

## Production and decays of BSM Higgs bosons in various models

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The recent discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC marked the completion of the Standard Model (SM) of strong and electroweak interactions. I will summarize the theoretical ingredients involved in the production and decay processes at the LHC that allowed and will allow for a quite concise picture of the properties of the discovered resonance. These theoretical calculations are a crucial contribution to the discrimination of the SM from BSM scenarios at the LHC. I'll discuss the theoretical status of production cross sections and decay widths for MSSM Higgs bosons as an example of BSM Higgs bosons.

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## 1. Introduction

The discovery of a Standard-Model-like Higgs boson at the LHC [1] completed the theory of electroweak and strong interactions. The measured Higgs mass of  $(125.09 \pm 0.24)$  GeV [2] ranges at the order of the weak scale. The existence of the Higgs boson [3] allows the SM particles to be weakly interacting up to high-energy scales. This, however, is only possible for particular Higgs-boson couplings to all other particles so that with the knowledge of the Higgs-boson mass all its properties are uniquely fixed. The massive gauge bosons and fermions acquire mass through their interaction with the Higgs field that develops a finite vacuum expectation value in its ground state. The minimal model requires the introduction of one isospin doublet of the Higgs field and leads after spontaneous symmetry breaking to the existence of one scalar Higgs boson.

The minimal supersymmetric extension of the Standard Model (MSSM) introduces two Higgs doublets leading to five elementary Higgs bosons after electroweak symmetry breaking, two neutral CP-even (scalar) bosons  $h, H$ , one neutral CP-odd (pseudoscalar) boson  $A$  and two charged bosons  $H^\pm$ . The MSSM Higgs sector is determined by two input parameters at leading order, which are generally chosen as  $\tan\beta = v_2/v_1$ , the ratio of the two vacuum expectation values  $v_{1,2}$ , and the pseudoscalar Higgs mass  $M_A$ , if all SUSY parameters are real. Taking into account the one-loop and dominant two-loop corrections the upper bound on the light scalar Higgs mass is lifted to  $M_h \lesssim 135$  GeV [4]. The additional three-loop results affect this upper bound by less than 1 GeV [5]. The Higgs couplings to gauge bosons and fermions depend on the mixing angles  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$ , which are fixed by diagonalizing the neutral and charged Higgs mass matrices. For large  $\tan\beta$  values the down-type Yukawa couplings are enhanced and the up-type Yukawa couplings suppressed, if the light (heavy) scalar Higgs mass does not range at its upper (lower) bound, where the couplings become Standard-Model-like (up to a sign for the heavy scalar Higgs boson).

## 2. Higgs Boson Decays

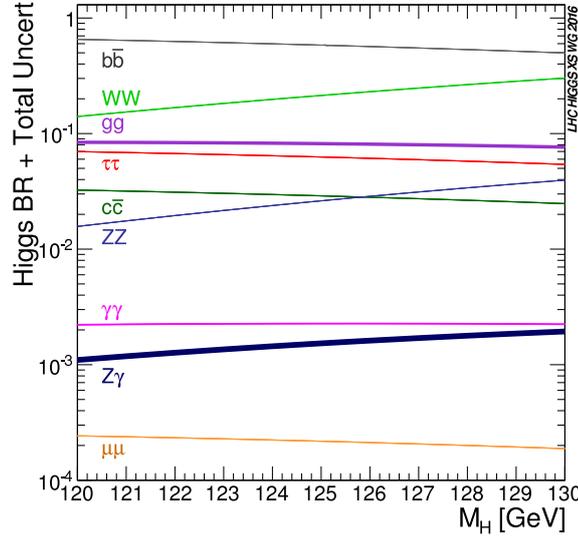
For the SM, the determination of the branching ratios of Higgs-boson decays necessitates the inclusion of the available higher-order corrections [6] and a sophisticated estimate of the theoretical and parametric uncertainties. The parametric errors are dominated by the uncertainties in the top, bottom and charm quark masses as well as the strong coupling  $\alpha_s$ . We have used the  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  masses for the bottom and charm quark [7],  $\overline{m}_b(\overline{m}_b) = (4.18 \pm 0.03)$  GeV and  $\overline{m}_c(3 \text{ GeV}) = (0.986 \pm 0.026)$  GeV, and the top quark pole mass  $m_t = (172.5 \pm 1)$  GeV according to the conventions of the LHC Higgs Cross Section WG (HXSWG) [7]. The  $\overline{\text{MS}}$  bottom and charm masses are evolved from the input scale to the scale of the decay process with 4-loop accuracy in QCD. The strong coupling  $\alpha_s$  is fixed by the input value at the Z-boson mass scale,  $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.118 \pm 0.0015$ . The total parametric uncertainty for each branching ratio has been derived from a quadratic sum of the individual impacts of the input parameters on the decay modes.

The theoretical uncertainties within the SM from missing higher orders in the perturbative expansion are summarized in Table 1 for the individual partial decay processes along with the perturbative orders of the included QCD/elw. corrections [6]. In order to be conservative the total parametric uncertainties are added linearly to the theoretical uncertainties. For the SM, the final result for the branching ratios is shown in Fig. 1 for the leading Higgs decay modes with branching

Partial Width	QCD	Electroweak	Total	on-shell Higgs
$H \rightarrow b\bar{b}/c\bar{c}$	$\sim 0.2\%$	$\sim 0.5\%$	$\sim 0.5\%$	$N^4\text{LO} / \text{NLO}$
$H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-/\mu^+\mu^-$	—	$\sim 0.5\%$	$\sim 0.5\%$	— / NLO
$H \rightarrow gg$	$\sim 3\%$	$\sim 1\%$	$\sim 3\%$	$N^3\text{LO} / \text{NLO}$
$H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$	$< 1\%$	$< 1\%$	$\sim 1\%$	NLO / NLO
$H \rightarrow Z\gamma$	$< 1\%$	$\sim 5\%$	$\sim 5\%$	LO / LO
$H \rightarrow WW/ZZ \rightarrow 4f$	$< 0.5\%$	$\sim 0.5\%$	$\sim 0.5\%$	NLO

**Table 1:** Estimated theoretical uncertainties from missing higher orders and the perturbative orders (QCD/elw.) of the results included in the analysis.

ratio larger than  $10^{-4}$  for the Higgs-mass range between 120 and 130 GeV. They have been obtained with PROPHECY4F [8] for the decays  $H \rightarrow WW, ZZ$  and HDECAY [9] for the other decay modes. The bands represent the total uncertainties of the individual branching ratios.

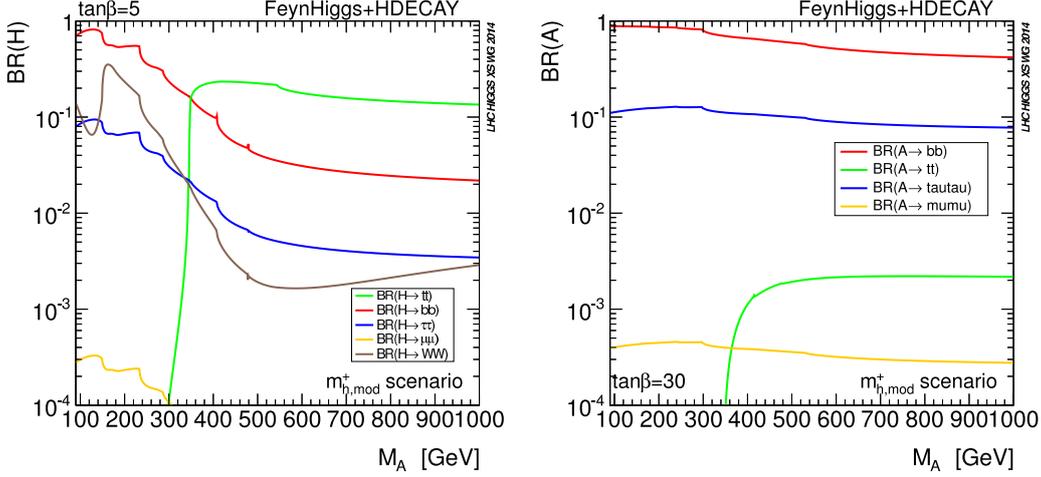


**Figure 1:** Higgs boson branching ratios and their uncertainties for Higgs masses around 125 GeV. From Ref. [7].

The three major differences between the decay widths of the SM Higgs boson and the MSSM Higgs bosons are the existence of 5 different Higgs bosons, the potentially possible and relevant decay modes into supersymmetric particles as squarks and gauginos and the numerically significant corrections to the bottom Yukawa coupling, the ' $\Delta_b$ ' corrections [10]. While the light scalar Higgs behaves as the SM Higgs boson in most viable MSSM scenarios, the decay profile of the heavy Higgs bosons  $H, A, H^\pm$  is completely different. Examples of the MSSM Higgs branching ratios are shown in Fig. 2. A detailed discussion of the theoretical ingredients can be found e.g. in Ref. [6].

### 3. Higgs Boson Production

Within the SM the dominant Higgs production channel at the LHC is gluon fusion. While the NLO result is known exactly [11] the QCD corrections beyond NLO are known in the heavy-top-



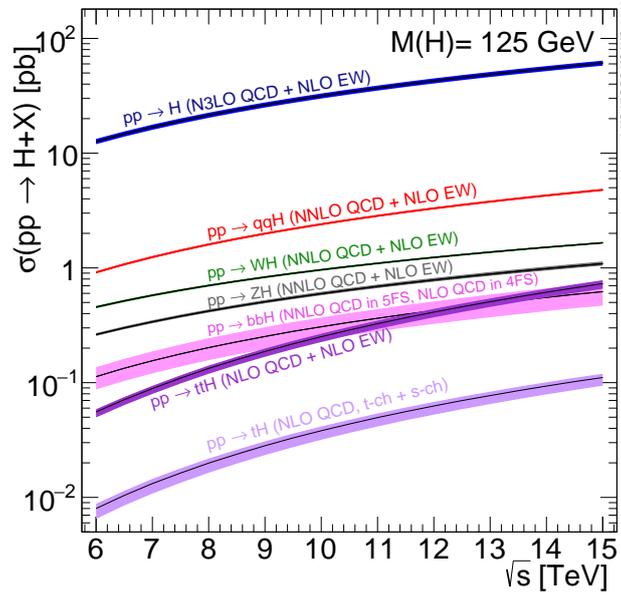
**Figure 2:** MSSM Higgs boson branching ratios for the heavy scalar and the pseudoscalar at two values of  $\tan\beta$ . From Ref. [7].

quark limit [12, 13, 14] that, however, provides a reliable approximation for the inclusive cross section. Soft-gluon effects beyond  $N^3\text{LO}$  turned out to be small [15]. The next sizable Higgs production mode is provided by vector-boson fusion. The QCD and elw. corrections are known at NLO exactly [16, 17], while QCD corrections are known up to  $N^3\text{LO}$  within the structure-function approach [18]. Higgs-strahlung off  $W/Z$  bosons is known at NLO elw. [19] and NNLO QCD [20]. Finally Higgs bremsstrahlung off top quarks is known at NLO QCD [21] and elw. [22], while single top plus Higgs boson production is known at NLO QCD [23].

The associated production of the Higgs boson with a  $b\bar{b}$  pair is plagued by potentially sizable logarithms that emerge from the transverse-momentum integration of the final-state bottom quarks. The logarithms are related to the DGLAP evolution of bottom densities inside the proton. This leads to two different approaches for the calculation of this process, the 4-flavour scheme (4FS) and the 5-flavour scheme (5FS), where the first does not include bottom quarks in the proton and the running of  $\alpha_s$ , while the 5FS does. The advantage of the 4FS is that the full  $b$ -mass dependence and off-shell effects are kept at each perturbative order, while the 5FS requires massless and on-shell bottom quarks, but resums the logarithms by the DGLAP evolution of the bottom densities of the proton. The typical factorization scale to be chosen for the bottom densities has been shown to be significantly smaller than the natural scale in the 5FS [24] so that the logarithms turn out to be of more moderate size. However, (up to finite bottom-mass effects) both approaches have to converge towards each other at higher orders. The 4FS calculation is known at NLO [25] and the 5FS calculation up to NNLO [26] in QCD. Both differ by about 20–30%. Recently a consistent matching between both schemes has been performed in two different approaches [27] with mutual agreement within their respective uncertainties thus providing the best possible prediction with the present state of the art.

All Higgs boson production cross sections have been updated with the known higher-order corrections and the most recent parton density functions, i.e. the PDF4LHC15 sets [28], where NLO densities have been used consistently for NLO predictions and NNLO densities for NNLO predictions. Using the same values of the input parameters as for the branching ratios discussed before and their uncertainties a rigorous analysis has been performed to derive a reliable prediction

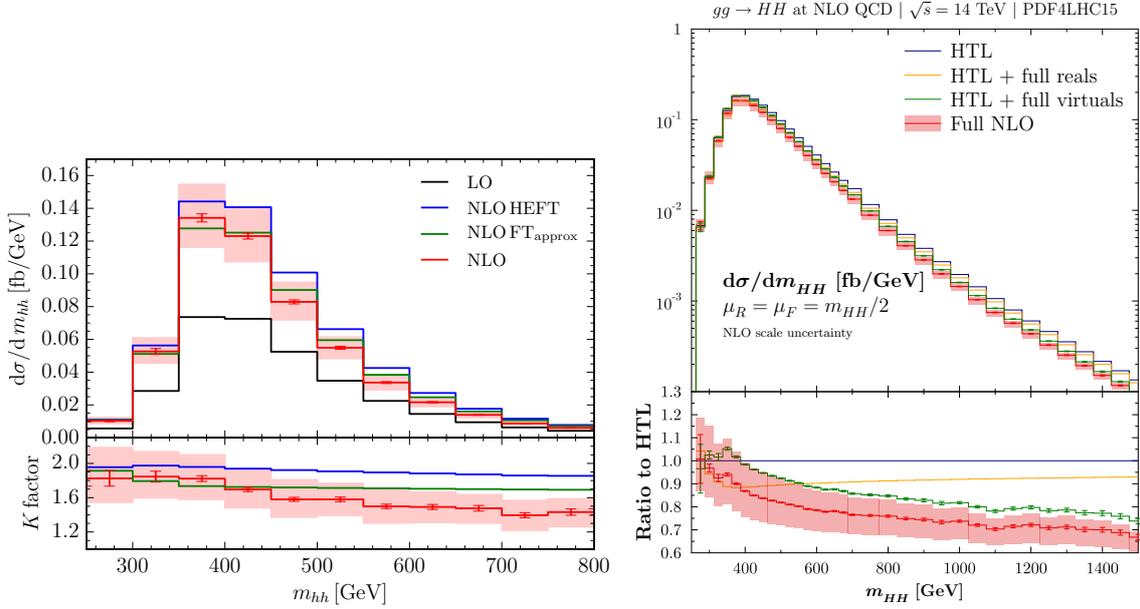
of the central cross section values and their uncertainties. The results are shown in Fig. 3 as a function of the c.m. energy at the LHC for a Higgs mass  $M_H = 125$  GeV. The size of the coloured bands represents the individual sums of the theoretical and parametric uncertainties. All production cross sections with results beyond NLO in QCD exhibit a small residual uncertainty in the few-per-cent range. Only the cross sections for  $t\bar{t}H$ ,  $b\bar{b}H$  and  $tH$  production develop larger uncertainties. The theoretical and parametric uncertainties of each production process have been added in quadrature. The gluon-fusion cross sections can be predicted with a total (Gaussian) uncertainty of about 5%, the vector-boson-fusion and  $WH$  Higgs-strahlung channels with less than 3% uncertainty and the  $ZH$  Higgs-strahlung channel with about 4% uncertainty due to the novel loop contributions from  $gg \rightarrow ZH$ . The two-loop QCD corrections to the latter process are known in the limit of heavy top quarks [29]. The uncertainties of  $t\bar{t}H$  production amount to about 10–15%, for  $s$ - and  $t$ -channel  $tH$  production to about 15–20% and for  $b\bar{b}H$  production to about 20–25%.



**Figure 3:** Higgs boson production cross sections as a function of the c.m. energy at the LHC for a Higgs mass  $M_H = 125$  GeV including the most up-to-date higher-order corrections as indicated at the shown cross section bands. The size of the bands reflects the total estimated theoretical uncertainties. From Ref. [7].

In the MSSM there are additional contributions of squarks to the gluon-fusion mechanism that are sizeable for squark masses below about 500 GeV. The pure QCD corrections [30] and the full SUSY-QCD corrections [31] have been calculated at NLO resulting in a similar large increase of the cross sections for the QCD part, while the sign of the SUSY-QCD part depends mainly on the sign of the  $\mu$  parameter. On the other hand the genuine SUSY-QCD and SUSY-elw. corrections to vector-boson fusion and Higgs-strahlung are small [32], while the SUSY-QCD corrections to the associated MSSM Higgs production with a  $t\bar{t}$  pair are of moderate size [33]. For  $b\bar{b} + H/A$  production the genuine SUSY-QCD/elw. corrections can be reliably approximated by the  $\Delta_b$  terms [33]. The dominant charged Higgs production mode is the associated production with a top and bottom quark. The QCD corrections are sizeable [34, 35], while the genuine SUSY-QCD part is of moderate size for small  $tg\beta$ , and for large  $tg\beta$  it can be reliably approximated by the  $\Delta_b$  corrections [34].

Higgs-boson pair production will allow for the first time to probe the trilinear Higgs self-coupling directly and thus the first part of the Higgs potential as the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking. The dominant Higgs pair production mode is gluon fusion  $gg \rightarrow HH$  that is loop-induced at LO and mediated by top and to a much lesser extent bottom loops [36]. The total gluon-fusion cross section is about three orders of magnitude smaller than the corresponding single-Higgs production cross section. The dependence of the gluon-fusion cross section on the trilinear Higgs coupling  $\lambda$  is approximately given by  $\Delta\sigma/\sigma \sim -\Delta\lambda/\lambda$  so that the uncertainties of the cross section are immediately translated into the uncertainty of the extracted trilinear coupling  $\lambda$ . In order to reduce the uncertainties of the cross section higher-order corrections are required. The NLO QCD corrections have first been obtained in the heavy-top limit [37] supplemented by a large top-mass expansion [38] and the inclusion of the full real corrections [39]. Quite recently the full NLO calculation including the full top-mass dependence has been performed [40, 41, 42] showing a 15%-difference to the result obtained in the heavy-top limit for the total cross section. For the distributions the differences can reach 20 – 30% for large invariant Higgs pair masses. The full NLO results are shown in Fig. 4. The NLO QCD corrections increase the cross section by close to

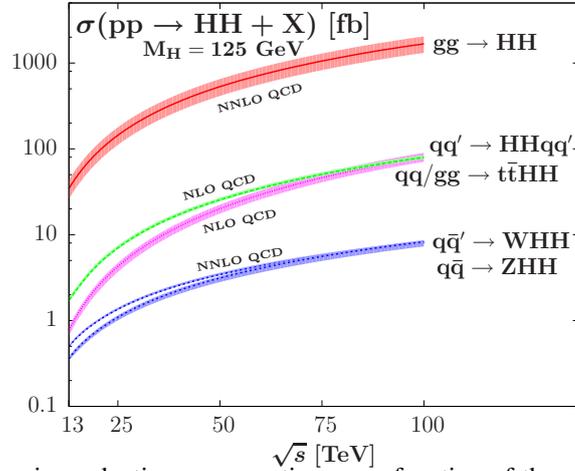


**Figure 4:** Higgs boson pair production cross sections as a function of the invariant Higgs pair mass at the LHC for a Higgs mass  $M_H = 125$  GeV including the NLO QCD corrections. The size of the bands reflects the total renormalization and factorization scale uncertainties. From (left) Ref. [40] and (right) Ref. [42].

a factor two. Within the heavy top limit the NNLO QCD corrections have been derived and raise the cross section by a moderate amount of 20 – 30% thus signaling perturbative convergence in analogy to the single-Higgs case [43]. The soft-gluon resummation adds only less than about 10% beyond NNLO [44]. Recently the full NLO result and the NNLO corrections in the heavy-top limit have been combined in a fully exclusive Monte Carlo program [45] that is publicly available. Moreover, the matching of the full NLO results to parton showers has been performed [46] so that there are complete NLO event generators containing these corrections.

The subleading Higgs pair production cross sections consist of vector-boson fusion  $qq \rightarrow qqHH$  that is known up to  $N^3$ LO QCD [47, 48] in the structure-function approach, the associated

Higgs pair production with a top pair  $gg, q\bar{q} \rightarrow t\bar{t}HH$  that is known up to NLO QCD [39] and double Higgs-strahlung  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow VHH$  ( $V = W, Z$ ) that is known up to NNLO QCD [47]. The different production cross sections are shown in Fig. 5 as a function of the hadronic c.m. energy.



**Figure 5:** Higgs boson pair production cross sections as a function of the c.m. energy at hadron colliders for a Higgs mass  $M_H = 125$  GeV including the most up-to-date higher-order corrections as indicated at the shown cross section bands. The size of the bands reflects the total estimated theoretical uncertainties. From Ref. [49].

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