$ rates summing together, even if the individual rates are not full SM-like strength (or enhanced).

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Above, we did not mention imposing a constraint on $a_\mu$. Rough consistency with the measured value of $a_\mu$ requires that the extra NMSSM contribution, $\delta a_\mu$, falls into the window defined in NMSSMTools of $8.77 \times 10^{-10} < \delta a_\mu < 4.61 \times 10^{-9}$ expanded to $5.77 \times 10^{-10} < \delta a_\mu < 4.91 \times 10^{-9}$ after allowing for a 1σ theoretical error in the NMSSM calculation of $\pm 3 \times 10^{-10}$. In fact, given the previously defined constraints and focusing on $\lambda \geq 0.1$, $\delta a_\mu$ is always too small, being at most $\sim 2 \times 10^{-10}$. Demanding $\delta a_\mu$ large enough to fall into the above window, or even come close to doing so, appears from our scans to date to only be possible if $\lambda < 0.1$ [5], for which the Higgs signal in the $\gamma\gamma$ and $VV^*$ ($V = W, Z$) final states for Higgs in the 123–128 GeV window is very SM-like.

The main production/decay channels relevant for current LHC data are gluon-gluon and $WW$ fusion with Higgs decay to $\gamma\gamma$ or $ZZ \rightarrow 4\ell$. The LHC is also beginning to probe $W, Z +$ Higgs with Higgs decay to $b\bar{b}$, a channel for which Tevatron data is relevant, and $WW \rightarrow$ Higgs with Higgs $\rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$. For the cases studied, where there are two nearly degenerate Higgs bosons, we will combine their signals as follows in defining the mass and signal for the effective Higgs boson:

$$R_{gg}^h(X) = \frac{\Gamma(gg \rightarrow h_i) \text{BR}(h_i \rightarrow X)}{\Gamma(gg \rightarrow hSM) \text{BR}(hSM \rightarrow X)},$$

$$R_{VBF}^{h_i}(X) = \frac{\Gamma(WW \rightarrow h_i) \text{BR}(h_i \rightarrow X)}{\Gamma(WW \rightarrow hSM) \text{BR}(hSM \rightarrow X)},$$

where $h_i$ is the $i^{th}$ NMSSM scalar Higgs, and $h_{SM}$ is the SM Higgs boson. Note that the corresponding ratio for $V^* \rightarrow V h_i$ ($V = W, Z$) with $h_i \rightarrow X$ is equal to $R_{VBF}^{h_i}(X)$. These ratios are computed in a self-consistent manner (that is, treating radiative corrections for the SM Higgs boson in the same manner as for the NMSSM Higgs bosons) using an appropriate additional routine for the SM Higgs added to the NMHDECAY component of the NMSSMTools package.

Next, we compute the effective Higgs mass in given production and final decay channels $Y$ and $X$, respectively, as

$$m_h^Y(X) = \frac{R_{gg}^{h_i}(X)m_{h_1} + R_{VBF}^{h_i}(X)m_{h_2}}{R_{gg}^{h_i}(X) + R_{VBF}^{h_i}(X)},$$

and define the net signal to simply be

$$R_h^Y(X) = R_{gg}^{h_i}(X) + R_{VBF}^{h_i}(X).$$

Of course, the extent to which it is appropriate to combine the rates from the $h_1$ and $h_2$ depends upon the degree of degeneracy and the experimental resolution. For the latter, we assume $\sigma_{\text{res}} \sim 1.5$ GeV [12]. It should be noted that the widths of the $h_1$ and $h_2$ are of the same order of magnitude as the width of a 125 GeV SM Higgs boson, i.e. they are very much smaller than this resolution.

We perform scans covering the following parameter ranges, which correspond to an expanded version of those considered in [6]: $0 \leq m_0 \leq 3000$; $100 \leq m_{1/2} \leq 3000$; $1 \leq \tan \beta \leq 40$; $-6000 \leq A_0 \leq 6000$; $0.1 \leq \lambda \leq 0.7$; $0.05 \leq \kappa \leq 0.5$; $-1000 \leq A_\lambda \leq 1000$; $-1000 \leq A_0 \leq 1000$; $100 \leq \mu_{\text{eff}} \leq 500$. In the figures shown in the following, we only display points which pass the basic constraints, satisfy $B$-physics constraints, have $\Omega h^2 < 0.136$, obey the XENON100 limit on the LSP scattering cross-section off protons and have both $h_1$ and $h_2$ in the desired mass range: $123$ GeV $< m_{h_1}, m_{h_2} < 128$ GeV.

In Fig. 1 we display $R_{gg}^{1}\gamma\gamma$ versus $R_{gg}^{1}\gamma\gamma$ with points color coded according to $m_{h_2} - m_{h_1}$. The circular points have $\Omega h^2 < 0.094$, while diamond points have $0.094 \leq \Omega h^2 \leq 0.136$ (within the WMAP window). We observe a large number of points for which $m_{h_1}, m_{h_2} \in [123, 128]$ GeV and many are such that $R_{gg}^{h_1}(\gamma\gamma) + R_{gg}^{h_2}(\gamma\gamma) > 1$. A few such points have $\Omega h^2$ in the WMAP window. These points are such that either $R_{gg}^{h_1}(\gamma\gamma) > 2$ or $R_{gg}^{h_2}(\gamma\gamma) > 2$, with the $R$ for the other Higgs being small. However, the majority of the points with $R_{gg}^{h_1}(\gamma\gamma) + R_{gg}^{h_2}(\gamma\gamma) > 1$ have $\Omega h^2$ below the WMAP window and many of the $\gamma\gamma$ signal is shared between the $h_1$ and the $h_2$.

Based on these results, we will now combine the $h_1$ and $h_2$ signals as described above and present plots coded according to the following legend. First, we note that circular (diamond) points have $\Omega h^2 < 0.094$ ($0.094 \leq \Omega h^2 \leq 0.136$). We then color the points according to:

- red for $m_{h_2} - m_{h_1} \leq 1$ GeV;

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1 The values for $\sigma_{\text{res}}$ quoted in this paper range from 1.39–1.84 GeV to 2.76–3.19 GeV, the better resolutions being for the case where both photons are in the barrel and the worse resolutions for when one or both photons are in the endcap. We anticipate that the more recent analyses have achieved substantially better mass resolutions, but details are not yet available.
For current statistics and $\sigma_{res} \gtrsim 1.5$ GeV we estimate that the $h_1$ and $h_2$ signals will not be seen separately for $m_{h_2} - m_{h_1} \leq 2$ GeV.

In Fig. 2 we show results for $R^h_{gg}(X)$ with $m_h \in [123, 128]$ GeV as a function of $m_h$ for $X = \gamma\gamma, VV, bb$. Enhanced $\gamma\gamma$ and $VV$ rates from gluon fusion are very common. The bottom-right plot shows that enhancement in the $Wh$ with $h \to bb$ rate is also natural, though not as large as the best fit value suggested by the new Tevatron analysis [4]. Diamond points (i.e. those in the WMAP window) are rare, but typically show enhanced rates.

In Fig. 3 we display in the left-hand plot the strong correlation between $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ and $R^h_{gg}(VV)$. Note that if $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma) \sim 1.5$, as suggested by current experimental results, then in this model $R^h_{gg}(VV) \geq 1.2$. The right-hand plot shows the (anti) correlation between $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ and $R^h_{W^* \to Wh}(bb) = R^h_{VBF}(bb)$. In general, the larger $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ is, the smaller the value of $R^h_{W^* \to Wh}(bb)$. However, this latter plot shows that there are parameter choices for which both the $\gamma\gamma$ rate at the LHC and the $W^* \to Wh(\to bb)$ rate at the Tevatron (and LHC) can be enhanced relative to the SM as a result of there being contributions to these rates from both the $h_1$ and $h_2$. It is often the case that one of the $h_1$ or $h_2$ dominates $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ while the other dominates $R^h_{W^* \to Wh}(bb)$. This is typical of the diamond WMAP-window points. However, a significant number of the circular $\Omega h^2 < 0.094$ points are such that either the $\gamma\gamma$ or the $bb$ signal receives substantial contributions from both the $h_1$ and $h_2$ (as seen, for example, in Fig. 1 for the $\gamma\gamma$ final state) while the other final state is dominated by just one of the two Higgses. We did not find points where the $\gamma\gamma$ and $bb$ final states both receive substantial contributions from both the $h_1$ and $h_2$.

As noted above, there is a strong correlation between $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ and $R^h_{gg}(VV)$ described approximately by $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma) \sim 1.25 R^h_{gg}(VV)$. Thus, it is not surprising that the $m_h$ values for the gluon fusion induced $\gamma\gamma$ and $VV$ cases are also strongly correlated — in fact, they differ by no more than a fraction of a GeV and are most often much closer, see the left plot of Fig. 4. The right plot of Fig. 4 illustrates the mechanism behind enhanced rates, namely that large net $\gamma\gamma$ branching ratio is achieved by reducing the average total width by reducing the average $bb$ coupling strength.

The dependence of $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ on $\lambda$, $\kappa$, $\tan \beta$ and $\mu_{eff}$ is illustrated in Fig. 5. We observe that the largest $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ values arise at large $\lambda$, moderate $\kappa$, small $\tan \beta < 5$ (but note that $R^h_{gg}(\gamma\gamma) > 1.5$ is possible even for $\tan \beta = 15$) and small $\mu_{eff} < 150$ GeV.
which we found in the WMAP window always have $m_A \lesssim 1$ TeV. The stop mixing is typically large in these cases, (above 1)

study. One interesting point is that $m_{\tilde{q}}$ masses of $R$ from Fig. 6 that these scenarios have squark and gluino masses that are above about 1

range of LSP masses consistent with the WMAP window, roughly

$\sigma_{SI}^a$ is quite small for such points — typically $\lesssim 0.01$.

Let us now focus on properties of the LSP. In the plots of Fig. 8, we display $\Omega h^2$ and the spin-independent cross section for LSP scattering on protons, $\sigma_{SI}$, for the points plotted in previous figures. We first note the rather limited range of LSP masses consistent with the WMAP window, roughly $m_{\chi_1^0} \in [60, 80]$ GeV. The corresponding $\sigma_{SI}$ values show a broader range from $few \times 10^{-9}$ pb to as low as $few \times 10^{-11}$ pb. Owing to the small $\mu_{\text{eff}}$, the LSP is dominantly higgsino, which is also the reason for $\Omega h^2$ typically being too low. The points with $\Omega h^2$ within the WMAP window

FIG. 2. $R^b_{VBF}(X)$ for $X = \gamma\gamma, VV, bb$, and $R^b_{VBF}(bb)$ versus $m_h$. For application to the Tevatron, note that $R^b_{VBF}(bb) = R^b_{VBF}(bb)$. The color code here and in the following figures is green for points with $2 \text{ GeV} < m_{h_2} - m_{h_1} \leq 3$ GeV, blue for $1 \text{ GeV} < m_{h_2} - m_{h_1} \leq 2$ GeV, and red for $m_{h_2} - m_{h_1} \leq 1$ GeV.
It is interesting to note a few points regarding the GUT-scale parameters associated with the points plotted in previous figures. For the WMAP-window diamond points, $m_0 \in [0.9, 1.3]$ TeV, $m_{1/2} \in [500, 700]$ GeV, $A_0 \in [-1.8, -1.0]$ TeV, $A_\kappa \in [-400, -250]$ GeV, $A_\lambda \in [-600, -400]$ GeV, $m_S$(GUT) $\in [1.4, 2.2]$ TeV, $m_{H_u}$(GUT) $\in [0.7, 1.2]$ TeV, and, as shown in earlier figures, these diamond points have $\lambda \in [0.58, 0.65]$, $\kappa \in [0.28, 0.35]$, and $\tan \beta \in [2.5, 3.5]$. Points with $R_{gg}(\gamma\gamma) > 1.3$ have $m_0 \in [0.65, 3]$ TeV, $m_{1/2} \in [0.5, 3]$ TeV, $A_0 \in [-4.2, -0.8]$ TeV, $A_\kappa \in [-500, +550]$ GeV, $A_\lambda \in [-750, +550]$ GeV, $m_S$(GUT) $\in [1.2, 4.2]$ TeV, $m_{H_u}$(GUT) $\in [1.7, 17]$ TeV, $m_{H_d}$(GUT) $\in [\sim 0, 4.2]$ TeV, $\lambda \in [0.33, 0.67]$, $\kappa \in [0.22, 0.36]$, and $\tan \beta \in [2, 14]$. We have already noted that it is not possible to find scenarios of this degenerate/enhanced type while predicting a value of $\delta a_\mu$ consistent with that needed to explain the current discrepancy. In particular, the very largest value of $\delta a_\mu$ achieved is of order $1.8 \times 10^{-10}$ and, further, the WMAP-window points with large $R_{gg}(\gamma\gamma, VV)$ have $\delta a_\mu < 6 \times 10^{-11}$.

To summarize, we have identified a set of interesting NMSSM scenarios in which the two lightest CP-even Higgs bosons are closely degenerate and lie in the $123–128$ GeV mass window. Large rates (relative to $gg \to h_{SM} \to \gamma\gamma$ or $gg \to h_{SM} \to ZZ^{*} \to 4\ell$) for $gg \to h_{1,2} \to \gamma\gamma$ and $gg \to h_{1,2} \to ZZ^{*} \to 4\ell$ are possible, sometimes because...
one of the rates is large but also sometimes because the rates are comparable and their sum is large. This suggests that, especially if enhanced rates continue to be observed in these channels, it will be important for the experimental community to be on the lookout for mass peaks in $m_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $m_{4\ell}$ that are broader than expected purely on the basis of the experimental mass resolution. In addition, the apparent mass in the $\gamma\gamma$ final state might differ slightly from the apparent mass in the $4\ell$ final state. Significant statistics will be required to resolve such features.

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FIG. 6. Average light-flavor squark mass, $m_{\tilde{q}}$, versus gluino mass, $m_{\tilde{g}}$, for the points plotted in the previous figures.

FIG. 7. $R^{h}_{gg}(\gamma\gamma)$ versus the masses of $m_{a_1}$ and $m_{H^\pm}$ (note that $m_{H^\pm} \approx m_{a_2} \approx m_{h_3}$).

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FIG. 8. Top row: $\Omega h^2$ and spin-independent cross section on protons versus LSP mass for the points plotted in previous figures. Bottom row: $\Omega h^2$ versus LSP higgsino (left) and singlino (right) components.