

Searches for vector-like quarks at future colliders and implications for composite Higgs models with dark matter

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ABSTRACT: Many composite Higgs models predict the existence of vector-like quarks with masses outside the reach of the LHC, e.g. $m_Q \gtrsim 2$ TeV, in particular if these models contain a dark matter candidate. In such models the mass of the new resonances is bounded from above to satisfy the constraint from the observed relic density. We therefore develop new strategies to search for vector-like quarks at a future 100 TeV collider and evaluate what masses and interactions can be probed. We find that masses as large as ~ 6.4 (~ 9) TeV can be tested if the fermionic resonances decay into Standard Model (dark matter) particles. We also discuss the complementarity of dark matter searches, showing that most of the parameter space can be closed. On balance, this study motivates further the consideration of a higher-energy hadron collider for a next generation of facilities.

KEYWORDS: Higgs Physics, Technicolor and Composite Models

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1 Introduction

Composite Higgs Models (CHMs) [1–3] are among the most compelling solutions to the hierarchy problem. They involve a new strongly-interacting sector (approximately) symmetric under a global group \mathcal{G} that is spontaneously broken to $\mathcal{H} \subset \mathcal{G}$ at a new physics scale f . The Higgs boson is assumed to be a pseudo Nambu-Goldstone Boson (pNGB) of this symmetry breaking pattern. The smoking-gun signature of this setup is the presence of new resonances, in particular Vector-Like Quarks (VLQs), whose masses scale as $m_\rho \sim g_\rho f$, with g_ρ being the coupling of the strong sector. The Higgs mass in these models is also expected to scale as $\sim m_\rho/(4\pi)$, hence requiring some tuning to make it light (~ 125 GeV) for large m_ρ .

Current experimental bounds on m_ρ range from ~ 900 to ~ 1300 GeV for top-like VLQs¹ [6–8]. These numbers are still compatible with expectations from naturalness arguments: e.g. refs. [9–14] highlighted values for m_ρ in the range $\lesssim 1 - 1.5$ TeV. Moreover, latter references (e.g. ref. [14]) have also shown that masses as large as $m_\rho \gtrsim 2$ TeV are compatible with a tuning on the Higgs mass of the order of $\sim 1/100$ in some classes of

¹We emphasize that the corresponding searches are motivated by the minimal CHM [4]. Thus, the results are obtained under the assumption that VLQs decay only into SM particles. For non-minimal symmetry breaking, the bounds can be significantly altered [5].

CHMs. Such masses are most probably beyond LHC reach [15–17] (at least in the model-independent pair-production mode). Therefore, it is conceivable that VLQs might not be discovered at the LHC and new facilities will be required to probe such models.

This conclusion can be further strengthened by exploring non-minimal CHMs containing extra stable pNGBs that can play the role of Dark Matter (DM) particles. These models are well motivated by two main reasons. *(i)* One single mechanism explains why the electroweak (EW) and the DM scales are of the same order, as suggested by the WIMP paradigm. *(ii)* The Higgs boson can have naturally small portal couplings to the pNGB DM, which evades the strong constraints from low-energy direct detection experiments. At the same time, the observed relic density can be produced by effective derivative couplings $\sim 1/f^2(\partial S)^2 h^2$ ($\sim m_S^2/f^2$ at momenta $p \sim m_S$ at which DM annihilation occurs). Thus, we will show that scenarios of this kind require $m_\rho \sim \text{few TeV}$ to accommodate the correct DM abundance. Consequently, we study the reach of a future 100 TeV collider to the VLQs, including decays into SM particles, which are also relevant for the minimal CHM, as well as into DM particles.

We extend previous works on the interplay between collider and DM searches in CHMs [18–20] in several ways: *(i)* Instead of focusing on a particular model, we adopt a generic parametrization that captures the main features of cosets like $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(5)$ [21], $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(6)$ [22, 23], $\text{SO}(7)/G_2$ [24, 25], $\text{SO}(5) \times \text{U}(1)/\text{SO}(4)$ [26], etc. *(ii)* We match to representations not previously considered in the literature (*e.g.* the 20 in $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(5)$) as well as symmetry breaking patterns not yet studied (*e.g.* $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(5)$ or $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(4)$). *(iii)* In what concerns LHC constraints, we consider the latest experimental data, including LHC searches for heavy pair-produced resonances at 13 TeV. *(iv)* We quantify the effect of having all resonances of a multiplet at once, instead of considering constraints on each separately.

This article is organized as follows. In section 2, we introduce briefly the effective parametrization describing the different models of interest. In section 3 we discuss the DM phenomenology in light of the parameters discussed previously. In section 4 we detail the current LHC constraints on new fermionic resonances and discuss new analysis strategies for future colliders. We devote section 4.1 to searches for VLQs with SM decays and section 4.2 to searches for VLQs decaying into DM particles. In section 5 we match the coefficients of the aforementioned parametrization to concrete non-minimal CHMs. We discuss the interplay between collider and DM searches in section 6 and highlight the characteristics of the most viable models.

2 Parametrization

We will denote by H the SM Higgs doublet with hypercharge $Y = 1/2$. Likewise, we assume the presence of a single scalar DM field S , singlet under the SM gauge group, whereas odd under a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry $S \rightarrow -S$. The relevant Lagrangian for our study is parameterized by m_ρ and g_ρ , namely the typical mass of the fermionic resonances and the typical coupling of the strong sector, as well as a number of dimensionless coefficients. We can write the

Lagrangian explicitly as

$$\begin{aligned}
 L = & |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - a_1 \frac{S^2}{f^2} \right] + \frac{a_2}{f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (S \partial_\mu S) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu S)^2 \left[1 - 2a_3 \frac{|H|^2}{f^2} \right] \\
 & - m_\rho^2 f^2 \frac{N_c y_t^2}{(4\pi)^2} \left[-\alpha \frac{|H|^2}{f^2} + \beta \frac{|H|^4}{f^4} + \gamma \frac{S^2}{f^2} + \delta \frac{S^2 |H|^2}{f^4} \right] + \left[i\epsilon \frac{y_t}{f^2} S^2 \bar{q}_L H t_R + \text{h.c.} \right],
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.1}$$

where a_1, a_2, a_3 and $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta, \epsilon$ are $\mathcal{O}(1)$, $f = m_\rho/g_\rho$, N_c is the number of SU(3) colours and $y_t \sim 1$ is the top Yukawa coupling. Note that not all these parameters are physical: for instance, a scaling of f could be reabsorbed in the dimensionless coefficients. Likewise, only a particular combination of these coefficients enter into physical observables, e.g. the DM annihilation cross section (see below). This parametrization is simple, predictive, yet flexible enough, and it can comprise very different CHMs. Moreover, it reflects the expected power counting in these setups [27, 28]. Finally, we emphasize that, being a strong coupling, g_ρ is expected to be $\gtrsim 1$, while perturbative unitarity implies² $g_\rho \lesssim 2\sqrt{2\pi} \sim 5$. We restrict ourselves to this range henceforth.

One can easily link the phenomenology of pair-produced VLQs with that of S . As a matter of fact, the former depends only on the mass of the VLQs, which is just given by $m_\rho \sim g_\rho f$. The number of such resonances and their charges depend crucially on the coset structure. In all our cases of interest, however, there is always a fourplet of VLQs transforming as $(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{2})$ under the custodial group $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ and/or a VLQ decaying 100% into St , with h the physical Higgs boson and t the SM top quark. For concreteness we assume that the decay rates of the different components in the fourplet are [31]

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{BR}(T, X_{2/3} \rightarrow ht) & \sim \text{BR}(T, X_{2/3} \rightarrow Zt) \sim 0.5, \\
 \text{BR}(B \rightarrow W^- t) & \sim \text{BR}(X_{5/3} \rightarrow W^+ t) \sim \text{BR}(T' \rightarrow St) \sim 1.
 \end{aligned} \tag{2.2}$$

3 Dark matter phenomenology

Contrary to the derivative interactions in eq. (2.1), the effective coupling driven by ϵ is not enhanced by the DM mass, m_S , at the annihilation scale. Additionally, it is suppressed by an additional $1/f$ factor with respect to the Higgs portal coupling in the potential (proportional to δ) in the low-energy DM-nucleon interactions. For these reasons, we take it to be zero hereafter for simplicity, but we will comment on the implications of switching it on when relevant.

Thus, the annihilation cross section is driven by the $|H|^2 S^2$ interaction, receiving contributions from both the sigma model Lagrangian and the potential. In particular, the Feynman rule associated to the quartic coupling between two DM particles and two Higgses

²The $\sqrt{2\pi}$ reduction on this estimation in comparison with the naive 4π has been pointed out e.g. in refs. [29, 30]. Often, the upper value $\sqrt{4\pi}$ is also used in the literature.

(or two longitudinal gauge bosons) reads

$$\begin{aligned}
 V &= \frac{i}{f^2} \left[-2N_c \delta \frac{m_\rho^2}{(4\pi)^2} + 2a_1(p_1 \cdot p_2) + 2a_3(p_3 \cdot p_4) - a_2(p_1 + p_2)(p_3 + p_4) \right] \\
 &= \frac{2i}{f^2} \left[(2a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3)m_S^2 - N_c \delta \frac{m_\rho^2}{(4\pi)^2} \right] \sim \frac{2iN_c m_\rho^2}{(4\pi)^2 f^2} [2(2a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3)\gamma - \delta], \quad (3.1)
 \end{aligned}$$

where p_1 and p_2 are the four-momenta of the Goldstone bosons while p_3 and p_4 stand for those of the DM particles. All momenta are assumed to be incoming. Due to momentum conservation we have the relation $(p_1 + p_2) = -(p_3 + p_4)$. The last equality in eq. (3.1) holds in the limit in which $m_S \gg m_h, m_W, m_Z$. We have neglected $\mathcal{O}(v^2/f^2)$ terms in m_S , where $v \sim 246$ GeV denotes the EW vacuum expectation value. In CHMs where both S and H come in the same multiplet of a larger group \mathcal{G} , one expects $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 \equiv a$. In such a case, the derivative interactions drive the DM annihilation provided $a\gamma > \delta/10$. Given that all these couplings are expected to be $\lesssim \mathcal{O}(1)$, derivative interactions are expected to be highly relevant in this class of models. Similar results have been previously pointed out in refs. [18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 32, 33]. For $a\gamma \sim \delta/10$, V in eq. (3.1) is very small, and therefore $\epsilon \neq 0$ can dominate the DM annihilation rate; see ref. [33] for an explicit example.

Regarding g_ρ and f , the relic density scales as $\Omega h^2 \sim m_S^2/V^2 \sim f^2/g_\rho^2$. As a consequence, very large values of f , as well as very small values of g_ρ , are excluded by the requirement $\Omega h^2 \leq \Omega h_{\text{obs}}^2 \sim 0.11$, where Ωh_{obs}^2 stands for the measured value of the total relic abundance [34]. Concerning direct detection constraints, derivative interactions are irrelevant as they are velocity suppressed. We consider current LUX limits [35] and future LZ goals [36] on spin-independent cross sections. In our notation, the theoretical prediction for the spin-independent cross section reads

$$\sigma \sim \frac{9}{256\pi^5} m_N^2 f_N^2 \delta^2 \frac{g_\rho^4}{m_h^4 m_S^2}, \quad (3.2)$$

with $f_N \sim 0.3$ [37, 38] and $m_N \sim 1$ GeV. Bounds from direct searches are therefore complementary to those set by the upper limit on Ωh^2 . Furthermore, both are parametrically complementary to the quantity $g_\rho f$ tested by collider searches for VLQs. Finally, indirect searches are of little relevance for scalar singlet models like the ones considered here [25, 39].

4 Searches for new resonances

The masses of the top partners in eq. (2.2) scale like $m_\rho = g_\rho f$. Thus, collider searches for VLQs are also complementary to the bounds set by direct-detection experiments and the measurement of the relic abundance. Moreover, contrary to direct detection tests, they are independent of the value of δ .

In order to compute the reach of current LHC data to the heavy resonances, we use `VLQlimits` [5]. This code includes the information of several experimental searches, at both 8 TeV [40] and 13 TeV [41–43] with the largest luminosity, as well as SUSY searches

sensitive to $T' \rightarrow St$ [44]. The code takes into account the simultaneous presence of all vector-like fermions in eq. (2.2). The limits obtained in this way set a robust constraint on

$$m_\rho = g_\rho f < 1.2 \text{ TeV}. \quad (4.1)$$

For a high-luminosity run of the LHC with $\mathcal{L} = 3 \text{ ab}^{-1}$, we estimate the corresponding bound by rescaling the signal and background events with the luminosity. We obtain

$$m_\rho = g_\rho f < 1.7 \text{ TeV}. \quad (4.2)$$

4.1 Search for vector-like quarks with Standard Model decays at 100 TeV

In order to estimate the prospects for the searches of VLQs at 100 TeV, we consider a 3-lepton final state. In case of 2/3 charged VLQs such a final state arises in $T \rightarrow Zt$ decays where one Z boson and one top quark decays leptonically. For 5/3 charged or $-1/3$ charged VLQs this final state arises from decays $X \rightarrow Wt$. While at the LHC searches for VLQs are mainly performed in 1-or 2-lepton final states (with the exception of the search [45]), due to the larger cross section, the 3-lepton final state has the advantage of smaller backgrounds. Since the cross sections are in general larger at the 100 TeV collider than at the LHC, the 3-lepton final state is an optimal choice for an estimate of the prospects for searches of VLQs.

We generate the signal with `Madgraph5_aMC@NLO` [46] and use `HERWIG` [47, 48] for the parton shower and the hadronization. The model file for the signal was generated with `FeynRules` [49]. The dominant background processes are $t\bar{t}VV$, $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ and $t\bar{t}V + \text{jets}$, with $V = W^\pm, Z$. For the latter we generate samples with an exclusive jet and we merge an additional jet using `Sherpa 2.2.2` [50, 51]. The background events for the processes $t\bar{t}VV$ and $t\bar{t}t\bar{t}$ are generated with `Madgraph5_aMC@NLO` and showered and hadronized with `HERWIG`. Jets are clustered with the anti- k_t algorithm as implemented in `FastJet` [52], with a radius parameter $R = 0.4$. For the analysis we use `Rivet` [53].

We apply the following basic selection cuts:

- exactly three leptons with $|\eta_\ell| < 2.5$ and $p_{T,\ell_1} > 250 \text{ GeV}$, $p_{T,\ell_2} > 100 \text{ GeV}$ and $p_{T,\ell_3} > 20 \text{ GeV}$
- at least four jets with $p_{T,j} > 40 \text{ GeV}$ and $|\eta_j| < 5$
- a cut on the transverse momentum of the leading jet $p_{T,j_1} > 70 \text{ GeV}$
- an angular separation between the jets and the leptons of

$$\Delta R(j, \ell) = \sqrt{\Delta\phi_{j\ell}^2 + \Delta\eta_{j\ell}^2} > 0.3$$

- We consider leptons to be isolated if they satisfy the so-called “mini-isolation” criterion [54], as for very boosted objects the angle between the leptons and other decay products of the boosted object decreases. Hence we require for our analysis that

$$p_T^{\text{in cone}}/p_{T\ell} > 0.1, \quad (4.3)$$

if

$$\Delta R(\ell, \text{track}) < 10 \text{ GeV}/p_{T,\ell}, \quad (4.4)$$

and

$$p_{T, \text{cone}}^{\text{in}} = \sum_{\text{track}} p_{T, \text{track}}, \quad (4.5)$$

where the sum runs over all tracks (except the respective lepton track) with $p_{T, \text{track}} > 1 \text{ GeV}$.

Furthermore, we apply the following cuts in the order

1. we require that exactly two of the jets are tagged as b -jets, $n_b = 2$. The angular separation between b -jets and light jets is required to be $\Delta R(j, b) > 0.3$. The tagging efficiency of the b -jets is set to 70% and the mistagging efficiency to 2%.
2. we set a cut on $H_T > 6 \text{ TeV}$ where $H_T = \sum_{\text{leptons}} p_{T,\ell} + \sum_{\text{jets}} p_{T,j} + E_{T, \text{miss}}$.
3. if we discuss the searches for 2/3 charged fermions we also request that the one Z boson mass is reconstructed from either a e^+e^- pair or a $\mu^+\mu^-$ pair in the window $71 \text{ GeV} < M_{\ell^+\ell^-} < 111 \text{ GeV}$.

The cutflow for the background processes and the signal for $m_T = 5 \text{ TeV}$ under the assumption that $\text{Br}(T \rightarrow tZ) = 1$ is shown in table 1. We give also the cutflow for $X_{5/3}\bar{X}_{5/3}$ pair production for $m_{X_{5/3}} = 5 \text{ TeV}$ under the assumption that $\text{Br}(X_{5/3} \rightarrow W^+t) = 1$. Note that this is equivalent to $B\bar{B}$ production. As it can be inferred from the table, the cut on H_T gives a very good handle on the signal over the background. We exemplify this also further in figure 1 where the H_T distribution for the different background processes and the $T\bar{T}$ signal for the masses $m_T = 5 \text{ TeV}$ (red) and $m_T = 3 \text{ TeV}$ (blue) is shown. For simplicity of the figure, we unify the background processes $t\bar{t}W^+W^-$, $t\bar{t}W^\pm Z$ and $t\bar{t}ZZ$ and the processes $t\bar{t}Zj[j]$ and $t\bar{t}W^\pm j[j]$ into one, since they have a very similar shape (with the $t\bar{t}W^\pm Z$ tending to slightly larger H_T than $t\bar{t}W^+W^-$ and $t\bar{t}ZZ$). As can be inferred from the figure, the H_T variable can be used to distinguish very well between signal and background processes. With increasing mass of the top partner m_T , the H_T distribution of the signal peak at higher H_T .

We implement a simple counting approach and hence compute the significance by

$$Z = \frac{S}{\sqrt{S+B}} \quad (4.6)$$

where S is the number of signal events and B is the number of background events.

We then find that at a 100 TeV collider with $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ($\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$) masses of the top partner of up to $m_T = 5 \text{ TeV}$ ($m_T = 5.7 \text{ TeV}$) can be excluded at 2σ , assuming $\text{BR}(T \rightarrow tZ) = 1$. The discovery reach is $m_T = 3.8 \text{ TeV}$ for $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ and $m_T = 4.6 \text{ TeV}$ for $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. For a 5/3 or $-1/3$ charged VLQ we find that masses up to $m_{X_{5/3}} = 4.8 \text{ TeV}$ ($m_{X_{5/3}} = 5.5 \text{ TeV}$) for $\text{BR}(X_{5/3} \rightarrow W^+t) = 1$ or $\text{BR}(B \rightarrow W^-t) = 1$ can be excluded. Note that the sensitivity is a bit less stringent than for the top partners, since we could not exploit the reconstruction of the leptonically decaying Z boson. However, this only results in a small effect on the significance.

cut flow	σ [fb]	$n_b = 2$	$H_T > 6$ TeV	one Z
$t\bar{t}\bar{t}$	3.71	0.706	$9.42 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$7.09 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$t\bar{t}ZZ$	0.306	$2.06 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$8.58 \cdot 10^{-4}$	$8.42 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$t\bar{t}WZ$	0.133	$1.26 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.18 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$8.90 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$t\bar{t}WW$	1.38	0.111	$3.93 \cdot 10^{-3}$	$2.22 \cdot 10^{-4}$
$t\bar{t}Wj[j]$	2.45	0.111	$1.53 \cdot 10^{-3}$	≈ 0
$t\bar{t}Zj[j]$	86.8	2.93	$2.14 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$1.84 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$T\bar{T} \ m_T = 5$ TeV	$7.09 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.56 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.53 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.48 \cdot 10^{-2}$
$X_{5/3}\bar{X}_{5/3} \ m_{X_{5/3}} = 5$ TeV	$6.50 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.56 \cdot 10^{-2}$	$2.48 \cdot 10^{-2}$	—

Table 1. Cut flow for the different background processes and the signal for $m_T = 5$ TeV with $\text{BR}(T \rightarrow tZ) = 1$ and $m_{X_{5/3}} = 5$ TeV with $\text{BR}(X_{5/3} \rightarrow W^+t) = 1$.

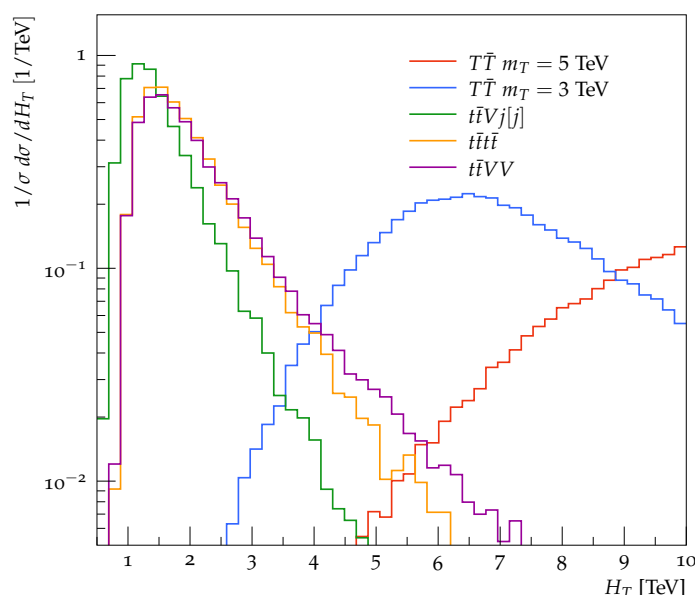


Figure 1. H_T distribution for the signal process $pp \rightarrow T\bar{T}$ with $m_T = 5$ TeV (red) and $m_T = 3$ TeV (blue) and the background processes $t\bar{t}V\bar{V}$ (violet), $t\bar{t}\bar{t}\bar{t}$ (orange) and $t\bar{t}Vj$ (green).

In figure 2 we show the BRs that can be excluded at the 2σ level as a function of the mass, for a top partner (left plot) and a bottom partner (right plot). Note that for low masses lower BRs can be potentially excluded if a smaller H_T cut is applied. Our H_T cut is optimised for large masses of the VLQ. For large BRs into other final states, e.g. $T \rightarrow W^+b$, other searches are needed. Under the assumption that the BRs add up to one, this will allow to exclude also lower BRs, as shown in figure 2. A closer assessment is however beyond the scope of this paper.

Finally, we show exclusion limits in the presence of several VLQ transforming in a $(\mathbf{2}, \mathbf{2})$ under $\text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{SU}(2)_R$ assuming their masses are approximately given by m_ρ and their BRs are as given in eq. (2.2). In such a case we can add up their cross sections. We then

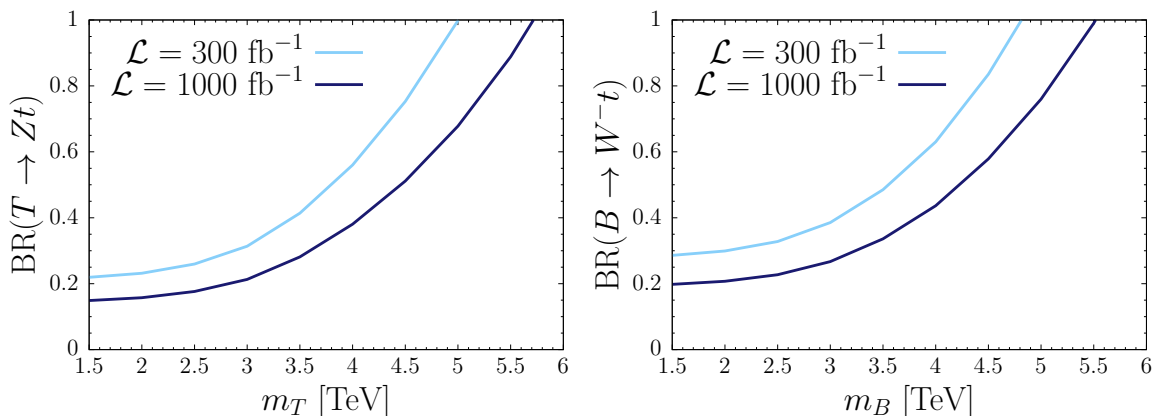


Figure 2. BRs that can be excluded at the 2σ level for $T \rightarrow Zt$ (left) and $B \rightarrow W^-t$ (right) for $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ (light blue) and $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ (dark blue) at a 100 TeV collider in the 3-lepton final state.

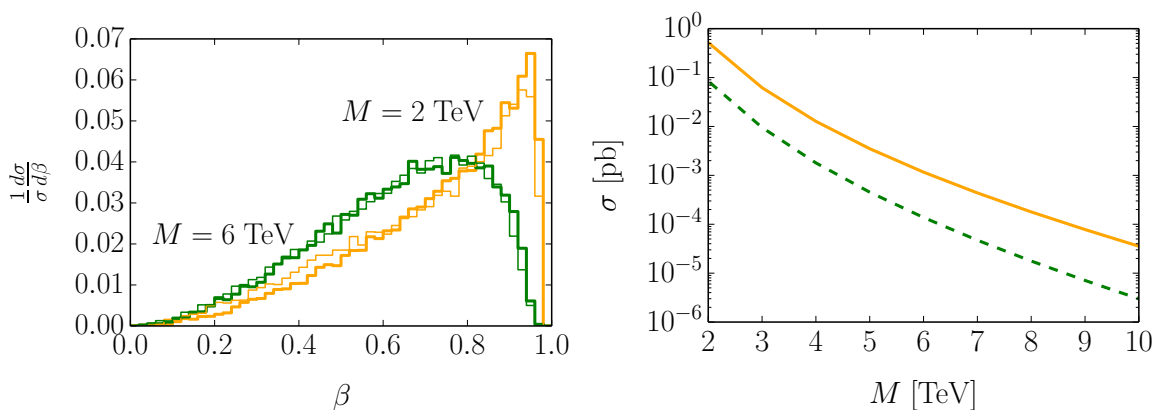


Figure 3. Left) Normalized distribution for β in pair-produced stops (thin lines) and VLQs (thick lines) for $M = 2 \text{ TeV}$ (orange) and $M = 6 \text{ TeV}$ (green). Right) Pair-production cross section at $\sqrt{s} = 100 \text{ TeV}$ for stops (green dashed line) and for VLQs (solid orange line). In all cases, M stands for either the mass of the stop or the mass m_ρ of the VLQ.

obtain that masses up to $m_\rho = 5.7 \text{ TeV}$ ($m_\rho = 6.4 \text{ TeV}$) can be probed for $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ($\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$).

4.2 Search for $StSt$ at 100 TeV

Prospects for $pp \rightarrow T'T' \rightarrow StSt$ can be obtained from those for pair-produced stops [55]. Although scalars and fermions present *a priori* different kinematics due to the different structure of their interactions with SM particles, the kinematic differences are small. To show that, we depict in the left panel of figure 3 the boost factor (β) distribution of pair-produced stops (thin line) and pair-produced VLQs (thick lines) for masses $M = 2 \text{ TeV}$ (orange) and $M = 6 \text{ TeV}$ (green). Consequently, the reach of the projected analysis in ref. [55] for VLQs can be obtained by rescaling by the larger VLQ pair-production cross section. The latter is shown in the right panel of figure 3 (orange solid line). The corresponding cross section for stops is also drawn (green dashed line). As it can be seen, there is almost an order of magnitude of difference between the two.

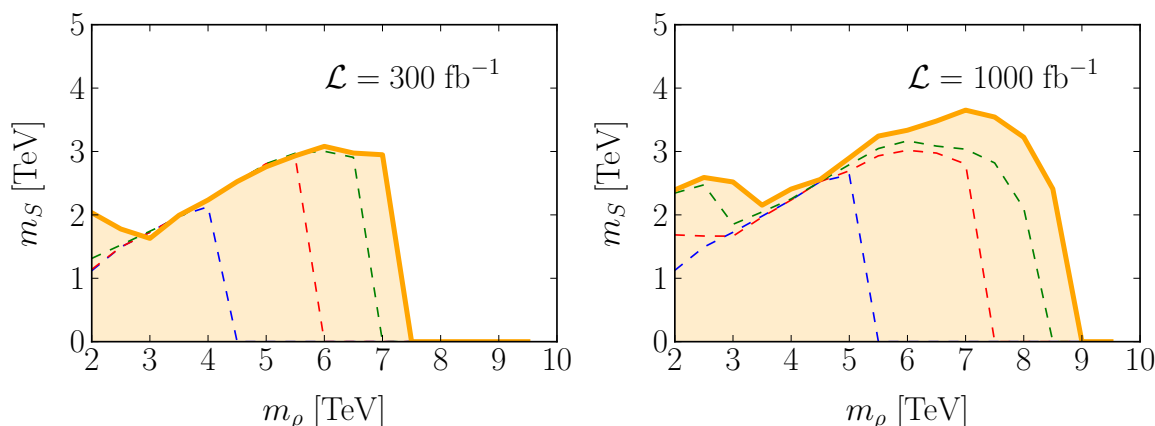


Figure 4. Left) The area below the orange solid, green dashed, red dashed and blue dashed lines can be excluded at the 95 % C.L. by recasting the analysis of ref. [55] with $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ assuming $\text{BR}(T' \rightarrow St) = 1, 0.8, 0.5$ and 0.2 , respectively. Right) Same as Left) but for $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$.

The concrete bound on m_ρ depends also on m_S . We obtain the excluded regions in the plane $m_T - m_S$ in figure 4. In the left panel the integrated luminosity at a future 100 TeV collider is assumed to be $\mathcal{L} = 300 \text{ fb}^{-1}$; in the right panel, $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$. The regions below the solid orange line and the dashed green, red and blue lines are excluded at the 95 % C.L. assuming $\text{BR}(T' \rightarrow St) = 1$ and $0.8, 0.5$ and 0.2 , respectively. Note that for γ as large as ~ 1 , $m_S/m_T \sim 0.2$. For smaller values of γ , m_S is even smaller. Thus, with $\mathcal{L} = 1000 \text{ fb}^{-1}$, resonances of mass below $\sim 9 \text{ TeV}$ can be excluded.

5 Matching to concrete models

In this section we consider different coset structures containing at least a Higgs doublet and an additional scalar singlet. The latter is supposed to be stabilized by an external symmetry compatible with the strong dynamics. By studying different representations in which the SM fermions (mainly the third generation q_L and t_R) can be embedded, we will see that definite $\mathcal{O}(1)$ coefficients in eq. (2.1) are predicted.

In order to fix the notation, let us call T (X) the unbroken (broken) generators of any symmetry breaking pattern $\mathcal{G} \times \text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{U}(1)'/\mathcal{H} \times \text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{U}(1)'$. The spectator $\text{U}(1)'$ is typically required to reproduce the fermion hypercharges. Hereafter we will omit both this and the colour group. Let us also define $\Pi = \Pi_a X^a$ with Π_a running over the pNGBs. The sigma-model Lagrangian at the leading order in derivatives reads

$$L_\sigma = \frac{1}{4} f^2 d^2, \quad d^2 = d_\mu^a d^{a\mu}, \quad (5.1)$$

where d_μ^a is the projection of the Maurer-Cartan one-form of the broken generators. It is explicitly defined by the equality

$$-iU^\dagger D_\mu U = d_\mu^a X^a + T^i \text{ terms}, \quad \text{with } U = \exp\left(i\sqrt{2}\frac{\Pi}{f}\right). \quad (5.2)$$

\mathcal{G}/\mathcal{H}	$q_L + t_R$	a_1	a_2	a_3	γ	δ
SO(6)/SO(5)	6 + 1				–	–
	6 + 15	1/3	1/3	1/3	$\ll 1$	$\ll 1$
	15 + 15				$\ll 1$	$\ll 1$
	20 + 1				1/4	1/5
SO(7)/SO(6)	7 + 1	1/3	1/3	1/3	–	–
	7 + 7				–	–
	27 + 1				$\leq 1/4$	$\leq 1/5$
SO(7)/ G_2	8 + 8	1/3	1/3	1/3	–	–
	35 + 1				1/4	1/5
SO(6)/SO(4)	6 + 6	0	1/6	1/3	–	–
SO(5) \times U(1)/SO(4)	5 + 5	0	0	0	$\ll 1$	$\ll 1$
SO(7)/SO(5)	7 + 7	$< 1/3$	$< 1/3$	1/3	–	–
SO(7)/SO(6)	27 + 1	~ 0.3	~ 0.3	~ 0.3	$\sim 1/4$	$\sim \sqrt{2}/5$
[complex case]						

Table 2. Summary of the values that the $\mathcal{O}(1)$ coefficients in eq. (2.1) can take in different CHMs. See the text in sections 5.1–5.5 for details on the possible assumptions made in each case.

5.1 SO(6)/SO(5) and related models

We start considering the symmetry breaking pattern SO(6)/SO(5) [21]. The generators can be chosen to be

$$T_{ij}^{mn} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(\delta_i^m \delta_j^n - \delta_i^n \delta_j^m), \quad m < n \in [1, 5], \quad (5.3)$$

$$X_{ij}^{m6} = -\frac{i}{\sqrt{2}}(\delta_i^m \delta_j^6 - \delta_i^6 \delta_j^m), \quad m \in [1, 5]. \quad (5.4)$$

X^{16}, \dots, X^{46} expand the coset space of the Higgs doublet. The broken generator associated to S is provided by X^{56} . Expanding L_σ in powers of $1/f$ we get

$$L_\sigma = |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - \frac{S^2}{3f^2} \right] + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu S)^2 \left[1 - 2\frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right] + \frac{1}{3f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (S \partial_\mu S) + \dots$$

where the ellipsis stands for terms with higher powers of $1/f$. This Lagrangian already fixes the values of $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 1/3$ in eq. (2.1). The exact values of the other $\mathcal{O}(1)$ parameters depend on the pairs of representations that embed the third generation q_L and t_R . Different choices can generate a scalar potential and the SM-like Yukawa Lagrangian without breaking the external symmetry stabilizing the scalar S . Among others, $q_L + t_R$ can transform in: **6+1**, **6+6**, **6+15**, **15+15** or the **20+1**. Note that we are implicitly assuming that the third generation q_L and t_R mix with only one composite operator. This implies

that lighter generations might be embedded in different representations. For example, if the choice $\mathbf{6} + \mathbf{6}$ is made for the top quark, b_R cannot be embedded in the same representation, because it should carry a different charge under $U(1)'$ than the one associated to q_L (the $U(1)'$ charge matches the one of t_R). Under this assumption, the hierarchical Yukawa matrices can originate simply from the renormalization group evolution of non-hierarchical couplings in the UV [30].

Among the highlighted choices of representations, the first one, $\mathbf{6} + \mathbf{1}$, is problematic because $t_R \sim \mathbf{1}$ does not break the global symmetry. It must be instead broken by $q_L \sim \mathbf{6}$, which decomposes as $\mathbf{6} = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{5}$ under $SO(5)$. Therefore, the Higgs mass would depend on only one free parameter to leading order.³ Its smallness, required to explain why the Higgs mass is much smaller than the scale $f \sim \text{TeV}$, can only be explained at the expense of unexpected cancellations in the strong sector.

In the second case, $\mathbf{6} + \mathbf{6}$, however, t_R does break the global symmetry and partially cancel the contribution of q_L to the Higgs mass. Nevertheless, the leading-order Higgs potential has only a minimum at $H = 0$, so it does not drive EWSB. Next-to-leading order terms must be considered, which not only need to be tuned to be of similar size to those generated at leading order, but they also increase the number of free parameters. Definite predictions for γ and δ cannot be made. The same holds true for the next two cases, $\mathbf{6} + \mathbf{15}$ and $\mathbf{15} + \mathbf{15}$. However, the embedding of t_R in the $\mathbf{15}$ can respect the shift symmetry of S and hence make it light. Where this the case, γ and δ would be predicted to be $\ll 1$. We will come to this point again in section 6.

Finally, the choice $\mathbf{20} + \mathbf{1}$ can lead to definite predictions. Despite the fact that $t_R \sim \mathbf{1}$ does not break the global symmetry, $q_L \sim \mathbf{20}$, which decomposes as $\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{5} + \mathbf{14}$, generates both a Higgs mass term and a quartic coupling that depend on only two unknowns; see footnote 3. Expanding the one-loop induced potential in powers of $1/f$ and restricting to the renormalizable terms, we find

$$V = c_1 \left[2f^2 |H|^2 - \frac{16}{3} |H|^4 - \frac{8}{3} S^2 |H|^2 \right] + c_2 \left[-\frac{7}{2} f^2 |H|^2 + \frac{19}{3} |H|^4 - 2S^2 + \frac{23}{6} S^2 |H|^2 \right]. \quad (5.5)$$

We stress that the small differences with the results obtained, for example in eq. 4.11 of ref. [28] (in their stability-preserving limit $\zeta \rightarrow 0$), are due to the fact that we are using a shift-symmetry preserving basis that does not resum higher-orders of $1/f$. The two unknowns, c_1 and c_2 , can then be traded for the Higgs mass and its quartic coupling:

$$V = \mu |H|^2 + \lambda_H |H|^4 + \frac{1}{3} f^2 \lambda_H S^2 + \frac{5}{18} \lambda_H S^2 |H|^2 + \mathcal{O} \left(\frac{v^2}{f^2} \right). \quad (5.6)$$

³It is well known [30] that the number of free parameters (encoding the details of the strong dynamics) in the leading-order term in the one-loop induced potential (namely that containing the smallest number of symmetry breaking insertions) is one unit smaller than the number of \mathcal{H} invariants that can be constructed out of the irreducible representations into which a particular representation of \mathcal{G} decomposes. In the case under study, two such invariants exist: the $SO(5)$ singlet resulting from the product $\mathbf{5} \times \mathbf{5}$ and the one given by $\mathbf{1} \times \mathbf{1}$.

Putting all together, the relevant Lagrangian reads

$$L = |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - \frac{S^2}{3f^2} \right] + \frac{1}{3f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (S \partial_\mu S) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu S)^2 \left[1 - 2 \frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right] - \left[\frac{1}{3} f^2 \lambda_H S^2 + \frac{5}{18} \lambda_H S^2 |H|^2 \right], \quad (5.7)$$

where λ_H denotes the usual Higgs quartic coupling. For a mild value of $g_\rho \sim 3$, this corresponds to

$$a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = \frac{1}{3}, \quad \gamma \sim \frac{1}{4}, \quad \delta \sim \frac{1}{5}. \quad (5.8)$$

Departures from this relation might appear if the gauge contribution to the scalar potential were sizable, too.

Similar results to the ones discussed so far apply also to other models based on the coset $SO(n+1)/SO(n)$. They all develop a Higgs doublet and $n-4$ singlets. Thus, for example, representations such as the $\mathbf{7} + \mathbf{1}$, $\mathbf{7} + \mathbf{7}$ or $\mathbf{21} + \mathbf{7}$ in $SO(7)/SO(6)$ require the inclusion of both the leading and the next-to-leading terms in the one-loop induced potential to achieve EWSB. The choice $\mathbf{27} + \mathbf{1}$, instead, gives rise to a Lagrangian very similar to the one in the equation above:

$$L = |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - \frac{1}{3f^2} (S^2 + S'^2) \right] + \frac{1}{2} [(\partial_\mu S)^2 + (\partial_\mu S')^2] \left[1 - 2 \frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right] + \frac{1}{3f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (S \partial_\mu S + S' \partial_\mu S') - \left[\frac{1}{3} f^2 \lambda_H (S^2 + S'^2) + \frac{5}{18} \lambda_H (S^2 + S'^2) |H|^2 \right]. \quad (5.9)$$

The phenomenology of the DM particle S is thus identical to the case of $SO(7)/SO(6)$, provided that the extra pNGB, S' , is heavier.

A mass splitting between the two singlets cannot come from gauging $SO(6)$ (which induces a potential only for the Higgs doublet). Instead, it has to arise due to global-symmetry breaking induced through the fermionic sector. For example, a small increase of the mass of the second pNGB singlet arises if b_R is embedded in the appropriate irreducible representation of a $\mathbf{7}$ of $SO(7)$. Note that this representation reduces to

$$\mathbf{7} = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{6} = \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{1} + \mathbf{4}, \quad (5.10)$$

under $SO(6)$ and $SO(4)$, respectively. If b_R has components in the first singlet (which is a total singlet of $SO(6)$) and the second one (which is also a singlet of $SO(5) \subset SO(6)$), then the mass of the non-DM Goldstone can be increased. In the base analogous to that of eq. (5.3), this embedding can be achieved by

$$B_R = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, i\zeta b_R, b_R), \quad \zeta > 0. \quad (5.11)$$

This gives a mass splitting of order

$$m_{S'} - m_S = \frac{m_{S'}^2 - m_S^2}{m_{S'} + m_S} \sim \frac{m_{S'}^2 - m_S^2}{2m_{S_1}} \sim \frac{m_\rho y_b \zeta^2}{8\pi}. \quad (5.12)$$

Note that small differences in the coefficients of the potential would be expected if S and S' mix and the physical DM were a linear combination of both S and S' . The parameters a_1, a_2 and a_3 in the derivative interactions, instead, would remain the same, given that the derivative Lagrangian is invariant under an arbitrary $\text{SO}(2)$ transformation of S and S' .

Finally, the coset $\text{SO}(7)/G_2$ provides another very similar scenario. The pNGB spectrum consists of the Higgs doublet, a neutral scalar S and singly-charged singlet κ^\pm . Among the smallest representations that can embed the third generation q_L and t_R we find $\mathbf{8} + \mathbf{8}$ and $\mathbf{35} + \mathbf{1}$. The second leads again to the predictions of eq. (5.8). The DM phenomenology is, therefore, similar to that of $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(5)$ with $\mathbf{20} + \mathbf{1}$, provided, again, that κ^\pm is heavier than S and hence cannot be produced in DM annihilations. Likewise in the case of $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(6)$, this splitting can be triggered by b_R if it is embedded, for example, in the $\mathbf{7}$ within the $\mathbf{21} = \mathbf{7} + \mathbf{14}$ of $\text{SO}(7)$. A larger splitting arises however from the hypercharge interactions (note that κ^\pm is charged while S is not). It can be estimated to be

$$m_{\kappa^\pm} - m_S \sim \frac{m_\rho g'^2}{4\pi}. \quad (5.13)$$

5.2 $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(4)$

This coset is special in the sense that the pNGBs transform in a *reducible* representation of the unbroken group $\text{SO}(4)$, namely $\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{4} + \mathbf{4}$. In the basis of eq. (5.3), these are expanded by X^{56} , by X^{15}, \dots, X^{45} and by X^{16}, \dots, X^{46} , respectively. The sigma-model Lagrangian can then be written to leading order in derivatives as

$$L_\sigma = \frac{\tilde{f}^2}{4} \left[c_{11}(d^1)^2 + c_{44}(d^4)^2 + c_{4\bar{4}}d^4\tilde{d}^4 + c_{\bar{4}\bar{4}}(\tilde{d}^4)^2 \right]. \quad (5.14)$$

Contrary to the previous cases, it depends on several free parameters, $c_{11}, c_{44}, c_{4\bar{4}}, c_{\bar{4}\bar{4}}$. The different d symbols correspond to

$$d_\mu^1 = d_\mu^{56} X^{56}, \quad d_\mu^4 = d_\mu^{15} X^{15} + \dots + d_\mu^{45} X^{45}, \quad \tilde{d}_\mu^4 = d_\mu^{16} X^{16} + \dots + d_\mu^{46} X^{46}. \quad (5.15)$$

They do not mix under a generic $\text{SO}(4)$ transformation.

The coefficients a_1, a_2 and a_3 in the derivative interactions in eq. (2.1) can then get different values. As a particular scenario, let us discuss the case $c_{11} > c_{4\bar{4}} \sim c_{\bar{4}\bar{4}} \gg c_{44}$. This can be interpreted as two step symmetry breaking: $\text{SO}(6) \rightarrow \text{SO}(5) \rightarrow \text{SO}(4)$. The first takes place at a scale $\sim c_{\bar{4}\bar{4}} f^2$ at which the second doublet can get a mass of similar order. A phenomenological study of a scenario similar to this interpretation has been given in ref. [56]. Provided the singlet remains light, which can occur if its associated shift symmetry is only slightly broken, the phenomenology at the scale $f = \tilde{f} \sim c_{44}$ is that described by the parametrization of eq. (2.1). The relevant sigma Lagrangian reads

$$L_\sigma = |D_\mu H|^2 + \frac{1}{6f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (S \partial_\mu S) + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_\mu S)^2 \left[1 - 2 \frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right]. \quad (5.16)$$

With γ and δ depending on the fermion representation that we did not specify explicitly for this case, we can conclude that

$$a_1 = 0, \quad a_2 = \frac{1}{6}, \quad a_3 = \frac{1}{3}. \quad (5.17)$$

5.3 $\text{SO}(5) \times \text{U}(1)/\text{SO}(4)$

This coset has been previously considered in ref. [26]. The product structure of the global group makes the pNGBs transform also in a reducible representation: $\mathbf{4} + \mathbf{1}$. As a consequence, the sigma model Lagrangian is written as

$$L_\sigma = \frac{1}{4}f^2 d^2 + \frac{1}{4}f_S^2 \left| \partial_\mu \exp i \frac{\sqrt{2}}{f_S} \right|^2 = |D_\mu H|^2 + \frac{1}{2}(\partial_\mu S)^2 + \dots \quad (5.18)$$

where the ellipsis stand for terms with higher powers of $1/f$ and $1/f_S$ which, however, do not make H and S interact. Note also that in the equation above, d is constructed out of the four broken generators of $\text{SO}(5)/\text{SO}(4)$. This model provides then, a DM phenomenology very similar to that of the elementary Higgs portal. It has been also pointed out that, within this scenario, the scalar potential for S vanishes unless the top quark mixes with several composite operators transforming in different representations of the global group. As we have argued before, renormalization group evolution of anarchical couplings in the UV can not explain the absence of flavour-violating effects by itself. Although this problem might be circumvent by advocating extra symmetries (see for example ref. [28]), one might still expect the top quark to mix mostly with one composite resonance. In that case, we could obtain

$$a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 0, \quad \gamma \sim \delta \ll 1. \quad (5.19)$$

5.4 $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(5)$

In the same vein as $\text{SO}(6)/\text{SO}(4)$, this model develops three multiplets of the unbroken group, transforming in a reducible representation: $\mathbf{1} + \mathbf{5} + \mathbf{5}$. Following the discussion (and notation) of section 5.2, again in the limit $c_{11} > c_{5\bar{5}} \sim c_{5\bar{5}} \gg c_{55}$, one might expect the sigma-model Lagrangian to read

$$L_\sigma = \frac{1}{4}f^2 (c_{11}(d^1)^2 + c_{5\bar{5}}(d^5)^2) = |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - \frac{1}{3f^2} S^2 \right] + \frac{1}{2} [(\partial_\mu S')^2 + (\partial_\mu S)^2] \left(1 - 2 \frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right) + \frac{1}{6f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (2S \partial_\mu S + S' \partial_\mu S') + \dots, \quad (5.20)$$

where S' stands for the complete singlet of $\text{SO}(5)$. As in the case of $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(6)$, S and S' could mix, for example, if they were both protected by a \mathbb{Z}_2 symmetry. The difference is that, in this case, the sigma-model is not invariant under a general $\text{SO}(2)$ transformation rotating S into S' .

Assuming that the physical DM particle is mostly S , one obtains

$$a_1 < a_2 < a_3 = \frac{1}{3}. \quad (5.21)$$

5.5 Complex dark matter in $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(6)$

As we have mentioned before, the sigma-model Lagrangian in $\text{SO}(7)/\text{SO}(6)$ respects an additional $\text{SO}(2)$ symmetry under which S' rotates into S . This symmetry is of course not broken by the gauge interactions (unless that $\text{SO}(2)$ is also gauged giving rise to an

extended model with a Z' boson). If it were also not broken by the mixings between the elementary and the composite fermions, S and S' would be degenerated in mass and would form a complex DM candidate. (Note that, in such a case, there is no need to assume that the strong sector is compatible with the symmetry stabilizing the DM.) A thorough study of this model in the $\mathbf{7} + \mathbf{7}$ representation has been carried out in ref. [23].

Another possibility is considering, for example, $q_L \sim \mathbf{27}, t_R \sim \mathbf{1}$. q_L is explicitly embedded in

$$Q_L = \begin{pmatrix} 0_{6 \times 6} & \mathbf{v}^T \\ \mathbf{v} & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{v} = (ib_L, b_L, it_L, -t_L, 0, 0). \quad (5.22)$$

An arbitrary $SO(2)$ rotation of angle θ mixing S and S' can be implemented by

$$R(\theta)U = \exp[i\sqrt{2}\theta X^{56}]U \exp[-i\sqrt{2}\theta X^{56}], \quad (5.23)$$

which, when acting on Q_L , gives $R(\theta)Q_L = Q_L$. Being Q_L an eigenstate of $R(\theta)$ means that the elementary-composite mixing does not break the $SO(2)$ symmetry. The relevant Lagrangian reads in this case

$$L = |D_\mu H|^2 \left[1 - \frac{2|\mathbb{S}|^2}{3f^2} \right] + (\partial_\mu \mathbb{S})^2 \left[1 - 2\frac{|H|^2}{3f^2} \right] + \frac{1}{3f^2} \partial_\mu |H|^2 (\mathbb{S}^* \overleftrightarrow{\partial}_\mu \mathbb{S}) - \left[\frac{2}{3} f^2 \lambda_H |\mathbb{S}|^2 + \frac{5}{9} \lambda_H \frac{|\mathbb{S}|^2 |H|^2}{f^4} \right] + \dots \quad (5.24)$$

For a mild value of $g_\rho \sim 3$, this can be mimicked by a real scalar scenario⁴ with:

$$a_1 = a_2 = a_3 \sim 0.3, \quad \gamma \sim \frac{1}{4}, \quad \delta \sim \frac{\sqrt{2}}{5}. \quad (5.25)$$

A compilation of values that can be expected for the $\mathcal{O}(1)$ coefficients in eq. (2.1) is shown in table 2.

6 Discussion

We continue by analysing the interplay between DM and collider searches for different values of the free parameters. Note that the a_1, a_2 and a_3 coefficients are mainly relevant for the computation of the relic density (which we derive using `MicrOmegas` [57]), and they enter only in the combination $2a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3$; see eq. (3.1). We therefore define $a \equiv (2a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3)/5$. We fix this parameter, as well as γ and δ , to different benchmark points, and scan over f and g_ρ . The results can be seen in figure 5. The figure can be compared to the concrete models we discussed in section 5 for the corresponding coefficients a, γ and δ at $g_\rho = 3$. Three main conclusions can be drawn:

⁴Note that actually there are two solutions for $a_1 = a_2 = a_3 = 31/(75\sqrt{2})$ and $-7/(75\sqrt{2})$. We remark also that the reason that we can do such a matching to the real scalar case is that both derivative and potential couplings are present. Instead for an elementary singlet it is impossible because the relic abundance fixes the coupling δ which can then not be adjusted anymore for the direct detection cross section.

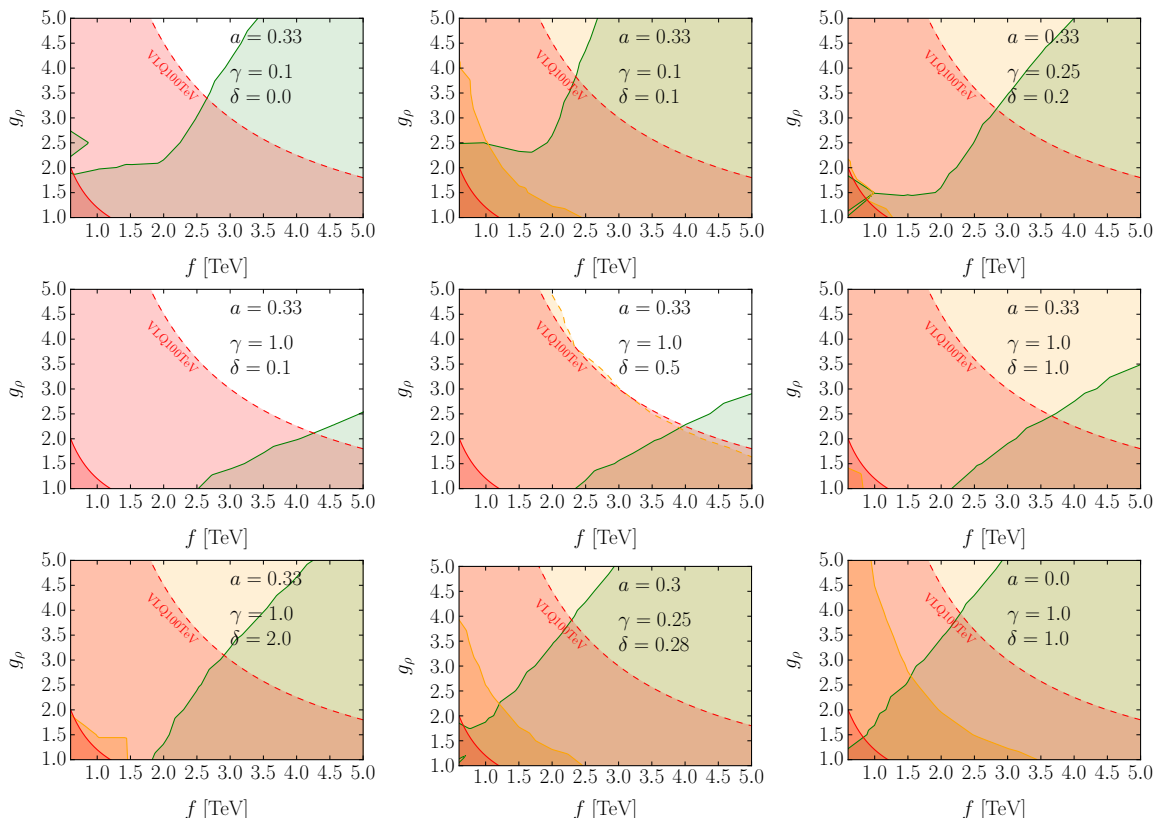


Figure 5. Reach of DM and collider searches for different choices of $a \equiv (2a_1 + 2a_2 + a_3)/5$, γ and δ . In the green area enclosed by the green solid line DM is over-abundant. The orange area enclosed by the solid orange line is already excluded by LUX. The orange area enclosed by the dashed orange line will be tested by LZ. The red area enclosed by the solid red line is already excluded by the LHC. The red area enclosed by the dashed red curve can be tested by a 100 TeV collider.

- For most values of the model-dependent coefficients, the parameter space region explaining the totality of the DM relic abundance requires $m_\rho = g_\rho f \gtrsim 2$ TeV, well above the current LHC limits. Were ϵ non-vanishing, the DM annihilation cross section would be larger, for which larger values of the DM mass would be necessary to fit the correct relic abundance. Consequently the green line in the plots above would shift to larger values of f , pointing to even larger m_ρ . We stress however again that unless there is a cancellation between the portal and derivative interactions, the operator going with ϵ is typically of small relevance. It is also worth noting that large values of f are also *experimentally* excluded, due to the DM over-abundance. This gives a more robust bound than fine-tuning arguments, while still in concordance with them.
- The parameter space region bounded by the measurement of the total relic density is totally complementary to that tested by direct searches for VLQs. The latter are particularly relevant when δ is small (so that direct detection experiments are poorly sensitive). Among other scenarios in this class, we find $SO(5) \times U(1)/SO(4)$, as well as models in which the S shift symmetry is not broken by the top interactions, but by the bottom sector (e.g. $SO(6)/SO(5)$ with $q_L + t_R = \mathbf{6} + \mathbf{15}$; see table 2).

- If the perturbative unitarity bound on g_ρ is lowered to (the commonly used value) $\sqrt{4\pi} \sim 3.5$, almost the whole parameter space can be tested by the combination of DM and collider searches, irrespectively of the value of the $\mathcal{O}(1)$ model-dependent coefficients.

It is also worth stressing that, although not explicitly depicted in the figure, the strong bound ($m_\rho \sim 6.4$ TeV) that can be set on VLQs decaying into SM particles can be relevant if, for instance, T' is much heavier than the fourplet of VLQs. This can happen, e.g. in SO(6)/SO(5) with $q_L + t_R = \mathbf{6} + \mathbf{6}$ [31].

Finally, we note that DM scenarios in non-minimal CHMs can also be constrained by Higgs coupling measurements at future colliders. For instance in SO(6)/SO(5) and related models with DM, the Higgs to vector boson couplings can be written as

$$g_{hVV} \approx g_{hVV}^{SM} \left(1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{v^2}{f^2} \right). \quad (6.1)$$

Using the results of ref. [58] (see also ref. [59] for similar results) we conclude that at the ILC with energies of $250 + 500$ GeV ($250 + 500 + 1000$ GeV) and $\mathcal{L} = 250 + 500 \text{ fb}^{-1}$ ($\mathcal{L} = 1150 + 1600 + 2500 \text{ fb}^{-1}$) a scale of $f = 1950$ GeV ($f = 2460$ GeV) can be probed. This constraint complements the previous ones for values of $g_\rho \gtrsim 3.5$.

7 Conclusion

In summary, we have shown that collider searches for vector-like quarks at the LHC and future colliders can bound the parameter region that is complementary to the one bounded by the measurement of the relic density. We have provided estimates for the potential sensitivity for searches of VLQs at a 100 TeV collider. While the searches for final states with dark matter have the strongest reach, up to $m_\rho = 9$ TeV, for masses of the dark matter particle of up to 3 TeV, our results for the decays into SM particles only depend on the respective branching ratio and can be applied to scenarios where the lightest VLQ does not decay into the dark matter particle. In particular, we found for the 3-lepton final state that $m_\rho < 6.4$ TeV can be excluded for a four-plet of $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$. In addition, we checked the limits from the direct detection of dark matter at the LUX experiment and provided estimates of the sensitivity of the future experiment LZ. In order to do so, we advocated the usage of an effective parametrization that allowed us to apply our results to a multitude of models. Taking into account all these ingredients we have shown that dark matter scenarios within Composite Higgs Models can be well probed at future experiments, leaving no or only little parameter space unexplored.

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