Dark Matter from the Supersymmetric Custodial Triplet Model

Antonio Delgado,¹,² Mateo Garcia-Pepin,³ Bryan Ostdiek,¹ and Mariano Quiros³,⁴

¹Department of Physics, 225 Nieuwland Science Hall, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN 46556, USA
²Theory Division, Physics Department, CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland
³Institut de Física d’Altes Energies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain
⁴Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA) and Institut de Física d’Altes Energies, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 Bellaterra, Barcelona, Spain

Abstract

The Supersymmetric Custodial Triplet Model (SCTM) adds to the particle content of the MSSM three $SU(2)_L$ triplet chiral superfields with hypercharge $Y = (0, \pm 1)$. At the superpotential level the model respects a global $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$ symmetry only broken by the Yukawa interactions. The pattern of vacuum expectation values of the neutral doublet and triplet scalar fields depends on the symmetry pattern of the Higgs soft breaking masses. We study the cases where this symmetry is maintained in the Higgs sector, and when it is broken only by the two doublets attaining different vacuum expectation values. In the former case, the symmetry is spontaneously broken down to the vectorial subgroup $SU(2)_V$ and the $\rho$ parameter is protected by the custodial symmetry. However in both situations the $\rho$ parameter is protected at tree level, allowing for light triplet scalars with large vacuum expectation values. We find that over a large range of parameter space, a light neutralino can supply the correct relic abundance of dark matter either through resonant s-channel triplet scalar funnels or well tempering of the Bino with the triplet fermions. Direct detection experiments have trouble probing these model points because the custodial symmetry suppresses the coupling of the neutralino and the $Z$ and a small Higgsino component of the neutralino suppresses the coupling with the Higgs. Likewise the annihilation cross sections for indirect detection lie below the Fermi-LAT upper bounds for the different channels.
I. INTRODUCTION

Although the Standard Model (SM) of strong and electroweak interactions is incredibly successful in explaining all high and low energy particle physics data, it is known to be incomplete. One such reason is the astrophysical observation of dark matter leading to the belief that there should exist a particle explaining it. However there is no candidate dark matter particle in the Standard Model. Moreover cosmic microwave background measurements can be fitted extremely well with a cosmological ΛCDM model if the relic density of dark matter is given by $\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.1187 \ [1, 2]$.

On the other hand, the recent discovery of the Higgs by the ATLAS \cite{3} and CMS \cite{4} experiments seems to point towards a single $SU(2)_{L}$ doublet as being responsible for the breaking of the electroweak symmetry. However, this cannot be known for sure without more precise measurements of its properties. In fact, beyond the Standard Model proposals predict deviations in the couplings of the Higgs compared to the SM values and can alleviate any possible future discrepancies between the predicted and observed properties. The simplest such models are those with extended Higgs sectors. A drawback for extended Higgs sectors is that they can run into troubles with the $\rho$ parameter if the extra $SU(2)_{L}$ representations are large enough\footnote{Extra doublets (and singlets) do not suffer from this problem. However representations beyond that do.}. Models preserving custodial symmetry, for instance, a septet under $SU(2)_{L}$ with hypercharge $Y = 2 \ [5-10]$ or the Georgi-Machacek (GM) model, which contains a real and a complex scalar triplet with $Y = (0, 1)$ respectively \cite{5, 8, 11-36}, can solve this problem and keep $\rho = 1$ at tree level. However there is nothing in the previous models protecting the scalar masses from large radiative corrections, so all of them suffer from a more severe hierarchy problem than the Standard Model.

Supersymmetry provides a nice solution to both the dark matter problem and the hierarchy problem. If R parity is assumed, the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) is stable. In order for the model to be cosmologically viable, the LSP must be neutral, thus providing a dark matter candidate. However, not all dark matter candidates yield the observed relic abundance. Only specific regions of parameter space will allow the lightest neutralino to freeze out to the observed relic abundance. In addition to this, the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) runs into difficulties when trying to fit the observed Higgs mass. One method of raising the Higgs mass in supersymmetric models is to extend the Higgs sector beyond that of the MSSM. The SCTM \cite{37, 38} (a supersymmetric generalization of the GM model) does this by introducing new $F$-term contributions to the tree level MSSM Higgs mass. Besides, a custodial potential is interesting from a dark matter perspective. The coupling of the $Z$ to the neutralinos vanishes at tree level in the custodial limit of the MSSM (for $\tan \beta = 1$), leading to blind spots in the spin-dependent dark matter searches \cite{39}. A custodially symmetric extended Higgs sector will maintain this property.

It was argued in \cite{38} that a totally custodial situation at the electroweak (EW) scale is not favored from a theoretical point of view. The authors examined this issue by imposing a global $SU(2)_{L} \otimes SU(2)_{R}$ symmetry at a high scale, which would then be broken through the RG running of parameters down to the EW scale. Because of the influence of the top
quark Yukawa coupling the running differentiates the two soft doublet masses from each other much more than the three triplets ones among themselves, resulting on a much bigger vacuum misalignment in the doublet sector. The difference in the doublet sector results in a departure from $\tan \beta = 1$. As the $\rho$ parameter is affected only by the difference in the triplet VEVs, the model still allows the triplets to contribute up to 15% to the breaking of the EW symmetry.

In our study, we take the middle ground between the calculable fully custodial model of [37] and the model of [38] where an ultraviolet completion is proposed. We assume a Higgs sector with a potential allowing for a non-custodial vacuum, provided that this only comes from the ratio of the doublet VEVs, parameterized by $\tan \beta$. This turns out to be a very good approximation to the situation explored in [38]. Within this approach, we explore the dark matter properties of the model and find that there are large regions of parameter space where dark matter annihilation in the early universe occurs through the new triplet states. We also examine the direct detection consequences of breaking the custodial symmetry along the $\tan \beta$ direction and the indirect detection bounds.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In section II, we briefly review the conditions needed to generate the correct relic abundance of neutralino dark matter. Section III introduces the model and the benchmark parameters used for our study. The scalar spectrum is studied in section IV. The mixing of the neutralinos is discussed in section V which leads into the study of the relic abundance of dark matter and direct detection constraints of the model in section VI. We discuss our conclusions in section VII.

II. NEUTRALINO DARK MATTER

In this paper, we focus on dark matter coming from the neutralino sector of the Supersymmetric Custodial Triplet Model [37, 38] where the content of the MSSM is extended by three triplets with hypercharge $Y = (0, \pm 1)$. This adds three neutralinos to the four MSSM ones, the Bino, Wino, and the two Higgsinos. There are also two new charginos on top of the charged Wino and Higgsino, and finally a doubly charged triplet fermion. We will collectively refer to the fermion components of all of the triplet fields as tripletinos. The combination of the neutralinos, charginos, and doubly charged tripletinos will be referred to as electroweakinos.

If the mass parameters of the electroweakinos are well separated, mixing can be neglected and the LSP can be a pure gauge eigenstate. The pure Bino does not annihilate enough in the early universe, while both the Wino and Higgsino annihilate easily and need a mass near or above a TeV in order to freeze out with the correct relic abundance. If their masses are lighter than this, the pure Wino or Higgsino leave too little dark matter. The pure Wino may already be excluded by astrophysical gamma ray searches.\footnote{As SU(2)$_L$ triplets, the tripletinos should behave similar to the Wino in this regard.} After constraints from LEP, the LHC, and astrophysics are applied, the only pure state which can generate the observed relic abundance is the Higgsino [40, 42].
In order to have neutralino dark matter lighter than a TeV and freeze out to the observed relic abundance, the LSP must have a large Bino component, and there must be a process which helps the LSP to annihilate efficiently in the early universe. There are a few options to increase the rate at which the Bino annihilates.

1. Mixing
If the composition of the LSP contains a substantial amount of Wino, Higgsino or Tripletino, the mixing can allow for efficient annihilations.

2. Co-annihilation
Having another supersymmetric particle slightly above the mass of the LSP opens the possibility of $t$-channel annihilations, which can greatly increase the annihilation cross section. For there to be enough of the heavier particle around as the universe expands and cools down, the mass must not be more than $\sim 10\%$ larger than the mass of the DM candidate.

3. Funnel/Resonance
If the mass of the LSP is approximately half the mass of another state, the $s$-channel propagator becomes very large. There is a peak in the annihilation cross section, and a corresponding dip in the relic abundance after freeze out.

If the LSP is co-annihilating with squarks or sleptons, there are strong limits on the model from LHC searches. This is due to the production rate of squarks and the relatively clean signals for sleptons. In this case one would expect to find the squark or slepton before the dark matter candidate.

In the literature, both mixing and co-annihilation among electroweakinos are referred to as well tempering \[13\]. Well tempering implies that there are multiple states around which can be produced, which is good for the production cross section of beyond the Standard Model states. However, achieving the correct relic abundance requires the splitting to be small, which makes detection difficult. There have recently been studies on detecting electroweakinos with small splittings at colliders \[44–51\].

The resonant/funnel annihilations of the LSP do not need extra particles at the same mass, but instead at nearly twice the mass of the dark matter particle. In the MSSM, the funnel particle can be either of the $CP$-even Higgs, $(H_1^0, H_2^0)$ or $CP$-odd Higgs $(A^0)$ \[52–58\]. The dark matter particle itself cannot be detected at colliders, which implies the way to look for such a model is through the heavier states. However, searches for neutral scalars are difficult, as exemplified by the long search for the Higgs. As will be shown later, in the SCTM, the triplet scalars provide a resonant channel over much of the parameter space. Due to the degeneracy of states in the custodial situation \[37\], there are charged states near the neutral funnel which could aid in discovery.
III. THE MODEL

As in [37] we will construct the supersymmetric Higgs sector manifestly invariant under $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$. The MSSM Higgs sector $H_1$ and $H_2$ with respective hypercharges $Y = (-1/2, 1/2)$

$$H_1 = \begin{pmatrix} H_1^0 \\ H_1^- \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_2 = \begin{pmatrix} H_2^+ \\ H_2^0 \end{pmatrix}$$ (1)

is complemented with $SU(2)_L$ triplets, $\Sigma_Y$, with hypercharges $Y = (-1, 0, 1)$

$$\Sigma_{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\chi^-}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{\chi^-}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Sigma_0 = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\phi^0}{\sqrt{2}} & \phi^+ \\ \phi^- & -\frac{\phi^0}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \Sigma_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \psi^+ \sqrt{2} & \psi^{++} \\ \psi^0 & -\psi^+ \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}.$$ (2)

where $Q = T_{3L} + Y$.

The two doublets and the three triplets are organized under $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$ as $\bar{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ \bar{2} \end{pmatrix}$, and $\bar{\Delta} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 \\ \bar{3} \end{pmatrix}$ where

$$\bar{H} = \begin{pmatrix} H_1^- \\ H_2^+ \end{pmatrix}, \quad \bar{\Delta} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{-\Sigma_0}{\sqrt{2}} & -\Sigma_{-1} \\ -\Sigma_1 & \frac{\Sigma_0}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$ (3)

and $T_{3R} = Y$. The invariant products for doublets $A \cdot B \equiv A^a \epsilon_{ab} B^b$ and anti-doublets $\bar{A} \cdot \bar{B} \equiv \bar{A}_a \epsilon^{ab} \bar{B}_b$ are defined by $\epsilon_{21} = \epsilon^{12} = 1$.

The $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$ invariant superpotential is defined as

$$W_0 = \lambda \bar{H} \cdot \bar{\Delta} \bar{H} + \frac{\lambda_3}{3} \text{tr} \bar{\Delta}^3 + \frac{\mu}{2} \bar{H} \cdot \bar{\Delta} \bar{H} + \frac{\mu_\Delta}{2} \text{tr} \bar{\Delta}^2$$ (4)

and the total potential

$$V = V_F + V_D + V_{\text{soft}}$$ (5)

where

$$V_{\text{soft}} = m_{H_1}^2 |H_1|^2 + m_{H_2}^2 |H_2|^2 + m_{\Sigma_1}^2 \text{tr} |\Sigma_1|^2 + m_{\Sigma_{-1}}^2 \text{tr} |\Sigma_{-1}|^2 + m_{\Sigma_0}^2 \text{tr} |\Sigma_0|^2$$

$$+ \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m_3^2 \bar{H} \cdot \bar{H} + \frac{1}{2} B_\Delta \text{tr} \bar{\Delta}^2 + A_\lambda \bar{H} \cdot \bar{\Delta} \bar{H} + \frac{1}{3} A_{3\lambda} \text{tr} \bar{\Delta}^3 + h.c. \right\}$$ (6)

Note that the potential we just wrote is the same as in [37] but with non custodial soft masses. They will be used to satisfy the equations of motion. The neutral components of all the fields can be parameterized by

$$X = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (v_X + X_R + iX_I), \quad X = H_1^0, H_2^0, \phi^0, \chi^0, \psi^0.$$ (7)

By imposing

$$v_1 = \sqrt{2} \cos \beta v_H, \quad v_2 = \sqrt{2} \sin \beta v_H \quad \text{and} \quad v_\psi = v_X = v_\phi \equiv v_\Delta,$$ (8)
the custodial symmetry is only broken in the vacuum by \( \tan \beta \). For the rest of the paper we refer to \( \tan \beta = 1 \) as the custodial case and \( \tan \beta \neq 1 \) as the non-custodial case. To set the \( Z \) mass, the total VEV must be

\[ v^2 \equiv (246 \text{ GeV})^2 = 2v_H^2 + 8v_\Delta^2. \]  

(9)

The \( \rho \) parameter is not affected if custodial symmetry is broken in this way. This will generate five equations of minimum that we will use to solve for the values of the soft masses. The minimization conditions can be found in Appendix A. While equation (A6) (and the previous non-custodial equations) provide the necessary conditions for an extremum of the vacuum, they do not guarantee a minimum. To guarantee the appearance of a minimum, it is a sufficient condition that the determinant of the Hessian at the origin be negative. In the custodial case, to leading order in small \( v_\Delta \), this condition can be expressed as

\[ \lambda(2\mu - \mu_\Delta) - A_\lambda > 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{3}{2}v_H^2\lambda^2 - 2m_3^2 < 0. \]  

(10)

The left equation sets the allowed relative size between the doublet and triplet supersymmetric masses. The right equation will be very important as we scan across the parameter space. For a fixed value of \( m_3^2 \), the right equation sets a maximum value for \( v_H^2\lambda^2 \). The \( \lambda \) parameter will be used to raise the tree-level Higgs mass, so there exist regions where the Higgs mass cannot be achieved with light stops while keeping the potential correctly minimized (i.e. not getting tachyonic states).

To begin a study of the dark matter properties of the model, we first choose a set of benchmark values, given by

\[ A_\lambda = A_{\lambda_3} = A_t = A_b = A_\tau = 0, \]
\[ \lambda_3 = 0.35, \]
\[ m_3 = 500 \text{ GeV}, \]
\[ B_\Delta = -(500 \text{ GeV})^2, \]
\[ m_{\tilde{Q}_3} = 800 \text{ GeV}, \quad \text{and} \quad m_{\tilde{u}_3} = 700 \text{ GeV}, \]  

(11)

where other scalar soft masses have been decoupled and the ones corresponding to Higgs multiplets are determined by the minimization conditions. The SCTM triplet \( F \) terms yield a large tree-level Higgs mass, so smaller one-loop corrections are needed. This is the reason for our choice of relatively light stops albeit above the current experimental limits. This leaves \( \mu, \mu_\Sigma, \lambda, \) and \( v_\Delta \) as the remaining free parameters to study.

IV. SCALAR MASSES

There are a total of 5 \( CP \)-even, 5 \( CP \)-odd, 6 singly charged, and 2 doubly charged Higgs scalar fields in this model. The mass matrices for all of these states are cumbersome, and not entirely enlightening. In [37], the fields were decomposed into the \( SU(2)_V \) custodial basis, which is also directly related to the mass basis for \( \tan \beta = 1 \), up to small hypercharge
breaking effects. This notation can be helpful for showing how many charged states will be in the proximity of a neutral state. However, since we will be examining both the custodial, and the non-custodial set up of the model, we will not use this notation. Instead, we will work with mass eigenstates. After removing the Goldstone bosons, they will be denoted as: $H_{1,\ldots,5}$, $A_{1,\ldots,4}$, $H_{1,\ldots,5}^+$ and $T_{1,2}^{++}$.

To study the dark matter annihilation in the model, we are really only interested in the spectrum of the lightest neutral scalars rather than the charged components. Annihilating the neutralino through a resonance of the Higgs or the heavy Higgs has been shown before in the MSSM. As a new feature of this model, there are substantial regions of parameter space in the SCTM where the annihilation can proceed through a triplet-like resonance. In order to do this, the soft masses of the triplets must not be too large. Upon close examination of the minimization conditions for $m_{\Sigma_0}^2$, $m_{\Sigma_1}^2$, and $m_{\Sigma_{-1}}^2$ in Eqs. (A5), (A3), and (A4) respectively, we see that there is a piece that scales as $v_H/v_\Delta$ for each soft mass. Smaller values for $v_\Delta$ yield large soft masses for the triplets, decreasing the chance of annihilating through the triplet funnel.

In the decoupling limit of the MSSM the tree level Higgs mass goes as $m_h^2 = m_Z^2 \cos^2(2\beta)$. Because of this, for $\tan \beta = 1$ there is no tree level contribution to the mass of the Higgs from the MSSM parts of our model. Instead, the mass at tree level in the decoupling limit comes only from the triplet $F$ terms, and is given (at leading order in $v_\Delta$) by

$$m_h^2 \big|_{\tan \beta = 1} = 3\lambda^2 v_H^2.$$  

We also examine the model when $\tan \beta \neq 1$ but is still small. The tree level Higgs mass can no longer be written in a simple form. However, we comment that there are now MSSM contributions to the mass, and the triplet $F$ terms contribute as $\lambda^2 \left(4 \cos^4 \beta + 4 \sin^4 \beta + \sin^2 2\beta\right)$. The SCTM allows for large tree-level contributions to the Higgs mass with no need of large one-loop corrections, and thus no need for heavy stops.

The dominant radiative corrections to the Higgs mass depend on the top Yukawa coupling, defined as

$$h_t = \frac{m_t}{v_2/\sqrt{2}} = \frac{m_t}{\sin \beta \, v_H} = \frac{m_t}{\sin \beta \sqrt{v^2 - 8v_\Delta^2}/2}.$$  

They have been proven to be sizeable in the context of the MSSM, without jeopardizing perturbativity, as the top Yukawa coupling does not enter the Higgs mass at the tree level. In fact in the SCTM, increasing $v_\Delta$ increases the top Yukawa, which increases radiative corrections to the Higgs mass. In our study, we take the dominant one-loop corrections found in [59] we use 700 GeV for the right-handed soft mass and 800 GeV for the left-handed soft mass. These were chosen to be slightly above the current experimental bounds, regardless of the mass of the lightest neutralino. Raising the masses of the stops will not affect our dark matter results, only worsen the fine tuning of the model. Note that even though the stop masses and $A_t$ are fixed in the study, changing $\mu$ and $\tan \beta$ affects the mixing and thus the one-loop contributions to the Higgs mass.

3 We will neglect radiative corrections proportional to $\lambda^2$ as the parameter $\lambda$ affects the Higgs mass at the tree level and thus the corresponding radiative corrections are constrained to be small by perturbativity.
Figure 1. Top row: Maximal values of $v_\Delta$ which allow $\lambda$ to set the Higgs mass to 125 GeV and yield a minimized potential as a function of $\mu$. Bottom: Value of $\lambda$ needed to attain the observed Higgs mass for $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV. The triplet supersymmetric mass is set to $\mu_\Sigma = 250$ GeV, and the other values are as Eq. (11).

By fixing the mass of the stops, the only way to alter the mass of the Higgs is through the remaining parameters, $\mu, \mu_\Sigma, \lambda,$ and $v_\Delta$. To study the effect of the triplet states on dark matter, we examine the case where either the doublet or the triplet like fermions are lighter. We fix $\mu_\Delta = 250$ GeV and scan over the values of $\mu$.

Recall that in order to achieve a minimum of the potential from the minimization conditions in Eqs. (A1)-(A5), rather than a saddle point, there exist constraints on the relationship between $\mu$ and $\mu_\Delta$ beyond Eq. (10). However, the latter equation might give us some intuition on which $\mu$ and $\mu_\Delta$ values we can take since a saddle point at the origin forces the potential to have a minimum. When $\tan \beta = 1$ and $A_\lambda = 0$ the equation simplifies to $2\mu > \mu_\Delta$ and we see that we cannot look at regions where $\mu_\Delta$ is significantly heavier than $\mu$ and still minimize the potential.\footnote{Of course this does not mean that triplets cannot be decoupled supersymmetrically. The limit $\mu_\Delta \to \infty$}
Once $\mu$ and $\mu_\Delta$ are fixed, we have to choose $\lambda$ and $v_\Delta$. We do this in two different ways,

1. **To maximize the value of $v_\Delta$**
   
   Start with $v_\Delta = 30$ GeV, which we take as the upper limit as suggested by the analysis of Ref. [38]. We then scan over $\lambda$ to set the Higgs mass (including radiative corrections). Once the lightest CP-even Higgs has a mass of 125 GeV, we examine the rest of the spectrum. If other scalars have gone tachyonic, or the value of $\lambda$ needed is greater than 0.75, this value of $v_\Delta$ is excluded. We then lower $v_\Delta$ and repeat the process until a 125 GeV Higgs is obtained and the vacuum minimized. The resulting values of $v_\Delta$ and $\lambda$ are plotted in the top row of Fig. 1 over a range of $\mu$.

2. **To keep $v_\Delta$ constant**
   
   The other option is to keep the value of $v_\Delta$ constant as we scan across $\mu$. The region of $\mu$ that can yield the correct Higgs mass and successfully minimize the potential is smaller for large values of $v_\Delta$. Because of this, we set $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV for our study of this method. The lower panel of Fig. 1 displays the values of $\lambda$ needed for both $\tan \beta = 1$ and $\tan \beta = 2$. Note that $\tan \beta = 2$ needs smaller values of $\lambda$ because there are tree-level MSSM contributions to the Higgs mass. This allows for a larger range of $\mu$ than the $\tan \beta = 1$ case.

   The spectrum of the light neutral scalars is plotted in Fig. 2 for $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV and $v_\Delta$ maximized in the left and right panels respectively. When $\tan \beta = 1$, shown in the upper panels, the scalars $H^0_2, A^0_1,$ and $H^0_3$ have similar masses, which increase as a function of $\mu$. The lightest that these scalars can be is $\sim 300$ GeV. The other neutral scalars all have masses greater than 600 GeV and therefore are not shown in the plots. In the lower panels, the same spectrum are shown for $\tan \beta = 2$. In this case both $H^0_2$ and $A^0_1$ are nearly degenerate in mass, and much lower in mass than when $\tan \beta = 1$. This partially comes from the smaller value of $\lambda$ needed to raise the Higgs mass for $\tan \beta = 2$. Conversely, the mass of $H^0_3$ does not change much between the two choices of $\tan \beta$. If the maximum $v_\Delta$ was chosen instead of using the constant $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV, the masses of $H^0_2, A^0_1, \text{ and } H^0_3$ will drop. The separation of the states will also depend on $v_\Delta$ so increasing it helps to remove the degeneracy of the scalars.

   We do not perform any collider constraints on searches for these extra possible scalars. However, we see that the model allows for some to be very light. A dedicated search could therefore exclude large regions of parameter space in a quicker and more conclusive way than either Higgs precision measurements or direct detection experiments.

**V. NEUTRALINO MIXING**

The addition of three triplet chiral superfields adds to the neutralino content of the model three extra states. The mass lagrangian in the basis $\psi^0 = \left( \tilde{B}^0, \tilde{W}^3, \tilde{H}^0_1, \tilde{H}^0_2, \tilde{\phi}^0, \chi^0, \tilde{\psi}^0 \right)$ is

yields the MSSM, in which case Eq. (10) does not apply.
Figure 2. The left panels show the spectrum of the neutral light scalars when $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV and $\lambda$ is changed to set the Higgs mass. The right panels use the maximum allowed value for $v_\Delta$ for each $\mu$ value. The upper (lower) panels contain $\tan \beta = 1$ ($\tan \beta = 2$). Changing $\tan \beta$ greatly affects the mass of $H_2^0$ and $A_2^0$ but $H_3^0$’s mass is similar for both choices.

then,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{neutralino mass}} = -\frac{1}{2}(\psi^0)^T M \psi^0 + \text{c.c.}$$ (14)
where

$$
M = \begin{pmatrix}
M_1 & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g'c_\beta v_H & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g's_\beta v_H & 0 & -g'v_\Delta & g'v_\Delta \\
0 & M_2 & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g'c_\beta v_H & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g's_\beta v_H & 0 & g_2v_\Delta & -g_2v_\Delta \\
-\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g's_\beta v_H & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}g'c_\beta v_H & -\sqrt{2}\lambda v_\Delta & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda v_\Delta - \mu & -c_\beta v_H & 0 & -2\lambda c_\beta v_H \\
0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda v_\Delta & -\lambda s_\beta v_H & \mu_\Delta & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta \\
g'v_\Delta & g_2v_\Delta & 0 & -2\lambda s_\beta v_H & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta & \mu_\Delta & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta \\
g'v_\Delta & -g_2v_\Delta & -2\lambda c_\beta v_H & 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta & \mu_\Delta & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\lambda_3 v_\Delta \\
\end{pmatrix}
$$

(15)

and $s_\beta$ and $c_\beta$ are shorthand for sine and cosine of $\beta$ respectively.

Overall, the masses are controlled by $M_1, M_2, \mu$, and $\mu_\Delta$ for the Bino, Wino, Higgsinos, and tripletinos respectively. There are additional contributions to the masses and mixings scaling with either $v_H$ or $v_\Delta$. In order to provide a good dark matter candidate we want the lightest supersymmetric partner (LSP) to be the lightest neutralino, its composition will then determine the annihilation and direct detection cross sections.

The composition of the LSP in terms of the gauge eigenstates is shown in Fig. 3 for the case when the VEV of the triplets is constant 10 GeV and $\tan \beta = 1(2)$ in the top (bottom) row. The left panels have the Higgsino like states lighter than the tripletino ones, using $\mu = 200$ GeV and $\mu_\Delta = 250$ GeV. The middle panel has both the Higgsino and tripletino masses set to $\mu = \mu_\Delta = 250$ GeV. Finally, the right panel examines when the triplet states are lighter than the Higgsino, with $\mu = 400$ GeV and $\mu_\Delta$ still at 250 GeV. To simplify the situation as much as possible, we decouple the Wino by setting $M_2 = 1$ TeV.

In the custodial situation, the doublet components of the LSP are equal and the triplet components are separately equal over most of the parameter space. The $\tan \beta = 2$ case has each Higgsino and tripletino contributing differently to the LSP. Despite the complexity of the plots, there are a few overarching trends.

In section II we argued that the Bino component of the LSP must dominate in order to achieve the correct relic abundance of dark matter. The interesting regions to examine in the compositions plots are then $M_1 < \mu, \mu_\Delta$. In this region, even when $\mu > \mu_\Delta$, the second largest component of the LSP is Higgsino rather than tripletino which is true even for quite large values of the Higgsino mass. This is due to the mixing of the Bino with the Higgsinos or tripletinos, which comes from off diagonal terms weighted with $v_H$ or $v_\Delta$ respectively. Due to Eq. (9), $v_H \gg v_\Delta$ and the Higgsino mass needs to be much larger than the tripletino mass in order for the triplet contribution to the LSP to be larger than the Higgsino component. So even though the mass of the Higgsino can be larger than the tripletino mass, the mixing of the Bino with the Higgsino can be what causes the correct annihilation rate.

As $\mu$ is further increased, the amount of Higgsino in the LSP drops past the point where mixing alone can yield the correct relic abundance. Looking only at regions where $M_1 < \mu_\Delta$, we see that the triplet states do not contribute much to the LSP. By removing the Higgsino, the LSP is made more pure Bino, rather than increasing the triplet amount. The only possibility of well tempering for this will then require co-annihilations of the Bino-like LSP
Figure 3. Composition of the LSP in terms of gauge eigenstates. The top row shows \( \tan \beta = 1 \) and the bottom shows \( \tan \beta = 2 \). The columns correspond to \( \mu = (200, 250, 400) \) GeV respectively while the tripletino mass is set to \( \mu_\Delta = 250 \) GeV. The Wino has been decoupled with \( M_2 = 1 \) TeV. Note in top middle and top right plots the presence of a triplet like eigenvalue, which is totally decoupled from the rest of the neutralino mass matrix, made out of only \( \tilde{\psi}, \tilde{\phi} \) and \( \tilde{\chi} \). It corresponds to an \( SU(2)_V \) fiveplet in the custodial basis.

VI. DARK MATTER

To examine the dark matter of the SCTM the model was implemented into SARAH \(^{60}\) \(^{64}\). With this, a code was generated for SPHENO \(^{65}\) \(^{66}\) and CALCHEP \(^{67}\). The SPHENO code calculates the spectrum, outputting a parameter card which can be read by MICROMEGAS 3 \(^{68}\). The program MICROMEGAS 3 uses the CALCHEP code to calculate the dark matter properties.

A. Thermal relic density

For each of the choices of \( \tan \beta \) and the method of picking \( v_\Delta \), we scan over the possible \( \mu \) values for \( \mu_\Delta = 250 \) GeV, using 50 GeV step sizes. At each point in \( \mu \), we then scan over \( M_1 \) to find the Bino masses which yield the correct relic abundance of dark matter. We start
Figure 4. Relic abundance for the model with $\mu = 200$ GeV, $\mu_{\Delta} = 250$ GeV, $v_{\Delta} = 10$ GeV, and $\tan \beta = 1$. The grey line marks the observed relic abundance in the universe today. As the mass of the LSP crosses over half the mass of one of the scalars in the model, the annihilation cross section greatly increases, leading to lower relic abundances. When the LSP mass gets close to the mass of the Higgsino, the mixing and co-annihilations take over and the relic abundance stays below the observed value.

with $M_1 = 40$ GeV and take 1 GeV steps until $M_1 > 100$ GeV, at which point a 5 GeV step is used to save on computing time.

Fig. 4 shows an example of the relic abundance calculated at each $M_1$ value for the point $\mu = 200$ GeV, $v_{\Delta} = 10$, and $\tan \beta = 1$. The grey line marks $\Omega h^2 = 0.1187$, the observed relic abundance in the universe [69]. The scalar masses do not depend on the $M_1$ value and are given by

$$m_{H_1^0} = 125 \text{ GeV}, \quad m_{H_2^0} = 299 \text{ GeV},$$
$$m_{A_1^0} = 325 \text{ GeV}, \quad m_{H_3^0} = 337 \text{ GeV}, \quad \text{and others} > 700 \text{ GeV}. \quad (16)$$

Three dips in the relic abundance are seen in the plot corresponding to the $H_1^0$ funnel, the $H_2^0$ funnel, and one for the nearly degenerate $A_1^0$ and $H_3^0$ states occurring when the Bino mass is roughly half the scalar mass. There are three $M_1$ values of this model point which yield the correct relic abundance. The first two correspond to going into and out of the lightest Higgs funnel and the third one is at the start of the $H_2^0$ funnel. However, the next funnels corresponding to $A_1^0$ and $H_3^0$ are close together, so the effect of having multiple nearly resonant $s$-channel annihilations keeps the relic abundance below the observed value. This runs into the region where $M_1 > \mu$ and the Higgsino becomes the LSP, leaving not enough dark matter in the current universe.

For each $\mu$ value in our model scans, we do the same process. Whenever the relic abundance at one $M_1$ value crosses from one side of the observed value to the other at the next $M_1$ step, we take the $M_1$ value which is closest to the observed relic abundance. We then
classify the point according to the process which is driving the annihilations by comparing the LSP mass to half the mass of the scalars or 10% higher than the LSP mass with that of the next-lightest electroweakino. The piece giving the minimum of

$$\min \left( \left| m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} - \frac{m_{H_1^0}}{2} \right|, \left| m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} - \frac{m_{H_2^0}}{2} \right|, \left| m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} - \frac{m_{A_1^0}}{2} \right|, \left| m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} - \frac{m_{H_3^0}}{2} \right|, \left| m_{\tilde{\chi}_{\text{NLSP}}}^{0(\pm)} - 1.1 \times m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0} \right| \right)$$

yields a classification of the given scalar funnel or well tempering. The result of the classifications are plotted in Fig. 5 for the different model choices in the $m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$ vs. $\mu$ plane. The LSP is mostly Bino, so $M_1 \sim m_{\tilde{\chi}_1^0}$. The triplet scalars can be very light for $\tan \beta = 2$ or if $\tan \beta = 1$ when the VEV of the triplets takes on the maximum value allowed. Recall that Fig. 2 shows that these masses increase as a function of $\mu$. As such, the funnels for the triplet like, $H_2^0$, $A_1^0$, and $H_3^0$ scalars smoothly transition up to the point where well tempering happens at a lighter mass than needed for a triplet funnel.

For every model choice examined, there is an $M_1$ value which will either yield the correct relic abundance through a triplet-like scalar or well tempering. When $\mu$ is large enough that the triplet scalars funnels are not possible, the Higgsinos are heavy enough that the well tempering is not caused by Bino-Higgsino mixing, but instead by co-annihilations with the triplet fermions. Thus each model point examined is capable of setting the correct relic abundance using particles beyond the MSSM content.

The large VEV of the triplets allows for the triplet scalars to be light. The lightness of these scalars is what allows the model points examined to always be able to set the relic abundance using either the triplet scalar funnels or the triplet fermions. However, lowering the triplet VEV, $v_\Delta$, raising the triplet supersymmetric mass, $\mu_\Delta$, or lowering the Wino mass, $M_2$, can disturb the possibility of achieving the correct relic abundance through a triplet state. The MSSM-limit of the model takes the VEV of the triplets to zero. In this case, the triplet scalar soft masses go to infinity and do not contribute to the annihilations. The Higgsino alone satisfies the correct relic abundance if its mass is $\sim 1.1$ TeV. As such, if $\mu_\Delta$ is much larger than that, the triplet fermions cannot play a role in well tempering. Such a large value of $\mu$ would also keep the triplet scalars heavy, so such a case would have no way of using the triplet superfield to set the relic abundance. Finally, the Wino has been raised above the mass of the Higgsinos and tripletinos for this study. Bino-Wino well tempering can also be done if $M_1 \simeq M_2 < \mu, \mu_\Delta$. In this case the relic abundance could be set before the triplets have a chance to affect things.

B. Direct detection

There have been many experimental searches for the direct detection of dark matter. For the mass ranges considered here, the PDG\cite{68} shows that the best limits are currently coming from the LUX collaboration\cite{71} for spin-independent searches and the COUPP\cite{70} for spin-dependent searches.
Figure 5. Points which yield the correct relic abundance of dark matter. The upper row is for the custodial case while the lower has $\tan \beta = 2$. The left panels keep $v_\Delta$ constant, and the right panels use the maximum allowed value for $v_\Delta$ for each $\mu$ value. The points are labelled corresponding to which annihilation channel dominates in the early universe.

collaboration [72, 73] for spin-dependent measurements. Super-Kamiokande [74] and IceCube [75, 76] have better spin-dependent exclusions, but are indirect constraints which rely on the annihilation of dark matter in the current universe and depend on the the by-products of the annihilation which change as the LSP composition changes. We then only compare our results with the LUX and COUPP constraints.

The spin-independent cross sections for the points satisfying the correct relic abundance are shown in Fig. 6. The micrOMEGAs 3 output provides both the cross section of the dark matter with a proton and a neutron, we take the maximum of these. The points are marked in the same fashion as Fig. 5 to show how the relic abundance is being achieved. The upper (lower) panels show $\tan \beta = 1 \,(2)$ while the left and right panels display $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV...
Figure 6. Spin-independent dark matter nucleon cross sections. Each point meets the correct relic abundance with the annihilation mode marked. Points with smaller Higgsino components have a lower spin-independent cross section.

and when $v_\Delta$ is maximized at each point respectively. The shaded blue region is excluded by the LUX bound, and the dashed blue line is the projected sensitivity of LUX.

The spin-independent cross section is mediated by the doublet scalars. There is not much difference between the $\tan \beta = 1$ or $\tan \beta = 2$ models in terms of the cross sections. For $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV, both have a region where the dark matter mass is between 100 and 200 GeV which can be excluded by LUX. The points are achieved through a triplet funnel, and to get masses in this range for the LSP, the values of $\mu$ are low. Referring back to Fig. 3, low values for $\mu$ and $M_1$ give the LSP a moderate Higgsino component. This Higgsino component is what drives the nuclear cross sections so large. The cross sections are lower when the maximum value of $v_\Delta$ is used. In this case, there are few points which are currently excluded by LUX. The larger value of $v_\Delta$ lowers the masses of the triplet like scalars. This pushes
the triplet funnels and the well tempering regions to larger values of $\mu$, further decreasing the Higgsino component and the spin-independent cross section. Fortunately, there are still many points which can be probed by LUX in the future. However, the points which are well tempered through Bino-tripletino co-annihilations remain under the projected bound, due to the minimal Higgsino component of the LSP.

The spin-dependent interactions are mediated by the $Z$ boson and the cross sections are shown in Fig. 7. The panels use the same labelling as Figs. 5 and 6. In the custodial case, with $\tan \beta = 1$, the mass eigenstates of both the fermions and the scalars of the Higgs doublet and triplet superfields form representations of $SU(2)_Y$. The parity violating $Z$ coupling therefore vanishes in this case. And while this is also true in the MSSM for $\tan \beta = 1$, the SCTM provides motivation for this choice of $\tan \beta$. The model points examined for $\tan \beta = 2$
no longer have vanishing $Z$ couplings with the LSP. The cross sections are much larger in this case, particularly for the well tempered points, which had low spin-independent cross sections. However, even these large cross sections are still $\sim 2$ orders of magnitude below the COUPP bound.

C. Indirect detection

The direct detection experiments rely on dark matter interacting with detectors on Earth. It is also possible to observe astrophysical objects containing large dark matter densities. In these regions of space, the LSP can still annihilate. The annihilation does not occur through a di-photon process, which would lead to a monochromatic signal. Instead, experiments must search for photons coming from the by-products of the annihilation.

The Fermi-LAT collaboration \cite{77, 78} has placed limits on the annihilation cross section of dark matter from the observation of satellite galaxies. The limits are framed in the context of the annihilations proceeding 100% of the time through either the $e^+e^−, \mu^+\mu^−, \tau^+\tau^−, u\bar{u}, b\bar{b}$, or $W^+W^−$ channel. In Fig. 8, the resulting limits are plotted with our model points yielding the correct relic abundance. The upper (lower) panels show $\tan \beta = 1\ (2)$ while the left and right panels display $v_\Delta = 10$ GeV and when $v_\Delta$ is maximized at each point respectively. Three points for the $\tan \beta = 2$ case are possibly excluded by these searches. However, these three points, corresponding to either an $H_2^0$ or $A_1^0$ funnel, each have the largest annihilation channel being $\tilde{\chi}_1^0\tilde{\chi}_1^0 \to H_1^0Z$. The spectrum of photons coming from the decays of the $H_1^0$ and $Z$ will not map directly onto any of the Fermi-LAT limits. The fact that the SCTM has more neutral Higgs funnels opens this possibility of having different annihilation modes. A more detailed study would therefore be needed in order to conclusively exclude points from the SCTM due to indirect constraints.

VII. DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

We have studied a supersymmetric model where the Higgs sector of the superpotential is extended by three $SU(2)_L$ triplet fields and is manifestly invariant under $SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$. When the triplet VEVs are aligned, the custodial symmetry of this set up allows the triplet fields to be light and develop large vacuum expectation values with no effect on the $\rho$ parameter but participating in the electroweak symmetry breaking. Therefore, we only allow this custodial set up to be broken by $\tan \beta$, the ratio of the doublet VEVs. This has an effect on the dark matter phenomenology, but does not alter the electroweak precision constraints. The $F$ terms coming from the triplet fields help to raise the mass of the Higgs to its observed value, lowering the needed mass of the stops.

We studied the case where the lightest supersymmetric particle is a neutralino, which with R-parity gives a stable dark matter candidate. In order for the dark matter candidate

\footnote{The annihilation cross section in the current universe can be much different that in the early universe, especially in the case of co-annihilations. In the current universe, the particle co-annihilating with the LSP is no longer around, leading to a smaller annihilation cross section.}
Figure 8. Annihilation cross section times velocity of dark matter in the galaxy in the current universe. Each point meets the correct relic abundance with the annihilation mode in the early universe marked. The lines mark the limits assuming the annihilation occurs 100% of the time through the given channel, each resulting in different spectrum of photons measured here on Earth.

to yield the correct relic abundance, it must have a large Bino component to not annihilate too quickly in the early universe. Well tempering mixes the Bino with either the Higgsino, Wino, or tripletino in just the right amount to give the observed relic abundance. If the Bino component is too large, dark matter does not annihilate quickly enough in the early universe, unless the mass of the dark matter particle is about half the mass of a boson. We found that the triplet scalars or the triplet fermions can play a role in the annihilation of dark matter in the early universe over a large range of values for the Higgsino mass parameter $\mu$. We compared the model points giving the correct relic abundance with the current best direct detection limits. The points with low $\mu$ values have at least a moderate Higgsino component
and have either been excluded already, or can be discovered in future results. At large values of $\mu$ the light triplet states still provide an efficient means of annihilating the dark matter, but hope of a direct detection of dark matter is lost. This is motivation for a detailed study of the LHC phenomenology of these models.

For the study of dark matter, we were only concerned with the neutral triplet states. However, the triplets contain charged states. In fact, the second lightest $CP$-even Higgs, $H_2^0$, is close in mass to both the lightest charged and doubly charged scalars. In addition, the mixing of the triplet like fermions leaves charged and doubly charged states very near in mass to the lightest neutral one. If the relic abundance of dark matter relies on these light states, they should be accessible at the LHC. While a detailed study is beyond the scope of this paper, a dedicated study of methods for searching for doubly charged fermions and scalars could offer valuable constraints on models such as these with exotic particle content.

To conclude, the SCTM helps raise the mass of the Higgs through extra $F$ terms. There are large regions where the lightest Higgs is consistent with current observations, and able to explain any deviations in future measurements. It also offers new methods to annihilate dark matter in the early universe through triplet fermion co-annihilations or triplet scalar portals. The triplet fermions have weak detector bounds, if any, as compared to co-annihilations with squarks or sleptons. The triplet scalar funnels can also be light, and have charged partners making them easier to search for than plain MSSM neutral Higgs funnels. Only a dedicated LHC search for the triplet fermions or scalars could offer the most conclusive constraints on the model.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors would like to thank Florian Staub for assistance with SARAH. MGP would also like to thank Victor Martin-Lozano for his constant help during the course of this work. This research was supported in part by the Notre Dame Center for Research Computing through computing resources, by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. PHY-1215979, by the Spanish Consolider-Ingenio 2010 Programme CPAN (CSD2007-00042), by CICYT-FEDER-FPA2011-25948, by the Severo Ochoa excellence program of MINECO under the grant SO-2012-0234 and by Secretaria d’Universitat i Recerca del Departament d’Economia i Coneixement de la Generalitat de Catalunya under Grant 2014 SGR 1450. The work of MGP and MQ was partly done at IFT and ICTP-SAIFR (Sao Paulo, Brazil) under CNPq grant 405559/2013-5, and at the CERN Theory Division (Geneva, Switzerland).
Appendix A: Minimization Conditions

From \( \frac{\partial V}{\partial h_0} \bigg|_{\frac{\partial V}{\partial h_2}} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial h_2} \bigg|_{\frac{\partial V}{\partial h_0}} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi} \bigg|_{\frac{\partial V}{\partial \psi}} = \frac{\partial V}{\partial \psi} \bigg|_{\frac{\partial V}{\partial \phi}} = 0 \) we get,

\[
m_1^2 \equiv m_{H_1}^2 + \mu^2 = \sqrt{2}v_\Delta (\lambda \mu - A - \lambda \mu_\Delta) - \frac{v_\Delta^2}{2}(2\lambda_3 \lambda + 5\lambda^2)
\]

\[
+ t_\beta \{m_3^2 + \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}(4\lambda \mu - A - \lambda \mu_\Delta) - \frac{v_\Delta^2}{2}(\lambda_3 \lambda + 4\lambda^2)\} - \frac{g_1^2 + g_2^2}{4}v_H^2c_{2\beta} - v_H^2\lambda(c_\beta^2 + 1)
\]

(A1)

\[
m_2^2 \equiv m_{H_2}^2 + \mu^2 = \sqrt{2}v_\Delta (\lambda \mu - A - \lambda \mu_\Delta) - \frac{v_\Delta^2}{2}(2\lambda_3 \lambda + 5\lambda^2)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{t_\beta} \{m_3^2 + \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}(4\lambda \mu - A - \lambda \mu_\Delta) - \frac{v_\Delta^2}{2}(\lambda_3 \lambda + 4\lambda^2)\} - \frac{g_1^2 + g_2^2}{4}v_H^2c_{2\beta} - v_H^2\lambda(s_\beta^2 + 1)
\]

(A2)

\[
m_{\Sigma_1}^2 = -\{B_\Delta + \mu_\Delta^2 + \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}(A_3 + 3\lambda_3 \mu_\Delta) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}v_\Delta}(2A_{c_\beta}^2 + 2\lambda_\mu_\Delta s_\beta^2 - 4c_\beta s_\beta \lambda \mu) - 2\lambda \mu
\]

\[
+ \frac{v_H^2}{2} (- (g_1^2 + g_2^2)c_{2\beta} + 2c_\beta s_\beta(\lambda_3 \lambda + 2\lambda^2) + 2s_\beta^2 \lambda_3 \lambda + 8c_\beta^2 \lambda^2) + v_\Delta^2 \lambda_3^2
\]

(A3)

\[
m_{\Sigma_{-1}}^2 = -\{B_\Delta + \mu_\Delta^2 + \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}(A_3 + 3\lambda_3 \mu_\Delta) + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}v_\Delta}(2A_{c_\beta}^2 + 2\lambda_\mu_\Delta c_\beta^2 - 4c_\beta s_\beta \lambda \mu) - 2\lambda \mu
\]

\[
+ \frac{v_H^2}{2} (- (g_1^2 + g_2^2)c_{2\beta} + 2c_\beta s_\beta(\lambda_3 \lambda + 2\lambda^2) + 2s_\beta^2 \lambda_3 \lambda + 8s_\beta^2 \lambda^2) + v_\Delta^2 \lambda_3^2
\]

(A4)

\[
m_{\Sigma_0}^2 = -\{B_\Delta + \mu_\Delta^2 + \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}(A_3 + 3\lambda_3 \mu_\Delta)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}v_\Delta} (2c_\beta s_\beta(A + \lambda \mu_\Delta - 2\lambda \mu) + v_H^2(c_\beta s_\beta 8\lambda^2 + 2(\lambda_3 \lambda + 2\lambda^2)) + v_\Delta^2 \lambda_3^2
\]

(A5)

and by making \( \tan \beta \to 1 \) we recover the custodial limit of Ref. 37 where the five minimization conditions degenerate into only two,

\[
m_{H_1}^2 + \mu^2 = m_3^2 + 3\frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}}[\lambda(\lambda_3 \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}} - \mu_\Delta) - A_\lambda] + 6\lambda \mu v_\Delta - \frac{3}{2} \lambda^2(v_H^2 + 3v_\Delta^2)
\]

\[
m_{H_2}^2 = \frac{v_H^2(2\lambda \mu - 3\sqrt{2}\lambda^2 v_\Delta - A_\lambda) - \sqrt{2}v_\Delta B_\Delta + (2\lambda_3 v_\Delta - \sqrt{2} \mu_\Delta)(\frac{\lambda}{\sqrt{2}v_\Delta} v_H^2 - (\lambda_3 \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}} - \mu_\Delta) v_\Delta]}{\sqrt{2}v_\Delta}
\]

(A6)

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