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# SUSY QCD corrections to Higgs- $b$ Production: Is the $\Delta_b$ Approximation Accurate?

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## Abstract

The associated production of a Higgs boson with a  $b$  quark is a discovery channel for the lightest MSSM neutral Higgs boson. We consider the SUSY QCD contributions from squarks and gluinos and discuss the decoupling properties of these effects. A detailed comparison of our exact  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$  results with those of a widely used effective Lagrangian approach, the  $\Delta_b$  approximation, is presented. The  $\Delta_b$  approximation is shown to accurately reproduce the exact one-loop SQCD result to within a few percent over a wide range of parameter space.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Once a light Higgs-like particle is discovered it will be critical to determine if it is the Higgs Boson predicted by the Standard Model. The minimal supersymmetric Standard Model (MSSM) presents a comparison framework in which to examine the properties of a putative Higgs candidate. The MSSM Higgs sector contains 5 Higgs bosons—2 neutral bosons,  $h$  and  $H$ , a pseudoscalar boson,  $A$ , and 2 charged bosons,  $H^\pm$ . At the tree level the theory is described by just 2 parameters, which are conveniently chosen to be  $M_A$ , the mass of the pseudoscalar boson, and  $\tan\beta$ , the ratio of vacuum expectation values of the 2 neutral Higgs bosons. Even when radiative corrections are included, the theory is highly predictive[1–3].

In the MSSM, the production mechanisms for the Higgs bosons can be significantly different from in the Standard Model. For large values of  $\tan\beta$ , the heavier Higgs bosons,  $A$  and  $H$ , are predominantly produced in association with  $b$  quarks. Even for  $\tan\beta \sim 5$ , the production rate in association with  $b$  quarks is similar to that from gluon fusion for  $A$  and  $H$  production[19]. For the lighter Higgs boson,  $h$ , for  $\tan\beta \gtrsim 7$  the dominant production mechanism at both the Tevatron and the LHC is production with  $b$  quarks for light  $M_A$  ( $\lesssim 200$  GeV), where the  $b\bar{b}h$  coupling is enhanced. Both the Tevatron[4] and the LHC experiments[5] have presented limits Higgs production in association with  $b$  quarks, searching for the decays  $h \rightarrow \tau^+\tau^-$  and  $b\bar{b}^1$ . These limits are obtained in the context of the MSSM are sensitive to the  $b$ -squark and gluino loop corrections which we consider here.

The rates for  $bh$  associated production at the LHC and the Tevatron have been extensively studied[8–18] and the NLO QCD correction are well understood, both in the 4- and 5-flavor number parton schemes[9, 11, 15]. In the 4- flavor number scheme, the lowest order processes for producing a Higgs boson and a  $b$  quark are  $gg \rightarrow b\bar{b}h$  and  $q\bar{q} \rightarrow b\bar{b}h$ [8, 12, 17]. In the 5- flavor number scheme, the lowest order process is  $bg \rightarrow bh$  ( $\bar{b}g \rightarrow \bar{b}h$ ). The two schemes represent different orderings of perturbation theory and calculations in the two schemes produce rates which are in qualitative agreement[11, 19]. In this paper, we use the 5-flavor number scheme for simplicity. The resummation of threshold logarithms[20], electroweak corrections[21, 22] and SUSY QCD corrections[23] have also been computed for

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<sup>1</sup> The expected sensitivities of ATLAS and CMS to  $b$  Higgs associated production are described in Refs. [6, 7].

$bh$  production in the 5– flavor number scheme.

Here, we focus on the role of squark and gluino loops. The properties of the SUSY QCD corrections to the  $b\bar{b}h$  vertex, both for the decay  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [24–27] and the production,  $b\bar{b} \rightarrow h$ [12, 27–29], were computed long ago. The contributions from  $b$  squarks and gluinos to the lightest MSSM Higgs boson mass are known at 2-loops[30, 31], while the 2-loop SQCD contributions to the  $b\bar{b}h$  vertex is known in the limit in which the Higgs mass is much smaller than the squark and gluino masses[32, 33]. The contributions of squarks and gluinos to the on-shell  $b\bar{b}h$  vertex are non-decoupling for heavy squark and gluino masses and decoupling is only achieved when the pseudoscalar mass,  $M_A$ , also becomes large.

An effective Lagrangian approach, the  $\Delta_b$  approximation[25, 26], can be used to approximate the SQCD contributions to the on-shell  $b\bar{b}h$  vertex and to resum the  $(\alpha_s \tan \beta / M_{SUSY})^n$  enhanced terms. The numerical accuracy of the  $\Delta_b$  effective Lagrangian approach has been examined for a number of cases. The 2–loop contributions to the lightest MSSM Higgs boson mass of  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_b \alpha_s)$  were computed in Refs. [30] and [31], and it was found that the majority of these corrections could be absorbed into a 1–loop contribution by defining an effective  $b$  quark mass using the  $\Delta_b$  approach. The sub-leading contributions to the Higgs boson mass (those not absorbed into  $\Delta_b$ ) are then of  $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ GeV})$ . The  $\Delta_b$  approach also yields an excellent approximation to the SQCD corrections for the decay process  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ [27]. It is particularly interesting to study the accuracy of the  $\Delta_b$  approximation for production processes where one of the  $b$  quarks is off-shell. The SQCD contributions from squarks and gluinos to the inclusive Higgs production rate in association with  $b$  quarks has been studied extensively in the 4FNS in Ref. [37], where the the lowest order contribution is  $gg \rightarrow b\bar{b}h$ . In the 4FNS, the inclusive cross section including the exact 1-loop SQCD corrections is reproduced to within a few percent using the  $\Delta_b$  approximation. However, the accuracy of the  $\Delta_b$  approximation for the MSSM neutral Higgs boson production in the 5FNS has been studied for only a small set of MSSM parameters in Ref. [23]. The major new result of this paper is a detailed study of the accuracy of the  $\Delta_b$  approach in the 5FNS for the  $bg \rightarrow bh$  production process. In this case, one of the  $b$  quarks is off-shell and there are contributions which are not contained in the effective Lagrangian approach.

The plan of the paper is as follows: Section 2 contains a brief review of the MSSM Higgs and  $b$  squark sectors and also a review of the effective Lagrangian approximation. The calculation of Ref. [23] is summarized in Section 2. We include SQCD contributions to

$bh$  production which are enhanced by  $m_b \tan \beta$  which were omitted in Ref. [23]. Analytic results for the SQCD corrections to  $bg \rightarrow bh$  in the extreme mixing scenarios in the  $b$  squark sector are presented in Section 3. Section 4 contains numerical results for the  $\sqrt{s} = 7$  TeV LHC. Finally, our conclusions are summarized in Section 5. Detailed analytic results are relegated to a series of appendices.

## II. BASICS

### A. MSSM Framework

In the simplest version of the MSSM there are two Higgs doublets,  $H_u$  and  $H_d$ , which break the electroweak symmetry and give masses to the  $W$  and  $Z$  gauge bosons. The neutral Higgs boson masses are given at tree level by,

$$M_{h,H}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ M_A^2 + M_Z^2 \mp \sqrt{(M_A^2 + M_Z^2)^2 - 4M_A^2 M_Z^2 \cos^2 2\beta} \right], \quad (1)$$

and the angle,  $\alpha$ , which diagonalizes the neutral Higgs mass is

$$\tan 2\alpha = \tan 2\beta \left( \frac{M_A^2 + M_Z^2}{M_A^2 - M_Z^2} \right). \quad (2)$$

In practice, the relations of Eqs. 1 and 2 receive large radiative corrections which must be taken into account in numerical studies. We use the program FeynHiggs[34–36] to generate the Higgs masses and an effective mixing angle,  $\alpha_{eff}$ , which incorporates higher order effects.

The scalar partners of the left- and right- handed  $b$  quarks,  $\tilde{b}_L$  and  $\tilde{b}_R$ , are not mass eigenstates, but mix according to,

$$L_M = -(\tilde{b}_L^*, \tilde{b}_R^*) M_b^2 \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{b}_L \\ \tilde{b}_R \end{pmatrix}. \quad (3)$$

The  $\tilde{b}$  squark mass matrix is,

$$M_b^2 = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{m}_L^2 & m_b X_b \\ m_b X_b & \tilde{m}_R^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (4)$$

and we define,

$$\begin{aligned} X_b &= A_b - \mu \tan \beta \\ \tilde{m}_L^2 &= M_Q^2 + m_b^2 + M_Z^2 \cos 2\beta (I_3^b - Q_b \sin^2 \theta_W) \\ \tilde{m}_R^2 &= M_D^2 + m_b^2 + M_Z^2 \cos 2\beta Q_b \sin^2 \theta_W. \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

$M_{Q,D}$  are the soft SUSY breaking masses,  $I_3^b = -1/2$ , and  $Q_b = -1/3$ . The parameter  $A_b$  is the trilinear scalar coupling of the soft supersymmetry breaking Lagrangian and  $\mu$  is the Higgsino mass parameter. The  $b$  squark mass eigenstates are  $\tilde{b}_1$  and  $\tilde{b}_2$  and define the  $b$ -squark mixing angle,  $\tilde{\theta}_b$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{b}_1 &= \cos \tilde{\theta}_b \tilde{b}_L + \sin \tilde{\theta}_b \tilde{b}_R \\ \tilde{b}_2 &= -\sin \tilde{\theta}_b \tilde{b}_L + \cos \tilde{\theta}_b \tilde{b}_R.\end{aligned}\tag{6}$$

At tree level,

$$\sin 2\tilde{\theta}_b = \frac{2m_b(A_b - \mu \tan \beta)}{M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 - M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2}\tag{7}$$

and the sbottom mass eigenstates are,

$$M_{\tilde{b}_1, \tilde{b}_2}^2 = \frac{1}{2} \left[ \tilde{m}_L^2 + \tilde{m}_R^2 \mp \sqrt{(\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2)^2 + 4m_b^2 X_b^2} \right].\tag{8}$$

## B. $\Delta_b$ Approximation: The Effective Lagrangian Approach

Loop corrections which are enhanced by powers of  $\alpha_s \tan \beta$  can be included in an effective Lagrangian approach. At tree level, there is no  $\bar{\psi}_L b_R H_u$  coupling in the MSSM, but such a coupling arises at one loop and gives an effective interaction[25–27]<sup>2</sup>,

$$L_{eff} = -\lambda_b \bar{\psi}_L \left( H_d + \frac{\Delta_b}{\tan \beta} H_u \right) b_R + h.c. \quad .\tag{9}$$

Eq. 9 shifts the  $b$  quark mass from its tree level value,<sup>3</sup>

$$m_b \rightarrow \frac{\lambda_b v_1}{\sqrt{2}} (1 + \Delta_b),\tag{10}$$

and also implies that the Yukawa couplings of the Higgs bosons to the  $b$  quark are shifted from the tree level predictions. This shift of the Yukawa couplings can be included with an effective Lagrangian approach[26, 27],

$$L_{eff} = -\frac{m_b}{v_{SM}} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \Delta_b} \right) \left( -\frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta_b}{\tan \beta \tan \alpha} \right) \bar{b} b h.\tag{11}$$

The Lagrangian of Eq. 11 has been shown to sum all terms of  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s \tan \beta)^n$  for large  $\tan \beta$ [25, 26].<sup>4</sup> This effective Lagrangian has been used to compute the SQCD corrections

<sup>2</sup> The neutral components of the Higgs bosons receive vacuum expectation values:  $\langle H_d^0 \rangle = \frac{v_1}{\sqrt{2}}$ ,  $\langle H_u^0 \rangle = \frac{v_2}{\sqrt{2}}$ .

<sup>3</sup>  $v_{SM} = (\sqrt{2}G_F)^{-1/2}$ ,  $v_1 = v_{SM} \cos \beta$

<sup>4</sup> It is also possible to sum the contributions which are proportional to  $A_b$ , but these terms are less important numerically[27].

to both the inclusive production process,  $b\bar{b} \rightarrow h$ , and the decay process,  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , and yields results which are within a few percent of the exact one-loop SQCD calculations[27, 37].

The expression for  $\Delta_b$  is found in the limit  $m_b \ll M_h, M_Z \ll M_{\tilde{b}_1}, M_{\tilde{b}_2}, M_{\tilde{g}}$ . The 1-loop contribution to  $\Delta_b$  from sbottom/gluino loops is[25, 26, 38]

$$\Delta_b = \frac{2\alpha_s(\mu_S)}{3\pi} M_{\tilde{g}} \mu \tan \beta I(M_{\tilde{b}_1}, M_{\tilde{b}_2}, M_{\tilde{g}}), \quad (12)$$

where the function  $I(a, b, c)$  is,

$$I(a, b, c) = \frac{1}{(a^2 - b^2)(b^2 - c^2)(a^2 - c^2)} \left\{ a^2 b^2 \log\left(\frac{a^2}{b^2}\right) + b^2 c^2 \log\left(\frac{b^2}{c^2}\right) + c^2 a^2 \log\left(\frac{c^2}{a^2}\right) \right\}, \quad (13)$$

and  $\alpha_s(\mu_S)$  should be evaluated at a typical squark or gluino mass. The 2-loop QCD corrections to  $\Delta_b$  have been computed and demonstrate that the appropriate scale at which to evaluate  $\Delta_b$  is indeed of the order of the heavy squark and gluino masses[32, 33]. The renormalization scale dependence of  $\Delta_b$  is minimal around  $\mu_0/3$ , where  $\mu_0 \equiv (M_{\tilde{g}} + m_{\tilde{b}_1} + m_{\tilde{b}_2})/3$ . In our language this is a high scale, of order the heavy SUSY particle masses. The squarks and gluinos are integrated out of the theory at this high scale and their effects contained in  $\Delta_b$ . The effective Lagrangian is then used to calculate light Higgs production at a low scale, which is typically the electroweak scale,  $\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ .

Using the effective Lagrangian of Eq. 9, which we term the Improved Born Approximation (or  $\Delta_b$  approximation), the cross section is written in terms of the effective coupling,

$$g_{bbh}^{\Delta_b} \equiv g_{bbh} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \Delta_b} \right) \left( 1 - \frac{\Delta_b}{\tan \beta \tan \alpha} \right), \quad (14)$$

where

$$g_{bbh} = - \left( \frac{\sin \alpha}{\cos \beta} \right) \frac{\overline{m}_b(\mu_R)}{v_{SM}}. \quad (15)$$

We evaluate  $\overline{m}_b(\mu_R)$  using the 2-loop  $\overline{MS}$  value at a scale  $\mu_R$  of  $\mathcal{O}(M_h)$ , and use the value of  $\alpha_{eff}$  determined from FeynHiggs. The Improved Born Approximation consists of rescaling the tree level cross section,  $\sigma_0$ , by the coupling of Eq. 14<sup>5</sup>,

$$\sigma_{IBA} = \left( \frac{g_{bbh}^{\Delta_b}}{g_{bbh}} \right)^2 \sigma_0. \quad (16)$$

The Improved Born Approximation has been shown to accurately reproduce the full SQCD calculation of  $pp \rightarrow \bar{t}bH^+$ [39, 40].

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<sup>5</sup> This is the approximation used in Ref. [19] to include the SQCD corrections.

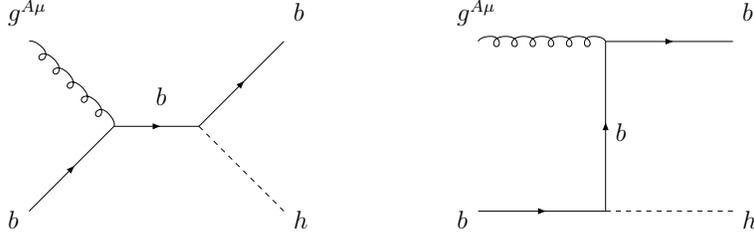


FIG. 1: Feynman diagrams for  $g(q_1) + b(q_2) \rightarrow b(p_b) + h(p_h)$ .

The one-loop result including the SQCD corrections for  $bg \rightarrow bh$  can be written as,

$$\sigma_{SQCD} \equiv \sigma_{IBA} \left( 1 + \Delta_{SQCD} \right), \quad (17)$$

where  $\Delta_{SQCD}$  is found from the exact SQCD calculation summarized in Appendix B.

The Improved Born Approximation involves making the replacement in the tree level Lagrangian,

$$m_b \rightarrow \frac{m_b}{1 + \Delta_b}. \quad (18)$$

Consistency requires that this substitution also be made in the squark mass matrix of Eq. 4[41, 42]

$$M_b^2 \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{m}_L^2 & \left( \frac{m_b}{1 + \Delta_b} \right) X_b \\ \left( \frac{m_b}{1 + \Delta_b} \right) X_b & \tilde{m}_R^2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (19)$$

The effects of the substitution of Eq. 18 in the  $b$ -squark mass matrix are numerically important, although they generate contributions which are formally higher order in  $\alpha_s$ . Eqs. 12 and 19 can be solved iteratively for  $M_{\tilde{b}_1}$ ,  $M_{\tilde{b}_2}$  and  $\Delta_b$  using the procedure of Ref. [41]<sup>6</sup>.

### C. SQCD Contributions to $gb \rightarrow bh$

The contributions from squark and gluino loops to the  $gb \rightarrow bh$  process have been computed in Ref. [23] in the  $m_b = 0$  limit. We extend that calculation by including terms which are enhanced by  $m_b \tan \beta$  and provide analytic results in several useful limits.

The tree level diagrams for  $g(q_1) + b(q_2) \rightarrow b(p_b) + h(p_h)$  are shown in Fig. 1. We define

<sup>6</sup> We use FeynHiggs only for calculating  $M_h$  and  $\sin \alpha_{eff}$ .

the following dimensionless spinor products

$$\begin{aligned}
M_s^\mu &= \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) (\not{q}_1 + \not{q}_2) \gamma^\mu u(q_2)}{s} \\
M_t^\mu &= \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) \gamma^\mu (\not{p}_b - \not{q}_1) u(q_2)}{t} \\
M_1^\mu &= q_2^\mu \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) u(q_2)}{u} \\
M_2^\mu &= \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) \gamma^\mu u(q_2)}{m_b} \\
M_3^\mu &= p_b^\mu \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) \not{q}_1 u(q_2)}{m_b t} \\
M_4^\mu &= q_2^\mu \frac{\bar{u}(p_b) \not{q}_1 u(q_2)}{m_b s}, \tag{20}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $s = (q_1 + q_2)^2$ ,  $t = (p_b - q_1)^2$  and  $u = (p_b - q_2)^2$ . In the  $m_b = 0$  limit, the tree level amplitude depends only on  $M_s^\mu$  and  $M_t^\mu$ , and  $M_1^\mu$  is generated at one-loop. When the effects of the  $b$  mass are included,  $M_2^\mu$ ,  $M_3^\mu$ , and  $M_4^\mu$  are also generated.

The tree level amplitude is

$$\mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta}^a |_0 = -g_s g_{bbh} (T^a)_{\alpha\beta} \epsilon_\mu(q_1) \{M_s^\mu + M_t^\mu\}, \tag{21}$$

and the one loop contribution can be written as

$$\mathcal{A}_{\alpha\beta}^a = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} g_s g_{bbh} (T^a)_{\alpha\beta} \sum_j X_j M_j^\mu \epsilon_\mu(q_1). \tag{22}$$

In the calculations to follow, only the non-zero  $X_j$  coefficients are listed and we neglect terms of  $\mathcal{O}(m_b^2/s)$  if they are not enhanced by  $\tan\beta$ .

The renormalization of the squark and gluino contributions is performed in the on-shell scheme and has been described in Refs. [23, 32, 43]. The bottom quark self-energy is

$$\Sigma_b(p) = \not{p} \left( \Sigma_b^V(p^2) - \Sigma_b^A(p^2) \gamma_5 \right) + m_b \Sigma_b^S(p^2). \tag{23}$$

The  $b$  quark fields are renormalized as  $b \rightarrow \sqrt{Z_b^V} b$  and  $Z_b^V \equiv \sqrt{1 + \delta Z_b^V}$ . The contribution from the counter-terms to the self-energy is,

$$\begin{aligned}
\Sigma_b^{\text{ren}}(p) &= \Sigma_b(p) + \delta \Sigma_b(p) \\
\delta \Sigma_b(p) &= \not{p} (\delta Z_b^V - \delta Z_b^A \gamma_5) - m_b \delta Z_b^V - \delta m_b. \tag{24}
\end{aligned}$$

Neglecting the  $\gamma_5$  contribution, the renormalized self-energy is then given by

$$\Sigma_b^{\text{ren}}(p) = (\not{p} - m_b) (\Sigma_b^V(p^2) + \delta Z_b^V) + m_b \left( \Sigma_b^S(p^2) + \Sigma_b^V(p^2) - \frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} \right). \tag{25}$$

The on-shell renormalization condition implies

$$\Sigma_b^{\text{ren}}(p)|_{\not{p}=m_b} = 0 \quad (26)$$

$$\lim_{\not{p} \rightarrow m_b} \left( \frac{\Sigma_b^{\text{ren}}(p)}{\not{p} - m_b} \right) = 0. \quad (27)$$

The mass and wavefunction counter-terms are<sup>7</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} &= [\Sigma_b^S(p^2) + \Sigma_b^V(p^2)]_{p^2=m_b^2} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left[ (-1)^i \frac{M_{\tilde{g}}}{m_b} s_{2\tilde{b}} B_0 - B_1 \right] (0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \end{aligned} \quad (28)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \delta Z_b^V &= -\Sigma_b^V(p^2)|_{p^2=m_b^2} - 2m_b^2 \frac{\partial}{\partial p^2} \left( \Sigma_b^V(p^2) + \Sigma_S(p^2) \right) |_{p^2=m_b^2} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left[ B_1 + 2m_b^2 B_1' - (-1)^i 2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} B_0' \right] (0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2), \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where we consistently neglect the  $b$  quark mass if it is not enhanced by  $\tan \beta$ . The Passarino-Veltman functions  $B_0(0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)$  and  $B_1(0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)$  are defined in Appendix A. Using the tree level relationship of Eq. 7, the mass counterterm can be written as,

$$\frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} = \frac{2\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} M_{\tilde{g}} A_b I(M_{\tilde{b}_1}, M_{\tilde{b}_2}, M_{\tilde{g}}) - \Delta_b - \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \sum_{i=1}^2 B_1(0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2). \quad (30)$$

The external gluon is renormalized as  $g_\mu^A \rightarrow \sqrt{Z_3} g_\mu^A = \sqrt{1 + \delta Z_3} g_\mu^A$  and the strong coupling renormalization is  $g_s \rightarrow Z_g g_s$  with  $\delta Z_g = -\delta Z_3/2$ . We renormalize  $g_s$  using the  $\overline{MS}$  scheme with the heavy squark and gluino contributions subtracted at zero momentum[44],

$$\delta Z_3 = -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} \left[ \frac{1}{6} \sum_{\tilde{q}_i} \left( \frac{4\pi\mu_R^2}{M_{\tilde{q}_i}^2} \right)^\epsilon + 2 \left( \frac{4\pi\mu_R^2}{M_{\tilde{g}}^2} \right)^\epsilon \right] \frac{1}{\epsilon} \Gamma(1 + \epsilon). \quad (31)$$

In order to avoid overcounting the effects which are contained in  $g_{bbh}^\Delta$  to  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha_s)$ , we need the additional counterterm,

$$\delta_{CT} = \Delta_b \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\tan \beta \tan \alpha} \right). \quad (32)$$

The total contribution of the counterterms is,

$$\sigma_{CT} = \sigma_{IBA} \left( 2\delta Z_b^V + \delta Z_3 + 2\delta Z_g + 2\frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} + 2\delta_{CT} \right) = 2\sigma_{IBA} \left( \delta Z_b^V + \frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} + \delta_{CT} \right). \quad (33)$$

The  $\tan \beta$  enhanced contributions from  $\Delta_b$  cancel between Eqs. 30 and 32. The expressions for the contributions to the  $X_i$ , as defined in Eq. 22, are given in Appendix B for arbitrary squark and gluino masses, and separately for each 1-loop diagram.

<sup>7</sup>  $s_{2\tilde{b}} \equiv \sin 2\tilde{\theta}_b$ .

### III. RESULTS FOR MAXIMAL AND MINIMAL MIXING IN THE $b$ -SQUARK SECTOR

#### A. Maximal Mixing

The squark and gluino contributions to  $bg \rightarrow bh$  can be examined analytically in several scenarios. In the first scenario,

$$|\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2| \ll \frac{m_b}{1 + \Delta_b} |X_b|. \quad (34)$$

We expand in powers of  $\frac{|\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2|}{m_b X_b}$ . In this case the sbottom masses are nearly degenerate,

$$M_S^2 \equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[ M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 + M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2 \right] \\ |M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 - M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2| = \left( \frac{2m_b |X_b|}{1 + \Delta_b} \right) \left( 1 + \frac{(\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2)^2 (1 + \Delta_b)^2}{8m_b^2 X_b^2} \right) \ll M_S^2. \quad (35)$$

This scenario is termed maximal mixing since

$$\sin 2\tilde{\theta}_b \sim 1 - \frac{(\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2)^2 (1 + \Delta_b)^2}{8m_b^2 X_b^2}. \quad (36)$$

We expand the contributions of the exact one-loop SQCD calculation given in Appendix B in powers of  $1/M_S$ , keeping terms to  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_{EW}^2}{M_S^2}\right)$  and assuming  $M_S \sim M_{\tilde{g}} \sim \mu \sim A_b \sim \tilde{m}_L \sim \tilde{m}_R \gg M_W, M_Z, M_h \sim M_{EW}$ . In the expansions, we assume the large  $\tan\beta$  limit and take  $m_b \tan\beta \sim \mathcal{O}(M_{EW})$ . This expansion has been studied in detail for the decay  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , with particular emphasis on the decoupling properties of the results as  $M_S$  and  $M_{\tilde{g}} \rightarrow \infty$ [28]. The SQCD contributions to the decay,  $h \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ , extracted from our results are in agreement with those of Refs. [28, 42]

The final result for maximal mixing, summing all contributions, is,

$$A_s \equiv -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_s^\mu \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} X_i^s \right\} \\ = -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_s^\mu \left\{ 1 + \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{max} + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} \frac{s}{M_S^2} \delta\kappa_{max} \right\} \\ A_t \equiv -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_s^\mu \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} X_i^t \right\} \\ = -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_t^\mu \left\{ 1 + \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{max} \right\} \\ A_1 \equiv -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_s^\mu \left\{ 1 + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} X_i^1 \right\} \\ = -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_1^\mu \left( -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)u}{2\pi M_S^2} \right) \delta\kappa_{max}. \quad (37)$$

The contribution which is a rescaling of the  $b\bar{b}h$  vertex is,

$$\left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{max} = \left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{max}^{(1)} + \left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{max}^{(2)}, \quad (38)$$

where the leading order term in  $M_{EW}/M_S$  is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ,

$$\left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{max}^{(1)} = \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \frac{M_{\tilde{g}}(X_b - Y_b)}{M_S^2} f_1(R), \quad (39)$$

with  $Y_b \equiv A_b + \mu \cot \alpha$  and  $R \equiv M_{\tilde{g}}/M_S$ . Eq. 39 only decouples for large  $M_S$  if the additional limit  $M_A \rightarrow \infty$  is also taken[23, 28]. In this limit,

$$X_b - Y_b \rightarrow \frac{2\mu M_Z^2}{M_A^2} \tan \beta \cos 2\beta + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_{EW}^4}{M_A^4}\right). \quad (40)$$

The subleading terms of  $\mathcal{O}(M_{EW}^2/M_S^2)$  are,<sup>8</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{max}^{(2)} &= \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \left\{ -\frac{M_{\tilde{g}} Y_b}{M_S^2} \left[ \frac{M_h^2}{12M_S^2} f_3^{-1}(R) + \frac{X_b^2 m_b^2}{2(1+\Delta_b)^2 M_S^4} f_3(R) \right] \right. \\ &\quad - \frac{m_b^2 X_b Y_b}{2(1+\Delta_b)^2 M_S^4} f_3^{-1}(R) \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{M_Z^2}{3M_S^2} \frac{c_\beta s_{\alpha+\beta}}{s_\alpha} I_3^b \left[ 3f_1(R) + \left( \frac{2M_{\tilde{g}} X_b}{M_S^2} - 1 \right) f_2(R) \right] \right\} \end{aligned} \quad (41)$$

The functions  $f_i(R)$  are defined in Appendix C.

The  $\frac{s}{M_S^2}, \frac{u}{M_S^2}$  terms in Eq. 37 are not a rescaling of the lowest order vertex and cannot be obtained from the effective Lagrangian. We find,

$$\delta\kappa_{max} = \frac{1}{4} \left[ f_3(R) + \frac{1}{9} f_3^{-1}(R) \right] - R \frac{Y_b}{2M_S} \left[ f_2'(R) + \frac{1}{9} \hat{f}_2(R) \right]. \quad (42)$$

The  $\delta\kappa_{max}$  term is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  in  $M_{EW}/M_S$  and has its largest values for small  $R$  and large ratios of  $Y_b/M_S$ , as can be seen in Fig. 2. Large effects can be obtained for  $Y_b/M_S \sim 10$  and  $M_{\tilde{g}} \ll M_S$ . However, the parameters must be carefully tuned so that  $A_b/M_S \lesssim 1$  in order not to break color[45].

The amplitude squared, summing over final state spins and colors and averaging over initial state spins and colors, including one-loop SQCD corrections is

$$|\overline{\mathcal{A}}|_{max}^2 = -\frac{2\pi\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3} g_{bbh}^2 \left[ \left( \frac{u^2 + M_h^4}{st} \right) \left[ 1 + 2 \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{max} \right] + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{2\pi} \frac{M_h^2}{M_S^2} \delta\kappa_{max} \right]. \quad (43)$$

<sup>8</sup> We use the shorthand,  $c_\beta = \cos \beta$ ,  $s_{\alpha+\beta} = \sin(\alpha + \beta)$ , etc.

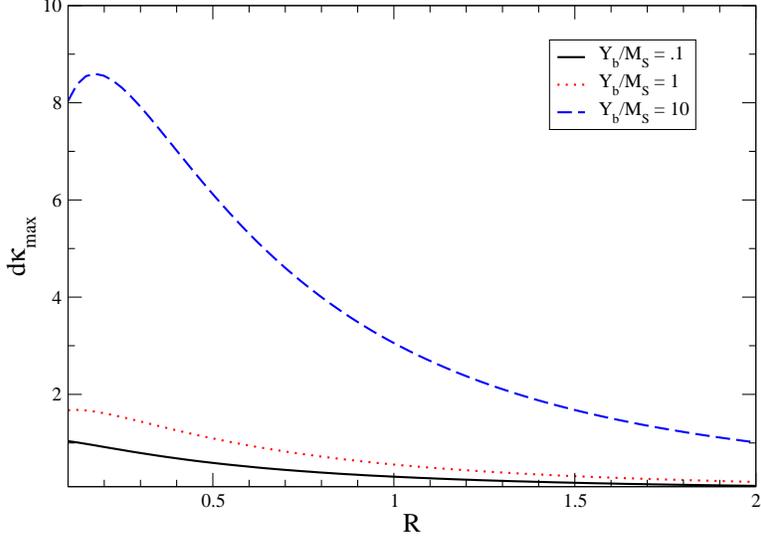


FIG. 2: Contribution of  $\delta\kappa_{max}$  defined in Eq. 42 as a function of  $R = M_{\tilde{g}}/M_S$ .

Note that in the cross section, the  $\delta\kappa_{max}$  term is not enhanced by a power of  $s$  and gives a contribution of  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_{EW}^2}{M_S^2}\right)$ .

Expanding  $\Delta_b$  in the maximal mixing limit,

$$\Delta_b \rightarrow -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_S)}{3\pi} \frac{M_{\tilde{g}}\mu}{M_S^2} \tan\beta f_1(R) + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_{EW}^4}{M_S^4}\right). \quad (44)$$

By comparison with Eq. 14,

$$\begin{aligned} |\overline{\mathcal{A}}|_{max}^2 &= -\frac{2\pi\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3} (g_{bbh}^{\Delta_b})^2 \left\{ \left( \frac{u^2 + M_h^4}{st} \right) \left[ 1 + 2 \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{max}^{(2)} \right] \right. \\ &\quad \left. + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{2\pi} \frac{M_h^2}{M_S^2} \delta\kappa_{max} \right\} + \mathcal{O}\left( \left[ \frac{M_{EW}}{M_S} \right]^4, \alpha_s^3 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (45)$$

Note that the mis-match in the arguments of  $\alpha_s$  in Eqs. 44 and 45 is higher order in  $\alpha_s$  than the terms considered here. The  $(\delta g_{bbh}/g_{bbh})_{max}^{(2)}$  and  $\delta\kappa_{max}$  terms both correspond to contributions which are not present in the effective Lagrangian approach. These terms are, however, suppressed by powers of  $M_{EW}^2/M_S^2$  and the non-decoupling effects discussed in Refs. [28] and [27] are completely contained in the  $g_{bbh}^{\Delta_b}$  term.

## B. Minimal Mixing in the $b$ Squark Sector

The minimal mixing scenario is characterized by a mass splitting between the  $b$  squarks which is of order the  $b$  squark mass,  $|M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 - M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2| \sim M_S^2$ . In this case,

$$|\tilde{m}_L^2 - \tilde{m}_R^2| \gg \frac{m_b |X_b|}{(1 + \Delta_b)}, \quad (46)$$

and the mixing angle in the  $b$  squark sector is close to zero,

$$\cos 2\tilde{\theta}_b \sim 1 - \frac{2m_b^2 X_b^2}{(M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 - M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2)^2} \left( \frac{1}{1 + \Delta_b} \right)^2. \quad (47)$$

The non-zero subamplitudes are

$$\begin{aligned} A_s &= -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_s^\mu \left\{ 1 + \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min} + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{4\pi} \frac{s}{\tilde{M}_g} \delta\kappa_{min} \right\} \\ A_t &= -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_t^\mu \left\{ 1 + \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min} \right\} \\ A_1 &= -g_s T^A g_{bbh} M_1^\mu \left( -\frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)u}{2\pi \tilde{M}_g^2} \right) \delta\kappa_{min}. \end{aligned} \quad (48)$$

Expanding the exact one-loop results of Appendix B in the minimal mixing scenario,

$$\delta\kappa_{min} = \frac{1}{8} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left( R_i^2 \left[ \frac{1}{9} f_3^{-1}(R_i) + f_3(R_i) \right] \right) + \frac{Y_b}{\tilde{M}_g} \frac{R_1^2 R_2^2}{R_2^2 - R_1^2} \left( 3h_1(R_1, R_2, 1) + \frac{8}{3} h_1(R_1, R_2, 2) \right), \quad (49)$$

where  $R_i = M_{\tilde{g}}/M_{\tilde{b}_i}$  and the functions  $f_i(R_i)$  and  $h_i(R_1, R_2, n)$  are defined in Appendix C. The  $\delta\kappa_{min}$  function is shown in Fig. 3. For large values of  $Y_b/M_{\tilde{g}}$  it can be significantly larger than 1.

As in the previous section, the spin and color averaged amplitude-squared is,

$$|\bar{A}|_{min}^2 = -\frac{2\alpha_s(\mu_R)\pi}{3} (g_{bbh}^2) \left\{ \frac{(M_h^4 + u^2)}{st} \left[ 1 + 2 \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min} \right] + \frac{\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{2\pi} \delta\kappa_{min} \frac{M_h^2}{\tilde{M}_g^2} \right\}, \quad (50)$$

with,

$$\left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min} = \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min}^{(1)} + \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min}^{(2)}. \quad (51)$$

The leading order term in  $M_{EW}/M_S$  is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ,

$$\left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min}^{(1)} = \frac{2\alpha_s(\mu_R)}{3\pi} \frac{(X_b - Y_b)}{M_{\tilde{g}}} \frac{R_1^2 R_2^2}{R_1^2 - R_2^2} h_1(R_1, R_2, 0). \quad (52)$$

$$R_2 = 2 R_1$$

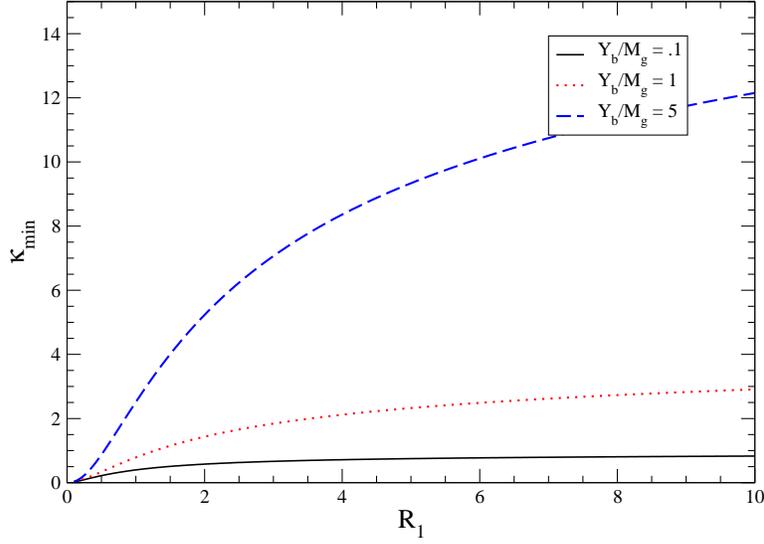


FIG. 3: Contribution of  $\delta\kappa_{min}$  defined in Eq. 49 as a function of  $R_i = M_{\bar{g}}/M_{\bar{b}_i}$ .

The subleading terms are  $\mathcal{O}\left(\frac{M_{EW}^2}{M_S^2}\right)$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
\left(\frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}}\right)_{min}^{(2)} &= \frac{\alpha_s}{4\pi} \left\{ -\frac{8M_{\bar{g}}Y_b}{3\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \left[ \frac{h_2(R_1, R_2) M_h^2}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \right. \right. \\
&+ \left. \frac{m_b^2 X_b^2}{(\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2)^2 (1 + \Delta_b)^2} \left\{ 2\mathcal{S}\left(\frac{f_1(R)}{M_b^2}\right) + \frac{h_1(R_1, R_2, 0)}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \right\} \right] \\
&+ \frac{4c_\beta s_{\alpha+\beta}}{3s_\alpha} I_3^b M_Z^2 \left[ \mathcal{S}\left(\frac{3f_1(R) - f_2(R)}{3M_b^2}\right) - \frac{2M_{\bar{g}}X_b}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \mathcal{A}\left(\frac{f_1(R)}{M_b^2}\right) \right] \\
&+ \frac{4c_\beta s_{\alpha+\beta}}{3s_\alpha} (I_3^b - 2Q^b s_W^2) M_Z^2 \left[ \mathcal{A}\left(\frac{3f_1(R) - f_2(R)}{3M_b^2}\right) \right. \\
&- \left. \frac{2M_{\bar{g}}X_b}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \left\{ \mathcal{S}\left(\frac{f_1(R)}{M_b^2}\right) + \frac{h_1(R_1, R_2, 0)}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2} \right\} \right] \\
&+ \left. \frac{8}{3} \frac{m_b^2 X_b Y_b}{\Delta M_{\bar{b}_{12}}^2 (1 + \Delta_b)^2} \mathcal{A}\left(\frac{3f_1(R) - f_2(R)}{3M_b^2}\right) \right\}. \tag{53}
\end{aligned}$$

The symmetric and anti-symmetric functions are defined,

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{S}(f(R, M_{\bar{b}})) &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[ f(R_1, M_{\bar{b}_1}) + f(R_2, M_{\bar{b}_2}) \right] \\
\mathcal{A}(f(R, M_{\bar{b}})) &\equiv \frac{1}{2} \left[ f(R_1, M_{\bar{b}_1}) - f(R_2, M_{\bar{b}_2}) \right] \tag{54}
\end{aligned}$$

and  $\Delta M_{\tilde{b}_{12}}^2 \equiv M_{\tilde{b}_1}^2 - M_{\tilde{b}_2}^2$ . The remaining functions are defined in Appendix C.

By expanding  $\Delta_b$  in the minimal mixing limit, we find the analogous result to that of the maximal mixing case,

$$|\overline{A}|_{min}^2 = -\frac{2\alpha_s\pi}{3}(g_{bbh}^{\Delta_b})^2 \left\{ \frac{(M_h^4 + u^2)}{st} \left[ 1 + 2 \left( \frac{\delta g_{bbh}}{g_{bbh}} \right)_{min}^{(2)} \right] + \frac{\alpha_s}{2\pi} \delta\kappa_{min} \frac{M_h^2}{M_{\tilde{g}}^2} \right\} + \mathcal{O} \left( \left[ \frac{M_{EW}}{M_S} \right]^4, \alpha_s^3 \right). \quad (55)$$

The contributions which are not contained in  $\sigma_{IBA}$  are again found to be suppressed by  $\mathcal{O} \left( \left[ \frac{M_{EW}}{M_S} \right]^2 \right)$ .

#### IV. NUMERICAL RESULTS

We present results for  $pp \rightarrow b(\bar{b})h$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$  with  $p_{Tb} > 20 \text{ GeV}$  and  $|\eta_b| < 2.0$ . We use FeynHiggs to generate  $M_h$  and  $\sin\alpha_{eff}$  and then iteratively solve for the  $b$  squark masses and  $\Delta_b$  from Eqs. 12 and 19. We evaluate the 2-loop  $\overline{MS}$   $b$  mass at  $\mu_R = M_h/2$ , which we also take to be the renormalization and factorization scales<sup>9</sup>. Finally, Figs 4, 5, 6, and 7 use the CTEQ6m NLO parton distribution functions[46]. Figs. 4, 5 and 6 show the percentage deviation of the complete one-loop SQCD calculation from the Improved Born Approximation of Eq. 16 for  $\tan\beta = 40$  and  $\tan\beta = 20$  and representative values of the MSSM parameters<sup>10</sup>. In both extremes of  $b$  squark mixing, the Improved Born Approximation approximation is within a few percent of the complete one-loop SQCD calculation and so is a reliable prediction for the rate. This is true for both large and small  $M_A$ . In addition, the large  $M_S$  expansion accurately reproduces the full SQCD one-loop result to within a few percent. These results are expected from the expansions of Eqs. 45 and 55, since the terms which differ between the Improved Born Approximation and the one-loop calculation are suppressed in the large  $M_S$  limit.

Fig. 7 compares the total SQCD rate for maximal and minimal mixing, which bracket the allowed mixing possibilities. For large  $M_S$ , the effect of the mixing is quite small, while for  $M_S \sim 800 \text{ GeV}$ , the mixing effects are at most a few  $fb$ . The accuracy of the Improved Born Approximation as a function of  $m_R$  is shown in Fig. 8 for fixed  $M_A, \mu$ , and  $m_L$ . As

<sup>9</sup>  $\Delta_b$  is evaluated using  $\alpha_s(M_S)$ .

<sup>10</sup> Figs. 4, 5 and 6 do not include the pure QCD NLO corrections[17].

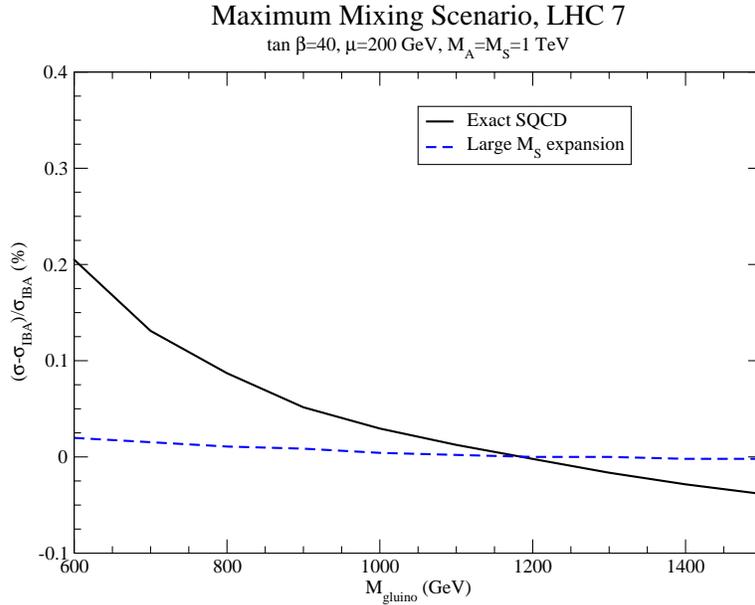


FIG. 4: Percentage difference between the Improved Born Approximation and the exact one-loop SQCD calculation of  $pp \rightarrow bh$  for maximal mixing in the  $b$ -squark sector at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $\tan \beta = 40$ , and  $M_A = 1 \text{ TeV}$ .

$m_R$  is increased, the effects become very tiny. Even for light gluino masses, the Improved Born Approximation reproduces the exact SQCD result to within a few percent.

In Fig. 9, we show the scale dependence for the total rate, including NLO QCD and SQCD corrections (dotted lines) for a representative set of MSSM parameters at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ . The NLO scale dependence is quite small when  $\mu_R = \mu_F \sim M_h$ . However, there is a roughly  $\sim 5\%$  difference between the predictions found using the CTEQ6m PDFs and the MSTW2008 NLO PDFs[47]. In Fig. 10, we show the scale dependence for small  $\mu_F$  (as preferred by [16]), and see that it is significantly larger than in Fig. 9. This is consistent with the results of [19, 29].

## V. CONCLUSION

Our major results are the analytic expressions for the SQCD corrections to  $b$  Higgs associated production in the minimal (Eqs. 41, 42 and 45) and maximal (Eqs. 49, 53 and 55)  $b$  squark mixing scenarios for large  $\tan \beta$  and squark masses,  $M_S$ . These results

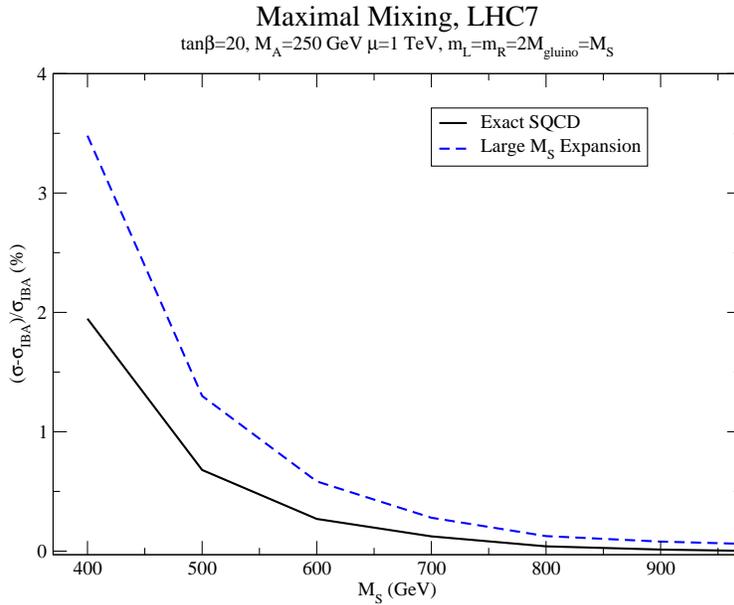


FIG. 5: Percentage difference between the Improved Born Approximation and the exact one-loop SQCD calculation of  $pp \rightarrow bh$  for maximal mixing in the  $b$ -squark sector at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ ,  $\tan \beta = 20$ , and  $M_A = 250 \text{ GeV}$ .

clearly demonstrate that deviations from the  $\Delta_b$  approximation are suppressed by powers of  $(M_{EW}/M_S)$  in the large  $\tan \beta$  region. The  $\Delta_b$  approximation hence yields an accurate prediction in the 5 flavor number scheme for the cross section for squark and gluino masses at the  $TeV$  scale. As a by-product of our calculation, we update the predictions for  $b$  Higgs production at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ .

### Acknowledgments

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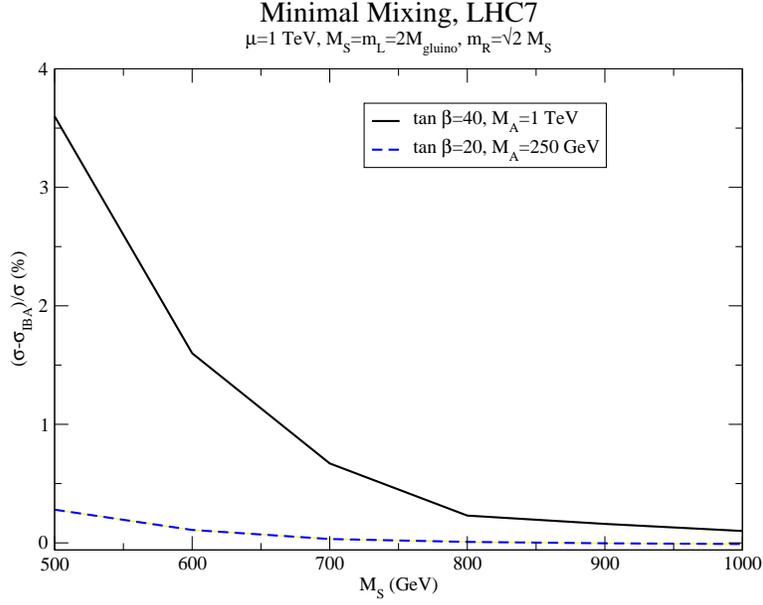


FIG. 6: Percentage difference between the Improved Born Approximation and the exact one-loop SQCD calculation for  $pp \rightarrow bh$  for minimal mixing in the  $b$  squark sector at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$ .

### Appendix A: Passarino-Veltman Functions

The scalar integrals are defined as:

$$\begin{aligned}
\frac{i}{16\pi^2} A_0(M_0^2) &= \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{1}{N_0}, \\
\frac{i}{16\pi^2} B_0(p_1^2; M_0^2, M_1^2) &= \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{1}{N_0 N_1}, \\
\frac{i}{16\pi^2} C_0(p_1^2, p_2^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) &= \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{1}{N_0 N_1 N_2}, \\
\frac{i}{16\pi^2} D_0(p_1^2, p_2^2, p_3^2, p_4^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2, (p_2 + p_3)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2, M_3^2) \\
&= \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{1}{N_0 N_1 N_2 N_3},
\end{aligned} \tag{56}$$

where,

$$\begin{aligned}
N_0 &= k^2 - M_0^2 \\
N_1 &= (k + p_1)^2 - M_1^2 \\
N_2 &= (k + p_1 + p_2)^2 - M_2^2 \\
N_3 &= (k + p_1 + p_2 + p_3)^2 - M_3^2.
\end{aligned} \tag{57}$$

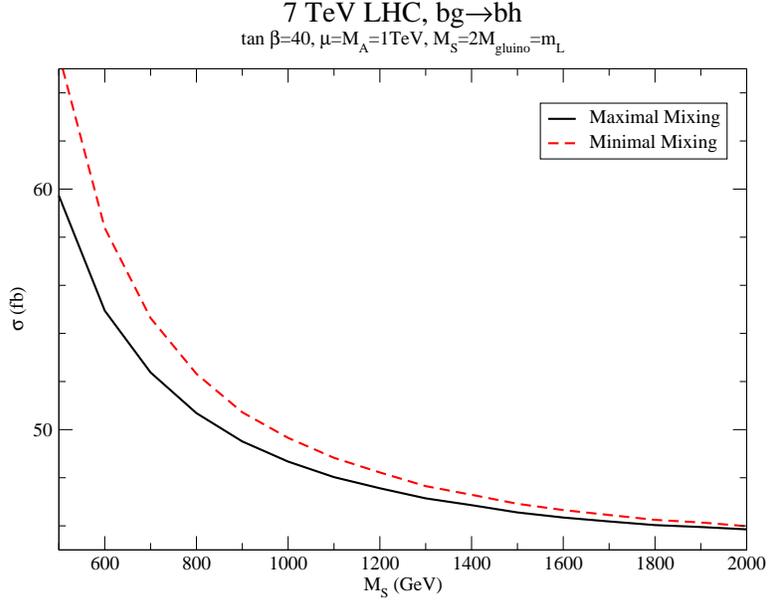


FIG. 7: Comparison between the exact one-loop SQCD calculation for  $pp \rightarrow bh$  for minimal and maximal mixing in the  $b$  squark sector at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$  and  $\tan \beta = 40$ . The minimal mixing curve has  $m_R = \sqrt{2}M_S$  and  $\tilde{\theta}_b \sim 0$ , while the maximal mixing curve has  $m_R = M_S$  and  $\tilde{\theta}_b \sim \frac{\pi}{4}$ .

The tensor integrals encountered are expanded in terms of the external momenta  $p_i$  and the metric tensor  $g^{\mu\nu}$ . For the two-point function we write:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{i}{16\pi^2} B^\mu(p_1^2; M_0^2, M_1^2) &= \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{k^\mu}{N_0 N_1} \\ &\equiv \frac{i}{16\pi^2} p_1^\mu B_1(p_1^2, M_0^2, M_1^2), \end{aligned} \quad (58)$$

while for the three-point functions we have both rank-one and rank-two tensor integrals which we expand as:

$$\begin{aligned} C^\mu(p_1^2, p_2^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) &= p_1^\mu C_{11} + p_2^\mu C_{12}, \\ C^{\mu\nu}(p_1^2, p_2^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) &= p_1^\mu p_1^\nu C_{21} + p_2^\mu p_2^\nu C_{22} \\ &\quad + (p_1^\mu p_2^\nu + p_1^\nu p_2^\mu) C_{23} + g^{\mu\nu} C_{24}, \end{aligned} \quad (59)$$

where:

$$\frac{i}{16\pi^2} C^\mu(C^{\mu\nu})(p_1^2, p_2^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) \equiv \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{k^\mu (k^\mu k^\nu)}{N_0 N_1 N_2} \quad (60)$$

Finally, for the box diagrams, we encounter rank-one and rank-two tensor integrals which

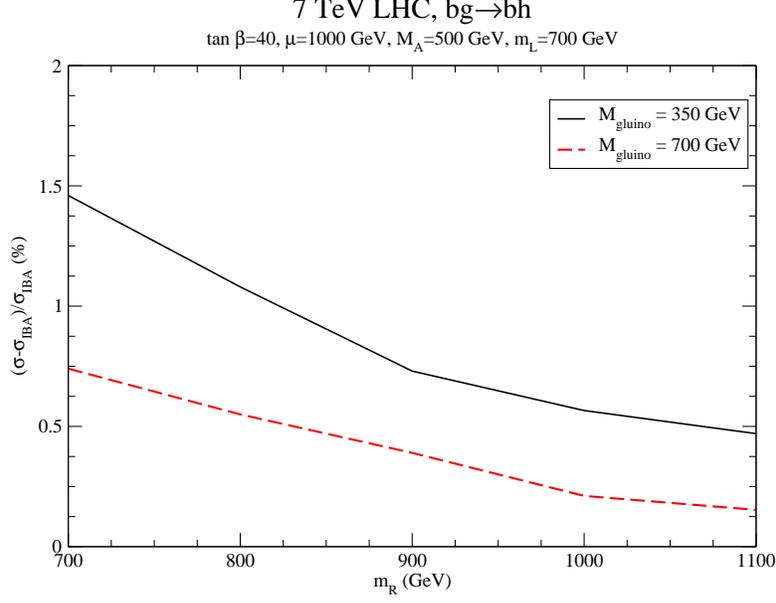


FIG. 8: Percentage difference between the Improved Born Approximation and the exact one-loop SQCD calculation for  $pp \rightarrow bh$  as a function of  $m_R$  at  $\sqrt{s} = 7 \text{ TeV}$  and  $\tan \beta = 40$ .

are written in terms of the Passarino-Veltmann coefficients as:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{i}{16\pi^2} D^\mu(p_1^2, p_2^2, p_3^2, p_4^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2, (p_2 + p_3)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) &\equiv \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{k^\mu}{N_0 N_1 N_2 N_3} \\ &= \frac{i}{16\pi^2} \left\{ p_1^\mu D_{11} + p_2^\mu D_{12} + p_3^\mu D_{13} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (61)$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{i}{16\pi^2} D^{\mu\nu}(p_1^2, p_2^2, p_3^2, p_4^2, (p_1 + p_2)^2, (p_2 + p_3)^2; M_0^2, M_1^2, M_2^2) &\equiv \int \frac{d^n k}{(2\pi)^n} \frac{k^\mu k^\nu}{N_0 N_1 N_2 N_3} \\ &= \frac{i}{16\pi^2} \left\{ g^{\mu\nu} D_{00} + \text{tensor structures not needed here} \right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (62)$$

## Appendix B: One-Loop Results

In this appendix we give the non-zero contributions of the individual diagrams in terms of the basis functions of Eq. 20 and the decompositions of Eq. 22. The contributions proportional to  $m_b \tan \beta$  are new and were not included in the results of Ref.[23]. Although we specialize to the case of the lightest Higgs boson,  $h$ , our results are easily generalized to the heavier neutral Higgs boson,  $H$ , and so the Feynman diagrams in this appendix are shown for  $\phi_i = h, H$ .

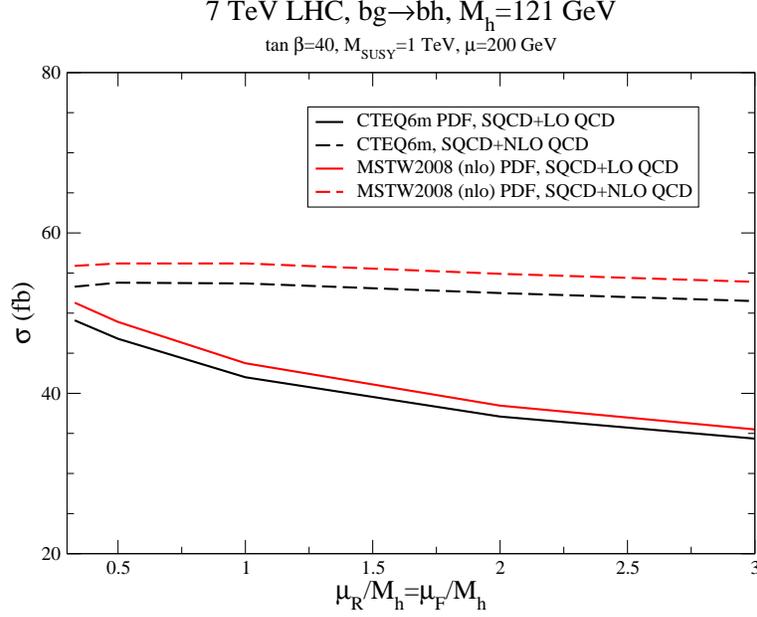


FIG. 9: Total cross section for  $pp \rightarrow b(\bar{b})h$  production including NLO QCD and SQCD corrections (dotted lines) as a function of renormalization/factorization scale using CTEQ6m (black) and MSTW2008 NLO (red) PDFs. We take  $M_{\tilde{g}} = 1$  TeV and the remaining MSSM parameters as in Fig. 4.

The self-energy diagrams of Fig. 11:

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{S_1}^{(t)} &= \frac{4}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ B_1 - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} B_0 \right\} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \\
 X_{S_1}^{(2)} &= -\frac{4}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i \frac{m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} B_0 (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)
 \end{aligned} \tag{63}$$

where we have used the shorthand notation for the arguments of Passarino-Veltman functions,  $B_{0,1}(M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \equiv B_{0,1}(t; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{S_2}^{(s)} &= \frac{4}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ B_1 - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{s} B_0 \right\} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \\
 X_{S_2}^{(2)} &= -\frac{4}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i \frac{m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{s} B_0 (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)
 \end{aligned} \tag{64}$$

and  $B_{0,1}(M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \equiv B_{0,1}(s; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2)$

The vertex functions of Fig. 12:

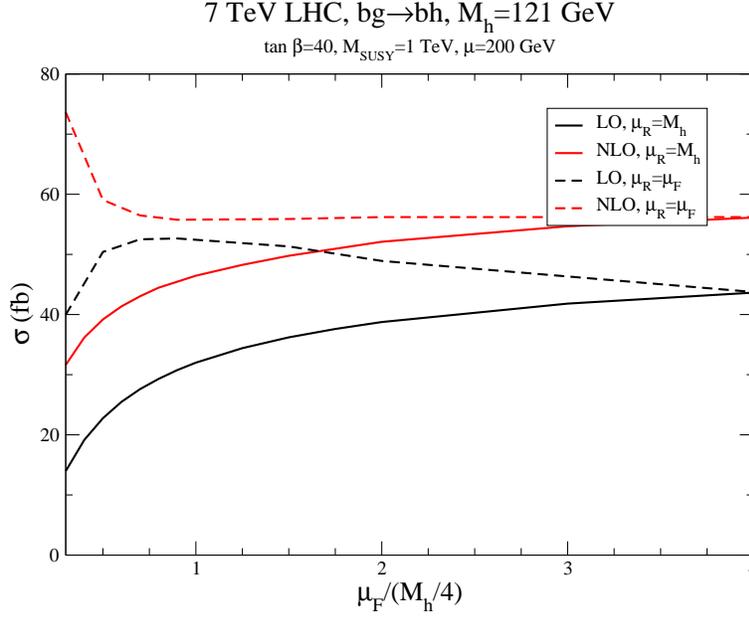


FIG. 10: Total cross section for  $pp \rightarrow b(\bar{b})h$  production including NLO QCD and SQCD corrections as a function of the factorization scale using MSTW2008 NLO PDFs. We take  $M_{\tilde{g}} = 1$  TeV and the remaining MSSM parameters as in Fig. 4.

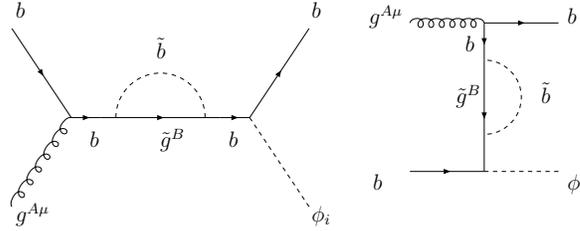


FIG. 11: Self-energy diagrams,  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ .

Diagram  $V_1$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{V_1}^{(s)} &= \frac{s}{6} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} (C_0 + C_{11}) \right\} (M_{b_i}^2) \\
 X_{V_1}^{(t)} &= -\frac{1}{6} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ t (C_{12} + C_{23}) + 2C_{24} - (-1)^i 2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} (C_0 + C_{11}) \right\} (M_{b_i}^2) \\
 X_{V_1}^{(1)} &= -\frac{u}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} (C_0 + C_{11}) \right\} (M_{b_i}^2) \\
 X_{V_1}^{(3)} &= -\frac{1}{3} \sum_i (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} (C_0 + C_{11}) (M_{b_i}^2)
 \end{aligned} \tag{65}$$

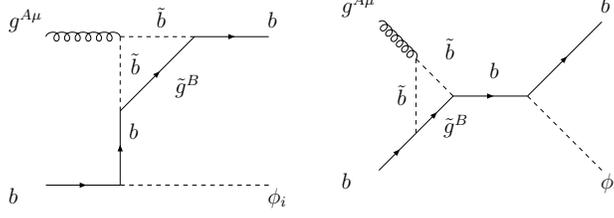


FIG. 12: Virtual diagrams,  $V_1$  and  $V_2$ .

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, 0, t; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right)$ .

Diagram  $V_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{V_2}^{(s)} &= -\frac{1}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 C_{24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
 X_{V_2}^{(1)} &= -\frac{u}{3} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{s} (C_0 + C_{11}) \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
 X_{V_2}^{(4)} &= \frac{1}{3} \sum_i (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} (C_0 + C_{11}) \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{66}$$

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, 0, s; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right)$ .

The vertex functions of Fig. 13:

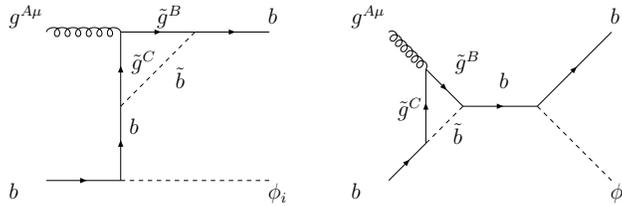


FIG. 13: Virtual diagrams,  $V_3$  and  $V_4$ .

Diagram  $V_3$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{V_3}^{(s)} &= \frac{3s}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} (C_0 + C_{12}) \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_3}^{(t)} &= -\frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ M_{\tilde{g}}^2 C_0 - 2(1-\epsilon) C_{24} - (-1)^i 2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} C_{12} \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_3}^{(1)} &= -3u \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{t} (C_0 + C_{12}) \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_3}^{(2)} &= -\frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} C_0 \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_3}^{(3)} &= -3 \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} \{C_0 + C_{12}\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \tag{67}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, 0, t; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right)$ .

Diagram  $V_4$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{V_4}^{(s)} &= -\frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ M_{\tilde{g}}^2 C_0 - 2(1-\epsilon) C_{24} - s(C_{12} + C_{23}) + (-1)^i 2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} C_0 \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_4}^{(1)} &= -3u \sum_{i=1}^2 \left\{ C_{12} + C_{23} - (-1)^i \frac{2m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}}}{s} (C_0 + C_{12}) \right\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_4}^{(2)} &= -\frac{3}{2} \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} C_0 \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_4}^{(4)} &= 3 \sum_{i=1}^2 (-1)^i m_b M_{\tilde{g}} s_{2\tilde{b}} \{C_0 + C_{12}\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \tag{68}
\end{aligned}$$

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, 0, s; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2 \right)$ .

The vertex functions of Fig. 14:

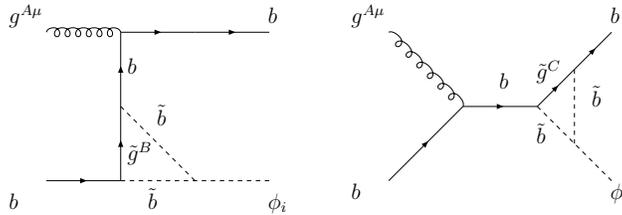


FIG. 14: Virtual diagrams,  $V_5$  and  $V_6$ .

Diagram  $V_5$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{V_5}^{(t)} &= \frac{4}{3} \sum_{i,j=1}^2 C_{h,ij} \{ \delta_{ij} m_b C_{11} + a_{ij} M_{\tilde{g}} C_0 \} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_5}^{(2)} &= \frac{4}{3} m_b \sum_{i,j=1,2} C_{h,ij} \delta_{ij} C_{12} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{69}$$

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, M_h^2, t; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)$ , the squark mixing matrix is defined,

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{11} & a_{12} \\ a_{21} & a_{22} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} s_{2\tilde{b}} & c_{2\tilde{b}} \\ c_{2\tilde{b}} & -s_{2\tilde{b}} \end{pmatrix} \tag{70}$$

and the light Higgs-squark-squark couplings  $C_{h,ij}$ , are normalized with respect to the Higgs-quark-quark coupling[2],

$$C_{h,11} + C_{h,22} = 4m_b + \frac{2M_Z^2}{m_b} I_3^b \frac{s_{\alpha+\beta} c_\beta}{s_\alpha} \tag{71}$$

$$C_{h,11} - C_{h,22} = 2Y_b s_{2\tilde{b}} + \frac{2M_Z^2}{m_b} c_{2\tilde{b}} \left( I_3^b - 2Q_b s_W^2 \right) \frac{s_{\alpha+\beta} c_\beta}{s_\alpha} \tag{72}$$

$$C_{h,12} = C_{h,21} = Y_b c_{2\tilde{b}} - \frac{M_Z^2}{m_b} s_{2\tilde{b}} \left( I_3^b - 2Q_b s_W^2 \right) \frac{s_{\alpha+\beta} c_\beta}{s_\alpha}, \tag{73}$$

$s_W^2 = \sin^2 \theta_W = 1 - M_W^2/M_Z^2$  and  $Y_b$  is defined below Eq. 41.

Diagram  $V_6$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{V_6}^{(s)} &= \frac{4}{3} \sum_{i,j=1,2} C_{h,ij} \{ \delta_{ij} m_b C_{11} + a_{ij} M_{\tilde{g}} C_0 \} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_6}^{(2)} &= \frac{4}{3} m_b \sum_{i,j=1,2} C_{h,ij} \delta_{ij} C_{12} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{V_6}^{(t)} &= X_{V_6}^{(3)} = X_{V_6}^{(4)} = 0
\end{aligned} \tag{74}$$

where  $C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \equiv C_{0,11,12,23,24} \left( 0, M_h^2, s; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)$ .

The box diagram of Fig. 15:

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{B_1}^{(s)} &= \frac{3M_{\tilde{g}} s}{2} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{ D_0 + D_{13} \} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{B_1}^{(t)} &= -\frac{3M_{\tilde{g}} t}{2} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} D_{13} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{B_1}^{(1)} &= 3M_{\tilde{g}} u \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{ D_{11} - D_{13} \} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
X_{B_1}^{(2)} &= -\frac{3m_b}{2} \sum_{i,j=1,2} \delta_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{ M_{\tilde{g}}^2 D_0 - 2D_{00} \} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{75}$$

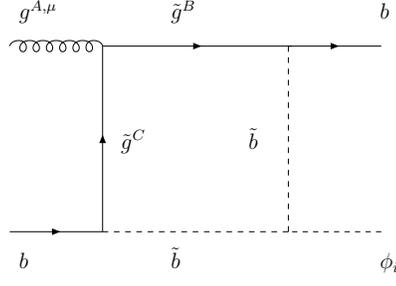


FIG. 15: Box diagram,  $B_1$ .

where,  $D_0 \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \equiv D_0 \left( 0, 0, 0, M_h^2, s, t; M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)$ .

The box diagram of Fig. 16:

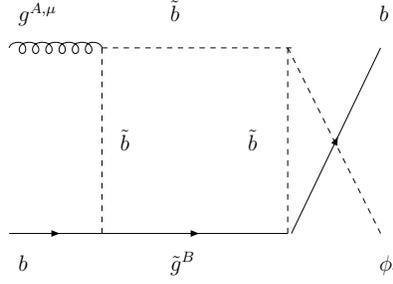


FIG. 16: Box diagram,  $B_2$ .

Diagram  $B_2$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
 X_{B_2}^{(s)} &= -\frac{M_{\tilde{g}} s}{6} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_0 + D_{11}\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
 X_{B_2}^{(t)} &= \frac{M_{\tilde{g}} t}{6} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_0 + D_{11}\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
 X_{B_2}^{(1)} &= \frac{M_{\tilde{g}} u}{3} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_{11} - D_{12}\} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \\
 X_{B_2}^{(2)} &= -\frac{m_b}{3} \sum_{i,j=1,2} \delta_{ij} C_{h,ij} D_{00} \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{76}$$

where  $D_0 \left( M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right) \equiv D_0 \left( 0, 0, 0, M_h^2, u, s; M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2 \right)$ .

The box diagram of Fig. 17:

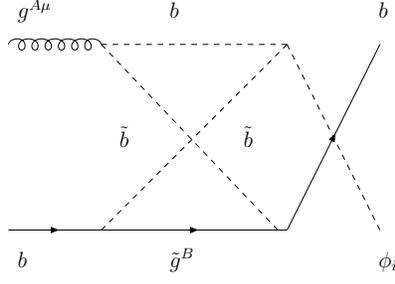


FIG. 17: Box diagram,  $B_3$ .

Diagram  $B_3$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{B_3}^{(s)} &= \frac{M_{\tilde{g}} s}{6} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_0 + D_{12}\} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2) \\
X_{B_3}^{(t)} &= -\frac{M_{\tilde{g}} t}{6} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_0 + D_{12}\} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2) \\
X_{B_3}^{(1)} &= \frac{M_{\tilde{g}} u}{3} \sum_{i,j=1,2} a_{ij} C_{h,ij} \{D_{11} - D_{12}\} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2) \\
X_{B_3}^{(2)} &= -\frac{m_b}{3} \sum_{i,j=1,2} \delta_{ij} C_{h,ij} D_{00} (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2)
\end{aligned} \tag{77}$$

where  $D_0 (M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2) \equiv D_0 (0, 0, 0, M_h^2, u, t; M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2, M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_j}^2)$ .

The vertex and external wavefunction counter terms, Eq. 29, along with the subtraction of Eq. 32, give the counterterm of Eq. 33:

$$\begin{aligned}
X_{CT}^{(s)} &= X_{CT}^{(t)} = \left( \frac{4\pi}{\alpha_s(\mu_R)} \right) \left[ \delta Z_b^V + \frac{\delta m_b}{m_b} + \delta_{CT} \right] \\
&= \frac{4}{3} \left[ 2M_{\tilde{g}} Y_b I(M_{\tilde{b}_1}, M_{\tilde{b}_2}, M_{\tilde{g}}) + \sum_{i=1}^2 \left( -(-1)^i 2m_b s_{2\tilde{b}} B'_0 + 2m_b^2 B'_1 \right) (0; M_{\tilde{g}}^2, M_{\tilde{b}_i}^2) \right]
\end{aligned} \tag{78}$$

Note that the counterterm contains no large  $\tan \beta$  enhanced contribution.

### Appendix C: Definitions

In this appendix we define the f functions used in the expansions of the Passarino-Veltman integrals in the maximum and minimum mixing scenarios, where  $R \equiv \frac{M_{\tilde{g}}}{M_S}$  in the maximal

mixing scenario, and  $R_i \equiv \frac{M_{b_i}}{M_S}$  in the minimal mixing scenario:

$$\begin{aligned}
f_1(R) &= \frac{2}{(1-R^2)^2} [1 - R^2 + R^2 \log R^2] \\
f_2(R) &= \frac{3}{(1-R^2)^3} [1 - R^4 + 2R^2 \log R^2] \\
f_3(R) &= \frac{4}{(1-R^2)^4} \left[ 1 + \frac{3}{2}R^2 - 3R^4 + \frac{1}{2}R^6 + 3R^2 \log R^2 \right] \\
f_4(R) &= \frac{5}{(1-R^2)^5} \left[ \frac{1}{2} - 4R^2 + 4R^6 - \frac{1}{2}R^8 - 6R^4 \log R^2 \right] \\
h_1(R_1, R_2, n) &= \left( \frac{R_1^2}{1-R_1^2} \right)^n \frac{\log R_1^2}{1-R_1^2} - \left( \frac{R_2^2}{1-R_2^2} \right)^n \frac{\log R_2^2}{1-R_2^2} \\
&\quad - \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \frac{j+2}{2} \left\{ (1-R_1^2)^{j-n} - (1-R_2^2)^{j-n} \right\} \\
h_2(R_1, R_2) &= \frac{R_1^2 + R_2^2 - 2}{(1-R_1^2)(1-R_2^2)} + \frac{1}{R_1^2 - R_2^2} \left[ \frac{R_1^2 + R_2^2 - 2R_1^4}{(1-R_1^2)^2} \log R_1^2 \right. \\
&\quad \left. - \frac{R_1^2 + R_2^2 - 2R_2^4}{(1-R_2^2)^2} \log R_2^2 \right]. \tag{79}
\end{aligned}$$

Further,

$$\begin{aligned}
f'_i(R) &\equiv \left. \frac{df_i(x)}{dx^2} \right|_{x=R} \\
f_i^{-1}(R) &\equiv \frac{f_i(1/R)}{R^2} \\
\hat{f}_i(R) &\equiv \left. \frac{1}{R^4} \frac{df_i(x)}{dx^2} \right|_{x=1/R}. \tag{80}
\end{aligned}$$

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