

Exploring the BSM Potential of Anomalous Neutral Gauge Coupling Phase Transition with CEPC Detector Simulation

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Neutral triple gauge couplings (nTGCs) are absent in the Standard Model (SM) and at the dimension-6 level in the Standard Model Effective Field Theory (SMEFT), arising first from dimension-8 operators. As such, they provide a unique window for probing new physics beyond the SM. These dimension-8 operators can be mapped to nTGC form factors whose structure is consistent with the spontaneously-broken electroweak gauge symmetry of the SM. In this work, we study the probes of nTGCs in the reaction $e^+e^- \rightarrow Z\gamma$ with $Z \rightarrow \ell\ell$ ($\ell = e, \mu$) at an e^+e^- collider. We perform a detector-level simulation and analysis of this reaction at the Circular Electron Positron Collider (CEPC) with collision energy $\sqrt{s} = 240$ GeV and an integrated luminosity of 5 ab^{-1} . We present the sensitivity limits on probing the new physics scales of dimension-8 nTGC operators via measurements of the corresponding nTGC form factors.

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A strong first-order electroweak phase transition (EWPT) can be induced by light new physics weakly coupled to the Higgs. This study focuses on a scenario in which the first-order EWPT is driven by a light scalar s with a mass between 15-60 GeV. A search for exotic decays of the Higgs boson into a pair of spin-zero particles, $h \rightarrow ss$, where the s -boson decays into b -quarks promptly is presented. The search is performed in events where the Higgs boson is produced in association with a Z boson, giving rise to a signature of two charged leptons (electrons or muons) and multiple jets from b -quark decays. The analysis is considering a scenario of analysing $5000 \text{ fb}^{-1} e^+e^-$ collision data at $\sqrt{s} = 240$ GeV from the Circular Electron Positron Collider (CEPC). This study with $4b$ final state conclusively tests the expected sensitivity of probing the light scalars in the CEPC experiment. The sensitivity reach is significantly larger than that can be achieved at the LHC.

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