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Radiative Return for Heavy Higgs Boson at a Muon Collider

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Higgs boson properties could be studied with a high accuracy at a muon collider via the s -channel resonant production. We consider the situation where the center-of-mass energy of the muon collider is off the resonance above the Higgs mass. We discuss the discovery potential for a generic heavy Higgs boson (H) and compare different production mechanisms, including the “radiative return” (γH), Z -boson associated production (ZH) and heavy Higgs pair production (HA). These production mechanisms do not sensitively rely on *a priori* knowledge of the heavy Higgs boson mass. We include various types of Two Higgs Doublet Models for the comparison. We conclude that the radiative return process could provide an important option for both the heavy Higgs discovery and direct measurement of invisible decays at a high energy muon collider.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the discovery of the Standard Model (SM)-like Higgs boson (h) at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) [1, 2], the follow-up examinations of its properties at the LHC and future colliders will be of high priority for collider physics. While an electron-positron collider near the Zh threshold or utilizing weak boson fusion as a “Higgs Factory” may provide high precision measurement for its couplings in a model-independent way [3–5], a muon-antimuon collider could directly and accurately determine its total width, mass and couplings via the s -channel resonant production of a Higgs boson [6–10].

However, the Higgs sector may not be as simple as it is in the minimal electroweak theory. A wide class of new physics scenarios, ranging from supersymmetry (SUSY) [11] to models of neutrino mass generation [12–16], postulates the existence of an extended sector of fundamental scalars. While such an extension could leave some imprint on the properties of the recently discovered Higgs boson, it is also imperative that the proposed future colliders should have the potential to identify additional scalars that could be produced within its kinematic reach. Due to the rather weak couplings and the large SM backgrounds, the LHC will have limited coverage for such search [17–21]. At a future lepton collider, on the other hand, due to the clean experimental environment, it would be straightforward to identify a heavy Higgs signal once it is copiously produced on resonance [22].

The exact center-of-mass energy required for an optimal heavy Higgs signal depends on the unknown heavy Higgs mass, in particular for the s -channel resonant production at a muon collider. The situation may be remedied if instead we consider associated production of a Higgs boson with other particles. A particularly interesting process is the “radiative return” (RR) process. In the case of the Higgs boson production, the processes under consideration are

$$\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow \gamma H, \gamma A, \quad (1)$$

where H (A) is a heavy neutral CP-even (CP-odd) state, respectively. When the center of mass energy of the muon collider is above the heavy Higgs resonance, the photon emission from the initial state provides an opportunity of the heavy Higgs boson “back” to the resonance. For this, one does not need to know the mass of the (unknown) heavy scalar. This mechanism alone could also provide an excellent channel to measure the invisible decay of the heavy Higgs boson. Without losing generality, we illustrate our main points with a notation in the context of a two-Higgs-doublet model (2HDM) [23], where the vacuum expectation values (vev) of both the doublets contribute to the W - and Z -masses.¹

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¹ For discussion on RR for other new physics searches at lepton colliders, see Refs. [24–27].

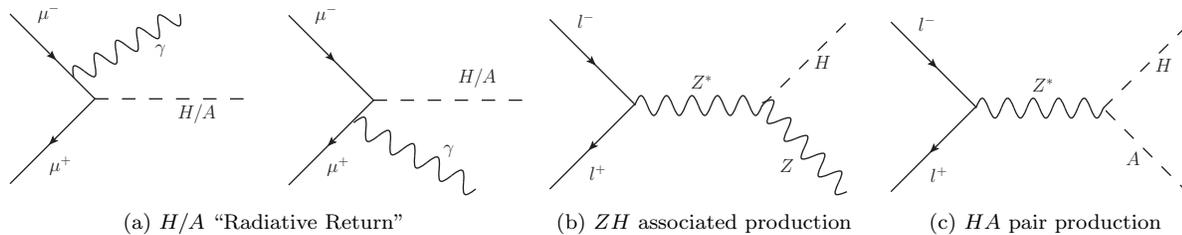


FIG. 1: Main production mechanisms of heavy Higgs boson H/A at lepton colliders.

Coupling	$\kappa \equiv g/g_{\text{SM}}$	Type-II & lepton-specific	Type-I & flipped
$g_{H\mu^+\mu^-}$	κ_μ	$\sin \alpha / \cos \beta$	$\cos \alpha / \sin \beta$
$g_{A\mu^+\mu^-}$	κ_μ	$\tan \beta$	$-\cot \beta$
g_{HZZ}	κ_Z	$\cos(\beta - \alpha)$	$\cos(\beta - \alpha)$
g_{HAZ}	$1 - \kappa_Z^2$	$\sin(\beta - \alpha)$	$\sin(\beta - \alpha)$

TABLE I: Parametrization and their 2HDM models correspondence.

In Sec. II A, we first present the radiative return production of heavy Higgs boson in $\mu^+\mu^-$ collision in detail. We also consider the production $l^+l^- \rightarrow ZH$ and $l^+l^- \rightarrow AH$ ($l = e, \mu$) in Sec. II B. To make the illustration more concrete, we compare these production modes in Sec. II C in the framework of 2HDM. Because of the rather clean experimental environment and the model-independent reconstruction of the Higgs signal events at lepton colliders, we also study the sensitivity of the invisible decay from the radiative return process in Sec. III. Finally, we summarize our results and conclude in Sec. IV.

II. PRODUCTION MECHANISMS

Perhaps the most useful feature of a muon collider is the potential to have s -channel resonant production of the Higgs boson [6–8, 10, 22]. As has been already mentioned in the previous section, such a machine undoubtedly has its merits in analyzing in detail the already discovered Higgs boson near 125 GeV. When it comes to identifying a heavier additional (pseudo)scalar, however, we do not have any *a priori* knowledge about the mass, rendering the new particle search rather difficult. If one envisions a rather wide-ranged scanning, it would require to devote a large portion of the design integrated luminosity [9, 10]. In this section, we discuss the three different production mechanisms for the associated production of the heavy Higgs boson. Besides the “radiative return” as in Eq. (1), we also consider

$$\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow Z^* \rightarrow ZH \text{ and } HA. \quad (2)$$

The relevant Feynman diagrams are all shown in Fig. 1.

We first parametrize the relevant heavy Higgs boson couplings as

$$\mathcal{L}_{int} = -\kappa_\mu \frac{m_\mu}{v} H \bar{\mu} \mu + i\kappa_\mu \frac{m_\mu}{v} A \bar{\mu} \gamma_5 \mu + \kappa_Z \frac{m_Z^2}{v} H Z^\mu Z_\mu + \frac{g}{2 \cos \theta_W} \sqrt{(1 - \kappa_Z^2)} (H \partial^\mu A - A \partial^\mu H) Z_\mu. \quad (3)$$

The two parameters κ_μ and κ_Z characterize the coupling strength with respect to the SM Higgs boson couplings to $\mu^+\mu^-$ and ZZ . The coupling κ_μ controls the heavy Higgs resonant production and the radiative return cross sections, while κ_Z controls the cross sections for ZH associated production and heavy Higgs pair HA production. We have used κ_μ as the common scale parameter for Yukawa couplings of both the CP-even H and the CP-odd A , although in principle they could be different. For the HAZ coupling we have used the generic 2HDM relation: κ_Z is proportional to $\cos(\beta - \alpha)$ and the HAZ coupling is proportional to $\sin(\beta - \alpha)$.² In the heavy Higgs decoupling limit of 2HDM at large m_A , $\kappa_Z \equiv \cos(\beta - \alpha) \sim m_Z^2/m_A^2$ is highly suppressed and $\kappa_\mu \approx \tan \beta$ ($-\cot \beta$) in Type-II [28, 29] and lepton-specific [30–33] (Type-I [23, 28] and flipped [30–33]) 2HDM. Note that many SUSY models, including MSSM and

² Customarily, $\tan \beta$ is the ratio of the two vev’s, and α is the mixing angle of the two scalar states.

$\sqrt{s} = 1.5$ GeV	500 fb ⁻¹
$\sqrt{s} = 3.0$ GeV	1,760 fb ⁻¹
Beam energy spread:	$R = 0.1\%$
Polar angle acceptance: $10^\circ < \theta < 170^\circ$	
$p_{T\min}$ for photon:	10 GeV
Photon Energy Resolution: $0.17/\sqrt{E} \oplus 0.01$	
$p_{T\min}$ for lepton:	20 GeV
ΔR_{\min} for leptons:	0.2

TABLE II: Muon Collider Parameters [34] assuming four collider years of running. The photon energy resolution is set as SiD from ILC TDR [35].

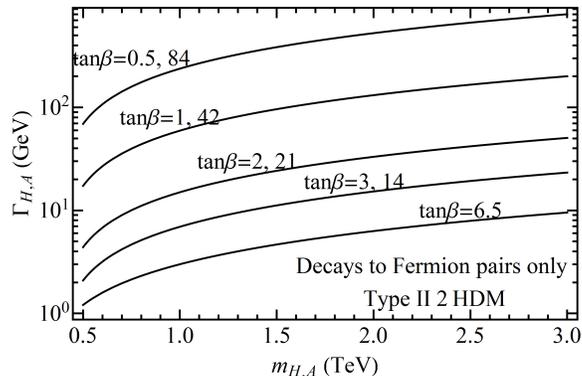


FIG. 2: Total width of heavy Higgs boson in Type II 2HDM as a function of Higgs mass for a variety values of $\tan \beta = \kappa_\mu$. We only consider partial widths to fermion pairs here. The total width is symmetric with respect to $\sqrt{m_t/m_b}$.

NMSSM, are essentially Type-II 2HDM, subject to fewer tree-level parameters for the Higgs potential and potentially large supersymmetric loop corrections. We tabulate our choices of parameters and their 2HDM correspondences in Table. I. We reiterate that such a notation can be carried over to any scenario where there is another multiplet in addition to the SM Higgs doublet contributing to the W - and Z -masses, whereby the WW and ZZ couplings of the two neutral CP-even scalars are connected by a unitary relationship, with some $SU(2)$ Clebsch-Gordan coefficients arising in addition.

We choose the following configuration as shown in Table II for the muon collider parameters and the detector acceptance, to study feasibilities of these different production channels. The beam energy spread is defined as

$$\frac{d\mathcal{L}(\sqrt{s})}{d\sqrt{\hat{s}}} = \frac{1}{2\pi\Delta} \exp\left[-\frac{(\sqrt{s} - \sqrt{\hat{s}})^2}{2\Delta^2}\right], \quad (4)$$

with $\Delta = R\sqrt{s}/\sqrt{2}$.

A. Radiative Return

Due to the “radiative return”, when the heavy Higgs boson mass is below the center of mass energy of the muon collider, the photon emission from the initial state provides an opportunity of the heavy Higgs boson “back” to resonance. The signature is quite striking: a mono-chromatic photon plus other recoil particles. The “recoil mass” is a sharp resonant peak at $m_{H/A}$, manifesting itself from the continuous background. This photon’s energy is subject to the beam energy spread and detector energy smearing. The tagging of the heavy Higgs boson from its decay product, if necessary, provides extra handle on reducing the background and increasing the significance.

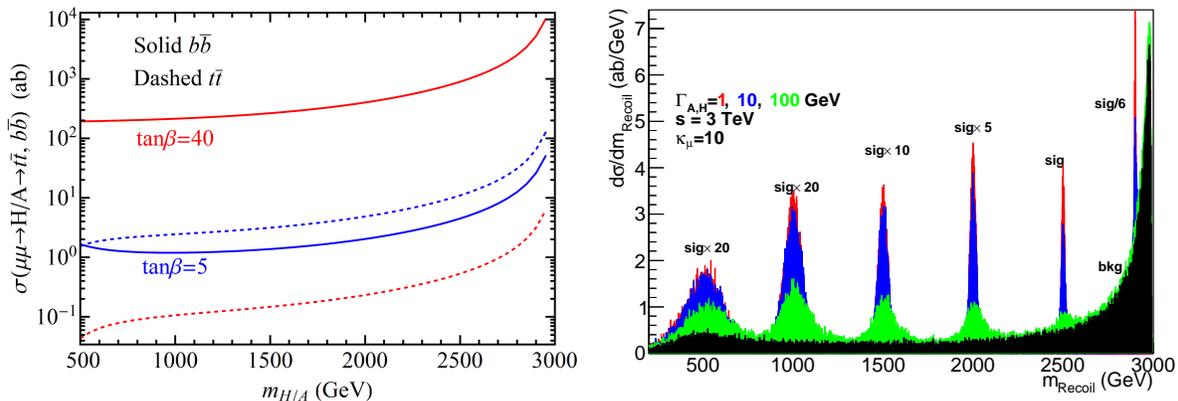


FIG. 3: Left panel: total cross section for $H/A \rightarrow b\bar{b}$ (solid lines) and $t\bar{t}$ (dashed lines) as a function of $m_{H/A}$ at $\sqrt{s} = 3$ TeV, in Type-II 2HDM scenario for $\tan\beta = 5$ (blue) and 40 (red). Right panel: recoil mass distribution for heavy Higgs mass of 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 2.9 TeV with total width 1 (red), 10 (blue), and 100 (green) GeV at a 3 TeV muon collider. The beam energy resolution and photon energy resolution are as shown in Table. II. ISR and FSR are included but not beamstrahlung. Background (black) includes all events with a photon that has $p_T > 10$ GeV. Note that signal and background have different multiplication factors for clarity.

1. Signal and Background

The characteristics of this RR signal is a photon with the energy given by

$$E_\gamma = \frac{\hat{s} - m_{H/A}^2}{2\sqrt{\hat{s}}}, \quad (5)$$

from which one constructs a recoil mass peaked at the heavy Higgs mass $m_{H/A}$. The energy of this photon is smeared by the following factors: detector photon energy resolution, collider beam energy spread, additional (soft) ISR/FSR, and heavy Higgs total width. Our choice of the detector photon energy resolution and beam energy spread are as shown in Table II. The beam energy spread and (soft) ISR are of GeV level [34]. When the Higgs boson mass is significantly below the beam energy, the recoil mass construction receives large smearing due to the energy resolution for the very energetic photon.

Besides the Higgs boson mass, the other most important parameter is the total width, which effectively smears the mono-chromatic photons as well. We calculate the total width as a sum of the partial widths to fermion pairs for Type II 2HDM in Fig. 2. In this model, $\kappa_\mu = \tan\beta$ in the decoupling limit. The total width is minimized when $\tan\beta = \sqrt{m_t/m_b}$. Because of the quadratic dependence, there are typically two values to give the same width $\tan\beta_1 \cdot \tan\beta_2 = m_t/m_b$. Numerically we take $m_t/m_b = 42$. We can see that typically the total width ranges from a few GeV to hundreds of GeV. The total width of heavy Higgs boson could remain small in lepton-specific 2HDM. We thus choose three representative values for the total width: 1, 10, and 100 GeV for later discussions.

The inclusive cross section for mono-photon background is very large in comparison with the radiative return signal. The background is mainly from the Möller scattering with ISR/FSR $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow \mu^+\mu^-\gamma$, and the W exchange with ISR $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma$. The signal background ratio is typically of the order 10^{-3} for a 3 TeV muon collider. As a result, for the discovery through the RR process, we need to rely on some exclusive processes, or to the least veto mono-photon plus missing energy and mono-photon plus dimuon exclusive channels.

It should be noted that, in a 2HDM, the heavy neutral scalar H may decay into both $t\bar{t}$, $b\bar{b}$ and $\tau^+\tau^-$ modes, where the branching ratios depend on $\tan\beta$. We adopt the Type-II 2HDM for illustration. We show in Fig. 3 the total cross sections (left panel) for $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow H/A\gamma \rightarrow q\bar{q}\gamma$ (for $q = t, b$) for $\tan\beta = 5, 40$, with the basic cuts applied on the photon. It is clear from the plots that while the rates for $t\bar{t}\gamma$ is considerably suppressed for large values of $\tan\beta$, it can be of comparable magnitude (or even larger) to that for $b\bar{b}\gamma$ for relatively low $\tan\beta$. Judicious criteria for event selection, therefore, need to be developed for both channels. In the rest of the present study, however, only the $b\bar{b}$ mode is considered for simplicity.

To be more specific, we choose the $b\bar{b}$ final state as a benchmark with heavy Higgs boson decay branching fraction (Br) to this final state to be 80%. We also assume 80% b -tagging efficiency and require at least one b -jet tagged. In

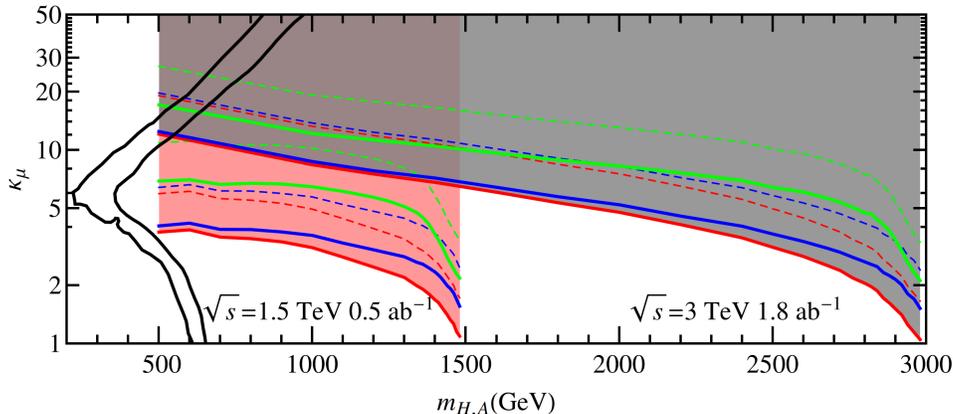


FIG. 4: Estimated 2σ exclusion limits (solid) and 5σ discovery limits (dashed) in the Higgs mass and κ_μ plane, shown as shaded region. We include the cases with Higgs width 1 (red), 10 (blue), and 100 (green) GeV. We overlay the 3 TeV muon collider reach (gray shade) over 1.5 TeV muon collider results (pink shade). For comparison, the two solid black wedged curves reproduce the LHC coverage in m_A - $\tan\beta$ plane for 300 fb^{-1} and 3000 fb^{-1} , respectively.

fact, any visible decay of the heavy Higgs boson except for the dimuon final state, negligible in most of models, would be very efficient in background suppression. One could also interpret our assumption as that 80% of the decays of the Higgs boson could be utilized.

We employ Madgraph5 [36] and for parton level signal and background simulations and tuned Pythia 6.4 [37] mainly for ISR and FSR, and further implement detector smearing and beam energy spread with our own code. We show the recoil mass distribution for the heavy Higgs boson mass of 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 2.9 TeV each with 1, 10, 100 GeV width at a 3 TeV muon collider in Fig. 3 (right panel). Both cross sections of the signal and the background at fixed beam energy increase as the recoil mass increases due to the infrared nature of the photon radiation. The spread of recoil mass peak increases at a lower mass, due to the larger photon energy detector resolution smearing at a higher photon energy. We can see that the pronounced mass peaks look promising for the signal observation, and the RR process is a plausible discovery production mechanism that does not rely on the precise knowledge of the new heavy Higgs boson mass. We discuss the observability of this mode in next subsection.

2. Estimated Sensitivities

To quantify the reach of the signal observation, we choose different bin sizes according to the spread of the photon energy distribution. This is because the recoil mass spread is broader than the photon energy smearing, as scaled by a factor of $\sqrt{\hat{s}}/m_{H/A}$. This implies the Higgs mass resolution would be much worse than the photon energy resolution if the mass is far away from the beam energy. We find the bin sizes in step of 1 GeV that optimize statistical significance of signal at $\kappa_\mu = 10$ over the background. With this optimal choice of number of bins, we show the 2σ exclusion (solid) and 5σ discovery (dashed) limits from RR in Fig. 4 for both 1.5 TeV and 3 TeV muon colliders as described in Table II, for three different benchmark heavy Higgs width values 1, 10, and 100 GeV in red, blue, and green, respectively. The results show that the RR production mode could cover a large κ_μ ($\tan\beta$ in Type II 2HDM) region. To put these results into perspective, we reproduce the LHC curves for the discovery reach on the $m_A - \tan\beta$ plane in solid black lines for 300 fb^{-1} and 3000 fb^{-1} [17]. These LHC discovery projections are mainly from searches on heavier Higgs bosons decaying into SM particles such as $\tau^+\tau^-$ and $t\bar{t}$, in the maximal mixing scenario in the MSSM. This “wedge” shape indicates the LHC’s limitation in discovering heavy Higgs bosons in the medium $\tan\beta$ range, roughly when the production rate is minimal for the MSSM as a Type-II 2HDM. It is important to see the significant extension at the high energy muon collider via the RR process over the LHC coverage in the heavy Higgs parameter space.

B. ZH Associated Production and HA Pair Production

The ZH associated production and HA pair production of Eq. (2) at tree level are mediated by an off-shell Z boson. The cross section for the ZH associated production is proportional to κ_Z^2 . On the other hand, the HA pair

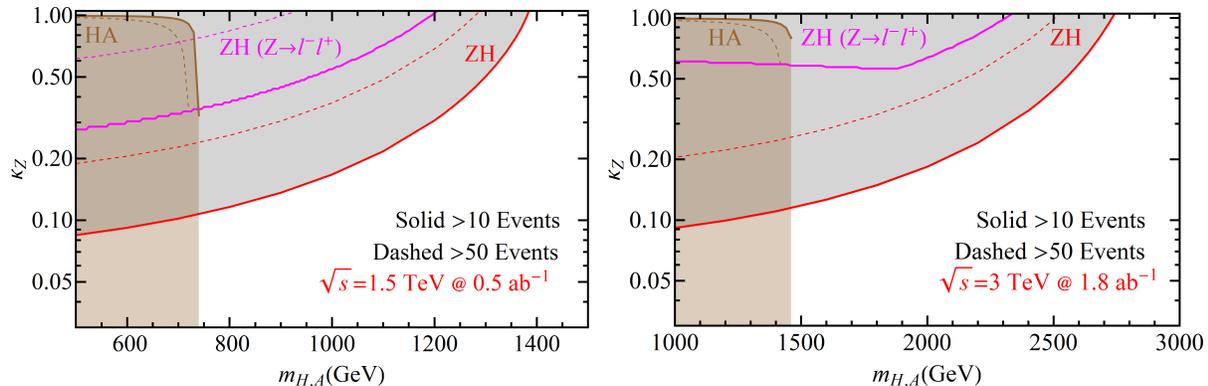


FIG. 5: Sensitivity to the Higgs coupling κ_Z versus the Higgs mass for the ZH associated production (red for all visible Z decays, magenta for the leptonic Z decay only) and HA pair production (brown) for the muon collider defined as in Table II at the center of mass energy 1.5 TeV (left panel) and 3 TeV (right panel). Shaded regions bounded by solid (dashed) curves are regions with more than 10 (50) signal events being produced, indicating the exclusion (discovery) reach.

production is proportional to $1 - \kappa_Z^2$ in generic 2HDM models. These two channels bear some complementarity with each other. To quantify our study, we assume 90% tagging efficiency for the visible Z decays in the ZH associated production. We also studied the leptonic Z boson decay mode, where requirement on lepton p_T , angle and separation are imposed as described in Table II. For simplicity, we take both the CP-even and CP-odd heavy Higgs bosons to have the same mass.

In Fig. 5 we show the event contours with 10 events (solid) and 50 events (dashed) for both ZH and HA channels in the $m_{H,A}$ - κ_Z plane. As expected, once crossing the kinematical threshold, the HA channel would be sensitive to a large range of κ_Z value. For instance, even for $\kappa \sim 0.97$, one still have 6% of the full cross section which leads to about 15 events. The kinematically favored channel ZH associated production is more sensitive than the HA pair production, expanding to a larger m_H region, as long as $\kappa_Z > 0.1$. A higher energy collider would extend the mass coverage to the multiple TeV kinematical limit, with a proportionally larger κ_Z value as seen in the figures.

C. Comparison of Different Modes

Kinematically, the RR process and the ZH associated production have quite different threshold behavior due to the massless nature of the photon. The closer the Higgs boson mass is to the energy threshold, the more effective the RR channel would be with respect to the ZH associated production. Well above the threshold on the other hand, these two processes scale with the energy in the same way as $1/s$. Dynamically, the RR process is only dependent on κ_μ , while both ZH associated production and HA pair production mainly depend on κ_Z . These two parameters are essentially independent of each other, characterizing the muon Yukawa coupling and the Higgs-gauge coupling, respectively.

It would be nevertheless informative to put side-by-side the reach of the two theory parameters via these two processes. Our results are summarized in Fig. 6, where we choose a 3 TeV muon collider to illustrate this comparison in the parameter plane κ_μ - κ_Z . The shaded regions labeled by different values of the heavy Higgs mass show the higher signal rate from the RR process than both the ZH associated production and HA pair production. The nearly flat region for 1.4 TeV H and A represents the good sensitivity from HA pair production in the low κ_Z region. As expected, the RR process is more sensitive for a heavier Higgs boson near the energy threshold, which would be especially important in the decoupling regime for ZH/HA processes. At higher (lower) energies, the mass reach scales up (down), but with a lower (higher) luminosity need scaled by $1/s$.

Only after specifying the underlying theory for the heavy Higgs bosons, and requiring the lighter Higgs boson in agreement with the current LHC measurement, these two parameters could be constrained in a correlated manner, subject to the experimental accuracy. The allowed κ_Z region is tightly constrained by the currently observed SM-like Higgs boson. We reproduce the allowed parameter regions from Ref. [38] for four types of 2HDM with current LHC data (solid) and projection after LHC-300 fb^{-1} (dashed). This illustrates that the RR processes is very much favored in 2HDM models, where the lighter SM-like Higgs boson carries most of the couplings to the electroweak gauge bosons.

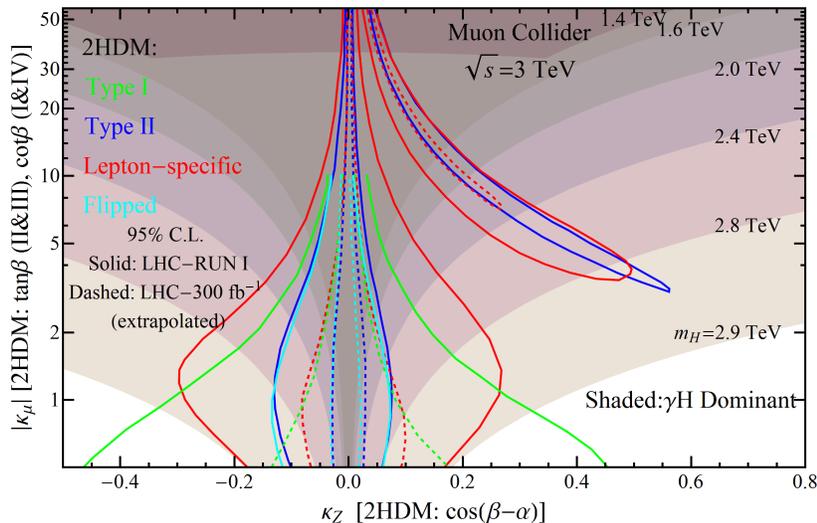


FIG. 6: Comparison of sensitivities between different production mechanisms in the parameter plane κ_μ - κ_Z for different masses of the heavy Higgs boson at the 3 TeV muon collider. The shaded regions show the higher signal rate from the RR process than both the ZH associated production and HA pair production. We also reproduce the allowed parameter regions (extracted from Ref. [38]) for four types of 2HDM with current LHC data (solid) and projection after LHC-300 fb^{-1} (dashed).

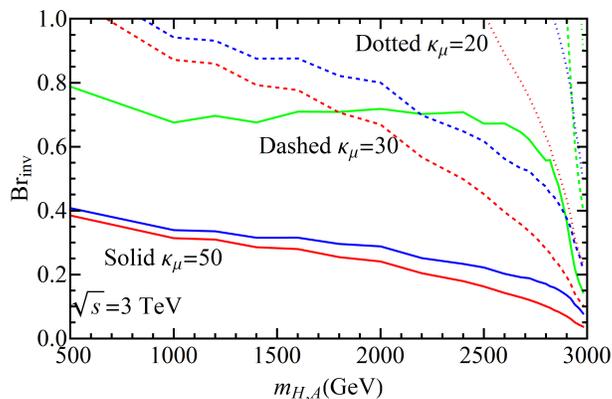


FIG. 7: Estimated 3σ reach for the invisible branching fraction of the heavy Higgs decay from RR at 3 TeV muon collider with 1.6 ab^{-1} . The Higgs widths are set at 1 (red), 10 (blue) and 100 (green) GeV.

III. DIRECT MEASUREMENT OF HIGGS INVISIBLE BRANCHING FRACTION

The heavy Higgs boson could have deep connection with the dark matter sector, and have a sizable decay branching fraction to invisible particles [39–43]. We consider the signal of the Heavy Higgs thus rendered invisible in the context of the RR heavy Higgs production. The signal events contain a clean mono-chromatic photon that reconstructs the heavy Higgs mass without other particle activities.

The t -channel W boson exchange with ISR is the leading background ($\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow \nu\nu\gamma$), with its cross section as large as 2.6 pb. With this background included, we show the 3σ sensitivity to probe the invisible modes in Fig. 7. We exhibit the results for a series of κ_μ values (20, 30, 50) and Higgs widths (1, 10, 100 GeV) at the 3 TeV muon collider described in Table II. The choice of bin sizes is to optimize the signal background ratio for $\kappa_\mu = 10$ at steps of 1 GeV.

We see that without knowing the heavy Higgs boson mass, one still gains some sensitivity for its invisible width. Once the mass is known from the RR process described in Sec. II A or from other means, the invisible width can be probed by tuning the beam close to the resonance. The invisible and undetectable width can also be mapped out indirectly with a dedicated beam scan as well, similar to the muon collider Higgs factory [8–10].

IV. CONCLUSIONS

We studied the signature and sensitivity for heavy Higgs boson signals from three production modes at a high energy muon collider. Compared to the s -channel resonance at $\sqrt{s} = m_h$, these different production mechanisms do not rely on *a priori* knowledge of the Higgs boson mass, and thus avoid the broad scanning procedure. We find that radiative return (RR) is of particular interest. This signal (γH) is characterized by a mono-chromatic photon that yields a reconstructed recoil mass peak at the heavy Higgs boson mass. We performed numerical simulations for this signal and its SM backgrounds and showed the coupling-mass parameter space κ_μ - m (SUSY equivalent of $\tan\beta - M_A$) covered by such search at a high energy muon collider to be substantially extended over the LHC expectation with the direct observation of the heavy Higgs boson. Comparing with other modes of ZH and HA production at a lepton collider, the RR process is advantageous, especially for the “decoupled” scenarios in many 2HDM-like models. We further discussed its potential for measuring the invisible decays of the heavy Higgs boson and found some sensitivity especially for larger values of κ_μ . The RR process could certainly provide us an interesting option comparing to traditional scanning procedure for heavy Higgs boson discovery at a high energy muon collider.

Because of the lepton universality for gauge interactions, the processes $\mu^+\mu^- \rightarrow ZH, HA$ would be the same as those in e^+e^- collisions at the same c.m. energy since the contributions to both processes are overwhelmingly from the s -channel Z -exchange. Thus the advantage of the RR process (γH) would also apply when compared with a high energy e^+e^- collider, where the RR process is essentially absent.

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