

Rare Higgs three body decay induced by top-Higgs FCNC coupling in the littlest Higgs model with T-parity*

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Abstract: Motivated by the search for flavor-changing neutral current (FCNC) top quark decays at the LHC, we calculate the rare Higgs three body decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ induced by top-Higgs FCNC coupling in the littlest Higgs model with T-parity (LHT). We find that the branching ratio of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the LHT model can reach $O(10^{-7})$ in the allowed parameter space.

Keywords: Higgs, littlest Higgs model with T-parity, rare decay

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1 Introduction

The discovery of a Higgs-like resonance near 125 GeV [1] at the LHC is a great triumph for theoretical and experimental particle physics. So far, most measurements of this new particle are consistent with the Standard Model (SM) prediction, but the experimental investigation of this new particle has only just begun. It is not impossible that more in-depth studies will reveal non-SM properties.

Compared with normal decay modes, flavour-changing neutral current (FCNC) decays are highly suppressed in the SM due to the Glashow-Iliopoulos-Maiani (GIM) mechanism [2]. So, any large enhancements in these branching ratios will be smoking-gun signals for physics beyond the SM.

As the heaviest known elementary particle, the top quark is widely speculated to be sensitive to the electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) mechanism and new physics at TeV-scale. An interesting possibility is the presence of FCNC interactions between the Higgs boson and the top quark. This interaction not only participates in the top quark FCNC decays [3], but also participates in the Higgs FCNC decays [4].

Except for the dominant decay mode $H \rightarrow b\bar{b}$, the so called below-threshold decay modes induced by the

HVV ($V = W; Z$) couplings are also very important, with the decay $H \rightarrow VV$ having one (or two) V 's off-shell and decaying to fermions. In some new physics, the decay mode of Higgs bosons is much richer and 3-body decays may be even more important. Now, almost all Higgs boson decay modes have been measured at the LHC, but they are plagued by large SM backgrounds. So, the rare Higgs 3-body decays may bring us more surprises. In some new physics models, the GIM suppression can be relaxed and/or new particles can contribute to the loops, so that the top-Higgs FCNC couplings tqH , especially the $t\bar{c}H$ coupling, can be enhanced by orders of magnitude larger than those of the SM [5].

In this paper, we study the rare Higgs 3-body decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ induced by the top-Higgs FCNC coupling in the littlest Higgs Model with T-parity (LHT). This decay includes the FCNC vertex $t\bar{c}H$, which receives the contribution from the new T-odd gauge bosons and T-odd fermions. The results of this process will help to test the SM and probe the LHT model.

The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 we give a brief review of the LHT model related to our work. In Section 3 we calculate the rare Higgs 3-body decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ induced by the top-Higgs FCNC coupling in the unitary gauge under current constraints. Finally, we draw our conclusions in Section 4.

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For the down-type quarks and charged leptons, there are two possible ways to construct the Yukawa interaction, which are denoted as Case A and Case B [8]. At order $\mathcal{O}(v_{\text{SM}}^4/f^4)$, the corresponding corrections to the Higgs couplings are given by ($d \equiv d, s, b, l_i^\pm$)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{g_{\text{h}dd}}{g_{\text{h}dd}^{\text{SM}}} &= 1 - \frac{1}{4} \frac{v_{\text{SM}}^2}{f^2} + \frac{7}{32} \frac{v_{\text{SM}}^4}{f^4} & \text{case A} \\ \frac{g_{\text{h}dd}}{g_{\text{h}dd}^{\text{SM}}} &= 1 - \frac{5}{4} \frac{v_{\text{SM}}^2}{f^2} - \frac{17}{32} \frac{v_{\text{SM}}^4}{f^4} & \text{case B} \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

3 Branching ratio for $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the LHT model

The Feynman diagrams of the tree level $H \rightarrow W^+ b \bar{c}$ and the rare decay $H \rightarrow W^+ b \bar{c}$ are shown respectively in Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, which includes the W^+ and W^- modes. The rare Higgs decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ is mediated by the same

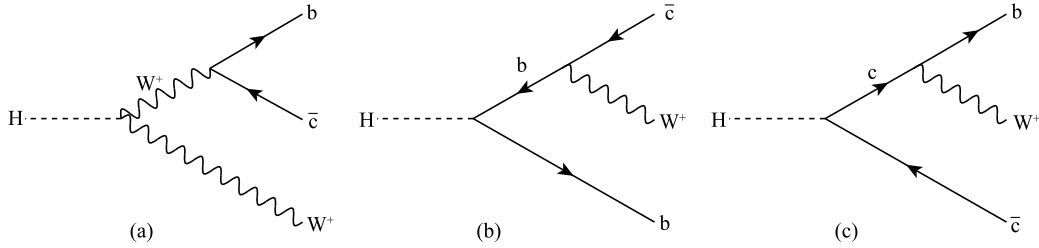


Fig. 1. Feynman diagrams of the decay $H \rightarrow W^+ b \bar{c}$ at tree level.

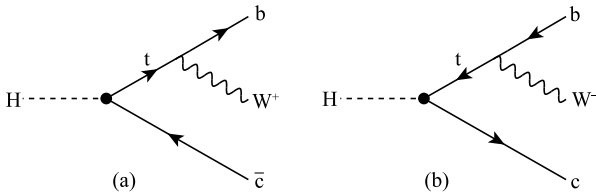


Fig. 2. Feynman diagrams of the rare decay $H \rightarrow W^+ b \bar{c}$.

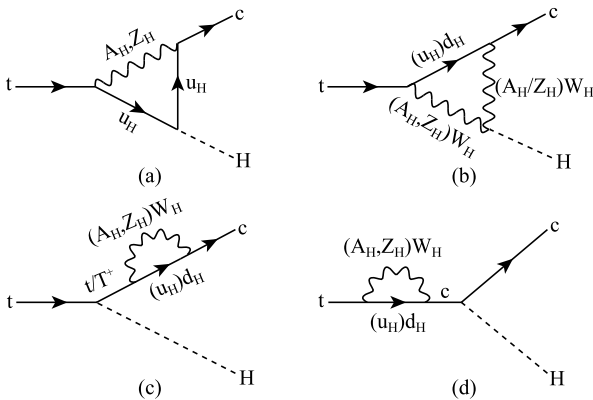


Fig. 3. Feynman diagrams of the LHT one-loop correction to vertex V_{tcH} in unitary gauge.

Yukawa coupling that leads to the $t \rightarrow cH$ decay [9], so we show the Feynman diagrams of the LHT one-loop correction to vertex V_{tcH} in unitary gauge in Fig. 3, where the Goldstone bosons do not appear. We can see that the flavor changing interactions between SM quarks and mirror quarks are mediated by the heavy gauge bosons W_H^\pm , Z_H , and A_H . We find that dominant contribution to the branching ratio of the decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ is from the interference between Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. Each loop diagram is composed of some scalar loop functions [10], which are calculated by using LOOPTOOLS [11].

In our numerical calculations, we take the SM parameters as follows [12]

$$\begin{aligned} G_F &= 1.16637 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}, \quad \sin^2 \theta_W = 0.231, \\ \alpha_e &= 1/128, \quad m_H = 125 \text{ GeV}, \\ m_c &= 1.275 \text{ GeV}, \quad m_b = 4.18 \text{ GeV}, \\ m_t &= 173.2 \text{ GeV}, \quad M_W = 80.385 \text{ GeV}. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

The LHT parameters related to our calculations are the scale f , the mixing parameter x_L , the Yukawa couplings κ_i of the mirror quarks and the parameters in the matrices V_{Hu}, V_{Hd} . Due to the weak influence of the mixing parameter x_L , we take $x_L = 0.1$ as an example in our calculations. For the mirror quark masses, we get $m_{u_H^i} = m_{d_H^i}$ at $\mathcal{O}(v/f)$ and further assume

$$\begin{aligned} m_{u_H^1} &= m_{u_H^2} = m_{d_H^1} = m_{d_H^2} = M_{12} = \sqrt{2} \kappa_{12} f, \\ m_{u_H^3} &= m_{d_H^3} = M_3 = \sqrt{2} \kappa_3 f. \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

For the Yukawa couplings, the search for mono-jet events at the LHC Run-1 [14] gives the constraint $\kappa_i \geq 0.6$. Considering the constraints in Ref. [13], we scan over the free parameters f , κ_{12} and κ_3 within the following region

$$500 \text{ GeV} \leq f \leq 2000 \text{ GeV}, \quad 0.6 \leq \kappa_{12} \leq 3, \quad 0.6 \leq \kappa_3 \leq 3.$$

For the parameters in the matrices V_{Hu}, V_{Hd} , we follow Ref. [15] to consider two scenarios as follows:

1) Scenario I: $V_{Hd} = I$, $V_{Hu} = V_{\text{CKM}}^\dagger$;

2) Scenario II: $s_{23}^d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$, $s_{12}^d = s_{13}^d = 0$, $\delta_{12}^d = \delta_{23}^d =$

$$\delta_{13}^d = 0.$$

Furthermore, we will consider the constraint from the global fit of the current Higgs data and the electroweak precision observables (EWPOs) [16]. In Fig. 4, we present the excluded regions by the global fit of the Higgs data, EWPOs and R_b in the $\kappa \sim f$ plane of the LHT model for case A and case B, where the parameter R is marginalized over. In this global fit, the three generation Yukawa couplings κ_i are considered to be degenerate, which will give a stronger constraint than the nondegenerate case here.

In Fig. 5, we show the branching ratios of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the $\kappa_3 \sim f$ plane for two scenarios with excluded regions of case A and case B, where the W^+ and W^- modes have been summed. From the left-hand panel of Fig. 4, the branching ratio of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in scenario I can reach 1×10^{-7} at 2σ level for case A. This branching ratio will become larger under the constraint of case B. From the right-hand panel of Fig. 5, we can see that the branching ratio of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in scenario II can reach 4×10^{-7} at 2σ level, which is three or even four times larger than that in scenario I. Comparing the two scenarios, we find that the enhanced effects come from the large departures from the SM caused by the mixing matrices in scenario II. From the two panels of Fig. 5, the large branching ratios mainly lie in the upper-left and lower-left corners of the contour figures, where the scale f is small and the Yukawa coupling κ_3 is either too small or too large.

According to Ref. [15], the branching ratio of $t \rightarrow cH$ is enhanced by the mass splitting between the three generation mirror quarks. The same thing will happen to the branching ratios of $H \rightarrow Wbc$. In order to see this dependence, we show the branching ratios of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the $|M_3 - M_{12}| \sim f$ plane for the two scenarios in Fig. 6. We can see that the small branching ratios correspond to the region that has small mass splitting $|M_3 - M_{12}|$ values.

The largest branching ratios lie in the upper-left corners of the contour figure with small f and $|M_3 - M_{12}|$ of $1 \sim 2$ TeV, rather than the regions that have the largest $|M_3 - M_{12}|$, because the branching ratios are suppressed by the high scale f .

For observability, the SM decay $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow Wbc$ is an important irreducible background that will generate the same final state. Due to the off-shell top in the signal decay $H \rightarrow t^*c \rightarrow Wbc$, we can use the invariant mass cut $|M_{Wb} - m_t| > 20$ GeV to isolate the signal. Besides, the c-jet in our signal comes from the Higgs decay, which is usually harder than that in the SM background $H \rightarrow WW^* \rightarrow Wbc$. Thus, we can use the high transverse momentum p_T^c cut to suppress the background.

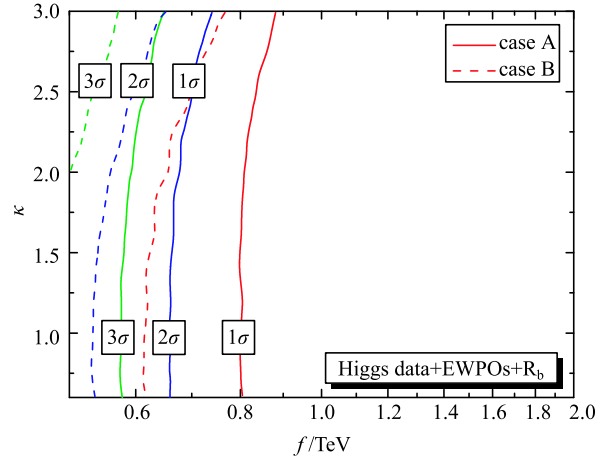


Fig. 4. Excluded regions (above each contour) in the $\kappa \sim f$ plane of the LHT model for case A and case B, where the parameter R is marginalized over. The solid lines from right to left respectively correspond to 1σ , 2σ and 3σ exclusion limits for case A, and the dashed lines correspond to case B.

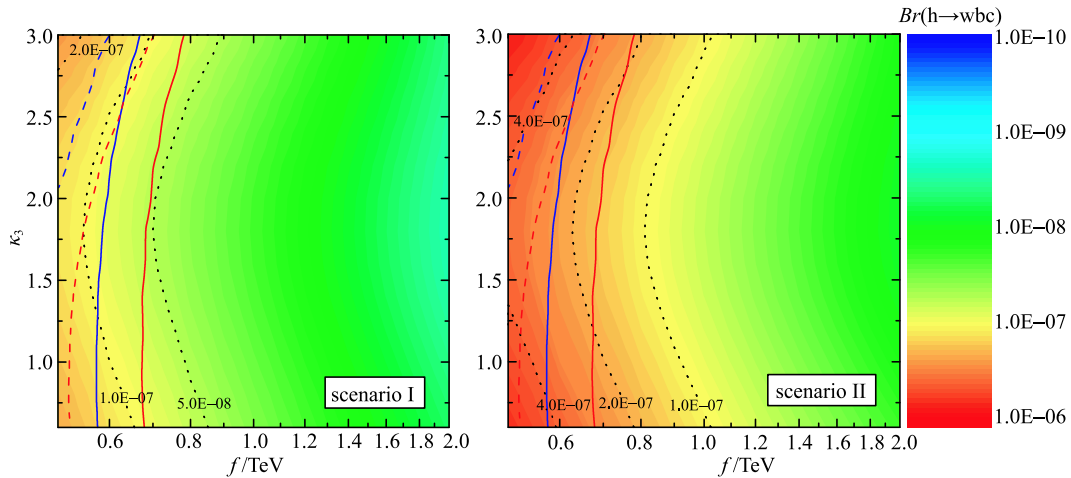


Fig. 5. (color online) Branching ratios of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the $\kappa_3 \sim f$ plane for the two scenarios with excluded regions of case A and case B, respectively. The solid lines and dashed lines respectively correspond to 1σ and 2σ exclusion limits for case A and case B as shown in Fig. 4.

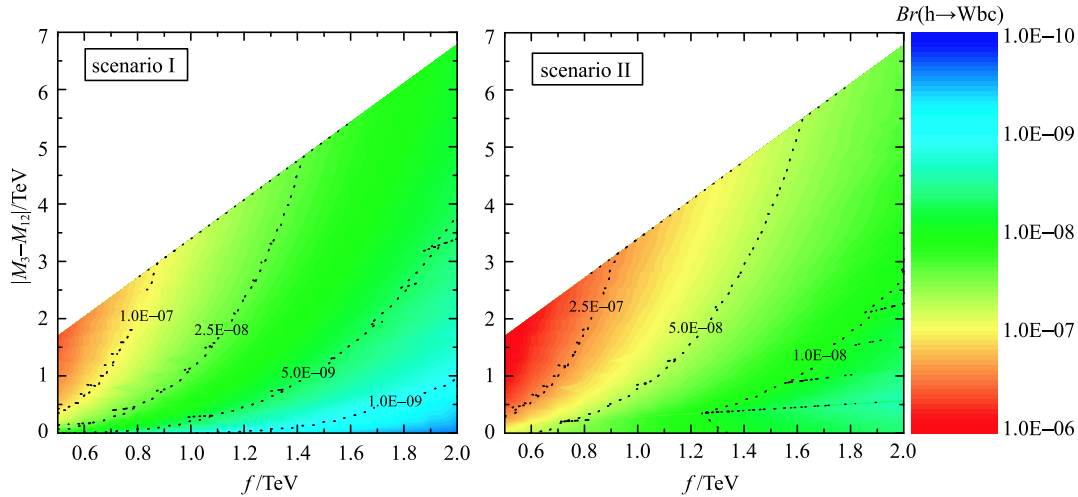


Fig. 6. (color online) Branching ratios of $H \rightarrow Wbc$ in the $|M_3 - M_{12}| \sim f$ plane for the two scenarios.

Due to the same Yukawa couplings that lead to the $t \rightarrow cH$ decays, the decays $H \rightarrow t^*c \rightarrow Wbc$ can be indirectly constrained by ATLAS and CMS searches [17]: $Br(H \rightarrow t^*c \rightarrow Wbc) \leq 5.73 \times 10^{-4}$, where the W^+ and W^- modes have been summed over. At the LHC, the $t\bar{t}(\rightarrow WbWb)$ background is undoubtedly a challenge, which will complicate the analysis for detecting the decay $H \rightarrow t^*c \rightarrow Wbc$. Given this, a linear collider with clean background may be an ideal place for investigating this process. For example, a future muon collider could test the FCNC decay $t \rightarrow cH$ via Higgs decay $H \rightarrow t^*c \rightarrow Wbc$

down to values of $Br(t \rightarrow cH) \sim 5 \times 10^{-3}$ [18].

4 Conclusions

In this paper, we have calculated the rare Higgs three body decay $H \rightarrow Wbc$ induced by top-Higgs FCNC coupling in the LHT model. According to the parameters in the mixing matrices, we considered two scenarios and found that the branching ratio for $H \rightarrow Wbc$ can reach $\mathcal{O}(10^{-7})$ in the allowed parameter space.

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