## Radiatively generated source of flavor universal scalar soft masses

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(Received 1 May 2019; published 20 August 2019)

We report that models of electroweak supersymmetry with gaugino mass unification and sequestered scalar masses can still produce viable spectra, as long as we include a set of nonstandard supersymmetry breaking terms, which are trilinear in scalars like the A-terms, but are nonholomorphic in visible sector fields unlike the A- terms. These terms impart a subtle feature to one loop renormalization group equations of soft supersymmetry breaking terms, indirectly sourcing flavor universal contributions to all scalar masses. These new contributions can even dominate over radiative corrections from bino, and help raise right handed sleptons above bino, while leaving a tell-tale signature in the spectrum.

DOI: [10.1103/PhysRevD.100.035020](https://doi.org/10.1103/PhysRevD.100.035020)

The complete absence of any genuine hint of new physics from the LHC, as well as null results in various direct and indirect searches for dark matter have put severe constraints on all models of electroweak (EW) supersymmetry. Probably nowhere is this stress more visible than in models characterized by zero scalar masses at a high scale. Often using "locality" in setups with extra dimensions [\[1,2\],](#page-4-0) or lattices of gauge groups connected by link fields [\[3,4\],](#page-4-1) or even strong and nearly conformal dynamics of the hidden sector [\[5](#page-4-2)–7], these models sequester scalar masses at the input scale (say  $\Lambda_{int}$ ), thereby ensuring that flavor universal gaugino mediation remains the sole source of scaler masses at infrared (IR). These elegant solutions to the flavor problem in supersymmetry [\[8\]](#page-5-0) can also solve the  $\mu - B_{\mu}$  problem [\[5\]](#page-4-2), and provide a unique perspective to the fine-tuning problem [\[7\]](#page-5-1), where dynamics brings in large cancellations in the Higgs mass matrix, while at the same time, accommodating gaugino mass unification. Naturally, these models provide examples of scenarios with maximum predictability [\[7\]](#page-5-1), and not surprisingly, seem to be on the verge of being ruled out from cosmological considerations alone. The seed of this nontrivial claim lies in the fact that right-handed (RH) sleptons, which only receive bino mediated contributions, are typically the lightest supersymmetric particles (LSPs) in these scenarios. Consider, e.g., the ratio  $\tilde{m}_E^2/M_1^2$  determined at  $\mu_{\rm IR}$ , a scale in the IR,

$$
\frac{\tilde{m}_E^2}{M_1^2}\bigg|_{\mu_{IR}} \simeq \frac{-6}{5b_1} \left[1 - \left\{1 + \frac{b_1 g_1^2(\Lambda_{int})}{8\pi^2} t_{int}\right\}^2\right],\qquad(1)
$$

where  $\tilde{m}_E^2$  is the usual soft-squared mass for RH-sleptons,  $M_1$  is the bino mass,  $b_1$  is the hypercharge beta function and  $t_{\text{int}}$  is log  $(\Lambda_{\text{int}}/\mu_{\text{IR}})$ . The rhs of Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-2) is always less than one as long as  $\Lambda_{int} \lesssim 4 \times 10^{18}$  GeV. For any realistic spectra, therefore, bino is considerably heavier than RHsleptons and does not play any role in determining the nature of LSP. This immediately rules out the possibility of having a well-tempered neutralino to give thermal relic as cold dark matter [\[9\]](#page-5-2). The pure neutral wino or a Higgsino can give rise to the right relic for masses ∼2.5 TeV or ∼1 TeV respectively [\[10\].](#page-5-3) However, given that Fermi-LAT and HESS puts severe constraints on wino dark matter [\[11,12\]](#page-5-4), a Higgsino seems to be the only safe candidate for a LSP.

Unfortunately, if one takes into account details for sequestering, which dictates that  $\Lambda_{int}$  is of the order of the scale of supersymmetry breaking (i.e.,  $\lesssim 10^{10} - 10^{11}$  GeV) [\[13\]](#page-5-5), even the TeV scale for Higgsino like LSP seems problematic. For  $\tilde{m}_E^2 > \mu^2 \gtrsim (1 \text{ TeV})^2$ , one needs  $M_1 \gtrsim$ <br>2 TeV at the EW scale. The further requirement of gaugino 2 TeV at the EW scale. The further requirement of gaugino mass unification (i.e.,  $M_3/g_3^2 = M_2/g_2^2 = M_1/g_1^2$ ) forces<br>gluinos to be much heavier ( $\approx 10$  TeV). Obtaining electrogluinos to be much heavier (∼10 TeV). Obtaining electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) for such heavy gluinos while keeping  $\mu$  at 1 TeV is virtually impossible.

The last remaining option is to have gravitino as the LSP. However, scenarios with a thermalized gravitino are riddled with issues. For example, the overabundance forces a gravitino mass bound  $m_{3/2} \lesssim 1$  keV [\[14\],](#page-5-6) whereas constraints from large scale formation or the Tremaine-Gunn bound require  $m_{3/2} > 0.4 \text{ keV}$  [\[15\]](#page-5-7). Note that such a light  $m_{3/2}$  arises when  $\Lambda_{int} \lesssim 10^8 - 10^9$  GeV. In this case,

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Eq. [\(1\)](#page-0-2) predicts  $M_1 \gtrsim 3 \times \tilde{m}_E \gtrsim 1.3$  TeV, where we use  $m_E \gtrsim 450 \text{ GeV}$ —the LHC bound on stable massive charged particles [\[16,17\]](#page-5-8), since RH-sleptons with these parameters are expected to be collider stable. Gravitino production through freeze-out can also yield the right relic [\[18\]](#page-5-9), but big bang nucleosynthesis constraints give an upper bound on the gravitino mass to be at or around 10 GeV [\[19\]](#page-5-10). These considerations become even more difficult if hidden sector interactions are taken into account, which enhance gravitino mass with respect to other superpartners because of renormalization [\[5,6\].](#page-4-2) In this work we do not consider the possibility of gravitino as the candidate of dark matter any more.

The key realization in this paper is that most of these difficulties with gaugino mediated spectra (even after accommodating gaugino mass unification) can be avoided, if one manages to break the inequality  $\tilde{m}_E^2 \ll M_1^2$  at the EW scale. As explained before, this feature is generic as long as bino mediation remains the sole source of masses for RH-sleptons. On the other hand, if a new source that can generate  $\tilde{m}_E^2$  radiatively in a flavor universal way is identified, it opens up the possibility of having  $\tilde{m}_E^2 \gtrsim$  $M_1^2$ . In that scenario, a bino can be the LSP and a candidate for the dark matter with a correct thermal relic because of slepton coannihilation. The small splitting between bino and RH-sleptons required for coannihilation, implies that the decay of these sleptons to bino yields only *soft* leptons, thereby significantly loosening LHC bounds on slepton masses. New techniques involving soft muons [\[20\]](#page-5-11) and tracks [\[21,22\]](#page-5-12) can help unearth these spectra.

<span id="page-1-1"></span>Finding a source of flavor universal masses for RHsleptons is, however, highly nontrivial. A known source is the radiatively generated contributions from the "S-term" defined as

$$
S \equiv \text{Tr}(Y_{\phi} m_{\phi}^2)
$$
  
=  $(m_{H_u}^2 - m_{H_d}^2) + \text{Tr}(m_Q^2 - m_L^2 - 2m_U^2 + m_D^2 + m_E^2)$ , (2)

where  $\phi$  runs over all scalar particles with hypercharge  $Y_{\phi}$ . However, in the present context this seemingly simple solution does not work since sequestering also ensures a zero S-term at  $\Lambda_{int}$ . Also, since  $(S/g_1^2)$  is invariant under<br>renormalization group evolution (RGF) at one loop. S renormalization group evolution (RGE) at one loop,  $S$ remains zero even at the EW scale. Although, inhomogeneous pieces for  $S$  are generated at three loops in the MSSM [\[23\]](#page-5-13) and are therefore too small to have observable consequences.

<span id="page-1-0"></span>Before proceeding, we provide a brief understanding of these statements. First, consider the renormalization below  $\Lambda_{\rm int}$  where only visible sector interactions matter. Note that a suitable field redefinition of the hypercharge vector superfield  $V_Y$  can absorb a nonzero S.

$$
V_Y \to V_Y + \kappa \theta^2 \bar{\theta}^2 S \text{ implies}
$$
  
\n
$$
\int d^4 \theta \Phi^{\dagger} e^{Y_{\phi} V_Y} \Phi \to \int d^4 \theta \Phi^{\dagger} e^{Y_{\phi} V_Y} \Phi + \kappa Y_{\phi} |\phi|^2 S,
$$
  
\n
$$
m_{\phi}^2 \to m_{\phi}^2 + \kappa Y_{\phi} S \text{ and } S \to S + \kappa S \sum_{\phi} Y_{\phi}^2 n_{\phi},
$$
\n(3)

 $\partial^2 \overline{\partial}$  is  $\overline{\partial}$ .

where,  $n_{\phi}$  gives the dimension of the superfield  $\Phi$  containing the scaler  $\phi$ . Therefore, by choosing  $\kappa$  judiciously one can make  $S \to 0$ . However this shift of  $V<sub>\gamma</sub>$  (or rather the shift of  $D<sub>Y</sub>$ , the D-component  $V<sub>Y</sub>$ ) does not disappear entirely from the Lagrangian. The kinetic term for  $V<sub>Y</sub>$  also shifts, giving rise to the Fayet-Iliopoulos (FI) term for hypercharge,

$$
\mathcal{L} \to \mathcal{L} + \int d^4 \theta \xi V_y \quad \text{with} \quad \xi = \frac{\mathcal{S}}{g_1^2}.
$$
 (4)

Since  $\xi$  does not renormalize at one loop, one immediately obtains the RGE for  $S$  in a familiar form,

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{S}{g_1^2}\right) = 0 \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt}\mathcal{S} = \frac{b_1}{8\pi^2}g_1^2\mathcal{S}.
$$
 (5)

The S-RGE in the presence of hidden sector couplings can be similarly calculated by noting that  $m_{\phi}^2$  = Can be similarly calculated by houng that  $m_{\phi} = k_{\phi}D^2\bar{D}^2\mathcal{R}/\Lambda_{\text{mess}}^2$ , where D,  $\bar{D}$  are superderivatives,  $\mathcal{R}$  is the real operator, and  $\Lambda_{\text{mess}}$  is the scale of messengers. The shift in  $V_Y$  in this case, is proportional to  $D^2 \bar{D}^2 \mathcal{R}/\Lambda_{\text{mess}}^2$ . The resultant FI-term generated is characterized by an operator, which runs because of an anomalous dimension of  $\mathcal R$  (say,  $\gamma$ ) that also sequesters scalar masses,

$$
\xi \propto \frac{1}{g_1^2} \frac{D^2 \bar{D}^2 \mathcal{R}}{\Lambda_{\text{mess}}^2} \Rightarrow \frac{d}{dt} \xi = \gamma \xi. \tag{6}
$$

Summarizing, in scalar sequestering  $S$  is predicted to be zero at  $\Lambda_{int}$ , and it remains zero even at the IR.

However, the arguments presented above break down, if the set of supersymmetry breaking operators is expanded to include the C-terms given by

$$
C_t Y_u h_d^{\dagger} \tilde{q} \tilde{u} + C_b Y_d h_u^{\dagger} \tilde{q} \tilde{d} + C_{\tau} Y_{\tau} h_u^{\dagger} \tilde{l} \tilde{e} + \text{H.c.} \tag{7}
$$

The simplest way to understand this result involves analytically continuing to superspace, where the C-terms arise from supersymmetric operators containing, e.g.,  $H_d^{\dagger}$  exp  $(V_Y/2)QU$ . The factor exp  $(V_Y/2)$ , the presence of which is demanded by gauge invariance, $\frac{1}{1}$  is not invariant under the shift in Eq. [\(3\)](#page-1-0). Therefore, in the presence of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>We have suppressed weak gauge superfield in the exponent for simplicity.

C-terms, a theory with a nonzero  $S$  is no longer equivalent to a theory with a nonzero ξ.

Consequently, we expect the  $S-RGE$  to turn inhomogeneous even at one loop, with C-terms acting as sources. This can be demonstrated diagrammatically [\[24,25\]](#page-5-14). Before proceeding, also note that we take these trilinear terms to be proportional to Yukawa couplings (same as the A-terms) in the spirit of minimal flavor violation [\[26\]](#page-5-15). Therefore, as long as we only consider the third generation Yukawa couplings (namely  $y_t$ ,  $y_b$  and  $y_\tau$ ), RGEs of the first two generations remain unaffected. The extra contributions to the RGEs because of the C-terms are given as

<span id="page-2-0"></span>
$$
\delta\left(\frac{d}{dt}\tilde{m}_{\phi}^{2}\right) = \frac{2}{16\pi^{2}}\sum_{i} \kappa_{i}^{\phi}\xi_{i}, \text{ where}
$$

$$
\xi_{i} = |y_{i}|^{2}(|C_{i} + \mu|^{2} - |\mu|^{2}), \qquad (8)
$$

 $\phi = {\{\tilde{Q}_3, \tilde{U}_3, \tilde{D}_3, \tilde{L}_3, \tilde{E}_3, H_u, H_d\}},$  the index *i* runs over  $\{t, b, \tau\}$ , and  $\kappa$  is a matrix of numbers given as

$$
\begin{bmatrix} \kappa \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \kappa_t \\ \kappa_b \\ \kappa_{\tau} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1, 2, 0, 0, 0, 0, 3 \\ 1, 0, 2, 0, 0, 3, 0 \\ 0, 0, 0, 1, 2, 1, 0 \end{bmatrix} . \tag{9}
$$

To solve these we also need RGEs for the C-terms,

$$
\frac{d}{dt}C_i = \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \chi_{ij} C_j, \text{ where,}
$$
\n
$$
[\chi] = \omega \mathbb{1} - 2 \begin{bmatrix} y_b^2 & y_b^2 & 0\\ y_t^2 & y_\tau^2 + y_t^2 & -y_\tau^2\\ 0 & -3y_b^2 & 3y_b^2 \end{bmatrix}, \tag{10}
$$

and  $\omega = (3y_t^2 + 3y_b^2 + y_\tau^2 + 3g_2^2 + 3/5g_1^2)$ . The running of gaugino masses A-terms and the *u*-term remain unaltered gaugino masses,  $A$ -terms and the  $\mu$ -term remain unaltered and can be found in e.g., [\[27\].](#page-5-16)

Finally, using the definition in Eq. [\(2\),](#page-1-1) we derive the S-RGE from Eq.  $(8)$  to be

$$
16\pi^2 \frac{d}{dt} S = \frac{66}{5} g_1^2 S - 12\xi_t + 12\xi_b + 4\xi_t.
$$
 (11)

As expected, we find inhomogeneous pieces in the RGE. This suggests that, contrary to common wisdom, an  $S$ -term can be generated because of radiative corrections alone as long as C-terms are present at  $\Lambda_{int}$ . A nonzero S contributes flavor universally to all scalars proportional to their hypercharges and can potentially lift RH-sleptons above a bino. In order to get the main message through, we first solve the RGEs neglecting  $y_b$ ,  $y_\tau$ ,  $g_2$  and  $M_1$  for simplicity. The key equations to consider are

$$
\frac{d}{dt}C_t \approx \frac{3}{16\pi^2} y_t^2 C_t,\tag{12}
$$

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\left(\frac{\mathcal{S}}{g_1^2}\right) \approx -\frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{y_t^2}{g_1^2} \left(C_t^2 + 2\mu C_t\right) = -\frac{3}{4\pi^2} \frac{\xi_t}{g_1^2},\qquad(13)
$$

$$
\frac{d}{dt}\tilde{m}_E^2 \approx \frac{1}{16\pi^2} \frac{6}{5} g_1^2 \mathcal{S}.\tag{14}
$$

<span id="page-2-2"></span>We find an approximate analytical solution for  $\tilde{m}_{E_1}^2$  at  $\mu_{\text{IR}}$ , given by (assuming  $\tilde{m}_E^2 = S = 0$  at  $\Lambda_{int}$ )

$$
\frac{\tilde{m}_E^2|_{\mu_{IR}}}{\xi_t/y_t^2|_{\Lambda_{int}}} \approx \frac{2}{11} (1 - G_1)(\mathcal{Y}G_3^{8/3b_3} - 1),\tag{15}
$$

where

$$
G_a = \frac{\alpha_a(\mu_{\rm IR})}{\alpha_a(\Lambda_{\rm int})} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{Y} = \frac{y_t(\mu_{\rm IR})}{y_t(\Lambda_{\rm int})}.
$$
 (16)

Using  $G_1 < 1$  and  $\mathcal{Y}G_3^{8/3b_3} < 1$  (valid in our regions of interest), we find that the input conditions for  $\xi_t$  should be negative in order to give positive definite  $\tilde{m}_E^2$ . For example,  $\xi_t \approx -(700 \text{ GeV})^2$  is needed at  $\Lambda_{int} = 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$  to generate a  $\tilde{m}_E^2 \approx (100 \text{ GeV})^2$  at  $\mu_R = 1 \text{ TeV}$ .<br>To be specific we check the viability of

To be specific, we check the viability of our proposal in the context of scalar sequestering [\[7\],](#page-5-1) an elegant version of conformal sequestering [28–[33\].](#page-5-17) This model is characterized by a zero S at  $\Lambda_{int}$ , which remains the same at IR. To generate  $S$  from running, we extend the set of operators to include nonzero C-terms at  $\Lambda_{int}$ . The full set of initial condition at  $\Lambda_{int}$  is specified as

<span id="page-2-1"></span>
$$
M_1, M_2, M_3 \qquad \mu \qquad A_t, A_b, A_\tau \qquad C_t, C_b, C_\tau,
$$
  
\n
$$
\tilde{m}_{H_u}^2 = \tilde{m}_{H_d}^2 = -|\mu|^2,
$$
  
\n
$$
\tilde{m}_Q^2 = \tilde{m}_U^2 = \tilde{m}_D^2 = \tilde{m}_L^2 = \tilde{m}_E^2 = 0, \qquad B_\mu = 0.
$$
 (17)

The number of free parameters can be reduced further, if one assumes gaugino mass unification.

The physics of RH slepton masses in the first two generations (namely,  $\tilde{m}_{E_{1,2}}^2$ ) is the same as before. The boundary conditions in Eq. [\(17\),](#page-2-1) however, give rise to an interesting effect when we consider RH-stau mass  $\tilde{m}_{E_3}^2$ . Even if we start with the same boundary condition,  $\tilde{m}_{E_3}^2$ runs differently than  $\tilde{m}^2_{E_{1,2}}$  because of  $y_\tau$ . In the limit  $C_\tau \to 0$ but  $y_{\tau} \neq 0$ , it is straightforward to see that  $\tilde{m}_{E_3}^2 > \tilde{m}_{E_{1,2}}^2$  in the IR. This feature arises because of the negative definite Higgs soft masses at the boundary and is rarely seen in typical MSSM scenarios. In fact, the splitting  $\Delta_E^2 \equiv \tilde{m}_{E_3}^2$  –  $\tilde{m}_{E_{1,2}}^2$  remains positive throughout running and gives a telltale signature of the boundary conditions in Eq. [\(17\).](#page-2-1) The size of the splitting, however, depends on tan  $\beta$  through  $y_{\tau}$ ,

<span id="page-3-0"></span>

FIG. 1. Left panel: first generation slepton mass as a function of the input parameter  $\sqrt{|\xi_t|}/y_t$  for different values of  $\Lambda_{int}$  (black<br>and dashed:  $10^{11}$  GeV, blue and datted:  $10^9$  GeV, red and dashed and dashed:  $10^{11}$  GeV, blue and dotted:  $10^9$  GeV, red and dashdotted: 10<sup>7</sup> GeV) with  $M_1 = 0$ . Right panel: The mass splitting between the first and third generation RH sleptons as a function of tan $\beta$ .

and should increase with increasing tan  $\beta$ . We confirm this behavior in Fig. [1](#page-3-0). In the left plot we numerically solve the full set of RGEs (neglecting  $M_1$ ) and show the variation of first two generation slepton masses with the initial condition  $\sqrt{|\xi_t|}/y_t$ , for different values of  $\Lambda_{int}$ . In the right panel we show the variation of the fractional splitting panel we show the variation of the fractional splitting, namely  $\Delta_E^2 / \tilde{m}_{E_1}^2$  with tan  $\beta$ , keeping all other conditions unaltered. Not surprisingly, we find splitting to increase with  $\tan \beta$ .

As shown in Eq. [\(15\)](#page-2-2),  $\xi_t$  is required to be negative in order to generate nontachyonic mass for the right chiral sleptons. This immediately implies from Eq. [\(8\)](#page-2-0) that  $C_t$  and  $\mu$  needs to have a relative sign between them, as shown in Fig. [2](#page-3-1). Out of these two choices, negative  $\mu$  is more appealing because such a choice is less constrained by dark matter direct detection searches [\[34\].](#page-5-18) Even though using a large  $C_t$  at  $\Lambda$ <sub>int</sub> one can make RH-sleptons substantially heavier than a bino

<span id="page-3-1"></span>

FIG. 2. We show the contours of the first two generation slepton masses at  $\mu_{\text{IR}}$  (in GeV) in the  $\mu$ – $C_t$  plane fixed at the input scale. The allowed region requires  $\mu$  and  $C_t$  to have a relative sign in between them which consequently generates nontachyonic slepton masses at  $\mu_{IR}$ .

(the LSP), cases where these states are nearly degenerate have many advantages. As mentioned before, these spectra allow for a LSP with the correct thermal relic because of bino-slepton coannihilation [35–[39\].](#page-5-19) As long as the mass difference of a bino and the RH sleptons is of the order of the freeze-out temperature  $T_F$ , all these states are thermally accessible and are nearly as abundant. Considering  $T_F \sim M_1/25$  one finds that coannihilation is active as long as  $(\tilde{m}_E - M_1)/M_1 \sim 0.05$  [\[35\].](#page-5-19) The relic, however, also depends on  $M_1$ , and an overabundance assuming standard cosmology, imposes a constraint  $M_1 \sim \tilde{m}_E < 400$  GeV. Additionally, in the limit of small tan  $\beta$ , RH-stau is almost degenerate with other RH-sleptons. Consequently, the scale  $M_1 \sim \tilde{m}_E$  can be as low as ~100 GeV, since the compression among bino and RH-sleptons allows us to weaken collider bounds [\[40](#page-5-20)–42].

Further difficulties arise if gauginos are assumed to be on the unification trajectory. Using previous bound on  $M_1$ , we find that  $M_3 = (\alpha_3/\alpha_1)M_1 \lesssim 5 \times 400$  GeV at the EW scale. This runs into issues from direct LHC bounds on gluinos [\[43,44\]](#page-5-21). Moreover, since squark masses get sizable contributions only from gluino mediation, we find  $M_3 > 3$  TeV from squark bounds. This issue is also raised in Ref. [\[45\],](#page-5-22) which found that a thermal relic with gauginos in the unification trajectory can not be reconciled even if one uses pseudofixed points as initial conditions instead of vanishing scalar masses.

Note, however, that this problem can be easily resolved when the reheating temperature  $T_R$  is lower than  $T_F$ . The crucial consideration is that the reheating mechanism, when entropy gets continuously injected due to the decay of inflaton/moduli fields, is not taken to be an instantaneous process. Expressed in terms of the Hubble parameter, the Universe during reheating expands according to  $H \propto T^4$ , as opposed to  $T^2$  in a radiation dominated universe, or  $T^{3/2}$  in a matter dominated universe. The relic abundance (determined at  $T_F$ ) naturally gets diluted due to the relatively faster expansion of the Universe. Simply following the prescription as chalked out in Ref. [\[46\],](#page-5-23) one can start with a seemingly overabundant thermal relic (*i.e.*, a large  $M_1$ ) and can still produce the right abundance today given the right  $T_R$ . In Fig. [3](#page-4-3), we show the allowed region satisfying the relic density in red in the  $M_1-T_R$  plane. This patch corresponds to different values of the right slepton mass with the imposed constraint that 20 GeV  $\leq (\tilde{m}_E - M_1) \leq 500$  GeV. The region where  $T_F > T_R$  is shown in blue. The region where these two patches do not overlap is obviously excluded. We observe that even large masses for the LSPs are compatible, if the reheating temperature is small (i.e., in the GeV range).

As concrete evidence that the mechanism proposed here can result in viable spectra, we provide two benchmark points In Table [I.](#page-4-4) One of these points additionally assumes gaugino mass unification (BP2). In order to calculate the spectra, we set  $\Lambda_{int} = 10^{11} \text{ GeV}$  and  $\mu_{IR} = 1 \text{ TeV}$ . For calculating relic density and direct detection rates we

<span id="page-4-3"></span>

FIG. 3. The red shaded region satisfies the relic density  $\Omega h^2 =$ 0.11 [\[47\]](#page-5-30). The upper and lower boundaries correspond to boundaries in 20 GeV  $\leq$   $(\tilde{m}_E - M_1) \leq$  500 GeV. The blue shaded region refers to the condition where  $T_F > T_R$ .

use MicrOMEGAs5.0 [\[48\]](#page-5-24). In BP1, gaugino masses can be set independently, which allows us to have the LSP (and RH-sleptons) as light as 200 GeV. On the other hand, we need to invoke a low  $T_F \sim 10$  GeV in **BP2** to get the right thermal relic. In both the benchmarks, the direct detection cross sections are below the existing bound of Ref. [\[49\]](#page-5-25). Note EW symmetry breaking (EWSB) is highly nontrivial given the boundary conditions in Eq. [\(17\).](#page-2-1) Unlike standard MSSM scenarios,  $\mu$  and  $B_\mu$  are input conditions and can not be derived at the EW scale from the EWSB equalities. Both the benchmark points given in this work satisfy EWSB conditions.

Even though Refs. [50–[66\]](#page-5-26) that have explored phenomenological consequences of the C-term are aplenty, in this work we, for the first time, find its usage in building models of EW supersymmetry. These terms, if present, impart a subtle feature to the RGEs of soft supersymmetry breaking terms, which allows us to resurrect an elegant class of models. Generating these terms, though, is highly nontrivial. The model in Ref. [\[57\],](#page-5-27) which is shown to be equivalent to a theory with the C-terms [\[25\]](#page-5-28), provides one such example. Another way to generate such terms could be conceived in models of gauge mediated supersymmetry

<span id="page-4-4"></span>TABLE I. Benchmark points for scalar sequestering with C-terms. The top (bottom) panel shows parameters at  $\Lambda_{\text{int}}$  $(\mu_{IR})$ . UV parameters not mentioned here are kept at zero.

Parameters $(\Lambda_{int})$	BP1 (GeV)	BP2 (GeV)
$M_{3,2,1}$	2000, 1000, 281	1850, 1300, 846
$C_{u,\tau}$	$1030, -350$	6000, 2000
$A_t, \mu$	$115, -2500$	$2200, -5500$
$\tan \beta$	10	
$M_{3,2}$	3680, 904	3404, 1175
$\tilde{m}_{\tilde{q}_1,\tilde{u}_1,\tilde{d}_1}$	2960, 2910, 2915	2788, 2666, 2712
$\tilde{m}_{\tilde{t}_1,\tilde{b}_1,\tilde{L}_1}$	2873, 2925, 511	3566, 2733, 589
$\tilde{m}_{\tilde{t}_2,\tilde{b}_2,\tilde{L}_2}$	2995, 2960, 528	4122, 3567, 676
$\mu$	$-2485$	$-5514$
$M_1$ , $\tilde{m}_{E_{1,3}}$	192, $(201,212)$	579.5, (584,593)
$m_{A,h}$	621,126	3882,126
$\Omega h^2$	0.117	0.48
$\sigma_{SI}$ (cm <sup>2</sup> )	$5 \times 10^{-48}$	$4.6 \times 10^{-48}$

breaking where some of the messenger fields couple to the MSSM Higgs field [\[67\].](#page-5-29) Deriving the RGEs of these C-terms in the presence of arbitrary supersymmetry breaking dynamics, or to build models where C-terms can flow to nontrivial fixed points in the context of scalar sequestering, however, remain open questions, which we leave for future endeavor.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Takemichi Okui and Adam Martin for their early readings and comments on the manuscript. S. C. is supported by the US Department of Energy under Grant No. DE-SC0010102. T. S. R. was supported in part by the Early Career Research Award by Science and Engineering Research Board, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of India (Grant no. ECR/2015/000196). We also acknowledge the workshop "Beyond the Standard Model: Where do we go from here?" hosted at the Galileo Galilei Institute for Theoretical Physics (GGI), as well as the workshop "International Meeting on High Energy Physics" hosted at Institute of Physics (IOP) where parts of this work was completed.

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