Heavy MSSM Higgs Interpretation of the LHC Run I Data

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We review that the heavy CP-even MSSM Higgs boson is still a viable candidate to explain the Higgs signal at 125 GeV. This is possible in a highly constrained parameter region, that will be probed by LHC searches for the CP-odd Higgs boson and the charged Higgs boson in the near future. We briefly discuss the new benchmark scenarios that can be employed to maximize the sensitivity of the experimental analysis to this interpretation.

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1. Introduction

The discovery of a SM-like Higgs boson in Run I of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [1, 2] marks a milestone in the exploration of electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB). Within experimental and theoretical uncertainties, the properties of the new particle are compatible with the Higgs boson of the Standard Model (SM) [3]. Looking beyond the SM, also the light CP-even Higgs boson of the Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) [4] is a perfect candidate, as it possesses SM Higgs-like properties over a significant part of the model parameter space with only small deviations from the SM in the Higgs production and decay rates [5].

Here we will review [6] that also the heavy CP-even Higgs boson of the MSSM is a viable candidate to explain the observed signal at 125 GeV. (the “heavy Higgs case”, which has been discussed in Refs. [5–11]). At lowest order, the Higgs sector of the MSSM can be fully specified in terms of the $W$ and $Z$ boson masses, $M_W$ and $M_Z$, the CP-odd Higgs boson mass, $M_A$, and $\tan \beta \equiv v_2/v_1$, the ratio of the two neutral Higgs vacuum expectation values. However, higher-order corrections are crucial for a precise prediction of the MSSM Higgs boson properties and introduce dependences on other model parameters, see e.g. Refs. [12–14] for reviews.

In the heavy Higgs case all five MSSM Higgs bosons are relatively light, and in particular the lightest CP-even Higgs boson has a mass (substantially) smaller than 125 GeV with suppressed couplings to gauge bosons. We review whether the heavy Higgs case in the MSSM can still provide a good theoretical description of the current experimental data, and which parts of the parameter space of the MSSM are favored. We also discuss the newly defined benchmark scenarios in which this possibility is realized, in agreement with all current Higgs constraints.

2. Theoretical basis

In the supersymmetric extension of the SM, an even number of Higgs multiplets consisting of pairs of Higgs doublets with opposite hypercharge is required to avoid anomalies due to the supersymmetric Higgsino partners. Consequently the MSSM employs two Higgs doublets, denoted by $H_1$ and $H_2$, with hypercharges $-1$ and $+1$, respectively. After minimizing the scalar potential, the neutral components of $H_1$ and $H_2$ acquire vacuum expectation values (vevs), $v_1$ and $v_2$. Without loss of generality, one can assume that the vevs are real and non-negative, yielding

$$v^2 \equiv v_1^2 + v_2^2 \simeq (246 \text{ GeV})^2, \quad \tan \beta \equiv v_2/v_1.$$  \hspace{1cm} (2.1)

The two-doublet Higgs sector gives rise to five physical Higgs states. Neglecting CP-violating phases the mass eigenstates correspond to the neutral CP-even Higgs bosons $h, H$ (with $M_h < M_H$), the CP-odd $A$, and the charged Higgs pair $H^{\pm}$.

At lowest order, the MSSM Higgs sector is fully described by $M_Z$ and two MSSM parameters, conveniently chosen as $M_A$, and $\tan \beta$. Higher order corrections to the Higgs masses are known to be sizable and must be included, in order to be consistent with the observed Higgs signal at 125 GeV [3]. In order to shift the mass of $h$ up to 125 GeV, large radiative corrections are necessary, which require a large splitting in the stop sector and/or heavy stops. The stop (sbottom) sector is governed by the soft SUSY-breaking mass parameter $M_{\tilde{t}_L}$ and $M_{\tilde{b}_L}$ ($M_{\tilde{b}_R}$ and $M_{\tilde{t}_R}$), where
SU(2) gauge invariance requires $M_{\ell i} = M_{b_i}$, the trilinear coupling $A_f$ ($A_b$) and the Higgsino mass parameter $\mu$.

The “heavy Higgs case”, i.e. the heavy CP-even Higgs boson gives rise to the signal observed at 125 GeV can only be realized in the alignment without decoupling limit. In the so-called Higgs basis (see Ref. [6] for details and citations), the scalar Higgs potential in terms of the Higgs basis fields $H_1$ and $H_2$, can be expressed as

$$V = \ldots + \frac{1}{2} Z_1 (H_1^\dagger H_1) + \ldots + \left[ Z_5 (H_1^\dagger H_2)^2 + Z_6 (H_1^\dagger H_1)(H_2^\dagger H_2) + \text{h.c.} \right] + \ldots ,$$

(2.2)

where the most important terms of the scalar potential are highlighted above. The quartic couplings $Z_1$, $Z_5$ and $Z_6$ are linear combinations of the quartic couplings that appear in the MSSM Higgs potential expressed in terms of the Higgs fields $H^i$ fields (see Ref. [6] for details and citations), the scalar Higgs potential in terms of the Higgs basis $\phi$ is

$$\mathcal{V} = \ldots + \frac{1}{2} \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi + \left[ \frac{1}{4} \lambda_1 \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi \phi^\dagger \phi + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_2 \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi \phi^\dagger \phi + \frac{1}{4} \lambda_3 \mu^2 \phi^\dagger \phi \phi^\dagger \phi \phi^\dagger \phi + \text{h.c.} \right] + \ldots ,$$

(2.1)

The alignment without decoupling limit is reached for $|Z_6| < 1$. In this case $h$ is SM-like if $M_{\tilde{A}}^2 + (Z_5 - Z_1)^2 > 0$ and $H$ is SM-like if $M_{\tilde{A}}^2 + (Z_5 - Z_1)^2 < 0$: the “heavy Higgs case”.

The possibility of alignment without decoupling has been analyzed in detail in Refs. [15–22] (see also the “$\tau$-phobic” benchmark scenario in Ref. [23]). It was pointed out that exact alignment via $|Z_6| < 1$ can only happen through an accidental cancellation of the tree-level terms with contributions arising at the one-loop level (or higher).

3. Parameter scan and observables

The results shown below have been obtained by scanning the MSSM parameter space. To achieve a good sampling of the full MSSM parameter space with $\mathcal{O}(10^7)$ points, we restrict ourselves to the eight MSSM parameters, called the pMSSM 8,

$$\tan \beta, \quad M_A, \quad M_{\tilde{q}_i}, \quad A_f, \quad \mu, \quad M_{\tilde{t}_1}, \quad M_{\tilde{t}_2}, \quad M_2,$$

(3.1)

most relevant for the phenomenology of the Higgs sector. Here $\mu$ denotes the Higgs mixing parameter, $M_{\tilde{t}_1}$ ($M_{\tilde{t}_12}$) is the diagonal soft SUSY-breaking parameters for scalar quarks in the third (second and first) generation, and $M_2$ denotes the SU(2) gaugino soft SUSY-breaking parameter. The scan assumes furthermore that the third generation squark and slepton parameters are universal. That is, we take $M_{\tilde{q}_i} := M_{\tilde{q}_L} = M_{\tilde{b}_L} = M_{\tilde{t}_R}, M_{\tilde{t}_3} := M_{\tilde{t}_3} = M_{\tilde{t}_R} = M_{\tilde{t}_L}$, and $A_f := A_f = A_b = A_\tau$.

The remaining MSSM parameters are fixed,

$$M_{\tilde{q}_L} = M_{\tilde{q}_R} (q = c, s, u, d) = 1500 \text{ GeV},$$

(3.2)

$$M_5 = m_\tilde{g} = 1500 \text{ GeV}.$$

(3.3)

The high values for the squark and gluino mass parameters, which have a minor impact on the Higgs sector, are chosen in order to be in agreement with the limits from direct SUSY searches. The U(1) gaugino mass parameter is fixed via the usual GUT relation. The pMSSM 8 parameter
Table 1: Ranges used for the free parameters in the pMSSM 8 scan.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Minimum</th>
<th>Maximum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$M_A$ [GeV]</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\tan \beta$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_{\tilde{q}_3}$ [GeV]</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_{\tilde{t}_1}$ [GeV]</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_{\tilde{t}_{1,2}}$ [GeV]</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>1000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\mu$ [GeV]</td>
<td>$-5000$</td>
<td>5000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A_f$ [GeV]</td>
<td>$-3 M_{\tilde{q}_3}$</td>
<td>$3 M_{\tilde{q}_3}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_2$ [GeV]</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Results for the “heavy Higgs case”

Based on the above described $\chi^2$ evaluation the best-fit point, shown as a star below, and the preferred parameter regions are derived. Points with $\Delta \chi^2 < 2.30$ (5.99) are highlighted in red (yellow), corresponding to points in a two-dimensional 68% (95%) C.L. region in the Gaussian limit. The best fit point has a $\chi^2$/dof of 73.7/85, corresponding to a $p$-value of 0.87, i.e. the heavy Higgs case presents an excellent fit to the experimental data [6].

1Recent updates in the Higgs boson mass calculations [24] lead to a downward shift in $M_h$, in particular for large values of $x_t/M_S$. These changes range within the estimated uncertainties and should not have a drastic impact on our analysis.
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In Fig. 1 [6] we review the correlations for the heavy Higgs signal rates,

\[ R^{P(H)}_{XX} = \frac{\sum_{P(H)} \sigma(P(H)) \times \text{BR}(H \rightarrow XX)}{\sum_{P(H)} \sigma_{SM}(P(H)) \times \text{BR}_{SM}(H \rightarrow XX)} \]

(4.1)

Here XX = VV, γγ, bb, ττ (with V = W^±, Z) denotes the final state from the Higgs decay and P(H) denotes the Higgs production mode. It can be seen that the heavy Higgs case can reproduce the SM case \( R^{P(H)}_{XX} = 1 \), but also allows for some spread, in particular in \( R^{H}_{\tau\tau} \).

Figure 1: Correlations between signal rates for the heavy Higgs case. The best-fit points are shown as a black star, and points with \( \Delta \chi^2_H < 2.3 \) (shown in red) and \( \Delta \chi^2_H < 5.99 \) (shown in yellow).

The MSSM parameter space for the heavy Higgs scenario is shown in Fig. 2. The left plot indicates the preferred regions in the \( M_A - \tan \beta \) plane, where one can see that 140 GeV \( \lesssim M_A \lesssim 185 \) GeV must be fulfilled, while \( \tan \beta \) ranges between \( \sim 6 \) and \( \sim 11 \). The right plot shows the preferred regions in the \( X_t/M_S-\tilde{m}_t \) plane. Here the heavy Higgs case makes a clear prediction with 300 GeV \( \lesssim \tilde{m}_t \lesssim 650 \) GeV and \( X_t/M_S \sim -1.5 \). Some properties of the light CP-even Higgs boson are shown in Fig. 3. The left plot shows the light Higgs boson coupling to massive gauge bosons relative to the SM value. One can see that the coupling squared is suppressed by a factor of 1000 or more, rendering its discovery via \( e^+ e^- \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow Zh \) at LEP impossible [33, 34]. The right plot gives the BR \( (H \rightarrow hh) \) for \( M_h \lesssim M_H/2 \). Here it is shown that the BR does not exceed 20%, and thus does not distort the coupling measurements of the heavy Higgs at \( \sim 125 \) GeV too much [3].
5. Updated benchmark scenarios

In Ref. [6] an updated set of benchmarks for the heavy Higgs case was presented, superseeding the experimentally excluded low-$M_H$ scenario [23]. The parameters of the three new benchmark scenarios are given in Tab. 2. The low-$M_H^{\text{alt}}$ (low-$M_H^{\text{alt}+}$) scenario is defined in the $\mu$-tan $\beta$ plane with $M_{H^\pm} < (>) m_t$, while the low-$M_H^{\text{alt}+}$ scenario has a fixed $\mu$ in the $M_{H^\pm}$-tan $\beta$ plane.

The experimentally allowed parameter space in the three benchmark scenarios is shown in Fig. 4.\footnote{In the evaluation of these plots the two-loop corrections to the $M_A$-$M_{H^\pm}$ mass relation had been omitted. Taking them into account will lead to a slight shift of the $M_h$ contour lines.} The red, orange and blue regions are disfavoured at the 95\% C.L. by LEP light Higgs $h$ searches [34], LHC $H/A \to \tau^+ \tau^-$ searches [35,36] and LHC $t \to H^+ b \to (\nu \tau)b$ searches [37,38], respectively. The green area indicates parameter regions that are compatible with the Higgs signal (at $\sim 95\%$ C.L., see Ref. [6] for details), unphysical regions are displayed in gray. Contour lines indicate the Higgs masses $M_h$ and $M_H$ (in GeV).
shows that the heavy Higgs case re-

Table 2: Parameters of the updated low-$M_H$ benchmark scenarios, see Ref. [6] for more details. The lower row gives the fixed parameters that are common to all three benchmark scenarios and $M_1 = \frac{5}{3} M_2$.

### Benchmark scenario | $M_H [\text{GeV}]$ | $\mu [\text{GeV}]$ | $\tan\beta$
--- | --- | --- | ---
low-$M_H^{\text{alt-}}$ | 155 | 3800 − 6500 | 4 − 9
low-$M_H^{\text{alt+}}$ | 185 | 4800 − 7000 | 4 − 9
low-$M_H^{\text{altv}}$ | 140 − 220 | 6000 | 4 − 9

fixed parameters: $m_t = 173.2 \text{ GeV}$, $A_t = A_\tau = A_h = -70 \text{ GeV}$, $M_2 = 300 \text{ GeV}$, $M_{H^\pm} = M_{h^0} = 1500 \text{ GeV} \ (q = c, s, u, d)$, $m_\tilde{g} = 1500 \text{ GeV}$,

$M_{q_3} = 750 \text{ GeV}$, $M_{\tilde{t}_{1,2}} = 250 \text{ GeV}$, $M_{\tilde{t}_3} = 500 \text{ GeV}$

Figure 4: The low-$M_H^{\text{alt-}}$ and low-$M_H^{\text{alt+}}$ benchmark scenarios in the $\mu$-tan$\beta$ plane with $M_{H^\pm} = 155 \text{ GeV}$ (upper left), and with $M_{H^\pm} = 185 \text{ GeV}$ (lower right), and the low-$M_H^{\text{altv}}$ benchmark scenario in the $M_{H^\pm}$-tan$\beta$ plane with $\mu = 6000 \text{ GeV}$ in the lower row. For the color coding and line styles see text.

While being “squeezed” from different searches, Fig. 4 shows that the heavy Higgs case remains a valid option with the interesting feature of a light $CP$-even Higgs below 125 GeV. We hope that the new benchmark scenarios facilitate the search for these light Higgs bosons as well as for the heavier, not yet discovered Higgs bosons in Run II.
6. Conclusinos

We have briefly reviewed the case that the Higgs boson observed at $\sim 125$ GeV is the heavy $\mathcal{CP}$-even Higgs boson in the MSSM, as recently analyzed in Ref. [6]. The analysis uses an eight-dimensional MSSM parameter scan to find the regions in the parameter space that fit best the experimental data. It was found that the rates of the heavy $\mathcal{CP}$-Higgs boson are close to the SM rates, but can still differ by 20% or more to yield a good fit. Parameters such as $M_A$, $\tan \beta$ or $m_{\tilde{t}_1}$ are confined to relatively small intervals, making clear predictions for Higgs and SUSY searches. The light $\mathcal{CP}$-even Higgs boson escaped the LEP searches via a tiny coupling to SM gauge bosons, and the decay $H \rightarrow hh$ is sufficiently suppressed not to impact too strongly the heavy Higgs boson rates. Three new benchmark scenarios have been reviewed that have been defined to facilitate the experimental searches at the LHC Run II.

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References

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