What's next in flavor physics [a biased point of view...]

> Gino Isidori [ University of Zürich ]

The two flavor puzzles

Flavor non-universal interactions

► The B anomalies [*what we learned, what's left*]

Leptoquarks & 4321

Conclusions





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There are several reasons why we think the SM must be extended at high energies:

Electroweak hierarchy problem

Flavor puzzle U(1) charges Neutrino masses

Dark-matter Dark-energy Inflation

Quantum gravity





There are several reasons why we think the SM must be extended at high energies:

Electroweak hierarchy problem

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Dark-matter Dark-energy Inflation

Quantum gravity

problem due to...

→ <u>Instability</u> of the Higgs mass term

 $\rightarrow$  Ad hoc <u>tuning</u> in the model parameters

 $\rightarrow$  Cosmological implementation of the SM

 $\rightarrow$  General problem of any QFT

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*…indicating* 

non-trivial properties

of the SM Lagrangian

if interpreted as EFT

Useful hints for its

UV completion



## *The two flavor puzzles*

Even forgetting current anomalies, there are two (long-standing) open issues in flavor physics:

I. The observed pattern of SM Yukawa couplings does not look accidental

[SM flavor puzzle]

 $\rightarrow$  Is there a deeper explanation for this peculiar structures?

*Historical note:* this year is a special anniversary year for flavor physics:

- '60 anniversary of the Cabibbo paper (1963)
- '50 anniversary of the Kobayashi-Maskawa paper (1973)

# *The two flavor puzzles*

Even forgetting current anomalies, there are two (long-standing) open issues in flavor physics:

I. The observed pattern of SM Yukawa couplings does not look accidental:



unitarity violation of the  $2 \times 2$  (light) block below  $10^{-3}$  !

N.B.: Despite the very good knowledge we have nowadays about the CKM matrix, we are not able to detect the presence of the  $3^{rd}$  family by looking only at the 2×2 block (as one naively would have expected...)

# *The two flavor puzzles*

Even forgetting current anomalies, there are two (long-standing) open issues in flavor physics:



# *The two flavor puzzles*

Even forgetting current anomalies, there are two (long-standing) open issues in flavor physics:

I. The observed pattern of SM Yukawa couplings does not look accidental:



What we observe in the Yukawa couplings is an <u>approximate U(2)</u><sup>n</sup> symmetry acting on the <u>light families</u>

### *The two flavor puzzles*

Even forgetting current anomalies, there are two (long-standing) open issues in flavor physics:

- I. The observed pattern of SM Yukawa couplings does not look accidental
   → Is there a deeper explanation for this peculiar structures?
- II. If the SM is only an effective theory, valid below an ultraviolet cut-off, why we do not see any deviation from the SM predictions in the (suppressed) flavor changing processes? What constraints these observations imply on physics beyond the SM?

 $\rightarrow$  Which is the flavor structure of physics beyond the SM?

[SM flavor puzzle]

[*NP flavor puzzle*]

Eg:



•  $U(1)_{L_e} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}} \times U(1)_{L_{\mu}} = (individual) \text{ Lepton Flavor } [exact symmetry]$ 

•  $m_u \approx m_d \approx 0 \rightarrow \text{Isospin symmetry } [approximate symmetry]$ 

The NP Flavor puzzle

### *The two flavor puzzles*

$$\mathscr{L}_{\text{SM-EFT}} = \mathscr{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathscr{L}_{\text{Higgs}} + \sum_{d,i} \frac{C_i^{\text{L-J}}}{\Lambda^{d-4}} O_i^{d \ge 5}$$

In principle, we could expect many violations of the accidental symmetries from the heavy dynamics ( $\rightarrow$  *new flavor violating effects*). However, beside some anomalies in B-physics, we observe none.

<u>Stringent bounds</u> on the scale of possible new <u>flavor non-universal interactions:</u>



N.B: These high scales can be a "mirage" (= artifact of the accidental symmetry).

[b]

The only unambiguous message of these bounds is:

No large breaking of the approximate  $U(2)^n$  flavor symmetry at near-by energy scales



### The big questions in flavor physics:

- Can we find an explanation for the Yukawa hierarchies?
- If the (residual) flavor symmetries are accidental symmetries, at which scale are they broken? Can be there multiple scales behind the origin of flavor?



 $\rightarrow$  The "MFV paradigm":

### Flavor non-universal interactions

For a long time, the vast majority of model-building attempts to extend the SM was based on the following two (*implicit*) hypotheses:

- Concentrate on the Higgs hierarchy problem -
- "Postpone" the flavor problem

*"Protect"* the Higgs sector with (TeV-scale) flavor-universal NP (*supersymmetry or Higgs compositness*), deferring the solution of the flavor problem to higher scales

This was a very motivated possibility in the pre-LHC era...

...but it has become a less compelling option after run-I and run-II results

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For a long time, the vast majority of model-building attempts to extend the SM was based on the following two (*implicit*) hypotheses:



New paradigm to address <u>both</u> the Higgs hierarchy problem and the flavor puzzle: <u>multi-scale</u> UV completion with *flavor non-universal* interactions



### Main idea:

Panico & Pomarol '16 ... Bordone *et al.* '17 Allwicher, GI, Thomsen '20 Barbieri '21 Davighi & G.I. '23

Dvali & Shifman '00

- Flavor non-universal interactions already at the TeV scale:
- 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> gen. have small masses because they are coupled to NP at heavier scales

New paradigm to address <u>both</u> the Higgs hierarchy problem and the flavor puzzle: <u>multi-scale</u> UV completion with *flavor non-universal* interactions



A renewed phenomenological interest in this type of approach has been triggered by the B-physics anomalies (*hinting to violations of lepton flavor universality, mainly in 3<sup>rd</sup> gen.*)

But the construction has an <u>intrinsic, more</u> <u>general, interest</u>:

- Explain the origin of the flavor hierarchies
- ✓ Allow TeV-scale NP coupled (mainly) to  $3^{rd}$  gen. → Higgs sector stabilization

Allwicher, GI, Thomsen '20 Barbieri '21 Davighi & G.I. '23

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### *Flavor hierarchies from gauge non-universality* [a brief detour]

To understand which are the viable options for TeV-scale dynamics, we recently analysed all the extensions of the SM gauge group compatible with the following three general assumptions: Davighi & G.I. '23

Obtain the U(2)<sup>n</sup> flavor symmetry as accidental symmetry of the (non-universal) gauge sector

- Elementary Higgs up to (at least) the TeV scale  $\rightarrow$  New states should preserve Higgs-mass stability  $\rightarrow$  NP coupled to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation should occur at the TeV scale
- Explain charge-quantization → Semi-simple embedding in the UV [i.e. no U(1) groups in the UV]

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#### *Flavor hierarchies from gauge non-universality* [a brief detour]

I.  $U(2)^n$  flavor symmetry as accidental symmetry of the gauge sector.

• Classify the allowed Yukawa structures under a <u>*flavor-deconstruction*</u> of three basic factors characterizing the SM fermions and the EW gauge group:  $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \times U(1)_{B-L}$ 

 $\overline{\psi}_L \mathrel{Y} \psi_R \mathrel{H}$ 



Deconstructing <u>any pair of the three</u> (or all of them) leads to the desired U(2)<sup>n</sup> flavor symmetry → <u>four basic options</u>

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### *Flavor hierarchies from gauge non-universality* [a brief detour]

- II. New states should preserve Higgs-mass stability  $\rightarrow$  NP coupled to 3<sup>rd</sup> generation should occur at the TeV scale
- III. Explain charge-quantization  $\rightarrow$  Semi-simple embedding in the UV

Semi-simple embeddings of the SM have been classified and there are very few possibilities, all featuring one of the possible 3 basic options:

• SU(4)×SU(2)×SU(2) [Pati & Salam '74]

- SU(5) [Georgi & Glashow, '74]
- SO(10) [Georgi '75, Fritzsch & Minkowski '75]

Allanach, Gripaios, Tooby-Smith '23

Proton stability  $\rightarrow$  only the Pati-Salam option is possible at low scales

$$SU(3)_{c} \times U(1)_{B-L} \hookrightarrow SU(4) \sim \begin{bmatrix} SU(3)_{c} & 0 \\ \hline 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & LQ \\ \hline LQ & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1/3 & 0 \\ \hline 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

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### *Flavor hierarchies from gauge non-universality* [a brief detour]

#### I. + II. + III. : four basic options:

TeV-scale gauge group: $G_U \times G_3 \times H_{12}$			
	$G_U$	$G_3$	$H_{12}$
1	$\mathrm{SU}(2)_L$	${ m SU}(4)^{[3]}  imes { m SU}(2)^{[3]}_R$	$SU(3)^{[12]} \times U(1)^{[12]}_{B-L} \times U(1)^{[12]}_{R}$
2	$\mathrm{SU}(2)_R$	$SU(4)^{[3]} \times SU(2)^{[3]}_L$	$SU(3)^{[12]} \times SU(2)^{[12]}_L \times U(1)^{[12]}_{B-L}$
3	SU(4)	$\mathrm{SU}(2)_L^{[3]} \times \mathrm{SU}(2)_R^{[3]}$	$SU(2)_L^{[12]} \times U(1)_R^{[12]}$
4	Ø	$SU(4)^{[3]} \times SU(2)^{[3]}_L \times SU(2)^{[3]}_R$	$SU(3)^{[12]} \times SU(2)^{[12]}_L \times U(1)^{[12]}_{B-L} \times U(1)^{[12]}_R$
UV completio			
L			→ @ higher E
Higgs & 3 <sup>rd</sup> gen. fields			★ +

small impact on  $\delta m_h$ 

Higgs &  $3^{ra}$  gen. fields charged only under these groups



### Flavor hierarchies from gauge non-universality [a brief detour]

#### I. + II. + III. + general pheno bounds: two viable TeV-scale options:



#### General feature:

SU(4) group acting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> family, with low-energy breaking scale to avoid fine-tuning on the Higgs mass:

$$\delta m_h^2/m_h^2 < 1 \rightarrow \Lambda_U = M_U/g_U \lesssim 5 \text{ TeV}$$
 Davighi & G.I. '23

Using only general naturalness arguments (on both flavor & Higgs sectors) we are led to the hypothesis of a low-scale flavor non-universal LQ

# The B-physics anomalies



 $R_K \ \mathrm{low}$ - $q^2 \ R_K \ \mathrm{central}$ - $q^2 \ R_{K^*} \ \mathrm{low}$ - $q^2 \ R_{K^*} \ \mathrm{central}$ - $q^2$ 

### The B-physics anomalies

From 2013 results in (various) semi-leptonic B decays started to exhibit tensions with the SM predictions. Several exclusive channels are involved, but they are all sensitive only to the following two classes of partonic transitions:

 $b \rightarrow c lv$  (Charged Currents)  $b \rightarrow s l^+l^-$  (Neutral Currents)

The anomalies can be grouped into 3 categories:

(I.) LFU anomaly in CC [
$$\tau$$
 vs. ( $\mu$ ,  $e$ )]

II.) 
$$\Delta C_9$$
 (*lepton-universal*) anomaly in NC modes

III.) LFU anomaly in NC [ 
$$\mu$$
 vs. e] & BR(B<sub>s</sub>  $\rightarrow \mu\mu$ )

$$b \rightarrow c lv$$

 $b \rightarrow s l^+ l^-$ 

LFU = Lepton Flavor Universality = <u>accidental symmetry</u> of the SM Lagrangian

# The B-physics anomalies



- 3.0σ excess over SM
- <u>Compete with SM (a) tree-level</u>  $\rightarrow$  *low scale of NP*



## The B-physics anomalies



)  $\Delta C_9$  (*lepton-universal*) anomaly in NC modes

$$\mathcal{O}_9^\ell = (\bar{s}_L \gamma_\mu b_L) (\bar{\ell} \gamma^\mu \ell)$$

- Possible contamination from SM longdistance (*charming penguins*)
- All attempts to <u>compute</u> the effect agree on  $\sim 3\sigma$  deviation from SM
- Compete with SM @ loop-level

*Possible explanation connected to CC* (*hence 3<sup>rd</sup> family LFU violation*):





### The B-physics anomalies



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 $2\sigma$  consistent indication from b → s  $l^+l^-$  (*semi-inlcusive*) at high q2 GI, Poloski, Tinari '23



# The B-physics anomalies

(III) LFU anomaly in NC [  $\mu$  vs. e] & BR(B<sub>s</sub>  $\rightarrow \mu\mu$ )

- Clean SM predictions (*LFU ratios* + no long-distance in  $B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu$ )
- Highest significance till summer 2022



# The B-physics anomalies

III) LFU anomaly in NC & BR(
$$B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu$$
)

- Clean SM predictions (*LFU ratios* + no long-distance in  $B_s \rightarrow \mu\mu$ )
- Highest significance till summer 2022

N.B.: While the overall loss of significance is high, the overall implications for the class of NP models I advocate, are modest





# The B-physics anomalies



## *The B-physics anomalies*



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Leptoquarks & 4321










## <u>Leptoquarks & 4321</u>

χ

 $\Psi_{3L}$ 

Even in more ambitious UV models, collider and low-energy pheno are controlled by the 4321 gauge group that rules TeV-scale dynamics  $\rightarrow$  <u>new heavy mediators</u> [G' & Z']

A key role is played by at least one family of  $\rightarrow$  <u>vector-like fermions</u> (= fermions with both chiralities having same gauge quantum numbers) that mix with the 3 families of chiral fermions



 $\rightarrow LQ [U_1] + Z' + G'$ 

 $SU(4)^{[3]} \times SU(3)^{[12]} \times SU(2)_L \times U(1)'$ 

**SM** 

 $\Psi_3 \qquad \Psi_{1,2}$ 

# Leptoquarks & 4321

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Cornella, Faroughi, Fuentes-Martin, GI, Neubert, '21

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Aurelio Juste [Moriond EW'23]



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• <u>Leptoquarks & 4321: implications</u> I The U<sub>1</sub> leptoquark at high energies:

> Singer Pair Nonces. Mul S2023) 3 Updated preferred region by  $b \rightarrow c$  $g_U$  $\mathbf{2}$ low-energy data Aebischer et al. '22 Relevant NLO QCD corrections  $|\beta_R| = 0$ Haisch, Schnell, Schulte '22  $\left( \right)$ 2000 1000 3000 4000 5000  $M_U$  [GeV]



II Rare decays of b and  $\tau$ 



#### Leptoquarks & 4321: implications

III The vector-like fermions in low-energy observables



## Conclusions

- Flavor physics represents one the most intriguing aspects of the SM and, at the same time, a great opportunity to investigate the nature of physics beyond the SM.
- The idea of a *multi-scale construction at the origin of the flavor hierarchies* has several appealing aspects. Key observation: non-universal gauge interactions at the TeV scale, involving mainly the 3<sup>rd</sup> family, offer a new way to look at the EW hierarchy problem (and the absence of direct signals of NP so far).
- The model-building efforts along this direction, triggered by the B anomalies, are still very motivated and <u>mildly affected by the recent change in low-energy data.</u>
- If these ideas corrects, <u>new non-standard effects should emerge soon</u> both at low and at high energies (→ very interesting opportunities for run-3...).

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# Leptoquarks & 4321: UV completions

An ambitious attempt to construct a *full theory of flavor* has been obtained embedding (a variation of the) Pati-Salam gauge group into an extra-dimensional construction:



Flavor  $\leftrightarrow$  special position (topological defect) in an extra (compact) space-like dimension

#### Dvali & Shifman, '00

Higgs and SU(4)-breaking fields with oppositely-peaked profiles, leading to the desired flavor pattern for masses & anomalies

Bordone, Cornella, GI, Javier-Fuentes '17

- \* Anarchic neutrino masses via inverse see-saw mechanism Fuentes-Martin, GI, Pages, Stefanek '22
- \* "Holographic" Higgs from appropriate choice of bulk/brane gauge symm.  $[G_{bulk-23} = SU(4)_3 \times SU(3)_{1,2} \times U(1) \times SO(5)]$  $G_{IR} = SU(3)_c \times U(1)_{B-I} \times SO(4)$
- → Light Higgs as pseudo Goldstone Agashe, Contino, Pomarol '05

Fuentes-Martin, Stangl '20 Fuentes-Martin, GI, Lizana, Selimovic, Stefanek '22

#### Leptoquarks & 4321: implications

**IV** The other heavy vectors of 4321 (*more model dependent*)



V

#### Leptoquarks & 4321: implications



The vector-like fermions

Additional production via heavy Z' exchange (model-dependent):





N.B.: the two amplitudes interfere (*for same initial & final state*) possibly giving rise to sizable enhancements

