



Extended Higgs sector of 2HDM with real singlet facing LHC data

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Abstract We study the phenomenology of the two Higgs doublet model with a real singlet scalar S (N2HDM). The model predicts three CP-even Higgses $h_{1,2,3}$, one CP-odd A^0 and a pair of charged Higgs. We discuss the consistency of the N2HDM with theoretical as well as with all available experimental data. In contrast with previous studies, we focus on the scenario where h_2 is the Standard Model (SM) 125 GeV Higgs, while h_1 is lighter than h_2 which may open a window for Higgs to Higgs decays. We perform an extensive scan into the parameter space of N2HDM of type I and explore the effect of the singlet-doublet admixture. We found that a large singlet-doublet admixture is still compatible with the recent Higgs data from LHC. Moreover, we show that h_1 could be quasi-fermiophobic and would decay dominantly into two photons. We also study in details the consistency of the non-detected decay of $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ with LHC data followed by $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ which leads to four photons final state at LHC: $pp \rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$. Using the results of null searches of multi-photons carried by the ATLAS collaboration, we have found that a large area of the parameter space is still allowed. We also demonstrate that various neutral Higgs of the N2HDM could have several exotic decays.

1 Introduction

A Higgs boson has been discovered in the first run of Large Hadron Collider (LHC) with 7 and 8 TeV energy in 2012 [1, 2] and some of its properties have been established. During the second run of LHC with 13 TeV center of mass energy, some measurements of the properties of the Higgs boson have improved [3–7] and new observations such as $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $pp \rightarrow t\bar{t}h$ have been reported [8–10].

The aforementioned Higgs boson properties established so far will be further improved by the High Luminosity pro-

gram of the future LHC run (HL-LHC) [11–14]. At the HL-LHC, one can pin down the uncertainties on the Higgs boson couplings to a few percent level in some cases [15] and provide indirect hints to the awaited new physics. Moreover, in the clean environment of the e^+e^- collider such as ILC and CEPC, which can act like a Higgs factory, one can improve the Higgs boson measurements [18, 19].

Although all data collected by LHC seem to indicate that the Higgs boson particle is in perfect agreement with the SM predictions, there are many theoretical as well as experimental indications which point out that the SM is only an effective theory at low scale of a more fundamental one. One common feature of those Beyond SM (BSM) theories is an extended Higgs sector with an extra singlet, doublet, and/or triplet. Most of the higher Higgs representations with an extra doublet/singlet predict in their spectrum extra neutral and/or charged Higgs states. A discovery of another or several additional Higgs bosons would be considered as a clear evidence of an extended Higgs sector and a departure from the SM.

Following the discovery of a Higgs boson, there has been a large number of works dedicated to extending the SM Higgs sector by extra Higgs fields. Among the simplest one we mention:

A real singlet scalar that has a mixing with the SM Higgs boson [20], the popular two Higgs Doublet Model (2HDM) [21–23] with or without natural flavor conservation and the inert Higgs model that provides dark matter candidate [24–27]. Recently, there have been also phenomenological studies that extend the 2HDM with an additional real gauge-singlet scalar which acts like dark matter candidate [28, 29]. One can also extend the 2HDM by adding a real scalar singlet with non-vanishing expectation value that can mix with the doublets [30, 31]. These studies referred to this model as the next-to-minimal 2HDM (N2HDM).

In the two variants of the N2HDM, the scalar spectrum is richer than the traditional 2HDM, which implies an interest-

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ing phenomenology at colliders including but not restricted to scalar-to-scalar decays, exotic decays and fermiophobic scenarios which are precluded in the SM and occur hardly in the 2HDM. The model can easily accommodate a SM-like Higgs Boson that easily satisfies all the constraints from LHC measurements. Despite the existence of mixing among CP-even mass eigenstates, which would modify the SM-like Higgs couplings to fermions and gauge bosons, constraints from signal strength measurements can be easily satisfied (within the present range of systematic and statistical errors).

In the N2HDM, the scalar spectrum contains 3 CP-even states $h_{1,2,3}$, one CP-odd A and a pair of charged Higgs H^\pm . $h_{1,2,3}$ are admixtures of the doublets and the singlet components while A and H^\pm are purely made of the doublets components.

A comprehensive analysis of the N2HDM has been carried by the authors of Ref. [31]. A general scan was performed over the parameter space to look for possible scenarios that allow any of the neutral Higgs bosons h_i to be identified with the discovered Higgs boson particle at the LHC. It is found that a large singlet-doublet admixture is still compatible with LEP and all LHC data, while satisfying all theoretical and experimental constraints [31]. In the present study, we would like to do a comprehensive study of N2HDM type-I for the case where h_2 is the 125 GeV Higgs while h_1 and A are lighter than h_2 . This scenario opens a new window for beyond Standard Model decays of h_2 such as $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ and probably $h_2 \rightarrow AA, AA^*, Z^* A, W^* H^\pm$ which are still compatible with Higgs data.

Furthermore, we will study the possibility where the light Higgs h_1 can be partially fermiophobic in N2HDM type-I as well as the consistency of the non-detected decay of $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ with LHC data followed by $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ which leads to four photons final state at LHC [32].

We will also present some decays of the heavy Higgs (h_3) into Standard Model particles and other decays to scalar-scalar and scalar-vector boson ($h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1, h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2, h_3 \rightarrow AZ, h_3 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp$)

The paper is organized as follow: Sect. 2 is devoted to the N2HDM and its parametrization, in Sect. 3 we review the theoretical and experimental constraints that the N2HDM is subject to. We present our numerical result in Sect. 4 and conclude in Sect. 5. Several technical details are given in the Appendix.

2 The 2HDM with a real singlet field: N2HDM

In this section, we present a review of the N2HDM. We discuss the scalar potential and derive the spectrum and the parametrization of the model. We also present the Yukawa textures and discuss the natural flavor conservation of the

model. Couplings of the Higgs bosons to gauge bosons are also shown and their sum rules are discussed.

2.1 The Higgs potential

The scalar sector of N2HDM consists of two weak isospin doublets H_i ($i = 1, 2$), with hypercharge $Y = 1$ and a real singlet field with hypercharge $Y = 0$ which are given by

$$H_i = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_i^\pm \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(v_i + \phi_i + i\chi_i) \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(v_s + \phi_s) \quad (1)$$

The most general renormalizable scalar potential for the model that respect $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$ gauge symmetry has the following form:

$$\begin{aligned} V(H_1, H_2, S) = & m_{11}^2 H_1^\dagger H_1 + m_{22}^2 H_2^\dagger H_2 \\ & - \mu^2 \left(H_1^\dagger H_2 + H_2^\dagger H_1 \right) + \frac{1}{2} m_S^2 S^2 \\ & + \frac{\lambda_1}{2} \left(H_1^\dagger H_1 \right)^2 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} \left(H_2^\dagger H_2 \right)^2 \\ & + \lambda_3 H_1^\dagger H_1 H_2^\dagger H_2 + \lambda_4 H_1^\dagger H_2 H_2^\dagger H_1 \\ & + \frac{\lambda_5}{2} \left[\left(H_1^\dagger H_2 \right)^2 + \left(H_2^\dagger H_1 \right)^2 \right] \\ & + \frac{\lambda_6}{8} S^4 + \frac{1}{2} [\lambda_7 H_1^\dagger H_1 + \lambda_8 H_2^\dagger H_2] S^2 \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where m_{11}^2, m_{22}^2 and m_S^2 are the mass parameters. By hermiticity of the scalar potential $\lambda_{1,2,3,4,6,7,8}$ are dimensionless real parameters while λ_5 and μ^2 can be complex to allow CP violation in the scalar sector. In the present study, we assume that all scalar parameters are real. Therefore, the only source of CP violation is in the Cabbibo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix. We remind here that we allow a dimension 2 term μ^2 which break softly Z_2 symmetry. This discrete Z_2 symmetry is usually imposed in order to avoid Flavor Changing Neutral Current (FCNC) at tree level in the Yukawa sector.

Assuming that spontaneous electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) is taking place at some electrically neutral point in the field space, and denoting the corresponding VEVs by

$$\langle H_1 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v_1 \end{pmatrix}, \langle H_2 \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v_2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ and } \langle S \rangle = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} v_s \quad (3)$$

The parameters m_{11}^2, m_{22}^2 and m_S^2 can be eliminated by the minimization conditions of the potential Eq. (2):

$$m_{11}^2 = \mu^2 t_\beta - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 v^2 c_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{345} v^2 s_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{4} \lambda_7 v_s^2 \quad (4)$$

$$m_{22}^2 = \mu^2 t_\beta^{-1} - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_1 v^2 s_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{345} v^2 c_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{4} \lambda_8 v_s^2 \quad (5)$$

$$m_S^2 = -\frac{1}{2} \lambda_7 v^2 c_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_8 v^2 s_\beta^2 - \frac{1}{4} \lambda_6 v_s^2 \quad (6)$$

where s_x, c_x, t_x stand for $\sin x, \cos x$ and $\tan x$ respectively, and $\lambda_{345} = \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \lambda_5$ and $t_\beta = v_2/v_1$.

After the EWSB of $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$ down to electromagnetic $U(1)$, three of the nine Higgs degrees of freedom corresponding to the Goldstone bosons are absorbed by the longitudinal components of vector boson W^\pm and Z^0 . The remaining six degrees of freedom should manifest as physical Higgses: three CP-even scalars (h_1, h_2, h_3 with $m_{h_1} < m_{h_2} < m_{h_3}$), one CP-odd A and a charged Higgs pair H^\pm .

2.2 Higgs masses and mixing angles

The most general form of the squared mass matrix 7×7 of the Higgs sector can be recast, using Eqs. (4–6), into a block diagonal form of three submatrices: one 3×3 matrix denoted in the following by $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{even}}^2$ for CP-even sector, one 2×2 matrix $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{odd}}^2$ for CP-odd sector and one 2×2 matrix denoted by \mathcal{M}_\pm^2 for the charged sector.

The squared mass matrix for the charged fields $\phi_{1,2}^\pm$ is:

$$\mathcal{M}_\pm^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu^2 t_\beta - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{45}^+ v^2 s_\beta^2 & -\mu^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{45}^+ v^2 s_\beta c_\beta \\ -\mu^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{45}^+ v^2 s_\beta c_\beta & \mu^2 t_\beta^{-1} - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{45}^+ v^2 c_\beta^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (7)$$

with $\lambda_{45}^+ = \lambda_4 + \lambda_5$. This matrix is diagonalized by the following orthogonal matrix \mathcal{R}_β , given by :

$$\mathcal{R}_\beta = \begin{pmatrix} c_\beta & -s_\beta \\ s_\beta & c_\beta \end{pmatrix} \quad (8)$$

Among the two eigenvalues of \mathcal{M}_\pm^2 , one is zero and corresponds to the charged Goldstone boson G^\pm while the other one corresponds to the charged Higgs boson H^\pm and is given by:

$$m_{H^\pm}^2 = \frac{1}{s_{2\beta}} \left[2\mu^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{45}^+ v^2 s_{2\beta} \right] \quad (9)$$

The charged Higgs H^\pm and the charged goldstone G^\pm are orthogonal rotation of the weak eigenstates ϕ_1^\pm, ϕ_2^\pm ,

$$G^\pm = c_\beta \phi_1^\pm + s_\beta \phi_2^\pm, \quad H^\pm = -s_\beta \phi_1^\pm + c_\beta \phi_2^\pm \quad (10)$$

The neutral scalar and pseudo-scalar mass matrices are given by:

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{even}}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu^2 t_\beta + \lambda_1 v^2 c_\beta^2 & -\mu^2 + \lambda_{345} v^2 s_\beta c_\beta & \frac{\lambda_7 v v s c_\beta}{2\sqrt{2}} \\ -\mu^2 + \lambda_{345} v^2 s_\beta c_\beta & \mu^2 t_\beta^{-1} + \lambda_2 v^2 s_\beta^2 & \frac{\lambda_8 v v s s_\beta}{2\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{\lambda_7 v v s c_\beta}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_8 v v s s_\beta}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_6 v_\Sigma^2}{8} \end{pmatrix} \quad (11)$$

and

$$\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{odd}}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mu^2 t_\beta - \lambda_5 v^2 s_\beta^2 & -\mu^2 + \lambda_5 v^2 s_\beta c_\beta \\ -\mu^2 + \lambda_5 v^2 s_\beta c_\beta & \mu^2 t_\beta^{-1} - \lambda_5 v^2 c_\beta^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

The physical states $h_i = \{h_1, h_2, h_3\}$ are obtained by an orthogonal transformation $h_i = \mathcal{R}_{\alpha_{1,2,3}} \phi_i$, ($i = 1, 2, s$) that diagonalizes the mass matrix $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{even}}^2$,

$$\begin{pmatrix} h_1 \\ h_2 \\ h_3 \end{pmatrix} = \mathcal{R}_{\alpha_{1,2,3}} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ \phi_2 \\ \phi_s \end{pmatrix} \quad (13)$$

with:

$$\mathcal{R}_{\alpha_{1,2,3}} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 c_2 & s_1 c_2 & s_2 \\ -c_1 s_2 s_3 - s_1 c_3 & c_1 c_3 - s_1 s_2 s_3 & c_2 s_3 \\ -c_1 s_2 c_3 + s_1 s_3 & -c_1 s_3 - s_1 s_2 c_3 & c_2 c_3 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

with $s_i = \sin \alpha_i$, $c_i = \cos \alpha_i$.

Without loss of generality we assume that $m_{h_1} < m_{h_2} < m_{h_3}$.

From Eq. (12), it is easy to get the two eigenvalues of $\mathcal{M}_{\mathcal{CP}^{odd}}^2$, one is vanishing and corresponds to the neutral Goldstone boson G^0 while the other one corresponds to the pseudo-scalar A :

$$m_A^2 = \frac{1}{s_\beta c_\beta} \left[\mu^2 - \lambda_5 v^2 s_\beta c_\beta \right] \quad (15)$$

The CP-odd state A and the neutral Goldstone G^0 are obtained by an orthogonal rotation of the weak eigenstates χ_1, χ_2 :

$$G^0 = c_\beta \chi_1 + s_\beta \chi_2, \quad A = -s_\beta \chi_1 + c_\beta \chi_2. \quad (16)$$

2.3 Yukawa texture

There are different types of Higgs couplings to fermions. The general structure of the Yukawa Lagrangian when both Higgs fields couple to all fermions is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = \bar{Q}_L^0 \tilde{\Phi}_2 \eta_2^{U,0} U_R^0 + \bar{Q}_L^0 \Phi_2 \eta_2^{D,0} D_R^0 + \bar{Q}_L^0 \tilde{\Phi}_1 \eta_1^{U,0} U_R^0 + \bar{Q}_L^0 \Phi_1 \eta_1^{D,0} D_R^0 + \text{h.c} \quad (17)$$

where Q_L^0 is the weak isospin quark doublet, U_R^0 and D_R^0 are the weak isospin quark singlets and $\eta_{1,2}^{U,0}, \eta_{1,2}^{D,0}$ are matrices in flavor space, then the above Lagrangian will generate Flavor Changing Neutral Currents (FCNC) at tree level which can invalidate some low energy observables in B, D and K physics. In order to avoid such FCNC, it is customary to invoke a Z_2 symmetry that forbids FCNC couplings at tree level [33]. Depending on the Z_2 assignment, we have four types of Yukawa interactions [34]. In the present study, we focus only on type-I where all fermions couple only to one of the two Higgs doublets. In this case:

$$\mathcal{L}_Y^I = \bar{Q}_L^0 \tilde{\Phi}_2 \eta_2^{U,0} U_R^0 + \bar{Q}_L^0 \Phi_2 \eta_2^{D,0} D_R^0 + \bar{U}_R^0 \eta_2^{U,0\dagger} \tilde{\Phi}_2^\dagger Q_L^0 + \bar{D}_R^0 \eta_2^{D,0\dagger} \Phi_2^\dagger Q_L^0 \quad (18)$$

Neutral Higgs couplings to a pair of fermions are:

$$g_{h_1 f \bar{f}} : \frac{\mathcal{R}_{12}}{s_\beta} = \frac{c_2 s_1}{s_\beta} \tag{19}$$

$$g_{h_2 f \bar{f}} : \frac{\mathcal{R}_{22}}{s_\beta} = \frac{(c_1 c_3 - s_1 s_2 s_3)}{s_\beta} \tag{20}$$

$$g_{h_3 f \bar{f}} : \frac{\mathcal{R}_{32}}{s_\beta} = -\frac{(c_1 s_3 + s_1 s_2 c_3)}{s_\beta} \tag{21}$$

where f designate any type of fermions.

2.4 Higgs couplings to gauge bosons and sum rules

We present shortly here the Higgs couplings to gauge bosons and discuss the sum rules required by unitarity [35,36] which could be derived either from the Lagrangian or using unitarity arguments by considering the processes $ff \rightarrow VV$ and requiring that the term that increases with energy should cancel (see Ref. [37]). In Refs. [36] and [37], the sum rules are established for multi-Higgs doublet models using unitarity arguments for scattering amplitudes and also unitarity for the mixing matrix. In our case of N2HDM, as we will see below, these sum rules will apply as a consequence of the unitarity of the orthogonal matrix R_{ij} . Just before presenting these sum rules, we also refer to the normalized couplings of neutral Higgs to a pair of gauge bosons $V = Z, W$ that are given by:

$$g_{h_1 VV} : c_\beta \mathcal{R}_{11} + s_\beta \mathcal{R}_{12} = c_{\alpha_2} c_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{22}$$

$$g_{h_2 VV} : c_\beta \mathcal{R}_{21} + s_\beta \mathcal{R}_{22} = c_{\alpha_3} s_{\beta-\alpha_1} - s_{\alpha_2} s_{\alpha_3} c_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{23}$$

$$g_{h_3 VV} : c_\beta \mathcal{R}_{31} + s_\beta \mathcal{R}_{32} = -s_{\alpha_3} s_{\beta-\alpha_1} - s_{\alpha_2} c_{\alpha_3} c_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{24}$$

which satisfy the following sum rule:

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 g_{h_i VV}^2 = 1 \tag{25}$$

This sum rule imply that each coupling $g_{h_i VV}$ is requested to satisfy: $|g_{h_i VV}| \leq 1$.

For the couplings between two Higgs bosons and one gauge boson, we can distinguish two cases, a neutral case which corresponds to $h_i AZ$ vertex and charged case associated with $h_i H^\mp W^\pm$ vertex. From the kinetic terms of the Higgs fields, one can derive the various trilinear couplings among neutral, charged Higgses and gauge bosons. In units of $\lambda_n = \frac{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}}{2} (p_{h_i} - p_A)_\mu$ for neutral Higgs, respectively in units of $\lambda_c = \mp \frac{g}{2} (p_{h_i} - p_{H^\pm})_\mu$ for charged Higgs, we have:

$$g_{h_1 VS} : -c_{\alpha_2} s_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{26}$$

$$g_{h_2 VS} : c_{\alpha_3} c_{\beta-\alpha_1} + s_{\alpha_2} s_{\alpha_3} s_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{27}$$

$$g_{h_3 VS} : -s_{\alpha_3} c_{\beta-\alpha_1} + s_{\alpha_2} c_{\alpha_3} s_{\beta-\alpha_1}, \tag{28}$$

where $V=Z$ and $S = A$ for the neutral case and $V = W^\pm$ and $S = H^\mp$ for charged one.

In the N2HDM, one can easily derive the following sum rules:

$$g_{h_i W^\pm W^\mp}^2 + g_{h_i W^\pm H^\mp}^2 + R_{i3}^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, 2, 3 \tag{29}$$

$$g_{h_i ZZ}^2 + g_{h_i ZA}^2 + R_{i3}^2 = 1, \quad i = 1, 2, 3, \tag{30}$$

where R_{i3} is the singlet component of the Higgs h_i .

There exist an other relation, which relates $h_i f \bar{f}$ and $h_i VV$ couplings and is given by:

$$\sum_{i=1}^3 g_{h_i VV} g_{h_i f \bar{f}} = 1 \tag{31}$$

where $g_{h_i VV}$ and $g_{h_i f \bar{f}}$ are the normalized couplings of h_i to gauge bosons and fermions. The above relationship Eq. (31) can be derived from the Feynman rules and using the orthogonality of R matrix.

From above, it follows that:

- if h_i is pure singlet ($R_{i3}^2 \approx 1$), then from Eqs. (29, 30) one has $g_{h_i WW}^2 + g_{h_i W^\pm H^\mp}^2 \approx 0$ and $g_{h_i ZZ}^2 + g_{h_i ZA}^2 \approx 0$ which would imply that $h_i VV$, $h_i H^\pm W^\mp$ and $h_i AZ$ must be very suppressed, and this will present a real challenge for the production and detection of such Higgs bosons.
- if $g_{h_i VV} = 1$ which means that $h_i VV$ is full strength, then both singlet component R_{i3} as well as $g_{h_i SV}$ couplings must vanish. This scenario could happen only when h_i have no singlet component.
- According to Eq. (25), if $g_{h_i VV} = 1$ then $g_{h_j VV} = 0$ for $j \neq i$. This would imply from Eq. (31) that the reduced coupling to fermions must satisfy $g_{h_i f \bar{f}} = 1$.

3 Theoretical and experimental constraints

The Two Higgs Doublets Model plus a Singlet possesses a large freedom in the scalar sector, coming from the large number of free parameters of the scalar potential. In order to obtain a viable model, many theoretical and experimental constraints have to be imposed on the scalar potential like perturbative unitarity, vacuum stability, electroweak precision observables and constraints from Higgs data. In what follows, we will briefly describe these constraints.

3.1 Boundedness from below (BFB) of the potential

In order to ensure a stable vacuum, the scalar potential has to be bounded from below in any directions in the field space

as the field strength becomes extremely large. At large field values, the scalar potential is fully dominated by quartic couplings on which the BFB will depend only.

At large field strength, the potential defined by Eq. (2) is generically dominated by the quartic terms:

$$\begin{aligned}
 V^{(4)}(H_1, H_2, S) &= \frac{\lambda_1}{2} (H_1^\dagger H_1)^2 \\
 &+ \frac{\lambda_2}{2} (H_2^\dagger H_2)^2 + \lambda_3 H_1^\dagger H_1 H_2^\dagger H_2 + \lambda_4 H_1^\dagger H_2 H_2^\dagger H_1 \\
 &+ \frac{\lambda_5}{2} \left[(H_1^\dagger H_2)^2 + (H_2^\dagger H_1)^2 \right] \\
 &+ \frac{1}{8} \lambda_6 S^4 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_7 (H_1^\dagger H_1) S^2 + \frac{1}{2} \lambda_8 (H_2^\dagger H_2) S^2 \quad (32)
 \end{aligned}$$

The study of $V^{(4)}(H_1, H_2, S)$ will thus be sufficient to obtain the main constraints. The full BFB constraints read as

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \lambda_6 > 0, \quad \lambda_3 + \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} > 0 \quad (33)$$

$$\lambda_3 + \lambda_4 - |\lambda_5| + \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} > 0 \quad (34)$$

$$\lambda_7 > -\sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_6}, \quad \lambda_8 > -\sqrt{\lambda_2 \lambda_6} \quad (35)$$

for $\lambda_7 > 0$ and $\lambda_8 > 0$.

If λ_7 or $\lambda_8 < 0$, we have to satisfy two additional constraints:

$$\lambda_3 \lambda_6 - \lambda_7 \lambda_8 + \sqrt{(\lambda_1 \lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)(\lambda_2 \lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)} > 0 \quad (36)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \lambda_6 (\lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + |\lambda_5|) - \lambda_7 \lambda_8 \\
 + \sqrt{(\lambda_1 \lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)(\lambda_2 \lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)} > 0 \quad (37)
 \end{aligned}$$

Full technical details on the proof of these constraints can be found in Appendix (A).

3.2 Perturbative unitarity

To constrain the scalar potential parameters of the N2HDM further one can ask that tree-level perturbative unitarity is preserved for a variety of scattering processes: gauge boson-gauge boson scattering, scalar-scalar scattering and also scalar-gauge boson scattering. Since the equivalence theorem states that at high energy limit \sqrt{s} the amplitudes of a scattering process involving longitudinally polarized gauge bosons V are asymptotically equal, up to correction of the order m_V/\sqrt{s} , to the corresponding scalar amplitudes in which longitudinally polarized gauge bosons are replaced by their corresponding Goldstone bosons. We conclude that perturbative unitarity constraints can be implemented by considering pure scalar-scalar scattering only.

In order to derive the perturbative unitarity constraints on the scalar parameters of N2HDM we follow Refs. [38,39]. According to [38,39], one computes the scattering amplitude in the weak eigenstate basis where the quartic couplings have only λ_i dependence and no dependence on the mixing angles:

α_i and β . The important point is that the amplitude expressed in the mass eigenstate fields can be transformed into the amplitude for the non-physical fields by making a unitary transformation. The eigenvalues for the scattering amplitude should be unchanged under such a unitary transformation.

In the Appendix (B) we present the technical details of the different $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering amplitudes. The explicit forms of the eigenvalues at tree level are given by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 |\lambda_3 + \lambda_4|, \quad |\lambda_3 \pm \lambda_5|, \quad |\lambda_3 + 2\lambda_4 \pm 3\lambda_5| &< 8\pi \\
 \left| \frac{\lambda_7}{2} \right|, \quad \left| \frac{\lambda_8}{2} \right|, \quad \left| \frac{\lambda_6}{4} \right| &< 8\pi \\
 \left| \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \pm \sqrt{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 + 4\lambda_4^2}) \right| &< 8\pi \\
 \left| \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \pm \sqrt{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 + 4\lambda_5^2}) \right| &< 8\pi
 \end{aligned}$$

Other eigenvalues are coming from the cubic polynomial equation associated to the submatrix \mathcal{M}_2 corresponds to scattering with one of the following initial and final states: $(\phi_1^+ \phi_1^-, \phi_2^+ \phi_2^-, \frac{\phi_1 \phi_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\phi_2 \phi_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\phi_s \phi_s}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\chi_1 \chi_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\chi_2 \chi_2}{\sqrt{2}})$. For more details, see Appendix (B).

Moreover, we also force the potential to be perturbative by imposing that all quartic couplings of the scalar potential satisfy $|\lambda_i| \leq 8\pi$ ($i = 1, \dots, 8$).

3.3 Electroweak precision test observables (EWPT)

The oblique parameters S, T, and U are known to provide an indirect probe of new physics BSM for theories that process $SU(2) \times U(1)$ symmetry [41,42]. These parameters quantify deviations from the SM in terms of radiative corrections to the W, Z and the photon self-energies. In the framework of N2HDM, the Higgs doublet couples to the W and Z gauge bosons via the covariant derivative. Due to singlet and doublet admixtures in the scalar sector, the singlet field will also couple to the gauge bosons W and Z. Therefore, both neutral Higgs h_i , A and charged Higgs will contribute to S and T parameters which are very well constrained by electroweak precision test observables. These EWPT constraints will be converted to limits on the mixing angles and/or masses splitting among the N2HDM spectrum. The extra-contribution to S, T and U parameters for N2HDM are given in Appendix (C).

In order to study the correlation between S and T, we perform the χ^2 test over the allowed parameter space of N2HDM. Our $\chi_{S,T}^2$ is defined as:

$$\begin{aligned}
 \chi_{S,T}^2 &= \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_1^2(1 - \rho^2)} (S - \hat{S})^2 + \frac{1}{\hat{\sigma}_2^2(1 - \rho^2)} (T - \hat{T})^2 \\
 &- \frac{2\rho}{\hat{\sigma}_1 \hat{\sigma}_2 (1 - \rho^2)} (S - \hat{S})(T - \hat{T}), \quad (38)
 \end{aligned}$$

where S and T are the computed quantities within N2HDM framework [22, 43, 44]. \hat{S} and \hat{T} are the measured values of S and T , $\hat{\sigma}_{1,2}$ are their one-sigma errors and ρ their correlation [45],

$$S = 0.04 \pm 0.11, \quad T = 0.09 \pm 0.14, \quad \rho_{S,T} = 0.92 \quad (39)$$

It is worth noting here that we have checked the limits on the oblique parameters with the 2HDM, in this sense, our results match exactly to those outlined in [46, 47].

In addition, we have indirect experimental constraints from B physics observables on the contribution of the N2HDM such as $\tan \beta$ and m_{H^\pm} . In the N2HDM, the charged Higgs coupling to fermions is not at all affected by the singlet component of the additional Higgs. Therefore, constraints from $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ and B_q mixing will be the same as for the usual 2HDM model. We remind the reader that the recent experimental results presented by the Heavy Flavor Averaging Group (HFAG) [48] of $B(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma)$ have changed in a significant way the bounds on the charged Higgs boson mass. For instance, in N2HDM Type-II, the measurement of the $BR(B \rightarrow X_s \gamma)$ constrains charged Higgs mass to be larger than about 570 GeV [45, 49], while in Type-I one can still obtain a charged Higgs boson with a mass as low as 100 – 200 GeV provided that $\tan \beta \geq 2$. In addition, recent analysis [45] for the 2HDM shows that Δm_s (resp $B_d \rightarrow \mu\mu$) constraint requests that $\tan \beta > 2.5$ (resp $\tan \beta > 3$). In fact, Δm_s is only sensitive to charged Higgs, then the limit $\tan \beta > 2.5$ would apply both for 2HDM and N2HDM. However, $B_d \rightarrow \mu\mu$ is sensitive both to charged Higgs as well as to neutral higgses $h_{1,2,3}$, therefore the limit on $\tan \beta$ could be different in 2HDM and N2HDM. Therefore, in what follows we will require that $\tan \beta > 2.5$.

3.4 Constraints from Higgs data

Both ATLAS and CMS experiments of the LHC Run1 with 7 and 8 TeV and Run2 with 13 TeV confirmed the discovery of a Higgs boson with a mass around 125 GeV. Both groups performed several measurements on the Higgs boson couplings to the SM particles. Recently, both ATLAS and CMS Collaborations have announced the observation of Higgs bosons produced together with a top-quark pair [8, 9]. All these measurements seem to be in perfect agreement with SM predictions.

In the case of N2HDM, all tree-level Higgs couplings to fermions and gauge bosons are modified with the mixing parameters α_i and β . The loop-mediated processes such as $gg \rightarrow h_i$, $h_i \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ and $h_i \rightarrow \gamma Z$ will be affected both by the mixing angles as well as by the additional charged Higgs H^\pm loops which depend on the triple scalar coupling $h_i H^\pm H^\mp$.

To study the effects of ATLAS and CMS measurements on N2HDM, we take into account experimental data from

the observed cross section times branching ratio divided by the corresponding SM predictions for the various channels, i.e. the signal strengths of the Higgs boson defined by:

$$\mu_i^f = \frac{\sigma_i(h) Br(h \rightarrow f)}{\sigma_i^{SM}(h) Br^{SM}(h \rightarrow f)} \quad (40)$$

where i stand for different modes of Higgs production. The dominant mechanisms of Higgs production are gluon fusion (ggF), followed by vector boson fusion (VBF), Higgsstrahlung (Vh) and associated production with top-quark pairs ($\bar{t}th$).

All these various signal strength channels are included in our analysis through the public code HiggsBounds [50–52] and HiggsSignals [53] which also include previous LEP and Tevatron experimental searches.

As said previously, in our analysis, we will assume that h_2 is the 125 GeV Higgs boson discovered while h_1 would be lighter than h_2 . Therefore, once the decay channels $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ and/or $h_2 \rightarrow AA$ are open, the subsequent decays of h_1/A into fermions, photons or gluons, will lead either to invisible or undetected h_2 decays that can be constrained by using global analysis to the present ATLAS and CMS data to Higgs couplings.

We stress here that there are also searches for non-detected decays of the SM Higgs boson both by ATLAS and CMS. CMS looks for the following SM Higgs production channels: gluon fusion, vector boson fusion, and Higgsstrahlung process $pp \rightarrow VH$ ($V=W$ or Z) with subsequent invisible Higgs decays. Upper limits are placed on $BR(H \rightarrow invisible)$, as a function of the assumed production cross sections. The combination of all the above channels, assuming SM production, yields an upper limit of 0.24 on the $BR(H \rightarrow invisible)$ at the 95% confidence level [54]. ATLAS collaboration performs a search for an invisible decay of the Higgs through $pp \rightarrow ZH$ process with a leptonic subsequent decay of the Z [55]. Their limit is slightly weaker than CMS results. In addition, it's worth mentioning that a new observed (expected) upper limit of 0.19 (0.15) has been derived recently on the $BR(H \rightarrow invisible)$ at the 95% confidence level [56] from the combination of $\sqrt{s} = 7, 8$ and 13 TeV searches data.

In our study, we will use the fact that the total branching fraction of the SM-like Higgs boson into undetected BSM decay modes is constrained, as mentioned, by $BR(H \rightarrow invisible) \leq 0.24$ where $BR(H \rightarrow invisible)$ designate $BR(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ or the sum of $BR(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $BR(h_2 \rightarrow AA)$, $BR(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A)$ and $BR(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ if the later is open.¹

¹ Using 0.24 as upper limit instead of the recent one 0.19 will not affect the result too much since the $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ never exceed 0.2 value (see Fig. 8). Also, several searches have appeared recently which might further constrain the model's parameter space [57, 58].

4 Numerical results

Before discussing our results, we would like to comment on previous related works. In the previous studies on the N2HDM, several phenomenologically viable scenarios of N2HDM type-I and type-II were summarized in Ref. [31, 59, 60]. These studies discuss the allowed singlet-doublet admixture of Higgses h_i and also analyze the production and the decay rate of the non SM-like Higgs bosons into the most important SM final state channels, where one of the neutral scalar h_i is chosen as the discovered Higgs boson at 125 GeV, h_{125} . The mass-degenerate case is suppressed by requiring a 5 GeV mass splitting between the h_{125} and the other neutral scalar.

In the above-mentioned studies, the branching ratios and decay widths of the Higgs bosons of the Next-to-Two-Higgs-Doublet Model (N2HDM) are computed with the N2HDECAY² code. The program is documented in [61].

We recall that another recent study on the extension of 2HDM by adding a singlet scalar is presented in Ref. [62], which discusses the implication of this extension on the decay rate of the heavy pseudo-scalar and the charged Higgs boson.

As mentioned previously, we concentrate here on the case where h_2 is the SM-like Higgs, h_1 is lighter than 125 GeV and investigate the phenomenology of the neutral Higgses $h_{1,2,3}$.

4.1 Parameter scan

The scalar potential Eq. (2) has 15 independent parameters: four masses, 8 quartic couplings $\lambda_{1,\dots,8}$ and 3 vacuum expectation values. Three masses can be eliminated by the use of the 3 minimization conditions Eq. (6). Moreover, after electroweak symmetry breaking, from the kinetic terms of the Higgs doublets, the W and Z gauge bosons acquire masses which are given by $m_W^2 = \frac{1}{2}g^2(v_1^2 + v_2^2)$ and $m_Z^2 = \frac{1}{2}(g^2 + g'^2)(v_1^2 + v_2^2)$, where g and g' are the $SU_L(2)$ and $U_Y(1)$ gauge couplings. The combination $v_1^2 + v_2^2$ is thus fixed by the electroweak scale through the well known relation $v^2 = v_1^2 + v_2^2 = (2\sqrt{2}G_F)^{-1}$, and we are left with 11 free parameters. By simple algebraic calculations, from the mass matrix relations, one can express all the quartic couplings λ_i as a function of the physical masses, μ^2 , $\tan \beta$ and the mixing angles α_i .³ One can then take the following set of free independent parameters:

² The implemented decay widths include the most important state-of-the-art higher order QCD corrections and the important off-shell decays [31, 61].

³ In Ref. [31] one can find the expressions of all λ_i s as well as the trilinear and quartic scalar couplings as a function of the physical masses and the mixing angles (see Table 1).

$\alpha_{1,2,3}, \tan \beta, v_S, m_{h_{1,2,3}}, m_A, m_{H^\pm}$ and μ^2

with the convention $m_{h_1} < m_{h_2} < m_{h_3}$.

Note that the usual 2HDM is recovered from N2HDM by taking the following limits:

$$\alpha_1 \rightarrow \alpha + \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \alpha_2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_3 \rightarrow 0 \tag{41}$$

In our analysis, we will study the consistency of having the second Higgs h_2 as the 125 GeV SM-like Higgs. This scenario opens morebeyond Standard Model decay channels for h_2 such as $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ and probably $h_2 \rightarrow AA, AA^*, Z^* A, W^* H^\pm$. In order to calculate the decay widths and branching fractions of the Higgs bosons, we have implemented a private Fortran code, based on HDECAY [63]. The main program is linked to HiggsBounds and HiggsSignals libraries. We also implement the theoretical constraints (unitarity and boundedness from below), the oblique parameters (S, T, U). In the computation of the decay width of h_i , we include the off-shell decays such as $h_i \rightarrow \{Z^* A, W^{*\mp} H^\pm\}$ and $h_i \rightarrow VV^*$ and also $h_i \rightarrow V^* V^*$ if needed. We note also that in the case of $h_i \rightarrow \gamma V$, with $V = \gamma, Z$, we include W, top, bottom and charged Higgs loops together with the high order QCD corrections to $h_i \rightarrow \gamma V$.

In order to display the allowed regions for the parameters, we have considered both of the exclusions from both HiggsBounds-5.1beta and HiggsSignals-2.1.0beta to compute the value of χ_{min}^2 considering the combination of 8 TeV and 13 TeV Higgs signal strength data from run-I and run-II. Thus, we show the best fit at 95.5% CL, which corresponds to $\Delta\chi^2 \leq 5.99$ where $\Delta\chi^2 = \chi^2 - \chi_{min}^2$.

In the left panel of Fig. 1, we show the allowed parameter for $\lambda_{7,8}$ for various values of λ_6 taking into account perturbative unitarity and BFB constraints. We note first that there is a complete overlap between the three colors for positive $\lambda_{7,8}$. One can see that for negative $\lambda_{7,8}$, the theoretical constraints restrict their strength for small λ_6 . The restriction is relaxed for large $\lambda_6 \approx 4\pi$.

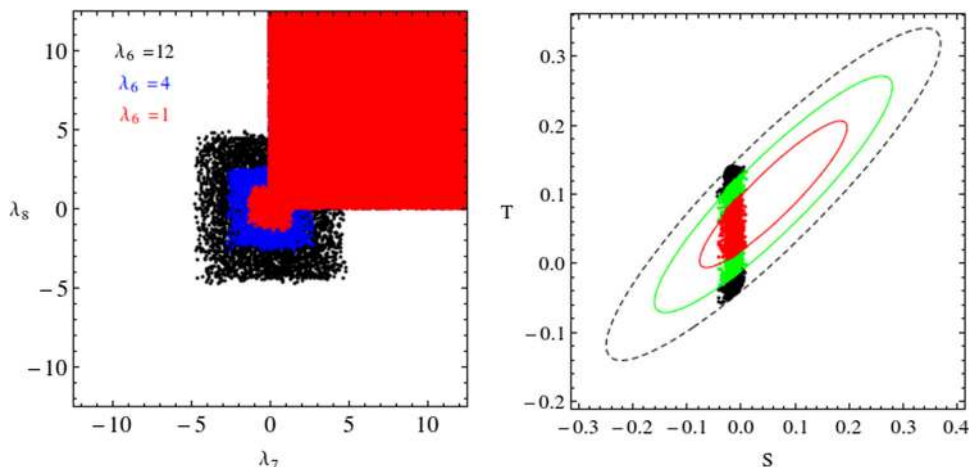
In the right panel of Fig. 1, we present the correlation between S and T, after taking into account the theoretical constraints and the exclusion from Higgs Bounds at 95% CL. The red, green and black points represent the points with $\Delta\chi_{ST}^2$ value within the $1\sigma, 2\sigma$ and 3σ interval. Note that $\Delta\chi_{ST}^2 = \chi_{ST}^2 - \chi_{ST}^{2,min}$ where $\chi_{ST}^{2,min}$ is the minimum value of χ_{ST}^2 given by Eq. (38).

4.2 Results for N2HDM type I

In this section, we study the case of N2HDM type I, where both h_1 and A could be rather light. We scan over the following range:

$$m_{h_1} \in [10, 120] \text{ GeV}, \quad m_{h_3} \in [200, 700] \text{ GeV}, \\ m_{H^\pm} \in [80, 700] \text{ GeV},$$

Fig. 1 The left panel shows the parameter space allowed by the theoretical constraints (Unitarity, Perturbativity and BFB) for (λ_7, λ_8) for $\lambda_6 = (1, 4, 12)$. Note the complete overlap between black, black and red for positive $\lambda_{6,7}$. The right panel illustrates the correlation between oblique parameters S and T. The errors for χ^2_{ST} -square fit are 99.7% CL (black), 95.5% CL (green) and 68% CL (red)



$$\begin{aligned}
 m_A &\in [62.5, 700] \text{ GeV}, \quad \mu^2 \in [0, 1.5 \times 10^3] \text{ GeV}^2, \\
 v_S &= 300 \text{ GeV}, \\
 \frac{-\pi}{2} < \alpha_1 < \frac{\pi}{2}, \quad \frac{-\pi}{6} < \alpha_{2,3} < \frac{\pi}{6}, \quad \text{and } 2.5 < \tan \beta < 25,
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{42}$$

In our scan we allow h_1 to be in the range $[10, 124]$ GeV while $m_A \geq 62.5$ GeV. In such configuration, only $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ and/or $h_2 \rightarrow AZ^*, H^\pm W^\mp$ can be open. $h_2 \rightarrow AA^* \rightarrow Aff'$ is suppressed both by the phase space and the coupling of A to light fermions. The non detected decays of h_2 , which is identified here as the Higgs-SM-like, such as $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1, AA^*, AZ^*, H^\pm W^\mp$ if open should not exceed 24% as we explain below.

To be consistent with the EW precision measurements, such light h_1 and A are naturally also accompanied by a light charged Higgs. We recall that a light charged Higgs state is allowed by the constraint $B \rightarrow X_s \gamma$ in N2HDM of type I.

h_1 decays

We study first the decay of h_1 into SM particles. As one can see from the couplings of h_1 to fermions given by Eq. (19), h_1 could be fermiophobic if $R_{12} \propto \cos \alpha_2 \sin \alpha_1$ vanish. This scenario might happen if we take $\alpha_1 \approx 0$ and/or $\alpha_2 \approx \pi/2$ which is possible since both α_1 and α_2 are free parameters in this model.

- The case where $\alpha_2 = \pi/2$ corresponds to h_1 being pure singlet and will not be discussed here.
- The case where $\alpha_1 = 0$ with $\alpha_2 \neq \pi/2$, h_1 contains both doublet and singlet component.

In Fig. 2, we show the branching ratio of $h_1 \rightarrow W^+W^-$ as a function of $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ with $Br(h_1 \rightarrow b\bar{b} + \tau^+\tau^-)$ represented on the horizontal axis on the left panel, while on the right panel, we show m_{h_1} . Since $m_{h_1} \leq 125$ GeV,

$h_1 \rightarrow W^+W^-$ will proceed with one or both W being off-shell. We first mention that the singlet component of h_1 does not exceed 50% in our case, which makes h_1 dominated by doublet components. h_1 has a large doublet component due to the large uncertainties on the LHC measurement, which does not constraint too much h_2VV and h_2ff couplings to be fully SM-like, and this leaves rather large room for h_1VV as well as h_3VV . Fitting h_1VV within LHC uncertainties still allows h_1 to have large doublet component.

As one can see, in most cases h_1 would decay significantly into a bottom pair unless α_1 vanishes, which is the fermiophobic limit for h_1 . In this case, it is clear that $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ could reach its maximum value, when $Br(h_1 \rightarrow b\bar{b})$ and $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-)$ are very suppressed. When h_1 is fermiophobic, $h_1 \rightarrow VV^*$ or $h_1 \rightarrow V^*V^*$, $V = Z, W$ can compete with $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$. In what follows, we only discuss $h_1 \rightarrow WW$ since $h_1 \rightarrow ZZ$ is smaller. In fact, $h_1 \rightarrow W^*W^*$ which is open for $m_{h_1} < m_W$ is very suppressed due to phase space while for $m_{h_1} \geq m_W$, $h_1 \rightarrow WW^*$ is open and could strongly compete with $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$. This is shown in the left and right panel of Fig. 2, where we can see $Br(h_1 \rightarrow WW^*)$ as a function of $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$. Close to the fermiophobic limit where $h_1 \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ and $h_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$ are suppressed, if the mass of h_1 is larger than the W boson mass, then $h_1 \rightarrow WW^*$ can dominate $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ in some cases.

One could have also the following scenario: both $h_1 \rightarrow f\bar{f}, h_1 \rightarrow VV^*$ and $h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma, \gamma Z$ are rather small, while the branching ratio of $Br(h_1 \rightarrow AZ^*) + Br(h_1 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp)$ becomes significant which can be understood from the sum rules Eq. (30). Due to the smallness of h_1VV coupling and R_{13} component, the sum rule given by Eq. (30) implies that h_1AZ and $h_1W^\pm H^\mp$ could become significant. This is illustrated in the left panel of Fig. 2 with the black dots in the left-down corner where both $Br(h_1 \rightarrow WW^*) \approx Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma) \approx 10^{-4}$ and also $\sum Br(h_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- + b\bar{b})$ are rather small.

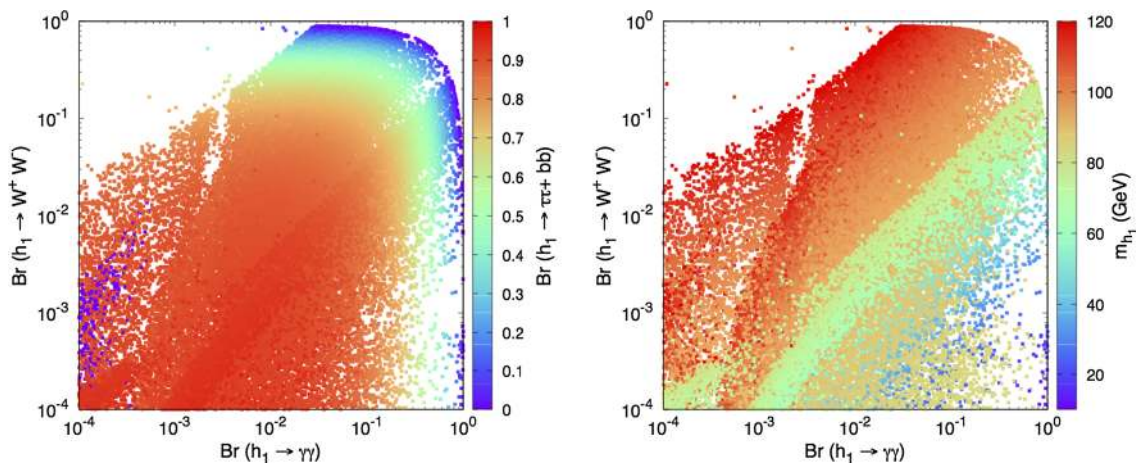


Fig. 2 $Br(h_1 \rightarrow W^+W^-)$ and $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ vs. $Br(h_1 \rightarrow b\bar{b}, \tau^+\tau^-)$ (left), and m_{h_1} (right) at 95% .CL

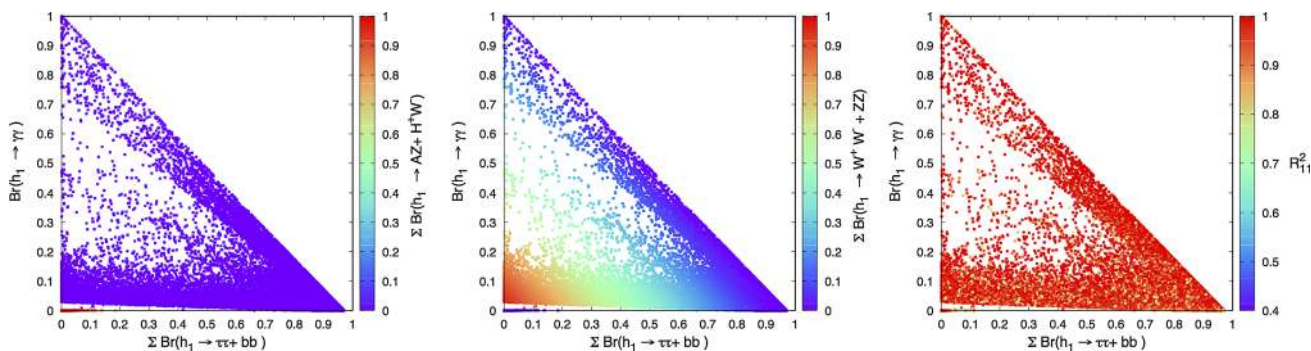


Fig. 3 $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ as a function of $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- + b\bar{b})$ vs. $Br(h_1 \rightarrow (H^\pm W^\mp + AZ))$ (left panel), $Br(h_1 \rightarrow W^+W^-)$ (middle panel) and R_{11}^2 (right panel) at 95%.C.L

The above configuration is illustrated clearly in Fig. 3 (left and middle) where we show the correlation between $\sum Br(h_1 \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^- + b\bar{b})$ and $Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)$ as a function of $Br(h_1 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp + AZ)$ and $Br(h_1 \rightarrow W^+W^-)$ on the horizontal axis. It can be seen that, when the fermionic ($\tau^+\tau^-$, $b\bar{b}$) and bosonic ($\gamma\gamma$, W^+W^- , ZZ) decays of h_1 are suppressed, the Higgs to Higgs decays $h_1 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp$ and/or $h_1 \rightarrow ZA$ become significant. As it can be seen, this happens only in a tiny region of the parameter space. In the right panel of Fig. 3, we can see that h_1 has a large doublet component in most cases. The fact that $Br(h_1 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp)$ and/or $Br(h_1 \rightarrow ZA)$ are either maximal 100% or minimal close to 0% with no intermediate range is mainly due to HiggsSignal which requires that χ^2 should have a correct value.

In Fig. 4 we illustrate $\kappa_f^{h_1}$ as a function of $\kappa_V^{h_1}$ with R_{1i} ($i = 1, 2, 3$) component of h_1 on the horizontal axis. Note that $\kappa_V^{h_i}$ and $\kappa_f^{h_i}$ are the normalized couplings of neutral Higgs to a pair of gauge bosons and to a pair of fermions respectively, discussed in Sects. (2.3) and (2.4); $\kappa_V^{h_i} \equiv g_{h_i VV}$ and $\kappa_f^{h_i} \equiv g_{h_i ff}$.

From this plot, one can read that the doublet component is rather large in most of the cases leaving only small singlet component which is less than 50%. One can also learn that when $\kappa_f^{h_1}$ and $\kappa_V^{h_1}$ are suppressed, the doublet component is very large. Which means that h_1 is mainly coming from the doublet components. According to the sum rule Eq. (25), the strength of the SM Higgs interaction, at tree level, is shared by the three neutral Higgs bosons of the N2HDM, thus, the couplings of the neutral scalars to vector bosons cannot be enhanced over the SM value and for that we have $|\kappa_V^{h_1}| \leq 1$ which is consistent with Fig. 4. On the other hand, there is a large area of the parameter space where $|\kappa_f^{h_1}| \leq 1$. On the right panel of Fig. 4, we show the sensitivity to $\tan \beta$ where we can see a linear correlation between $\kappa_f^{h_1}$ and $\kappa_V^{h_1}$ at large $\tan \beta$.

Let us mention that in this scenario with suppressed $h_1 f\bar{f}$ and $h_1 VV$ couplings, h_1 can not be produced in the usual channel such as gluon fusion, vector boson fusion or Higgsstrahlung. According to sum rules Eq. (30), if the singlet component of h_1 is small and $h_1 VV$ coupling is suppressed, then $h_1 ZA$ and $h_1 W^\pm H^\mp$ are enhanced, therefore h_1 can be produced in one of the following processes: $pp \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow$

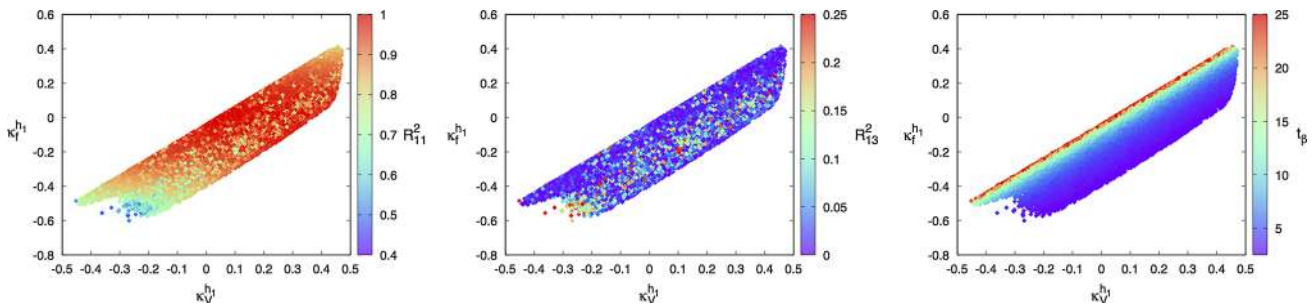


Fig. 4 $\kappa_f^{h_1}$ as a function of $\kappa_V^{h_1}$ with R_{1i}^2 ($i=1,3$) on the horizontal axis (left and middle panel), and with $\tan \beta$ on the right panel

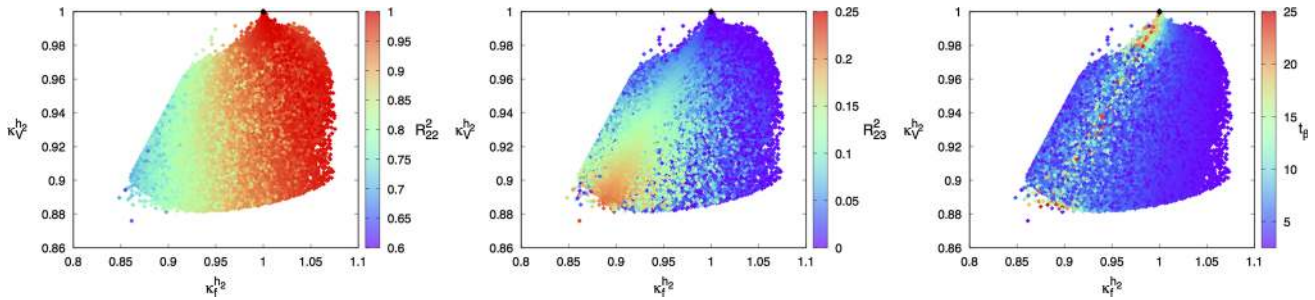


Fig. 5 $(\kappa_V^{h_2}, \kappa_f^{h_2})$ in N2HDM type-I as a function of $R_{22,23}$ (left and middle panel), and $\tan \beta$ on the right panel. The black lozenge stands for the SM value

$h_1 A$ or $pp \rightarrow W^* \rightarrow h_1 H^\pm$ which would lead respectively to the following final states ZAA or $WH^\pm H^\mp$.

h_2 decays

We now discuss the decay of the SM-like h_2 . We first show the consistency of $h_2 \rightarrow VV$ and $h_2 \rightarrow f\bar{f}$ with LHC data. For this purpose, we illustrate in Fig. 5 the correlation between $\kappa_V^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_f^{h_2}$ as a function of R_{2i}^2 . According to the sum rule Eq. (25), $\kappa_V^{h_2} < 1$, and this is clearly illustrated in the plot. One can see from the plot that when $\kappa_V^{h_2} \approx 1$ we have also $\kappa_f^{h_2} \approx 1$, this is a consequence of the sum rule Eq. (31). However, the suppression of $\kappa_V^{h_2}$ could be of the order of 12% and it could happen both for $\kappa_f^{h_2} < 1$ or $\kappa_f^{h_2} > 1$. Note that the suppression of both $\kappa_f^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_V^{h_2}$ takes place when the singlet component of h_2 is rather large $R_{23}^2 > 0.1$. One can see that $\kappa_f^{h_2}$ could reach a value less than 0.8 for $R_{23}^2 \approx 0.25$. It is also clear from the plot that one can have an enhancement of $\kappa_f^{h_2}$ in the range of [1.05 – 1.15] for small singlet component of h_2 ($R_{23}^2 \approx 0.1$) and moderate $\tan \beta$.

In Fig. 6, we show the correlation between $\kappa_{gg}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ on the left panel and the correlation between $\kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma Z}^{h_2}$ on the right panel, the SM value is indicated as a black box. $\kappa_{gg}, \kappa_{\gamma\gamma}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma Z}$ are the scaling factors for loop-induced channels which are defined by:

$$\kappa_j^2 = \Gamma^j / \Gamma_{SM}^j, \quad j = gg, \gamma\gamma, Z\gamma \tag{43}$$

j stands for a given loop process decay and Γ^j is the partial decay rate. Note that $\kappa_{gg} \equiv \kappa_{gg}^{h_2}, \kappa_{\gamma\gamma} \equiv \kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}, \kappa_{Z\gamma} \equiv \kappa_{Z\gamma}^{h_2}$. One can see that the deviations of $\kappa_{gg}^{h_2}, \kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma Z}^{h_2}$ from the SM value can reach 15%. Note that in both $\kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma Z}^{h_2}$, we have, in most cases, a suppression of the rate compared to the value predicted by the SM. The figure also shows that we have suppression of $\kappa_{gg}^{h_2}, \kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma Z}^{h_2}$ rate for h_2 with relatively large singlet component. We also stress that most of the cases $\kappa_{\gamma Z}^{h_2} < \kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$.

As we have seen in Fig. 5, decays of h_2 into SM particles such as $WW, ZZ, b\bar{b}$ and $\tau^+\tau^-$ are consistent with LHC measurements with deviations from SM predictions that could go up to 10–15%. However, these deviations are mainly due to experimental uncertainties on all the LHC measurements which could be larger than 10% in some channels. Therefore, taking into account these uncertainties, there is still a room for the non-detected SM Higgs decays such as $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1, AA, AA^*, AZ^*, H^\pm W^*$. In our scan we assume that $m_A > 62.5$ GeV, therefore $h_2 \rightarrow AA$ will not be open and $h_2 \rightarrow AA^*$ is rather suppressed. We are only left with $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1, AZ^*, H^\pm W^*$ channels. As explained above, all these additional decays of the SM Higgs should not exceed 24%.

We show in Fig. 7 $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ as a function of $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ with $\kappa_{h_2 h_1 h_1}$ on the horizontal axis (left panel). While on the right panel we illustrate the singlet component of h_1 on the horizontal axis. Note that the couplings $h_1 A Z$ and $h_1 W^\mp H^\pm$ are exactly

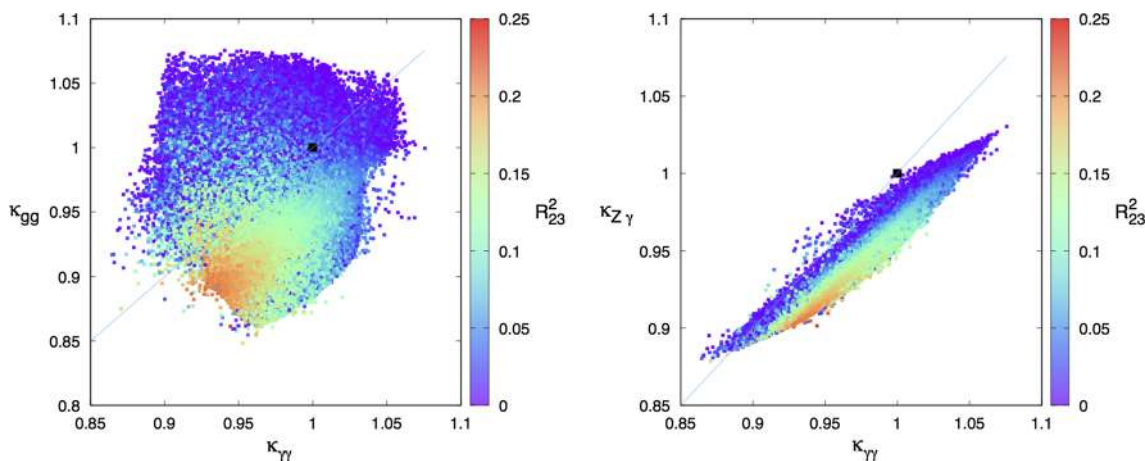


Fig. 6 Correlations: between $\kappa_{gg}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ versus R_{23}^2 and between $\kappa_{\gamma\gamma}^{h_2}$ and $\kappa_{Z\gamma}^{h_2}$ as a function of the singlet component R_{23}^2 in N2HDM type-I at 95% C.L

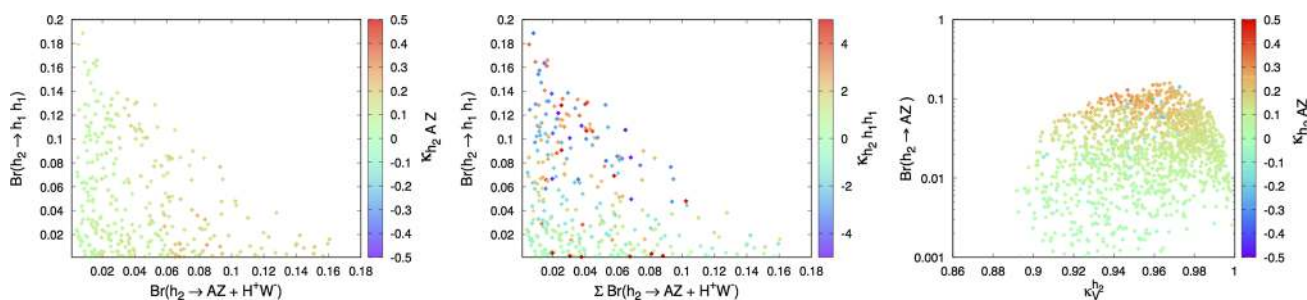


Fig. 7 $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_2 \rightarrow AZ + H^+ W^-)$ versus $\kappa_{h_2 AZ}$ (left) and $\kappa_{h_2 h_1 h_1}$ (middle). On the right panel $Br(h_2 \rightarrow AZ)$ versus $\kappa_V^{h_2}$ as a function of $\kappa_{h_2 AZ}$ at 95% C.L in N2HDM type-I

the same (see Eq. (30)). Therefore, if $m_A \approx m_{H^\pm}$ then $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A)$ and $Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ are of the same order. The total amount for $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ should not exceed 24% as requested from the non-detected decay of the SM Higgs, and this is rather clear from Fig. 7. The plots also display the correlation between $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$. When $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ is maximized, $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ is minimal and vice versa. One can have also a configuration where both $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A) + Br(h_2 \rightarrow W^* H^\pm)$ are of the same size. In the case where both A and H^\pm are heavier than 125 GeV, only $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ would contribute to the non-detected decay of h_2 .

On the middle panel of Fig. 7 it is clear that when the reduced coupling of $h_2 h_1 h_1$ is large, the branching ratio $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ is substantial which would provide an important production channel for h_1 from h_2 decay: $gg \rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ which could compete with the other production channels such as $pp \rightarrow Wh_1$ and/or $pp \rightarrow \{h_1 A, h_1 H^\pm\}$.

On the right panel of Fig. 7 we illustrate the correlation between $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A)$ and $\kappa_V^{h_2}$ as a function of $\kappa_{h_2 AZ}$. As one can see from the plot, and according to the sum rule

Eq. (30), when $h_2 VV$ is full strength, then $Br(h_2 \rightarrow Z^* A)$ is suppressed.

We have seen previously that $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ could be significant and can reach 20% in some case. In the case where h_1 is dominated by the singlet component, it is well known that it is hard to produce it through the conventional channels such as ggF, VBF ect. Therefore, the process $gg \rightarrow h_2$ followed by the decay $h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ could be an important process for the production of h_1 . In the case where h_1 is dominated by the singlet component, its decay to SM particle would be suppressed. In such case, it may be possible that h_1 would decay to a pair of photons which could proceed through charged Higgs loops. Therefore, the process $gg \rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ could lead to a spectacular 4 photons final states. In Fig. 8 (left) we illustrate the branching fraction $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \times Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)^2$ as a function of m_{h_1} . As can be seen, such branching fraction could reach 10% in some cases. On the right panel of Fig. 8, we show the production cross section for $\sigma(gg \rightarrow h_2) \times Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \times Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)^2$.

We note that for very small singlet component $R_{13} \approx 0$ where h_1 is fully dominated by the doublet components, one

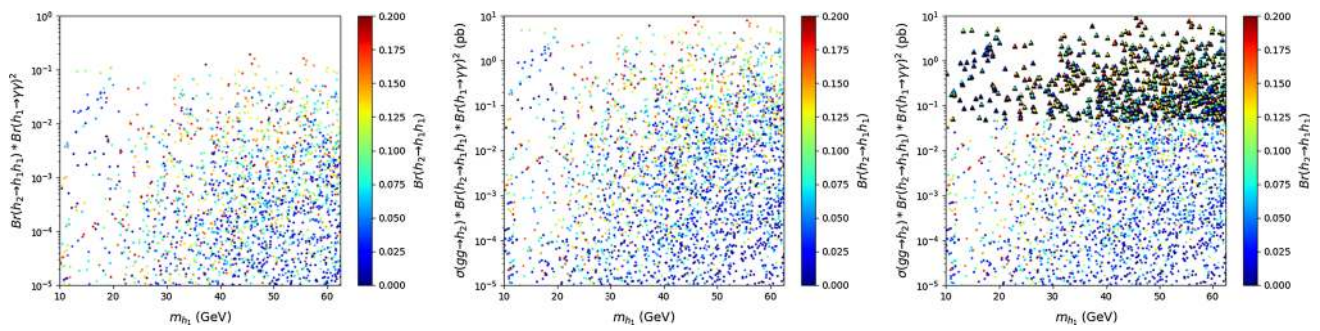


Fig. 8 $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \times Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)^2$ (left panel) and $\sigma(gg \rightarrow h_2) \times Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1) \times Br(h_1 \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)^2$ (middle and right panel) as a function of m_{h_1} versus $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ at 95% C.L. in N2HDM type-I. Black triangles denote the excluded points from Fig. 9

could have sizeable $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ as it has been noticed in the usual 2HDM [64,65].

Recently, ATLAS published their results for the search of new phenomena in events with at least three photons [32] based on 8 TeV CM energy with 20.3 fb^{-1} . This search was used to put constraint on an N-MSSM scenario which leads to four photons final states $gg \rightarrow H \rightarrow a_1 a_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$ where a light pseudo-scalar, if dominated by singlet component, can decay fully into two photons with 100% branching ratio. Following this work, it has been demonstrated in [65] that the kinematic distributions for $qq \rightarrow H \rightarrow a_1 a_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$ and $qq \rightarrow H \rightarrow h_1 h_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$ with h_1 being CP-even are identical. Reference [65] also provide a projection for 14 TeV CM energy. Therefore results from [32] can be applied to our four photons final states. In Fig. 9, we present our predictions for $pp \rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$ for both 8 TeV and 14 TeV together with the 8 TeV exclusion from ATLAS analysis. ATLAS projection for 14 TeV is also shown in the lower band. It is clear that some benchmark points are already excluded by the 8 TeV data and the 14 TeV projection. However, several benchmarks are still alive.

h_3 decays

We now discuss h_3 decays. We show in Fig. 10 the branching fractions for $h_3 \rightarrow ff, f = b, \tau, t$ and $h_3 \rightarrow VV, V = \gamma, Z, W$ as a function of singlet component R_{33} and m_{h_3} . It is clear that h_3 is dominated by singlet component. One can see that before reaching the $t\bar{t}$ threshold, $h_3 \rightarrow WW$ could be the dominant decay mode of h_3 with a branching which can reach up to 80%, while $h_3 \rightarrow ZZ$ goes up to 20% and in such cases $h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ is suppressed. After reaching $t\bar{t}$ threshold, $h_3 \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ can be slightly larger than 10% for large m_{h_3} mass.

We now discuss Higgs to Higgs decays, such as $h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1, h_1 h_2, h_2 h_2$ and $h_3 \rightarrow ZA, W^\pm H^\mp$. In Fig. 11 (upper plot) we illustrate the branching ratio of $h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ (left), $h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2$ (middle) and their correlation (right). From the left panel, one can see that $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ can be substan-

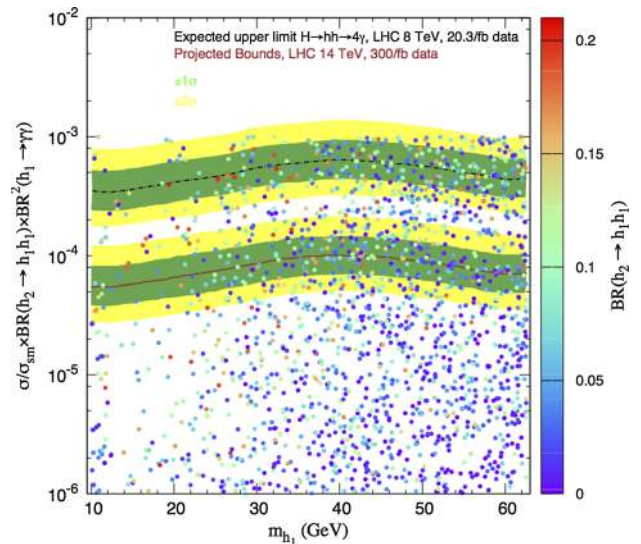


Fig. 9 Upper limit at 95% CL on $\frac{\sigma(h_2)}{\sigma_{SM}} \times Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma)$ as a function of m_{h_1} vs. $Br(h_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ from ATLAS searches at 8 TeV (upper band) and the projection for 14 TeV (lower band) taken from [65]. The green and yellow color indicate the allowed regions at 68% and 95%, respectively

tial and becomes the dominant decay mode, while from the middle panel it is clear that $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$ can reach 30% as a maximal value. In the case where $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ is the dominant decay, then one can have a new production mechanism for h_1 , namely: $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$. This production channel might be useful for the case where h_1 has large singlet component in which case it will be challenging to produce it in the conventional channels.

In the lower panels of Fig. 11 we display the correlation between $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1), Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2), Br(h_3 \rightarrow AA), Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2)$ as well as with $Br(h_3 \rightarrow WW)$.

It is clear that one can have a scenario where both $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow AA)$ are rather large with branching fractions of the order 40%. It is also clear that when $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$ are suppressed then $Br(h_3 \rightarrow WW, ZZ)$ would become slightly large.

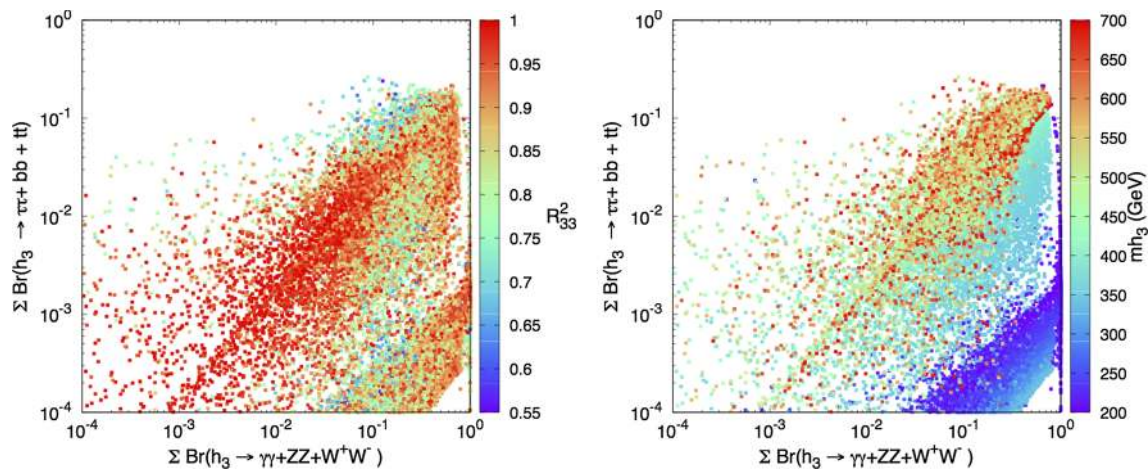


Fig. 10 Correlation between $Br(h_3 \rightarrow ff)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow VV)$ versus R_{33}^2 (left) and m_{h_3} (right) (GeV) in N2HDM type-I

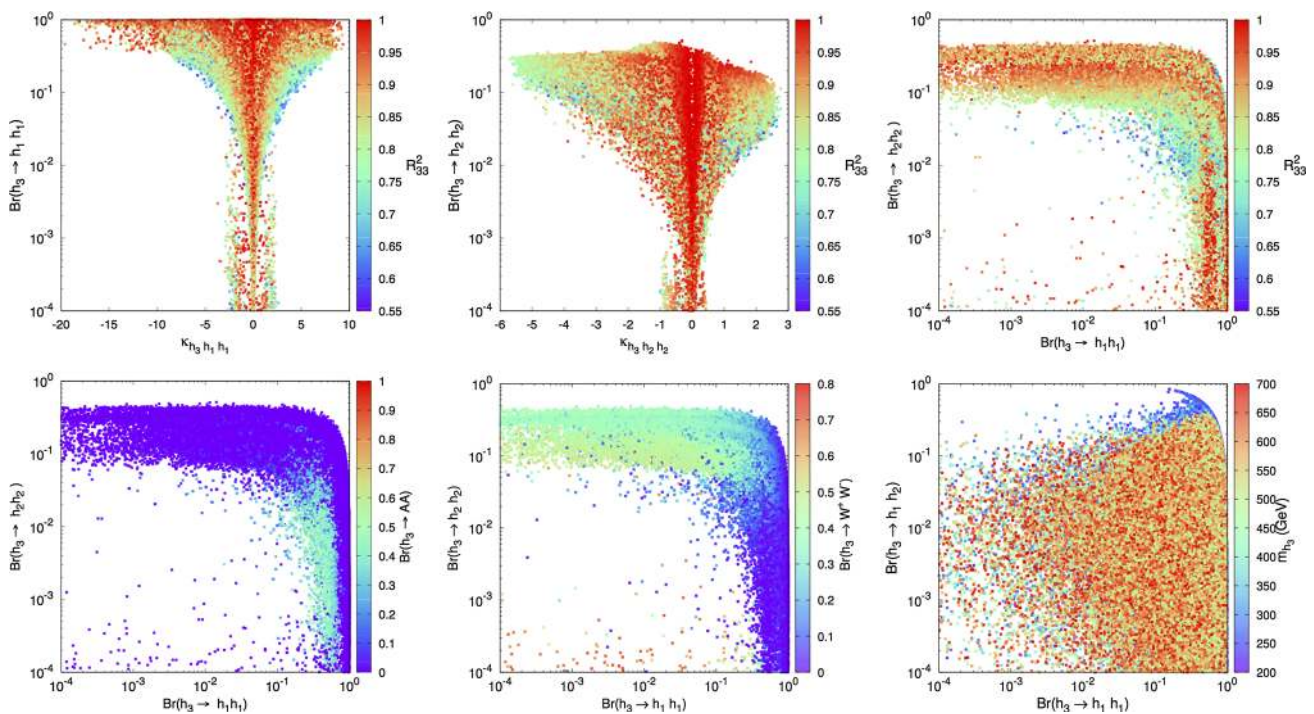


Fig. 11 Upper panels: (left) $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ as a function of $\kappa_{h_3 h_1 h_1}$ and (middle) $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$ as a function of $\kappa_{h_3 h_2 h_2}$ with R_{33}^2 displayed on the vertical and (right) the correlation between $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$. Lower panels: correlation between

$Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2)$ as a function of $Br(h_3 \rightarrow AA)$ (lower-left), as a function of $Br(h_3 \rightarrow WW)$ (lower-middle) and correlation between $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2)$ as a function of m_{h_3}

In Fig. 12 we show the branching fractions of $h_3 \rightarrow AZ$ and $h_3 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp$ versus R_{33}^2 . As one can see from the plots and according to the sum-rule Eq. (30), when h_3 is dominated by the singlet component; $R_{33} \approx 1$, then both $h_3 ZA$ and $h_3 W^\mp H^\pm$ couplings are suppressed resulting in a small branching ratio for both channels. For R_{33} away from 1, the branching fraction $h_3 \rightarrow AZ$ and $h_3 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp$ can be in the range of 10–40% in some cases.

Given that $Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1)$ can be sizeable, one can look to the amount of production cross section that one can get from h_3 production followed by h_3 decay into a pair of h_1 . We illustrate in Fig. 13 both $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_2 h_2$ (left), $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_1$ (middle) and $pp \rightarrow h_3 \rightarrow h_1 h_2$ (right) where the production cross section of h_3 is computed at $\sqrt{s} = 13\text{TeV}$ with SUSHI [66,67].

One can see that the production rate of h_1 is large especially in the mass range $200 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_{h_3} \lesssim 250 \text{ GeV}$ when

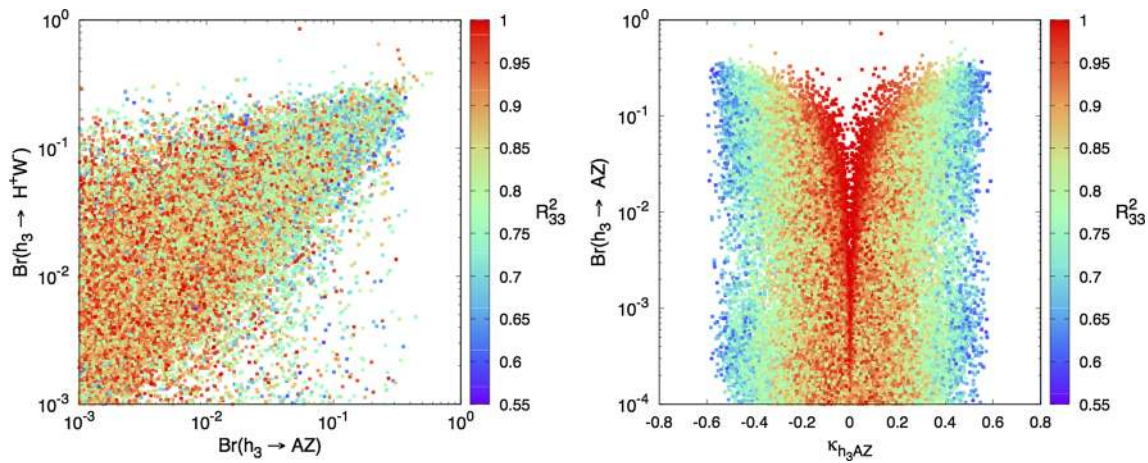


Fig. 12 Correlation between $Br(h_3 \rightarrow AZ)$ and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow H^\pm W^\mp)$ versus R_{33}^2 (left panel) and $Br(h_3 \rightarrow AZ)$ as a function of κ_{h_3AZ} and R_{33}^2 (right panel)

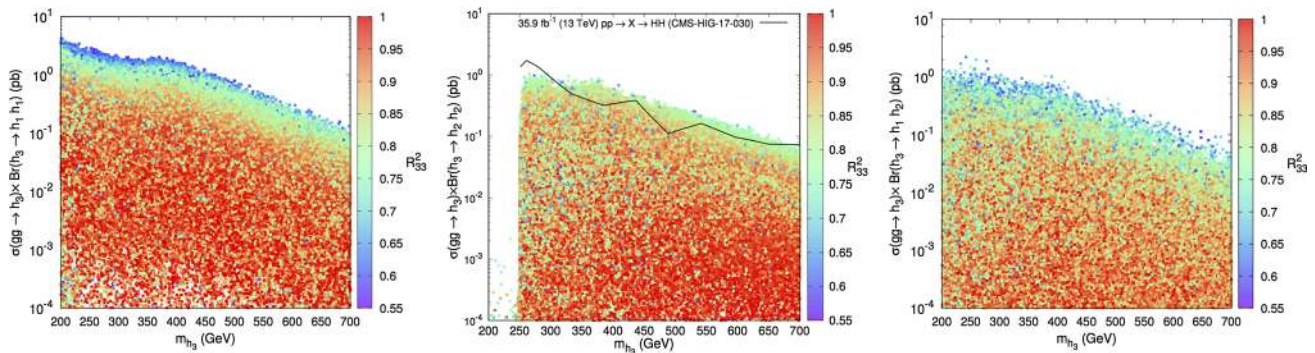


Fig. 13 $\sigma(pp \rightarrow h_3) \times Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1h_1)$ (left panel), $\sigma(pp \rightarrow h_3) \times Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_2h_2)$ (middle panel) and $\sigma(pp \rightarrow h_3) \times Br(h_3 \rightarrow h_1h_2)$ (right panel) as a function of $m_{h_3}(GeV)$ and R_{33}^2 in N2HDM type-I.

Solid line is the observed 95% CL exclusion limits on the production of a narrow width spin zero resonance decaying into a pair of Higgs bosons [68]

the decay channel $h_3 \rightarrow h_1h_1$ is kinematically allowed and both $h_3 \rightarrow h_2h_2$ and $h_3 \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ are closed. The same behavior is observed in the middle panel, where the magnitude in the cross section is larger in the mass range $250 GeV \lesssim m_{h_3} \lesssim 350 GeV$ when the decay channel $h_3 \rightarrow h_2h_2$ is opened and $h_3 \rightarrow t\bar{t}$ mode is closed. However, one can see that after applying the constraints on the heavy scalar resonances decaying into two SM-like scalars with a mass of $\sim 125 GeV$ [68], some of the parameter space points are already excluded.

5 Conclusions

We have studied the two Higgs doublet model extended with a real singlet scalar. The spectrum contains 3 CP-even $h_{1,2,3}$, one CP-odd and a pair of charged Higgs. We derive full set of perturbative unitarity constraints, boundedness from below constraints as well as the oblique parameters S, T and U.

In our analysis, we concentrate on the case where h_2 is the SM Higgs boson observed at the LHC and assume that h_1 is lighter than 125 GeV. We study the consistency of our scenario with both LHC data taken at 8 TeV and 13 TeV as well as with all the available LEP-II and Tevatron data. We have shown in the framework of N2HDM that:

- h_1 can be quasi-fermiophobic and would decay dominantly into two photons.
- LHC data still allow a room for the non-detected decays of the SM-Higgs $h_2 \rightarrow h_1h_1$ and others with a branching ratio of the order which can reach 24%. Such decay followed by two photons decay of h_1 could lead to four photons signature, namely $pp \rightarrow h_2 \rightarrow h_1h_1 \rightarrow 4\gamma$.
- Comparison of ATLAS data with our four photons signal show that there is a large area of parameter space that still escapes ATLAS data

We have also shown that in N2HDM type I, h_2 and h_3 can decay to some exotic modes such as $h_{2,3} \rightarrow h_1h_1$,

$h_{2,3} \rightarrow ZA$ and $h_{2,3} \rightarrow W \pm H^\mp$ with substantial branching ratio. The production process $gg \rightarrow h_{2,3}$ followed by the decays $h_{2,3} \rightarrow h_1 h_1, h_1 h_2$ could be sizeable and could be an important source of production of h_1 in the case where h_1 have a large singlet component where it is rather difficult to produce it using the conventional channel.

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Data Availability Statement This manuscript has no associated data or the data will not be deposited. [Authors' comment: This is a theoretical study that has no associated data.]

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Appendix A: BFB constraints

Consider for instance the following case in which there is no coupling between doublets H_i and singlet S Higgs bosons, i.e. $\lambda_3 = \lambda_4 = \lambda_5 = \lambda_7 = \lambda_8 = 0$, it is obvious that

$$\lambda_1 > 0 \ \& \ \lambda_2 > 0 \ \& \ \lambda_6 > 0 \tag{A1}$$

To proof the necessary and sufficient BFB conditions, we adopt a different parameterization of the fields that will turn out to be particularly convenient to entirely solve the problem. For that we define:

$$r \equiv \sqrt{H_1^\dagger H_1 + H_2^\dagger H_2 + S^\dagger S} \tag{A2}$$

$$H_1^\dagger H_1 \equiv r^2 \cos^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi \tag{A3}$$

$$H_2^\dagger H_2 \equiv r^2 \sin^2 \theta \sin^2 \phi \tag{A4}$$

$$S^\dagger S \equiv r^2 \cos^2 \phi. \tag{A5}$$

$$\frac{H_1^\dagger H_2}{|H_1||H_2|} \equiv \xi e^{i\psi}. \tag{A6}$$

Obviously, when H_1, H_2 and S scan all the field space, the radius r scans the domain $[0, \infty[$, the angle $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$ and the angle $\phi \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$. Moreover, one can show that $\frac{H_1^\dagger}{|H_1|} \cdot \frac{H_2}{|H_2|}$ is a product of unit spinor, so that $\xi \in [0, 1]$.

With this parameterization, one can cast $V^{(4)}(H_1, H_2, S)$ in the following simple form,

$$\begin{aligned} V^{(4)}(r, c_\theta^2, s_\phi^2, c_{2\psi}, \xi) &= r^4 \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1}{2} c_\theta^4 s_\phi^4 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} s_\theta^4 s_\phi^4 + \lambda_3 c_\theta^2 s_\theta^2 s_\phi^4 + \lambda_4 c_\theta^2 s_\theta^2 s_\phi^4 \xi^2 \right. \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_5}{2} c_\theta^2 s_\theta^2 s_\phi^4 \xi^2 (e^{2i\psi} + e^{-2i\psi}) + \frac{\lambda_6}{8} c_\theta^4 \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_7 c_\theta^2 s_\theta^2 c_\phi^2 + \lambda_8 s_\theta^2 s_\phi^2 c_\phi^2) \right\} \end{aligned} \tag{A7}$$

Let define again:

$$x \equiv \cos^2 \theta, \quad y \equiv \sin^2 \phi, \quad z \equiv \cos 2\psi \tag{A8}$$

which allows to write

$$\begin{aligned} V^{(4)}(x, y, z, \xi) &= \left\{ \frac{\lambda_1}{2} x^2 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} (1-x)^2 + \lambda_3 x(1-x) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \lambda_4 x(1-x)\xi^2 + \lambda_5 x(1-x)\xi^2 z \right\} y^2 \\ &\quad + \frac{\lambda_6}{8} (1-y)^2 \\ &\quad + \left\{ \frac{\lambda_7}{2} x + \frac{\lambda_8}{2} (1-x) \right\} y(1-y) \end{aligned} \tag{A9}$$

it is easy to find the constraint conditions by studying $V^{(4)}(x, y, z, \xi)$ as a quadratic function using the fact that:

$$\begin{aligned} f(\zeta) &= a\zeta^2 + b(1-\zeta)^2 + c\zeta(1-\zeta), \quad \zeta \in (0, 1) \\ \Leftrightarrow &a > 0, \ b > 0 \ \text{and} \ c + 2\sqrt{ab} > 0 \end{aligned} \tag{A10}$$

we can deduce the set of constraints as:

$$\begin{aligned} A &\equiv \frac{\lambda_1}{2} x^2 + \frac{\lambda_2}{2} (1-x)^2 + \lambda_3 x(1-x) + \\ &\quad \lambda_4 x(1-x)\xi^2 + \lambda_5 x(1-x)\xi^2 z > 0 \end{aligned} \tag{A11}$$

$$B \equiv \frac{\lambda_6}{8} > 0 \tag{A12}$$

$$C \equiv \frac{\lambda_7}{2} x + \frac{\lambda_8}{2} (1-x) > -2\sqrt{AB} \tag{A13}$$

the simple condition can be extracted from Eq. (A12), which imply $\lambda_6 > 0$. For $A > 0$ one can use Eq. (A10) again to get the ordinary 2HDM BFB constraints taking into account if $\xi = 0; 1$ and $z = -1; 1$:

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0 \tag{A14}$$

$$\lambda_3 + \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} > 0 \tag{A15}$$

$$\lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + |\lambda_5| + \sqrt{\lambda_1 \lambda_2} > 0 \tag{A16}$$

For the Eq. (A13), we can consider two scenarios:

- scenario (1): λ_7 and $\lambda_8 > 0$ starting with the fact that $x = \cos^2 \theta > 0$ and $1-x = \sin^2 \theta > 0$, thus $C > 0 \rightarrow \lambda_7, \lambda_8 > 0$ imply that $AB > 0$ which already done in Eqs. (A11, A12).

– scenario (2): λ_7 or $\lambda_8 < 0$
 this scenario implies λ_7 or $\lambda_8 \leq 0$ and it leads to two cases:

$$C > -2\sqrt{AB} \Leftrightarrow \begin{cases} -2\sqrt{AB} < C < 2\sqrt{AB} & (i) \\ C > 2\sqrt{AB} & (ii) \end{cases} \quad \text{or} \quad (A17)$$

For scenario(i), we can rewrite it like this:

$$(\lambda_1\lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)x^2 + (\lambda_2\lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)(1-x)^2 + 2\{\lambda_6(\lambda_3 + \lambda_4\xi^2 + \lambda_5\xi^2z) - \lambda_7\lambda_8\}x(1-x) > 0 \quad (A18)$$

by applying the *lemme* given by Eq. (A10), we get the following new constraints:

$$\lambda_7^2 < \lambda_1\lambda_6 \quad (A19)$$

$$\lambda_8^2 < \lambda_2\lambda_6 \quad (A20)$$

$$\lambda_6(\lambda_3 + \lambda_4\xi^2 + \lambda_5\xi^2z) - \lambda_7\lambda_8 + \sqrt{(\lambda_1\lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)(\lambda_2\lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)} > 0 \quad (A21)$$

Both Eqs. (A19) and (A20) gives constraints on λ_7 and λ_8 :

$$-\sqrt{\lambda_1\lambda_6}(-\sqrt{\lambda_2\lambda_6}) < \lambda_7(\lambda_8) < \sqrt{\lambda_1\lambda_6}(\sqrt{\lambda_2\lambda_6}) \quad (A22)$$

since $\xi = 0; 1$ and $z = -1; 1$, the latest equations leads to

$$\lambda_3\lambda_6 - \lambda_7\lambda_8 + \sqrt{(\lambda_1\lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)(\lambda_2\lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)} > 0 \quad (A23)$$

$$\lambda_6(\lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + |\lambda_5|) - \lambda_7\lambda_8 + \sqrt{(\lambda_1\lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2)(\lambda_2\lambda_6 - \lambda_8^2)} > 0 \quad (A24)$$

In the other hand, scenario(ii) leads to a contradiction because it implies that $\lambda_7 > 0$ and $\lambda_8 > 0$, which is not our case.

Appendix B: Unitarity constraints

The first submatrix \mathcal{M}_1 corresponds to scattering whose initial and final states are one of the following : $(\phi_1^+\phi_2^-, \phi_2^+\phi_1^-, \phi_1\chi_2, \phi_2\chi_1, \phi_s\chi_1, \phi_s\chi_2, \phi_1\phi_2, \phi_1\phi_s, \phi_2\phi_s, \chi_1\chi_2)$. We have to write out the full matrix, one finds,

$$\mathcal{M}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{34}^+ & 2\lambda_5 & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & +i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} \\ 2\lambda_5 & \lambda_{34}^+ & +i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} \\ +i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \lambda_L & \lambda_5 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & +i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \lambda_5 & \lambda_L & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_7}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_8}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda & 0 & 0 & \lambda_5 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_7}{2} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_8}{2} & 0 \\ \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_5 & 0 & 0 & \lambda \end{pmatrix} \quad (B1)$$

where $\lambda = \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 + \lambda_5$ and $\lambda_L = \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 - \lambda_5$. We find that \mathcal{M}_1 has the following eigenvalues given by :

$$a_1 = \lambda_3 + \lambda_4 \quad (B2)$$

$$a_2 = \lambda_3 - \lambda_5 \quad (B3)$$

$$a_3 = \lambda_3 + \lambda_5 \quad (B4)$$

$$a_4 = \frac{\lambda_7}{2} \quad (B5)$$

$$a_5 = \frac{\lambda_8}{2} \quad (B6)$$

$$a_{\pm} = \lambda_3 + 2\lambda_4 \pm 3\lambda_5 \quad (B7)$$

The second submatrix \mathcal{M}_2 corresponds to scattering with one of the following initial and final states: $(\phi_1^+\phi_1^-, \phi_2^+\phi_2^-, \frac{\phi_1\phi_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\phi_2\phi_2}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\phi_s\phi_s}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\chi_1\chi_1}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\chi_2\chi_2}{\sqrt{2}})$, where the $\sqrt{2}$ accounts for identical particle statistics. One finds that \mathcal{M}_2 is given by:

$$\mathcal{M}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda_1 & \lambda_{34}^+ & \frac{\lambda_1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_7}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \lambda_{34}^+ & 2\lambda_2 & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_8}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{\lambda_1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{3\lambda_1}{2} & \frac{\lambda}{2} & \frac{\lambda_7}{4} & \frac{\lambda_1}{2} & \frac{\lambda_L}{2} \\ \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda}{2} & \frac{3\lambda_2}{2} & \frac{\lambda_8}{4} & \frac{\lambda_L}{2} & \frac{\lambda_2}{2} \\ \frac{\lambda_7}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_8}{2\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_7}{4} & \frac{\lambda_8}{4} & \frac{3\lambda_6}{8} & \frac{\lambda_7}{4} & \frac{\lambda_8}{4} \\ \frac{\lambda_1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_1}{2} & \frac{\lambda_L}{2} & \frac{\lambda_7}{4} & \frac{3\lambda_1}{2} & \frac{\lambda}{2} \\ \frac{\lambda_3}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_2}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{\lambda_L}{2} & \frac{\lambda_2}{2} & \frac{\lambda_8}{4} & \frac{\lambda}{2} & \frac{3\lambda_2}{2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (B8)$$

Despite its apparently complicated structure, three eigenvalues of \mathcal{M}_2 are located as roots of the following cubic polynomial equation:

$$2x^3 + (-6\lambda_1 - 6\lambda_2 - \lambda_6)x^2 + (18\lambda_1\lambda_2 - 8\lambda_3^2 - 8\lambda_3\lambda_4 - 2\lambda_4^2 + 3\lambda_1\lambda_6 + 3\lambda_2\lambda_6 - \lambda_7^2 - \lambda_8^2)x - 9\lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_6 + 4\lambda_3^2\lambda_6 + 4\lambda_3\lambda_4\lambda_6 + \lambda_4^2\lambda_6 + 3\lambda_2\lambda_7^2 - 4\lambda_3\lambda_7\lambda_8 - 2\lambda_4\lambda_7\lambda_8 + 3\lambda_1\lambda_8^2 = 0 \tag{B9}$$

Those roots are denoted as b_1, b_2 and b_3 . The remaining five eigenvalues of \mathcal{M}_2 are as follows:

$$b_4 = \frac{\lambda_6}{4} \tag{B10}$$

$$b_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \pm \sqrt{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 + 4\lambda_4^2}) \tag{B11}$$

$$f_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2}(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 \pm \sqrt{(\lambda_1 - \lambda_2)^2 + 4\lambda_5^2}) \tag{B12}$$

The second submatrix \mathcal{M}_3 corresponds to scattering with one of the following initial and final states: $(\phi_1\chi_1, \phi_2\chi_2)$. One finds that \mathcal{M}_3 is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_3 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_5 \\ \lambda_5 & \lambda_2 \end{pmatrix} \tag{B13}$$

the 3 eigenvalues read as follows:

$$c_{\pm} = f_{\pm} \tag{B14}$$

The fourth submatrix \mathcal{M}_4 corresponds to scattering with initial and final states being one of the following 12 sates : $(\phi_1\phi_1^+, \chi_1\phi_1^+, \phi_2\phi_1^+, \chi_2\phi_1^+, \phi_s\phi_1^+, \phi_1\phi_2^+, \chi_1\phi_2^+, \phi_2\phi_2^+, \chi_2\phi_2^+, \phi_s\phi_2^+)$. It reads,

$$\mathcal{M}_4 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_7}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & -i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 & 0 \\ i\frac{\lambda_{45}^-}{2} & \frac{\lambda_{45}^+}{2} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{\lambda_8}{2} \end{pmatrix} \tag{B15}$$

The corresponding eigenvalues are:

$$d_1 = a_1, \quad d_2 = a_2, \quad d_3 = a_3, \quad d_4 = a_4 \tag{B16}$$

$$d_5 = a_5, \quad d_{\pm} = b_{\pm}, \quad g_{\pm} = f_{\pm} \tag{B17}$$

$$d_6 = \lambda_3 - \lambda_4 \tag{B18}$$

The fifth submatrix \mathcal{M}_5 corresponds to scattering with initial and final states being one of the following 3 sates:

$(\frac{\phi_1^+\phi_1^+}{\sqrt{2}}, \frac{\phi_2^+\phi_2^+}{\sqrt{2}}, \phi_1^+\phi_2^+)$. It reads,

$$\mathcal{M}_5 = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & \lambda_5 & 0 \\ \lambda_5 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_{34}^+ \end{pmatrix} \tag{B19}$$

and possesses the following 3 distinct eigenvalues:

$$e_1 = a_1 \tag{B20}$$

$$e_{\pm} = f_{\pm} \tag{B21}$$

Appendix C: Oblique parameters

In order to study the contribution of the oblique parameters in the framework of N2HDM, we have used the general expressions presented in [22,43,44] for the $SU(2) \times U(1)$ electroweak model with an arbitrary number of scalar $SU(2)$ doublets, with hypercharge $\pm\frac{1}{2}$, and an arbitrary number of scalar singlets.

In this study, we have four real fields that are related to the physical fields $h_{1,2,3}$ and A through,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \varphi_a + iG \\ \varphi_b + iA \\ \varphi_c \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} i & R_{11} & R_{12} & R_{13} & 0 \\ 0 & R_{21} & R_{22} & R_{23} & i \\ 0 & R_{31} & R_{32} & R_{23} & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} G \\ h_1 \\ h_2 \\ h_3 \\ A \end{pmatrix} \tag{C1}$$

where R_{ij} are defined in terms of the mixing angle β and the elements of the rotation matrix given by eq, \mathcal{R}_{ij} , as follows,

$$R_{11} = \mathcal{R}_{11}c_{\beta} + s_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{12}, \quad R_{21} = \mathcal{R}_{12}c_{\beta} - s_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{11},$$

$$R_{13} = \mathcal{R}_{13}$$

$$R_{12} = \mathcal{R}_{21}c_{\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{22}s_{\beta}, \quad R_{22} = \mathcal{R}_{22}c_{\beta} - s_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{21},$$

$$R_{32} = \mathcal{R}_{23}$$

$$R_{13} = c_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{31} + s_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{32}, \quad R_{23} = \mathcal{R}_{32}c_{\beta} - s_{\beta}\mathcal{R}_{31},$$

$$R_{33} = \mathcal{R}_{33}$$

We recall that the charged sector is the same as 2HDM, It contains only a pair of charged scalars H^{\pm} . As a result the charged field is related to the physical charged scalar field through the unit matrix.

$$\text{with } \tilde{\mu}^2 = \frac{\mu^2}{s_{\beta}c_{\beta}}.$$

Therefore, the oblique parameters S, T and U in the N2HDM are given by:

$$S = \frac{1}{24\pi} [(2s_W^2 - 1)^2 G(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H^+}^2, m_Z^2)]$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &+ R_{21}^2 G(m_{H_1}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &+ R_{22}^2 G(m_{H_2}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) + R_{23}^2 G(m_{H_3}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &+ (R_{11}^2 + R_{21}^2) \ln(m_{H_1}^2) \\
 &+ (R_{12}^2 + R_{22}^2) \ln(m_{H_2}^2) + (R_{13}^2 + R_{23}^2) \ln(m_{H_3}^2) \\
 &+ \ln(m_A^2) - 2 \ln(m_{H^+}^2) - \ln(m_{h_{ref}}^2) \\
 &+ R_{11}^2 \hat{G}(m_{H_1}^2, m_Z^2) + R_{12}^2 \hat{G}(m_{H_2}^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &+ R_{13}^2 \hat{G}(m_{H_3}^2, m_Z^2) - \hat{G}(m_{h_{ref}}^2, m_Z^2)] \tag{C2}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 T = &\frac{1}{16\pi^2 m_W^2 s_W^2} (R_{21}^2 F(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_1}^2) + R_{22}^2 F(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_2}^2) \\
 &+ R_{23}^2 F(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_3}^2) \\
 &+ F(m_{H^+}^2, m_A^2) - R_{21}^2 F(m_{H_1}^2, m_A^2) - R_{22}^2 F(m_{H_2}^2, m_A^2) \\
 &- R_{23}^2 F(m_{H_3}^2, m_A^2) \\
 &+ 3(R_{11}^2 (F(m_Z^2, m_{H_1}^2) - F(m_W^2, m_{H_1}^2)) \\
 &+ R_{12}^2 (F(m_Z^2, m_{H_2}^2) - F(m_W^2, m_{H_2}^2)) \\
 &+ R_{13}^2 (F(m_Z^2, m_{H_3}^2) - F(m_W^2, m_{H_3}^2))) \\
 &- 3(F(m_Z^2, m_{h_{ref}}^2) - F(m_W^2, m_{h_{ref}}^2))) \tag{C3}
 \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned}
 U = &\frac{1}{24\pi} [R_{21}^2 G(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_1}^2, m_W^2) \\
 &+ R_{22}^2 G(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_2}^2, m_W^2) \\
 &+ R_{23}^2 G(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H_3}^2, m_W^2) + G(m_{H^+}^2, m_A^2, m_W^2) \\
 &- (2s_W^2 - 1)^2 G(m_{H^+}^2, m_{H^+}^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &- (R_{21}^2 G(m_{H_1}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) - R_{22}^2 G(m_{H_2}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &- R_{23}^2 G(m_{H_3}^2, m_A^2, m_Z^2) \\
 &+ R_{11}^2 (\hat{G}(m_{H_1}^2, m_W^2) - \hat{G}(m_{H_1}^2, m_Z^2)) \\
 &+ R_{12}^2 (\hat{G}(m_{H_2}^2, m_W^2) \\
 &- \hat{G}(m_{H_2}^2, m_Z^2)) + R_{13}^2 (\hat{G}(m_{H_3}^2, m_W^2) - \hat{G}(m_{H_3}^2, m_Z^2)) \\
 &- G(m_{h_{ref}}^2, m_W^2) + G(m_{h_{ref}}^2, m_Z^2)] \tag{C4}
 \end{aligned}$$

where $m_{h_{ref}}$ is the reference mass of the neutral SM Higgs.

The explicit forms of these functions, $F(x, y)$, $G(I, J, Q)$ and $\hat{G}(I, Q)$ are given by (C5), (C6) and (C7).

$$F(x, y) \equiv \begin{cases} \frac{x+y}{2} - \frac{xy}{x-y} \ln \frac{x}{y} & \Leftarrow x \neq y, \\ 0 & \Leftarrow x = y. \end{cases} \tag{C5}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 G(I, J, Q) = &-\frac{16}{3} + \frac{5(I+J)}{Q} - \frac{2(I-J)^2}{Q^2} \\
 &+ \frac{3}{Q} \left[\frac{I^2+J^2}{I-J} - \frac{I^2-J^2}{Q} + \frac{(I-J)^3}{3Q^2} \right] \ln \frac{I}{J} \\
 &+ \frac{r}{Q^3} f(t, r). \tag{C6}
 \end{aligned}$$

If $I = J$, $G(I, J, Q)$ is:

$$G(I, J, Q) = -\frac{16}{3} + \frac{16}{Q} I + \frac{r}{Q^3} f(t, r)$$

and:

$$f(t, r) \equiv \begin{cases} \sqrt{r} \ln \left| \frac{t - \sqrt{r}}{t + \sqrt{r}} \right| & \Leftarrow r > 0, \\ 0 & \Leftarrow r = 0, \\ 2\sqrt{-r} \arctan \frac{\sqrt{-r}}{t} & \Leftarrow r < 0. \end{cases}$$

with:

$$\begin{aligned}
 t \equiv &I + J - Q \quad \text{and} \quad r \equiv Q^2 - 2Q(I + J) + (I - J)^2 \\
 \hat{G}(I, Q) = &-\frac{79}{3} + 9 \frac{I}{Q} - 2 \frac{I^2}{Q^2} \\
 &+ \left(-10 + 18 \frac{I}{Q} - 6 \frac{I^2}{Q^2} + \frac{I^3}{Q^3} - 9 \frac{I+Q}{I-Q} \right) \ln \frac{I}{Q} \\
 &+ \left(12 - 4 \frac{I}{Q} + \frac{I^2}{Q^2} \right) \frac{f(I, I^2 - 4IQ)}{Q}. \tag{C7}
 \end{aligned}$$

Appendix D: Scalar couplings

We list hereafter the triple scalar couplings needed for our study (Table 1).

Table 1 Trilinear Higgs boson self-interactions ($i\lambda 3H$) in the Feynman gauge within the N2HDM

Vertex	Coupling
$H_1 H^+ H^-$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{11}}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{12}}{s_\beta} \right) + m_{H_1}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{11}s_\beta^2}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{12}c_\beta^2}{s_\beta} \right) + 2m_{H^\pm}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{11}c_\beta + \mathcal{R}_{12}s_\beta) \right)$
$H_2 H^+ H^-$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{21}}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{22}}{s_\beta} \right) + m_{H_2}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{21}s_\beta^2}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{22}c_\beta^2}{s_\beta} \right) + 2m_{H^\pm}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{21}c_\beta + \mathcal{R}_{22}s_\beta) \right)$
$H_3 H^+ H^-$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{31}}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{32}}{s_\beta} \right) + m_{H_3}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{31}s_\beta^2}{c_\beta} + \frac{\mathcal{R}_{32}c_\beta^2}{s_\beta} \right) + 2m_{H^\pm}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{31}c_\beta + \mathcal{R}_{32}s_\beta) \right)$
$H_1 H_1 H_1$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{12}^2 c_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{12} \frac{c_\beta}{s_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{11}) + \mathcal{R}_{21}^2 s_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{11} \frac{s_\beta}{c_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{12})) + \frac{m_{H_1}^2}{v_s} (\mathcal{R}_{13}^3 v + \mathcal{R}_{12}^3 \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{11}^3 \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$
$H_2 H_2 H_2$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{22}^2 c_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{22} \frac{c_\beta}{s_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{21}) + \mathcal{R}_{21}^2 s_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{21} \frac{s_\beta}{c_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{22})) + \frac{m_{H_2}^2}{v_s} (\mathcal{R}_{23}^3 v + \mathcal{R}_{22}^3 \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{21}^3 \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$
$H_3 H_3 H_3$	$-i \frac{3}{v} \left(-\tilde{\mu}^2 (\mathcal{R}_{32}^2 c_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{32} \frac{c_\beta}{s_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{31}) + \mathcal{R}_{31}^2 s_\beta (\mathcal{R}_{31} \frac{s_\beta}{c_\beta} - \mathcal{R}_{32})) + \frac{m_{H_3}^2}{v_s} (\mathcal{R}_{33}^3 v + \mathcal{R}_{32}^3 \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{31}^3 \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$
$H_2 H_1 H_1$	$-i \frac{1}{v} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{12}}{s_\beta} - \frac{\mathcal{R}_{11}}{c_\beta} \right) (6\mathcal{R}_{12}\mathcal{R}_{22} + 6\mathcal{R}_{13}\mathcal{R}_{23}s_\beta^2 + 2\mathcal{R}_{33}s_\beta c_\beta) + \frac{2m_{H_1}^2 + m_{H_2}^2}{v_s} \right.$ $\left. (\mathcal{R}_{13}^2 \mathcal{R}_{23} v + \mathcal{R}_{12}^2 \mathcal{R}_{22} \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{11}^2 \mathcal{R}_{21} \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$
$H_3 H_1 H_1$	$-i \frac{1}{v} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{12}}{s_\beta} - \frac{\mathcal{R}_{11}}{c_\beta} \right) (6\mathcal{R}_{12}\mathcal{R}_{32} + 6\mathcal{R}_{13}\mathcal{R}_{33}s_\beta^2 - 2\mathcal{R}_{23}s_\beta c_\beta) + \frac{2m_{H_1}^2 + m_{H_3}^2}{v_s} \right.$ $\left. (\mathcal{R}_{13}^2 \mathcal{R}_{33} v + \mathcal{R}_{12}^2 \mathcal{R}_{32} \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{11}^2 \mathcal{R}_{31} \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$
$H_3 H_2 H_2$	$-i \frac{1}{v} \left(-\frac{1}{2} \tilde{\mu}^2 \left(\frac{\mathcal{R}_{22}}{s_\beta} - \frac{\mathcal{R}_{21}}{c_\beta} \right) (6\mathcal{R}_{22}\mathcal{R}_{32} + 6\mathcal{R}_{23}\mathcal{R}_{33}s_\beta^2 + 2\mathcal{R}_{13}s_\beta c_\beta) + \frac{2m_{H_2}^2 + m_{H_3}^2}{v_s} \right.$ $\left. (\mathcal{R}_{23}^2 \mathcal{R}_{33} v + \mathcal{R}_{22}^2 \mathcal{R}_{32} \frac{v_s}{s_\beta} + \mathcal{R}_{21}^2 \mathcal{R}_{31} \frac{v_s}{c_\beta}) \right)$

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