Extended Higgs boson sectors, effective field theory, and Higgs boson phenomenology

Anisha*, Upalaparna Banerjee, Joydeep Chakrabortty, Christoph Englert, and Michael Spannowsky

1Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kalyanpur, Kanpur 208016, India
2School of Physics & Astronomy, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United Kingdom
3Institute for Particle Physics Phenomenology, Durham University, Durham DH1 3LE, United Kingdom

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We consider the phenomenological implications of charged scalar extensions of the Standard Model (SM) Higgs sector in addition to effective field theory (EFT) couplings of this new state to SM matter. We perform a detailed investigation of modifications of loop-induced decays of the 125 GeV Higgs boson, which receives corrections from the propagating charged scalars alongside one-loop EFT operator insertions and demonstrate that the interplay of $H \to \gamma \gamma$ and $H \to Z \gamma$ decays can be used to clarify the additional states phenomenology in case a discovery is made in the future. In parallel, EFT interactions of the charged Higgs can lead to a decreased sensitivity to the virtual presence of charged Higgs states, which can significantly weaken the constraints that are naively expected from the precisely measured $H \to \gamma \gamma$ branching ratio. Again $H \to Z \gamma$ measurements provide complementary sensitivity that can be exploited in the future.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The search for physics beyond the Standard Model (BSM) is the highest priority of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) after the discovery of the Higgs boson [1,2]. So far, however, there has been no conclusive evidence for the presence of new states or interactions. In parallel, the increasingly fine-grained picture of the Higgs sector that ATLAS and CMS are obtaining creates a phenomenological tension when Higgs data are contrasted with theoretically well-motivated new physics models. In particular, Higgs sector extensions that predict the presence of additional charged scalar bosons are constrained by extra scalar contributions to the $H \to \gamma \gamma$ decay mode, which is experimentally clean, in addition to direct search constraints in the context of, e.g., the two-Higgs-doublet or -triplet models [3,4].

In this work, we approach such constraints from a different perspective. We extend the Standard Model (SM) with an additional electromagnetically charged Higgs $h^\pm$ which acts as transparent and minimal extension to the SM providing additional propagating degrees of freedom to modify observed SM Higgs rates. These states appear in many BSM Higgs sector extensions (e.g., in two-Higgs-doublet [5] or -triplet models [6]). In parallel, we consider effective field theory (EFT) operators to parametrize interactions of the new charged state with the SM gauge sector model-independently, e.g., by integrating out $h^\pm$-dominant interactions with an intrinsic EFT mass scale $\Lambda$. Considering EFT operators up to dimension 6, we compute the loop-induced decays of the SM Higgs (see also [7–17]) in this scenario to identify regions of consistency with the SM expectation (for similar analyses of electroweak observables, see, e.g., [18,19]). This highlights the possibility of nonminimal interactions of the charged Higgs as parametrized by the EFT interactions to significantly reduce the sensitivity of the naively (highly) constraining SM Higgs $H \to \gamma \gamma$ decay mode. In contrast, we will see that the phenomenologically challenging $H \to Z \gamma$ branching can resolve cancellations that render the BSM $H \to \gamma \gamma$ decay consistent with the SM.

We organize this work as follows: in Sec. II, we review the details of the extended Higgs sector, introducing all relevant couplings and EFT operators that we consider in this work. Section III provides a short overview of our computation, while we discuss constraints and results in Sec. IV. We conclude in Sec. V.

II. THE MODEL

For the purpose of our work, we have considered the effective operators up to dimension 6, and the full effective Lagrangian can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{EFT}} = \sum_{D=6} \mathcal{O}_{D,L} \frac{\Lambda^2}{v^2} \phi^\ast \phi \bar{F}_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu},$$

where $\phi$ is the Higgs field, $v$ is the vacuum expectation value, and $\lambda_{D,L}$ are dimensionful coefficients. The operators $\mathcal{O}_{D,L}$ correspond to the effective operators up to dimension 6 and can be classified by the Lorentz structure of the field strengths and the number of derivatives.

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The transformation properties of the Yukawa part of the Lagrangian is also extended as the corresponding to these operators are negligible, and we will not consider these operators in the remainder of this work. The dimension 6 operators which contribute to $H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ and $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$ decay have been tabulated in Table II and the operators which contribute to $H \rightarrow gg$ decay are given in Table III; in both cases, no dimension 5 operator contributes.

After spontaneous symmetry breaking (SSB), the $SU(2)_L$ doublet scalar $\phi$ takes the following form and produces the physical neutral Higgs $H$:

\[
\phi = \left[ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (v + H + iG^0) \right],
\]

where $G^\pm$ and $G^0$ are the charged and neutral Goldstone fields, respectively. After SSB, the $SU(2)_L$ singlet scalar parametrize the new interactions between charged scalar and SM fields [20].

In Table I, we have collected the operators that contribute to different rare and flavor-violating $l_i \rightarrow l_j \mu \nu \gamma$ processes. From the strong constraints on the decay width from these channels, we can infer that the Wilson coefficients corresponding to these operators are negligible, and we will not consider these operators in the remainder of this work. The dimension 6 operators which contribute to $H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ and $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$ decay have been tabulated in Table II and the operators which contribute to $H \rightarrow gg$ decay are given in Table III; in both cases, no dimension 5 operator contributes.

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$S(S^1)$ emerges as charged scalar field $h^\pm$. The operator $(\phi^\dagger \phi)[(D^v S)^2](D_v S)$ changes the normalization of the $h^\pm$-kinetic term. We can redefine the field as

$$h^\pm \rightarrow \left(1 - C_{\phi SD} \frac{v^2}{2\lambda^2}\right) h^\pm$$

(6)
to recover a canonically normalized Lagrangian. The mass of charged scalar $h^\pm$ receives contributions from the effective operator $(\phi^\dagger \phi)^2(S^1 S)$. Considering this operator and the proper redefinition of field given in Eq. (6), we find the squared of the mass of $h^\pm$ from Eq. (3) to be

$$M_{h^\pm}^2 = \left[m_0^2 + \frac{\lambda_3}{2} v^2\right] \left(1 - C_{\phi SD} \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2}\right) + C_{\phi SF} \frac{v^4}{\lambda^2}.$$ 

(7)

The $\Phi^6$ class of operators (in the convention of [22]) are given by $(S^1 S)^2$, $(\phi^\dagger \phi)^3(S^1 S)$, and $(\phi^\dagger \phi)(S^1 S)^2$ and these parametrize the new interactions of the new scalar and the SM Higgs. None of these operators impacts the stability of the neutral vacuum.

III. ELEMENTS OF THE CALCULATION

As detailed in the previous section, we start with a canonically normalized effective Lagrangian in the broken electroweak phase. The calculation of the loop-induced decays of SM Higgs decay then receives contributions from the propagating SM degrees of freedom, the BSM charged scalar $h^\pm$, as well as the dimension 6 operator insertions at one loop. The latter radiatively induce the SMEFT operators tabulated under $\Phi^2 X^2$ class in the first column of Table II,

$$\mathcal{L}_{d6} = \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} W^\dagger_{\mu
u} W_{\mu\nu} - C_{\psi B} W^3_{\mu
u} B_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi B} B_{\mu
u} B_{\mu\nu}\right) + \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} W^3_{\mu
u} W_{\mu\nu} - C_{\psi B} B_{\mu
u} B_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi B} B_{\mu\nu} B_{\mu\nu}\right) + \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} G_{\mu
u} G_{\mu
u} + C_{\psi} G_{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}\right),$$

(8)

which need to be included as part of the renormalization of the processes that we consider in this work. The above $\mathcal{L}_{d6}$ is given in terms of mass eigenstates using

$$\begin{pmatrix} W^\dagger_{\mu
u} \\ B_{\mu\nu} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{g_{\psi}}{\sqrt{g_{\psi}^2 + g_Y^2}} & \frac{g_Y}{\sqrt{g_{\psi}^2 + g_Y^2}} \\ \frac{g_Y}{\sqrt{g_{\psi}^2 + g_Y^2}} & \frac{g_{\psi}}{\sqrt{g_{\psi}^2 + g_Y^2}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Z_{\mu\nu} \\ A_{\mu\nu} \end{pmatrix},$$

(9)

where $g_{\psi}$ and $g_Y$ are the gauge coupling constants corresponding to the $SU(2)_L$ and $U(1)_Y$, respectively, as

$$\mathcal{L}_{d6} = \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} W^\dagger_{\mu
u} W_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi B} A_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi B} Z_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu}\right) + \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} W^3_{\mu\nu} A_{\mu\nu} - C\psi B A_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi B} Z_{\mu\nu} Z_{\mu\nu}\right) + \frac{v^2}{\lambda^2} \left(C_{\psi} G_{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu} + C_{\psi} G_{\mu\nu} G_{\mu\nu}\right).$$

(10)

and

$$C_{\psi} = \frac{2 g_{\psi}}{g_Y + g_Y} \left(C_{\psi} - C_{\psi B}\right) + \frac{2 g_Y^2}{g_Y + g_Y} C_{\psi B},$$

$$C_{\psi B} = \frac{2 g_Y^2}{g_Y + g_Y} \left(C_{\psi} - C_{\psi B}\right) + \frac{2 g_Y^2}{g_Y + g_Y} C_{\psi B},$$

$$C_{\psi B} = \frac{2 g_Y^2}{g_Y + g_Y} \left(C_{\psi} - C_{\psi B}\right) + \frac{2 g_Y^2}{g_Y + g_Y} C_{\psi B}.$$ 

Similar relations hold for the CP-odd operators.

In the following, we will sketch the calculation of the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ branching. The $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$, $gg$ decay results can be obtained in a similar fashion, but we will comment on process-specific differences where they are relevant. In the case of the $H(k_1) \rightarrow \gamma(k_2)\gamma(k_3)$ amplitude, this gives rise to a new tree-level contribution,

$$H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \quad \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_{LO} = \frac{C_{A1}\gamma}{\Lambda^2} O_o + \frac{C_{A2}\gamma}{\Lambda^2} O_e,$$

(11)

with

$$O_o = -4e^{2\psi^\dagger k_2\gamma} c_{\mu}(k_2)e_{\mu}(k_3)k_1\nu k_2\delta,$$

(12)

$$O_e = 2(\gamma^\dagger(k_4)k_1)(\gamma(k_2)k_4) - k_1^2(\gamma^\dagger(k_4)\gamma(k_3)),$$

(13)

and it is these operator structures that will be renormalized as a consequence of the one-loop $h^\pm$-related EFT insertions, while the renormalizable interactions of the propagating $h^\pm$ lead to a ultraviolet (UV)-finite modification of the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ partial decay width.

Throughout this work, we chose on-shell renormalization for SM fields alongside the modified minimal subtraction scheme ($\overline{\text{MS}}$) of Wilson coefficients. The Lagrangian of Eq. (10) leads to a counterterm contribution for the $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ amplitude,

$$\mathcal{M}_{CT} = [\delta C_{A\psi} + C_{A}\delta Z_H/2 + \delta Z_{AA}] + C_{A2}\delta Z_{AA}/2] \frac{v O_e}{\Lambda^2}$$

(14)

$$+ [\delta C_{A\psi} + C_{A\psi} \delta Z_H/2 + \delta Z_{AA}] + C_{A2}\delta Z_{AA}/2] \frac{v O_o}{\Lambda^2},$$

where the implications of $Z - \gamma$ mixing have been included. These $\delta Z_H$ and $\delta Z_{UV}$ factors correspond to the
renormalization constants of the $H \to H$ and $V \to V'$ two-point functions, respectively, and result from a replacement of the bare quantities:

\[
\begin{pmatrix}
Z \\
A
\end{pmatrix} \to \begin{pmatrix}
1 + \frac{1}{2} \delta Z_{ZZ} & \frac{1}{2} \delta Z_{ZA} \\
\frac{1}{2} \delta Z_{AZ} & 1 + \frac{1}{2} \delta Z_{AA}
\end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix}
Z \\
A
\end{pmatrix}.
\]  

They are determined by imposing the on-shell conditions on the real parts of the gauge boson self-energies; see, e.g., [23]. The dimension 6 counterterms $\delta \mathcal{C}$ arise from shifting the bare Wilson coefficients in Eq. (10): $\mathcal{C} \to \mathcal{C} + \delta \mathcal{C}$ while $\delta v = -\delta T/M_H^2$ is related to the tadpole counterterm [24,25]. The explicit expressions of these counterterms have been given in the Appendix for the case of $H \to \gamma \gamma$.

As indicated in these equations, we include loop corrections and renormalization constants evaluated to order $\Lambda^{-2}$, i.e., we strictly work in the dimension 6 framework such that the considered field theory is technically renormalizable. We modified the SMEFTFR package [26,27] to add the charged scalar in our calculation and included all relevant Feynman diagrams from a FEYNRULES [28]-generated model file using a modified version FEYNARTS [29] to include interactions up to six-point vertices. This is essential for a consistent result as the diagram of Fig. 1(a) is related to other EFT-$h^\pm$ diagrams by gauge symmetry.

While only the BSM contributions to $H \to \gamma \gamma$ are sketched in Fig. 1, we include the SM contributions throughout, in particular for cross-checks against SM results at analytical [29] (we use Feynman gauge throughout our calculation) as well as numerical level by comparing to the results reported by the Higgs cross-section working group [30–33]. Identical cross-checks were performed for the $H \to Z\gamma$ and $H \to gg$ decay calculations.\(^1\)

As mentioned in the Introduction, in this work, we will assume that new physics is dominantly related to the $h^\pm$ bosons’ interactions, i.e., all SMEFT operators will be sourced radiatively through $h^\pm$ operators; the UV-singular structure of Fig. 1 is only related to the operator matrix elements $O_o, \bar{O}_e$. Furthermore, only the $CP$-odd (even) operators of Table II contribute to UV singularities dressing the $O_o, \bar{O}_e$ amplitudes at one-loop level. Adding the counterterm contributions to all one-loop diagrams of Fig. 1, we can therefore consistently absorb all singularities of the SMEFT one-loop correction into a redefinition of the SMEFT operators in the mass basis shown in Eq. (10).

The amplitude contains scalar two- and three-point functions $B_0, C_0$ in the convention of Passarino and Veltman [34,35] which we include analytically in the case of $H \to \gamma \gamma, gg$, where we deal with a two-scale problem. In the case of $H \to Z\gamma$, we evaluate the three scale $C_0$ function numerically using LOOPTOOLS [36,37]. As done in the SM, we include the full squared amplitude of the (renormalized) one-loop result to the calculation of the respective decay widths. We will see, however, that for perturbative parameter choices, the dependence of physical results is well-approximated by linearized Wilson coefficient dependencies. The phase space integration is straightforward and can be performed analytically [38].

We are particularly interested in the modifications of the loop-induced $\gamma\gamma, Z\gamma, gg$ decays to the total Higgs decay width and the resulting branching ratio modifications, as well as SM Higgs production via the dominant gluon fusion (GF) channel. To this end, we choose vanishing values for the renormalized Wilson coefficients of Eq. (10), which otherwise would impact the Higgs phenomenology already at tree level. The leading order approximation of the GF cross section scales as (see, e.g., [39])

\[
\frac{\sigma_{BSM}^{GF}}{\sigma_{SM}^{GF}} = \frac{\Gamma^{BSM}(H \to gg)}{\Gamma^{SM}(H \to gg)},
\]

where $\Gamma^{B}(H \to gg)$ represents the different partial decay widths of $H \to gg$. Branching ratios are modified as

\[
\frac{\text{BR}^{BSM}(H \to X)}{\text{BR}^{SM}(H \to X)} = \frac{\Gamma^{BSM}(H \to X)}{\Gamma^{SM}(H \to X)} \frac{\Gamma^{SM}_{tot}}{\Gamma^{BSM}_{tot}},
\]

where the total decay widths are

\[
\Gamma^{(B)SM}(H \to X) = \sum_X \Gamma^{(B)SM}(H \to X).
\]

Assuming the narrow width approximation, the 125 GeV Higgs signal strength is then given by

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\(^1\)In the $H \to Z\gamma$ case, the SM part of the amplitude receives an additional counterterm contribution $-e m_W/(2 s_\theta c_\theta) \delta Z_{AZ}$ from $Z-\gamma$ mixing, where $s_\theta, c_\theta$ are the sine and cosine of the Weinberg angle, respectively.
FIG. 2. Approaching the SM as a function of $\lambda_3$ (a) for zero Wilson coefficient and (b) for nontrivial Wilson coefficient choices. The dashed lines represent modifications to the decay widths from a charged Higgs without higher-dimensional interactions, which are asymptotically approached for $\Lambda \to \infty$ for nonvanishing Wilson coefficient choices.

$$\mu_{39}^X = \frac{\sigma_{GF} \times \text{BR}(H \to X)_{\text{BSM}}}{\sigma_{GF} \times \text{BR}(H \to X)_{\text{SM}}}.$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

It is interesting to see how the SM result is obtained as a function of the new degrees of freedom and the higher-dimensional operator contributions. Firstly, for all $C_i = 0$, the new physics contributions are controlled by $\lambda_3$ alone and as can be seen in Fig. 2(a), we obtain the SM expectation irrespective of $M_h$ for $\lambda_3$. We can also see that for perturbative coupling choices, we are dominated by a linear behavior of the new physics coupling. Second, the Appelquist-Carazzone decoupling theorem [40] implies an asymptotic SM result for $M_h \gg M_H$. While these results are known from concrete models with propagating degrees of freedom such as, e.g., the two-Higgs-doublet model [41,42], the contribution of the EFT operators is shown in Fig. 2(b). For $\lambda_3 = 0$, we can directly observe the decoupling of new physics when the cutoff scale is removed from the theory $\Lambda \to \infty$. For $\lambda_3 \neq 0$, we asymptotically approach the results that include the propagating $h^\pm$, Fig. 2(b) highlighted by the dashed lines.

IV. RESULTS

A. Constraints

Before we will discuss the impact of the considered scenario on the SM Higgs boson’s phenomenology as outlined above, a few remarks regarding constraints on the model are due.

We have already commented on the potential lepton flavour implications in Sec. II, in the limit where interactions of $h^\pm$ with fermions is weak, flavor constraints can be avoided. Yet, resonantly produced $h^\pm$ can still be observed in leptonic final states (BR $\approx 1$) and searches for charged Higgs bosons at the LHC (e.g., [43–47]) typically focus on their quark or lepton decay final states. However, searches for gauge-phobic charged scalars with suppressed Yukawa interactions have limited sensitivity; see, e.g., [48,49]. The recent Ref. [50] (see also [51]) sets 95% confidence level constraint on a charged Higgs in decays $h^\pm \to W^\pm Z$ between 90 fb and 1 pb for masses in the range of 0.4 TeV $\lesssim M_h \lesssim 2$ TeV. However, these final states exploit a nontrivial role of $h^\pm$ in electroweak symmetry breaking (as part of, e.g., a $SU(2)\ L$ triplet [61]), and hence rest on the assumption of a significant departure of the alignment of $H$ from fluctuations around $v$, and a significant nondoublet character of SSB. The charged Higgs bosons introduced above are produced at the LHC via Drell-Yan-like pair production (e.g., as also present in the two-Higgs-doublet model). While even parametrically small Yukawa couplings can lead to discoverable clean leptonic final states as mentioned above, the electroweak pair production cross section is suppressed such that the LHC will be statistically limited in a mass range $M_h \approx 500$ GeV (see also [52]). It is worth noting that the gauge-$h^\pm$ effective field theory insertions do not lead to an enhancement of Drell-Yan production at large energies.

Next, we comment on constraints on the new couplings from unitarity and perturbativity. The scattering angle of $2 \to 2$ scattering can be removed by projecting the amplitude on to partial waves,

$$a_{fi}^J = \frac{\beta^{1/4}(s, m_{f1}^2, m_{f2}^2)\beta^{1/4}(s, m_{j1}^2, m_{j2}^2)}{32\pi s} \times \int_{-1}^{1} d\cos\theta D_{\mu,\nu}^J i\mathcal{M}_{fi}(\cos\theta, \sqrt{s}),$$  \hspace{1cm} (20)

where $s$ is squared the center-of-mass energy and $m_i$ are the masses of the states in the initial state $i$ and final state $f$. $i\mathcal{M}$ is the $2 \to 2$ scattering amplitude (identical particles in initial and final states require an additional factor $1/\sqrt{2}$), $D_{\mu,\nu}^J$ are the Wigner functions of [53], $\mu_{i,j}$ are defined from
the differences of the initial and final states helicities (see also [54]), and \( \beta(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2xy - 2xz - 2yz \). Unitarity and perturbativity can then be parametrized as \( |a_{fi}| < 1 \) [55–58].

\[
\beta(x,y,z) = x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 2xy - 2xz - 2yz.
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\Phi^4 D^2 & \quad \Phi^6 \\
\mathcal{O}_{S\Phi D} & \quad (S^I S) [(D^\mu \phi)^* (D_\mu \phi)] & \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi} & \quad (D^\mu \phi) (S^I S)^{\mu} \\
\mathcal{O}_{S\Phi D} & \quad (\phi^I D^\mu) [(D^\nu S)^I (D_\nu S)] & \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi} & \quad (S^I S) [S^I S] \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\Phi^2 X^2 & \\
\mathcal{O}_{B S} & \quad B_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} (S^I S) & \mathcal{O}_{S B} & \quad \bar{B}_{\mu\nu} B^{\mu\nu} (S^I S) \\
\mathcal{O}_{W S} & \quad W_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu} (S^I S) & \mathcal{O}_{W S} & \quad \bar{W}_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu} (S^I S) \\
\end{align*}
\]

\( h^+ h^\mp \) scattering receives non-negligible corrections from the effective field theory operators \( \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi D}, \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi D}, \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi} \) mentioned in Table IV in the high energy regime \( \sqrt{s} \gg M_h^2 \) (and other contributing mass scales). Therefore, perturbativity of the \( J = 0 \) partial wave can be used to restrict the Wilson coefficient range at dimension 6 level,

\[
\begin{align*}
|C_{S\Phi D}| & \leq \frac{32\pi}{\Lambda^2} |\lambda_2 - \lambda_3| v^2, \\
|C_{S\Phi}| & \leq \frac{16\pi}{\Lambda^2} v^2, \\
|C_{S\Phi D}| & \leq \frac{32\pi}{s}, \\
|C_{S\Phi D}| & \leq \frac{64\pi}{s}.
\end{align*}
\]

while \( \mathcal{O}_{S\Phi} \) has a vanishing contribution in this kinematic regime. \( \lambda_{2,3} \) as renormalizable interactions are subject to the usual \( \sim 4\pi \) bound. We will see that the operators of Eq. (21) have a more significant impact on the Higgs phenomenology than the Higgs-\( h^\pm \) operators (b). The effective interactions related to the gluon are given in (d), but we will mainly focus on electroweak couplings in this work (see text).
only have a mild impact on the Higgs phenomenology below. Even nonperturbative coupling choices \(\sim 4\pi/\text{TeV}^2\) do not lead to phenomenologically relevant deviations. The gauge scalar operators are more relevant for driving the BSM Higgs physics modifications (see below) and can be analyzed by considering \(h^\pm W^\mp, h^\pm \gamma,\) and \(h^\pm Z\) scattering. Using the strategy of [57,58], we compute coupled \(J = 1\) bounds (note that in for effective interactions transverse \(V\) polarizations provide constraints which are qualitatively different from the SM [59]).

\[
\frac{|C_{WS}|}{\Lambda^2}, \frac{|C_{BS}|}{\Lambda^2} \lesssim \frac{24\pi}{M_W \sqrt{s}}, \quad \frac{|C_{BS}|}{\Lambda^2}, \frac{|C_{WS}|}{\Lambda^2} \lesssim \frac{48\pi}{M_W c_\gamma \sqrt{s}}, \quad (22)
\]

again in the limit where participating masses are negligible compared to \(\sqrt{s}\). These limits are rather weak, e.g., unitarity violation at \(\sqrt{s} \approx 10\) TeV translates into rather loose bounds of \(|C_i| \lesssim 100\Lambda^2/\text{TeV}^2\).

Third, one might object at this point that electroweak precision measurements such as the oblique corrections already constrain this scenario. To clarify this point, we have investigated the Peskin-Takeuchi \(S, T, U\) parameters [60,61] in the scenario of Sec. II where the gauge boson polarizations receive \(C_{WS}\) and \(C_{BS}\)-related corrections. We find that these Wilson coefficients identically vanish from the on-shell renormalized \(S, T, U\) parameters leaving a residual dependence on the mass scale \(M_h\). However, given that these states are weakly coupled, their contribution is small to the extent that this scenario is not constrained by electroweak precision data.

Under the assumptions of this work, namely that new physics contributions are predominantly mediated through the charged Higgs sector, and its non-negligible interactions with the SM Higgs sector, the precision investigation of the \(H \to \gamma\gamma, Z\gamma\) decay as outlined above can act as an indirect and phenomenologically important probe of such extensions.

**B. Loop-induced Higgs phenomenology**

Returning to loop-induced Higgs boson decays, we present the signal strength deviations from the SM as a function of a range of Wilson coefficients of Sec. II in Fig. 3, for \(M_h = 700\) GeV, \(\Lambda = 1\) TeV, and \(\lambda_3 = 1\), as well as vanishing \(\text{MFV}\) values for the couplings of Eq. (10). As indicated earlier, the pseudo-observables are well described by the linearized approximation for perturbative choices of the Wilson coefficients. The obvious exceptions are the \(CP\)-odd interactions where the interference of \(CP\)-even SM amplitude and dimension 6 \(CP\)-odd contributions cancels identically in \(CP\)-even observables like the partial decay widths. \(CP\)-even effects then arise as squared

**FIG. 4.** Impact of the \(C_{WS}, C_{BS}, C_{GS}\) operators on the Higgs signal strength in the different loop-induced decay modes as a function of the new scalar mass \(M_h\) with the cutoff scale \(\Lambda = 1\) TeV.

\(CP\)-odd dimension 6 contributions, giving rise to a non-linear Wilson coefficient dependence.

Furthermore, we note that the effect of electroweak corrections to \(\mu_{39}^{\text{99}}\) is negligible for \(C_{G\phi,S} = 0\) and results from the small overall modification of the Higgs total decay width, Fig. 4. This is the limit where our results are most relevant: BSM degrees of freedom with nontrivial QCD interactions that are integrated out to arrive at \(C_{G\phi,S} = 0\) can typically be more efficiently constrained by direct searches at hadron colliders; see, e.g., the recent discussion of [62,63].

Turning to the effective electroweak interactions, the \(Z\gamma\) and \(\gamma\gamma\) decay widths are particularly sensitive to modifications of the gauge-\(h^\pm\) interaction for the chosen Wilson coefficient normalizations, while the \(C_{G\phi,S}\) interactions are suppressed. Phenomenologically relevant deviations

**FIG. 5.** Limits of the projected \(H \to \gamma\gamma\) signal strength at 3/ab HL-LHC (\(\Delta\mu = 3.3\%\)) [65], the ILC-1000 (\(\Delta\mu = 1.9\%\)), and the FCC-ee/eh/hh (\(\Delta\mu = 0.29\%\)) [66]. No dimension 6 effects are included.
from the SM expectations related to $C_{\phi S}, C_{\phi SD}$ are quickly pushed to the nonperturbative coupling regime where a meaningful perturbative matching is not possible. This indicates a phenomenological blindness of Higgs signal strength data to the interactions parametrized by these coefficients, also because of gauge cancellations between the diagrams of Fig. 1.

In Fig. 5, we show the expected constraints charged Higgs masses as a function of the coupling $\lambda_3$, for $\Lambda = \infty$. The LHC will be able to indirectly probe the gauge-philic scenario up mass scales of $\sim 500$ GeV for perturbative scenarios, while sensitivity extrapolations at the FCC-hh [64] and the highly constraining FCC-ee can explore a broader range of charged Higgs bosons. The inclusion of higher-dimensional interactions related to the new charged scalar changes this picture.

We will first focus on the expected outcome of the HL-LHC. Extrapolations by the CMS experiment [65] suggest that

$$\frac{\Delta \mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}}{\mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}} = 3.3\%$$ \hspace{1cm} (23)

can be obtained at a luminosity of 3/ab. The $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$ is considerably more challenging and statistically limited in the recent 139/fb ATLAS analysis of [67] which gives an expected $\mu_{Z'} = 1.0 \pm 0.8$(stat) $\pm 0.3$(syst). Rescaling uncertainties with the root of the luminosity, we can estimate the sensitivity at 3/ab to be

$$\frac{\Delta \mu_{Z'}^{Z'}}{\mu_{Z'}^{Z'}} = 18\%,$$ \hspace{1cm} (24)

which is comparable with the extrapolation of [66] in the context of the $\kappa$ framework [30]. Furthermore, extrapolating to a future circular collider, Ref. [66] quotes improvements of

$$\frac{\Delta \mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}}{\mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}} = 0.6\%, \quad \frac{\Delta \mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}}{\mu_{\gamma\gamma}^{Z'}} = 1.4\%,$$ \hspace{1cm} (25)

from combinations of the ee, eh, and hh options [64,68,69].

The $Z\gamma$ and $\gamma\gamma$ channels access orthogonal information of the dimension 6 interactions, Fig. 6(a). For an SM-like outcome of both $H$ decay channel measurements within the uncertainty quoted above, the $C_{WS}$ and $C_{BS}$ operators yield complementary constraints as a result of different overlaps of $Z, \gamma$ with the gauge eigenstates. Concretely this means that if one of the operators is expected to be nonzero, the combination of both channels can be used as a measurement or constraint on other contributing effective couplings as demonstrated in Fig. 6(b) for the case of $C_{WS}/\Lambda^2$.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The presence of additional charged scalar degrees of freedom is predicted in many BSM scenarios. When these states couple predominantly to the electroweak sector, they are difficult to observe experimentally, in particular when they do not play a role in electroweak symmetry breaking. This highlights the question of whether additional new physics that arises as a nontrivial extension of the extra scalar’s interactions can have phenomenologically relevant implications.

We approach this question by means of effective field theory, i.e., we assume a mass gap between the charged BSM scalar and other states that lead to generic effective operators involving the scalar and the Standard Model fields. While in the most generic approach, all SMEFT operators would be sourced as well, these can be radiative
effects when the new states predominantly interact with the SM fields via the propagating scalar (as also motivated, e.g., from Higgs portals).

While precision electroweak observables are largely unaffected by the presence of this state, loop-induced Higgs decays become sensitive tools to set constraints on these (strong) new physics contributions associated with the charged scalar. In particular, operator combinations that are not constrained by generic gauge boson phenomenology can be accessed in a precision analysis of Higgs decays into rare yet clean $\gamma\gamma$ and $\gamma Z$ final states. As we have demonstrated, the complementarity of these decay modes could allow us, at least to some extent, to disentangle new physics contributions in case this scenario is broadly realized.

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APPENDIX: RENORMALIZATION

As discussed in Sec. III, we have considered on-shell renormalization for the SM and additional fields and parameters, and $\overline{\text{MS}}$ renormalization for Wilson coefficients. Here we have given the explicit expressions for the renormalization constants used in the counterterm given in Eq. (14). The terms $A_0, B_0, B_{00}, B_1$ used in the following equations are the short-handed notations to express the one-point and two-point integrals (see, e.g., [23]):

$$A_0(m^2) = m^2 \Delta + \mathcal{O}(1),$$
$$B_0 = \Delta + \mathcal{O}(1),$$
$$B_1 = -\frac{\Delta}{2} + \mathcal{O}(1),$$

$$B_{00}(p^2, m_1^2, m_2^2) = \left(\frac{m_1^2 + m_2^2}{4} - \frac{p^2}{12}\right) \Delta + \mathcal{O}(1).$$

$\Delta \sim \epsilon^{-1}$ denotes the UV-divergent $\overline{\text{MS}}$ parts of the one-loop integrals in dimensional regularization $d = 4 - 2\epsilon$.

The wave function renormalization is computed from the on-shell conditions of the two-point functions at $p^2 = 0$,

$$\delta Z_{AA} = \left[ \frac{1}{96\pi^2(g_{Yf}^2 + g_{Wf}^2)} \right] g_{Yf}^2 g_{Wf}^2 \left( 4 + 30B_0(M_W^2) + 24 \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} B_1(M_W^2) + 8 \sum_{q_u=d, s, b} B_1(M_{\Delta_d}^2) \right.$$\n\n$$+ 32 \sum_{q_u=a, c, t} B_1(M_{\Delta_q}^2) - 48 \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} dB_{00}(M_l^2)$$\n\n$$- 16 \sum_{q_u=d, s, b} dB_{00}(M_{\Delta_q}^2) - 64 \sum_{q_u=a, c, t} dB_{00}(M_{\Delta_q}^2) + 12B_1(M_W^2) - 3g_{Wf}^2 v^2 dB_0(M_W^2)$$\n\n$$+ 12M_W^2 dB_0(M_W^2) + 12dB_{00}(M_W^2) + 24dB_{00}(M_{\Delta_d}^2) + 60dB_{00}(M_{\Delta_q}^2) $$\n\n$$- 24A_0(M_{\Delta_d}^2)(C_{BSg_Y^2} + C_{WSg_Y^2}) \left. \right] \tag{A1}$$

and

$$\delta Z_{ZA} = -\left[ \frac{1}{48\pi^2M_Z^2(g_{Yf}^2 + g_{Wf}^2)^2} \right] g_{Yf} g_{Wf} \left[ 3g_{Yf}^2 g_{Wf}^2 v^2 B_0(M_W^2) + 12g_{Wf}^2 M_Z^2 B_0(M_W^2) - 12g_{Yf}^2 B_0(M_{\Delta_d}^2) \right.$$\n\n$$- 24g_{Wf}^2 A_0(M_W^2) - 24g_{Yf}^2 B_{00}(M_{\Delta_d}^2) - (36g_{Yf}^2 - 12g_{Wf}^2) \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} B_{00}(M_l^2) + (4g_{Yf}^2 - 12g_{Wf}^2)$$\n\n$$\times \sum_{q_u=d, s, b} B_{00}(M_{\Delta_q}^2) + (40g_{Yf}^2 - 24g_{Wf}^2) \sum_{q_u=a, c, t} B_{00}(M_{\Delta_q}^2) + 6g_{Wf}^2 B_{00}(M_{\Delta_d}^2) + 6(g_{Yf}^2 - g_{Wf}^2) A_0(M_W^2)$$\n\n$$+ 12g_{Yf}^2 A_0(M_{\Delta_d}^2) + (6g_{Wf}^2 - 18g_{Yf}^2) \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} A_0(M_l^2)$$\n\n$$+ (6g_{Wf}^2 - 2g_{Yf}^2) \sum_{q_u=d, s, b} A_0(M_{\Delta_q}^2) + (12g_{Wf}^2 - 20g_{Yf}^2) \sum_{q_u=a, c, t} A_0(M_{\Delta_q}^2) \right] \tag{A2}.$$
Note that the dimension 6 parts of these renormalization constants would introduce dimension 8 contributions which we neglect consistently in the computation of the next-to-leading order dimension 6 amplitude (see also [11,62,70]).

Similarly, for the Higgs boson, the wave function renormalization is computed from an on-shell residue at $p^2 = m_H^2$ (thus eliminating LSZ factors from the $S$-matrix element),

\[
\delta Z_H = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left( C_{\phi S D}^2 \lambda_3^2 v^4 d B_0(M_H^2, M_H^2) + 4 C_{\phi S} \lambda_3 v^4 d B_0(M_H^2, M_H^2) + 4v^2 C_{\phi S D} \lambda_3 B_1(M_H^2, M_H^2) + 4 C_{\phi S D} \lambda_3 B_1(M_H^2, M_H^2) + 4 C_{\phi S D} A_0(M_H^2) \right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{256\pi^2} \left( 128 \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{\text{l}}^4 B_1(M_H^2, M_{\text{l}}^2) + 64 \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{\text{l}}^2 B_2(M_{\text{l}}^2, M_{\text{l}}^2) + 64 M_{\text{l}}^2 \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} d B_1(M_{\text{l}}^2, M_{\text{l}}^2) M_{\text{l}}^2 \right)
\]

\[
+ 12 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) v^2 B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) + 24 g_W^2 v^2 B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2) + 192 \sum_{q,d,s,b} m_{q,d,s,b}^2 B_1(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2)
\]

\[
+ 192 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^2 B_1(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 384 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^4 d B_0(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 384 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^4 d B_0(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2)
\]

\[
+ 192 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^2 B_1(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 192 M_{H}^2 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^4 d B_1(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 192 M_{H}^2 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^4 d B_1(M_H^2, M_{q,d,s,b}^2)
\]

\[
+ 16 g_W^2 v^2 B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2) + 8 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) v^2 B_1(M_H^2, M_Z^2) - 8 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) + 4 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2)
\]

\[
+ 12 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) M_H^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) + 12 g_W^2 M_H^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2) - 16 \lambda_3^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2)
\]

\[
+ 8 g_W^4 M_{H}^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2) + 24 g_W^4 M_{H}^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2) - 14 g_W^4 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_W^2)
\]

\[
- 7 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) - 14 g_W^2 g_\gamma^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) - 4 \lambda_3 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2, M_Z^2) - 72 \lambda_3^2 v^2 d B_0(M_H^2) + 16 g_W^2 M_{H}^2 v^2 d B_1(M_H^2, M_Z^2) + 8 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) M_{H}^2 v^2 d B_1(M_H^2, M_{Z}^2)
\]

where $d B_i$ represents the derivative of the scalar function with respect to the external momentum. The tadpole counterterm $\delta v$ in Eq. (14) reads

\[
\delta v = -\frac{1}{64\pi^2 M_{H}^2} \left[ v^2 A_0(M_H^2) (4v^2 C_{\phi S} + \lambda_3^2 v^2 C_{\phi S} + 4 M_{H}^2 C_{\phi S D} - 2 \lambda_3) - 3 g_\gamma^2 v^2 A_0(M_Z^2) - 6 g_W^2 v^2 A_0(M_W^2) - 3 g_W^2 v^2 A_0(M_Z^2) - 2 \lambda_1 v^2 A_0(M_Z^2) - 6 \lambda_1 v^2 A_0(M_{H}^2) - 2 \lambda_1^2 v^2 A_0(M_{W}^2) + 16 \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{l}^2 A_0(M_{l}^2)
\]

\[
+ 48 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^2 A_0(M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 48 \sum_{q,d,s,b} M_{q,d,s,b}^4 A_0(M_{q,d,s,b}^2) + 2 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) v^2 M_{Z}^2 + 4 g_W^2 v^2 M_{W}^2 \right].
\]

These terms need to be included in the renormalization of the three-point function $H \rightarrow \gamma \gamma$ of Fig. 1. The divergences related to the renormalization of the Wilson coefficients are then given by

\[
\delta C_{\phi \Phi} = \frac{4 g_\gamma^2 g_W^2 M_{H}^2 M_{W}^2 + g_\gamma^2 g_W^2 M_{H}^2 M_{Z}^2 v^2}{64(g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) M_{H}^2 M_{Z}^2 m^2} C_{AZ\Phi} + \frac{\lambda_3 (g_\gamma^2 C_{WS} + g_W^2 C_{BS})}{32(g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2) m^2} + \frac{1}{64\pi^2 M_{H}^2 v^2 (g_\gamma^2 + g_W^2)} \left[ 2 g_W^2 \left( v^2 (-g_W^2 (3 M_W^2 + M_Z^2)
\]

\[
- 14 M_{H}^2) + \lambda_1 (3 M_Z^2 + 2 M_W^2 + M_{Z}^2) + \lambda_3 M_{Z}^2 \right) + 2 M_{H}^2 \left( \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{l}^2 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_{q}^2 \right) + 8 \left( \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{l}^4 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_{q}^4 \right) \right)
\]

\[
- g_\gamma^2 v^2 (M_H^2 + 3 M_Z^2) + g_W^2 \left( 4 \left( M_{H}^2 \left( \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{l}^2 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_{q}^2 \right) + 4 \left( \sum_{l=\text{e,\mu,\tau}} M_{l}^4 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_{q}^4 \right) \right) \right)
\]

\[
- v^2 (3 M_W^2 + 2 M_W^2 + M_Z^2) + 2 \lambda_1 (3 M_{H}^2 + 2 M_{W}^2 + M_{Z}^2) + 2 \lambda_3 M_{H}^2 \right) C_{\phi \Phi}
\]
and

\[ \delta \mathcal{C}_{\lambda \phi} = \frac{4g_Y g_0^3 M_H^2 M_W^2}{64(g_Y^2 + g_W^2) M_L^2 Z_2^2 \pi^2} C_{\lambda Z \phi} + \lambda_3 (g_Y^2 C_{W S} + g_W^2 C_{S S}) + \frac{1}{64 \pi^2 M_H^2 v^2 (g_Y^2 + g_W^2)} \left[ 2g_Y^2 v^2 \left( -g_Y^2 (3M_H^2 + M_Z^2) 
\right. \\
- 14M_H^2) + \lambda_1 (3M_H^2 + 2M_W^2 + M_Z^2) + \frac{3}{2} \lambda_3 M_H^2 \left( \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} M_l^2 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_q^2 \right) \\
+ 8 \left( \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} M_l^4 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_q^4 \right) - g_Y^2 v^2 (M_H^2 + 3M_Z^2) + g_W^2 \left( 4 \left( M_H^2 \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} M_l^2 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_q^2 \right) \\
\left. + 4 \left( \sum_{l=e,\mu,\tau} M_l^4 + 3 \sum_{q=u,d} M_q^4 \right) \right) - v^2 (3g_Y^2 (M_H^2 + 2M_W^2 + M_Z^2) + 2\lambda_1 (3M_H^2 + 2M_W^2 + M_Z^2) + 2\lambda_3 M_H^2) \right] C_{\lambda \phi}. \]

(A6)

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