Is Radiative Electroweak Symmetry Breaking Consistent with a 125 GeV Higgs Mass?

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The mechanism of radiative electroweak symmetry breaking occurs through loop corrections, and unlike conventional symmetry breaking where the Higgs mass is a parameter, the radiatively generated Higgs mass is dynamically predicted. Padé approximations and an averaging method are developed to extend the Higgs mass predictions in radiative electroweak symmetry breaking from five- to nine-loop order in the scalar sector of the standard model, resulting in an upper bound on the Higgs mass of 141 GeV. The mass predictions are well described by a geometric series behavior, converging to an asymptotic Higgs mass of 124 GeV consistent with the recent ATLAS and CMS Collaborations observations. Similarly, we find that the Higgs self-coupling converges to $\lambda = 0.23$, which is significantly larger than its conventional symmetry breaking counterpart for a 124 GeV Higgs mass. In addition to this significant enhancement of the Higgs self-coupling and $HH \rightarrow HH$ scattering, we find that Higgs decays to gauge bosons are unaltered and the scattering processes $W_L^+W_L^+ \rightarrow HH$, $Z_LZ_L \rightarrow HH$ are also enhanced, providing signals to distinguish conventional and radiative electroweak symmetry breaking mechanisms.

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The observation of a 125 GeV Higgs candidate by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations [1,2], along with supporting evidence from CDF and D0 Collaborations [3], provides preliminary information for evaluating different mechanisms of electroweak (EW) symmetry breaking. Coleman and Weinberg originally demonstrated that spontaneous symmetry breaking can occur through loop (radiative) corrections to the effective potential in the absence of a tree-level Lagrangian quadratic scalar term [4]. This radiative EW symmetry-breaking mechanism is conceptually appealing because the Higgs mass is no longer a freeparameter as it is in conventional EW symmetry breaking, but is a dynamical quantity which can be self-consistently predicted by the theory. The absence of a conventionalsymmetry-breaking quadratic scalar term also addresses aspects of the scale hierarchy problem [5] and the finetuning problem [6].

The small-Higgs-coupling radiative symmetry-breaking solution originally discovered by Coleman and Weinberg leads to an order 10 GeV Higgs mass which has been excluded by experiment. This result relies upon the dominance of gauge couplings over Yukawa couplings in the effective potential; the large Yukawa coupling of the top quark (which was not known at the time of Coleman and Weinberg) destabilizes the small-Higgs-coupling solution. However, it has been demonstrated that a large-Higgs-coupling solution exists that results in a significantly larger Higgs mass prediction [7,8]. Similar radiative-symmetry-breaking solutions have been found in extensions of the standard model [9].

The large-Higgs-coupling solutions for radiative symmetry breaking are intrinsically challenging because higherloop corrections can become important. Fortunately, one can demonstrate that Yukawa and gauge couplings have minimal effect on the analysis, and hence the scalar field sector of the standard model [a globally symmetric O(4)scalar field theory] captures the essential features of the effective potential and radiative symmetry breaking in the full standard model [10], providing a simpler field theory for evaluating higher-loop corrections. In particular, at leading-order the largest secondary effect of the top-quark Yukawa coupling $x = x_t = 0.025$ only has a 2% effect on the Higgs mass [10,11]. This arises as a combination of two main effects: x_t represents 15% of the one-loop β function for the Higgs self-coupling in the large-coupling solution, and the x-independent tree-level contribution suppresses the x dependence in the Higgs mass prediction.

Although such higher-loop calculations of the effective potential would initially seem daunting, in the Coleman-Weinberg (CW) renormalization scheme [4,12], the effective potential for scalar field theories with global O(N) symmetry can be uniquely determined from the renormalization-group functions [13]. Because the renormalization-group functions for O(N)-symmetric scalar ϕ^4 theories are known to five-loop order in the MS scheme [14], and methods are known for converting them to the CW scheme [15], calculation of the five-loop effective potential in $O(N) \phi^4$ theory has been achieved [13,16]. The Higgs mass prediction resulting from these higher-loop corrections shows evidence of slow convergence as loop order is increased, resulting in a Higgs mass upper bound of 165 GeV from the five-loop effective potential [11].

The purpose of this Letter is to assess whether radiative EW symmetry breaking can accommodate a 125 GeV Higgs mass as observed by the ATLAS and CMS Collaborations [1,2] by estimating higher-loop effects on the Higgs mass prediction. This is achieved by exploiting the success of Padé approximation methods for the renormalization-group functions of $O(N) \phi^4$ theory [17–19] to estimate higher-loop contributions to the effective potential and Higgs mass. We also argue that averaging subsequent orders of the effective potential further extends the estimates to two loops higher accuracy. By combining these estimation methods, we obtain a nine-loop Higgs mass upper bound of 141 GeV and observe an empirical pattern of Higgs mass estimates that extrapolates the Higgs mass prediction to a value in close agreement with ATLAS and CMS [1,2]. However, mass predictions alone are not sufficient to distinguish conventional and radiative EW symmetry breaking. Following Ref. [20] we identify possible phenomenological signatures, including the Higgs self-coupling, that would distinguish a 125 GeV Higgs in conventional and radiative EW symmetry breaking.

In O(N)-symmetric massless $\lambda \phi^4$ theory (i.e., the Standard Model scalar sector corresponds to N = 4), the effective potential in the CW scheme takes the form [4]

$$V(\lambda, \phi, \mu) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{n} \lambda^{n+1} T_{nm} L^m \phi^4, \qquad (1)$$

where $L = \log(\phi^2/\mu^2)$, $\phi^2 = \sum_{i=1}^{N} \phi_i^2$, and μ is the renormalization scale. The summation includes leading logarithm (LL), next-to-leading logarithm (NLL), next-to-next-to-leading logarithm N²LL, and in general NⁿLL terms. The NⁿLL term S_n can be isolated by rearranging the summation in the form

$$V(\lambda, \phi, \mu) = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \lambda^{n+1} S_n(\lambda L) \phi^4, \qquad (2)$$

where $S_n(\lambda L) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} T_{n+mm}(\lambda L)^m$. The renormalization group (RG) equation

$$\left(\mu \frac{\partial}{\partial \mu} + \beta(\lambda) \frac{\partial}{\partial \lambda} + \gamma(\lambda) \phi \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi}\right) V(\lambda, \phi, \mu) = 0, \quad (3)$$

$$\beta(\lambda) = \mu \frac{d\lambda}{d\mu} = \sum_{k=2}^{\infty} b_k \lambda^k, \quad \gamma(\lambda) = \frac{\mu}{\phi} \frac{d\phi}{d\mu} = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} g_k \lambda^k \quad (4)$$

leads to the following coupled differential equations for the functions $S_n(\xi)$ [13]

$$0 = \left[(-2 + b_2 \xi) \frac{d}{d\xi} + (n+1)b_2 + 4g_1 \right] S_n + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} \left\{ \left(2g_{n-m} + b_{n+2-m} \xi \frac{d}{d\xi} \right) + \left[(m+1)b_{n+2-m} + 4g_{n+1-m} \right] \right\} S_m,$$
(5)

where we show below that $g_1 = 0$. We thus see that the n + 1-loop renormalization-group functions are needed to determine S_k for k = 0, 1, 2, ..., n. The boundary conditions $S_n(0) = T_{n0}$ needed to solve (5) emerge from the CW

renormalization condition $\frac{d^4V}{d\phi^4}|_{\phi=\mu} = 24\lambda$ [4,12], resulting in the constraints [13]

$$0 = 16 \frac{d^4}{d\xi^4} S_k(0) + 80 \frac{d^3}{d\xi^3} S_{k+1}(0) + 140 \frac{d^2}{d\xi^2} S_{k+2}(0) + 100 \frac{d}{d\xi} S_{k+3}(0) + 24 S_{k+4}(0) \quad (k = 0, 1, 2, ...).$$
(6)

The boundary condition $S_n(0)$ for the differential equation (5) can then be obtained by iteratively solving for the lower-order S_k , where $k = \{n - 1, n - 2, n - 3, n - 4\}$. Thus in the CW scheme, the effective potential to N^{*p*}LL order is uniquely determined by the p + 1-loop RG functions. However, since we only have the limited information of the renormalization group functions, we need to truncate the process at a certain N^{*p*}LL order

$$V_p = \sum_{n=0}^{p} \lambda^{n+1} S_n(\lambda L) \phi^4 + \sum_{i=p+1}^{p+4} T_{i0} \lambda^{i+1} \phi^4, \quad (7)$$

where the last term represents a counterterm which is constrained by the CW renormalization condition. It should be noted that this procedure can reproduce the explicit two-loop calculation of the effective potential [12].

In general, the effective action also has divergences in the kinetic term which are addressed in the CW scheme via a condition which maintains the tree-level form. With this additional condition, the Higgs mass M_H is given by

$$M_{H}^{2} = \frac{1}{Z} \frac{d^{2}V}{d\phi^{2}} \bigg|_{\phi=\mu} = \frac{d^{2}V}{d\phi^{2}} \bigg|_{\phi=\mu},$$
 (8)

where $Z(\phi) = 1$ in the CW scheme. Finally, the coupling λ is determined by the spontaneous-symmetry-breaking condition that the effective potential has a non-trivial minimum $\frac{dV}{d\phi}|_{\phi=\mu} = 0$. Contact with the standard model is achieved by identifying the scale μ with the EW scale μ = v = 246.2 GeV. We note that although higher-loop calculations of the effective potential exist in other schemes, there are very few corresponding calculations of $Z(\phi)$, so for pragmatic purposes higher-loop calculations of the Higgs mass are currently limited to the CW scheme. By contrast, RG functions $\tilde{\beta}$ and $\tilde{\gamma}$ are generally calculated in MS-like schemes, and hence it is necessary to convert these RG functions to the CW scheme [15]. We can thus use the five-loop MS-scheme determinations of the O(N)-symmetric ϕ^4 RG functions [14] to determine their five-loop CW-scheme counterparts. Note that in the MS scheme $\tilde{g}_1 = 0$, and, hence, we also have $g_1 = 0$ in the CW scheme.

In Ref. [11] it was demonstrated that for p even, V_p provides an upper bound on the Higgs mass M_H which slowly drops from 221 GeV at one-loop order (LL order) to 165 GeV at five-loop order (N⁴LL). Thus, we can exclude radiative symmetry breaking if the upper bound drops below the ATLAS and CMS value of 125 GeV. We thus focus on improving the upper bound by approximating

higher-loop terms in the RG functions which enables higher-loop approximations to the effective potential.

Padé approximation methods, particularly when improved with an asymptotic error correction [17,21,22], have been successfully applied to the MS-scheme RG functions of O(N) massive scalar field theory [17–19]. For example, using four-loop results as input, the Padépredicted and exact five loop term in the beta function agree to better than 5% for N = 4 [19].

For Padé approximations to the MS-scheme beta function $\tilde{\beta}$ we write

$$\tilde{\beta} = \tilde{b}_2 \lambda^2 \left(1 + \frac{\tilde{b}_3}{\tilde{b}_2} \lambda + \frac{\tilde{b}_4}{\tilde{b}_2} \lambda^2 + \frac{\tilde{b}_5}{\tilde{b}_2} \lambda^3 + \frac{\tilde{b}_6}{\tilde{b}_2} \lambda^4 \right)$$
(9)

and apply Padé approximation methods to the bracketed quantity. Using the methods outlined in Refs. [17,21,22], the asymptotic-improved Padé prediction of the R_5x^5 term with known coefficients { R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4 } in the series $P(x) = 1 + R_1x + R_2x^2 + R_3x^3 + R_4x^4$ is given by

$$R_5 = \frac{R_4^2 (R_1 R_3^3 - 2R_2^3 R_4 + R_1 R_2 R_3 R_4)}{R_3 (2R_1 R_3^3 - R_2^2 R_3^2 - R_4 R_2^3)}.$$
 (10)

From this expression, the resulting asymptotic-improved Padé prediction of the O(4) MS six-loop beta function is $\tilde{b}_7 = -1.07$. Because we also want the seven-loop beta function, a [2|2] Padé approximant to P(x) is then used to predict its x^5 and x^6 terms. The resulting prediction of the six- and seven-loop MS scheme O(4) beta function coefficients are $\tilde{b}_7 = -0.992$ and $\tilde{b}_8 = 1.96$. The agreement of the [2|2] and asymptotic-improved predictions for \tilde{b}_7 to approximately 10% provides a validation of the [2|2] methodology and establishes a characteristic error for our analysis below. Converting these MS-scheme beta function coefficients to the CW scheme results in $b_7 = -0.695$ and $b_8 = 1.37$.

For Padé approximations to the MS-scheme anomalous dimension we follow the same procedure except there is less information than in the beta function because the leading-order \tilde{g}_1 term in the anomalous dimension is zero. Given knowledge of $\{R_1, R_2, R_3\}$ in the series P(x), the asymptotic-improved Padé prediction of R_4 [18] results in the asymptotic-improved Padé prediction of the six-loop coefficient $\tilde{g}_6 = -0.692 \times 10^{-3}$ and $g_6 = -0.135 \times 10^{-3}$ after conversion to the CW scheme. As argued above, we can now use \tilde{g}_6 to form a [2]2] Padé approximant to predict the seven-loop MS coefficient $\tilde{g}_7 = 0.961 \times 10^{-3}$ which corresponds to CW-scheme value $g_7 = -0.225 \times 10^{-4}$.

Equipped with Padé estimates of the RG functions up to seven-loop order, we can solve (5) and (6) to obtain S_5 and S_6 , which enables the construction of the N⁶LL effective potential V_6 . Analysis of the effective potential results in the Higgs mass $M_H = 150$ GeV and the CW-scheme weak-scale coupling $\lambda(v) = 0.308$. Including 10% uncertainties in the RG coefficients only gives a 0.1 GeV Higgs mass difference which shows the method is quite robust. Now, we develop methods to extrapolate the Higgs mass estimates to higher-loop orders. We begin with the averaging method motivated by the field-theoretical contributions to the Higgs mass in the absence of a counterterm contribution

$$\tilde{M}_{n} = \frac{1}{\nu^{2}} \frac{d^{2}(V_{n} - K_{n}\phi^{4})}{d\phi^{2}} \Big|_{\phi=\mu},$$
(11)

where $K_n = \sum_{i=n+1}^{n+4} T_{i,0} \lambda^{i+1}$ is the corresponding counter-term at that order. The quantity \tilde{M}_n is shown in Fig. 1, and as argued in Ref. [11], demonstrates that the effective potential over-estimates the Higgs mass at even orders and underestimates it at odd orders. Moreover, we can imagine that at higher orders, the field theoretical contributions to the Higgs mass will lie in the envelope between the even and odd orders. Indeed, for small λ , Fig. 1 already shows close agreement between even and odd orders. It thus seems plausible that the average of an even- and oddorder effective potential will provide a better approximation to the full effective potential than a single-order result. This averaging method can be justified by identifying \tilde{M}_n as the Eq. (7) partial sum of S_n contributions that alternate in sign as demonstrated by Fig. 1. In particular, moving from p-loop order to p + 1-loop order involves the addition of S_p , and the sign of this contribution sequentially raises and lowers the curves in Fig. 1. Thus, for any fixed value of λ , we can employ Euler's transformation for alternating series to accelerate its convergence [23]:

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n u_n = u_0 - u_1 + \dots - u_{N-1} + \sum_{s=0}^{\infty} \frac{(-1)^s}{2^{s+1}} [\Delta^s u_N]$$
(12)

and setting s = 0 as the lowest order approximation, we obtain

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n u_n \approx u_0 - u_1 + \dots - u_{N-1} + \frac{1}{2} u_N = \bar{P}_N, \quad (13)$$

where the partial sums $P_N = \sum_{n=0}^{N} (-1)^n u_n$ and $\bar{P}_N = \frac{1}{2}(P_N + P_{N-1})$. In our case, the averaged effective potential \bar{V}_n can be written as $\bar{V}_n = \frac{1}{2}(V_n + V_{n-1})$.

For example, the average of four-loop (N³LL) and fiveloop (N⁴LL) contributions to the effective potential $\bar{V}_4 = V_3/2 + V_4/2 = (\lambda S_0 + \cdots + \lambda^4 S_3 + \frac{1}{2}\lambda^5 S_4 + \bar{K}_4)\phi^4$ shown in Fig. 1 gives the Higgs mass prediction $M_H =$ 153 GeV and the corresponding coupling $\lambda = 0.418$. Although the averaging results in a coupling close to the three-loop value, the mass is in close agreement with the seven-loop Padé result. Thus, the average of the five-loop effective potential with its lower-loop four-loop counterpart, leads to a much better Higgs mass estimate than the five-loop contribution alone.

The same pattern holds at lower orders as well; the Higgs mass and coupling resulting from averaging the two- and three-loop effective potentials is in remarkablyclose agreement with the five-loop Higgs mass and



FIG. 1 (color). The dimensionless quantity \tilde{M}_n (11) is plotted as a function of λ for the O(4) scalar theory. Upper curves represent the even N^{*p*}LL (*p* + 1-loop) orders (*p* = 0, 2, 4, 6) and the lower curves represent the odd orders (*p* = 1, 3, 5). The average of the four- and five-loop contributions is also shown.

one-loop coupling (see Table I). Based on this pattern that the average of the n-1 and n-loop effective potentials approximates the n-2 loop coupling and n+2 loop Higgs mass, we expect that the average of the six- and seven-loop Padé approximations to the effective potential will provide a good estimate of the nine-loop Higgs mass prediction and the five-loop coupling. Using this method, our nine-loop estimates are $M_H = 141$ GeV with the corresponding coupling $\lambda(v) = 0.352$. We note that the agreement between the five-loop coupling and the six- and seven-loop average (see Table I) provides further confirmation of the pattern, and gives us confidence in the nineloop Higgs mass estimate.

Thus, by combining Padé estimates and the averaging method, the seven- and nine-loop Higgs mass predictions have been estimated. These estimates demonstrate a continued slow convergence towards a Higgs mass bounded from above by 141 GeV. To determine whether the Higgs mass will eventually converge to a value consistent with the 125 GeV Higgs mass seen by ATLAS and CMS Collaborations [1,2], we first note that the differences between subsequent loop orders in Table I decrease in a fashion consistent with a geometric series

TABLE I. Higgs mass in GeV and self-coupling predictions at different loop orders in both the standard (left half) and averaging method (right half). The extrapolated values emerging from the geometric series behaviour are also shown. For comparison, the Higgs coupling λ_{CSB} in conventional symmetry breaking corresponding to the predicted Higgs mass is also provided.

| Loop | λ | M_H | $\lambda_{\rm CSB}$ | Average | λ | M_H | $\lambda_{\rm CSB}$ |
|-------------|-------|-------|---------------------|----------|-------|-------|---------------------|
| 1 loop | 0.534 | 221 | 0.101 | | | | |
| 3 loops | 0.417 | 186 | 0.072 | 2,3 loop | 0.514 | 167 | 0.230 |
| 5 loops | 0.354 | 165 | 0.056 | 4,5 loop | 0.418 | 153 | 0.194 |
| 7 loops | 0.308 | 150 | 0.047 | 6,7 loop | 0.352 | 141 | 0.041 |
| Extrapolate | 0.233 | 124 | 0.032 | | | | |

$$M_n - M_{\text{Higgs}} = \Lambda \sigma^n,$$
 (14)

where M_n is the *n*-loop Higgs prediction, Λ has dimensions of mass, and $\sigma < 1$ is a dimensionless quantity which leads to $\lim_{n\to\infty} M_n = M_{\text{Higgs}}$. In Fig. 2 the plot of $\log(M_n - M_{\text{Higgs}})$ shows clear linear behavior with *n* consistent with the geometric series (14) when $M_{\text{Higgs}} =$ 125 GeV. The dependence of the χ^2 deviation from this linear fit is shown as a function of M_{Higgs} in Fig. 3, providing an optimized value $M_{\text{Higgs}} = 124$ GeV. We thus speculate that the radiatively generated Higgs mass ultimately converges to a value consistent with the 125 GeV ATLAS and CMS value [1,2]. A similar geometric series pattern exists for the Higgs self-coupling; Fig. 2 shows linear behavior for $\log(\lambda_n - \lambda_{\text{Higgs}})$ for the least-squares optimized value $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} = 0.23$. The similarity in slope between the mass and coupling plots in Fig. 2 is intriguing; we speculate that this is connected to the underlying rate of convergence of the effective potential.

The extrapolated value λ_{Higgs} is a factor of 2 smaller than the leading logarithm result, so it is necessary to re-examine whether the scalar field theory sector of the standard model is still a valid approximation. Because the top-quark Yukawa coupling is the dominant secondary effect on the Higgs mass [10], we have calculated the leading-logarithm (one-loop) ratio of the Higgs mass with top-quark effects included and omitted. For the extrapolated value $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} =$ 0.23, the top-quark effects are less than a 5% effect at leading-log order and hence the scalar field sector still captures the dominant features of the standard model.

Using Padé approximation methods and an averaging technique, we have extended the radiatively generated Higgs mass prediction to nine-loop order. Two important trends emerge from this result: both the Higgs mass and CW-scheme coupling λ decrease with increasing loop order. Both the Higgs mass and self-coupling are well described by a geometric series in the loop-order, converging to approximately $M_{\text{Higgs}} = 124 \text{ GeV}$ and $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} = 0.23$.

The value of the coupling provides a phenomenological signal that distinguishes between radiative and



FIG. 2 (color online). The quantities $\log(M_n - M_{\text{Higgs}})$ and $\log(\lambda_n - \lambda_{\text{Higgs}})$ are plotted versus loop order *n* for Table I values with $M_{\text{Higgs}} = 125 \text{ GeV}$ and $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} = 0.23$. The lines are a linear fit to the data points based on the geometric series (14).



FIG. 3 (color online). The χ^2 of the linear fit of Table I values to $\log(M_n - M_{\text{Higgs}})$ is plotted as a function of M_{Higgs} resulting in the least-squares prediction $M_{\text{Higgs}} = 124$ GeV.

conventional EW symmetry breaking. For example, in Table I the conventional symmetry-breaking λ value corresponding to the predicted Higgs mass is smaller than the radiatively generated value at all orders, implying a significant enhancement of Higgs-Higgs scattering in radiative EW symmetry breaking [7]. This trend is upheld in the extrapolation to $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} = 0.23$ and a 125 GeV Higgs mass. It seems feasible for the Higgs self-coupling to be measured by the LHC [24,25]; an enhancement of the coupling compared to conventional symmetry breaking could be evidence for the radiative scenario.

However, the Goldstone-boson replacement theorem [26] leads to identical results for the Higgs decay processes $H \rightarrow W_L^+ W_L^-$, $H \rightarrow Z_L Z_L$ in conventional and radiative symmetry breaking independent of the extrapolated Higgs coupling, and similar equivalences are found for the scattering processes $W_L^+ W_L^- \rightarrow W_L^+ W_L^-$, $W_L^+ W_L^- \rightarrow Z_L Z_L$ [20]. This implies that these Higgs decays and gauge boson scattering processes are unable to distinguish between radiative and conventional EW symmetry breaking. By contrast, the processes $W_L^+ W_L^+ \rightarrow HH$, $Z_L Z_L \rightarrow HH$ are enhanced in radiative EW symmetry breaking independent of the extrapolated Higgs coupling. For example, the seven-loop Padé prediction leads to a threefold enhancement comparable to the lower-loop analysis of Ref. [20].

In summary, we have combined Padé approximation methods with averaging techniques to extend Higgs mass predictions in radiative EW symmetry breaking to the nineloop estimate $M_H = 141$ GeV for the upper bound on the Higgs mass. Evidence of geometric-series convergence of the Higgs mass to 125 GeV suggests that radiative EW symmetry breaking is a viable mechanism for the ATLAS and CMS observation of a Higgs boson. Similar evidence of geometric series convergence for the Higgs selfcoupling leads to the corresponding limiting value of the radiatively generated Higgs coupling $\lambda_{\text{Higgs}} = 0.23$, a value significantly larger than its conventional symmetrybreaking counterpart. This implies that the processes $HH \rightarrow HH$, $W_L^+ W_L^+ \rightarrow HH$, $Z_L Z_L \rightarrow HH$ are enhanced, so discrepancies between experiment and conventional symmetry-breaking predictions may provide signals of radiative symmetry breaking.

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