The breaking of the $SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$ symmetry
The 750 GeV resonance at the LHC and perturbative unitarity

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If the di-photon excess at 750 GeV hinted by the 2015 data at the LHC is explained in terms of a scalar resonance participating in the breaking of the electro-weak symmetry, this resonance must be accompanied by other scalar states for perturbative unitarity in vector boson scattering to be preserved. The simplest set-up consistent with perturbative unitarity and with the data of the di-photon excess is the Georgi-Machacek model.

I. MOTIVATIONS

Irrespective of whether it will stay or not—the recent excess in the 2015 LHC data with two photons in the final state at invariant mass of about 750 GeV [1] reminds us that even after the discovery of the Higgs boson we may still not know all the details of the breaking of the electro-weak (EW) symmetry. Let us interpret the LHC di-photon excess as a new scalar resonance.

The simplest (although perhaps least interesting) possibility is that this resonance takes no part in the breaking of the EW symmetry. In this case, it is possible to reproduce the di-photon excess by coupling the resonance—in a generic fashion—to extra scalar or fermionic degrees of freedom (see, for instance, [2] and [3]). If this is the case, the rationale of such new physics is bound to remain rather mysterious and we might be justified in thinking that it would be for the best if the di-photon excess were to disappear from the new data in 2016.

On the other hand, if this resonance takes part in the EW symmetry breaking, its existence would tell us something new about such a mechanism, in particular that it is not realised by the vacuum expectation value (VEV) of the Higgs boson alone. Moreover—and more importantly for the present work—the presence of such a state necessarily affects the high-energy behavior of the theory: to the extent that the perturbative unitarity of vector boson scattering is to be preserved, such a resonance cannot come by itself or with arbitrary couplings [4].

Let us classify states after symmetry breaking according to their properties under custodial $SU(2)_C$ and take the new resonance to be a singlet. There are two possibilities. This custodial singlet either

• comes from one or more doublets (this choice leads to the two Higgs doublet model (2HDM) [5] and related constructions) and its coupling to the gauge bosons is fixed by gauge invariance to combine with that of the Higgs boson to cancel the unitarity violating growth with the center-of-mass (CM) energy; or

• its coupling to the gauge bosons does not combine with that of the Higgs boson as to cancel the unitarity violations, and we must also include a quintuplet of custodial $SU(2)_C$—the only scalar with a contribution in the high-energy amplitudes of the opposite sign with respect to that of the Higgs boson and other singlets [6]—in order for unitarity to be preserved.

The inclusion of a custodial singlet resonance arbitrary coupled to the gauge bosons therefore leads naturally to the Georgi-Machacek (GM) model [7]—the simplest model to contain a custodial quintuplet and in which symmetry breaking is achieved by three scalar fields: one doublet (with hypercharge 1/2) and two triplets (with hypercharges 1 and 0).

If neither of the above is the case, perturbative unitarity cannot be preserved and the singlet resonance must belong to a non-perturbative regime. This would imply the exciting discovery of a new interaction that is strong at the EW scale. A fit of the di-photon excess in terms of a non-perturbative resonance is possible and has been already discussed in the literature (for instance, see [3]).

In this paper we expand on the reasoning above. We discuss to what extent a singlet resonance can take part in the EW symmetry breaking and still belong to a perturbative regime in which reliably computations can be performed. The GM model seems to emerge as the simplest model satisfying these requirements that also explains the di-photon excess at the LHC for a realistic choice of its parameters.

A. Perturbative unitarity

Perturbative unitarity limits the possible models in which the leading orders of perturbation theory are expected to be a reliable guide to physics [6]. If perturbative unitarity is satisfied, EW interactions are described by a renormalisable gauge theory and the strength of the
interactions among the particle remains weak at all energies. If this is not the case, unitarity is recovered by the inclusion of higher order terms; these, however, cannot be small and a non-perturbative regime is entered.

The requirement of perturbative unitarity is stated in terms of partial-wave amplitudes \(a_J(s)\) where the amplitude of vector boson scattering is

\[
a_{VV}(s, t) = 16\pi \sum (2J + 1) a_J(s) P_J(\cos \theta),
\]

and \(s\) and \(t\) are the Mandelstam variables. Unitarity requires that

\[
|a_0(s)| < 1.
\]

In general, the partial-wave amplitude in vector boson scattering is given by

\[
a_J(s) = A \left( \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_W} \right)^4 + B \left( \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_W} \right)^2 + C \left( \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_W} \right)^0,
\]

with terms growing as the fourth and the square of the CM energy, and a constant, respectively. \(A\) vanishes by gauge invariance that implies \(g_{4V} = g_{2V}^0\). \(B\) vanishes in the standard model (SM) because of the Higgs boson \(h\) contribution and the relationship

\[
m^2_{4V} g_{4V} - \frac{3}{4} m^2_{2V} g_{2V}^2 = \frac{1}{4} g_{4V}^2 (g_{H,VV}^0 + g_{H'VV}^0)
\]

(4)

among the couplings (with self-explanatory notation). The constant terms in \(C\) sets a limit on the Higgs boson mass in the SM and on the masses of other states in its extensions.

If there are more singlets, for instance two: \(H_1\) and \(H'_1\), their couplings must satisfy

\[
m^2_{4V} g_{4V} - \frac{3}{4} m^2_{2V} g_{2V}^2 = \frac{1}{4} \left( g_{H_1,VV}^0 + g_{H'_1,VV}^0 \right)
\]

in order for the coefficient \(B\) in eq. (3) to vanish. This is realised in the 2HDM and variations of the same.

The other possibility is to have a negative contribution: this can only come from a quintuplet (see [6] and [8]) of custodial \(SU(2)_C\). In fact, for interactions

\[
g_{H_1,VV}^0 \mathrm{Tr} D_\mu \Sigma^\dagger D^\mu \Sigma
\]

and

\[
g_{H_1,VV}^0 \mathrm{Tr} D_\mu \Sigma^\dagger D^\mu \Sigma - \frac{\sigma^{aa}_{\pi a}}{6} \mathrm{Tr} D_\mu \Sigma^\dagger D^\mu \Sigma
\]

(6)

between the longitudinal components of the vector boson fields \(\Sigma = \exp \left[ -i/v \sum \sigma^a \pi^a \right]\) and the singlet in eq. (6) and quintuplet in eq. (51), the amplitudes for singlet scalars are always

\[
a(s, t)|_{H'_1} = -\frac{g_{H'_1}^2}{v^2} \frac{s^2}{s - m_{H'_1}^2}
\]

(8)

with the same sign as the Higgs boson, while

\[
a(s, t)|_{H_2} = -\frac{g_{H_2}^2}{v^2} \left[ \frac{t^2}{t - m_{H_2}^2} + \frac{u^2}{u - m_{H_2}^2} - \frac{2}{3} \frac{s^2}{s - m_{H_2}^2} \right],
\]

(9)

gives a (repulsive) negative contribution.

Considering the limit \(s \gg m^2_{4V}, m_{H_1}, m_{H'_1}, m_{H_2}\)—and having the Higgs boson contribution already cancel the contribution from the vector bosons to the coefficient \(B\) in eq. (3)—an exact cancellation between eq. (8) and eq. (9) requires

\[
\frac{5}{6} g_{H_2}^2 = g_{H'_1}^2.
\]

(10)

As shown below, such a cancellation, and the unitarity of the theory, are automatically implemented in the GM model.

## II. THE FIRST POSSIBILITY: THE 2HDM

The first possibility considered in the introduction section is the simplest: perturbative unitarity is maintained by having the scalar resonance coupling at a special value fixed by gauge invariance (see eq. (5)).

This would be the first choice in trying to incorporate the resonance within a model. Unfortunately, the parameters of the 2HDM model must be pushed to rather unrealistic values in order to accommodate the di-photon data [9]. These values are particularly worrisome in the light of the required size of the the Yukawa couplings, the renormalized values of which bring the theory into a non-perturbative regime [10].

We therefore consider the other case discussed in section I.

## III. THE GM MODEL

The GM model contains a complex \(SU(2)_L\) doublet field \(\phi (Y = 1)\), a real triplet field \(\xi (Y = 0)\), and a complex \(SU(2)_L\) triplet field \(\chi (Y = 2)\). The scalar content of the theory can be organised in terms of \(SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R\) symmetry, and we define the following multiplets

\[
\Phi_{(2,2)} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^a_+ \phi^a_0 \\ \phi^- \phi^0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

(11)

\[
\Delta_{(3,3)} = \begin{pmatrix} \chi^a_+ \xi^a_0 \chi^{++} \\ \chi^- \xi^0 \chi^+ \\ \chi^- \xi^a_0 \chi^0 \end{pmatrix},
\]

(12)

whose VEVs are

\[
\langle \Phi \rangle = \frac{v_\phi}{\sqrt{2}} I_{2 \times 2} \quad \text{and} \quad \langle \Delta \rangle = \frac{v_\Delta}{\sqrt{2}} I_{3 \times 3},
\]

(13)
with $v_\phi^2 + 8v_\Delta^2 = v^2 = 1/\sqrt{2}G_F \simeq (246 \text{ GeV})^2$. The VEVs of the two triplets must be the same in order to preserve custodial $SU(2)_C$.

The doublet and the two triplet states can be written in components:

$$\phi = \left(\begin{array}{c} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 + i\phi^- \end{array}\right)/\sqrt{2},$$

$$\xi = \left(\begin{array}{c} \xi^+ \\ \xi^- \end{array}\right)/\sqrt{2},$$

$$\chi = \left(\begin{array}{c} \chi^{++} \\ \chi^+ + (\chi^0 + i\chi^-)/\sqrt{2} \end{array}\right),$$

with $\phi^- = - (\phi^+)^*$, $\xi^- = - (\xi^+)^*$, $\chi^- = - (\chi^+)^*$. The most general potential that conserves $SU(2)_C$ is given by

$$V(\Phi, \Delta) = \frac{\mu^2}{2} \Phi \Phi^\dagger + \frac{\mu_3^2}{2} \Delta \Delta^\dagger \Delta + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} [\Phi \Phi^\dagger]^2 + \lambda_3 \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Delta^\dagger \Delta$$

$$+ \lambda_3 \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Delta \Delta^\dagger \Delta + \lambda_4 [\Phi \Phi^\dagger \Delta^\dagger \Delta]^2$$

$$- \lambda_5 \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Delta^\dagger \Delta^\dagger \Delta$$

$$- M_1 \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger \Phi \Phi^\dagger$$

where $\sigma$ and $t$ are the $SU(2)$ generators in the doublet and triplet representation respectively, and $U$ a matrix that rotates $\Delta$ into the Cartesian basis.

From the (canonically normalised) kinetic terms

$$L_{\text{kin}} = |D_\mu \phi|^2 + \frac{1}{2} |D_\mu \xi|^2 + |D_\mu \chi|^2,$$

we can read the interactions with the EW gauge bosons. Considering the neutral components of the scalar fields in eq. (11), a direct computation gives

$$L_{\text{kin}} \supset (v_\phi + \phi^0)^2 \left(\frac{g^2}{4} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + \frac{g^2 + g'^2}{8} Z_\mu Z_\mu \right)$$

$$+ (v_\Phi + \xi^0)^2 \left(\frac{g^2}{2} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- \right)$$

$$+ (\sqrt{2} v_\Delta + \chi^0)^2 \left(\frac{g^2}{2} W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + \frac{g^2 + g'^2}{2} Z_\mu Z_\mu \right).$$

The imaginary part of $\phi$ and $\chi$ does not interact with the EW gauge bosons as a consequence of $CP$ invariance. The gauge boson masses are given by

$$m_W^2 = \frac{g^2}{4} (v_\phi^2 + 8v_\Delta^2),$$

$$m_Z^2 = \frac{g^2 + g'^2}{4} (v_\phi^2 + 8v_\Delta^2).$$

Under $SU(2)_C$ we have the group representations $(2, 2) \sim 1 \oplus 3$, and $(3, 3) \sim 1 \oplus 3 \oplus 5$. One of the two triplets is unphysical, since it represents the Goldstone bosons eaten by the EW gauge bosons. Accordingly, the GM model has ten physical degrees of freedom: two $SU(2)_C$ singlets $H_1^0$, $H_1^{0'}$ (the Higgs and the additional scalar resonance), one $SU(2)_C$ triplet ($H_3^+, H_3^0, H_3^-$), and one $SU(2)_C$ quintuplet ($H_5^{++}, H_5^+, H_5^0, H_5^-, H_5^-$).

If compared with the setup envisaged in section I, the spectrum of the GM model has one additional scalar triplet. However, the triplet $H_3$ does not interact with the EW gauge bosons.

The mass eigenstates in terms of gauge eigenstates are

$$H_3^{++} = \chi^{++},$$

$$H_3^+ = (\chi^+ - \chi^-)/\sqrt{2},$$

$$H_3^0 = 2\chi^0 - \sqrt{2}\chi^0_0/\sqrt{6},$$

$$H_3^- = \cos \theta_H (\chi^+ + \chi^-)/\sqrt{2} - \sin \theta_H \phi^+,$$

$$H_3^0 = i(- \cos \theta_H \chi^0_0 + \sin \theta_H \phi^0_0),$$

$$H_3^{0'} = \phi^0_0,$$

$$H_3^{0'} = (\sqrt{2}\chi^0_0 + \phi^0_0)/\sqrt{3}. $$

From the Lagrangian in eq. (19) we find the physical couplings

$$L_{\text{kin}} \supset \cos \theta_H \frac{H_3^0}{v} \left(2m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + m_Z^2 Z_\mu Z_\mu \right)$$

$$+ \frac{2\sqrt{2}}{3} \sin \theta_H \frac{H_1^{0'}}{v} \left(2m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- + m_Z^2 Z_\mu Z_\mu \right)$$

$$+ \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \sin \theta_H \frac{H_3^0}{v} \left(2m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W_\mu^- - m_Z^2 Z_\mu Z_\mu \right),$$

where the doublet-triplet mixing angle is given by

$$\tan \theta_H = 2\sqrt{2} \frac{v_\Delta}{v_\phi}. $$

As far as the charged interactions are concerned, we find, in the $g' \to 0$ limit,

$$L_{\text{kin}} \supset -2 \sin \theta_H \frac{m_W^2 m_Z^2 H_3^0 W_\mu^- Z_\mu + h.c.}{v} .$$

From the interactions in eqs. (22)–(24) we have

$$g_{H_3^{0'}VV}^2 \equiv \cos^2 \theta_H \text{ and } g_{H_3^{0'}}^2 \equiv \frac{8}{3} \sin^2 \theta_H$$

for the singlets, and

$$g_{H_3}^2 \equiv 2 \sin^2 \theta_H,$$

for the quintuplet. The cancellation of the coefficient $B$ in the vector boson scattering amplitude follows from

$$1 - g_{H_3^{0'}VV}^2 - g_{H_3^{0'}}^2 + \frac{5}{6} g_{H_3}^2 = 0.$$

### A. Mass spectra and couplings

After EW symmetry breaking, a mixing between the neutral singlet scalar states $H_1^0$ and $H_1^{0'}$ is generated. The corresponding mass matrix is

$$M^2 = \begin{pmatrix} M_{11}^2 & M_{12}^2 \\ M_{12}^2 & M_{22}^2 \end{pmatrix}.$$
with
\[ M_{11}^2 = 8\lambda_1 v_\phi^2 , \]
\[ M_{12}^2 = \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} v_\phi [ -M_1 + 4 (2\lambda_2 - \lambda_5) v_\Delta ] , \]
\[ M_{22}^2 = \frac{M_1 v_\phi^2}{4v_\Delta} - 6 M_2 v_\Delta + 8(\lambda_3 + 3\lambda_4)v_\Delta^2 . \]
The mass matrix can be easily diagonalized by introducing the physical states
\[ h = c_\alpha H_1^0 - s_\alpha H_1'^0 , \quad H = s_\alpha H_1^0 + c_\alpha H_1'^0 , \]
with \[ \alpha \] a mixing angle and we used the short-hand notation \[ c_\alpha \equiv \cos \alpha , \quad s_\alpha \equiv \sin \alpha \] from which \[ \alpha = \pm \sin^{-1}[(1 - c_{2\alpha})/2] . \] The mass eigenvalues are
\[ 2m_{h,H}^2 = M_{11}^2 + M_{22}^2 \mp \sqrt{\Delta^2} , \]
with \[ \Delta^2 \equiv (M_{11}^2 - M_{22}^2)^2 + 4(M_{12}^2)^2 . \] The mixing angle is defined by
\[ s_{2\alpha} = \frac{2M_{12}^2}{(m_H^2 - m_h^2)} . \]
The masses of the custodial triplet and quintuplet are given by
\[ m_{H_3}^2 = \left( \frac{M_1}{4v_\Delta} + \frac{\lambda_5}{2} \right) v_\Delta^2 , \]
\[ m_{H_5}^2 = \frac{M_1}{4v_\Delta} v_\phi^2 + 12 M_2 v_\Delta + \frac{3}{2} \lambda_5 v_\phi^2 + 8 \lambda_3 v_\Delta^2 . \]
Neglecting loop-induced mass splitting, the mass is degenerate within the same custodial multiplet.

As a consequence of the rotation in eq. (30) and the ratio of VEVs in eq. (23) the Higgs couplings with gauge bosons and fermions are modified with respect to the corresponding SM values. One finds
\[ g_{hWWW} = - \frac{g^2}{6} \left( 8 \sqrt{3} s_\alpha v_\Delta - 3 c_\alpha v_\phi \right) , \]
\[ g_{hhff} = - \frac{im_f}{v} \frac{c_\alpha}{\cos \theta_H} , \]
with \[ g_{hWWW} = c_W^2 g_{hZZZZ} . \]

IV. FITTING THE 750 GEV DI-PHOTON EXCESS

There exists a number of constraints that the parameters of the GM model must satisfy in order to reproduce the observed di-photon excess while, at the same time, not be in violation of other known observables.

First of all, for the model to be consistent, its parameters must
\[ \text{o Satisfy perturbative unitarity.} \] Perturbative unitarity on the 2 \( \rightarrow \) 2 scalar field scattering amplitudes provides a set of stringent constraints on the parameters of the scalar potential [11]:
\[ \sqrt{P_1^2 + 36\lambda_2^2} + |6\lambda_1 + 7\lambda_3 + 11\lambda_4| < 4\pi , \]
\[ \sqrt{Q_\lambda^2 + \lambda_5^2} + |2\lambda_1 - \lambda_3 + 2\lambda_4| < 4\pi , \]
\[ |2\lambda_2 + \lambda_5| < \pi , \]
\[ |\lambda_2 - \lambda_5| < 2\pi , \]
with \[ P_\lambda \equiv 6\lambda_1 - 7\lambda_3 - 11\lambda_4 , \quad Q_\lambda \equiv 2\lambda_1 + \lambda_3 - 2\lambda_4 . \] In addition, we also have
\[ \lambda_2 \in \left( - \frac{2}{3}\pi , \frac{2}{3}\pi \right) , \quad \lambda_5 \in \left( - \frac{8}{3}\pi , \frac{8}{3}\pi \right) . \]
\[ \text{o Have a potential bounded from below.} \] This requirement restricts \( \lambda_{3,4} \) in the following interval
\[ \lambda_3 \in \left( - \frac{1}{2}\pi , \frac{3}{5}\pi \right) , \quad \lambda_4 \in \left( - \frac{1}{5}\pi , \frac{1}{2}\pi \right) . \]

In addition, we must verify that, for each choice of parameters, known experimental constraints are satisfied. These are:
\[ \text{o Modification of the SM Higgs couplings.} \] Higgs coupling measurements [12] strongly constrained the allowed values of \( v_\Delta \) and \( \alpha \).
\[ \text{o Electroweak precision tests.} \] The presence of additional scalar states, charged under the EW symmetry, generates a non-zero contribution to the \( S \) parameter [14].

In order to explore the model, we perform a parameter scan by proceeding as follows:

1. The lightest state \( h \) is the physical Higgs boson, with \( m_h = 125.09 \text{ GeV} \), while we identify the second mass eigenstate \( H \) with the new resonance at \( m_H = 750 \text{ GeV} \). Eq. (31) can be inverted, and one can fix two parameters of the scalar potential. We solve eq. (31) for \( \lambda_1 \) and \( M_1 \).

2. The parameter \( \lambda_{3,4,5} \) are randomly generated within the intervals in eqs. (41)–(42); for each quadruplet, we check that the unitarity constraints are satisfied;

3. The remaining parameters \( v_\Delta \) and \( M_2 \) are randomly generated within the intervals \( v_\Delta \in (0.50) \text{ GeV}, \ |M_2| \in (1, 10^4) \text{ GeV} \). The VEV \( v_\phi \) is given by \( v_\phi = \sqrt{v^2 - 8v_\Delta^2} \).

4. For each sample of values the mass matrix in eq. (28) —and hence the mixing angle \( \alpha \)—and the mass eigenstates in eq. (33) can be computed;
5. As a final step in our Monte-Carlo generation, we check that the values of $v_\Delta$ and $\alpha$ are consistent with the Higgs coupling measurements at the 2-$\sigma$ level. Following [13], we perform a two-parameter $\chi^2$ fit of the most recent ATLAS and CMS measurements [12]. We show in fig. 1 the corresponding 1- and 2-$\sigma$ confidence level contours in the plane $(\alpha, v_\Delta)$.

We also check that the correction to the $S$ parameter is within 3-$\sigma$ of the LEP-I and LEP-II fit of the EW precision observables. In fig. 3 we show the constraint from the EW parameter $\Delta$ and $\sigma$-invariant production cross sections.

Having set the scope and range of the parameter scan, we are now in the position to discuss the fit of the di-photon excess.

### A. Production cross section

The mixing with the Higgs boson in eq. (30) and the presence of a non-zero VEV $v_\Delta$ automatically allows for $H$ production via both Vector Boson Fusion (VBF) and gluon fusion (ggF). The former is triggered by tree-level $H$ couplings with the EW gauge bosons, the latter at one loop by $H$ coupling to SM fermions, with the top quark providing the most sizable contribution.

The relevant couplings are

\[
g_{HHW^+W^-} = \frac{g^2}{6} \left( 8\sqrt{3}c_\alpha v_\Delta + 3s_\alpha v_\phi \right), \quad (43)
\]

\[
g_{H\bar{t}t} = -\frac{m_t}{v} \frac{s_\alpha}{\cos \theta_H}. \quad (44)
\]

The $H$ production cross section can be straightforwardly obtained by rescaling the production cross section of a SM Higgs with $m_h = 750$ GeV. At $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV we have $\sigma(VBF \to h) m_h = 750$ GeV $\simeq 0.1307$ pb and $\sigma(ggF \to h) m_h = 750$ GeV $\simeq 0.736$ pb [15], and the rescaling is simply given by

\[
\sigma(VBF \to H) = (c_V^H)^2 \times \sigma(VBF \to h) m_h = 750 \text{ GeV}, \quad (45)
\]

\[
\sigma(ggF \to H) = (c_F^H)^2 \times \sigma(ggF \to h) m_h = 750 \text{ GeV}, \quad (45)
\]

where

\[
c_V^H = \frac{1}{3} \left[ 8\sqrt{3}c_\alpha v_\Delta + 3s_\alpha v_\phi \right] / v, \quad (46)
\]

\[
c_F^H = \frac{v s_\alpha}{\sqrt{v^2 - 8 v_\Delta^2}}. \quad (47)
\]

In addition to VBF and ggF, we also include—following [16]—production via photon fusion ($\gamma\gamma$F) for inelastic, partially elastic and elastic collisions.

### B. Total decay width and di-photon decay

The di-photon signal strength at $\sqrt{s} = 13$ TeV is given by

\[
\begin{align*}
\mu_H &= \left[ \sigma(ggF \to H) + \sigma(VBF \to H) \right] \times BR(H \to \gamma\gamma) \\
&\quad + 10.8 \text{ pb} \left( \frac{\Gamma_H}{45 \text{ GeV}} \right) \times \left[ BR(H \to \gamma\gamma) \right]^2,
\end{align*}
\]

(48)

where the last line accounts for production via $\gamma\gamma$F [16].

Given the preliminary status of the experimental analysis, we do not perform any complicated fit. On the contrary, the purpose of this section is to check whether the GM model can account for a di-photon signal strength of the order of few fb, that is the order of magnitude suggested by present data. As discussed in section II—a positive answer is anything but trivial in weakly coupled theories (in particular without invoking the presence of extra vector-like fermions with either large multiplicities, electric charge or Yukawa couplings) and would be a remarkable result if achieved in the GM model.

In order to evaluate eq. (48) we need to compute the total decay width of the singlet, $\Gamma_H$, and the di-photon decay width.

At the tree level, $H$ predominantly decays—as far as the SM final states are concerned—into $W^+W^-$, $ZZ$, $t\bar{t}$ and $hh$. The corresponding decay widths can be computed rescaling those of the SM Higgs boson. We find

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma_V^{(H)} &= \frac{G_\mu m_H^3 (c_V^H)^2}{16\sqrt{2} \pi} \delta_V \sqrt{1 - 4x_V (1 - 4x_V + 12x_V^2)}, \\
\Gamma_f^{(H)} &= \frac{G_\mu N_C m_H m_t^3 (c_F^H)^2}{4\sqrt{2} \pi} \left( 1 - \frac{4m_t^2}{m_H^2} \right)^{3/2}, \\
\Gamma_h^{(H)} &= \frac{g_{hhH}^2}{32\pi m_H} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_t^2}{m_H^2}},
\end{align*}
\]

(49)

where $\delta_V = W,Z = 2(1), x_V = m_t^2/m_H^2, G_\mu = 1/(\sqrt{2})^{1/2}$. The trilinear scalar coupling is [11]

\[
g_{hhH} = 24\lambda_1 c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha v_\phi + 8\sqrt{3}c_\alpha s_\alpha^2 v_\Delta (\lambda_3 + 3\lambda_4) + 2 \left[ \sqrt{3}c_\alpha v_\Delta (3c_\alpha^2 - 2) + s_\alpha v_\phi (1 - 3c_\alpha^2) \right] (2\lambda_2 - \lambda_5) - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} M_1 c_\alpha (3c_\alpha^2 - 2) - 4\sqrt{3} M_2 c_\alpha s_\alpha^2.
\]

(50)

The singlet $H$ can also decay into the custodial triplet and quintuplet if the corresponding channels are kinematically allowed. If $m_H > m_{H^s}/2$ ($m_H > m_{H_5}/2$), the new decay channels are $\Gamma_V^{(H)} H_2^{H_3} H_5^{-}, \Gamma_V^{(H)} H_3^{H_5} H_2^{-}, \Gamma_V^{(H)} (H_2^{H_3} H_5^{H_5}, \Gamma_V^{(H)} H_3^{H_5} H_2^{H_3}).$ The decay widths can be computed as
FIG. 1. Contours of production cross section for the scalar resonance \( H \) via VBF (left panel) and ggF (right panel) at \( \sqrt{s} = 13 \) TeV in the two-dimensional plane \( (\alpha, v_3) \). In both cases the red line marks the production cross sections for a SM Higgs boson with \( m_h = 750 \) GeV, that are \( \sigma(\text{VBF} \to h)_{m_h=750 \text{GeV}} \simeq 0.1307 \) pb and \( \sigma(\text{ggF} \to h)_{m_h=750 \text{GeV}} \simeq 0.736 \) pb. The yellow regions represent the 1- and 2-\( \sigma \) confidence level (darker and lighter yellow, respectively) allowed by the Higgs coupling measurements at the LHC.

\[ \text{in eq. (49), and the relevant couplings are [11]}:\]
\[ g_{HH^3H^3} = 8 \sqrt{3} \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 v_\Delta \]
\[ + (4\lambda_2 + \lambda_5) s_\alpha v_\phi + 2 \sqrt{3} M_2 c_\alpha, \]  \( (51) \)

with \( g_{HH^3H^3} = g_{HH^3H^3} = 9 g_{HH^3H^3}^3 - m_\gamma^2 \), and

\[ g_{HH^3H^3} = 64 \lambda_1 s_\alpha v_\Delta \frac{v_\Delta}{v^2} + \frac{8 v_\Delta v_\Delta}{\sqrt{3} v_\Delta^2} c_\alpha (\lambda_3 + 3 \lambda_4) \]
\[ - \frac{2 \sqrt{3} M_2 v_\Delta^2}{v^2} c_\alpha + \frac{16 v_\Delta^3 c_\alpha}{\sqrt{3} v_\Delta^2} (6\lambda_2 + \lambda_5) \]
\[ + \frac{4 v_\Delta M_2}{\sqrt{3} v_\Delta^2} (c_\alpha v_\Delta + \sqrt{3} s_\alpha v_\phi) + \frac{s_\alpha v_\phi}{v^2} (4\lambda_2 - \lambda_5) \]
\[ + \frac{8 \lambda_5 v_\phi}{\sqrt{3} v_\Delta^2} (c_\alpha v_\phi + \sqrt{3} s_\alpha v_\Delta), \]  \( (52) \)

with \( g_{HH^3H^3} = g_{HH^3H^3} \).

Finally, \( H \) can decay into a vector boson plus a custodial triplet scalar. If \( m_h > m_W + m_{H_3} \) and \( m_H > m_Z + m_{H_3} \), the corresponding decay channels are \( \Gamma_{WW} H_3^\pm \) and \( \Gamma_{ZZ} H_3 \). We find

\[ \Gamma_{HH}^{(H)} = \frac{|g_{HH} H_3|^2 m_H^2}{16 \pi m_H} \lambda \left( \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2}, \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2} \right) \left( \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2}, \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2} \right) \lambda^{1/2} \left( \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2}, \frac{m_H^2}{m_H^2} \right) \]

where the kinematic function \( \lambda \) is \( \lambda(x, y) = (1 - x - y)^2 - 4xy \). The relevant couplings are

\[ g_{HH} H_3^\pm = \frac{i \sqrt{2} g}{\sqrt{3} c_W} \left( \frac{c_\alpha v_\phi}{v} - \sqrt{3} s_\alpha v_\phi \right) \]
\[ - \frac{\sqrt{2} g}{\sqrt{3}} \left( \frac{3 s_\alpha v_\Delta}{v} - \frac{c_{alp} h_\alpha v_\phi}{v} \right), \]
\[ g_{HH} H_3 \]

The sum of the tree-level decay widths reconstruct the total width \( \Gamma_H \).

The loop-induced di-photon decay width for the scalar singlet \( H = h, H \) is therefore

\[ \Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{(H)} = \frac{G_F \alpha^3 m_H^3}{128 \sqrt{2} \pi^3} \sum_j N C_j Q_j^2 A_{1/2}(\gamma_j) \]
\[ + g_{HW \tau} A_1^k (\tau_W) + \sum_{\tau_{}\sigma} \beta_{\sigma} Q_{\sigma}^2 A_{1/2}(\tau_{\sigma}) \]
\[ , \]

where the loop functions are known and can be find, for instance, in [17]. The last term in eq. (56) represents the contribution of the electrically charged scalar states, and we have \( \beta_{\sigma} \equiv g_{HH, H^\pm \gamma \tau} / \sqrt{2} m_\gamma^2 \).

The electrically charged scalars affect the di-photon decay of both the new scalar resonance \( H \) and the Higgs \( h \) (the scalar couplings in eqs. (51), (52) for the Higgs boson can be found in [11]). The challenge is to explain the di-photon signal strength observed by ATLAS and CMS without introducing big deviation in the di-photon Higgs decay.

C. Results: \( \mu_H \) and \( \Gamma_H \)

In fig. 2 we show the parameter scan in the plane \( (\mu_H, \Gamma_H) \). There exists a particular region of the scan where the model reproduces a signal strength with size \( \mu_H \sim O(1) \) fb. The red points in fig. 2, where \( \mu_H \) is larger, correspond to the right-hand side of the allowed interval in \( -M_2 \in (1, 10^4) \) GeV. In this range of values the scalar couplings in eqs. (51)–(52) are large, thus
that points where \( \mu_H \sim O(1) \) fb correspond to small and negative mixing angle, \( \alpha \sim -3^\circ \) and triplet VEV \( v_\Delta \lesssim 20 \) GeV. In this region the dominant contribution to the production cross section is given by \( \gamma\gamma F \). Production by means of \( ggF \) and VBF contributes up to 20\%. As a consequence, the tension between the di-photon excess observed at \( \sqrt{s} = 13 \) TeV and the absence of such signal in the dataset at \( \sqrt{s} = 8 \) TeV is alleviated. The production cross section via \( ggF \)—going from \( \sqrt{s} = 13 \) TeV to \( \sqrt{s} = 8 \) TeV—is reduced by the factor \( \left( \sigma(ggF \rightarrow H)_{13\text{TeV}} / \sigma(ggF \rightarrow H)_{8\text{TeV}} \right) = 4.693 \) while the production cross section via \( \gamma\gamma F \) is reduced by a factor of 2. These scaling factors make the di-photon excess at \( \sqrt{s} = 13 \) TeV consistent with the bound extracted from the \( \sqrt{s} = 8 \) TeV dataset.

In fig. 4 we recast the parameter scan in the plane \( (m_{H_5}, m_{H_3}) \). Points where \( \mu_H \sim O(1) \) fb correspond to \( m_{H_5} \sim 400 - 600 \) GeV, \( m_{H_3} \sim 650 - 700 \) GeV. This feature is expected because for these values the corresponding loop in the di-photon decay amplitude of \( H \) is maximised.

The explanation of the di-photon excess in the context of the GM model predicts the presence of additional light scalar degrees of freedom, including the doubly-charged state \( H_5^{++} \). Notice that tree-level decays of \( H \) into triplet or quintuplet scalar states are not kinematically allowed at the red points of the scan. The characteristic phenomenology \([18, 19]\) of these scalar states represents a signature of the model.

We checked that the model, for the chosen choice of parameter values, is consistent with other searches for resonant production of a pair of SM particles which constrain the tree-level decay modes of \( H \) \([2]\).

As it can be seen in fig. 3—there is a moderate tension...
with the EW parameter \( S \) for which the fit of the di-photon excess (the red dots) only agrees at the 3-\( \sigma \) level. This is to be expected given the presence of the additional charged new states.

The Higgs scaling factor \( \kappa_\gamma \) is defined as the ratio between the loop-induced \( h \rightarrow \gamma \gamma \) coupling in the GM model with respect to that of the SM. At the red points in fig. 2, we find \( 0.8 \lesssim \kappa_\gamma \lesssim 1.2 \). The presence of such deviation is consistent with the present experimental bound \([12]\).

We find that the other two neutral scalars, \( H_3^0 \) and \( H_5^0 \) give a negligible contribution to the di-photon cross section.

Concerning the total decay width \( \Gamma_H \), points where \( \mu_H \sim O(1) \) fb correspond to \( \Gamma_H \sim 1 \) GeV. The value of the total decay width suggested by data represents at the moment the most controversial aspect of the di-photon excess. Since the typical di-photon invariant mass resolution at 750 GeV is estimated to be around 10 GeV, it is natural to expect a large total decay width, \( \Gamma_H \lesssim 40 \) GeV. At this stage of the experimental analysis no conclusive statements can be made, and the value \( \Gamma_H \sim 1 \) GeV is perfectly consistent with the data. However, if large values of \( \Gamma_H \) are confirmed by future analysis, an explanation of the di-photon excess in terms of weakly coupled theories will be disfavored.

\[ \Gamma_H = \frac{2\pi e^2 c_{\gamma\gamma} H_{\mu\nu} A_{\mu\nu}}{64\pi^2} \]  

D. Perturbative reliability

The result above is qualitatively different with respect to both the case in which the resonance is not taking part in the EW symmetry breaking (and one is forced to introduce additional electrically charged vector-like fermions to boost both production cross section and di-photon decay) and the 2HDM (in which the condition \( \mu_H \sim O(1) \) fb requires unrealistically large Yukawa couplings). In our scan, all the dimensionless couplings of the GM model are kept within the perturbative regime.

This point is better understood in terms of the overall size of the di-photon decay induced by the loop of scalar particles. In full generality, we can consider the effective Lagrangian

\[ \mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{e^2}{4v} c_{\gamma\gamma} H_{\mu\nu} A^{\mu\nu}, \]  

with \( A_{\mu\nu} \) the usual photon field strength. The effective operator in eq. (57) induces the di-photon decay

\[ \Gamma^{(H)} = \frac{c_{\gamma\gamma} e^4 m_H^2}{64\pi^2} \]  

We can recast, for illustrative purposes, the scalar loop contribution in eq. (56) in terms of the Wilson coefficient \( c_{\gamma\gamma} \). Approximating for simplicity the scalar loop function as \( A_0(\tau) \sim -1/3 \), we find

\[ c_{\gamma\gamma}(s) = \left[ \frac{\beta_s Q_s^4}{36(4\pi)^2} \right]^{1/2} \quad s = H_5^+, H_5^{++}, H_3^+. \]

In fig. 5 we show the typical size of these coefficients in our parameter scan. The typical size is \( c_{\gamma\gamma}(s) \sim 0.05 \). The only exception is \( c_{\gamma\gamma}(H_5^{++}) \), which can reach values \( c_{\gamma\gamma}(H_5^{++}) \lesssim 0.4 \) (due to the large electric charge, \( Q_{H_5^{++}} = 16 \)).

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