Possible New Higgs Bosons at ~ 400 GeV

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Abstract

Several searches for Beyond the Standard Model (BSM) Higgs bosons at the LHC show an excess at the level of $2-3\,\sigma$ at a mass scale of $m_\phi \sim 400$ GeV. ϕ can either be a CP-even Higgs boson, H, or a CP-odd Higgs boson, A. The respective search channels are $pp \to H/A \to t\bar{t}$, $pp \to H/A \to \tau^+\tau^-$ and $pp \to A \to Zh$, observed at CMS, ATLAS and ATLAS/CMS, respectively. We derive/obtain best-fit cross sections and uncertainties for these excesses. Within the Next-to-2 Higgs Doublet Model (N2HDM) and the Next-to Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model (NMSSM) we analyze to what extent one, two or three of these excesses can be fit simultaneously in the two models. We find ...

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1 Introduction

- Higgs is a big success, fits in the SM, but also in BSM models.
- Possible BSM models: 2HDM, N2HDM, . . . , MSSM, NMSSM, . . .
- LHC searches for BSM Higgs bosons. Excesses in various channels at the $2 - 3\,\sigma$ level. List channels etc.
- Main idea of the paper: check whether the N2HDM and NMSSM can accomodate one, two or three of these excesses simultaneously.

2 The Excesses

More details on the excesses, best-fit cross sections and uncertainties, χ^2 function.

$$\chi^2_{400} := \dots \tag{1}$$

3 The models

We list the models and the codes that are used to evaluate them.
Maybe we can put some general considerations about which parameter spaces are preferred to accomodate the excesses.

3.1 The N2HDM

3.2 The NMSSM

3.3 Experimental constraints

- Theoretical constraints
- LHC rate measurements of h_{125}: `HiggsSignals`
- BSM Higgs searches: `HiggsBounds`
- Flavor constraints: `SuperIso`
  Do we really take this into account?
- Not taken into account: DM constraints. Explain why.

3.4 Prediction of χ^2_{400} in the N2HDM and NMSSM

4 Results

5 Conclusions

Acknowledgments

We thank M. Kado for helpful discussions. The work of S.H. is supported in part by the Spanish Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI) and the EU Fondo Europeo de Desarrollo Regional (FEDER) through the project FPA2016-78645-P and in part by the "Spanish Red Consolider MultiDark" FPA2017-90566-REDC, in part by the MEINCOP Spain under contract FPA2016-78022-P and in part by the AEI through the grant IFT Centro de Excelencia Severo Ochoa SEV-2016-0597.

A Derivation of best-fit cross sections and uncertainties

A.1 The very simple recipe

Assuming a gaussian signal, one can extract the expected signal from the value of the 95% CL exclusion limit $L^{95}_{\rm exp}$ and the corresponding $1\,\sigma$ uncertainty $s^{95}_{\rm exp}$. The one-sided 95% CL for a normal distribution lies 1.64 standard deviations from the mean, so that the central value for the expected signal cross section $\sigma_{\rm exp}$ is given by

$$\sigma_{\rm exp} = L^{95}_{\rm exp} - 1.64 s^{95}_{\rm exp}\,. \tag{2}$$

The same is true for the central value of the observed signal cross section $\sigma_{\rm obs}$. Given the observed 95% CL exclusion limit $L^{95}_{\rm obs}$ together with the $1\,\sigma$ uncertainty $s^{95}_{\rm obs}$, and again assuming a gaussian signal shape, we can write down the relation

$$\sigma_{\rm obs} = L^{95}_{\rm obs} - 1.64 s^{95}_{\rm obs}\,. \tag{3}$$

Unfortunately, the uncertainty of the observed signal is not shown in the plots. However, under the conservative assumption that

$$s^{95}_{\rm obs} = s^{95}_{\rm exp}\,, \tag{4}$$

we can still derive a value for the signal cross section $\sigma_{\rm sig}$, i.e., the cross section from BSM physics that amounts for the excess between observed events and expected events based on the SM hypothesis. In our analysis, $\sigma_{\rm sig}$ is the cross section given by the NMSSM pseudoscalar and scalar resonances. Under the assumption that interference of NMSSM contributions and SM background is negligible, we know that

$$\sigma_{\rm obs} = \sigma_{\rm exp} + \sigma_{\rm sig}\,. \tag{5}$$

m [GeV]	$\sigma_{\rm sig}^{gg}$ [fb]	$\sigma_{\rm sig}^{b\bar{b}}$ [fb]
400	89 ± 33	103 ± 37
420	118 ± 27	171 ± 27
440	114 ± 23	183 ± 27
460	50 ± 20	109 ± 21
480	11 ± 17	50 ± 19

Table 1: Signal cross sections for the Zh excess assuming gg production or $b\bar{b}$ production as derived following the very simple recipe.

Thus, we find that $\sigma_{\rm obs}$ is simply given by the difference between the observed and expected exclusion limits,

$$\sigma_{\rm sig} = L_{\rm obs}^{95} - L_{\rm exp}^{95}\,. \tag{6}$$

Note that this definition has the intuitively desired properties. On the one hand it grows with the number of excess events, and on the other hand it is exactly zero in case the expected and the observed exclusion limits coincide, meaning that there is no excess to be explained by BSM physics.

For the uncertainty of the signal cross section $s_{\rm sig}$ we will assume that it is given by

$$s_{\rm sig} = \frac{s_{\rm exp}^{95}}{1.64}\,, \tag{7}$$

because [insert explanation here].

Based on this simple recipe, we find for the Zh excess the signal cross sections as shown in Tab. 3, given for the mass range in which the excess was observed.

A.2 Advanced approach and its connection to the simple ansatz

The observed 95% CL exclusion limit on a given cross section, $\sigma_{\rm obs,95}$, can be used to estimate its central value. Assuming that the signal uncertainty is dominated by statistical fluctuations, i.e. $\sqrt{N_{\rm evt}} = \sqrt{\alpha\ \sigma_{\rm obs,95}}$, the total uncertainty reads

$$\Delta_{\rm obs,95} = \sqrt{\alpha\ \sigma_{\rm obs,95} + \Delta_{\rm bkg}^2} \tag{8}$$

where $\Delta_{\rm bkg}$denotes the background uncertainty. As the one-sided 95% CL of a normal distribution lies 1.645 standard deviations from its mean the central value for the expected signal cross section $\sigma_{\rm obs}$and its uncertainty are given by

$$\sigma_{\rm obs} = \sigma_{\rm obs,95} - 1.645\ \Delta_{\rm obs,95} \tag{9}$$

$$\Delta_{\rm obs} = \sqrt{\alpha\ \sigma_{\rm obs} + \Delta_{\rm bkg}^2}\,. \tag{10}$$

In order to estimate α and $\Delta_{\rm bkg}$, we can construct the following set of equations

$$\sigma_{95} = 1.645\ \Delta_{95} \tag{11}$$

	$ggH\tau\tau$ (ATLAS)	$bbH\tau\tau$ (ATLAS)	$ggZH$ (ATLAS)	$bbZH$ (ATLAS)
σ_{95}[fb]	40.0	30.6	139	155
$\sigma_{95,+1}$[fb]	53.8	41.9	185	207
$\sigma_{95,+2}$[fb]	67.9	54.9	231	258
$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs},95}$[fb]	82.9	77.2	228	258
$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs}}\pm\ \Delta_{\mathrm{obs}}$(full) [fb]	27.0 ± 20.5	30.6 ± 18.6	53 ± 56	62 ± 64
$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs}}\pm\ \Delta_{\mathrm{obs}}$(1.645) [fb]	60.2 ± 24.3	58.6 ± 18.6	152 ± 85	173 ± 94
$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs}}\pm\ \Delta_{\mathrm{obs}}$(diff) [fb]	42.9 ± 13.8	46.6 ± 11.3	89 ± 64	103 ± 52
$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs}}\pm\ \Delta_{\mathrm{obs}}$(georg) [fb]	30.3 ± 22.2	34.3 ± 19.3	60.6 ± 65.6	70.6 ± 74.2

Table 2: Observed signal cross sections

$$\Delta_{95}^2 = \alpha\ \sigma_{95} + \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}}^2 \tag{12}$$
$$\sigma_{95,+1} = 1.645\ \Delta_{95,+1} + \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}} \tag{13}$$
$$\Delta_{95,+1}^2 = \alpha\ \sigma_{95,+1} + \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}}^2 \tag{14}$$
$$\sigma_{95,+2} = 1.645\ \Delta_{95,+2} + 2\ \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}} \tag{15}$$
$$\Delta_{95,+2}^2 = \alpha\ \sigma_{95,+2} + \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}}^2\,. \tag{16}$$

Equations (9) and (10) obtain a very simple form if we are assuming that the signal uncertainty can be neglected compared to that of the background. In this case, σ_{95}= 1.645 Δ_{bkg}, and so

$$\sigma_{\mathrm{obs}} = \sigma_{\mathrm{obs},95} - \sigma_{95} \tag{17}$$
$$\Delta_{\mathrm{obs}} = \Delta_{\mathrm{bkg}} = \sigma_{95}/1.645\,. \tag{18}$$

References

[1] X. Cid Vidal *et al.*, CERN Yellow Rep. Monogr. **7** (2019), 585-865 [arXiv:1812.07831 [hep-ph]].