

# Higgs and alternatives – theory

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## Outline

A Higgs for perturbative unitarity

Precision electroweak data and a light Higgs

Mass generation and Higgs couplings in the SM

→ LHC predictions

Beyond the SM Higgs: the hierarchy problem

Modified Higgs couplings beyond the SM

Conclusions

The Standard Model is extremely successful so far.

Q: Can't we get by with just the degrees of freedom that we've observed?

- 3 generations of quarks; CKM matrix for flavor physics
- 3 generations of charged leptons
- Neutrinos with mass (might need something new there)
- gluons from SU(3) strong interaction
- photon plus massive  $W^\pm$  and  $Z$  from SU(2)  $\times$  U(1)  
(Electroweak symmetry is broken, but do we really have to worry about how?)
- (Dark matter?)
- (Quantum gravity?)

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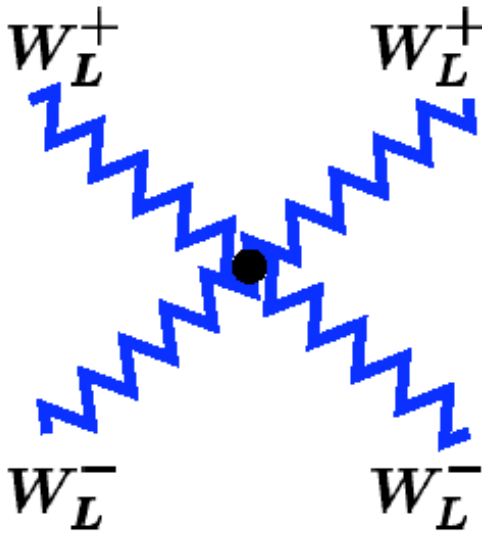
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A: No! The SM without a Higgs is intrinsically incomplete.

Most straightforward way to see this:

Scattering of longitudinally-polarized  $W$  or  $Z$  bosons.



Longitudinal polarization state only exists for a massive gauge boson.

Polarization vector:  $\epsilon^\mu(k) = \frac{1}{M_V} (|\vec{k}|, 0, 0, E)$   
 $k^\mu = (E, 0, 0, |\vec{k}|)$

4-point diagram:  $\mathcal{M} \sim E^4/M_V^4$  when  $E \gg M_V$

Why this is a problem:

- Write matrix element in terms of partial waves:

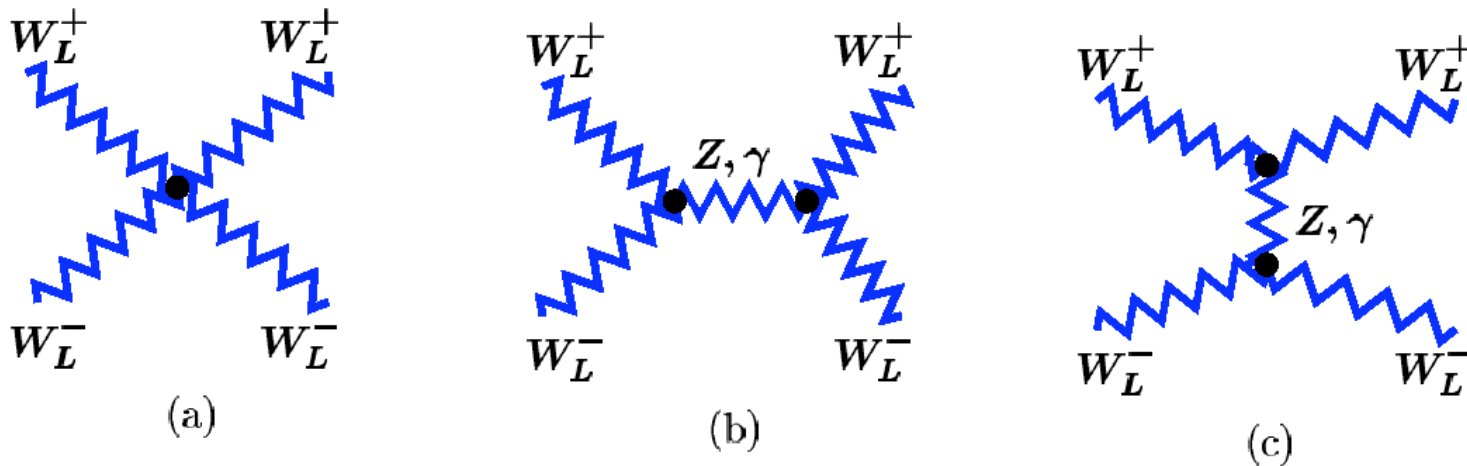
$$\mathcal{M} = 16\pi \sum_J (2J + 1) a_J P_J(\cos \theta)$$

- Unitarity of the scattering matrix requires  $|a_0| \leq 1$ .

- Violation implies that higher-order diagrams are equally important: **breakdown of perturbation theory.**

Scattering of longitudinally-polarized  $W$ s exposes need for a Higgs\*

# SU(2) x U(1) @ E<sup>4</sup>

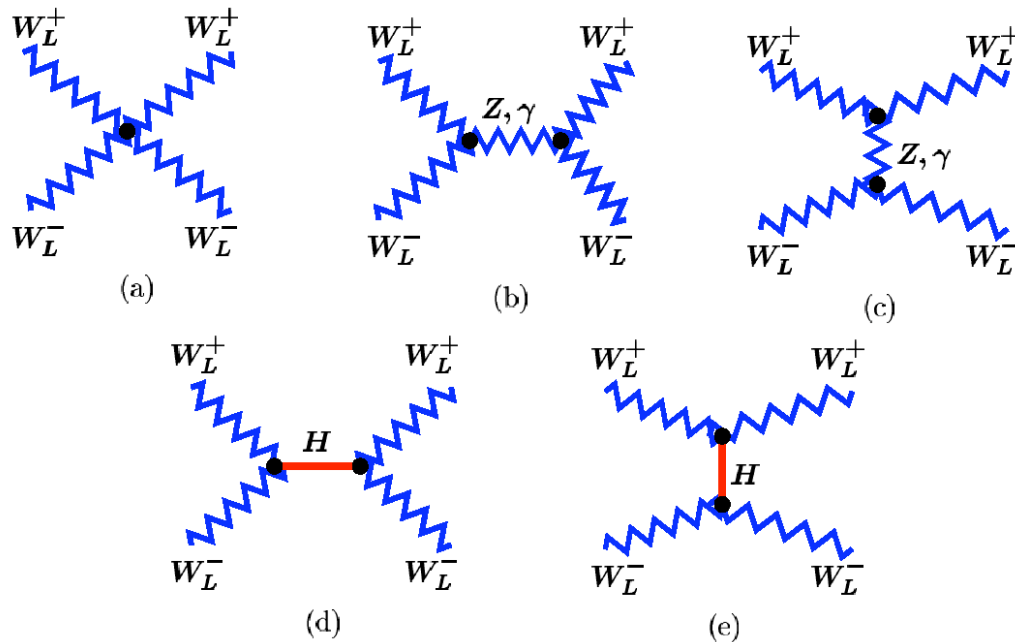


Graphs	$g^2 \frac{E^4}{m_w^4}$
(a)	$-3 + 6 \cos\theta + \cos^2\theta$
(b)	$-4 \cos\theta$
(c)	$+3 - 2 \cos\theta - \cos^2\theta$
Sum	<u>0</u>

$$\epsilon_L^\mu(k) = \frac{k^\mu}{m_w} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_w}{E}\right)$$

Scattering of longitudinally-polarized  $W$ s exposes need for a Higgs\*

# $SU(2) \times U(1) @ E^2$



Graphs	$g^2 \frac{E^2}{m_w^2}$
(a)	$+2 - 6 \cos\theta$
(b)	$-\cos\theta$
(c)	$-\frac{3}{2} + \frac{15}{2} \cos\theta$
(d + e)	$-\frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \cos\theta$
<b>Sum</b> including (d+e)	<b>0</b>

►  $\mathcal{O}(E^0) \Rightarrow$  4d  $m_H$  bound:  $m_H < \sqrt{16\pi/3} v \simeq 1.0 \text{ TeV}$

► If no Higgs  $\Rightarrow \mathcal{O}(E^2) \Rightarrow E < \sqrt{8\pi} v \simeq 1.2 \text{ TeV}$

## Electroweak precision data and a light Higgs

SM processes have some sensitivity to the Higgs mass through **radiative corrections** involving the Higgs.

Tree level:

- Measure underlying electroweak parameters  $g, g', v$ :

$$\alpha = \frac{e^2}{4\pi} = \frac{g^2 g'^2}{4\pi(g^2 + g'^2)}, \quad M_Z = \frac{\sqrt{g^2 + g'^2} v}{2}, \quad G_F = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}v^2}$$

- Predict  $M_W = \frac{gv}{2}$  using  $M_W^2 \left(1 - \frac{M_W^2}{M_Z^2}\right) = \frac{\pi\alpha}{\sqrt{2}G_F}$

1-loop level:

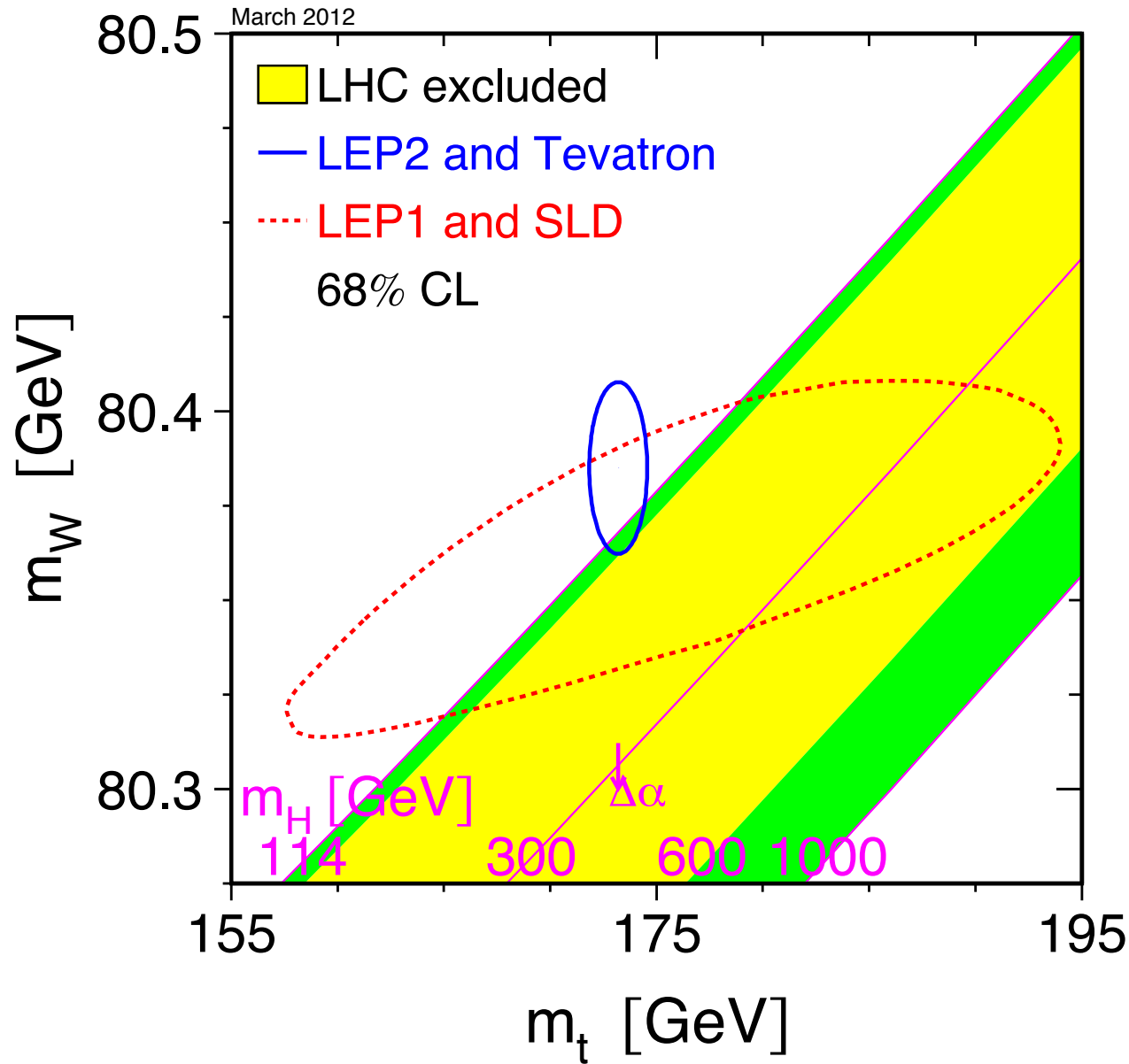
- Relation among  $\alpha, M_Z, G_F, M_W$  shifted by radiative corrections
- Most important: top loop  $\sim (m_t/M_W)^2$ ; Higgs loop  $\sim \ln(M_H/M_W)$
- Get some extra sensitivity by including  $\sin^2 \theta_W$  observables

→ Measure  $m_t$  and  $M_W$ , fit EW observables for Higgs mass

Key assumption: no new physics, only the SM Higgs.



# Electroweak precision data and a light Higgs



Light Higgs strongly favoured in the SM.

LEP EWWG 2012  
including latest  $M_W, m_t$

## Options:

- Light SM-like Higgs,  $114 \text{ GeV} \lesssim M_H \lesssim 130 \text{ GeV}$  ★ EW data  
constrained by LEP and LHC exclusions
- Heavy SM-like Higgs,  $M_H \gtrsim 500 \text{ GeV}$   
lineshape and interference with continuum  $WW$ ,  $ZZ$  backgrounds  
Need new physics to cancel heavy Higgs contribution to precision electroweak observables.
- No Higgs below the TeV scale  
Need new physics for  $W_L W_L$  scattering unitarity, mass generation for SM particles; must be consistent with precision electroweak measurements
- Non-SM-like Higgs ★ EW data?  
evade direct searches through suppressed production/decays

## Standard Model Higgs mechanism

Electroweak symmetry broken by an SU(2)-doublet scalar field:

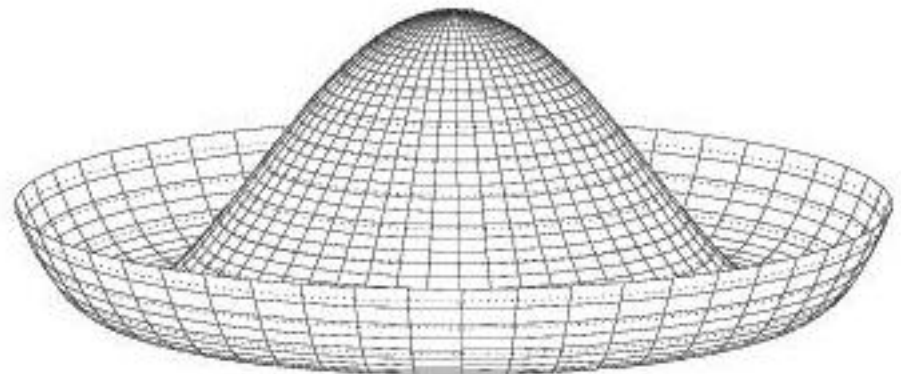
$$H = \begin{pmatrix} G^+ \\ (h + v)/\sqrt{2} + iG^0/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

- $G^+$  and  $G^0$  are the Goldstone bosons (eaten by  $W^+$  and  $Z$ ).
- $v$  is the SM Higgs vacuum expectation value (vev),  
 $v = 2M_W/g \simeq 246$  GeV.
- $h$  is the SM Higgs field, a physical particle.

Electroweak symmetry breaking comes from the Higgs potential:

$$V = \mu^2 H^\dagger H + \lambda (H^\dagger H)^2$$

where  $\lambda \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$       0.129  
 and  $\mu^2 \sim -\mathcal{O}(M_{EW}^2)$        $-(88.4 \text{ GeV})^2$   
 $\Rightarrow v^2 = -\mu^2/\lambda = (246 \text{ GeV})^2$   
 $\Rightarrow M_h^2 = 2\lambda v^2 = -2\mu^2$       125 GeV



## Higgs couplings in the Standard Model

SM Higgs couplings to SM particles are fixed by the mass-generation mechanism.

$W$  and  $Z$ :

$$g_Z \equiv \sqrt{g^2 + g'^2}, \quad v = 246 \text{ GeV}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = |\mathcal{D}_\mu H|^2 \rightarrow (g^2/4)(h+v)^2 W^+ W^- + (g_Z^2/8)(h+v)^2 Z Z$$

$$M_W^2 = g^2 v^2 / 4 \quad h W W : i(g^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu}$$

$$M_Z^2 = g_Z^2 v^2 / 4 \quad h Z Z : i(g_Z^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu}$$

Fermions:

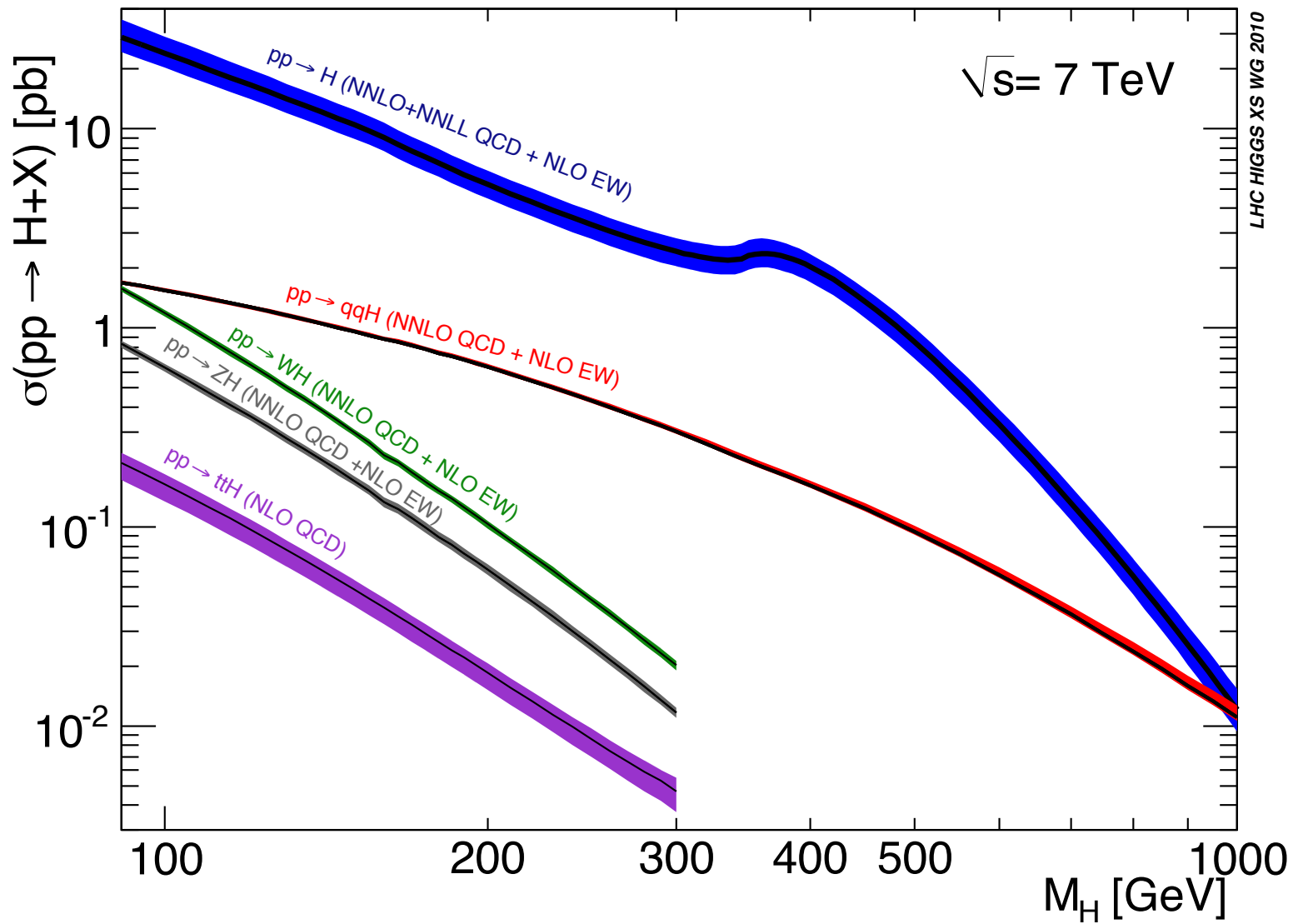
$$\mathcal{L} = -y_f \bar{f}_R H^\dagger Q_L + \dots \rightarrow -(y_f / \sqrt{2})(h+v) \bar{f}_R f_L + \text{h.c.}$$

$$m_f = y_f v / \sqrt{2} \quad h \bar{f} f : i m_f / v$$

Gluon pairs and photon pairs:

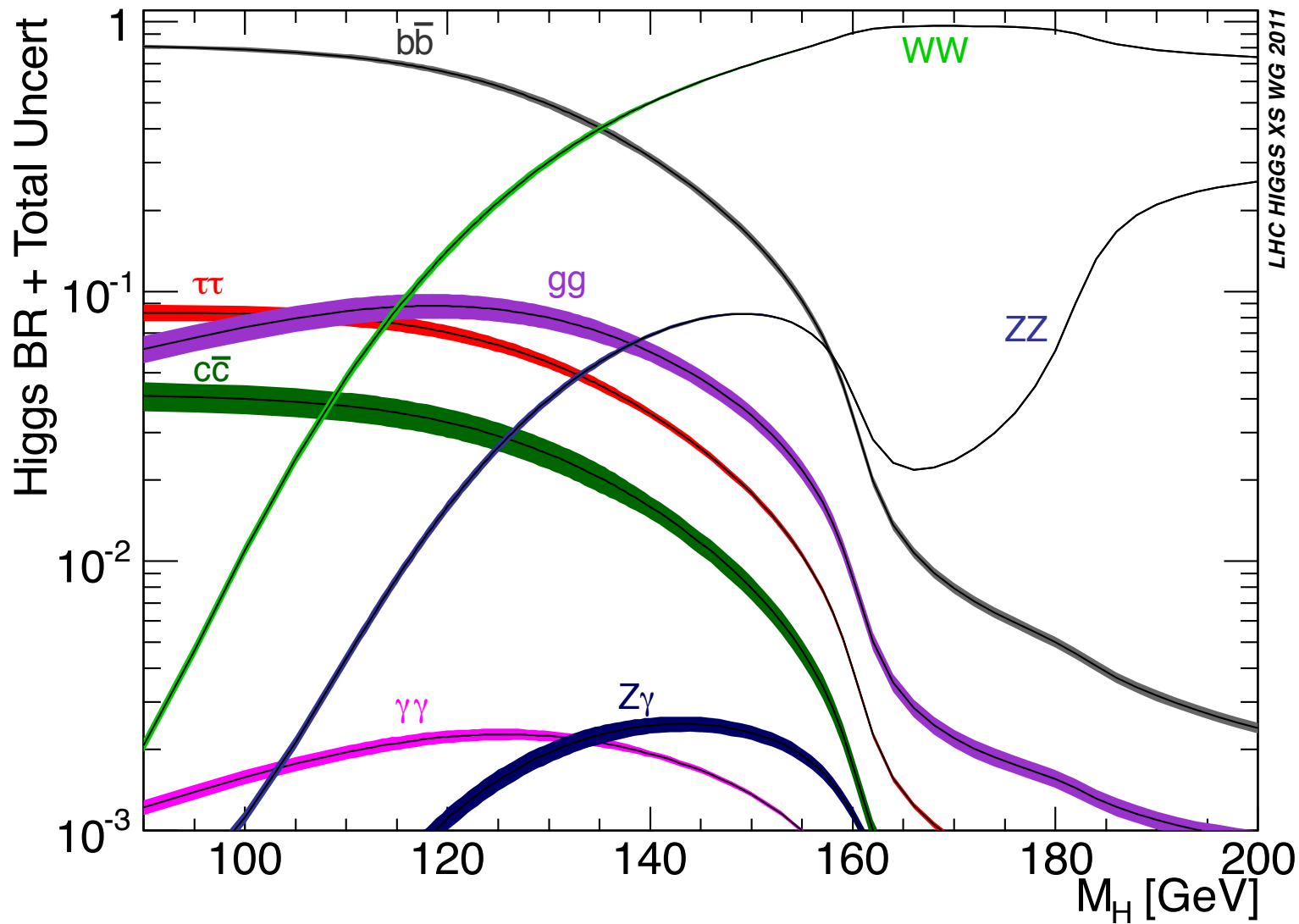
induced at 1-loop by fermions (mostly  $t$ ),  $W$ -boson.

# Predict SM Higgs production cross sections



# Predict SM Higgs decay branching ratios

Variation with  $M_h$  due purely to kinematics



SM Higgs signatures are **fully predicted** as a function of  $M_h$ .

- Vast amount of work on radiative corrections
- Vast amount of work on PDFs
- Vast amount of work on detailed understanding of SM backgrounds

One can **exclude** the SM Higgs hypothesis.

But one cannot **discover** the SM Higgs, only an object consistent with the SM Higgs: a “SM-like Higgs” .

⇒ Measure Higgs couplings to characterize the new particle.

- Is our Higgs fully responsible for the masses of  $W$ ,  $Z$ , and fermions?
- Is our Higgs fully responsible for unitarizing  $W_L W_L$  scattering?
- Is there other physics needed to complete any of these?

(and if so, what is the upper bound on its energy scale?)

Deviation from the SM prediction ⇒ additional new physics.

## Why expect more than the SM Higgs: the Hierarchy Problem

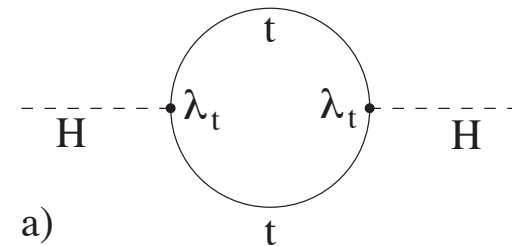
The Higgs mass-squared parameter  $\mu^2$  gets quantum corrections that depend quadratically on the high-scale cutoff of the theory.

Calculate radiative corrections from, e.g., a top quark loop.

$$\mu^2 = \mu_0^2 + \Delta\mu^2$$

$$V = \mu^2 H^\dagger H + \lambda (H^\dagger H)^2$$

For internal momentum  $p$ , large compared to  $m_t$  and external  $h$  momentum:



$$\begin{aligned} \text{Diagram} &= \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} (-) N_c \text{Tr} \left[ i\lambda_t \frac{i}{\not{p}} i\lambda_t \frac{i}{\not{p}} \right] \\ &= -N_c \lambda_t^2 \int \frac{d^4 p}{(2\pi)^4} \text{Tr} \left[ \frac{1}{p^2} \right] \quad \text{Tr} [1] = 4 \\ &= -\frac{4N_c \lambda_t^2}{(2\pi)^4} \int \frac{d^4 p}{p^2} \end{aligned}$$

Momentum cutoff  $\Lambda$ : Integral diverges like  $\Lambda^2$ .



Full 1-loop calculation gives

$$\Delta\mu^2 = \frac{N_c\lambda_t^2}{16\pi^2} \left[ -2\Lambda^2 + 6m_t^2 \ln(\Lambda/m_t) + \dots \right]$$

We measure  $\mu^2 \sim -\mathcal{O}(M_{EW}^2) \sim -(100 \text{ GeV})^2 = -10^4 \text{ GeV}^2$ .

Nature sets the bare parameter  $\mu_0^2$  at the cutoff scale  $\Lambda$ .

If  $\Lambda = M_{Pl} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{8\pi G_N}} \sim 10^{18} \text{ GeV}$ , then  $\Delta\mu^2 \sim -10^{35} \text{ GeV}^2$ !

- Not an inconsistency in the theory.

Renormalizable: absorb the divergence into the bare parameter  $\mu_0^2$ .

- But it is an implausibly huge top-down coincidence that  $\mu_0^2$  and  $\Delta\mu^2$  cancel to 31 decimal places! Looks horribly fine-tuned.

and not just at one loop: must cancel two-, three-, four-, ... loop contributions

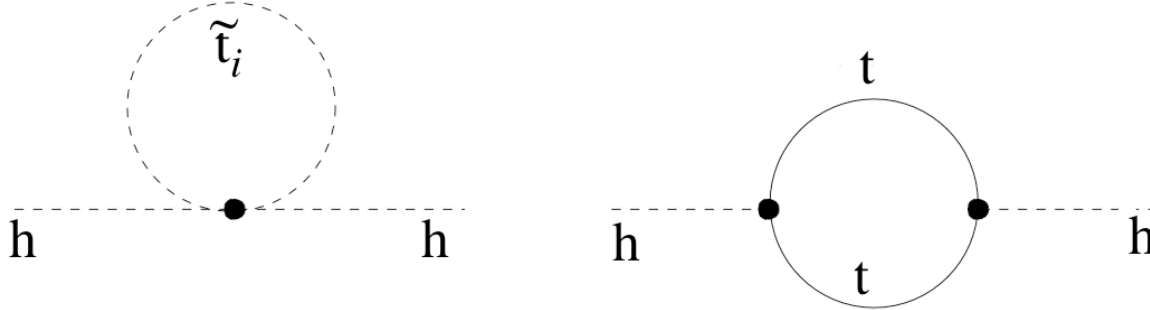
Want  $|\Delta\mu^2| \sim (100 \text{ GeV})^2 \Rightarrow \Lambda \sim 1 \text{ TeV}$ .

Expect New Physics that solves hierarchy problem at TeV scale!

Two main classes of solutions to the hierarchy problem:

### 1) Supersymmetry

SUSY relates  $\mu^2$  to a fermion mass, which only runs logarithmically. Guarantees cancellation between SM loop diagrams and SUSY loop diagrams.



### 2) Composite Higgs

Higgs is some kind of bound state (“meson”) of fundamental fermions, held together by a new force that gets strong at the TeV scale. Above a TeV there are no fundamental scalars, so no hierarchy problem.

(Includes extra-dimension/RS models by AdS/CFT duality; also Little Higgs)

## Two ways to model deviations from SM Higgs couplings:

- Explicit models of extended Higgs sectors
  - perturbative unitarity restored by extra Higgs states
- Multi-Higgs models; supersymmetric models
  
- Chiral Lagrangian (effective field theory) approach
  - additional new physics required to restore perturbative unitarity
- Used for composite Higgs, Little Higgs models

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: extended Higgs sector

$W$  and  $Z$ :

- EWSB can come from more than one Higgs doublet, which then mix to give  $h$  mass eigenstate.  $v \equiv \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}$ ,  $\phi_v = \frac{v_1}{v}h_1 + \frac{v_2}{v}h_2$

$$\mathcal{L} = |\mathcal{D}_\mu H_1|^2 + |\mathcal{D}_\mu H_2|^2$$

$$M_W^2 = g^2 v^2 / 4 \quad hWW : i\langle h | \phi_v \rangle (g^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu} \equiv i\bar{g}_W (g^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu}$$

$$M_Z^2 = g_Z^2 v^2 / 4 \quad hZZ : i\langle h | \phi_v \rangle (g_Z^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu} \equiv i\bar{g}_Z (g^2 v / 2) g^{\mu\nu}$$

Note  $\bar{g}_W = \bar{g}_Z$ . Also,  $\bar{g}_{W,Z} = 1$  when  $h = \phi_v$ : “decoupling limit”.

- Part of EWSB from larger representation of SU(2).  $Q = T^3 + Y/2$

$$\mathcal{L} \supset |\mathcal{D}_\mu \Phi|^2 \rightarrow (g^2/4)[2T(T+1) - Y^2/2](\phi+v)^2 W^+ W^- + (g_Z^2/8)Y^2(\phi+v)^2 ZZ$$

Can get  $\bar{g}_W \neq \bar{g}_Z$  and/or  $\bar{g}_{W,Z} > 1$  after mixing to form  $h$ .

Tightly constrained by  $\rho$  parameter,  $\rho \equiv M_W^2/M_Z^2 \cos^2 \theta_W = 1$  in SM.

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: extended Higgs sector

### Fermions:

Masses of different fermions can come from different Higgs doublets, which then mix to give  $h$  mass eigenstate:

$$\mathcal{L} = -y_f \bar{f}_R \Phi_f^\dagger F_L + (\text{other fermions}) + \text{h.c.}$$

$$m_f = y_f v_f / \sqrt{2} \quad h \bar{f} f : i \langle h | \phi_f \rangle (v/v_f) m_f / v \equiv i \bar{g}_f m_f / v$$

In general  $\bar{g}_t \neq \bar{g}_b \neq \bar{g}_\tau$ ; e.g. MSSM with large  $\tan \beta$  ( $\Delta_b$ ).

Note  $\langle h | \phi_f \rangle (v/v_f) = \langle h | \phi_f \rangle / \langle \phi_v | \phi_f \rangle$

$\Rightarrow \bar{g}_f = 1$  when  $h = \phi_v$ : “decoupling limit”.

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: extended Higgs sector

### Gluon pairs and photon pairs:

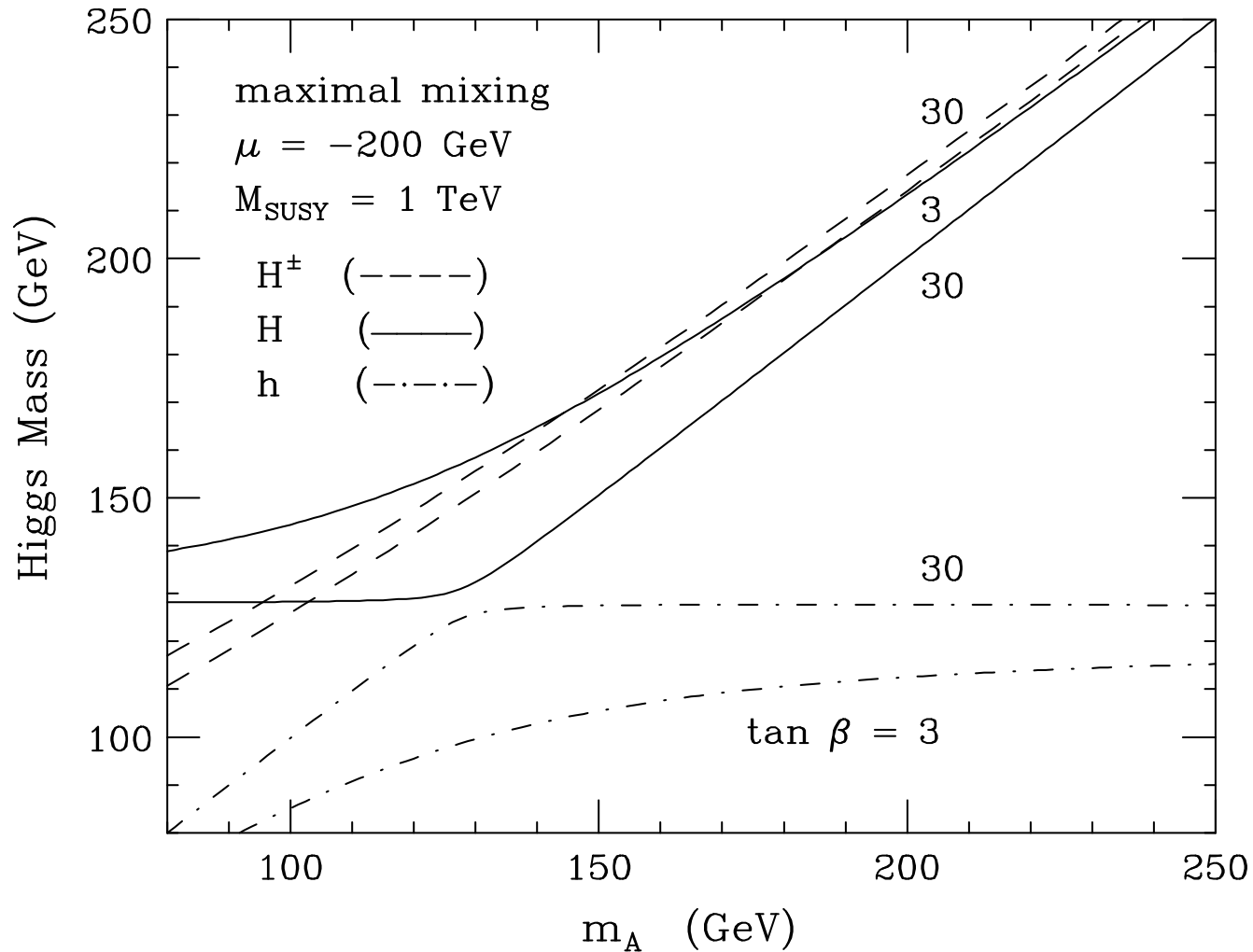
- $\bar{g}_t$  and  $\bar{g}_W$  change the normalization of top quark and  $W$  loops.
- New coloured or charged particles give new loop contributions.  
e.g. top squark, charginos, charged Higgs in MSSM

New particles in the loop can affect  $h \leftrightarrow gg$  and  $h \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  even if  $h$  is otherwise SM-like.

⇒ Treat  $\bar{g}_g$  and  $\bar{g}_\gamma$  as additional independent coupling parameters.  
Loop-induced effective couplings: momentum-dependence issues at NLO!  
(more on this later)

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: MSSM example

MSSM contains a light, SM-like Higgs  $h^0$  plus extra states  $H^0, A^0, H^\pm$



Carena & Haber,  
[hep-ph/0208209](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/0208209)

Decoupling limit:  $H^0, A^0, H^\pm$  heavy  $\Rightarrow h^0$  couplings SM-like

$$\langle h | \phi_\nu \rangle = \sin(\beta - \alpha), \text{ where } \cos(\beta - \alpha) \simeq \frac{M_Z^2 \sin 4\beta}{2M_A^2}$$

$\sin 4\beta \simeq -4 \cot \beta$  at large  $\tan \beta$

$h^0 WW$  and  $h^0 ZZ$  couplings:

$$\frac{\text{coupling}}{\text{SM}} = \sin(\beta - \alpha) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(M_Z^4 \cot^2 \beta / M_A^4)$$

$h^0 t\bar{t}$  coupling:

$$\frac{\text{coupling}}{\text{SM}} = \frac{\cos \alpha}{\sin \beta} = \sin(\beta - \alpha) + \cot \beta \cos(\beta - \alpha) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(M_Z^2 \cot^2 \beta / M_A^2)$$

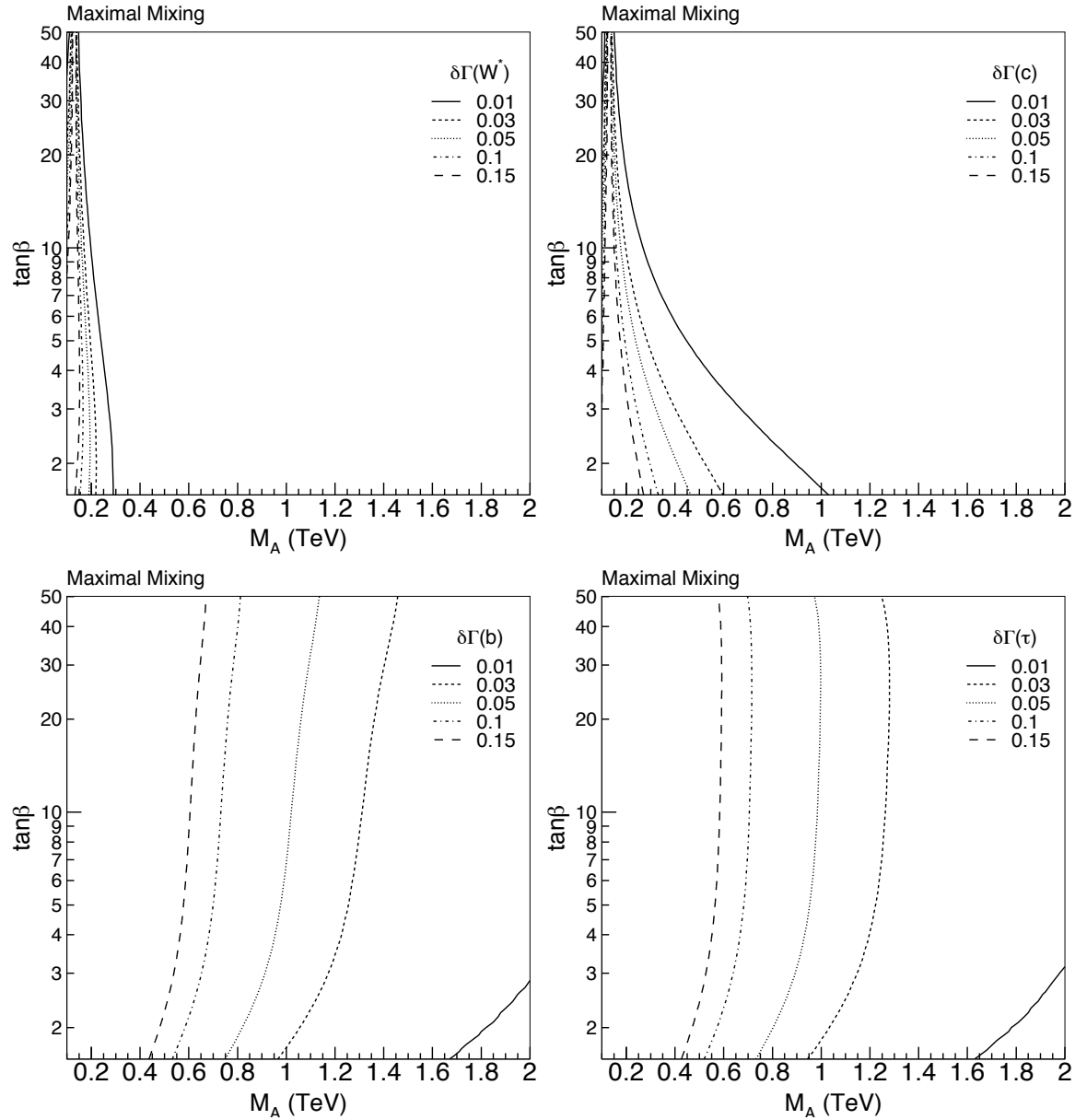
$h^0 b\bar{b}$  and  $h^0 \tau\tau$  couplings:

$$\frac{\text{coupling}}{\text{SM}} = -\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} = \sin(\beta - \alpha) - \tan \beta \cos(\beta - \alpha) = 1 + \mathcal{O}(M_Z^2 / M_A^2)$$

Sensitivity to new physics is not the same for all couplings.



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Carena, Haber, HEL,  
Mrenna, PRD65, 055005  
(2002)

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: chiral Lagrangian approach

Without a Higgs, the SM Lagrangian looks like this:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}_i \mathcal{D}_\mu \gamma^\mu \psi_i$$

- Describes gauge and fermion fields and their interactions.
- Everything must be massless!

In order to put in masses consistent with gauge invariance, fermions and gauge bosons need to couple to a **weak-charged vacuum condensate**:

$$\langle \Sigma \rangle = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

Here  $v \equiv 246$  GeV is a constant (we know its value from the  $W$  mass and coupling).

( $v \equiv$  vacuum expectation value; the  $\sqrt{2}$  is a conventional normalization)

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: chiral Lagrangian approach

Gauge transformations require the existence of 3 dynamical d.o.f.:

Recall in electromagnetism:  $A^\mu \rightarrow A^\mu - \partial^\mu \lambda(x)$ ,  $\psi \rightarrow e^{-i\lambda(x)}\psi$ .

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \Sigma \equiv e^{-i\xi^a(x)\sigma^a/v} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ v/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} [-\xi^2(x) - i\xi^1(x)]/\sqrt{2} \\ [v + i\xi^3(x)]/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} + \dots$$

$\sigma^a$  are the three Pauli spin matrices.

Put in a gauge-kinetic term for  $\Sigma$  and interactions with fermions:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}_i \mathcal{D}_\mu \gamma^\mu \psi_i \\ & + (\mathcal{D}_\mu \Sigma)^\dagger (\mathcal{D}^\mu \Sigma) - y_{ij} \bar{\psi}_i \Sigma \psi_j \end{aligned}$$

- These generate the  $W$ ,  $Z$ , and fermion masses  $\propto v$ .
- The  $\xi^a$  degrees of freedom correspond to the third polarization states of the massive  $W$  and  $Z$  (Goldstone bosons).
- This “nonlinear sigma model” is **non-renormalizable** and breaks down at a scale around  $4\pi\langle\Sigma\rangle \sim 1.5$  TeV.

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: chiral Lagrangian approach

$\Sigma$  is formally dimensionless (in terms of fields).

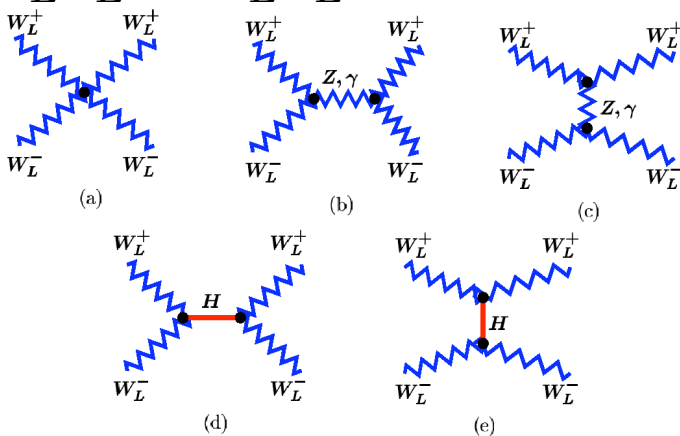
Free to add powers of an extra scalar field  $h$  up to dimension 4:

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$$+ (\mathcal{D}_\mu \Sigma)^\dagger (\mathcal{D}^\mu \Sigma) \left( 1 + a \frac{2h}{v} + b \frac{h^2}{v^2} \right) - y_{ij} \bar{\psi}_i \Sigma \psi_j \left( 1 + c \frac{h}{v} \right)$$

Tree-level unitarity:

$V_L V_L \rightarrow V_L V_L$  is unitarized by  $h$  if  $a^2 = 1$



diagrams from R.S. Chivukula

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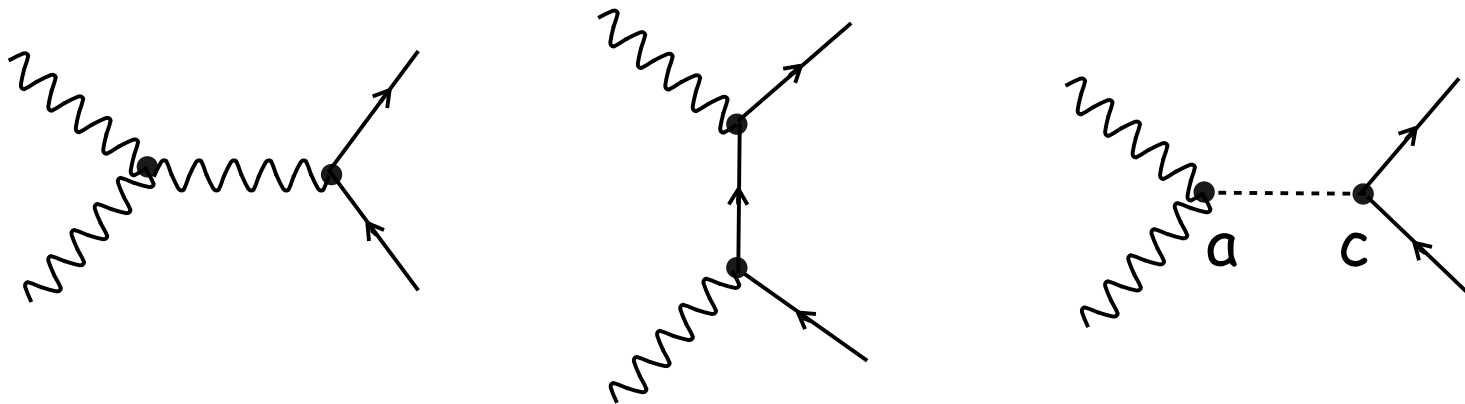
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diagrams from  
C. Grojean

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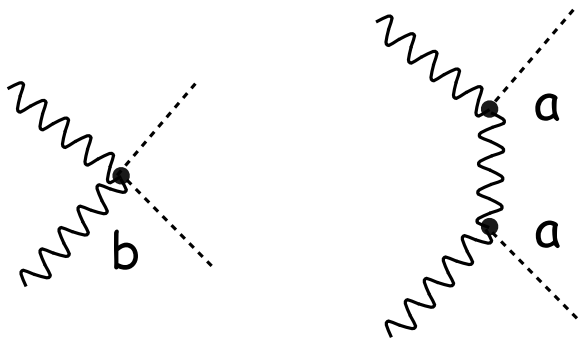
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$V_L V_L \rightarrow f \bar{f}$  is unitarized by  $h$  if  $ac = 1$

$V_L V_L \rightarrow hh$  is also unitary if  $b = a^2$



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$V_L V_L \rightarrow f \bar{f}$  is unitarized by  $h$  if  $ac = 1$

$V_L V_L \rightarrow hh$  is also unitary if  $b = a^2$

With  $a = b = c = 1$ , can absorb  $h$  into the  $\Sigma$  field to make a “linear sigma model”, i.e., the Standard Model Higgs field:

$$\bar{\Sigma} = e^{-i\xi^a(x)\sigma^a/v} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ (v + h)/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}$$

## Higgs couplings beyond the SM: chiral Lagrangian approach

$\Sigma$  is formally dimensionless (in terms of fields).

Free to add powers of an extra scalar field  $h$  up to dimension 4:

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{4}B_{\mu\nu}B^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}W_{\mu\nu}^a W^{a\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}G_{\mu\nu}^a G^{a\mu\nu} + \bar{\psi}_i \mathcal{D}_\mu \gamma^\mu \psi_i \\ + (\mathcal{D}_\mu \Sigma)^\dagger (\mathcal{D}^\mu \Sigma) \left( 1 + a \frac{2h}{v} + b \frac{h^2}{v^2} \right) - y_{ij} \bar{\psi}_i \Sigma \psi_j \left( 1 + c \frac{h}{v} \right)$$

Chiral Lagrangian commonly used to model a composite Higgs:

- Deviations in couplings  $a, b, c \neq 1$  ultimately come from higher-dimensional operators:  $\sim 1 + \mathcal{O}(v^2/f^2)$

$f$  = scale of strong interactions; typically  $f \gg v$ .

Note the “decoupling limit”:  $h \rightarrow$  SM-like

Examples:

- Little Higgs models (these use a nonlinear sigma model)
- 5-dimensional Composite Higgs models
- Extended Higgs sectors (after integrating out extra states)



## Conclusions

Without a Higgs, the SM weak interactions become strongly coupled around the TeV scale.

Fit to precision electroweak data in the SM favours a light Higgs  $\lesssim 200$  GeV.

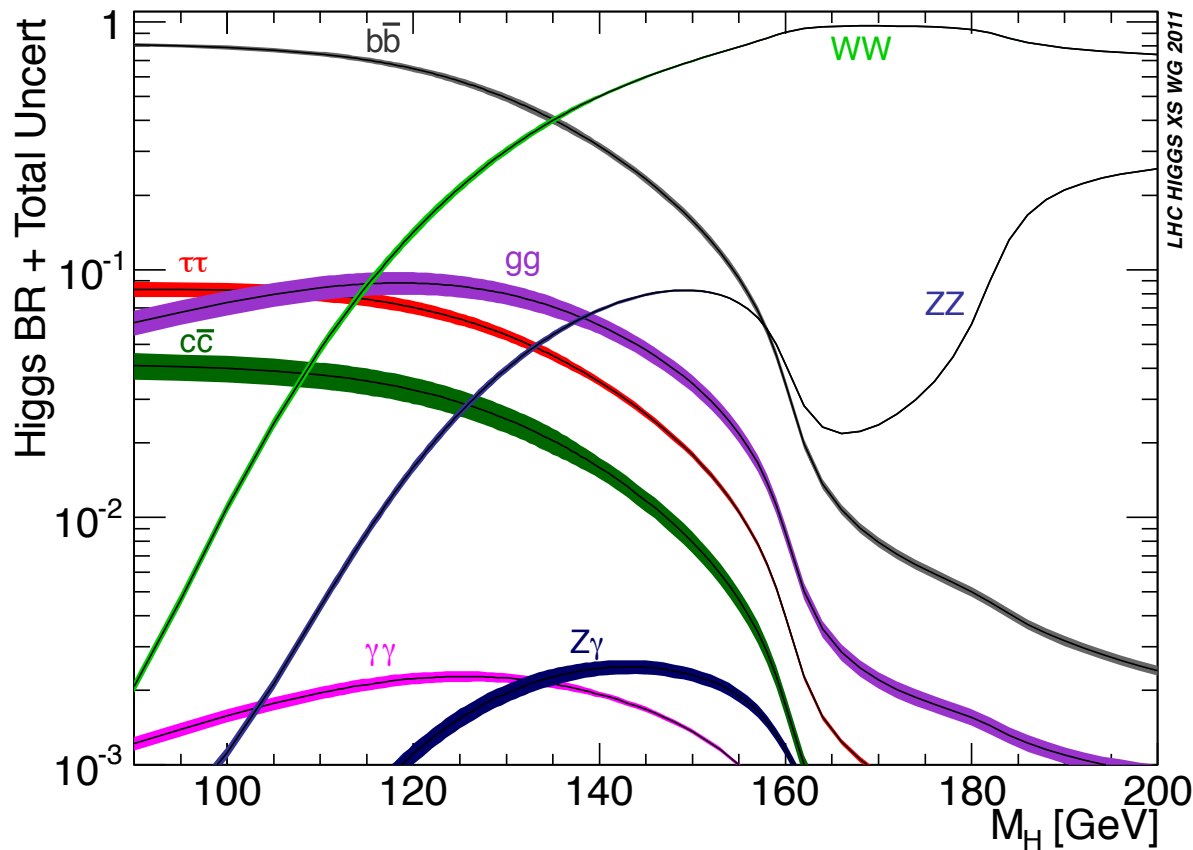
SM Higgs couplings are fixed with no free parameters: concrete predictions for LHC.

To fully understand the dynamics of electroweak symmetry breaking, need to measure Higgs couplings.

## BACKUP SLIDES

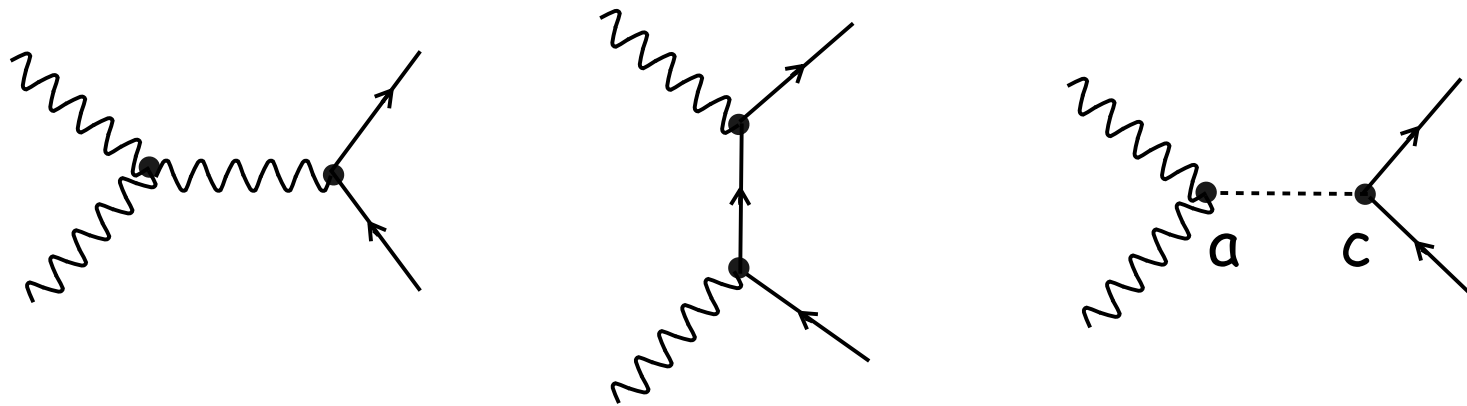
## An aside on Higgs mass dependence:

SM Higgs couplings to all SM particles are fixed by the mass-generation mechanism  $\rightarrow$  variation with  $M_h$  is due to kinematics.



1 GeV uncertainty in  $M_h \Rightarrow$  5% uncertainty in  $\bar{g}_b/\bar{g}_W$ .

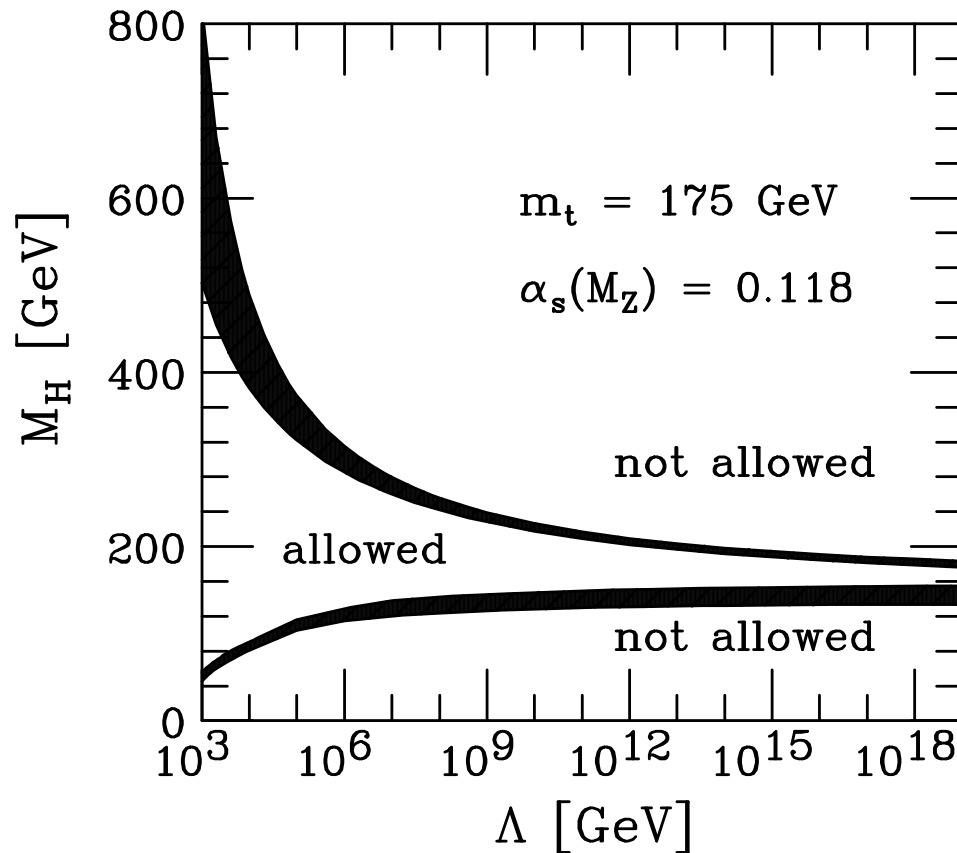
100 MeV uncertainty in  $M_h \Rightarrow$  0.5% uncertainty in  $\bar{g}_b/\bar{g}_W$ .



diagrams from C. Grojean, talk at Chicago Higgs WS 2012

Appelquist-Chanowitz (1987) for fermions: top quark implies NP related to top quark mass generation below 18 TeV if no Higgs.

## Can the SM be valid all the way to the Planck scale?



### Landau Pole:

Higgs self-coupling too large; blows up at scale  $\Lambda$ .

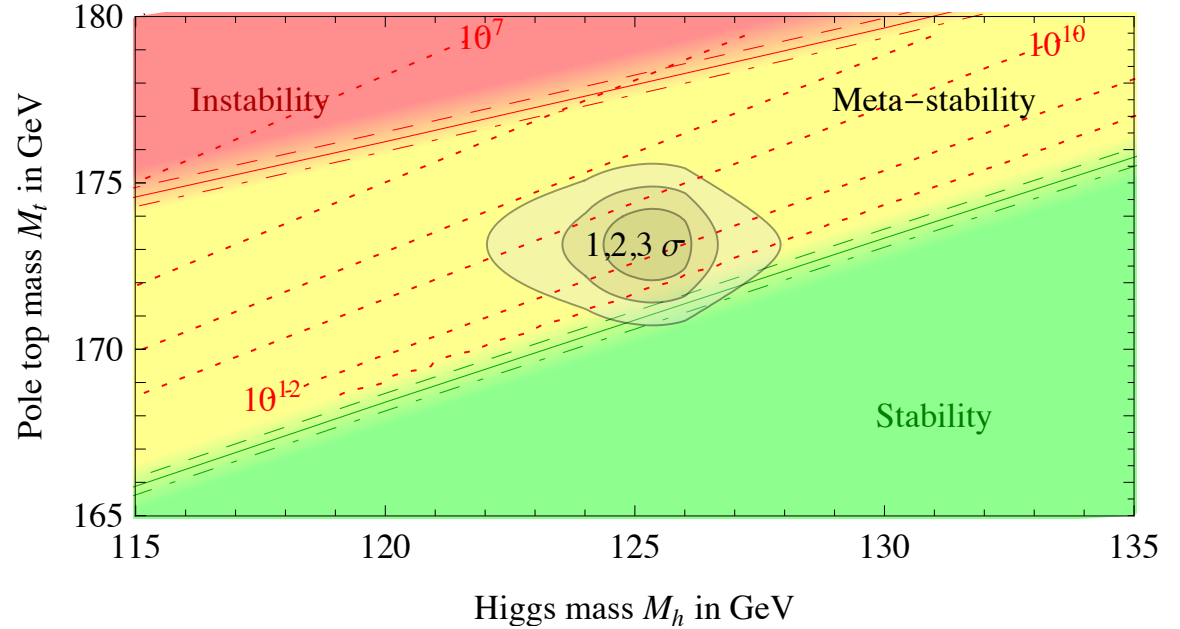
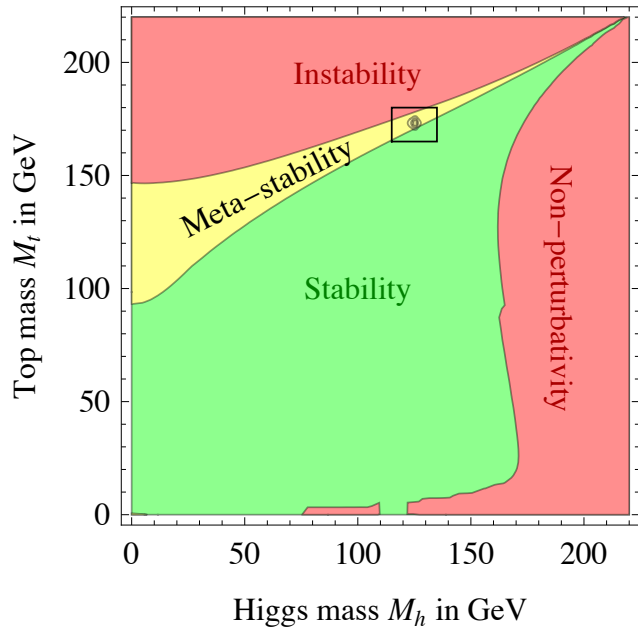
### Vacuum Instability:

Higgs self-coupling too small compared to top Yukawa; runs negative at scale  $\Lambda$ .

Hambye & Riesselmann, [hep-ph/9708416](https://arxiv.org/abs/hep-ph/9708416)

SM Higgs sector is perturbative and stable (but terribly fine-tuned) all the way to the Planck scale for  $M_h$  in the “chimney”.

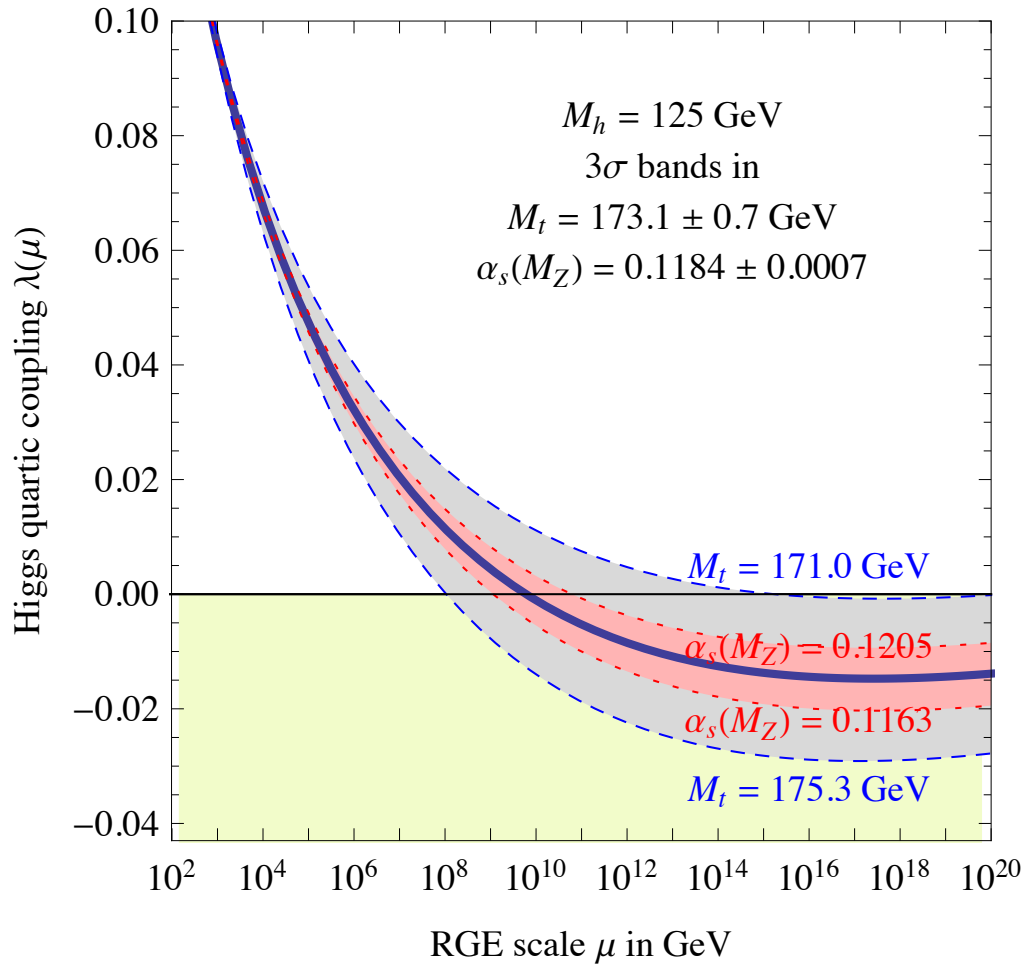
New NNLO analysis [Degrassi et al, arXiv:1205.6497]:



Running of quartic coupling mostly from top Yukawa + QCD as well as Higgs self-interactions.

Meta-stability: false vacuum's tunnelling lifetime is large compared to age of universe.

New NNLO analysis [Degrassi et al, arXiv:1205.6497]



$M_h = 125 \text{ GeV}$ :

Higgs potential becomes unstable at intermediate scale  $\sim 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$ .

Motivates high-precision measurement of Higgs couplings, especially to  $WW, ZZ, t\bar{t}$ :

Do we need new physics to cure perturbative unitarity below  $\sim 10^{10} \text{ GeV}$ ?