Heavy to light Higgs boson decays at NLO in the singlet extension of the Standard Model

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Abstract: We study the decay of a heavy Higgs boson into a light Higgs pair at one loop in the singlet extension of the Standard Model. To this purpose, we construct several renormalization schemes for the extended Higgs sector of the model. We apply these schemes to calculate the heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H \to hh}$ at next-to-leading order electroweak accuracy, and demonstrate that certain prescriptions lead to gauge-dependent results. We comprehensively examine how the NLO predictions depend on the relevant singlet model parameters, with emphasis on the trademark behavior of the quantum effects, and how these change under different renormalization schemes and a variable renormalization scale. Once all present constraints on the model are included, we find mild NLO corrections, typically of few percent, and with small theoretical uncertainties.

Contents

1 Introduction

With the discovery of the Higgs boson [1, 2], the LHC has finally reached the very frontiers of the Standard Model (SM). Dedicated analyses based on Run I data have so far shown excellent agreement between the observed 125 GeV bosonic resonance and the scalar particle originally postulated by Higgs [3, 4], Englert and Brout [5], and Guralnik, Hagen and Kibble [6]. Notwithstanding, it is an ongoing task to decipher whether such a state corresponds indeed to the SM agent of electroweak (EW) symmetry breaking [7–9], or if alternatively the LHC has unveiled just one Higgs-like state among many others, a composite state, or the overlap of multiple resonances, just to mention few possibilities. Moreover, the state-of-the-art precision in the Higgs coupling extraction lies within the 10–20% level [10], right at the ballpark of the deviations predicted by popular new physics models. The overall picture strengthens the belief that perhaps the Higgs discovery is in fact our first glimpse at a more fundamental UV complete structure.

The arguably most simple, renormalizable extension of the Higgs sector, is constructed by expanding the SM Lagrangian with one additional spinless real electroweak singlet [11–13]. This adds up one extra Higgs companion to the physical spectrum of the model, providing an excellent framework to guide collider searches for exotic scalars, either via direct production or through off-shell effects. Moreover, the coupling between the doublet and the singlet fields mixes the two neutral Higgs states, leading to rescaled Higgs couplings to the SM particles. A chief prediction for collider phenomenology are the universally suppressed cross sections and partial amplitudes in all Higgs production modes and decay channels.

Another paramount signature of a second Higgs is the possibility of the heavy-to-light Higgs decay mode $H \to hh$ [12, 14]. The process is governed by the Higgs self-coupling λ_{Hhh}, and as such it constitutes a direct probe of the scalar potential of the model. If the new Higgs boson is lighter than the SM Higgs, the novel $H \to hh$ decay distorts all Higgs branching ratios, and thereby its signal strengths, from the SM expectations. Alternatively, if the extra scalar is identified with a heavier Higgs companion and $m_H > 2m_h$, $H \to hh$ can significantly contribute to the heavy Higgs width and lineshape and modify its decay pattern.

In this paper we present a thorough study of the heavy-to-light Higgs decay mode $H \to hh$ in the singlet extension of the SM, including the complete set of radiative corrections at one loop. Aside from being relevant on its own, we use this process as a physics case to construct and compare different renormalization schemes for the extended Higgs sector of the model. Using the SLOOPS [15–18] general non-linear gauge fixing setup, we illustrate how certain prescriptions still exhibit gauge dependence for physical quantities. Our task carries to completion the steps initiated in our previous publication [19], and sharpen up all theoretical tools necessary to completely characterize the singlet model phenomenology at next-to-leading order (NLO) accuracy.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we provide a brief description of the model setup and constraints. In section 3 we discuss in full detail our renormalization setup. We devote section 4 to characterize the general aspects of heavy-

to-light Higgs decays at leading order and at one loop, while in section 5 we present a detailed phenomenological analysis. We summarize and conclude in section 6. Additional analytical details are provided in the appendix.

2 Model setup at the classical level

We construct the singlet extension of the SM by adding one colorless, real scalar field, which transforms as a singlet under the $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$ gauge charges [11–13, 19–21]. Such a simple renormalizable extension can be viewed as a simplified model approach to the low-energy Higgs sector of a more fundamental UV completion, for instance the decoupling limit of the Next-to-Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (NMSSM) [22], some realizations of GUTs [23], models with additional gauge sectors [24] or hidden valleys [25]. The implications of this model were addressed for the first time in refs. [11–13], and it has been the object of dedicated investigation for the past two decades, displaying a very attractive phenomenology, especially in the context of collider physics, see e.g. [26–58]. It has also been subject to many dedicated searches by the LHC experiments, cf. e.g. [59–64] for recent studies.

2.1 Classical Lagrangian

The singlet scalar extension of the SM (denoted as xSM) is defined by the Lagrangian

$$\mathscr{L}_{xSM} = \mathscr{L}_{gauge} + \mathscr{L}_{fermions} + \mathscr{L}_{Yukawa} + \mathscr{L}_{scalar} + \mathscr{L}_{GF} + \mathscr{L}_{ghost} \,, \tag{2.1}$$

where the gauge boson and fermionic kinetic parts $\mathscr{L}_{gauge,fermions}$, as well as the Yukawa interaction $\mathscr{L}_{Yukawa}$, are given by the respective SM contributions. The gauge-fixing and ghost Lagrangians $\mathscr{L}_{GF,ghost}$ will be defined in more detail below. The scalar sector is given by

$$\mathscr{L}_{scalar} = (\mathcal{D}^\mu \Phi)^\dagger \mathcal{D}_\mu \Phi + \partial^\mu S \partial_\mu S - \mathcal{V}(\Phi, S) \,, \tag{2.2}$$

where $\mathcal{D}_\mu$ is the covariant derivative and $\mathcal{V}(\Phi, S)$ the scalar potential

$$\mathcal{V}(\Phi, S) = \mu^2 \, \Phi^\dagger \Phi + \lambda_1 \, |\Phi^\dagger \Phi|^2 + \mu_s^2 \, S^2 + \lambda_2 \, S^4 + \lambda_3 \, \Phi^\dagger \Phi S^2 \,. \tag{2.3}$$

The latter corresponds to the most general, $SU_L(2) \otimes U(1)_Y$-invariant, renormalizable Lagrangian involving the Higgs doublet Φ and the singlet S fields, and compatible with an additional discrete $\mathcal{Z}_2$ symmetry, that precludes other terms with odd (e.g. cubic) field powers in the potential. By assuming all parameters in eq. (2.3) to be real, we disregard additional sources of $\mathcal{CP}$ violation.

2.2 Mass spectrum

The doublet and singlet fields are expanded as

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} G^+ \\ \dfrac{v + \phi_h + iG^0}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} \qquad S = \frac{v_s + \phi_s}{\sqrt{2}} \,, \tag{2.4}$$

where $v \equiv \sqrt{2}\,\langle\Phi\rangle = (\sqrt{2}\,G_F)^{-1/2} \simeq 246\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and $v_s \equiv \sqrt{2}\,\langle S\rangle$ stand for their respective vacuum expectation values (vevs). The fields $G^\pm, G^0$ denote the charged and neutral Goldstone bosons. Since the singlet transforms trivially under the electroweak gauge group, only the doublet vev v takes part in electroweak symmetry breaking, which proceeds exactly as in the SM case.

The linear terms in the fields ϕ_h and ϕ_s from eq. (2.3) lead to the tadpole relations

$$T_{\phi_h} = \mu^2 v + v^3 \lambda_1 + \frac{1}{2} v v_s^2 \lambda_3 \,, \tag{2.5}$$

$$T_{\phi_s} = \mu_s^2 v_s + v_s^3 \lambda_2 + \frac{1}{2} v_s v^2 \lambda_3 \,, \tag{2.6}$$

by which we can express the minimization condition of the Higgs potential (2.3) as $T_{\phi_h,\phi_s} = 0$.

In turn, the quadratic terms in the Higgs fields may be arranged into a 2×2 squared mass matrix $\mathcal{M}_{hs}^2$. In the gauge basis (ϕ_h, ϕ_s) these take the form

$$\mathcal{M}_{hs}^2 = \mathcal{T}_{\phi_h,\phi_s} + \mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2, \tag{2.7}$$

where the tadpole component $\mathcal{T}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}$ and the squared mass matrix $\mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2$ are defined by

$$\mathcal{T}_{\phi_h,\phi_s} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{T_{\phi_h}}{v} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{T_{\phi_s}}{v_s} \end{pmatrix}, \qquad \mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2\lambda_1 v^2 & \lambda_3\, v\, v_s \\ \lambda_3\, v\, v_s & 2\lambda_2\, v_s^2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{2.8}$$

Requiring this matrix to be positively defined leads to the stability conditions

$$\lambda_1, \lambda_2 > 0; \qquad 4\lambda_1\lambda_2 - \lambda_3^2 > 0 \,. \tag{2.9}$$

Once we impose the tadpoles $T_{\phi_{h,s}}$ to vanish, eq. (2.8) can be readily transformed into the (tree-level) Higgs mass basis through the rotation $\mathrm{U}(\alpha) \cdot \mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2 \cdot U^{-1}(\alpha) = \mathcal{M}_{hH}^2 = \mathrm{diag}(m_h^2, m_H^2)$, the physical Higgs masses reading

$$m_{h,H}^2 = \lambda_1 v^2 + \lambda_2 v_s^2 \mp |\lambda_1 v^2 - \lambda_2 v_s^2| \sqrt{1 + \tan^2(2\alpha)}. \tag{2.10}$$

We identify the corresponding mass-eigenstates as a light $[h]$ and a heavy $[H]$ $\mathcal{CP}$-even Higgs boson, which are related to the gauge eigenstates through

$$\begin{pmatrix} h \\ H \end{pmatrix} = U(\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \phi_h \\ \phi_s \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\alpha & -\sin\alpha \\ \sin\alpha & \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_h \\ \phi_s \end{pmatrix}, \tag{2.11}$$

where the rotation angle α is defined in the range $-\pi/2 \leq \alpha \leq \pi/2$ by

$$\sin 2\alpha = \frac{\lambda_3 v v_s}{\sqrt{(\lambda_1 v^2 - \lambda_2 v_s^2)^2 + (\lambda_3 v v_s)^2}}, \quad \cos 2\alpha = \frac{\lambda_2 v_s^2 - \lambda_1 v^2}{\sqrt{(\lambda_1 v^2 - \lambda_2 v_s^2)^2 + (\lambda_3 v v_s)^2}}. \tag{2.12}$$

Likewise the tadpoles in the gauge basis $[T_{\phi_h}, T_{\phi_s}]$ may be rotated into the mass basis $[T_h, T_H]$ through $\mathrm{U}(\alpha)$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} T_h \\ T_H \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos\alpha & -\sin\alpha \\ \sin\alpha & \cos\alpha \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} T_{\phi_h} \\ T_{\phi_s} \end{pmatrix} \tag{2.13}$$

The above equations are of service to recast the quartic couplings in the Higgs potential (2.3) as given by the physical Higgs boson masses $m_{h,H}^2$ and the mixing angle α,

$$\lambda_1 = \frac{m_h^2}{2v^2}\cos^2\alpha + \frac{m_H^2}{2v^2}\sin^2\alpha - \frac{\cos\alpha T_h + \sin\alpha T_H}{2v^3} + \frac{m_{hH}^2}{2v^2}\sin 2\alpha\,, \qquad (2.14)$$

$$\lambda_2 = \frac{m_h^2}{2v_s^2}\sin^2\alpha + \frac{m_H^2}{2v_s^2}\cos^2\alpha - \frac{\cos\alpha T_H - \sin\alpha T_h}{2v_s^3} - \frac{m_{hH}^2}{2v_s^2}\sin 2\alpha\,, \qquad (2.15)$$

$$\lambda_3 = \frac{m_H^2 - m_h^2}{2vv_s}\sin 2\alpha + \frac{m_{hH}^2}{vv_s}\cos 2\alpha\,. \qquad (2.16)$$

The mixed mass term m_{hH}^2 denotes the (symmetric) off-diagonal element of the squared mass matrix $\mathcal{M}_{hH}^2$, defined in the mass-eigenstate basis. While at tree-level we have $T_{h,H} = 0$ and $m_{hH}^2 = 0$, keeping these dependencies explicit in eqs. (2.14)–(2.16) will be useful to link the Lagrangian parameter counterterms to the corresponding mass counterterms, as we discuss in section 3. Similarly, it is practical to rephrase the bilinear mass terms μ and μ_s in eq. (2.3) as

$$\mu^2 = -\frac{1}{2}m_h^2\cos^2\alpha - \frac{1}{2}m_H^2\sin^2\alpha - \frac{(m_H^2 - m_h^2)v_s}{4v}\sin 2\alpha$$
$$+ \frac{3(\cos\alpha T_h + \sin\alpha T_H)}{2v} - \frac{m_{hH}^2 v_s}{2v}\cos 2\alpha\,, \qquad (2.17)$$

$$\mu_s^2 = -\frac{1}{2}m_h^2\sin^2\alpha - \frac{1}{2}m_H^2\cos^2\alpha - \frac{(m_H^2 - m_h^2)v}{4v_s}\sin 2\alpha$$
$$- \frac{3(\sin\alpha T_h - \cos\alpha T_H)}{2v_s} - \frac{m_{hH}^2 v}{2v_s}\cos 2\alpha. \qquad (2.18)$$

2.3 Input parameters

The Higgs sector of the model is determined at tree-level by i) the doublet vev, bilinear mass term and quartic self-coupling; ii) their counterparts for the singlet field; and iii) the portal coupling λ_3 between both. The singlet vev is traded as customary via the parameter $\tan\beta \equiv \frac{v_s}{v}$.[1] With the help of the above relations (2.5)–(2.18), we can conveniently recast them in terms of the following five independent parameters:

$$m_h,\ m_H,\ \sin\alpha,\ v,\ \tan\beta\,. \qquad (2.19)$$

Two of them are readily fixed in terms of experimental data: the doublet vev is linked to the Fermi constant through $v^2 = (\sqrt{2}\,G_F)^{-1}$, while one of the Higgs masses is given by the LHC value $125.09\,\mathrm{GeV}$ [65]. Overall, we are left with three quantities which define the relevant directions in the new physics parameter space. This is also helpful to identify which physical parameters can be used to fix the renormalization conditions.

2.4 Gauge-fixing Lagrangian

Gauge invariance will play an important role when discussing the renormalization of the singlet Higgs sector, in particular in defining a gauge-independent mixed mass counterterm,

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[1]Note the different conventions for $\tan\beta$ employed in the literature. The definition we adopt herewith is the inverse of that from refs. [19–21].

as we discuss in detail in sections 3.3.6 and 5.2. Such non-linear gauges have proven useful to check the gauge independence of higher order calculations within the SM [66–68], and its supersymmetric extensions [15–18, 69–73]. The gauge-fixing Lagrangian can be written in general as

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{GF}} = -\frac{1}{\xi_W}F^+F^- - \frac{1}{2\xi_Z}|F^Z|^2 - \frac{1}{2\xi_A}|F^A|^2\,, \tag{2.20}$$

where the functions F depend non-linearly on the Higgs and gauge fields,

$$\begin{aligned} F^\pm = \left(\partial_\mu \mp ie\tilde{\alpha}A_\mu \mp ig\cos\theta_W\tilde{\beta}Z_\mu\right)W^{\mu+} \\ \pm i\xi_W\frac{g}{2}\left(v + \tilde{\delta}_1 h + \tilde{\delta}_2 H \pm i\tilde{\kappa}G^0\right)G^+\,, \end{aligned} \tag{2.21}$$

$$F^Z = \partial_\mu Z^\mu + \xi_Z\frac{g}{2\cos\theta_W}\left(v + \tilde{\epsilon}_1 h + \tilde{\epsilon}_2 H\right)G^0\,, \tag{2.22}$$

$$F^A = \partial_\mu A^\mu\,. \tag{2.23}$$

In the above equations e is the electromagnetic coupling constant, g the $SU(2)_L$ coupling constant and θ_W denotes the weak mixing angle. The quantities $\{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta} \cdots \tilde{\epsilon}_2\}$ correspond to the generalized gauge-fixing parameters. Setting these parameters to zero leads to the standard linear R_ξ gauge fixing, with $\xi_i = 1$ defining the familiar 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. In our renormalization setup we will take these gauge-fixing terms already as *renormalized* quantities — in such a way that no additional counterterms $\delta\mathscr{L}_{\text{GF}}$ are introduced for this part of the Lagrangian.

In turn, the ghost Lagrangian $\mathscr{L}_{\text{ghost}}$ is derived by requiring the complete Lagrangian at the quantum level to be invariant under BRST transformations. This means $\delta_{\text{BRST}}\mathscr{L}_{\text{xSM}} = 0$ and hence $\delta_{\text{BRST}}\mathscr{L}_{\text{GF}} = -\delta_{\text{BRST}}\mathscr{L}_{\text{ghost}}$. This follows from the fact that by construction the gauge, fermionic, Yukawa and scalar components of $\mathscr{L}_{\text{xSM}}$ are invariant under BRST transformations, as the latter are equivalent to gauge transformations. We consider both $\mathscr{L}_{\text{GF}}$ and $\mathscr{L}_{\text{ghost}}$ to be written in terms of renormalized quantities. The BRST transformations specific to the singlet extension are given by

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}G^0 = +\frac{g}{2}[G^-c^+ + G^+c^-] - \frac{e}{2c_W s_W}c^Z[v + c_\alpha h + s_\alpha H]\,, \tag{2.24}$$

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}G^\pm = \mp\frac{ig}{2}c^\pm[v + c_\alpha h + s_\alpha H \mp iG^0] \mp ie\left(c^A - \frac{s_W^2 - c_W^2}{2s_W c_W}\right)G^\pm\,,$$

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}h = c_\alpha\left(\frac{ig}{2}[G^-c^+ - G^+c^-] + \frac{e}{2c_W s_W}c^Z G^0\right)\,, \tag{2.25}$$

$$\delta_{\text{BRST}}H = s_\alpha\left(\frac{ig}{2}[G^-c^+ - G^+c^-] + \frac{e}{2c_W s_W}c^Z G^0\right)\,, \tag{2.26}$$

where c_θ, s_θ are shorthand notations for $\cos\theta, \sin\theta$, while $c^Z, c^\pm, c^A$ stand for the Faddeev-Popov ghost fields associated to the Z^0, $W^\pm$ and the photon field respectively. Within this particular gauge fixing, we set in practice $\xi_{W,Z,A} = 1$. This is convenient since the gauge boson propagators take a very simple form, while we still keep the possibility to check the

gauge independence of the final result, at the expense of adding new gauge parameter-dependent vertices to the model [66]. The gauge independence of a calculation can be examined numerically by varying the non-linear gauge parameters $\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta} \cdots \tilde{\epsilon}_2$. Technically, we perform our implementation of the singlet model with non-linear gauge fixing using LanHEP [74, 75] and Sloops [15–18].

2.5 Interactions

The key theoretical structure in the model is the doublet-singlet portal coupling $\mathscr{L}_{\mathrm{xSM}} \supset \lambda_3 (\Phi^\dagger \Phi) S^2$, which is responsible for the Higgs mass eigenstates to be admixtures of the doublet ϕ_h and the singlet ϕ_s neutral components. One main consequence of this mixing is the universal depletion of all Higgs boson couplings to the SM particles as

$$g_{xxy} = g_{xxy}^{\mathrm{SM}}(1 + \Delta_{xy}) \qquad \text{with} \qquad 1 + \Delta_{xy} = \begin{cases} \cos \alpha & y = h \\ \sin \alpha & y = H \end{cases}. \qquad (2.27)$$

This global rescaling is ultimately due to the fact that, owing to electroweak gauge invariance, only the doublet component can couple to the fermions (via ordinary Yukawa interactions) and the gauge bosons (via the gauge covariant derivative). The limits of $\sin \alpha = 0$ (resp. $\cos \alpha = 0$) correspond to the decoupling scenarios for the light (resp. heavy) Higgs bosons, in which all couplings of the additional scalar to SM fields identically vanish. The Higgs self-interactions do not obey such a plain rescaling pattern. Instead, they depend non-trivially on the cross-talk between the singlet and the doublet fields. Analytic expressions for their Feynman rules can be found in the appendix.

2.6 Constraints

As discussed above, the singlet model specified by the Lagrangian (2.1) is subject to numerous constraints, which have been explicitly discussed in [19–21]. Although our primary focus in this paper is the structure of the higher order corrections in this model irrespectively of the parameter constraints, we briefly remind the reader which ranges are still feasible from the theoretical and experimental sides — and include all of them in our phenomenological analysis of section 5. We consider

Theoretical constraints.

- perturbative unitarity at tree level [76, 77], which is taken into account by diagonalizing the five-dimensional $X \to Y$ scattering basis, with $X, Y \in \{hh, hH, HHW^+W^-, ZZ\}$.[2]

- perturbativity of the self-couplings in the scalar potential, i.e. $|\lambda_i (\mu_{\mathrm{run}})| \leq 4\pi$, where the couplings are evolved through standard renormalization group equations [79] and evaluated at a reference high-energy scale $\mu_{\mathrm{run}} \sim 4 \times 10^{10} \, \mathrm{GeV}$,[3] for the high-mass

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[2]Electroweak gauge bosons are replaced by Goldstone scalars according to the Goldstone equivalence theorem [78].

[3]This scale has been chosen such that the model still guarantees vacuum stability at a scale slightly larger than the SM breakdown scale for which $\lambda_1 \leq 0$ in the SM limit ($\sin \alpha = 0$). Requiring validity up to higher scales leads to stronger constraints, cf. the discussion in [20].

and at $\mu_{\rm run} = v = 246\,{\rm GeV}$ for the low-mass scenario (see [20, 21] for a more detailed discussion). The high-mass (resp. low-mass) regions correspond to $m_H > 2m_h$, with $m_h = 125.09\,{\rm GeV}$ (resp. $m_H > 2m_h$, with $m_H = 125.09\,{\rm GeV}$);

- vacuum stability (cf. eq. (2.9)) up to the same high-energy scale.

Experimental constraints.

- electroweak parameters S, T, U [80–83] in agreement with the 95% C.L best-fit values from [84];

- similarly, agreement with the measured value of the W-mass at 95% C.L. (see [19] for more details);

- agreement with collider searches from LEP, Tevatron, and the LHC, as implemented in HiggsBounds [85–87];

- agreement with the Higgs signal strength measurements at 95% C.L., as implemented in HiggsSignals [88]. In addition, we have applied the constraints from the combined signal strength fit, presented in [89], which lead to $|\sin\alpha| \leq 0.36$ for $m_H \geq 152\,{\rm GeV}$.[4]

It is interesting to observe the interplay of these different constraints on the overall parameter space. We here only summarize the main features[5] — a dedicated discussion can be found in [21].

- *in the high mass region* the leading constraints stem from i) direct searches (for $m_H \lesssim 300\,{\rm GeV}$);[6] ii) the difference between the experimental W-mass measurement and its theoretical prediction [19] (in the intermediate range $M_H \in [300\,{\rm GeV};\ 800\,{\rm GeV}]$); and iii) perturbativity of the self-couplings in the scalar potential (for $m_H \geq 800\,{\rm GeV}$). All these features are summarized in figure 1 and table 1;

- *in the low mass region* where $m_H \sim 125\,{\rm GeV}$, the parameter space is extremely constrained, especially from demanding agreement with the LHC Higgs signal strength measurement and the LEP constraints. In table 2 we summarize these constraints. Note that in this regime the SM limit corresponds to $|\sin\alpha| = 1$.

Tables 1 and 2 show the current constraints for the maximal (minimal) allowed values of $\sin\alpha$ and $\tan\beta$, following the analysis presented in [21]. Note that the minimal $\tan\beta$

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[4]A detailed discussion of the determination of limits from the Higgs signal strength can be found in [21]. For $m_H \leq 152\,{\rm GeV}$, we test a two-scalar hypothesis versus the LHC data, leading to an m_H-dependence for the respective χ^2. Results in [89], however, are derived under an SM assumption. For $m_H \geq 152\,{\rm GeV}$, the χ^2 is independent of the second resonance mass and in this range we therefore adopt the improved combined experimental limit.

[5]See also [90].

[6]Note that the most recent experimental searches published in 2015 have not been included. These potentially influence the allowed regions for $m_H \lesssim 300\,{\rm GeV}$. Indeed, preliminary studies show that results from [62] especially modify constraints for $m_H \leq 250\,{\rm GeV}$ [91].
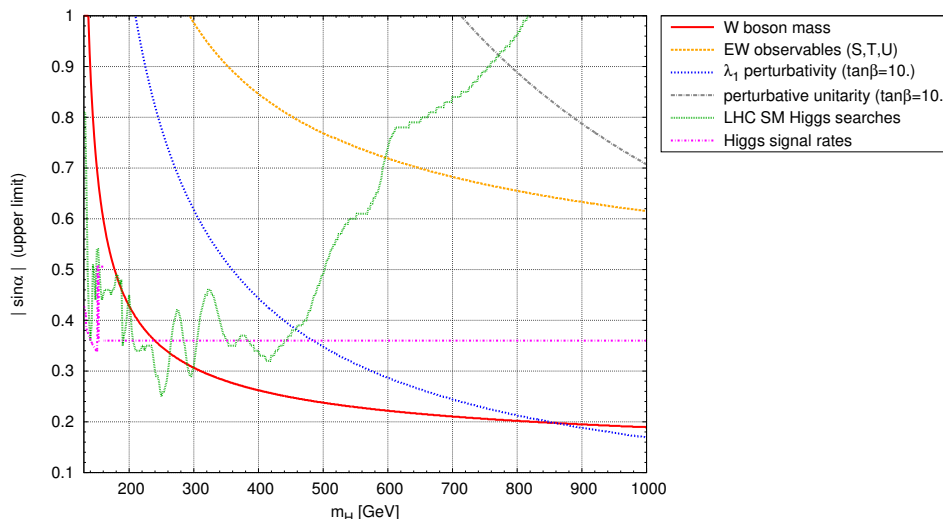
Figure 1. Maximal allowed values for $|\sin\alpha|$ in the high mass region, for a heavy Higgs boson mass in the range $m_H \in [130, 1000]$ GeV, from the following constraints: i) W boson mass measurement (*red, solid*) [19]; ii) electroweak precision observables (EWPOs) tested via the oblique parameters S, T and U (*orange, dashed*); iii) perturbativity, of the RG-evolved coupling λ_1 (*blue, dotted*), evaluated for an exemplary choice $\tan\beta = 10$, iv) perturbative unitarity (*grey, dash-dotted*), v) direct LHC searches (*green, dashed*), and vi) Higgs signal strength measurement (*magenta, dash-dotted*). For Higgs masses $m_H \in [300\,\text{GeV}; 800\,\text{GeV}]$ the W boson mass measurement yields the strongest constraint [19]. The present plot corresponds to an update of figure 8 from [21], where the latest constraints from the combined signal strength [89] have been taken into account.

values shown here were taken at a fixed value of $\sin\alpha$, so results from a generic scan might slightly differ. All the constraints mentioned above have been taken into account when considering viable parameter space regions of the model for our numerical analysis in section 5. Also the results from the combined ATLAS and CMS signal strength fit have been included when applicable. We expect the results from the most recent LHC searches to influence the global picture in the mass region $m_H \lesssim 350$–$400\,\text{GeV}$, while for higher values the W boson mass still poses the strongest constraint on the mixing angle.

3 Renormalization

3.1 Setup

The renormalization program we present here sticks close to the general strategy followed in multidoublet Higgs extensions such as the MSSM [17, 93] and the Two-Higgs-Doublet Model [94]. We generate the required counterterms by introducing multiplicative renormalization constants to the weak coupling constant, fields, tadpoles, masses and vevs. These are then fixed by as many renormalization conditions as independent parameters are present in the model [95]. We adopt on-shell conditions to renormalize the electroweak gauge parameters [18, 96–99] and the diagonal terms of the Higgs boson mass matrices. Using an on-shell scheme, as customary in this context, provides an unambiguous interpre-

m [GeV]	$|\sin\alpha|$	source upper limit	$(\tan\beta)_{\min}$
1000	$[0.018, 0.17]$	λ_1 perturbativity	4.34
900	$[0.022, 0.19]$	λ_1 perturbativity	3.85
800	$[0.027, 0.21]$	m_W at NLO	3.45
700	$[0.031, 0.21]$	m_W at NLO	3.03
600	$[0.038, 0.23]$	m_W at NLO	2.56
500	$[0.046, 0.24]$	m_W at NLO	2.13
400	$[0.055, 0.27]$	m_W at NLO	1.69
300	$[0.067, 0.31]$	m_W at NLO	1.28
200	$[0.090, 0.36]$	signal rates	0.85
180	$[0.10, 0.36]$	signal rates	0.77
160	$[0.11, 0.36]$	signal rates	0.68
140	$[0.16, 0.31]$	signal rates	0.60

Table 1. Table II from [21], with adjusted conventions for $\tan\beta$, and updated constraints on the maximally allowed mixing angle from the combined Higgs signal strength fit [89]. It presents allowed ranges for $\sin\alpha$ and $\tan\beta$ in the high mass region for fixed Higgs masses m. The allowed interval of $\sin\alpha$ was determined fixing $(\tan\beta)^{-1} = 0.15$. The 95% C.L. limits on $\sin\alpha$ from the Higgs signal rates are derived from one-dimensional fits and taken at $\Delta\chi^2 = 4$. The lower limit on $\sin\alpha$ always stems from vacuum stability, and the upper limit on $\tan\beta$ always from perturbativity of λ_2, evaluated at $\sin\alpha = 0.1$. The source of the most stringent upper limit on $\sin\alpha$ is named in the third column. We fixed $m_h = 125.1$ GeV and the stability and perturbativity were tested at the reference scale $\mu_{\rm run} \sim 4 \times 10^{10}$ GeV.

tation of the bare parameters in the classical Lagrangian in terms of physically measurable quantities. We also recall that field renormalization constants are not needed if we only require the observables derived from S-matrices to be finite, but not each of the Greens' functions individually. They are nonetheless convenient from the technical viewpoint, as they account for loop corrections to the external legs and less Feynman diagrams have to be explicitly included.

We proceed as customary by splitting the bare Lagrangian of the model (2.1) into the renormalized and the counterterm pieces as $\mathscr{L}^0(\{X^0\}) \to \mathscr{L}(\{X\}) + \delta\mathscr{L}(\{\delta X\})$. Accordingly, we rewrite each of the bare parameters X^0 as a renormalized part X and its counterterm δX. For the purpose of this work we only need to deal with the scalar and gauge sectors $\mathscr{L}^0_{\rm scalar,gauge}$, as the other sectors do not feature for the remainder of our discussion. We also recall that the gauge-fixing Lagrangian $\mathscr{L}_{\rm GF}$ does not contribute to $\delta\mathscr{L}$, since we choose to write it already in terms of *renormalized fields and parameters* [17, 66]. The physical parameters of the gauge sector are the electromagnetic coupling constant e and the gauge boson masses m_W, m_Z that we split as [99],

$$e^0 \to e + \delta Z_e, \qquad (m_W^0)^2 \to m_W^2 + \delta m_W^2, \qquad (m_Z^0)^2 \to m_Z^2 + \delta m_Z^2 . \tag{3.1}$$

m_h [GeV]	$\lvert\sin\alpha\rvert_{\rm min,\ HB}$	$\lvert\sin\alpha\rvert_{\rm min,\ HS}$	$(\tan\beta)_{\rm min}$	$(\tan\beta)_{\rm no\ H\to hh}$
120	0.410	0.918	0.12	–
110	0.819	0.932	0.11	–
100	0.852	0.933	0.10	–
90	0.901	–	0.09	–
80	0.974	–	0.08	–
70	0.985	–	0.07	–
60	0.978	0.996	0.06	4.76
50	0.981	0.998	0.05	5.00
40	0.984	0.998	0.04	5.56
30	0.988	0.998	0.03	6.25
20	0.993	0.998	0.02	8.33
10	0.997	0.998	0.01	12.5

Table 2. Table III from [21], with adjusted definition for $\tan\beta$ and updated constraints on the minimally allowed mixing angle from the combined Higgs signal strength fit [89]. It presents limits on $\sin\alpha$ and $\tan\beta$ in the low mass scenario for various light Higgs masses m_h. The limits on $\sin\alpha$ have been determined at $\tan\beta = 1$. The lower limit on $\sin\alpha$ stemming from exclusion limits from LEP or LHC Higgs searches is obtained using `HiggsBounds` [85–87, 92] and given in the second column. If the lower limit on $\sin\alpha$ obtained from the test against the Higgs signal rates using `HiggsSignals` [88] results in stricter limits, we display them in the third column. The upper limit on $\tan\beta$ in the fourth column stems from perturbative unitarity for the complete decoupling case ($\lvert\sin\alpha\rvert = 1$). In the fifth column we give the $\tan\beta$ value for which $\Gamma_{H\to hh} = 0$ is obtained, given the maximal mixing angle allowed by the Higgs exclusion limits (second column). At this $\tan\beta$ value, the $\lvert\sin\alpha\rvert$ limit obtained from the Higgs signal rates (third column) is abrogated.

Also the bare parameters appearing in $\mathscr{L}^0_{\rm scalar}$ in the gauge-eigenstate basis are decomposed as

$$
\begin{aligned}
\lambda_i^0 &\to \lambda_i + \delta\lambda_i \quad [i = 1 \cdots 3], & v^0 &\to v + \delta v, & v_s^0 &\to v_s + \delta v_s, \\
\mu^0 &\to \mu + \delta\mu, & \mu_s^0 &\to \mu_s + \delta\mu_s .
\end{aligned}
\tag{3.2}
$$

A similar splitting is introduced for the Higgs tadpoles $T_\phi^0 \to T_\phi + \delta T_\phi$ ($[\phi = \phi_h, \phi_s]$), which feature explicitly for calculations beyond the leading order. Equivalent expressions can be written trading some of the above bare parameters for more physical ones through the relations given by eqs. (2.14)–(2.18).

In our setup we choose not to renormalize the mixing angle α. Instead, we promote the relation between the Higgs eigenstates in the gauge (ϕ_h, ϕ_s) and mass basis (h, H) to be valid to all orders,

$$
\begin{pmatrix} h \\ H \end{pmatrix}^0 = U(\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \phi_h \\ \phi_s \end{pmatrix}^0 \quad \text{and equivalently} \quad \begin{pmatrix} h \\ H \end{pmatrix} = U(\alpha) \begin{pmatrix} \phi_h \\ \phi_s \end{pmatrix} .
\tag{3.3}
$$

Doing so, the bare and the physical mixing angle coincide and we need no additional mixing angle counterterm.

In turn, field renormalization constants for the physical Higgs states are introduced by shifting the bare Higgs fields in the mass basis as

$$\begin{pmatrix} h \\ H \end{pmatrix}^0 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 1 + \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_h & \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_{hH} \\ \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_{Hh} & 1 + \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_H \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} h \\ H \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2) \,. \tag{3.4}$$

Finally, we introduce the (matrix-valued) Higgs mass counterterm via

$$\mathcal{M}_\phi^2 \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_\phi^2 + \delta\mathcal{M}_\phi^2 \,, \tag{3.5}$$

where the generic index ϕ applies to the squared mass matrix in both the gauge and the mass basis. Their respective matrix counterterms are linked through

$$\delta\mathcal{M}_{hH}^2 = \mathrm{U}(\alpha) \cdot \delta\mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2 \cdot \mathrm{U}(-\alpha) = \begin{pmatrix} \delta m_h^2 & \delta m_{hH}^2 \\ \delta m_{Hh}^2 & \delta m_H^2 \end{pmatrix} \,, \tag{3.6}$$

where the mixed mass counterterms are symmetric $\delta m_{Hh}^2 = \delta m_{hH}^2$.

Thus, aside from the purely SM inputs, the renormalization of the scalar sector in the singlet model is completely specified by four renormalization constants for the neutral Higgs fields, the respective singlet and doublet vev counterterms, and five additional counterterms linked to the parameters in the Higgs potential (2.3). In the mass eigenstate basis, these can be traded by:

- tadpoles: $\delta T_h, \delta T_H$ • vev: $\delta v, \delta v_s$ • mixing: δm_{hH}^2
- Higgs masses: $\delta m_h^2, \delta m_H^2$ • fields: $\delta Z_h, \delta Z_H, \delta Z_{hH}, \delta Z_{Hh}$. $\tag{3.7}$

Defining a renormalization scheme is then tantamount to identifying a set of independent conditions by which to link the above quantities to physical inputs. The renormalization conditions by which we fix these counterterms will rely on the one-point and two-point Greens' functions of physical fields. Depending on the scheme we choose for Higgs field renormalization, not all of the above field renormalization constants will be independent from each other.

A complete renormalization scheme fixes all the counterterms which are necessary to absorb the UV-divergent contributions from loop-level amplitudes, such that one obtains UV finite predictions for physical observables. Another important property of a renormalization scheme is gauge independence. More precisely, maintaining gauge independence when defining a scheme allows to write physical predictions as a function of the input parameters in a way that does not vary when the gauge-fixing is changed. Only in this case one can unambiguously relate physical observables to Lagrangian parameters. In this work we examine different strategies to extend the conventional SM renormalization to the singlet model case, and discuss in detail whether these comply with gauge independence. The SLOOPS non-linear gauge-fixing setup (cf. eq. (2.20)) turns out to be instrumental in this task.

3.2 Gauge sector

We begin by introducing the on-shell definition of the electroweak mixing angle $\sin^2 \theta_W = 1 - m_W^2/m_Z^2$, along with the shorthand notations $s_W^2 \equiv \sin^2 \theta_W$, $c_W^2 \equiv 1 - s_W^2$ [96]. This relation fixes the weak mixing angle counterterm $(s_W^2)^0 \to s_W^2 + \delta s_W^2$ as

$$\frac{\delta s_W^2}{s_W^2} = -\frac{c_W^2}{s_W^2} \left(\frac{\delta m_W^2}{m_W^2} - \frac{\delta m_Z^2}{m_Z^2} \right). \tag{3.8}$$

The weak gauge boson masses are renormalized in the standard on-shell scheme [18, 96–99], i.e. by requiring the real part of the transverse renormalized weak gauge boson self-energies to vanish at the respective pole masses. The condition

$$\operatorname{Re} \hat{\Sigma}_T^V(p^2) = \operatorname{Re} \Sigma_T^V(p^2) + \delta Z_V (p^2 - m_V^2) - \delta m_V^2 \Big|_{p^2 = m_V^2} = 0 \qquad [V = W^\pm, Z], \tag{3.9}$$

where δZ_V stands for the weak gauge boson field renormalization $V \to Z_V^{1/2} V = (1 + 1/2 \delta Z_V) V + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\mathrm{ew}}^2)$, leads to

$$\delta m_W^2 = -\operatorname{Re} \Sigma_T^W(m_W^2) \qquad \text{and} \qquad \delta m_Z^2 = -\operatorname{Re} \Sigma_T^Z(m_Z^2). \tag{3.10}$$

All renormalized self-energies are denoted hereafter by a hat. The transverse part of the gauge boson self-energies follows from the vacuum polarization tensor,

$$\Sigma_{VV'}^{\mu\nu}(p^2) \equiv \Sigma_T^{VV'}(p^2) + p^\mu p^\nu \Sigma_L^{VV'}(p^2). \tag{3.11}$$

The explicit form of the weak gauge boson two-point functions in the singlet model can be found in ref. [19].

To renormalize the electromagnetic coupling constant, we require the electric charge to be equal to the full $ee\gamma$ vertex in the Thompson limit. With the help of the QED Ward identities, this condition is given in terms of the photon and mixed $Z - \gamma$ two-point functions

$$\frac{\delta Z_e}{e} = \frac{1}{2} \Pi_\gamma(0) + \frac{s_W}{c_W} \frac{\Sigma_{\gamma Z}^T(0)}{m_Z^2}, \qquad \text{with} \qquad \Pi_\gamma = \frac{d^2}{\partial p^2} \Sigma_{\gamma\gamma}(p^2) \Big|_{p^2 = 0}. \tag{3.12}$$

To avoid large logarithms from light fermion masses, we rephrase as customary the photon vacuum polarization as

$$\Pi_\gamma(0) = \Delta\alpha_{\mathrm{lep}} + \Delta\alpha_{\mathrm{had}} + \frac{1}{m_Z^2} \operatorname{Re} \Sigma_\gamma^{\mathrm{light\ f}}(m_Z^2), \tag{3.13}$$

where the superindex indicates that only the light fermion contributions (all leptons and quarks, except the top) are included in the photon self-energy, while the QED-induced shift to the fine structure constant,

$$\Delta\alpha = \Delta\alpha_{\mathrm{lep}} + \Delta\alpha_{\mathrm{had}} = -\operatorname{Re} \hat{\Pi}_\gamma^{\mathrm{lep}}(m_Z^2) - \operatorname{Re} \hat{\Pi}_\gamma^{\mathrm{had}}(m_Z^2), \tag{3.14}$$

is known to very good accuracy [100, 101].

The improved electric charge counterterm in the Thompson limit is thus given by

$$\frac{\delta Z_e}{e} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2}{dp^2} \Sigma_\gamma^{\text{no light f}}(p^2)\bigg|_{p^2=0} + \frac{1}{2}\Delta\alpha + \frac{1}{2m_Z^2}\,\text{Re}\,\Sigma_\gamma^{\text{light f}}(m_Z^2) + \frac{s_W}{c_W}\frac{\Sigma_{\gamma Z}^T(0)}{m_Z^2}\,, \quad (3.15)$$

in such a way that the value of the renormalized electric charge at zero momentum transfer $e(0) = \sqrt{4\pi\,\alpha_{\text{em}}(0)}$ can be extracted from the measured fine-structure constant in this limit: $\alpha_{\text{em}}(0) = 1/137.035999074(44)$ [102].

On the other hand, the very precise measurement of the muon lifetime provides a link between the weak gauge boson masses, the fine structure constant and the Fermi constant. This allows for different input choices to fix the electroweak sector. In our numerical analysis we shall use two alternative parametrizations:

- The α_{em}-parametrization, in which we select $\alpha_{\text{em}}(0)$ and $m_{W,Z}$ as input parameters;

- The G_F-parametrization, in which we instead replace the W-boson mass by the Fermi constant $G_F = 1.1663787(6) \times 10^{-5}\,\text{GeV}^{-2}$ [102], the latter being fixed by the muon lifetime via [98, 103–105].

These two parametrizations are related via the conventional parameter Δr [98, 103–107] as

$$m_W^2\left(1 - \frac{m_W^2}{m_Z^2}\right) = \frac{\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}}{\sqrt{2}G_F}\left(1 + \Delta r\right), \quad (3.16)$$

where $m_{W,Z}$ and s_W are renormalized in the on-shell scheme. For a detailed analysis of Δr in the singlet model cf. ref. [19]. Since Δr vanishes at leading-order, both parametrizations are trivially linked at tree-level as $\frac{G_F}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{\pi\alpha_{\text{em}}}{2m_W^2\,s_W^2}$, while they depart from each other at higher perturbative orders. We will explicitly quantify these departures further down in section 5.

3.3 Extended Higgs sector

3.3.1 Tadpole renormalization

For the tadpole renormalization we proceed as customary [18, 96–99] and impose

$$\hat{T}_h = T_h + \delta T_h = 0; \qquad \hat{T}_H = T_H + \delta T_H = 0. \quad (3.17)$$

This is equivalent to requiring that v and v_s are the physical vacuum expectation values of the doublet and the singlet fields respectively, so that they define the (renormalized) minimum of the Higgs potential. In practice, this implies that no Higgs one-point insertions feature explicitly in our calculation.

3.3.2 Doublet vev renormalization

The vev v of the scalar doublet Φ is fixed as in the SM through its relation to the electroweak on-shell parameters

$$v = \frac{2\,m_W\,s_W}{e} \quad \rightarrow \quad \frac{\delta v}{v} = \frac{1}{2}\frac{\delta m_W^2}{m_W^2} + \frac{\delta s_W}{s_W} - \frac{\delta Z_e}{e}\,, \quad (3.18)$$

where all needed counterterms are defined in (3.10), (3.15) and (3.8).

3.3.3 Singlet vev renormalization

The general renormalization transformation of a generic scalar field vev [108] can be particularized to the singlet vev case as

$$\phi_s + v_s \to Z_S^{1/2}(\phi_s + v_s + \delta\bar{v}_s), \qquad (3.19)$$

where we have introduced for convenience the singlet field renormalization in the gauge basis $S^0 \to Z_S^{1/2} S = (1 + \delta Z_S/2) S + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\mathrm{em}}^2)$. The additional counterterm $\delta\bar{v}_s$ characterizes to what extent the singlet vev renormalizes differently from the singlet field ϕ_s itself. In ref. [108] it was shown that, in an R_ξ gauge, a divergent part for $\delta\bar{v}_s$ is forbidden if the scalar field obeys a rigid invariance (see also ref. [109] and references therein). This is precisely the case in the singlet model, since the singlet field is unlinked from the gauge sector and hence invariant under global gauge transformations. In addition to that, the singlet field renormalization constant δZ_S is also UV-finite. This can be easily shown by computing δZ_S in the unbroken phase where $\langle\Phi\rangle = \langle S\rangle = 0$. Such a scenario is analogous to a plain $\lambda\phi^4$-theory, in which the (singlet) scalar field is coupled to a second scalar (doublet) field only through the gauge-singlet quartic coupling $\mathscr{L} \supset \lambda_3 \Phi^\dagger\Phi S^2$. In this case, all one-loop contributions to the singlet two-point function are momentum-independent, implying that δZ_S does not get a UV pole (cf. e.g. [110]).[7] We thus conclude that the singlet vev counterterm $\delta v_s = \delta\bar{v}_s + \delta Z_S/2$ defined by eqs. (3.2) and (3.19) gets at most a finite contribution at this order.

We finally note that, given the condition of vanishing tadpoles (3.17), the singlet vev v_s corresponds to the physical minimum of the Higgs potential in the broken phase in the singlet field direction, viz. $\langle S\rangle = v_s/\sqrt{2}$, at a given order in perturbation theory. Since v_s does not contribute to the electroweak symmetry breaking, it cannot be fixed in terms of SM observables. Instead, we must promote it to an independent input parameter (which should eventually be determined from a future measurement of e.g. the Hhh coupling). So doing, any finite shift δv_s can be subsumed into the physical definition of v_s itself at one-loop. Therefore, in our renormalization setup we can simply fix δv_s in the $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$ scheme, $\delta v_s^{\overline{\mathrm{MS}}} = 0$, so that no singlet vev counterterm features in one-loop calculations.

3.3.4 Higgs masses renormalization

The (matrix-valued) Higgs mass counterterm in the gauge basis yields

$$\delta\mathcal{M}_{\phi_h,\phi_s}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} 2(v^2\delta\lambda_1 + 2v\lambda_1\delta v) + \delta T_{\phi_h}/v & v_s(v\delta\lambda_3 + \lambda_3\delta v) \\ v_s(v\delta\lambda_3 + \lambda_3\delta v) & 2v_s^2\delta\lambda_2 + \delta T_{\phi_s}/v_s \end{pmatrix}, \qquad (3.20)$$

where we have already fixed $\delta v_s = 0$, as justified above. This result can be linked as customary to the mass basis through eq. (3.6).

To renormalize the physical Higgs masses we impose on-shell conditions on the renormalized diagonal Higgs self-energies,

$$\mathrm{Re}\,\hat{\Sigma}_\phi(m_\phi^2) = 0 \quad \text{with} \quad \mathrm{Re}\,\hat{\Sigma}_\phi(p^2) = \mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_\phi(p^2) + \delta Z_\phi(p^2 - m_\phi^2) - \delta m_\phi^2, \quad [\phi = h, H], \ (3.21)$$

---

[7]We have numerically verified that δZ_S is UV-finite at one loop in all of the different renormalization schemes.

whereby we obtain

$$\delta m_h^2 = \operatorname{Re} \Sigma_h(p^2)\Big|_{p^2=m_h^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \delta m_H^2 = \operatorname{Re} \Sigma_H(p^2)\Big|_{p^2=m_H^2}. \tag{3.22}$$

The explicit form of the field renormalization constants δZ_ϕ in different schemes is discussed below in section 3.3.5.

In theories where the gauge eigenstates mix, the renormalization of the non-diagonal or mixing terms must be addressed with care (cf. [17, 18, 93] for an analogue discussion in the context of the squark sector in the MSSM). As we have seen in section 2, a *bare* angle $\alpha_0 \equiv \alpha$ rotates the scalar fields from the gauge basis to the mass basis through eq. (2.11). While such diagonal form is valid at leading order, radiative corrections will in general misalign the (tree-level) mass eigenstates. This is reflected in the off-diagonal terms of the loop-corrected propagators,

$$\Delta_{\text{Higgs}}^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} p^2 - m_h^2 + \hat{\Sigma}_h(p^2) & \hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(p^2) \\ \hat{\Sigma}_{Hh}(p^2) & p^2 - m_H^2 + \hat{\Sigma}_H(p^2) \end{pmatrix}$$

traded by the non-diagonal Higgs two-point function

$$\operatorname{Re} \hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(p^2) = \operatorname{Re} \Sigma_{hH}(p^2) + \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_{hH}(p^2 - m_h^2) + \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_{Hh}(p^2 - m_H^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2. \tag{3.23}$$

One possibility is to absorb these additional quantum effects into the renormalization of the mixing angle. This is equivalent to diagonalizing the loop-corrected mass matrix further through an additional rotation $U(\delta\alpha)$, where $\delta\alpha$ plays the role of a mixing angle counterterm, such that $\alpha^0 \to \alpha + \delta\alpha$. Alternatively, in our approach we take the mixing matrix $U(\alpha)$ as written in terms of the *physical* mixing angle and hence valid to all orders. The two alternative approaches are related through

$$\delta m_{hH}^2 = (m_H^2 - m_h^2)\,\delta\alpha\,. \tag{3.24}$$

The residual mixing induced by the off-diagonal terms in the mass matrix is instead removed by the non-diagonal field renormalization constants, which we present below.

3.3.5 Higgs field renormalization: diagonal parts

Taking the Higgs boson masses $m_{h,H}$ as experimental inputs, we fix the diagonal field renormalization constants via the on-shell conditions

$$\operatorname{Re} \hat{\Sigma}_h'(m_h^2) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \operatorname{Re} \hat{\Sigma}_H'(m_H^2) = 0\,, \tag{3.25}$$

where $\operatorname{Re} \hat{\Sigma}_\phi(p^2)$ was defined in eq. (3.21), while the familiar shorthand notation $f'(p^2) \equiv df(p^2)/dp^2$ denotes the derivative with the respect to the momentum squared. This leads to

$$\delta Z_h = -\operatorname{Re}\Sigma_{hh}'(m_h^2) \quad \text{and} \quad \delta Z_H = -\operatorname{Re}\Sigma_{HH}'(m_H^2)\,, \tag{3.26}$$

which set the Higgs propagator residues to unity in the limit $p^2 \to m_\phi^2$ $(\phi = h, H)$.

3.3.6 Higgs field renormalization: non-diagonal parts

Fixing the non-diagonal field renormalization is a crucial step in setting up a *gauge-invariant* scheme, in which the renormalized one-loop amplitudes are independent of the gauge-fixing parameters, as discussed above. We first construct a set of schemes in analogy to the more familiar approaches in the literature. As we will show, these lead in general to gauge-dependent predictions for physical observables. To circumvent this problem, we introduce an additional (dubbed *improved*) scheme, which is defined merely in terms of two-point functions and gives numerically stable results throughout the entire parameter space. Similar discussions are addressed e.g. when defining renormalization schemes for the parameter $\tan\beta$ in the MSSM [17, 111].

Minimal field. As a first setup to fix the non-diagonal Higgs field renormalization δZ_{hH} we resort to a minimal field renormalization. We attach one single renormalization factor per field in the gauge basis,

$$\Phi \to Z_\Phi^{1/2}\,\Phi = \left(1 + \frac{\delta Z_\Phi}{2}\right)\Phi + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2); \quad S \to Z_S^{1/2}\,S = \left(1 + \frac{\delta Z_S}{2}\right)S + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2), \tag{3.27}$$

where we have expanded them to first order.

This procedure is in straight analogy to the conventional renormalization of the Higgs sector in multidoublet extensions such as the MSSM [93] and the Two-Higgs-Doublet Model [94]. Assuming symmetric off-diagonal components, and using the rotation matrix $\mathrm{U}(\alpha)$ in eq. (2.11), we can write the physical Higgs wave function renormalization constants in terms of the gauge basis ones $\delta Z_{\Phi,S}$ as

$$\delta Z_h = c_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_\Phi + s_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_S; \quad \delta Z_H = s_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_\Phi + c_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_S;$$

$$\delta Z_{hH} = s_\alpha c_\alpha(\delta Z_\Phi - \delta Z_S) = \frac{1}{2}\,t_{2\alpha}\,[\delta Z_h - \delta Z_H], \tag{3.28}$$

with the shorthand notation $\{s_\alpha, c_\alpha, t_\alpha\} = \{\sin\alpha, \cos\alpha, \tan\alpha\}$. The scheme is dubbed *minimal* as the non-diagonal field renormalization δZ_{hH} is not independent. Instead, it is linked to the diagonal parts $\delta Z_{h,H}$, which we have already fixed via on-shell conditions (3.26). Additionally, since at one-loop we have $\delta Z_S^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = 0$ (cf. section 3.3.3), we can further simplify the relations above to get

$$\delta Z_h = c_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_\Phi; \qquad \delta Z_H = s_\alpha^2\,\delta Z_\Phi; \qquad \delta Z_{hH} = s_\alpha c_\alpha \delta Z_\Phi = \frac{1}{2}\,s_{2\alpha}\,[\delta Z_h + \delta Z_H]. \tag{3.29}$$

Finally, for the mixed mass counterterm, which enters explicitly in the Hhh vertex counterterm, we demand the off-diagonal renormalized Higgs self-energy to vanish at an arbitrary renormalization scale,

$$\left.\mathrm{Re}\,\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(p^2)\right|_{p^2 = \mu_R^2} = 0; \quad \text{wherefrom} \quad \delta m_{hH}^2 = \left.\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(p^2)\right|_{p^2 = \mu_R^2} + \delta Z_{hH}\left(\mu_R^2 - \frac{m_h^2 + m_H^2}{2}\right). \tag{3.30}$$

From eq. (3.30) we see that in this scheme all vertices with external Higgs legs receive a finite wave-function renormalization correction, which absorbs the residual loop-induced

$h - H$ mixing for an external on-shell Higgs state. These finite wave-function factors are given in general by [93]

$$\hat{Z}_{hH} = -\frac{\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_h^2)}{m_h^2 - m_H^2 + \hat{\Sigma}_H(m_h^2)} = -\frac{\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_h^2)}{m_h^2 - m_H^2} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2);$$

$$\hat{Z}_{Hh} = -\frac{\hat{\Sigma}_{Hh}(m_H^2)}{m_H^2 - m_h^2 + \hat{\Sigma}_H(m_H^2)} = -\frac{\hat{\Sigma}_{Hh}(m_H^2)}{m_H^2 - m_h^2} + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2), \tag{3.31}$$

where $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}}^2)$ denote the contributions beyond one-loop accuracy. Since the diagonal field renormalization has been fixed via on-shell conditions eq. (3.26), the diagonal finite factors at one loop yield $\hat{Z}_{h,H} = 1$ and hence we do not include them explicitly.

On-shell. We define a second prescription in close analogy to squark renormalization [112–114].[8] This time we attach one field renormalization constant $\delta Z_h, \delta Z_H$ per Higgs field directly in the mass-eigenstate basis (3.4), in which case the off-diagonal field renormalization constants δZ_{hH} and δZ_{Hh} are *not* directly related to the diagonal terms. The diagonal parts $\delta Z_{h,H}$ are again given by the on-shell relations of eq. (3.26). The non-diagonal field renormalization constants are set up by imposing that no loop-induced $H - h$ transitions occur for external Higgs states on their mass shell, i.e.

$$\text{Re}\,\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_h^2) = 0; \qquad \text{and} \qquad \text{Re}\,\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_H^2) = 0. \tag{3.32}$$

Using eq. (3.23) leads to

$$\delta Z_{hH} = \frac{2}{m_h^2 - m_H^2} \left[\text{Re}\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right], \tag{3.33}$$

$$\delta Z_{Hh} = \frac{2}{m_H^2 - m_h^2} \left[\text{Re}\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right]. \tag{3.34}$$

Therefore, to fully fix the non-diagonal renormalization constants one must provide a proper definition of the mixed mass counterterm δm_{hH}^2. One possibility, as inspired from [112–114], is to impose $\delta Z_{hH} = \delta Z_{Hh}$, which fixes δm_{hH}^2 accordingly as

$$\delta m_{hH}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[\text{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2) + \text{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2)\right] \quad \text{and} \quad \delta Z_{hH} = \frac{\text{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2) - \text{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2)}{m_h^2 - m_H^2}. \tag{3.35}$$

The above condition removes the loop-induced $H - h$ mixing when either of the two Higgs bosons are on shell, so that the physical states propagate independently and do not oscillate.

The customary on-shell scheme, as well as the minimal field scheme discussed above, show indisputable benefits, e.g. the fact that all counterterms are given in terms of two-point functions and related to physically measurable quantities. However, both of them lead to renormalized one-loop amplitudes which, albeit UV finite, may still have a left-over dependence on the parameters of the gauge-fixing Lagrangian (2.20). This is a well

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[8]While this work was being finalized, we learned of the work [115], which presents a study of the quantum corrections to the Higgs couplings to fermions and gauge bosons in a similar singlet model setup. The renormalization scheme for the extended Higgs sector used by these authors is equivalent to the on-shell scheme we discuss here, and which, as we analyse in the following, is not gauge-independent.

known fact for on-shell fermion [116–120] and sfermion mixing in supersymmetric theories [18, 121, 122]. Exploiting the non-linear gauge fixing of eq. (2.20), we explicitly verify this drawback to appear in the singlet model case as well, and illustrate it numerically in section 5.2. In this discussion, it is worthwhile recalling that gauge dependencies may well persist in general in all non-physical building blocks which are involved in the renormalization of any gauge theory (e.g. field renormalization constants). The key test for a given renormalization scheme is thus whether it leads to gauge-independent *predictions* for physical observables. In the minimal field and the on-shell schemes, renormalized one-loop amplitudes are proven to contain left-over gauge-dependent contributions. These can be traced back to the mixed mass counterterm δm_{hH}^2, which also enters the non-diagonal field renormalization constants $\delta Z_{hH,Hh}$. The former is fixed in these schemes through eqs. (3.30) and (3.35) respectively, and ultimately follows from the $h - H$ mixing self-energy. Using the non-linear gauge of (2.20), we find

$$
\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_{hH}(p^2) = {} & \Sigma_{hH}(p^2)\big|_{\xi_W=\xi_Z=1,\tilde{\delta}_i=0} \\
& + \frac{1}{16\pi^2}\left\{ \frac{g^2}{2}\left[\tilde{\delta}_1(m_H^2-p^2)s_\alpha + \tilde{\delta}_2(m_h^2-p^2)c_\alpha \right] B_0\left(p^2,m_W^2,m_W^2\right) \right\} \\
& + \frac{1}{16\pi^2}\left\{ \frac{g'^2}{4s_W^2}\left[\tilde{\epsilon}_1(m_H^2-p^2)s_\alpha + \tilde{\epsilon}_2(m_h^2-p^2)c_\alpha \right] B_0\left(p^2,m_Z^2,m_Z^2\right) \right\}, \quad (3.36)
\end{aligned}
$$

where $B_0(p^2,m^2,m^2)$ is the two-point Passarino-Veltman scalar integral [123] and the $\tilde{\delta}_i$ terms are a short-hand notation for the non-linear gauge parameters in eq. (2.20). The first line of eq. (3.36) is identical to the result of the self-energy computation in the 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. The second and third lines correspond to the genuine gauge-dependent contributions in the non-linear gauge (we recall that for practical calculations we always set $\xi_{A,W,Z} = 1$). The latter enter the mixed mass counterterm definition through eqs. (3.30) or (3.35) and are responsible for the uncancelled dependencies on the gauge-fixing parameters in the renormalized $H \to hh$ one-loop amplitude, which we pin down numerically in section 5.2.

One first roadway to construct a gauge-independent definition of δm_{hH}^2 alternative to eq. (3.35) would be to exploit the pole structure of a process-specific one-loop amplitude (e.g. a Higgs decay) in the limit $m_h^2 \to m_H^2$, as suggested by ref. [18]. Such a limit corresponds though to a vanishing quartic coupling λ_3 (2.16) and hence to a vanishing mixing angle α (2.12). Therefore, in this no-mixing situation, δm_{hH}^2 cannot be defined through the mixed self-energy Σ_{hH}, because it is identically zero. A second possibility would be to link the problematic mixed mass counterterm to a physical observable directly — viz. using a *per se* gauge-independent quantity such as a decay rate or scattering cross section [17, 111]. The price one would pay would be a process-dependent scheme definition, and sometimes one would have to resort to quantities out of current experimental reach. A third option is retaining only the UV-divergent part of such a quantity via an $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$ prescription, which we examine next. Besides this possibility, we also propose an *additional* prescription leading to a gauge invariant scheme, which furthermore does not render artificially enhanced contributions in any part of the parameter space.

Mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/on-shell. In this case we trade δm_{hH}^2 by one of the Higgs self-coupling counterterms $\delta\lambda_i$ from eq. (2.3), and fix it using $\overline{\text{MS}}$ conditions. For convenience we choose λ_2 and compute the divergent part of the one-loop correction to the singlet field four-point coupling $\lambda_2 S^4$. So doing we find

$$\delta\lambda_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}} = \frac{-1}{16\pi^2}\left[\lambda_3^2 + 9\lambda_2^2\right]\Delta\,, \tag{3.37}$$

where Δ stands for the UV divergent part in dimensional regularization

$$\Delta \equiv 1/\epsilon - \gamma_E + \log(4\pi). \tag{3.38}$$

This result is manifestly gauge independent, as it should, and agrees with the beta function for the singlet quartic coupling λ_2 given in ref. [21]. The corresponding gauge-invariant counterterms for $\lambda_{1,3}$ can now be traded by $\delta m_{h,H}^2, \delta v, \delta T_h, \delta T_H$ and $\delta\lambda_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}}$ using the relations from eqs. (2.14)–(2.16),

$$\delta\lambda_1 = \frac{\delta m_h^2 + \delta m_H^2}{2v^2} + \frac{vs_\alpha - v_s c_\alpha}{2v^3 v_s}\delta T_h - \frac{v_s s_\alpha + v c_\alpha}{2v^3 v_s}\delta T_H - \frac{v_s^2}{v^2}\delta\lambda_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - \frac{2\lambda_1}{v}\delta v; \tag{3.39}$$

$$\delta\lambda_3 = \frac{c t_\alpha \delta m_H^2 - t_\alpha \delta m_h^2}{2vv_s} + \frac{c_{2\alpha}}{2vv_s^2}\left[\frac{\delta T_h}{c_\alpha} - \frac{\delta T_H}{s_\alpha}\right] - \frac{2}{t_{2\alpha}}\frac{v_s}{v}\delta\lambda_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}} - \frac{\lambda_3}{v}\delta v. \tag{3.40}$$

We are thus left with

$$\delta m_{hH}^2 = v^2 s_{2\alpha}\delta\lambda_1 - \delta\lambda_2^{\overline{\text{MS}}} v_s^2 s_{2\alpha} + vv_s c_{2\alpha}\delta\lambda_3 + \frac{s_{2\alpha}}{2}\left[\left(\frac{c_\alpha}{v} + \frac{s_\alpha}{v_s}\right)\delta T_h + \left(\frac{s_\alpha}{v} - \frac{c_\alpha}{v_s}\right)\delta T_H\right]$$
$$+ \left(2vs_{2\alpha}\lambda_1 + v_s c_{2\alpha}\lambda_3\right)\delta v. \tag{3.41}$$

Finally, we use the on-shell relations (3.33)–(3.34) to obtain the non-diagonal field renormalization constants, which are now fixed in terms of eq. (3.41).

Since all of the renormalization constants within δm_{hH}^2 are either related to physical observables and/or correspond to prefactors of gauge invariant operators (e.g. $\lambda_{1,2,3}$) the mixed mass counterterm δm_{hH}^2 is by construction gauge-invariant — and leads in turn to gauge-independent renormalized one-loop amplitudes, as we prove numerically in section 5. This observation, together with the analytical structure of the mixed self-energy $\Sigma_{hH}(p^2)$ from eq. (3.36), reflects that the renormalization conditions chosen for δm_{hH}^2 (and linked to them, for $\delta Z_{hH,Hh}$) are the ultimate origin of the uncancelled gauge dependence found in the minimal field and the on-shell schemes.

In spite of leading to gauge-independent results, this mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/on-shell scheme tends to produce overestimated radiative corrections in the phenomenologically interesting regions ($s_\alpha \to 0, c_\alpha \to 0$), as manifest from the analytic dependencies of the counterterms (3.39)–(3.40), which are proportional to inverse powers of small trigonometric factors. We therefore refrain from using this scheme explicitly in our phenomenological analysis, and instead propose an improved gauge-independent setup right below.

	$\delta Z_{h,H}$	$\delta Z_{hH,Hh}$	δm_{hH}^2
Minimal field	$\delta Z_h = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_h'(m_h^2)$ $\delta Z_H = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_H'(m_H^2)$	$\delta Z_{hH} = \dfrac{1}{2}s_{2\alpha}\left[\delta Z_h + \delta Z_H\right]$ $\delta Z_{Hh} = \delta Z_{hH}$	$\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(\mu_R^2) + \left[\mu_R^2 - \dfrac{m_h^2 + m_H^2}{2}\right]$
OS	$\delta Z_h = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_h'(m_h^2)$ $\delta Z_H = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_H'(m_H^2)$	$\delta Z_{hH} = \dfrac{\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2) - \mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2)}{m_h^2 - m_H^2}$ $\delta Z_{Hh} = \delta Z_{hH}$	$\dfrac{\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2) + \mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2)}{2}$
Mixed $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$/OS	$\delta Z_h = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_h'(m_h^2)$ $\delta Z_H = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_H'(m_H^2)$	$\delta Z_{hH} = \dfrac{2}{m_h^2 - m_H^2}\left[\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right]$ $\delta Z_{Hh} = \dfrac{2}{m_H^2 - m_h^2}\left[\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right]$	eq. (3.41)
Improved OS	$\delta Z_h = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_h'(m_h^2)$ $\delta Z_H = -\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_H'(m_H^2)$	$\delta Z_{hH} = \dfrac{2}{m_h^2 - m_H^2}\left[\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_H^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right]$ $\delta Z_{Hh} = \dfrac{2}{m_H^2 - m_h^2}\left[\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(m_h^2) - \delta m_{hH}^2\right]$	$\mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(p_*^2), \quad p_*^2 = \dfrac{m_h^2 + m_H^2}{2}$

Table 3. Overview of the scheme-dependent counterterms in the different renormalization setups considered in this paper.

Improved on-shell. A second alternative to sidestep the gauge-dependent δm_{hH}^2 definition in the default on-shell scheme is to isolate the gauge invariant part of the mixed self energy of eq. (3.36). In so doing, we can use it to define the problematic mixed mass counterterm through a gauge-independent *improved* self-energy [124]. This is actually possible if the mixed scalar self-energy (3.36) is computed in the linear 't Hooft-Feynman gauge and evaluated at the average geometrical mass $p_*^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$. As shown in ref. [122] with the help of the so-called *pinch technique*, [124–126], the mixed scalar self-energy (3.36) obtained in this way coincides with the gauge-invariant part of the *pinched* result. While the results proven in ref. [122] are applied to the squark and Higgs sectors of the MSSM, the proof does not rely on Supersymmetry and hence can be exported to the more general case of a system of two gauge eigenstates which mix in the mass basis. In addition, self-energies computed using the pinch technique are independent of the gauge-fixing scheme [124]. With these arguments in mind, we thus retain only the first line in eq. (3.36) and define the mixed mass counterterm through

$$\delta m_{hH}^2 = \mathrm{Re}\,\Sigma_{hH}(p_*^2)\big|_{\xi_W = \xi_Z = 1,\,\tilde{\delta}_i = 0} \quad \text{with} \quad p_*^2 = \frac{m_h^2 + m_H^2}{2}, \tag{3.42}$$

which must be therefore gauge-independent (as we again confirm numerically in section 5.2). Finally, the non-diagonal field renormalization are once more fixed using OS conditions (3.32) and fully determined in terms of δm_{hH}^2.

In table 3 we provide a summarized overview of the different renormalization schemes discussed in this section. Notice that they differ from each other in the renormalization conditions used to fix the non-diagonal Higgs field renormalization $\delta Z_{hH,Hh}$ constants and the mixed mass counterterm δm_{hH}^2.

4 Heavy-to-light Higgs decay width

4.1 Leading-order contribution

When kinematically accessible, the heavy-to-light Higgs decay mode $H \to hh$ proceeds at leading order (LO) via the tree-level contact interaction λ_{Hhh} with partial width [12, 14]

$$\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H \to hh} = \frac{\lambda^2_{Hhh}}{32\,\pi\,m_H} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_h^2}{m_H^2}},\tag{4.1}$$

where

$$\lambda_{Hhh} = -\frac{is_{2\alpha}}{v}\left[m_h^2 + \frac{m_H^2}{2}\right](c_\alpha + s_\alpha\,t_\beta^{-1})\,.\tag{4.2}$$

Notice that, owing to the structure of the scalar self-coupling, the decay width is not symmetric under a sign flip of the mixing angle $s_\alpha \to -s_\alpha$.

As such, this decay mode constitutes a genuine new physics contribution to the total heavy Higgs width — aside from the global rescaling of its decay modes into SM particles. The opening of this novel channel is thus capable to alter the Higgs boson lineshape significantly, as well as its decay pattern. More specifically, the branching fractions of the heavy Higgs boson of mass m_H to SM fields ϕ are modified as

$$\text{BR}_{H \to \phi\phi}(m_H) = \frac{s_\alpha^2\,\Gamma^{\text{SM}}_{H \to \phi\phi}(m_H)}{s_\alpha^2\,\Gamma^{\text{SM}}_{H_{\text{tot}}}(m_H) + \Gamma_{H \to hh}(m_H)}\,,\tag{4.3}$$

where $\Gamma^{\text{SM}}_H(m_H)$ stands for the total width of a SM-like Higgs boson with mass m_H. For the lighter Higgs boson with mass m_h, the branching fractions are exactly as for a SM-like Higgs with that mass.

Notice that for $\lambda_{Hhh} = 0$, all partial decay widths are universally rescaled in terms of the Higgs mixing angle α, leading to the same branching ratios that a Higgs boson of that mass would experience in the SM.

Two competing mechanisms determine the overall size of $\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H \to hh}$. On the one hand there is the kinematic factor $\beta_{\text{kin}}/m_H^2 = 1/m_H^2\sqrt{1 - 4m_h^2/m_H^2}$, where β_{kin} trades the light Higgs-pair velocity in the heavy Higgs boson rest frame. Its dependence with respect to m_H is displayed in the left panel of figure 2, for a fixed light Higgs mass $m_h = 125.09\,\text{GeV}$.

The characteristic $\mathcal{O}(m_H^{-1})$ phase-space suppression is compensated by the trilinear Higgs coupling strength λ_{Hhh}, which depends quadratically on both the light and the heavy Higgs masses. On the other hand, there are $\cot\beta$-enhanced contributions which can invigorate these Higgs self-interactions for $t_\beta < 1$, and push the $H \to hh$ rates even higher. We illustrate these effects in the right panel of figure 2, in which we show the leading-order heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H \to hh}$ in the $s_\alpha - t_\beta$ plane for a heavy Higgs boson with mass $m_H = 300\,\text{GeV}$. We can identify three different configurations in which the $H \to hh$ mode exactly vanishes [21]: i) the light Higgs decoupling limit, $s_\alpha = 0$; ii) the heavy Higgs decoupling limit, $|s_\alpha| = 1$; and iii) the line $t_\beta = -t_\alpha$. In cases i (resp. ii), all couplings of the heavy (resp. light) Higgs boson eigenstate are identically zero.
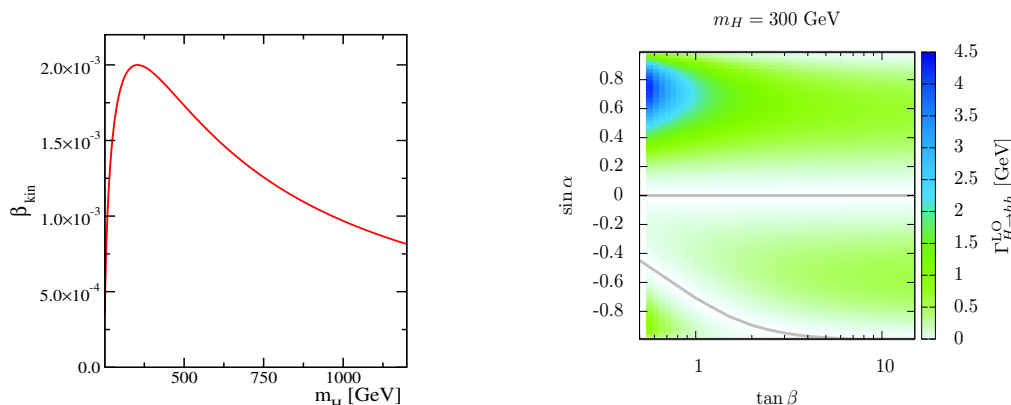
Figure 2. *Left panel:* kinematical factor $\beta_{\text{kin}} = \sqrt{1 - 4m_h^2/m_H^2}$ as a function of the heavy Higgs mass, for $m_h = 125.09 \, \text{GeV}$. *Right panel:* leading-order heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{LO}}$ [in GeV] over the $\sin \alpha - \tan \beta$ plane for a fixed heavy Higgs mass of $m_H = 300 \, \text{GeV}$. The grey lines signal the configurations $\sin \alpha = 0$ and $\tan \beta = -\tan \alpha$ along which $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{LO}}$ vanishes.
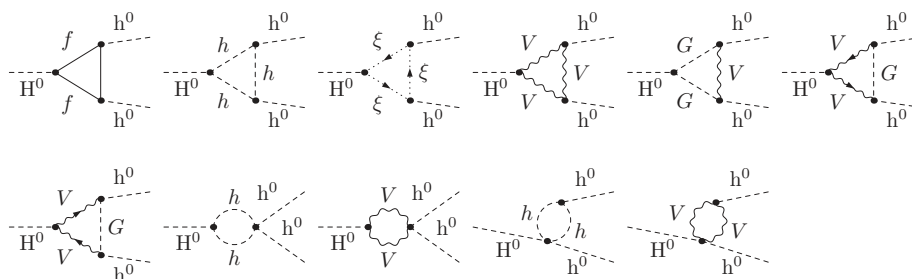
Figure 3. Representative Feynman diagrams for $H \to hh$ at one-loop electroweak accuracy in the 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. The Feynman diagrams are generated using FEYNARTS.STY [127].

4.2 Electroweak one-loop corrections

Since all external particles involved in this process are colorless and electrically neutral, the next-to-leading order (NLO) corrections are given by purely weak one-loop effects. These $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_{\text{ew}})$ corrections stem from the interference of the LO amplitude and different subsets of one-loop graphs. On the one hand we have the genuine one-particle irreducible (1PI) vertex corrections. These include triangle and bubble-like three-point topologies which involve the exchange of virtual heavy fermions, weak gauge bosons and Higgs bosons, as generically illustrated in figure 3. The neutral Goldstone bosons and the $SU(2)_L$ Faddeev-Popov ghost contributions appear explicitly in the 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. In addition to the genuine 1PI topologies, the one-loop corrections involve as well the Hhh vertex counterterm, which relies on a combination of Higgs and gauge boson two-point functions, as discussed beforehand in section 3. This contribution cancels the UV-divergent poles of the 1PI amplitude and allows us to write the complete one-loop amplitude in terms of physical (renormalized) parameters. Lastly, we must include the finite wave-function corrections to the external Higgs boson legs (3.31) in the minimal field scheme — while for the on-shell schemes these are identically zero.

Combining all these pieces we may express the NLO heavy-to-light Higgs decay width as

$$\Gamma^{\text{NLO}}_{H \to hh} = \frac{1}{32\pi\,m_H} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_h^2}{m_H^2}} \left[\lambda_{Hhh}^2 + 2\,\text{Re}\,\lambda_{Hhh} \left(\delta\Gamma^{\triangle}_{Hhh} + \delta\Gamma^{\text{WF}}_{Hhh} + \delta\lambda_{Hhh}\right)\right]. \quad (4.4)$$

By $\delta\Gamma^{\triangle}_{Hhh}$ we denote the one-loop contribution from the 1PI three-point vertex graphs. The wave-function corrections yield

$$\delta\Gamma^{\text{WF}}_{Hhh} = 2\hat{Z}_{hH}\lambda_{HHh} + \hat{Z}_{Hh}\lambda_{hhh} = \frac{1}{m_h^2 - m_H^2}\left[\lambda_{hhh}\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_H^2) - 2\lambda_{HHh}\hat{\Sigma}_{hH}(m_h^2)\right], \quad (4.5)$$

where we have introduced the finite field renormalization constants eq. (3.31) and expanded them to first order in α_{ew}. Finally, $\delta\lambda_{Hhh}$ stands for the counterterm of the trilinear scalar coupling. The latter is constructed from the tree-level expression (4.2), expanding all the bare quantities as customary as $X^0 \to X + \delta X$. Doing so we find

$$\delta\,\lambda_{Hhh} = \lambda_{Hhh}\left[\delta Z_h + \frac{1}{2}\delta Z_H + \frac{1}{2}\frac{\lambda_{hhh}}{\lambda_{Hhh}}\delta Z_{hH} + \frac{\lambda_{HHh}}{\lambda_{Hhh}}\delta Z_{hH}\right]$$
$$+ c_1^{Hhh}\delta m_h^2 + c_2^{Hhh}\delta m_H^2 + c_3^{Hhh}\delta m_{hH}^2 + c_4^{Hhh}\delta T_h + c_5^{Hhh}\delta T_H + c_6^{Hhh}\frac{\delta v}{v}, \quad (4.6)$$

where the coefficients c_i are quoted separately in the appendix.

The relative size of the quantum effects is quantified through the ratio

$$\delta_\alpha \equiv \frac{\Delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}_\alpha}{\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_\alpha} = \frac{\Gamma^{\text{NLO}}_\alpha - \Gamma^{\text{LO}}_\alpha}{\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_\alpha}, \quad (4.7)$$

where all quantities are given in the α_{em}-parametrization. The pure one-loop corrections $\Delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ include all terms stemming from the LO-NLO interference.

5 Phenomenology

Hereafter we describe the phenomenology of heavy-to-light Higgs decays at NLO EW accuracy. We begin in section 5.2 by completing the discussion on the gauge dependence issues that were pointed out qualitatively in section 3. We here revisit them on quantitative grounds and justify the choice of the *improved* on-shell scheme as our default setup for the remainder of the analysis. Furthermore, we perform a dedicated numerical comparison of different schemes and show that these theoretical shortcomings have arguably a negligible impact in practice.

We continue in sections 5.3 and 5.4 with a detailed presentation of our phenomenological analysis. In line with ref. [21], we separately consider two regions of interest, where heavy-to-light Higgs decays are kinematically accessible.

- *High-mass region:* in which the *lighter* eigenstate is identified with the discovered SM-like Higgs of (fixed) mass m_h, while the heavier mass-eigenstate corresponds to an additional heavy Higgs companion with a variable mass m_H, such that $m_H > 2\,m_h$.

- *Low-mass region:* where one instead identifies the *heavier* mass eigenstate with the SM-like Higgs of (fixed) mass m_H, while h represents now a light Higgs companion and $m_H > 2\, m_h$.

Specific scenarios with maximal $H \to hh$ branching fractions in agreement with all of the model constraints are analysed separately in section 5.5.

5.1 Computational setup

In the remainder of our numerical analysis, we fix the SM Higgs boson mass to the best-fit value based on the combined data samples of the ATLAS and CMS experiments $m_h = 125.09\,\text{GeV}$ [65]. Whenever needed, we use in addition the current best averages of the top-quark mass $m_t = 173.07\,\text{GeV}$; the (pole) bottom-quark mass $m_b^{\text{pole}} = 4.78\,\text{GeV}$; and the weak gauge boson masses $m_\text{W} = 80.385\,\text{GeV}$, $m_\text{Z} = 91.1875\,\text{GeV}$ [102]. The singlet vev is linked to the *physical* doublet vev through the input parameter $\tan\beta$ as $v_s = v_{\text{phys}} \tan\beta$, with $v_{\text{phys}} \equiv v_{G_F} = (\sqrt{2}G_F)^{-1/2} = 246.219\,\text{GeV}$. This is in fact equivalent to defining $\tan\beta$ in the G_F-parametrization. To perform our calculation in the α_{em}-parametrization, we must translate it accordingly through eq. (3.16)

$$\tan\beta\Big]_{\alpha_{\text{em}}} = \tan\beta\Big]_{G_F}\ \left(\frac{v_{\text{phys}}}{v_{\alpha_{\text{em}}}}\right) = \frac{\tan\beta\Big]_{G_F}}{\sqrt{1+\Delta r}}\,, \tag{5.1}$$

where

$$v_{\alpha_{\text{em}}}^2 = \frac{m_W^2\left(1 - m_W^2/m_Z^2\right)}{\pi\,\alpha_{\text{em}}(0)} \qquad \text{and hence} \qquad v_{\alpha_{\text{em}}} = v_{G_F}\sqrt{1+\Delta r}\,. \tag{5.2}$$

Plugging the above relation along with eq. (3.16) into the expression for the decay width (4.4),

$$\Gamma_{G_F}^{\text{LO}} = \Gamma_{\alpha_{\text{em}}}^{\text{LO}}\ \left(1 + \frac{\Delta r}{1 + t_\alpha/\tan\beta}\right)\,, \tag{5.3}$$

which relates the α_{em} and G_F parametrizations up to NLO EW accuracy through

$$\delta_{G_F} \equiv \frac{\Delta\Gamma_{G_F}^{\text{1-loop}}}{\Gamma_{G_F}^{\text{LO}}} = \delta_{\alpha_{\text{em}}}\ \left(1 - \frac{\Delta r}{1 + t_\alpha/\tan\beta}\right) + \mathcal{O}(G_F^3)\,. \tag{5.4}$$

Feynman rules for the singlet model rely on two independent implementations. For one of them we use LanHEP [74, 75] and Sloops [15–18] and include a non-linear gauge fixing Lagrangian (2.20). For the second one we generate UFO [128] and FeynArts [127] files using FeynRules [129], while the counterterms are derived analytically and implemented by hand. Both implementations are in perfect agreement.

The one-loop decay amplitude is generated with FeynArts and analytically processed via FormCalc [127]. The loop form factors are handled with dimensional regularization in the 't Hooft-Veltman scheme, and written in terms of standard loop integrals. These are further reduced via Passarino-Veltman decomposition and evaluated with the help of LoopTools [130].

5.2 Scheme choice and gauge invariance

Gauge-fixing parameters may appear explicitly at intermediate stages in the calculation of S-matrix elements in gauge theories. Taken separately, counterterms and unrenormalized loop amplitudes may in general depend on the gauge-fixing parameters and are eventually also UV-divergent. We only expect these UV divergent contributions to cancel once all the different building blocks are combined together into predictions for physical observables. Nonetheless, depending on which renormalization conditions are chosen for a certain input parameter X, one may obtain loop amplitudes which, albeit finite, still depend on the gauge-fixing. These situations reflect that, for such a renormalization scheme, the definition for X is gauge-dependent.

In the following we check the different renormalization schemes introduced in section 3.3.6 in the light of gauge independence. We compute the one-loop correction to the heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}_{H\to hh} \equiv \Gamma^{\text{NLO}}_{H\to hh} - \Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H\to hh}$ in the general non-linear gauge of eq. (2.20), where the quantities $\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H\to hh}$ and $\Gamma^{\text{NLO}}_{H\to hh}$ are given by eqs. (4.1) and (4.4) respectively. We resort to the SLOOPS implementation of the singlet model Feynman rules which includes the general non-linear gauge-fixing Lagrangian of eq. (2.20), and vary the gauge-fixing parameters $\{\text{nlgs}\} = \{\tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{\beta}, \tilde{\kappa}, \tilde{\delta}_1, \tilde{\delta}_2, \tilde{\epsilon}_1, \tilde{\epsilon}_2\}$ within the fiducial range $\{\text{nlgs}\} = 0\ldots 10$. Notice that the lower endpoint $\{\text{nlgs} = 0\}$ reproduces the familiar 't Hooft-Feynman linear gauge. As a sample parameter space point we take

$$m_h = 125.09\,\text{GeV}, \quad m_H = 260\,\text{GeV}, \quad \sin\alpha = 0.3, \quad \tan\beta = 5\,, \tag{5.5}$$

which gives a leading-order width $\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H\to hh} = 0.137\,\text{GeV}$. In table 4 we compare the results for $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}_{H\to hh}$ in the linear gauge ($\{\text{nlgs} = 0\}$) and one exemplary non-linear setup ($\{\text{nlgs} = 10\}$). Simultaneously, we check the UV-finiteness of our results by sweeping the range $\Delta = 0\ldots 10^7$, where the parameter Δ trades the UV-divergences of the one-loop amplitude as defined by eq. (3.38). Gauge independence and UV-finiteness are verified if $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ remains unchanged (within numerical precision) under these varations.[9] The fact that in the first two columns $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ remain constant confirms that all of the four schemes introduced in section 3.3.6 yield UV-finite results in the linear gauge. However, only the mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/OS and the improved OS setups produce UV-finite, $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-independent results for the generalized non-linear gauge-fixing. Instead, in the minimal field and the OS schemes we observe left-over $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ dependencies on the gauge-fixing parameters. These $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-dependent remainders affect both the finite parts and the UV-divergent contributions, and are thus responsible for the incomplete cancellation of the UV-poles, cf. the last column of table 4. This breakdown can be ultimately traced back to the renormalization condition that determines the mixed mass counterterm δm^2_{hH}. Its definitions in the minimal field scheme (3.30) and the OS scheme (3.35) are not gauge-independent, and lead to a $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-dependent decay width. Instead, we find no residual $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-dependencies in the mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/OS and the improved OS schemes, in which δm^2_{hH} is fixed via the gauge-independent definitions of eq. (3.41) and (3.42) respectively. We make these observations

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[9]Using double precision we expect an agreement of 14 to 15 digits. Given the variation ranges $\Delta = 0\ldots 10^7$ and $\{\text{nlgs}\} = 0\ldots 10$, we deem the test as satisfactory if 6 to 8 common digits are achieved.

	$\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}_{H\to hh}$ [GeV]		
Scheme	$\Delta = 0, \{\text{nlgs}\} = 0$	$\Delta = 10^7, \{\text{nlgs}\} = 0$	$\Delta = 10^7, \{\text{nlgs}\} = 10$
Minimal field	$+4.28079888 \times 10^{-3}$	$+4.2807988\mathbf{2} \times 10^{-3}$	-6.63340412×10^4
OS	$+4.26334888 \times 10^{-3}$	$+4.2633488\mathbf{6} \times 10^{-3}$	-5.27015844×10^3
Mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/OS	$+6.846750\mathbf{6} \times 10^{-3}$	$+6.846750\mathbf{4} \times 10^{-3}$	$+6.846750\mathbf{0} \times 10^{-3}$
Improved OS	$+3.9393569 \times 10^{-3}$	$+3.939356\mathbf{8} \times 10^{-3}$	$+3.93935\mathbf{56} \times 10^{-3}$

Table 4. Checks on UV-finiteness and gauge independence of the one-loop correction to the heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}_{H\to hh}$ (in GeV) within the different renormalization schemes introduced in section 3.3.6. The model parameters are fixed as in eq. (5.5). For the (scale dependent) minimal field scheme we set the renormalization scale at $\mu_R^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$. Bold-faced numbers highlight the first departing digits between the entries of the different columns in a given row.

patent in table 5, where we display the numerical value of the mixing counterterm δm_{hH}^2 corresponding to the four renormalization schemes under analysis. Since the counterterm is not UV finite, we split it into a finite and singular part as (with Δ as defined in (3.38))

$$\delta m_{hH}^2 = \delta m_{hH}^2 \Big|^\infty \cdot \Delta + \delta m_{hH}^2 \Big|^{\text{fin}}. \qquad (5.6)$$

Neither the coefficient of the UV pole $\delta m_{hH}^2 \big|^\infty$ nor the finite remainder $\delta m_{hH}^2 \big|^{\text{fin}}$ depend on the gauge-fixing parameters when we fix δm_{hH}^2 either in the mixed $\overline{\text{MS}}$/OS or the improved OS conditions. Instead, both terms are shifted when we switch from the linear $\{\text{nlgs}\} = 0$ to the non-linear gauge-fixing choice $\{\text{nlgs}\} = 10$, when the calculation is performed using the minimal field or the OS schemes. In view of the fact that δm_{hH}^2 (along with the mixed field renormalization δZ_{hH}, cf. table 3) are the only different ingredients between these four schemes, they are ultimately responsible for the finite $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-dependent remainders in $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ in the latter two schemes — and linked to them, of the uncancelled UV poles. We emphasize as well that these concomitant UV divergences vanish for $\{\text{nlgs}\} = 0$ and hence do not feature in the customary 't Hooft-Feynman gauge, where the results in all schemes are UV finite. Finally, let us also notice that, given the relation between the mixed mass counterterm and the mixing angle via eq. (3.24), a gauge-independent δm_{hH}^2 supports a more physical interpretation of the mixing angle, viz. as value that could be extracted from e.g. a deviation in the LHC Higgs signal strengths or, alternatively, an excess which points to the direct production of the heavy scalar.[10]

For practical purposes, therefore, the proven robustness of the improved OS scheme (giving in all cases UV-finite, $\{\text{nlgs}\}$-independent, and numerically stable renormalized one-loop amplitudes) justifies its use as default scheme choice in our numerical analysis hereafter. Moreover, the excellent agreement between the $\delta\Gamma^{\text{1-loop}}$ results for the different schemes in the linear 't Hooft-Feynman gauge — as explicitly shown further down — give convincing arguments that also the schemes where the mixed mass counterterm is gauge

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[10]Similar lines of argument are used in the context of the renormalization of the $\tan\beta$ parameter in the MSSM, cf. e.g. table 2 in ref. [17].

$\delta m_{hH}^2|^\infty$	$\{\mathrm{nlgs}\} = 0$	$\{\mathrm{nlgs}\} = 10$	$\delta m_{hH}^2|^{\mathrm{fin}}$	$\{\mathrm{nlgs}\} = 0$	$\{\mathrm{nlgs}\} = 10$
Minimal field	-5.80×10^2	-9.44×10^2	Minimal field	$+5.72 \times 10^3$	$+8.48 \times 10^3$
OS	-5.80×10^2	-9.44×10^2	OS	$+5.75 \times 10^3$	$+8.80 \times 10^3$
Mixed $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$/OS	-5.80×10^2	-5.80×10^2	Mixed $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$/OS	-2.48×10^2	-2.48×10^2
Improved OS	-5.80×10^2	-5.80×10^2	Improved OS	$+5.72 \times 10^3$	$+5.72 \times 10^3$

Table 5. Dependence on the gauge-fixing parameters of the mixed mass counterterm δm_{hH}^2 (in GeV^2) within the different renormalization schemes introduced in section 3.3.6. The model parameters are fixed as in eq. (5.5). For the (scale dependent) minimal field scheme we set the renormalization scale at $\mu_R^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$.

dependent render reliable results — at least as long as the linear 't Hooft-Feynman gauge is used and, in the case of the minimal field scheme the renormalization scale is chosen in the ballpark of the relevant physical scales. This is again in line with analogue situations such as e.g. the squark sector of the MSSM [18, 121, 122].

5.3 High-mass region

In table 6 we evaluate $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\mathrm{LO}}$ and $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\mathrm{NLO}}$ for representative parameter choices and different renormalization schemes. The relative one-loop EW corrections are given in both the α_{em}-parametrization and the G_F-parametrization introduced in section 4. Our results show decay rates that strongly vary with the relevant parameters of the model. The heavy-to-light Higgs decay width significantly depends on the decaying Higgs mass m_H, changing by two orders of magnitude when sweeping the range $m_H = 300 \ldots 700$ GeV. For heavy Higgs masses close to the di-Higgs threshold, the partial Higgs widths lie in the ballpark of $\mathcal{O}(0.01\text{–}0.1)$ GeV. These results depend as well on the mixing angle, and change by roughly one order of magnitude from small (viz. $\sin\alpha \simeq 0.1$) to moderate mixing angles (viz. $\sin\alpha \simeq 0.3$). For larger heavy Higgs masses, the $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\mathrm{NLO}}$ values may rise up to the few GeV level. The mild numerical discrepancies between the different schemes are indicative of small theoretical uncertainties in the 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. For a more general gauge-fixing choice, though, the minimal field and on-shell schemes are no longer reliable, in view of their proven gauge-dependent nature. It is also worth noticing that the radiative corrections in the G_F-parametrization (δ_{G_F}) are generically smaller than in the α_{em}-parametrization. The reason is twofold: i) part of the NLO EW corrections in the latter case (δ_α) are contained in the Δr parameter, and hence already embedded into the G_F-scheme LO calculation (cf. eq. (5.3)). Consequently, the quantum effects encoded by Δr do not belong to δ_{G_F}; ii) for phenomenologically relevant scenarios, Δr is dominated by purely SM effects, for which $\Delta^{\mathrm{SM}} > 0$ [98, 103–107], and thereby $\delta_\alpha > \delta_{G_F}$, given the relation between both (5.4).

The analysis is complemented in figure 4 with a thorough survey of the parameter space dependencies. The NLO results are calculated in the improved OS scheme. The shaded regions are ruled out by different theoretical and experimental constraints on the model: i) the ranges $m_H > 840$ GeV (left panel) and $\tan\beta < 1.27$ (right panel) are excluded

m_H [GeV]	$\sin\alpha$	$\Gamma_\alpha^{\mathrm{LO}}(H\to hh)$ [GeV]		$\Gamma_\alpha^{\mathrm{NLO}}(H\to hh)$ [GeV]	δ_α [%]	δ_{G_F} [%]
$\tan\beta = 5$						
300	0.1	4.374×10^{-2}	OS	4.516×10^{-2}	3.250	3.130
			Improved OS	4.509×10^{-2}	3.106	2.990
			Minimal field	4.544×10^{-2}	3.895	3.751
	0.2	0.171	OS	0.177	3.371	3.248
			Improved OS	0.177	3.218	3.100
			Minimal field	0.178	4.033	3.886
	0.3	0.362	OS	0.375	3.583	3.455
			Improved OS	0.374	3.400	3.278
			Minimal field	0.377	4.281	4.127
500	0.1	0.221	OS	0.234	5.667	5.456
			Improved OS	0.233	5.438	5.236
			Minimal field	0.237	6.989	6.730
	0.2	0.868	OS	0.920	5.980	5.761
			Improved OS	0.917	5.728	5.518
			Minimal field	0.932	7.441	7.168
	0.3	1.831	OS	1.951	6.566	6.329
			Improved OS	1.945	6.237	6.012
			Minimal field	1.983	8.294	7.995
700	0.1	0.586	OS	0.597	1.948	1.876
			Improved OS	0.601	2.569	2.473
			Minimal field	0.598	2.009	1.935
	0.2	2.296	OS	2.355	2.583	2.489
			Improved OS	2.369	3.188	3.071
			Minimal field	2.366	3.056	2.944
	0.3	4.845	OS	5.026	3.742	3.606
			Improved OS	5.056	4.353	4.195
			Minimal field	5.082	4.893	4.716

Table 6. Heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ at LO and NLO EW accuracy, for representative parameter choices and different renormalization schemes, in the high-mass region. The total decay widths are obtained in the α_{em}-parametrization, as defined in eqs. (4.7), while the relative one-loop EW effects are quantified in both the α_{em}-parametrization and the G_F-parametrization, cf. eq. (5.4). For the (scale-dependent) minimal field scheme, the renormalization scale is fixed to the geometrical average mass $\mu_R^2 = p_*^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$. The input value for $\tan\beta$ is linked to the singlet vev through $v_s = (\sqrt{2}G_F)^{-1/2}\tan\beta$.

by perturbativity ii) $|\sin\alpha| > 0.31$ (central panel, green shading) is incompatible with electroweak constraints from the m_W measurement; finally, the central range $|\sin\alpha| < 0.06$ (central panel, orange shading) is incompatible with vacuum stability.

Most features observed in figure 4 can be readily traced back to the LO dynamics which governs the decay process. The two key players, as alluded to above, are the trilinear Higgs self-coupling λ_{Hhh} and the characteristic $1 \to 2$ kinematics. The former is responsible for the quadratic growth $\Gamma_{H\to hh} \sim \mathcal{O}(m_H^2)$ (cf. eq. (A.2)), which overcomes the phase space suppression at $m_H^2 \gg m_h^2$, and explains the power-like increase as a function of m_H (left
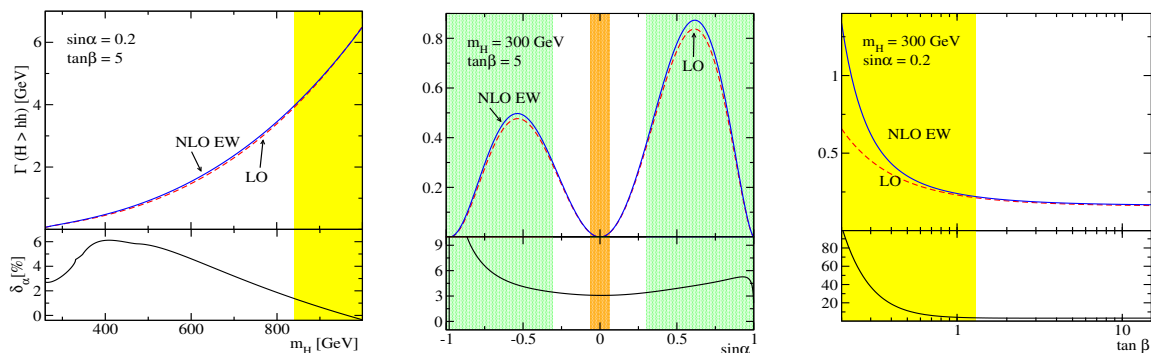
Figure 4. Heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ in the high-mass region. The results are shown at LO (dashed, red) and NLO (full, blue) as a function of the relevant parameters of the model. The lower subpanels show the relative one-loop EW correction in the α_{em}-parametrization (4.7). Renormalization is performed in the improved on-shell scheme. The shaded regions are excluded by constraints (see the text for more details).

panel in figure 4). The NLO-corrected result with respect to the mixing angle mimics the LO result, with the expected nodes in the decoupling limits $|\sin\alpha| = 0$ or 1 as well as for $\tan\beta = -\tan\alpha$ (cf. the central panel of figure 4).

Unlike the stark changes observed for the decay width, the relative one-loop EW corrections are much more stable, positive, and of the order of few percent. Differences between the α_{em}-parametrization and the G_F-parametrization, as well as between the different renormalization schemes, are mild and remain typically below the percent level.

The slight kink in δ_α for $m_H \simeq 350\,\text{GeV}$ (left panel, figure 4) reflects the top-quark threshold. The finite correction $\delta_\alpha \sim 3\%$ for $\sin\alpha \to 0$ (cf. the lower subpanel of figure 4, center) follows from the fact that both $\Gamma_{H\to hh}^{\text{LO}}$ and $\Gamma_{H\to hh}^{\text{NLO}}$ tend to zero in this limit, while its ratio remains roughly constant. The unphysical large effects at $\sin\alpha \lesssim -0.9$ are due to the LO node in the limit $\tan\alpha \to -\tan\beta$, for which $\lambda_{Hhh} = 0$. The pronounced NLO slope at low $\tan\beta$ is ultimately due to the exchange of virtual Higgs bosons, and constitutes a telltale imprint of the singlet model dynamics at the one-loop level. While the fermion and the gauge boson-mediated contributions are all controlled by (globally rescaled) gauge couplings, the size of the Higgs-mediated loops is governed by the Higgs self-couplings. These are strongly enhanced for $\tan\beta \ll 1$, specially the Higgs boson two-point graphs, which depend on them quadratically. For low enough $\tan\beta$ values, e.g. typically $\tan\beta \lesssim 0.3$ and for $m_H \gtrsim 300\,\text{GeV}$, the relative yield δ_α exceeds $\sim 50\%$, indicating that the process becomes effectively loop-induced. Such sizable loop effects are nonetheless hampered in practice, owing to the unitarity and perturbativity bounds which severely constrain the phenomenologically viable low-$\tan\beta$ range. The limit $\tan\beta \ll 1$ corresponds in fact to the onset of a strongly-coupled regime, in which at least one of the scalar self-couplings becomes non-perturbative, cf. also the discussion in section 2.6.

Complementary vistas to the $H \to hh$ landscape are displayed in figure 5. Here we show the relative one-loop effects δ_α (4.7) as density contours in the $\sin\alpha - \tan\beta$ plane. The yellow contour separates the allowed and excluded regions in the parameter space.
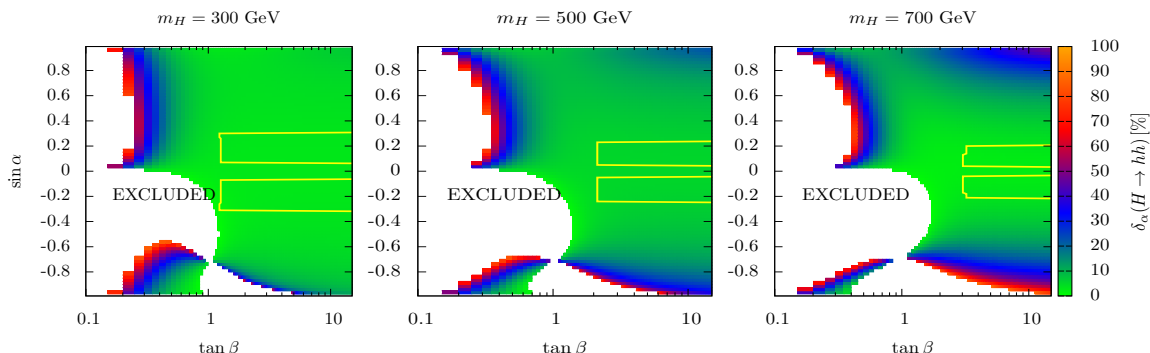
Figure 5. Relative one-loop EW corrections in the α_{em}-parametrization (4.7), projected on the $\sin\alpha - \tan\beta$ plane for exemplary heavy Higgs masses in the high-mass region. The white voids correspond to regions with $\delta_\alpha \gtrsim 100$ %. Renormalization is performed in the improved on-shell scheme. The yellow contour separates the allowed and excluded regions in the parameter space.
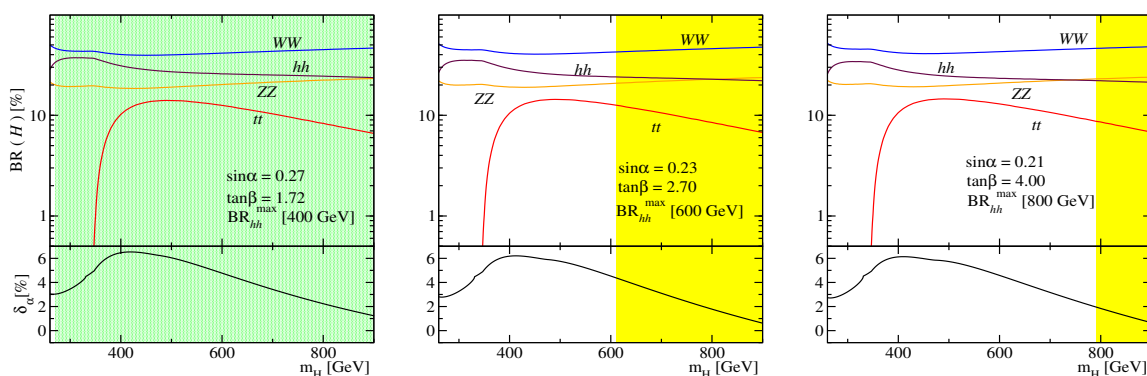

Figure 6. Heavy Higgs branching ratios (in %) as a function of the heavy Higgs mass in the high-mass region. The mixing angle and $\tan\beta$ values are fixed in each panel such that they maximize the $H \to hh$ branching ratio at LO for a given heavy Higgs mass of 400 (left), 600 (center) and 800 GeV (right) [90]. Decay modes into light fermions and loop-induced decays into gauge bosons lie below $\mathcal{O}(0.1)\%$ and are not shown. The lower subpanels show the relative one-loop EW correction (α_{em} parametrization (4.7)) to $\Gamma^{\text{LO}}_{H \to hh}$ for the same parameter variations. The shaded (green) area in the left plot is ruled out by the W-mass measurement. Excluded regions in the central and right panels (in yellow) are incompatible with perturbativity and m_W.

Only the horizontal fringes enclosed by the contour are compatible with all constraints on the model. The white voids stand for values of $\delta_\alpha \gtrsim 100\%$ and correspond to regions where δ_α is no longer a meaningful measure of the relative quantum effects, while it instead indicates that the decay process becomes loop-induced. We find this situation: i) along the strip $\tan\alpha \simeq -\tan\beta$, due to the suppressed tree-level couplings; and ii) for $\tan\beta < 1$, due to the $\cot\beta$-enhanced Higgs-mediated loops.

The impact of heavy-to-light Higgs decays on the decay pattern of the heavy Higgs state is portrayed in figure 6. The branching ratios for the leading decay channels are represented as a function of the heavy Higgs mass. The mixing angle and $\tan\beta$ values are fixed in each panel such that they maximize the $H \to hh$ branching ratio for a given heavy
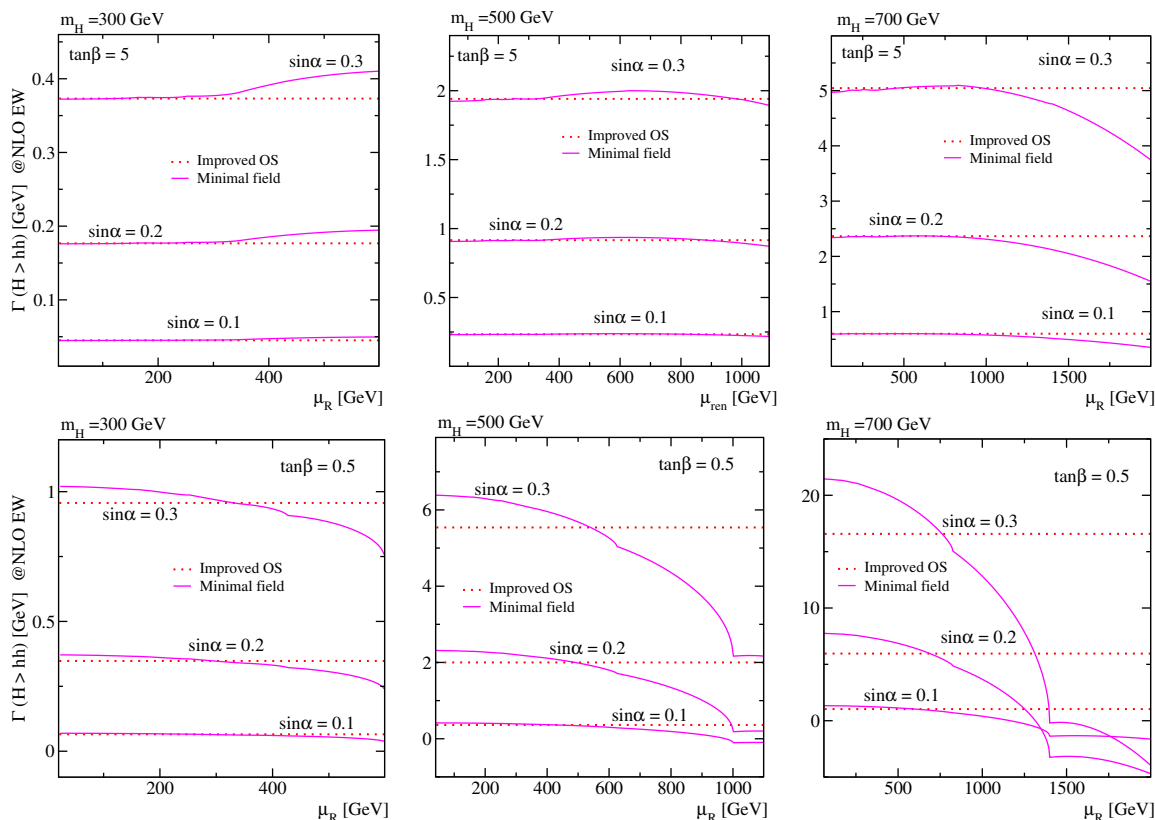
Figure 7. NLO decay width $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{NLO}}$ as a function of the renormalization scale in the high-mass region, for exemplary heavy Higgs masses, mixing angles, and $\tan\beta$ choices. The scale-dependent predictions for the minimal field scheme are represented by the solid (magenta) lines. The scale-independent reference value (dotted, red lines) we obtain in the improved OS scheme. Parameter space constraints are not shown.

Higgs mass [90], as explicitly indicated in the figure. In this plot, we show the partial decay widths to SM fields by rescaling the SM predictions [44], while for the $H \to hh$ we use the LO result.[11] As well known, bosonic modes dominate the Higgs boson decays at high masses [7–9]. We find a rather featureless profile, with WW being the leading mode and with roughly no changes over the whole mass range. Only the decays into top-quark pairs are also competitive, and attain up to BR $\sim \mathcal{O}(10)\%$. The remaining fermionic channels, as well as the loop-induced $\gamma\gamma, \gamma Z$ and gg modes, stagnate at the $\mathcal{O}(0.1)\%$ level or below and are not shown. In the lower subpanels we show the relative one-loop EW correction to the heavy-to-light Higgs decay width for the same parameter variation.

Finally, in figure 7 we analyse how $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{NLO}}$ varies with the renormalization scale in the (scale-dependent) minimal field scheme, as introduced in eq. (3.30). We compare the *minimal field* to the (scale-independent) *improved* OS scheme, which we show as reference value. For $\tan\beta = 5$, $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{NLO}}$ flattens not far from the geometrical average mass scale $\mu_R^2 \simeq p_*^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$. Precisely around this value, both the *minimal field* and the

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[11]A global study including all Higgs decays in the singlet model to state-of-the-art accuracy lies beyond the scope of the present study and will be discussed in a forthcoming publication [131].

improved OS predictions tend to converge, suggesting that $\mu_R^2 = p_*^2$ in eq. (3.30) is indeed a convenient scale choice for the former. Moreover, the very stable NLO predictions around this scale, added up to the mild changes with the different renormalization schemes shown in table 6, indicate a small theoretical uncertainty.

Much steeper scale variations arise instead in the $\tan\beta < 1$ region. Here, the $\Gamma_{H\to hh}^{\rm NLO}$ predictions become unstable, especially for heavy Higgs masses. Such instability may be once more traced back to the Higgs-mediated scalar two-point graphs: these become overly large owing to the enhanced Higgs self-couplings, and artificially dominate the scale dependence in these regions. Such a stark scale dependence is simply the reflect of the poor perturbative behavior of the model in the vicinity of a strongly-coupled regime $\lambda \sim \mathcal{O}(4\pi)$, which obviously translates into a huge theoretical uncertainty.

5.4 Low-mass region

Assuming now $m_H = 125.09\,\mathrm{GeV}$ and a free light Higgs mass m_h, direct LEP and LHC mass bounds, and most remarkably the measured LHC Higgs signal strengths, narrow the viable $\sin\alpha$ region down to a slim fringe $|\sin\alpha| \lesssim 1$. Constraints become particularly tight in the region of interest $m_H > 2m_h$, given the limited tolerable room for deviations in the total SM-like Higgs width when additional decay modes feature. State-of-the-art LHC constraints on the total Higgs width place an upper limit of $\Gamma_h \leq 22\,\mathrm{MeV}$ [132, 133]. For definiteness, we hereafter adopt the fiducial choice $\sin\alpha = 0.998$ [21].

In figure 8 we examine the parameter space dependence of $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ in this scenario. Complementarily, in table 7 we provide precise predictions for specific parameter space points, while comparing again the different renormalization schemes. In figure 9 we analyse the $m_h - \tan\beta$ interplay by showing the total NLO amplitude $\Gamma_{H\to hh}^{\rm NLO}$ (4.4) and the relative NLO correction δ_α (4.7) in the form of two-dimensional density maps.

The obtained $\Gamma_{H\to hh}^{\rm NLO}$ values span two orders of magnitude, ranging from $\mathcal{O}(10^{-3})$ down to $\mathcal{O}(10^{-5})\,\mathrm{GeV}$ as we navigate throughout the different parameter space regions. This sharp variation is again connected to the behavior of the leading-order coupling λ_{Hhh}: whilst it tends to zero in the limit $\sin\alpha \to 1$, it can yet contribute if the $\cot\beta$-enhanced terms are large enough. Either way, let us once more recall that a significant patch of the low-$\tan\beta$ range is in practice precluded by the different constraints on the model (see e.g. the top panels of figure 8 and figure 9). In particular, the shaded regions at small $\tan\beta$ and low Higgs masses are incompatible with the LHC Higgs signal strength measurements. Another salient feature is the steep rise of the quantum corrections at low $\tan\beta$ (see the top panels of figure 8): these are positive, tend to increase with the light Higgs mass, and may surmount the $\mathcal{O}(50\%)$ level. Aside from the discussed Higgs-mediated loop enhancements, additional mechanisms reinforce this behavior in this case: i) the suppressed tree-level decay amplitude, due to the lesser phase space available, the closer we move to the kinematical threshold; ii) the vicinity of the di-Higgs loop threshold, which invigorates the light Higgs-mediated loops even further. For $\tan\beta > 1$ the corrections are instead moderate and negative, becoming even more so for very light m_h values. The latter effect may be traced back to the fermionic (viz. the top-mediated) three-point loops, which are in this case the dominant source of quantum corrections and present a trademark logarithmic dependence $\sim \log(m_t^2/m_h^2)$.
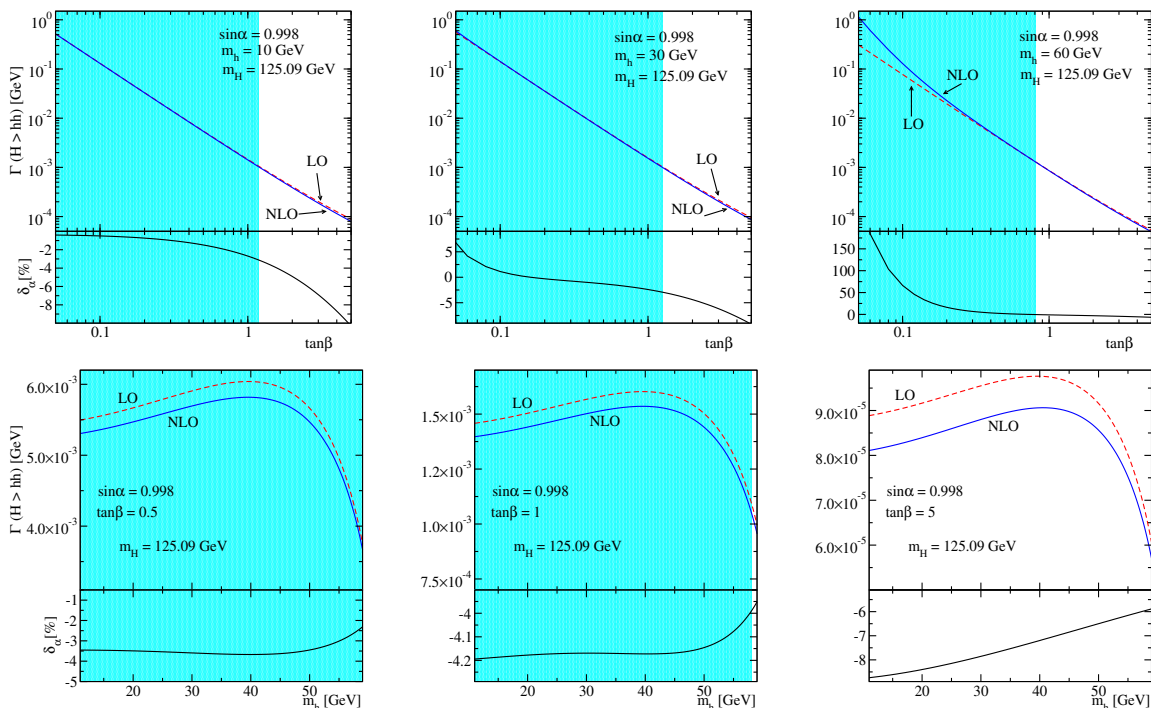
Figure 8. Heavy-to-light Higgs boson width $\Gamma_{H \to hh}$ in the low-mass region. The results are shown at LO (dashed, red) and NLO (full, blue) as a function of the relevant parameters of the model. The mixing angle is fixed to $\sin \alpha = 0.998$ in all cases. The lower subpanels show the relative EW one-loop correction in the α_{em}-parametrization (4.7). Renormalization is performed in the improved on-shell scheme. The shaded areas in the low $\tan \beta$ and m_h ranges are ruled out by the LHC Higgs signal strength measurements.

The scale dependence of the NLO results in this low-mass region is analysed in figure 10. The $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\mathrm{NLO}}$ predictions obtained in the improved OS and the minimal field schemes schemes agree very well in the ballpark of the geometric average mass $\mu_R^2 = p_*^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$, and the latter barely varies with the scale. The very stable slope even in the $\tan \beta < 1$ region, which is in contrast to the strong scale dependence in the high-mass region, is explained by the much lower scales $\mu_R^2 \simeq p_*^2$ involved in this case, for which the finite Higgs-mediated contributions to the Higgs field two-point functions are much smaller.

In figure 11 we recast the above analysis in terms of the heavy Higgs branching ratios. We track down their behavior as a function $\tan \beta$ for exemplary light Higgs masses and fiducial mixing $\sin \alpha = 0.998$. From values of $\tan \beta \lesssim 1$ onwards, the obtained decay pattern approaches that of a purely SM-like Higgs boson. The dominant mode is $b\bar{b}$, while the di-Higgs final state is hampered due to the tiny tree-level coupling $\lambda_{Hhh} \sim c_\alpha$. In this case, the $H \to hh$ mode carries not more than a few percent of the total budget — on equal footing with the loop-induced decay $H \to gg$. If we instead move towards lower $\tan \beta$ values, the $\cot \beta$-enhanced terms overcome in part the $\sin \alpha \to 1$ suppression and promote $H \to hh$ again to a chief role.
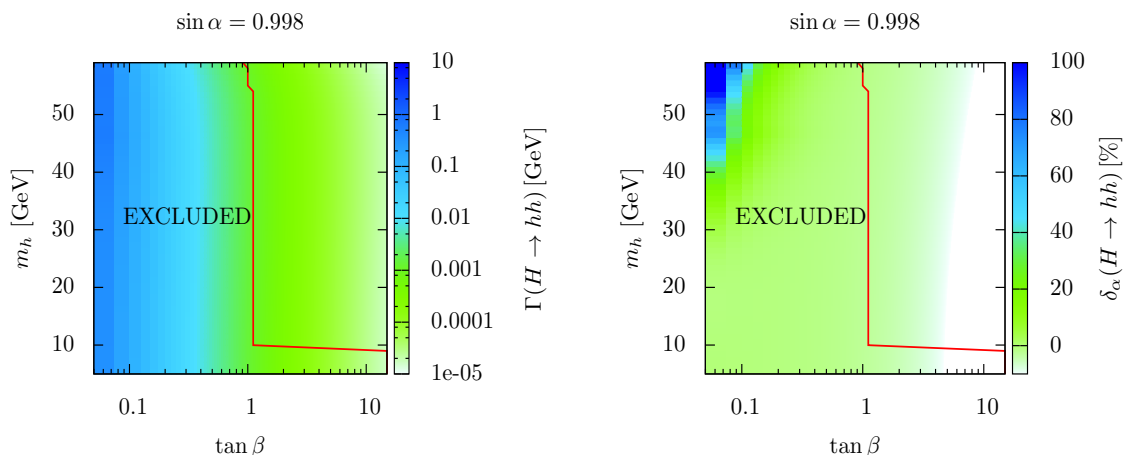
Figure 9. Loop-corrected partial $H \to hh$ width (left panel) and relative one-loop EW corrections δ_α in the α_{em}-parametrization (4.7), projected on the $m_h - \tan\beta$ plane in the low-mass region. The mixing angle is fixed to the fiducial choice $\sin\alpha = 0.998$. Renormalization is performed in the improved on-shell scheme. The regions on the left and below the red contour are excluded by constraints. The strong exclusion in the low mass region follows from direct LEP searches [134].
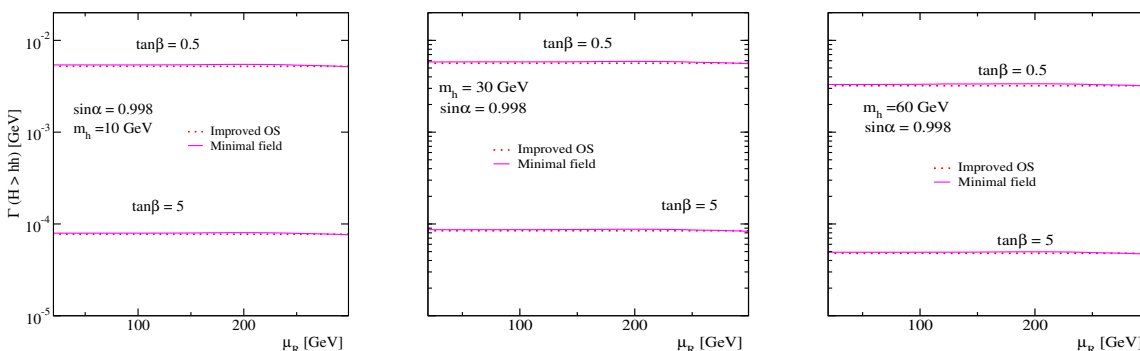
Figure 10. NLO decay width $\Gamma_{H \to hh}^{\text{NLO}}$ as a function of the renormalization scale in the low-mass region, for exemplary heavy Higgs masses and $\tan\beta$ values. The mixing angle is fixed to $\sin\alpha = 0.998$. The scale-dependent predictions for the minimal field scheme are represented by the solid (magenta) lines. The scale-independent reference value (dotted, red lines) we obtain in the improved OS scheme. Parameter space constraints are not shown.

5.5 Maximal branching ratios

So far we have discussed the general behavior of the NLO EW corrections to the heavy-to-light Higgs decay width along the relevant parameter space directions $\sin\alpha$, $\tan\beta$, $m_{h/H}$. Before closing, we focus on the series of benchmarks with maximal tree-level heavy-to-light Higgs branching ratio proposed in [90]. These are defined as a function of the heavy Higgs through the parameter choices quoted in tables 8, for the high and the low mass regions respectively. In these regimes, the decays of the heavy Higgs state provide a particularly interesting phenomenological ground for studying finite width effects and lineshape modifications in the production of a heavy scalar resonance, cf. e.g. [135–140].[12]

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[12]See also e.g. ref. [53] in the context of Higgs pair production.

m_H [GeV]	$\Gamma_\alpha^{\mathrm{LO}}(H \to hh)$ [GeV]		$\Gamma_\alpha^{\mathrm{NLO}}(H \to hh)$ [GeV]	δ_α [%]	δ_{G_F} [%]
$\tan\beta = 0.5$, $\quad\sin\alpha = 0.998$					
10	5.496×10^{-3}	OS	5.416×10^{-3}	-1.458	-1.456
		Improved OS	5.415×10^{-3}	-1.480	-1.479
		Minimal field	5.414×10^{-3}	-1.489	-1.488
30	5.920×10^{-3}	OS	5.841×10^{-3}	-1.345	-1.344
		Improved OS	5.844×10^{-3}	-1.289	-1.288
		Minimal field	5.844×10^{-3}	-1.281	-1.280
60	3.267×10^{-3}	OS	3.333×10^{-3}	2.019	2.017
		Improved OS	3.323×10^{-3}	1.733	1.731
		Minimal field	3.331×10^{-3}	1.952	1.949
$\tan\beta = 5$, $\quad\sin\alpha = 0.998$					
10	8.881×10^{-5}	OS	7.966×10^{-5}	-10.310	-10.216
		Improved OS	7.967×10^{-5}	-10.296	-10.202
		Minimal field	7.958×10^{-5}	-10.394	-10.300
30	9.567×10^{-5}	OS	8.686×10^{-5}	-9.212	-9.128
		Improved OS	8.687×10^{-5}	-9.201	-9.118
		Minimal field	8.680×10^{-5}	-9.279	-9.195
60	5.279×10^{-5}	OS	4.931×10^{-5}	-6.589	-6.529
		Improved OS	4.932×10^{-5}	-6.584	-6.525
		Minimal field	4.929×10^{-5}	-6.627	-6.567

Table 7. Heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ at LO and NLO EW accuracy for representative parameter choices and renormalization schemes in the low-mass region. The total decay widths are obtained in the α_{em}-parametrization, as defined in eqs. (4.7), while the relative one-loop EW effects are quantified in both the α-parametrization and the G_F-parametrization, cf. eq. (5.4). For the (scale-dependent) minimal field scheme, the renormalization scale is fixed to the geometrical average mass $\mu_R^2 = p_*^2 = (m_h^2 + m_H^2)/2$. The input value for $\tan\beta$ is linked to the singlet vev through $v_s = (\sqrt{2}G_F)^{-1/2}\tan\beta$.
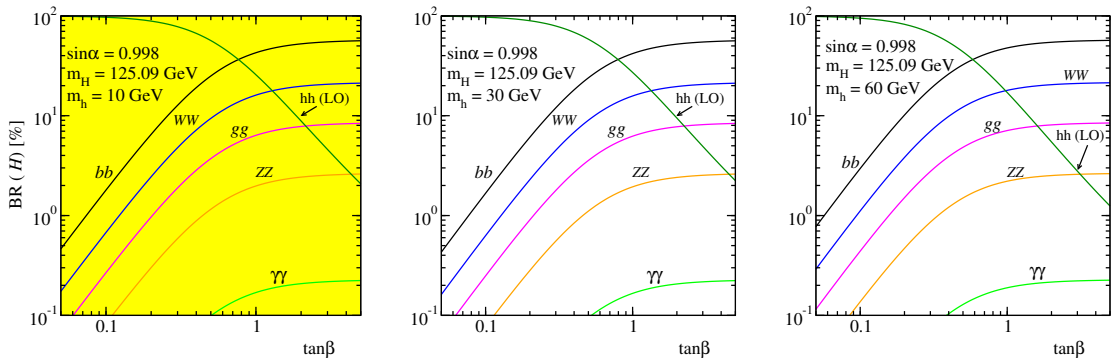
Figure 11. Heavy Higgs branching ratios (in %) as a function of $\tan\beta$ in the low-mass region. The results are shown for representative light Higgs mass values, with fiducial mixing angle $\sin\alpha = 0.998$. The whole parameter space region shown in the left panel is excluded by perturbative unitarity.

	high mass region					low mass region			
	m_H[GeV]	$|\sin\alpha|_{\max}$	$BR^{H\to hh}_{\max}$	$\tan\beta$		m_h[GeV]	$|\sin\alpha|_{\min}$	$BR^{H\to hh}_{\max}$	$\tan\beta$
BHM1	300	0.31	0.34	3.71	BLM1	60	0.9997	0.26	0.29
BHM2	400	0.27	0.32	1.72	BLM2	50	0.9998	0.26	0.31
BHM3	500	0.24	0.27	2.17	BLM3	40	0.9998	0.26	0.32
BHM4	600	0.23	0.25	2.70	BLM4	30	0.9998	0.26	0.32
BHM5	700	0.21	0.24	3.23	BLM5	20	0.9998	0.26	0.31
BHM6	800	0.21	0.23	4.00	BLM6	10	0.9998	0.26	0.30

Table 8. Maximal branching ratios for the heavy-to-light Higgs decay mode $H \to hh$ in the high-mass (left) and low-mass regions (right) as proposed in refs. [90, 91]; the results quoted here are obtained in the setup of the mentioned references, evaluating $\Gamma(H \to hh)$ at LO in the G_F-parametrization. Note that the maximal branching ratios are determined for a maximal mixing, to ensure a large production rate. In this case, the lower limit of $\tan\beta$ is mainly determined by the requirement of perturbativity for λ_2, cf. the extensive discussion in [20]. The same strategy was followed for the low-mass region, where again for fixed $\sin\alpha$ values the minimal value of $\tan\beta$ is determined. Here, the lower limit on $\tan\beta$ stems from the signal strength fit.

	$\Gamma^{\rm LO}_{H\to hh}$	$\Gamma^{\rm NLO}_{H\to hh}$	δ_α [%]	δ_{G_F} [%]	$b\bar{b}$	$t\bar{t}$	WW	ZZ	gg	hh	Γ_H
BHM1	0.399	0.413	3.411	3.291	0.04	< 0.01	46.35	20.56	0.04	33.02	1.210
BHM2	0.963	1.026	6.485	6.272	0.01	10.19	40.07	18.52	0.06	31.15	3.092
BHM3	1.383	1.463	5.803	5.604	0.01	14.19	40.36	19.29	0.04	26.09	5.299
BHM4	2.067	2.161	4.520	4.361	0.01	12.82	42.35	20.64	0.03	24.11	8.574
BHM5	2.637	2.717	3.027	2.918	< 0.01	10.61	44.37	21.91	0.02	23.11	11.413
BHM6	3.798	3.867	1.826	1.759	< 0.01	8.57	46.29	23.07	0.02	22.07	17.204

Table 9. Heavy-to-light Higgs decay width $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ at LO and NLO EW accuracy for the maximal branching fraction scenarios in the high-mass region given in table 8. The relative one-loop EW effects are quantified in both the $\alpha_{\rm em}$-parametrization and the G_F-parametrization, as defined in eqs. (4.7)–(5.4). Renormalization is performed in the improved on-shell scheme. In the right columns we document the branching ratios (in %) for the leading Higgs decay channels and the total Higgs width. Like in figures 6 and 11, all partial decay widths to SM fields are evaluated by rescaling the SM predictions [44], while for $H \to hh$ we use the LO result evaluated in the $\alpha_{\rm em}$-parametrization. All partial widths are given in GeV.

Numerical predictions for $\Gamma^{\rm LO}_{H\to hh}$ and $\Gamma^{\rm NLO}_{H\to hh}$, together with the relative one-loop correction in the two parametrizations $\delta_{\alpha_{\rm em}}$ and $\delta_{\rm GF}$ (5.4) are provided in tables 9 and 10, for the high and low mass regions respectively. Complementarily, we list down the corresponding branching fractions for the additional decay modes (barring those channels below 0.01%). Let us recall that for the latter we use the rescaled partial widths from [44], while for $H \to hh$ we quote the LO result in the $\alpha_{\rm em}$-parametrization, in line with figures 6 and 11.

	$\Gamma^{\mathrm{LO}}_{H\to hh}$	$\Gamma^{\mathrm{NLO}}_{H\to hh}$	δ_α [%]	δ_{G_F} [%]	$b\bar{b}$	$\gamma\gamma$	WW	ZZ	gg	hh	Γ_H
BLM1	1.426	1.536	7.765	7.763	42.65	0.17	16.04	1.97	6.34	25.90	5.506
BLM2	1.439	1.472	2.305	2.304	42.55	0.17	16.00	1.97	6.33	26.07	5.520
BLM3	1.423	1.432	0.586	0.586	42.67	0.17	16.05	1.97	6.35	25.86	5.504
BLM4	1.419	1.415	-0.272	-0.272	42.71	0.17	16.06	1.97	6.35	25.80	5.500
BLM5	1.431	1.425	-0.445	-0.445	42.61	0.17	16.02	1.97	6.34	25.96	5.512
BLM6	1.427	1.421	-0.438	-0.438	42.64	0.17	16.04	1.97	6.34	25.91	5.508

Table 10. As in table 9 for the low-mass region. Notice that in this case all partial widths are given in MeV.

6 Summary

Heavy-to-light Higgs decays $H \to hh$ are of undisputed relevance in the phenomenological characterization of extended Higgs sectors. When kinematically accessible, these may contribute to, and in some scenarios even dominate, the heavy Higgs lineshape, while at the same time they significantly modify its decay pattern with respect to the SM picture. On the other hand, both the tree-level and the leading one-loop contributions to this process are governed by the scalar self-interactions, which makes this decay a unique handle on the architecture of the scalar potential.

While electroweak corrections to the Higgs self-couplings have been the subject of dedicated analyses in the 2HDM [141–143], the NMSSM [144] or the Inert Doublet model [145], a corresponding study for the singlet extension was lacking. Extending upon previous work [19], we have presented herewith a detailed analysis of the heavy-to-light Higgs decays at NLO electroweak accuracy. To renormalize the singlet-extended Higgs sector we have proposed four renormalization schemes: i) a minimal field setup; ii) a traditional on-shell prescription; iii) a mixed $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$/on-shell scheme; and iv) an *improved* on-shell scheme. Using the general non-linear gauge-fixing of SLOOPS, we have discussed in detail the gauge independence of the different renormalization setups. We have found that, while the minimal field and on-shell approaches still lead to a residual dependence on the non-linear gauge fixing parameters, the mixed $\overline{\mathrm{MS}}$/OS and improved OS schemes render gauge independent one-loop predictions for physical observables. Furthermore, the improved OS scheme is numerically stable in all regions of the parameter space. We therefore advocate for the use of this scheme to investigate the phenomenology of singlet extensions of the SM at higher orders.

We have applied the above schemes to compute the corresponding heavy-to-light Higgs decay widths $\Gamma_{H\to hh}$ including one-loop electroweak corrections. We have performed a comprehensive phenomenological analysis, with a separate study of two possible realizations of the model: a high-mass and a low-mass region, in which the additional scalar field corresponds to a heavy (resp. a light) companion of the SM-like Higgs boson.

The phenomenological implications of our study can be summarized as follows:

- The heavy-to-light Higgs decay width at LO is governed by two competing mechanisms: i) the Higgs self-coupling strength λ_{Hhh}; ii) the one-to-two body decay

kinematics. We pinpoint a strongly varying width with the relevant model parameters. Overall, $\Gamma_{H \to hh}$ may attain up to $\mathcal{O}(1)\,\mathrm{GeV}$ for heavy Higgs masses above $m_H \sim 500\,\mathrm{GeV}$.

- Aside from the $\tan\beta < 1$ region, the relative one-loop effects are mild and show tempered variations over the parameter space. In the high-mass region, electroweak corrections are positive, loosely variable, and stagnate in the ballpark of few percent. In the low-mass region, mainly for $\tan\beta > 1$ and small m_h values, these may be pulled down to $\delta_\alpha \sim -10\%$.

- For certain parameter choices, the $H \to hh$ decay becomes effectively loop-induced: i) along the tree-level nodes where the LO contribution vanishes; ii) at low $\tan\beta$, where the $\cot\beta$-enhancements lead to increased scalar self-couplings, and thereby to large Higgs-mediated loop graphs. In practice, though, these sizable quantum effects are precluded once the constraints on the model are taken into account.

- Let alone extreme parameter space corners, the NLO predictions are robust under changes of renormalization schemes and renormalization scale choices, as indicative of a small theoretical uncertainty.

Having constructed a complete renormalization scheme for the Higgs sector, the path ahead is clear for further analyses on the topic. On the one hand, it will be interesting to further explore the role of the quantum effects on the Higgs self-couplings themselves, and whether these may have relevant implications e.g. for collider searches or in electroweak baryogenesis. On the other hand, the complete renormalization of the Higgs sector paves the way towards characterizing the singlet model phenomenology at one-loop electroweak accuracy, including all Higgs production modes and decay channels, and exploiting the rich possibilities of off-shell effects. Work in this direction is underway [131].

Acknowledgments

A   Analytical details

A.1   Feynman rules

For a sake of completeness, we collect the relevant Feynman rules for the three-point and four-point scalar field self-interactions in the singlet model. The complete set of Feynman rules has been arranged in the form of a FeynArts model file [127], which we have obtained via two independent implementations using FeynRules [129] and Sloops [15–18]. Here we give the results in the 't Hooft-Feynman gauge. The shorthand notation $s_\theta \equiv \sin(\theta), c_\theta \equiv \cos(\theta)\ t_\theta \equiv \tan(\theta)$ is employed throughout.

- *Trilinear self-couplings at tree-level*:

$$\lambda_{hhh} = -3i\left(2c_\alpha^3\lambda_1 v + c_\alpha s_\alpha^2\lambda_3 v - c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha\lambda_3 v_s - 2s_\alpha^3\lambda_2 v_s\right) = -\frac{3im_h^2}{v}(c_\alpha^3 - s_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1}) \quad \text{(A.1)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{Hhh} &= -i\left(6c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha\lambda_1 v - 2c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha\lambda_3 v + s_\alpha^3\lambda_3 v + c_\alpha^3\lambda_3 v_s - 2c_\alpha s_\alpha^2\lambda_3 v_s + 6c_\alpha s_\alpha^2\lambda_2 v_s\right) \\ &= -\frac{is_{2\alpha}}{v}\left[m_h^2 + \frac{m_H^2}{2}\right](c_\alpha + s_\alpha t_\beta^{-1})\end{aligned} \quad \text{(A.2)}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda_{HHh} &= -i\left(6c_\alpha s_\alpha^2\lambda_1 v - 2c_\alpha s_\alpha^2\lambda_3 v + c_\alpha^3\lambda_3 v - s_\alpha^3\lambda_3 v_s + 2c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha\lambda_3 v_s - 6c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha\lambda_2 v_s\right) \\ &= \frac{is_{2\alpha}}{v}\left[\frac{m_h^2}{2} + m_H^2\right](-s_\alpha + c_\alpha t_\beta^{-1})\end{aligned} \quad \text{(A.3)}$$

$$\lambda_{HHH} = -\frac{3im_H^2}{v}(c_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1} + s_\alpha^3). \quad \text{(A.4)}$$

- *Higgs-Goldstone boson three-point couplings*:

$$\lambda_{hG^0G^0} = \lambda_{HG^+G^-} = (-i)m_h^2 c_\alpha/v; \qquad \lambda_{HG^0G^0} = \lambda_{HG^+G^-} = (-i)m_H^2 s_\alpha/v. \quad \text{(A.5)}$$

- *Higgs quartic couplings*:

$$\lambda_{hhhh} = -\frac{3i}{v^2}[m_h^2 c_\alpha^6 + m_H^2 c_\alpha^4 s_\alpha^2 - 2(m_h^2 - m_H^2)c_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1}s_\alpha^3 + m_H^2 c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha^4 t_\beta^{-2} + m_h^2 t_\beta^{-2}s_\alpha^6] \quad \text{(A.6)}$$

$$\lambda_{Hhhh} = \frac{3i}{8v^2 s_\beta^2}s_{2\alpha}s_{\alpha+\beta}[(3m_h^2 + m_H^2)s_{\alpha-\beta} + (m_H^2 - m_h^2)s_{3\alpha+\beta}] \quad \text{(A.7)}$$

$$\lambda_{HHhh} = -\frac{i}{16v^2 s_\beta^2}s_{2\alpha}[6(m_h^2 + m_H^2)s_{2\alpha} - (m_h^2 - m_H^2)(s_{2\beta} + 3s_{4\alpha+2\beta})] \quad \text{(A.8)}$$

$$\lambda_{HHHh} = \frac{i}{8v^2 s_\beta^2}s_{2\alpha}c_{\alpha+\beta}[(m_h^2 + 3m_H^2)c_{\alpha-\beta} + (m_H^2 - m_h^2)c_{3\alpha+\beta}] \quad \text{(A.9)}$$

$$\lambda_{HHHH} = -\frac{3i}{v^2}[m_H^2 c_\alpha^6 t_\beta^{-2} + m_h^2 c_\alpha^4 s_\alpha^2 t_\beta^{-2} - 2(m_h^2 - m_H^2)c_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1}s_\alpha^3 + m_h^2 c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha^4 + m_H^2 s_\alpha^6] \quad \text{(A.10)}$$

- *Higgs-Goldstone four-point couplings*:

$$\lambda_{hhG^0G^0} = \lambda_{hhG^+G^-} = \frac{-i}{v^2}c_\alpha[m_h^2 c_\alpha^3 + m_H^2 s_\alpha^2 c_\alpha + (m_H^2 - m_h^2)s_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1}] \quad \text{(A.11)}$$

$$\lambda_{HHG^0G^0} = \lambda_{HHG^+G^-} = \frac{-i}{v^2}s_\alpha[m_h^2 c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha + m_H^2 s_\alpha^3 + (m_H^2 - m_h^2)c_\alpha^3 t_\beta^{-1}] \quad \text{(A.12)}$$

$$\text{(A.13)}$$

A.2 Trilinear Higgs counterterm

The coefficients entering the trilinear Higgs coupling counterterm $\delta\lambda_{H\to hh}$ in eq. (4.6) yield

$$c_1^{Hhh} = \frac{s_{2\alpha}s_{\alpha+\beta}}{vs_\beta}; \qquad c_2^{Hhh} = \frac{s_{2\alpha}s_{\alpha+\beta}}{2vs_\beta}; \quad c_3^{Hhh} = -\frac{s_{\beta+3\alpha} - 5s_{\beta-\alpha}}{4vs_\beta}$$

$$c_4^{Hhh} = \frac{3s_{2\alpha}(c_\alpha^2 - s_\alpha^2 t_\beta^{-2})}{2v^2} \quad c_5^{Hhh} = \frac{3c_\alpha^2 s_\alpha^2}{s_\beta^2 v^2}; \qquad c_6^{Hhh} = -\frac{s_{2\alpha}}{v}\left[m_h^2 + \frac{m_H^2}{2}\right]c_\alpha. \quad \text{(A.14)}$$

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