Patterns in the Fermion Mixing Matrix,
a bottom-up approach

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Abstract

We first obtain the most general and compact parametrization of the unitary transformation diagonalizing any 3×3 hermitian matrix H, as a function of its elements and eigenvalues. We then study a special class of fermion mass matrices, defined by the requirement that all of the diagonalizing unitary matrices (in the up, down, charged lepton and neutrino sectors) contain at least one mixing angle much smaller than the other two. Our new parametrization allows us to quickly extract information on the patterns and predictions emerging from this scheme. In particular we find that the phase difference between two elements of the two mass matrices (of the sector in question) controls the generic size of one of the observable fermion mixing angles: i.e. just fixing that particular phase difference will "predict" the generic value of one of the mixing angles, irrespective of the value of anything else.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the absence of flavor symmetries, the Yukawa couplings between the Standard Model (SM) fermions and the Higgs field are in general complex arbitrary matrices which, after Electroweak Symmetry Breaking (EWSB), become the mass matrices of the quarks and charged leptons. In the case of neutrinos, the mass matrix will be in general complex symmetric. All these matrices contain more parameters than physical observables and an explicit computation of these observables (fermion masses and mixings) in terms of the original matrix elements can be quite cumbersome in general. Indeed this would require us to solve a 3×3 eigenvalue problem for each fermion matrix, and then compose the unitary transformations (formed with the calculated eigenvectors) of the Up and Down quark sectors and then also of the charged lepton and neutrino sectors [1]. We observe however that it may be useful to address the question not as an eigenvalue problem, but as an eigenvector problem, treating the eigenvalues as input parameters and not as output. The first reason for this is that except for the neutrino sector, all the mass eigenvalues are quite well known. But the main point we make is that by keeping explicitly the mass eigenvalues as input parameters, the eigenvector solutions of each mass matrix become surprisingly simple and can be written as compact functions of both the mass matrix elements and the eigenvalues (the fermion masses). Such a parametrization of the mixing matrices, directly in terms of the original mass parameters and the fermion masses might prove to be useful in the studies aiming to explain the observed flavor structure of the SM by way of symmetries or textures or patterns [1–4] at the level of the fermion mass matrices.

It is true, though, that to proceed we need to work with hermitian matrices, but it is always possible to render the quark mass matrices hermitian in the Standard Model without loss of generality [5, 6]. The procedure to obtain hermitian matrices is quite standard, and it involves either working with the hermitian matrix $H_1 = GG^\dagger$, where G is the original fermion mass matrix, or using its polar decomposition, i.e. solving $G = H_2 Q_G$, where Q_G is a unitary matrix converting the general complex matrix G into a positive semi-definite hermitian matrix H_2 (if G is invertible, with distinct non-vanishing eigenvalues, then H_2 is positive definite and therefore Q_G is unique).

We will first present our parametrization (in fact 9 different types) for the unitary matrix W which diagonalizes a general hermitian matrix H in the most compact way possible. Then,

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[1] Assuming three families of neutrinos, although additional neutrino flavors are possible (sterile neutrinos).

to start taking advantage of it, we then propose a simple and mildly constraining ansatz for the flavor structure of the SM fermion sector. It assumes that the unitary transformations diagonalizing H_u and H_d can each be decomposed as only two rotations, instead of three. The idea is to assume that the third rotation angle is zero (or much smaller than the other two) and therefore one of the entries of each transformation matrix W_u and W_d will be zero or close to zero. We call this setup the two-angle ansatz and we will concentrate in only one of the many possible cases. Our parametrization allows us to quickly obtain very simple dependences of the fermion mixing matrices V_{CKM} and V_{PMNS} [7] in terms of the masses and the original mass matrix elements. We can thus study easily the interesting properties of this type of ansatz as well as the consequences it has in the original mass matrices, in both the quark and the lepton sectors. A particularly interesting observation is that the specific value of some elements of H_u and H_d has no effect (or very mild effect) on the observed values of masses and mixings.

II.   MIXING MATRIX PARAMETRIZATION

As explained before, we are going to concentrate on hermitian matrices with the assumption that the fermion mass matrices are either hermitian or that one can construct a hermitian matrix out of them. All the results presented in this work are valid for general hermitian matrices, but for simplicity we will only consider the case of positive definite hermitian matrices. Let H be one such matrix:

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & x & g \\ x^* & \alpha & b \\ g^* & b^* & a \end{pmatrix}, \tag{1}$$

with eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 and λ_3. A compact parametrization of the unitary matrix W which diagonalizes it, is [2]

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{(\alpha - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |b|^2}{N_1} & \dfrac{gb^* - x(a - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{xb - g(\alpha - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{g^*b - x^*(a - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_2)(a - \lambda_2) - |g|^2}{N_2} & \dfrac{x^*g - b(\gamma - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{x^*b^* - g^*(\alpha - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{xg^* - b^*(\gamma - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_3)(\alpha - \lambda_3) - |x|^2}{N_3} \end{pmatrix} \tag{2}$$

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[2] There are 9 different ways of parametrizing it, depending on the choice of which diagonal mass parameter (γ, α or a) is explicitly absent in each vector column (see Appendix A for details). In the parametrization shown here, the rotation matrix W has the correct limit when the off-diagonal entries in the original mass matrices H are set to zero, avoiding (apparent) divergences in this limit.

After some algebra the normalization parameters are found to have the simple form

$$N_1^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)\left[(\alpha - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |b|^2\right], \tag{3}$$

$$N_2^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)\left[(a - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \gamma) + |g|^2\right], \tag{4}$$

$$N_3^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)\left[(\lambda_3 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - \alpha) - |x|^2\right] \tag{5}$$

The surprisingly simple and compact form of this parametrization might make it suitable to treat flavor models keeping always an explicit dependence on all the matrix elements of the hermitian mass matrices. Of course, if the three eigenvalues λ_1, λ_2 and λ_3 are fixed, there must be three constraint equations on the elements of the matrix H. These equations are found from the three invariants $Tr(H)$, $Tr(H^2)$ and $Det(H)$:

$$Tr(H) = a + \alpha + \gamma = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3, \tag{6}$$

$$Tr(H^2) = 2(|x|^2 + |b|^2 + |g|^2) + a^2 + \alpha^2 + \gamma^2 = \lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 \tag{7}$$

$$Det(H) = \gamma(\alpha a - |b|^2) - a|x|^2 - \alpha|g|^2 + 2Re(bxg^*) = \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3 \tag{8}$$

By choosing g as an independent variable, it is possible to rewrite these constraint relations on the rest of variables as[3]

$$\alpha = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 - a - \gamma, \tag{9}$$

$$|x|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - \gamma) - |g|^2(\alpha - \gamma) + 2Re(bxg^*)}{(a - \gamma)} \tag{10}$$

$$|b|^2 = \frac{(a - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - a) + |g|^2(\alpha - a) - 2Re(bxg^*)}{(a - \gamma)} \tag{11}$$

The interesting thing of this notation is that the constraint formulae on x and b actually become algebraic solutions for both x and b when the term $Re(bxg^*)$ vanishes identically. In particular, this is the case when one deals with mass matrices with texture zeroes in the off-diagonal elements.

III. FLAVOR IN THE TWO-ANGLE ANSATZ

Equipped with an exact and simple parametrization of the fermion mixing matrix in both Up and Down sectors (or charged lepton and neutrino sectors), we look for economical patterns among the mixing matrices by following a bottom-up approach in the hope that it might be complementary to more top-down approaches such as imposing flavor symmetries

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[3] The same type of relations can be written when choosing x or b as the independent variable.

or texture zeroes mass matrices (see [1–4] as well as the probably incomplete surveys of [8, 9]). One avenue is to find a similar ansatz for the flavor structure of the mixing matrices in both quark and leptonic sectors. Such possibility exists in the sense that in both sectors, the mixing elements $(V_{CKM})_{13}$ and $(V_{PMNS})_{13}$ are known to be small. This feature is very interesting and it is known to lead to a simple parametrization of the mixing matrix. Note that in the limit $V_{13} = 0$ we have two additional conditions, since V_{13} is a complex number. This means that in this limit, the mixing matrix will have only two independent parameters instead of four. We can choose these four independent parameters to be $|V_{12}|$, $|V_{23}|$, $|V_{13}|$ and $|V_{21}|$ [10]. In the limit of $V_{13} = 0$, we have the extra constraint $|V_{21}| = |V_{12}|\sqrt{1 - |V_{23}|^2}$. This means that the whole mixing matrix is described by $|V_{12}|$ and $|V_{23}|$. Note also that in this limit, there is no $\mathcal{CP}$ violation à la Dirac in both quark and leptonic sectors.

In what follows, the subscript 0 stands for the values of the mixing matrix elements in the limit $V_{13} = 0$. Since V_{13} is known to be very small, we believe that the zeroes values of the mixing matrix elements are not far from their measured values. For the quarks, we have:

$$V_{CKM}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1 - |V_{us}^0|^2} & |V_{us}^0| & 0 \\ -|V_{us}^0|\sqrt{1 - |V_{cb}^0|^2} & \sqrt{(1 - |V_{us}^0|^2)(1 - |V_{cb}^0|^2)} & |V_{cb}^0| \\ |V_{us}^0||V_{cb}^0| & -|V_{cb}^0|\sqrt{1 - |V_{us}^0|^2} & \sqrt{1 - |V_{cb}^0|^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Note that this zero-order V_{CKM}^0 can be decomposed as a product of two rotations, namely one is purely the Cabbibo angle and the other one is purely made out of beauty namely $|V_{cb}|$:

$$V_{CKM}^0 = V_B V_C \quad (13)$$

with

$$V_B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1 - |V_{cb}^0|^2} & |V_{cb}^0| \\ 0 & -|V_{cb}^0| & \sqrt{1 - |V_{cb}^0|^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad V_C = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1 - |V_{us}^0|^2} & |V_{us}^0| & 0 \\ -|V_{us}^0| & \sqrt{1 - |V_{us}^0|^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

In the leptonic sector we have:

$$V_{PMNS}^0 = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1 - |V_{e2}^0|^2} & |V_{e2}^0| & 0 \\ -|V_{e2}^0|\sqrt{1 - |V_{\mu3}^0|^2} & \sqrt{(1 - |V_{e2}^0|^2)(1 - |V_{\mu3}^0|^2)} & |V_{\mu3}^0| \\ |V_{e2}^0||V_{\mu3}^0| & -|V_{\mu3}^0|\sqrt{1 - |V_{e2}^0|^2} & \sqrt{1 - |V_{\mu3}^0|^2} \end{pmatrix} P \quad (15)$$

which can be decomposed also as a product of two rotations, namely one is purely solar and the other one is purely atmospheric:

$$V_{PMNS}^0 = V_{atm} V_{sol} P \quad (16)$$

with,

$$V_{atm} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{1-|V_{\mu 3}^0|^2} & |V_{\mu 3}^0| \\ 0 & -|V_{\mu 3}^0| & \sqrt{1-|V_{\mu 3}^0|^2} \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad V_{sol} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{1-|V_{e2}^0|^2} & |V_{e2}^0| & 0 \\ -|V_{e2}^0| & \sqrt{1-|V_{e2}^0|^2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \tag{17}$$

The diagonal phase matrix P which contains the Majorana phases is defined as:

$$P = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\eta} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\xi} \end{pmatrix} \tag{18}$$

This structure for the physical fermion mixing matrices, decomposed mainly into just two rotations is quite suggestive and we will use this observation as the starting point of our analysis. In this context we ask ourselves how many economical possibilities one has to restore minimally and fully the mixing elements and $\mathcal{CP}$ violation. We start with the structure

$$W_u^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & X & X \\ 0 & X & X \end{pmatrix}, \quad W_d^0 = \begin{pmatrix} X & X & 0 \\ X & X & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{19}$$

and then to be as general as possible while still keeping the original motivation we consider all mixing patterns emerging from the original structure, but with only one zero in each mixing matrix. Now, we establish all the corrected mixing patterns for both Up and Down quark sectors:

$$W_u^C \equiv \begin{pmatrix} X & 0 & Cor \\ Cor & X & X \\ Cor & X & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & Cor & 0 \\ Cor & X & X \\ Cor & X & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & Cor & Cor \\ 0 & X & X \\ Cor & X & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & Cor & Cor \\ Cor & X & X \\ 0 & X & X \end{pmatrix}, \tag{20}$$

$$W_d^C \equiv \begin{pmatrix} X & X & 0 \\ X & X & Cor \\ Cor & Cor & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & X & Cor \\ X & X & 0 \\ Cor & Cor & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & X & Cor \\ X & X & Cor \\ 0 & Cor & X \end{pmatrix}, \begin{pmatrix} X & X & Cor \\ X & X & Cor \\ Cor & 0 & X \end{pmatrix}, \tag{21}$$

where X stands for a non-zero value and Cor for a corrected originally zero mixing matrix element. These mixing matrices with one texture zero in them can be decomposed themselves into only two rotations instead of three. We call this the two-angle ansatz, in which both the Up and Down quark sectors are diagonalized by unitary transformations containing just two angles (i.e. having one vanishing element). There are obviously many possibilities for this ansatz but in particular there are 16 cases such that one can recover in

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a specific limit the case $V_{13} = 0$. In this work we are going to focus only on one specific example of this type of ansatz, although a full case by case study is underway. We feel that the main features of this ansatz do reveal themselves in the example studied here, and we prefer to continue elsewhere a more systematic exploration.

Notation

Before we proceed further, we will set up our notation for all the matrices in both up and down quark sectors as well as charged lepton and neutrino sectors. We will define the Hermitian matrices H_u, H_d, H_l and H_ν defined by:

$$H_u = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & x & g \\ x^* & \alpha & b \\ g^* & b^* & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_d = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & y & h \\ y^* & \beta & f \\ h^* & f^* & d \end{pmatrix}. \tag{22}$$

with eigenvalues m_u, m_c, m_t, m_d, m_s and m_b and

$$H_l = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma' & x' & g' \\ x'^* & \alpha' & b' \\ g'^* & b'^* & a' \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \rho' & y' & h' \\ y'^* & \beta' & f' \\ h'^* & f'^* & d' \end{pmatrix}. \tag{23}$$

with eigenvalues $m_e, m_\mu, m_\tau, \lambda_1, \lambda_2$ and λ_3.

In the text, we will also need to refer to the phases of the off-diagonal terms, denoted as

$$\arg{(H_u)}_{12} = \delta_x, \qquad \arg{(H_u)}_{13} = \delta_g, \qquad \arg{(H_u)}_{23} = \delta_b, \tag{24}$$

$$\arg{(H_d)}_{12} = \delta_y, \qquad \arg{(H_d)}_{13} = \delta_h, \qquad \arg{(H_d)}_{23} = \delta_f, \tag{25}$$

and similarly for the leptons. The matrices diagonalizing these mass matrices will be denoted respectively as W_u, W_d, W_l and W_ν.

A. THE CASE (13-13): $\left(\text{i.e. } (\mathbf{W_u})_{13} = (\mathbf{W_d})_{13} = \mathbf{0} \text{ and/or } (\mathbf{W_l})_{13} = (\mathbf{W_\nu})_{13} = \mathbf{0}\right)$

We will now consider the mass matrices from Eqs. (22) and (23) with the extra constraints of $(W_u)_{13} = 0$ and $(W_d)_{13} = 0$ in the quark sector and $(W_l)_{13} = 0$ and $(W_\nu)_{13} = 0$ in the lepton sector.[4]

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[4] In the quark sector, this limit was shown to lead to acceptable patterns in the limit $\rho = 0$ and $\gamma = 0$ [11] and similar limits were considered in the lepton sector in [12]

For example in the down quark sector imposing $(W_d)_{13} = 0$ corresponds to the requirement $yf - h(\beta - m_b) = 0$. After a short computation, we obtain simpler relations among the elements of the mass matrix:

$$|y|^2 = \frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_s - \rho)(m_b - \beta)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}$$

$$|h|^2 = \frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_s - \rho)(m_b - d)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}$$

$$|f|^2 = (m_b - \beta)(m_b - d)$$

$$\delta_y - \delta_h + \delta_f = \pi \tag{26}$$

These relations will simplify significantly the general form of the Down quark mixing matrix W_d as well as the up quark mixing matrix W_u (see Eq. (2) and Appendix B for details).

It is then straightforward to show that the quark mixing matrix takes the form

$$V = W_u^\dagger W_d = P_u^\dagger V_{CKM} \, P_d \tag{27}$$

where P_u and P_d are unphysical diagonal phase matrices given below and

$$V_{CKM} = \begin{pmatrix} c_\gamma c_\rho + s_\rho s_\gamma |C| e^{i\theta} & -c_\gamma s_\rho + s_\gamma c_\rho |C| e^{i\theta} & s_\gamma \, |S| \\ -s_\gamma c_\rho + c_\gamma s_\rho |C| e^{i\theta} & s_\gamma s_\rho + c_\gamma c_\rho |C| e^{i\theta} & c_\gamma |S| \\ -s_\rho |S| & -c_\rho |S| & |C| e^{-i\theta} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{28}$$

The complex rotation parameters C, S, c_γ and c_ρ are given by

$$C = \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t - a)(m_b - d)} \, e^{i(\delta_f - \delta_b)} + \sqrt{(m_t - \alpha)(m_b - \beta)} \right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t - \alpha - a)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} \quad (i.e. \ \ |C| \equiv |V_{tb}|) \tag{29}$$

$$S = e^{i\delta_b} \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t - a)(m_b - \beta)} - e^{i(\delta_f - \delta_b)} \sqrt{(m_t - \alpha)(m_b - d)} \right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t - \alpha - a)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} \tag{30}$$

$$c_\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{m_c - \gamma}{m_c - m_u}} \tag{31}$$

$$c_\rho = \sqrt{\frac{m_s - \rho}{m_s - m_d}} \tag{32}$$

Note that $s_i = \sqrt{1 - c_i^2}$ and that $|C|^2 + |S|^2 = 1$. The CP phase θ and the two unphysical phase matrices P_u and P_d are given respectively by $\theta = \delta_x - \delta_y - \delta_C$, $P_u = diag(1, e^{i\delta_x}, e^{i(\delta_y + \delta_S)})$ and $P_d = diag(1, e^{i\delta_y}, e^{i(\delta_x + \delta_S)})$, with $\delta_i \equiv \arg(i)$.

The previous form of the mixing matrix implies the following exact relations for the quark sector

$$\frac{|V_{ub}|}{|V_{cb}|} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma - m_u}{m_c - \gamma}}, \qquad \frac{|V_{td}|}{|V_{ts}|} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho - m_d}{m_s - \rho}}. \tag{33}$$

and

$$\frac{|V_{ub}|}{|V_{td}|} = \sqrt{\frac{(\gamma - m_u)(m_s - m_d)}{(m_c - m_u)(\rho - m_d)}}, \qquad \frac{|V_{cb}|}{|V_{ts}|} = \sqrt{\frac{(m_c - \gamma)(m_s - m_d)}{(m_c - m_u)(m_s - \rho)}}, \tag{34}$$

which really correspond to two independent constraints (i.e. the third and fourth relations can be obtained using the first two along with the unitary constraints).

As can be seen only two original mass matrix elements γ (from H_u) and ρ (from H_d) appear explicitly in these last four relations showing the first effect of the $(13 - 13)$ ansatz, i.e. linking each of the previous ratios to a different quark mass matrix, and in particular to the first diagonal elements of each mass matrix. Once we fix these two elements to fit the experimental value of the ratios given in Eqs. (33) and (34), we will still have 6 free parameters (including 4 phases) to fit the rest of the data (i.e we need to fit two more scalar observables from experiment, which for example can be taken to be the absolute value of $|V_{tb}|$ and the value of the CP phase of the fermion mixing matrix). We can choose to use a, d and the phases of x, g, f and b as the free parameters. It is also useful to define the phase combinations:

$$\Delta_{23} = \arg{(H_d)_{23}} - \arg{(H_u)_{23}} = \delta_f - \delta_b , \tag{35}$$

$$\Delta_{12} = \arg{(H_d)_{12}} - \arg{(H_u)_{12}} = \delta_y - \delta_x \tag{36}$$

$$\Delta_{13} = \arg{(H_d)_{13}} - \arg{(H_u)_{13}} = \delta_h - \delta_g. \tag{37}$$

which have the constraint

$$\Delta_{23} + \Delta_{12} = \Delta_{13}. \tag{38}$$

due to the $(13 - 13)$ ansatz imposition.

Of course, we have more than enough free parameters to fit the two remaining observables, but as we will shortly see, of the 4 free phases, only two phase differences can be relevant, and the 2 real parameters a and d turn out to be statistically irrelevant if the two phases are properly chosen. In other words, in most of the parameter space of the six free parameters needed to produce the two remaining physical observables, 4 directions are more or less irrelevant, with two phase differences being the two parameters required to obtain a good
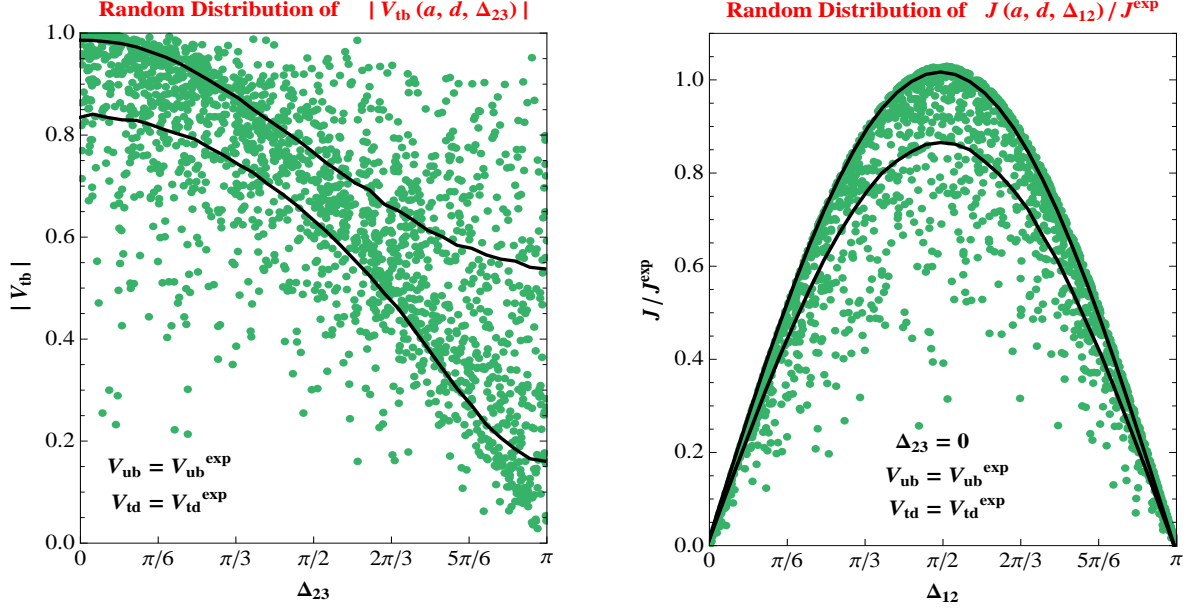
FIG. 1: Distribution of $|V_{tb}(a, d, \Delta_{23})|$ with random a, d and Δ_{23} with respect to Δ_{23} (left panel), where a and d are two diagonal elements of the quark mass matrices H_u and H_d, and Δ_{23} is the difference between the phases of the $H_{(23)}$ elements of these matrices. On the right panel, we present the distribution of the Jarlskog invariant $J(a, d, \Delta_{12})$ with random a, d and Δ_{12}, for $\Delta_{23} = 0$. On the two panels, the black curves represent the 25% and 75% quantiles of the distribution for fixed Δ_{23} (left) and Δ_{12} (right). In other words 50% of the random points lie between the curves, with 25% above it and 25% below it.

experimental fit. This situation is somewhat surprising because the amount of "useful" free parameters is less than the total number of free parameters. Let's see how this is played out.

Eq. (33) shows that $\gamma \equiv \mathcal{O}(m_u)$ and $\rho \equiv \mathcal{O}(m_d)$ are required in order to obtain a good fit with experimental data [13]. This has interesting implications for V_{tb} since it means that $a + \alpha = m_t + m_c + \mathcal{O}(m_u)$ and $d + \beta = m_b + m_s + \mathcal{O}(m_d)$ after using the trace identity of H_u and H_d. We can therefore write

$$V_{tb}(a, d, \Delta_{23}) \simeq \frac{\sqrt{(m_t - a)(m_b - d)}\, e^{i\Delta_{23}} + \sqrt{(a - m_c)(d - m_s)}}{\sqrt{(m_t - m_c)(m_b - m_s)}} \tag{39}$$

It turns out that when the phase Δ_{23} is small (modulo 2π), statistically we find that $|V_{tb}(a, d, 0)| \sim 1$ for any randomly chosen value of a and d. In fact, the generic value of $|V_{tb}(a, d, \Delta_{23})|$ is very much correlated with the value of Δ_{23}, with little dependence on the values of the other two variables, at least for small enough Δ_{23}. This is shown in figure 1,
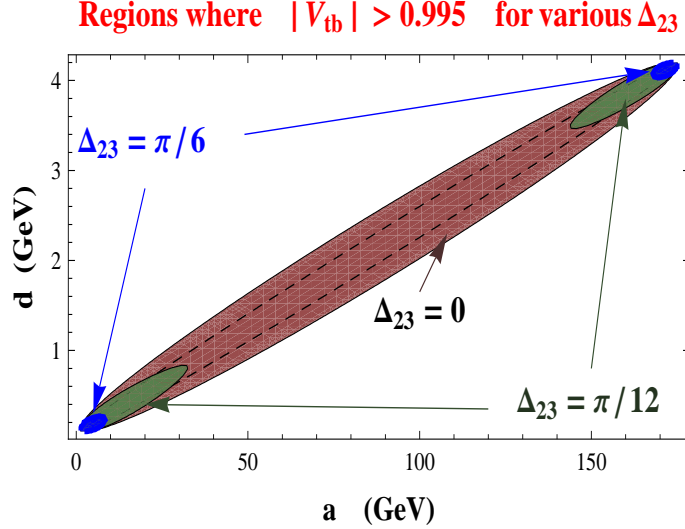
FIG. 2: Regions in the plane (a, d) where $|V_{tb}| > 0.995$, for three different values of Δ_{23}. The dashed curve is a contour of the experimental fit for $V_{tb} \simeq 0.9991$ in the case $\Delta_{23} = 0$. One sees quite clearly that as soon as Δ_{23} is increased, the parameter space favorable for large values of V_{tb} shrinks dramatically.

where we plot the distribution of $|V_{tb}(a, d, \Delta_{23})|$ with respect to Δ_{23} for randomly chosen values of a, d and Δ_{23}. It is apparent that there is a clear correlation between the value of the phase Δ_{23} and the value of $|V_{tb}|$. The two black curves correspond to the 25% and 75% quantiles of the distribution of $|V_{tb}|$ for a given value of Δ_{23} (i.e. 50% of the randomly generated points lie between the two curves, with 25% above them and 25% below).

All this shows that the generic value of V_{tb} in this ansatz is actually governed by the specific value of the phase Δ_{23}, with very mild dependence on the other 2 parameters a and d. It is not clear though, that demanding $\Delta_{23} \sim 0$ will be enough to fit the observed data in the quark sector since $V_{tb}^{fit} \simeq 0.999$, i.e it is quite close to 1. The random scan of Figure 1 does not show the distribution of V_{tb} for $\Delta_{23} = 0$, but once we fix Δ_{23} we just have two free parameters, a and d. In Figure 2 we show the complete allowed phase space for a and d, which are subject to the experimental constraints $m_u < a < m_t$ and $m_d < d < m_b$. The different shaded regions are the points where $V_{tb} > 0.995$, for three different values of the phase difference Δ_{23}. When this last one is zero, the region is quite large, and it decreases very fast as the phase is increased. Because the area of parameter space can be quite large we may still say that the value of $|V_{tb}|$ consistent with experimental data could be considered "generic" as long as the phase difference Δ_{23} is vanishingly small.

Finally, one can also compute quite easily the Jarlskog invariant [14] in this context.

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From Eq. (28), and using for example the definition $J = \text{Im}(V_{cb}V_{tb}^*V_{cd}^*V_{td})$, it is easy to see that it will have the form:

$$J = c_\rho c_\gamma \, s_\rho s_\gamma \, |C||S|^2 \sin\theta \tag{40}$$

where c_i, C and S were given in Eqs. (29), (30), (31) and (32), and where $\theta = \delta_x - \delta_y - \delta_C$ with $\delta_C = \arg C$.

Before analyzing in more detail the dependence on the original mass matrix elements, it is interesting to relate the phase θ not just to the Jarlskog invariant but also to the angles of the unitarity triangle $\phi_1 = \beta$, $\phi_2 = \alpha$ and $\phi_3 = \gamma$. These angles are defined as:

$$\phi_1 = \beta = \arg\left(-\frac{V_{cd}V_{cb}^*}{V_{td}V_{tb}^*}\right), \tag{41}$$

$$\phi_2 = \alpha = \arg\left(-\frac{V_{td}V_{tb}^*}{V_{ud}V_{ub}^*}\right), \tag{42}$$

$$\phi_3 = \gamma = \arg\left(-\frac{V_{ud}V_{ub}^*}{V_{cd}V_{cb}^*}\right) \tag{43}$$

and the relation between them and the Jarlskog J is:

$$J = |V_{ub}||V_{td}||V_{tb}||V_{ud}| \, \sin\alpha = |V_{td}||V_{cb}||V_{tb}||V_{cd}| \, \sin\beta = |V_{ub}||V_{cb}||V_{cd}||V_{ud}| \, \sin\gamma \tag{44}$$

In the case of our ansatz, we can rewrite our J as

$$J = |V_{ub}||V_{td}||V_{tb}|c_\rho c_\gamma \, \sin\theta = |V_{td}||V_{cb}||V_{tb}|c_\rho s_\gamma \, \sin\theta = |V_{ub}||V_{cb}||V_{tb}|c_\rho s_\rho \, \sin\theta \tag{45}$$

For example, from the first identities of Eq. (44) and (45) one sees that we must have

$$\sin\alpha = \frac{c_\rho c_\gamma \, \sin\theta}{|V_{ud}|} \tag{46}$$

Since $c_\rho c_\gamma \simeq |V_{ud}|$, it follows from the above equation that $\alpha \simeq \theta$. The experimental constraints on α are such that $\alpha = (88^{+6}_{-5})^\circ$ [13], which basically means that the phase θ is constrainted to be $\theta \simeq \pi/2$.

A more revealing way to see what this means for the original elements of the mass matrices, we can actually rewrite the Jarlskog in a more explicit way as

$$J = |V_{ub}||V_{td}|c_\rho c_\gamma \, \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t-a)(m_b-d)} \, \sin(\Delta_{23}+\Delta_{12}) + \sqrt{(m_t-\alpha)(m_b-\beta)} \, \sin\Delta_{12}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t-\alpha-a)(2m_b-\beta-d)}} \tag{47}$$

$$\simeq |V_{ub}||V_{td}|c_\rho c_\gamma \, \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t-a)(m_b-d)} \, \sin(\Delta_{23}+\Delta_{12}) + \sqrt{(a-m_c)(d-m_s)} \, \sin\Delta_{12}\right)}{\sqrt{(m_t-m_c)(m_b-m_s)}} \tag{48}$$

where the approximation of the second line comes from assuming that $a + \alpha = m_t + m_c + \mathcal{O}(m_u)$ and $d + \beta = m_b + m_s + \mathcal{O}(m_d)$.

We showed earlier that the imposition of $\Delta_{23} \equiv (\delta_f - \delta_b) \sim 0$ gives a nice statistical reason for the large value of $|V_{tb}|$. With that extra condition, one actually has $\Delta_{12} \sim \theta$, which then means that $\Delta_{12} \sim \pi/2$ due to experimental bounds. The experimental best fit value of the Jarlskog invariant is $|J_{fit}| = 3.05 \times 10^{-5}$ [13]; in the right panel of Figure 1 we present a scan of values of the function of J shown in Eq. (48), for random values of a, d and Δ_{12} (assuming $\Delta_{23} = 0$). It is apparent that the observed value of J can be obtained quite generically when $\Delta_{12} = \pi/2$, in a quite insensitive way to the specific values of a and d.

It is quite suggestive that some specific phase differences between the elements $(H_u)_{23} \equiv f$ and $(H_d)_{23} \equiv b$, and between the elements $(H_u)_{12} \equiv y$ and $(H_d)_{12} \equiv x$ and between the elements $(H_u)_{13} \equiv h$ and $(H_d)_{13} \equiv g$, given by:

$$\Delta_{23} = \delta_f - \delta_b = 0 \tag{49}$$

$$\Delta_{12} = \delta_y - \delta_x = \frac{\pi}{2} \tag{50}$$

$$\Delta_{13} = \delta_h - \delta_g = \frac{\pi}{2} \tag{51}$$

do lead to good generic values of both V_{tb} and J. We are left with four parameters a, d and two combinations of phases independent of Δ_{12} and Δ_{23}, all from the original mass matrices, which do not seem to play any important role in obtaining a good overall fit in the quark sector.

Before we finish this subsection on the quark sector, we would like to point out that since a and d can take almost any value (inside their allowed range), one might actually get very close to a symmetric limit, namely a $(2 \leftrightarrow 3)$ family symmetry, relating second and third families (see [9] for implementations mostly in the lepton sector).

Forgetting for a moment our ansatz but assuming the $(2 \leftrightarrow 3)$ limit for both up and down quark mass matrices, one is then guaranteed to have vanishing elements $(W_u)_{13}$ and $(W_d)_{13}$ (i.e. we recover our ansatz). Moreover some of the elements of the mass matrix are subject to the constraints

$$x = g \qquad y = h \tag{52}$$

$$\alpha = a \qquad \beta = d \tag{53}$$

$$\delta_b = \pi = \delta_f. \tag{54}$$

From these equations, we must have $\Delta_{23} = \delta_f - \delta_b = 0$ and using Eq. (29) it is easy to see

that $|V_{tb}| = 1$ exactly, which means also that $|V_{ub}| = |V_{cb}| = |V_{td}| = |V_{ts}| = 0$. Since the fitted values of $|V_{ub}|, |V_{cb}|, |V_{td}|$ and $|V_{ts}|$ are at most 10^{-2} and much smaller than V_{tb}, then it seems plausible that a small deviation from this symmetric limit can easily restore the experimental values of these V_{ij}'s.

To obtain a correct experimental fit, one would also have to require the phases of x and y to be separated by $\pi/2$ (as remarked earlier), and moreover the values of ρ and γ will have to be chosen so as to obtain the correct ratios $\frac{|V_{ub}|}{|V_{cb}|}$ and $\frac{|V_{td}|}{|V_{ts}|}$ (see Eq. (33)).

Although we imposed a flavor ansatz mainly for empirical reasons and simplicity, it is interesting that the patterns emerging from it do actually lead to a possible type of symmetry. Of course we just considered one of the possible cases of our scheme, and others cases might lead to different patterns or reveal some other feature and for this a more systematic study is required, some of it being already underway.

2. The lepton sector

In the lepton sector, the mixing matrix takes the same form as for the quarks in the $(13 - 13)$ ansatz, i.e.

$$V = W_l^\dagger W_\nu = P_l^\dagger V_{PMNS} \tag{55}$$

where P_l is an unphysical diagonal phase matrix given below and

$$V_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'} + s_{\rho'}s_{\gamma'}|C'|e^{i\theta'} & -c_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'} + s_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'}|C'|e^{i\theta'} & s_{\gamma'}|S'| \\ -s_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'} + c_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'}|C'|e^{i\theta'} & s_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'} + c_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'}|C'|e^{i\theta'} & c_{\gamma'}|S'| \\ -s_{\rho'}|S'| & -c_{\rho'}|S'| & |C'|e^{-i\theta'} \end{pmatrix} P_\nu \tag{56}$$

where P_ν is the Majorana phase matrix given below and the complex rotation parameters $C', S', c_{\gamma'}$ and $c_{\rho'}$ are given by

$$C' = \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_\tau - a')(\lambda_3 - d')}\, e^{i(\delta'_f - \delta'_b)} + \sqrt{(m_\tau - \alpha')(\lambda_3 - \beta')}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_\tau - \alpha' - a')(2\lambda_3 - \beta' - d')}} \quad (i.e. \ |C'| \equiv |V_{\tau 3}|) \tag{57}$$

$$S' = e^{i\delta'_b} \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_\tau - a')(\lambda_3 - \beta')} - e^{i(\delta'_f - \delta'_b)}\sqrt{(m_\tau - \alpha')(\lambda_3 - d')}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_\tau - \alpha' - a')(2\lambda_3 - \beta' - d')}} \tag{58}$$

$$c_{\gamma'} = \sqrt{\frac{m_\mu - \gamma'}{m_\mu - m_e}} \tag{59}$$

$$c_{\rho'} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_2 - \rho'}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}} \tag{60}$$

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Note that $s_i^2 = 1 - c_i^2$ and that $|C'|^2 + |S'|^2 = 1$. The CP phase θ' and the Majorana phase matrix P_ν, as well as the unphysical phase matrix P_l are given respectively by $\theta = \delta_{x'} - \delta_{y'} - \delta_{C'}$, $P_\nu = diag(1, e^{i\delta_{y'}}, e^{i(\delta_{x'} + \delta_{C'})})$ and $P_l = diag(1, e^{i\delta_{x'}}, e^{i(\delta_{y'} + \delta_{C'})})$, where $\delta_i \equiv \arg(i)$.

Again, the previous form of the mixing matrix implies the relations:

$$\frac{|V_{e3}|}{|V_{\mu3}|} = \sqrt{\frac{\gamma' - m_e}{m_\mu - \gamma'}}, \qquad \frac{|V_{\tau1}|}{|V_{\tau2}|} = \sqrt{\frac{\rho' - \lambda_1}{\lambda_2 - \rho'}}, \tag{61}$$

and

$$\frac{|V_{e3}|}{|V_{\tau1}|} = \sqrt{\frac{(\gamma' - m_e)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)}{(m_\mu - m_e)(\rho' - \lambda_1)}}, \qquad \frac{|V_{\mu3}|}{|V_{\tau2}|} = \sqrt{\frac{(m_\mu - \gamma')(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)}{(m_\mu - m_e)(\lambda_2 - \rho')}}. \tag{62}$$

with again only two parameters from the original mass matrices separately controlling each ratio.

But, the lepton case is different, obviously, because the lepton mixing matrix contains two large angles and also because the neutrino mass structure is unknown and might not be as hierarchical as in the quark sector (see for example [15] for the latest global fits coming from neutrino oscillation experiments). In the (13-13) ansatz we see that we must still enforce the charged lepton mass matrix to have a very small first diagonal element, i.e $\gamma' \equiv \mathcal{O}(m_e)$ in order to obtain a small value for the ratio $|V_{e3}|/|V_{\mu3}|$. This will imply that $a' + \alpha' = m_\mu + m_\tau + \mathcal{O}(m_e)$ (from the trace identity of H_l) which will simplify the functional form of $V_{\tau3}$ of Eq. (57). Before doing so, we need to look also into the required value of ρ' to obtain a correct fit for $\frac{|V_{\tau1}|}{|V_{\tau2}|} \sim 1/\sqrt{2}$ in the approximate tri-bimaximal scheme (TBM) [16]. This leads to $\rho' \sim \lambda_2 + 2\lambda_1$, and we can now use this relation to obtain the simplified form of $V_{\tau3}$:

$$V_{\tau3}(a', d', \Delta'_{23}, \lambda_1) = \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_\tau - a')(D_{13} + \lambda_1 - d')}e^{i\Delta'_{23}} + \sqrt{(a' - m_\mu)(\lambda_1 + d')}\right)}{\sqrt{(m_\tau - m_\mu)(D_{13} + 2\lambda_1)}} \tag{63}$$

where $D_{13} = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)$ is fixed by the measured atmospheric neutrino mass difference[5].

We now have 7 free parameters (including 4 phases), since one of the neutrino masses is unknown, and we choose it to be $\lambda_1 = m_1^2$. As seen in Figure 3, when $m_1 < 0.1$ eV, the correlation between the phase Δ'_{23} and the value of $|V_{\tau3}|$ is basically the same as it was in the quark sector, and this is basically due to the fact that this feature happens for masses

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[5] Although we have been writing λ_1, λ_2 and λ_3 for the neutrino eigenvalues, these could in fact correspond to the squared physical masses if we consider the neutrino mass matrix squared as our starting point. In this case, $D_{13} = (\Delta m^2)_{atm}$.
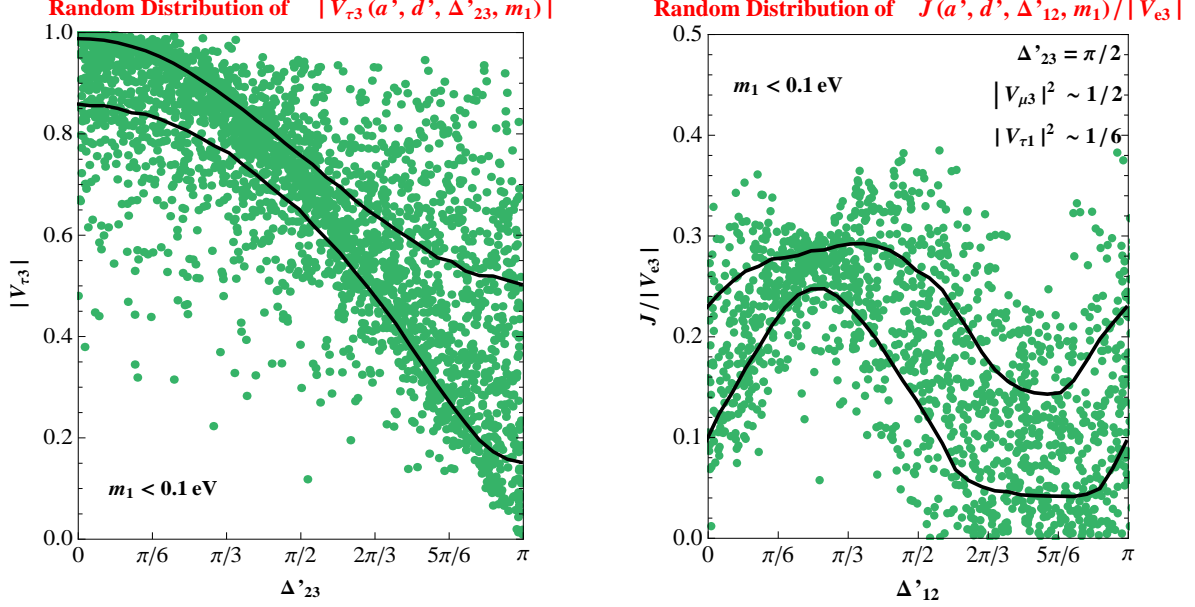
FIG. 3: Distribution of $|V_{\tau 3}(a', d', \Delta'_{23}, m_1)|$ with random a', d', Δ'_{23} and m_1 (defined as the mass of the lightest neutrino) with respect to Δ'_{23} (left panel). On the right panel, we present the distribution of the Jarlskog invariant $J(a', d', \Delta'_{12}, m_1)$ normalized to the value of $|V_{e3}|$, with random a', d', Δ'_{12} and m_1, for fixed $\Delta'_{23} = \pi/2$. On the two panels, the black curves represent the 25% and 75% quantiles of the distribution for fixed Δ'_{23} (left) and Δ'_{12} (right). In other words 50% of the random points lie between the curves, with 25% above it and 25% below it.

which are hierarchical (and in fact, for larger values of m_1 the correlation between the phase Δ'_{23} and the value of $|V_{\tau 3}|$ starts to wash out). It is quite suggestive, that if $m_1 < 0.1$ eV and $\Delta'_{23} = \pi/2$, then we obtain a generic size of $|V_{\tau 3}| \sim 1/\sqrt{2}$, as shown in Figure 3. Because γ' is small, $c_{\gamma'} \sim 1$ and we will also have $|V_{\mu 3}| \sim 1/\sqrt{2}$. These two values of $|V_{\mu 3}|$ and $|V_{\tau 3}|$ are consistent with the tri-bimaximal scheme (TBM) where $|V_{\tau 3}^{TBM}| = |V_{\mu 3}^{TBM}| = 1/\sqrt{2}$ and so we find that in the lepton case the preferred value of the phase combination Δ'_{23} is $\frac{\pi}{2}$, which statistically predicts a large value for both the mixing angles $V_{\tau 3}$ and $V_{\mu 3}$. It is also interesting to note that the charged fermion mass matrix must have the same structure as the up and down quark mass matrices, namely that the first diagonal element is of the order of the lightest eigenvalue.

Since the mixing element $V_{\tau 1}$ is not small, we also conclude that the neutrino mass structure must be different from the other three matrices. This could be due to the fact that the eigenvalues are not as hierarchical as for the charged fermions. As in the quark case, it is interesting to note that further imposing some flavor symmetry might simplify the

relations obtained in this ansatz. In particular one could ask what is the effect of imposing the $(2 \leftrightarrow 3)$ family symmetry (see for example [9]) only in the neutrino sector. In our case this is a natural question to ask since this symmetry imposes automatically the element $(W_\nu)_{13}$ to be zero, which is the defining condition of our ansatz. But it also imposes the following constraints on the mass matrix elements

$$(H_\nu)_{12} = (H_\nu)_{13}, \quad i.e. \quad y' = h' \tag{64}$$

$$(H_\nu)_{22} = (H_\nu)_{33}, \quad i.e. \quad \beta' = d' \tag{65}$$

$$\arg(H_\nu)_{23} = \pi, \quad i.e. \quad \delta_{f'} = \pi \tag{66}$$

This will have interesting consequences on the lepton mixing matrix because in this case we will have

$$V_{\tau 3} = C' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \frac{\left(\sqrt{(a'-m_\mu)} - \sqrt{(m_\tau - a')}\, e^{-i\delta_{b'}}\right)}{\sqrt{(m_\tau - m_\mu)}} + \mathcal{O}(m_e/m_\mu) \tag{67}$$

where we have assumed that $\gamma' \equiv \mathcal{O}(m_e)$. Now one can see that when $\delta_{b'} = \pi/2$, independent of anything else, we will have $|V_{\tau 3}| = 1/\sqrt{2}$, as well as $|S'| = 1/\sqrt{2}$. Thus the $2 \leftrightarrow 3$ symmetry, along with the requirement of the phase of b' to be $\pi/2$, forces the appearance of large mixing angle in the V_{PMNS} matrix, and we remind the reader that we are not considering a diagonal charged lepton mass matrix, although all our matrices are taken in the $(13-13)$ ansatz. The form of the V_{PMNS} matrix under these assumptions is

$$V_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'} + s_{\rho'}s_{\gamma'}e^{i\theta'}/\sqrt{2} & -c_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'} + s_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'}\, e^{i\theta'}/\sqrt{2} & s_{\gamma'}/\sqrt{2} \\ -s_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'} + c_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'}e^{i\theta'}/\sqrt{2} & s_{\gamma'}s_{\rho'} + c_{\gamma'}c_{\rho'}e^{i\theta'}/\sqrt{2} & c_{\gamma'}/\sqrt{2} \\ -s_{\rho'}/\sqrt{2} & -c_{\rho'}/\sqrt{2} & e^{-i\theta'}/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix} P_\nu \tag{68}$$

where as before, $c_{\gamma'} = \sqrt{\frac{m_\mu - \gamma'}{m_\mu - m_e}}$ and $c_{\rho'} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_2 - \rho'}{\lambda_2 - \lambda_1}}$ and where θ' is the Dirac CP phase given by $\theta' = \delta_{x'} - \delta_{y'} - \delta_{C'}$ and the Majorana phase matrix P_ν is given by

$$P_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\delta_{y'}} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i(\delta_{x'}+\delta_{C'})} \end{pmatrix} \tag{69}$$

The phase $\delta_{C'}$ is given by $\sin\delta_{C'} = \sqrt{\frac{m_\tau - a'}{m_\tau - m_\mu}} + \mathcal{O}(m_e/m_\mu)$.

Finally, in the more general case where one does not consider $(2 \leftrightarrow 3)$ symmetry in the neutrino sector, the leptonic Jarlskog invariant J is computed to be:

$$J = |V_{e3}||V_{\tau 1}||V_{\tau 3}|c'_\rho c'_\gamma \sin\theta' \tag{70}$$

$$= |V_{e3}||V_{\tau 1}|c'_\rho c'_\gamma \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_\tau - a')(m_3 - d')}\, \sin(\Delta'_{23}+\Delta'_{12}) + \sqrt{(m_\tau - \alpha')(m_3 - \beta')}\, \sin\Delta'_{12}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_\tau - \alpha' - a')(2m_3 - \beta' - d')}}. \tag{71}$$

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For the preferred value of $\Delta'_{23} = \pi/2$, such that statistically it is more favorable to obtain a $V_{\tau 3}$ mixing angle close to $1/\sqrt{2}$, we obtain

$$J = |V_{e3}||V_{\tau 1}|c'_\rho c'_\gamma \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_\tau - a')(m_3 - d')} \ \cos\Delta'_{12} + \sqrt{(m_\tau - \alpha')(m_3 - \beta')} \ \sin\Delta'_{12}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_\tau - \alpha' - a')(2m_3 - \beta' - d')}}. \tag{72}$$

This suggests that now, the value $\Delta'_{12} \sim \pi/4$ will maximize the possible value of J (normalized to $|V_{e3}|$), and this is confirmed in the random scan shown in Figure 3.

IV. DISCUSSION AND OUTLOOK

In this work, we started by obtaining the simplest parametrization for the diagonalization of a 3×3 hermitian matrix, as a function of both its matrix elements and its eigenvalues. Since the masses of fermions in the SM are well known, the problem to attack is not an eigenvalue problem, but an eigenvector problem. In other words, we are able to obtain the eigenvectors of a hermitian matrix in an algebraically compact form because we treated the eigenvalues as known parameters, instead of unknown. With this parametrization in hand, we wanted then to show how it could simplify and make quite transparent the analysis and study of some flavor schemes. To this end we defined a new flavor scheme which imposes some (arguably obscure) constraints on the flavor structure in the fermion sector. The constraint imposed is the requirement of the vanishing of one of the mixing angles of the diagonalization matrix of each hermitian fermion mass matrix of the SM. We called this the "two-angle" ansatz (i.e. out of three angles to diagonalize a hermitian matrix, we consider the family of hermitian matrices diagonalized by only two angles), and it is bottom-up motivated, i.e. it is inspired on the observed structure of both V_{CKM} and V_{PMNS} matrices. Nevertheless we also observe that in flavor models where one requires a full symmetry between two of the three families, like the $\mu - \tau$ symmetry models, one of the consequences is precisely the vanishing of one of the mixing angles.[6] But we mainly decided to keep the bottom-up approach motivation and study the patterns emerging from our "two-angle" ansatz and focused on just one possible implementation, the $(13-13)$ case, in which the $(W)_{13}$ entries of all the diagonalizing matrices happen to vanish. Using our parametrization, one can actually write both V_{CKM} and V_{PMNS} in terms of the original matrix elements and eigenvalues. In particular we found a peculiar dependence of one of the mixing angles with the model

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[6] In the case of a complex symmetric neutrino mass matrix, the authors of [17] studied the symmetry conditions required for the vanishing of one of the mixing angles of the rotation matrix

parameters. We observed that by fixing the phase difference Δ_{23} between two parameters of the up and down mass matrices (or the neutrino and charged lepton mass matrices), the mixing angle V_{tb} (or $V_{\tau 3}$) can be "predicted" in a statistical sense, i.e. if one makes a random scan allowing the remaining free parameters to take any possible value, including the eigenvalues, one obtains a narrow distribution for the value of $|V_{tb}|$ (or $|V_{\tau 3}|$), and the central value is a monotonic function of the phase difference Δ_{23}. This can be seen by rewriting the general formula for V_{tb} in the $(13 - 13)$ ansatz (see Eq. (29)) as

$$|V_{tb}| = F(\tilde{a}, \tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{d}, \tilde{\beta}, \Delta_{23}) = Abs\left(\frac{\left(\sqrt{(1 - \tilde{a})(1 - \tilde{d})} \; e^{i\Delta_{23}} + \sqrt{(1 - \tilde{\alpha})(1 - \tilde{\beta})} \right)}{\sqrt{(2 - \tilde{\alpha} - \tilde{a})(2 - \tilde{\beta} - \tilde{d})}} \right) \quad (73)$$

where $\tilde{a} = a/m_t, \;\; \tilde{\alpha} = \alpha/m_t, \;\; \tilde{d} = d/m_b$ and $\;\; \tilde{\beta} = \beta/m_b$, and a, α and d, β are diagonal elements of the up and down mass matrices respectively. If the mass eigenvalues $m_i \equiv \lambda_i^{u,d}$ are unconstrained, the only constraints on the parameters required for a random scan are

$$\lambda_1^u/\lambda_3^u \; < \; \tilde{\alpha}, \tilde{a} \; < \; 1 \qquad \text{and} \qquad \lambda_1^d/\lambda_3^d \; < \; \tilde{\beta}, \tilde{d} \; < \; 1 \quad (74)$$

since the diagonal elements of a hermitian matrix must be bounded by its largest and lowest eigenvalues. The result of a scan over all these parameters (including the eigenvalues) but for fixed Δ_{23} is a highly peaked distribution centered at some value. This means that the generic value of $|V_{tb}|$ is controlled almost exclusively by Δ_{23}. Of course one may think that after fixing the masses to the experimental values, as well as the other mixing angles, maybe we might loose this statistical prediction. This is not the case as was shown in Figure 1, where the scan is performed now with only two free parameters, the rest having been fixed by other experimental observables. There is still a clear correlation between the value of the phase difference and the value of the angle V_{tb}.

The imposition of this specific two-angle ansatz (the $(13 - 13)$ case) on the fermion mass matrices amounts to 2 constraints per mass matrix, and therefore 4 constraints in the quark sector. What we have noted is that with only one more constraint, i.e. the fixing of the phase difference Δ_{23}, we are able to give a statistical prediction for the value of the angle $|V_{tb}|$ (or $|V_{\tau 3}|$), and this, irrespective of any other parameter. In particular if $\Delta_{23} = 0$ we would expect $|V_{tb}| \sim 1$ and in the lepton sector, if we fix $\Delta'_{23} = \pi/2$, then we would expect $|V_{\tau 3}| \sim 1/\sqrt{2}$, both cases being close to the experimental fits. Two hermitian matrices contain 18 free parameters altogether and so it is nontrivial that after imposing only 5 constraints on the whole set we obtain one prediction, irrespective of anything else.

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Once noted this nontrivial property, we continued analyzing the rest of consequences of our scheme and showed for example how the CP violating phases in both quark and lepton sectors depend on the phases of the original mass matrix elements. Another interesting outcome was the realization of how to treat in a similar way the quarks and charged lepton mass matrices, and use the special case of the neutrino matrix to explain in a transparent way the observed differences between the lepton and quark sectors. In particular we also analyzed the consequences of further imposing a $(2 \leftrightarrow 3)$ symmetry in the neutrino sector.

It is true that out of many possible implementations of the two-angle ansatz we chose to study only one case. We felt that this one case would show the main features of the scheme in a transparent way, and so we leave the systematic case by case study of the scenario for the future, although part of this work is already underway.

V. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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APPENDIX A: DIAGONALIZATION OF A HERMITIAN MATRIX

We first note that the diagonal elements of a hermitian matrix are bounded by its smallest and largest eigenvalue respectively. This means that in order for a hermitian matrix to have zeroes in the diagonal entries, we must have at least one eigenvalue positive and one negative, the third one can take either sign, to accommodate the zeroes in the diagonal elements. For simplicity, we do not consider this case here and instead concentrate on positive definite hermitian matrices such that the eigenvalues are all positive. Of course the results can be trivially extended for the case of a more general hermitian matrix, not necessarily definite positive.

Let's introduce our notation by considering the positive definite hermitian matrix H

$$H = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & x & g \\ x^* & \alpha & b \\ g^* & b^* & a \end{pmatrix}. \tag{75}$$

The diagonal entries of H must be real and positive and are bounded by its smallest and largest eigenvalue respectively. Taking $0 < \lambda_1 < \lambda_2 < \lambda_3$ the bounds are

$$0 < \lambda_1 \leq \gamma \leq \lambda_3 \tag{76}$$

$$0 < \lambda_1 \leq \alpha \leq \lambda_3 \tag{77}$$

$$0 < \lambda_1 \leq a \leq \lambda_3 \tag{78}$$

The off-diagonal entries of H are also bounded by its smallest and largest eigenvalues in the following way; since a 3×3 hermitian matrix has only three blocks of off-diagonal elements,

namely (x, g), (x, b^*) and (g, b) up to conjugation [18]:

$$0 \leq \sqrt{|x|^2 + |g|^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{79}$$

$$0 \leq \sqrt{|g|^2 + |b|^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{80}$$

$$0 \leq \sqrt{|x|^2 + |b|^2} \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{81}$$

which means that:

$$0 \leq |x| \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{82}$$

$$0 \leq |g| \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{83}$$

$$0 \leq |b| \leq \frac{1}{2} |\lambda_3 - \lambda_1| \tag{84}$$

The above results are valid for any $N \times N$ hermitian matrix. These bounds might not be very revealing in the quark and charged lepton sectors, since the difference between the heaviest and the lightest eigenvalues is of the order of the largest eigenvalue, and so the constraint on the off-diagonal entries is quite mild. On the other hand, if the difference between the heaviest and lightest eigenvalue is very small then one sees that the off-diagonal entries must actually be smaller than half that difference, and so the hermitian matrix must be close to diagonal form. This case might be possible in the neutrino sector in the case of quasi-degenerate masses. We now write the three invariants $Tr(H)$, $Tr(H^2)$ and $Det(H)$:

$$Tr(H) = a + \alpha + \gamma = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3, \tag{85}$$

$$Tr(H^2) = 2(|x|^2 + |b|^2 + |g|^2) + a^2 + \alpha^2 + \gamma^2 = \lambda_1^2 + \lambda_2^2 + \lambda_3^2 \tag{86}$$

$$Det(H) = \gamma(\alpha a - |b|^2) - a|x|^2 - \alpha|g|^2 + 2Re(bxg^*) = \lambda_1\lambda_2\lambda_3 \tag{87}$$

They can be rewritten as

$$\alpha = \lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3 - a - \gamma, \tag{88}$$

$$|x|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - \gamma) - |g|^2(\alpha - \gamma) + 2Re(bxg^*)}{(a - \gamma)} \tag{89}$$

$$|b|^2 = \frac{(a - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - a) + |g|^2(\alpha - a) - 2Re(bxg^*)}{(a - \gamma)} \tag{90}$$

As noted in the text, the interesting thing of this notation is that the constraint formulae on x and b actually become algebraic solutions for both x and b when the term $Re(bxg^*)$ vanishes identically.

When one is interested in finding the eigenvalues of the mass matrix given in Eq. (75), it is necessary to find solutions of the characteristic equation:

$$0 = (a - \lambda)((\lambda - \gamma)(\lambda - \alpha) - |x|^2) + (\lambda - \gamma)|b|^2 + (\lambda - \alpha)|g|^2 + 2Re(bxg^*) \qquad (91)$$

In our case, however, we do know the eigenvalues, which are quantities measured experimentally. Therefore it is preferable to treat them as known parameters instead of unknown variables. In this case, we can obtain simple analytical forms for the unitary matrices W_u and W_d, responsible for diagonalizing the mass matrices H_u and H_d. Here is the simple procedure: let $E_{u\lambda_i} \equiv (E_1^{\lambda_i}, E_2^{\lambda_i}, E_3^{\lambda_i})$ be one eigenvector of the mass matrix H_u, i.e. $H_u E_{u\lambda_i} = \lambda_i E_{u\lambda_i}$, where λ_i is one of the eigenvalues of H_u. This means that $H_{u\lambda_i} E_{u\lambda_i} = 0$, or simply

$$Det(H_{u\lambda_i}) = 0 \qquad (92)$$

which is in fact the characteristic equation of H_u given in Eq. (91) and where

$$H_{u\lambda_i} = \begin{pmatrix} (\gamma - \lambda_i) & x & g \\ x^* & (\alpha - \lambda_i) & b \\ g^* & b^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{pmatrix} \qquad (93)$$

Because, the $Det(H_{u\lambda_i})$ vanishes, we know that one row of the matrix must be a linear combination of the other two. Depending on which row we choose to treat as linearly dependent, we can obtain different (but equivalent) parametrizations for the eigenvectors $E_{u\lambda_i}$. Since the homogeneous equation (92) can be multiplied by an arbitrary number, we will obtain ratios (of 2×2 determinants) for the eigenvector components:

Using the first row as linearly dependent, we obtain:

$$E_2^{\lambda_i}/E_1^{\lambda_i} = -\frac{\begin{vmatrix} x^* & b \\ g^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} (\alpha - \lambda_i) & b \\ b^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}} \qquad (94)$$

$$E_3^{\lambda_i}/E_1^{\lambda_i} = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} x^* & (\alpha - \lambda_i) \\ g^* & b^* \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} (\alpha - \lambda_i) & b \\ b^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}} \qquad (95)$$

To simplify the notation, we can choose $E_1^{\lambda_i} \equiv \begin{vmatrix} \alpha - \lambda_i & b \\ b^* & a - \lambda_i \end{vmatrix}$ and obtain finally the eigenvector

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{1st\ row} \equiv \left(\begin{vmatrix} (\alpha - \lambda_i) & b \\ b^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}, - \begin{vmatrix} x^* & b \\ g^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} x^* & (\alpha - \lambda_i) \\ g^* & b^* \end{vmatrix} \right) \tag{96}$$

If instead, we choose row 2 as linearly dependent we obtain

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{2nd\ row} \equiv \left(\begin{vmatrix} x & g \\ b^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}, - \begin{vmatrix} (\gamma - \lambda_i) & g \\ g^* & (a - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} (\gamma - \lambda_i) & x \\ g^* & b^* \end{vmatrix} \right) \tag{97}$$

and finally when the third row is treated as linearly dependent we have

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{3d\ row} \equiv \left(\begin{vmatrix} x & g \\ (\alpha - \lambda_i) & b \end{vmatrix}, - \begin{vmatrix} (\gamma - \lambda_i) & g \\ x^* & b \end{vmatrix}, \begin{vmatrix} (\gamma - \lambda_i) & x \\ x^* & (\alpha - \lambda_i) \end{vmatrix} \right) \tag{98}$$

Since there are three eigenvalues, and three parametrization choices for each, we have 9 equivalent parametrizations of the unitary matrix W_u constructed using any of the previous eigenvectors. Note that the difference between each parametrization, is the explicit absence of one of the diagonal elements in the formulae (γ in the first one, α in the second one and a in the third one). Of course, the characteristic equation (91) relates each 'basis' with each other. In the text, we used this parametrization freedom to choose a mixing matrix W that has the correct form when $b \to 0$, $g \to 0$ and $x \to 0$. In that limit, the different parametrization can be written as:

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{1st\ row} \equiv ((\alpha - \lambda_i)(a - \lambda_i), 0, 0) \tag{99}$$

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{2nd\ row} \equiv (0, -(\gamma - \lambda_i)(a - \lambda_i), 0) \tag{100}$$

$$E_{u\lambda_i}^{3d\ row} \equiv (0, 0, (\alpha - \lambda_i)(\gamma - \lambda_i)) \tag{101}$$

Some of these, can become problematic since in this limit, we have $(\gamma - \lambda_1) \to 0$, $(\alpha - \lambda_2) \to 0$ and $(a - \lambda_3) \to 0$. There is however, out of the 9 possible combinations, one single choice which has the correct smooth asymptotic behavior. The choice is to take $E_{u\lambda_1}^{1st\ row}$ for λ_1, $E_{u\lambda_2}^{2nd\ row}$ for λ_2 and $E_{u\lambda_3}^{3d\ row}$ for λ_3, i.e.

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{(\alpha - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |b|^2}{N_1} & \dfrac{gb^* - x(a - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{xb - g(\alpha - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{g^*b - x^*(a - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_2)(a - \lambda_2) - |g|^2}{N_2} & \dfrac{x^*g - b(\gamma - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{x^*b^* - g^*(\alpha - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{xg^* - b^*(\gamma - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_3)(\alpha - \lambda_3) - |x|^2}{N_3} \end{pmatrix} \tag{102}$$

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with the normalization parameters

$$N_1^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)\left[(\alpha - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |b|^2\right], \tag{103}$$

$$N_2^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)\left[(a - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \gamma) + |g|^2\right], \tag{104}$$

$$N_3^2 = (\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)\left[(\lambda_3 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - \alpha) - |x|^2\right] \tag{105}$$

Of course depending on the specific scenario studied, some other parametrization might be used. For example, one can use only the eigenvectors of Eq. (96), i.e.

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{(\alpha - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |b|^2}{N_1} & \dfrac{(\alpha - \lambda_2)(a - \lambda_2) - |b|^2}{N_2'} & \dfrac{(\alpha - \lambda_3)(a - \lambda_3) - |b|^2}{N_3'} \\ \dfrac{g^*b - x^*(a - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{g^*b - x^*(a - \lambda_2)}{N_2'} & \dfrac{g^*b - x^*(a - \lambda_3)}{N_3'} \\ \dfrac{x^*b^* - g^*(\alpha - \lambda_1)}{N_1} & \dfrac{x^*b^* - g^*(\alpha - \lambda_2)}{N_2'} & \dfrac{x^*b^* - g^*(\alpha - \lambda_3)}{N_3'} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{106}$$

or use the ones from Eq. (97):

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{gb^* - x(a - \lambda_1)}{N_1''} & \dfrac{gb^* - x(a - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{gb^* - x(a - \lambda_3)}{N_3''} \\ \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |g|^2}{N_1''} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_2)(a - \lambda_2) - |g|^2}{N_2} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_3)(a - \lambda_3) - |g|^2}{N_3''} \\ \dfrac{xg^* - b^*(\gamma - \lambda_1)}{N_1''} & \dfrac{xg^* - b^*(\gamma - \lambda_2)}{N_2} & \dfrac{xg^* - b^*(\gamma - \lambda_3)}{N_3''} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{107}$$

or use the ones from Eq. (98):

$$W = \begin{pmatrix} \dfrac{xb - g(\alpha - \lambda_1)}{N_1'''} & \dfrac{xb - g(\alpha - \lambda_2)}{N_2'''} & \dfrac{xb - g(\alpha - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{x^*g - b(\gamma - \lambda_1)}{N_1'''} & \dfrac{x^*g - b(\gamma - \lambda_2)}{N_2'''} & \dfrac{x^*g - b(\gamma - \lambda_3)}{N_3} \\ \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(\alpha - \lambda_1) - |x|^2}{N_1'''} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_2)(\alpha - \lambda_2) - |x|^2}{N_2'''} & \dfrac{(\gamma - \lambda_3)(\alpha - \lambda_3) - |x|^2}{N_3} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{108}$$

where the normalization constants N_1'', N_1''', N_2', N_2''', N_3' and N_3'' can easily be obtained from N_1, N_2 and N_3 by permutation of the mass eigenvalues.

All in all, one can write the matrix W with 9 different parametrizations (modulo a diagonal phase matrix), by permutations of the column vectors from Eqs. (96), (97) and (98). Of course, when one takes some special limits some of the parametrizations will reveal themselves less useful, as it is possible to find undetermined expressions of the type $0/0$. For example in the parametrization shown in Eq. (107) this will happen if we take simultaneously the limits $g \to 0$ and $x \to 0$. In that situation one simply chooses the parametrization with a smooth limit.

It is easy to realize from Eqs. (106), (107) and (108) that one can obtain very simple expressions for the absolute value of each element of W. By taking the real elements of these

three parametrizations and squaring them we obtain, in terms of the eigenvalues and the parameters γ, a, x and g:

$$|W_{11}|^2 = \frac{(\lambda_2 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - \gamma) + |x|^2 + |g|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{109}$$

$$|W_{12}|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(\lambda_3 - \gamma) - |x|^2 - |g|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{110}$$

$$|W_{13}|^2 = \frac{|x|^2 + |g|^2 - (\gamma - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \gamma)}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)} \tag{111}$$

$$|W_{21}|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(a - \lambda_1) - |g|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{112}$$

$$|W_{22}|^2 = \frac{|g|^2 + (\lambda_2 - \gamma)(a - \lambda_2)}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{113}$$

$$|W_{23}|^2 = \frac{(\lambda_3 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 - a) - |g|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)} \tag{114}$$

$$|W_{31}|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - \lambda_1)(\lambda_3 + \lambda_2 - \gamma - a) - |x|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{115}$$

$$|W_{32}|^2 = \frac{(\lambda_2 - \gamma)(\lambda_3 + \lambda_1 - \gamma - a) + |x|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_2 - \lambda_1)} \tag{116}$$

$$|W_{33}|^2 = \frac{(\lambda_3 - \gamma)(\gamma + a - \lambda_1 - \lambda_2) - |x|^2}{(\lambda_3 - \lambda_2)(\lambda_3 - \lambda_1)} \tag{117}$$

APPENDIX B: THE $(13 - 13)$ ANSATZ

Let's recall the notation for H_u and H_d:

$$H_u = \begin{pmatrix} \gamma & x & g \\ x^* & \alpha & b \\ g^* & b^* & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_d = \begin{pmatrix} \rho & y & h \\ y^* & \beta & f \\ h^* & f^* & d \end{pmatrix}. \tag{118}$$

W_u and W_d are the unitary transformations diagonalizing H_u and H_d respectively. We want to find the parametrization of both W_u and W_d when the elements $(W_u)_{13}$ and $(W_d)_{13}$

vanish. The requirement for the cancellation of these elements is $\quad xb - g(\alpha - m_t) = 0 \quad$ and $yf - h(\beta - m_b) = 0 \quad$, and with them we obtain in both sectors the simpler identities:

$$|x|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - m_u)(m_c - \gamma)(m_t - \alpha)}{(2m_t - \alpha - a)} \qquad\qquad |y|^2 = \frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_s - \rho)(m_b - \beta)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}$$

$$|g|^2 = \frac{(\gamma - m_u)(m_c - \gamma)(m_t - a)}{(2m_t - \alpha - a)} \qquad\qquad |h|^2 = \frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_s - \rho)(m_b - d)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}$$

$$|b|^2 = (m_t - \alpha)(m_t - a) \qquad\qquad |f|^2 = (m_b - \beta)(m_b - d)$$

$$\delta_x - \delta_g + \delta_b = \pi \qquad\qquad \delta_y - \delta_h + \delta_f = \pi \qquad (119)$$

From the above expressions we obtain the following simple parametrization of up and down quark mixing matrices, with $(W_u)_{13} = 0$, $(W_d)_{13} = 0$:

$$W_u^\dagger = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{(m_c - \gamma)}{(m_c - m_u)}} & -\sqrt{\frac{(\gamma - m_u)(m_t - \alpha)}{(m_c - m_u)(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} e^{i\delta_x} & \sqrt{\frac{(\gamma - m_u)(m_t - a)}{(m_c - m_u)(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} e^{i(\delta_x + \delta_b)} \\ -\sqrt{\frac{(\gamma - m_u)}{(m_c - m_u)}} e^{-i\delta_x} & -\sqrt{\frac{(m_c - \gamma)(m_t - \alpha)}{(m_c - m_u)(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} & \sqrt{\frac{(m_c - \gamma)(m_t - a)}{(m_c - m_u)(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} e^{i\delta_b} \\ 0 & \sqrt{\frac{(m_t - a)}{(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} e^{-i\delta_b} & \sqrt{\frac{(m_t - \alpha)}{(2m_t - \alpha - a)}} \end{pmatrix} \quad (120)$$

and

$$W_d = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{(m_s - \rho)}{(m_s - m_d)}} & -\sqrt{\frac{(\rho - m_d)}{(m_s - m_d)}} e^{i\delta_y} & 0 \\ -\sqrt{\frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_b - \beta)}{(m_s - m_d)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} e^{-i\delta_y} & -\sqrt{\frac{(m_s - \rho)(m_b - \beta)}{(m_s - m_d)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} & \sqrt{\frac{(m_b - d)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}} e^{i\delta_f} \\ \sqrt{\frac{(\rho - m_d)(m_b - d)}{(m_s - m_d)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} e^{-i(\delta_y + \delta_f)} & \sqrt{\frac{(m_s - \rho)(m_b - d)}{(m_s - m_d)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} e^{-i\delta_f} & \sqrt{\frac{(m_b - \beta)}{(2m_b - \beta - d)}} \end{pmatrix} . \quad (121)$$

One can now check that in this ansatz, which basically shows that the structure of the quark mixing matrix is

$$V_{CKM} = \begin{pmatrix} c_\gamma c_\rho + s_\rho s_\gamma e^{i(\delta_x - \delta_y)} C^* & -c_\gamma s_\rho e^{i\delta_y} + s_\gamma c_\rho e^{i\delta_x} C^* & s_\gamma\, S\, e^{i\delta_x} \\ -s_\gamma c_\rho e^{-i\delta_x} + c_\gamma s_\rho e^{-i\delta_y} C^* & s_\gamma s_\rho e^{i(\delta_y - \delta_x)} + c_\gamma c_\rho C^* & c_\gamma\, S \\ -s_\rho\, S^* e^{-i\delta_y} & -c_\rho\, S^* & C \end{pmatrix} \quad (122)$$

where C, S, c_γ and c_ρ are given by

$$C = \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t - a)(m_b - d)}\, e^{i(\delta_f - \delta_b)} + \sqrt{(m_t - \alpha)(m_b - \beta)} \right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t - \alpha - a)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} \equiv V_{tb} \qquad (123)$$

$$S = e^{i\delta_b} \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t - a)(m_b - \beta)} - e^{i(\delta_f - \delta_b)} \sqrt{(m_t - \alpha)(m_b - d)} \right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t - \alpha - a)(2m_b - \beta - d)}} \qquad (124)$$

$$c_\gamma = \sqrt{\frac{m_c - \gamma}{m_c - m_u}} \qquad (125)$$

$$c_\rho = \sqrt{\frac{m_s - \rho}{m_s - m_d}} \qquad (126)$$

and $s_i = \sqrt{1 - c_i^2}$ and $|C|^2 + |S|^2 = 1$. The previous form for V_{CKM} can then be put in the form given in Eq.(28) by pulling out two diagonal phase matrices P_u and P_d as given in the main text.

We can also quickly compute the Jarlskog invariant J for this mixing matrix, for example by computing

$$
\begin{aligned}
J &= \mathrm{Im}(V_{cb}V_{tb}^*V_{cd}^*V_{td}) \\
J &= \mathrm{Im}\left(-c_\gamma^2 s_\rho^2|SC|^2 + c_\gamma c_\rho s_\gamma s_\rho|S|^2 e^{i(\delta_x - \delta_y)}C^*\right) \\
J &= c_\gamma c_\rho s_\gamma s_\rho|S|^2 \frac{\left(\sqrt{(m_t-a)(m_b-d)}\ \sin{(\delta_b-\delta_f+\delta_x-\delta_y)} + \sqrt{(m_t-\alpha)(m_b-\beta)}\ \sin{(\delta_x-\delta_y)}\right)}{\sqrt{(2m_t-\alpha-a)(2m_b-\beta-d)}}
\end{aligned}
\tag{127}
$$