Observable Consequences of Partially Degenerate Leptogenesis

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Abstract

In the context of the seesaw mechanism, it is natural that the large solar and atmospheric neutrino mixing angles originate separately from large $2 \times 2$ mixings in the neutrino and charged-lepton sectors, respectively, and large mixing in the neutrino couplings is in turn more plausible if two of the heavy singlet neutrinos are nearly degenerate. We study the phenomenology of this scenario, calculating leptogenesis by solving numerically the set of coupled Boltzmann equations for out-of-equilibrium heavy singlet neutrino decays in the minimal supersymmetric seesaw model. The near-degenerate neutrinos may weigh $\lesssim 10^8$ GeV, avoiding the cosmological gravitino problem. This scenario predicts that $\text{Br}(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma)$ should be strongly suppressed, because of the small singlet neutrino masses, whilst $\text{Br}(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma)$ may be large enough to be observable in B-factory or LHC experiments. If the light neutrino masses are hierarchical, we predict that the neutrinoless double-$\beta$ decay parameter $m_{ee} \approx \sqrt{\Delta m^2_{\text{sol}}} \sin^2 \theta_{12}$.
Neutrino oscillation data \[1, 2\] are converging towards unique solutions for both the solar and atmospheric neutrino anomalies \[3\]. There are two large, almost maximal, mixing angles \(\theta_{12}\) and \(\theta_{23}\) in the light neutrino mass matrix, that give rise to the solar and atmospheric neutrino oscillations, respectively, whilst the third mixing angle \(\theta_{13}\) is constrained to be small \[4, 5\]. This pattern motivates theoretical approaches based on two \(2 \times 2\) mixings instead of one general \(3 \times 3\) mixing.

The smallness of the neutrino masses is generally explained via the seesaw mechanism \[6\], described by the superpotential \(^1\):

\[
W = N^c_i (Y_\nu)_{ij} L_j H_2 - E^c_i (Y_e)_{ij} L_j H_1 + \frac{1}{2} N^c_i (M_N)_{ij} N^c_j + \mu H_2 H_1 .
\]  

Here the indices \(i, j\) run over three generations and \(M_N\) is the heavy singlet-neutrino mass matrix. We shall work in a basis where \((M_N)_{ij}\) is real and diagonal, \((M_N)_{ij} = M_N \delta_{ij}\), and we define \(M_N_1 < M_N_2 < M_N_3\). In analogy with the CKM mixing matrix in the quark sector, the mixing matrix \(V_{MNS}\) measured in neutrino oscillations is a product of two matrices \(V_{MNS} = U^\nu_e U_\nu\), where \(U_\nu\) diagonalizes the light-neutrino seesaw mass matrix \(M_\nu\)

\[
M_\nu = Y^\nu T (M_N)^{-1} Y_\nu v^2 \sin^2 \beta ,
\]

according to

\[
U^\nu_T M_\nu U_\nu = M_\nu^D ,
\]

and \(U_e\) helps diagonalize the charged-lepton Yukawa coupling matrix \(Y_e\) in \(1\):

\[
V^\dagger_e Y_e U_e = Y_e^D .
\]

Deriving the observed neutrino mixing angles from the neutrino Dirac Yukawa couplings \((Y_\nu)_{ij}\) and Majorana masses \(M_N_i\) is problematic. A generic difficulty, in view of the hierarchy \(\Delta m^2_{\text{sol}} \ll \Delta m^2_{\text{atm}}\), is that large mixing angles for both solar and atmospheric mixings can be obtained only at the price of some fine tuning. Technically speaking, the \(23\) sub-determinant of the light-neutrino mass matrix must vanish. While Yukawa textures which may accommodate this feature can be obtained from well-motivated physics ideas \[7\] such as GUTs, Abelian and non-Abelian flavour symmetries, democratic principles, etc., many of these approaches feature unknown model coefficients of order unity that cannot be predicted without further assumptions, failing which they must be tuned \textit{a posteriori}.

\(^1\)We assume low-energy supersymmetry, which leaves unaltered the flavour parameters, while providing extra low-energy observables.
One way to attack this problem is to note that the observed leptonic mixing pattern can be regarded as the combination of two $2 \times 2$ mixings in the neutrino and the charged-lepton Yukawa couplings $(Y_\nu)_{ij}$ and $(Y_e)_{ij}$, respectively. If the matrices $U_\nu$ and $U_e$ contain non-trivial mixings only in the $(12)$ and $(23)$ sub-matrices, respectively, large mixing angles $\theta_{12}$, $\theta_{23}$ and vanishing $\theta_{13}$ follow naturally. Notice, however, that the matrices $U_\nu$ and $U_e$ are of different nature. Whilst $U_e$ directly rotates the superpotential couplings in (1), $U_\nu$ diagonalizes the effective mass matrix obtained from the superpotential couplings via the seesaw relation (2). Therefore, one may expect some differences between these two matrices $U_\nu$ and $U_e$, which may be the reason why the solar mixing somewhat differs from the atmospheric one.

Such a structure for $Y_\nu$ and $U_\nu$ would arise naturally if there is an (approximate) $S_2$ symmetry between the first and the second generation fields: $N_1 \leftrightarrow N_2$ and $L_1 \leftrightarrow L_2$, implying

$$Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad M_N = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (5)$$

in the $(12)$ sector. The large mixing angle $\theta_{12}$ diagonalizing $Y_\nu$ follows immediately from this approximate symmetry, as does the prediction that $M_{N_1} \sim M_{N_2}$, while $M_{N_3}$ may be different. Larger flavour symmetries would be needed to extend this approach to the third generation, to incorporate the $E^c_i$ fields, and to explain the largeness of $\theta_{23}$. We do not pursue such model-building issues here, but rather pursue the phenomenological implications of the proposed structure (5) for $Y_\nu$, $Y_e$ and $M_N$, namely that the Dirac Yukawa matrices $Y_\nu$ and $Y_e$ have non-trivial $2 \times 2$ $(12)$ and $(23)$ sub-matrices and non-vanishing diagonal elements $(33)$ and $(11)$, respectively, whilst the rest of their entries vanish and $M_N$ has a pair of (almost) degenerate eigenvalues. We incorporate the low-energy neutrino data into our parametrization of the Yukawa couplings, and systematically scan over all the remaining free parameters of the seesaw model. In this way we include theoretical models of [7] that predict similar patterns.

We focus our attention on leptogenesis [8] in this framework, finding that the pair of near-degenerate heavy singlet neutrinos enable one to lower the scale of thermal leptogenesis below the gravitino bound on the reheating temperature of the Universe in supergravity [9] and gauge-mediated models [10]. We study implications of this scenario for $\beta\beta_0$ decay [11] and on charged-lepton flavour-violating (LFV) decays [12]. A important aspect of this scenario is that there are less free parameters than in the general seesaw model, implying testable phenomenological consequences. We find that $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ may be observable, whilst $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ is.

The above breakdown is basis-dependent: one could choose to work in the basis in which $Y^D_e$ is diagonal, in which case the mixing in $U_e$ simply moves into $Y_\nu$, while the physics remains unchanged.
suppressed, and make a specific prediction for neutrinoless double-β decay.

We start by counting the physical parameters of the model. In the chosen basis the Yukawa matrix $Y_\nu$ contains five complex parameters, and the basis for $N_i$ is completely fixed. Since three phases can be removed by redefining the $L_i$ fields, only two phases are physical. One can parametrize $Y_\nu$ as

$$(Y_\nu)_{ij} = Z_\nu^{\dagger} Y_{\nu D} X_{kj},$$

where the unitary matrices $X$ and $Z$ contain only (12) mixing, and hence only one mixing angle. The matrix $X$ is real, while the matrix $Z$ may be written as $Z = P_1 Z P_2$, where $Z$ is a real matrix. In this ‘high-energy’ basis, the diagonal matrices $P_{1,2} \equiv \text{diag}(e^{i\theta_{1,2}}, 1, 1)$ contain the two physical CP-violating phases. Diagonalizing $Y_e$ according to (4), the real parameters correspond to three diagonal Yukawa couplings $Y_{\nu D}$ and one mixing angle in each of the rotation matrices $U_e$ and $V_e$. Again, three out of five phases can be absorbed into redefinition of right-handed fields $E_c$. Thus the basis for $E_c$ is now completely fixed and there is one physical phase in the mixing matrix $U_e = U_e P_3$, where $U_e$ is real and $P_3 \equiv \text{diag}(1, 1, e^{i\theta_3})$. The mixing and one phase in $V_e$ are unobservable. This implies that, in the basis in which the charged lepton masses are diagonal, we have a total of 9 physical parameters in the neutrino Yukawa couplings, which together with the 3 unknown heavy masses $M_{N_i}$ make a total of 12 parameters in this version of the minimal seesaw model. This should be compared with the 18 physical parameters in the general case, implying more predictivity and hence better possibilities to test the scenario at high and low energies.

We recall there are three types of leptonic observables in supersymmetric seesaw models: (i) leptogenesis via out-of-equilibrium decays of heavy singlet neutrinos and (ii) renormalization-induced mixings in the slepton mass matrix due to the off-diagonal $Y_\nu$ couplings, as well as (iii) the light neutrino masses and mixings. The leptogenesis CP asymmetry produced in the out-of-equilibrium decays of each of the $N_i$ is given by [13, 14, 15]

$$\epsilon_i = -\frac{1}{8\pi} \sum_l \frac{\text{Im} \left[ (Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger)^{ul} (Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger)^{ul} \right]}{\sum_j |Y_{\nu}^{lj}|^2} \sqrt{x_l \left[ \text{Log}(1 + 1/x_l) + \frac{2}{(x_l - 1)} \right]},$$

where $x_l \equiv (M_{N_i}/M_{N_i})^2$. It is clear from (7) that the generated asymmetry depends only on

$$Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger = P_1^T Z^*(Y_\nu^{D})^T Z P_1$$

and on the heavy neutrino masses. Notice that $Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger$ is independent of the left-rotations of $L_i$, and is therefore independent of the $Y_e$ basis. Therefore, in our scenario the baryon asymmetry
of the Universe depends only on the single high-energy CP phase in $P_1$. If the CP-conserving parameters are known, this can be calculated from the observed baryon asymmetry.

Renormalization of soft supersymmetry-breaking parameters due to the presence of $Y_\nu$ above the heavy-neutrino decoupling scales modifies the left-slepton mass matrix $m_\tilde{L}$ and trilinear soft supersymmetry-breaking $A_e$ terms. In the basis of diagonal charged leptons one has in leading-logarithmic order \[12\]

\[(\delta m^2_\tilde{L})_{ij} \simeq -\frac{1}{8\pi^2}(3m_0^2 + A_0^2)(Y^\dagger L Y)_{ij},\]

\[(\delta A_e)_{ij} \simeq -\frac{1}{8\pi^2}A_0 Y_{ei}(Y^\dagger L Y)_{ij},\]

which are proportional to

\[Y^\dagger L Y = P_3^\dagger U_\nu^\dagger X Y^D P_2^T Z^T L Z^* P_2^* Y^D X^\dagger U_\nu P_3,\] \[10\]

where $L$ is a diagonal matrix: $L_{ij} = \ln (M_{GUT}/M_{N_i})\delta_{ij}$. Note that the high-energy CP-violating phases in \[10\] are those in $P_2$ and $P_3$. The CP-violating observables in LFV processes all depend on a single CP-violating invariant $J_\nu = \text{Im} H_{12} H_{23} H_{31}$ \[16\], where $H = Y_\nu^\dagger L Y_\nu$. This influences slepton physics at colliders and also determines the T-odd asymmetry in $\mu \rightarrow 3e$ \[17\]. Therefore, all low-energy CP-violating observables measure one combination of phases in $P_{2,3}$. Due to the near-degeneracy of the heavy neutrino masses, the lepton EDMs are unobservably small in this scenario \[18\].

So far, we have considered the high-energy parametrization of the neutrino sector in terms of the diagonal Yukawa couplings and the unitary matrixes $X, Z, U_\nu$. Counting physical degrees of freedom is straightforward in this approach, but it has limited applicability to low-energy phenomenology. Therefore we develop a complementary ‘low-energy’ parametrization. We start by discussing the light neutrino mass matrix \[2\] in our scheme. Of course, at low energy it is most convenient to work in the basis in which charged leptons are diagonal. After redefinitions of the $L_i$ fields, the diagonalizing matrix for light neutrinos becomes

\[U_\nu = V_\nu P_0,\] \[11\]

where $V_\nu$ is real and contains the mixing angles $\theta_{12}, \theta_{23},$ and $P_0 \equiv \text{diag}(1, e^{i\phi_2}, e^{i\phi_3})$ contains two Majorana phases $\phi_{2,3}$, whilst the third angle $\theta_{13}$ vanishes and the neutrino oscillation phase $\delta$ is absent. Therefore, all the low-energy neutrino observables, such as neutrino oscillations, $\beta\beta_0$ decay, etc., depend on the 7 effective low-energy parameters, which are functions of the 12 parameters in \[1\]. We recall that, whilst neutrino oscillations measure
the mass-squared differences of neutrinos and their mixing angles, $\beta\beta_{0\nu}$ decay measures one particular combination of their masses and mixing matrix elements:

$$|m_{ee}| \equiv \left| \sum_i (U_{\nu})_{ei}^*(m_{\nu_i}v)_{ie} \right| = \left| m_{\nu_1} \cos^2 \theta_{12} + m_{\nu_2} \sin^2 \theta_{12} e^{2i\phi_2} \right|.$$ \hspace{1cm} (12)

The effect of the Majorana phase $\phi_2$ becomes visible only if $m_{\nu_1} \sim m_{\nu_2}$, but its measurement is not straightforward even in this case [11]. In the case of hierarchical neutrino masses $m_{\nu_1} \ll m_{\nu_2}$, we have the definite prediction $m_{ee} = m_{\nu_2} \sin^2 \theta_{12}$.

In order to satisfy automatically the oscillation data, the light neutrino parameters must be an input of the parametrization. We therefore define [19]:

$$Y_{\nu} = \sqrt{M_N} R \sqrt{M_D^\nu} U_{\nu} U_{\nu}^\dagger v \sin \beta,$$ \hspace{1cm} (13)

where $R$ is a complex orthogonal matrix. In our case, it has a non-trivial $2 \times 2$ (12) submatrix only, and is parametrized by just one complex number. Examining the combination $Y_{\nu} Y_{\nu}^\dagger$ using (13), we observe that the single complex phase in $R$ is responsible for leptogenesis. On the other hand, (9) tells that in this parametrization the renormalization-induced low-energy CP violation depends also on the Majorana phases in a non-trivial way. One can exploit this to take a complete bottom-up approach, since in the supersymmetric seesaw model the low-energy degrees of freedom may in principle be used to reconstruct all the high-energy neutrino parameters [20]. A parametrization related to the solutions of the renormalization-group equations (RGEs) for the soft supersymmetry-breaking slepton masses (9) was worked out in [21].

Our central objective in this Letter is to study the phenomenology of leptons in the proposed scheme. In particular, we focus our attention on leptogenesis\(^3\) and its relations to neutrino masses, $\beta\beta_{0\nu}$ decay and LFV observables. A strong motivation is provided by the gravitino problem in generic supergravity theories, which restricts the maximum reheating temperature $T_R$ of the Universe after inflation. In supergravity models with a gravitino mass of order 500 GeV [9] or in some gauge-mediated models [10] the bound is

$$T_R \lesssim 10^8 \text{ GeV.}$$ \hspace{1cm} (14)

On the other hand, if the baryon asymmetry of the Universe is due to the decays of the lightest singlet neutrino $N_1$, there is an $M_{N_1}$-dependent upper bound on the CP asymmetry $\epsilon_1$ [24]. In the context of thermal leptogenesis, the observed baryon asymmetry implies a lower bound $M_{N_1} \gtrsim 10^{10}$ GeV [25] which is potentially in serious conflict with (14).

\(^3\)Implications of particular neutrino mass textures on leptogenesis have been studied in [14, 15, 22, 23].
This problem could be overcame by abandoning thermal leptogenesis and considering non-thermally produced neutrinos [26], but such scenarios are still speculative and lack predictivity. Another well-known solution to the problem in the context of thermal leptogenesis is to consider the decays of two heavy neutrinos which are approximately degenerate in mass [13]. Because the self-energy contribution to \( \epsilon_i \) is enhanced for degenerate heavy neutrino masses, the observed baryon asymmetry can be generated by moderately degenerate heavy neutrinos that are relatively light, which is the option pursued here. Since, in the proposed scenario, the \( Y_\nu \) couplings spanning the (12) submatrix are separate and distinct from the (33) element, it is natural that the masses of the heavy neutrinos \( N_{1,2} \) differ from that of \( N_3 \).

In the minimal supersymmetric seesaw model, the baryon asymmetry originates from out-of-equilibrium decays of neutrinos and sneutrinos. Assuming \( M_{N_3} > M_{N_2} \approx M_{N_1} \), we need consider only the two lighter neutrino decays. Even if \( M_{N_2} \approx M_{N_1} \), the CP asymmetries \( \epsilon_{1,2} \) may be very different in magnitude. Although the products of the numerator and mass factors in (7) are identical for \( \epsilon_{1,2} \), the denominators \( (Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger)_{11} \) and \( (Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger)_{22} \) may be very different \(^5\). Therefore, \( N_{1,2} \) may contribute to the lepton asymmetry and to the reaction rates of the processes involved in very different ways, making the washout processes non-trivial. The dominant processes which determine the order of magnitude of the asymmetry are the \( \Delta L = 1 \) neutrino and sneutrino decays. The \( \Delta L = 2 \) scatterings are suppressed by additional powers of small Yukawa couplings, and are completely negligible in the low-\( M_{N_1} \) regime we consider here [14]. There are also \( \Delta L = 1 \) two-to-two scatterings involving top quarks and squarks. Those have additional powers of \( y_t^2/(4\pi) \) and make a contribution of relative order unity to the washout processes: we neglect them for simplicity. In supersymmetric models there are also processes transforming leptons into scalar leptons and vice versa, e.g., \( e \leftrightarrow \bar{e} + \bar{e} \), which we do take into account.

In this approximation, defining \( Y_{j\pm} \equiv Y_{N_j^\pm} \pm Y_{N_j^\mp} \) for the scalar neutrinos and their antiparticles, the Boltzmann equations for the ratios of particle densities divided by the entropy density, and for the lepton asymmetries \( Y_{L_f} \) and \( Y_{L_s} \) in fermions and scalars, respectively, are given by [15]:

\[
\frac{dY_{N_j}}{dz} = -\frac{z}{sH(M_{N_1})} \left( \frac{Y_{N_j}}{Y_{N_j}^{eq}} - 1 \right) \eta_{N_j},
\]

\(^4\)We assume here that \( N_{1,2} \) are not exactly degenerate in mass, presumably because the (unspecified) underlying symmetry principle for first two generations, such as the \( S_2 \) example mentioned earlier, is weakly broken.

\(^5\)This would require the two-generation symmetry to be broken in the Yukawa couplings.
\[
\frac{dY_{j+}}{dz} = -\frac{z}{sH(M_{N_1})} \left( \frac{Y_{j+}}{Y_{N_j}^{\text{eq}}} - 2 \right) \gamma_{N_j}^{\text{eq}},
\]

\[
\frac{dY_{j}}{dz} = -\frac{z}{sH(M_{N_1})} \left( \frac{Y_{j}}{Y_{N_j}^{\text{eq}}} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{Y_{\nu_1}}{Y_{\nu_1}^{\text{eq}}} + \frac{1}{2} \frac{Y_{\nu_2}}{Y_{\nu_2}^{\text{eq}}} \right) \gamma_{N_j}^{\text{eq}},
\]

\[
\frac{dY_{\nu_j}}{dz} = -\frac{z}{sH(M_{N_1})} \left\{ \sum_j \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{Y_{\nu_j}}{Y_{\nu_j}^{\text{eq}}} + \epsilon_j \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{N_j} + \gamma_{N_j}^{\text{eq}} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{N_j} \right] \right\},
\]

\[
\frac{dY_{\nu_1}}{dz} = -\frac{z}{sH(M_{N_1})} \left\{ \sum_j \left[ \left( \frac{1}{2} \frac{Y_{\nu_1}}{Y_{\nu_1}^{\text{eq}}} + \epsilon_j \right) \left( \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{N_j} + \gamma_{N_j}^{\text{eq}} \right) - \frac{1}{2} \gamma_{N_j} \right] \right\},
\]

\[
\gamma_{N_j} = 2 \gamma_{N_j}^{\text{eq}} = \frac{M_{N_1}^4}{4\pi^3} \left( Y_{\nu_1} Y_{\nu_1} \right)_{jj} \frac{a_j \sqrt{a_j}}{z} K_1(z \sqrt{a_j}),
\]

where \( a_j = (M_{N_j}/M_{N_1})^2 \), and that for the MSSM processes is

\[
\gamma_{\text{MSSM}} \approx \frac{M_{N_1}^4}{4\pi^3} \frac{a_j^2}{z^4} \left[ \ln \left( \frac{4 M_{N_1}^2}{z m_\gamma^2} \right) - 2 \gamma_e - 3 \right],
\]

where \( m_\gamma^2 \) is the photino mass which contributes to \( e + e \leftrightarrow \bar{e} + \bar{e} \) in the \( t \) channel. The total lepton asymmetry \( Y_L = Y_{\nu_1} + Y_{\nu_2} \) is then converted by sphalerons into a baryon asymmetry: \( Y_B = C Y_L \), where \( C = -8/15 \) in the MSSM.

In our subsequent numerical analysis, we fix the known light neutrino parameters to be \( \Delta m_{32}^2 = 3 \times 10^{-3} \, \text{eV}^2 \), \( \Delta m_{21}^2 = 5 \times 10^{-5} \, \text{eV}^2 \), \( \tan^2 \theta_{23} = 1 \) and \( \tan^2 \theta_{12} = 0.4 \), corresponding to the LMA solution for the solar neutrino anomaly. The angle \( \theta_{13} \) is predicted to vanish, together with the neutrino oscillation phase \( \delta \), and the connection between leptogenesis and the oscillation phase proposed in [23] does not hold. We assume the normal mass ordering for light neutrinos, \( m_{\nu_1} < m_{\nu_2} < m_{\nu_3} \), and generate \( Y_\nu \) according to (13). All the unknown input parameters are generated randomly as follows. The lightest light neutrino mass \( m_{\nu_1} \) is generated in the range \( (10^{-5} - 1) \, \text{eV} \), the Majorana phases \( \phi_{2,3} \) in the range \( (0 - 2\pi) \), the
lightest heavy neutrino mass $M_{N_1}$ in the range $(10^6 - \text{just above } 10^8)$ GeV, the degeneracy parameter $\Delta \equiv \ln(M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1)$ in the range $(-15 - 1)$, the heaviest neutrino mass $M_{N_3}$ in the range $(2 \times M_{N_2} - 10^{15})$ GeV and the complex parameter $r_{12}$ of the orthogonal matrix $R$ in the range $|r_{12}| = (0 - 10)$ with an arbitrary phase. Each mass parameter is generated with a flat distribution on a logarithmic scale. We solve the Boltzmann equations (15) numerically, assuming initial thermal abundances for neutrinos and sneutrinos, and require that the induced baryon asymmetry be in the range [28]

$$3 \times 10^{-11} \lesssim Y_B \lesssim 9 \times 10^{-11}. \quad (18)$$

We require that the neutrino decay width satisfy $\Gamma_{N_i} < 10^{-5}(M_{N_2} - M_{N_1})$, so that we are far from the resonant region and can trust our perturbative calculation. Subsequently, we study correlations between the leptogenesis parameters and the light and heavy neutrino masses, the $\beta\beta_{0\theta}$ decay parameter $m_{ee}$, and the LFV decays of the charged leptons.

![Figure 1: Scatter plot of the lightest singlet neutrino mass $M_{N_1}$ as a function of the degeneracy parameter $\ln(M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1)$. The baryon asymmetry is required to be in the range (18).](image)

We find a weak correlation of the allowed range of $M_{N_1}$ with $\Delta = \ln(M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1)$, as seen in Fig. 1. We see that successful leptogenesis is possible with light $N_{1,2}$ already if they are degenerate in mass at the level of a few percent. Motivated by the gravitino problem, we limit $M_{N_1}$ to the range $10^6$ GeV to about $10^8$ GeV in our subsequent numerical examples. We find
a stronger correlation between the leptogenesis parameters $\varepsilon_{1,2}$ and the neutrino degeneracy parameter $\Delta$. In Fig. 2 (a) we plot the CP asymmetries $\varepsilon_{1,2}$, denoted by black and green points, respectively, as functions of the degeneracy parameter $\Delta = \ln(M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1)$. There is a $\Delta$-dependent upper bound on $\varepsilon_{1,2}$, coming from the mass function in (7). Solutions to the Boltzmann equations (15) are often discussed in the literature in terms of effective mass parameters

$$\tilde{m}_i \equiv \left(Y_\nu Y_\nu^\dagger\right)_{ii} v^2 \sin^2 \beta / M_{N_i}.$$  

(19)

If leptogenesis originates from $N_1$ decays, as is the case for hierarchical heavy neutrinos, fixing $Y_B$ implies almost a one-to-one correspondence between $\varepsilon_1$ and $\tilde{m}_1$ in the low $M_{N_1}$ region [14, 25]. However, the solutions to (15) are non-trivial, as seen in Fig. 2 (b), where we plot $\varepsilon_{1,2}$ versus the parameters $\tilde{m}_{1,2}$, respectively. A direct correlation is observed only for high values of $\tilde{m}_1 \sim \tilde{m}_2 > 5 \times 10^{-2}$ eV, where both neutrinos $N_{1,2}$ contribute to $Y_B$ in a similar way. This region corresponds to large and quasi-degenerate light neutrino masses. Because of strong washout effects, $\varepsilon_{1,2}$ must be large and, correspondingly, $M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1$ small in this region. For lower values of $\tilde{m}_1$ the non-linear shape of Fig. 2 (b) indicates the non-trivial washout effects of $N_2$.

To study implications of our neutrino mixing scenario and leptogenesis for low-energy observables, we plot in Fig. 3 (a) the lightest neutrino mass $m_{\nu_1}$ versus the $\beta\beta_0\nu$ parameter $m_{ee}$. There is an upper bound on $m_{\nu_1}$ coming from the requirement of successful leptogenesis. This is an artifact of our lower bound on the degeneracy parameter $\Delta$ and is not physical. If we allow smaller $\Delta$, $\varepsilon_{1,2}$ are enhanced and the neutrino mass $m_{\nu_1}$ can be higher. At high values of $m_{\nu_1}$, there can be cancellations in $m_{ee}$ (12), because the phases $\phi_{2,3}$ are free parameters not correlated with leptogenesis. However, for small $m_{\nu_1}$ there is the definite prediction $m_{ee} = \sqrt{\Delta m^2_{sol}} \sin^2 \theta_{12}$, which is below the sensitivity of the currently proposed $\beta\beta_0\nu$ decay experiments [29].

6If $\theta_{13}$ is not exactly vanishing, there is an additional contribution to (12) and the prediction for $m_{ee}$ becomes less certain [11].

To study LFV in our scenario, we fix the soft supersymmetry-breaking parameters at the GUT scale to coincide with one of the post-LEP benchmark points [30]: $m_{1/2} = 300$ GeV, $m_0 = 100$ GeV, $A_0 = 0$, $\tan \beta = 10$ and $\text{sign}(\mu) = +1$. We plot in Fig. 3 (b) the renormalization-induced branching ratio of the decay $\mu \to e\gamma$ versus the branching ratio of $\tau \to \mu\gamma$. Because we require $M_{N_1}$ to be relatively low, the Yukawa couplings $Y_\nu$ related to first two families are also very small, suppressing $Br(\mu \to e\gamma)$ below the presently observable level. Since the branching ratios scale as $\tan^2 \beta$, reaching the level $10^{-14}$ or $10^{-15}$ planned to
Figure 2: Scatter plots of the CP-violating asymmetries $\epsilon_{1,2}$ denoted by black and green (grey), respectively, as functions of the degeneracy parameter $\ln(M_{N_2}/M_{N_1} - 1)$ and the effective mass parameters $\tilde{m}_{1,2}$. The baryon asymmetry is required to be in the range (18).

Figure 3: Scatter plots of the lightest neutrino mass $m_{\nu_1}$ versus the $\beta\beta_{0ν}$-decay parameter $m_{ee}$, and $Br(\mu \rightarrow e\gamma)$ versus $Br(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma)$. The baryon asymmetry is again required to be in the range (18).
be achieved at PSI [31] and the neutrino factory experiments [32], respectively, is unlikely for $M_{N_1} \sim M_{N_2} \lesssim 10^8$ GeV. This indicates that the solution to the gravitino problem and the non-observation of $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma$ in present experiments may be related. However, $Br(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma)$ is not necessarily suppressed, because $N_3$ can be heavy and the related Yukawa couplings large. Therefore $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$ may be observable in B-factory or LHC experiments, which should achieve a sensitivity $Br(\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma) \sim 10^{-8}$ to $10^{-9}$ [33].

In conclusion: we have studied a scenario in which the large leptonic mixing angles $\theta_{12}$ and $\theta_{23}$ originate from $2 \times 2$ mixings in the neutrino and the charged lepton Yukawa matrices, respectively. Using a convenient phenomenological parametrization and scanning over the all free seesaw parameters, and motivated by the gravitino problem, we have focussed on lowering the thermal leptogenesis scale by postulating moderate degeneracy of two lightest heavy neutrinos. This scenario turns out to be quite predictive for $\beta\beta_0$ decay and for the LFV decays of charged leptons, since it involves less free parameters than the general seesaw model. We predict suppressed $\mu \rightarrow e\gamma, m_{ee} = \sqrt{\Delta m^2_{\text{sol}}} \sin^2 \theta_{12}$ for hierarchical neutrinos and, in general, an observable rate for $\tau \rightarrow \mu\gamma$.

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