Radiatively Generated Maximal Mixing Scenario for the Higgs Boson Mass and the Least Fine-Tuned Minimal Supersymmetric Standard Model

Radovan Dermíšek¹ and Hyung Do Kim²

¹School of Natural Sciences, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey 08540, USA ²School of Physics and Center for Theoretical Physics, Seoul National University, Seoul 151-747, Korea (Received 9 January 2006; published 2 June 2006)

We argue that given the experimental constraints on the Higgs boson mass the least fine-tuned parameter space of the minimal supersymmetric standard model is with negative top-squark masses squared at the grand unification scale. While the top-squark mass squared is typically driven to positive values at the weak scale, the contribution to the Higgs boson mass squared parameter from the running can be arbitrarily small, which reduces the fine-tuning of electroweak symmetry breaking. At the same time the top-squark mixing is necessarily enhanced and the maximal mixing scenario for the Higgs boson mass can be generated radiatively even when starting with negligible mixing at the unification scale. This highly alleviates constraints on possible models for supersymmetry breaking in which fine-tuning is absent.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevLett.96.211803

PACS numbers: 12.60.Jv, 14.80.Cp, 14.80.Ly

The minimal supersymmetric standard model (MSSM) is a promising candidate for describing physics above the electroweak (EW) scale. The three gauge couplings unify at the GUT (grand unified theory) scale $\sim 2 \times 10^{16}$ GeV within a few percent, and the hierarchy between the EW scale and the GUT scale is naturally stabilized by supersymmetry (SUSY). In addition, if we add soft-supersymmetry-breaking terms at the GUT scale, we typically find that the mass squared of the Higgs doublet which couples to the top quark (H_u) is driven to negative values at the EW scale. This triggers electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) and the EW scale is naturally understood from the SUSY breaking scale. Furthermore, assuming *R* parity, the lightest supersymmetric particle (LSP) is stable and it is a natural candidate for dark matter of the universe.

The real virtue of supersymmetry is that the above mentioned features do not require any specific relations between soft-supersymmetry-breaking parameters (SSBs) and the only strong requirement on SUSY breaking scenarios is that these terms are of order the EW scale. However, generic SSBs near the EW scale generically predict a too light Higgs boson mass which is ruled out by LEP limits. The exact value of the Higgs boson mass is not relevant for low energy physics, nothing crucially depends on it, and yet, in order to stay above LEP limits $(m_h \gtrsim 114.4 \text{ GeV } [1])$, the SSBs have to be either considerably above the EW scale or related to each other in a nontrivial way. SSBs can no longer be just generic, which leads to strong requirements on possible models for SUSY breaking should these provide a natural explanation for the scale where electroweak symmetry is broken.

In this Letter we show that such constraints are highly alleviated and the fine-tuning is in principle absent in scenarios which have negative top-squark masses squared at the unification scale. While top-squark mass squared is typically driven to positive values at the EW scale by gluino loops through renormalization group (RG) running, the contribution to the Higgs boson mass squared parameter from the running (mostly due to top Yukawa coupling) can be arbitrarily small, which reduces fine-tuning of electroweak symmetry breaking. At the same time the top-squark mixing is necessarily enhanced, which is known to enlarge the Higgs boson mass. Even the maximal mixing scenario for the Higgs boson mass can be radiatively generated (starting with negligible mixing at the GUT scale). Thus in the least fine-tuned scenarios the Higgs boson mass is highly enhanced without any further assumptions.

In spite of having tachyonic scalar masses at a high scale, such scenarios are not excluded by our current knowledge of cosmology. We discuss constraints from charge and color breaking minima on possible scenarios. Finally, we discuss a typical spectrum of these scenarios which is characterized by a light top squark, a light Higgsino, and a fairly light gluino.

The tension between the direct search bound on the Higgs boson mass and naturalness of electroweak symmetry breaking can be summarized as follows [2]. At tree level, the mass of the lightest Higgs boson in the MSSM is bounded from above by the mass of the Z boson,

$$m_h^2 < M_Z^2 \cos^2 2\beta, \tag{1}$$

where $\tan \beta = v_u/v_d$ is the ratio of the vacuum expectation values of H_u and H_d . The dominant one loop correction, in case the top-squark mixing parameter is small, is proportional to $m_t^4 \log(m_t^2/m_t^2)$ (for simplicity, we assume $m_t \simeq m_{\tilde{t}_L} \simeq m_{\tilde{t}_R}$ throughout this Letter). It depends only logarithmically on top-squark masses, and it has to be large in order to push the Higgs boson mass above the LEP limit. A two loop calculation (we use FEYNHIGGS 2.2.10 [3,4] with $m_t = 172.7 \text{ GeV}$) reveals the top-squark masses have to be $\ge 900 \text{ GeV}$. On the other hand, the mass of the Z boson $(M_Z \simeq 91 \text{ GeV})$ is given from the minimization of the scalar potential as (for $\tan \beta \ge 5$)

0031-9007/06/96(21)/211803(4)

$$\frac{M_Z^2}{2} \simeq -\mu^2(M_Z) - m_{H_u}^2(M_Z), \qquad (2)$$

and the large top-squark masses directly affect the running of soft scalar mass squared for H_u ,

$$\delta m_{H_u}^2 \simeq -\frac{3}{4\pi^2} m_{\tilde{t}}^2 \log \frac{\Lambda}{m_{\tilde{t}}}.$$
(3)

Numerically, the loop factor times large log is of order 1 for $\Lambda \sim M_{GUT}$ and we have $\delta m_{H_u}^2 \simeq -m_{\tilde{t}}^2$. Starting with negligible $m_{H_u}^2$ at the GUT scale, we find $m_{H_u}^2(M_Z) \simeq \delta m_{H_u}^2 \simeq -m_{\tilde{t}}^2 \simeq -(900 \text{ GeV})^2$, and the correct Z mass requires that $\mu^2(M_Z)$ is tuned to $m_{H_u}^2(M_Z)$ with better than 1% accuracy. Alternatively, we can start from large positive $m_{H_u}^2(M_{GUT}) \sim (900 \text{ GeV})^2$, in which case $m_{H_u}^2(M_Z) \sim -M_Z^2$ is possible. However, in this case the fine-tuning is hidden in $m_{H_u}^2(M_{GUT})$. A small change of the boundary condition $m_{H_u}^2(M_{GUT})$ would generate a very different value for the EW scale and the situation is quite similar to the tuning of μ .

The situation highly improves when considering large mixing in the top-squark sector. The mixing is controlled by the ratio of $A_t - \mu \cot \beta$ and $m_{\tilde{t}}$. Since we consider parameter space where μ is small to avoid fine-tuning and $\tan\beta \gtrsim 5$ in order to maximize the tree level Higgs boson mass (1), the mixing is simply given by $A_t/m_{\tilde{t}}$. It was realized that mixing $A_t(M_Z)/m_t(M_Z) \simeq \pm 2$ maximizes the Higgs boson mass for given $m_{\tilde{t}}$ [5], while still satisfying constraints to avoid charge and color breaking (CCB) minima [6]. Using FEYNHIGGS 2.2.10 we find that $m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \simeq$ 300 GeV and $|A_t(M_Z)| = 450$ GeV (for $\tan\beta \ge 50$), $|A_t(M_Z)| = 500$ (for any $\tan\beta \ge 8$), or $|A_t(M_Z)| =$ 600 GeV (for tan β as small as 6) satisfies the LEP limit on the Higgs boson mass [7]. Therefore large top-squark mixing, $|A_t(M_Z)/m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z)| \ge 1.5$, is crucial for satisfying the LEP limit with light top-squark masses (the physical top-squark mass in this case can be as small as current experimental bound, $m_{\tilde{t}_1} \gtrsim 100$ GeV). Decreasing the mixing requires increasing $m_{\tilde{t}}$, and finally we end up with $m_{\tilde{t}} \gtrsim 900$ GeV for small mixing.

In order to discuss fine-tuning in this case, the approximate solution of the RG equation for $m_{H_u}^2$ [Eq. (3)] is not sufficient. For given $\tan\beta$ we can solve RG equations exactly and express EW values of $m_{H_u}^2$, μ^2 , and consequently M_Z^2 given by Eq. (2) as functions of all GUT scale parameters [8,9]. For $\tan\beta = 10$, we have

$$M_Z^2 \simeq -1.9\mu^2 + 5.9M_3^2 - 1.2m_{H_u}^2 + 1.5m_{\tilde{t}}^2 - 0.8A_tM_3 + 0.2A_t^2, \qquad (4)$$

where parameters appearing on the right-hand side are the GUT scale parameters; we do not write the scale explicitly. The contribution of M_2 to the above formula is small, and when $M_2 \sim M_3$, it cancels between the $\simeq -0.4M_2^2$ term and the mixed $\simeq 0.4M_3M_2$ term. Other scalar masses and M_1 appear with negligible coefficients, and we neglect

them in our discussion. The coefficients in this expression depend only on $\tan\beta$ (they do not change dramatically when varying $\tan\beta$ between 5 and 50) and $\log(M_{GUT}/M_Z)$.

Let us also express the EW scale values of top-squark mass squared, gluino mass, and top trilinear coupling for $\tan \beta = 10$ in a similar way:

$$m_{\tilde{t}}^2(M_Z) \simeq 5.0M_3^2 + 0.6m_{\tilde{t}}^2 + 0.2A_tM_3,$$
 (5)

$$M_3(M_Z) \simeq 3M_3, \tag{6}$$

$$A_t(M_Z) \simeq -2.3M_3 + 0.2A_t. \tag{7}$$

In the case of $m_{\tilde{t}}$ the coefficients represent averages of exact coefficients that would appear in separate expressions for $m_{\tilde{t}_{t}}^{2}$ and $m_{\tilde{t}_{p}}^{2}$.

In the limit when the top-squark mass, $m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \approx$ 300 GeV, originates mainly from M_3 , from Eq. (5) we see we need $M_3 \approx 130$ GeV. Then Eq. (7) shows that the necessary $|A_t(M_Z)| \approx 500$ GeV is obtained only when $A_t \approx -1000$ GeV or $A_t \approx 4000$ GeV at the GUT scale; in both cases it has to be significantly larger than other SSBs. The contribution from the terms in Eq. (4) containing M_3 and A_t is at least (600 GeV)², and therefore large radiative correction has to be cancelled by either μ^2 or $m_{H_u}^2(M_{\text{GUT}})$. If $m_{\tilde{t}}$ is not negligible at the GUT scale, M_3 can be smaller, but in this case we need even larger A_t and the conclusion is basically the same. The situation improved by considering a large A_t term. However, we still need at least 3% fine-tuning.

Although M_Z results from cancellations between SSBs [10], it does not mean that it is necessarily fine-tuned. SUSY breaking scenarios typically produce SSBs which are related to each other in a specific way, in which case we should not treat each one of them separately. Although, in this case, our conclusions about the level of fine-tuning are irrelevant, the discussion above tells us what relations between SSBs have to be generated, should the M_Z emerge in a natural way. For instance, it was recently discussed that fine-tuning can be reduced with a proper mixture of anomaly and modulus mediation [11–13], which produces boundary conditions leading to large top-squark mixing at the EW scale and an initial value of $m_{H_u}^2$ canceling most of the contribution from running.

Even if the SUSY breaking scenario produces SSBs related to each other in a way that guarantees a large degree of cancellation, still they cannot be arbitrarily heavy because in that case the M_Z much smaller than superpartner masses would emerge as a coincidence and we would not have a natural explanation for it. This "coincidence" problem is further amplified by the fact that the relations that have to be satisfied between SSBs in order to recover the correct M_Z depend on the energy interval in which they will evolve. Therefore a SUSY breaking scenario would have to know that SSBs will evolve according to MSSM RG equations, and exactly from M_{GUT} to M_Z .

There is one possibility which, to a large extent, overcomes this problem. If we allow negative top-squark masses squared at the GUT scale, several interesting things happen simultaneously. First, from Eq. (5) we see that unless $m_{\tilde{t}}$ is too large compared to M_3 it will run to positive values at the EW scale. At the same time the contribution to $m_{H_u}^2$ from the energy interval where $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 < 0$ partially or even exactly cancels the contribution from the energy interval where $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 > 0$, and so the EW scale value of $m_{H_u}^2$ can be arbitrarily close to the starting value at $M_{\rm GUT}$ (see Fig. 1). From Eq. (4) we see that this happens for $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 \simeq$ $-4M_3^2$ (neglecting A_t). No cancellation between the initial value of $m_{H_{\mu}}^2$ (or μ) and the contribution from the running is required. And finally, from Eqs. (5) and (7) we see that the top-squark mixing is typically much larger than in the case with positive top-squark masses squared. For positive (negative) top-squark masses squared, we find $|A_t(M_Z)/m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z)| \leq 1 ~(\geq 1)$ starting with $A_t = 0$ and small $m_{\tilde{t}}$ at the GUT scale. Starting with larger $m_{\tilde{t}}$ the mixing is even smaller (larger) in the positive (negative) case. Therefore large top-squark mixing at the EW scale is generic in this scenario, and it would actually require very large GUT scale values of A_t to end up with small mixing at the EW scale.

It turns out that in the region where $m_{H_a}^2$ gets negligible contribution from running, the radiatively generated topsquark mixing is close to maximal even when starting with negligible mixing at the GUT scale. In this case, comparing Eqs. (5) and (7), we find [14]

$$A_t(M_Z)/m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \simeq -1.5 + 0.2A_t/M_3.$$
 (8)

Slightly more negative top-squark masses squared at the GUT scale would result in maximal top-squark mixing at the EW scale even when starting with negligible A_t . Nevertheless, the example in Fig. 1 with simple GUT scale boundary conditions already leads to EW scale parameters $m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \simeq 300$ GeV and $A_t(M_Z) = -500$ GeV, producing a sufficiently heavy Higgs boson, $m_h \simeq 115.4$ GeV. Small variations of GUT scale parameters, including positive or



FIG. 1 (color). Renormalization group running of relevant SSBs for $\tan \beta = 10$ and GUT scale boundary conditions: $-A_t = M_3 = 200 \text{ GeV}$, $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 = -(400 \text{ GeV})^2$, and $m_{H_u}^2 = 0 \text{ GeV}^2$. In order to have both mass dimension one and two parameters on the same plot and keep information about signs, we define $m_{H_u} \equiv m_{H_u}^2 / \sqrt{|m_{H_u}^2|}$ and $m_{\tilde{t}} \equiv m_{\tilde{t}}^2 / \sqrt{|m_{\tilde{t}}^2|}$.

negative values of $m_{H_u}^2$, would produce similar results, and scaling all parameters up would lead to larger Higgs boson mass.

In a theory which predicts $m_{\tilde{t}}^2 \simeq -4M_3^2$, the fine-tuning problem is entirely solved. The contribution to $m_{H_u}^2$ from the running is negligible, and the $\mathcal{O}(M_Z^2)$ values of $m_{H_u}^2$ and μ^2 at the GUT scale naturally result in the correct M_Z . However, the absence of fine-tuning is quite robust and the relation above does not have to be satisfied very precisely. If we define α by

$$\frac{|m_{\tilde{l}}|}{M_3} = 2(1+\alpha),$$
(9)

then the EW scale (4) can be written as

$$M_Z^2 \simeq -1.9\mu^2 - 1.2m_{H_u}^2 - 12\alpha M_3^2.$$
 (10)

We see that by requiring less than 10% fine-tuning, a large range of α is allowed (for $M_3 \simeq 200$ GeV):

$$-0.17 < \alpha < 0.17. \tag{11}$$

This interval is shrinking with increasing M_3 , which is a sign of the coincidence problem discussed above.

In summary, a very reasonable set of SSBs at the GUT scale, $M_3 \gtrsim 200$ GeV, $|m_{\tilde{t}_l}| \simeq |m_{\tilde{t}_R}| \simeq (1.7 - 2.3)M_3$, and A_t , of the order of the other SSBs or smaller naturally reproduces the correct EW scale. The EW scale value of $m_{H_{u}}^2$ is very close to the starting value at the GUT scale. In a simplified way this can be understood as effectively lowering the scale where SSBs are generated to the scale where $m_{\tilde{t}} \simeq 0$ (in the example in Fig. 1, it is 10 TeV). From this scale SSBs run in a similar way they would run when starting with positive top-squark masses. However, this scale is much closer to the EW scale and so δm_H^2 [Eq. (3)] generated between this scale and the EW scale is considerably smaller. The top-squark mixing at the EW scale is close to maximal, but it is generated radiatively starting from a small mixing at the GUT scale. It is to be compared to the positive case which requires A_t to be several times larger than other SSBs in order to produce large enough mixing to satisfy LEP bounds on the Higgs boson mass. Thus considering negative values for topsquark masses squared keeps the desirable feature of radiative electroweak symmetry breaking and minimizes fine-tuning. The Higgs boson mass is automatically enhanced, and staying above the LEP bound does not require additional constraints on the rest of SUSY parameters.

However, strong constraints can originate when considering possible CCB minima. At the EW scale all scalar masses squared (except $m_{H_u}^2$) are positive; nevertheless, as already discussed, a very large A_t term would generate a CCB minimum at around the EW scale [15,16]. Then the EW vacuum should be the global minimum since otherwise the EW vacuum would rapidly tunnel to the CCB minimum as the barrier is neither high nor thick. The optimal sufficient condition to avoid a CCB vacuum in

the $(H_u, \tilde{t}_L, \tilde{t}_R)$ plane is $|A_t| \leq 2m_{\tilde{t}}$ [6]. The generated A_t in the region we consider (8) may be close but is typically well within this bound.

Negative top-squark masses squared at the GUT scale result in an unbounded from below (UFB) potential along the D-flat direction [17,18]. The tree level potential at the GUT scale gets large loop corrections, and the RG improved effective potential is no longer UFB. However, it generates a large vacuum expectation value (VEV) (compared to the EW scale) CCB minimum. If the potential energy of the CCB minimum is lower than that of the EW minimum, the EW minimum can tunnel to the CCB minimum. In most of the parameter space the tunneling rate is too small and the EW vacuum can live longer than the age of the universe [19,20]. More precisely, the longevity of the metastable EW vacuum puts a constraint $m_i(M_Z) \gtrsim$ $\frac{1}{10}M_3(M_Z)$ [19], and again the region of parameter space we consider is entirely safe from this bound (nevertheless, it tells us that top-squark masses squared cannot be arbitrarily large and negative at the GUT scale).

A possible problem is that after inflation the universe is likely to settle down in a large VEV CCB vacuum rather than in the EW vacuum. This is worrisome since the tunneling rate to the EW vacuum would be very small. However, if the reheating temperature is high enough, the large VEV CCB minimum might disappear in finite temperature effective potential. For a given set of SSBs, there is a minimum reheating temperature above which the large VEV CCB vacuum disappears [21]. It depends on how inflation ends and SSBs constrain compatible inflation scenarios.

In this Letter we focused on the SUSY parameters relevant for radiative EWSB and discussion of fine-tuning. An interesting signature of this scenario is top-squark splitting, $m_{\tilde{t}_1,\tilde{t}_2} \simeq m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \mp m_t$, and top squarks considerably lighter than gluino: $m_{\tilde{t}}(M_Z) \lesssim 0.5m_{\tilde{g}}$ with $m_{\tilde{g}} \gtrsim 600$ GeV (the light top squark thus can be as light as 130 GeV). Besides these, the scenario has a light Higgsino, a possible candidate for dark matter.

The scenario we discussed can be realized in various frameworks since it hinges only on a possibility of generating negative scalar masses squared and some freedom in adjusting the ratio of gluino and squark masses. Other scalar soft masses squared are unconstrained by considerations of fine-tuning and can be positive or even all negative at the GUT scale in complete models. For example, negative scalar masses squared arise in gauge mediation with gauge fields as messengers [22] or the minus sign can arise in the bosonic seesaw mechanism [23]. It is also desirable to have nonuniversal gaugino masses with hierarchy $M_3 < M_2, M_1$, especially in models with all scalar masses squared negative, so that stau LSP (right-handed sleptons receive a contribution only from M_1) can be avoided. The new region of parameter space suggested in this Letter requires further studies of both SUSY breaking models and its collider signatures.

We thank K. Agashe, A. Falkowski, G. Giudice, and R. Rattazzi for discussions. H. D. K. thanks CERN and IAS

for the hospitality during the visit. This work was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy Grant No. DE-FG02-90ER40542, ABRL Grant No. R14-2003-012-01001-0, the BK21 of MOE, Korea, and the SRC of the KOSEF through the CQUEST of Sogang University with Grant No. R11-2005-021.

- [1] The limit $m_h \gtrsim 114.4$ is the limit on the mass of the standard model Higgs boson. However, in most region of parameter space it also applies to the lightest Higgs boson in the MSSM. For more details, see LEP Working Group for Higgs Boson Searches, Report No. LHWG-Note-2005-01, 2005.
- [2] For a detailed discussion of fine-tuning in MSSM and an extensive list of references, see D.J.H. Chung, L.L. Everett, G.L. Kane, S.F. King, J.D. Lykken, and L.T. Wang, Phys. Rep. 407, 1 (2005).
- [3] S. Heinemeyer, W. Hollik, and G. Weiglein, Comput. Phys. Commun. **124**, 76 (2000).
- [4] S. Heinemeyer, W. Hollik, and G. Weiglein, Eur. Phys. J. C 9, 343 (1999).
- [5] M. Carena *et al.*, Nucl. Phys. **B580**, 29 (2000), and references therein.
- [6] C. Le Mouel, Phys. Rev. D 64, 075009 (2001).
- [7] Slightly smaller $m_{\tilde{t}}$ is allowed; the actual minimal possible value of $m_{\tilde{t}}$ is not important for our discussion.
- [8] L.E. Ibanez and C. Lopez, Nucl. Phys. **B233**, 511 (1984).
- [9] M. Carena, P. Chankowski, M. Olechowski, S. Pokorski, and C. E. M. Wagner, Nucl. Phys. B491, 103 (1997).
- [10] To some extent this is already signaled by bounds on masses of superpartners from direct searches; however, the limits on the Higgs boson mass and the above discussion make this absolutely clear.
- [11] K. Choi, K. S. Jeong, T. Kobayashi, and K. I. Okumura, Phys. Lett. B 633, 355 (2006).
- [12] R. Kitano and Y. Nomura, Phys. Lett. B 631, 58 (2005).
- [13] O. Lebedev, H. P. Nilles, and M. Ratz, hep-ph/0511320.
- [14] To be more precise, the generated mixing is somewhat larger than that shown in this equation, since we should minimize the potential at the SUSY scale $\sim m_{\tilde{i}}$ and should not run SSBs all the way to M_Z (see Fig. 1).
- [15] J. F. Gunion, H. E. Haber, and M. Sher, Nucl. Phys. B306, 1 (1988).
- [16] J. A. Casas, A. Lleyda, and C. Munoz, Nucl. Phys. B471, 3 (1996).
- [17] J. M. Frere, D. R. T. Jones, and S. Raby, Nucl. Phys. B222, 11 (1983).
- [18] J. P. Derendinger and C. A. Savoy, Nucl. Phys. B237, 307 (1984).
- [19] A. Riotto and E. Roulet, Phys. Lett. B 377, 60 (1996).
- [20] A. Kusenko, P. Langacker, and G. Segre, Phys. Rev. D 54, 5824 (1996).
- [21] T. Falk, K.A. Olive, L. Roszkowski, A. Singh, and M. Srednicki, Phys. Lett. B 396, 50 (1997).
- [22] G.F. Giudice and R. Rattazzi, Nucl. Phys. **B511**, 25 (1998).
- [23] H.D. Kim, Phys. Rev. D 72, 055015 (2005).