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Classification of NLO operators for composite Higgs models

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We provide a general classification of template operators, up to next-to-leading order, that appear in chiral perturbation theories based on the two flavor patterns of spontaneous symmetry breaking SU(N_F)/Sp(N_F) and SU(N_F)/SO(N_F). All possible explicit-breaking sources parametrized by spurions transforming in the fundamental and in the two-index representations of the flavor symmetry are included. While our general framework can be applied to any model of strong dynamics, we specialize to composite-Higgs models, where the main explicit breaking sources are a current mass, the gauging of flavor symmetries, and the Yukawa couplings (for the top). For the top, we consider both bilinear couplings and linear ones à la partial compositeness. Our templates provide a basis for lattice calculations in specific models. As a special example, we consider the SU(4)/Sp(4) ≅ SO(6)/SO(5) pattern which corresponds to the minimal fundamental composite-Higgs model. We further revisit issues related to the misalignment of the vacuum. In particular, we shed light on the physical properties of the singlet η, showing that it cannot develop a vacuum expectation value without explicit CP violation in the underlying theory.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The discovery of a Higgs-like boson [1,2] at the LHC experiments is one of the most remarkable scientific successes of the beginning of the century, as it concludes a 50-year-long difficult quest [3]. While our knowledge of the properties of the new particle is increasing thanks to the extraordinary effort of the experimental collaborations [4–6], its true nature is still as elusive as ever. The lack of signals of new physics in other searches at the LHC (and other experiments) may be telling us that the Standard Model (SM) is the correct model after all, or it may be telling us that new physics may be either light and lurking in signatures that are difficult to access or heavy and difficult to produce at the LHC. The latter possibility can be seen as an indirect support for theories where electroweak (EW) symmetry breaking is induced by a confining force at a few TeV scale. The time-honored idea of technicolor (EW) symmetry breaking is induced by a confining force seen as an indirect support for theories where electroweak symmetries, and the Yukawa couplings (for the top). For the top, we consider both bilinear couplings and linear ones à la partial compositeness. Our templates provide a basis for lattice calculations in specific models. As a special example, we consider the SU(4)/Sp(4) ≅ SO(6)/SO(5) pattern which corresponds to the minimal fundamental composite-Higgs model. We further revisit issues related to the misalignment of the vacuum. In particular, we shed light on the physical properties of the singlet η, showing that it cannot develop a vacuum expectation value without explicit CP violation in the underlying theory.

While most of the recent progress has been based either on holography or on effective theories (see, for instance, Refs. [22–24]), models that can be based on an underlying theory have a special role to play. On the one hand, they may truly be addressing the hierarchy problem as no scalars are present in the theory. On the other hand, they can be studied on the lattice, thus providing quantitative predictions for the phenomenology of the Higgs boson. In addition, the symmetry-breaking pattern is linked to the properties of the representation of the underlying fermions [25,26]: only three cases exist, SU(N_F)/Sp(N_F), SU(N_F)/SO(N_F), and SU(N_F) × SU(N_F)/SU(N_F) for pseudoreal, real, and complex representations, respectively. The minimal composite-Higgs model can be achieved for the first class with N_F = 4 [27]. A simple underlying theory based on a gauged SU(2) gauge bosons should appear above a few TeV and be weakly coupled to the SM (thus difficult to produce). While early proposals did not have a light scalar that could play the role of the 125 GeV Higgs, such a light scalar can be obtained either as an additional pseudo-NGB (pNGB) [9–11] or as a light resonance (whose lightness may derive from an approximate infrared conformal behavior of the theory [12–17]). The idea of a pNGB Higgs has recently been revived via holographic realizations in extra dimensions [18], which share common traits to gauge-Higgs unification models [19–21].

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has been proposed in Refs. [28,29] and studied on the lattice [30–36] [preliminary results for an underlying Sp(4) theory can be found in Ref. [37]]. Other theories widely studied on the lattice are the ones that feature a light CP-even scalar resonance [38,39] (where the lightness is defined by comparison to the other resonances, such as spin-1 ones). This state has been proposed as a candidate for the discovered Higgs-like boson [12,15,40], even though it is not clear if its couplings can really mimic the ones of the SM Higgs [41]. A next-to-leading order (NLO) chiral Lagrangian including the singlet has been presented in Ref. [42].

Motivated by the great progress on the lattice, in this work we focus on the construction of effective theories up to NLO, which include the effect of spurions that explicitly break the global symmetry of the theory. We limit our study to spurions in up to two-index representations of the global symmetry and provide a complete list of template operators that can be used to construct the NLO counterterm operators once the nature of the spurions is specified. We then focus on spurions relevant for composite-Higgs models, namely a current mass for the underlying fermions, the gauging of the EW symmetry (embedded in the global symmetry), and the sources generating the Yukawa coupling for the top quark. The latter play an important role, as they usually are the most relevant spurions in the theory. There are two distinct ways to introduce such coupling: either via bilinear couplings to a scalar operator or by linear couplings to fermionic operators. The former follows the old proposal of extended technicolor interactions [43], while the latter is based on the idea of partial compositeness [44] which was also realized in holographic models. In this work we will consider both: note that, in terms of an underlying theory, both appear as four-fermion interactions involving underlying fermions and elementary ones. Realizing partial compositeness in an underlying theory often requires the presence of two distinct representations of the underlying gauge group, with chromodynamics (QCD) interactions sequestered by one and the job of EW symmetry breaking assigned to the other [45,46]. An NLO chiral Lagrangian for this situation has been constructed in Ref. [47], while preliminary lattice results for the specific model of Ref. [48] can be found in Refs. [49–51]. The main role of the spurions for the phenomenology of the composite Higgs is to misalign the vacuum toward EW symmetry breaking.

Up to now, the global symmetry $G_F$ has been assumed to be only spontaneously broken by the condensation of the strong sector to a subgroup $H_F$. All alignments of $H_F$ within the global symmetry are equivalent from the point of view of the confining force. However, when explicit breaking sources external to the strong dynamics are present, one direction may be preferred. Furthermore, the sources may also break $H_F$ explicitly: the prime example is QCD where the current masses and the gauging of electromagnetism explicitly break SU$(N_F)$ down to U(1)$_{EM}$, generating a mass for the pNGBs, i.e. the pions. In composite-Higgs models, the explicit breaking sources are crucial to misalign the vacuum with respect to the EW gauge sector and, therefore, to drive EW symmetry breaking and give mass to the Higgs (and additional pNGBs).

The misalignment between the EW preserving and physical vacua is conveniently parametrized by an angle, $\theta$ [11], and the physical vacuum, $E_0$, can be written as

$$E_0 = U_0 E U_0^T,$$

where $E$ is an EW preserving vacuum, and $U_0$ is a rotation matrix of $G_F$ connecting the two vacua. In Eq. (1), we have assumed that the underlying fermions are pseudoreal or real, in which case the vacuum is an antisymmetric or symmetric matrix. The interpretation of the angle $\theta$ is simple, as it can be directly linked to the electroweak scale as $\sin \theta = v/f$, $f$ being the decay constant of the pNGBs. Thus, the limit $\theta \ll 1$ corresponds to a pNGB Higgs, while for $\theta = \pi/2$ we have a technicolor model where $v = f$. The value of the angle $\theta$ (as well as the form of the EW preserving vacuum $E$) will be determined by the interplay between the spurions of the theory.

In general, the vacuum may be misaligned along more than one direction, and not just along the Higgs one. This can easily be implemented by rotating the vacuum $E$ (or $E_0$) with other rotations in $G_F$ parametrized by the appropriate (broken) generators. Loosely, the misalignment can be thought of as a vacuum expectation value for some of the pNGBs, even though this formalism does not respect the shift symmetry of the theory along the rotated vacuum and is thus dangerous.

The paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we present the chiral perturbation theory based on the two patterns of symmetry breaking: SU$(N_F)/SO(N_F)$ and SU$(N_F)/Sp(N_F)$. We introduce generic spurions belonging to the fundamental and to the two-index representations of the flavor symmetry and classify, up to NLO, the nonderivative operators. We then specialize to the three main explicit breaking sources in composite-Higgs models. In Sec. III, we give a concrete example with the minimal fundamental composite-Higgs model based on SU(4)/Sp(4). We discuss the vacuum alignment when NLO contributions are included as well as the properties of the additional pNGB singlet, $\eta$. We finally present our conclusions in Sec. IV. More details about the classification of the relevant operators and a complete list of templates are given in the Appendixes.

II. CHIRAL PERTURBATION THEORY FOR PSEUDOREAL AND REAL REPRESENTATIONS

The chiral perturbation theory that we introduce in this section is intended to parametrize the low-energy physics of some strongly coupled hypercolor (HC) gauge theories. We focus on the sector of the theory that is responsible for the breaking of the EW sector of the SM with the aim of
providing a dynamical symmetry breaking and solving the hierarchy problem of the Higgs mass. Thus, the matter content consists of fermions, and their representation under the HC interactions completely determines the pattern of global symmetry breaking \[25\] of the model. In particular, \(N_F\) Weyl fermions in a real or pseudoreal representation lead to a global symmetry \(G_F = SU(N_F)\) which can only be spontaneously broken to \(H_F = SO(N_F)\) or \(H_F = Sp(N_F)\), respectively. Note that \(N_F\) is necessarily even for pseudoreal representations to avoid Witten anomalies \[52\], while no constraint applies to the real case. If the representation is complex, \(N_F\) Weyl fermions need to be accompanied by equally many antifermions to cancel gauge anomalies,\(^2\) and the global \(G_F = SU(N_F) \times SU(N_F)\) can only be spontaneously broken to the diagonal subgroup \(SU(N_F)_D\), exactly as in QCD. After spontaneous breaking, the Weyl fermions pair into massive Dirac fermions, with the dynamical mass leaving the HC symmetry, \(G_{HC}\) unbroken. In the case of an odd number of Weyl fermions\(^3\) in a real representation of \(G_{HC}\), instead, the dynamics generates a gauge-invariant Majorana mass.

Note that underlying models with a different gauge group and fermionic representations may lead, at low energy, to the same chiral perturbation theory, i.e. to the same global symmetry-breaking pattern. Furthermore, the number of fermions \(N_F\) is constrained by the fact that the unbroken global symmetry needs to contain the EW gauge symmetry of the SM extended to the full custodial symmetry, \(G_{EW} = SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \subset SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \subset H_F\), and a Higgs doublet candidate in the coset. Under these conditions, the minimal coset with an underlying fermionic origin is \(SU(4)/Sp(4)\) \[27\], which can be generated by a \(G_{HC} = SU(2)\) gauge group with four Weyl fermions transforming as doublets \[28,29\]. The next-to-minimal cosets are \(G_F/H_F = SU(6)/Sp(6)\) \[53\], \(SU(5)/SO(5)\) \[11,48\], and \(SU(4) \times SU(4)/SU(4)_D\) \[54\] for the pseudoreal, real, and complex cases, respectively. We focus here on the real and pseudoreal cases as they can be described by a chiral Lagrangian of the same form, and they are associated with the smallest viable cosets. Moreover, the complex case is the one associated with QCD, and it has already been explored in great detail in the literature \[55–58\]. We leave the number of flavors, \(N_F\), free in order to remain as general as possible.

Besides the spontaneous breaking of \(G_F\) due to the strong dynamics, the global symmetries are also explicitly broken by the interactions with the elementary states of the SM: the EW gauge interactions and the interactions giving rise to the top mass are the prime examples. Note also that, as the theories we study are vectorlike with respect to the SM gauge interactions (and also nonchiral with respect to the HC interactions), a bare mass term for the fermions can (and should) always be added. The explicit breaking terms can be thought of as spurions that transform under both the global symmetry, \(G_F\), and the SM symmetries (both gauged and global). The fact that they are not dynamical fields explicitly breaks \(G_F\). They will play a crucial role for the alignment of the condensate with respect to the EW symmetries.

In the following, we first present the chiral Lagrangian associated with the real and pseudoreal cases \[59,60\] up to NLO in the chiral expansion. Then, we parametrize the effect of the explicit breaking interactions in the chiral perturbation theory through generic spurionic fields. Finally, we specialize to the explicit-breaking sources appearing in composite-Higgs models, namely a current mass for the fundamental fermions, the gauging of \(G_{EW}\), and the linear or bilinear couplings between the elementary top quark and the strong sector.

### A. Chiral Lagrangian up to NLO

In this section, we present the NLO chiral perturbation theory for the real and pseudoreal cases. Both give rise to an \(SU(N_F)\) global symmetry, \(N_F \geq 4\), and they can, therefore, be described within a unified framework. We will parametrize the NGBs in terms of a linearly transforming matrix, \(\Sigma\), which is symmetric under flavor indices of \(G_F\) for the real case and antisymmetric for the pseudoreal one. We finally remind the reader that the chiral expansion is in terms of powers of the momentum \(p_\mu\) of the NGBs. At LO, i.e. order \(p^2\), the chiral Lagrangian reads

\[
\mathcal{L}_2 = \frac{f^2}{8c^2_r} \text{Tr}[(D_\mu \Sigma)^\dagger D^\mu \Sigma] + \frac{f^2}{8c^2_r} \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma \chi^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger],
\]

where \(f\) is related to the decay constant of the NGBs,\(^4\) and the complex matrix \(\chi\) (and the covariant derivative \(D_\mu\)) contain scalar (and axial/vector) sources. Following Ref. \[61\], we introduce a normalization factor \(c_r\) (equal to \(\sqrt{2}\) for real representations, and 1 for pseudoreal) so that the relation between \(f\) and the EW scale, \(v\), is the same for all models.\(^5\)

The NGBs, \(G^A\), are parametrized by the matrix \(\Sigma\) as follows:

\[
\Sigma = \exp(2\sqrt{2}c_r i G^A X^A/f)E, \quad \Sigma \rightarrow g \Sigma g^T,
\]

---

\(^2\)We assume that the theory is vectorlike with respect to the SM gauge quantum numbers, so that an EW preserving vacuum is allowed.

\(^3\)However, this class of models can no longer be considered as vectorlike gauge theories \[25,26\].

\(^4\)By expanding the kinetic term in Eq. (2), one obtains the relation to the decay constant defined by

\[
\langle \text{vac}|J_A^\dagger \{0\}(G^B(p)) = ip_\mu \frac{f}{\sqrt{2c_r}} \delta^{AB}, \quad p^2 = 0.
\]

\(^5\)In the technicolor limit, \(f = v\). This is valid if the EW symmetry is embedded in Sp(2) \(\sim SU(2)\) subgroups of Sp\((N_F)\) and SO(4) subgroups of SO\((N_F)\).
where $E$ is a matrix giving the orientation of the vacuum within $G_F$, and $X^A$ are the corresponding broken generators. In the absence of explicit breaking of the global symmetry, all the vacua are equivalent. The broken $X^A$ and unbroken $S^A$ generators are defined by the following relations:

$$X^A E - E (X^A)^T = 0, \quad S^A E + E (S^A)^T = 0,$$

and are normalized according to $\text{Tr}[S^A S^B] = 1/2 \delta^{AB}$ and $\text{Tr}[X^A X^B] = 1/2 \delta^{AB}$.

The covariant derivative is defined as follows:

$$D_\mu \Sigma = \partial_\mu \Sigma - i j_\mu \Sigma - i \Sigma j_\mu \Sigma, \quad j_\mu = v_\mu S^A + a_\mu X^A. \tag{6}$$

where the coefficients $L_i$ and $H_i$ are low-energy constants (LEC) that only depend on the strong dynamics and can be computed on the lattice once the details of the underlying theory are specified. The above Lagrangian is expressed in a particular basis where we remove the redundant operators\(^6\) in complete analogy with the Gasser and Leutwyler\[58\] Lagrangian for the complex case.

### B. Generic spurionic operators

The chiral Lagrangian can be completed by introducing explicit breaking terms of the flavor symmetry, $G_F$: in the following, we will employ the spurion technique by
defining nondynamical spurions, $\Xi$, that transform as complete representations of $G_F$. We will limit ourselves to the lowest-dimensional representations with up to two indices, so that the subscripts $F$, $A$, $S$, and $\text{Adj}$ indicate, in the following, the fundamental, antisymmetric, symmetric, and adjoint representation, respectively. The spurions also carry quantum numbers related to the SM gauge and global symmetries. Being agnostic of their origin, we will overlook this in this section, together with their proper counting in the chiral expansion: we will, thus, classify the operators based on the number of spurions. We will then specialize to the quantum numbers and chiral counting for various models of composite Higgs in the next section. Note that, sometimes, it will be convenient to embed one, or more, elementary SM fields in the definition of the spurion, as we will see in concrete examples in the next section.

Spurions in representations up to two $G_F$ indices are sufficient to describe all the composite-Higgs models we

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\( ^6 \)When the number of flavors, $N_F$, is small, the Caley-Hamilton relations may be used to remove additional redundant operators. The equations of motion have also been used to remove two other operators.
are interested in. In Table II we list the spurions with their transformation properties. We found it useful to construct, out of these spurions, objects that transform like the adjoint, as they are convenient building blocks for $G_F$-invariant operators. We also truncate the classification to operators with up to four spurions. Without a proper chiral counting this restriction may seem arbitrary. However, as we will see in the following, it is enough to derive all the NLO operators we are interested in. We are now armed to build a general basis of operators: the results we present here and in the Appendices are for the case of pseudoreal representations for which $\Sigma$ is an antisymmetric matrix. The case of real representations, for which $\Sigma$ is symmetric, can easily be derived by exchanging $\Xi_\Lambda \leftrightarrow \Xi_S$ in the operators. Using the convenient forms, operators with two spurions can be straightforwardly constructed, and they are listed in Table III. The classification of operators with three and four spurions is more involved; thus we reported details and results in Appendix C.

Explicit models can contain more than one spurion transforming under the same $G_F$ representation that is distinguished by their SM quantum numbers; thus the list of operators we present here are to be considered a template to build explicit operators in specific models. Operators that are singlet under the SM symmetries correspond to a potential for the NGBs that will fix the alignment of the vacuum in the $G_F$ space. Operators that are not singlets, however, need to be coupled to SM fields; alternatively, one can embed the SM fields in dynamical spurions that, therefore, may carry Lorentz indices and spin. Operators containing derivatives can, in principle, be inferred systematically from the nonderivative ones as explained in Appendix C. We finally remark that the list of operators derived from the above templates may contain redundant operators, which need to be eliminated case by case if one wants to identify the minimal number of independent LECs in the model. As already mentioned, the chiral counting of each operator crucially depends on the physical origin of the spurions, and this will be discussed in the following section.

C. Explicit breaking sources in composite-Higgs models

Having at our disposal a complete basis of nonderivative operators involving up to four spurions (see Table III and Appendix C), we now specify the sources of explicit breaking that are relevant in the context of composite-Higgs models. We focus on the following possibilities:

(i) A current mass for the underlying fermions $\psi$.

In general, this spurion transforms in the same representation of the NGB matrix, $\Xi$. The maximally symmetric case corresponds to a common mass with the flavor structure aligned to the EW preserving vacuum, $E$.

(ii) The gauging of the EW symmetry, $G_{EW} = SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y \subset G_F$. Note that, in general, additional gauging is allowed if the flavor symmetry, $G_F$, is large enough: for instance, the SU(3)$_c$ of QCD may be included [63], or additional non-SM gauge symmetries. Examples of the latter are a U(1) symmetry broken on the EW-preserving vacuum, $E$, in the SU(4)/Sp(4) case [27], or duplicates of the SM gauge symmetries in little-Higgs models [53,64].

(iii) A SM-like bilinear coupling between the elementary top quark multiplets and the strong dynamics: $Q t^c$ couples to a scalar operator of the strong sector $O_{Qt}$ that has the same quantum numbers as the Higgs doublet in the SM. Note that the coset may allow for more than one doublet, so that multiple choices for $O_{Qt}$ within the NGB matrix are allowed.

(iv) Linear couplings à la partial compositeness [44] between the elementary top quark multiplets and the strong dynamics: $Q$ and $t^c$ couple separately to the fermionic operators $O_Q$ and $O_t$, respectively.

A detailed list of all the relevant spurions can be found in Table IV. These sources of explicit breaking generate masses for the gauge bosons and SM fermions, as well as a potential for the NGBs and in particular for the Higgs boson. Four-fermion interactions among the SM fermions are also generated in the same formalism. The potential determines

| Spurions | Transformation | Convenient form |
|----------|----------------|----------------|
| $\Xi_F$  | $\Xi_F \rightarrow g\Xi_F$ | $\Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T$ |
| $\Xi_{S/\Lambda}$ | $\Xi_{S/\Lambda} \rightarrow g\Xi_{S/\Lambda}^T$ | $\Xi_{S/\Lambda}^T + \Sigma^T \Xi_{S/\Lambda}^T$ |
| $\Xi_{Adj}$ | $\Xi_{Adj} \rightarrow g\Xi_{Adj}^T$ | $\Xi_{Adj}^T + \Sigma^T \Xi_{Adj}^T$ |

| No $\Sigma$ | Linear in $\Sigma$ | Quadratic in $\Sigma$ |
|-------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| One spurion | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_\Lambda \Sigma^T] + \text{H.c.}$ |                                |
| Two spurions | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{S/\Lambda} \Sigma_{S/\Lambda}^T]$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{S/\Lambda} \Sigma_{S/\Lambda} \Sigma_{Adj} \Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{H.c.}$ |
|             | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma^T \Xi_F]$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma^T \Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T]$ |
|             | $\text{Tr}[\Xi^T \Sigma^T \Xi_F]$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma^T \Sigma^T \Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T \Xi_F + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T \Sigma^T + \Sigma^T \Sigma^T \Sigma^T]$ |
|             | $\text{Tr}[\Xi^T \Sigma^T \Sigma^T \Xi_F]$ |                                |
the alignment of the vacuum within the flavor symmetry, $G_F$, thus allowing for a spontaneous breaking of the EW symmetry and for mass generation for some of the NGBs (that thus become pseudo-NGB, or pNGB, in the following). The time-honored result is that the top loops, associated with $(3, 1)_{-2/3}$, thus become pseudo-NGB, or pNGB, in the following.

Note that the generators $T_A^L$ and $T_Y$ are written as matrices in the $G_F$ space. However, they are not normalized as the $G_F$ generators in Eq. (5) but in order to reproduce the correct transformation properties of each of the components of $\psi$. For each gauged generator, thus, one can define a spurion transforming as the adjoint of $G_F$, $\Xi^A_{\text{Adj}} = gT^A_L$ and $\Xi^Y_{\text{Adj}} = gT^Y_Y$, that also transforms as the adjoint representations of the gauge groups. In the chiral expansion, they inherit the same counting as derivatives, i.e. $O(p^2)$. It is also in the second equality, we consider explicitly the maximally symmetric case where the mass matrix is aligned to the EW preserving vacuum $E$: this is not an arbitrary choice, as the mass term itself generates a potential that aligns the vacuum inside $G_F$. In other words, it is the mass term that fixes the matrix $E$. With the maximally symmetric choice, the mass term explicitly breaks $G_F$ to $H_F$, thus giving mass to all the NGBs. Additional terms further breaking $H_F$ are also possible, and they can be parametrized as additional mass parameters proportional to other EW preserving directions in the vacuum $E$, so that in general the mass term can be written as $\mathcal{M} = mE + \sum_i \delta m_i E_i$. In chiral perturbation theory, the spurion associated with the mass transforms as the NGB matrix $\Sigma$ [as it can be inferred from Eq. (8)], and it can be introduced as a vacuum expectation value for the scalar source, $\chi$, that we introduced in Eqs. (2) and (8). It is defined as follows:

$$\chi \equiv 2B_0 M = 2mB_0 E,$$

with $B_0$ being a positive LEC.

From Table III, we derive the LO operator (with one spurion) involving $\chi$. Note that this operator has the same form as the second term in Eq. (2) once we replace the scalar source with the spurion defined in Eq. (9). Expanding to second order in the Goldstone fields, we get for the pNGB mass $M^2_\chi = 2B_0 m$, and thus $\chi$ counts as $O(p^2)$. The NLO operators involving the mass spurion, $\chi$, can be derived in the same way starting from our general basis of operators. Due to the counting of $\chi$, a great simplification appears at NLO: only the operators with two spurions need to be considered. The result is reported in Appendix A and is in agreement with Eq. (8) providing a first check of our procedure to derive all the nonderivative NLO operators starting from our template list.

### 2. Gauging of flavor symmetries

We now turn to the second obvious source of explicit breaking, i.e. the gauging of the EW symmetry, $G_{\text{EW}} \subset G_F$. At the fundamental level, the fermions are minimally coupled to the SM gauge bosons via a covariant derivative

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} = i\psi^3 \bar{\sigma}^\mu D_\mu \psi, \quad D_\mu = \partial_\mu - igT^A_L W^A_\mu - igT^Y_Y B_\mu. \quad (10)$$

Note that the generators $T^A_L$ and $T^Y_Y$ are written as matrices in the $G_F$ space. However, they are not normalized as the $G_F$ generators in Eq. (5) but in order to reproduce the correct transformation properties of each of the components of $\psi$. For each gauged generator, thus, one can define a spurion transforming as the adjoint of $G_F$, $\Xi^A_{\text{Adj}} = gT^A_L$ and $\Xi^Y_{\text{Adj}} = gT^Y_Y$, that also transforms as the adjoint representations of the gauge groups. In the chiral expansion, they inherit the same counting as derivatives, i.e. $O(p)$. It is also
convenient to define a spurion that contains the gauge fields, i.e. $\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\mu} = g T^a_{\mu} W^a_{\mu} + g T^a_{\mu} B^a_{\mu}$, that can be introduced by replacing the vector and axial sources as $j^\mu \to \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\mu}$; see Eq. (6). The LO and NLO operators containing EW gauge fields can easily be read off from Eqs. (2) and (8).

The effect of the gauging also appears in nondiagonal operators that can be built in terms of the spurions $\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\mu}$ and $\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^T$; technically, they should be thought of as counterparts necessary to regulate loops of gauge bosons. Thus, besides the counting of the chiral expansion, one needs to add loop suppression factors in order to correctly estimate the impact of such operators. The LO operators, containing two spurions and thus appearing at $\mathcal{O}(p^2)$, read

$$V^{(2)}_g = C_g \left( g^2 F_{\text{loop}}^{SU(2)} f^2 \text{Tr}[T_L^A \Sigma (T_L^A)^T \Sigma^+] + g^2 F_{\text{loop}}^{U(1)} f^2 \text{Tr}[T_Y \Sigma (T_Y)^T \Sigma^+] \right),$$

where there appears a single LEC, $C_g$, that depends on the HC dynamics. The two factors, $F_{\text{loop}}$, contain the details of the loop of elementary gauge bosons: as for both groups we need to consider massless gauge bosons, the loop factors are approximately the same, and they can be estimated to be [65]

$$F_{\text{loop}} \sim \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \Lambda_{\text{HC}}^2 \sim f^2,$$

where the $\Lambda_{\text{HC}} \sim (4\pi f)^2$ factor comes from the quadratic divergence of the loop. Thus, the loop suppression is compensated by the quadratic sensitivity to the cutoff of the effective theory, and the operators can be estimated to

$$V^{(2)}_g = C_g \left( g^2 f^4 \text{Tr}[T_L^A \Sigma (T_L^A)^T \Sigma^+] + g^2 f^4 \text{Tr}[T_Y \Sigma (T_Y)^T \Sigma^+] \right).$$

It is natural to expect that the contribution of the gauge bosons cannot break the gauge symmetry by misaligning the vacuum [66,67]; thus we can assume $C_g > 0$. Following the chiral counting, NLO terms are generated with four spurions and are proportional to the gauge couplings to the fourth power. However, due to the smallness of the gauge couplings, one can realistically restrict to order $g^2$ and $g^2$, as it is done in QCD [68,69]. Furthermore, we would like to remind the reader that the gauging of additional gauge interactions can be introduced in a similar way as done for the EW ones. A complete list of NLO nonderivative operators containing gauge spurions can be found in Table V in Appendix A.

Finally, we would like to point out that the effect of the gauging of additional symmetries within $G_F$, such as QCD or beyond-the-SM symmetries, can be included by adding appropriate terms to Eqs. (11) and (13). No additional LECs are needed, as long as the masses of the additional gauge bosons are generated by the condensation itself.

### 3. Top couplings

The third source of explicit breaking relevant for composite-Higgs models that we consider is due to couplings between the elementary top quarks and the strong sector. Two main possibilities are available: couplings that are either bilinear or linear in the SM fields, with the latter realizing the partial compositeness paradigm. Linear couplings, however, always need an extension of the underlying theory as, minimally, hyperfermions charged under QCD are needed in order to generate QCD-colored bound states. This can be done either by sequestering the QCD interactions to a sector containing a different HC representation [45,46] or by adding heavy flavors in QCD-like theories [63]. In either case, the fermionic operators that couple linearly to tops are made of three hyperfermions. Another possibility to achieve partial compositeness is to add hypercolored scalars, so that the linear couplings arise as renormalizable Yukawa couplings in the underlying theory; see Refs. [70–72]. In all cases, the top partners always appear in a representation of $G_F$ with one or two indices, and thus we will restrict ourselves to these.

**Bilinear couplings.**—At the fundamental level, we assume that the top mass is generated by the following operators:

$$L_{\text{bilinear}}^{\alpha} = \sum_i \frac{y_i}{\Lambda_{\text{HC}}} (Q_{\alpha} R^i) \cdot \sigma_{\alpha} \bar{Q}_{\alpha} R^i + \text{H.c.},$$

$$L_{\text{bilinear}}^{\alpha} = \sum_i \frac{y_i}{\Lambda_{\text{HC}}} (Q_{\alpha} R^i) \cdot \sigma_{\alpha} \bar{Q}_{\alpha} R^i + \text{H.c.},$$

where $\Lambda_{\text{HC}} \geq \Lambda_{\text{HC}}$ are scales independent from the strong sector, and $\alpha = 1, 2$ stands for the index of an $SU(2)_L$ doublet. In the second equality, we assume that the scalar operators, $O_{Q_{\alpha} R^i}$, originating from the strong sector, are fermionic bilinears, thus leading to four-fermion operators. The projectors, $P^\alpha_{\mu}$, select the $SU(2)_L$-doublet components of $\psi^\dagger \psi$ with hypercharge $-1/2$: in general there may be several possibilities, and for an explicit example with four independent couplings, we refer the reader to Ref. [54]. Note that one can write different types of operators where the spurion transforms as $\Sigma$, with $O_{Q_{\alpha} R^i} = \psi^{\dagger} P^\alpha_{\mu} \psi$; however, the physical results are the same as the matrix $\Sigma$ is always symmetric or antisymmetric.

The spurion encoding the explicit breaking is $\Xi^{\alpha}_{\alpha} = \sum_i y_i P^\alpha_i (Q_{\alpha} R^i)^{\dagger}$. Then,
the LO operators associated with the bilinear spurion are given by [27,29]

\[ \mathcal{L}^{(2)} = C_f f \left( \sum_{i,j} y_{i,j} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger (Q \alpha i)^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.} \right) - C_f^2 x_{\text{loop}} \left( \sum_{i,j} y_{i,j} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] \right), \]

where the form of the second operator derives from the fact that it is generated by loops of elementary tops. Only two LECs are needed: one relative to the operators generating a mass for the top (the former), and one for the NGB potential (the latter). Note that the dependence on the scales \( \Lambda_{i,j} \), which may contain a large anomalous exponent if the theory is conformal above \( \Lambda_{\text{HC}} \), can be embedded in a redefinition of the couplings \( y_{i,j} \) without loss of information. In some cases the presence of many possible alignments of the doublet within the NGB matrix is superfluous as a transformation of \( Q_F \) may be used to change basis (i.e. reshuffling the hyperfermions \( \psi \) and write a smaller number of couplings without affecting other spurions. Assuming that the top, \( m_t \), and Higgs (pNGB) masses are naturally of the same origin, we can impose the following counting for the spurions: \( y_i P_i (Q_i \alpha) \sim O(p^2) \) and \( y_i P_i \sim O(p) \). Note that the two spurions do not have the same counting contrary to the gauge ones. Similar to the gauge boson loops, the loop factor for massless tops can be approximated by Eq. (12), where color and other factors are embedded in the LEC, \( C_i \).

At NLO, the \( O(p^4) \) Lagrangian contains five new operators contributing to the potential (for simplicity we omit the sums, so that \( \sum_i y_{i,j} P_i \rightarrow y_i P_i \)),

\[ \mathcal{L}^{(4)} = -\frac{y_f^4 f_6}{\Lambda_{\text{HC}}} \left( C_{10} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] \right)^2 + C_{12} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger \Sigma P_i^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] + C_{13} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger \Sigma P_i^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] + \text{H.c.} \]

where the first three operators are self-Hermitian. Three additional operators contain one insertion of the hyperfermion mass spurion,

\[ \mathcal{L}^{(4)} = -\frac{y_f^4 f_6}{\Lambda_{\text{HC}}} \left\{ C_{10} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] \text{Tr}[P i, a, \Sigma^\dagger (\chi P a)] \right\} + C_{12} \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_i^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P a] + C_{13} \text{Tr}[P i, a, \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger (P i, a, \Sigma)] + \text{H.c.} \right\} \]

Other operators involving gauge couplings are also present and listed in Table VII in Appendix A.

**Linear couplings à la partial compositeness.**—Let us now consider the second way of giving mass to the top quark by means of linear couplings of the elementary top fields to fermionic operators of the strong dynamics (partial compositeness),

\[ \mathcal{L}_{\text{PC}} = \sum_i \frac{y_{i,j} f_i}{\Lambda_{i,j}} Q_i O_{i,j} + \sum_j \frac{y_{i,j}}{\Lambda_{i,j}} f^i O_{i,j} + \text{H.c.} \]

where the sums span over all the possible operators and, as for the bilinear case, the interactions are generated at scales \( \Lambda_{i,j} \geq \Lambda_{\text{HC}} \). We will assume that the operators are made of three underlying fermions, as it happens in all explicit examples [45,46,48,63]; the linear couplings will thus correspond to four-fermion operators. As previously mentioned, the operators need to contain at least one hyperfermion that carries QCD color, which we denote as \( X \), and which corresponds to a different HC representation or to heavy flavors. As a consequence, either one or two \( \psi \)'s are allowed: the former case corresponds to the fundamental of \( G_F \), while the latter corresponds to two-index representations. The fundamental can also be obtained in models with scalars [70,71].

Spelling out the various cases, the linear couplings can thus be rewritten as follows:

\[ \mathcal{L}_{\text{PC}} = \begin{cases} \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} Q_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} r_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \text{H.c.}, \quad \Xi_{0,S} = y_{0} P_0, \quad \Xi_{0,S} = y_{0} P_0, \\ \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} Q_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} r_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \text{H.c.}, \quad \Xi_{0,A} = y_{0} P_0, \quad \Xi_{0,S} = y_{0} P_0, \\ \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} Q_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \frac{y_{0} f_i}{\Lambda_{0,S}} r_i (\psi F P_i \psi X) + \text{H.c.}, \quad \Xi_{0,A} = y_{0} P_0, \quad \Xi_{0,S} = y_{0} P_0, \end{cases} \]

There is also the possibility of a hyperfermion/hypergluon bound state. However, this is unlikely because it would require the hyperfermion to be in the adjoint representation of HC, thus making the theory lose asymptotic freedom.
Note that with the preceding definitions the spurions have the same transformation properties as the left-handed composite operators and of the right-handed SM quark fields. We recall that for each operator representation under $G_F$, there may be several possibilities to embed the top partners, and thus an index $i$ should be intended in the preceding expressions. Furthermore, for the adjoint case, the right-handed top, $r^\alpha$, may be associated with the singlet of $G_F$. Finally, the case of models with scalars, $S$, charged under HC can be recovered by replacing $XX \to A_2^2 S$ in the case of the fundamental. The projectors $P_O^{\alpha}$ and $P_t$ select the components of the bound state that have the same quantum numbers as the elementary SM tops. In the following, for simplicity, we will assume that the new physics generating the four-fermion interactions will only generate mixing to a single representation of $G_F$, or equivalently that the top mass is dominantly generated by a single operator. A more general case has been discussed at LO in Refs. [74,75], and it leads to the presence of a plethora of operators.

The couplings of the underlying theory in Eq. (19) generate, in the confined phase, linear mixing of the elementary tops to fermionic resonances (i.e. top partners). On top of this, effective operators are generated in terms of the spurions defined above; in the following we will assume that the leading contribution to the top mass is generated by the operators. This assumption is valid as long as the top partners are heavier than the NGB decay constant, $f$, and thus cannot be included as light states in the low energy chiral Lagrangian.

The LO operators contributing to the top mass, for all the choices of spurion representations, are given by the following expressions:

$$\frac{y_t y_{i\bar{f}} f}{4\pi} (Q_d r^\beta)^i \times \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} C_{AA^1} \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] + C_{AA^2} \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger], & A \\ C_{AA^3} \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l], & S \\ C_{AA^4} \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger], & \text{Adj} \\ C_{AA^5} \text{Tr}[(P_O^{\alpha} \cdot P_t^\dagger) \Sigma_l^\dagger], & F \end{array} \right\}$$

(20)

plus the Hermitian conjugate. The factor of $1/4\pi$ derives from applying naive dimensional analysis (NDA) as explained in Refs. [76,77]. Note that, as expected, the preceding operators involve both spurions $y_t$ and $y_{i\bar{f}}$ in order to generate the top mass, and that only case $A$ involves two independent operators. The case of the right-handed top mixing to the singlet can be used only if the left-handed tops are in the antisymmetric representation (as that is the only case with an operator containing a single spurion; see Table III), and we do not consider it in the following because of nonminimality.

Similarly, we can construct the operators contributing to the potential for the NGBs. At leading order, there exist operators involving only two spurions for the case of the antisymmetric and adjoint representations.

$$\mathcal{L}_{(2)}^{(2)} = -\frac{f^4}{4\pi} \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} C_{AA} \left(y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger] + y_{i\bar{f}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger] \right), & A \\ C_{AA^4} \left(y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] + y_{i\bar{f}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t^\dagger \Sigma_l^\dagger] \right), & \text{Adj} \end{array} \right\}$$

(21)

where a factor of $1/4\pi$ comes from NDA. The only consistent chiral counting that allows for these operators to appear at LO, $O(p^2)$, is that the Yukawa couplings $y_{i\bar{f}}$ count as $p$. Note that this chiral counting is consistent with the appearance of the NDA factor in Eq. (20), as the top mass operator would appear at chiral order $O(p^3)$.

For the spurions in the symmetric and fundamental representations, the leading operators contain at least four spurions, leading to the following expressions:

$$\mathcal{L}_{(2)}^{(2)}|_S = -C_{AA^1} \frac{f^4}{(4\pi)^2} \left(y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger \Sigma_l P_{Qb}^\dagger] + y_{i\bar{f}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t^\dagger \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger \Sigma_l P_{Qb}^\dagger] \right)$$

$$+ y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger \Sigma_l P_{Qb}^\dagger] - C_{AA^2} \frac{f^4}{(4\pi)^2} \left(y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t^\dagger \Sigma_l^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma_l P_{Qa}^\dagger \Sigma_l P_{Qb}^\dagger] \right)$$

$$+ y_{i\bar{f}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t^\dagger \Sigma_l^\dagger] + y_{i\bar{f}}^2 \left(\text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] + \text{Tr}[P_O^{\alpha} \Sigma_l^\dagger P_t \Sigma_l^\dagger] \right),$$

(22)

for the symmetric $S$, and
\[ 
\mathcal{L}_{i,PC}^{(2)} \bigg|_{F} = -C_{i,PC} \frac{f^4}{\Lambda^2} \left( y_{i}^4 \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*] + y_{i}^4 \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] + y_{i}^2 f_{f} \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] \right),
\]

for the fundamental \( F \).

At NLO, many more operators are generated, as listed in Appendix A. For reasons of space, we will limit ourselves here to the operators generated in the case of the symmetric representation. For the potential, mixed operators involving two Yukawas with the mass spurion or the gauge couplings arise at the same level as the leading pure Yukawa ones listed above. There exist only one operator with a mass insertion,

\[ 
\mathcal{L}_{i,PC}^{(4)} \bigg|_{F} = -C_{i,PC} \frac{f^4}{\Lambda^2} \left( y_{i}^4 \text{Tr} [\Sigma^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] + y_{i}^2 f_{f} \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] + y_{i}^2 f_{f} \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] \right) + \text{H.c.},
\]

and four involving gauge couplings,

\[ 
\mathcal{L}_{i,PC}^{(4)} \bigg|_{F} = -C_{i,PC} \frac{f^4}{\Lambda^2} \left( y_{i}^4 \text{Tr} [\Sigma^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] + y_{i}^2 f_{f} \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] + y_{i}^2 f_{f} \text{Tr} [P_Q^* \cdot P_{Q}^* \Sigma^* \Sigma^* \text{Tr} [\Sigma P_{Q}^* \cdot P_{Q}^*]] \right),
\]

where we have left implicit all the possible combinations of Yukawas and gauge couplings.

### III. MINIMAL SU(4)/Sp(4) MODEL

In this section, we apply the machinery developed in the previous section to the coset SU(4)/Sp(4). This is the minimal composite-Higgs framework with underlying four-dimensional fermionic realizations [27]. Models based on this coset have been studied from an effective point of view in Refs. [78–80], and the coset has also been used to construct minimal technicolor models in Refs. [27–29,45,46].

The most minimal underlying fermionic model is based on a confining SU(2) gauge group with four Weyl fermions transforming under the fundamental representation of the new gauge group [28,29]. Since the fundamental representation of SU(2) ~ Sp(2) is pseudoreal, the fermion sector has an enhanced global symmetry, SU(4). The condensate forming due to the new strong dynamics then breaks this global symmetry spontaneously to Sp(4), as confirmed from lattice simulations [30,31]. The spectrum of this theory has also been extensively studied on the lattice [33–36]. Preliminary lattice studies based on a HC Sp(4)\(^{10}\) have also been recently published [37].

In the following, we will revisit the operator analysis that we detailed in the previous section focusing in particular on the potential generated for the NGBs of the model.

#### A. Electroweak embedding

The full custodial symmetry of the SM, SU(2)\(_L\) × SU(2)\(_R\), is embedded in SU(4) by identifying the left and right chiral generators to be

\[ T^A_L = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} \sigma_A & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \] and \[ T^A_R = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\sigma_A \end{pmatrix}, \]

where \( \sigma_i \) are the Pauli matrices. The generator of the hypercharge is then further identified with the diagonal generator of the SU(2)\(_R\) group, \( Y = T^3_R \).

As discussed in Ref. [29], there are two inequivalent real vacua that leave the SM chiral group invariant, \( E_\pm \), and we denote the one breaking the EW subgroup completely to the electromagnetic U(1)\(_{\text{EM}}\) by \( E_B \). They can be explicitly written as

\[ E_\pm = \begin{pmatrix} i\sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \pm i\sigma_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad E_B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \]

where we chose the normalization to be real.

In general the vacuum can be written as the superposition of the EW preserving and breaking ones, and the physical properties of the NGBs generically do not depend on the choice of the EW preserving vacuum \( E_\pm \). We will see later in this section that, in some cases, the choice of the EW-preserving vacuum is related to some properties of the spurions. Following Refs. [27,29], in this paper we use \( E_\pm \) and parametrize the vacuum as

\[ E_\theta = U_{\theta} E_\pm U_{\theta}^T = \cos \theta E_+ + \sin \theta E_B, \]

\[ U_{\theta} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \frac{\theta}{2} & i\sigma_2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} \\ i\sigma_2 \sin \frac{\theta}{2} & \cos \frac{\theta}{2} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SU}(4), \]

\(^{10}\)Purely fermionic underlying theories of partial compositeness need at least a Sp(4) hypercolor gauge symmetry.
where the angle $\theta$ describes the misalignment of the unbroken $\text{Sp}(4)$ with respect to the EW embedding and is generated by an $\text{SU}(4)$ rotation $U_\theta$ associated with the generator of the Higgs.

The (nonlinearly realized) scalar variable describing the dynamics of the NGBs associated with the above breaking pattern and the vacuum $E_\theta$ can then be written, in the unitary gauge, as a matrix [27],

$$\Sigma' = U^2 \cdot E_\theta = \exp \left[ \frac{2\sqrt{2}i}{f} (hY^3 + \eta Y^3) \right] \cdot E_\theta$$

$$= \left[ \cos \frac{x}{f} + \frac{2\sqrt{2}i}{x} \sin \frac{x}{f} (hY^3 + \eta Y^3) \right] \cdot E_\theta,$$

with $x = \sqrt{t^2 + \eta^2}$. The matrix $\Sigma'$ transforms linearly under the flavor symmetry $\text{SU}(4)$. The matrix $U'$ [transforming nonlinearly under $\text{SU}(4)$] contains the NGBs along the vacuum $E_\theta$, and the matrices $Y^{3,5}$ are two of the broken generators associated with the Higgs and additional singlet, $\eta$ (while the remaining three generators are associated with the exact NGBs eaten by the $W$ and $Z$ bosons). Note that the normalization we chose for the decay constant, $f$, is different from the one adopted in Refs. [27–29] by a factor of $2\sqrt{2}$ as we follow the prescription defined in Eq. (2) such that $f = v/\sin \theta$. In this way, $\theta = \pi/2$ corresponds to the technicolor limit where $v = f$.

**B. Explicit form of the SU(4) spurions**

We can now explicitly write the relevant spurions introduced in Sec. II C in the case of the coset $\text{SU}(4)/\text{Sp}(4)$. Let us start by the current mass; this spurion does not explicitly break the SM gauge symmetry; thus it needs to be proportional to the EW preserving vacua,

$$\chi = 2B_0 \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \sigma_2 & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 (-i \sigma_2) \end{pmatrix} = 2mB_0 E_- + 2\delta m B_0 E_+,$$

where we define $m = (m_1 + m_2)/2$ and $\delta m = (m_1 − m_2)/2$. In order for the EW preserving vacuum to be aligned with $E_-$, we need to impose $\delta m \ll m$ because it is the potential generated by the mass term that will fix the preferred alignment of the vacuum. Note that both the term proportional to $m$ and the one proportional to $\delta m$ are invariant under (different) $\text{Sp}(4)$ subgroups, while the presence of both nonzero values leaves a common $\text{SU}(2) \times \text{SU}(2)$ subgroup unbroken. In this sense, the parameter $\delta m$ can be thought of as a (small) explicit breaking of the $\text{Sp}(4)$ symmetry in the confined phase. Remarkably, the signs of the mass terms (which thus decide which EW preserving vacuum is chosen) are arbitrary as they are associated with the unphysical phases of the underlying fermions; in fact, one could also choose complex masses, thus selecting a complex (but still CP conserving) vacuum. The physics of the NGBs will be the same. This fact is very important when studying the vacuum misalignment in the model, and we will provide explicit examples at the end of this section.

The spurions corresponding to the EW gauging including the elementary fields can be written as $\Xi_{EW} = gT^0_\ell W^\mu_\alpha + gT^0_R B^\mu$ with the explicit forms already given in Eq. (26).

For the top bilinear spurions, transforming as $A^i_\perp$, we have $\Xi_{Q_t} = y_t P^e_r (Q_t^rc)$, and there is a unique choice for the projectors $P^{1,2}$ given by [27,29]

$$P^1 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P^2 = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The uniqueness is due to the presence of a single (bi) doublet among the NGBs.

In the case of partial compositeness, we can write the spurions as $\Xi^2 = \sum y_{\ell R} P^\ell_r Q^\alpha$ and $\Xi^3 = \sum y_{t R} P^t_r t^c$: the two sets of projectors, $P^\ell_r$ and $P^t_r$, thus select the components of the fermionic operator of the strong dynamics that match the quantum numbers of the left-handed doublet and the right-handed singlet, respectively. We recall that an additional U(1)$_X$ charge needs to be included in order to fix the hypercharge of the top partners, so that the SM hypercharge is defined as $Y = T^0_R + X$. For the fundamental representation (that has $X_F = 1/6$) there is only one choice available as clearly seen from the decomposition of the SU(4) representation under $\text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{SU}(2)_R$, i.e. $4 \rightarrow (2,1) \oplus (1,\bar{2})$, and the projectors $P^1_{Q_t}$ and $P_t$ are given by

$$P^1_{Q_t} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P^2_{Q_t} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_t = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We recall that in the above case, $t^c$ belongs to an SU(2)$_R$ antidoublet, and that the partial-compositeness couplings will violate the extended custodial symmetry needed to

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11This charge assignment refers to the partner of $Q$. For $t^c$ the charge assignment is opposite in sign, together with the color assignment. Recall that we always refer to the left-handed components following the fact that the underlying theories are defined in terms of left-handed Weyl spinors.
For the antisymmetric \((X_A = 2/3)\) the decomposition reads \(6 \to (2, \bar{2}) \oplus (1, 1) \oplus (1, 1)\); and thus there is a single choice for the doublet, but two for the singlet:

\[
P_Q^1 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_Q^2 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
P_t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_{t_2} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.
\]

(33)

Note that \(P_{t_2} - P_{t_1}\) is aligned with the vacuum \(E_+\), so it corresponds to a singlet of \(\text{Sp}(4)\) along the \(\text{EW}\) preserving vacuum, while \(P_{t_1} + P_{t_2}\) is part of a 5-plet together with the doublet. We want to stress that this assignment is relative to the choice of vacuum, as, for instance, \(P_{t_1} + P_{t_2}\) corresponds to the singlet for the \(E_+\) vacuum. In general, the right-handed top will couple to a linear combination of the two spurions, i.e. with a generalized projector,

\[
P_t = AP_{t_1} + BP_{t_2}, \quad \text{with} \quad |A|^2 + |B|^2 = 1.
\]

(34)

The relative phase of the two coefficients, however, can be rotated away by the use of an \(\text{SU}(4)\) transformation along the generator \(X_S^5\) associated with the singlet in the \(\text{EW}\) preserving vacuum \(E_+\). This corresponds to a relative phase redefinition of the two hyperfermion doublets: therefore, only if a mass term is present can this phase have physical effects, as we will see in a later section. Noteworthy, the real parts cannot be removed without affecting the gauge spurions.

For the symmetric \((X_S = 2/3)\), the decomposition reads \(10 \to (2, \bar{2}) + (3, 1) + (1, 3)\); for both doublet and singlet there is a single choice, with the singlet associated with the neutral component of the \(\text{SU}(2)_R\) triplet. The projectors are similar to the \(P_Q^d\) and \(P_{t_1}\) of the antisymmetric by replacing \(-1 \to 1\).

Finally the adjoint \((X_{\text{Adj}} = 2/3)\) decomposes as \(15 \to (2, 2) + (2, \bar{2}) + (3, 1) + (1, 3) + (1, 1)\), and thus there are two options for both left- and right-handed tops:

\[
P_Q^1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_Q^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
P_t = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad P_{t_2} = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}.
\]

(35)

Note that in terms of \(\text{Sp}(4)\), the adjoint decomposes into one symmetric and one antisymmetric: we find that \(P_Q^1 + P_Q^2\) and \(P_{t_1}\) project states in the symmetric \(\text{[with } r^c\text{ in an SU}(2)_R\text{ triplet]}\), while \(P_Q^2 - P_Q^1\) and \(P_{t_2}\) in the antisymmetric. For both left- and right-handed tops, the projector is a superposition of the two:

\[
P_Q = A_Q P_{t_1} + B_Q P_Q^2, \quad P_t = A_P P_{t_1} + B_P P_{t_2}, \quad \text{with} \quad |A_Q|^2 + |B_Q|^2 = 1.
\]

(36)

For the doublet combination \(P_Q\) the relative phase of the two coefficients can be removed by the same \(\text{SU}(4)\) rotation (along \(X^5\)). For the right-handed top, the two coefficients are always physical as they mix a singlet and a triplet of \(\text{SU}(2)_R\). Note also that along the other \(\text{EW}\)-preserving vacuum \(E_+\), the role of the two combinations of doublet embeddings, \(P_Q^1 \pm P_Q^2\), are reversed.

### C. Vacuum alignment

We study the vacuum alignment induced by the breaking terms that have been discussed previously. The purpose is to isolate cases where the misalignment angle, \(\theta\), is sufficiently small, but nonzero, to comply with composite-Higgs models. The most general form (up to NLO) of the potential can be inferred from the tables in Appendix A and takes the following form:

\[
V(\theta) = c_1 s_\theta^2 + c_2 s_\theta^4 + c_3 c_\theta + c_4 c_\theta s_\theta^2.
\]

(37)

We use here and in the following the shorthand notations \(s_x \equiv \sin x\) and \(c_x \equiv \cos x\). Note that only a nonzero current mass may induce the coefficients \(c_3\) and \(c_4\). Moreover, \(c_3\) is generated by LO and NLO operators (including mixed contributions), while \(c_4\) arises only at NLO. The coefficients \(c_2\) comes only from NLO operators containing gauge and/or top spurions, while the remaining coefficient \(c_1\) may be
generated by all the three sources of explicit breaking starting from LO gauge and top operators.

For simplicity, let us discuss first the LO effects of each explicit breaking source independently. As discussed in Sec. II C 2, the gauge contributions alone are not able to break the EW symmetry. In particular, the LO gauge operators in Eq. (11) correspond to \( c_1 > 0, c_2 = c_3 = c_4 = 0 \), such that the minimum of the potential is at \( \theta = 0 \).

For the LO mass contribution, \( \text{Tr}[\mathcal{J}^2] \), we have \( c_3 \neq 0 \) positive or negative, while \( c_1 = c_2 = c_4 = 0 \), and the minimum is, thus, either at \( \theta = 0 \) or at \( \pi/2 \) depending on the sign of \( c_3 \). Finally, the LO top contribution, Eq. (15), corresponds to \( c_1 < 0, c_2 = c_3 = c_4 = 0 \) such that the minimum is at \( \theta = \pi/2 \).

The challenge in composite-Higgs models is to generate a small misalignment \( \theta \ll 1 \) in order to have a small hierarchy between the EW and the compositeness scale, \( v \ll f \). To depart from the EW preserving vacuum \( \theta = 0 \) and from the technicolor limit \( \theta = \pi/2 \), one needs to consider several explicit breaking sources at the same time. To this end, let us focus on two simplified scenarios:

(i) A potential generated only by the gauge and top explicit breaking interactions such that the current masses are set to zero, and we have \( c_3 = c_4 = 0 \). In that case, the breaking of the EW symmetry is driven by the coefficient \( c_2 \), and one needs to include the NLO contributions to the potential. This scenario is commonly used in composite models with partially composite tops based on holography [22,82].

(ii) A potential generated by gauge and top spurions as well as a nonzero current mass. In this case, it is enough to restrict to the LO contributions, and we thus assume \( c_2 = c_4 = 0 \). This scenario is well known, and we refer to Ref. [27] for details. Here we just briefly outline this scenario for comparison.

In case (i), the minimization of the potential in Eq. (37) leads to

\[
\frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} = 2c_\theta s_\theta (c_1 + 2c_2 s_\theta^2) = 0.
\]

Setting aside the limit where the EW symmetry remains unbroken \( \theta = 0 \) as well as the technicolor limit \( \theta = \pi/2 \), the third extremum corresponds to \( s_\theta^2 = -\frac{c_1}{2c_2} \), for which \( V(\theta) = -c_1^2/(4c_2) \). This extremum is the global minimum of the potential only if \( c_2 > 0 \) and \( c_1 < 0 \) (as expected; see Ref. [27]). Moreover, a small misalignment angle requires \( |c_1| \ll |c_2| \). As we will see, this requirement can be obtained in several ways depending on the top coupling representation.

For case (ii), the minimization of the potential leads to

\[
\frac{\partial V}{\partial \theta} = s_\theta [2c_1 c_\theta - c_3] = 0.
\]

Focusing again on the EW breaking vacuum alignment \( \theta \ll 1 \), the potential is extremized for \( c_3 = \frac{c_1}{c_2} \), where \( V(\theta) = (4c_1^2 + c_2^2)/4c_1 \). A small misalignment implies \( |c_1| \approx |2c_1| \). Moreover, for the extremum to be the global minimum, one needs \( |c_3| \ll |2c_1| \), where \( c_{1,3} < 0 \), or \( c_1 < 0 \) and \( c_3 > 0 \).

Let us now explore in detail how the scenario (i) could be realized when NLO contributions are taken into account. In practice this requires obtaining \( |c_1| \ll |c_2| \) in a natural way.

1. Hierarchy between the LECs \( (|C_i|/|C'_i|) \ll 1 \)

This case relies on the usual hypothesis that the top loops are the dominant contributions to the coefficients \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \), and, for some reason, the strong dynamics leads to \( |c_1/c_2| \ll 1 \). In other words, the LECs associated with the operators generating \( c_1 \) need to be suppressed. For simplicity, one can neglect the gauging of the SM as its effect is negligible in comparison to the top quark contributions. Moreover, let us consider a bilinear coupling as an example. The potential takes the following form:

\[
V(\theta) = -C_1 y_t^2 f^4 s_\theta^2 + C'_1 y_t^4 f^4 s_\theta^4,
\]

where the positive coefficients \( C_i \) and \( C'_i \) are functions of the different LECs associated with the operators in Table VII. Note that the discussion can also be applied to all the linear couplings as they also generate the coefficients \( C_i \) and \( C'_i \) (for reference to the vast literature on this topic we refer the reader to the reviews in Refs. [22–24]). To get a small misalignment requires \( |C_i/y_t^2 C'_i| \ll 1 \); i.e. some cancellation should happen at LO making that contribution comparable to if not smaller than the NLO one. In models inspired by holography this is achieved by assuming that the main contribution to the LECs comes from top and top partner loops and that other UV effects are negligible [83]. We remark, however, that this is a very specific assumption, and not all models (especially with an underlying gauge-fermion theory) will respect it.

2. Linear coupling in the symmetric representation \( y_{tL} \approx y_{tR} \)

Choosing a symmetric representation for the left- and right-handed top couplings, one finds that the LO contributions generate \( c_1 \) and \( c_2 \) at the same order in the chiral expansion. This is due to the fact that the Goldstone matrix is antisymmetric (pseudoreal case) such that the LO operators involve four top spurions (see Table X).

For simplicity, let us first consider operators of the general form \( \text{Tr} \{ \Sigma \Sigma^\dagger \} \Sigma \Sigma^\dagger \text{Tr} \{ \Sigma \Sigma \Sigma \Sigma \} \). The corresponding potential is given by the operators in Eq. (22).
such that \( c_1 = C_{t81}f_1^4(y_{t8}^2 - 2y_{t8}^4)/(16\pi^2) \) and \( c_2 = C_{t81}f_1^4(y_{t8}^2 - 2y_{t8}^4)/(16\pi^2) \). Achieving \( c_1 < 0 \) and \( c_2 > 0 \) is fairly easy as long as \( y_{t8} \leq 2y_{t8} \). Note that a small misalignment angle is achieved by tuning the value of \( y_{t8} \) close to the upper bound. Using the constraint on the top mass coming from Eq. (20), we can express the Higgs mass as a function of the two relevant LECs and the misalignment angle as follows:

\[
m_h^2 = 48\frac{C_{t81}}{C_{t83}^2} \left( \frac{m_{top}^2}{\sqrt{10 - 6c_{4d} + 2}} \right) \sim 12\frac{C_{t81}}{C_{t83}^2} m_{top}^2 + O(\theta^4),
\]

while the singlet remains massless \([79]\) (a mass can easily be generated by adding current masses). We see that a small enhancement in \( C_{t83} \), or an order 1/10 suppression in \( C_{t81} \), is sufficient to achieve the measured value of the Higgs mass. The second type of operators that follow the template \( \text{Tr}[\Sigma_3^g\Sigma_3\Sigma_3^g\Sigma_3^g] \) provide an additional term in the potential proportional to \( s_\theta^2 \),

\[
C_{t83}f_1^4 \frac{4y_{t8}^4 - y_{t8}^2 y_{t8} - 2y_{t8}^2 s_\theta^2}{(4\pi)^2} \quad (43)
\]

which adds up to \( c_1 \) and might help relieve the tension in the alignment and Higgs mass if \( C_{t82} < 0 \).

For completeness, we also report the expression for the top mass and linear couplings to the NGBs,

\[
(Q_1^c)^T \left( \frac{m_{top}}{v} \left( \frac{c_{2d}}{c_\theta} h - i \frac{s_\theta}{c_\theta} \eta \right) + \cdots \right),
\]

\[
m_{top} = C_{t83} \frac{y_{t8} y_{t8} c s_\theta}{4\pi} f,
\]

where we remark the presence of a coupling of the pseudoscalar singlet \( \eta \) to tops.

### D. Masses and couplings of pNGBs

The general potential presented in Eq. (37) can be further expanded to obtain the masses for the pNGBs (Higgs and \( \eta \)) as well as the couplings among them. We find that, if all the coefficients and couplings are real, the four terms correspond to universal functions of the fields:

\[
V(\theta, h, \eta) = \sum_{i=1}^{4} c_i f_i(\theta, h, \eta) + \sum_{i=1}^{3} c_i' f_i'(\theta, h, \eta).
\]

The four functions \( f_i \) correspond to the four basic functions appearing in the potential in Eq. (37), while the three functions \( f_i' \) contain additional contributions to the mass and couplings of the singlet \( \eta \) that arise in special cases.\(^{12}\)

For simplicity, in the following we will neglect these special contributions and set \( c_i' = 0 \). Up to trilinear couplings, the functions \( f_i \) read

\[
f_1(\theta, h, \eta) = s_\theta^2 + 2c_s s_\theta \frac{h}{f} + c_{2d} h^2 - s_\theta^2 \frac{\eta^2}{f^2},
\]

\[
f_2(\theta, h, \eta) = s_\theta^4 + 4c_s s_\theta \frac{h}{f} + 2s_\theta^2 (1 + 2c_{2d}) h^2 - 2s_\theta^2 \frac{\eta^2}{f^2},
\]

\[
f_3(\theta, h, \eta) = c_\theta - s_\theta \frac{h}{f} + \frac{1}{2} c_s \frac{h^2 + \eta^2}{f^2},
\]

\[
f_4(\theta, h, \eta) = c_\theta s_\theta^2 + \frac{1}{2} c_s (1 + 3c_{2d}) \frac{h}{f} + c_\theta \left( 1 - \frac{9}{2} s_\theta^2 \right) \frac{h^2}{f^2} - \frac{3}{2} c_s \frac{s_\theta^2 \eta^2}{f^2},
\]

\[
- s_\theta \left( \frac{12}{13} + \frac{27}{12} c_{2d} \right) \frac{h^3}{f^3} - \frac{7}{12} s_\theta (1 + 3c_{2d}) \frac{\eta^2}{f^3} + \cdots.
\]

We can thus trade three of the coefficients, say \( c_1, c_2, \) and \( c_3 \), for the value of the misalignment angle \( \theta \) and the masses of the Higgs, \( m_h \), and of the singlet, \( m_\eta \),

\[
c_1 = \frac{m_h^2 f^2}{4c_\theta^2} - \frac{f^2 m_\eta^2}{8c_\theta} \left( 1 + 3c_{2d} \right) - \frac{c_4}{c_\theta},
\]

\[
c_2 = \frac{f^2 m_h^2}{2s_{2d}^2} - \frac{f^2 m_\eta^2}{8c_\theta} + \frac{c_4}{2c_\theta},
\]

\[
c_3 = -f^2 m_h^2 c_\theta - c_4 s_\theta^2.
\]

\(^{12}\)\(f_3\) arises in cases where the potential contains constant pieces, \( f_3 \) when the potential consists of \( s_\theta^2 \) or \( s_\theta^4 \) terms, and both are only present when the top spurions are embedded into two different Sp(4) representations of a given SU(4) spurion; \( f_3 \) corresponds to potential terms \( c_\theta \) and \( c_s s_\theta \), and it receives contributions from NLO operators containing the mass spurion in Table V.
With these, we can thus predict the value of the trilinear coupling of the Higgs bosons and the coupling between the singlet and the Higgs:

\[ g_h = \frac{m_h^2 c_2}{2v} + \frac{m_\eta^2 s_\eta^2}{2v} c_4 - \frac{c_4}{f^2 s_\eta} \tag{50} \]

\[ g_{\eta h} = \frac{(m_h^2 - m_\eta^2) s_\eta^2}{2v} c_\eta + \frac{c_4}{f^2 s_\eta} \tag{51} \]

Case (i), which includes the results for the symmetric top partner representation, is recovered for \( c_4 = 0 \) and \( m_\eta = 0 \). The fact that the singlet remains massless is to be expected, and a mass can be generated by adding a current mass that will generate a nonzero \( c_3 \). In case (ii) obtained for \( c_2 = c_4 = 0 \), the condition \( c_2 = 0 \) imposes the well-known relation between the masses \( m_h = m_\eta s_\eta \); this was already shown at LO for a bilinear top coupling agreeing with Ref. [84]. Here we show that the relation also holds for any linear coupling up to two-index representations.

The trilinear couplings in Eqs. (50) and (51) are relevant for the phenomenology of the composite Higgs. It is well known that the modifications of the Higgs couplings to fermions and gauge bosons with respect to the SM ones are small, as corrections scale with \( s_\eta^2 \). On the other hand, the Higgs trilinear coupling may receive larger corrections. In Fig. 1 we show contours of the trilinear coupling normalized to the SM value as a function of \( m_\eta \) and \( s_\eta \) (for \( c_4 = 0 \)). Sizeable modifications are only present for large \( s_\eta \geq 0.2 \), with an increase of the couplings for large singlet masses. The effect of the trilinear coupling on di-Higgs production via gluon fusion is shown in the left panel, where we plot contours of the cross section at the LHC with a center of mass energy of 14 TeV [85]. Interestingly, the cross section is always reduced with respect to the SM ones: the solid (dashed) contours correspond to bilinear top couplings (linear top couplings) for which the top coupling to the Higgs is rescaled by a factor \( c_\theta (c_2 \eta / c_\theta) \) with respect to the SM value. The case of linear couplings to the fundamental representation follows the bilinear case. Note that we do not consider here operators generated by the strong dynamics that couple the composite Higgs directly to gluons. The coupling of the Higgs to two singlets in Eq. (51) is shown in Fig. 2. If the mass of the singlet \( \eta \) is smaller than half the Higgs mass, this coupling will contribute to nonstandard decays of the Higgs, as shown in the left panel of Fig. 2. Bounds on this branching ratio are obtained from global fits of the Higgs properties, independently on the decay modes of the singlet: the current bound from the Higgs data combination after Run-I is at 34% [86], and thus is unable to probe the parameter space, while projections for the high luminosity phase with a data set of 3 ab\(^{-1}\) estimate the reach to 10% [87]. We remark that dedicated searches for \( h \to \eta \eta \) may give stronger bounds, but depend on the final states the singlets decay into.

1. \( \eta t \bar{t} \) coupling

A coupling of the singlet \( \eta \) to tops may be generated from the same operator that generates the top mass, as we have seen in Eq. (44). This coupling is phenomenologically very important as it opens new decay modes for the singlet, besides the diboson final states from the Wess-Zumino-Witten anomaly [27,29], and induces gluon fusion at one loop thus enhancing its production at hadron colliders [84]. The \( \eta t \bar{t} \) coupling is not present at LO for bilinear top

FIG. 1. Right panel: trilinear Higgs coupling normalized to the SM value as a function of \( m_\eta \) and \( s_\eta \) (for \( c_4 = 0 \)). Left panel: contours of the di-Higgs cross section via gluon fusion at the LHC@14 TeV, normalized to the SM one. The continuous lines correspond to bilinear top couplings and linear couplings in the fundamental representation, and the dotted lines correspond to linear couplings in two-index representations.
couplings nor in the case of linear coupling with fundamental top-partner representation. However, it appears at NLO in mixed operators involving mass and top spurions. For instance, for the bilinear case we have [29]

\[ y_t \text{Tr}[P^r \Sigma^r] \text{Tr}[\Sigma^r] (\bar{q}_L t_R) + \text{H.c.} = -4y_t B_0 s_\theta \left[ c_\theta (m_1 + m_2) + i(m_1 - m_2) \frac{\eta}{f} + \cdots \right] (\bar{t}_L t_R) + \text{H.c.} \] (52)

and similarly for the other mixed operators. Note that the coupling is proportional to the Sp(4) violating current mass. Interestingly, couplings that do not need such violation are generated by higher-order operators containing all types of spurions [84].

The situation is different for linear couplings to two-index representations. For the symmetric, we already found in Eq. (44) that a coupling of the singlet proportional to the top mass is generated. For the antisymmetric, two possible embeddings of the singlet are allowed. Using the spurion defined in Eq. (34), the mass of the top is given by the first line in Eq. (20),

\[ m_{\text{top}, A} = \frac{y_t y_h}{4\pi} (C_{A,1} + 2C_{A,2})(B - A) f c_\theta s_\theta. \] (53)

where we see that only the component of the spurion aligned with the Sp(4) singlet (along the vacuum \( E_- \)) contributes. From the same operator, we derive the couplings,

\[ \mathcal{L} \supset -m_{\text{top}} t \left( 1 + \frac{c_{2\theta} h}{c_\theta v} + \cdots \right) - i \frac{m_{\text{top}} B + A}{f c_\theta B - A} \eta \hat{r}^r t + \cdots. \] (54)

where we see that the coupling of the singlet is only generated by the component of the right-handed top aligned with the singlet inside the Sp(4) 5-plet. Via the same mechanism, couplings of the singlet to a top partner and a top are also generated [88]. A similar situation occurs for the adjoint, where for both doublet and singlet two possible embeddings are allowed. Using the spurions in Eq. (36), the top mass given by the third line in Eq. (20) reads

\[ m_{\text{top}, \text{Adj}} = \frac{y_t y_h}{4\pi} C_{\gamma \text{Adj}} \times \left( (A_Q + B_Q) B_t + \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} (B_Q - A_Q) A_t \right) f c_\theta s_\theta. \] (55)

The above result can easily be interpreted: when the right-handed top is aligned with the singlet of SU(2)\(_R\) [i.e. in the 5-plet of Sp(4) of \( E_- \)] the doublet is projected on the 10-plet, while when the right-handed top is in the SU(2)\(_R\) triplet (which is part of the 10-plet) the doublet is projected on the 5-plet. The couplings acquire the form

\[ \mathcal{L} \supset -m_{\text{top}} t \left( 1 + \frac{c_{2\theta} h}{c_\theta v} + \cdots \right) - i \frac{m_{\text{top}}}{f c_\theta} \sqrt{2} (B_Q - A_Q) B_t + (B_Q + A_Q) A_t \eta \hat{r}^r t + \cdots. \] (56)
where we see that a coupling to the singlet \( \eta \) is not generated only when the left- and right-handed tops are in different Sp(4) representations.

2. Vacuum expectation value of \( \eta \), CP-violation, and the choice of vacuum

So far we have only considered a vacuum misaligned along the direction of the Higgs. However, in general, we should also consider a misalignment along the direction of the singlet \( \eta \). This can be done by rotating the vacuum with an SU(4) transformation along \( X^5 \),

\[
U_\alpha = e^{i\alpha x^5} = \begin{pmatrix} e^{i\alpha/2} & 0 \\ 0 & e^{-i\alpha/2} \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SU}(4),
\]

where \( \alpha \) is related to the vacuum expectation value of the singlet. Remarkably, it appears as a phase, in accordance to the fact that \( \eta \) is a pseudoscalar. This corresponds to a change in the relative phase of the two hyperfermion doublets, and it will affect the phase associated with the current mass, if present. Thus, the presence of the phase in the vacuum is correlated to a phase in the current mass. One can always make the simplifying assumption of real masses and thus start with a real vacuum. As a consistency check, one can verify that a tadpole for \( \eta \) is generated by the current mass spurion if a phase is present:

\[
\text{Tr}[\chi^{\dagger} \Sigma] + \text{H.c.} = 8B_0 \text{Im}(m_1 - m_2) \frac{\eta}{f} + \cdots
\]

Once other spurions are included, it is always the phase of the current mass term that generates a tadpole for \( \eta \); this is clearly seen as the gauge couplings are real, while the two Yukawas \( y_{tL} \) and \( y_{tR} \) can be made real by choosing the phase of the elementary quark fields.

The situation is different in cases, such as partial compositeness with tops in the antisymmetric or adjoint representations, where more than one embedding is possible for the same SM elementary field: physical phases may remain as not all couplings can be made real by a phase shift of the fermion fields. We will first consider in detail the case of the antisymmetric. As before, we parametrize the spurion for the right-handed top following Eq. (34), allowing for a phase between the two coefficients. The potential generated by the LO operator in Eq. (21) gives, up to linear terms in the fields,

\[
V_A = 2C_{IA}\bar{f}^A(|B - A|_L^2 \delta_{\theta}^2 + \delta_{\theta}^2) \\
+ 4C_{IA}\bar{f}^A(|y_{tL} - |B - A|_L^2 \delta_{\theta}^2 \delta_{\theta}^2h \\
+ 8C_{IA}\bar{f}^A \text{Im}[AB^\dagger]|y_{tL}|_L^2 \delta_{\theta}^2 \eta + \cdots
\]

From the equation above, we clearly see that a tadpole for the singlet is present only if a relative phase between the two coefficients \( A \) and \( B \) is present. As already commented above, such a phase can be removed by the SU(4) rotation \( U_\alpha \), and in the absence of a current mass one can use this to remove it from the Lagrangian. In other words, the vacuum expectation value of the singlet \( \eta \) is not physical as it is associated with an arbitrary phase that can be removed from the theory (this point was missed in the discussion in Ref. [79]). The only situation where a tadpole for \( \eta \) could be physical is when both a current mass and a phase in the right-handed top spurion are present. As a misalignment of the vacuum along the singlet would imply the presence of a CP violating phase in the vacuum, this result shows that the only way to achieve this is to add a CP violating phase in the underlying theory. Thus, no spontaneous CP violation via the vacuum misalignment, or pNGB vacuum expectation value, is possible. We checked that the same conclusion can be drawn for the adjoint representation: the tadpole reads

\[
V_{\text{Adj}} = 4C_{\text{Adj}}\bar{f}^A \text{Im}[A QB^\dagger]|y_{tL}|_L^2 \delta_{\theta}^2 \eta + \cdots
\]

thus it is again proportional to the only phase that can be removed by \( U_\alpha \). A mass mixing is also present and proportional to the same phase. Another related point is the presence of a mixing between the Higgs boson, \( h \), and the singlet, \( \eta \), in the potential: we checked that the mixing is also proportional to the same phase generating the tadpole.

This mixing, which is only physical in theories with explicit CP violation, has been used in Ref. [89] to reduce the fine-tuning in the Higgs mass.

Another case where a misalignment along the singlet direction is needed is when the potential generates a negative mass squared for \( \eta \) in the absence of a tadpole. This situation can occur for real coefficients; however, it is a diagnostics that the initial choice of the EW preserving vacuum is not correct. As an example, we reconsider the case of partial compositeness with the antisymmetric representation. As mentioned in Ref. [88], if the right-handed top is mostly aligned with the Sp(4) 5-plet, i.e. \( B + A > B - A \) in our notation, the singlet may develop a vacuum expectation value via a negative squared mass (for real coefficients). However, this situation can be inverted by changing the EW preserving vacuum from \( E_+ \) to \( E_- \) by use of a \( U_\alpha \) transformation with \( \alpha = \pi/2 \) (plus an overall phase shift). This shows that the vacuum expectation value of the singlet (that generates \( \alpha \)) is unphysical in this case too, as it corresponds to an inappropriate choice of the vacuum.

---

\(^{13}\)Note that the phase appearing in the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix does not play any role here, as we are dealing with overall phases carried by the Yukawas.
It is well known from QCD [57,90] that CP violation can also occur spontaneously via a phase generated by the strong dynamics, resulting in CP violating interactions of the pNGBs [91]. This also applies to the models under discussion. The presence of a physical effect depends, however, on the number of nonvanishing spurions in the theory: the phases of the pre-Yukawas can always be removed by redefining the phases of the elementary spinors if only one embedding for the left-handed and right-handed top is present. Thus, as in QCD, the strong $\theta$-phase can be removed from the theory only if at least one underlying fermion is massless, i.e. $m_1 = 0$ or $m_2 = 0$ in our case.

IV. CONCLUSION

To date, composite-Higgs models remain a valid alternative to the SM and to supersymmetric models in describing the physics of the discovered Higgs boson. One of the tools we have to explore the physics of composite Higgses is the construction of effective theories. In this work, we offer an exhaustive classification of template operators that can be used to construct effective Lagrangians, up to NLO in the chiral expansion, for models based on the symmetry breaking patterns SU$(N_F)/Sp(N_F)$ (with $N_F$ even) and SU$(N_F)/SO(N_F)$. The main interest of these two patterns is that they can be generated by simple underlying theories based on gauge interactions and fermionic matter. Such theories are being studied on the lattice; thus the exercise we perform in this work is essential for lattice studies to calculate the relevant low energy constants that impact the physics of the composite Higgs. This is, in our view, the constructive way to endow this class of models with predictive power. Furthermore, the templates we provide, together with a discussion of the counting of each class of spurions, i.e. fermion mass terms, gauge couplings, and top Yukawas, are the relevant building blocks for the extension of effective theories up to NLO. The utility of this tool goes beyond composite-Higgs models, but can be applied to any class of models based on composite dynamics.

After a general discussion, we specialized our results to the simplest case based on SU$(4)/Sp(4)$. We discuss in detail the issue of the vacuum misalignment, which is generated by operators containing the spurions associated with SM interactions. One of our main results has been to find a general set of functions of the fields that allow us to study in a model-independent way the vacuum alignment together with the masses and couplings involving the Higgs and the additional singlet. We also defined the most general embedding of the elementary tops in representations of SU$(4)$ with up to two indices (as they are generated in underlying theories). This allowed us to clarify misunderstandings present in the literature about the properties of the singlet $\eta$. Our general results show that a vacuum expectation value for the singlet is not physical, unless explicit sources of CP violation are present in the theory. Any apparent misalignment in the singlet direction can be removed either by removing unphysical phases in the underlying theory or by redefining the EW-preserving vacuum around which the theory is constructed.

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APPENDIX A: SPURIonic OPERATORS INVOLVED IN THE COMPOSITE-HIGGS POTENTIAL

In this appendix, we classify all the operators, up to NLO, that contribute to the NGB potential at tree level.\textsuperscript{14} We specialize the classification of the generic spurionic operators (see Sec. II B and Appendix C) to the three main sources of explicit breaking relevant for composite-Higgs models: a current mass for the underlying fermions, the gauging of the EW symmetry and bilinear or linear couplings (\textit{à la} partial compositeness) generating the top quark Yukawa coupling. As we only consider tree-level contributions, we use all spurions in Table IV except those containing the elementary SM fermions and gauge bosons (the latter appearing only in covariant derivatives due to gauge invariance). Finally, specializing to the minimal SU$(4)/Sp(4)$ coset discussed in Sec. III, we expand\textsuperscript{15} these operators and extract the field-independent part relevant to determine the vacuum alignment.

Several points are worthwhile to remember at this point:

(i) Once the spurions are specified, their chiral counting is fixed such that the general basis of nonderivative operators involving up to four spurions contains operators that appear beyond NLO. For instance all of the operators involving three or four mass spurions $\Xi_\text{Adj} = \chi$ are subleading and should not be added to our NLO analysis.

(ii) The underlying fundamental theory (see Sec. II C) dictates the properties of the spurions. For instance, the gauge spurion $\Xi_\text{Adj}^A = g T_L^A$ ($\Xi_\text{Adj} = g T_Y$) as well as the linear spurions can appear only in pairs in order to respect the EW gauge symmetry.

\textsuperscript{14}Sticking to the spirit of our analysis, we do not consider operators containing elementary SM fields that may contribute to the NGB potential at one-loop level.

\textsuperscript{15}For simplicity, we assume that no explicit CP violation is present in the underlying theory (see Sec. III D), i.e. that all couplings are real.
(iii) Some operators contain traces made only with spurionic fields (no NGB matrix, $\Sigma$). We will neglect in general these subleading effects as we focus in this analysis on the general form of the couplings.

A simple example is provided by the two following operators associated with the bilinear spurion:

$$\frac{g^4}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr}[P^a \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\dagger_a],$$

$$\frac{g^2}{16\pi^2} \text{Tr}[P^a \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\dagger_a] \text{Tr}[P^b P^\dagger_b],$$

where $\Lambda_{\text{HC}}^2/(16\pi^2) \approx f^2$. Thus, despite the large number of operators present in the general classification of Appendix C, only a smaller set that depends on the spurions under consideration is relevant in practice. On the other hand, several spurions may transform in the same representation of flavor increasing the number of operators compared to the ones listed in Appendix C.

### 1. Current mass and gauge spurions

Let us start with the operators containing only the mass spurion, $\Xi_A = \chi$. The latter enters in the chiral expansion at $O(p^2)$, resulting in the three following classes of operators up to NLO:

(i) Only one spurion $\Xi_A$ or $\Xi^\dagger_A$ (class $\chi$).

(ii) Two spurions $\Xi_A^2$, $\Xi_A^2$, or $\Xi_A^2 \Sigma$ (class $\chi^2$).

(iii) One spurion $\Xi_A$ or $\Xi^\dagger_A$ and two derivatives (class $\chi D^2$).

The corresponding operators are displayed in Tables V and VI. Note that the derivative operators (see Appendix C) as well as the contact terms (with traces made of spurions only) have been included in order to check the completeness of our basis with Eq. (8).

### Table V. Nonderivative operators up to NLO that contain the mass spurion $\Xi_A = \chi$ and/or the gauge spurions $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = g T^a_V$, $q T^a$ in the pseudoreal case. The operators can be grouped according to different classes depending on whether they contain only the mass spurion, only the gauge spurions, or both kinds of spurions. The gauging of $U(1)_Y$ can be taken into account through the replacements $g \to g'$ and $T^a_V \to T^a_Y$ in the third column. Similarly, the same replacements hold in the last column with an additional factor of 3 less for each factor $g^2$ (operators of class $g^4$, $g^6 g^2$, and $g^6 \chi^2$). When several orderings of the spurions lead to different operators, only one is shown for each general form of operator as the others can easily be inferred from the table.

| Class | General form | Operator | Associated LEC | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|--------------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| $\chi$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger]$ | $B_0$ | $8B_0(m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\chi^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Xi^\dagger_A]$ | $\text{Tr}[\chi \chi^\dagger]$ | $H_2$ | $\ldots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger \chi^\dagger + \chi \Sigma \chi^\dagger]$ | $L_8$ | $8B_0^2[(m_1 - m_2)^2$ $+(m_1 + m_2)^2 \cos(2\theta) + \cdots]$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Xi A^\dagger_A]$ | $\text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger \chi^\dagger]$ | $L_{6,7}$ | $16B_0^2(m_1 + m_2)^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\chi \chi^\dagger]$ | $\text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger \chi^\dagger]$ | $L_{6,7}$ | $32B_0^2(m_1 + m_2)^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $g^2$, $g^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $K_0^g$ | $-\frac{1}{2}g^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $g^2$, $g^4$, $g^6 g^2$, $g^6 \chi^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $\ldots$ | $g^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $\ldots$ | $g^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $\ldots$ | $g^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $\ldots$ | $g^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $g^2 \chi$, $g^2 \chi^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Xi_A] + \text{H.c.}$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V T^a_V]$ | $K_{7}^g$ | $12B_0g^2(m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^\dagger_A \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ + H.c. | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V \Sigma^\dagger (T^a_V)^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger]$ | $K_{8}^g$ | $12B_0g^2(m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger_A] + \text{H.c.}$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V T^a_V]$ | $K_{9}^g$ | $6B_0g^2 m_1 \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V T^a_V]$ | $K_{9}^g$ | $-6B_0g^2 m_1 \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V T^a_V]$ | $K_{9}^g$ | $-2B_0g^2 m_2 \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_A \Sigma^\dagger_A]$ | $g^2 \text{Tr}[\chi \Sigma^\dagger + \Sigma \chi^\dagger] \text{Tr}[T^a_V T^a_V]$ | $K_{9}^g$ | $-3B_0g \cos \theta (m_1 - m_2)$ $+(m_1 + m_2) \cos(2\theta) + \cdots$ |
b. Gauge spurion

We now include both the mass and gauge spurions, \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} = g T_{\alpha}^{A} \) and \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}} = g T_{Y} \). The latter enter in the chiral expansion at order \( O(p) \), and the resulting four classes (including the mixed operators involving both mass and gauge spurions) of operators correspond to

(i) Two spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (classes \( g^{2} \) and \( g^{2} \)).

(ii) Four spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{4} \) (classes \( g^{4} \), \( g^{4} \) and \( g^{2} \)).

(iii) Two spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) and two derivatives (classes \( g^{2} D^{2} \) and \( g^{2} D^{2} \)).

(iv) One spurion \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{1} \) or \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{1} \) and two spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (classes \( g^{2} \chi \) and \( g^{2} \chi \)).

As already mentioned, in order to check the consistency of our classification, the derivative operators as well as contact terms (see Refs. [68,69]) have also been included. All of the operators corresponding to the above classes are reported in Tables V and VI, while those associated with the gauging of \( U(1) \) can be obtained from \( g \rightarrow g' \) and \( T_{Y} \rightarrow T_{Y} \). Furthermore, the expansion of the operator gives the same result as for the \( SU(2) \) spurion but with an additional factor of 1/3, except when explicitly listed in the tables.

2. Top quark spurions

We now discuss the spurions generating the top mass: in the following, we consider a bilinear coupling as well as linear couplings \( \text{à la} \) partial compositeness. For the linear top coupling cases with antisymmetric and adjoint spurions there are more than one possible spurion embedding, and we use the general linear combinations defined in Eqs (34) and (36).

### TABLE VI. Same as in Table V but for the derivative operators. The covariant derivatives involve the gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} = g T_{\alpha}^{A} + g T_{Y} B_{\mu} \) such that mixed operators belong to the class \( D^{2} \).

| Class | General form | Operator | Associated LEC |
|-------|--------------|----------|----------------|
| \( \chi D^{2} \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha}] \) | \( \text{Tr}[\chi] \) | \( L_{4} \) |
| \( g^{2} D^{2} \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha}] \) | \( \text{Tr}[\chi] \) | \( K_{1} \) |

a. Bilinear coupling

The four classes of nonderivative operators involving the top bilinear spurion \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} = y_{t} P_{\mu}^{\alpha} \) correspond to

(i) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} \) (class \( y_{t}^{2} \)).

(ii) Four top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (class \( y_{t}^{4} \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) and one mass spurion \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (class \( y_{t} \)).

(iv) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) and two gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (classes \( y_{t}^{2} g^{2} \) and \( y_{t}^{2} g^{2} \)).

The operators, belonging to the four preceding classes are reported in Tables V and VI, while those associated with the gauging of \( U(1) \) can be obtained from \( g \rightarrow g' \) and \( T_{Y} \rightarrow T_{Y} \). Furthermore, the expansion of the operator gives the same result as for the \( SU(2) \) spurion but with an additional factor of 1/3, except when explicitly listed in the tables.

b. Linear coupling in the fundamental representation

The three classes of operators involving the linear spurions in the fundamental representation \( \Xi_{\eta}^{\alpha} = y_{t} P_{\mu}^{\alpha} \) and \( \Xi_{\eta}^{\alpha} = y_{t} P_{\mu}^{\alpha} \) correspond to

(i) Four top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (classes \( y_{t}^{2} \)).

(ii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) and one mass spurion \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (class \( y_{t}^{2} \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) and two gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{2} \) (classes \( y_{t}^{2} g^{2} \) and \( y_{t}^{2} g^{2} \)).

The operators, belonging to the three preceding classes are listed in Table VIII.

c. Linear coupling in the adjoint representation

The four classes of operators involving the linear spurions in the adjoint representation \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} = y_{t} P_{\mu}^{\alpha} \) and \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^{\alpha} = y_{t} P_{\mu}^{\alpha} \) correspond to
TABLE VII. Nonderivative operators up to NLO involving the top bilinear spurion $\Xi^{\nu}_{\chi} = y_t P^\nu$ and contributing to the scalar potential. Also shown are the mixed operators involving the top bilinear spurion and the gauge or the mass spurion. When not explicitly written, the $U(1)_Y$ contributions are obtained by the following replacements $g \rightarrow g'$ and $T^a_Y \rightarrow T^a$ in the third column and similarly in the last column with a factor of 3 less. When several orderings of the spurions lead to different operators, only one is shown for each general form of operators as the others can easily be inferred from the table.

| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| $y_t^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ]$ | $y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ]$ | $y_t^2 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_f^4$ | $(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ])^2$ | $y_f^4 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ]^2$ | $y_f^4 \sin^4 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_f^4$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_f^4 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[P^\rho \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_f^4 \sin^4 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_f^4$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_f^4 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[P^\rho \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} y_f^4 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_f^4$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_f^4 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[P^\rho \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} y_f^4 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_f^4$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_f^4 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[P^\rho \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\rho ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} y_f^4 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |

TABLE VIII. Same as in Table VII but for linear spurions in the fundamental representation, namely $\Xi^\nu_{\chi} = y_t P^\nu$ and $\Xi^\nu_{\chi} = y_t P^\nu$.

| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| $y_{t,x}^2, y_{t,x}^2, y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \cdot \Xi^\nu_{\chi} \cdot \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ]$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ]$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ]$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \cos^2 \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ]^2$ | $0$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $8y_{t,x}^2 m_1 B_0 \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $4y_{t,x}^2 m_1 B_0 \cos \theta + \cdots$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $0$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $0$ |
| $y_{t,x}^2$ | $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\chi} \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma \Xi^\dagger ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t,x}^2 \text{Tr}[P^\nu \Sigma^\dagger ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P^\nu ] + \text{H.c.}$ | $0$ |
| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| $y^2_{t,s}$ | $\text{Tr}(\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^T \Sigma_{\text{Adj}})$ | $y^2_{t,s} \text{Tr}(P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma^T)$ | $-y^2_{t,s} \left( (A_0^2 + B_0^2) \sin^2 \theta + 4A_0B_0 \cos^2 \theta \right) + \cdots$ |
| $y^2_{t,s}, y^2_{t,s}$ | $\text{Tr}(\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^T \Sigma_{\text{Adj}})$ | $y^2_{t,s} \text{Tr}(P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma^T)$ | $\frac{1}{4} y^2_{t,s} \left( (A_0^2 - 4A_0B_0 + B_0^2) \cos(2\theta) + (A_0^2 + 4A_0B_0 + B_0^2) \right)^2 + \cdots$ |
| $y^2_{t,s}, y^2_{t,s}$ | $\text{Tr}(\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^T \Sigma_{\text{Adj}})$ | $y^2_{t,s} \text{Tr}(P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q0}^{\dagger} \Sigma^T)$ | $\frac{1}{4} y^2_{t,s} \left( (A_0^2 + B_0^2) \right) \left( (A_0^2 + B_0^2) \sin^4 \theta + A_0B_0 \sin^2(2\theta) \right) + 8A_0^2B_0^2 \cos^4 \theta + \cdots$ |

Table IX. Same as in Table VII but for linear spurions in the adjoint representation, namely $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = y_t P_{Q0}$ and $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = y_t P_{t}$. 

(Table continued)
| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma]^{\dagger} \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma]^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_i^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger}] \text{Tr}[P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $4B_0 y_i^2 (m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta \left(A_0^2 - 4A_0 B_0 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ | $-\left(A_0^2 + 4A_0 B_0 + B_0^2\right)$ + ⋯ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_2^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger}] \text{Tr}[P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-4B_0 y_2^2 (m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta (A_0^2 + (A_0^2 - 2B_0^2) \cos(2\theta))$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_2^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger}] \text{Tr}[P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $2B_0 y_2^2 (m_1 + m_2) \cos \theta \left((A_0^2 - 4A_0 B_0 + B_0^2) \cos(2\theta) - (A_0^2 + B_0^2)\right)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger}] \text{Tr}[P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $2B_0 y_3^2 \cos \theta \left((2A_0^2 - 3B_0^2) (m_1 + m_2) \right) \sin^2 \theta + \left(B_0^2 (m_1 + m_2) - 2\right) \cos^2 \theta$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \cos^2 \theta \left((A_0^2 + B_0^2) \sin^2 \theta + 4A_0 B_0 \cos^2 \theta\right)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
| $\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\text{Adj}} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma_{\text{Adj}}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger}]$ | $y_3^2 g^2 \text{Tr}[\Sigma^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger} \Sigma^{\dagger} P_{Q\sigma}^{\dagger}] + \text{H.c.}$ | $-\frac{1}{2} y_3^2 \left(A_0^2 - B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta) + \left(A_0^2 + B_0^2\right) \cos(2\theta)$ + ⋯ | |
(i) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 \)).

(ii) Four top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^4 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2, y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^4 \) and \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^6 \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) and one mass spurion \( \Xi_{\Lambda} \) or \( \Xi_{\Lambda}^0 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 \)).

(iv) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) and two gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 g^2 \)).

The operators, belonging to the preceding classes, are listed in Table X.

d. Linear coupling in the symmetric representation

The three classes of operators involving the linear spurions in the symmetric representation \( \Xi_{\text{Sym}}^2 = y_{i_{\text{xx}}} P_{O}^2 \) and \( \Xi_{\text{Sym}} = y_{i_{\text{xx}}} P_{T} \) correspond to

(i) Four top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Sym}}^4 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2, y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^4 \) and \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^6 \)).

(ii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Sym}}^2 \) and one mass spurion \( \Xi_{\Lambda} \) or \( \Xi_{\Lambda}^0 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Sym}}^2 \) and two gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 g^2 \)).

The operators, belonging to the preceding classes, are listed in Table XI.

e. Linear coupling in the antisymmetric representation

Finally, the four classes of operators involving the linear spurions in the antisymmetric representation \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}}^2 = y_{i_{\text{xx}}} P_{O}^2 \) and \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}} = y_{i_{\text{xx}}} P_{T} \) correspond to

(i) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}}^2 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 \)).

(ii) Four top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}}^4 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2, y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^4 \) and \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^6 \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}}^2 \) and one mass spurion \( \Xi_{\Lambda} \) or \( \Xi_{\Lambda}^0 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 \)).

(iv) Two top spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Anti}}^2 \) and two gauge spurions \( \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \) (classes \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 g^2 \) and \( y_{i_{\text{xx}}}^2 g^2 \)).

The operators, belonging to the preceding classes, are listed in Table XI.
### TABLE XI

Same as in Table VII but for linear spurions in the antisymmetric representation, namely \(\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda = y_\alpha P_\alpha^\Lambda\) and \(\Xi_{\alpha} = y_\alpha P_\alpha\).

| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| \(y_{\mathbf{1},s}^2\) | \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(y_{\mathbf{1}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_\alpha^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_\alpha^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(2y_{\mathbf{1}}^2\sin^2 \theta + \ldots\) |
| \(y_{\mathbf{2},s}^2\) | \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(y_{\mathbf{2}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_\alpha^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_\alpha^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(2y_{\mathbf{2}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + \ldots\) |
| \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(y_{\mathbf{4}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_\alpha^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_\alpha^\Lambda]^2 + \text{H.c.}\) | \(4y_{\mathbf{4}}^2\sin^4 \theta + \ldots\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(\text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Xi_{\alpha}^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(y_{\mathbf{2}}^2 \text{Tr}[P_\alpha^\Lambda \Sigma^\Lambda] \text{Tr}[\Sigma P_\alpha^\Lambda] + \text{H.c.}\) | \(2y_{\mathbf{2}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) + \ldots |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |
| \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) | \(\frac{1}{4}y_{\mathbf{4}}^2(\Lambda - B)^2\cos^2 \theta + (\Lambda + B)^2\) |

(Table continued)
| Class | General form | Operator | SU(4)/Sp(4) |
|-------|--------------|----------|-------------|
| \( \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Sigma^J] \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Xi^J_{\text{adj}}] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( \frac{1}{2} y_i^2 g^2 \sin^2 \theta + \cdots \) | |
| | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( 3 y_i^2 g^2 B (B - A) \cos^2 \theta + \cdots \) | |
| | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( y_i^2 g^2 A (A - B) \cos^2 \theta + \cdots \) | |
| \( \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Sigma^J] \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Xi^J_{\text{adj}}] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | 0 | |
| | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( 3 y_i^2 g^2 B (A - B) \cos^2 \theta + \cdots \) | |
| | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( y_i^2 g^2 A (A - B) \cos^2 \theta + \cdots \) | |
| \( \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Sigma^J] \text{Tr} [\Xi^I \Xi^J_{\text{adj}}] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( \frac{1}{2} y_i^2 g^2 (B - A) \cos^2 \theta (A - B) \cos (2 \theta) - A - B) + \cdots \) | |
| | \( y_i^2 g^2 \text{Tr} [P^I \Sigma^J_{\text{adj}}] \text{Tr} [\Sigma P^I_{\text{adj}} T^I_L T^I_R] + \text{h.c.} \) | \( \frac{1}{2} g^2 y_i^2 (A - B) \cos^2 \theta (A - B) \cos (2 \theta) + A + B + \cdots \) | |
TABLE XII. Nonderivative operators up to NLO involving the top bilinear spurions \( \xi_t \) and possibly \( \xi_A \) contributing to the tree-level top mass. Also shown are the mixed operators involving the top bilinear spurion and the gauge spurions or the gauge mass spurion. The \( U(1)_y \) contributions are obtained by the following replacements \( g \to g' \) and \( T^1_L \to T^1_I \) in the third column.

| Class | General form | Operator |
|-------|-------------|----------|
| \( y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\xi_t \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.} \) | \( y_t \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger](Q_\alpha r^\dagger)^\alpha + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t^3 \) | \( \text{Tr}[\xi_t \Sigma^\dagger \xi_t \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.} \) | \( y_t^3 \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger P^\beta \Sigma^\dagger](Q_\alpha r^\dagger)^\alpha + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( \langle \xi_t \rangle \) | \( \text{Tr}[\xi_t \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.} \) | \( y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger](Q_\alpha r^\dagger)^\alpha + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( \langle \xi_t \rangle \langle \xi_t \rangle \) | \( \text{Tr}[\xi_t \Sigma^\dagger \xi_t \Sigma^\dagger] + \text{H.c.} \) | \( y_t^2 \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger](Q_\alpha r^\dagger)^\alpha + \text{H.c.} \) |

APPENDIX B: SPURIONIC OPERATORS GENERATING THE TOP-QUARK MASS

In this appendix we list the operators up to NLO that contribute to the top mass at tree level. We consider a bilinear top coupling as well as linear couplings in the fundamental, adjoint, symmetric, or antisymmetric representations. These operators also generate the top quark couplings to the pNGBs and in particular, the \( \eta \) coupling as discussed in Sec. III D for the \( SU(4)/Sp(4) \) case. Let us remind the reader that our classification corresponds to a pseudoreal coset while the real case can easily be obtained in a similar way as explained in Sec. II. In order to isolate the contributions to the top mass, we use all spurions in Table IV except those involving SM gauge bosons. Indeed, the latter can only appear in covariant derivatives.

In addition to the points outlined in Appendix A, it is worthwhile to notice that

(i) The top quark spurions containing elementary fermions generate corrections to their kinetic term. For instance, the generic operator \( \text{Tr}[\xi_A \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger] \) cannot contribute to the top mass. However, in the case of a bilinear coupling it leads to the two following operators:

\[
\frac{y_t^2 f^2}{\Lambda_{HC}^2} \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger](\bar{q}_L \nu_R)^\dagger, \\
\frac{y_t^2 f^2}{\Lambda_{HC}^2} \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger](\bar{t}_L \bar{t}_R). \tag{B1}
\]

We do not include these kinds of operators in our analysis.

(ii) In the same way, four-fermion operators are in general generated. Using the same generic operator as before, we obtain in the bilinear case the following operator:

\[
\frac{y_t^4 f^4}{\Lambda_{HC}^2} \text{Tr}[P^\sigma \Sigma^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger](\bar{q}_L \nu_R)^\dagger, (\bar{t}_L \bar{t}_R)^\dagger. \tag{B2}
\]

Again, we do not include these kinds of operators in our analysis.

The number of operators is again drastically reduced compared to those present in the generic classification of Appendix C.

1. Bilinear coupling

For a bilinear top spurion, we get four different classes of operators that contribute at tree level to the top mass:

(i) Only one top spurion \( \xi_t \) (class \( y_t \)).

(ii) Three top spurions \( \xi_t \xi_t \xi_t \) (class \( y_t^3 \)).

(iii) One top spurion \( \xi_t \) and one mass spurion \( \xi_A \) or \( \xi_A \) (class \( y_t \langle \xi_t \rangle \)).

(iv) One top spurion \( \xi_t \) and two gauge spurions \( \xi_A^2 \) or \( \xi_A^2 \) (class \( y_t^2 \langle \xi_t \rangle \) ).

The operators belonging to the preceding classes are displayed in Table XII.

2. Linear coupling in the fundamental representation

For a linear top coupling transforming in the fundamental representation, the operators contributing at tree level to the top mass organize as follows:

(i) Two top spurions \( \xi_A^2 \) (class \( y_t y_t \)).

(ii) Four top spurions \( \xi_A^2 \xi_A^2 \) (classes \( y_t^3 y_t^3 \)).

(iii) Two top spurions \( \xi_A^2 \) and one mass spurion \( \xi_A \) or \( \xi_A \) (class \( y_t y_t \langle \xi_t \rangle \)).

(iv) Two top spurions \( \xi_A^2 \) and two gauge spurions \( \xi_A^2 \) (class \( y_t y_t y_t^2 \)).

They are listed in Table XIII.
### 3. Linear coupling in the adjoint representation

For a linear top coupling transforming in the adjoint representation, the operators contributing at tree level to the top mass organize as follows:

(i) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Adj}}$ (class $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}$).

(ii) Four top spurions $\Xi^4_{\text{Adj}}$ (classes $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}, y_{t_1}y_{t_2}^3$).

(iii) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Adj}}$ and one mass spurion $\Xi_A$ or $\Xi^3_{\text{Adj}}$ (class $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}\chi$).

(iv) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Adj}}$ and two gauge spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Adj}}$ (classes $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}g^2$, $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}y_{t_3}g^2$).

They are listed in Table XIV.

### 4. Linear coupling in the symmetric representation

For a linear top coupling transforming in the symmetric representation, the operators contributing at tree level to the top mass organize as follows:

(i) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Sym}}$ (class $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}$).

(ii) Four top spurions $\Xi^4_{\text{Sym}}$ (classes $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}, y_{t_1}y_{t_2}^3$).

(iii) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Sym}}$ and one mass spurion $\Xi_A$ or $\Xi^3_{\text{Sym}}$ (class $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}\chi$).

(iv) Two top spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Sym}}$ and two gauge spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Sym}}$ (classes $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}g^2$, $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}y_{t_3}g^2$).

They are listed in Table XV.

### Table XIV. Same as in Table XII but for the linear spurions in the adjoint representation, namely $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = y_{t_1}P^a_QQ^a_{\alpha}$ and $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = y_{t_1}P^a_{\alpha}r^\dagger$ and possibly the spurions $\Xi^2_{\text{Adj}} = y_{t_1}P^a_Q$ and/or $\Xi_{\text{Adj}} = y_{t_1}P^a_{\alpha}$.

| Class | General form | Operator |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}$ | $\text{Tr} [\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t_1}y_{t_2} \text{Tr} [P^a_Q \Sigma P^a_Q \Sigma] (Q_{\alpha}r^\dagger)^4 + \text{H.c.}$ |
| $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}, y_{t_1}y_{t_2}^3$ | $\text{Tr} [\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^4] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t_1}y_{t_2} \text{Tr} [P^a_Q \Sigma P^a_Q \Sigma] (Q_{\alpha}r^\dagger)^4 + \text{H.c.}$ |
| $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}\chi$ | $\text{Tr} [\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t_1}y_{t_2} \text{Tr} [P^a_Q \Sigma P^a_Q \Sigma] (Q_{\alpha}r^\dagger)^4 + \text{H.c.}$ |
| $y_{t_1}y_{t_2}g^2$ | $\text{Tr} [\Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2 \Xi_{\text{Adj}}^2] + \text{H.c.}$ | $y_{t_1}y_{t_2} \text{Tr} [P^a_Q \Sigma P^a_Q \Sigma] (Q_{\alpha}r^\dagger)^4 + \text{H.c.}$ |
TABLE XV. Same as in Table XII but for the linear spurions in the symmetric representation, namely \( \Xi_S = y_t \, P_0^\dagger Q_0^\dagger \) and \( \Xi_S = y_t \, P_t r^\dagger \) and possibly the spurions \( \Xi_{S}^\dagger = y_t \, P_0^\dagger \) and/or \( \Xi_S = y_t \, P_t r^\dagger \).

| Class | General form | Operator |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| \( y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_S \Sigma \Xi_S \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_S \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |

TABLE XVI. Same as in Table XII but for the linear spurions in the antisymmetric representation, namely \( \Xi_\lambda = y_t \, P_0^\dagger Q_0^\dagger \) and \( \Xi_\lambda = y_t \, P_t r^\dagger \) and possibly the spurions \( \Xi_{\lambda}^\dagger = y_t \, P_0^\dagger \) and/or \( \Xi_\lambda = y_t \, P_t r^\dagger \).

| Class | General form | Operator |
|-------|--------------|----------|
| \( y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
| \( y_t, y_t, y_t \) | \( \text{Tr}[\Xi_\lambda \Sigma^\dagger \Xi_\lambda \Sigma]\) + H.c. | \( y_t, y_t \text{Tr}[P_0^\dagger \Sigma^\dagger P_t \Sigma^\dagger P_0^\dagger P_{00}](Q_{sr})^\dagger + \text{H.c.} \) |
TABLE XVII. Nonderivative operators involving three two-index spurions. As explained in the text, the operators divide into the three following classes: $\text{Tr}[X_1]\text{Tr}[X_2]\text{Tr}[X_3]$, $\text{Tr}[X_1]\text{Tr}[X_2X_3]$, and $\text{Tr}[X_1X_2X_3]$.

| No $\Sigma$ | Linear in $\Sigma$ | Quadratic in $\Sigma$ | Three $\Sigma$ |
|----------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}]$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}]^3 + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}]^3 + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}]$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger\Sigma_{Adj}]^3 + \text{h.c.}$ |

TABLE XVIII. Same as in Table XVII but for the operators involving four spurions and belonging to the classes $\text{Tr}[X_1]\text{Tr}[X_2]\text{Tr}[X_1]\text{Tr}[X_4]$ or $\text{Tr}[X_1]\text{Tr}[X_2]\text{Tr}[X_1X_4]$.

| Quadratic in $\Sigma$ | Three $\Sigma$ | Four $\Sigma$ |
|-----------------|-----------------|---------------|
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^2\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^2\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^4 + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^2\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^2\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ |
| $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ | $\text{Tr}[\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger]^2\Sigma_{S/A}\Sigma_{S/A}^\dagger] + \text{h.c.}$ |

5. Linear coupling in the antisymmetric representation

Finally, for a linear top coupling transforming in the antisymmetric representation, the operators contributing at tree level to the top mass organize as follows:

(i) Two top spurions $\Sigma_A^2$ (class $y_{tL}y_{tR}$).

(ii) Four top spurions $\Sigma_A^2$ (classes $y_{tL}y_{tL}, y_{tR}y_{tR}$).

(iii) Two top spurions $\Sigma_A^2$ and one mass spurion $\Sigma_A$ or $\Sigma_A^2$ (class $y_{tL}y_{tR}q$).

(iv) Two top spurions $\Sigma_A^2$ and two gauge spurions $\Sigma_{Adj}^2$ (classes $y_{tL}y_{tL}g^2, y_{tR}y_{tR}g^2$).

They are listed in Table XVI.

APPENDIX C: GENERIC CLASSIFICATION OF SPURIONIC OPERATORS

The purpose of this appendix is to provide details about the general classification discussed in Sec. II B. We derive a complete set of nonderivative operators involving up to four spurions in a two-index representation ($\Sigma_{S/A}$ and $\Sigma_{Adj}$) of the flavor symmetry. At the end of the appendix, we outline how the discussion can be extended to derivative operators.

This general set of operators can then be used, once the explicit breaking sources are specified, to construct all the operators up to NLO that explicitly break $G_F$. Since only the transformation properties under the global symmetry, $G_F$, are fixed, while the chiral counting as well as the properties dictated by the UV theory are not yet imposed, the classification below is completely general and can be applied to a wide range of theories where spurions transform in two-index representations.

A concrete application to composite-Higgs models is presented in Sec. II C, and the details are reported in Appendix A. The restriction to four spurions in the same operator is justified by the chiral counting associated with the composite-Higgs spurions. Indeed, in this specific example, all spurions appear at least at order $O(p)$.16

To simplify the classification, instead of considering the two-index spurions that transform differently under $G_F$, we...

16Except for the partial-compositeness spurions with no elementary fields where $\Sigma_0^4P_0$ and $\Sigma_0^4P_1$ appear at $O(\sqrt{p})$. However, as discussed in Sec. II C 3, one can still restrict to four spurions.
Then, we construct all the possible combinations involving \( \text{SU}(\frac{52}{1}) \) as explained in Sec.II B, we restrict to the pseudoreal case

\[ \text{Tr} \left[ \left[ \xi \right] \right] \quad \text{Tr} \left[ \left[ \xi \right] \right] \quad \text{Tr} \left[ \left[ \xi \right] \right] \quad \text{Tr} \left[ \left[ \xi \right] \right] \]

The operators involving one and two spurions are listed in Table III, the ones with three spurions in Table XVII, and the ones with four spurions in Tables XVIII, XIX, XX, and XXI.
Finally, let us discuss how we can extend the above basis of nondervative operators to derivative ones. As by definition the covariant derivatives transform like the fields themselves, it is trivial to construct objects such as $D_{\mu}X_i$ or $D^2X_i$ with the desired properties of transformations. From these objects, one can follow the procedure described previously. In general, we get a large number of operators and some of them are redundant. They can be eliminated [92] using...
TABLE XXI. Same as in Table XVII but for the operators involving spurions in the fundamental representation.

| No | Linear in Σ | Quadratic in Σ | Three Σ |
|----|-------------|---------------|--------|
| Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L] | Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L' Σ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Σ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Σ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
| Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L'] + H.c. | Tr[Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L' Ξ_L']² Tr[Ξ_L · Ξ_L'] + H.c. |
\[
\begin{aligned}
\text{Tr}[(D_{\mu} A_1) A_2 \cdots A_n + \cdots + A_1 A_2 \cdots (D_{\mu} A_n)] &= \partial_{\mu} \text{Tr}[A_1 A_2 \cdots A_n] = 0,
\end{aligned}
\]

where \( A_1 \cdots A_n \rightarrow g A_1 \cdots A_n g^\dagger \). Note that it is enough to restrict to two derivatives in order to get all the NLO operators in composite-Higgs models.

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