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### **Higgs Physics**

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A perspective of High Energy Physics from precision measurements  
*La physique des Hautes Energies du point de vue des mesures de précision*

# Higgs Physics

## *La Physique du Boson de Higgs*

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**Abstract.** The existence of the Higgs boson was postulated more than 50 years ago, without any indication of its mass. The quest that followed, with several generations of particle physics experiments, culminated with the recent discovery of a new particle with a mass of 125 GeV. At least another half-century will be needed to map the properties of this particle with sufficient precision to understand its deepest origin.

**Résumé.** L'existence du boson de Higgs a été postulée il y a plus de 50 ans sans indication d'un ordre de grandeur pour sa masse. La longue recherche qui s'en suivit, impliquant plusieurs générations d'expériences de physique des particules a été enfin couronnée par la découverte récente d'une nouvelle particule de masse de 125 GeV. Il s'en faudra sans doute de cinquante années supplémentaires pour en découvrir les propriétés avec une précision suffisante pour comprendre la profonde origine physique de cette particule.

**Keywords.** Higgs, Discovery, Properties, Future, Colliders, New physics.

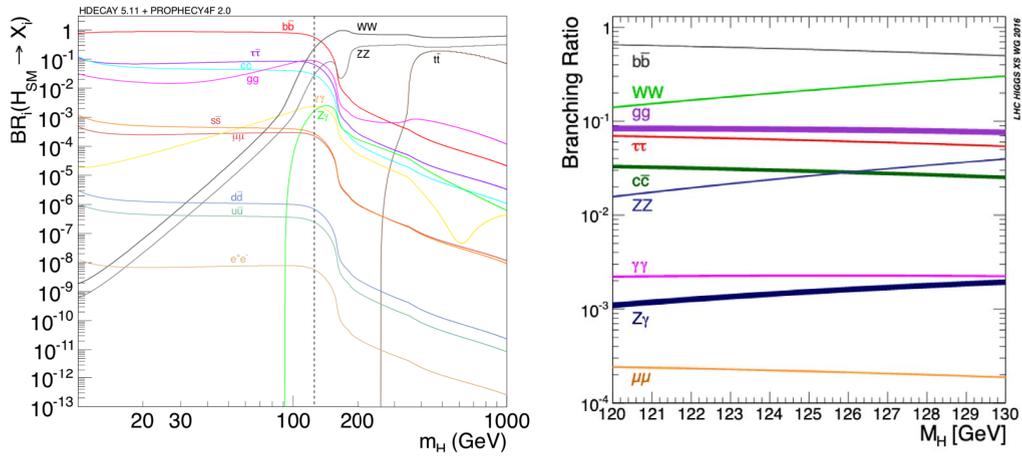
**Mots-clés.** Higgs, Découverte, Propriétés, Futur, Collisionneurs, Nouvelle physique.

## 1. Introduction

The Higgs mechanism [1–4] was proposed in 1964 as a theoretical way to provide mass to the gauge bosons, through their interactions with the Higgs field, while safeguarding the symmetries believed to underlie modern particle physics. This vital development enabled Glashow [5], Weinberg [6], and Salam [7] to independently propose a unified “electroweak” theory, with a massless photon for the electromagnetic interaction, and massive  $Z$  and  $W$  bosons for the weak interaction. In a summary talk for the ICHEP conference in 1974, John Iliopoulos presented, for the first time in a single report [8], the view of physics now called the Standard Model (SM). When applied in the SM, the Higgs mechanism predicts the existence of a scalar particle, the Higgs boson  $H$ , which directly couples to SM particles – including itself – proportionally to their masses, but with an unknown mass,  $m_H$ .

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**Figure 1.** Predicted decay branching ratios of the SM Higgs boson over a wide mass range (left [9]) and close-up around  $m_H = 125$  GeV (right [10]).

For any value of  $m_H$ , the production cross sections and decay rates of the SM Higgs boson can therefore be calculated accurately. For illustration, the predicted branching fractions are displayed in Figure 1 as a function of its mass. A campaign of searches for the SM Higgs boson was deployed over the following 50 years. This story, summarised in Section 2, culminated at LHC in 2012 with the discovery of a particle with a mass of 125 GeV, and with properties consistent with expectations for the SM Higgs boson.

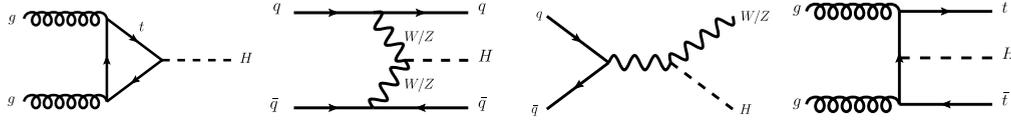
With this discovery, the spectrum of particles and the interactions described by the SM are complete. Particle physics, however, must continue its investigations. On the one hand, many theoretical and experimental questions remained unanswered; on the other, the properties of the discovered particle are far from having been measured with the same precision as those of the other SM particles. It is essential to determine these properties with an accuracy order(s) of magnitude better than today, and to acquire sensitivity to the processes that, during the time span from  $10^{-12}$  to  $10^{-10}$  seconds after the Big Bang, led to the formation of today's Higgs vacuum field. Future hadron and lepton colliders are proposed to do exactly that. Their capabilities are reviewed and contrasted in Sections 3 to 5. Conclusions are offered in Section 6.

## 2. Current status of Higgs Physics

### 2.1. Situation before LHC

The first searches for a massless or light SM Higgs boson were performed in nuclear transitions and neutron-nucleon scattering [11, 12] in the early 1970s. They were followed in the 1980s by searches in the decays of pions [13], kaons [14],  $B$  mesons [15],  $J/\psi$ 's and  $\Upsilon$ 's [16] (with a Higgs boson decay into  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$ ) as discussed in Ref. [17], and a search by an original beam-dump experiment [18]. By 1989, a massless Higgs boson, and a Higgs boson with mass between 1 and 110 MeV, were excluded. A Higgs boson with a mass below 5–6 GeV was considered very unlikely, but not firmly excluded due to theoretical loopholes [17].

In the 20 years that followed, searches for a heavier Higgs boson were performed at the Large Electron-Positron collider (LEP) [19], located at CERN (Geneva, Switzerland) and at the Tevatron [20], located at Fermilab (Chicago, Illinois), benefiting from its large and unambiguously known couplings to the  $Z$  and the  $W$ . At LEP, electrons and positrons collided at a centre-of-mass



**Figure 2.** Higgs production modes with the largest cross section at LHC. From left to right, the production modes are gluon-gluon fusion; vector boson fusion; associated production with a vector boson; and associated production with a pair of top quarks.

energy around the  $Z$  pole until 1995 (LEP1) and up to 209 GeV from 1996 to 2000 (LEP2). The Tevatron began colliding protons and anti-protons in 1985 initially at  $\sqrt{s} = 1.8$  TeV and then from 2002 to 2011 at  $\sqrt{s} = 1.96$  TeV.

Direct searches at LEP were performed using the Higgsstrahlung process,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow HZ^{(*)}$ , with the  $Z$  decaying to a pair of charged leptons, neutrinos, or quarks. By the end of the LEP1 period, no such events had been found, and the mass range from 0.0 GeV to 65.6 GeV was excluded from these direct searches [21]. By the end of LEP2, a small excess of events was observed around 115 GeV in the last year of operation, and the lower limit on  $m_H$  increased to 114.4 GeV [22]. Indirect effects of the Higgs boson on electroweak precision observables were also measured at LEP1, with almost 20 million recorded  $Z$  decays. In combination with the direct determination of the  $W$  and top masses at the Tevatron, these electroweak precision measurements constrained the SM Higgs boson mass in the range from 54 to 132 GeV [23]. Together with direct searches, the region between 114.4 and 132 GeV was thus favoured in the SM framework, at the 95% confidence level.

Direct searches for the SM Higgs boson produced in association with a vector boson,  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow WH$  and  $ZH$ , were performed at the Tevatron. A small excess of events was found between 115 and 140 GeV, i.e. in the region still allowed by LEP precision measurements and direct searches, and Higgs boson masses between 149 and 182 GeV were excluded [24].

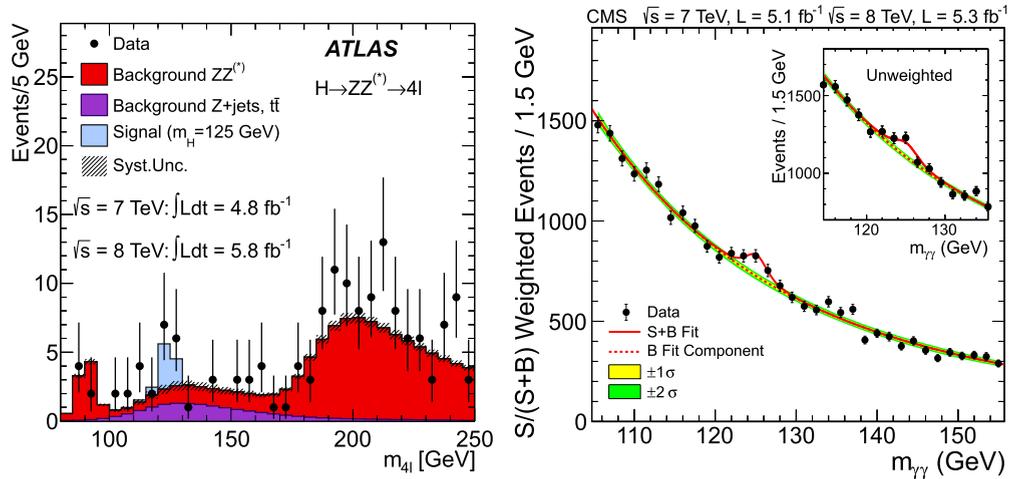
## 2.2. Higgs discovery and measurements at LHC

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [25] began colliding protons in 2009, reusing the existing LEP tunnel at CERN. At LHC, the most copious Higgs production mode is gluon-gluon fusion with a cross section of 17 pb at  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV [10]. Ordered by decreasing cross section, this mode is followed by vector boson fusion; associated production with a  $W$  or  $Z$  boson; and associated production with a pair of top quarks; as illustrated in Figure 2. A wide range of decay modes are accessible ranging from the high-resolution and low-background decays to four leptons (via  $ZZ^*$  decay) and a pair of photons, through  $WW^*$  and  $\tau^+\tau^-$  decays, all the way to the low-resolution and high-background  $b\bar{b}$  decay.

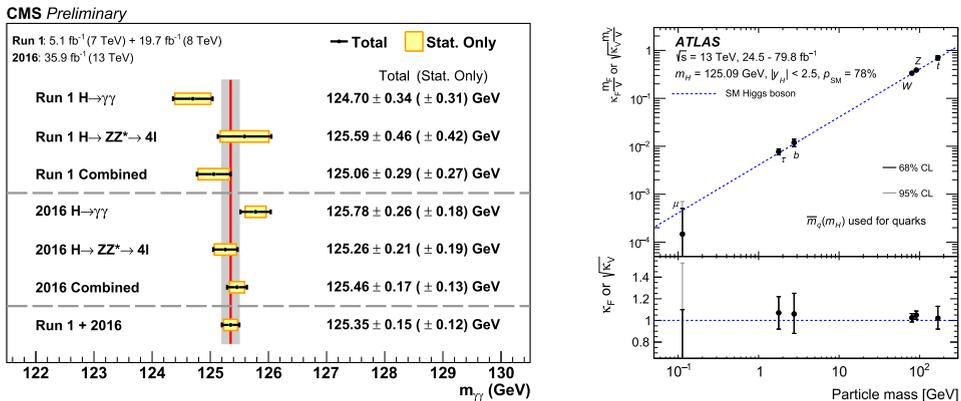
By the end of 2011, the ATLAS and CMS collaborations had collected approximately  $5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data at a centre-of-mass energy of 7 TeV. After all channels had been analysed and combined, the SM Higgs boson was excluded for all masses except for a small range around 125 GeV, where a modest excess of events with a significance of  $2$  to  $3\sigma$  was observed by each experiment [26, 27].

In 2012, the centre-of-mass energy increased from 7 to 8 TeV and the dataset doubled to  $10 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  by the summer. At a joint seminar on 4 July 2012, the ATLAS and CMS collaborations reported the observation of a narrow resonance with a mass of approximately 126 GeV with statistical significance of  $5.0\sigma$  and  $4.9\sigma$  respectively [28, 29] and subsequently published this result in Refs. [30, 31]. Figure 3 shows two of the distributions contributing to this observation:  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$  from ATLAS and  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  from CMS.

Since the discovery in 2012, many of the properties of this new resonance have been measured and, so far, all these properties are consistent with the predictions for the SM Higgs boson. The



**Figure 3.** The invariant mass distribution in the  $4\ell$  channel from the CMS experiment using  $10.5 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data (left). The invariant mass distribution in the diphoton channel from the ATLAS experiment using  $10.4 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data (right). From Refs. [30, 31].



**Figure 4.** (Left) Summary of the measurements from the CMS experiment of the Higgs mass using the  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$  and the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  channels. Results using data from Run1 and Run2 and their combination are shown. The total uncertainty is indicated in black and the systematic uncertainty in yellow. From Ref. [34]. The reduced coupling strength for fermions and bosons to the Higgs boson as a function of the particle mass from the ATLAS experiment using data recorded at 13 TeV. The blue dashed line is indicative of the prediction from the SM for either fermions or bosons. From Ref. [35].

mass is obtained by fitting the invariant mass in the  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$  and  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  channels, and was measured to be  $m_H = 125.09 \pm 0.21(\text{stat.}) \pm 0.11(\text{syst.})$  [32] in the combination of the ATLAS and CMS measurements using the approximately  $25 \text{ fb}^{-1}$  of data from Run1, which occurred from 2010 to 2012. Between 2015 and 2018, Run2 followed with a centre-of-mass energy of 13 TeV. The current measurements of the Higgs mass are  $m_H = 124.97 \pm 0.24 \text{ GeV}$  [33] and  $m_H = 125.35 \pm 0.15 \text{ GeV}$  [34] for ATLAS and CMS respectively using both Run1 and Run2 data. Figure 4 summarises the measurements of the Higgs mass made by the CMS experiment for each channel and each dataset. The  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$  is statistically limited, but the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  measurement has statistical and systematic uncertainties of comparable size.

The Standard Model predicts that the width of a Higgs boson with mass of 125 GeV is 4.2 MeV [10]. Because hadron colliders can only measure the product of the production cross section and the branching ratio, the total width cannot be inferred without assumptions (see Section 4 for a discussion about the Higgs width measurement at lepton colliders). Direct measurements, e.g. from the width of the invariant mass distribution in the  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$  channel, are sensitive to widths of 1–2 GeV, three orders of magnitude larger than the SM prediction. Indirect constraints on the width can be set by measuring the ratio of the cross section of on-shell (around the Higgs mass) to off-shell (higher invariant masses) Higgs production in vector boson decay channels [36–39]. These measurements of the off-shell production rate can also be used to set limits on the anomalous couplings of the Higgs boson.

The SM Higgs boson is predicted to have a zero total angular momentum, positive parity and positive charge parity. Due to the observation of the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  decay, the charge parity is known to be positive. The angular momentum and parity have been probed by measuring the angular distributions of the decay products on the Higgs boson using the  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ,  $H \rightarrow WW^*$  and  $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$  decays. The spin and parity measurements are independent of the measurements of the total rate in each channel. Constraints on the spin and  $CP$  of the Higgs boson have also been set using the  $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  decay channels [40, 41].

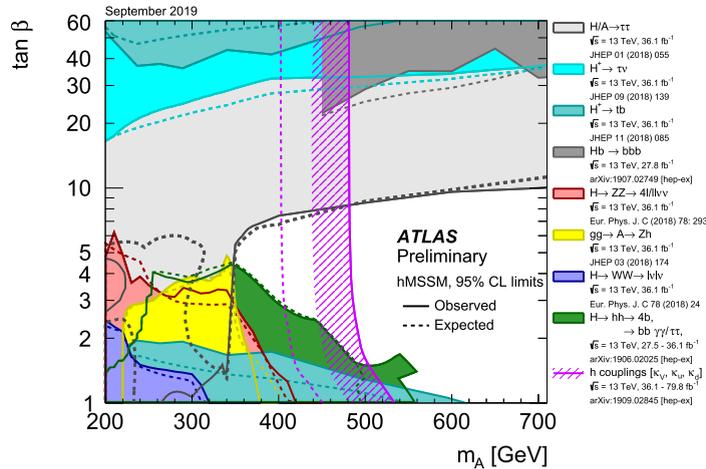
Under certain assumptions, these results can be translated into model-dependent measurements of the coupling of the Higgs boson to the other SM particles as shown in Figure 4. (This model dependence can be lifted with the absolute measurement of the  $HZZ$  coupling at a lepton collider, as explained in Section 4.) All major production modes have been observed. The cross section for Higgs production through gluon-gluon fusion has been measured to a precision of 10% [35, 42, 43] and the observation of the production of the Higgs boson in association with top quarks, with a cross section two orders of magnitude smaller was made by both ATLAS and CMS in 2018 [44, 45]. The strength of the coupling between the Higgs boson and the top quark is in agreement with indirect measurements. The decay of the Higgs boson has been observed in the following five channels:  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ ,  $H \rightarrow ZZ^* \rightarrow 4\ell$ ,  $H \rightarrow WW^*$ ,  $H \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  and  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ . The most recent observation has been the decay of the Higgs boson to bottom quarks in 2018 [46, 47]. No significant deviations from SM predictions have been observed in either the production or the decay modes.

The growing LHC dataset has also been used to set limits on channels with much smaller branching ratios. For example, the upper limit on the Higgs branching ratio to  $Z\gamma$  is currently 1.4 times the SM prediction [48, 49]. So far, no observation has been made of the coupling of the Higgs bosons to fermions outside the third generation. The most promising channel,  $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$ , allowed an upper limit of 1.7 times the SM to be set [50, 51]. Searches for the decay of the Higgs boson to charm quarks have also been performed, but current limits are more than an order of magnitude above the SM prediction [52, 53].

The measurement of the self-coupling of the Higgs boson will be a key physics target for HL-LHC as discussed in Section 3.1, but searches for Higgs pair production ( $HH$ ) are already being performed at LHC. A large number of final states are required to cover the different possible decay combinations of the two Higgs bosons. At LHC, the most sensitive modes are  $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$  and  $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ . The current observed (expected) upper limits on the Higgs pair production cross section are 6.9 (10) for ATLAS [54] and 12.8 (22.3) for CMS [55] times the SM prediction.

### 2.3. Searches for Higgs Physics beyond the Standard Model

The Higgs boson could be a portal to new physics in many ways. Selected examples are provided to illustrate the type of constraints obtained at LHC on Higgs physics beyond the Standard Model.



**Figure 5.** Regions of the  $(m_A, \tan \beta)$  plane in the MSSM excluded by searches for additional Higgs bosons. Results from direct searches are indicated with solid shading and results from indirect searches are indicated with hatched shading. From Ref. [58].

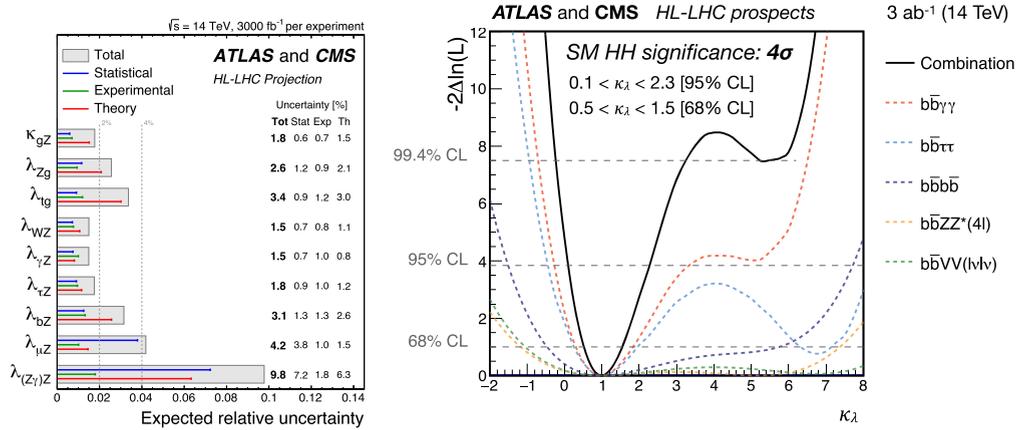
Decays of the Higgs boson can be used to search for new particles with masses less than half that of the Higgs boson, either with direct searches or via a combined fit to all coupling measurements. Under the assumption that the Higgs couplings to the  $Z$  and the  $W$  are not larger than the SM prediction, ATLAS and CMS constrained the branching ratio of the Higgs boson to invisible or undetected particles,  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}}$ , to be less than 34% [32]. Direct searches from ATLAS and CMS in the VBF production mode led to similar upper limits of  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}} < 37\%$  [56] and  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}} < 33\%$  [57].

Additional Higgs bosons can be searched for at LHC over a wide mass range in many decay channels. In minimal nonminimal versions of the Standard Model, two Higgs doublets are introduced to give mass to up-type and down-type quarks separately. In these models, the Higgs sector consists of five physical states: three neutral Higgs bosons (the SM-like Higgs boson  $h$ ; another, heavier,  $CP$ -even state  $H$ ; and a  $CP$ -odd state  $A$ ), and a pair of charged Higgs bosons ( $H^\pm$ ). The ratio of the vacuum expectations of the two Higgs doublets is denoted  $\tan \beta$ .

Figure 5 shows regions of the  $(m_A, \tan \beta)$  plane in the minimal supersymmetric extension of the SM (MSSM), excluded by searches for such additional Higgs bosons. Direct searches have excluded high and low values of  $\tan \beta$  and with the mass of one of the charged Higgs bosons,  $m_A$ , required to be above 350 GeV. Indirect limits from coupling fits are shown in pink and exclude  $m_A$  below 500 GeV [58].

### 3. Higgs Physics at future hadron colliders

The highest energy elementary parton-parton collisions can be achieved, for the foreseeable future, with high-energy proton-proton colliders, for which a circular geometry is the only available option, at least for energies up to  $\approx 150$  TeV. In the LHC tunnel, the High-Luminosity LHC (HL-LHC) [59] will have a collision energy of 14 TeV and a luminosity 5 to 7 times larger than that of LHC. Three other hadron colliders are currently under study. The High-Energy LHC (HE-LHC) [60] would still use the LHC tunnel with upgraded dipole magnets, to reach a energy of 27 TeV. The FCC-hh [61] would collide protons at a centre-of-mass energy of at least 100 TeV in a new tunnel with a circumference of 100 km near CERN. A similar infrastructure, called Super



**Figure 6.** (Left) The expected uncertainty on the ratios of Higgs coupling modifiers,  $\kappa$ , from the combination of ATLAS and CMS at HL-LHC showing separately the statistical, experimental and theoretical uncertainties from Ref. [63]. (Right) The expected precision on the Higgs self-coupling,  $\kappa_\lambda$  from HL-LHC shown as the minimum negative-log-likelihood distribution from the combination of all channels for ATLAS and CMS using the full HL-LHC dataset from Ref. [63]. The likelihoods for the individual channels are also shown.

proton–proton Collider (SpC [62]) is also proposed in China. In this note, the capabilities for Higgs physics of HL-LHC and FCC-hh are discussed.

### 3.1. The luminosity frontier: HL-LHC

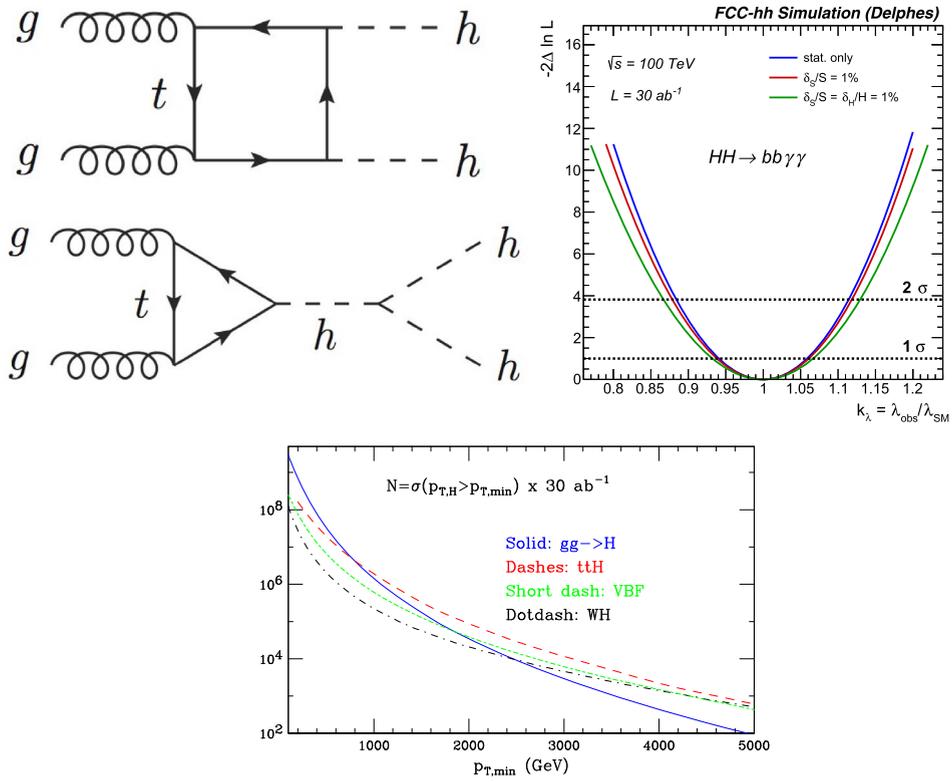
The HL-LHC is expected to begin operation after 2027 to provide  $3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  of data. The large data sample will improve the precision of many LHC measurements, and open up new possibilities inaccessible at LHC.

The left panel of Figure 6 shows the expected uncertainty on the ratio of Higgs coupling modifiers,  $\kappa$ , with respect to the coupling of the Higgs boson to the  $Z$  boson [63]. Projections are shown from the combination of the ATLAS and CMS results with the full dataset expected at HL-LHC. For many channels, HL-LHC measurements are expected to reach a precision better than 2%, typically dominated by theoretical uncertainties. Rare Higgs decays such as  $H \rightarrow Z\gamma$  and  $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$  are expected to be measured to a precision of 9.8% and 4.2% respectively. Under the assumption that  $\kappa_{W,Z} \leq 1$ , HL-LHC will be able to probe invisible and undetected decays of the Higgs boson with a precision of a few percent.

The HL-LHC is also expected to provide the first evidence for the Higgs self-coupling with the measurement of the Higgs pair inclusive and differential cross sections. The right panel of Figure 6 shows the expected precision on the Higgs self-coupling for the combination of ATLAS and CMS, with the full expected HL-LHC dataset. The expected significance from the combination of all channels and both experiments is  $4\sigma$  [63] and the most sensitive channel is  $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  [63].

### 3.2. The energy frontier: FCC-hh

One of the key physics targets of FCC-hh will be studying the nature of the Higgs potential by measuring Higgs pair production with high precision. The leading order diagrams for Higgs



**Figure 7.** (Top left) Leading order Feynman diagrams for Higgs pair production at  $pp$  colliders. (Top right) The expected precision on the Higgs self-coupling from FCC-hh in the  $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  channel. The negative log-likelihood curves are shown for statistical uncertainties only (blue) and then under different assumptions on the systematic uncertainties (red, green). (Bottom) The number of Higgs bosons that are expected to be produced at FCC-hh as a function of the transverse momentum of the Higgs boson for various production modes. From Ref. [64].

pair production are shown in the upper-left panel of Figure 7. The lower diagram is the one sensitive to the Higgs self-coupling, while the upper diagram shows the most important SM background. The two diagrams have strong negative interference, which means that the cross section is very small and the accuracy of the measurement relies on both the high-energy and the high-luminosity of the collider. One of the most powerful channels to probe this coupling at FCC-hh will be the  $HH \rightarrow b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$  decay channel. The upper-right panel of Figure 7 shows the negative log-likelihood for this channel that is expected at FCC-hh, corresponding to an expected precision on  $\kappa_\lambda$  of 6.5% [64]. A recent combination with other final states ( $b\bar{b}\gamma\gamma$ ,  $b\bar{b}\tau^+\tau^-$ ,  $b\bar{b}b\bar{b}$ , and  $b\bar{b}ZZ$ ) improves the expected precision further, leading to a target of 3 to 4.5% on  $\kappa_\lambda$  [65].

The  $3 \times 10^{10}$  Higgs bosons that could be produced at FCC-hh would improve the precision of certain measurements and open up the possibility of new measurements. The transverse momentum distribution for the Higgs boson in a variety of production modes is shown in the lower panel of Figure 7. The many thousands of Higgs boson with momentum about 2 TeV will be produced in each of the production modes. This can be exploited at FCC-hh to measure ratios of Higgs coupling by selecting events with large transverse momentum which significantly reduces

**Table 1.** The expected FCC-hh precision on ratios of Higgs branching ratios and the branching ratio to invisible particles. From Ref. [64]

Observable	Precision (stat)	Precision (stat + syst + lumi)
$B(H \rightarrow \mu\mu)/B(H \rightarrow 4\mu)$	0.33%	1.3%
$B(H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma)/B(H \rightarrow 2e2\mu)$	0.17%	0.8%
$\sigma(t\bar{t}H) \times B(H \rightarrow b\bar{b})/\sigma(t\bar{t}Z) \times B(Z \rightarrow b\bar{b})$	1.05%	1.9%
$B(H \rightarrow \text{invisible})$	$1 \times 10^{-4}$	$2.5 \times 10^{-4}$

the backgrounds. In addition, the transverse momentum of the Higgs boson can be measured to search for contributions from new physics processes. Table 1 shows that the expected precision for the  $H \rightarrow \mu\mu$  and  $H \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$  channels would be approximately 1%. The coupling of the Higgs boson to top quarks can be measured to 1% accuracy by measuring the ratio of  $t\bar{t}H$  to  $t\bar{t}Z$  production. By fitting the missing energy distribution, FCC-hh could probe the branching ratio of the Higgs boson to invisible and undetected decay to the  $10^{-4}$  level. Further details about these studies are available in Ref. [64].

#### 4. Higgs Physics at future lepton colliders

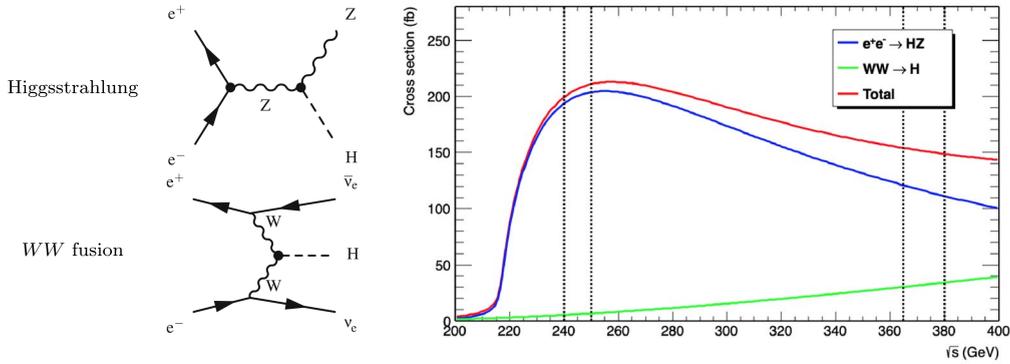
In the present state of strategic discussions, a consensus emerges around the strong physics case for an  $e^+e^-$  collider at the precision frontier, to measure the Higgs boson and the other particle properties with unprecedented accuracy. At the time of writing, four  $e^+e^-$  collider projects are still on the table [66–72]. The physics case is summarised in the Physics Briefing Book [73].

The circular colliders (FCC-ee and CEPC) were conceived in 2011–2013, as soon as first hints for a light Higgs boson became publicly known [74]. Their luminosity curves provides the highest statistics at low energies, but is strongly limited by synchrotron radiation above 350–400 GeV. The proposed operation models comprise data taking at and around the  $Z$  pole (91 GeV), at the  $WW$  threshold (161 GeV), at the  $ZH$  cross-section maximum (240 GeV), and, for FCC-ee, an extension at and above the top pair threshold (up to 365 GeV). The designs are sufficiently flexible to allow operation at other centre-of-mass energies (e.g., at  $\sqrt{s} = m_H$ , or well below the  $Z$  peak), with unrivalled luminosities. Both colliders are planned to operate for 10–15 years with two IPs (A configuration with four IPs is being studied for FCC-ee.), and are considered to be a first, enabling step in a long-term plan towards a high-energy proton–proton collider (Section 3.2).

Linear colliders have been studied since 1975 [75], and are considered to be the only possible way towards higher-energy  $e^+e^-$  collisions. The luminosity and power consumption grows linearly with energy. The proposed operation models include a first run at “low” energy, 250 GeV for ILC and 380 GeV for CLIC, for about a decade. Both colliders have an open-ended run plan, with possible extensions to 1 TeV (ILC) and 3 TeV (CLIC) in a run plan that extends over several decades.

At the top-pair threshold, FCC-ee, CLIC, and ILC are planned to deliver similar integrated luminosities, within a factor of two. A linear collider is the most effective option at 500 GeV (and the only possibility for higher energies), while a circular collider is more effective for any energy below 350–400 GeV. For example, at the  $ZH$  cross-section maximum, FCC-ee is expected to produce  $5 \text{ ab}^{-1}$  in about three years, while it would take between 20 and 30 years with ILC to reach the same figure. The integrated power for a circular machine is also five to ten times less per Higgs boson produced at the  $ZH$  cross-section maximum.

In the longer term,  $\mu^+\mu^-$  collisions could also be envisioned [76–78], once the considerable technological challenges related to muon production, cooling, acceleration, and decay backgrounds, have been solved. The reduced synchrotron radiation loss from muons – by a factor  $10^9$



**Figure 8.** (Left) Feynman diagrams for the Higgsstrahlung (top) and the  $WW$  fusion (bottom) processes. (Right) Unpolarised Higgs production cross section as a function of the centre-of-mass energy  $\sqrt{s}$ . Vertical dashed lines indicate the values of  $\sqrt{s}$  foreseen for the four low-energy Higgs factories: FCC-ee (240 and 365 GeV), CEPC (240 GeV), ILC (250 GeV) and CLIC (380 GeV).

with respect to electrons – would then enable the construction of circular colliders either with much smaller radii at low energies, or with much higher design energies, typically 6 to 14 TeV. Possible operation models include a low-energy run at  $\sqrt{s} = m_H$ , in a ring of a few 100 m circumference, benefiting from a larger coupling to the Higgs boson and an exquisite energy definition; followed by multi-TeV collisions, e.g., in the LEP/LHC ring.

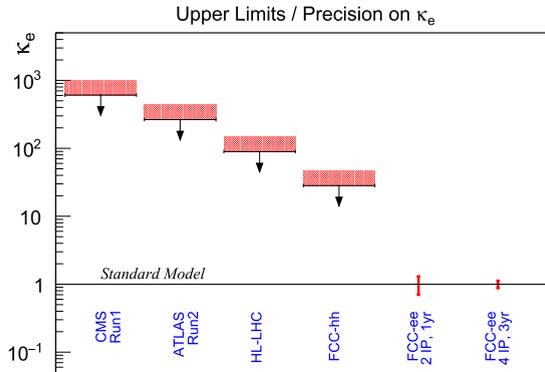
#### 4.1. The luminosity frontier: low-energy Higgs factories

In  $e^+e^-$  collisions at centre-of-mass energies from 240 to 380 GeV, the two main Higgs production mechanisms are the Higgsstrahlung process,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow ZH$ , and the  $WW$  fusion process,  $e^+e^- \rightarrow H\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e$ , with Feynman diagrams and cross sections shown in Figure 8. With the integrated luminosities foreseen to be accumulated by each of the four colliders, over one million Higgs bosons would be collected at FCC-ee and CEPC, about 500,000 at ILC, and less than 200,000 at CLIC.

The total  $ZH$  cross section, proportional to the Higgs coupling to the  $Z$  boson  $g_{HZZ}^2$ , can be determined in a model-independent manner by counting events with an identified  $Z$  (decaying into  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^-$ , for example), and for which the mass  $m_R$  recoiling against the  $Z$ , given by  $m_R^2 = s + m_Z^2 - 2\sqrt{s}(E_{\ell^+} + E_{\ell^-})$ , clusters around 125 GeV. This absolute measurement of  $g_{HZZ}$ , unique to  $e^+e^-$  colliders, can be used as a “standard candle” by all other measurements, including those made at HL-LHC and FCC-hh. The position of the recoil mass peak also provides an accurate measurement of the Higgs boson mass. Once  $g_{HZZ}$  has been determined, the measurement of the cross sections for each exclusive Higgs boson decay,  $H \rightarrow X\bar{X}$ ,

$$\sigma_{ZH} \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow X\bar{X}) \propto \frac{g_{HZZ}^2 \times g_{HXX}^2}{\Gamma_H} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_{H\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e} \times \mathcal{B}(H \rightarrow X\bar{X}) \propto \frac{g_{HWW}^2 \times g_{HXX}^2}{\Gamma_H}, \quad (1)$$

gives access to all other couplings in a model-independent, absolute, way. For example, the ratio of the  $WW$ -fusion-to-Higgsstrahlung cross sections for the same Higgs boson decay, proportional to  $g_{HWW}^2/g_{HZZ}^2$ , yields  $g_{HWW}$ , and the Higgsstrahlung rate with the  $H \rightarrow ZZ$  decay, proportional to  $g_{HZZ}^4/\Gamma_H$ , provides a determination of the Higgs boson total decay width. The precision with which the Higgs mass, width and couplings can be measured at the various  $e^+e^-$  colliders is given



**Figure 9.** Current upper limits on the Higgs boson coupling modifier to electrons,  $\kappa_e$ , from CMS [80] and ATLAS [81]; projected  $\kappa_e$  upper limits at HL-LHC and FCC-hh; and projected  $\kappa_e$  precisions at FCC-ee in two different running configurations (one year with 2 IPs, or three years with 4 IPs).

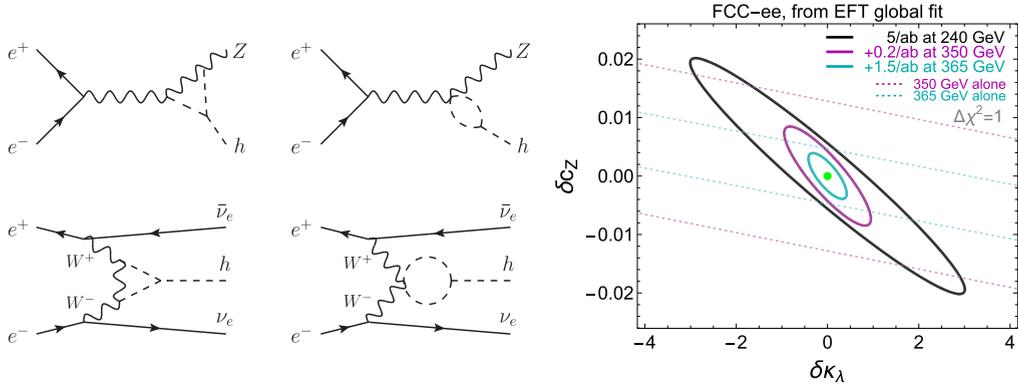
in Section 5. The longitudinal beam polarisation, available at linear colliders, plays little role in this determination [68].

Several Higgs boson couplings, however, are not directly accessible from its decays, either because the masses involved, and therefore the decay branching ratios, are too small to allow for an observation within  $10^6$  events or less – as is the case for the couplings to the particles of the first SM family: electron, up quark, down quark – or because the masses involved are too large for the decay to be kinematically open – as is the case for the top-quark Yukawa coupling and for the Higgs boson self coupling. Other methods are therefore required, as described below.

The ability of FCC-ee to provide the highest luminosities at lower centre-of-mass energies offers the unique opportunity to measure the Higgs boson coupling to electrons through the resonant production process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow H$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 125$  GeV [79]. A  $2\sigma$  excess (with respect to a situation in which the Higgs boson does not couple to electrons) would be observed at FCC-ee after a year with two interaction points, and a precision of  $\pm 15\%$  on the Higgs boson coupling to the electron can be observed after three years with four interaction points. A comparison with the hadron collider sensitivity is displayed in Figure 9.

The Higgs self-coupling can be obtained by two different methods [82]. The method with single Higgs production [83] at low-energy Higgs factories relies on the precise measurement of the  $ZH$  cross section, which depends on the self-coupling via the diagrams shown in the left panel of Figure 10. This measurement provides a robust self-coupling determination from at least two sufficiently different energy points [84–86], e.g., 240 and 365 GeV. A precision of  $\pm 34\%$  on the self-coupling can be achieved at FCC-ee (right panel of Figure 10), reduced to  $\pm 24\%$  with four IPs instead of two [87]. No meaningful constraint can be obtained with only a single centre-of-mass energy. The first  $4\sigma$  demonstration of the existence of the Higgs self-coupling is therefore within reach in 15 years at FCC-ee.

Finally, the top Yukawa coupling will have been determined with a few percent precision – albeit with some model dependence – at HL-LHC, well before the advent of any  $e^+e^-$  collider. The model-dependence of the HL-LHC measurement will be lifted off by the  $g_{HZZ}$  absolute measurement made at low-energy Higgs factories. As mentioned in Section 3.2, the measurement of the  $ttZ$  coupling (for example at FCC-ee<sub>365</sub> [88]) and the measurement of the cross section ratio  $\sigma_{ttH}/\sigma_{ttZ}$  at FCC-hh will provide another significant improvement in precision for the top Yukawa coupling, to better than  $\pm 1\%$ .



**Figure 10.** Left, from Ref. [84]: sample Feynman diagrams illustrating the effects of the Higgs self-coupling on single Higgs process at next-to-leading order. Right: FCC-ee precision in the simultaneous determination of the Higgs self-coupling  $\kappa_\lambda$  and the  $HZZ/HWW$  coupling  $c_Z$ , at 240 GeV (black ellipse), 350 GeV (purple dashed), 365 GeV (green dashed), and by combining data at 240 and 350 GeV (purple ellipse), and at 240, 350, and 365 GeV (green ellipse).

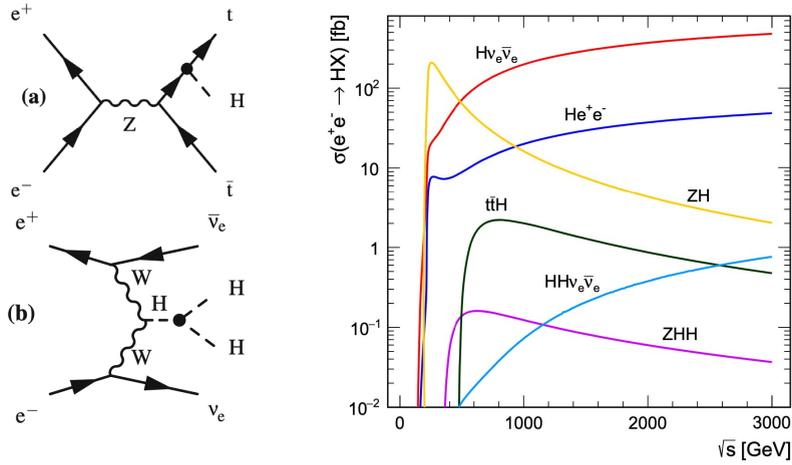
All the above could in principle also be achieved with a low-energy muon collider ring of only 600 m circumference. The luminosity at a centre-of-mass energy of 240–250 GeV, however, is expected to be 10 (100) times smaller than at a linear (circular)  $e^+e^-$  collider. This configuration is therefore inadequate for precision measurements of Higgs properties in any reasonable time. Interestingly, the resonant process  $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow H$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 125$  GeV has a cross section  $\sim 40,000$  times larger than its  $e^+e^-$  counterpart. Between 5,000 and 15,000 Higgs bosons could be produced every year in a scan of the Higgs lineshape. Such a scan does not provide a “standard candle” to hadron colliders, and is not competitive for the Higgs coupling precision, but it would be the only possibility to reveal substructure in the lineshape, e.g., due to two Higgs bosons almost degenerate in mass. In conclusion, a muon circular collider at  $\sqrt{s} = 125$  GeV would be an elegant Higgs factory, but not necessarily the one needed for precision measurements (and therefore, for sensitivity to new physics).

## 4.2. The energy frontier: Higgs physics at $\sqrt{s} \geq 500$ GeV

### 4.2.1. Study of the $H(125)$ properties

With their open-ended energy-upgrade plan, linear colliders progressively produce a larger number of Higgs bosons in the  $WW$ -fusion process and reach one million Higgs bosons after two or three additional decades of operation at 0.5 (1) TeV for ILC, and 1.5 (3) TeV for CLIC, with integrated luminosities of 4 (8) and 2.5 (5)  $\text{ab}^{-1}$ , respectively.

New Higgs production processes become available when the centre-of-mass energy exceeds 500 GeV, as shown in Figure 11. For example, the  $ttH$  and  $ZHH$  cross sections are just sufficient at 500 GeV ( $\sim 100$  ab) to enable independent measurements of the top Yukawa coupling and of the Higgs self-coupling with precisions of  $\pm 6\%$  and  $\pm 27\%$ , respectively. A slight increase of the centre-of-mass energy to 550 GeV would improve the top Yukawa coupling precision to  $\pm 4\%$ , which would make  $\text{ILC}_{500}$  competitive with HL-LHC and FCC-ee for these two couplings. For these essential measurements, having both FCC-ee and  $\text{ILC}_{500}$  (or even better,  $\text{ILC}_{600}$  to get close to the maximum of the  $ZHH$ ,  $ttH$ , and  $ttZ$  cross sections) would provide important verification in case a discrepancy with the SM predictions is found, and improved precision altogether –



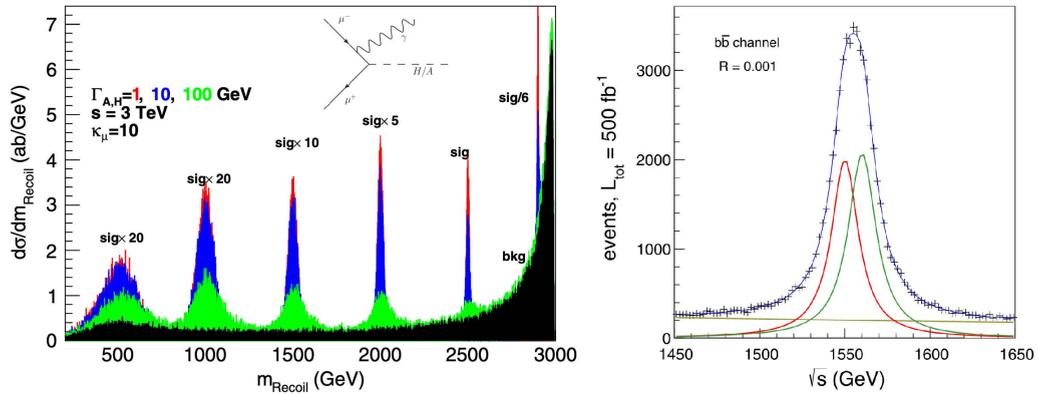
**Figure 11.** (Left) Feynman diagrams of the leading-order processes involving (a) the top Yukawa coupling  $g_{Htt}$ , and (b) the Higgs boson self-coupling  $g_{HHH}$ . (Right) Unpolarised production cross sections for the main Higgs production processes up to  $\sqrt{s} = 3$  TeV. From Ref. [72].

i.e., new physics sensitivity to higher mass scale – with a combination of both sets of data. It is only with the highest energies and the full luminosity that  $\text{ILC}_{1\text{TeV}}$  and  $\text{CLIC}_{3\text{TeV}}$  would offer a precision of about  $\pm 10\%$  on the Higgs self-coupling, with an analysis of the  $HH\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e$  process.

At FCC, the current baseline strategy to access to double Higgs production is to not upgrade the energy FCC-ee to 500 GeV, but to move to proton–proton collisions at the much higher energy of 100 TeV (see Section 3.2). It has been recently realised, however, that FCC-ee could be, as an intermediate step towards FCC-hh, upgraded with the Energy-Recovery Linacs (ERL) technology, to reach an energy of 600 GeV with a luminosity 5 to 50  $\text{ab}^{-1}$  in 10 years of operation with one interaction point [89]. With such a luminosity, up to ten times that expected at a linear collider at the same energy, a measurement of the Higgs self-coupling with a 10% precision can be contemplated as well. Needless to say, the level of understanding of such a possibility is nowhere near that of the ILC or CLIC designs, and will require in depth feasibility and cost studies, comparable to that made for the well-established baseline ring-ring design at lower energies, to fully validate the concept.

#### 4.2.2. Search for additional Higgs states

The new states in two-Higgs-doublet models,  $H$ ,  $A$ , and  $H^\pm$  can searched for with lepton colliders through their production in pairs:  $e^+e^-$  or  $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow HA$  or  $H^+H^-$ , with a sensitivity for discovery up to  $\sqrt{s}/2$ . The added value of a high-energy muon collider would be twofold in this respect. Firstly, the potentially higher centre-of-mass energy (up to 14 TeV) allows the pair production to be sensitive to additional Higgs states with masses up to 7 TeV. Secondly, the large  $H\mu\mu$  coupling opens the possibility of an automatic mass scan of the neutral states up to  $m_{H,A} = \sqrt{s}$ , with the “radiative return” process:  $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow H\gamma$  or  $A\gamma$  [90]. For  $\sqrt{s} = 3$  TeV, events selected with an isolated photon of energy above 10 GeV would have a recoil-mass distribution as displayed in the left panel of Figure 12, pointing clearly to the mass of a new neutral Higgs state. The collider centre-of-mass energy would then be tuned to the new state mass, in order to copiously produce both  $CP$ -even and  $CP$ -odd state through resonant production:  $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow H, A$ , as displayed in the right panel of Figure 12 [91], providing a unique laboratory for  $H/A$  mixing and  $CP$  violation studies [92].



**Figure 12.** (Left, from Ref. [90]) Distribution of the mass recoiling against an isolated photon with momentum transverse to the beam in excess of 10 GeV, for heavy Higgs ( $H, A$ ) masses of 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, and 2.9 TeV, with total width of 1 (red), 10 (blue), and 100 (green) GeV, at a 3 TeV muon collider. The beam energy resolution is assumed to amount to 0.1%. Signal and backgrounds have different multiplication factors for clarity. (Right, from Ref. [91]) Scan of the  $H/A$  lineshape ( $m_{H,A} \sim 1.55 \text{ TeV}$ ) in the  $\mu^+ \mu^- \rightarrow b\bar{b}$  production with  $\sqrt{s}$  from 1.45 to 1.65 TeV, with a centre-of-mass energy spread of 0.001 and a total luminosity of  $0.5 \text{ ab}^{-1}$ .

## 5. Projected results in $\kappa$ and EFT fits: discussion

In the SM, the Higgs boson coupling to a given particle  $X$ , denoted  $g_{HXX}$ , is uniquely fixed by its mass. The quantitative effect of new physics on these couplings requires a parametrisation of the induced deviations with respect to the SM predictions. Two such parametrisations are widely used, the  $\kappa$  framework; and the effective field theory (EFT) approach.

The simpler  $\kappa$  framework introduces multiplicative modifiers  $\kappa_X = g_{HXX}/g_{HXX}^{\text{SM}}$ , for each of the tree-level couplings to SM particles,  $\kappa_Z, \kappa_W, \kappa_b, \kappa_c, \kappa_t, \kappa_{\mu}$ , and  $\kappa_{\tau}$ ; and three effective modifiers for the loop-induced couplings,  $\kappa_{\gamma}, \kappa_g$ , and  $\kappa_{Z\gamma}$ ; and one resulting modifier for the Higgs decay width,  $\kappa_H$ . The couplings  $\kappa_s, \kappa_d, \kappa_u$  and  $\kappa_e$ , that are only weakly constrained from very rare decays, are currently not included in the combined  $\kappa$ -framework fits. The  $\kappa$ -framework also allows for the possibility of Higgs boson decays to invisible or “untagged” BSM particles, with the introduction of two additional branching ratio parameters,  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}}$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{EXO}}$ . For colliders that can directly measure the Higgs width (such as FCC-ee),  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{EXO}}$  can be constrained together with  $\kappa_X$  and  $\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}}$  from a combined fit to the data. For colliders that cannot (such as HL-LHC), additional theoretical assumptions must be introduced (for example by fixing the width and other couplings to their SM prediction). The  $\kappa$  framework makes no assumption on the new physics that modifies the couplings. Constraints derived in the  $\kappa$  analysis can therefore be readily exploited to derive model-independent constraints on the new physics parameters. In certain new physics model, however, the  $\kappa$  framework is sub-optimal in setting constraints, as it is blind to effects that do not change the coupling strengths, but change instead their helicity structure (which would modify, e.g., angular distributions).

To circumvent this shortcoming, the EFT approach is introduced to parametrise directly the new physics (rather than its effects) in terms of gauge invariant operators of dimension 6, 8, 10, etc, and calculated through an expansion in inverse powers of the new-physics mass scale  $\Lambda$ . Current EFT approaches typically only consider the supposedly dominant  $\mathcal{O}(1/\Lambda^2)$  terms, carried by dimension-six operators. While more sensitive than the  $\kappa$  framework to new physics effects,

**Table 2.** Precision on the Higgs boson couplings  $g_{HXX}$ , from Ref. [82] in the  $\kappa$  framework (left) and in a global EFT fit to Higgs, diboson, and electroweak precision measurements (right), for the five low-energy Higgs factories ( $\mu\text{Coll}_{125}$ ,  $\text{ILC}_{250}$ ,  $\text{CLIC}_{380}$ ,  $\text{CEPC}_{240}$ , and  $\text{FCC-ee}_{240-365}$ ), fixing the Higgs self-coupling  $g_{HHH}$  to its SM value. For the  $g_{HHH}$  fit, only the EFT global fit result is shown (with 2IPs and 4IPs for FCC-ee). For the muon collider, only the results of a standalone  $\kappa$  fit are displayed. All numbers are in % and indicate 68% C.L. sensitivities. Also indicated in the  $\kappa$  fit are the precision on the total decay width and the 95% C.L. sensitivity on the “invisible” and “exotic” branching fractions

Collider	HL-LHC	$\mu\text{Coll}_{125}$	$\text{ILC}_{250}$	$\text{CLIC}_{380}$	$\text{CEPC}_{240}$	$\text{FCC-ee}_{240-365}$
Lumi ( $\text{ab}^{-1}$ )	3	0.005	2	1	5.6	5 + 0.2 + 1.5
Years	10	6 to 10	11.5	8	7	3 + 1 + 4
$g_{HZZ}$ (%)	1.5/3.6	SM	0.29/0.39	0.44/0.50	0.18/0.45	0.17/0.26
$g_{HWW}$ (%)	1.7/3.2	3.9	1.0/0.41	0.73/0.50	0.88/0.43	0.41/0.27
$g_{Hbb}$ (%)	3.7/5.3	3.8	1.1/0.78	1.2/0.99	0.92/0.63	0.64/0.56
$g_{Hcc}$ (%)	SM/SM	SM	2.0/1.8	4.1/4.0	2.0/1.8	1.3/1.2
$g_{Hgg}$ (%)	2.5/2.3	SM	1.4/1.1	1.5/1.3	1.0/0.76	0.89/0.82
$g_{H\tau\tau}$ (%)	1.9/3.4	6.2	1.1/0.81	1.4/1.3	0.91/0.66	0.66/0.57
$g_{H\mu\mu}$ (%)	4.3/5.5	3.6	4.2/4.1	4.4/4.4	3.9/3.8	3.9/3.8
$g_{H\gamma\gamma}$ (%)	1.8/3.6	SM	1.4/1.3	1.4/1.4	1.3/1.3	1.3/1.2
$g_{HZ\gamma}$ (%)	10./11.	SM	10./9.6	10./9.7	6.3/6.3	10./9.3
$g_{Htt}$ (%)	3.4/3.5	SM	3.1/3.2	3.2/3.2	3.1/3.1	3.1/3.1
$g_{HHH}$ (%)	50.	SM	49.	50.	49.	33./24.
$\Gamma_H$ (%)	SM	6.1	2.2	2.5	1.7	1.1
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}}$ (%)	1.9	SM	0.26	0.63	0.27	0.19
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{EXO}}$ (%)	SM (0.0)	SM (0.0)	1.8	2.7	1.1	1.0

this approach needs to make a number of assumptions on the underlying new physics. First, new physics is assumed to be heavy for the  $1/\Lambda^n$  expansion to make sense, which excludes a whole class of new physics models that include light particles. Second, new physics must be described by only one mass scale – a criterion that is not satisfied by the standard model. Third, it is assumed that  $\Lambda$  is large enough for dimension-six operators to dominate over all other operators, which restricts EFT analyses to an effective Lagrangian truncated to  $1/\Lambda^2$  terms. Last but not least, only a small subset of the 2499 dimension-six operators is assumed to affect Higgs measurements and is included in EFT Higgs analyses. The physics implications of these strong assumptions are not transparent. It can be anticipated that further work will be needed for the Higgs analyses, similar to what was done at LEP to express the measurements in an observable-based, model-independent framework.

Projections have been obtained for both approaches in the context of the Symposium for the European Strategy Update in Granada, in May 2019. Updated results can be found in Ref. [82], and are displayed in Table 2 for Higgs coupling precisions at the different low-energy Higgs factories, when combined with the projected HL-LHC precisions [63]. The Higgs capabilities of their energy-frontier upgrades, still combined with the HL-LHC projections, are compared in Table 3. Such studies do not exist yet for a high-energy muon collider. After completion of their proposed operation models (up to 365 GeV for FCC-ee, up to 1 TeV for ILC, and up to 3 TeV for CLIC), a substantial part of the  $e^+e^-$  collider Higgs physics programs is similar. There are, however, significant differences due to the variation of the production mode as a function of energy. Several remarks are in order.

**Table 3.** Precision on the Higgs boson couplings, from Ref. [82] in the  $\kappa$  framework (left) and in a global EFT fit (right), for the combination of each low-energy Higgs factory (ILC<sub>250</sub>, CLIC<sub>380</sub>, and FCC-ee) and their proposed upgrades at higher energies: ILC<sub>500 GeV</sub>, ILC<sub>500+1000 GeV</sub>, CLIC<sub>1.4+3 TeV</sub>, and the complete FCC integrated programme. All numbers are in % and indicate 68% C.L. sensitivities. Also indicated are the precision on the total decay width, and the 95% C.L. sensitivity on the “invisible” and “exotic” branching fractions. A precision similar to that achieved at high-energy linear colliders is reached with FCC-hh in less than one year of operation for all couplings, except the Higgs self-coupling for which a precision of 10% is reached in about 3 to 5 years [65] (with respect to a couple decades for ILC<sub>1000</sub> and CLIC)

Collider	ILC <sub>500</sub>	ILC <sub>1000</sub>	CLIC	FCC
$g_{HZZ}$ (%)	0.23/0.22	0.23/0.16	0.39/0.16	0.16/0.13
$g_{HWW}$ (%)	0.29/0.22	0.24/0.17	0.38/0.15	0.19/0.13
$g_{Hbb}$ (%)	0.56/0.52	0.47/0.43	0.53/0.38	0.48/0.44
$g_{Hcc}$ (%)	1.2/1.2	0.90/0.88	1.4/1.4	0.96/0.95
$g_{Hgg}$ (%)	0.85/0.79	0.63/0.55	0.86/0.75	0.50/0.49
$g_{H\tau\tau}$ (%)	0.64/0.58	0.54/0.49	0.82/0.73	0.46/0.46
$g_{H\mu\mu}$ (%)	3.9/3.9	3.6/3.5	3.5/3.5	0.43/0.42
$g_{H\gamma\gamma}$ (%)	1.2/1.2	1.1/1.1	1.2/1.1	0.31/0.34
$g_{HZ\gamma}$ (%)	10./6.8	10./6.7	5.7/3.7	0.70/0.70
$g_{Htt}$ (%)	2.8/2.9	1.4/1.5	2.1/2.1	0.96/1.6
$g_{HHH}$ (%)	27./27.	10/10	9./n.a.	3./4.
$\Gamma_H$ (%)	1.1	1.0	1.6	0.91
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{inv}}$ (%)	0.23	0.22	0.61	0.024
$\mathcal{B}_{\text{EXO}}$ (%)	1.4	1.4	2.4	1.0

- (i) Circular colliders operating at the maximum of the  $ZH$  cross section are very efficient Higgs factories, requiring for example  $\sim 9$  (5) GJ per Higgs boson for FCC-ee with 2 (4) IPs at 240 GeV, vs  $\sim 50$  GJ for the proposed ILC run plan at 250 GeV. The measurement of the total  $ZH$  cross section at FCC-ee provides the most precise determination of the  $g_{HZZ}$  coupling. Linear colliders running at higher energies progressively obtain better measurement of  $g_{HWW}$  from the  $H\nu_e\bar{\nu}_e$  cross section. The synergistic combination of a circular and a linear colliders offers the best test of the SM relationship between the Higgs couplings to the  $W$  and  $Z$  boson, i.e., a test of the  $SU(2)$  custodial symmetry in the Higgs sector. The full integrated FCC (ee-hh-eh) could achieve this test with a similar precision.
- (ii) Proton–proton collisions are qualitatively and quantitatively more effective to study the Higgs boson thoroughly at high energy, once the  $g_{HZZ}$  and  $ttZ$  couplings are determined in an absolute manner by (an)  $e^+e^-$  collider(s) operating at 240 GeV and above 350 GeV, respectively, and used as standard candles in  $pp$  collisions. The FCC integrated plan yields precision consistently smaller than 1% for all the couplings to gauge bosons and to fermions shown in Table 3, for the invisible and exotic branching fractions, and for the Higgs boson total width. With  $5 \times 10^{10}$  Higgs bosons produced, FCC-hh also gives the most sensitive measurements of the rare decays such as  $\mu\mu$ ,  $\gamma\gamma$ ,  $Z\gamma$ , and of the invisible width.
- (iii) The Higgs self-coupling can be obtained by two different methods, as discussed in Ref. [82]. The method with single Higgs production relies on the precise measurement of the  $ZH$  cross section, and provides a robust determination from at least two sufficiently

different energy points [86]. The need for these two energies is satisfied by the current operation model of FCC-ee, but also provides a clear opportunity for a synergistic combination of a circular collider (operating up to 240 GeV) and a linear collider (operating above 350 GeV) [93].

- (iv) A more precise determination of the Higgs self-coupling, to  $\pm 10\%$ , can be obtained either with higher-energy  $e^+e^-$  collisions from double Higgs production, at and above the  $ZHH$  cross-section maximum – or at high-energy hadron colliders. This is the realm of excellence of ILC at 1 TeV or CLIC at 3 TeV, but could also be achieved with an upgrade of FCC-ee based on Energy Recovery Linacs. A precision of  $\pm 3\%$  is possible at FCC-hh, which enjoys a wider phase space for double-Higgs production. For this important measurement, the different sources of systematic uncertainties in  $e^+e^-$  and  $pp$  collisions would also render their combination more robust than each individual result.
- (v) On the other side of the spectrum, FCC-ee offers the unique opportunity to measure the Higgs boson coupling to electrons through the resonant production process  $e^+e^- \rightarrow H$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 125$  GeV [79]. A precision of  $\pm 15\%$  on the Higgs boson SM coupling to the electron can be observed after three years with four interaction points. Because of the need of extremely high luminosity, combined with monochromatisation and continuous ppm centre-of-mass energy control, such a measurement is not possible with linear colliders. It is also out of reach of hadron colliders.

In summary, circular colliders provide both the highest luminosity and the best energy efficiency in  $e^+e^-$  collisions for  $\sqrt{s}$  up to 400 GeV, and the only possibility to deliver proton–proton collisions at 100 TeV and beyond. This interplay is essential for a broad spectrum of unique Higgs measurement, and makes the FCC complex a formidable tool of investigation. The combined sensitivity of FCC-ee and FCC-hh to deviations in the SM couplings and self-coupling, and to the production of new particles coupled to the Higgs, is a portal to physics beyond the SM, and can conclusively test the nature of the cosmological electroweak phase transition [64].

## 6. Outlook and conclusion

Particle physics has arrived at an important moment of its history. Half a century after having been proposed on purely theoretical grounds, the recent discovery of the Higgs boson with a mass of 125 GeV at LHC, exactly in the range from 114.4 to 132 GeV predicted by LEP and Tevatron precision measurements, completed the spectrum of particles and their interactions, which have constituted the Standard Model for several decades. This model has now become a consistent and predictive theory, which has so far proven successful in describing all phenomena accessible to collider experiments. In particular, today’s measurements of the Higgs boson properties are consistent, within still large uncertainties, with the SM expectations.

This achievement does not stop the need for further exploration. Many questions remain unanswered, with the deep origin of the Higgs boson very high on the list. Is the Higgs boson an elementary particle, or is it a composite state of confined particles? What mechanism generates its mass and self-interaction, leading to electroweak symmetry breaking and to the generation of particle masses? What was the nature of the phase transition that led, in the early Universe, to electroweak symmetry breaking? Addressing these questions requires a detailed cartography of the Higgs boson and of the electroweak interactions above the weak scale, with the best possible precision to expose new dynamics.

High-energy lepton and hadron colliders are unique tools to study the Higgs boson in a controlled environment. The cornerstone of the Higgs measurement programme is the direct and model-independent determination of its coupling to the  $Z$  boson. This measurement, unique to lepton colliders, is optimally performed at  $\sqrt{s}$  around 240 GeV. The measurement of the  $H \rightarrow ZZ^*$

decay then provide the total Higgs width. Absolute values of the other Higgs couplings follow, and can be done best with a high-energy hadron collider.

There is no doubt that a worldwide plan including both a lepton and a hadron collider will pose considerable challenges, but it would offer the particle physics community complementary and synergistic programs with a long-term vision, as well as answers to the fundamental questions that the discovery of the Higgs boson has brought to the forefront.

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