

Oblique lessons from the W -mass measurement at CDF II

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The CDF Collaboration recently reported a new precise measurement of the W -boson mass M_W with a central value significantly larger than the SM prediction. We explore the effects of including this new measurement on a fit of the Standard Model (SM) to electroweak precision data. We characterize the tension of this new measurement with the SM and explore potential beyond the SM phenomena within the electroweak sector in terms of the oblique parameters S , T and U . We show that the large M_W value can be accommodated in the fit by a large, nonzero value of U , which is difficult to construct in explicit models. Assuming $U = 0$, the electroweak fit strongly prefers large, positive values of T . Finally, we study how the preferred values of the oblique parameters may be generated in the context of models affecting the electroweak sector at tree and loop level. In particular, we demonstrate that the preferred values of T and S can be generated with a real $SU(2)_L$ triplet scalar, the humble *swino*, which can be heavy enough to evade current collider constraints, or by (multiple) species of singlet-doublet fermion pairs. We highlight challenges in constructing other simple models for explaining a large M_W value and several directions for further study.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The Standard Model of particle physics (SM) has been remarkably successful in explaining various experimental results. The discovery of the Higgs boson [1,2] at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) was imperative to confirming the pattern of spontaneous symmetry breaking in the electroweak sector of the SM. However, as we continue to collect data and improve analysis techniques, we have seen a proliferation of precision measurements that deviate from SM predictions, such as the muon magnetic moment [3–5] and the R_K/R_K^* anomalies [6–8]. The most recent anomalous measurement reported is the mass of the W boson M_W [9]. A discrepant measurement of M_W could be an indication of supersymmetry (SUSY), composite Higgs, or other phenomena beyond the Standard Model (BSM) at potentially very high-energy scales. It is therefore essential that we explore the phenomenological implications of this new M_W measurement.

In order to quantify the compatibility of the W -mass measurement with the SM prediction with high precision,

we perform a global fit of the SM, known as the electroweak fit. This method involves fitting over a set of well-measured SM observables, and minimizing the χ^2 value over both the fitted (free) observables as well as derived observables, see Refs. [10–12]. The electroweak fit leverages the small uncertainties of the fitted observables to produce precise predictions of the derived observables. Additionally, since this fit is an exceptional probe of precision measurements, it is also highly sensitive to BSM effects.

For scenarios where new physics contributions dominantly appear as corrections to the SM gauge boson propagators, we can parametrize the effects of new physics phenomena on the electroweak sector using oblique parameters S , T , and U [13,14] (see also Refs. [15–17]). These parameters capture the effects of higher-dimension operators [18,19] that can arise in a variety of UV completions. In many models, S and T are the dominant corrections since they arise from dimension-6 operators, whereas U is dimension-8 and therefore suppressed by a factor of v^2/Λ_{UV}^2 .

The power of the electroweak fit is dependent on precision of experimental measurements of SM observables, and improves along with collider technology and luminosity. The leading measurements are made at the Large Electron-Positron Collider (LEP), Stanford Linear Collider (SLC), Tevatron, and LHC. The discovery of the

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Higgs greatly improved the electroweak fit as it provided the final measured value to span the free parameters of the SM [20–22].

The most recent update to the SM values used in the fit comes from the CDF Collaboration at the Tevatron [9]. Their analysis was completed with a fourfold increase of data, reduced uncertainty in PDFs and track reconstruction, and updated measurements compared to their previous result [23]. They reported

$$M_{W,\text{CDFII}} = 80.4335 \pm 0.0094 \text{ GeV}, \quad (1)$$

which, without averaging with other experimental results, shows a 7σ deviation from the SM prediction. This value is notably higher than the previous measurement averaged from the Tevatron and LEP experiments ($M_W = 80.385 \pm 0.015 \text{ GeV}$) [24], as well as ATLAS ($M_W = 80.370 \pm 0.019 \text{ GeV}$) [25] and LHCb ($M_W = 80.354 \pm 0.032 \text{ GeV}$) [26].

In this paper we explore how new physics contributions, parametrized by the values of the oblique parameters, can adjust the electroweak fit such that M_W is consistent with the updated CDF measurement. We first perform our fits scanning over values of S and T with U fixed to zero (since U is suppressed) and identify the range of these variables that can resolve the observed anomaly in M_W . We then study how the fit changes if we allow U to float. Large values of U can easily accommodate the observed increase in M_W ; however, it is difficult to construct models with the primary new physics contributions affecting only U while leaving S and T unchanged.

Next we consider several well-motivated simple extensions of SM that can produce nonzero S and T values. The models discussed in this paper include a scalar singlet, a two-Higgs doublet model (2HDM), a neutral-scalar $SU(2)_L$ triplet (that can be referred to correctly as a *swino*), and various singlet-doublet fermion scenarios. For each model we check if there is available parameter space that corresponds to the fitted values of T and S . We find that extending the SM with a scalar singlet or doublet cannot explain the observed anomaly in M_W measurements, while a singlet-doublet fermion extension is strongly constrained by various experimental bounds. A $\mathcal{O}(\text{TeV})$ *swino*, on the other hand, can explain the observed anomaly while evading current bounds and provides a well-motivated target for future high-energy colliders.

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Sec. II, we define the parameters and methodology of our electroweak fit. Section III discusses the results and the implications of the oblique parameters on fitting the measured observables. In Sec. IV we map the values of the fitted oblique parameters to the parameters of various models, and comment on the viability of this space. We conclude in Sec. V.

II. ELECTROWEAK FIT

To assess the impact of the new measurements of M_W , and the implications for potential new physics, we perform an electroweak fit to a representative set of observables, following the strategy of the GFitter group [10–12,27]¹ with a modified version of the code used in Refs. [29,30]. A set of five core observables are free to vary in the fit; the Z -boson mass M_Z , the top mass M_t , the Higgs mass M_h , the Z -pole value of the strong coupling constant $\alpha_s(M_Z)$, and the hadronic contribution to the running of α , denoted $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(M_Z^2)$.

These five values float between their experimental uncertainties. The other observables in the fit have theoretical predictions formulated with the floating observables and are compared to their measured values (see Table I). In addition to measurements of these five parameters, the observables considered include the W mass and a host of other electroweak precision measurements performed at SLC, LEP, the Tevatron, and the LHC, which are listed with their measured values below the horizontal line in Table I. These other observables can be determined in the SM as functions of the five core observables, the Fermi constant G_F , and the fine structure constant $\alpha(q^2 = 0)$. In the electroweak fit, $G_F = 1.1663787 \times 10^{-5} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ and $\alpha = 1/137.03599084$ are treated as fixed values since they are determined with much higher precision than the rest of the observables [20].

For the W mass, we will consider several different values to assess the impact of the recent CDF measurement on the overall state of the global EW fit. These are

$$\begin{aligned} M_W &= 80.4335 \pm 0.0094 \text{ GeV} \quad (\text{CDFII}), \\ M_W &= 80.4112 \pm 0.0076 \text{ GeV} \quad (\text{LHC} + \text{LEP} + \text{Tevatron}), \\ M_W &= 80.379 \pm 0.012 \text{ GeV} \quad (\text{PDG2020}), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where the uncertainties quoted above include the statistical, systematic and modeling uncertainties used in each experiment. The second scenario is our estimate for the global average of different M_W measurements, assuming zero correlations between experimental result to first approximation.² In addition, to assess the particular impact of the new, high-precision measurement from CDF II, we will also perform the fit with M_W taken to be the CDF II value with the systematic uncertainty artificially inflated by a factor of two, $M_W = 80.4335 \pm 0.0157$, to better

¹With respect to the GFitter results in [27], we consider an updated value of the Higgs and top-quark masses and the revised values of Γ_Z and σ_{had}^0 from [28].

²While there are sources of uncertainty such as parton distribution functions that might introduce some correlation between these results, when we repeated the world average M_W scenario (Tevatron + LEP + LHC) with a few different values for the correlations, we arrived at similar qualitative results. A comprehensive global averaging of these experimental results considering all correlations is left for future work.

TABLE I. Summary of the observables included in the fit, and their experimental values. The five observables above the horizontal line are allowed to float in the fit, while the SM values of the remaining observables are determined from these five values, as discussed in the main text. The values of M_Z , M_t , M_h , $\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$, $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(M_Z^2)$, and Γ_W are taken from the most recent PDG average [20]. Following [27], for M_t we also include an additional theory error of 0.5 GeV in addition to the experimental error from [20]. For Γ_Z and σ_{had}^0 we use the updated values computed in Ref. [28]. The remaining Z -pole observables are taken from the LEP and SLC measurements [31]. For A_ℓ we use the average of the LEP and SLC values, following [27].

Observable	Measured value
M_Z [GeV]	91.1876 ± 0.0021
M_h [GeV]	125.25 ± 0.17
M_t [GeV]	172.69 ± 0.58
$\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$	0.1181 ± 0.0011
$\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(M_Z^2)$	0.02766 ± 0.00007
Γ_Z [GeV]	2.4955 ± 0.0023
Γ_W [GeV]	2.085 ± 0.042
σ_{had}^0 [nb]	41.481 ± 0.0325
R_ℓ^0	20.767 ± 0.0247
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,\ell}$	0.0171 ± 0.0010
A_ℓ	0.1499 ± 0.0018
$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell(Q_{\text{FB}})$	0.2324 ± 0.0012
$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell(\text{TeVt})$	0.23148 ± 0.00033
A_b	0.923 ± 0.020
A_c	0.670 ± 0.027
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,b}$	0.0992 ± 0.0016
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,c}$	0.0707 ± 0.0035
$R^{0,b}$	0.21629 ± 0.00066
$R^{0,c}$	0.1721 ± 0.0030

understand the compatibility of the CDF measurement with the SM prediction. This scenario is referred to as the CDF II ($2 \times \text{Syst}$) throughout the paper.

The SM values of the other observables are determined from the free parameters using the full two-loop electroweak results available in the literature. The running of α is computed using the floating value of $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}$ as well as the leptonic piece, $\Delta\alpha_{\text{lep}} = 0.031497686$ [32], which is kept fixed in the fit. The W mass is determined using the parametrization in [33], which also includes corrections up to $\mathcal{O}(\alpha\alpha_s^3)$ for the radiative correction (referred to as Δr in the literature). The expression for the width of the W is taken from the parametrization in [34]. For the Z width Γ_Z , hadronic-peak cross section σ_{had}^0 , and width ratios R_ℓ^0 , R_b^0 , R_c^0 , we use the parametrizations in [35]. For the effective weak mixing angle, $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$, we use the results in [36]. The value of $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$ is used as a proxy for the weak mixing angle to determine the left- and right-handed couplings of the Z , allowing us to compute the asymmetries,

$$A_f = \frac{g_{L_f}^2 - g_{R_f}^2}{g_{L_f}^2 + g_{R_f}^2}, \quad (3)$$

for $f = \ell, c, b$. The value of $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^\ell$ is also used to compute the forward-backward asymmetry $A_{\text{FB}}^{0,\ell}$. Finally, for the other forward-backward asymmetries, we compute the effective weak mixing angles $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^{b,c}$ and $\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^c$ using the parametrizations in Refs. [36,37], respectively. These are then translated to $A_{\text{FB}}^{0,b,c}$ using the standard relations summarized e.g., in [37]. See also Ref. [38] for a recent review of the status of relevant theoretical calculations.

We parametrize potential effects of BSM physics in the electroweak fit in terms of the oblique parameters, S , T and U [13,14],

$$S \equiv \frac{4c_W^2 s_W^2}{\alpha} \left[\Pi'_{ZZ}(0) - \frac{c_W^2 - s_W^2}{c_W s_W} \Pi'_{Z\gamma}(0) - \Pi'_{\gamma\gamma}(0) \right],$$

$$T \equiv \frac{1}{\alpha} \left[\frac{\Pi_{WW}(0)}{m_W^2} - \frac{\Pi_{ZZ}(0)}{m_Z^2} \right],$$

$$U \equiv \frac{4s_W^2}{\alpha} \left[\Pi'_{WW}(0) - \frac{c_W}{s_W} \Pi'_{Z\gamma}(0) - \Pi'_{\gamma\gamma}(0) \right] - S, \quad (4)$$

where Π_{XX} denotes the vacuum polarization for $X = W, Z, \gamma$, and c_W, s_W are $\cos \theta_W, \sin \theta_W$ with θ_W denoting the Weinberg mixing angle. (Note that S, T and U do not completely characterize potential BSM effects in the electroweak precision data—a larger set of oblique parameters was developed in Refs. [39,40]. We will not consider their effects here, as they are typically smaller in universal perturbative theories [29,41].³ The new physics contributions to the electroweak observables can be expressed as linear functions of S, T and U [13,14,42–44], which are summarized in Appendix A of [21].

For a class of universal effective theories, both S and T are related to the Wilson coefficients [18,19,45] of dimension-6 operators,⁴

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{ob}} \supset & \frac{c_W s_W}{v^2} \left(\frac{i}{2s_W} E_W (H^\dagger \sigma^a \overleftrightarrow{D}^\mu H) D^\nu W_{\mu\nu}^a \right. \\ & \left. + \frac{i}{2c_W} E_B (H^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}^\mu H) \partial^\nu B_{\mu\nu} + E_{WB} H^\dagger \sigma^a H W_{\mu\nu}^a B^{\mu\nu} \right) \\ & - E_T \left(\frac{2}{v^2} \right) |H^\dagger \overleftrightarrow{D}_\mu H|^2, \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

³There are some models which contribute dominantly to these other observables; in order to study these models, an electroweak fit including these additional parameters would have to be performed. One such model is the dark photon, which contributes only to Y at tree level when the expansion in p^2 is done correctly. We leave the study of these types of models for future work.

⁴This basis choice may look unfamiliar; see Ref. [46] for a detailed discussion of the relationship between the oblique parameters and effective theories.

TABLE II. Fit results including the oblique parameters and χ^2 per degree of freedom. Different columns correspond to different input M_W measurement scenarios around Eq. (2). The first row shows the χ^2 per degree of freedom for the SM in each M_W scenario. Results of the fit including (S,T) and excluding (including) U in the list of floating parameters are included in the middle (bottom) row. See Appendix A for correlations.

		CDF-II	CDF-II ($2 \times$ syst)	World average	PDG
SM	$\chi^2/(n_{\text{d.o.f.}} = 15)$	4.03	2.29	2.97	0.97
Best fit ($U = 0$)	S	0.15 ± 0.08	0.13 ± 0.08	0.10 ± 0.08	0.03 ± 0.08
	T	0.25 ± 0.06	0.22 ± 0.07	0.18 ± 0.06	0.07 ± 0.06
	$\chi^2/(n_{\text{d.o.f.}} = 13)$	1.23	1.18	1.03	0.87
Best fit (U floating)	S	0.01 ± 0.10	0.01 ± 0.10	0.01 ± 0.10	0.01 ± 0.10
	T	0.03 ± 0.12	0.03 ± 0.12	0.03 ± 0.12	0.03 ± 0.12
	U	0.20 ± 0.09	0.20 ± 0.10	0.14 ± 0.09	0.04 ± 0.09
	$\chi^2/(n_{\text{d.o.f.}} = 12)$	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93

where

$$S = \frac{4s_W^2}{\alpha} g^2 \left(E_{WB} + \frac{1}{4} E_W + \frac{1}{4} E_B \right)$$

$$T = \frac{1}{\alpha} E_T. \quad (6)$$

The U parameter is often fixed to zero in electroweak fits, as it corresponds to a dimension-8 operator from an effective field theory point of view, and its effects are therefore subleading compared to S and T . We will frequently set $U = 0$ in our fits, but consider its effect in more details in Sec. III B. We will discuss new physics interpretations of S and T following the results of the fit with $U = 0$ in Sec. IV.

With all of these inputs, we perform the electroweak fit by minimizing a χ^2 function,

$$\chi^2 = \sum_{i,j} (M_i - O_i)(V_{\text{cov}}^{-1})_{ij}(M_j - O_j), \quad (7)$$

where the sum runs over all the observables in Table I, in addition to the W mass. Here, M_j is the experimentally measured value of the observable, O_j is the predicted value in terms of the five free parameters and S , T , U , and V_{cov}^{-1} is the inverse-covariance matrix for the observables. For the Z lineshape and heavy-flavor observables measured at LEP, we use the experimental correlations from Refs. [28,31] to compute the covariance matrix. For other observables, we neglect any correlations so that the covariance matrix is diagonal with $(V_{\text{cov}}^{-1})_{jj} = 1/\sigma_j^2$. We repeat this calculation for all the four scenarios for M_W measurements defined around Eq. (2).

III. RESULTS OF THE FIT

A. Fitting S and T

We first consider the fit results where U is fixed to zero. The results of our electroweak fit with different values of

M_W are summarized in Table II. Correlations are shown in Appendix A.

The first row of Table II indicates the χ^2 per degree of freedom (d.o.f.) for the SM for the fit with each value of M_W . We observe that, prior to the CDF measurement, the Standard Model provides a good fit to the data using the PDG 2020 value of M_W , with $\chi^2/(n_{\text{d.o.f.}} = 15) = 0.97$ ($p = 0.48$). Taking instead the recent CDF II measurement of M_W , however, the p -value for the SM drops to 2.11×10^{-7} , exemplifying the tension discussed in [9]. This is somewhat ameliorated when considering the smaller world average value of M_W ($p = 9.01 \times 10^{-5}$), but notable tension remains.

In the middle row of Table II we summarize the results of the fit when we allow S and T to float in addition to the five free observables. We report the best-fit values and confidence intervals of S and T , and then the χ^2 per degree of freedom. We find a good fit to the data with the PDG average value of M_W , prior to the CDF measurement ($p = 0.60$), where the fit prefers small values of S and T at 0.03 and 0.07, respectively. This is consistent with the electroweak fit presented in [20]. For all of the fits accounting for the new measurement of M_W from CDF II, the fit instead prefers much larger values of S and T . Despite this, we still find a good fit to the data, with p values ranging from 0.24 when using the CDF measurement alone to 0.42 using the combination of measurements at LHC, Tevatron, and LEP.

The last row of Table II shows the results of the fit done when U is allowed to float as well. We find that when including the CDF II measurement, the fit favors a large value of U and small S and T . Since this result is unnatural from a model-building perspective, we proceed with the results of the fit with $U = 0$.

The results of the fit for the oblique parameters S and T are illustrated in Fig. 1. Here we show ellipses indicating the 95% C.L. contours around the best-fit values of S and T . These are computed by computing the χ^2 at each point in the $S-T$ plane, marginalizing over the free observables,

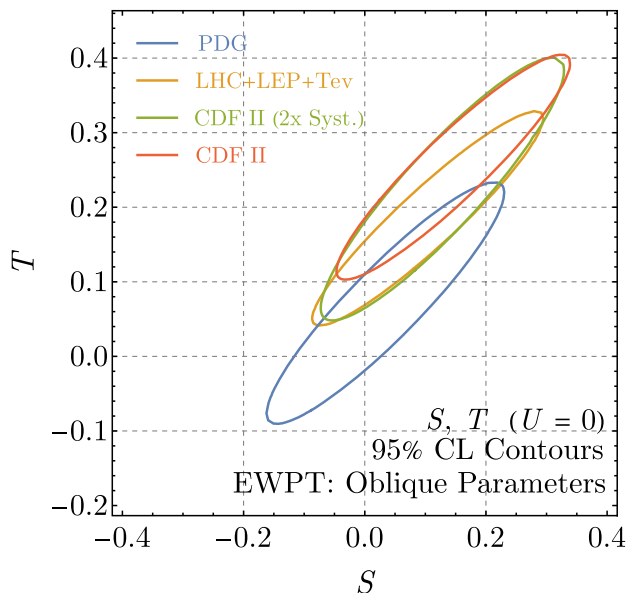


FIG. 1. The 95% C.L. preferred regions in the S and T plane with $U = 0$ from the electroweak fit, marginalizing over the five input parameters and for various experimental values of M_W [see the discussion around Eq. (2)]. We do not include U in these fits. The blue curve is in good agreement with results of GFitter group [10–12,27]. Including the recent CDF II measurement of M_W [9] (in the green, yellow, and red curves) moves the best-fit region to larger positive values of S and T . The SM [with $(S, T) = (0, 0)$] is strongly disfavored when the new CDF II M_W measurement is included in the fit.

and requiring $\Delta\chi^2 \equiv \chi^2(S, T) - \chi^2_{\min} < 6.18$, where χ^2_{\min} is the minimum value of the χ^2 as a function of all the free parameters as well as S and T .

The 95% C.L. contours of the fit with the PDG average value of M_W (excluding the recent CDF II measurement) are shown in blue and agree with the results of [27]. This fit slightly prefers $T > 0$, though the correlation between S and T leaves some parameter space with $S, T < 0$ as well. Once the new measurement of M_W from CDF II is included; however, the preferred region in the $S - T$ plane shifts dramatically. The correlation between S and T remains, but values of $T < 0$ are no longer allowed, even when the systematic error on the CDF measurement is artificially inflated. In all, we find a strong preference for BSM contributions in the electroweak fit, particularly for positive, nonzero values of T .

For each fit, we also find the best-fit value of each individual observable both for the SM (with S and T fixed to zero) and for the best-fit value of S and T . The results are shown in Table III. Each entry indicates the best-fit value of the observable, along with the pull (calculated as the fit value minus the measured value, divided by the experimental uncertainty) shown in parentheses. For all three values of M_W including the new CDF measurement, we see a significant pull (ranging from -4.6 to -7.0) on the fit value of M_W in the Standard Model. This is entirely

ameliorated at the best fit values of S and T , at the cost of a small tension in the value of Γ_Z , which has a fit value larger than the experimental value when S and T are allowed to float. All of the other observables have quite similar values at their best-fit point and at the SM, regardless of the experimental value of M_W used in the fit. Note also that the previously existing tension in the forward-backward asymmetry, $A_{\text{FB}}^{0,b}$, measured at LEP is unaffected by the floated values of S and T and is roughly the same for any value of M_W .

B. The U parameter

In the fits described above, we have fixed $U = 0$. As discussed in Sec. II, this is motivated by the fact that the U parameter is dimension 8, and is typically suppressed relative to S and T in concrete models.

Nevertheless, in light of the large value of M_W measured at CDF II, it is worth examining the effects of the U parameter on the electroweak fits in more detail. This is because, of all the electroweak precision observables we consider, the U parameter affects only two; the W mass and width [21,42,43],⁵

$$\begin{aligned} M_W &= M_{W,\text{SM}} \left(1 - \frac{\alpha(M_Z^2)}{4(c_W^2 - s_W^2)} (S - 2c_W^2 T) + \frac{\alpha(M_Z^2)}{8s_W^2} U \right), \\ \Gamma_W &= \Gamma_{W,\text{SM}} \left(1 - \frac{3\alpha(M_Z^2)}{4(c_W^2 - s_W^2)} (S - 2c_W^2 T) + \frac{3\alpha(M_Z^2)}{8s_W^2} U \right). \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

The W decay width is not measured to nearly as high precision as M_W , so the observed discrepancy in the W mass at CDF II [9] can be accommodated in the SM electroweak fit by setting $U \approx 0.11$, without affecting any of the other observables as compared to the SM fit. These other unaffected observables include S and T which take their SM values as well as the existing tension in the EW fit from the forward-backward asymmetry.

To illustrate this in more detail, we perform the fit as described above but also allow the U parameter to float, in addition to the S and T parameters and the free observables. We then plot 95% confidence intervals for pairs of the electroweak precision parameters while marginalizing over the third parameter and the other free parameters. The results are shown in Fig. 2.

We see that, when marginalizing over U , the 95% C.L. preferred range of S and T with the new CDF measurement of M_W is quite similar to the allowed region using the smaller value of M_W . Instead, the U parameter is inflated to account for the shift in mass.

The difficulty in this interpretation is that a large value of U is challenging to generate in perturbative models,

⁵We thank Ayres Freitas for emphasizing this point to us.

TABLE III. The best fit values of the observables, and their pulls (calculated as the fit value minus the measured value, divided by the experimental uncertainty). Note that to generate this table, we have explicitly set $U = 0$.

(S, T)	Fit value (Pull) at SM / Best fit (S,T)						PDG
	CDF-II		CDF-II ($2 \times \text{syst}$)		World average		
	(0, 0)	(0.15, 0.25)	(0, 0)	(0.13, 0.22)	(0, 0)	(0.10, 0.19)	(0, 0)
M_Z [GeV]	91.1913 (+1.8)	91.1880 (+0.2)	91.1895 (+0.9)	91.1880 (+0.2)	91.1911 (+1.7)	91.1880 (+0.2)	91.1886 (+0.5)
M_h [GeV]	125.24 (-0.1)	125.26 (+0.1)	125.25 (0.0)	125.26 (+0.1)	125.24 (-0.1)	125.25 (0.0)	125.25 (0.0)
M_t [GeV]	173.94 (+2.2)	172.75 (+0.1)	173.29 (+1.0)	172.71 (0.0)	173.87 (+2.0)	172.70 (0.0)	172.97 (+0.5)
$\alpha_s(M_Z^2)$	0.1179 (-0.2)	0.1180 (-0.1)	0.1182 (+0.1)	0.1181 (0.0)	0.1180 (-0.1)	0.1181 (0.0)	0.1183 (+0.2)
$\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}(M_Z^2)$	0.02761 (-0.7)	0.02766 (0.0)	0.02763 (-0.4)	0.02766 (0.0)	0.02761 (-0.7)	0.02766 (0.0)	0.02765 (-0.1)
M_W [GeV]	80.3681 (-7.0)	80.4261 (-0.8)	80.3613 (-4.6)	80.4182 (-1.0)	80.3674 (-5.8)	80.4075 (-0.5)	80.3579 (-1.8)
Γ_Z [GeV]	2.4950 (-0.2)	2.4994 (+1.7)	2.4947 (-0.3)	2.4988 (+1.4)	2.4949 (-0.3)	2.4981 (+1.1)	2.4946 (-0.4)
Γ_W [GeV]	2.091 (+0.1)	2.096 (+0.3)	2.091 (+0.1)	2.095 (+0.2)	2.091 (+0.1)	2.094 (+0.2)	2.090 (+0.1)
σ_{had}^0 [nb]	41.489 (+0.2)	41.491 (+0.3)	41.489 (+0.2)	41.491 (+0.3)	41.489 (+0.2)	41.490 (+0.3)	41.489 (+0.2)
R^0	20.748 (-0.8)	20.751 (-0.6)	20.750 (-0.7)	20.751 (-0.6)	20.748 (-0.8)	20.751 (-0.6)	20.751 (-0.6)
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,\ell}$	0.0163 (-0.8)	0.0164 (-0.7)	0.0162 (-0.9)	0.0163 (-0.8)	0.0163 (-0.8)	0.0163 (-0.8)	0.0162 (-0.9)
A_ℓ	0.1474 (-1.4)	0.1477 (-1.2)	0.1470 (-1.6)	0.1476 (-1.3)	0.1473 (-1.4)	0.1475 (-1.3)	0.1469 (-1.7)
$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^{\ell}(Q_{\text{FB}})$	0.2315 (-0.8)	0.2314 (-0.8)	0.2315 (-0.8)	0.2314 (-0.8)	0.2315 (-0.8)	0.2315 (-0.8)	0.2315 (-0.8)
$\sin^2 \theta_{\text{eff}}^{\nu}(\text{TeVt})$	0.23148 (0.0)	0.23144 (-0.1)	0.23152 (+0.1)	0.23145 (-0.1)	0.23148 (0.0)	0.23146 (-0.1)	0.23154 (+0.2)
A_b	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)	0.936 (+0.7)
A_c	0.668 (-0.1)	0.668 (-0.1)	0.668 (-0.1)	0.668 (-0.1)	0.668 (-0.1)	0.668 (-0.1)	0.667 (-0.1)
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,b}$	0.1033 (+2.6)	0.1035 (+2.7)	0.1031 (+2.4)	0.1035 (+2.7)	0.1033 (+2.6)	0.1034 (+2.6)	0.1030 (+2.4)
$A_{\text{FB}}^{0,c}$	0.0739 (+0.9)	0.0739 (+0.9)	0.0737 (+0.9)	0.0738 (+0.9)	0.0738 (+0.9)	0.0738 (+0.9)	0.0736 (+0.9)
$R^{0,b}$	0.21583 (-0.7)	0.21587 (-0.6)	0.21585 (-0.7)	0.21587 (-0.6)	0.21583 (-0.7)	0.21587 (-0.6)	0.21586 (-0.7)
$R^{0,c}$	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)	0.1722 (0.0)

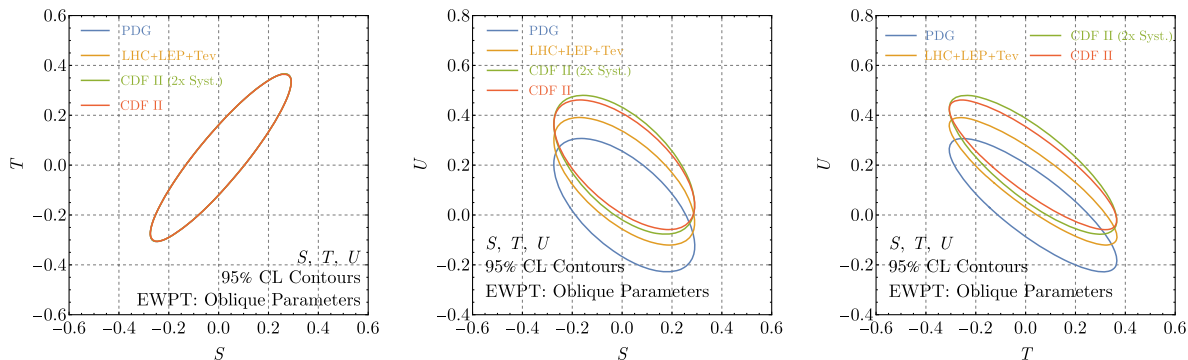


FIG. 2. Similar to Fig. 1, but now also including U in the global fit. We show the 95% C.L. preferred region of all oblique parameters in the $S-T$ plane (left), $S-U$ plane (center), and $T-U$ plane (right). In each plot, we marginalize over the third parameter. We find that when we include U in the fit, S and T remain nearly centered about 0, whereas U has a notable positive shift. Getting such large values of U are quite challenging in perturbative models. Note that only one ellipse is visible in the $S-T$ plane as the other contours overlap completely.

because, as mentioned in Sec. II, U corresponds to a dimension-8 operator [47], and a value of $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ indicates scales of order few 100 GeV for tree-level models, and $\ll 100$ GeV for particles contributing in loops. As the U parameter violates custodial symmetry, it is difficult to imagine a model that generates a large, nonzero value of U without also generating large values of T . We therefore do not attempt to construct models generating large values of U . In the concrete BSM models we consider in the next section, we will ignore the (subleading) U dependence altogether.

IV. IMPLICATIONS FOR BSM MODELS

From the results of our electroweak fit shown in Sec. III, we see that the value of M_W can dramatically change the preferred values of the oblique parameters. While the 95% C.L. region fitting with PDG measurements is nearly centered around the predicted SM values of $(S, T, U) = (0, 0, 0)$, the updated value of M_W shifts this region to positive $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ values of oblique parameters (see Figs. 1 and 2).

In this section we explore various tree-level and loop-level contributions to the oblique parameters from simple models, and assess their viability. For clarity, we focus on the scenario of M_W equal to the updated world average from Tevatron, LEP, and LHC measurements [the second scenario in Eq. (2)].

It is first worthwhile to estimate the scale of new physics implied by $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ values of S and T . Comparing to the dimension-6 operators defined in Eq. (5), we see that for tree-level matching with perturbative couplings, these operators can be generated by new physics at a scale $\Lambda \sim \text{TeV}$. If the new physics arises in loops, on the other hand, the loop-factor suppression implies a scale closer to $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ GeV})$. We will examine this matching in both scenarios, first considering minimal extensions to the SM that can be integrated out at tree level, such as an additional scalar, then consider a one-loop example with

new singlet-doublet fermion pairs. Note that, as indicated in Fig. 1, it is important for these models to shift T to positive values to be consistent with our electroweak fit.

A. Tree-Level Models

Here we consider models that lead to corrections to the oblique parameters at tree level. Given the results of the fits shown in Fig. 1, we are particularly interested in models that can accommodate large positive values of S and T .

The simplest examples of models leading to oblique parameter corrections are new scalars. An $SU(2)_L$ singlet scalar leads only to an overall rescaling of the Higgs couplings that do not affect S and T or shifts in the Higgs self-coupling. Models with extra $SU(2)_L$ doublet scalars, such as a 2HDM [48], can affect the Higgs couplings to the gauge bosons, but these deviations are proportional to $\cos^2(\beta - \alpha)$, the square of the alignment parameter, which from an effective field theory perspective is dimension-8, and therefore cannot affect the oblique parameters S and T , which are dimension-6.

An $SU(2)_L$ triplet scalar φ^a , however, leads to more interesting possibilities [49].⁶ Such a triplet can have interactions with the SM Higgs $\sim \varphi^a H^\dagger \sigma^a H$. After electroweak symmetry breaking, this interaction leads to a small vacuum expectation value for the scalar triplet, which shifts the mass of the W bosons without changing the mass of the Z , therefore offering a possibility of resolving the tension between the CDF measurement of M_W and the SM expectation.

For concreteness, we will consider a real scalar $SU(2)_L$ triplet φ^a with $Y = 0$ which we will refer to as a swino; see Refs. [50,51] for possible UV completions and Ref. [52] for a recent study of swino phenomenology. The Lagrangian takes the form

⁶We thank Matthew Strassler for bringing this model to our attention.

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{1}{2} D_\mu \varphi^a D^\mu \varphi^a - \frac{1}{2} M_T^2 \varphi^a \varphi^a + \kappa \varphi^a H^\dagger \sigma^a H - \eta H^\dagger H \varphi^a \varphi^a. \quad (9)$$

The oblique parameters have been worked out in [53,54], where they include the matching up to one-loop order. At tree level, the contribution to S from scalar triplets vanishes. The $Y = 0$ swino does, on the other hand, lead to a contribution to the T parameter given by

$$T = \frac{v^2}{\alpha} \frac{\kappa^2}{M_T^4}. \quad (10)$$

This contribution is *positive* for any value of κ and can naturally explain the observed discrepancy in M_W measurement.

One can also consider scalar triplets with $Y = 1$, but these lead to the wrong sign for T at tree level. At one loop, both $Y = 0$ and $Y = 1$ triplets lead to additional corrections to both S and T , which can be potentially large and positive, depending on the quartic couplings to the Higgs. We leave a more detailed study of these possibilities to future works.

In Fig. 3, we show the band of values of κ and M_T that are compatible with the electroweak fit with the combined value of M_W at 95% C.L. As is clear from the scaling in Eq. (10), the necessary large value of T can be achieved even for large triplet masses. Requiring $\kappa/M_T \lesssim 1$, the triplet mass can be up to $\mathcal{O}(\text{few TeV})$, evading any potential collider bounds.

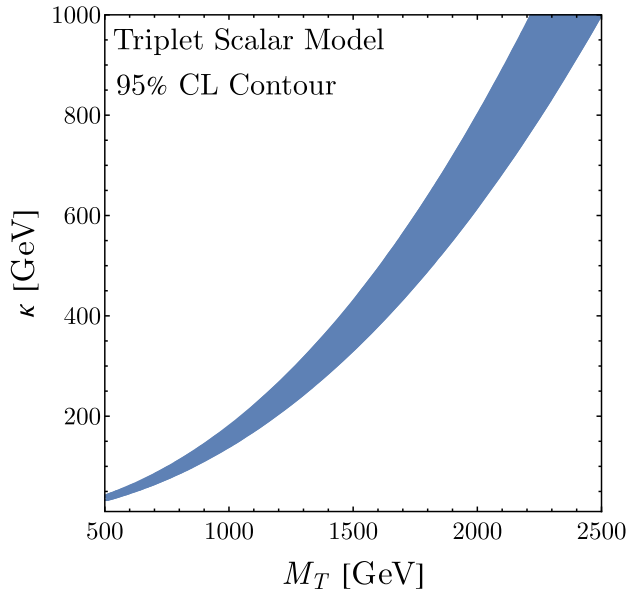


FIG. 3. The 95% C.L. band using the results from an electroweak fit with the updated world average M_W measurement in the $M_T - \kappa$ plane of the triplet scalar model. We find viable parameter space for $\mathcal{O}(\text{TeV})$ swino masses that can potentially be probed with future high-energy colliders.

B. Singlet-doublet model

We now shift our attention to another simple extension of the SM, the $SU(2)_L$ singlet-doublet fermion model. Unlike the previous discussion, the contribution of this model to electroweak precision measurements first occurs at loop level. The model includes N_f families of a singlet Majorana and doublet Dirac fermion charged under the electroweak sector [55–66].⁷ This is a minimal, UV complete, anomaly-free construction which can generate a Higgs portal coupling, with the added benefit that such a setup can be readily embedded inside supersymmetric extensions of the SM. The $SU(2)_L$ doublet has hypercharge 1/2 and is composed of two left-handed Weyl fermions ψ_2 and $\tilde{\psi}_2$. The Lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{N_f} \mathcal{L}_{\text{kinetic}} - m_2 \psi_2 \cdot \tilde{\psi}_2 - \frac{m_1}{2} \psi_1 \psi_1 + y e^{i\delta_{\text{CP}}/2} \psi_1 H^\dagger \psi_2 - \tilde{y} e^{i\delta_{\text{CP}}/2} \psi_1 H \cdot \tilde{\psi}_2 + \text{H.c.} \quad (11)$$

This Lagrangian has a physical CP -violating phase, as we have four new parameters and three new fields. Since S and T are CP -even observables, we set $\delta_{\text{CP}} = 0$ in this analysis for simplicity. However, this model is also interesting with nonzero values of δ_{CP} as it can potentially explain the Galactic Center excess (see [66] for details). Additionally, because of the Yukawa terms, there is mass mixing between the fermions and the ψ_i fields are not the propagating degrees of freedom. We call attention to this point because the mass of the lightest propagating fermion is relevant for Higgs (and Z) decay constraints, which require $M_\chi > M_h/2$. The singlet-doublet model contributes to the S and T parameters at loop level with the new fermions running in the loop. While more details of the calculation are given in [66], we provide a quick summary in Appendix B.

The size of the contributions to S and T in this model scales linearly with the number of new fermion generations, N_f . We can only get a nonzero T value when the custodial symmetry is broken, i.e. $y \neq \tilde{y}$. Because of this, the value of T depends on the difference $y - \tilde{y}$, so a relatively large difference between y and \tilde{y} is required to generate a sufficiently large T . Furthermore, S and T both decrease as m_2 or m_1 increase, making it difficult to reach values consistent with both the updated electroweak fit and existing experimental constraints without including multiple generations of new fermions.

In Fig. 4 we plot 95% C.L. region from our electroweak fit using the updated world average as a function of the new fermion mass parameters m_1 and m_2 to get a benchmark value of the couplings. Lower values of m_1 and m_2 are

⁷For simplicity, we consider the scenario where these fermions do not mix with each other, but in principle mixing could lead to richer phenomenology.

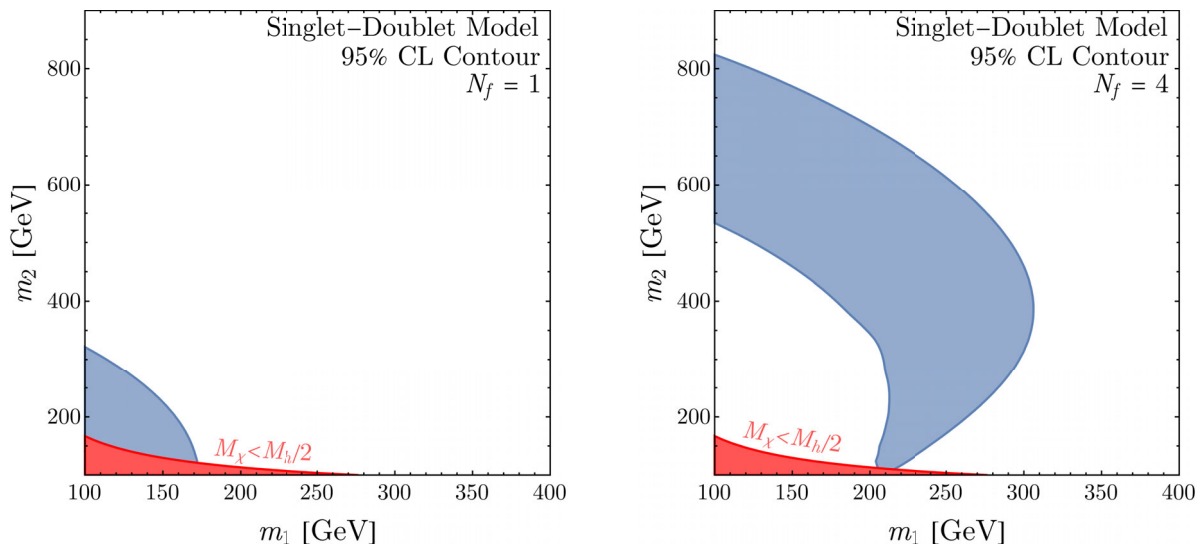


FIG. 4. The regions of singlet-doublet parameter space that are inside the 95% C.L. region from the electroweak fit including the S and T parameters for the updated world average M_W value. The couplings are set to benchmark values ($y = 0.1$, $\tilde{y} = 1$, $\delta_{CP} = 0$), and we consider N_f generations of new fermions, where $N_f = 1$ ($N_f = 4$) on the left (right). We consider $y \neq \tilde{y}$ since nonzero T depends on the custodial symmetry breaking $y - \tilde{y}$. Relevant constraints on the model are briefly discussed in the text; in particular, direct LHC searches can potentially rule out most of the blue band for $N_f = 1$ and probe much of the $N_f = 4$ allowed region.

strongly constrained by a host of different measurements (including LEP bounds on charged fermions, Higgs and invisible Z decays, and direct searches for light fermions carrying electroweak charge). In the left panel of the figure we consider the model with only one generation of new fermions. We find that the contribution to S and T is only sufficiently large to fit M_W with the updated CDF II measurement in a small corner of the parameter space; direct searches at LHC strongly constrain this range of masses.

In the right panel of Fig. 4 we show the contribution of the model to the oblique parameters with $N_f = 4$. We now find a larger range of masses that give rise to M_W values within 95% confidence of the global average measurement. Direct LHC searches can again rule out some of this parameter space, but there is still viable parameter space in the limit of degenerate masses or at high values of m_2 . A more thorough exploration of the viable parameter space (including with other values of y and \tilde{y}) is left for future work.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper we studied the effect of the recent M_W measurement at CDF II on global fits of electroweak precision observables and the implications for physics beyond the SM. By performing a standard χ^2 fit over SM parameters as well as the oblique parameters S , T , and U , we explored the efficacy of a variety of models for generating an upward shift in the M_W mass. After combining all M_W measurements at the Tevatron, LEP, and the LHC, there exists a significant discrepancy with SM predictions.

The results of our fit suggest that new physics models that contribute to S and, more substantially, a positive T are potential candidates to explain the anomaly. While we considered a global fit also including U , the results did not have a natural model-building interpretation. Of the models we consider, we find that a singlet scalar extension of SM and a 2HDM model fail to yield S and T contributions consistent with our fit. However, the swino model was markedly successful since it generated positive $\mathcal{O}(0.1)$ values of T in unconstrained regions of parameter space. Viable triplet-mass values were found to be near or above the TeV scale, which can evade current experimental bounds while giving rise to interesting signatures in future high energy colliders such as FCC-hh or muon colliders. We leave a detailed study of such signals for future work. Additionally, we found some success with a singlet-doublet fermion model when considering multiple generations.

As previously mentioned, there are other anomalies in the SM that could arise from discrepant electroweak precision measurements, such as the anomalous magnetic moment of the muon $g - 2$. It was pointed out in Ref. [67–69] that the existing discrepancy between the theoretical and measured values of $(g - 2)_\mu$ can be absorbed in a shift to the hadronic vacuum polarization contribution by changing $\Delta\alpha_{\text{had}}^{(5)}$, at the cost of increasing the tension in the SM electroweak fit, particularly by *decreasing* the preferred value of M_W . It is of high importance to explore if the necessary change in the fit to ameliorate the $(g - 2)_\mu$ discrepancy can be accommodated by the BSM effects of interest for the W mass measurement as studied in Refs. [70,71], or if something much more exotic is required.

TABLE IV. Correlation matrices and coefficients from the fits of the oblique parameters described in Sec. III A and Sec. III B. Different columns correspond to different input M_W measurement scenarios around Eq. (4). Results of the fit including (S, T) and excluding (including) U in the list of floating parameters are included in the middle (bottom) row.

	CDF-II		CDF-II ($2 \times \text{syst}$)		World average		PDG 2020	
Best fit ($U = 0$)	(S, T) Correlation	0.925	0.905	0.934	0.914			
	(S, T) Covariance Matrix	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0060 & 0.0043 \\ 0.0043 & 0.0037 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0065 & 0.0052 \\ 0.0052 & 0.0050 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0058 & 0.0041 \\ 0.0041 & 0.0033 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0062 & 0.0047 \\ 0.0047 & 0.0042 \end{pmatrix}$			
Best fit (U floating)	(S, T) Correlation	0.908	0.908	0.908	0.909			
	(S, U) Correlation	-0.629	-0.586	-0.639	-0.613			
	(T, U) Correlation	-0.859	-0.801	-0.873	-0.836			
	(S, T, U) Covariance Matrix	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0100 & 0.0108 & -0.0058 \\ 0.0108 & 0.0141 & -0.0094 \\ -0.0058 & -0.0094 & 0.0084 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0100 & 0.0107 & -0.0058 \\ 0.0107 & 0.0141 & -0.0093 \\ -0.0058 & -0.0093 & 0.0097 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0100 & 0.0108 & -0.0058 \\ 0.0108 & 0.0141 & -0.0094 \\ -0.0058 & -0.0094 & 0.0082 \end{pmatrix}$	$\begin{pmatrix} 0.0100 & 0.0108 & -0.0058 \\ 0.0108 & 0.0142 & -0.0094 \\ -0.0058 & -0.0094 & 0.0090 \end{pmatrix}$			

Finally, we would like to call attention to the fact that tension arising from the global SM electroweak fit is not unique to the W boson mass. For example, significant deviations from the SM have been evident in the forward-backward asymmetry observable at LEP for many years [31], and there are numerous attempts at explaining this with BSM physics (e.g. Refs. [72], among others). This further motivates future study of how potential new physics affects electroweak precision observables.

These results can be interpreted as new *oblique* signs of BSM appearing around the TeV scale. In light of this new measurement, further experimental results, including improvement to measurement of M_W at the LHC or future colliders, are strongly motivated.

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Note added.—As this paper was being finalized, Refs. [70,71,73–77] appeared, which also consider the implications of the recent M_W measurement. In particular, Refs. [74,76] similarly consider an electroweak fit to evaluate possibility of new physics contributions to the W mass.

APPENDIX A: CORRELATIONS

Our electroweak fit results with different values of M_W were reported in Table II and in Figs. 1–2. For completeness, correlations between different oblique parameters in the fit are reported in Table IV.

APPENDIX B: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OBLIQUE PARAMETERS IN THE SINGLET-DOUBLET MODEL

The singlet-doublet model contributes to the S and T parameters at loop level with the new fermions running in

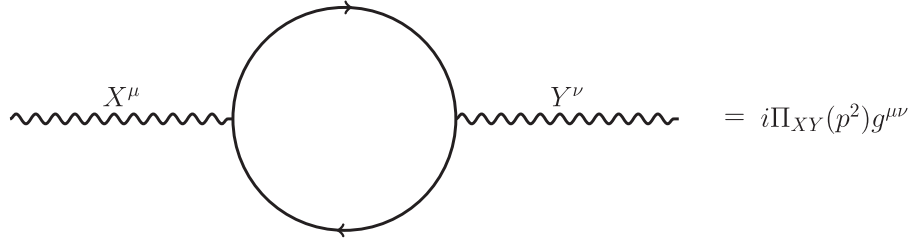


FIG. 5. The one-loop contribution to the vacuum polarization of SM gauge bosons. X^μ and Y^ν here stands for any electroweak gauge boson $X, Y = W, Z, \gamma$.

the loop, as shown in Fig. 5. While more details of the calculation are given in [66], we provide a quick summary here. We write a generic coupling between a gauge boson X and fermions i, j as $i\gamma^\mu(C_{Vij}^X - C_{Aij}^X\gamma^5)$, where C_{Vij}^X and C_{Aij}^X are the vector and axial vector couplings respectively. In $\overline{\text{MS}}$, we find

$$i\Pi_{XY}(p^2)g^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{4\pi^2} \int_0^1 dx \left((C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} + C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) p^2 x(1-x) + (C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} - C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) m_i m_j - (C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} + C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) \Delta \right) \log \frac{\mu^2}{\Delta}, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where $\Delta = m_i^2 + x(m_j^2 - m_i^2) - x(1-x)p^2$. The other relevant expression is $\Pi'(p^2)$, which is given by

$$i\Pi'_{XY}(p^2)g^{\mu\nu} = \frac{-ig^{\mu\nu}}{4\pi^2} \int_0^1 dx \left\{ 2(C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} + C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) x(1-x) \log \frac{\mu^2}{\Delta} + [(C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} + C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) p^2 x(1-x) + (C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} - C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) m_i m_j - (C_{Vij}^X C_{Vij}^{Y*} + C_{Aij}^X C_{Aij}^{Y*}) \Delta] \frac{x(1-x)}{\Delta} \right\}. \quad (\text{B2})$$

These expressions hold generically for any external electroweak gauge boson. To compute the oblique parameters, as defined in Eq. (4), we sum over all fermions which contribute to the specific vacuum polarization and substitute in the relevant masses and couplings. The nonzero Yukawa couplings y and \tilde{y} mix the neutral eigenstates in the low energy effective theory, so S, T , and U are nontrivial functions of the couplings y and \tilde{y} and the masses m_1 and m_2 .

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