The MSSM with a softly broken $\text{U}(2)^3$ flavor symmetry

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In this article we review the phenomenological consequences of radiative flavor-violation (RFV) in the MSSM. In the model under consideration the $\text{U}(3)^3$ flavor symmetry of the gauge sector is broken in a first step to $\text{U}(2)^3$ by the top and bottom Yukawa couplings of the superpotential (and possibly also by the bilinear SUSY-breaking terms). In a second step the remaining $\text{U}(2)^3$ flavor symmetry is softly broken by the trilinear $A$-terms in order to obtain the measured quark masses and the CKM matrix of the Standard Model (SM) at low energies.

The phenomenological implications of this model depend on the actual choice of the SUSY breaking $A$-terms. If the CKM matrix is generated in the down sector (by $A^d$), $B_s \rightarrow \mu^+ \mu^-$ receives non-decoupling contributions from Higgs penguins which become important already for moderate values of $\tan \beta$. Also the $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing amplitude can be significantly modified compared to the SM prediction including a potential induction of a new CP-violating phase (which is not possible in the MSSM with MFV).

European Physical Society Europhysics Conference on High Energy Physics
July 21-27, 2011
Grenoble, France
1. Introduction

The most popular solution to the SUSY flavor problem is the hypothesis of minimal flavor violation (MFV) [1]. The soft SUSY-breaking terms are assumed to preserve a $U(3)_Q \times U(3)_u \times U(3)_d$ flavor symmetry, broken only by the Yukawa matrices $Y^{u(0)}$ and $Y^{d(0)}$. The imposed $U(3)^3$ symmetry is however in conflict with hints on new CP violating phases in $B_d - \bar{B}_d$ and $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing, indicated by the D0 measurement of the dimuon charge asymmetry [2]. This effect cannot be explained within MSSM-MFV scenarios without enhancing $B$-experimental bounds [2]. Moreover, while a solution of the hierarchy problem favors stop masses well below 1 TeV, direct searches at the LHC resulted in tight bounds on the masses of the squarks of the first two generations. This conflict is a further challenge for the $U(3)^3$ symmetry.

These facts suggest to abandon the $U(3)^3$ flavor symmetry and to settle for a $U(2)^3$ for the first two generations in order to avoid conflicts with the tight constraints from Kaon and D-physics. A corresponding relaxed MFV scenario with the Yukawas $Y^{u(0)}$ and $Y^{d(0)}$ in the superpotential being the spurions breaking the $U(2)^3$ has been studied in Ref. [3]. We consider in this article a different scenario: We assume that the Yukawas $Y^{u(0)}$ and $Y^{d(0)}$ preserve the $U(2)^3$ flavor symmetry and that the soft SUSY-breaking trilinear $A$-terms $A^u$ and $A^d$ are the spurions breaking it. Such a model is quite appealing because it links the breaking of flavor symmetries to the breaking of supersymmetry. In the quark sector the $U(2)^3$ symmetry is then only softly broken, in the sense that the effective low-energy values of the Yukawa couplings $Y^{u(0)}_{\text{eff}}$ and $Y^{d(0)}_{\text{eff}}$, which are linked to the measured quark masses and CKM elements, are induced by $A^u$ and $A^d$ through radiative corrections. In this way the smallness of the light quark masses is explained via loop-suppression [6].

In this article we review our model of radiative flavor violation (RFV) and demonstrate that it can provide the above-mentioned new CP phase in $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing in contrast to MFV. For a detailed study of further phenomenological consequences of the RFV scenario we refer to Ref. [6].

2. Radiative flavor violation (RFV)

In our scenario of RFV we assume that the bare Yukawa couplings $Y^{u(0)}$ and $Y^{d(0)}$ in the superpotential exhibit a $U(2)_Q \times U(2)_u \times U(2)_d$ flavor symmetry:

\[
Y^{q(0)} = \begin{pmatrix}
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & y^q
\end{pmatrix}, \quad (q = u, d).
\]

While the bilinear soft SUSY-breaking mass terms are assumed to possess the same symmetry, the trilinear $A$-terms $A^u$ and $A^d$ are the spurions breaking it. We perform $U(2)$-rotations on the left-

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1Due to the recent LHCb measurement of the CP asymmetry in $B_s \to J/\psi \phi$ the situation is inconclusive at the moment. While the dimuon asymmetry measured by D0 points towards physics beyond the SM with $3.9 \sigma$ significance and the CP asymmetry in $B_s \to J/\psi \phi$ measured by CDF has the same sign, LHCb obtained the opposite sign for the phase in $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing (compatible with zero) from $B_s \to J/\psi \phi$.

2In MFV scenarios with an extended Higgs sectors, however, a large CP phase in $B - \bar{B}$ mixing is possible [3].

3For the corresponding analysis in the lepton sector see Ref. [4].
and right-handed up- and down-quark superfields to fix the basis in flavor space such that
\[
A^q = \begin{pmatrix} A^q_{11} & 0 & A^q_{13} \\ 0 & A^q_{22} & A^q_{23} \\ A^q_{31} & A^q_{32} & A^q_{33} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (q = u, d).
\] (2.2)

Note that the resulting basis is not a weak eigenbasis because left-handed up- and down-fields have to be rotated independently in order to diagonalize the $2 \times 2$ blocks of $A^u$ and $A^d$ simultaneously. Since in this basis no sources of flavor-violating $(1,2)$ elements are present in the squark-mass matrices, the corresponding CKM matrix $V_{2 \times 2}^{(0)}$ equals the Cabibbo matrix $V_{2 \times 2}$ known from experiment (up to negligible corrections arising from loops involving a $1 \to 3 \to 2$ transition):
\[
V^{(0)} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_C & \sin \theta_C & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_C & \cos \theta_C & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.
\] (2.3)

The $U(2)^3$-breaking in the squark sector leaks into the quark sector via loop effects. The measured quark masses of the first two generations and the measured CKM elements are manifestations of the $U(2)^3$-breaking and as a consequence they must be directly related to the $A^u_i$ and $A^d_i$. Neglecting multiple flavor transitions (except for $1 \to 2 \to 3$ transitions) and small quark mass ratios one has
\[
m_{q_i} = a_i \frac{A^q_i}{\mu_A} v_q, \quad (q = u, d, \quad i = 1, 2),
\]
\[
V_{cb} \approx -V_{ts}^* = b_d \frac{A^d_{23}}{\mu_A} \frac{v_d}{m_b} - b_u \frac{A^u_{23}}{\mu_A} \frac{v_u}{m_t},
\]
\[
V_{ub} = b_d \left( \frac{A^d_{13}}{\mu_A} + V_{ud} \frac{A^d_{23}}{\mu_A} \right) \frac{v_d}{m_b} - b_u \frac{A^u_{13}}{\mu_A} \frac{v_u}{m_t},
\]
\[
-V_{td}^* = b_d \frac{A^d_{13}}{\mu_A} \frac{v_d}{m_b} - b_u \left( \frac{A^u_{13}}{\mu_A} + V_{ud}^* \frac{A^u_{23}}{\mu_A} \right) \frac{v_u}{m_t},
\] (2.4)

where $\mu_A = \mathcal{O}(A^q_i)$ is a redundant mass scale introduced to render $a_q, b_q$ dimensionless. The coefficients $a_q, b_q$ are obtained by explicit evaluation of the self-energy diagrams inducing the quark mass terms. Restricting ourselves to SUSY-QCD contributions we find at first order in the mass insertion approximation
\[
a_{u,d} = -\frac{2\alpha_t}{3\pi} m_\phi \mu_A C_0 \left( m_{q_1}^2, m_{q_2}^2, m_{q_3, d_3} \right), \quad b_{u,d} = -\frac{2\alpha_t}{3\pi} m_\phi \mu_A C_0 \left( m_{g_3}^2, m_{g_4, d_4} \right).
\] (2.5)

Here $m_{q_1}, m_{a_3}$ and $m_{d_3}$ denote the common mass of the first two generations of left- and right-handed up- and down-type squarks, respectively. If one assumes a $U(3)^3$ flavor symmetry for the bilinear squark mass terms (rather than only $U(2)^3$), one has $a_q = b_q$.

Eq. (2.4) implies that the $A$-terms $A^q_{13}$ and $A^q_{23}$ exhibit a similar hierarchy with respect to each other as the CKM-elements $V_{ub}$ and $V_{cb}$, and in particular that $A^q_{11}/A^q_{22} = m_{q_1}/m_{q_2}$. The overall smallness, on the other hand, of the masses of the first two quark generations and of the off-diagonal CKM elements $V_{3u,3d}$ is explained by the loop suppression in $a_q, b_q$. The SUSY-flavor problem is restricted to the quantities $A^q_{31,32}$ which are not constrained from the measured CKM elements since their contributions are suppressed by small quark mass ratios.
bounds on $B$ related to the corresponding spurions. In the MFV scenario we thus have

Therefore $Γ$ is flavor-diagonal so that the CKM elements in Eq. (2.4) are solely generated from

Note that contributions to $B$ mixing which are proportional to $(Γ_{sb}^{LR})^2$ or $(Γ_{bs}^{LR})^2$ are strongly suppressed and thus negligible. This is a consequence of a Peccei-Quinn symmetry obeyed by the tree-level Yukawa-Lagrangian and the tree-level Higgs potential of the MSSM [8].

As the effective couplings $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ and $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ break the $U(2)^3$ flavor symmetry, they must be directly related to the corresponding spurions. In the MFV scenario we thus have

$Γ_{sb}^{LR} \propto (Y_{s}^d Y_{t}^d Y_{d})_{23} \approx y_{b} y_{t}^2 V_{ts}^* V_{tb}$,

$Γ_{bs}^{RL} = Γ_{bs}^{LR*} \propto (Y_{s}^u Y_{t}^u Y_{d})_{32}^* \approx y_{s} y_{t}^2 V_{ts}^* V_{tb}$.

Therefore $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ is suppressed compared to $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ by the small quark mass ratio $m_s/m_b$. Experimental bounds on $B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ constrain $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ and, because of the suppression of $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ with respect to $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$, they render Higgs double penguin effects in $B_s - B_s$ mixing negligible [10].

In the RFV framework the spurions are given by the $A$ terms. We consider here the limiting case in which $A^u$ is flavor-diagonal so that the CKM elements in Eq. [2.4] are solely generated from the $A^d_{23}$ ("CKM generation in the down sector"). In this case one has

$Γ_{sb}^{LR} = A^{d}_{23}/μ_A \propto V_{ts}^*$,

$Γ_{bs}^{RL} = Γ_{bs}^{LR*} \propto A^{d}_{32}/μ_A \propto V_{ts}^{R*}$.

Here we have defined

$V_{23}^{R} = -V_{32}^{R*} = \frac{A_{32}^{d}}{μ_A} \frac{y_d}{m_b}$,

$c = \frac{-2α_s}{3π} m_b \mu_A C_0 \left( m_u^2, m_b^2, m_{q_r}^2 \right)$

with $m_{b,s,t}$ denoting the common mass of the left-handed sbottom and stop. The introduction of the quantity $V_{32}^{R}$ simplifies the notation and allows for an easy comparison with the size of $V_{ts}$.

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**Figure 1:** Higgs (double) penguin contributions to $B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ and to $B_s - B_s$ mixing

### 3. Higgs (double) penguins: RFV vs. MFV

Loop diagrams involving the trilinear $A$-terms induce flavor-changing neutral Higgs-quark couplings $Γ_{q(d)}^{H_{0}^{LR}} = Γ_{q(d)}^{H_{0}^{LR}} \propto (q = u,d)$ where $H_{0}^{LR} = (H_{0}^0, H_{0}^0, A^0)$ [8]. The couplings $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$, $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ contribute via Higgs (double) penguin diagrams to the decay $B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ and to $B_s - B_s$ mixing (see Fig. 1). For the relevant Wilson coefficients one has

$B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ : $C_S \propto Γ_{sb}^{LR}$,

$B_s - B_s$ mixing : $C_2^{LR} \propto Γ_{sb}^{LR} Γ_{bs}^{LR*}$.

(3.1)

Note that contributions to $B_s - B_s$ mixing which are proportional to $(Γ_{sb}^{LR})^2$ or $(Γ_{bs}^{LR})^2$ are strongly suppressed and thus negligible. This is a consequence of a Peccei-Quinn symmetry obeyed by the tree-level Yukawa-Lagrangian and the tree-level Higgs potential of the MSSM [8].

As the effective couplings $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ and $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ break the $U(2)^3$ flavor symmetry, they must be directly related to the corresponding spurions. In the MFV scenario we thus have 

$Γ_{sb}^{LR} \propto (Y_{s}^d Y_{t}^d Y_{d})_{23} \approx y_{b} y_{t}^2 V_{ts}^* V_{tb}$,

$Γ_{bs}^{RL} = Γ_{bs}^{LR*} \propto (Y_{s}^u Y_{t}^u Y_{d})_{32}^* \approx y_{s} y_{t}^2 V_{ts}^* V_{tb}$.

(3.2)

Therefore $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ is suppressed compared to $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ by the small quark mass ratio $m_s/m_b$. Experimental bounds on $B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ constrain $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$ and, because of the suppression of $Γ_{bs}^{LR}$ with respect to $Γ_{sb}^{LR}$, they render Higgs double penguin effects in $B_s - B_s$ mixing negligible [10].

In the RFV framework the spurions are given by the $A$ terms. We consider here the limiting case in which $A^u$ is flavor-diagonal so that the CKM elements in Eq. [2.4] are solely generated from the $A^d_{23}$ ("CKM generation in the down sector"). In this case one has

$Γ_{sb}^{LR} = A^{d}_{23}/μ_A \propto V_{ts}^*$,

$Γ_{bs}^{RL} = Γ_{bs}^{LR*} \propto A^{d}_{32}/μ_A \propto V_{ts}^{R*}$.

(3.3)

Here we have defined

$V_{23}^{R} = -V_{32}^{R*} = \frac{A_{32}^{d}}{μ_A} \frac{y_d}{m_b}$,

$c = \frac{-2α_s}{3π} m_b \mu_A C_0 \left( m_u^2, m_b^2, m_{q_r}^2 \right)$

(3.4)

with $m_{b,s,t}$ denoting the common mass of the left-handed sbottom and stop. The introduction of the quantity $V_{32}^{R}$ simplifies the notation and allows for an easy comparison with the size of $V_{ts}$. 

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4 Full expressions for the Higgs (double) penguin contributions to $B_s \rightarrow μ^+μ^-$ and $B_s - B_s$ mixing in the MSSM with MFV including non-decoupling effects and complex phases for SUSY parameters can be found in Ref. [11].

5 Full expressions for the effective Higgs couplings in RFV can be found in Ref. [8].
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Since $A_{i3}^d$ is a free parameter of the theory, $\Gamma_{bs}^{LR}$ is not related to $\Gamma_{sb}^{LR}$ in RFV and in particular not suppressed with respect to the latter. Therefore Higgs double penguins can have sizable effects in $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing, even in the light of present bounds on $\Gamma_{sb}^{LR}$, $\Gamma_{bs}^{LR}$ from $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-$. 

In Fig. 2 on the left we show the allowed regions in the $m_H$–$\tan\beta$ plane from $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-$ for different values of $\epsilon_b$. On the right the correlation between $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing and $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-$ is shown for $m_H = 400$GeV, $\epsilon_b = 0.0075$ and $\tan\beta = 11$. Note that there is a region in parameter space which can explain a potential new phase in $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing and which is compatible with the current limits on $\text{Br}[B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-]$. Moreover, if the hints for a sizable new-physics contribution to $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing persist, $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-$ will necessarily be enhanced. LHCb will be able to probe this correlation in the near future.

If the CKM elements are generated from the $A_{i3}^u$ terms (“CKM generation in the up sector”), interesting effects occur in the rare decays $K \to \pi\nu\bar{\nu}$ (see Ref. [6] for details).

Acknowledgements

We thank the organizers for the possibility to present our work at the EPS conference. This work is supported by BMBF grant 05H09VKF. A.C. acknowledges the financial support by the Swiss National Foundation. The Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics is supported by the “Innovations- und Kooperationsprojekt C-13 of the Schweizerische Universitätskonferenz SUK/CRUS”. L.H. has been supported by the Helmholtz Alliance "Physics at the Terascale".

References

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Figure 2: Left: Allowed region in the $m_H$–$\tan\beta$ plane for different values of $\epsilon_b$ from $\text{Br}[B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-] \leq 1.08 \cdot 10^{-8}$. Yellow: $\epsilon_b = 0.005$, green: $\epsilon_b = 0.01$, red: $\epsilon_b = -0.005$, blue: $\epsilon_b = -0.01$ (light to dark). Right: Correlation between $B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-$ and $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing for $\epsilon_b = 0.0075$, $m_H = 400$GeV for $\tan\beta = 11$. Yellow: Allowed region from $B_s - \bar{B}_s$ mixing (95% confidence level). The contour-lines show $\text{Br}[B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-] \times 10^9$. The grey area at the right side is excluded by the bound on $\text{Br}[B_s \to \mu^+ \mu^-]$. 
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