

Direct mediation and a visible metastable supersymmetry breaking sector

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ABSTRACT: We analyze an R-symmetry breaking deformation of the ISS model for a direct mediation of supersymmetry breaking from a metastable vacuum. The model is weakly coupled and calculable. The LSP gravitino is light ($m_{\frac{3}{2}} < 16$ eV) and the MSSM spectrum is natural with a light Higgs. The supersymmetry breaking sector, which is usually hidden, is observable ($m \sim 1$ TeV) and may be a candidate for cold dark matter. We discuss its production and signature at LHC. We propose a UV completion of the model in terms of a duality cascade.

KEYWORDS: Supersymmetry and Duality, Supersymmetry Breaking, Beyond Standard Model, Supersymmetric Standard Model.

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1. Introduction and summary

An important question of particle physics is the nature of supersymmetry breaking and its mediation to the MSSM particles. In the phenomenological approach the main motivation for introducing supersymmetry is the resolution of the gauge hierarchy problem. Introduction of the superpartners results in the cancellation of all quadratic divergences in the theory. However, this on its own does not give an explanation for the energy scale of supersymmetry breaking and why it is so much smaller than the Planck scale. The general

answer to this question involves an asymptotically free gauge force (in a hidden sector of the theory, *i. e.* outside the Standard Model) which becomes strong at low energies, and then non-perturbative effects trigger spontaneous supersymmetry breakdown. This mechanism is known as dynamical supersymmetry breaking (DSB).

Until recently, it was presumed that DSB requires that non-supersymmetric vacuum state of the hidden sector is the true vacuum, *i. e.* the global minimum of the effective potential. In models where supersymmetry breaking is transmitted to the Standard Model by gauge interactions (a.k.a. gauge mediation), this requirement is hard to satisfy, which made DSB models and the mediation mechanism to the Standard Model sector rather complicated. ISS [1] proposed a simple DSB model in which the non-supersymmetric vacuum state is metastable with a very low tunneling rate to the true supersymmetric vacuum. The ISS model has a large unbroken flavor symmetry, which can be weakly gauged without spoiling the DSB mechanism. This makes it a convenient framework for a direct gauge mediation of supersymmetry breaking to the Standard Model, where some of the DSB-sector particles are also charged under the Standard Model $SU(3) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$ gauge group. In such models, all the superpartners of Standard Model particles become massive via 1-loop and 2-loop diagrams, and their masses are calculable in terms of the DSB sector parameters.

However, in order to build a model of direct gauge mediation, one needs to overcome two features of the ISS model, which are problematic for phenomenology. The first issue is the presence of an accidental R-symmetry, that forbids the generation of gaugino masses. The second issue is the spontaneous breaking of the flavor symmetry group, that introduces Goldstone bosons charged under the Standard Model gauge group. We will resolve both issues by breaking explicitly the R-symmetry and the flavor symmetry by mass terms that deform the ISS model [2].¹

The model that we will study in this paper is weakly coupled and calculable. The LSP gravitino is light ($m_{\frac{3}{2}} < 16 \text{ eV}$), as required by the cosmological bounds [8] for gauge mediation, and the MSSM spectrum is natural with a light Higgs. In particular, at the expense of genericity, we obtain a model where there is no tension between a long lifetime of the metastable vacuum and a large gaugino/scalar mass ratio, which typically leads to split supersymmetry. The supersymmetry breaking sector, which is usually hidden, is observable ($m \sim 1 \text{ TeV}$). We discuss in detail its features, its production cross section at LHC and some of its decay channels. Due to approximate symmetries of the model, the decays of such light exotic particles are strongly suppressed. They may be a candidate for cold dark matter.

It is generically difficult to avoid a Landau pole in models of direct gauge mediation. In our model as well, the QCD coupling runs very fast above a certain scale, hitting a Landau pole below the GUT scale. We propose a UV completion in terms of a duality cascade [9–11] by embedding the MSSM coupled to the supersymmetry breaking sector in a quiver gauge theory. When the QCD coupling hits the Landau pole, the first step of the duality cascade is triggered and we discuss it. The perturbative unification in the dual quiver is still an open issue.

¹Other recent analysis of direct gauge mediation using various deformations of the ISS appear in [3–7].

The paper is organized as follows. In section 2 we review the ISS model and its deformation and we identify the metastable vacuum. In section 3 we discuss the various requirements that constrain the parameter space of the model, such as a light gravitino, the absence of tachyons and a long lifetime of the metastable vacuum. In this section we also discuss the generation of the soft terms in the MSSM. In section 4 we discuss in detail the phenomenology of the light particles coming from the supersymmetry breaking sector, which in our case will be observable at LHC. In section 5, we present the salient features of the MSSM spectrum, after taking into account the RG evolution from the messenger scale down to the TeV scale. In section 6 we propose a particular UV completion of our model, in terms of a duality cascade, by embedding the MSSM coupled to the supersymmetry breaking sector into a quiver gauge theory. There are three appendices in which we outline some calculations.

2. The supersymmetry breaking vacuum

In order to construct a model of direct gauge mediation based on the ISS one, we embed the MSSM gauge groups into the flavor symmetry group of the ISS. However, we need to overcome two of the ISS features which are problematic for phenomenology: the presence of an accidental R-symmetry, that forbids the generation of gaugino masses, and the spontaneous breaking of the flavor symmetry group, that introduces Goldstone bosons charged under the would-be MSSM gauge groups. We will consider a model that is a deformation of the ISS one, which has been proposed by [2].

2.1 Deformation of the ISS model

We will work in the magnetic dual description of $\mathcal{N} = 1$ $SU(N_c)$ SQCD with N_f flavors. The magnetic gauge group is $SU(N)$ ($N = N_f - N_c$) and we have N_f flavors of (magnetic) quarks and antiquarks \tilde{q}^f and $q_{\tilde{f}}$, coupled to N_f^2 singlet chiral superfields $\Phi_{\tilde{f}}$, via the superpotential

$$W = h \text{Tr} \tilde{q} \Phi q - h \mu^2 \text{Tr} \Phi, \tag{2.1}$$

with the second term corresponding to the mass term of the electric quarks. This theory has a global $SU(N_f) \times U(1)_B \times U(1)_R$ symmetry, which is spontaneously broken to $SU(N)_{\text{diag}} \times SU(N_f - N) \times U(1)_R$ in the ISS vacuum by the expectation value $\tilde{q} q = \mu^2 \mathbf{1}_N$. In order to avoid the Goldstone bosons, we explicitly break the global symmetry by splitting the fields as

$$\Phi = \begin{pmatrix} Y_{IJ} & Z_{Ia} \\ \tilde{Z}_{aI} & \hat{\Phi}_{ab} \end{pmatrix}, \quad q = \begin{pmatrix} \chi_{IJ} \\ \rho_{Ia} \end{pmatrix}, \quad \tilde{q}^t = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{\chi}_{IJ} \\ \tilde{\rho}_{aI} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{2.2}$$

where $I, J = 1, \dots, N_f - N_c \equiv N$ and $a, b = 1, \dots, N_f - N = N_c$ and split the linear term

$$-h \mu^2 \text{Tr} \Phi \rightarrow -h m^2 \text{Tr} Y - h \mu^2 \text{Tr} \hat{\Phi}. \tag{2.3}$$

We will see that we need to work in the regime of parameters $\mu < m$. This corresponds in the electric theory to having N_c light flavours (\tilde{Q}_a, Q_a) and $N_f - N_c$ heavier ones (\tilde{Q}_I, Q_I).²

²It has been shown in [12] that $SU(N_c)$ SQCD with a number of light flavors less than N_c does not have an ISS metastable vacuum, due to a two loop effect that destabilizes it. In our case the number of light flavors in the electric description is N_c and this two loop effect is absent.

Next, we need to break the R-symmetry, which we will do explicitly by adding a mass term to the off diagonal components of the singlet $h^2 m_z \text{Tr } \tilde{Z}Z$ [2]. This corresponds to a quartic coupling of the electric quarks $\text{Tr}(Q_a Q_I \tilde{Q}_a \tilde{Q}_I)$.

The final superpotential reads

$$W = h \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{\chi} Y \chi + \tilde{\rho} Z \chi + \tilde{\chi} \tilde{Z} \rho + \tilde{\rho} \hat{\Phi} \rho \right) - h m^2 \text{Tr } Y - h \mu^2 \text{Tr } \hat{\Phi} + h^2 m_z \text{Tr } \tilde{Z}Z . \quad (2.4)$$

We will use this model for a direct mediation of supersymmetry breaking and analyze its phenomenological features. The relevant parameters are the dimensionless coupling h , the dimension one mass parameters (μ, m, m_z) and the dimension one magnetic scale Λ_m . At energies $E < \Lambda_m$ we have the weakly coupled magnetic description (2.4) with a canonical Kahler potential and at $E > \Lambda_m$ we have an electric description. At certain higher energies we need UV completion. We will constrain the parameters by consistency and experimental requirements.

The mass term $h^2 m_z \text{Tr } \tilde{Z}Z$ breaks R-symmetry, thus allowing gaugino masses. Generically, such a breaking creates new supersymmetric vacua [13], and the longevity of the metastable vacuum requires small gaugino masses compared to the scalar masses (split supersymmetry). However, the superpotential (2.4) is not generic, i.e. a generic one would include also quadratic and cubic terms in $\hat{\Phi}$, and it does not introduce new supersymmetric vacua. We will see that dimensionless parameter $\frac{m_z}{m}$ controls the split between the gaugino and squarks masses, while the longevity of the metastable vacuum is controlled by $\frac{\mu}{m}$. Having two parameters will allow us to avoid split susperymmetry, while maintaining longevity.

2.2 Classical vacua

The model (2.4) does not have classical supersymmetric vacua, but only supersymmetry breaking ones. Nonperturbatively, a supersymmetric vacuum appears, parametrically far in field space [2].

The classical vacua are:

- The ISS vacuum:

$$\chi_{IJ} = m \delta_{IJ}, \quad \tilde{\chi}_{IJ} = m \delta_{IJ}, \quad (2.5)$$

and all other fields in (2.4) have zero vev. $\hat{\Phi}$ is a pseudomodulus, namely it is a classically flat direction which is lifted at one loop. This is the vacuum on which we will base the analysis. The superpotential around this vacuum takes the form

$$W = h \text{Tr} \left(\tilde{\rho} Z \chi + \tilde{\chi} \tilde{Z} \rho + \tilde{\rho} \hat{\Phi} \rho + m \tilde{\rho} Z + m \tilde{Z} \rho - \mu^2 \hat{\Phi} + h m_z \tilde{Z}Z \right) + \dots \quad (2.6)$$

where we shifted $\chi \rightarrow m + \chi$ and $\tilde{\chi} \rightarrow m + \tilde{\chi}$ and we omitted the terms involving Y , which are not relevant for the rest of the discussion. The classical vacuum energy is

$$V = V_{ISS} = (N_f - N) |h \mu^2|^2 . \quad (2.7)$$

At one loop, a potential for the pseudomodulus is generated that gives a mass and an expectation value to $\hat{\Phi}$

$$V^1(\hat{\Phi}) = M_{\hat{\Phi}}^2 \text{Tr}_{N_f - N} |\hat{\Phi} - \hat{\Phi}_0|^2, \quad (2.8)$$

where the explicit values of $M_{\hat{\Phi}}$ and $\hat{\Phi}_0$ are given by (A.5) and (A.6).

- N additional supersymmetry breaking vacua where, on top of (2.5), we have also

$$\begin{aligned} \rho &= \tilde{\rho}^t = \mu \mathbb{1}_n, \\ Z^t &= \tilde{Z} = -\frac{\mu m}{hm_z} \mathbb{1}_n, \\ Y &= \frac{\mu^2}{hm_z} \mathbb{1}_N, & \hat{\Phi} &= \frac{m^2}{hm_z} \mathbb{1}_n, \end{aligned} \quad (2.9)$$

with classical vacuum energy

$$V_n = (N_f - N - n) |h\mu^2|^2, \quad n = 1, \dots, N. \quad (2.10)$$

Thus, the lowest energy perturbative supersymmetry breaking vacuum of the theory is given by $n = N$.

Nonperturbatively, a dynamical superpotential is generated, which introduces supersymmetric vacua related to gaugino condensation in the $SU(N)$ gauge group. These extra vacua are very far in the $\hat{\Phi}$ field direction [2].

2.3 R-symmetry breaking

R-symmetry breaking generates soft masses for the gauginos. In the limit of vanishing m_z , the model reduces to the original ISS one [1], which has an R-symmetry with

$$R(\Phi) = 2, \quad R(q) = R(\tilde{q}) = 0, \quad (2.11)$$

that forbids gaugino masses but not sfermion masses, when we embed the MSSM gauge group into the flavor group. There is a tension between R-symmetry breaking which generically introduces new supersymmetry vacua, raising the issue of longevity of the vacuum and having gaugino and sfermion masses of the same order, leading to a split supersymmetry scenario.

Our model is in the regime $\mu/m \ll 1$ and $m_z/m \sim 1$. When $\mu = 0$, the theory does not reduce to the ISS one: the F-term $F_{\hat{\Phi}}^\dagger$ vanishes, restoring supersymmetry. The moduli space of supersymmetric vacua is parameterized by $\hat{\Phi}$ and Nelson-Seiberg's theorem [13] is evaded, because in the vacuum (2.5) there is a *different* (than the ISS one) unbroken R-symmetry $U(1)_{R'}$, under which $\hat{\Phi}$ has zero R-charge and

$$R'(\rho) = R'(\tilde{\rho}) = R'(Z) = R'(\tilde{Z}) = 1, \quad R'(Y) = 2, \quad R'(\hat{\Phi}) = 0. \quad (2.12)$$

Embedding the MSSM gauge group into the global $SU(N_f - N)$, and parameterizing the gaugino and scalar masses schematically as

$$\Lambda_g = F_{\hat{\Phi}} \times R_{\frac{1}{2}}, \quad \Lambda_s^2 = |F_{\hat{\Phi}}|^2 R_0^2, \quad (2.13)$$

then $U(1)_{R'}$ allows for $R_{\frac{1}{2}}$ and R_0 of the same order, but it restores supersymmetry enforcing $F_{\hat{\Phi}} = 0$. Note, in comparison, that the R-symmetry of the original ISS model is problematic for phenomenology because it enforces $R_{\frac{1}{2}} = 0$, with R_0 and $F_{\hat{\Phi}}$ non-vanishing. When we switch on a small μ , we break the $U(1)_{R'}$ explicitly and supersymmetry spontaneously, by the vev of $F_{\hat{\Phi}}$. Moreover, we do not introduce any new supersymmetry vacua coming in from infinity of field space, as it would happen if the superpotential deformation that breaks explicitly R-symmetry were generic in the sense of [13].

3. Direct mediation of supersymmetry breaking

In order to build a model for direct mediation of supersymmetry breaking, we embed the Standard Model gauge group in the global symmetry group $SU(N) \times SU(N_f - N)$, i.e. we get the Standard Model gauge group by gauging a subgroup of the flavor symmetry group. The embedding of the MSSM into $SU(N)$ has been discussed by [2]. In that case, one achieves perturbative unification but the gravitino mass exceeds the cosmological bounds [8]. It might be possible to get in this embedding a light gravitino, though giving up perturbative unification.

We follow a different route and embed the MSSM gauge group in the unbroken flavor symmetry group $SU(N_f - N)$ and require $N_f - N \geq 5$. In the analysis we will take $N_f = 6$, $N = 1$, so the DSB sector reduces to a deformation of an O’Raifeartaigh model, and we will use the metastable vacuum (2.5). The messenger fields are $\{\rho, \tilde{\rho}, Z, \tilde{Z}\}$, and they couple through the superpotential to $\hat{\Phi}$ whose F-term $F_{\hat{\Phi}}$ breaks supersymmetry. Note that $\{\rho, \tilde{\rho}, Z, \tilde{Z}\}$ and $\hat{\Phi}$ are charged under the MSSM gauge group and couple to the MSSM fields through gauge interactions. For the reader’s convenience, we collected their MSSM quantum numbers in appendix C.

The important scales in gauge mediation models are the messengers mass and the supersymmetry breaking scale. Their ratio times a gauge loop factor determines the scale of soft supersymmetry breaking terms. This model has two additional scales: Λ_m , which is the cutoff of the magnetic theory, and the mass of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$. This mass is generated by the Coleman-Weinberg potential, and similarly to the soft mass terms it is determined by the ratio of the supersymmetry breaking scale and the messenger masses. However, instead of the gauge coupling, we multiply by the DSB sector Yukawa coupling h^2 which leads to a new scale in the theory. The various scales and their dependence on the input parameters are depicted in figure 1. Note also that in this model the messengers are linear combinations of ρ and Z , therefore we have two messengers with different masses $m_{\frac{1}{2}-}$ and $m_{\frac{1}{2}+}$. In the following we will present the constraints on the parameters of the model and the features it presents. Details of the spectrum and predictions of the model will be given later. Aspects of the analysis are outlined in the appendices.

3.1 Constraints on the parameter space

The direct mediation model contains one dimensionless coupling h , three dimensional parameters (μ, m_z, m) and the magnetic scale Λ_m . We now briefly list the phenomenological and theoretical constraints imposed on the parameter space:

- h : The dimensionless parameter h can be written up to an order one constant in terms of the magnetic and electric scales. $\frac{h}{4\pi}$ is used for a perturbative expansion, therefore we require that h is at most $\sim O(1)$. When we analyze in detail the spectrum of the model and take into account the LEP bound on the Higgs mass we find that $h > 1$. We will present a detailed analysis for the case $h = 2$.
- h, μ : The gravitino has to be light in order to be consistent with cosmological

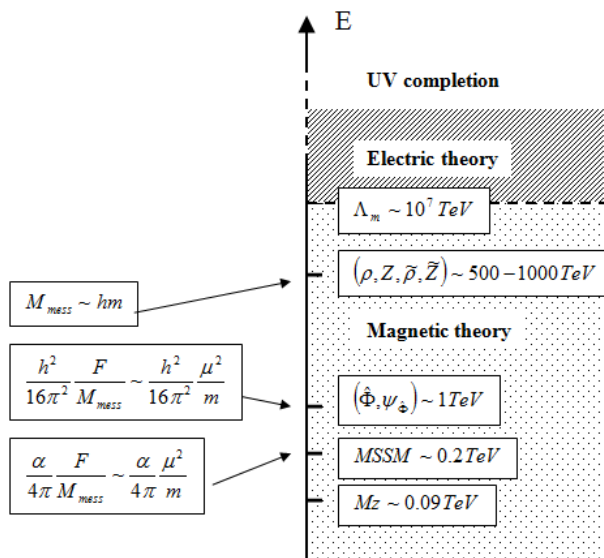


Figure 1: The various energy scales and parameters of the model.

bounds [8], i.e.

$$m_{\frac{3}{2}} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{3}M_{Pl}} < 16 \text{ eV} . \quad (3.1)$$

where the supersymmetry breaking scale F is the square root of the value of the potential at the supersymmetry breaking minimum. This can be translated into a constraint on h and μ :

$$h\mu^2 = \frac{F}{N_f - N} < (150\text{TeV})^2 . \quad (3.2)$$

- m, μ : The relation between the parameters μ and m has two effects. On the one hand the ratio $\frac{\mu}{m}$ controls the longevity of the metastable vacuum and we get an upper bound $\frac{\mu}{m} < \frac{1}{5}$. On the other, the ratio $\frac{\mu^2}{m}$ determines the soft supersymmetry breaking terms (m controls the messenger masses while μ controls the supersymmetry breaking scale) and is therefore constrained from below by bounds from the MSSM spectrum.
- m_z : The parameter m_z plays a triple role. It controls the R-symmetry breaking, allowing gaugino masses. The dimensionless parameter $\frac{m_z}{m}$ controls the split between the gaugino and squarks masses, i.e. for $\frac{m_z}{m} \sim 1$ we avoid split supersymmetry.

In order to avoid a negative mass for the messenger we require

$$|m^2 \pm hm_z \hat{\Phi}_0|^2 > \mu^2(m^2 + h^2 m_z^2) , \quad (3.3)$$

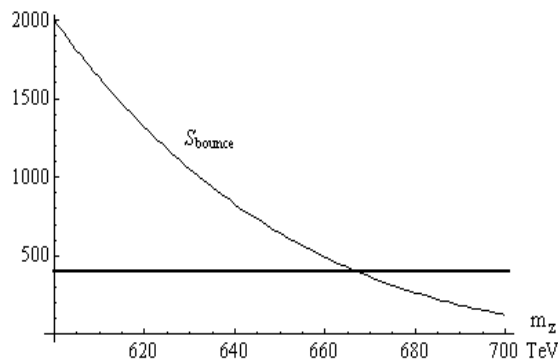


Figure 2: Numerical evaluation of the bounce action for the decay to the closest vacuum in figure as a function of m_z .

this can be translated to constraints on m_z . The parameter m_z also plays a role in determining the lifetime of the metastable vacuum, leading to an upper bound. This bound depends on the value of h .

- Λ_m : The scale Λ_m is the scale at which the weakly coupled magnetic description (2.4) breaks down: at energies $E > \Lambda_m$ we have an electric description. Nonperturbative effects restore supersymmetry at large values of $\hat{\Phi}$ [1]. To suppress the decay to this true vacuum it is sufficient that $\Lambda_m/m > 5$. On the other hand, requiring that the full messenger spectrum lies below the cutoff scale, we need approximately $\Lambda_m/m > 10$. We will postpone the discussion of the UV completion of the model to section 6.

We are thus lead to a relatively small range in parameter space. Compiling all the above considerations leads to a representative set of values for the input parameters:

$$\begin{aligned}
 h \sim 2, \quad \mu \sim 100 \text{ TeV}, \quad m \sim 500 \text{ TeV}, \quad \Lambda_m > 5000 \text{ TeV}, \\
 m_z < 220 \text{ TeV} \quad \text{or} \quad 330 \text{ TeV} < m_z < 650 \text{ TeV} .
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.4}$$

Other values of h in its allowed range will also lead to reasonable phenomenology with similar features.

Let us give some more details on the constraints mentioned above.

3.2 Longevity

The ISS vacuum can decay either to the closest metastable vacua (2.9) or to the supersymmetric vacuum generated by nonperturbative effects (in the case the magnetic gauge group is non-empty supersymmetry restoration is related to gaugino condensation). In order to have a long lifetime we require that the euclidean bounce action S_{bounce} for the decay from the ISS into another vacuum is

$$S_{\text{bounce}} > 400 .
 \tag{3.5}$$

In appendix B we evaluate the decay probability per unit time and unit volume from the ISS vacuum to the closest supersymmetry breaking vacuum (2.9), for $n = 1$. In figure 2 we plot the bounce action and in figure 3 the effective potential for the bounce trajectory.

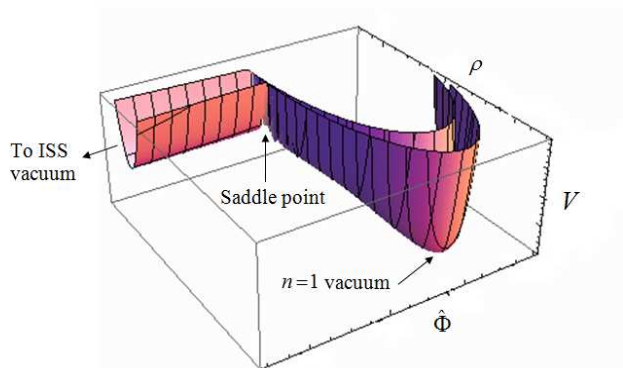


Figure 3: The effective potential for a real slice of the potential $V_{\text{eff}}(\hat{\Phi})$ for the $\hat{\Phi}$ bounce trajectory. The plot is evaluated at $m_Z = 150$ TeV.

Let us consider now the nonperturbative supersymmetric vacuum. It is very far in field space along the Φ direction, its position being proportional to the magnetic dynamical scale Λ_m . The decay to this vacuum has been evaluated in [2] using the triangle approximation. The euclidean bounce action is approximately given by

$$S_{\text{bounce}} \sim \left(\frac{m}{\mu}\right)^4 \left(\frac{\Lambda_m}{m}\right)^{\frac{4(N_f-3N)}{N_f-N}}. \quad (3.6)$$

The decay is approximately independent of m_z and by using our parameters we find that the bounce action is much larger than the requirement (3.5).

3.3 Gaugino and squarks masses

We work in a regime where the F term $F_{\hat{\Phi}}$ is smaller than the messenger scale $\mu^2/hm^2 \ll 1$, and can use simple expressions to compute the gaugino and scalar soft masses. The gaugino masses are

$$\begin{aligned} m_r &= \frac{\alpha_r}{4\pi} F_{\hat{\Phi}} \partial_{\hat{\Phi}} \det \log \mathcal{M} \\ &= \frac{\alpha_r}{4\pi} F_{\hat{\Phi}} \sum_{\pm} \frac{\partial_{\hat{\Phi}} \mathcal{M}_{\pm}}{\mathcal{M}_{\pm}}, \end{aligned} \quad (3.7)$$

where \mathcal{M} is the superpotential mass matrix³

$$\mathcal{M} = \begin{pmatrix} h\hat{\Phi}_0 & hm \\ hm & h^2m_z \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.8)$$

and \mathcal{M}_{\pm} its eigenvalues

$$\mathcal{M}_{\pm} = \left| \frac{1}{2}h \left(hm_z + \hat{\Phi}_0 \pm \sqrt{4m^2 + (-hm_z + \hat{\Phi}_0)^2} \right) \right|, \quad (3.9)$$

³We assume that doublet and triplet messengers have the same mass. In this case, the dangerous negative contribution to the sfermion masses, proportional to the hypercharge D-terms, are absent [14].

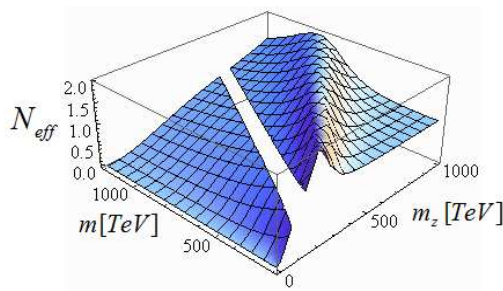


Figure 4: The effective number of messengers as a function of $\frac{m_z}{m}$ varies between zero and two. The plot is disconnected in the regime where m_z is not allowed.

and Φ_0 is given in the appendix (A.5). The final expression reads

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_r &= \frac{\alpha_r}{4\pi} \Lambda_g, \\
 \Lambda_g &= N \frac{h^2 \mu^2 m_z}{m^2 - h \hat{\Phi}_0 m_z}.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.10}$$

The scalar masses are given by

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{\tilde{f}}^2 &= \sum_{r=1}^3 2C_{\tilde{f}}^r \left(\frac{\alpha_r}{4\pi} \right)^2 \Lambda_s^2, \\
 \Lambda_s^2 &= \frac{1}{2} N |F_{\hat{\Phi}}|^2 \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \hat{\Phi} \partial \hat{\Phi}^\dagger} \sum_{\pm} (\log |\mathcal{M}_{\pm}|^2)^2, \\
 &= N |F_{\hat{\Phi}}|^2 \sum_{\pm} \left| \frac{\partial_{\hat{\Phi}} \mathcal{M}_{\pm}}{\mathcal{M}_{\pm}} \right|^2.
 \end{aligned}
 \tag{3.11}$$

The gaugino masses and the scalar masses share the same dependence on the small parameter μ/m , which is the one that controls the longevity of the vacua and the breaking of supersymmetry. Hence, in the vacuum (2.5), we can relax the tension between having a long lived metastable vacuum and large gaugino masses, thus avoiding a split supersymmetry spectrum. In ordinary gauge mediation models the number of messengers is the ratio $N_{\text{mess}} = \Lambda_g^2/\Lambda_s^2$. This is not the case in our model, and we can define an effective messenger number [15]

$$N_{\text{eff}}(m_z) = \Lambda_g^2/\Lambda_s^2.
 \tag{3.12}$$

By varying continuously $\frac{m_z}{m}$, inside the region allowed by the phenomenological constraints, N_{eff} varies between zero and two (the number of messengers) as is shown in figure 4.

As mentioned above, the LSP in the model is the gravitino. A decay of an NLSP $\tilde{\chi}$ to the LSP gravitino and a Standard Model particle, $\tilde{\chi} \rightarrow SM + \tilde{G}$ is characterized by a decay rate $\Gamma \sim \frac{m_{\tilde{\chi}}^5}{16\pi F^2}$, yielding a life time $\tau \sim 10^{-12} \text{sec}$ and is observable in LHC.

4. A visible supersymmetry breaking sector

A crucial prediction of our model of direct mediation is the presence of light particles coming from the supersymmetry breaking sector (figure 9). They are the fluctuations of

some pseudomoduli and their superpartners, whose mass only arises at one loop and hence it is suppressed by a $16\pi^2$ factor with respect to the typical scale of the DSB sector, the messenger mass. Choosing a messenger mass of a few hundred TeV one obtains therefore some exotic particles of a few TeV or lower. By embedding the MSSM gauge group into the DSB sector unbroken flavor symmetry, we give MSSM quantum numbers to these light DSB sector particles. In our model, the pseudomodulus comes from the traceless part of the chiral superfield $\hat{\Phi}$, in the adjoint representation of $SU(5)$ (its trace part is the Goldstino), which decomposes in the following way under $SU(3) \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$

$$\mathbf{24} = (\mathbf{8}, \mathbf{1})_0 \oplus (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3})_0 \oplus (\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{-5/6} \oplus (\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{2})_{5/6} \oplus (\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_0, \quad (4.1)$$

and we split accordingly the bosonic and fermionic components of $\hat{\Phi}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\Phi} &= \varphi_8 \oplus \varphi_3 \oplus \tilde{p} \oplus \tilde{p}' \oplus S, \\ \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} &= \Psi_8 \oplus \Psi_3 \oplus \Psi_{\tilde{p}} \oplus \Psi'_{\tilde{p}} \oplus \Psi_S, \end{aligned} \quad (4.2)$$

Note in particular the presence of a singlet fermion Ψ_S , that will play the role of lightest DSB sector particle (LHP). The boundary conditions for the mass of (4.2) are the one loop values $M_{\hat{\Phi}}$, common for all the scalars (A.5), and $M_{\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}}$, common for all the fermions (A.12).⁴ Starting from this value at the messenger mass, we run all the way down to the TeV scale, coupling their RG flow equations to the MSSM ones as explained in appendix C. We computed their RG improved masses by a modification of the SoftSUSY algorithm. After the RG evolution, the masses of such particles will split according to the usual pattern: colored particles become heavier than weakly interacting ones. We will discuss this light sector in some detail.

4.1 Singlet

Consider the LHP Ψ_S . Its decay channels are two: a coupling to the Goldstino and a Yukawa interaction with the messengers. In the theory MSSM plus DSB sector, there is an exact R-parity, that combined with a second approximate Z_2 symmetry will strongly suppress the decays of the LHP. The exact R-parity, which we will denote by R, is the usual R-parity of the MSSM combined with the DSB sector R-parity, under which the DSB sector bosons (fermions) are even (odd). The second approximate Z_2 symmetry, that we will call P , is given by the usual R-parity of the MSSM combined with the following involution of the DSB sector

$$\begin{aligned} P : \{ \psi_\rho, \psi_Z, \psi_{\tilde{p}}, \psi_{\tilde{Z}} \} &\rightarrow \{ -\psi_{\tilde{p}}, -\psi_{\tilde{Z}}, -\psi_\rho, -\psi_Z \}, \\ \{ \rho, Z, \tilde{\rho}^\dagger, \tilde{Z}^\dagger \} &\rightarrow \{ \tilde{\rho}, \tilde{Z}, \rho^\dagger, Z^\dagger \}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.3)$$

Under the symmetry R, the LHP Ψ_S is odd, hence it can only decay to a final MSSM state with odd R-parity. However, Ψ_S is even under P in (4.3), while the MSSM sparticles are odd under P.

⁴We neglected the gauge contribution to their soft masses, which differs according to the quantum numbers. Since it is of order the MSSM soft masses, it is significantly smaller than the leading DSB Yukawa contribution.

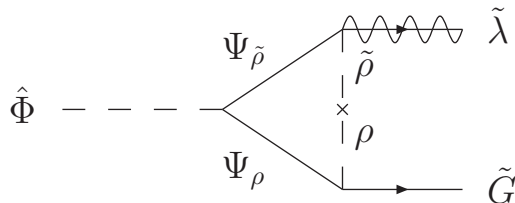


Figure 5: The effective vertex for the decay of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$ into a gaugino ($\tilde{\lambda} = \tilde{B}, \tilde{W}, \tilde{g}$) and a gravitino.

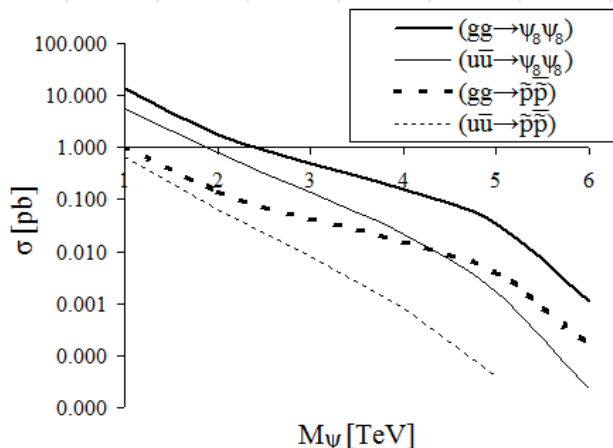


Figure 6: The cross section for production of supersymmetry breaking sector colored particles in the LHC as a function of their mass

If (4.3) were an exact symmetry of the theory, this would have implied that the Ψ_S was exactly stable. However, the gaugino-fermion-scalar interaction in the DSB sector breaks explicitly this symmetry. In the effective theory below the messenger scale, this interaction produces the effective vertex in figure 5 that allows the offshell decay $\hat{\Phi} \rightarrow \tilde{\lambda}\tilde{G}$ of the pseudomodulus into a gaugino $\tilde{\lambda}$ and a gravitino \tilde{G} .

Therefore, the leading order decay channel of the LHP Ψ_S is into a final state with one neutralino and two gravitini

$$\Psi_S \rightarrow \tilde{N}\tilde{G}\tilde{G}, \tag{4.4}$$

where the first vertex is $\Psi_S \rightarrow S\tilde{G}$ and the second vertex is the effective vertex $S \rightarrow \tilde{N}\tilde{G}$ in figure 5. Because this decay is hugely suppressed by a loop factor and (DSB sector) GIM mechanisms, the singlet is extremely long lived. Depending on the details of its lifetime and its relic abundance, it may provide a suitable dark matter candidate in some region of our parameter space.

4.2 Colored

Let us estimate the production at LHC of the light DSB sector particles. The colored particles $(\mathbf{8}, \mathbf{1})_0$ and $(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{-5/6}, (\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{2})_{5/6}$ are most likely produced, while the weakly interacting ones and the singlet will have a much slower rate. As an example, let us estimate the pro-

duction of the $(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{-5/6}$ scalars, that we denoted by \tilde{p} . The electroweak doublet consists of two squarks with electric charges $Q_{\text{em}} = (-1/3, -4/3)$. At the LHC, the production of such particles occurs through the scattering of two gluons and of a quark-antiquark pair. In the leading parton approximation, we can adapt the cross section for the production of squarks [16] (setting to zero the Yukawa coupling contribution)

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{gg \rightarrow \tilde{p}\tilde{p}^*}(s) &= \frac{2\pi\alpha_s^2}{s} \left[\beta_{\tilde{p}} \left(\frac{5}{24} + \frac{31m_{\tilde{p}}^2}{12s} \right) + \left(\frac{4m_{\tilde{p}}^2}{3s} + \frac{m_{\tilde{p}}^2}{3s^2} \right) \log \left(\frac{1 - \beta_{\tilde{p}}}{1 + \beta_{\tilde{p}}} \right) \right] \\ \sigma_{q_i\bar{q}_j \rightarrow \tilde{p}\tilde{p}^*}(s) &= \delta_{ij} \frac{2\pi\alpha_s^2}{s} \beta_{\tilde{p}} \left(\frac{4}{27} - \frac{16m_{\tilde{p}}^2}{27s} \right).\end{aligned}\tag{4.5}$$

where $\beta_{\tilde{p}} = \sqrt{1 - 4m_{\tilde{p}}^2/s}$ and $m_{\tilde{p}}$ is the mass of \tilde{p} as we RG evolved it down to the LHC energies.⁵The total hadronic cross section for the production of \tilde{p} through proton-proton $\rightarrow \tilde{p}\tilde{p}^*$ scattering is the convolution of (4.5) with the parton distributions $f_i(x)$ [17] in the proton at leading order

$$\sigma_{\tilde{p}\tilde{p}^*}(S) = \sum_{i,j=g,q,\bar{q}} \int dx_1 \int dx_2 f_i(x_1) f_j(x_2) \sigma_{ij}(s = x_1 x_2 S),\tag{4.6}$$

where $\sqrt{S} = 14 \text{ TeV}$. In figure 6 we plot the cross sections as a function of the RG evolved mass of \tilde{p} . In the regions in parameter space where the DSB sector particle $\Psi_{\tilde{p}}$ is heavier than its superpartner \tilde{p} , the latter decays in a different way from the MSSM squarks. Similar considerations apply as the ones in section 4.1, so the leading decay channel is into a gluino and two gravitini

$$\tilde{p} \rightarrow \tilde{g}\tilde{G}\tilde{G}.\tag{4.7}$$

Note that this decay channel is highly suppressed, so the \tilde{p} colored particles will travel a long way before decaying, despite their high mass, with a very definite signature.

The estimate of production cross section at LHC for the light colored octet fermion Ψ_8 can be given as well, using the parton cross sections

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{gg \rightarrow \Psi_8\Psi_8}(s) &= \frac{\pi\alpha_s^2}{s} \left[\beta_{\Psi} \left(-3 - \frac{51M_{\Psi}^2}{4s} \right) + \left(-\frac{9}{4} - \frac{9M_{\Psi}^2}{s} + \frac{9M_{\Psi}^2}{s^2} \right) \log \left(\frac{1 - \beta_{\Psi}}{1 + \beta_{\Psi}} \right) \right] \\ \sigma_{q\bar{q} \rightarrow \Psi_8\Psi_8}(s) &= \frac{\pi\alpha_s^2}{s} \beta_{\Psi_8} \left(\frac{8}{9} + \frac{16m_{\Psi_8}^2}{9s} \right).\end{aligned}\tag{4.8}$$

where $\beta_{\Psi_8} = \sqrt{1 - 4M_{\Psi_8}^2/s}$ and M_{Ψ_8} is the mass of Ψ_8 as we RG evolved it down to the LHC energies. Again, this octet is very long lived, because of the suppression mechanism in the decay. The leading decay channel of such particle is $\Psi_8 \rightarrow \tilde{g}\tilde{G}\tilde{G}$, namely it decays into a gluino and two gravitini, through the effective vertex in figure 5. Again, the decay is very suppressed, so the particles in the octet are very long lived.

⁵Since the final states are SU(2) doublets we include an overall factor of two in (4.5).

4.3 Weakly interacting

Let us briefly discuss the light DSB sector particle Ψ_3 in the $(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3})_0$. After electroweak symmetry breaking, the triplet will split into (ψ^+, ψ^-, ψ^0) , where the superscript denotes the electric charge. One loop electroweak effects will split the mass M_c of the two charged particles with respect to the mass M_0 of the neutral one. The mass of ψ^\pm gets contribution by charged and neutral current interactions

$$\delta M_c = \frac{\alpha_2}{\pi} M_c (\sigma_W + \cos \theta_W^2 \sigma_Z + \sin \theta_W^2 \sigma_\gamma), \tag{4.9}$$

where α_2 is the running $SU(2)_L$ coupling and the loop integral

$$\sigma_I = \int_0^1 dx \ln \left(\frac{x\Lambda^2}{(1-x)^2 M_c^2 + x m_i^2} \right), \tag{4.10}$$

where $I = W, Z, \gamma$ labels the gauge boson masses and Λ is a UV cutoff. The mass M_0 of ψ^0 gets corrections from the charged current interaction only, $\delta M_0 = (\alpha_2/\pi) M_0 2\sigma_W$. The relative mass shift $\Delta M = \delta M_c - \delta M_0$ between the masses is UV finite and amounts to $\Delta M/M_c = 3 \times 10^{-4}$, that is around 0.3 GeV. Hence, ψ^0 is the lightest particle in the triplet and it decays only through charged current interactions. Its leading decay channel is a four body decay $\psi^0 \rightarrow \tilde{W}^\pm W^\mp \tilde{G} \tilde{G}$, namely a wino-like chargino, a W-boson and two gravitini. Therefore, it is very long lived, with a smaller decay rate than any other particle in the light DSB sector, even the singlet Ψ_S . It may thus provide another dark matter candidate in some region of our parameter space. We leave this issue to future investigations.

5. The detailed MSSM spectrum

The low energy spectrum of the theory was calculated using a modified version of SoftSUSY 2.0 [18]. The modifications allow introduction of multiple messenger scales, adjustment of the MSSM β functions to include the contribution of the light fields in the supersymmetry breaking sector ($\hat{\Phi}$), and they also enable running of the $\hat{\Phi}$ masses.

As discussed above, the seemingly large parameter space of the model is restricted to a narrow window by theoretical and phenomenological constraints. We chose to focus on the following set of parameters:

$$h = 2, \quad \mu = 100 \text{ TeV}, \quad m = 500 \text{ TeV}, \quad 0.2 < m_z/m < 1.2. \tag{5.1}$$

The remaining parameter in the theory, Λ_m , does not affect the low energy spectrum. In addition to the parameters of the supersymmetry breaking sector, there are two more degrees of freedom introduced by the EWSB sector in the MSSM, for which we took the following values:

$$5 < \tan \beta < 35, \quad \text{sgn}(\mu) = \pm 1. \tag{5.2}$$

In order to understand the dependence of the spectrum on the parameter m_z/m , one should examine how it affects the messenger masses, and the gaugino and scalar mass scales

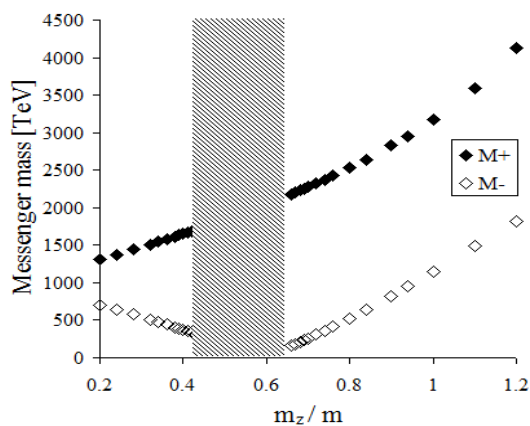


Figure 7: The messenger mass as a function of m_z/m . In marked area the light messenger is too light or tachyonic, hence we exclude it.

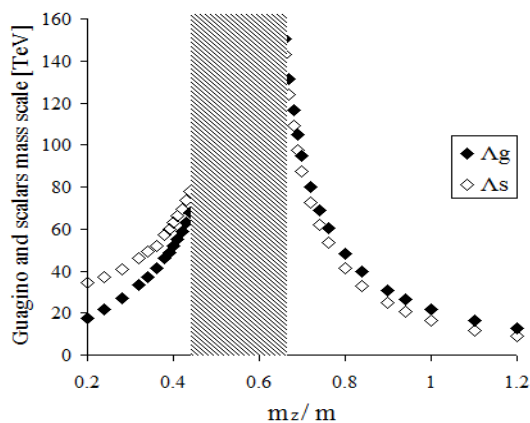


Figure 8: The soft supersymmetry breaking mass scales, Λ_s and Λ_g as a function of m_z/m . Largest values are obtained close to the light messenger region.

(Λ_g and Λ_s - see plots 8 and 7). In the range $0.45 < m_z/m < 0.65$ the light messenger becomes tachyonic, therefore this range is excluded. As one gets further away from this region, the messenger mass rises, leading to lower soft mass terms. Thus, the area of parameter space nearest to the tachyonic region leads to the highest soft mass terms. In the discussion below we show that this is an important condition for viable phenomenology.

The resulting spectrum has the general properties of ordinary gauge mediation with low supersymmetry breaking scale:

- *LSP*: The LSP is a light gravitino (< 16 eV).
- *NLSP*: The NLSP is usually a Bino like neutralino (20–200 GeV). For large $\tan \beta$ the NLSP can be a stau (see figure 10).
- There exists a hierarchy between colored and color singlet particles.

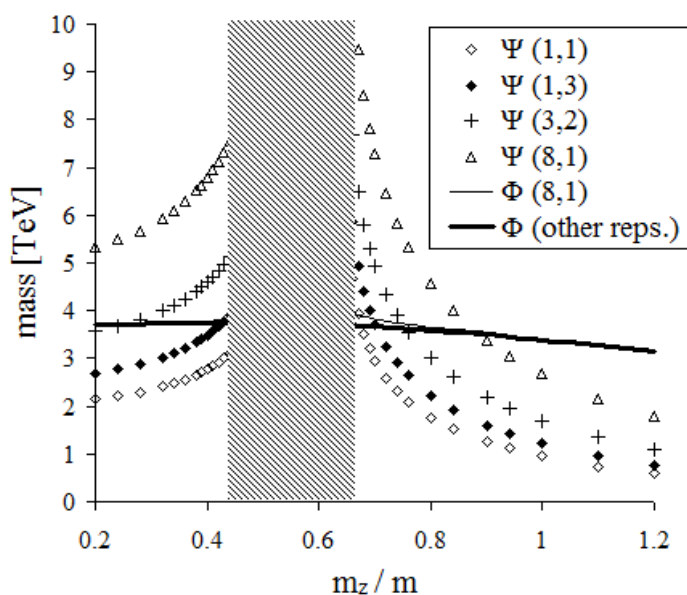


Figure 9: The masses of the visible fields from the supersymmetry breaking sector.

The new features that this model presents are:

- *Visible supersymmetry breaking sector:* A new set of particles, charged under the SM gauge group, with masses in the range 1 – 10 TeV. While the mass of the bosons does not vary much, the fermion masses are highly dependent on the ratio m_z/m , and they are split by the contribution of SM gauge loops to the RG flow. The lightest particle is thus either the fermionic singlet adjoint or one of the bosons. For $h = 2$ the lowest mass they can get in the allowed range is ~ 1 TeV (plot 9). However, for lower values of h one gets lower masses. This is in fact the feature of the model which is most influenced by the value of h .
- *Tachyonic sleptons:* When $m_z > 600$ TeV the sneutrino becomes tachyonic, thus excluding this part of parameter space. For large $\tan \beta$, the stau can become tachyonic at even lower m_z (plot 10).
- *Light Higgs mass:* The Higgs mass is in the range 100 – 117 GeV, and the LEP bound of $m_{\text{Higgs}} > 114.4$ [19] rules out a large part of parameter space. A large Higgs mass requires large values of Λ_s , and following the discussion above the allowed region will be where the messengers are lighter, namely $m_z \sim 200$ TeV or $m_z \sim 350$ TeV. Also, this constraint excludes $\tan \beta < 5$ (see plots 12 and 13).
- *Gaugino/scalar mass ratio ($N_{\text{eff}} \sim 1$):* As discussed in section 3.3, the ratio between gaugino masses and scalar masses (N_{eff}) is controlled by the parameter m_z , and gets values between 0 and 2. However, the range preferred by the Higgs mass constraint, leads to $N_{\text{eff}} \sim 1$, and no split supersymmetry. Moreover, taking low values of N_{eff}

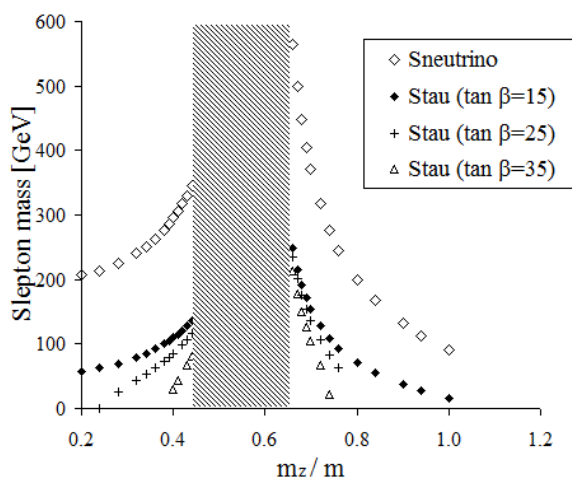


Figure 10: The slepton masses as a function of m_z/m . The stau mass is very sensitive to $\tan\beta$. The sneutrino becomes tachyonic at $m_z/m > 1.2$.

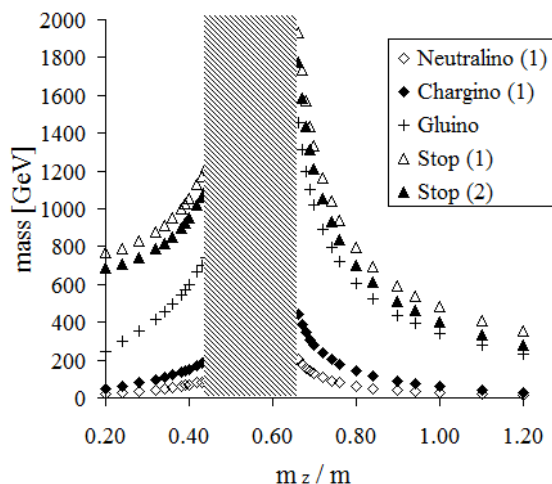


Figure 11: Masses of several particles in the spectrum as a function of m_z/m .

(or equivalently $100 \text{ TeV} < m_z < 150 \text{ TeV}$) leads to very light Bino masses, and a neutralino which is lower than 40 GeV.

- $sgn(\mu)$: The sign of μ is a free parameter in GMSB theories, but the different choices lead to similar spectra (In this case the changes are smaller than 1%). The main effect of taking the different signs is a change in the B_μ parameter, and different chargino and neutralino mixing matrices (the NLSP remains Bino-like). In addition to that, at large $\tan\beta$, where the stau mass is nearly tachyonic, a negative μ increases the mass, thus increasing slightly the range of allowed parameters.
- *The $B\mu/\mu$ problem:* The couplings of the Higgs mixing terms, μ and $B\mu$, are not

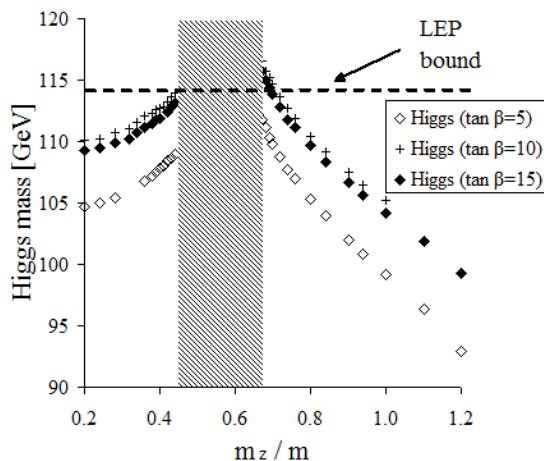


Figure 12: The Higgs mass as a function of m_z/m : The LEP bound rules out a large region of parameter space.

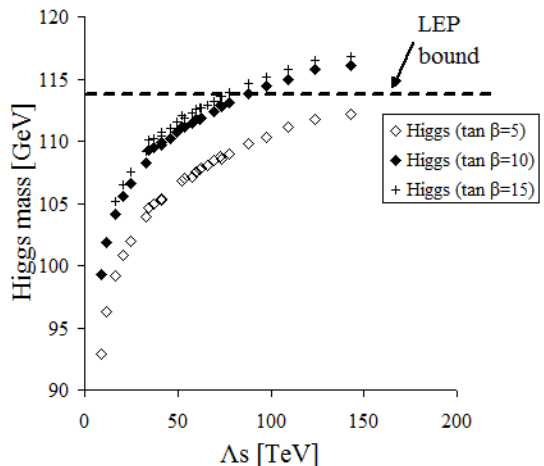


Figure 13: The Higgs mass as a function of Λ_s .

predicted by the model, but are determined by the values of the Z boson mass and $\tan\beta$. The computed values of $B\mu/\mu^2$ are approximately proportional to $\tan\beta^{-0.8}$, and are between 0.05 and 0.35 (plot 14). This means that the model has a strong B/μ problem: in models where the Higgs mixing terms are generated dynamically, this ratio is expected to be at the order of $16\pi^2$ — namely 2-3 orders of magnitude larger.

Varying the parameters in the allowed ranges discussed in section 3.1, for instance by taking a different Yukawa within the range $1 < h < 2$, leads to similar spectra. The main difference is the lower masses of the Ψ_Φ fermions. In the range where the Higgs mass satisfies the LEP bound, these masses remain above 1 TeV. By decreasing h , the constraints on the values of m_z change: the excluded window where the light messenger becomes tachyonic moves to larger values of m_z .

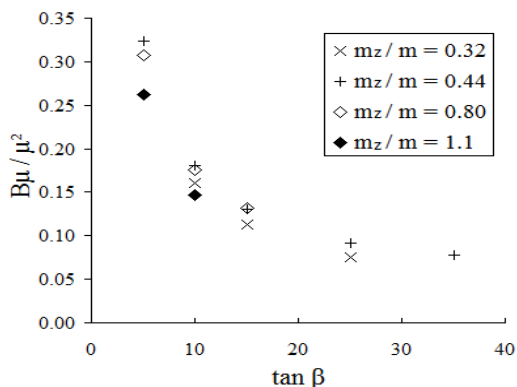


Figure 14: $B\mu/\mu^2$ as a function of $\tan \beta$ for several values of $\frac{m_z}{m}$.

6. A duality cascade in the UV

In models of direct mediation in which the supersymmetry breaking sector is a deformation of ISS there is a tension between a light gravitino with $m_{\frac{3}{2}} < 16 \text{ eV}$ and gauge coupling unification. To satisfy the first requirement, one needs a supersymmetry breaking scale below a hundred TeV. On the other hand, the supersymmetry breaking sector contains a large number of fields, charged under the MSSM gauge groups, which drive the running couplings towards a Landau pole before reaching unification. This happens in our model as well. We will consider a UV completion in terms of a duality cascade [9].⁶ The idea of completing the MSSM with a duality cascade in the UV is typical of some string theory embedding of the MSSM with D-branes at singularities. Examples of MSSM cascades have been recently presented in [10] and [11]. Typically, one needs to couple an extra sector to the MSSM in order to trigger the first step of the cascade. When we embed the MSSM into a direct mediation model, the cascade is triggered naturally above a certain scale, due to the presence of extra fields charged under the MSSM gauge groups (the messengers), that drive the QCD coupling to a Landau pole.

Let us RG evolve our model to the UV.

Consider first the supersymmetry breaking sector. Above the magnetic cutoff scale Λ_m , the supersymmetry breaking sector becomes strongly coupled and undergoes a Seiberg duality [20]. Its weakly coupled description is in terms of a $SU(N_c)$ SQCD with N_f light flavors Q^f and \tilde{Q}_f , with $N_c = 5$ and $N_f = 6$, and a quartic superpotential coupling $W = \frac{1}{M} \text{Tr}(\tilde{Q}_a Q^1) \text{Tr}(Q^a \tilde{Q}_1)$, which corresponds to the magnetic operator $\text{Tr} \tilde{Z} Z$ in (2.6). The electric description in terms of the quartic coupling is valid up to the scale $M = \Lambda_m^2/m_z$, which is equal to the GUT scale if we take the magnetic cutoff at $\Lambda_m = 5 \times 10^7 \text{ TeV}$.⁷

Let us RG evolve the MSSM towards the UV. To properly understand the duality pattern we will consider a minimal embedding of the MSSM and the supersymmetry breaking

⁶A different UV completion has been proposed by [2].

⁷The precise relation is $M = \Lambda_e^3/\Lambda_m m_z$, where Λ_e is the dynamical scale of the electric theory. We can take $\Lambda_e \sim \Lambda_m$ up to incalculable coefficients of order one.

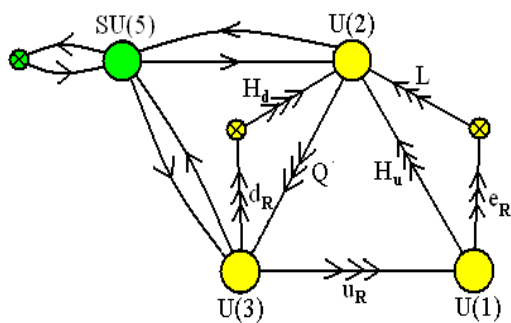


Figure 15: Embedding of the MSSM (yellow) coupled to the supersymmetry breaking sector (green) into a minimal quiver. The adjoints of SU(2) and SU(3) coming from the light DSB sector are not drawn.

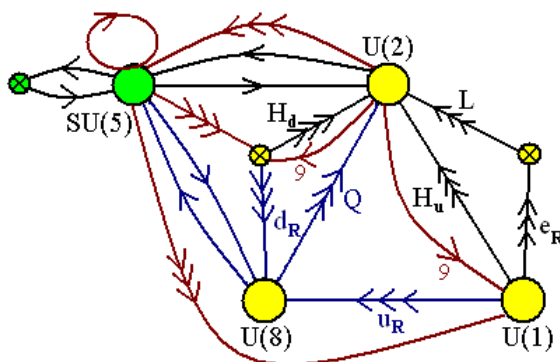


Figure 16: The first step of the cascade, after dualizing the QCD node of the MSSM from SU(3) to SU(8) (in red). Dual mesons are red, dual quarks blue, the adjoints of SU(2) and SU(8) are not drawn.

sector into a quiver gauge theory as shown in figure 15.⁸ We embed the MSSM into a quiver with three nodes [21], which has a simple string theory realization with D-branes at a C^3/\mathbb{Z}_3 singularity.⁹ The green nodes on the left correspond to the electric description of the supersymmetry breaking sector above Λ_m . The running of the MSSM couplings is large, due to the extra matter contribution from the supersymmetry breaking sector (see figure 17) and the SU(3) coupling hits a Landau pole below the GUT scale at around 10^9 TeV, while all the other couplings are still perturbative. This triggers a Seiberg duality on the SU(3) node, which has 11 flavors. In the dual quiver, in figure 16, the dual of the QCD node is an asymptotically free theory with 8 colors and 11 flavors (in red). This is the first step of the duality cascade, as we schematically depicted in figure 18. The MSSM

⁸We thank Sebastian Franco for discussions on this point.

⁹This quiver is slightly different from the MSSM in two aspects. The first is the presence of two extra anomalous U(1) gauge bosons, however they will get a large mass through the usual Green-Schwarz mechanism for anomaly cancelation. Second, there are two extra pairs of Higgs doublets. A superpotential mass for the Higgs is forbidden by the global U(1) symmetries, however in string theory these symmetries will be explicitly broken by nonperturbative effects. We assume that one can generate an appropriate μ term for the light Higgses and a large mass for the two extra Higgs pair.

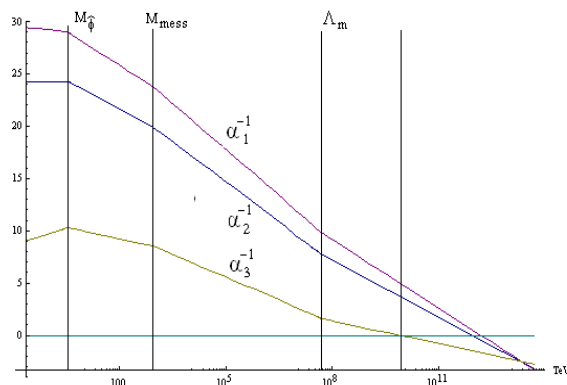


Figure 17: MSSM running couplings with the various thresholds. α_3 hits a Landau pole at 0.8×10^{10} TeV, triggering a duality cascade. The MSSM couplings formally unify at the GUT scale at negative values.

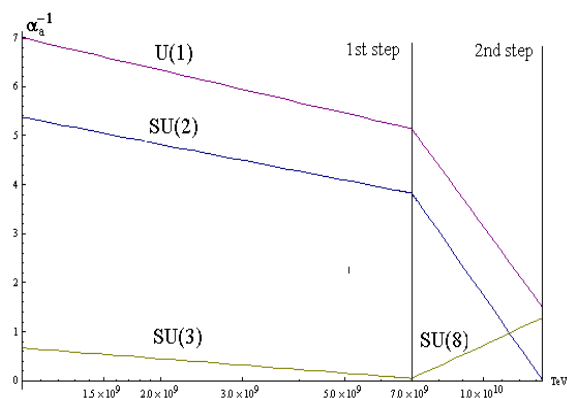


Figure 18: The first step of the cascade, where the QCD node to SU(8) is dualized. In the second step of the cascade the SU(2) is dualized.

matter content changes after the duality and, while the dual QCD node is weakly coupled, the weak SU(2) becomes strongly coupled soon triggering the second step of the cascade. The duality cascade will then proceed as discussed in [10] and [11]. The ranks of the gauge groups and the matter content increase fast as one climbs up the UV cascade and at some energy below the GUT scale the field theory description of the system will presumably break down and be replaced by an appropriate string description as in [9]. The issue of unification is still open, it is not unconceivable that the running couplings unify at some point in the UV cascade.

7. Discussion

We have presented a detailed phenomenology of direct gauge mediation using a deformation of the ISS vacuum, with explicitly broken R-symmetry. One of the aims of this model has been to show that it is indeed possible to obtain a natural MSSM spectrum starting from an ISS vacuum, and we have found on the way new interesting distinctive signatures of

this model: an ultralight gravitino, compatible with the cosmological bounds; a light DSB sector, which might be accessible at LHC energies; and long lived DSB sector particles, which might result in cold dark matter candidates. We proposed a UV completion in terms of a duality cascade that will eventually lead to a full string theory description presumably below the GUT scale. The issue of unification is not resolved and deserves further investigation.

One might modify the present model (2.4) by adding all the renormalizable operators allowed by the global symmetries, namely the additional superpotential terms $\delta W_{\text{ren}} = g\text{Tr}\hat{\Phi}^2 + f\text{Tr}\hat{\Phi}^3$. In this case the magnetic theory would be generic, in the sense of [13]. Another modification, inspired by string theory constructions, is obtained by adding all the quartic superpotential terms in the electric theory [22], namely $\delta W_{\text{GK}} = h^2 m_{\hat{\Phi}} \text{Tr}\hat{\Phi}^2 + h^2 m_Y \text{Tr}Y^2$. In both cases, the effect of such operators would be twofold: first, they introduce new classical supersymmetric vacua coming in from infinity. This will reintroduce the tension between long lifetime of the ISS vacuum and non-vanishing gaugino masses that we avoided in our model, pointing towards an unnatural split supersymmetric spectrum. On the other hand, the tree level mass term for the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$ will raise the light DSB sector particle masses, probably rendering them inaccessible at LHC energies.

We would like to briefly compare our phenomenology with other models of direct gauge mediation obtained as deformations of ISS, to highlight similarities and differences (see the summary in table 1. The first four models break explicitly R-symmetry, while the last one breaks it spontaneously.

KOO model. In the original paper of [2], a different embedding of the MSSM gauge group into the ISS flavor symmetry group was considered, namely into $SU(N)_{\text{diag}}$. In this case, one needs at least $N_c = 11$ and $N_f = 16$. To achieve perturbative unification, one needs to push the messenger scale hm as high as 10^{10} TeV and in turn the F-term $F = h\mu^2$ is around 10^{11} TeV², in order to get soft scalar masses of a few hundred GeV. With such a supersymmetry breaking scale, one gets a gravitino mass $m_{3/2} \sim 50$ MeV, outside the cosmological bounds of [8]. The pseudogoldstone boson coming from the fluctuations of $\text{Re}(\chi - \tilde{\chi}^T)$ and its fermionic superpartner may give a light supersymmetry breaking sector, with particles in the fundamental representations of the MSSM gauge groups, unlike our case in which the light DSB sector is in the adjoint and bifundamental (they will be beyond the reach of the next colliders though). One may get rid of such light DSB sector particles by gauging the $U(1)_B$ baryon symmetry.

Adding singlets. One can modify the ISS theory by adding extra singlets [3], with explicit R-symmetry breaking superpotential interactions. The pseudomodulus gets an expectation value and the gaugino masses are generated at cubic order in the F-term. Since $F/m_{\text{mess}}^2 \sim 1$, in this case the gaugino masses will be of the same order of the sfermion masses, giving a natural spectrum, however the lightest messenger is very light and can turn tachyonic. The supersymmetry breaking scale is around 100 TeV, which gives a gravitino mass of order 10 eV. The theory has a Landau pole for the QCD coupling below the GUT scale, and a UV completion in terms of a duality cascade is suggested as

model	\mathcal{R}	MSSM	M_{susy}	$m_{3/2}$	UV	DSB sector
KOO [2]	explicit	natur.	10^5 TeV	\times	GUT	heavy
singlets [3]	explicit	natur.	10^2 TeV	\checkmark	cascade	light
mesons [4]	explicit	split	10^3 TeV	\times	GUT	light
baryons [5]	spont.	split	10^4 TeV	\times	pole	light
ours	explicit	natur.	10^2 TeV	\checkmark	cascade	light

Table 1: Summary of direct gauge mediation models based on ISS deformations.

well [3, 23].¹⁰ The low energy spectrum is similar to the one that we discussed in this paper, with light particles coming from the fluctuations of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$, with a mass of a few TeV and the same quantum numbers as in (4.1).

Adding mesons. One can explicitly break R-symmetry by adding a quartic superpotential coupling in the magnetic quarks $\delta W = (\tilde{q}q)^2$ as in [4]. In this case as well, the gaugino masses are generated only at cubic order in the F-term and the ratio sfermion/gaugino masses is around a hundred, giving a split supersymmetric spectrum. The supersymmetry breaking scale is of order 10^3 TeV, yielding a gravitino mass around 1 keV, ruled out by the cosmological bounds [8]. To get a lighter gravitino, one might lower the supersymmetry breaking scale, but at some point the messengers become tachyonic and destabilize the vacuum.

Adding baryons. For the particular choice $N_f = 7$, $N_c = 5$, the magnetic gauge group is SU(2) and one can add a renormalizable operator to the superpotential in the form of a magnetic baryon [5, 6]. This theory is generic and achieves a spontaneous radiative breaking of the accidental R-symmetry of the ISS vacuum. In this case one realizes a split supersymmetric spectrum, in which the sfermions are a hundred times heavier than the gauginos. The R-axion is consistent with cosmological bounds, however the supersymmetry breaking scale is around 10^4 TeV, which gives a gravitino mass of around 50 KeV, not consistent with the cosmological bounds [8]. This model has always a Landau pole in the MSSM gauge couplings below the GUT scale.

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A. One-loop potential

The ISS vacuum (2.5), (A.7) has a pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$. In this appendix, we compute the one loop effective potential for the scalar pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$, which gives it a mass and

¹⁰In a slight variation of the same model, R-symmetry can be spontaneously broken by the extra singlets.

an expectation value, as well as the one loop mass for the fermionic superpartner of the pseudomodulus $\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}$.

A.1 Scalar mass

Let us compute the masses of the bosons and fermions that couple to $\hat{\Phi}$ and get splitted by its F-term. The mass matrix mixes $(\rho, Z, \tilde{\rho}^\dagger, \tilde{Z}^\dagger)$ and $(\rho^\dagger, Z^\dagger, \tilde{\rho}, \tilde{Z})$. Its eigenvalues are

$$\begin{aligned} m_{1,\pm}^2 &= \frac{h^2}{2} \left(2m^2 + h^2 m_z^2 + |\hat{\Phi}|^2 - \mu^2 \pm \sqrt{4m^2(hm_z + \hat{\Phi})(hm_z + \hat{\Phi}^*) + (h^2 m_z^2 - |\hat{\Phi}|^2 + \mu^2)^2} \right), \\ m_{2,\pm}^2 &= \frac{h^2}{2} \left(2m^2 + h^2 m_z^2 + |\hat{\Phi}|^2 + \mu^2 \pm \sqrt{4m^2(hm_z + \hat{\Phi})(hm_z + \hat{\Phi}^*) + (h^2 m_z^2 - |\hat{\Phi}|^2 - \mu^2)^2} \right), \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.1})$$

while the fermionic eigenvalues are obtained by (A.1) setting the F term μ^2 to zero

$$\mathcal{M}_\pm = \left| \frac{1}{2} h \left(hm_z + \hat{\Phi}_0 \pm \sqrt{4m^2 + (-hm_z + \hat{\Phi}_0)^2} \right) \right|, \quad (\text{A.2})$$

There no tachyons if

$$|m^2 \pm hm_z \hat{\Phi}|^2 > \mu^2(m^2 + h^2 m_z^2). \quad (\text{A.3})$$

The Coleman-Weinberg potential is

$$V^{(1)}(\hat{\Phi}) = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left(\text{Tr } m_B^4 \log \frac{m_B^2}{\Lambda_0} - \text{Tr } m_F^4 \log \frac{m_F^2}{\Lambda_0} \right) \quad (\text{A.4})$$

We use the expressions (A.1) and (A.2) just computed. The lengthy one loop expression can be expanded at first order in the small parameter μ/m

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\hat{\Phi}}^2 &= \frac{N}{8\pi^2} \frac{h\mu^4}{m_Z^3(4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2)^{\frac{7}{2}}} f(h, m, m_Z), \\ \hat{\Phi}_0 &= \frac{hm_Z(4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2)g(h, m, m_Z)}{4m^2 f(h, m, m_Z)}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.5})$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} f(h, m, m_Z) &= hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2} (h^2 m_Z^2 - m^2)(m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2)(2m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2) + \\ &\quad + m^2(2m^6 + 12h^2 m^4 m_Z^2 + 9h^4 m^2 m_Z^4 + 2h^6 m_Z^6) \cdot \\ &\quad \cdot \log \frac{2m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2 + hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2}}{2m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2 - hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2}}, \\ g(h, m, m_Z) &= hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2} (-4m^6 + 10h^2 m_Z^2 m^4 + 6h^4 m_Z^4 m^2 + h^6 m_Z^6) + \\ &\quad + 2m^4(2m^4 - 2h^2 m^2 m_Z^2 - h^4 m_Z^4) \log \frac{2m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2 + hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2}}{2m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2 - hm_Z \sqrt{4m^2 + h^2 m_Z^2}}, \end{aligned} \quad (\text{A.6})$$

We can further expand at first order in h , or at first order in m_z :

$$M_{\hat{\Phi}}^2 = \frac{N}{48\pi^2} \frac{h^4 \mu^4}{m^2}, \quad \hat{\Phi}_0 = \frac{hm_z}{2}, \quad (\text{A.7})$$

where the mass term reproduces the familiar one loop correction to the O'Raifeartaigh model.

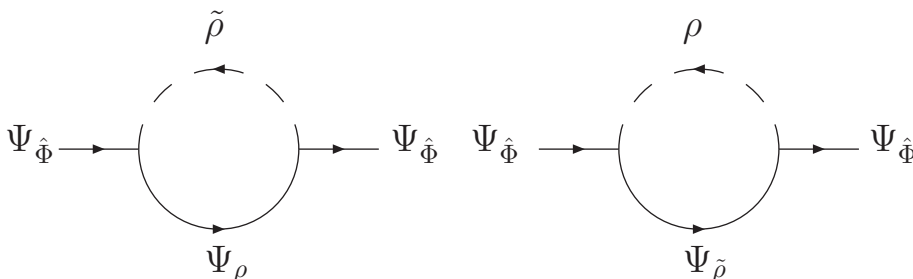


Figure 19: One loop mass M_ψ of the fermionic partner $\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}$ of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$

A.2 Fermion mass

The pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$ has a fermionic superpartner $\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}$. Its mass is proportional to the vev of the pseudomodulus and it is obtained by integrating out the heavy messengers through the Yukawa interaction

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -h\text{Tr} \psi_\rho \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} \tilde{\rho} - h\text{Tr} \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} \tilde{\psi}_{\tilde{\rho}} \rho + \text{h.c.} . \quad (\text{A.8})$$

This interaction can generate two kind of mass terms at one loop. The Dirac mass $\bar{\psi} \hat{\Phi} \psi_{\hat{\Phi}}$ vanishes but the Majorana mass term is non-vanishing: roughly speaking it is proportional to the F-term times the expectation value of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$. In the original ISS, the accidental R symmetry forces $\langle \hat{\Phi} \rangle = 0$ hence the Majorana mass vanishes, while in our case R symmetry is explicitly broken and the mass is non-zero.

We need to evaluate the one loop diagrams in figure 19. We switch from the interaction eigenstates $S = \{\rho, Z, \tilde{\rho}^\dagger, \tilde{Z}^\dagger\}$ and $\Psi = \{\psi_\rho, \psi_Z\}$, $\tilde{\Psi} = \{\psi_{\tilde{\rho}}, \psi_{\tilde{Z}}\}$ to the mass eigenstates by using the fermionic mass matrix \mathcal{M} in (3.8) and the bosonic mass matrix m^2 and we introduce the following mixing matrices

$$\hat{S} = SQ, \quad \hat{\psi}_+ = \psi U, \quad \hat{\psi}_- = \tilde{\psi} V^*. \quad (\text{A.9})$$

$$\hat{m}^2 = Q^\dagger m^2 Q, \quad \hat{\mathcal{M}} = U^\dagger \mathcal{M} V,$$

where \hat{m}^2 and $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$ are diagonal matrices whose entries are the bosonic and fermionic messenger mass eigenvalues. The interaction term reads

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -h\text{Tr} \left(\hat{\psi}_{+p} U_{p1}^\dagger \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} Q_{3i} \hat{S}_i^\dagger + \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} \hat{\psi}_{-p} V_{1p} \hat{S}_i Q_{i1}^\dagger \right) + \text{h.c.} \quad (\text{A.10})$$

and the mass term

$$\mathcal{L} \supset -\frac{1}{2} M_{\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}} \text{Tr} \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} \psi_{\hat{\Phi}} + \text{h.c.}, \quad (\text{A.11})$$

is given by the loop integral¹¹ in figure 19

$$M_{\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}} = -4h^2 \sum_{p=1}^4 \sum_{i=1,2} Q_{3i} Q_{i1}^\dagger V_{1p} U_{p1}^\dagger \int \frac{d^4 k}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{\hat{\mathcal{M}}_p}{p^2 + \hat{\mathcal{M}}_p^2} \frac{1}{p^2 + \hat{m}_i^2}$$

$$= \frac{h^2}{4\pi^2} \sum_{p=1}^4 \sum_{i=1,2} Q_{3i} Q_{i1}^\dagger V_{1p} U_{p1}^\dagger \frac{\hat{\mathcal{M}}_p}{\hat{m}_i^2 - \hat{\mathcal{M}}_p^2} \left(\hat{m}_i^2 \ln \frac{\hat{m}_i^2}{\Lambda^2} - \hat{\mathcal{M}}_p^2 \ln \frac{\hat{\mathcal{M}}_p^2}{\Lambda^2} \right). \quad (\text{A.12})$$

¹¹The mass does not actually depend on the cutoff scale Λ that we inserted to regulate the integral, due to the unitarity of the mixing matrices.

The mixing matrices can be written using 3 angles

$$\begin{aligned}
 V_{11}U_{11}^\dagger &= \cos^2 \theta_f & V_{12}U_{21}^\dagger &= \sin^2 \theta_f \\
 Q_{31}Q_{11}^\dagger &= -\cos^2 \theta_{s1} & Q_{32}Q_{21}^\dagger &= \cos^2 \theta_{s2} \\
 Q_{33}Q_{31}^\dagger &= -\sin^2 \theta_{s1} & Q_{34}Q_{41}^\dagger &= \sin^2 \theta_{s2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.13}$$

where we defined

$$\begin{aligned}
 \tan 2\theta_f &= \frac{2m(hm_z + \hat{\Phi})}{(hm_z)^2 - |\hat{\Phi}|^2} \\
 \tan 2\theta_{s1} &= \frac{2m(hm_z + \hat{\Phi})}{(hm_z)^2 - |\hat{\Phi}|^2 + \mu^2} \\
 \tan 2\theta_{s2} &= \frac{2m(hm_z + \hat{\Phi})}{(hm_z)^2 - |\hat{\Phi}|^2 - \mu^2}
 \end{aligned} \tag{A.14}$$

and the mass eigenstates are ordered from the lightest to the heaviest.

B. Lifetime

We evaluated numerically the bounce action for the decay of the ISS vacuum into the closest supersymmetry breaking vacuum (2.9) (namely the $n = 1$ vacuum). We consider the classical plus one-loop potential $V = \sum_i |F_i|^2 + V_{1-loop}$, where the F-terms come from (2.4) and the one-loop correction is given in (2.8) and (A.5). To simplify the computation, we consider a toy model with a slice of the full potential in which we identify $\rho = \tilde{\rho}$, $Z = \tilde{Z}$ and we neglect the $\chi, \tilde{\chi}$ fields, which are fixed to (2.5) in both vacua and play no role. We consider a real slice of the potential so that we are left with a function of four real variables

$$V(\rho, Z, Y, \hat{\Phi}) = 2h^2(Z\rho + mY)^2 + 2h^2(\hat{\Phi}\rho + mZ)^2 + 2h^2(hm_Z Z + m\rho)^2 \tag{B.1}$$

$$+ h^2(\rho^2 - \mu^2)^2 + M_{\hat{\Phi}}^2(\hat{\Phi} - \hat{\Phi}_0)^2. \tag{B.2}$$

For m_Z inside the phenomenological range (3.4), this function has three extrema, one corresponding to the ISS vacuum, the second corresponding to the closest supersymmetry breaking vacuum, and the third giving the saddle point that the bounce crosses in the trajectory between the two vacua. We can plot a one dimensional slice of this potential by the following procedure. Around the ISS vacuum, the lightest fluctuation is $\hat{\Phi}$, whose mass arises only at one-loop. Hence, we can integrate out the massive fields ρ, Z, Y on their equations of motion coming from (B.1) and obtain an effective potential for the real $\hat{\Phi}$ field only, whose plot is given in figure 3.

The ISS vacuum is on the plateau on the left, while the other supersymmetry breaking vacuum is on the right. The difference between the value of the potential at the extremum and the ISS value is very small, compared to the difference between the potential at the two vacua, so we can reliably use the triangle approximation to evaluate the bounce action. The peak in the bounce trajectory is reached at

$$\hat{\Phi} = \frac{m^2 - \mu\sqrt{m^2 + h^2m_Z^2}}{hm_Z}. \tag{B.3}$$

We evaluate numerically the bounce action and we see that, for $m_Z < 260$ TeV, the action is larger than the critical value $S_{\text{bounce}} \sim 400$ for $m_Z < 225$ TeV. In the range 330 TeV $< m_Z < 700$ TeV, on the other hand, the profile of the potential is reversed, still keeping the same shape: the lower energy vacua (2.9) approach the origin of field space, while the ISS vacuum is located at $\hat{\Phi}_0$, which takes larger values. In this case the bounce action is always very large, $S_{\text{bounce}} \gg 400$. Hence, the requirement that the metastable vacuum be long lived further constrains our parameter space to

$$m_Z < 225 \text{ TeV} \quad \text{or} \quad 330 \text{ TeV} < m_Z < 700 \text{ TeV} . \tag{B.4}$$

C. RG flow

We list here the RG equation for the masses of the DSB sector light fields (4.2) coming from the components of the pseudomodulus $\hat{\Phi}$ and its superpartner $\psi_{\hat{\Phi}}$. In the computation of the low energy spectrum we need to include their running because their mass is one loop suppressed with respect to the messenger mass, hence it is of the order of a TeV. Using the general formulae in the conventions of [24] we find

$$\begin{aligned} (4\pi)^2 \beta_{m^2(\phi_i)} &= -8 \sum_{a=1,2,3} g_a^2 C^a(\phi_i) |M_a|^2 + \frac{6}{5} g_1^2 Y_i \mathcal{S} , \\ (4\pi)^2 \beta_{M(\Psi_i)} &= -6M(\Psi_i) \sum_{a=1,2,3} g_a^2 C^a(\psi_i) , \end{aligned} \tag{C.1}$$

where \mathcal{S} is the trace of the soft masses, weighted by the hypercharge.¹² Note that we have to add to the usual $\mathcal{S}_{\text{MSSM}}$ in eq. (5.57) of [24] the contribution $\delta\mathcal{S}$ from the soft masses of the light DSB sector fields that have non-vanishing hypercharge, namely \tilde{p}, p in (4.2). The total expression appearing in (C.1) is thus $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_{\text{MSSM}} + \delta\mathcal{S}$ where $\delta\mathcal{S} = 5m_{\tilde{p}}^2 - 5m_p^2$. Note that the fermion masses run faster because their β function is proportional to the Ψ_{Φ} mass, and not the gaugino mass.

The RGE in the MSSM have to be modified accordingly, by replacing $\mathcal{S}_{\text{MSSM}}$ with the full $\mathcal{S}_{\text{MSSM}} + \delta\mathcal{S}$. The MSSM charges of the various DSB sector fields are collected in the following table. The messengers (ρ, Z) are in the $\bar{\mathbf{5}}$ of SU(5) and $(\tilde{\rho}, \tilde{Z})$ are in the $\mathbf{5}$. We split them as $\rho = (\rho_3, \rho_2)$ and so on, while the other fields come from (4.2)

ρ_2, Z_2	$\tilde{\rho}_2, \tilde{Z}_2$	ρ_3, Z_3	$\tilde{\rho}_3, \tilde{Z}_3$	φ_8	φ_3	\tilde{p}	\tilde{p}'	S
$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2})_{-1/2}$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2})_{1/2}$	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{1})_{1/3}$	$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{1})_{-1/3}$	$(\mathbf{8}, \mathbf{1})_0$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{3})_0$	$(\mathbf{3}, \mathbf{2})_{-5/6}$	$(\bar{\mathbf{3}}, \mathbf{2})_{5/6}$	$(\mathbf{1}, \mathbf{1})_0$

The contribution of $\hat{\Phi}$ to the β function of the gauge couplings was added at scales above their masses.

Unlike ordinary GMSB models, where the model has a single value for the messengers mass, in this model we have two messenger scales. This fact was partially accounted for by

¹²There would normally be a contribution from the Yukawa coupling h , but its threshold is above the messenger mass. This contribution goes like $\log \frac{M_+}{M_-}$, where M_{\pm} are the messenger masses, and was neglected.

taking the heavier messenger mass as the boundary scale, where the soft supersymmetry breaking mass terms were calculated by integrating out only the heavy messenger. The contribution of the lighter messenger was added as a threshold effect at the light messenger mass scale. Between these scales the light messenger, which is a superfield at the fundamental representation of SU(5), contributes to the beta functions of the gauge coupling and to the scalar masses

$$\Delta\beta_{m_i} = \frac{8}{(4\pi)^4} \text{Str}(S(r)\mathcal{M}^2) \sum_{a=1}^3 g_a^4 C_a(m_i) . \quad (\text{C.2})$$

(S(r) is the Dynkin index of the messenger).

As mentioned above, the calculation of the low energy MSSM spectrum was performed using the SoftSUSY software [18]. However, the discussed model required several important modification for the RG flow due to the multiple messenger scales and the additional visible fields.

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