

Leptogenesis through direct inflaton decay to light particles

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We present a scenario of nonthermal leptogenesis following supersymmetric hybrid inflation, in the case where inflaton decay to both heavy right-handed neutrino and $SU(2)_L$ triplet superfields is kinematically disallowed. Lepton asymmetry is generated through the decay of the inflaton into light particles by the interference of one-loop diagrams with right-handed neutrino and $SU(2)_L$ triplet exchange, respectively. We require superpotential couplings explicitly violating a $U(1)$ R symmetry and R parity. However, the broken R parity need not have currently observable low-energy signatures. Also, the lightest sparticle can be stable. Some R -parity-violating slepton decays may, though, be detectable in future colliders. We take into account the constraints from neutrino masses and mixing and the preservation of the primordial lepton asymmetry.

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I. INTRODUCTION

The standard model (SM) of electroweak and strong interactions, despite its many successes, leaves unanswered many questions in particle physics and cosmology. In particular, it does not address the following problems: the origin of electroweak symmetry breaking and of the hierarchy between the electroweak scale M_W and the (reduced) Planck scale $m_P \approx 2.44 \times 10^{18}$ GeV; the origin and size of neutrino (ν) masses and mixing; the cosmological horizon and flatness problems and the origin of density perturbations; the generation of the observed baryon asymmetry of the Universe (BAU).

The problem of stabilizing the electroweak scale relative to the fundamental scale M_S (which we take to be close to the Planck scale) is solved by softly broken supersymmetry (SUSY). For definiteness, we take the case of gravity-mediated SUSY breaking, where the gravitino mass is of order 1 TeV. In this framework, the vacuum expectation values (VEVs) of the electroweak Higgs superfields h_1, h_2 can be determined by radiative corrections to the scalar potential [1]. However, this explanation of the electroweak symmetry breaking requires a term $\mu h_1 h_2$ in the superpotential with $\mu \sim 1$ TeV, whereas *a priori* the value of μ is expected to be of the order of the fundamental scale. This μ problem of the minimal SUSY standard model (MSSM) can be addressed by imposing a symmetry that forbids the above μ term, which is then broken in a controlled fashion. An R symmetry, broken by the soft SUSY-breaking terms, can satisfy [2] this role (see below).

The smallness of neutrino masses is naturally explained in a model with additional SM singlet chiral fermions (ν^c), the right-handed neutrinos (RHNs), since these can obtain heavy Majorana masses ($\sim M_{\nu^c}$) and also participate in Yukawa couplings with the $SU(2)_L$ doublet neutrinos resulting in Dirac neutrino masses ($\sim m_D$) after the electroweak symme-

try breaking. The resulting seesaw mass matrix [3] has small eigenvalues of order m_D^2/M_{ν^c} , which can be of the right order of magnitude to explain atmospheric and solar neutrino oscillations, while being consistent with cosmological bounds on neutrino masses. Another mechanism of inducing nonzero neutrino masses is the introduction of heavy scalar $SU(2)_L$ triplets T with lepton number -2 , coupling to the $SU(2)_L$ doublet lepton fields. After the breaking of the electroweak symmetry, the neutral components of these triplets can acquire small VEVs inducing Majorana neutrino masses [4]. In general, these two mechanisms for generating neutrino masses can coexist.

The cosmological horizon and flatness problems are most elegantly solved by inflation, which can also generate the primordial density perturbations required for structure formation in the Universe [5]. Moreover, inflation, which can be easily incorporated in realistic particle physics models, is strongly favored by the recent data [6] on the angular power spectrum of the cosmic microwave background radiation (CMBR).

If neutrinos get mass either by coupling to heavy SM singlet fermions or to heavy scalar $SU(2)_L$ triplets, it may be possible to generate [7,8] a primordial lepton asymmetry in the out-of-equilibrium decay of these heavy degrees of freedom, in case they were thermally produced in the early Universe. This asymmetry is then reprocessed at the electroweak phase transition to yield the observed BAU. However, there is tension between correct neutrino masses and this thermal leptogenesis scenario in SUSY models because of the gravitino problem [9,10]. With a gravitino mass of around 1 TeV, the reheat temperature T_{rh} should not exceed 10^9 GeV since gravitinos produced in thermal scattering processes would decay late presumably into photons and photinos and, if sufficiently numerous, interfere with the successful predictions of standard big bang nucleosynthesis. On the other hand, one also requires that the heavy fields whose decay creates lepton asymmetry be generated in sufficient numbers. So, their masses should not exceed T_{rh} , which leads to unacceptably large light neutrino masses. However, this problem can be alleviated [11,12] by assuming that there is some degree of degeneracy between the relevant RHNs or heavy $SU(2)_L$ triplets, which enhances the generated lepton asymmetry, and

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perhaps also that the branching ratio of the gravitino decay into photons and photinos is less than unity, which somewhat relaxes [10] the gravitino constraint on T_{rh} .

The tension between ν masses and the gravitino problem can be more naturally relaxed by considering nonthermal leptogenesis [13] at reheating. However, in existing scenarios [14,15], where the inflaton decays into RHN or $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplet superfields, this still puts a restriction on the masses of these particles: the decay products of the inflaton must be lighter than half its mass m_{inf} . Lepton asymmetry is generated in the subsequent decay of the RHN or $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplet superfields.

In this work, however, we consider the consequences of allowing all the RHN and/or $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplet superfields of the model to be heavier than $m_{\text{inf}}/2$ (see also Ref. [16]). Leptogenesis could then occur only via the direct decay of the inflaton to light particles (see also Ref. [17]). We take a simple SUSY grand unified theory (GUT) model naturally incorporating the standard SUSY realization [18,19] of hybrid inflation [20], which does not require tiny parameters and is, undoubtedly, one of the most promising inflationary scenarios. (For extensions of standard SUSY hybrid inflation, see Ref. [21].) In global SUSY, the flatness of the inflationary path at tree level is guaranteed by a $\text{U}(1)$ R symmetry. The η problem [18] of sizable supergravity (SUGRA) contributions to the inflaton mass on the inflationary path, which could easily invalidate inflation, is reduced, in this case, to controlling the magnitude of a single term in the Kähler potential [22] (see also Ref. [23]). Finally, radiative corrections provide [19] a logarithmic slope along the classically flat direction, needed for driving the inflaton towards the SUSY vacua.

The μ problem is solved by employing the mechanism of Ref. [2]. (For an alternative solution of the μ problem, see Ref. [14].) The global R symmetry of the model forbids the appearance of a μ term in the superpotential. On the contrary, it allows the existence of the trilinear term Sh_1h_2 , where S is the gauge singlet inflaton of the standard SUSY hybrid inflation. After the GUT gauge symmetry breaking, the soft SUSY-breaking terms, which generally violate the R symmetry, give rise to a suppressed linear term in S , and thus this field acquires a VEV of the order of the electroweak scale divided by a small coupling constant. The above trilinear coupling can then yield a μ term of the right magnitude.

The inflaton consists of two complex scalar fields with tree-level couplings to the electroweak Higgs bosons and Higgsinos derived from the above trilinear term. After the end of inflation, it oscillates about the SUSY vacuum and eventually decays predominantly into electroweak Higgs superfields via these tree-level couplings, thereby reheating the Universe. We find that, in the case of one fermion family, both heavy RHN and $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplet superfields are necessary if diagrams producing a nonzero lepton asymmetry are to exist. Since these heavy fields can only appear in intermediate states of the inflaton decay, we must create the asymmetry directly from this decay. Indeed, leptogenesis can occur in the subdominant decay of the inflaton into lepton and Higgs superfields through the interference between different one-loop diagrams with RHN and $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplet exchange,

respectively. The lepton asymmetry is proportional to a novel CP -violating invariant product of coupling constants.

For nonzero asymmetry, we also need to include some couplings in the superpotential that explicitly violate both the $\text{U}(1)$ R symmetry and its Z_2 matter parity subgroup, which remains unbroken by the soft SUSY-breaking terms. Although these couplings involve superheavy fields, the matter-parity violation may have some observable consequences at low energy such as the possible instability of the lightest SUSY particle (LSP). Indeed, if this particle contains a Higgsino component, it could decay predominantly into a pair of Higgs bosons and a lepton. This channel can, though, be easily blocked kinematically if the LSP is not too heavy (see Sec. V). On the contrary, some R -parity-violating slepton decays that may be detectable in future colliders are typically present (see Sec. VII).

We find that the value of the BAU from the Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP) data [6] can be easily achieved given constraints from other observables, notably the reheat temperature and neutrino masses and mixing, and CP -violating phases of order unity. However, the constraint from ν masses and mixing is considerably weakened by the existence of two separate contributions, namely those of the usual seesaw mechanism and from the Higgs $\text{SU}(2)_L$ triplets (see also Ref. [24]). On the contrary, the requirement that the initial lepton asymmetry is protected from lepton-number-violating $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes that are in equilibrium in the early Universe imposes very stringent constraints on the parameters of the model, which we also take into account in our analysis. The prediction for the spectral index of density perturbations is typical of SUSY hybrid inflation models (see, e.g., Ref. [25]).

Thus, an acceptable value of the BAU can be obtained within a consistent model of cosmology and particle physics, without requiring additional fine-tuned coupling constants and without necessarily putting strong constraints on observables such as neutrino masses and mixing. Moreover, although the scenario requires violation of the R symmetry, it is not necessary to introduce superpotential terms that would lead to currently observable R -symmetry-violating effects.

In Sec. II, we introduce our model and describe some of its salient features. In Sec. III, we present the CP -violating invariant products of coupling constants which enter into the primordial lepton asymmetry, while in Sec. IV we sketch the calculation of the BAU. The effects of R -symmetry violation are discussed in Sec. V. The constraints from neutrino masses and the preservation of the initial lepton asymmetry are given in Sec. VI, and our numerical results in Sec. VII. Finally, our conclusions are summarized in Sec. VIII.

II. THE MODEL

The model has gauge group $\text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{U}(1)_Y \times \text{U}(1)_{B-L}$ and a global R symmetry $\text{U}(1)_R$, which, though, is explicitly broken by some terms in the superpotential (see below). In addition to the corresponding vector superfields and the usual MSSM chiral superfields h_1 , h_2 (Higgs $\text{SU}(2)_L$ doublets), l_i ($\text{SU}(2)_L$ doublet leptons), e_i^c ($\text{SU}(2)_L$ singlet charged leptons), q_i ($\text{SU}(2)_L$ doublet quarks), u_i^c , d_i^c

TABLE I. U(1) charges of superfields.

	S	ϕ	$\bar{\phi}$	T	\bar{T}	h_1	h_2	l	ν^c	e^c	q	u^c	d^c
$B-L$	0	1	-1	2	0	0	0	-1	1	1	1/3	-1/3	-1/3
R	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1

($SU(2)_L$ singlet quarks) with $i=1,2,3$ being the family index, we introduce chiral superfields ν_i^c (RHNs), S , ϕ , $\bar{\phi}$ singlets under the SM gauge group and T , \bar{T} in the adjoint representation of $SU(2)_L$ with $Y=1, -1$ respectively. (As usual, we will use the same symbol to denote the superfield and its scalar component, the distinction being clear in context.) The charges under $U(1)_{B-L}$ and $U(1)_R$ are given in Table I.

The superpotential is

$$\begin{aligned}
W = & \kappa S(\phi\bar{\phi} - M^2) + \lambda S(h_1 h_2) \\
& + h_{eij}(h_1 l_i) e_j^c + h_{uij}(h_2 q_i) u_j^c + h_{dij}(h_1 q_i) d_j^c \\
& + h_{vij}(h_2 l_i) \nu_j^c + h_{Tij} l_i \epsilon T l_j + h_{\bar{T}} h_2 \epsilon \bar{T} h_2 \\
& + (M_{\nu_{ij}}/M^2) \bar{\phi}^2 \nu_i^c \nu_j^c + (M_T/M^2) \bar{\phi}^2 T \bar{T} \\
& + (\lambda_i/M_S) \bar{\phi}(h_1 h_2) \nu_i^c + (\lambda'_i/M_S) \bar{\phi} h_1 \epsilon T l_i + \dots,
\end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

where M is a mass parameter of the order of the GUT scale, M_S is the string scale $\approx 5 \times 10^{17}$ GeV, ϵ is the 2×2 anti-symmetric matrix with $\epsilon_{12}=1$, (XY) indicates the $SU(2)_L$ invariant product $\epsilon_{ab} X_a Y_b$, and $T \equiv T_a \sigma_a / \sqrt{2}$, $\bar{T} \equiv \bar{T}_a \sigma_a / \sqrt{2}$ with σ_a ($a=1,2,3$) being the Pauli matrices. The ellipsis represents terms of order higher than four and summation over indices is implied. The only $U(1)_R$ -violating terms that we allow in the superpotential are the two explicitly displayed terms in the last line of the right-hand side (RHS) of Eq. (1), which are necessary for leptogenesis. We can show that baryon number (B) is automatically conserved to all orders as a consequence of $U(1)_R$. The argument follows Ref. [15] and is not affected by the presence of the above $U(1)_R$ -breaking superpotential terms. The lepton number (L) is then also conserved as implied by the presence of $U(1)_{B-L}$.

The inflationary trajectory is as described in Ref. [2]: for $\kappa < \lambda$, it is parametrized by S , $|S| > S_c = M$, with all other fields vanishing, and has a constant energy density $\kappa^2 M^4$ at tree level. Here, the dimensionless parameters κ , λ and the mass M are taken to be real and positive by redefining the phases of the superfields. There are radiative corrections [19] that lift the flatness of this classically flat direction leading to slow-roll inflation until $|S|$ reaches the instability point at $|S|=M$ as one can deduce from the ϵ and η criteria [25]. The quadrupole anisotropy of the CMBR and the number of e-foldings $N_Q \approx \ln[1.88 \times 10^{11} \kappa^{1/3} (M/\text{GeV})^{2/3} (T_{\text{rh}}/\text{GeV})^{1/3}]$ [25] of our present horizon scale during inflation are given by the Eqs. (2)–(4) of Ref. [26] with the two last terms in the RHS of Eq. (3) divided by two since the $SU(2)_R$ doublet

chiral superfields l^c , \bar{l}^c of this reference are now replaced by the SM singlets ϕ , $\bar{\phi}$ (see also Ref. [27]).

When the value of $|S|$ falls below M , a $B-L$ -breaking phase transition occurs provided that $\kappa < \lambda$. The fields evolve towards the realistic SUSY minimum at $\langle S \rangle = 0$, $\langle \phi \rangle = \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle = M$, $\langle h_1 \rangle = \langle h_2 \rangle = 0$, where $\langle \phi \rangle$, $\langle \bar{\phi} \rangle$ are taken real and positive by a $B-L$ rotation (there is also an unrealistic SUSY minimum that is given below). Actually, with the addition of soft SUSY-breaking terms, the position of the vacuum shifts [2] to nonzero $\langle S \rangle \approx -m_{3/2}/\kappa$, where $m_{3/2}$ is the gravitino mass, and a small effective μ term with $\mu \approx -\lambda m_{3/2}/\kappa$ is generated from the superpotential coupling $\lambda S(h_1 h_2)$. Subsequently, the inflaton degrees of freedom S and $\theta \equiv (\delta\phi + \delta\bar{\phi})/\sqrt{2}$ ($\delta\phi = \phi - M$, $\delta\bar{\phi} = \bar{\phi} - M$) with mass $m_{\text{inf}} = \sqrt{2} \kappa M$ oscillate about this minimum and decay to MSSM degrees of freedom reheating the Universe. The predominant decay channels of S and θ are to fermionic and bosonic h_1 , h_2 , respectively, via tree-level couplings derived from the superpotential terms $\lambda S(h_1 h_2)$ and $\kappa S \phi \bar{\phi}$. Note that, if $\kappa > \lambda$, the system would end up in the unrealistic SUSY minimum at $\phi = \bar{\phi} = 0$, $|h_1| = |h_2| \approx (\kappa/\lambda)^{1/2} M$, which is degenerate with the realistic one (up to $m_{3/2}^4$) and is separated from it by a potential barrier of order $m_{3/2}^2 M^2$.

The RHNs and the $SU(2)_L$ triplets acquire masses $M_{\nu_{ij}}$ and M_T , respectively, after the spontaneous breaking of $U(1)_{B-L}$ by $\langle \phi \rangle$, $\langle \bar{\phi} \rangle$. The terms that appear in the fourth line of the RHS of Eq. (1) can also be written in the form $\lambda_{\nu_{ij}} \bar{\phi}^2 \nu_i^c \nu_j^c / M_S$, $\lambda_T \bar{\phi}^2 T \bar{T} / M_S$ making it clear that the RHN and $SU(2)_L$ triplet masses are suppressed by a factor M/M_S relative to M . It is possible to redefine superfields to obtain effective mass terms $M_{\nu_i^c} \nu_i^c$ (which are diagonal in the flavor space) and $M_T T \bar{T}$ with $M_{\nu_i^c}$ and M_T real and positive.

Similarly, after the $U(1)_{B-L}$ breaking, the explicitly displayed terms in the last line of the RHS of Eq. (1) that violate $U(1)_R$ give rise to effective $B-L$ - and matter-parity-violating operators $\zeta_i(h_1 h_2) \nu_i^c$ and $\zeta'_i h_1 \epsilon T l_i$, where ζ_i and ζ'_i are suppressed by one power of M/M_S . If we require that the magnitude of the dimensionless coupling constants λ_i and λ'_i is less than unity, we obtain the bound $|\zeta_i|$, $|\zeta'_i| \leq M/M_S$. Note that although ζ'_i can be made real and positive by redefining the phase of l_i , there is no phase freedom left that can do the same for ζ_i . This can be shown by considering the rephasing invariant $\zeta_i^{*2} \mu^2 M_{\nu_i^c}$ (no summation over i) with μ and $M_{\nu_i^c}$ already made real. The coupling constants ζ_i thus remain in general complex. It is, of course, possible to write down many other R -symmetry-violating operators. However, they are not necessary for a nonzero lepton asymmetry to be created.

After electroweak symmetry breaking, the triplet T also acquires [4,14] a VEV $\langle T \rangle = -h_{\bar{T}} \langle h_2 \rangle^2 / M_T$. This is due to the mass term $M_T T \bar{T}$ and the coupling $h_{\bar{T}} h_2 \epsilon \bar{T} h_2$, where $h_{\bar{T}}$ is made real and positive by a redefinition of the phase of \bar{T} and a compensating rephasing of T and l_i in order to retain the positivity of M_T and ζ'_i . Note that $\langle h_1 \rangle$, $\langle h_2 \rangle$ can be taken real because of the reality of $B\mu \simeq -2\lambda m_{3/2}^2 / \kappa$ [2]. So $\langle T \rangle$ is also real.

Performing appropriate flavor rotations of the l_i and e_j^c , the Yukawa coupling constant matrix h_{eij} can be diagonalized with real and positive entries h_{ei} in the diagonal. The neutrino components (ν_i) of l_i are then in the weak interaction basis. (The rephasing of l_i that was used to make ζ'_i real and positive should actually be performed after these rotations and should be accompanied by a compensating rephasing of e_i^c so that h_{ei} remains real and positive.) The coupling of T to a pair of lepton $SU(2)_L$ doublets cannot be made diagonal since no further flavor rotations of the l_i are allowed. Moreover, if we define superfields such that M_T , ζ'_i , μ , and $h_{\bar{T}}$ are real, then it is in general not possible to make the h_{Tij} real since, once S , ϕ , $\bar{\phi}$ acquire nonzero VEVs, we have rephasing invariants $M_T h_{Tij} h_{\bar{T}}^* \mu^2 \zeta'_i \zeta'_j$ (no summation). Finally, the Yukawa coupling constants h_{vij} also remain in general complex as one can easily deduce from the rephasing invariants $h_{\bar{T}}^* \zeta'_i \mu^2 M_T^2 \mu^2 M_{\nu_j}^* h_{vij}^2$ (no summation over indices).

The calculation of lepton asymmetry produced in S and θ decays is quite straightforward but somewhat lengthy, and differs in detail from the usual case where leptogenesis occurs via the decay of RHN and/or $SU(2)_L$ triplet superfields. Since we consider the interference of two one-loop diagrams, we will need to calculate the real parts of loop integrals that require renormalization.

III. CP-VIOLATING INVARIANTS

To produce a nonvanishing net $B-L$ asymmetry from inflaton decay, the theory must contain one or more physical CP -violating quantities. These are products of coupling constants, corresponding to operators noninvariant under CP conjugation, which are nonreal and are not affected by the redefinition of fields by complex phases (or other global symmetries). In this case, we consider the terms of W in Eq. (1). Since leptogenesis takes place at reheating, we work in the vacuum where $\langle \phi \rangle = \langle \bar{\phi} \rangle = M$. For simplicity, we ignore the couplings of the inflaton to RHNs and $SU(2)_L$ triplets from the terms in the fourth line of the RHS of Eq. (1) together with its couplings resulting from the two subsequent terms. The inclusion of these couplings would only complicate the analysis without altering the character of our mechanism. So these four superpotential terms are replaced by the effective mass terms $M_{\nu_i} \nu_i^c \nu_i^c$, $M_T T \bar{T}$ and couplings $\zeta'_i (h_1 h_2) \nu_i^c$ and $\zeta'_i h_1 \epsilon T l_i$. The condition of CP invariance is simply that it should be possible to make all products of coupling constants real by field redefinitions.

We consider here only rephasing invariants that, in con-

trast to the standard invariant used in Ref. [7], would exist even if there was a single fermion family. We find the following independent invariants (no summation over repeated indices):

$$\begin{aligned} I_{1ij} &= M_T h_{vij} \zeta'_j (M_{\nu_j} h_{\bar{T}} \zeta'_i)^*, \\ I_{2ijk} &= M_T h_{vij} h_{vkj} (M_{\nu_j} h_{Tik} h_{\bar{T}})^*, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

whose imaginary parts violate CP invariance. Any combination of the two (modulo real invariants) results in a third invariant such as $I_{3ijk} = \zeta'_i h_{vkj} (\zeta'_j h_{Tik})^*$. In each case, the expression involves both the $SU(2)_L$ triplet and RHN couplings, thus the generation of a $B-L$ asymmetry is independent of the sources of CP violation considered in previous scenarios and we require novel decay diagrams. The invariants I_{1ij} , I_{2ijk} , I_{3ijk} are the minimal ones in the sense that they have the smallest possible number of trilinear superpotential couplings.

It is important to note that the invariant I_{1ij} can be split in two parts, $\zeta'_i M_T h_{\bar{T}}^*$ and $\zeta'_j M_{\nu_j}^* h_{vij}$, corresponding to effective operators that carry (opposite) nonzero $B-L$ charges and involve only light fields since the heavy ones can be contracted. These light fields include bosonic or fermionic h_1 , h_2 and their conjugates. So, I_{1ij} is, in principle, suitable for leptogenesis that requires the interference of two $B-L$ -violating diagrams. (Recall that the inflaton field couples at tree level to the electroweak Higgs superfields h_1 , h_2 and can decay only to light particles.) This is not the case with the rephasing invariant I_{2ijk} since there are no h_1 's among the light fields of the corresponding (effective) operator. On the contrary, the invariant I_{3ijk} has all the above good properties of I_{1ij} , but one of the interfering amplitudes turns out to be zero in this case. The reason is that it involves a real (with vanishing absorptive part) on-mass-shell off-diagonal self-energy between l and h_1 which, in the on-shell (OS) renormalization scheme, vanishes (see Sec. IV). It is clear that any invariant that can be useful for leptogenesis must involve I_{1ij} and, thus, the effective coupling constants ζ'_j , ζ'_i . So, the explicit violation of matter parity is essential for our scheme. This is another novel feature of this leptogenesis scenario.

IV. BARYON ASYMMETRY

The CP -violating rephasing invariant I_{1ij} corresponds to the product of coupling constants in the interference of the diagrams in Fig. 1(a) (Fig. 2(a)) with the diagrams in Figs. 1(b) and 1(c) (Figs. 2(b) and 2(c)) for the L -violating decay of $S(\theta)$. This interference contributes to the L asymmetry due to a partial rate difference in the decays $S \rightarrow \bar{l}_i h_2$ and $S^* \rightarrow \bar{l}_i^* h_2^*$ ($\theta^* \rightarrow l_i \bar{h}_2$ and $\theta \rightarrow l_i \bar{h}_2$), where the bar and tilde represent the antifermion and the SUSY partner, respectively. Both the decaying inflaton (S or θ), which we take at rest, and the decay products must be on mass shell. For simplicity,

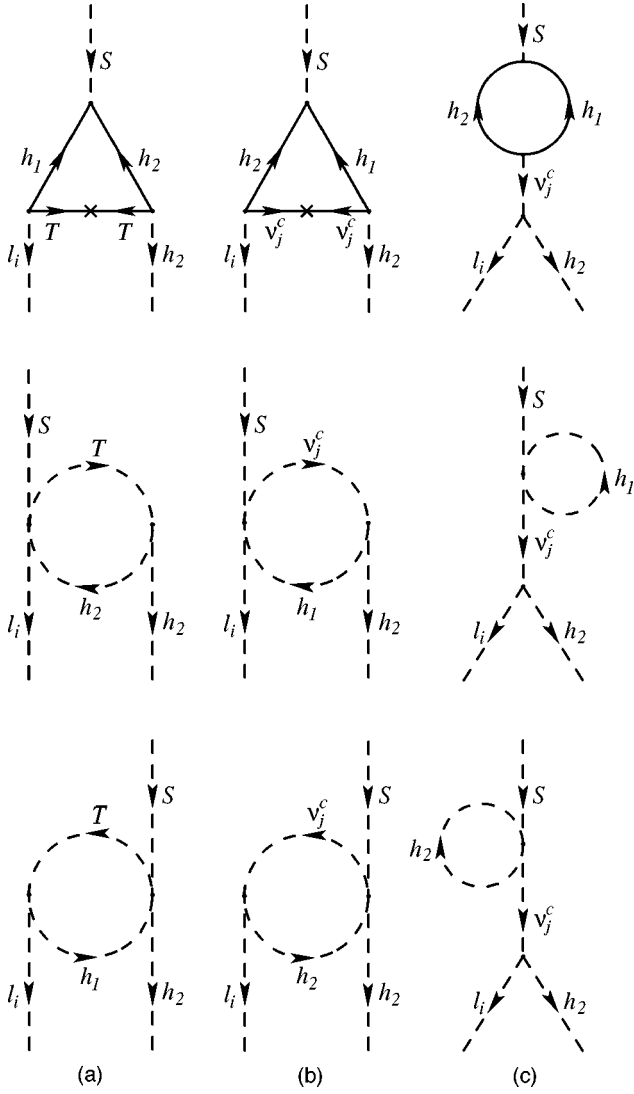


FIG. 1. The nine one-loop diagrams for the L -violating decay $S \rightarrow \tilde{l}_i h_2$. The solid (dashed) lines represent the fermionic (bosonic) component of the indicated superfield. The arrows depict the chirality of the superfields and the crosses are mass insertions in fermion lines.

we consider that all the propagating and external MSSM particles in the diagrams are massless. Also, we perform the calculation in the limit of exact SUSY.

In each case, the resulting contribution to the L asymmetry is proportional to both $\text{Im} I_{1ij}$ and the imaginary part of the interference of the relevant “stripped” diagrams with the dimensionless coupling constants and the M_T , $M_{\nu_j^c}$ mass insertions factored out (we keep, though, the m_{inf} factor appearing in the scalar coupling $\theta^* h_1 h_2$). The stripped diagrams in Figs. 1(a), 1(b), and 1(c) are denoted by F_{ain}^S , F_{bijn}^S , and F_{cijn}^S , respectively, with i and j being the family indices and $n=1,2,3$ the serial number of the diagram. Similarly, the stripped diagrams in Figs. 2(a), 2(b), and 2(c) are F_{ai}^θ , F_{bij}^θ , and F_{cij}^θ . Thus, the total net L asymmetries $\epsilon_{|S}$ and $\epsilon_{|\theta}$ generated per S and θ decay respectively are given by

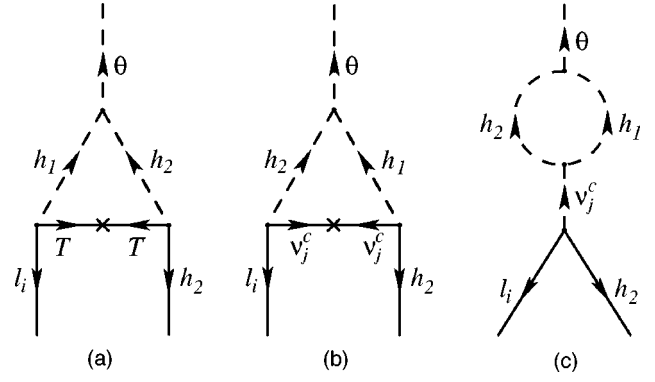


FIG. 2. The three one-loop diagrams for the L -violating decay $\theta^* \rightarrow l_i \tilde{h}_2$. The notation is as in Fig. 1.

$$\epsilon_{|S} = -2 \frac{|\lambda|^2}{\Gamma} \text{Im} I_{1ij} \text{Im} [F_{ain}^S F_{bijn}^{S*} + F_{ain}^S F_{cijn}^{S*}],$$

$$\epsilon_{|\theta} = -2 \frac{|\lambda|^2}{\Gamma} \text{Im} I_{1ij} \text{Im} [F_{ai}^\theta F_{bij}^{\theta*} + F_{ai}^\theta F_{cij}^{\theta*}], \quad (3)$$

where $\Gamma = |\lambda|^2 m_{\text{inf}} / 8\pi$ is the rate of the tree-level decays $S \rightarrow \tilde{h}_1 \tilde{h}_2$ and $\theta \rightarrow h_1 h_2$, and summation over the indices i, j, n and integration over the phase space of the final particles is implied.

We see that the one-loop diagrams for the L -violating decay of the inflaton which contain $SU(2)_L$ triplet exchange are exclusively of the vertex type (see Figs. 1(a) and 2(a)). On the contrary, the diagrams with a RHN exchange are both of the vertex (Figs. 1(b) and 2(b)) and self-energy (Figs. 1(c) and 2(c)) [28] type. Each of the three vertex diagrams in Fig. 1(a) (Fig. 1(b)) possesses a logarithmic ultraviolet (uv) divergence. However, one can easily show that their sum equals m_{inf} times the vertex diagram in Fig. 2(a) (Fig. 2(b)), which is uv finite. Similarly, one can show that, although each of the three self-energy diagrams in Fig. 1(c) has a quadratic divergence, their sum equals the self-energy diagram in Fig. 2(c) multiplied by m_{inf} . However, the latter is not uv finite. It rather possesses a logarithmic divergence and thus needs renormalization (see below).

The above relations between the diagrams for the L -violating decays of S and θ imply that $\epsilon_{|S} = \epsilon_{|\theta} \equiv \epsilon$. We can thus concentrate on the calculation of $\epsilon_{|\theta}$ which is simpler. As already mentioned, the vertex diagrams in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b) are finite (both their real and imaginary parts) and thus well defined and independent of the renormalization scheme used. However, the diagram in Fig. 2(c) involving a divergent self-energy loop requires us to apply a renormalization condition. As shown in Ref. [11], the appropriate renormalization scheme, in this case, is the on-shell (OS) scheme. In a general theory with scalars S_i , the OS conditions on the renormalized self-energies $\hat{\Pi}_{ij}(p^2)$ are as follows:

$$\text{Re} \hat{\Pi}_{ij}(\mu_i^2) = \text{Re} \hat{\Pi}_{ij}(\mu_j^2) = 0 \quad (4)$$

for the off-diagonal self-energies ($i \neq j$) and

$$\lim_{p^2 \rightarrow \mu_i^2} \frac{1}{p^2 - \mu_i^2} \text{Re} \hat{\Pi}_{ii}(p^2) = 0 \quad (5)$$

for the diagonal ones (see, e.g., Ref. [29]). Here we take a basis where the renormalized mass matrix is diagonal with eigenvalues μ_i . The imaginary part of the self-energies is finite and thus not renormalized. In Fig. 2(c), we have an off-diagonal self-energy diagram between the scalars θ and $\tilde{\nu}_j^c$. Given that θ is on mass shell, the real part of this diagram vanishes in the OS scheme. The imaginary part, however, gives a finite contribution.

The lepton asymmetry per inflaton decay is calculated by making use of the software packages of Ref. [30] and is found to be given by

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_{VV} + \epsilon_{VS}, \quad (6)$$

where

$$\epsilon_{VV} = \frac{3}{128\pi^4} \frac{\text{Im} I_{1ij}}{m_{\text{inf}}^2} \text{Im}[f(y_T)f(y_j)^*] \quad (7)$$

is the contribution from the interference of the two vertex diagrams in Figs. 2(a) and 2(b), and

$$\epsilon_{VS} = -\frac{3}{64\pi^3} \frac{\text{Im} I_{1ij}}{m_{\text{inf}}^2 - M_{\nu_j^c}^2} \text{Re} f(y_T) \quad (8)$$

is the contribution from the interference of the vertex and self-energy diagrams in Figs. 2(a) and 2(c) with $f(y) = \pi^2/6 - \text{Li}_2(1+y+i\epsilon)$ (Li_2 is the dilogarithm [31]), $y_T = m_{\text{inf}}^2/M_T^2$, $y_j = m_{\text{inf}}^2/M_{\nu_j^c}^2$ and summation over the family indices i, j implied. It should be emphasized that Eq. (8) holds [11] provided that the decay width of ν_j^c is $\ll |m_{\text{inf}}^2 - M_{\nu_j^c}^2|/m_{\text{inf}}$, which is well satisfied in our model if $M_{\nu_j^c}$ is not unnaturally close to m_{inf} .

The equilibrium conditions including nonperturbative electroweak reactions above the critical temperature of the electroweak phase transition yield a relation between the baryon number density n_B and the B - L number density n_{B-L} , which allows us to find n_B in terms of the n_{B-L} produced from inflaton decay, assuming that B - L is conserved at temperatures well below M_T and $M_{\nu_i^c}$ (see Sec. VI). In the MSSM with soft SUSY-breaking terms, we have $n_B/s = (28/79)n_{B-L}/s$ [32]. If we imagine the inflaton to decay instantaneously out of equilibrium creating initial lepton number density $n_{L,\text{init}}$ then

$$\frac{n_B}{s} = -\frac{28}{79} \frac{n_{L,\text{init}}}{s} = -\frac{28}{79} \epsilon \frac{n_{\text{inf}}}{s} = -\frac{21}{79} \epsilon \frac{T_{\text{rh}}}{m_{\text{inf}}} \quad (9)$$

using the standard relation $n_{\text{inf}}/s \equiv (n_S + n_\theta)/s = 3T_{\text{rh}}/4m_{\text{inf}}$ for the inflaton number density. Here s is the entropy density. The reheat temperature is given by

$$T_{\text{rh}} = \left(\frac{45}{2\pi^2 g_*} \right)^{1/4} (\Gamma m_P)^{1/2}, \quad (10)$$

where g_* counts the relativistic degrees of freedom taking account of the spin and statistics and is equal to 228.75 for the MSSM spectrum.

V. EFFECTS OF R -SYMMETRY VIOLATION

One would expect the explicit violation of $U(1)_R$ in the superpotential to have important consequences for phenomenology and cosmology. The Z_2 subgroup of $U(1)_R$, which is left unbroken by the soft SUSY-breaking terms, is called matter parity since all the matter (quark and lepton) superfields change sign under it. Combined with the Z_2 fermion parity (under which all fermions change sign), this yields R parity, which, if unbroken, guarantees the stability of the LSP. In our model, however, matter parity is violated along with the $U(1)_R$ by the two explicitly displayed terms in the last line of the RHS of Eq. (1), which are needed for generating an acceptable BAU. Thus, R parity is broken and, consequently, the LSP generically becomes unstable and decays rapidly, rendering it unsuitable for the role of dark matter and leading to distinctive collider signatures.

In our case, if the LSP contains a Higgsino component, it could decay into a pair of electroweak Higgs bosons and a lepton. The dominant diagrams are constructed from the $U(1)_R$ - and R -parity-violating Yukawa vertices $\zeta_j(h_1 h_2) \nu_j^c$ or $\zeta'_i h_1 \epsilon T l_i$ with the fermionic ν_j^c or T connected to the fermionic ν_j^c or \bar{T} of the Yukawa couplings $h_{vij}(h_2 l_i) \nu_j^c$ or $h_{\bar{T}h_2} \epsilon \bar{T} h_2$ respectively via a mass insertion. For the numerical values of the parameters that we consider (see Secs. VI and VII), we find that the LSP lifetime can be as low as about 10^{-1} sec. However, it is easy to block kinematically the LSP decay by taking its mass to be smaller than twice the mass of the lightest Higgs boson, which is very reasonable. Thus, it is perfectly possible to reconsider the LSP as a dark matter candidate.

Our model could also predict the existence of other R -parity-violating processes at low energies besides the LSP decay. The R -parity-breaking superpotential couplings involve at least one superheavy field (a RHN or $SU(2)_L$ triplet). On integrating out these heavy fields, one generally obtains effective R -parity-violating operators involving only MSSM fields. These operators, if they have dimension five or higher, do not lead to detectable processes since they are suppressed by some powers of M_T or $M_{\nu_i^c}$. However, dimension-four operators such as the effective scalar vertices $h_1 h_2 h_2^* \tilde{l}_i^*$ or $h_1 \tilde{l}_i \tilde{l}_j^* \tilde{l}_k^*$, which originate from the superpotential couplings $\zeta_j(h_1 h_2) \nu_j^c$, $h_{vij}(h_2 l_i) \nu_j^c$ or $\zeta'_i h_1 \epsilon T l_i$, $h_{Tjk} l_j \epsilon T l_k$, respectively, can lead to low-energy R -parity-violating processes, which may be detectable in future colliders (see Sec. VII).

It is well known [33] that, in any leptogenesis scenario with RHNs or $SU(2)_L$ triplets, it is important to ensure that the primordial lepton asymmetry is not erased by lepton-number-violating $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes such as $l_i \tilde{l}_j$

$\rightarrow h_2^* \tilde{h}_2$ or $l_i \tilde{h}_2 \rightarrow h_2^* \tilde{l}_j^*$ at all temperatures between T_{rh} and about 100 GeV. In our model, due to the presence of the R -parity-violating superpotential couplings, there exist some extra processes of this type such as $\tilde{h}_1 \tilde{l}_j \rightarrow h_2^* \tilde{h}_2$ or $\tilde{h}_1 \tilde{h}_2 \rightarrow h_2^* \tilde{l}_j^*$, which are derived from diagrams similar to the ones mentioned above for the LSP decay. In addition to all these processes, which correspond to effective operators of dimension five (or higher), we also have dimension-four R -parity- (and lepton-number-) violating processes such as $h_1 h_2 \rightarrow h_2 \tilde{l}_i$ or $h_1 \tilde{l}_i \rightarrow \tilde{l}_j \tilde{l}_k$, which are derived from the effective four-scalar vertices in the preceding paragraph.

The initial lepton asymmetry is protected [32] by SUSY at temperatures between T_{rh} and about 10^7 GeV. For $T \lesssim 10^7$ GeV, one can show that all the lepton-number-violating $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes that result from effective operators of dimension five or higher are well out of equilibrium for the values of the parameters used here. The dimension-four lepton-number-violating processes, however, are generally in equilibrium and, thus, special care is needed in order to retain the initial lepton asymmetry in our model. We will return to this issue in the next section.

As already explained, the classical flatness of the inflationary path in the limit of global SUSY is ensured, in our model, by a continuous R symmetry enforcing a linear dependence of the superpotential on S . This is retained [22] even after SUGRA corrections, given a reasonable assumption about the Kähler potential. The solution [2] to the μ problem is also reliant on the R symmetry. These aspects of the model are not affected by the explicit R -symmetry breaking we consider.

In the model, some R -symmetry-violating couplings are present in the superpotential and some not. Owing to the nonrenormalization property of SUSY, this situation is stable under radiative corrections, but one may consider it unnatural since there is no symmetry to forbid the terms we set to zero.

VI. NEUTRINO MASSES AND PRESERVATION OF LEPTON ASYMMETRY

The two distinct sources of neutrino masses in the model yield the following mass matrix of light neutrinos:

$$m_{vij} = -\langle h_2 \rangle^2 \left[\frac{h_{Tij}}{h_T M_T} + h_{vik} \frac{1}{M_{\nu_k^c}} h_{vjk} \right]. \quad (11)$$

The terms in this expression are generally complex with physical relative phases between the two contributions. Comparing this to the combination of parameters appearing in the lepton asymmetry per inflaton decay, we see that there is no obvious correlation between the two. Hence, we have here more freedom to choose values for the parameters than in the case of leptogenesis with a single source of neutrino mass. However, this freedom is reduced by requiring that the lepton asymmetry is preserved until the electroweak phase transition.

As discussed in Sec. V, there exist unsuppressed dimension-four R -parity- and lepton-number-violating $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes that can erase the primordial lepton asymmetry. They originate from the effective four-scalar operators $h_1 h_2 h_2^* \tilde{l}_i^*$ or $h_1 \tilde{l}_i \tilde{l}_j^* \tilde{l}_k^*$ with coupling constants $\sum_j \zeta_j h_{vij}^*$ or $\zeta'_i h_{Tjk}^*$ respectively. The former operator violates, in particular, the i lepton number (L_i), i.e. the part of the total lepton number that corresponds to the i th fermion family. Therefore, in order to retain at least one part of the lepton asymmetry, we need to impose the condition that

$$\sum_j \zeta_j h_{vij}^* = 0, \quad (12)$$

for some value of i [34]. To generate an L_i asymmetry, we need to take a nonzero ζ'_i , as is obvious from Eqs. (2) and (6)–(8). The operators $h_1 \tilde{l}_i \tilde{l}_j^* \tilde{l}_k^*$ with $j, k \neq i$ or $j = k = i$ will then violate L_i , thereby leading to the erasure of the primordial L_i asymmetry. To avoid this, we must take h_{Tjk} to vanish, unless exactly one of the indices is equal to i , i.e. we allow only $h_{Tik} = h_{Tki} \neq 0$ for $k \neq i$. Moreover, if $h_{Tik} \neq 0$, then we require $\zeta'_j = 0$ for $j \neq i$ to avoid generating the L_i -violating operator $h_1 \tilde{l}_j \tilde{l}_i^* \tilde{l}_k^*$.

We must further ensure that there are no processes in equilibrium that violate L_i , while conserving L . Such processes result from the four-scalar operators $h_2 \tilde{l}_k h_2^* \tilde{l}_i^*$ ($k \neq i$) that originate from the superpotential coupling $h_{\nu kj}(h_2 l_k) \nu_j^c$. Thus, we must take

$$\sum_j h_{\nu kj} h_{vij}^* = 0 \quad (13)$$

for the value of i that satisfies Eq. (12) and for all values of k that are different from this i . Also, the operators $h_1 \tilde{l}_i h_1^* \tilde{l}_j^*$ with $j \neq i$, which originate from the superpotential coupling $\zeta'_j h_1 \epsilon T l_j$, violate L_i , but not L . So, we must take $\zeta'_j = 0$ for $j \neq i$. Finally, the operators $\tilde{l}_j \tilde{l}_k \tilde{l}_m^* \tilde{l}_n^*$ derived from the superpotential term $h_{Tjk} l_j \epsilon T l_k$ could violate L_i . However, as explained above, h_{Tjk} should vanish unless exactly one index is equal to i . Thus, the remaining operators automatically conserve L_i . In summary, for an asymmetry to be generated in L_i and not wiped out by scattering processes, we require that $\zeta'_i \neq 0$ and $\zeta'_j = 0$ for all $j \neq i$. Also, $h_{Tjk} = 0$ unless exactly one of j or k is equal to i and Eqs. (12) and (13) should hold for all $k \neq i$.

We take the neutrino mass ordering $m_1 < m_2 < m_3$ and adopt the normal hierarchical scheme of neutrino masses, where the solar and atmospheric neutrino mass² differences are identified with δm_{21}^2 and δm_{31}^2 respectively. Analysis [35] of the CHOOZ experiment [36] shows that the mixing angle θ_{13} can be taken equal to zero. Moreover, the fact that $\delta m_{21}^2 \ll \delta m_{31}^2$ implies that, when considering atmospheric neutrino oscillations, it is a good approximation to set $\delta m_{21}^2 = 0$. For simplicity, we further take $\alpha = \beta$, where α, β

are the Majorana phases in the leptonic mixing matrix associated with the two lighter neutrino mass eigenstates $\hat{\nu}_1$, $\hat{\nu}_2$, respectively.

Under these circumstances, the weak interaction eigenstate ν_1 decouples from the other two ν_2 , ν_3 in the neutrino mass matrix. A simple choice of parameters which leads to this decoupling is $h_{\nu 1j}=0$ for $j=2,3$, $h_{\nu i1}=0$ for $i=2,3$ and $h_{T11}=h_{T1j}=h_{Tj1}=0$ for $j=2,3$. Equation (13) is then automatically satisfied for $k=1$ and $i=2,3$, which means that processes corresponding to the operators $h_2 \tilde{l}_1 h_2^* \tilde{l}_i^*$ ($i=2,3$) that violate L_1 , while conserving L , are avoided. If we further take $\zeta'_1=0$, L_1 -violating and L -conserving processes from the operators $h_1 \tilde{l}_1 h_1^* \tilde{l}_j^*$ ($j=2,3$) are also absent. Moreover, our choice of h_{Tjk} ensures that no such processes from operators of the type $\tilde{l}_j \tilde{l}_k \tilde{l}_m^* \tilde{l}_n^*$ appear. Equation (12) with $i=1$ ($i=2,3$) receives contributions only from the term(s) with $j=1$ ($j=2,3$). Also, L - and L_1 -violating processes from the operators $h_1 \tilde{l}_i \tilde{l}_j^* \tilde{l}_k^*$ do not exist for our choice of parameters. Note that there are no L_1 -violating processes in equilibrium from the superpotential terms $\zeta'_i h_1 \epsilon T l_i$, $h_{Tjk} l_j \epsilon T l_k$. The only possible L_1 -violating processes come from the operator $h_1 h_2 h_2^* \tilde{l}_1^*$, which is L_2 and L_3 conserving, though. The fact that $\zeta'_1=0$ implies that no primordial L_1 asymmetry is generated, as one can see from Eqs. (2) and (6)–(8). Also, the L_2 and L_3 asymmetries cannot turn into L_1 asymmetry by $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes since, as explained, there are no such processes in equilibrium that simultaneously violate L_1 and L_2 or L_3 . All these facts allow us to ignore the first family and concentrate on the two heaviest families.

From the recent global analysis [37] of neutrino oscillation data, we take the best-fit value of the atmospheric neutrino mass² difference, which, in the case of the normal hierarchical scheme, yields the value $m_3 \approx 5.1 \times 10^{-2}$ eV for the heaviest neutrino mass. Also, the mixing angle θ_{23} is identified with its best-fit value, which is about $\pi/4$, and m_2 is taken equal to zero consistently with the fact that we are considering only atmospheric neutrino oscillations. So, the neutrino mass matrix elements in Eq. (11) must satisfy the following restrictions:

$$m_{\nu 22} = m_{\nu 33} = m_{\nu 23} = \frac{1}{2} m_3. \quad (14)$$

(Note that, in the case of three neutrino flavors, our choice of parameters supplemented, for consistency, with a vanishing m_1 yields the extra restriction $h_{\nu 11}=0$.) These equalities need not be exact; however, we will take them as so for simplicity. We choose to maintain the L_3 asymmetry, which requires that Eq. (12) holds for $i=3$ and Eq. (13) for $k=2$, $i=3$. So, we obtain the following extra conditions:

$$\begin{aligned} h_{\nu 32}^* + R h_{\nu 33}^* &= 0, \\ h_{\nu 22} h_{\nu 32}^* + h_{\nu 23} h_{\nu 33}^* &= 0, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where $R = \zeta'_3 / \zeta'_2$. Applying the results of the previous discussion, we require ζ'_3 to be nonzero and $\zeta'_2=0$ (so no L_2

asymmetry is generated); we have also $h_{T22}=h_{T33}=0$, so the only nonzero coupling constant of the type h_{Tjk} is $h_{T23}=h_{T32}$. Given the value of the right-handed neutrino masses, M_T and $h_{\bar{T}}$, the five conditions in Eqs. (14) and (15) can be solved using the mass formula in Eq. (11) to find a relation between the complex Yukawa coupling constants h_{ij} ($i, j=2,3$) and the complex parameters R and h_{T23} .

Note that the presence of L - and B - L -violating $2 \rightarrow 2$ scattering processes leads to a moderate modification of the numerical factors in Eq. (9). However, this modification depends on details and we will thus ignore it.

VII. NUMERICAL RESULTS

We saturate the gravitino bound on the reheat temperature by taking $T_{\text{rh}} = 10^{10}$ GeV, which is acceptable [10] provided that the branching ratio of the gravitino decay to photons and photinos is less than unity. We also fix the parameter κ to the value 10^{-4} . The cosmic microwave background explorer (COBE) value of the quadrupole anisotropy of the CMBR $((\delta T/T)_Q \approx 6.6 \times 10^{-6})$ [38] is then reproduced for $\lambda \approx 1.44 \times 10^{-4}$ ($> \kappa$ as it should) and $M \approx 3.53 \times 10^{15}$ GeV. Thus, $m_{\text{inf}} \approx 4.99 \times 10^{11}$ GeV. The spectral index of density perturbations comes out practically equal to unity.

We now wish to demonstrate that our leptogenesis mechanism can easily reproduce the best-fit value of the BAU, $n_B/s \approx 8.66 \times 10^{-11}$, derived from the recent WMAP data [6] with a natural choice of parameters. For simplicity, we approximate all the right-handed neutrino masses to the same value M_{ν^c} . (Note that we do not make use of resonance effects for degenerate heavy neutrinos, so this approximation will not strongly influence our results.) Equation (15) implies that $h_{\nu 32} = -R^* h_{\nu 33}$ and $h_{\nu 23} = R h_{\nu 22}$. (Note that $h_{\nu 33} \neq 0$ for a nonvanishing L_3 asymmetry to be produced.) Substituting these in Eq. (14), we then obtain

$$h_{\nu 22} = \pm i \left(\frac{m_3 M_{\nu^c}}{2 \langle h_2 \rangle^2} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(1+R^2)^{1/2}}, \quad (16)$$

$$h_{\nu 33} = \pm i \left(\frac{m_3 M_{\nu^c}}{2 \langle h_2 \rangle^2} \right)^{1/2} \frac{1}{(1+R^{*2})^{1/2}}, \quad (17)$$

and

$$\pm \frac{R - R^*}{(1+R^2)^{1/2} (1+R^{*2})^{1/2}} = 1 + \frac{2 h_{T23} \langle h_2 \rangle^2}{h_{\bar{T}} m_3 M_T}. \quad (18)$$

Note that the signs of $h_{\nu 22}$ and $h_{\nu 33}$ can be chosen independently; however, the sign on the left-hand side (LHS) of Eq. (18) is the product of the two.

The LHS of Eq. (18) is imaginary. Therefore, the real part of the RHS of this equation must vanish, which gives

$$\text{Re } h_{T23} = - \frac{h_{\bar{T}} m_3 M_T}{2 \langle h_2 \rangle^2}. \quad (19)$$

This implies that

$$\frac{R - R^*}{(1 + R^2)^{1/2}(1 + R^{*2})^{1/2}} = i \frac{2 \operatorname{Im}(h_{T23}) \langle h_2 \rangle^2}{h_{\bar{T}} m_3 M_T} \equiv i \xi, \quad (20)$$

which yields

$$\xi^2 |R|^4 + 2[(1 + \xi^2) \cos 2\varphi - 1] |R|^2 + \xi^2 = 0, \quad (21)$$

where φ is the phase of the complex parameter R . This equation admits real solutions for $|R|^2$ provided that $-1 \leq \cos 2\varphi \leq (1 - \xi^2)/(1 + \xi^2)$. They turn out to be nonnegative and are given by

$$|R|^2 = \xi^{-2} \{ [1 - (1 + \xi^2) \cos 2\varphi] \pm (1 + \xi^2)^{1/2} \times [(1 + \xi^2) \cos^2 2\varphi - 2 \cos 2\varphi + (1 - \xi^2)]^{1/2} \}. \quad (22)$$

From Eqs. (2) and (6)–(9), we see that, in our case, the baryon asymmetry is proportional to $\zeta'_3 h_{\bar{T}} |\zeta_2 h_{\nu 33} \operatorname{Im} R|$ for given $M_{\nu^c}, M_T \geq m_{\inf}/2 \approx 2.5 \times 10^{11}$ GeV. Using Eqs. (17) and (20), we can further show that this expression is proportional to $\zeta'_3 h_{\bar{T}} |\zeta_2 \xi^{1/2} R^{1/2}| (1 - \cos 2\varphi)^{1/4}$. As discussed in Sec. II, the parameters ζ'_3 , $|\zeta_2|$, and $|\zeta_3| = |R| |\zeta_2|$ should not exceed $M/M_S \approx 7 \times 10^{-3}$. To maximize n_B/s , we saturate this limit on ζ'_3 and on $|\zeta_2|$ or $|\zeta_3|$ for $|R| \leq 1$ or $|R| > 1$ respectively.

In the former case, the baryon asymmetry, which is $\propto h_{\bar{T}} |\xi|^{1/2} |R|^{1/2} (1 - \cos 2\varphi)^{1/4}$, can be further maximized by choosing the positive sign in the RHS of Eq. (22) and taking $\cos 2\varphi = -1$. We then get $|R| = (1 + \xi^{-2})^{1/2} + |\xi|^{-1}$, which is always > 1 . Our requirement that $|R|$ does not exceed unity is fulfilled only asymptotically, i.e., for $|\xi| \rightarrow \infty$, where $|R| \rightarrow 1$. The baryon asymmetry is then $\propto h_{\bar{T}} |\xi|^{1/2}$ and is maximized by maximizing $h_{\bar{T}}$ and $|\operatorname{Im} h_{T23}|$. It would thus be desirable to set both these quantities equal to unity. The parameter $h_{\bar{T}}$ can be readily fixed to unity and this improves the naturalness of our scheme. However, if $|\operatorname{Im} h_{T23}|$ is too large, some moderate cancellations between different contributions to the neutrino mass matrix are required. So, we take values of $|\operatorname{Im} h_{T23}|$ that are smaller than unity, but greater than, say, 10^{-2} to be consistent with the requirement that $|\xi| \gg 1$ for M_T not much bigger than $m_{\inf}/2$.

In the case where $|R| > 1$, we should saturate the limit on $|\zeta_3|$ rather than the limit on $|\zeta_2|$, which yields that the baryon asymmetry is $\propto h_{\bar{T}} |\xi|^{1/2} |R|^{-1/2} (1 - \cos 2\varphi)^{1/4}$. This is maximized by choosing the negative sign in the RHS of Eq. (22) and taking again $\cos 2\varphi = -1$, which gives $|R| = (1 + \xi^{-2})^{1/2} - |\xi|^{-1} < 1$. So, marginal consistency is achieved again for $|\xi| \gg 1$, where $|R| \rightarrow 1$. The baryon asymmetry is again $\propto h_{\bar{T}} |\xi|^{1/2}$ and is maximized by taking $h_{\bar{T}} = |\operatorname{Im} h_{T23}| = 1$. As in the previous case, we take $h_{\bar{T}} = 1$ and $|\operatorname{Im} h_{T23}| \sim 10^{-2}$. The result is obviously the same in both cases to a good approximation. The phase of ζ_2 is appropriately adjusted in each case so that we obtain the maximal baryon asymmetry.

For each $M_{\nu^c}, M_T \geq m_{\inf}/2$, we calculate the BAU using Eqs. (6)–(9) with $\operatorname{Im} h_{T23} = 0.02$ or 0.04 and values for the other parameters as explained above. We then compare the

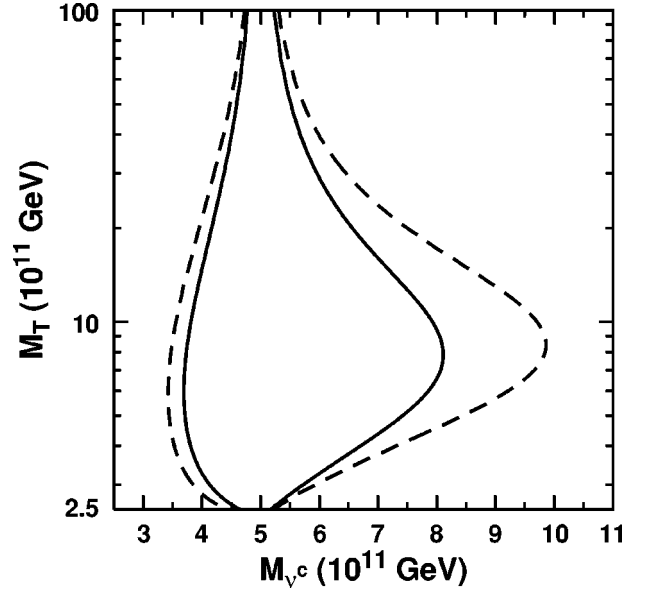


FIG. 3. The solutions of $n_B/s = 8.66 \times 10^{-11}$ in the M_{ν^c} - M_T plane for $\operatorname{Im} h_{T23} = 0.02$ (solid lines) or 0.04 (dashed lines). The values of all the other parameters are given in the text.

result with the best-fit value of the BAU from WMAP. The resulting solutions in the M_{ν^c} - M_T plane are shown in Fig. 3 with the solid or dashed lines corresponding to $\operatorname{Im} h_{T23} = 0.02$ or 0.04 respectively. Note that there are two branches in each case, one with $M_{\nu^c} > m_{\inf}$ and one with $M_{\nu^c} < m_{\inf}$. They correspond to the two possible signs of the denominator in the RHS of Eq. (8) for ϵ_{ν^c} . Actually, this quantity, as it involves an s -channel exchange of a ν^c boson, can be easily enhanced by letting m_{\inf} approach the ν^c pole. This fact allows us to achieve the WMAP value of n_B/s with natural values of the parameters. It is important though to stress that there is no need to get too near the ν^c pole for reasonable values of M_T . In fact, the solution is very far from being unnaturally close to this pole.

As mentioned in Sec. V, the explicit R -parity violation in our model, which is required for leptogenesis, has some low-energy signatures that come from dimension-four effective scalar vertices and may be observable in the future colliders. Such signatures may typically be the three-body slepton decay processes

$$\tilde{l}_2 \rightarrow h_1 h_2 h_2^* \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{l}_2 \rightarrow h_1 \tilde{l}_3 \tilde{l}_3^*, \quad (23)$$

which can easily be kinematically allowed. (Note that, for our choice of parameters, similar \tilde{l}_1 decay processes do not appear, although they may be present in the general case.) The effective coupling constants of the processes in Eq. (23) are $\zeta_2 h_{\nu 22}^* + \zeta_3 h_{\nu 23}^*$ and $\zeta'_3 h_{T23}^*$ respectively. Using the relation $h_{\nu 23} = R h_{\nu 22}$ and substituting $h_{\nu 22}$ from Eq. (16), we can easily show that the magnitude of the former coupling constant becomes $\approx |\zeta_2| |2 \operatorname{Im} h_{T23}|^{1/2} (M_{\nu^c}/M_T)^{1/2}$ in the large $|\xi|$ limit. For $\operatorname{Im} h_{T23} = 0.02$ and taking $M_{\nu^c} \approx M_T$, which holds near the right corner of the solid line in Fig. 3, we find that the magnitude of the effective coupling constants of the processes in Eq. (23) is about 1.4×10^{-3} and 1.4×10^{-4} re-

spectively. The corresponding decay rates are then of order 10^{-8} GeV and 10^{-10} GeV respectively for mass of the decaying slepton ~ 1 TeV and assuming that there is an appreciable gap between this mass and the sum of the masses of the decay products.

It is finally interesting to point out that, as one can readily show, our scheme fails to provide any useful predictions for the so far undetermined or not so accurately determined parameters in the neutrino mixing matrix, i.e., the three CP -violating phases and the mixing angle θ_{13} . The reason is that the number of parameters is such that successful leptogenesis is possible whatever the values of the complex phases and θ_{13} .

VIII. CONCLUSIONS

We proposed a scenario of nonthermal leptogenesis following supersymmetric hybrid inflation, in the case where the decay of the inflaton to both heavy right-handed neutrino and $SU(2)_L$ triplet superfields is kinematically blocked. The primordial lepton asymmetry is generated through the direct decay of the inflaton into light particles. We implemented our scenario in the context of a simple SUSY GUT model that incorporates the standard version of SUSY hybrid inflation. The μ problem is solved via a $U(1)$ R symmetry that forbids the existence of an explicit μ term, while allows a trilinear superpotential coupling of the gauge singlet inflaton to the electroweak Higgs superfields. After the spontaneous breaking of the GUT gauge symmetry, this singlet inflaton acquires a suppressed VEV due to the soft SUSY-breaking terms. Its trilinear coupling to the Higgs superfields then yields a μ term of the right magnitude.

The main decay mode of the inflaton is to a pair of electroweak Higgs superfields via the same trilinear coupling.

The initial lepton asymmetry is created in the subdominant decay of the inflaton to a lepton and an electroweak Higgs superfield via the interference of one-loop diagrams with right-handed neutrino and $SU(2)_L$ triplet exchange respectively. The existence of these diagrams requires the presence of some specific superpotential couplings that explicitly violate the $U(1)$ R symmetry and R parity. However, the broken R parity need not have currently observable low-energy signatures, although it may have signatures detectable in future colliders. Also, the LSP can be made stable and, thus, be a possible candidate for cold dark matter.

In our analysis, we took into account the constraints from neutrino masses and mixing. There exist, in our model, two separate contributions to the neutrino mass matrix, which originate from the usual seesaw mechanism and from the $SU(2)_L$ triplet superfields. The constraints arising from neutrino masses and mixing alone are not very stringent. However, the requirement that the primordial lepton asymmetry not be erased by lepton-number-violating processes before the electroweak phase transition is a much more stringent constraint on the parameters of the theory. Taking into account these constraints we found that the best-fit value of the BAU from the recent WMAP data can be easily achieved with natural values of parameters.

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