Di-Higgs production $(\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh)$ in Composite Models *

A. BHARUCHA¹[†], G. CACCIAPAGLIA²[‡], A. DEANDREA²[§], N. GAUR³[¶], D. HARADA⁴ \parallel **, F. MAHMOUDI^{2,5} ^{††}, K. SRIDHAR^{6,7} ^{‡‡}

¹ Aix Marseille Univ, CNRS, CPT, Marseille, France, 13288 Marseille, France ² Université de Lyon, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1, CNRS/IN2P3,

Institut de Physique des 2 Infinis de Lyon, UMR 5822, F-69622, Villeurbanne, France

³ Department of Physics, Dyal Singh College (University of Delhi), Lodhi Road, New Delhi, 110003, India

> ⁴ Rudjer Boskovic Institute, Division of Theoretical Physics, Bijenicka cesta 54, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia

⁵ Theoretical Physics Department, CERN, CH-1211 Geneva 23, Switzerland

⁶ Department of Theoretical Physics, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research,

Homi Bhabha Road, Colaba, Mumbai 400005, India

⁷ KREA University, Sri City, Andhra Pradesh-517646, India

Abstract

In Standard Model (SM) Higgs Boson pair production initiated by photons $(\gamma \gamma \rightarrow hh)$ is loop-generated process and thereby very sensitive to any new couplings and particles that may come in loops. The Composite Higgs Models provide an alternate mechanism to address the hierarchy problem of SM where Higgs instead of being an elementary field could be a bound state of a strongly interacting sector. These set of models apart from modifying the SM Higgs couplings could also introduce new effective couplings that can have substantial impact on the loop processes. In this work we have studied the impact of such modifications by Composite Higgs models in $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow hh$ production processes.

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[†]email: aoife.bharucha@cpt.univ-mrs.fr

[‡]email: g.cacciapaglia@ipnl.in2p3.fr

[§]email: deandrea@ipnl.in2p3.fr

[¶]email: naveengaur@dsc.du.ac.in

email: dharada@irb.hr

^{**}speaker

^{††}email: nazila@cern.ch

^{‡‡}email: sridhar@theory.tifr.res.in

1 Introduction

After the discovery of the Standard Model (SM) like Higgs boson at the CERN Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [1–3], the question of the origin of the scalar sector has become more crucial in understanding the physics Beyond the Standard Model (BSM). Model building efforts and specific searches aim at discovering features that can shed light on the fundamental mechanism behind the Higgs sector. One of the popular extension of the SM consists of replacing the Higgs sector by a new strong-interaction at the electroweak (EW) scale, giving rise to EW symmetry breaking of dynamical origin [4–6]. In this framework, the relative lightness of the Higgs boson is ensured by the pseudo Nambu-Goldstone Boson (pNGB) nature of this particle, which stems from the broken global symmetry [7]. In recent years detailed models were proposed based on a holographic description [8-11], or based on an underlying gauge-fermion theory, where the global symmetry is broken by the bilinear condensate of techni-fermions [12–15]. The underlying theories are designed to feature a vacuum alignment that does not break the SM gauge symmetry and a Higgs doublet in the pNGB sector (for a review see [16]), contrary to the old-school Technicolor theories that break the electroweak symmetry at the condensation scale without a Higgs boson [4]. The exploration of these BSM scenarios is an active research subject at present and in the future colliders.

The BSM searches at the LHC have not yet led to a discovery of the new particles or a new phenomena, a sign that BSM physics is subtler and/or fainter than what was originally expected. The electron-positron collider option provides a rather clean experimental conditions in comparison to the LHC, where the quantum chromodynamics (QCD) background is intense and hard to master. There are proposals for the future electron-positron colliders both circular designs, as for example, the FCC-ee at CERN [17, 18] and the CEPC in China [19,20] and linear ones, such as the International Linear Collider (ILC) [21]. In addition to the electron-positron colliders, the Photon Linear Collider (PLC) is also considered as an optional experiment of the ILC. Compton back-scattering of laser photons on electrons at the ILC allows the production of high energy photons. These photon beams can reach energies close to those of the initial electrons. The PLC is therefore a compelling option for the ILC [22]. The possibility of measuring the triple Higgs coupling via the $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow hh$ process at the PLC has been widely discussed in the literature, as the sensitivity of this channel to the Higgs self-coupling is maximal at the threshold $2m_h$. This process sensitivities are greater than the sensitivities achieved at the electron positron direct collision in processes such as $e^+e^- \rightarrow Zhh$ and $e^+e^- \rightarrow \nu\bar{\nu}hh$ in a wide range of center of mass energies [23, 24]. The $\gamma\gamma \to hh$ process [25] is induced by top quark and W^{\pm} boson loops, details are given in Ref. [26–28]. In the SM, these loops have destructive interference. In BSM scenarios. there can be a substantial change in the production cross-sections due to the change in the cancellations between top quark and W boson loops [26-28]. Compared to other di-Higgs channels at tree level, the photon fusion channel is of more interest because it provides access to more couplings of the Higgs which enter in the loops [27]. This is particularly attractive in BSM scenarios, where the top quark plays an important role due to its large mass.

The $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ process at the PLC could also be an excellent probe of Composite Higgs Models (CHMs). In fact, all models in this class feature modifications of the Higgs couplings to gauge bosons and top quark, which can alter the cancellations that occur in the SM. Composite resonances, if relatively light, can also provide additional contributions. This in

turn has effects both on the cross-section and on the helicity distributions, allowing models based on the composite Higgs idea to be further constrained (or discovered).

In this paper, we study the impact of CHMs on the di-Higgs production process via photon fusion $(\gamma \gamma \rightarrow hh)$. The paper is organized as follows: In Sec. 2, we have presented numerical results for the cross-section of the di-Higgs production in CHMs at the PLC. In Sec. 3, the results of statistical sensitivity of the process are presented. We finally conclude in Sec. 4.

2 Di-Higgs production in Composite Models at the PLC

The Feynman diagrams for this process in the CHMs are shown in Ref. [29]. The differential cross section for the di-Higgs process $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ can be written in terms of the helicity amplitudes as

$$\frac{d\hat{\sigma}(\lambda_1,\lambda_2)}{d\hat{t}} = \frac{\alpha^2 \alpha_W^2}{32\pi \hat{s}^2} \left| \mathcal{M}(\lambda_1,\lambda_2) \right|^2 \,. \tag{1}$$

In the CHMs, the helicity amplitudes $\mathcal{M}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$ for the initial photon helicities λ_1 and λ_2 $(\lambda_i = + \text{ or } -)$ are given in Ref. [29]. The total cross section of $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ is calculated by convoluting the photon luminosity function

$$\sigma = \int_{4m_h^2/s}^{y_m^2} d\tau \frac{dL_{\gamma\gamma}}{d\tau} \left[\frac{1 + \xi_1^{\gamma} \xi_2^{\gamma}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_{++}(\hat{s}) + \frac{1 - \xi_1^{\gamma} \xi_2^{\gamma}}{2} \hat{\sigma}_{+-}(\hat{s}) \right] , \qquad (2)$$

where $\xi_{(1,2)}^{\gamma}$ are the mean photon helicities, and the differential luminosity takes the form

$$\frac{dL_{\gamma\gamma}}{d\tau} = \int_{\tau/y_m}^{y_m} \frac{dy}{y} f_{\gamma}(x,y) f_{\gamma}(x,\tau/y) , \qquad (3)$$

where $\tau = \hat{s}/s$, $y = E_{\gamma}/E_b$ with E_{γ} and E_b being the energy of photon and electron beams respectively, and the maximal energy fraction of photon $y_m = x/(1+x)$ with $x = 4E_b\omega_0/m_e^2$ where ω_0 is the laser photon energy and m_e is the electron mass. The photon luminosity spectrum $f_{\gamma}(x, y)$ is given by [30]. In our analysis, we set the dimensionless parameter x = 4.8 $(y_m = 0.82)$ and a very high degree of electron beam polarization (90%), i.e. $\lambda_{e_1} = \lambda_{e_2} = 0.45$, $\lambda_{\gamma_1} = \lambda_{\gamma_2} = -1$ [25].

2.1 Minimal Composite Higgs Models

In our analysis we have first considered the minimal CHMs, where the vacuum is only misaligned along one direction that breaks the EW symmetry. This implies that the composite Higgs does not mix with other pNGBs, and that the misalignment can be described in terms of a single angle θ [7], defined as follows:

$$v = f \sin \theta \,. \tag{4}$$

Model	$hf\bar{f}(c_f)$	$hhf\bar{f}(c_{2f})$	$hW^+W^-(c_v)$	$hhW^+W^-(c_{2v})$	c_{3h}
MCHM4 [9]	$\sqrt{1-\xi}$	$-\xi$	$\sqrt{1-\xi}$	$1-2\xi$	$\sqrt{1-\xi}$
MCHM5 [11]	$\frac{1-2\xi}{\sqrt{1-\xi}}$	-4ξ	$\sqrt{1-\xi}$	$1-2\xi$	$\frac{1-2\xi}{\sqrt{1-\xi}}$

Table 1: The Higgs couplings as a function of $\xi = v^2/f^2 \equiv \sin^2 \theta$, with θ being the misalignment angle.

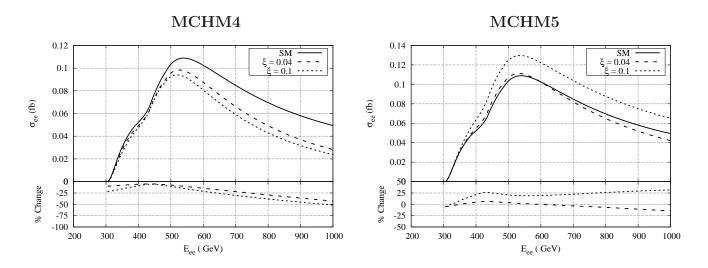


Figure 1: $e^+e^- \rightarrow hh$ cross-section as a function of the electron-positron center of mass energy E_{ee} in the MCHM4 (left panel) and MCHM5 (right panel) benchmarks.

The above equation provides the relation between the EW symmetry breaking scale v and the compositeness scale f. This definition is independent of the coset \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H} . The masses of the EW gauge bosons W^{\pm}/Z are given by:

$$m_W^2(\theta) = \frac{g^2 f^2}{4} \sin^2 \theta \equiv \frac{g^2 v^2}{4}, \qquad m_Z^2(\theta) = \frac{1}{c_W^2} m_W^2(\theta),$$
 (5)

where the relation between the two is ensured by the custodial symmetry embedded in \mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H} . The coset-independence of the relation between the W^{\pm}/Z masses and the compositeness scale f leads to universal couplings of the Higgs boson to the EW gauge bosons. These couplings can be elegantly expressed in terms of derivatives with respect to the misalignment angle θ , as follows:

$$g_{WWh} = \frac{1}{f} \frac{\partial m_W^2(\theta)}{\partial \theta} = \frac{2m_W^2}{v} \cos \theta , \qquad (6)$$

$$g_{WWhh} = \frac{1}{f^2} \frac{\partial^2 m_W^2(\theta)}{\partial \theta^2} = \frac{2m_W^2}{v^2} \cos 2\theta , \qquad (7)$$

For convenience, we will use the parameterisation as given in the Refs. [31, 32], which reads

$$\mathcal{L} = m_W^2 W_\mu^+ W^{-,\mu} \left(1 + 2c_v \frac{h}{v} + c_{2v} \frac{h^2}{v^2} + \dots \right) \,, \tag{8}$$

with

$$c_v = \cos \theta = \sqrt{1 - \xi}, \qquad c_{2v} = \cos 2\theta = 1 - 2\xi;$$
 (9)

where $\xi = v^2/f^2 \equiv \sin^2 \theta$.

The couplings of the composite Higgs to SM fermions are not universal and can also be expressed in terms of derivatives with respect to the misalignment angle θ , as follows:

$$g_{ffh} = \frac{1}{f} \frac{\partial m_t(\theta)}{\partial \theta}, \quad g_{ffhh} = \frac{1}{f^2} \frac{\partial^2 m_t(\theta)}{\partial^2 \theta}, \quad \dots$$
 (10)

These expressions depend on the details of the model, and in particular on the dependence of the top mass on the misalignment angle θ . We will consider two scenarios: the first is realized in the SO(5)/SO(4) CHMs with top partners in the spinorial representation of the global SO(5), this model is termed as MCHM4. For this model, we have:

$$m_t(\theta) = \frac{\lambda f}{\sqrt{2}} \sin \theta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} g_{ffh} = \frac{m_t}{v} \cos \theta \,, \\ g_{ffhh} = -\frac{m_t}{v^2} \sin^2 \theta \,. \end{cases}$$
(11)

The second case is realized in the SO(5)/SO(4) model with the fundamental representation of SO(5) (MCHM5), for which:

$$m_t(\theta) = \frac{\lambda f}{\sqrt{2}} \sin 2\theta \quad \Rightarrow \quad \begin{cases} g_{ffh} = \frac{m_t}{v} \frac{\cos 2\theta}{\cos \theta}, \\ g_{ffhh} = -\frac{m_t}{v^2} 4 \sin^2 \theta. \end{cases}$$
(12)

For convenience, we will parameterise the coupling modifier following Ref. [33] as:

$$\mathcal{L} = -m_t \left(\bar{t}_L t_R \right) \left(1 + c_f \frac{h}{v} + \frac{c_{2f}}{2} \frac{h^2}{v^2} + \dots \right) + h.c.$$
(13)

In Fig. 1, we report the e^+e^- cross section as a function of the electron-positron center of mass energy for two values of $\xi = 0.1$, 0.04 and compared to the SM value. The main difference between the MCHM4 and MCHM5 benchmarks is a larger top quartic coupling (c.f. Table 1) for the latter. In the MCHM4, we observe a systematic decrease in the total cross-section, with sizeable effects emerging for center-of-mass energies above 500 GeV. Thus, this scenario can only be tested at a high-energy version of the collider. On the other hand, the MCHM5 can feature an increase in the cross-section compared to the SM one, driven by the $\bar{t}thh$ coupling c_{2f} . This effect can go up to 20% above the $\bar{t}t$ threshold for $\xi = 0.1$.

2.2 Heavy scalar

The presence of a rather light scalar resonance in the spectrum of CHMs has been shown to help in reducing the constraints on the misalignment angle θ [34]. We have analyzed this scenario where a singlet scalar which is a resonance of the composite sector is present. The presence of a relatively light scalar can be encoded in the addition of a second heavier Higgs H, with couplings parameterised in analogy to those of the SM Higgs:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset m_W^2 W_{\mu}^+ W^{-,\mu} \left(1 + 2c_v \frac{h}{v} + 2c_v^H \frac{H}{v} + c_{2v} \frac{h^2}{v^2} + \dots \right) - m_t \bar{t} t \left(1 + c_f \frac{h}{v} + c_t^H \frac{H}{v} + \frac{c_{2t}}{2} \frac{h^2}{v^2} + \dots \right) .$$
(14)

The coefficients c_x and c_x^H (x = f, v) can be computed in specific scenarios, and take into account the mixing between the two states. There is also a derivative coupling of H to two Higgs, which is relevant for di-Higgs pair production, that can be parameterised as:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset c_{Hhh} \ H \partial_{\mu} h \partial^{\mu} h \to -\frac{1}{2} c_{Hhh} \frac{\hat{s} - 2m_h^2}{v} \ Hhh \,. \tag{15}$$

where \hat{s} is the invariant mass of the two h system (i.e., the center of mass energy of the partonic process).

Benchmark 1	$m_H = 610 \text{ GeV}, \xi = 0.306, \Gamma_H = 498 \text{ GeV}, k'_G = 1.5$							
	c_f/c_f^H	C_{2f}	c_v/c_v^H	C_{2v}	c_{3h}	c_{Hhh}		
h	0.9199	-0.7814	0.8791	0.5562	λ_h	—		
Н	3.507		0.3054		_	0.4149		
Benchmark 2	$m_H = 800 \text{ GeV}, \ \xi = 0.197, \ \Gamma_H = 350 \text{ GeV}, \ k'_G = 1.8$							
	c_f/c_f^H	C_{2f}	c_v/c_v^H	c_{2v}	c_{3h}	c_{Hhh}		
h	0.9102	-0.4627	0.9305	0.7381	λ_h	—		
Н	2.368		0.3109		_	0.4001		
Benchmark 3	$m_H = 1000 \text{ GeV}, \ \xi = 0.0646, \ \Gamma_H = 47.6 \text{ GeV}, \ k'_G = 1.$							
	c_f/c_f^H	C_{2f}	c_v/c_v^H	C_{2v}	c_{3h}	c_{Hhh}		
h	0.9572	-0.1498	0.9741	0.9038	λ_h	_		
Н	0.6896	•••	0.0511		_	0.1270		

Table 2: Couplings of the Higgs h and of the heavier state H, for 3 benchmark points. The parameter k'_G characterizes the coupling of the heavy resonance to the gauge bosons (see Ref. [34] for more details).

In Fig. 2, we show the e^+e^- cross-sections for the three benchmark points, again for three values of the SM-Higgs quartic coupling, $\lambda_H = 0.6$, 1, 1.4. These benchmark points (defined in Table 2) are consistent with the present experimental constraints. The plots clearly show a sizeable enhancement around the mass of H, which also depends on the width of this state Γ_H . The λ_H dependence is only visible for low center of mass energies, below which the effect of the new diagrams become dominant. For BM1 and BM2, which feature a lighter H, sizeable enhancements are expected at low energies, where the cross section can even double with respect to the SM. In the BM3 case, the new scalar is too heavy to affect the total rate, while a significant enhancement of the cross section is still possible due to λ_H and the large value of the new $\bar{t}thh$ quartic coupling, in a similar fashion in the case of minimal CHMs.

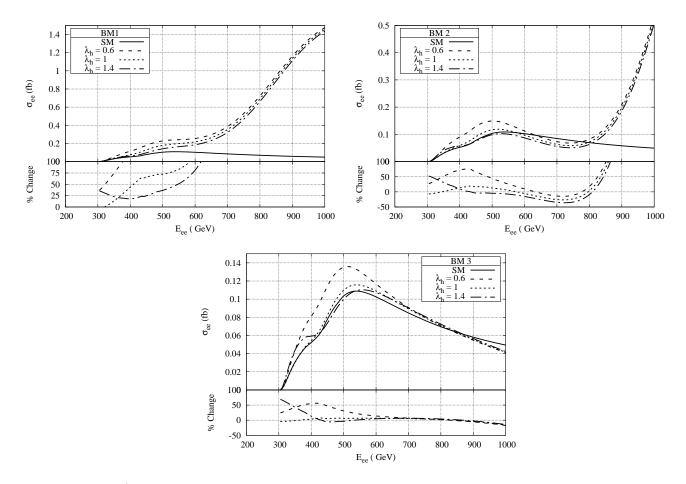


Figure 2: $e^+e^- \rightarrow hh$ cross-section in the model with an additional heavy scalar H. The benchmark points (BP) for the above results are given in Table 2.

3 The statistical sensitivity

We study the statistical sensitivity to the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ process for wide regions of the collider energies at the PLC in the MCHM4 and MCHM5. The statistical sensitivity S_{stat} is defined by

$$S_{stat} = \frac{|N - N_{SM}|}{\sqrt{N_{obs}}} = \frac{L|\eta\sigma - \eta\sigma_{SM}|}{\sqrt{L(\eta\sigma + \eta_{BG}\sigma_{BG})}},$$
(16)

where N and N_{SM} are the expected number of events for the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ process in the CHMs and SM respectively, and N_{obs} is the observed total number of events in the CHMs including the back ground processes. σ and σ_{SM} are the cross section of the Higgs boson production in the CHMs and SM, while L, η , η_{BG} , and σ_{BG} are the integrated luminosity, the detection efficiency for the signal, the detection efficiency for backgrounds, and the cross section of background processes, respectively.

In Fig. 3, we present the statistical sensitivity in the MCHM4 and MCHM5 at the PLC for two values of $\xi = 0.1, 0.04$. We assume that the efficiency of the particle tagging is 100% and the BG processes are neglected ($\eta = 1$ and $\eta_{BG} = 0$) with an integrated luminosity

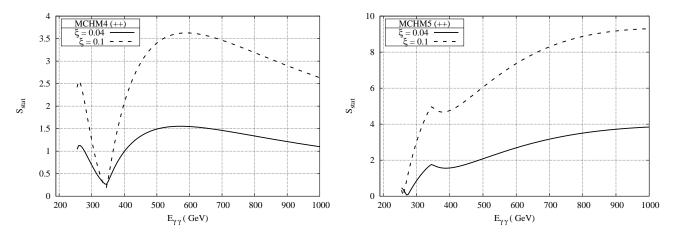


Figure 3: Statistical Sensitivity (S_{stat}) in the MCHM4 (left panel) and MCHM5 (right panel) as a function of $E_{\gamma\gamma}$ energy for two values of $\xi = 0.1, 0.04$.

 $L = 1 \text{ ab}^{-1}$, and $E_{\gamma\gamma}$ is the center of mass energy of the $\gamma\gamma$ system. The plots show that the statistical sensitivity can be quite sizeable in particular the case of MCHM5 when the collision energy is limited to be lower than 1 TeV. In Ref. [28], they point out that the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ process in the SM with anomalous Higgs self-coupling can be observed with a statistical significance of about 5 σ at the PLC at $L = 2 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ against the large background processes such as $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow W^+W^-$, ZZ and $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$. Therefore, the $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow hh$ process at the PLC would be expected useful to search the New Physics effects in CHMs as well as the anomalous Higgs self-coupling even though we consider these large back ground processes.

4 Conclusions

In this work, we have studied the Higgs pair production process $\gamma \gamma \rightarrow hh$ in composite Higgs models, MCHM4, MCHM5 and CHMs with the heavy scalar, at the PLC. We focused on composite models as they can provide novel Higgs pair production mechanisms and interference effects. Our analysis show that these models can alter the SM prediction substantially, as photon collisions are sensitive to all modified Higgs couplings and effects stemming from the new quartic Higgs-fermion vertices. The coupling responsible for these (quartic) vertices were absent in the SM and arise in CHMs due to the non-linear nature of the composite Higgs and is one of the major reasons of enhancements in the photons initiated Higgs pair production. On the other hand, modifications to the SM-like couplings do not depend much on the specific model, and only result in milder changes in the cross-sections. In the MCHM5 benchmark with a large value of the Higgs-top quartic coupling, more than 20-30% large enhancement of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow hh$ cross section is possible. The presence of an additional scalar resonance H opens up a new s-channel diagram, affecting the same-sign helicity photon cross sections. This can result in large enhancement of the $e^+e^- \rightarrow hh$ cross section by orders of magnitude for BM1 where $m_H = 610 \text{ GeV}$ and $\Gamma_H = 498 \text{ GeV}$ (large width). The Higgs pair production process in $\gamma\gamma$ collision, therefore, is a key element for the discovery of deviations from the SM value. This would be a strong indication of the composite structure underlying

the Higgs sector. In particular our results of the statistical sensitivity at the PLC in the composite models shows that they can be revealed at future lepton colliders, even if the energy is not sufficient to produce new resonances.

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