

DISCRETE SYMMETRIES OF LEPTON MIXING ANGLES

[based on hep-ph/0504165 and hep-ph/0512103 with Guido Altarelli]

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low-energy parameters

ν masses

[3 light active ν]

m_1, m_2, m_3

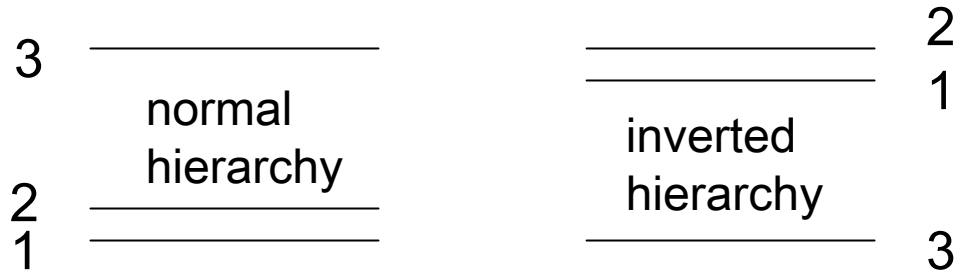
order

$m_1 < m_2$

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 < |\Delta m_{32}^2|, |\Delta m_{31}^2| \quad [\Delta m_{ij}^2 \equiv m_i^2 - m_j^2]$$

i.e. 1 and 2 are, by definition, the closest levels

two possibilities:



Mixing matrix (analogous to V_{CKM})

$$U_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{13}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{13}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & c_{13}s_{23} \\ -c_{12}s_{13}c_{23} + s_{12}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & -s_{12}s_{13}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}e^{-i\delta} & c_{13}c_{23} \end{pmatrix} \times \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\alpha} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i\beta} \end{pmatrix}}$$

$$c_{12} \equiv \cos \vartheta_{12}, \dots$$

- only if ν are Majorana
- drops in oscillations

Lepton Mixing Angles

[Fogli, Lisi, Marrone, Palazzo 0506083]
[Schwetz 0510331]

[2σ errors (95% C.L.)]

$$\sin^2 \vartheta_{23} = 0.44 \left(1_{-0.22}^{+0.41}\right) \quad \sin^2 \vartheta_{13} = 0.9_{-0.9}^{+2.3} \times 10^{-2} \quad \sin^2 \vartheta_{12} = 0.314 \left(1_{-0.15}^{+0.18}\right)$$

$$\vartheta_{23} = (41.6_{-5.7}^{+10.4})^\circ \quad [2\sigma]$$

[Hall, Murayama, Weiner 2000
De Gouvea, Murayama 0301050]

different viewpoints: - angles are all generically large [anarchy] ↗
- angles reflect an underlying order

$$\vartheta_{23} = 45^\circ$$

$$\vartheta_{13} = 0$$

$$\sin^2 \vartheta_{12} = \frac{1}{3} \quad \vartheta_{12} = 35.3^\circ$$

[Harrison, Perkins and Scott (HPS) mixing pattern]

$$\vartheta_{12} = (34.1_{-1.6}^{+1.7})^\circ \quad [1\sigma]$$

not a bad 1st order approximation!

θ_{12} right within $1\sigma \approx 2^\circ \leq 0.04 \text{ rad} \approx \lambda^2$, where $\lambda=0.22$
errors on θ_{23} and θ_{13} are still large...

future [< 10 yr] precision/sensitivity on θ_{23} and θ_{13} down to about λ^2
could confirm HPS mixing pattern

$$\vartheta_{13} \approx \delta\vartheta_{23} \approx \lambda^2 \approx 0.04 \div 0.05 \text{ rad} \quad (2.1^\circ \div 2.9^\circ)$$

[Gonzalez-Garcia, Maltoni, Smirnov 0408170]

$\sin^2\theta_{23}$

$\delta(\sin^2\theta_{23})$ reduced by future LBL experiments
from $\nu_{\mu} \rightarrow \nu_{\mu}$ disappearance channel

$$P_{\mu\mu} \approx 1 - \sin^2 2\vartheta_{23} \sin^2\left(\frac{\Delta m_{31}^2 L}{4E}\right)$$

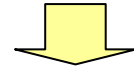
- no substantial improvements from conventional beams
- superbeams (e.g. T2K in 5 yr of run)

$$\delta P_{\mu\mu} \approx 0.01$$

$$\delta\vartheta_{23} \approx 0.05 \text{ rad} \leftrightarrow 2.9^\circ$$

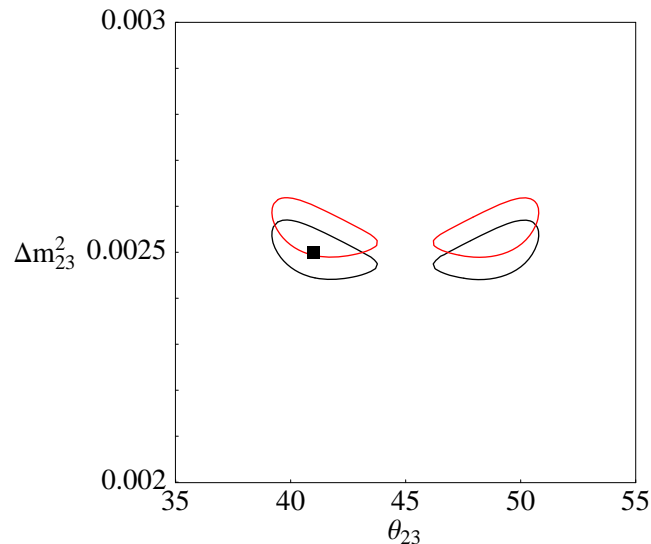
improvement by
about a factor 2

$$\vartheta_{23} \approx \frac{\pi}{4}$$



$$\delta\vartheta_{23} \approx \frac{\sqrt{\delta P_{\mu\mu}}}{2}$$

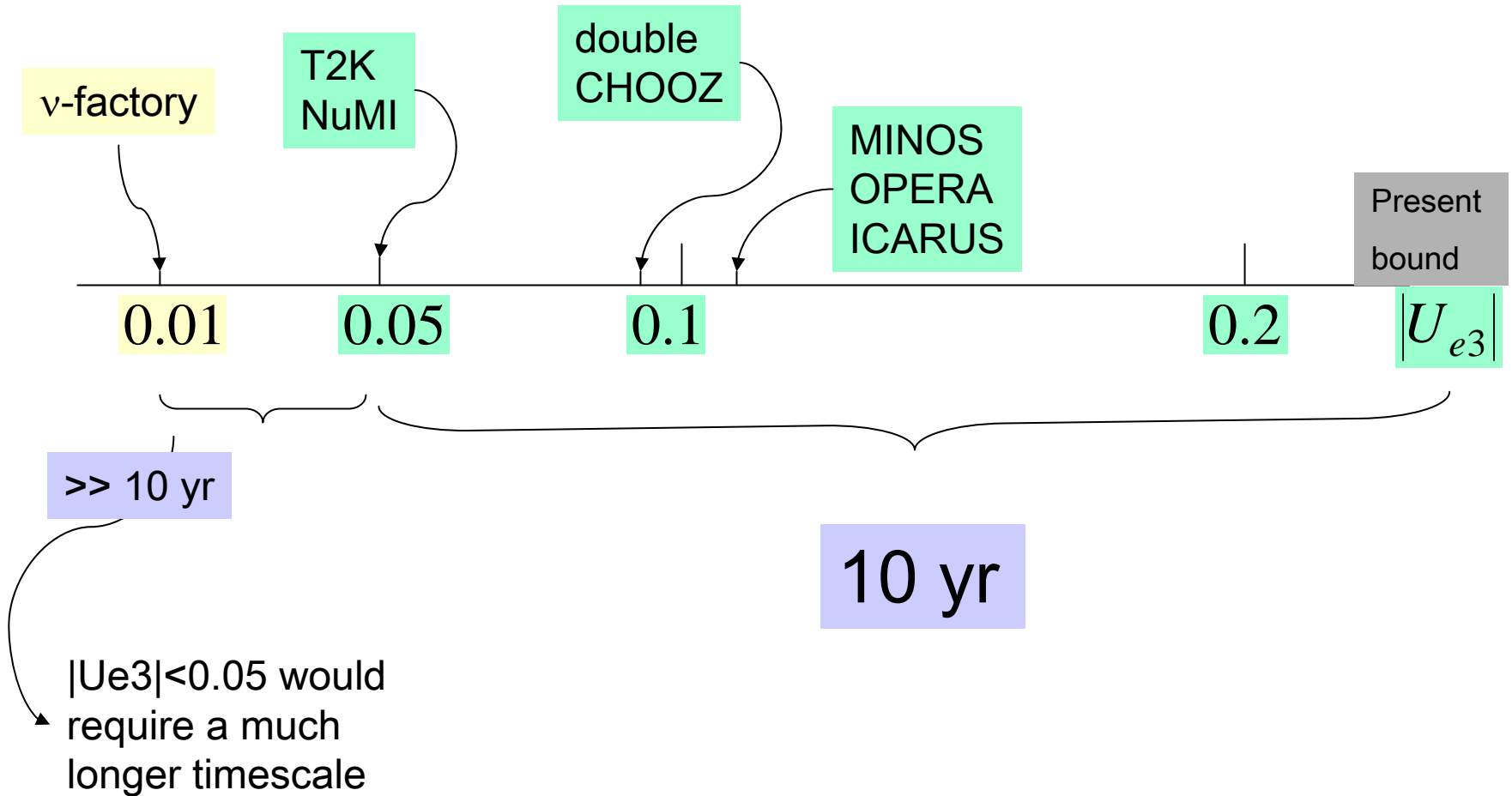
i.e. a small uncertainty
on $P_{\mu\mu}$ leads to a large
uncertainty on θ_{23}



T2K-1
90% CL
black = normal hierarchy
red = inverted hierarchy
true value 41°
[courtesy by
Enrique Fernandez]

$\sin \theta_{13}$

a similar sensitivity is expected on θ_{13} ($U_{e3} = \sin \theta_{13}$)



If future data will confirm HPS down to about λ^2 precision

$$U_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} + O(\lambda^2)$$

quite symmetric!
also called
“tribimaximal”

reminiscent of

$$\pi^0 = \frac{|uu\rangle - |dd\rangle}{\sqrt{2}} \quad \eta = \frac{|uu\rangle + |dd\rangle - 2|ss\rangle}{\sqrt{6}} \quad \eta' = \frac{|uu\rangle + |dd\rangle + |ss\rangle}{\sqrt{3}}$$

theoretical challenges:

- how to derive HPS from a model?

more in general

- how to achieve exactly maximal θ_{23}

(eventually modified by small, $O(\lambda^2)$, corrections)?

many models predicts a **large** but **not necessarily maximal** θ_{23}

an example: abelian flavour symmetry group $U(1)_F$

$$F(l) = (\times, 0, 0) \quad [\times \neq 0]$$

$$F(e^c) = (\times, \times, 0)$$

$$m_e = \begin{pmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & \times & \times \\ \times & O(1) & O(1) \end{pmatrix} v_d \quad m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \times & \times & \times \\ \times & O(1) & O(1) \\ \times & O(1) & O(1) \end{pmatrix} \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$$

$\mathcal{G}_{23} \approx O(1)$ maximal only by a fine-tuning!

similarly for all other abelian charge assignments

$$F(l) = (1, -1, -1)$$

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \times & O(1) & O(1) \\ O(1) & \times & \times \\ O(1) & \times & \times \end{pmatrix} \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$$

$\mathcal{G}_{23} \approx O(1) + \text{charged lepton contribution}$

no help from the see-saw mechanism within abelian symmetries...

θ_{23} maximal by RGE effects?

[Ellis, Lola 1999
Casas, Espinoza, Ibarra, Navarro 1999-2003]

running effects important only for quasi-degenerate neutrinos

2 flavour case

$$m_2 \approx m_3 \approx m \quad \text{or} \quad \delta m \equiv m_2 - m_3 \ll m_2 + m_3 \approx 2m$$

boundary conditions at $Q = \Lambda \gg$ e.w. scale

at $Q < \Lambda$
$$\tan 2\mathcal{G}_{23}(Q) = \frac{\delta m \sin 2\mathcal{G}_{23}(1 - \varepsilon)}{\delta m \cos 2\mathcal{G}_{23}(1 - \varepsilon) + 2m\varepsilon}$$

$$m_2, m_3, \mathcal{G}_{23} \quad \frac{\delta m}{2m} \ll 1$$

$$\varepsilon \approx \frac{1}{16\pi^2} y_\tau^2 \log \frac{\Lambda}{Q}$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{23}(Q) \approx \frac{\pi}{4} \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \varepsilon \approx -\frac{\delta m}{m} \cos 2\mathcal{G}_{23}$$

gives the scale Q at which $\theta_{23}(Q)$ becomes maximal

$m_2, m_3, \mathcal{G}_{23}$ fine tuned to obtain Q at the e.w. scale

a similar conclusion also for the 3 flavour case:

$$\sin^2 2\mathcal{G}_{12} = \frac{\sin^2 \mathcal{G}_{13} \sin^2 2\mathcal{G}_{23}}{(\sin^2 \mathcal{G}_{23} \cos^2 \mathcal{G}_{13} + \sin^2 \mathcal{G}_{13})^2}$$

if $\mathcal{G}_{23} = \frac{\pi}{4}$

wrong!

$$\sin^2 2\mathcal{G}_{12} = \frac{4 \sin^2 \mathcal{G}_{13}}{(1 + \sin^2 \mathcal{G}_{13})^2} < 0.2 \quad (\text{Chooz})$$

infrared stable fixed point

[Chankowski, Pokorski 2002]

θ_{23} maximal from non-abelian flavour symmetries ?

an obstruction: $\mathcal{G}_{23} = 45^0$ can never arise in the limit of an **exact realistic** symmetry

charged lepton mass matrix:

$$m_l = m_l^0 + \delta m_l^0$$

symmetry breaking effects:
vanishing when flavour symmetry F is **exact**

symmetric limit

realistic symmetry:

(1) $|\delta m_l^0| < |m_l^0|$

(2) m_l^0 has rank ≤ 1

$$m_l^0 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m_\tau \end{pmatrix}$$

\mathcal{G}_{12}^e undetermined

$$U_{PMNS} = U_e^+ U_\nu$$

[omitting phases]

$$\tan \mathcal{G}_{23}^0 = \tan \mathcal{G}_{23}^\nu \cos \mathcal{G}_{12}^e + \left(\frac{\tan \mathcal{G}_{13}^\nu}{\cos \mathcal{G}_{23}^\nu} \right) \sin \mathcal{G}_{12}^e$$

undetermined

$$\mathcal{G}_{23} = 45^0$$

determined entirely by breaking effects
(different, in general, for ν and e sectors)

requirements for a model based on a SB flavour symmetry

❖ spontaneous symmetry breaking



vacuum alignment problem

$$\langle \varphi_\nu \rangle, \langle \varphi_e \rangle, \dots$$

should have specific magnitudes and relative directions in flavour space.

❖ alignment should be **natural**

no ad-hoc relations: desired VEVs from most general V
in a finite region of parameter space

❖ alignment **not spoiled by sub-leading terms**

in HPS

$$\mathcal{G}_{13} = 0 + a_1 \frac{\langle \varphi \rangle}{\Lambda} + a_2 \frac{\langle \varphi \rangle^2}{\Lambda^2} + \dots$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{23} = \frac{\pi}{4} + b_1 \frac{\langle \varphi \rangle}{\Lambda} + b_2 \frac{\langle \varphi \rangle^2}{\Lambda^2} + \dots$$

from higher-dimensional operators compatible with gauge and flavour symmetries

often $\frac{\langle \varphi \rangle}{\Lambda} \approx \lambda$
then $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ needed

leading order

❖ alignment **compatible with mass hierarchies**

$$\frac{m_e}{m_\tau}, \frac{m_\mu}{m_\tau}$$

should vanish in the limit of exact symmetry

an example: spontaneously broken A_4 symmetry

[Ma, Rajasekaran 2001; Babu, Ma, Valle 2003; Hirsch, Romao, Skandage, Valle, Villanova de Moral 2003; Ma 0409075]

- A_4 - group of even permutation of four objects
- subgroup of $SO(3)$ leaving a tetrahedron invariant

it has 12 elements that can all be generated starting from 2 of them

“presentation”

$$S \quad T$$

$$S^2 = (ST)^3 = T^3 = 1$$

$$A_4 = \{1, S, T, ST, TS, T^2, ST^2, STS, TST, T^2S, TST^2, T^2ST\}$$

A_4 representations :

$$\omega \equiv e^{i\frac{2\pi}{3}}$$

1	$S = 1$	$T = 1$
1'	$S = 1$	$T = \omega^2$
1''	$S = 1$	$T = \omega$

3	$S = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$	$T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega \end{pmatrix}$
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S generates a Z_2 subgroup: G_S

T generates a Z_3 subgroup: G_T

patterns of symmetry breaking

A_4 triplet $\varphi = (\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \varphi_3)$

$$\langle \varphi \rangle \propto (1, 1, 1)$$

$$\langle \varphi \rangle \propto (1, 0, 0)$$

$$A_4 \rightarrow G_S$$

$$A_4 \rightarrow G_T$$

as we shall see

G_S is the low-energy symmetry in the ν sector

G_T is the low-energy symmetry in the charged lepton sector

basic structure (lepton sector)

	l	e^c	μ^c	τ^c	h_u	h_d	φ_T	φ_S	ξ_i
A_4	3	1	1''	1'	1	1	3	3	1

matter fields

Higgses

A_4 breaking sector

SU(2)xU(1)x A_4 invariant Lagrangian:

[Λ is the cutoff]

$$L = y_e e^c (\varphi_T l) + y_\mu \mu^c (\varphi_T l)' + y_\tau \tau^c (\varphi_T l)'' + x_a \xi (ll) + x_b (\varphi_S ll) + \dots$$

❖ (...) denotes an A_4 singlet,...

❖ powers of $\left(\frac{h_{u,d}}{\Lambda}\right)$ have been set to 1

❖ some invariant is missing from L:
[more on this later on...]

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \varphi_S \leftrightarrow \varphi_T \\ x(ll) \end{array} \right.$$

higher dimensional operators in $1/\Lambda$ expansion

assume:

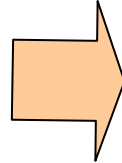
$$\begin{aligned}\langle \varphi_T \rangle &= (v_T, 0, 0) \\ \langle \varphi_S \rangle &= (v_S, v_S, v_S) \\ \langle \xi \rangle &= u\end{aligned}$$

$$v_T, v_S, u \leq \Lambda$$

$$[\langle h_{u,d} \rangle = v_{u,d} \ll v_T, v_S, u]$$

then:

$$m_l = \begin{pmatrix} y_e & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & y_\mu & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & y_\tau \end{pmatrix} v_d \left(\frac{v_T}{\Lambda} \right)$$



charged fermion masses

$$m_f = y_f v_d \left(\frac{v_T}{\Lambda} \right)$$

free parameters as in the SM
at this level

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} a + \frac{2}{3}b & -\frac{b}{3} & -\frac{b}{3} \\ -\frac{b}{3} & \frac{2}{3}b & a - \frac{b}{3} \\ -\frac{b}{3} & a - \frac{b}{3} & \frac{2}{3}b \end{pmatrix} \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$$

$$a \equiv 2x_a \frac{u}{\Lambda}$$

$$b \equiv 2x_b \frac{v_S}{\Lambda}$$

2 complex
parameters in
ν sector
(overall phase unphysical)

mixing angles entirely from ν sector:

$$U_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}$$

independent from
 $|a|$, $|b|$, $\Delta \equiv \arg(a) - \arg(b)$!!

ν masses: $m_1 = |a + b| \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$ $m_2 = |a| \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$ $m_3 = |a - b| \frac{v_u^2}{\Lambda}$

$m_2 > m_1$ $\implies -1 \leq \cos \Delta < -\frac{|b|}{2a}$ $\implies \nu$ spectrum always of **normal hierarchy type**

$$\left| \frac{b}{2a} \right| \approx \begin{cases} 1 & \text{[almost hierarchical spectrum]} \\ 0 & \text{[almost degenerate spectrum]} \end{cases}$$

$r \equiv \frac{\Delta m_{sol}^2}{\Delta m_{atm}^2} \approx \frac{1}{35}$ requires a (moderate) tuning

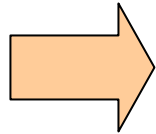
prediction:

$$|m_3|^2 = |m_{ee}|^2 + \frac{10}{9} \Delta m_{atm}^2 \left(1 - \frac{\Delta m_{sol}^2}{\Delta m_{atm}^2} \right)$$

range of VEVs:

$$m_\tau = y_\tau v_d \left(\frac{v_T}{\Lambda} \right)$$

$$y_\tau < 4\pi$$

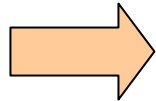


$$\frac{v_T}{\Lambda} > 0.002(0.02)$$

$$\tan \beta = 2.5(30)$$

$$\tan \beta = \frac{v_u}{v_d}$$

from ν spectrum



$$\Lambda = 1.8 \times 10^{15} \left(\frac{v_S}{\Lambda} \right) \sin^2 \beta \quad \text{GeV}$$

assuming all VEVs of the same order

$$0.002 < \frac{v_T}{\Lambda} \approx \frac{v_S}{\Lambda} \approx \frac{u}{\Lambda} < 1$$

$$\Lambda < 0.25 \times 10^{15} \quad \text{GeV}$$

natural vacuum alignment

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi_T \rangle &= (v_T, 0, 0) \\ \langle \varphi_S \rangle &= (v_S, v_S, v_S) \\ \langle \xi \rangle &= u \end{aligned}$$

it is not a local minimum of the most general renormalizable scalar potential V depending on $\varphi_S, \varphi_T, \xi$ and invariant under A_4

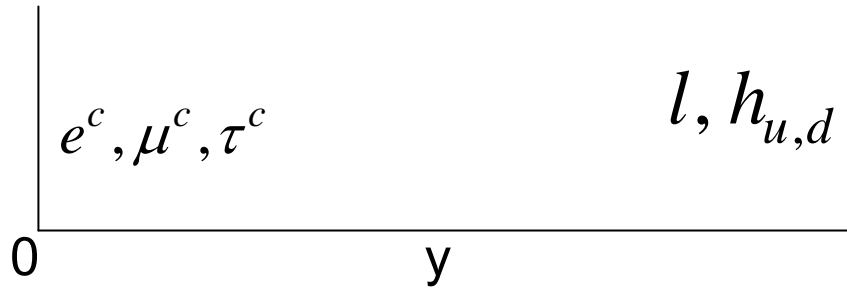
$$v_T \approx v_S \approx u$$

a simple solution in 1 extra dimension \equiv ED

[Altarelli, F. 0504165]

$$\langle \varphi_T \rangle = (v_T, 0, 0)$$

local minimum of V_0



$$\begin{aligned} \langle \varphi_S \rangle &= (v_S, v_S, v_S) \\ \langle \xi \rangle &= u \end{aligned}$$

local minimum of V_L

ν masses arise from local operators at $y=L$

$$\frac{(\varphi_S l l) h_u h_u}{\Lambda^2} \quad \frac{\xi(l l) h_u h_u}{\Lambda^2}$$

this explains also the absence of the terms with $\varphi_S \leftrightarrow \varphi_T$

charged lepton masses from non-local operators

$$\left. \begin{aligned} &\frac{(f^c \varphi_T F) \delta(y)}{\sqrt{\Lambda}} \\ &- M F F^c \\ &\frac{(F^c l) h_d \delta(y-L)}{\sqrt{\Lambda}} \end{aligned} \right\}$$

$$E \ll M$$

$$\frac{(f^c \varphi_T l) h_d}{\Lambda} e^{-ML}$$

bulk fermion $Y=-1$

a 4D supersymmetric solution \equiv SUSY

[Altarelli, F. hep-ph/0512103]

L is identified with the superpotential w_{lepton} in the lepton sector

w_{lepton} is invariant under $A_4 \times Z_3 \times U(1)_R$

	l	e^c	μ^c	τ^c	$h_{u,d}$	φ_T	φ_S	ξ	$\tilde{\xi}$	φ_0^T	φ_0^S	ξ_0
A_4	3	1	1''	1'	1	3	3	1	1	3	3	1
Z_3	ω	ω^2	ω^2	ω^2	1	1	ω	ω	ω	1	ω	ω
$U(1)_R$	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2

matter fields

Higgses

A_4 breaking sector

“driving fields”

absence of $\varphi_S \leftrightarrow \varphi_T$ $x(ll)$ automatic

$$w = w_{\text{lepton}} + w_d + \dots$$

$$w_d = M(\varphi_0^T \varphi_T) + g(\varphi_0^T \varphi_T \varphi_T) + g_1(\varphi_0^S \varphi_S \varphi_S) + g_2 \tilde{\xi}(\varphi_0^S \varphi_S) + g_3 \xi_0(\varphi_S \varphi_S) + g_4 \xi_0 \xi^2 + g_5 \xi_0 \xi \tilde{\xi} + g_6 \xi_0 \tilde{\xi}^2$$

$$\langle \varphi_T \rangle = (v_T, 0, 0)$$

$$\langle \varphi_S \rangle = (v_S, v_S, v_S)$$

$$\langle \xi \rangle = u$$

$$\langle \tilde{\xi} \rangle = 0$$

minimum of the scalar potential at:

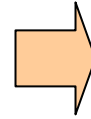
$$v_T = -\frac{3M}{2g}$$

$$v_S^2 = -\frac{g_4}{3g_3} u^2$$

u undetermined

sub-leading corrections

arising from higher dimensional operators, depleted by additional powers of $1/\Lambda$.



they affect m_l , m_ν and they can deform the VEVs.

results

$$U_{PMNS} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{cases} O\left(\frac{\text{VEV}}{\Lambda}\right)^2 & \text{for ED case} \\ O\left(\frac{\text{VEV}}{\Lambda}\right) & \text{for SUSY case} \end{cases}$$

and similarly for neutrino masses

HPS pattern is preserved if corrections are $\leq \lambda^2 \approx 0.04$

given the range $0.002 < (\text{VEV}/\Lambda) < 1$, corrections can be kept below λ^2 in both ED and SUSY case.

in ED case, (VEV/Λ) can be as large as λ without spoiling HPS

alignment and mass hierarchies

$$m_l = \begin{pmatrix} y_e & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & y_\mu & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & y_\tau \end{pmatrix} v_d \begin{pmatrix} v_T \\ \Lambda \end{pmatrix}$$

charged fermion masses
are already diagonal

$$m_e \ll m_\mu \ll m_\tau$$

easily **reproduced** by
U(1) flavour symmetry

$$Q(e^c) = 4 \quad Q(\mu^c) = 2 \quad Q(\tau^c) = 0 \\ Q(l) = 0$$

compatible with A_4

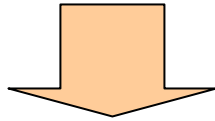
$$y_e \approx \frac{\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle^4}{\Lambda^4} \quad y_\mu \approx \frac{\langle \mathcal{G} \rangle^2}{\Lambda^2} \quad y_\tau \approx 1$$

quark masses

simple and good first order approximation:

	q	u^c	c^c	t^c	d^c	s^c	b^c
A_4	3	1	1''	1'	1	1''	1'

same assignment as
in the lepton sector



quark mass matrices diagonal in the leading order
mixing matrix $V_{\text{CKM}}=1$

unfortunately:

corrections induced by higher dimensional operators:

negligibly small

additional sources of A_4 breaking are needed in the quark sector

relation to the modular group

modular group $PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$: linear fractional transformation

complex variable \rightarrow

$$z \rightarrow \frac{az + b}{cz + d} \quad \begin{array}{l} a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z} \\ ad - bc = 1 \end{array}$$

discrete, infinite group generated by two elements

$$\underbrace{z \rightarrow -\frac{1}{z}}_S$$

$$\underbrace{z \rightarrow z + 1}_T$$

obeying

$$S^2 = (ST)^3 = 1$$

the modular group is present everywhere in string theory

A_4 is a finite subgroup of the modular group and

$$A_4 = \frac{PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})}{H}$$



representations of A_4 are
representations of $PSL(2, \mathbb{Z})$

conclusion

mixing in the lepton sector is well described by the HPS pattern

$$\vartheta_{23} = 45^0 \quad \vartheta_{13} = 0 \quad \sin^2 \vartheta_{12} = \frac{1}{3}$$

errors on θ_{23} and θ_{13} are still large and future data are needed to confirm HPS at the λ^2 level

most of existing models predict $\left| \frac{\pi}{4} - \vartheta_{23} \right| \gg \lambda^2$

only in “special” models this condition is violated. If based on a SB flavour symmetry, special models should give rise to a

natural vacuum alignment

preserved by high-order effects

with a structure **compatible** with the observed **charged fermion hierarchy**

Here: an existence proof based on the discrete group A_4
vacuum alignment and stability is non-trivial and
the simplest solutions requires either an extra dimension
or a SUSY version

In both these models the neutrino spectrum is of normal hierarchy type

and the relation $|m_3|^2 = |m_{ee}|^2 + (10/9)\Delta m_{atm}^2 \left(1 - \Delta m_{sol}^2 / \Delta m_{atm}^2\right)$ is predicted