

## CP Violation in Supersymmetric $U(1)'$ Models

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### Abstract

The supersymmetric CP problem is studied within superstring-motivated extensions of the MSSM with an additional  $U(1)'$  gauge symmetry broken at the TeV scale. This class of models offers an attractive solution to the  $\mu$  problem of the MSSM, in which  $U(1)'$  gauge invariance forbids the bare  $\mu$  term, but an effective  $\mu$  parameter is generated by the vacuum expectation value of a Standard Model singlet  $S$  which has superpotential coupling of the form  $SH_uH_d$  to the electroweak Higgs doublets. The effective  $\mu$  parameter is thus dynamically determined as a function of the soft supersymmetry breaking parameters, and can be complex if the soft parameters have nontrivial CP-violating phases. We examine the phenomenological constraints on the reparameterization invariant phase combinations within this framework, and find that the supersymmetric CP problem can be greatly alleviated in models in which the phase of the  $SU(2)$  gaugino mass parameter is aligned with the soft trilinear scalar mass parameter associated with the  $SH_uH_d$  coupling. We also study how the phases filter into the Higgs sector, and find that while the Higgs sector conserves CP at the renormalizable level to all orders of perturbation theory, CP violation can enter at the nonrenormalizable level at one-loop order. In the majority of the parameter space, the lightest Higgs boson remains essentially CP even but the heavier Higgs bosons can exhibit large CP-violating mixings, similar to the CP-violating MSSM with large  $\mu$  parameter.

# 1 Introduction

While phenomenological models with low energy supersymmetry (SUSY) are arguably the best candidates for physics beyond the Standard Model (SM), they typically include a large number of parameters associated with the soft supersymmetry breaking sector. For example, the minimal supersymmetric standard model (MSSM), which has two Higgs doublets and conserved R-parity, contains 105 new parameters [1], including the bilinear Higgs superpotential parameter  $\mu$  and the soft SUSY breaking parameters (this counting does not include the gravitino mass and coupling). The parameter count generically increases if such SUSY models are extended beyond the minimal gauge structure and particle content of the MSSM (unless symmetry relations exist in the theory which relate subsets of parameters). Many of these new parameters are phases, which both provide new sources of CP violation and modify the amplitudes for CP-conserving processes. Even if certain sectors of the theory exhibit no CP violation at tree level (e.g. if the relevant phases can be eliminated by global phase rotations), the phases can leak into such sectors of the theory at the loop level and have an impact on collider phenomenology and cosmology.

In contrast to the SM, in which the only source of CP violation is present in the CKM matrix and thus is intimately tied to flavor physics, CP-violating phases within SUSY models can occur in both flavor-conserving and flavor-changing couplings. The phases of the flavor-conserving couplings (which have no analogue in the SM) are of particular interest because they can have significant phenomenological implications which can be studied without knowledge of the origin of intergenerational mixing. In the MSSM, these phases are given by reparameterization invariant combinations of the phases of the gaugino mass parameters  $M_a$  ( $a = 1, 2, 3$ ), the trilinear couplings  $A_f$ , the  $\mu$  parameter, and the Higgs bilinear coupling  $b \equiv \mu B$ . However, not all of these phases are physical; after utilizing the  $U(1)_{PQ}$  and  $U(1)_R$  global symmetries of the MSSM, the reparameterization invariant phase combinations are  $\theta_f = \phi_\mu + \phi_{A_f} - \phi_b$  and  $\theta_a = \phi_\mu + \phi_{M_a} - \phi_b$  (in self-evident notation).

Such phases have traditionally been assumed to be small due to what is known as the supersymmetric CP problem: the experimental upper limits on the electric dipole moments (EDMs) of the electron, neutron, and certain atoms individually constrain the phases to be less than  $O(10^{-2})$  (for sparticle masses consistent with naturalness) [2, 3, 4]. However, recent studies have shown that EDM bounds can be satisfied without requiring all reparameterization invariant phase combinations to be small, if either (i) certain cancellations exist between different EDM contributions [5, 6, 7, 8, 9], or (iii) the sparticles of the first and second families have multi-TeV masses [10].<sup>1</sup> Even within each of these scenarios, the particularly strong constraints arising from the atomic EDMs [13] lead to a general upper bound of  $\lesssim O(10^{-3})$  on the reparameterization invariant phase present in the chargino sector ( $\theta_2$  in our notation), while the other phases are comparatively unconstrained [8]. These constraints will be discussed in detail later in the paper; for now, it is worth noting that

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<sup>1</sup>The EDM bounds are more difficult to satisfy in both of these scenarios when  $\tan\beta$  (the ratio of electroweak Higgs VEVs) is large. Not only are cancellations in the one-loop EDMs more difficult to achieve, but certain two-loop contributions are then enhanced [11, 12] which do not decouple when the sfermions are heavy. In part for this reason, we will restrict our attention in this paper to the small  $\tan\beta$  regime.

this “CP hierarchy problem” is an intriguing issue to be addressed within models of the soft parameters which include CP violation.<sup>2</sup>

Of course, if the reparameterization invariant phases are sizeable, they can have important phenomenological consequences. Within the MSSM, one of the examples in which these phases can have a significant impact is the Higgs sector. As is well known, the MSSM Higgs sector conserves CP at tree level. However, radiative corrections involving the SM fields and their superpartners (with the dominant effects typically due to top and stop loops) have a substantial impact on Higgs masses and mixings. For example, the one-loop radiative corrections substantially elevate the tree-level theoretical upper bound of  $M_Z$  on the mass of the lightest Higgs boson [16]; these results have been improved by utilizing complete one-loop on-shell renormalization [17], renormalization group methods [18], diagrammatic methods with leading order QCD corrections [19], two-loop on-shell renormalization [20], and complete two-loop effective potential [21]. Indeed, if the radiative corrections include a nontrivial dependence on phases, the Higgs potential violates CP explicitly at one-loop. The Higgs mass eigenstates then no longer have definite CP properties, which leads to important implications for Higgs production and decay [22, 23, 24, 25].

The MSSM offers a minimal framework for stabilizing the Higgs sector against quadratic divergences. However, it is well known that the MSSM has a hierarchy problem with respect to the scale of the superpotential  $\mu$  parameter [26], which has a natural scale of  $O(M_{GUT})$ , and the electroweak scale. An elegant framework in which to address this “ $\mu$  problem” is to generate the  $\mu$  parameter via the vacuum expectation value (VEV) of a SM singlet  $S$ . One simple possibility<sup>3</sup> [28] is to invoke an additional nonanomalous  $U(1)'$  gauge symmetry broken at the TeV scale, as expected in many string models. For suitable  $U(1)'$  charges, the bare  $\mu$  parameter is forbidden but the operator  $h_s S H_u \cdot H_d$  is allowed, such that an effective  $\mu$  term is generated after  $S$  develops a VEV of order the electroweak/TeV scale (assuming the Yukawa coupling  $h_s \sim O(1)$ , as is well-motivated within semirealistic superstring models). This framework is of particular interest because such extra  $U(1)$  groups are often present in plausible extensions of the MSSM, and in fact are ubiquitous within many classes of four-dimensional superstring models. Indeed, additional nonanomalous  $U(1)$  gauge groups are present in virtually all known 4D string models with semirealistic features, such as gauge structure which includes  $SU(3)_c \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)_Y$  (or a viable GUT extension) and particle content which includes the MSSM fields.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>However, there are unavoidable theoretical uncertainties involved in the determination of the hadronic EDMs and the atomic EDMs (see e.g. [14, 15] for discussions). These uncertainties are particularly problematic for the mercury EDM, which yields the strongest constraints on the SUSY phases. For this reason, there are disagreements in the literature over how to include this bound. Here we take a conservative approach by including the Hg EDM constraint.

<sup>3</sup>The  $\mu$  parameter can also be generated in models with no additional gauge groups, *i.e.* the next-to-minimal supersymmetric standard model (NMSSM). However, NMSSM models generically possess discrete vacua and the tensions of the walls separating them are too large to be cosmologically admissible [27].

<sup>4</sup>For example, many examples of such semirealistic models have been constructed within perturbative heterotic string theory (see e.g. [29] for an overview). An interesting class of constructions is the set of free fermionic models [30, 31, 32], in which a number of extra  $U(1)$ 's are always present at the string scale. Whether or not all of these  $U(1)$ s persist to the TeV scale depends on the details of the vacuum restabilization procedure. Although there are cases in which only the MSSM gauge structure remains at low energy [33],

Within this class of models, the electroweak and  $U(1)'$  symmetry breaking is driven by the soft SUSY breaking parameters, and hence the  $Z'$  mass is expected to be of order a few TeV or less. Such a  $Z'$  should be easily observable at either present or forthcoming colliders. Indeed, the nonobservation to date of a  $Z'$  puts interesting but stringent limits on the  $Z'$  mass and mixing with the ordinary  $Z$  both from direct searches at the Tevatron [38] and indirect tests from precision electroweak measurements [39]. Although limits depend on the details of the  $Z'$  couplings, typically  $M_{Z'} > 500 - 800$  GeV and the  $Z - Z'$  mixing angle  $\alpha_{Z-Z'} \lesssim O(10^{-3})$ .<sup>5</sup> These models have been analyzed at tree level in [41, 42, 43], where it was found that there are corners of parameter space in which an acceptable  $Z - Z'$  hierarchy can be achieved. Further studies of a different class of string-motivated  $U(1)'$  models can be found in [44].

As the phase of the  $\mu$  parameter filters into the amplitudes for many physical observables in the MSSM (and plays an important role in the Higgs sector at one-loop), it is worthwhile to analyze models which solve the  $\mu$  problem in the presence of explicit CP violation. In this paper, we thus study the supersymmetric CP problem in  $U(1)'$  models, focusing on the radiative corrections to the Higgs sector of the  $U(1)'$  model of [41] in the case that the soft supersymmetry breaking parameters have general CP-violating phases (radiative corrections in the CP-conserving case has been studied in [45]). We begin by classifying the reparameterization invariant phase combinations and comment on the phenomenological constraints on these phases from EDM bounds. We then turn to the Higgs sector, which conserves CP at tree level, but phases enter the Higgs potential through the stop mass-squared matrix at one-loop (just as in the MSSM). The VEV's of the electroweak Higgs doublets  $H_{u,d}$  and singlet  $S$  are then determined by minimizing the loop-corrected Higgs potential. Within this framework, an effective  $\mu$  parameter of the correct magnitude is generated which also has a phase governed by the phases of the soft SUSY breaking parameters. We study the pattern of Higgs masses and mixings including the EDM and  $Z'$  constraints, and discuss the phenomenological implications for Higgs searches.

## 2 The SUSY CP Problem in $U(1)'$ Models

We study the class of  $U(1)'$  models of [41], in which the gauge group is extended to

$$G = \text{SU}(3)_c \times \text{SU}(2)_L \times \text{U}(1)_Y \times \text{U}(1)', \quad (1)$$

with gauge couplings  $g_3, g_2, g_Y, g_{Y'}$ , respectively. The matter content includes the MSSM superfields and a SM singlet  $S$ , which are all generically assumed to be charged under the

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typically one or more extra  $U(1)$ s persists to the electroweak scale [34, 35]. Additional  $U(1)$ s also are generic in supersymmetric braneworld models derived from Type II string orientifolds [36] (due at least in part to the  $U(N)$  gauge groups associated with a stacks of D branes). Phenomenological analyses also indicate that typically extra  $U(1)$ s are present in the low energy theory and broken at the electroweak/TeV scale [37].

<sup>5</sup>A potentially more stringent limit on the  $Z'$  mass arises from cosmology if the  $U(1)'$  gauge symmetry forbids the standard implementation of the seesaw mechanism for neutrino masses. In such scenarios, the right-handed neutrinos may be light, and BBN constraints then require model-dependent limits that in some cases are as strong as  $M_{Z'} \gtrsim 4$  TeV [40].

additional  $U(1)'$  gauge symmetry. Explicitly, the particle content is:  $\widehat{L}_i \sim (1, 2, -1/2, Q_L)$ ,  $\widehat{E}_i^c \sim (1, 1, 1, Q_E)$ ,  $\widehat{Q}_i \sim (3, 2, 1/6, Q_Q)$ ,  $\widehat{U}_i^c \sim (\bar{3}, 1, -2/3, Q_U)$ ,  $\widehat{D}_i^c \sim (\bar{3}, 1, 1/3, Q_D)$ ,  $\widehat{H}_d \sim (1, 2, -1/2, Q_d)$ ,  $\widehat{H}_u \sim (1, 2, 1/2, Q_u)$ ,  $\widehat{S} \sim (1, 1, 0, Q_S)$ , in which  $i$  is the family index.<sup>6</sup>

The superpotential includes a Yukawa coupling of the two electroweak Higgs doublets  $H_{u,d}$  to the singlet  $S$ , as well as a top quark Yukawa coupling:

$$W = h_s \widehat{S} \widehat{H}_u \cdot \widehat{H}_d + h_t \widehat{U}_3^c \widehat{Q}_3 \cdot \widehat{H}_u. \quad (2)$$

Gauge invariance of  $W$  under  $U(1)'$  requires that  $Q_u + Q_d + Q_S = 0$  and  $Q_{Q_3} + Q_{U_3} + Q_u = 0$ . This choice of charges not only forbids the “bare”  $\mu$  parameter but also a Kähler potential coupling of the form  $H_u H_d + h.c.$  required for the Giudice-Masiero mechanism [47] (the Kähler potential is otherwise assumed to be of canonical form).<sup>7</sup>

The form of (2) is motivated by string models in which a given Higgs doublet only has  $O(1)$  Yukawa couplings to a single (third) family. We will consider the small  $\langle H_u \rangle / \langle H_d \rangle \equiv \tan \beta$  regime only<sup>8</sup> such that the Yukawa couplings of the  $b$  and  $\tau$  can be safely neglected. The origin of the Yukawa couplings of the first and second generations of quarks and leptons is not addressed. As we are primarily interested in the third family, we shall suppress the family index in what follows.

The soft supersymmetry breaking parameters include gaugino masses  $M_a$  ( $a = 1, 1', 2, 3$ ), trilinear couplings  $A_s$  and  $A_t$ , and soft mass-squared parameters  $m_\alpha^2$ :

$$\begin{aligned} -\mathcal{L}_{soft} &= \left( \sum_a M_a \lambda_a \lambda_a + A_s h_s S H_u \cdot H_d + A_t h_t \widetilde{U}^c \widetilde{Q} \cdot H_u + h.c. \right) + m_u^2 |H_u|^2 + m_d^2 |H_d|^2 \\ &+ m_s^2 |S|^2 + M_Q^2 |\widetilde{Q}|^2 + M_U^2 |\widetilde{U}|^2 + M_D^2 |\widetilde{D}|^2 + M_E^2 |\widetilde{E}|^2 + M_L^2 |\widetilde{L}|^2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

These soft SUSY breaking parameters are generically nonuniversal at low energies. We do not address the origin of these low energy parameters via RG evolution from high energy boundary conditions in this paper.

The gaugino masses  $M_a$  and soft trilinear couplings  $A_{s,t}$  of (3) can be complex; if so, they can provide sources of CP violation (without loss of generality, the Yukawa couplings  $h_{s,t}$  can be assumed to be real). However, not all of these phases are physical, just as the case in the MSSM. Let us first consider the MSSM. The reparameterization invariant combinations of phases in the MSSM are easily determined by forming invariants with respect to the global  $U(1)_{PQ}$  and  $U(1)_R$  symmetries present in the limit that the soft breaking parameters and the  $\mu$  term are set to zero [49]; for reference, the  $U(1)_{R,PQ}$  charge assignments are presented

<sup>6</sup>Note that if the  $U(1)'$  charges are family nonuniversal they provide a tree-level source of FCNC. Phenomenological bounds thus dictate that the charges of the first and second families should be identical to avoid overproduction of FCNC without fine-tuning [46].

<sup>7</sup>Other than these constraints, we prefer to leave the  $U(1)'$  charges unspecified because our aim is not to construct a specific model. In an explicit model there will be additional constraints on the  $U(1)'$  charges (e.g from anomaly cancellation). We also do not consider kinetic mixing in the analysis [48]. However, even if kinetic mixing is absent at tree level will be generated through 1-loop RG running if  $\text{Tr} Q_Y Q_{1'} \neq 0$  [48].

<sup>8</sup>Here low values of  $\tan \beta$  such as  $\tan \beta = 1$  are allowed (this region is excluded in the MSSM). The reason is that the Higgs bosons are generically heavier in  $U(1)'$  models (as in the NMSSM and other models with extended Higgs sectors), and even at tree level the lightest Higgs boson can easily escape LEP bounds.

Field	$\widehat{Q}$	$\widehat{U}^c$	$\widehat{D}^c$	$\widehat{H}_u$	$\widehat{H}_d$	$\lambda_a$	$M_a$	$\mu$	$b$	$A_f$	$m_\alpha^2$
$U(1)_R$	1	1	1	0	0	1	-2	2	0	-2	0
$U(1)_{PQ}$	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	-2	-2	0	0

Table 1: The  $U(1)_{R,PQ}$  charge assignments for the MSSM fields and spurions.

Field	$\widehat{Q}$	$\widehat{U}^c$	$\widehat{D}^c$	$\widehat{H}_u$	$\widehat{H}_d$	$\widehat{S}$	$\lambda_a$	$M_a$	$A_f$	$m_\alpha^2$
$U(1)_R$	1	1	1	0	0	2	1	-2	-2	0

Table 2: The  $U(1)_R$  charge assignments for the fields and spurions in the  $U(1)'$  framework. Note that  $\widehat{S}$  (whose VEV induces an effective  $\mu$  parameter) has nonzero  $R$  charge.

in Table 2. A convenient basis of the resulting reparameterization invariant phases thus is  $\theta_f = \phi_\mu + \phi_{A_f} - \phi_b$  and  $\theta_a = \phi_\mu + \phi_{M_a} - \phi_b$ , which enter the mass matrices of the sfermions and the gauginos/Higgsinos, respectively. An analysis of the MSSM tree level Higgs sector also suggests it is useful to exploit  $U(1)_{PQ}$  to set  $\phi_b = 0$  ( $\phi_b$  is then dropped from the invariants above), in which case the Higgs VEVs are real.

Performing the same exercise in the  $U(1)'$  framework, one immediately notices that the  $U(1)_{PQ}$  symmetry of the MSSM is embedded within the  $U(1)'$  gauge symmetry. However, a nontrivial  $U(1)_R$  symmetry remains; the  $U(1)_R$  charges of the superfields and the associated spurion charges of the soft parameters are presented in Table 2. The reparameterization invariant phase combinations are therefore  $\theta_{f f'} = \phi_{A_f} - \phi_{A_{f' \neq f}}$ ,  $\theta_{a f} = \phi_{M_a} - \phi_{A_f}$ , and  $\theta_{a b} = \phi_{M_a} - \phi_{M_{b \neq a}}$ , of which only two are linearly independent (e.g.  $\phi_{a b} = \phi_{a f} - \phi_{b f}$ ). We will see that (in analogy to the MSSM) the tree-level Higgs sector suggests it is convenient to measure all phases with respect to the phase of  $A_s$ . (In fact, one can go further and exploit the  $U(1)_R$  symmetry to set  $\phi_{A_s} = 0$ , although we prefer not to do that in this paper.) A basis of reparameterization invariant phase combinations can then be chosen as

$$\begin{aligned}
\theta_{f s} &= \phi_{A_f} - \phi_{A_s} \\
\theta_{a s} &= \phi_{M_a} - \phi_{A_s}.
\end{aligned}
\tag{4}$$

To see this more explicitly and to lay the foundation for our analysis of the Higgs sector including one-loop radiative corrections, let us now review the tree-level Higgs potential analyzed in [41]. Gauge symmetry breaking is driven by the VEVs of the electroweak Higgs doublets  $H_u, H_d$

$$H_u = \begin{pmatrix} H_u^+ \\ H_u^0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad H_d = \begin{pmatrix} H_d^0 \\ H_d^- \end{pmatrix},
\tag{5}$$

and the singlet  $S$ . The tree level Higgs potential is a sum of F terms, D terms, and soft supersymmetry breaking terms:

$$V_{tree} = V_F + V_D + V_{soft},
\tag{6}$$

in which

$$V_F = |h_s|^2 \left[ |H_u \cdot H_d|^2 + |S|^2 (|H_u|^2 + |H_d|^2) \right], \quad (7)$$

$$\begin{aligned} V_D &= \frac{G^2}{8} (|H_u|^2 - |H_d|^2)^2 + \frac{g_2^2}{2} (|H_u|^2 |H_d|^2 - |H_u \cdot H_d|^2) \\ &+ \frac{g_{Y'}^2}{2} (Q_u |H_u|^2 + Q_d |H_d|^2 + Q_S |S|^2)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (8)$$

$$V_{soft} = m_u^2 |H_u|^2 + m_d^2 |H_d|^2 + m_s^2 |S|^2 + (A_s h_s S H_u \cdot H_d + h.c.). \quad (9)$$

where  $G^2 = g_2^2 + g_Y^2$  and  $g_Y = \sqrt{3/5} g_1$ ,  $g_1$  is the GUT normalized hypercharge coupling.

At the minimum of the potential, the Higgs fields are expanded<sup>9</sup> as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \langle H_u \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} H_u^+ \\ v_u + \phi_u + i\varphi_u \end{pmatrix}, & \langle H_d \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} v_d + \phi_d + i\varphi_d \\ \sqrt{2} H_d^- \end{pmatrix} \\ \langle S \rangle &= \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\theta} (v_s + \phi_s + i\varphi_s), \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

in which  $v^2 \equiv v_u^2 + v_d^2 = (246 \text{ GeV})^2$ . In the above, a phase shift  $e^{i\theta}$  has been attached to  $\langle S \rangle$ . Since gauge invariance dictates that only the phase of the combination  $S H_u \cdot H_d$  enters the potential, we can assume that the VEVs of  $H_{u,d}$  are real and attach a phase only to  $S$  without loss of generality (this choice is also consistent with our assignment of  $U(1)_R$  charges in Table 2). The effective  $\mu$  parameter is generated by the singlet VEV  $\langle S \rangle$ :

$$\mu_{eff} \equiv \frac{h_s v_s}{\sqrt{2}} e^{i\theta}. \quad (11)$$

The only complex parameter which enters the Higgs potential at tree level is  $A_s$ . However, the global phases of the Higgs fields (more precisely, of the combination  $S H_u \cdot H_d$ ) can always be chosen to absorb the phase  $\phi_{A_s}$  of  $A_s$  by performing a  $U(1)_R$  rotation on the fields, such that  $A_s$  and the VEV's can all be taken to be real without loss of generality [41]. To state this another way, the minimization conditions with respect to the CP odd directions  $\varphi_{1,2,s}$  all lead to the condition

$$\sin(\theta + \phi_{A_s}) = 0, \quad (12)$$

such that  $\theta = -\phi_{A_s}$  at tree level. With this condition, the Higgs sector is CP conserving. The Higgs mass eigenstates thus have definite CP quantum numbers, with three CP even Higgs bosons  $H_{i=1,2,3}$  and one CP odd Higgs boson  $A^0$ , as well as a charged Higgs pair  $H^\pm$ . Expressions for their masses at tree level and a discussion of the associated Higgs phenomenology can be found in [41].

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<sup>9</sup>As discussed in [41], gauge rotations can be used to set  $\langle H_u^+ \rangle = 0$ . However,  $\langle H_d^- \rangle = 0$  is not automatic and imposes constraints on the parameter space of the model. Indeed,  $\langle H_d^- \rangle = 0$  implies that the physical charged Higgs is nontachyonic ( $M_{H^\pm}^2 > 0$ ).

Although the Higgs sector conserves CP at tree level whether or not the soft SUSY breaking parameters are complex, this is generically not true for other sectors of the theory and care must be taken in the phenomenological analysis (e.g. for the EDM bounds) if there are nontrivial CP-violating phases in the soft terms even if the Higgs sector is only analyzed at tree level. Clearly, this is due to the fact that the phases which enter the mass matrices of the sfermion and the gaugino/higgsino sectors involve the phase of the singlet VEV  $\theta$  (*i.e.*, the phase of the effective  $\mu$  parameter  $\mu_{eff}$ ) as well as the phases of the  $A$  terms and the gaugino masses. For example, the reparameterization invariant phase combination which enters the chargino mass matrix within this class of  $U(1)'$  models is

$$\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm} = \theta + \phi_{M_2} = \phi_{M_2} - \phi_{A_s} + \dots = \theta_{2_s} + \dots, \quad (13)$$

in which the terms represented by  $(+ \dots)$  are higher-loop contributions. As previously mentioned, this phase is strongly constrained by EDM experimental bounds (although the precise constraints can depend in detail on the other parameters of the model). More generally, the statement of (flavor-independent) SUSY CP violation within  $U(1)'$  models is that if any of the phases  $\theta_{f_s}$  and  $\theta_{a_s}$  defined in (4) are nonzero, they can lead to CP-violating effects which may be in conflict with experiment and must be checked. This is in direct analogy to the statement of flavor-independent SUSY CP violation in the MSSM. However, as  $\mu$  is dynamically generated within  $U(1)'$  models, its phase  $\phi_\mu$  is now a function of the phases of the other soft breaking parameters rather than an independent quantity.

Returning now to the question of CP violation in the Higgs sector, (12) suggests that it is natural to consider the combination of phases

$$\bar{\theta} \equiv \theta + \phi_{A_s} \quad (14)$$

as the parameter which governs CP violation in the Higgs sector. Note that  $\bar{\theta}$  is a reparameterization invariant quantity, while  $\theta$  is not ( $\theta = \bar{\theta}$  in the basis in which  $\phi_{A_s} = 0$ ). While  $\bar{\theta} = 0$  at tree level, it acquires a nonzero value at one-loop if the sfermion and gaugino/higgsino mass matrices have nontrivial phases. This calculation is outlined in the next section.

### 3 Higgs Sector CP Violation

Previously we discussed the SUSY CP problem within  $U(1)'$  models, and reviewed the tree level Higgs sector (the patterns of gauge symmetry breaking which led to an acceptable  $Z - Z'$  hierarchy were analyzed at tree level in [41]). In what follows, we will compute the one-loop radiative corrections to the Higgs sector of this class of  $Z'$  models within a general framework including nontrivial CP violation (radiative corrections in the CP-conserving case were previously presented in [45]).

#### 3.1 Radiative Corrections to the Higgs Potential

The effective potential approach provides an elegant way of determining the true vacuum state of a spontaneously broken gauge theory. The potential has the form

$$V = V_{tree} + \Delta V + \dots, \quad (15)$$

where  $V_{tree}$  is defined in (6), and the one-loop contribution  $\Delta V$  has the Coleman-Weinberg form

$$\Delta V = \frac{1}{64\pi^2} \left\{ \text{Str} \mathcal{M}^4(H_u, H_d, S) \left( \ln \frac{\mathcal{M}^2(H_u, H_d, S)}{Q^2} - \frac{3}{2} \right) \right\}. \quad (16)$$

in the mass-independent renormalization scheme  $\overline{\text{DR}}$ .<sup>10</sup> In the above,  $\text{Str} \equiv \sum_J (-1)^{2J+1} (2J+1)$  is the usual supertrace,  $Q$  is the renormalization scale, and  $\mathcal{M}$  represents the Higgs field-dependent mass matrices of the particles and sparticles of the theory.<sup>11</sup>

Here we will include only the dominant terms due to top and scalar top quark loops:

$$\Delta V = \frac{6}{64\pi^2} \left\{ \sum_{k=1,2} (m_{t_k}^2)^2 \left[ \ln \left( \frac{m_{t_k}^2}{Q^2} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right] - 2 (m_t^2)^2 \left[ \ln \left( \frac{m_t^2}{Q^2} \right) - \frac{3}{2} \right] \right\} \quad (17)$$

in which the masses depend explicitly on the Higgs field components (note that  $\Delta V$  naturally vanishes in the limit of exact SUSY). The top mass-squared is given by  $m_t^2 = h_t^2 |H_u|^2$ , and the stop masses-squared are obtained by diagonalizing the mass-squared matrix

$$\widetilde{M}^2 = \begin{pmatrix} M_{LL}^2 & M_{LR}^2 \\ M_{LR}^{2\dagger} & M_{RR}^2 \end{pmatrix} \quad (18)$$

via the unitary matrix  $S_t$  as  $S_t^\dagger \widetilde{M}^2 S_t = \text{diag}(m_{t_1}^2, m_{t_2}^2)$ . The entries of  $\widetilde{M}^2$  are given by

$$\begin{aligned} M_{LL}^2 &= M_Q^2 + h_t^2 |H_u|^2 - \frac{1}{4} \left( g_2^2 - \frac{g_Y^2}{3} \right) (|H_u|^2 - |H_d|^2) \\ &+ g_Y^2 Q_Q (Q_u |H_u|^2 + Q_d |H_d|^2 + Q_s |S|^2) \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

$$\begin{aligned} M_{RR}^2 &= M_U^2 + h_t^2 |H_u|^2 - \frac{1}{3} g_Y^2 (|H_u|^2 - |H_d|^2) \\ &+ g_Y^2 Q_U (Q_u |H_u|^2 + Q_d |H_d|^2 + Q_s |S|^2) \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

$$M_{LR}^2 = h_t (A_t^* H_u^{0*} - h_s S H_d^0), \quad (21)$$

in which we have emphasized the fact that the LR entry depends only on the neutral components of the Higgs fields. As the stop LR mixing can be complex, the term  $h_t h_s A_t S H_u^0 H_d^0 + \text{h.c.}$  present in  $|M_{LR}^2|^2$  can provide a source of CP violation in the Higgs sector. From the discussion of the previous section, we can infer that this source is the phase  $\theta_{ts} \equiv \phi_{A_t} - \phi_{A_s}$ .

<sup>10</sup>See Martin's paper in [21] for a detailed discussion of the regularization and renormalization scheme dependence of the effective potential.

<sup>11</sup>While the complete effective potential is scale invariant, it is scale dependent when truncated to any finite loop order in perturbation theory due to the renormalization of the parameters and the Higgs wavefunctions. In the MSSM, most of the scale-dependent terms can be collected in the pseudoscalar mass, which itself can be regarded as a free parameter of the theory. The remaining  $Q^2$ -dependence arises from the D term contributions generated by wavefunction renormalization, such that in the limit in which  $g_2 = g_Y = 0$  all of the scale dependence can be absorbed into the pseudoscalar mass. For the  $U(1)'$  models, the scale dependence can be absorbed into the pseudoscalar mass only if the D term contributions vanish *and* the superpotential parameter  $h_s = 0$ , because the potential also includes quartic Higgs couplings which arise from F terms. These properties are manifest in the Higgs mass-squared matrix presented below.

The vacuum state is characterized by the vanishing of all tadpoles and positivity of the resulting Higgs boson masses. Recalling the expressions for the Higgs fields in (10), the vanishing of tadpoles for  $V$  along the CP even directions  $\phi_{u,d,s}$  enables the soft masses  $m_{u,d,s}^2$  to be expressed in terms of the other parameters of the potential:

$$m_u^2 = M_0^2 \cos^2 \beta - \lambda_u v_u^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{ud} v_d^2 + \lambda_{us} v_s^2) - \frac{1}{v_u} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \phi_u} \right)_0 \quad (22)$$

$$m_d^2 = M_0^2 \sin^2 \beta - \lambda_d v_d^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{ud} v_u^2 + \lambda_{ds} v_s^2) - \frac{1}{v_d} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \phi_d} \right)_0 \quad (23)$$

$$m_s^2 = M_0^2 \cot^2 \alpha - \lambda_s v_s^2 - \frac{1}{2} (\lambda_{us} v_u^2 + \lambda_{ds} v_d^2) - \frac{1}{v_s} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \phi_s} \right)_0, \quad (24)$$

in which the subscript 0 indicates that the derivatives of  $\Delta V$  are to be evaluated at  $\phi_i = 0$  and  $\varphi_i = 0$ . Here the various  $\lambda$  coefficients represent the quartic couplings in the potential

$$\begin{aligned} \lambda_{u,d} &= \frac{1}{8} G^2 + \frac{1}{2} Q_{u,d}^2 g_{Y'}^2, \quad \lambda_s = \frac{1}{2} Q_s^2 g_{Y'}^2, \\ \lambda_{ud} &= -\frac{1}{4} G^2 + Q_u Q_d g_{Y'}^2 + h_s^2, \quad \lambda_{us,ds} = Q_s Q_{u,d} g_{Y'}^2 + h_s^2. \end{aligned} \quad (25)$$

The Higgs soft masses (22) are written in terms of two angle parameters: (i)  $\tan \beta$ , which measures the hierarchy of the Higgs doublet VEVs, and (ii)  $\cot \alpha \equiv (v \sin \beta \cos \beta)/v_s$ , which is an indication of the splitting between the  $U(1)'$  and electroweak breaking scales. For convenience, we have also introduced the mass parameter

$$M_0^2 = \frac{h_s |A_s| v_s \cos \bar{\theta}}{\sqrt{2} \sin \beta \cos \beta}, \quad (26)$$

which corresponds to the mass parameter of the CP odd Higgs boson of the MSSM after using the definition of the effective  $\mu$  parameter in (11).

While the vanishing of the tadpoles along the CP odd directions  $\varphi_{u,d,s}$  led to (12) at tree level, once the loop corrections are included they lead to the following conditions:

$$M_0^2 \sin \beta \cos \beta \tan \bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{v_d} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \varphi_u} \right)_0 \quad (27)$$

$$M_0^2 \sin \beta \cos \beta \tan \bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{v_u} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \varphi_d} \right)_0 \quad (28)$$

$$M_0^2 \cot \alpha \tan \bar{\theta} = \frac{1}{v_s} \left( \frac{\partial \Delta V}{\partial \varphi_s} \right)_0, \quad (29)$$

demonstrating explicitly that the phase  $\bar{\theta} = \theta + \phi_{A_s}$  associated with the phase  $\theta$  of the singlet VEV is indeed a radiatively induced quantity. Indeed, the derivatives of  $\Delta V$  with respect to  $\varphi_{u,d,s}$  are nonvanishing provided that there is a nontrivial phase difference between  $A_t$  and  $A_s$  (*i.e.*, if  $\theta_{t_s} \neq 0$ ). In fact, (27)–(29) all lead to the same relation for  $\bar{\theta}$ :

$$\sin \bar{\theta} = -\beta_{ht} \frac{|A_t|}{|A_s|} \sin \theta_{t_s} \mathcal{F}(Q^2, m_{t_1}^2, m_{t_2}^2) \quad (30)$$

in which  $\beta_{h_t} = 3h_t^2/(32\pi^2)$  is the beta function for the top Yukawa coupling, and the loop function

$$\mathcal{F}(Q^2, m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2, m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2) = -2 + \ln\left(\frac{m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2 m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2}{Q^4}\right) + \frac{m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2 + m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2}{m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2 - m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2} \ln\left(\frac{m_{\tilde{t}_1}^2}{m_{\tilde{t}_2}^2}\right) \quad (31)$$

depends explicitly on the renormalization scale. In the above,  $\theta_{ts} = \phi_{A_t} + \theta = \phi_{A_t} - \phi_{A_s}$  up to one loop accuracy determined by (30).

### 3.2 The Higgs Mass Calculation

We now turn to the Higgs mass calculation at one-loop in the presence of CP violation in the stop LR mixing. The mass-squared matrix of the Higgs scalars is

$$\mathcal{M}_{ij}^2 = \left( \frac{\partial^2}{\partial \Phi_i \partial \Phi_j} V \right)_0, \quad (32)$$

subject to the minimization constraints Eqs. 22-24 and (30). In the above,  $\Phi_i = (\phi_i, \varphi_i)$ . Clearly, two linearly independent combinations of the pseudoscalar components  $\varphi_{u,d,s}$  are the Goldstone bosons  $G_Z$  and  $G_{Z'}$ , which are eaten by the  $Z$  and  $Z'$  gauge bosons when they acquire their masses. These two modes are given by

$$G_Z = -\sin\beta\varphi_u + \cos\beta\varphi_d, \quad G_{Z'} = \cos\beta\cos\alpha\varphi_u + \sin\beta\cos\alpha\varphi_d - \sin\alpha\varphi_s, \quad (33)$$

and hence the orthogonal combination

$$A = \cos\beta\sin\alpha\varphi_u + \sin\beta\sin\alpha\varphi_d + \cos\alpha\varphi_s \quad (34)$$

is the physical pseudoscalar Higgs boson in the CP-conserving limit. In the decoupling limit,  $v_s \gg v$ ,  $\sin\alpha \rightarrow 1$  and  $\cos\alpha \rightarrow 0$ , in which case  $G_Z$  and  $A$  reduce to their MSSM expressions. In the basis of scalars  $\mathcal{B} = \{\phi_u, \phi_d, \phi_s, A\}$ , the Higgs mass-squared matrix  $\mathcal{M}^2$  takes the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} M_{uu}^2 + M_A^2 \cos^2\beta & M_{ud}^2 - M_A^2 \sin\beta \cos\beta & M_{us}^2 - M_A^2 \cot\alpha \cos\beta & M_{uA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} \\ M_{ud}^2 - M_A^2 \sin\beta \cos\beta & M_{dd}^2 + M_A^2 \sin^2\beta & M_{ds}^2 - M_A^2 \cot\alpha \sin\beta & M_{dA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} \\ M_{us}^2 - M_A^2 \cot\alpha \cos\beta & M_{ds}^2 - M_A^2 \cot\alpha \sin\beta & M_{ss}^2 + M_A^2 \cot^2\alpha & M_{sA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} \\ M_{uA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} & M_{dA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} & M_{sA}^2 \sin\theta_{ts} & M_P^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (35)$$

in which our notation explicitly demonstrates that all of the entries  $\mathcal{M}_{iA}^2$  ( $i = u, d, s$ ) identically vanish in the CP-conserving limit  $\theta_{ts} \rightarrow \phi_0$ . In the above,

$$M_A^2 = M_0^2 \left( 1 + \beta_{h_t} \frac{|A_t|}{|A_s|} \frac{\cos\theta_{ts}}{\cos\bar{\theta}} \mathcal{F} \right), \quad (36)$$

which depends explicitly on the renormalization scale, and

$$M_P^2 = \frac{M_A^2}{\sin^2 \alpha} + 4\beta_{ht} \frac{m_t^2 |\mu_{eff}|^2 |A_t|^2}{(m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2)^2} \frac{\sin^2 \theta_{ts}}{\sin^2 \alpha \sin^2 \beta} \mathcal{G} \quad (37)$$

is the one-loop pseudoscalar mass in the CP-conserving limit. The loop function  $\mathcal{G}$  is independent of the renormalization scale and has the functional form

$$\mathcal{G}(m_{t_1}^2, m_{t_2}^2) = 2 - \frac{m_{t_1}^2 + m_{t_2}^2}{m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2} \ln \left( \frac{m_{t_1}^2}{m_{t_2}^2} \right). \quad (38)$$

We now turn to the mass parameters  $M_{ij}^2$  ( $i, j = u, d, s$ ) which appear in  $\mathcal{M}^2$ . These entries may be represented as

$$\begin{aligned} M_{ij}^2 &= v_i v_j \left\{ \bar{\lambda}_{ij} + \frac{3}{(4\pi)^2} \left[ \frac{(\rho_i \tilde{m}_j^2 + \tilde{m}_i^2 \rho_j)}{m_{t_1}^2 + m_{t_2}^2} (2 - \mathcal{G}) + \left( \rho_i \rho_j + \zeta_i \zeta_j + \delta_{id} \delta_{js} \frac{h_t^2 h_s^2}{4} \right) \mathcal{F} \right. \right. \\ &\quad \left. \left. + \left( \rho_i \rho_j + \frac{\tilde{m}_i^2 \tilde{m}_j^2}{(m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2)^2} \right) \mathcal{G} - \delta_{iu} \delta_{ju} h_t^4 \ln \left\{ \frac{m_t^4}{Q^4} \right\} \right] \right\}, \end{aligned} \quad (39)$$

in which  $\bar{\lambda}_{ij} = \lambda_{ij}$  for  $i \neq j$ ,  $\bar{\lambda}_{ij} = 2\lambda_i$  for  $i = j$ . For notational purposes we have also introduced the dimensionless quantities

$$\rho_u = h_t^2 - \lambda_u, \quad \rho_d = (h_s^2 - \lambda_{ud})/2, \quad \rho_s = (h_s^2 - \lambda_{us})/2 \quad (40)$$

as well as the dimensionful ones,

$$\tilde{m}_u^2 = \zeta_u \delta + h_t^2 |A_t| (|A_t| - |\mu_{eff}| \cot \beta \cos \theta_{ts}) \quad (41)$$

$$\tilde{m}_d^2 = \zeta_d \delta + h_t^2 |\mu_{eff}| (|\mu_{eff}| - |A_t| \tan \beta \cos \theta_{ts}) \quad (42)$$

$$\tilde{m}_s^2 = \zeta_s \delta + \frac{v_d^2}{v_s^2} h_t^2 |\mu_{eff}| (|\mu_{eff}| - |A_t| \tan \beta \cos \theta_{ts}), \quad (43)$$

with  $\delta = M_Q^2 - M_U^2 + \zeta_u v_u^2 + \zeta_d v_d^2 + \zeta_s v_s^2$ . The new dimensionless couplings appearing here are pure D term contributions

$$\zeta_u = -\frac{1}{8}(g_2^2 - \frac{5}{3}g_Y^2) + \frac{1}{2}(Q_Q - Q_U)Q_u g_Y^2, \quad (44)$$

$$\zeta_d = \frac{1}{8}(g_2^2 - \frac{5}{3}g_Y^2) + \frac{1}{2}(Q_Q - Q_U)Q_d g_Y^2, \quad (45)$$

$$\zeta_s = -(\zeta_u + \zeta_d). \quad (46)$$

Finally, the scalar-pseudoscalar mixing entries  $M_{iA}^2$  ( $i = u, d, s$ ), which exist only if there are sources of CP violation in the Lagrangian (as has been made explicit in  $\mathcal{M}^2$  by factoring out  $\sin \theta_{ts}$ ), are given by

$$M_{iA}^2 = 2\beta_{ht} \frac{v v_i}{\sin \alpha} \frac{|\mu_{eff}| |A_t|}{m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2} \left[ 2\rho_i \frac{m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2}{m_{t_1}^2 + m_{t_2}^2} + \left( \frac{\tilde{m}_i^2}{m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2} - \rho_i \frac{m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2}{m_{t_1}^2 + m_{t_2}^2} \right) \mathcal{G} \right], \quad (47)$$

and are scale independent. These results agree with the tree level computations of [41]. After identifying (11) with the  $|\mu_{eff}|$  parameter of the MSSM, the doublet sector of the mass-squared matrix agrees with that of the MSSM [22]. Finally, the results also agree with those of [45] in the CP-conserving limit ( $\sin \theta_{ts} = 0$ ).

As previously stated, there are three CP even and one CP odd Higgs boson in the CP-conserving limit. The mass of the CP odd Higgs boson  $A$  is given in (37), while the masses of the CP even scalars arise from the diagonalization of the upper  $3 \times 3$  subblock of (35). The masses and mixings then differ from their tree level values by the inclusion of radiative effects. In this limit, the only source of CP violation is the CKM matrix and one easily evades constraints from the absence of permanent EDMs for leptons and hadrons. The lightest Higgs boson has a larger mass than  $M_Z$  even at tree level, and the radiative effects modify it sizeably [45]. Once the radiative corrections are included a direct comparison with experimental results is possible. In principle, one can constrain certain portions of the parameter space using the post-LEP indications for a light scalar with mass  $\gtrsim 114$  GeV.

In the presence of CP violation, there are four scalar bosons with no definite CP quantum number. This results from the mixing between the CP even scalars  $\phi_{u,d,s}$  with the CP odd scalar  $A$  via the entries  $M_{iA}^2 \sin \theta_{ts}$  in (35). The main impact of the CP breaking Higgs mixings on the collider phenomenology comes via the generation of novel couplings for Higgs bosons which eventually modify the event rates and asymmetries. Indeed, a given Higgs boson can couple to both scalar and pseudoscalar fermion densities depending on the strength of CP violation [22]. Moreover, the coupling of the lightest Higgs to  $Z$  bosons can be significantly suppressed, avoiding the existing bounds from the LEP data [24, 25]. The CP-violating entries of  $\mathcal{M}^2$  grow with  $|\mu_{eff} A_t|$  as in the MSSM. The mass-squared matrix is diagonalized by a  $4 \times 4$  orthonormal matrix  $\mathcal{R}$

$$\mathcal{R} \cdot M_h^2 \cdot \mathcal{R}^T = \text{diag.} \left( M_{H_1}^2, M_{H_2}^2, M_{H_3}^2, M_{H_4}^2 \right). \quad (48)$$

To avoid discontinuities in the eigenvalues it is convenient to adopt an ordering:  $M_{H_1} < M_{H_2} < M_{H_3} < M_{H_4}$ . The mass eigenstates  $H_i$  can then be expressed as

$$H_i = \mathcal{R}_{iu} \phi_u + \mathcal{R}_{id} \phi_d + \mathcal{R}_{is} \phi_s + \mathcal{R}_{iA} A \quad (49)$$

in which e.g.  $|\mathcal{R}_{iA}|^2$  is a measure of the CP odd composition of  $H_i$ . The elements of  $\mathcal{R}$  determine the couplings of Higgs bosons to the MSSM fermions, scalars, and gauge bosons.

### 3.3 Comparison with MSSM

Before turning to the numerical analysis, it is instructive to compare the origin of Higgs sector CP violation in the  $U(1)'$  models to that within the MSSM. Let us first consider the case of the MSSM, in which the Higgs sector consists of the two electroweak Higgs doublets  $H_{u,d}$ . It is useful to start with the most general renormalizable Higgs potential for a two Higgs doublet model (2HDM), which must be built out of the gauge invariant combinations  $|H_u|^2$ ,  $|H_d|^2$ , and  $H_u \cdot H_d$  as follows:

$$V_{ren}^{2HDM} = m_u^2 |H_u|^2 + m_d^2 |H_d|^2 + \left( m_3^2 H_u \cdot H_d + \text{h.c.} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
& + \lambda_1 |H_u|^4 + \lambda_2 |H_d|^4 + \lambda_3 |H_u|^2 |H_d|^2 + \lambda_4 |H_u \cdot H_d|^2 \\
& + \left[ \lambda_5 (H_u \cdot H_d)^2 - (\lambda_6 |H_d|^2 + \lambda_7 |H_u|^2) H_u \cdot H_d + h.c. \right], \tag{50}
\end{aligned}$$

in which  $m_3^2$ ,  $\lambda_{5,6,7}$  can be complex. In a general 2HDM, the Higgs sector exhibits CP violation if any two of these couplings have nontrivial relative phases. Spontaneous CP violation can also occur for certain ranges of the parameters [50]. However, at tree level the MSSM is a special 2HDM, with  $m_3^2 = B\mu \equiv b$ ,  $m_{u,d}^2 = m_{H_{u,d}}^2$ , and

$$\lambda_1 = \lambda_2 = G^2/4; \quad \lambda_3 = (g_2^2 - g_Y^2)/4; \quad \lambda_4 = -g_2^2/2; \quad \lambda_5 = \lambda_6 = \lambda_7 = 0. \tag{51}$$

As previously discussed, there is only one complex coupling  $B\mu$  in the MSSM Higgs potential at tree level, and hence its phase can always be eliminated by a suitable PQ rotation of the Higgs fields. Although the Higgs sector is CP-conserving at tree level, CP violation occurs at the loop level if  $\theta_f$  and/or  $\theta_a$  are nonzero, with the dominant contribution involving  $\theta_t$ . If  $\theta_t \neq 0$ , a relative phase  $\theta$  between the VEVs of  $H_u$  and  $H_d$  is generated [22].

Essentially, while the  $U(1)_{PQ}$  symmetry of the MSSM forbids nonzero values of  $\lambda_{5,6,7}$  at tree level, these couplings are generated by radiative corrections because  $U(1)_{PQ}$  is softly broken by the  $B\mu$  term. For example, the effective  $\lambda_5$  coupling which is generated at one-loop is approximately

$$\lambda_5 \sim \frac{h_t^2}{16\pi^2 m_{SUSY}^4} (\mu A_t)^2; \tag{52}$$

see [22] for the explicit expressions.<sup>12</sup>

Within the  $U(1)'$  models, the tree level Higgs potential does not allow for explicit or spontaneous CP violation. However, it is possible to make a stronger statement: unlike the MSSM, the Higgs potential in this class of  $U(1)'$  models does not allow for CP violation at the renormalizable level at any order in perturbation theory. To see this more clearly, consider the most general renormalizable Higgs potential for  $H_u$ ,  $H_d$ , and  $S$ . The potential can be expressed as a function of the gauge-invariant quantities  $|H_u|^2$ ,  $|H_d|^2$ ,  $|H_d \cdot H_u|^2$ , and  $SH_u \cdot H_d$ :

$$\begin{aligned}
V_{ren} & = m_u^2 |H_u|^2 + m_d^2 |H_d|^2 + m_S^2 |S|^2 + (m_{12} SH_u \cdot H_d + h.c.) \\
& + \lambda_u |H_u|^4 + \lambda_d |H_d|^4 + \lambda_s |S|^4 \\
& + \lambda_{ud} |H_u|^2 |H_d|^2 + \lambda_{us} |H_u|^2 |S|^2 + \lambda_{ds} |H_d|^2 |S|^2 + \tilde{\lambda}_{ud} |H_u \cdot H_d|^2, \tag{53}
\end{aligned}$$

At tree level, the dimensionful parameters  $m_{u,d}^2 = m_{H_{u,d}}^2$  and  $m_{12} = h_s A_s$ , and the dimensionless couplings have all been listed before except  $\tilde{\lambda}_{ud} = \frac{1}{2}g_2^2 - h_s^2$ . Therefore, even in the most general renormalizable Higgs potential there is only one coupling which can be complex ( $m_{12}$ ); this is because the gauge-invariant operator  $SH_u \cdot H_d$  is already dimension 3. Hence, the global phases of the Higgs fields (more precisely of the combination  $SH_u H_d$ ) can always

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<sup>12</sup>Note that spontaneous CP violation (SCPV) requires  $m_3^2 < \lambda_5 v_u v_d$ . As  $\lambda_5$  is loop suppressed in the MSSM, SCPV would require a very small  $m_3^2$ , leading to an unacceptably light pseudoscalar Higgs mass [50].

be chosen such that the phase of  $m_{12}$  is absorbed. Note that this statement, while true for the tree-level potential of (6), does not depend in any way on perturbation theory.<sup>13</sup>

As the Higgs potential conserves CP to all orders at the renormalizable level, CP violation can enter the theory only through loop-induced nonrenormalizable operators. The form of (17) demonstrates that the one-loop contributions to the Higgs potential include an infinite series of terms involving powers of the Higgs fields. While these terms include contributions to the potential at the renormalizable level, they also include a tower of nonrenormalizable terms, such as

$$V_{nr} = \dots + \left( \frac{\lambda}{m_{SUSY}^2} (SH_u \cdot H_d)^2 + h.c. \right) + \dots, \quad (54)$$

in which  $m_{SUSY}$  denotes a typical sfermion mass. By  $U(1)_R$  invariance, the coupling  $\lambda$  of the  $(SH_u \cdot H_d)^2$  term is proportional to  $\lambda \sim A_t^2 / (16\pi^2 m_{SUSY}^2)$ . Such a term is generated by the one-loop diagram formed from the Lagrangian interactions  $h_s h_t^* SH_d^0 \tilde{u}_L^* \tilde{u}_L^{c*} + h.c.$  (from F terms) and the soft SUSY breaking interaction  $h_t A_t \tilde{u}_L \tilde{u}_L^c + h.c.$ . For  $\langle S \rangle \gg \langle H_{u,d} \rangle$ , (54) effectively leads to the coupling<sup>14</sup>

$$\frac{\lambda_5^{eff}}{m_{SUSY}^2} (H_u \cdot H_d)^2, \quad (55)$$

with

$$\lambda_5^{eff} \sim \frac{(A_t \langle S \rangle)^2}{16\pi^2 m_{SUSY}^2}. \quad (56)$$

In general, one can expand the one-loop potential in powers of the phase-sensitive gauge-invariant operator  $SH_u \cdot H_d$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \delta V &= \dots - \beta_{h_t} h_s \mathcal{F}(Q^2, m_{t_1}^2, m_{t_2}^2) A_t SH_u \cdot H_d \\ &+ \beta_{h_t} h_t^2 h_s^2 \mathcal{G}(m_{t_1}^2, m_{t_2}^2) \frac{A_t^2}{(m_{t_1}^2 - m_{t_2}^2)^2} (SH_u \cdot H_d)^2 + h.c. + \dots, \end{aligned} \quad (57)$$

in which we have presented only the phase-sensitive corrections up to quadratic order (this expansion can of course be continued to higher orders with no difficulty at all). The first term renormalizes the  $h_s A_s SH_u \cdot H_d$  operator in the tree level potential, while the second term is a new higher-dimensional operator. Both terms violate CP through the phase of  $A_t \langle S \rangle$  (recall this phase is irremovable if  $A_t$  and  $A_s$  have a nontrivial relative phase  $\theta_{ts}$ ). The effective theory at scales below  $\langle S \rangle$  is equivalent to the MSSM (with  $\mu$  and  $B\mu$  parameters related to the other soft parameters of the model). One concludes from (57) that the size of the CP violation in the Higgs sector depends on the extent to which the  $U(1)'$  breaking scale is split from the electroweak scale. Indeed, below the scale  $\langle S \rangle$ , the coefficients of the CP-violating effective operators in (50) grow with  $|A_t|v_s$  (or equivalently  $|A_t||\mu_{eff}|$ ), in agreement with the CP-violating  $M_{(u,d,s)A}^2$  entries of the Higgs mass-squared matrix.

<sup>13</sup>Note that the structure of the potential is very different in the case of the NMSSM, in which the  $S$  is a total gauge singlet. As gauge invariance then does not restrict the possible  $S$  couplings, the Higgs sector generically violates CP at tree level [51].

<sup>14</sup>Note that SCPV is also not viable in this potential, for the same reason as in the MSSM.

## 4 Phenomenological Implications

In this section we discuss the existing constraints on  $U(1)'$  models as well as their phenomenological implications with explicit CP violation.

### 4.1 Constraints from $Z - Z'$ Mixing

In the previous section, we computed the radiatively corrected Higgs boson mass-squared matrix (35). If the eigenvalues of the Higgs mass-squared are all positive definite, the parameter space under concern corresponds to a minimum of the potential. The parameter space is of course also constrained by the fact that direct collider searches have yielded lower bounds on the sparticle and Higgs masses. Within  $U(1)'$  models, further constraints arise from the nonobservation to date of a  $Z'$ , both from direct searches [38] and indirect precision tests from  $Z$  pole, LEP II and neutral weak current data [28, 39]. The strongest constraints arise from the mixing mass term between the  $Z$  and the  $Z'$  induced by electroweak breaking:

$$M_{Z-Z'} = \begin{pmatrix} M_Z^2 & \Delta^2 \\ \Delta^2 & M_{Z'}^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (58)$$

in which

$$M_Z^2 = G^2 v^2 / 4 \quad (59)$$

$$M_{Z'}^2 = g_{Y'}^2 (Q_u^2 v_u^2 + Q_d^2 v_d^2 + Q_s^2 v_s^2) \quad (60)$$

$$\Delta^2 = \frac{1}{2} g_{Y'} G (Q_u v_u^2 - Q_d v_d^2). \quad (61)$$

Current data requires  $\Delta^2 \ll M_{Z'}^2, M_Z^2$ , because the  $Z - Z'$  mixing angle

$$\alpha_{Z-Z'} = \frac{1}{2} \arctan \left( \frac{2\Delta^2}{M_{Z'}^2 - M_Z^2} \right). \quad (62)$$

must not exceed a few  $\times 10^{-3}$  in typical models.

Let us review the implications of this constraint, which was studied in [28, 41]. One can see from (62) that unless  $M_{Z'} \gg M_Z$ , the  $Z - Z'$  mixing angle is naturally of  $O(1)$ . Therefore, a small  $\alpha_{Z-Z'}$  requires a cancellation in the mixing term  $\Delta^2$  for a given value of  $\tan \beta$ . For models in which  $M_{Z'} \sim O(M_Z)$ , this cancellation must be nearly exact; this can be slightly alleviated if the  $Z'$  mass is near its natural upper limit of a few TeV. Hence,  $\tan^2 \beta$  must be tuned around  $Q_d/Q_u$  with a precision determined by the size of  $\alpha_{Z-Z'}$ . In our analysis, we will eliminate  $\tan \beta$  from (62) for a given value of  $\alpha_{Z-Z'}$ :

$$\tan^2 \beta = \frac{\eta Q_d - \alpha_{Z-Z'} \left( -1 + \eta^2 \left( Q_d^2 + Q_s^2 \frac{v_s^2}{v^2} \right) \right)}{\eta Q_u + \alpha_{Z-Z'} \left( -1 + \eta^2 \left( Q_u^2 + Q_s^2 \frac{v_s^2}{v^2} \right) \right)}, \quad (63)$$

in which  $\eta = 2g_{Y'}/G$ , and we used  $\tan(2\alpha_{Z-Z'}) \approx 2\alpha_{Z-Z'}$ . Having fixed  $\tan \beta$  in this way, a multitude of parameters remain which can be varied continuously as long as all collider constraints are satisfied. In [41], two phenomenologically viable scenarios were identified:

- *Light  $Z'$  Scenario.* Clearly, the  $U(1)'$  symmetry can be broken along with the SM gauge symmetries at the electroweak scale.<sup>15</sup> In this case  $v_s \sim v$ ,  $\tan \beta \sim \sqrt{|Q_d|/|Q_u|}$ , and  $M_{Z'}$  is of order  $M_Z$  (the precise factor depends on the size of  $g_{Y'}/|Q_s|$ ). However, the collider constraints on such a light  $Z'$  are severe within typical models, and hence it can be accommodated in the spectrum only if it is sufficiently leptophobic. Note that within this framework, leptophobic  $U(1)'$  couplings lead to a generic difficulty related to lepton mass generation: as  $Q_{H_d} \neq 0$ , if the electron mass is induced via the Yukawa coupling  $h_e \widehat{L}_1 \widehat{H}_d \widehat{E}_1^c$ , the leptons necessarily have nonvanishing  $U(1)'$  charges. The electron mass (and perhaps all light fermion masses) then must be generated via nonrenormalizable interactions which guarantee the neutrality of  $\widehat{L}_1$  and  $\widehat{E}_1^c$  under the  $U(1)'$ . In practice, this would need to be investigated within specific models.<sup>16</sup>
- *Heavy  $Z'$  Scenario.* In this scenario, the  $U(1)'$  breaking is radiative (driven by the running of  $m_S^2$  to negative values in the infrared) and occurs at a hierarchically larger scale than the electroweak scale. However, gauge invariance does not allow for the  $U(1)'$  and electroweak breakings to decouple completely (as  $Q_{H_{u,d}} \neq 0$ ). The electroweak scale is then achieved by a cancellation among the soft masses, which are typically of  $O(M_{Z'})$ , with a fine-tuning  $O(M_{Z'}/M_Z)$ . As discussed in [41], excessive fine tuning is avoided if  $M_{Z'}$  in units of the heavy scale is roughly bounded by the ratio of the charges,  $\text{Min}[|Q_s/Q_d|, |Q_s/Q_u|]$ . There are several advantages of the heavy  $Z'$  scenario. First, the  $Z - Z'$  mixing can be kept small enough with less fine-tuning of the  $\Delta^2$  in (58); in particular,  $Q_u = Q_d$  is no longer a requirement. In addition, the collider constraints are less severe for  $Z'$  bosons with TeV-scale masses in typical models; for example, leptophobic couplings are not generically a phenomenological necessity.

## 4.2 Constraints from Dipole Moments

Let us now turn to dipole moment constraints. Recall in SUSY theories dipole moments of the fundamental fermions are generated by gaugino/Higgsino exchanges accompanied by sfermions of the appropriate flavor. The dipole moment under concern may (e.g. the electric and chromoelectric dipole moments of the quarks) or may not (e.g. the anomalous magnetic moment of muon) require explicit sources of CP violation.

<sup>15</sup>As shown in [41], at tree level a light  $Z'$  boson with a vanishing  $Z - Z'$  mixing (for  $Q_u = Q_d$ ) naturally arises when  $|A_s|$  is the dominant soft mass in the Higgs potential. Such trilinear coupling induced minima can also accommodate a heavy  $Z'$  boson. This can happen in models in which there are several additional singlets in a secluded sector coupled to the Higgs fields  $H_{u,d}$  and  $S$  via the gauge or gravitational interactions [44]. Furthermore, these large trilinear coupling scenarios (with light  $Z'$  bosons) also have interesting implications for baryogenesis, due to the first order phase transition at tree level. If the phase transition remains first order after radiative corrections are included, then  $\bar{\theta}$  may be sufficient to generate the baryon asymmetry. The electroweak phase transition in  $Z'$  models with a secluded sector is strongly first order (with a heavy enough  $Z'$  without any fine-tuning), and electroweak baryogenesis in such models can be viable in a greater region of parameter space than in the minimal model [52].

<sup>16</sup>However, the kinetic mixing between the hypercharge and  $Z'$  gauge bosons can be used to decouple leptons from  $Z'$  though all leptons, with nonzero  $U(1)'$  charges, acquire their masses from their Yukawa couplings [48].

In the MSSM, dipole moments can provide important constraints on the parameter space. For example, the anomalous magnetic moment of the muon is in principle an important observable either for discovering SUSY indirectly or constraining SUSY parameter space; however, at present the theoretical uncertainties present in certain nonperturbative SM contributions lead to difficulties in carrying out this procedure using recent data (see e.g. [53] for a review of the basic physics and [54] for the most recent experimental results). At present, the most stringent constraints arise from electric dipole moments (EDMs). As is well known, the experimental upper bounds on the EDMs of the electron, neutron, and certain atoms impose particularly severe constraints on the parameter space of general SUSY models. In contrast to the SM, in which EDMs are generated only at three-loop order (as the only source of CP violation is in the CKM matrix), the sources of explicit CP violation in SUSY theories include phases in flavor-conserving couplings which, if present, lead to nonvanishing one-loop contributions to the EDMs which can exceed the experimental bounds. As these phases generically filter into the Higgs sector, it is important to include the parameter space constraints provided by the EDM bounds.

Let us consider the dipole moments which arise within this class of  $U(1)'$  models. After replacing the  $\mu$  parameter of the MSSM by  $\mu_{eff}$  in (11), all one-loop dipole moments are found to be identical to their MSSM counterparts except for an additional contribution generated by the  $\widetilde{Z}'\text{-}\widetilde{f}$  diagram in Fig.1. Here  $\widetilde{Z}'$  is the  $U(1)'$  gaugino with mass  $M_{1'}$ . This diagram generates the operator  $D_f \widetilde{f}_L \sigma^{\mu\nu} F_{\mu\nu} f_R$ , in which

$$D_f(\widetilde{Z}') \sim \frac{g_{Y'}^2 Q_f^2}{16\pi^2} \frac{m_f |M_{1'}|}{M_{\widetilde{f}}^4} \left[ |A_f| e^{i(\theta_{1's} - \theta_{fs})} - R_f |\mu_{eff}| e^{i(\theta_{1's} + \bar{\theta})} \right], \quad (64)$$

in units of the electromagnetic or strong coupling. In the above  $R_f = (\tan \beta)^{-2I_f^3}$ ,  $M_{\widetilde{f}}$  characterizes the typical sfermion mass, and recall that the reparameterization invariant phases are defined in (4). Clearly, the (chromo-)electric and (chromo-)magnetic dipole moments are generated, respectively, by  $\text{Im}[D_f]$  and  $\text{Re}[D_f]$ . The expression above is approximate estimate (valid in the limit that  $M_{\widetilde{f}} \gg M_{1'}$ ) of the exact amplitude; a more precise treatment would take into account the mixing of all six neutral fermions. The amplitude (64) is similar to the bino exchange contribution in the MSSM.

Within the aforementioned light  $Z'$  scenario, for phenomenologically viable models  $D_e(\widetilde{Z}')$  vanishes because the lepton couplings to the  $Z'$  are necessarily leptophobic. Therefore, for instance, the electron EDM is completely decoupled from the presence of an electroweak scale  $U(1)'$  symmetry. This conclusion extends to other leptons for family universal  $Z'$  models. This may also be relevant for the hadronic dipole moments depending on whether or not the  $Z'$  boson is hadrophobic (assuming it is detected in present and/or forthcoming colliders). As  $|\mu_{eff}| \ll M_{\widetilde{f}}$  within the light  $Z'$  scenario, the dipole moments of both the up-type and down-type fermions are largely controlled by the corresponding  $A_f$  parameters. In contrast, the  $U(1)'$  charges are not necessarily suppressed for any fermion flavor in the heavy  $Z'$  scenario and thus the  $D_f(\widetilde{Z}')$  contribution to dipole moments can compete with the MSSM amplitudes. In this scenario,  $|\mu_{eff}| \sim M_{Z'} \gg M_Z$ , and hence both terms in  $D_f(\widetilde{Z}')$  are important. The dipole moments become sensitive to  $\theta_{1's} + \bar{\theta}$  if the  $A_f$  parameters are sufficiently small compared to  $|\mu_{eff}|$ .

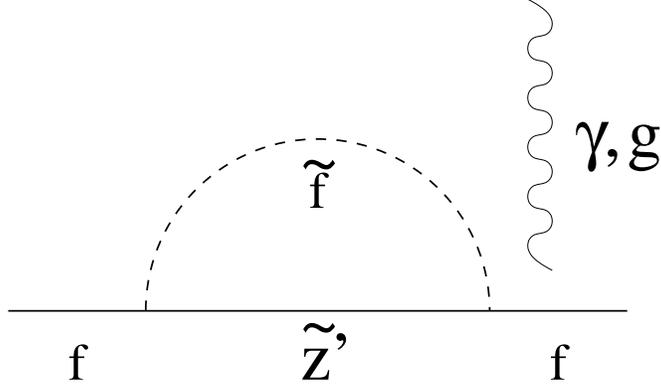


Figure 1: The  $\tilde{Z}'$ -sfermion diagram which contributes to the (chromo-)electric and (chromo-)magnetic dipole moments of the fermion  $f$ . The photon ( $\gamma$ ) or gluon ( $g$ ) are to be attached in all possible ways.

As the dipole moments generically scale as  $m_f/M_{\tilde{f}}^2$ , (which is clear from the form of (64)), when  $M_{\tilde{f}} \sim O(M_Z)$  the EDMs typically exceed the existing bounds by 2 to 3 orders of magnitude if the phases are  $O(1)$ . As discussed briefly in the Introduction, one possibility is satisfying the experimental bounds while retaining  $O(1)$  phases is to raise  $M_{\tilde{f}}$  to multi-TeV values, which in effect requires the sfermions of first and second generations to be ultraheavy [2, 4]. Another way of suppressing the EDMs is to invoke accidental cancellations between different contributions, *i.e.* to find regions of parameter space in which the SUSY amplitudes interfere destructively. In the MSSM with low values of  $\tan\beta$ , this has been shown to occur with almost no constraint on any of the invariant phases except  $|\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}| = |\phi_\mu + \phi_{M_2}| \lesssim \pi/10$  [4, 5, 6, 7, 8]. This strong constraint follows from the fact that  $g_Y \ll g_2$ , and thus the  $SU(2)$  gauginos dominate the EDMs. Within the  $U(1)'$  framework, the EDM constraints can have varying implications depending on the size of (64).

- If  $g_{Y'} \sim O(g_Y)$  or (more generally)  $g_{Y'} \ll g_2$ , the EDM constraints on the parameter space are similar to that of the MSSM except for a slight folding of the cancellation domain due to the inclusion of (64). Once again, the most strongly constrained phase is  $\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}$ , with  $|\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}| \lesssim \pi/10$  in the low  $\tan\beta$  regime. As  $\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm} = \theta_{2s} + \bar{\theta}$  and  $\bar{\theta}$  is a loop-suppressed angle (30), the EDMs provide a constraint on  $\theta_{2s}$ :  $|\theta_{2s}| \lesssim \pi/10$ . Consequently, the dynamical solution to the  $\mu$  problem present in this class of  $U(1)'$  models also solves the SUSY CP hierarchy problem in specific models of the soft parameters in which (at least) the  $SU(2)$  gaugino mass has the same phase as the  $A_s$  parameter (then  $\theta_{2s} = 0$  by definition).<sup>17</sup>

- If  $g_{Y'} \gtrsim g_2$ , the dipole moment amplitude  $D_f(\tilde{Z}')$  becomes comparable to or larger than

<sup>17</sup>In this paper, we have not addressed the origin of the phases of the soft parameters in (3), and hence we cannot make any claims about how one solves the SUSY CP hierarchy problem within this framework. However, it is worthwhile to note that models of the soft parameters in which the gaugino masses and  $A$  terms have the same phases are quite common within various classes of four-dimensional string models (at least at tree level) under plausible assumptions [55].

the  $SU(2)$  gaugino contribution, and the cancellation domain found in the MSSM will be significantly folded. In this case, the EDMs will constrain a combination of the phases in (64) and  $\theta_{\tilde{\chi}^\pm}$ . Such a scenario, however, can have tension with the standard picture of gauge coupling unification at a high fundamental scale (although in principle it could be considered as a possibility in generic low scale realizations).

Until this point, we have only discussed one-loop EDMs. It was pointed out a while ago [11] that in certain regions of MSSM parameter space certain two-loop contribution contributions which exclusively depend on the third generation sfermions can be nonnegligible. These contributions, which are particularly relevant if the one-loop EDMs are suppressed solely by ultraheavy first and second generation sfermion masses, involve the same phases which predominantly filter into the Higgs potential at one-loop (*i.e.* the phases present in the stop mass-squared matrix). However, these two-loop EDMs become sizeable only at large  $\tan\beta$ . In this paper, we have restricted our attention to small  $\tan\beta$  values, which is a well-motivated parameter regime (e.g.,  $\tan\beta = 1$  is allowed within this framework, in contrast to the MSSM). Hence, these contributions will not provide significant parameter space constraints in our numerical analysis.

### 4.3 Numerical Estimates for Higgs Sector CP Violation

In this section, we present sample numerical calculations of the Higgs boson masses and mixings derived in Section 3.2, taking into account the phenomenological constraints on the parameter space discussed in Sections 4.1 and 4.2.

In the absence of CP violation, the scalar-pseudoscalar mixing terms of the Higgs mass-squared matrix (35) vanish ( $\sin\bar{\theta} = 0$ ), and hence (35) takes on a block diagonal form. The structure of (35) demonstrates that in this limit there is one CP even scalar with mass  $\propto v_s$  and a CP odd scalar with mass proportional to  $\sqrt{|A_s|}v_s$ . In addition, there is a light CP even scalar of mass  $\sim M_Z$  and a heavier CP even scalar with its mass controlled by a combination of  $v$  and  $M_A$ . However, in the presence of explicit CP violation, the Higgs bosons cease to have definite CP parities. The strength of CP violation in the Higgs sector is parameterized by the reparameterization invariant phase  $\theta_{ts}$ , which induces a nonvanishing  $\bar{\theta}$  through the relation (30). The induced phase  $\bar{\theta}$  is a loop-induced and scale-dependent quantity which is particularly enhanced in parameter regions with a low  $M_A$ .

As discussed in Section 4.2, while the one-loop EDM constraints strongly constrain the phase  $\theta_{2s}$ , this phase is not the dominant source of CP violation in the Higgs sector for small values of  $\tan\beta$  and hence this constraint does not restrict the parameter space for our analysis. The dominant corrections to the Higgs potential arise from top and stop loops, and the dipole moments of the fermions in first two generations feel such effects only at two loop level. In fact, in low  $\tan\beta$  limit (which is the domain in which our analysis of the Higgs potential is valid), such effects are completely negligible [11]. Therefore, the EDM constraints do not have a direct impact on our analysis of CP violation in the Higgs sector (we simply assume that the dipole moment constraints have been saturated either via cancellations or by choosing the first and second generation sfermion masses heavy enough; we could also simply assume that all phases except  $\theta_{ts}$  are small).

We now turn to the analysis of the parameter space, including the nontrivial constraints arising from  $Z-Z'$  mixing. The fundamental parameters relevant for the Higgs sector include  $\{v_s, A_s, A_t, M_{\tilde{Q}}, M_{\tilde{U}}, h_s, Q_u, Q_d, g_{Y'}, \theta_{ts}\}$ . We fix a subset of these parameters as follows: (i)  $\alpha_{Z-Z'} = 10^{-3}$ , which is well below the present bounds; (ii)  $g_{Y'}^2 = (5/3)G^2 \sin^2 \theta_W$ , as inspired from one-step GUT breaking; (iii)  $h_s = 1/\sqrt{2}$ , as motivated by the RGE analysis of [41]; (iv)  $Q_u = Q_d = -1$ , such that  $\tan \beta$  remains close to unity (as can be seen from (63)); and finally (v)  $M_{\tilde{Q}} = M_{\tilde{U}}$ . The remaining parameters can be fixed on a case by case basis depending on the range of values assumed for  $M_{Z'}$ . A few notational comments are also in order. Although (35) suggests that  $M_A$  can be chosen to be a fundamental parameter and this is what is traditionally done in the MSSM, we prefer to work instead with  $A_s$  for consistency with previous discussions in this paper as well as the tree level analysis of [41]. In addition, in our numerical results we fix the renormalization scale to be  $Q = (2m_t + M_{Z'})/2$ . This differs once again from the MSSM, where the renormalization scale is chosen to be  $Q = m_t$  in order to minimize the next-to-leading order corrections. Such higher order corrections are beyond the scope of this paper; our choice for  $Q$  can be regarded as some nominal value in between the electroweak and  $U(1)'$  breaking scales.

We begin with an analysis of the light  $Z'$  scenario. For purposes of definiteness, we set  $M_{\tilde{Q}} = 2v_s$ ,  $v_s = v/\sqrt{2} \simeq m_t$ , and  $|A_s| = v_s$ , in which case  $M_{Z'} \simeq 2M_Z$  and  $|\mu_{eff}| \simeq M_Z$ . The SUSY phase  $\theta_{ts}$  influences both the Higgs masses and their mixings, as shown in Figure 2. In the left panel, the variation of the lightest Higgs mass with  $\theta_{ts}$  is displayed for several values of  $|A_t|/v_s$ . For  $|A_t|/v_s = 1/2, 1$  and  $2$   $M_{H_1}$  grows gradually with  $\theta_{ts}$ , peaking at  $\theta_{ts} = \pi$ . This behaviour is easy to understand: as the magnitude of the stop LR mixing depends strongly on  $\theta_{ts}$ , the variation of  $M_{H_1}$  with respect to  $\theta_{ts}$  simply displays the well-known fact that the lightest Higgs mass depends strongly on the value of the stop mixing. Indeed,

$$\frac{|M_{LR}^2|_{\theta_{ts}=\pi}}{|M_{LR}^2|_{\theta_{ts}=0}} = \frac{|A_t| + |\mu_{eff}| \cot \beta}{|A_t| - |\mu_{eff}| \cot \beta}, \quad (65)$$

which becomes large when  $|A_t|$  and  $|\mu_{eff}|$  are of comparable size. The ratio (65) gets saturated with further increase of  $|A_t|$ ; however, in this case  $|A_t||\mu_{eff}|$  also becomes large, which affects both the  $M_P^2$  and  $M_{iA}^2$  entries of the Higgs mass-squared matrix. While the former shifts the peak value of  $M_{H_1}$  towards the point of maximal CP violation (see the dot-dashed curve in the figure), the latter enhances the scalar-pseudoscalar mixings. The generic strength of the scalar-pseudoscalar mixings can be determined e.g. by working out the CP-odd composition of  $H_3$  (the would-be pseudoscalar Higgs). The result is shown in the right panel of Figure 2. Clearly, the  $M_{iA}^2 \sin \theta_{ts}$  elements of the Higgs mass-squared matrix are not large enough to enhance such mixings ( $|\mathcal{R}_{3A}|^2$  falls at most to 99.75% for  $|A_t| = 4v_s$ ).

The functional dependence of the heavier Higgs boson masses on  $\theta_{ts}$  is opposite that of  $M_{H_1}$  in that the masses tend to decrease as  $\theta_{ts}$  ranges from 0 to  $\pi$ ; e.g. when  $|A_t| = 4v_s$ ,  $(M_{H_4}, M_{H_3}, M_{H_2})$  fall from (245, 224, 191) to (234, 206, 182) GeV. In accord with the analytical expression (30),  $\bar{\theta}$  grows with  $|A_t|$  until it arrives at the peak value of  $\sim 30\%$  for  $|A_t| = 4v_s$  for maximal CP violation. For low  $M_{Z'}$  minima, the scalar-pseudoscalar mixings (which govern the novel CP violating effects in the Higgs couplings to fermions, gauge bosons and other Higgs bosons) are typically small due to the low value of  $|\mu_{eff}|$ .

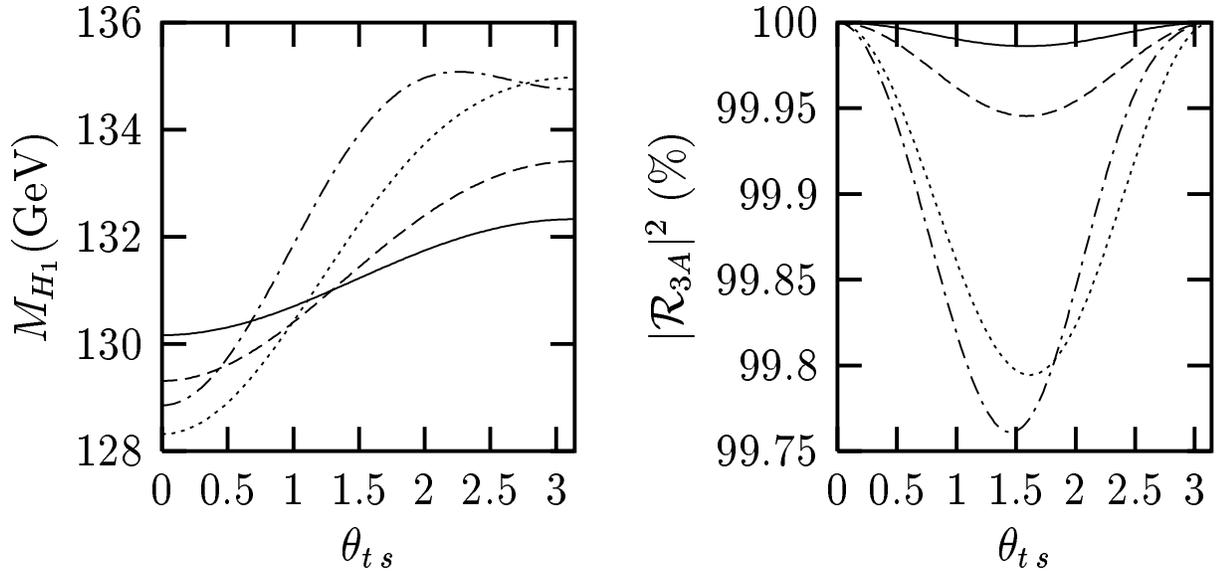


Figure 2: The  $\theta_{ts}$  dependence of the lightest Higgs mass and the CP-odd composition of  $H_3$  in the light  $Z'$  scenario. The solid, dashed, dotted, and dot-dashed curves correspond to, respectively,  $|A_t|/v_s = 1/2, 1, 2$  and 4 with  $v_s = v/\sqrt{2}$ .

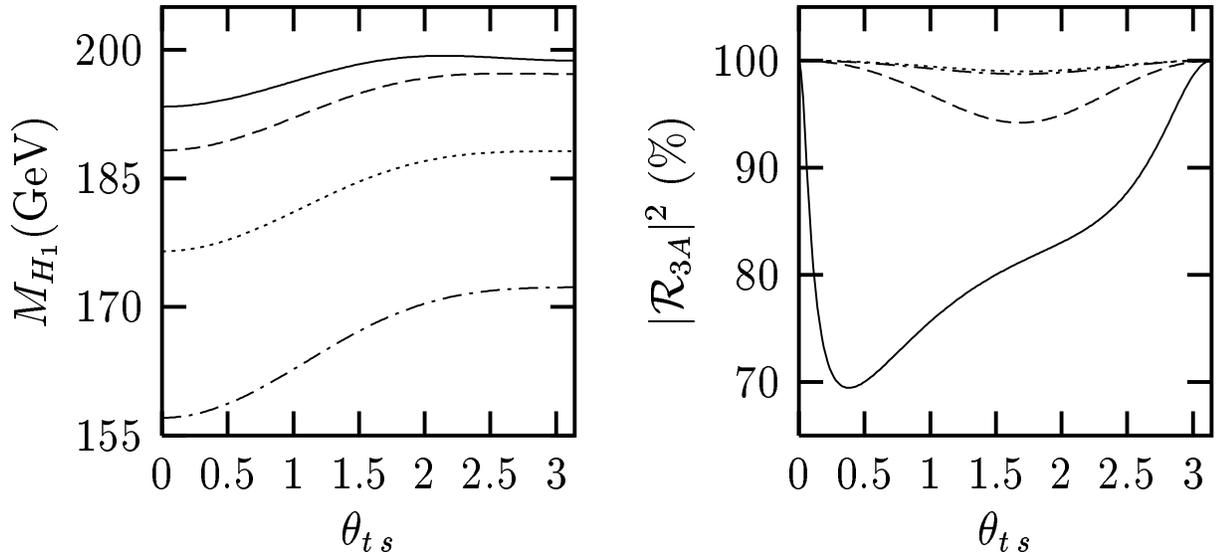


Figure 3: The  $\theta_{ts}$  dependence of the lightest Higgs mass (left panel) and the CP-odd composition of  $H_3$  in the heavy  $Z'$  scenario. Here solid, dashed, dotted, and dot-dashed curves correspond, respectively, to  $|A_s|/v_s = 1/5, 1/2, 3/4$  and 1 with  $v_s = 1$  TeV.

We now discuss the heavy  $Z'$  scenario, setting  $v_s = 1$  TeV,  $M_{\tilde{Q}} = 750$  GeV, and  $|A_t| = 2M_{\tilde{Q}}$ . Figure 3 depicts the variations of the lightest Higgs mass (left panel) and the CP-odd composition of the would-be Higgs scalar as a function of  $\theta_{t_s}$  and  $|A_s|$ . In both figures, the solid, dashed, dotted, and dot-dashed curves correspond, respectively, to  $|A_s|/v_s = 1/5, 1/2, 3/4$  and 1. In contrast to the light  $Z'$  scenario as shown in Figure 2, here we illustrate the dependence on  $|A_s|$  (or equivalently  $M_A$ ), as this parameter remains largely free in the heavy  $Z'$  limit [41]. As the left panel of the figure shows, the mass of the lightest Higgs is typically larger than that in the light  $Z'$  scenario. The lightest Higgs mass is also a steep function of  $|A_s|$ , which becomes increasingly smaller as  $M_A$  increases due to decoupling. Note also that the dependence of  $M_{H_1}$  on  $\theta_{t_s}$  in this scenario is similar to the case within the light  $Z'$  scenario; once again, this is because the radiative corrections to the lightest Higgs mass strongly depend on the value of the stop mixing parameter.

However, in contrast to the light  $Z'$  scenario, the scalar-pseudoscalar mixings in the heavy  $M_{Z'}$  limit are sizeable, as shown in the right panel of Figure 3. This feature is expected because the strength of the Higgs sector CP violation is governed by the size of the singlet VEV, *i.e.* the effective  $\mu$  parameter, and in this scenario  $|\mu_{eff}| \sim M_{Z'}$ . In general, the CP-violating mixings grow larger as  $A_s$  decreases, because in this case  $M_{iA}^2 \sin \theta_{t_s}$  can be comparable to  $M_A$ , which facilitates scalar-pseudoscalar transitions. For  $|A_s| = v_s/5$ , the CP-odd composition of the would-be pseudoscalar Higgs falls down to 70% around  $\theta_{t_s} \sim \pi/6$ . However, as  $|A_s|$  increases (while keeping  $|\mu_{eff}|$  and  $|A_t|$  fixed), the diagonal elements of (35) also increase, with the result that the CP-violating effects become weaker. The large variations in  $|\mathcal{R}_{3A}|^2$  depicted here are due to the mixings between  $H_3$  and  $H_2$ . Indeed, for  $|A_s|/v_s = 1/5, 1/2, 3/4$  and 1 the two masses are strongly degenerate, with  $(M_{H_2}, M_{H_3})$  starting at (476, 477), (722, 726), (876, 881), (1013, 1007) and decreasing to (417, 418), (685, 688), (846, 851), (987, 981) GeV as  $\theta_{t_s}$  varies from 0 to  $\pi$ . Note that the scalar-pseudoscalar conversions are more efficient when the two masses are highly degenerate.

For the values of  $|A_s|/v_s$  exhibited above, the Higgs sector is within the decoupling regime ( $M_A > 2M_{Z'}$ )<sup>18</sup>, in which the lightest Higgs resembles the SM Higgs boson, the heaviest Higgs is singlet-dominated with a mass of order  $M_{Z'}$ , and the two intermediate mass Higgs (the CP odd scalar and the second heaviest CP even scalar in the absence of CP violation) are strongly degenerate. The lightest Higgs boson is essentially CP even ( $|R_{1A}|^2 \ll 0.1\%$  for  $|A_s|/v_s \geq 1/15$ ) and hence is decoupled from CP-violating effects, although its mass depends strongly on  $\theta_{t_s}$ . However, there are phenomenologically interesting corners of parameter space with sufficiently small values of  $|A_s|/v_s$  in which the lightest Higgs boson can have a significant mixing with the would-be pseudoscalar. As the lightest Higgs mass is a steep function of  $|A_s|/v_s$ , for a value of  $M_{H_1}$  consistent with LEP bounds the CP-odd composition of  $H_1$  cannot be larger than 20%. It is important to keep in mind though that the couplings of the lightest Higgs boson to gauge bosons and fermions are modified when the lightest Higgs has a significant mixing with the would-be pseudoscalar (the modifications grow with the CP-odd composition of the lightest Higgs), such that the existing LEP bounds may not be applicable (see e.g. [24, 25] for discussions within the MSSM).

<sup>18</sup>See [22, 23] for a more precise definition of the decoupling regime in the CP-violating MSSM.

Our results demonstrate that the CP-violating effects in the Higgs sector, or more precisely, the mixing between the would-be scalars and pseudoscalars in the CP conserving limit, are generically highly suppressed in the light  $Z'$  models but can be sizeable in the heavy  $Z'$  scenario, even though the masses can vary strongly with  $\theta_{ts}$  (which is of course a CP-conserving effect). This behaviour is exactly in accordance with the general discussion of Section 3.3, in which we demonstrated that the CP-violating terms in the Higgs potential necessarily originate from nonrenormalizable terms present at one-loop (such terms are encoded within the full Coleman-Weinberg potential). The strength of such terms in e.g. the doublet sector then scale according to the ratio of the singlet VEV  $v_s \simeq |\mu_{eff}|$  to the scale of a typical soft mass. Hence, within the light  $Z'$  scenario (in which the effective  $\mu$  parameter is small) CP-violating effects are suppressed, while the large  $|\mu_{eff}|$  present in the heavy  $Z'$  scenario can allow for spectacular effects of CP violation.

We close this section with a brief discussion of the implications for collider searches. In general, at least a subset of the Higgs masses within this class of  $U(1)'$  models can be observable at forthcoming colliders and future colliders such as TESLA and NLC. next generation of colliders such as TESLA and NLC. Within light  $Z'$  models, all of the Higgs bosons remain light after including radiative corrections, but such models generically have very small CP-violating Higgs couplings. In contrast, large  $Z'$  models can have large CP-violating Higgs couplings. As the viable regions of space typically correspond to the decoupling limit in which all of the Higgs bosons except the lightest Higgs are heavy, detecting the CP-violating effects within this scenario is similar to that within the MSSM for a large  $\mu$  parameter. Such effects have been studied in [22, 24, 25], where it is known that Higgs sector CP violation can introduce sizeable modifications in the couplings of the Higgs bosons to fermions and vector bosons, and strongly affect the bounds inferred from the CP-conserving theory. Furthermore, the CP purity of the Higgs bosons (assuming that the collider searches establish their existence) can be tested by measuring CP violation in its decays into heavy quarks or vector bosons [56].

## 5 Summary

In this paper, we have discussed the nature and implications of explicit CP violating phases present in the soft breaking Lagrangian within supersymmetric models with an additional  $U(1)$  gauge symmetry and an additional SM gauge singlet  $S$ . This class of models is worthy of further study not only because such gauge extensions are ubiquitous within four-dimensional string models (and other plausible extensions of the MSSM), but also they provide an elegant framework in which the  $\mu$  problem of the MSSM. The solution, which is to forbid the bare  $\mu$  term by  $U(1)'$  gauge invariance and generate an effective  $\mu$  parameter through the VEV of the singlet  $S$ , is similar to that found within the NMSSM (but its generic cosmological and CP problems). Our results can be summarized as follows:

- All reparameterization invariant phases can be expressed as linear combinations of  $\theta_{fs} \equiv \phi_{A_f} - \phi_{A_s}$  and  $\theta_{as} \equiv \phi_{M_a} - \phi_{A_s}$  (and hence a “natural” basis can be obtained by using  $U(1)_R$  to set  $\phi_{A_s} = 0$ ).

- The Higgs sector is manifestly CP conserving at tree level (and indeed at renormalizable level to all orders in perturbation theory). However, the CP-violating phases present in the stop mass-squared matrix filter into the Higgs sector at the nonrenormalizable level at one-loop. The CP-violating effects are particularly enhanced when  $U(1)'$  symmetry is broken near the sparticle thresholds.
- The spontaneous breakdown of the  $U(1)'$  symmetry near the weak scale stabilizes not only the modulus of  $\mu$  but also its phase. The phase of  $\mu$  itself is of course not a basis-independent quantity; however, in the “natural” basis defined above, this phase ( $\bar{\theta}$  in this basis) arises only at the loop level and is typically 1–10%, depending on the size of  $M_A$  (the pseudoscalar Higgs boson mass in the CP conserving limit).
- The absence of permanent EDMs for leptons and hadrons (even assuming either cancellations and/or heavy first and second generation sfermions) strongly bound the reparameterization invariant phase present in the chargino mass matrix  $(\phi_\mu + \phi_{M_2}) = (\bar{\theta} - \phi_{A_s} + \phi_{M_2})$ , while the other SUSY phases remain largely unconstrained. In specific models in which the phase difference between (at least the  $SU(2)$ ) gaugino mass parameters and  $A_s$  is vanishingly small, this “SUSY CP hierarchy problem” is resolved because the radiative phase  $\bar{\theta}$  is sufficiently small to be easily allowed by EDM bounds.
- The CP-violating effects in the Higgs sector are quite distinct for the two phenomenologically viable scenarios with acceptably small  $Z - Z'$  mixing, because these effects are proportional to the size of the effective  $\mu$  term. In scenarios with a light  $Z'$ , CP-violating effects are suppressed, while heavy  $Z'$  models can exhibit significant CP-violating scalar-pseudoscalar mixings, with phenomenological implications similar to that of the MSSM with large  $\mu$  parameter.

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