

THE ALIGNED TWO-HIGGS-DOUBLET MODEL*

PAULA TUZÓN, ANTONIO PICH

Departament de Física Teòrica, IFIC, Universitat de València-CSIC
Apt. Correus 22085, 46071 València, Spain

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In the two-Higgs-doublet model the alignment of the Yukawa flavour matrices of the two scalar doublets guarantees the absence of tree-level flavour-changing neutral couplings. The resulting fermion-scalar interactions are parameterized in terms of three complex parameters ζ_f , leading to a generic Yukawa structure which contains as particular cases all known specific implementations of the model based on $\mathbb{Z}_2$ symmetries. These three complex parameters are potential new sources of CP violation.

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1. The generic two-Higgs-doublet model

The two-Higgs-doublet model (THDM) [1, 2] is one of the most simplest extensions of the Standard Model (SM) and brings many interesting phenomenological features (new sources of CP violation, dark matter candidates, axion phenomenology ...). It is a gauge theory with the same fermion content as the SM and two Higgs doublets ϕ_a ($a = 1, 2$) with hypercharge $Y = 1/2$. The neutral components of the scalar doublets acquire vacuum expectation values that are, in general, complex: $\langle 0 | \phi_a^T(x) | 0 \rangle = 1/\sqrt{2} (0, v_a e^{i\theta_a})$. One can fix $\theta_1 = 0$ through an appropriate $U(1)_Y$ transformation, leaving the relative phase $\theta \equiv \theta_2 - \theta_1$.

A global $SU(2)$ transformation in the scalar space (ϕ_1, ϕ_2) allows us to define the so-called Higgs basis (Φ_1, Φ_2) where only one doublet acquires a vacuum expectation value $v \equiv \sqrt{v_1^2 + v_2^2}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \Phi_1 \\ -\Phi_2 \end{pmatrix} \equiv \frac{1}{v} \begin{bmatrix} v_1 & v_2 \\ v_2 & -v_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 \\ e^{-i\theta} \phi_2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (1)$$

$$\Phi_1 = \begin{bmatrix} G^+ \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(v + S_1 + iG^0) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \Phi_2 = \begin{bmatrix} H^+ \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(S_2 + iS_3) \end{bmatrix}. \quad (2)$$

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In addition to the three Goldstone fields $G^\pm(x)$ and $G^0(x)$, there are five physical degrees of freedom in the scalar sector: two charged fields $H^\pm(x)$ and three neutrals $\varphi_i^0(x) = \{h(x), H(x), A(x)\}$, which are related to the S_i fields through an orthogonal transformation $\varphi_i^0(x) = \mathcal{R}_{ij}S_j(x)$. The form of $\mathcal{R}_{ij}$ depends on the scalar potential, which could violate CP in its most general version; in this case the resulting mass eigenstates will not have a definite CP parity. If it is CP symmetric, the CP admixture disappears.

1.1. Yukawa sector

The most general Yukawa Lagrangian is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_Y = & -\bar{Q}'_L(\Gamma_1\phi_1 + \Gamma_2\phi_2)d'_R - \bar{Q}'_L\left(\Delta_1\tilde{\phi}_1 + \Delta_2\tilde{\phi}_2\right)u'_R \\ & - \bar{L}'_L\left(\Pi_1\tilde{\phi}_1 + \Pi_2\tilde{\phi}_2\right)l'_R + \text{h.c.}, \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where $\bar{Q}'_L$ and $\bar{L}'_L$ are the left-handed quark and lepton doublets, respectively, and $\tilde{\phi}_a(x) \equiv i\tau_2\phi_a^*$ the charge-conjugated scalar fields. All fermionic fields are written as N_G -dimensional vectors and the couplings Γ_a , Δ_a and Π_a are $N_G \times N_G$ complex matrices in flavour space. Moving to the Higgs basis, the Lagrangian reads

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_Y = & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{v}\left\{\bar{Q}'_L(M'_d\Phi_1 + Y'_d\Phi_2)d'_R + \bar{Q}'_L(M'_u\tilde{\Phi}_1 + Y'_u\tilde{\Phi}_2)u'_R\right. \\ & \left.+ \bar{L}'_L\left(M'_l\tilde{\Phi}_1 + Y'_l\tilde{\Phi}_2\right)l'_R + \text{h.c.}\right\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

Here, M'_f ($f = u, d, l$) are the non-diagonal fermion mass matrices and Y'_f contain the Yukawa couplings to the scalar doublet that does not acquire a vacuum expectation value. Each right-handed fermion couples to two different matrices that in general cannot be diagonalized simultaneously. In the fermion mass-eigenstate basis $f(x)$, the M'_f matrices become the diagonal mass matrices M_f , while Y'_f become Y_f which remain non-diagonal and unrelated to M_f . This originates dangerous flavour-changing neutral-current (FCNC) interactions, which are tightly constrained phenomenologically.

To avoid this problem one can assume that the non-diagonal Yukawa couplings are proportional to the geometric mean of the two fermion masses, $g_{ij} \propto \sqrt{m_i m_j}$ [3]. This kind of phenomenologically viable models, known as Type III THDM [4], can be obtained assuming particular textures of the Yukawa matrices [3]. Another possibility is to make the scalars heavy enough to suppress low-energy FCNC effects. However, this assumption leads to a phenomenologically non relevant THDM.

A more elegant solution is to impose a discrete $\mathcal{Z}_2$ symmetry to enforce that only one scalar doublet couples to a given right-handed fermion [5]; one of the two Yukawa matrices has to be zero. One requires the Lagrangian to remain invariant under the change $\phi_1 \rightarrow \phi_1$, $\phi_2 \rightarrow -\phi_2$, $Q_L \rightarrow Q_L$, $L_L \rightarrow L_L$, and appropriate transformation properties for the right-handed fermions. There are four non-equivalent choices: the Type I (only ϕ_2 couples to fermions) [6, 7], Type II (ϕ_1 couples to d and l and ϕ_2 to u) [7, 8], Type X or leptophilic (ϕ_1 couples to leptons and ϕ_2 to quarks) and Type Y (ϕ_1 couples to d and ϕ_2 to u and l) models [9–12]. The $\mathcal{Z}_2$ symmetry can be also implemented in the Higgs basis, forcing all fermions to couple to Φ_1 ; this *inert* doublet model is a natural frame for dark matter [13–15].

2. Aligned THDM

A more general way to avoid tree-level FCNCs is to require the alignment in flavour space of the Yukawa coupling matrices [16]:

$$\Gamma_2 = \xi_d e^{-i\theta} \Gamma_1, \quad \Delta_2 = \xi_u^* e^{i\theta} \Delta_1, \quad \Pi_2 = \xi_l e^{-i\theta} \Pi_1, \quad (5)$$

with ξ_f arbitrary complex numbers. The alignment guarantees that the matrices Y'_f and M'_f are proportional and can be simultaneously diagonalized:

$$Y_{d,l} = \zeta_{d,l} M_{d,l}, \quad Y_u = \zeta_u M_u, \quad \zeta_f \equiv \frac{\xi_f - \tan \beta}{1 + \xi_f \tan \beta}, \quad (6)$$

where $\tan \beta \equiv v_2/v_1$. In terms of mass-eigenstate fields, the Yukawa Lagrangian takes then the form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_Y = & -\frac{\sqrt{2}}{v} H^+(x) \left\{ \bar{u}(x) [\zeta_d V M_d \mathcal{P}_L - \zeta_u M_u V \mathcal{P}_L] d(x) + \zeta_l \bar{\nu}(x) M_l \mathcal{P}_L l(x) \right\} \\ & - \frac{1}{v} \sum_{\varphi, f} \varphi_i^0(x) y_f^{\varphi_i^0} \bar{f}(x) M_f \mathcal{P}_L f(x) + \text{h.c.}, \end{aligned} \quad (7)$$

where V is the CKM matrix, $\mathcal{P}_{R,L} \equiv (1 \pm \gamma_5)/2$ and $y_f^{\varphi_i^0}$ are neutral couplings of the physical scalar fields [16]. Therefore, within this approach:

- All scalar-fermion couplings are proportional to the corresponding fermion masses.
- The neutral Yukawas are diagonal in flavour.
- The only source of flavour-changing interactions is the quark-mixing matrix V in the charged sector.

- All leptonic couplings are diagonal in flavour, since there are no right-handed neutrinos in the theory.
- There are only three new parameters ζ_f , which encode all possible freedom allowed by the alignment conditions. These couplings satisfy universality among the different generations, *i.e.* there is the same universal coupling for all fermions with a given electric charge. They are also invariant under global $SU(2)$ transformations of the scalar fields $\phi_a \rightarrow \phi'_a = U_{ab}\phi_b$ [17], *i.e.* they are scalar basis independent.
- The usual models based on $\mathcal{Z}_2$ symmetries are recovered taking the appropriated limits shown in Table I.
- The ζ_f can be arbitrary complex numbers. Their phases introduce new sources of CP violation without tree-level FCNCs.

TABLE I

Choices of ξ_f associated with $\mathcal{Z}_2$ models and corresponding values of ζ_f .

Model	(ξ_d, ξ_u, ξ_l)	ζ_d	ζ_u	ζ_l
Type I	(∞, ∞, ∞)	$\cot \beta$	$\cot \beta$	$\cot \beta$
Type II	$(0, \infty, 0)$	$-\tan \beta$	$\cot \beta$	$-\tan \beta$
Type X	$(\infty, \infty, 0)$	$\cot \beta$	$\cot \beta$	$-\tan \beta$
Type Y	$(0, \infty, \infty)$	$-\tan \beta$	$\cot \beta$	$\cot \beta$
Inert	$(\tan \beta, \tan \beta, \tan \beta)$	0	0	0

Lepton–flavour-violating neutral couplings are identically zero to all orders in perturbation theory, because of the absence of right-handed neutrinos. So, the usually adopted $\mathcal{Z}_2$ symmetries are not necessary in the lepton sector, making the Type X and Y models less compelling. From a phenomenological point of view, the coupling ζ_l could take any value.

Quantum corrections could introduce some misalignment of the quark Yukawa coupling matrices, generating small FCNCs suppressed by the corresponding loop factors. However, the flavour mixing induced by loop corrections has a very characteristic structure [16] which resembles the popular Minimal Flavour Violation scenarios [18]. This restriction in the structure of the local FCNC terms is due to the following symmetry of the aligned THDM: the Lagrangian remains invariant under flavour-dependent phase transformations of the different fermion mass eigenstates, $f_i(x) \rightarrow e^{i\alpha_i^f} f_i(x)$, provided the quark mixing matrix is transformed as $V_{ij} \rightarrow e^{i\alpha_i^u} V_{ij} e^{-\alpha_j^d}$. The only possible FCNC terms are then of the type $\bar{u}_i[V(M_d)^n V^\dagger]_{ij} u_j$ and $\bar{d}_i[V^\dagger(M_u)^m V]_j d_j$ ($n, m > 0$), or similar structures with additional factors of V and $V^\dagger$.

3. Phenomenology

One of the most distinctive features of the THDM is the presence of a charged scalar $H^\pm$. Assuming that $\text{BR}(H^+ \rightarrow c\bar{s}) + \text{BR}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau^+\nu_\tau) = 1$, the combined LEP data on $e^+e^- \rightarrow H^+H^-$ constrain $M_{H^\pm} > 78.6 \text{ GeV}$ (95% C.L.) [19]. The CDF [21] and D0 [22] collaborations have searched for $t \rightarrow H^+b$ decays with negative results. CDF assumes $\text{BR}(H^+ \rightarrow c\bar{s}) = 1$ ($\zeta_l \ll \zeta_{u,d}$), while D0 adopts the opposite hypothesis $\text{BR}(H^+ \rightarrow \tau^+\nu_\tau) = 1$ ($\zeta_l \gg \zeta_{u,d}$). Both experiments find upper bounds on $\text{BR}(t \rightarrow H^+b)$ around 0.2 (95% C.L.) for charged scalar masses between 60 and 155 GeV. This implies $|\zeta_u| < 0.3 - 2.5$, where the exact number depends on $M_{H^\pm}$.

One can also extract information from the semileptonic decays of a pseudoscalar meson $P^+ \rightarrow l^+\nu_l$, which are sensitive to H^+ exchange due to the helicity suppression of the SM amplitude: $\Gamma(P_{ij}^+ \rightarrow l^+\nu_l)/\Gamma(P_{ij}^+ \rightarrow l^+\nu_l)_{\text{SM}} = |1 - \Delta_{ij}|^2$, where the new physics information is encoded in $\Delta_{ij} = (m_{P_{ij}^\pm}/M_{H^\pm})^2 \zeta_l^* (\zeta_u m_{u_i} + \zeta_d m_{d_j}) / (m_{u_i} + m_{d_j})$. The correction Δ_{ij} is in general complex and its real part can have either sign. To determine its size one needs to know V_{ij} and a theoretical determination of the meson decay constant. From the present knowledge of $B^+ \rightarrow \tau^+\nu_\tau$ [24], we obtain $|1 - \Delta_{ub}| = 1.32 \pm 0.20$ which implies $M_{H^\pm}/\sqrt{|\text{Re}(\zeta_l^+\zeta_d)|} > 5.7 \text{ GeV}$ (90% C.L.). With $f_{D_s} = 242 \pm 6 \text{ MeV}$ [25], the recent CLEO measurement $\text{BR}(D_s^+ \rightarrow \tau^+\nu_\tau) = (5.62 \pm 0.64)\%$ [26] implies $|1 - \Delta_{cs}| = 1.07 \pm 0.05$ and $M_{H^\pm}/\sqrt{|\text{Re}(\zeta_l^+\zeta_u)|} > 4.4 \text{ GeV}$ (90% C.L.).

FCNC processes such as $b \rightarrow s\gamma$ or $P^0 - \bar{P}^0$ mixing are also very sensitive to scalar contributions and give strong constraints on the parameter space ($M_{H^\pm}, \zeta_{u,d}$). A detailed phenomenological analysis will be presented somewhere else.

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