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A supersymmetry model of leptons

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Abstract

If supersymmetry (SUSY) is not for stabilizing the electroweak energy scale, what is it used for in particle physics? We propose that it is for flavor problems. A cyclic family symmetry is introduced. Under the family symmetry, only the τ -lepton is massive due to the vacuum expectation value (VEV) of the Higgs field. This symmetry is broken by a sneutrino VEV which results in the muon mass. The comparatively large sneutrino VEV does not result in a large neutrino mass due to requiring heavy gauginos. SUSY breaks at a high scale $\sim 10^{13}$ GeV. The electroweak energy scale is unnaturally small. No additional global symmetry, like the R-parity, is imposed. Other aspects of the model are discussed. © 2005 Published by Elsevier B.V. Open access under CC BY license.

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In elementary particle physics, SUSY [1] was proposed for stabilizing the electroweak (EW) scale [2] which is otherwise unnaturally small compared to the grand unification scale [3]. The study of the cosmological constant [4], however, suggests that unnaturalness of 10^{120} or 10^{55} fine tuning might be just so from the anthropic point of view. It was argued that the string theory even supports the emergence of the anthropic landscape [5]. This led to a consideration of giving up naturalness of the EW scale [6,7]. If SUSY is not for stabilizing the EW scale, what else job does it do in particle physics? Refs. [6,7] maintained its roles in grand unification and the dark matter.

In this Letter, we advocate that SUSY is for flavor physics. The flavor puzzle, namely the fermion masses, mixing and CP violation, in the Standard Model (SM) needs new physics to be understood. The empirical fermion mass pattern is that the third generation is much heavier than the second generation which is also much heavier than the first. This may imply a family symmetry [8–10]. Let us consider the charged leptons. By assuming a Z_3 cyclic symmetry among the SU(2) doublets L_i (i = 1, 2, 3) of the three generations [9,10], the Yukawa interactions result

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in a democratic mass matrix which is of rank 1. Therefore only the tau lepton gets mass, the muon and electron are still massless.

The essential point is how the family symmetry breaks. Naively the symmetry breaking can be achieved by introducing family-dependent Higgs fields. We consider this problem within SUSY. We observe that SUSY naturally provides such Higgs-like fields, which are the scalar neutrinos. If the VEVs of the sneutrinos are non-vanishing, $v_i \neq 0$, the R-parity violating interactions $L_i L_j E_k^c$ [11], with E_k^c denoting the anti-particle superfields of the SU(2)singlet leptons, contribute to the fermion masses, in addition to the Yukawa interactions. We think that this is the origin of family symmetry breaking.

The above idea has been proposed for some time [9,10]. Because SUSY was used to stabilize the EW scale, that idea suffers from severe constraints. For example, the τ -neutrino should be 10 MeV heavy [12]. It is a liberation if SUSY has nothing to do with the EW scale. While the τ -lepton mass is from the Higgs VEV ~ 100 GeV, the μ mass is due to v_i , $m_{\mu} \sim \lambda v_i$ with λ standing for the trilinear R-parity violation couplings. It is natural $\lambda \sim 10^{-2}$ like the Yukawa couplings for the τ mass. The muon mass tells us then $v_i \sim 10$ GeV. 10 GeV v_i 's could induce a large lepton number violating effect, namely a large neutrino Majorana mass if the neutralinos are not heavy, due to $m_v \simeq (g_2 v_i)^2 / M_{\tilde{Z}}$, where g_2 is the $SU(2)_L$ gauge coupling constant, and $M_{\tilde{Z}}$ is the gaugino mass. When we get the freedom to take $M_{\tilde{Z}}$ arbitrarily high, the above formula can produce a neutrino mass in the safe range.

In this model the Z_{3L} family symmetry mentioned above is assumed, which however is softly broken. The gauge symmetries and the matter contents in the full theory are the same as those in the SUSY SM. Under the family symmetry, the relevant kinetic terms generally include

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \left(H_1^{\dagger} H_1 + H_2^{\dagger} H_2 + \alpha L_i^{\dagger} L_i + \beta \left(L_1^{\dagger} L_2 + L_2^{\dagger} L_3 + L_3^{\dagger} L_1 + \text{h.c.} \right) + \frac{\gamma}{\sqrt{3}} \left(H_2^{\dagger} \sum_i L_i + \text{h.c.} \right) \right) \Big|_{\theta \theta \bar{\theta} \bar{\theta}}, \quad (1)$$

where H_1 and H_2 are the two Higgs doublets, α , β , γ are O(1) coefficients. The case of that $\alpha = 1$ and $\beta = \gamma = 0$ is a special one of above expression. Note that the gauge field e^V is not explicitly written, which does not affect our discussion on flavor physics. The superpotential is

$$\mathcal{W} = \frac{\tilde{y}_j}{\sqrt{3}} \left(\sum_i L_i \right) H_2 E_j^c + \tilde{\lambda}_j (L_1 L_2 + L_2 L_3 + L_3 L_1) E_j^c + \tilde{\mu} H_1 H_2 + \tilde{\mu}' H_1 \sum_i L_i,$$
(2)

where \tilde{y}_j 's and $\tilde{\lambda}_j$'s are the coupling constants. $\tilde{\mu}$ and $\tilde{\mu}'$ are mass terms. It is natural that they are about the scale of soft SUSY breaking masses. The Lagrangian of soft SUSY breaking masses is

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft1}} = M_{\tilde{W}} \tilde{W} \tilde{W} + M_{\tilde{Z}} \tilde{Z} \tilde{Z} + m_{h}^{2} h_{1}^{\dagger} h_{1} + m_{h}^{2} h_{2}^{\dagger} h_{2} + m_{lL_{ij}}^{2} \tilde{l}_{i}^{\dagger} \tilde{l}_{j} + m_{lR_{ij}}^{2} \tilde{e}_{i}^{*} \tilde{e}_{j} + (B_{\tilde{\mu}} h_{1} h_{2} + B_{\tilde{\mu}_{i}} h_{1} \tilde{l}_{i}^{\dagger} + m_{i}^{\prime 2} h_{2}^{\dagger} \tilde{l}_{i}^{\dagger} + \text{h.c.}),$$
(3)

where \tilde{W} and \tilde{Z} stand for the charged and neutral gauginos, respectively, h_1 , h_2 , \tilde{l}_i and \tilde{e}_i are the scalar components of H_1 , H_2 , L_i and E_i^c , respectively. Note that explicitly breaking of Z_{3L} is introduced in the soft mass terms. The soft masses are assumed to be very large around a typical mass m_S . The trilinear soft terms should be also included,

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft2}} = \tilde{m}_{ij}\tilde{l}_i h_2 \tilde{e}_j + \tilde{m}_{ijk}\tilde{l}_i \tilde{l}_j \tilde{e}_k + \text{h.c.}$$
(4)

The mass coefficients which we denote generally as \tilde{m}_S can be close to m_S .

The expression of the kinetic terms is not yet in the normalized standard form. The standard form

$$\mathcal{L} \supset H_u^{\dagger} H_u + H_d^{\prime \dagger} H_d^{\prime} + L_e^{\dagger} L_e + L_{\mu}^{\dagger} L_{\mu} + L_{\tau}^{\prime \dagger} L_{\tau}^{\prime}$$

$$\tag{5}$$

is achieved by the field re-definition:

$$H_{u} = H_{1},$$

$$H'_{d} = c_{1} \left(H_{2} + \frac{c_{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_{i} L_{i} \right),$$

$$L'_{\tau} = c'_{1} \left(H_{2} - \frac{c_{2}}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_{i} L_{i} \right),$$

$$L_{\mu} = \frac{c_{3}}{\sqrt{2}} (L_{1} - L_{2}) \cos \theta + \frac{c_{3}}{\sqrt{6}} (L_{1} + L_{2} - 2L_{3}) \sin \theta,$$

$$L_{e} = -\frac{c_{3}}{\sqrt{2}} (L_{1} - L_{2}) \sin \theta + \frac{c_{3}}{\sqrt{6}} (L_{1} + L_{2} - 2L_{3}) \cos \theta,$$
(6)

where

$$c_{1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{1 + \frac{\gamma}{c_{2}}}, \qquad c_{2} = \sqrt{\alpha + 2\beta}, \qquad c_{3} = \sqrt{\alpha - \beta},$$

$$c_{1}' = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}\sqrt{1 - \frac{\gamma}{c_{2}}}$$
(7)

and $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ cannot be determined until muon mass basis is fixed.

The superpotential is then

$$\mathcal{W} = \sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_{j}|^{2} H_{d}' L_{\tau}' E_{\tau}^{c} + L_{e} L_{\mu} \left(\lambda_{\tau} E_{\tau}^{c} + \lambda_{\mu} E_{\mu}^{c} \right) + \mu H_{u} H_{d}' + \mu' H_{u} L_{\tau}'}, \tag{8}$$

where

$$y_j = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\alpha + 2\beta - \gamma^2}} \tilde{y}_j, \qquad \lambda_j = -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{\alpha + \beta} \tilde{\lambda}_j, \qquad \mu = \frac{1}{2c_1} \left(\tilde{\mu} + \frac{\tilde{\mu}'}{c_2} \right), \qquad \mu' = \frac{1}{2c_1'} \left(\tilde{\mu} - \frac{\tilde{\mu}'}{c_2} \right), \tag{9}$$

 E_{τ}^{c} is defined as

$$E_{\tau}^{c} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_{j}|^{2}}} y_{j} E_{j}^{c}, \tag{10}$$

 E^c_{μ} is orthogonal to E^c_{τ} , λ_{τ} and λ_{μ} are combinations of y_j 's and λ_j 's. Because of the Z_{3L} symmetry, the superpotential is without the field E^c_e which is orthogonal to both E^c_{τ} and E^c_{μ} .

To look at the fermion masses, we simply rotate the bilinear $\overset{\mu}{R}$ -parity violating term away via the field redefinition,

$$H_d = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu^2 + {\mu'}^2}} (\mu H'_d + \mu' L'_{\tau}), \qquad L_{\tau} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu^2 + {\mu'}^2}} (\mu' H'_d - \mu L_{\tau'}). \tag{11}$$

It is trivial to see that the kinetic terms are diagonal in terms of H_d and L_{τ} . The superpotential is

$$\mathcal{W} = -\sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_{j}|^{2}} H_{d} L_{\tau} E_{\tau}^{c} + L_{e} L_{\mu} \left(\lambda_{\tau} E_{\tau}^{c} + \lambda_{\mu} E_{\mu}^{c}\right) + \sqrt{\mu^{2} + {\mu'}^{2}} H_{u} H_{d}.$$
(12)

The Z_{3L} family symmetry keeps the trilinear R-parity violating terms invariant. As we have expected Higgs field H_d contributes to the tauon mass only and the sneutrinos in L_e and L_{μ} contribute to the muon mass, after they get VEVs. The VEVs of L_e and L_{μ} imply the breaking of the Z_{3L} symmetry as can be seen explicitly from Eq. (6).

C. Liu / Physics Letters B 609 (2005) 111-116

The electron remains massless because of absence of the E_e^c field in \mathcal{W} . A hierarchy among charged leptons is obtained. Without losing our essential points, we could take $\lambda_{\tau} = 0$. In that case, L_{τ} is in the mass eigenstate. And the tau number is conserved. The tauon number conservation justifies the field rotation Eq. (11).

The breaking of the family symmetry originates from the soft SUSY masses. For simplicity and without losing generality, we assume that the soft terms in Eqs. (3) and (4) are rewritten as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{soft}} = M_{\tilde{W}} \tilde{W} \tilde{W} + M_{\tilde{Z}} \tilde{Z} \tilde{Z} + m_{h_u}^2 h_u^{\dagger} h_u + m_{h_d}^2 h_d^{\dagger} h_d + m_{h_d}^2 \tilde{l}_{\alpha}^{\dagger} \tilde{l}_{\alpha} + m_{lR_{\alpha\beta}}^2 \tilde{e}_{\alpha}^* \tilde{e}_{\beta} + (B_{\mu} h_u h_d + B_{\mu_e} h_u \tilde{l}_e + \tilde{m}_{\alpha\beta} \tilde{l}_{\alpha} h_d \tilde{e}_{\beta} + \tilde{m}_{\alpha\beta\gamma} \tilde{l}_{\alpha} \tilde{l}_{\beta} \tilde{e}_{\gamma} + \text{h.c.}),$$
(13)

where $\alpha = e, \mu, \tau$. Most of the squared masses are expected to be positive, except $m_{h_u}^2$.

The key point of the form of the soft masses lies in the $(h_u h_d^{\dagger} \tilde{l}_e^{\dagger})$ mass-squared matrix,

$$\mathcal{M}^{(h_u, h_d^{\dagger}, \tilde{l}_e^{\dagger})} = \begin{pmatrix} m_{h_u}^2 & B_\mu & B_{\mu_e} \\ B_\mu & m_{h_d}^2 & 0 \\ B_{\mu_e} & 0 & m_{h_d}^2 \end{pmatrix}$$
(14)

of which the eigenvalues are

$$M_1^2 = \bar{m} - \sqrt{\Delta^2 + (B_\mu)^2 + (B_{\mu_e})^2}, \qquad M_2^2 = \bar{m} + \sqrt{\Delta^2 + (B_\mu)^2 + (B_{\mu_e})^2}, \qquad M_3^2 = m_{h_d}^2, \tag{15}$$

where $\bar{m} = \frac{m_{h_u}^2 + m_{h_d}^2}{2}$, $\Delta = \frac{m_{h_u}^2 - m_{h_d}^2}{2}$. The analysis goes in the similar way as in Ref. [6]. By fine-tuning, $M_1^2 \sim -m_{\rm EW}^2$, namely the EW symmetry breaking is achieved. The tuning is at the order of $m_S^2/m_{\rm EW}^2$.

In our case, in addition to the Higgs doublets, l_e field also gets a VEV,

$$v_u \neq 0, \qquad v_d \neq 0, \qquad v_{l_e} \neq 0. \tag{16}$$

The relative size of these values are determined by the soft mass parameters. It is natural to expect the Z_{3L} symmetry breaking is not large, a hierarchy between $v_{u,d}$ and v_{l_e} is possible. In the extreme case of that $B_{\mu_e} \ll B_{\mu}$, v_{l_e} vanishes. As an illustration, a prefered VEV pattern $v_u > v_d > v_{l_e}$ is expected if $|m_{h_u}^2| < |m_{h_d}^2|$ and $B_{\mu_e} < B_{\mu}$ are assumed. Note that the L_e number breaks explicitly in the soft mass terms, v_{l_e} does not result in any massless scalar. Because there is only one light Higgs doublet, the tree-level flavor changing neutral current (FCNC) does not appear. Therefore, a vanishing λ_{τ} keeps generality of the model. The fact $v_{l_e} \neq 0$ results in $\cos \theta = 1$, and it is at this stage that E_{μ}^c just corresponds to the mass eigenstate of the muon. The hierarchical charged lepton mass pattern is obtained from Eq. (12) explicitly,

$$m_{\tau} = \sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_j|^2 v_d}, \qquad m_{\mu} = \lambda_{\mu} v_{l_e}, \qquad m_e = 0.$$
 (17)

Numerically it is required that $v_d \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ and $v_{l_e} \sim 10 \text{ GeV}$.

Whether a large v_{l_e} is safe or not should be studied. In addition, it should be also considered that a huge B_{μ_e} induces a large lepton–Higgsino mixing. The inducement happens at the loop-level through the gaugino exchange, as shown in Ref. [12], $m_{eh} = \frac{g_2^2 B_{\mu_e}}{16\pi^2 M_{\tilde{Z}}}$ which is about $10^{-3} m_S$. By denoting \tilde{h} as Higgsinos, the mass matrix of v_e and the other neutralinos is given as

$$-i \left(v_{e} \quad \tilde{h}_{d}^{0} \quad \tilde{h}_{u}^{0} \quad \tilde{Z} \right) \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & m_{eh} & av_{l_{e}} \\ 0 & 0 & -\sqrt{\mu^{2} + {\mu'}^{2}} & av_{d} \\ m_{eh} & -\sqrt{\mu^{2} + {\mu'}^{2}} & 0 & -av_{u} \\ av_{l_{e}} & av_{d} & -av_{u} & M_{\tilde{Z}} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} v_{e} \\ \tilde{h}_{d}^{0} \\ \tilde{h}_{u}^{0} \\ \tilde{Z} \end{pmatrix},$$
(18)

where $a = ((g_2^2 + g_1^2)/2)^{1/2}$ with g_1 being the SM $U(1)_Y$ coupling constant. We simply obtain the mass eigenvalues (denoted as Λ_1 , Λ_2 , Λ_3 , Λ_4) of the above mass matrix by reasonably taking $v_{l_e} \ll v_d < v_u \ll \sqrt{\mu^2 + {\mu'}^2} \sim M_{\tilde{Z}}$,

$$\Lambda_1 \simeq M_{\tilde{Z}}, \qquad \Lambda_2 \simeq \sqrt{\mu^2 + {\mu'}^2 + m_{eh}^2}, \qquad \Lambda_3 \simeq -\sqrt{\mu^2 + {\mu'}^2 + m_{eh}^2}, \qquad \Lambda_4 \simeq -\frac{(av_{l_e})^2}{M_{\tilde{Z}}}.$$
 (19)

Therefore the v_e mass $m_{v_e} \simeq (av_{l_e})^2/M_{\tilde{Z}}$. It is very small $\sim 10^{-3}$ eV when $M_{\tilde{Z}} \sim 10^{13}$ GeV.

To accommodate the neutrino oscillation data, the neutrino sector should be extended. Three right-handed neutrinos N_i (i = 1, 2, 3) which are singlet under the SM gauge groups, are introduced. The following terms should be included in the Z_{3L} symmetric superpotential Eq. (2),

$$\mathcal{W} \supset \frac{y_j'}{\sqrt{3}} \sum_i L_i H_1 N_j + M_{ij} N_i N_j + \tilde{c}_j H_1 H_2 N_j, \tag{20}$$

with y'_j 's and \tilde{c}_j 's being the coupling constants of $\mathcal{O}(10^{-2})$, and M_{ij} the Majorana masses. \mathcal{W} does not include purely linear terms of N_i 's with large mass-squared coefficients, because N_i 's are supposed to be charged under a larger gauge group beyond the SM. The soft masses of N_i 's are simply assumed to be large enough that N_i 's do not develop non-vanishing VEVs. The trilinear soft terms associated with N_i 's can be written explicitly, which however, play little roles in the analysis. Through the previous field redefinition, Eq. (12) then includes

$$\mathcal{W} \supset y_{\tau}' H_{u} L_{\tau} N_{\tau} + M_{\alpha\beta} N_{\alpha} N_{\beta} + H_{u} H_{d} (\tilde{c}_{\tau} N_{\tau} + \tilde{c}_{\mu} N_{\mu} + \tilde{c}_{e} N_{e}),$$
⁽²¹⁾

where N_{α} 's are combinations of N_i 's with N_{τ} being that which couples to $H_u L_{\tau}$. y'_{τ} and \tilde{c}_{α} are combinations of y'_i 's, \tilde{c}_i , $c_1^{(i)}$, c_2 and μ'/μ . The ν_{τ} mass is determined by the see-saw mechanism from Eq. (21),

$$m_{\nu_{\tau}} \simeq \frac{(y_{\tau}' v_d)^2}{M_{\alpha\beta}} \simeq 3 \times 10^{-2} \text{ eV}$$
⁽²²⁾

by taking $M_{\alpha\beta} \sim (10^{10} - 10^{11})$ GeV. The Dirac neutrino mass matrix is diagonal in the $e^{-\mu - \tau}$ basis. A bi-large neutrino mixing originates from the mass matrix $M_{\alpha\beta}$.

The electron mass comes from the soft trilinear R-parity violating terms in Eq. (13) [9]. Their soft breaking of Z_{3L} generates non-vanishing masses for the charged leptons through the one-loop diagram with a gaugino exchange. The mixing of the scalar leptons associated with different chiralities is due to the soft trilinear terms, which is then about $\sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_j|^2} \tilde{m}_S v_d$. The one loop contribution to the charged lepton masses is about

$$\delta M_{\alpha\beta}^{l} \simeq \frac{\alpha}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{\sum_{j} |y_{j}|^{2}} \tilde{m}_{S} v_{d}}{m_{S}}.$$
(23)

Taking $\tilde{m}_S/m_S \simeq 0.1$, $\delta M_{\alpha\beta}^l \sim \mathcal{O}(\text{MeV})$ which determines the electron mass.

The lepton mixing mainly depend on the neutrino mass matrix. In the charged lepton mass matrix, m_{μ} and m_{τ} are at the diagonal positions, the non-diagonal elements are $\delta M^{l}_{\alpha\beta}$. The mixing from the charged leptons are then basically small, $U_{\mu\tau} \simeq \sqrt{m_e/m_{\tau}}$, $U_{e\mu} \simeq \sqrt{m_e/m_{\mu}}$. If the mixing due to the neutrino mass matrix is bi-large, the lepton mixing required by the neutrino oscillation data can be obtained.

Let us briefly comment on the quark masses. Like that of the charged leptons, the quark masses also have three origins: the Higgs VEVs, the sneutrino VEV and soft trilinear R-parity violating terms. However, the roles of the sneutrino VEV and the soft trilinear terms are switched [10]. The sneutrino VEV contributes to the first generation quark masses, and the soft trilinear R-parity violating terms to the charm and strange quark masses. More details will be in a separate work [13]. One important merit of this framework is that we do not need to introduce baryon

number conservation. Because the sparticles are very heavy, they suppress baryon number violating processes to be unobservable [13]. An essentially same observation was pointed out in split SUSY [14].

In summary, we have proposed that SUSY is for flavor problems in particle physics. A family symmetry Z_{3L} , which is the cyclic symmetry among the three generation $SU(2)_L$ doublets, is introduced. No R-parity is imposed. SUSY breaks at a high scale $\sim 10^{13}$ GeV. The electroweak energy scale is unnaturally small. Under the family symmetry, only the τ -lepton gets its mass. This symmetry is broken by a sneutrino VEV which results in the muon mass. A hierarchical pattern of the charged lepton masses are obtained. The comparatively large sneutrino VEV does not result in a large neutrino mass because of the gaugino masses are very heavy. The quark masses and other aspects of the model have been also discussed.

At low energies, the model is basically the same as the SM. One essential feature of this model is that the unnaturally light Higgs has a component of a slepton. Related to this point, the model allows for relatively long-lived Higgsinos. We may consider a case where their masses are lower than m_S . If they are loop induced, the Higgsino masses are thousand times smaller than m_S . A Higgsino decays to a Higgs and a virtual gaugino which further goes into a lepton and a virtual slepton, the slepton decays to a lepton pair via R-parity violating interaction. Because this four body decay is suppressed by the R-parity violating coupling and double suppressed by m_S , a 10^{10} GeV heavy Higgsino has a lifetime of 10^{-12} s. The cosmological and astrophysical implications should be studied in future works.

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