Anomalous U(1) as a mediator of Supersymmetry Breaking

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Abstract

We point out that an anomalous gauge U(1) symmetry is a natural candidate for being the mediator and messenger of supersymmetry breaking. It facilitates dynamical supersymmetry breaking even in the flat limit. Soft masses are induced by both gravity and the U(1) gauge interactions giving an unusual mass hierarchy in the sparticle spectrum which suppresses flavor violations. This scenario does not suffer from the Polonyi problem.
1 Introduction

The origin of supersymmetry breaking remains an open question. More important, for phenomenological purposes, it is to know how the breaking of supersymmetry is transmitted to the ordinary particles. The most popular scenario arises in the context of supergravity. In these theories supersymmetry is assumed to be broken in some isolated hidden sector and transmitted to the observable sector by gravity [1]. These models, however, suffer from certain drawbacks. The degeneracy of the scalar quarks needed to avoid large flavor changing neutral currents (FCNC) is not usually guaranteed at low energies. Also the breaking of supersymmetry results in the non-flat limit leading to cosmological disasters (the Polonyi problem [2]).

In this letter we will consider an alternative scenario. It is well known that extra U(1) factors normally appear in effective field theories arising from strings. One of these U(1) is usually anomalous. The cancellation of its anomalies occurs by the Green–Schwarz mechanism [3] and requires that both hidden and observable fields transform non-trivially under this U(1). Thus, this anomalous U(1) seems to be a natural new candidate for transmitting the supersymmetry breaking from the hidden to the observable sector. Here we will study this possibility.

Since the U(1) is anomalous, \( \text{Tr} Q \neq 0 \), a Fayet–Iliopoulos term of \( \mathcal{O}(M_P^2) \) is always generated [4]. This term facilitates the breaking of supersymmetry in the flat limit avoiding the Polonyi problem. The scale of supersymmetry breaking can be smaller than \( M_P \) and can originate dynamically. In the presence of gravity, realistic scalar and gaugino masses are induced in the observable sector. We find that the \( D \)–term contribution can be larger than the gravity mediated \( F \)–term contribution, resulting in a hierarchy of soft masses. This is a crucial difference with respect to the conventional hidden sector scenarios in supergravity models. As we will show, our model can lead to a certain degree of squark degeneracy and suppressed FCNC. It also allows for an explanation of the observed quark mass hierarchy (\( m_{t,b} \gg m_{u,d}, m_{c,s} \)) and predicts an inverse hierarchy for the squarks (\( m_{\tilde{u},\tilde{d}}^2 \simeq m_{\tilde{c},\tilde{s}}^2 \gg m_{\tilde{t},\tilde{b}}^2 \)).

Anomalous U(1) have been considered before to predict the weak mixing angle [5], fermion [6] or sfermion [7] masses; in these previous analysis, however, the anomalous U(1) does not play any role in the breaking of supersymmetry.

2 Supersymmetry breaking with an Anomalous U(1)

Let us consider a pair of chiral superfields \( \phi^- \) and \( \phi^+ \) with charges equal to \(-1\) and \(+1\) respectively under a gauge U(1). We will assume that there are other positively charged fields \( Q_i \) such that \( \text{Tr} Q > 0 \) and the U(1) is anomalous. This results into the appearance of a Fayet–Iliopoulos term \( \xi = \mathcal{O}(M_P^2 \text{Tr} Q) \) [4]. In string theories the generated Fayet–Iliopoulos term can be calculated and is given by [8]

\[
\xi = \frac{g^2 \text{Tr} Q}{192\pi^2} M_P^2.
\]
The $D$–term contribution to the effective potential takes the form
\[ D = \frac{g^2}{2} \left( \sum_i q_i |Q_i|^2 + |\phi^+|^2 - |\phi^-|^2 + \xi \right)^2, \] (2)
where $q_i$ is the U(1)–charge of the field $Q_i$. If eq. (2) is the only term in the potential, the vacuum expectation value (VEV) of $\phi^-$ adjusts to compensate $\xi$ and supersymmetry will not be broken. However, according to the old observation by Fayet [9], this can lead to the spontaneous breakdown of the supersymmetry if the $\phi^-$ field has a non–zero mass term in the superpotential
\[ W = m\phi^+ \phi^- . \] (3)
Below we will show that such a mass term can in fact be generated dynamically. For the moment, let us consider it as a new input of the theory and look for its consequences. Minimization of the potential shows that the VEVs of the scalar components are
\[ \langle \phi^+ \rangle = 0, \quad \langle \phi^- \rangle^2 = \xi - \frac{m^2}{g^2} , \] (4)
and the VEVs of the $F$– and $D$–components are given by
\[ \langle F_{\phi^+} \rangle = m \sqrt{\xi - \frac{m^2}{g^2}}, \quad \langle F_{\phi^-} \rangle = 0, \quad \langle D \rangle = \frac{m^2}{g^2} . \] (5)
The spectrum of the theory is the following: (1) The Goldstone boson $Im\phi^-$ is eaten up by the gauge field that gets a mass $g\sqrt{\xi - \frac{m^2}{g^2}}$ [10]; (2) its superpartner $Re\phi^-$ gets a mass $g\sqrt{\xi - \frac{m^2}{g^2}}$ from the $D$–term and becomes a member of the massive gauge superfield; (3) the complex scalar $\phi^+$ gets a squared–mass $2m^2$; (4) one linear combination of the chiral fermions and the gaugino gets a Dirac mass $g\sqrt{\xi - \frac{m^2}{g^2}}$, whereas the orthogonal combination is the massless Goldstino.

Let us now embed this model in a supergravity theory. It is easy to show that the broken global supersymmetry cannot be restored by the supergravity interactions. This is because an unbroken supergravity with vanishing vacuum energy implies $\langle W \rangle = 0$ and therefore that all $\partial_\phi W$ and $D_A$ vanish too; this contradicts the initial assumption that supersymmetry was broken in the flat limit. Under supergravity, the VEVs of the fields will be shifted from eqs. (4) and (5) but the relation
\[ \frac{\langle F^2 \rangle}{\langle D \rangle} \sim \xi , \] (6)
will still hold.

3 The Sparticle Spectrum

In a supergravity theory the supersymmetry breaking is communicated by gravity from the hidden sector ($\phi^+$, $\phi^-$) to the observable sector ($Q_i$). The scalar masses receive contribution of order
\[ m_Q^2 \simeq \frac{\langle F_{\phi^+} \rangle^2}{M_P^2} \simeq \frac{m^2 \xi}{M_P^2} \simeq \varepsilon m^2 , \] (7)
where \( \varepsilon \equiv \xi / M_P^2 \) that for string theories \( \varepsilon = g^2 \text{Tr} Q / 192 \pi^2 \). These contributions are, in principle, non-universal since they depend on the Kähler potential [1]. The gaugino masses arise from the operator

\[
\int d^2\theta \frac{\phi^+ \phi^-}{M_P^2} WW, \tag{8}
\]

and are given by

\[
m_\lambda \simeq \frac{\langle F_\phi \phi^- \rangle}{M_P^2} \simeq \varepsilon m. \tag{9}
\]

Notice that the presence of the field \( \phi^- \) with a VEV of order \( M_P \) is crucial to give acceptable gaugino masses from the operator eq. (8). The absence of this field in other models in which supersymmetry is also broken in the flat limit, leads to very light gauginos [11] (see however ref. [12]).

Since in our scenario \( \langle D \rangle \) is different from zero, extra contributions to the scalar masses arise from the \( D \)–term for fields that transform under the anomalous U(1). From eqs. (2) and (5), these are given by

\[
\Delta m^2_{Q_i} = q_i m^2. \tag{10}
\]

Notice that these contributions can be much larger than the \( F \)–term contributions eq. (7) if \( \varepsilon \ll 1 \). Thus, this scenario allows for a hierarchy of soft masses:

\[
\Delta m^2_Q > m^2_Q > m^2_\lambda. \tag{11}
\]

This is different from models in which the U(1) does not play any role in the breaking of supersymmetry. In those models the \( D \)–term contribution to the scalar masses is always of the same order as the \( F \)–term contribution [7]. The spectrum eqs. (7), (9) and (10) is a general feature of this hybrid scenario where the breaking of supersymmetry is transmitted by both gravity and U(1)–gauge interactions and is due to the generic relation eq. (6). This allows for a solution to the supersymmetric flavor problem, i.e. the required degeneracy between the first and second family squarks \( \delta m^2_{Q_i} / m^2_Q \ll 1 \). If these two families of squarks transform non-trivially under the U(1), they receive a universal contribution eq. (10) that, for \( \varepsilon \ll 1 \), can be much larger than the non-universal contribution eq. (7) and therefore

\[
\frac{\delta m^2_Q}{m^2_Q} \simeq \varepsilon \ll 1. \tag{12}
\]

Decreasing \( \varepsilon \) not only it increases the degeneracy of the first two family squarks, but also increases their soft masses with respect to the other ones and then further suppresses the supersymmetric FCNC contributions. Obviously, \( \varepsilon \) cannot be much smaller than one, otherwise we get too small gaugino masses from (9). The best scenario that we envisage is to have the three quark families transforming under the U(1) as \{1, 1, 0\} respectively [13]. For reasonable values of \( \varepsilon = g^2 \text{Tr} Q / 192 \pi^2 \simeq 10^{-2} \), we get for \( m \simeq 5 \) TeV

\[
\begin{align*}
m_\lambda &\simeq 50 \text{ GeV} , \ m_{Q_2} \simeq 500 \text{ GeV} , \ m_{Q_{1,2}} \simeq 5 \text{ TeV} .
\end{align*} \tag{13}
\]

This is a spectrum very similar to that in ref. [14]. The FCNC are suppressed enough. Furthermore, this scenario provides a solution to the supersymmetric CP problem [15]. This is
because the first family of squarks are so heavy that their contribution to the electric dipole moment of the neutron is small, even if the CP–violating phases are of $O(1)$. It is important to remark that the large mass splitting eq. (13) does not lead to a naturalness problem, since the first two families are almost decoupled from the Higgs [16, 14].

The above anomalous $U(1)$ could also play a role in explaining the fermion masses in the same spirit as in ref. [6]. Here, however, we are constrained to have the first two families with equal $U(1)$ charges (in order to avoid too large FCNC) [13]. Although a complete model will not be attempted in this letter, it is interesting to note that if, as we mentioned above, the Higgs and the $3^{rd}$ family are neutral under this $U(1)$ but the $1^{st}$ and $2^{nd}$ ones are charged, a tree–level mass is only allowed for the $3^{rd}$ family explaining why the top and bottom masses are much larger than the others. This scenario relates the mass hierarchy of the quarks with that in eq. (13) for the squarks.

4 A Scenario of Dynamical Supersymmetry Breaking

Up to now we have assumed that $m \sim 1$ TeV is just a new scale in the model. In this section we will show that this scale can be generated dynamically. We only need a gauge group that at some intermediate scale $\Lambda$ becomes strongly interacting and leads to a field condensation.

The simplest example is an $SU(2)$ group with two doublets $\Phi$ and $\bar{\Phi}$ neutral under the anomalous $U(1)$. At energies below the scale $\Lambda$, the low–energy effective theory can be described in terms of the gauge invariant quantity $X \equiv \Phi \bar{\Phi}$ [11]. The superpotential is given by

$$W = \frac{\lambda X}{M_P} \phi^+ \phi^- + \frac{\Lambda^5}{X},$$

(14)

where the first term have been assumed to be present in the classical theory; the second term is generated non–perturbatively by instantons [11]. If no Fayet–Iliopoulos term is present in the theory, the vacuum has a run–away behaviour, $X \to \infty$ with $\phi^+, \phi^- \to 0$. However, when the $U(1)$ $D$–terms eq. (2) is considered, the field $\phi^-$ is forced to get a VEV and drives $X$ to a value around $\Lambda$. This generates the effective scale $m = \lambda \langle X \rangle / M_P$ and the breaking of supersymmetry. The only difference with respect to the model of sect. 2 is that now $\phi^+$ gets a VEV of order $\Lambda$. To have $m \sim 1$ TeV, we need $\Lambda \sim 10^{10}$ GeV.

The simplicity of this dynamical model resides in the fact that the strongly interacting gauge group is only needed for generating the small scale $m$ and not for the breaking of supersymmetry by itself as in ref. [11]. Here it is the Fayet–Iliopoulos term which plays the new and crucial role of triggering the breaking of supersymmetry.
5 The Polonyi Problem

Perhaps the main cosmological difficulty of the supergravity models with a conventional hidden sector is the Polonyi problem [2]. This arises because models in which supersymmetry gets restored in the flat limit predict light $\mathcal{O}(m_{3/2})$ scalar particles with VEVs of $\mathcal{O}(M_P)$, with an extremely flat potential and $1/M_P$ suppressed interactions. In the early universe these fields are expected to sit far away from their present (zero energy) vacua. The reason is that in the early universe (during inflation or in the heat bath) these flat directions get large soft masses equal to $\alpha H^2$, where $H$ is the Hubble parameter and $\alpha$ is a number of order one that depends on the details of the cosmological scenario [17]. For particles with non-zero VEVs this leads, almost for sure, to a classical displacement from the present vacuum at the early times ($\Delta \sim M_P$) and to the subsequent coherent oscillations around the true minimum after inflation. The amplitude and consequently the energy stored in the oscillations is determined by the initial deviation and will overclose the universe if the displacement is larger than $\sim 10^{-9} M_P$ [2]. For $\alpha > 0$ the displacement is generically given by the value of the present VEV, whereas for $\alpha < 0$ it can be much larger. Due to this a light decoupled scalar with a VEV larger than $10^{-9} M_P$ is problematic, whereas scalars with smaller VEVs (at present) can be diluted by inflation. Now it is clear why the Polonyi problem can be overcome in theories with flat space supersymmetry breaking. Such theories do not necessarily require scalars with large VEVs and vanishing mass in the globally supersymmetric limit. For example, in our first model with Fayet–type supersymmetry breaking, the light scalar $\phi^+$ has a vanishing (in the flat limit) VEV and thus is not problematic. Neither in our dynamical model there are such particles. The light scalar predominantly resides in a superposition of $\phi^+$ and $X$, and thus has renormalizable interactions.

6 Conclusions

- We pointed out that an anomalous gauge U(1) symmetry is a natural candidate for being the mediator and messenger of supersymmetry breaking. It allows for simple models of dynamical supersymmetry breaking in the flat limit.

- These models can be embedded in a supergravity theory and generate realistic scalar and gaugino soft masses. The supersymmetry breaking is communicated by gravity and the gauge U(1). This hybrid scenario allows for a solution to the supersymmetric flavor and CP problem. The resulting phenomenology is very different from that of the usual models with universal soft masses [14].

- Since supersymmetry is broken in the flat limit, there is no Polonyi problem. All the hidden sector fields are either very massive or get VEV below the Planck scale.

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References


[10] In string theories the eaten up Goldstone is a superposition of $\text{Im}\phi^-$ and the model independent axion (partner of the dilaton) [8].


[13] One can consider other possibilities such as equally charging only the left–handed squarks of the first two families. This can be enough to avoid the FCNC constraints coming from the real part of the $K^0-\bar{K}^0$ mass mixing if the corresponding right–handed squarks are heavier than $\sim 5$ TeV.


