

Neutrino-induced lepton flavor violation in gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking

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Gauge-mediated supersymmetry breaking is known to greatly suppress flavor changing neutral current effects. However, we show that gauge mediation in the context of leptogenesis implies potentially large lepton flavor violating signals. If the heavy right-handed neutrinos that participate in leptogenesis are lighter than the messenger scale of gauge mediation, they will induce flavor off-diagonal masses to the sleptons which in turn can induce large effects in $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$, $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$, and $\mu \rightarrow e$ conversion in nuclei. We demonstrate this result and compute numerically the lepton-flavor violating decay and conversion rates in scenarios of direct gauge mediation.

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I. INTRODUCTION

One of the challenges of supersymmetry is constructing a theory that has no new sources of flavor violation substantially beyond those already present in the standard model (SM). This requirement is thrust upon us by experiment, yet there are theory ideas that predict it.

One such flavor-tame theory is gauge mediated supersymmetry breaking (GMSB). In minimal models [1,2] of GMSB (MGMSB) there are n_m copies of $5 + \bar{5}$ messengers that feel supersymmetry breaking via a gauge singlet, $S = M + \theta^2 F_S$, in which M is a messenger mass and F_S represents a supersymmetry breaking scale in the messenger sector. Since the messenger particles interact with minimal supersymmetric SM (MSSM) particles only through the SM gauge forces, the messenger-loop diagrams give rise to flavor-diagonal supersymmetry breaking masses in the MSSM sector at the messenger scale M , and hence flavor violation in supersymmetry breaking masses are automatically suppressed at the messenger scale M [1].

The messenger scale can be any numerical value in principle. From a collider physics standpoint it is very interesting when M and F (Goldstino auxiliary component) are as low as possible as it can potentially lead to prompt decays of the lightest SM superpartner into its corresponding SM particle plus gravitino [2]. The collider signatures for this are usually easy to distinguish from background and if found would provide a compelling case for gauge mediation or some close variant of the theory.

Despite the interesting collider phenomenology of low-scale messengers, there are some advantages to considering a much higher messenger scale. This is particularly true when we consider how massive neutrinos fit into the full theory, as nowadays results from neutrino oscillation experiments clearly require. These neutrinos are best described by a seesaw mechanism with very heavy right-handed neutrinos, N_i [3]. Out of equilibrium decays of these heavy neutrinos can precipitate leptogenesis, leading to proper baryogenesis through sphaleron reprocessing [4]. Applying all these criteria we expect the right-handed neutrino masses to lie somewhere in the range [5,6]

$$10^{6-8} \text{ GeV} \leq M_{R_i} \leq 10^{12-16} \text{ GeV}. \quad (1)$$

Making leptogenesis work requires that the reheat temperature be at least as large as $T_R > 10^6$ GeV [5,6]. Gravitinos can be produced copiously during the reheat phase of the universe [7]. For any given reheat temperature there is a lower bound on the mass of the gravitino such that the universe does not become overclosed. Near this overclosure limit, the gravitino can be a significant component of the dark matter. For $T_R = 10^6$ GeV that lower limit is $m_{3/2} > 100$ MeV.¹ Thus, supergravity tells us

$$m_{3/2} = \frac{F}{\sqrt{3} M_{\text{Pl}}} \gtrsim 100 \text{ MeV} \Rightarrow \sqrt{F} \gtrsim \text{few} \times 10^8 \text{ GeV}. \quad (2)$$

Keeping flavor-mixing supergravity contributions to scalar masses sufficiently suppressed is equivalent to requiring $m_{3/2} \lesssim 10$ GeV. Therefore, we have a lower limit and an upper limit for F ,

$$10^{17} \text{ GeV}^2 \leq F \leq 10^{19} \text{ GeV}^2 \text{ (allowed range for } F\text{)}. \quad (3)$$

The supersymmetry breaking F_S term(s) that participate in GMSB are not necessarily the full strength F term(s) that add to the gravitino mass. In the early Dine-Nelson GMSB models [1], F_S was a loop factor below the F in Eq. (2). However, there is a class of GMSB models, which we call direct gauge mediation, where $F_S = F$ [9–14]. Combining the collider limits on the gaugino masses $M_i \gtrsim 100$ GeV with the allowed range for F obtained from requirements on the gravitino mass in direct gauge mediation, we can estimate the allowed range for the messenger mass:

$$10^{12} \text{ GeV} \leq M \leq 10^{15} \text{ GeV} \text{ (messenger mass range)}. \quad (4)$$

¹If there is an entropy production after the freeze-out time of the gravitino, this limit would not be applicable because it dilutes the number density of the gravitino [8].

Interestingly successful leptogenesis induced by heavy right-handed neutrinos leads to high messenger scale M in direct gauge mediation.²

Under the requirements in Eqs. (3), (4), the phenomenology no longer admits prompt decays of the lightest superpartner into a gravitino. If the lightest SM superpartner is a neutralino, the phenomenology will be hard to distinguish from a regular supergravity model.³ However, the interesting phenomenology of these models does not stop with collider physics. Indeed, in GMSB with such a high-messenger scale, heavy right-handed neutrinos play an important role in low-energy phenomenology as well as in leptogenesis. Perhaps the most important and unique phenomenological implication of this theory is the potentially large lepton flavor violating (LFV) signals that can arise. This is counter-intuitive since GMSB is usually thought to not allow superpartner-induced LFV amplitudes. In this article we demonstrate why LFV happens in this general class of supersymmetry theories, and compute the expected rates for LFV observables $B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)$, $B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma)$, and μ - e conversion in nuclei.⁴

II. SUPERSYMMETRIC SM WITH RIGHT-HANDED NEUTRINOS

We begin by reviewing the MSSM with right-handed neutrinos, in which the seesaw mechanism naturally induces tiny neutrino masses. The superpotential in the lepton sector is given by

$$W = y_e^i E_i L_i H_1 + y_\nu^{i,j} N_i L_j H_2 + \frac{M_{R_i}}{2} N_i N_i. \quad (5)$$

Here we take a basis where the charged lepton Yukawa matrix y_e and the right-handed neutrino mass matrix M_R are

$$U^{\text{MNS}} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13}e^{i\delta} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (12)$$

where $s_{ij} = \sin \theta_{ij}$ and $c_{ij} = \cos \theta_{ij}$.

In our analysis, we adopt the following numerical data [18,19]:

$$\sin^2 2 \theta_{23} = 1, \quad (13)$$

$$\Delta m_{\text{atm}}^2 = m_{\nu_3}^2 - m_{\nu_2}^2 = 2 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \quad (14)$$

for atmospheric neutrinos, and

$$\theta_{12} = 32.5^\circ, \quad (15)$$

$$\Delta m_{\text{solar}}^2 = m_{\nu_2}^2 - m_{\nu_1}^2 = 7.1 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2, \quad (16)$$

²Models discussed in Refs. [11–13] contain many messenger particles that are charged under the SM gauge symmetry. Therefore, in order to preserve perturbative gauge couplings up to the grand unified theory (GUT) scale for unification, a high messenger scale is required.

³A charged lightest SM superpartner that is long lived on collider time scales would be assumed to be metastable since copious charged dark matter is not allowed cosmologically. Therefore, one would conclude that it must decay to something else, and a light gravitino would be the leading candidate for a decay product that carries away odd R parity.

⁴Within the framework of supergravity supersymmetry breaking, leptogenesis and LFV have been discussed in Ref. [15].

for solar neutrinos. We assume hierarchical neutrino masses, so that we take $m_{\nu_1}=0$ in our analysis. The angle θ_{13} has not been determined yet, and its experimental limit is $|s_{13}| \leq 0.2$ [18]. In our numerical analysis, we will take $s_{13}=0$ or 0.1 as reference values. For simplicity, we neglect all complex phases.

III. LEPTON FLAVOR VIOLATION IN GMSB

Off-diagonal components in the neutrino Yukawa couplings give rise to LFV neutrino oscillations, and they also can induce significant LFV in the charged lepton sector. For example, even if the supersymmetry breaking mechanism is flavor blind, as is the case with GMSB, LFV in the slepton masses can be induced through radiative corrections (i.e., renormalization group running) involving neutrino Yukawa interactions [20,21]. However, effects of neutrino Yukawa couplings decouple if the scale of supersymmetry breaking is lower than the right-handed neutrino mass scales. In that case, the LFV in the slepton mass matrix is negligibly small. Low-energy GMSB behaves in this manner if the messenger scale is less than the right-handed neutrino masses.

However, in the case of high-scale direct gauge media-

tion, which we motivated in the introduction, the messenger scale where supersymmetry breaking terms are induced can be higher than the right-handed neutrino mass scales, $M > M_{R_i}$. In this case, the neutrino Yukawa couplings enter the slepton mass matrix renormalization group equation over a significant scale range, thereby affecting potentially large LFV in the charged lepton sector.⁵

We can see this LFV effect through the renormalization group equations (RGEs) for the left-handed slepton masses:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} (m_L^2)_{ij} = & \mu \frac{d}{d\mu} (m_L^2)_{ij} |_{\text{MSSM}} + \frac{1}{16\pi^2} [m_L^2 y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu + y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu m_L^2 \\ & + 2(y_\nu^\dagger m_{\tilde{\nu}}^2 y_\nu + m_{H_2}^2 y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu + A_\nu^\dagger A_\nu)]_{ij}, \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

where $\mu d(m_L^2)_{ij}/d\mu|_{\text{MSSM}}$ is a contribution from MSSM without right-handed neutrinos. Even if m_L^2 and $m_{\tilde{\nu}}^2$ are flavor diagonal at the messenger scale, flavor mixings in the neutrino Yukawa couplings generate flavor violation in the left-handed slepton masses m_L^2 . The flavor mixing in the left-handed slepton masses is approximately proportional to $y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu$. Using Eq. (11),

$$(y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu)_{\mu e} = (U^{\text{MNS}} \sqrt{\kappa^D} R^\dagger M_R R \sqrt{\kappa^D} U^{\text{MNS}\dagger})_{\mu e}, \quad (18)$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= U_{\mu 3}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e 3}^{\text{MNS}} * \kappa_3^D M_{R_3} \left(\frac{M_{R_2}}{M_{R_3}} |R_{33}|^2 + \frac{M_{R_1}}{M_{R_3}} |R_{13}|^2 \right) \\ &+ U_{\mu 3}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e 2}^{\text{MNS}} * \sqrt{\kappa_3^D \kappa_2^D} M_{R_3} \left(R_{33}^* R_{32} + \frac{M_{R_2}}{M_{R_3}} R_{23}^* R_{22} + \frac{M_{R_1}}{M_{R_3}} R_{13}^* R_{12} \right) \\ &+ U_{\mu 2}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e 3}^{\text{MNS}} * \sqrt{\kappa_2^D \kappa_3^D} M_{R_3} \left(R_{32}^* R_{33} + \frac{M_{R_2}}{M_{R_3}} R_{22}^* R_{23} + \frac{M_{R_1}}{M_{R_3}} R_{12}^* R_{13} \right) \\ &+ U_{\mu 2}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e 2}^{\text{MNS}} * \kappa_2^D M_{R_3} \left(|R_{32}|^2 + \frac{M_{R_2}}{M_{R_3}} |R_{22}|^2 + \frac{M_{R_1}}{M_{R_3}} |R_{12}|^2 \right). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

In Eq. (19), we assumed $\kappa_1^D \ll \kappa_{2,3}^D$.

For $\tau \rightarrow \mu$ flavor violation, indices μ and e should be replaced by τ and μ , respectively. As can be seen from Eq. (19), LFV is induced by flavor mixings from U^{MNS} and R . Although the matrix R is not known, the large neutrino mixing angles in U^{MNS} suggested by the atmospheric and solar neutrino experiments imply that large LFV effects are possible when at least one $M_{R_i} < M$.⁶

In this article we mainly adopt MGMSB to calculate event rates of LFV processes. In MGMSB, MSSM gaugino (M_i , $i=1-3$) and sfermion masses are generated at the messenger scale M as follows:

$$M_i(M) = n_m \frac{\alpha_i(M)}{4\pi} \frac{F_S}{M}, \quad (20)$$

$$\tilde{m}^2(M) = \frac{n_m}{8\pi^2} \{c_1 \alpha_1^2(M) + c_2 \alpha_2^2(M) + c_3 \alpha_3^2(M)\} \frac{F_S^2}{M^2}, \quad (21)$$

where α_i are $SU(5)$ -GUT normalized gauge couplings. The c_i are the Casimirs of the sparticle representations under the SM gauge groups, which in the SM translates to

⁵Since the messenger scale M is lower than the GUT scale, GUT-induced LFV in superpartner masses is absent.

⁶The hierarchical neutrino Yukawa couplings also induce non-degeneracy in diagonal components of the left-handed slepton mass matrix. Therefore, precise measurement of slepton and sneutrino masses also would be important to probe the effects of the neutrino Yukawa couplings.

$$c_1 = \frac{3}{5} \left(\frac{Y}{2} \right)^2,$$

$$c_2 = \begin{cases} 3/4, & \text{if } SU(2) \text{ doublet,} \\ 0, & \text{if } SU(2) \text{ singlet,} \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

$$c_3 = \begin{cases} 4/3, & \text{if } SU(3) \text{ triplet,} \\ 0, & \text{if } SU(3) \text{ singlet.} \end{cases}$$

Below the messenger scale M , we consider the MSSM with massive right-handed neutrino(s) as the effective theory. We then numerically compute RGEs from the messenger scale M to electroweak scale, taking into account decoupling of the right-handed neutrino N_i at each mass scale M_{R_i} . During the RG running between M and M_{R_i} , neutrino Yukawa interactions generate LFV in the slepton masses as shown in Eq. (17), and as a result, low-energy LFV events are induced.

In order to show the messenger-model dependence of the result, we also consider the Q - S - ϕ model of Ref. [13] as an example that has a complicated messenger sector.⁷ In this model, at the highest energies the gauge group is $SU(5)_H \times SU(5)_G$ with gauge couplings α_H and α_G respectively. We assume all SM matter fields couple only to $SU(5)_H$. Below the threshold of the Q states M_Q , the gauge group breaks to $SU(5)_G \times SU(5)_H \rightarrow SU(5)$ with resulting gauge coupling α . The low-energy superpartner spectrum at the scale M_Q can be computed using the techniques of Ref. [22]:

$$M_i(M_Q) = \frac{\alpha(M_Q)}{4\pi} \frac{F}{M_Q} (b_S - b_H - b_G), \quad (23)$$

$$\tilde{m}^2(M_Q) = \frac{c \alpha^2(M_Q)}{8\pi^2} \frac{F^2}{M_Q^2}$$

$$\times \left\{ b_H \frac{\alpha_H^2(M_Q)}{\alpha^2(M_Q)} + b_S - 2(b_H + b_G) \right\}, \quad (24)$$

where c is defined in Eq. (22), and the b_i are defined to be the coefficients of the gauge β functions [see Eq. (5) and just below Eq. (84) of Ref. [22] for explanation of these values]. In our numerical analysis, we will assume $\alpha_H^2(M_Q)/\alpha^2(M_Q) = 1$ for simplicity.⁸ It is necessary to apply the above scalar mass equation for each gauge group the superpartner scalar is charged under, and then sum the result to obtain the mass. At thresholds M_S and M_ϕ where chiral messenger fields S and ϕ decouple respectively, additional gaugino and scalar masses are generated. As we want to fully incorporate Yukawa coupling effects, we treat Eq. (24) as a boundary condition at the scale M_Q and numerically evolve

⁷We call the model of Ref. [13] the “ Q - S - ϕ model” because it contains three messenger mass scales M_Q , M_S and M_ϕ associated with Q , S and ϕ states, where $M_Q = \lambda v_Q / \sqrt{5}$ ($\sim 10^{15}$ GeV), $M_S = (v_Q / \sqrt{5})^3 / M_{Pl}^2$ ($\sim 10^8$ GeV) and $M_\phi = (v_Q / \sqrt{5})^4 / M_{Pl}$ ($\sim 10^5$ GeV).

⁸In the case with $\alpha_H^2(M_Q)/\alpha^2(M_Q) = 1$, A terms vanish at M_Q .

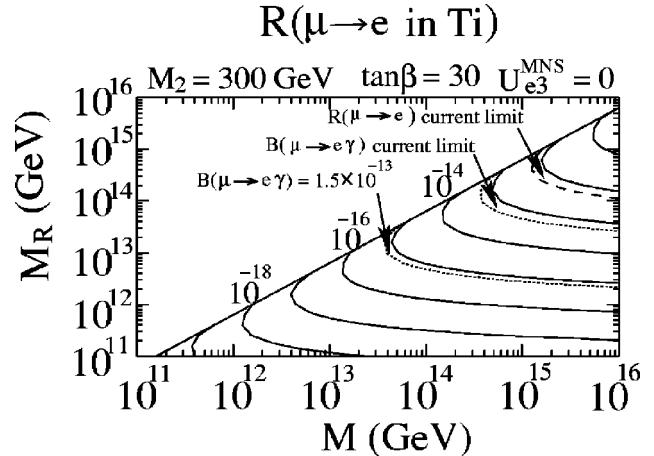


FIG. 1. The μ - e conversion rates $R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})$ as a function of the messenger scale M and the degenerate right-handed neutrino scale M_R . Here we take $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = 0$ and $\tan\beta = 30$. We assume MGMSB with $n_m = 1$. The low-energy W -ino mass (M_2) is set to be 200 GeV, which fixes the entire superpartner mass spectrum. Current limits on $R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})$ and $B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)$, and a future sensitivity at MEG [$B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) = 1.5 \times 10^{-13}$] are also shown. Future μ - e conversion experiments may reach a sensitivity close to $R(\mu \rightarrow e) \approx 10^{-18}$. Note that there is no LFV above the diagonal line as M_R is above the messenger scale.

the masses to the weak scale across the S -field and ϕ -field thresholds. We refer the reader to Ref. [13] for a detailed description of these thresholds.

In the subsequent sections, we will investigate this LFV phenomena employing several plausible assumptions about the mixing angles and masses of the neutrino sector. We will find that the LFV observables $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$, μ - e conversion in nuclei and $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ can grow significantly above the SM predictions in several interesting cases, and therefore the ideas can be tested by present experiment and future upgrades of these LFV experiments.

A. Degenerate right-handed neutrinos $M_{R_3} = M_{R_2} = M_{R_1}$

First we consider a case in which all right-handed neutrinos are degenerate $M_{R_3} = M_{R_2} = M_{R_1} \equiv M_R$. In this case, Eq. (19) is written by

$$(y_\nu^\dagger y_\nu)_{\mu e} \approx U_{\mu 3}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e3*}^{\text{MNS}} \kappa_3^D M_{R_3} + U_{\mu 2}^{\text{MNS}} U_{e2*}^{\text{MNS}} \kappa_2^D M_{R_2}. \quad (25)$$

Note that there is no R matrix dependence in this case. Therefore if neutrino masses, mixings and superpartner masses are fixed, LFV event rates are expressed as a function of the messenger scale M and the right-handed neutrino mass scale M_R . In Fig. 1, the μ - e conversion rate $R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})$ is shown as a function of M and M_R . Here we take $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = 0$ and $\tan\beta = 30$. We assume MGMSB with $n_m = 1$ and W -ino mass (M_2) to be 200 GeV, which fixes the entire superpartner mass spectrum. As can be seen from Fig. 1, as M_R becomes larger, the μ - e conversion rate gets larger as long as the messenger scale M is larger than, and not close

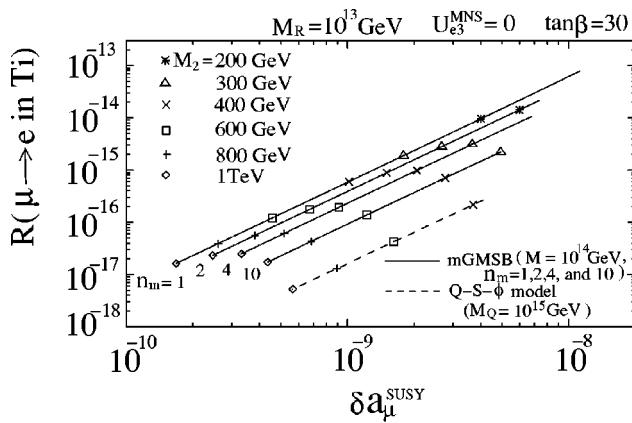


FIG. 2. Relations between $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ and superpartner contribution to muon $g-2$ ($\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}}$) as a function of low-energy W -ino mass M_2 in MGMSB with $n_m = 1, 2, 4, 10$ and in the Q - S - ϕ model. We assume that $M_R = 10^{13}$ GeV, $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = 0$, $\tan\beta = 30$, and the messenger scale $M = 10^{14}$ GeV for MGMSB and $M_Q = 10^{15}$ GeV for the Q - S - ϕ model.

to, M_R . As can be understood from Eq. (25), the third generation right-handed neutrino does not contribute to μ - e flavor violating slepton masses when $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = 0$. When $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = O(0.1)$, the third generation contribution to μ - e LFV in slepton masses becomes dominant, and hence the μ - e conversion rate gets larger in general than what we present in Fig. 1. The effect of non-zero U_{e3}^{MNS} would be more important in some case with non-degenerate right-handed neutrinos as we will discuss later.

In the supersymmetric SM with right-handed neutrinos, the magnetic-moment-type photon penguin diagram, which also induces the $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ process, is almost always dominant in the μ - e conversion process, and hence there is a relation between the predicted $B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)$ and $R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})$:

$$\frac{R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})}{B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma)} \approx 5 \times 10^{-3}. \quad (26)$$

This relationship is what allows us to show in Fig. 1 simultaneously the current limits from μ - e conversion process [$R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti}) = 6.1 \times 10^{-13}$] [24], $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ process [$B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) = 1.2 \times 10^{-11}$] [24], and a future sensitivity at MEG experiment [$B(\mu \rightarrow e \gamma) = 1.5 \times 10^{-13}$] [23,24]. We also note that the expected sensitivity at the future MECO experiment for μ - e conversion will be $R(\mu \rightarrow e) = 10^{-16}$ [24,25], and further future experiments may be able to reach a sensitivity $R(\mu \rightarrow e) = 10^{-18}$ according to studies in Ref. [26].

Therefore, at present, the current $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$ limit already constrains the region $M_R > 10^{14}$ GeV and $M > 10^{15}$ GeV in Fig. 1. The future MEG and MECO experiments will be sensitive to the region around $M_R > 10^{12-13}$ GeV and $M > 10^{13-14}$ GeV. It is extremely interesting to see from Fig. 1 that future measurements by experiments such as PRIME may be able to reach the region above $M_R > 10^{11}$ GeV and $M > 10^{12}$ GeV. When one considers that this encompasses the range of allowed messenger mass from the leptogenesis considerations, Eq. (4), the result indicates that LFV signals are expected to be measured provided $M_R < M$.

In Fig. 2, we show relations between $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ and super-

partner contribution to muon $g-2$ ($\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}}$) as a function of the low-energy W -ino mass M_2 in MGMSB with $n_m = 1, 2, 4, 10$ and in the Q - S - ϕ model. Here we have assumed that $M_R = 10^{13}$ GeV, $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}} = 0$, $\tan\beta = 30$, and the messenger scale $M = 10^{14}$ GeV for MGMSB and $M_Q = 10^{15}$ GeV for the Q - S - ϕ model. Note that a recent updated estimate of muon $g-2$ [27] shows that the deviations of the SM prediction from the measurement at BNL [28] are found to be

$$\delta a_\mu = \begin{cases} (22.1 \pm 7.2 \pm 3.5 \pm 8.0) \times 10^{-10} \\ \quad [e^+ e^- \text{-based estimate}], \\ (7.4 \pm 5.8 \pm 3.5 \pm 8.0) \times 10^{-10} \\ \quad [\tau \text{-based estimate}], \end{cases} \quad (27)$$

where the first error comes from the hadronic contribution, the second one from the light-by-light scattering contribution and the third one from the BNL experiment. For fixed M_2 , as the number of messenger multiplets n_m gets larger, $\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}}$ increases because slepton masses become smaller [see Eq. (20)]; on the other hand, $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ does not change much because the smaller slepton masses also slightly suppress the LFV masses compared to the diagonal components that originated partially from gaugino masses in the RGE running. In the Q - S - ϕ model, relatively large scalar masses, which are flavor diagonal, are additionally generated at S and ϕ mass thresholds, which are below the right-handed neutrino mass scale. Therefore the LFV masses are relatively suppressed, and as a result, the conversion rate gets smaller. Taking into account the allowed range of M_Q (10^{14} GeV $< M_Q < 10^{16}$ GeV) [13], however, the present and future LFV searches have great impact on sensitivity to this model too.

LFV event rates depend on parameters in the neutrino sector such as M_R and U_{e3}^{MNS} as shown in Fig. 1. On the other hand, the contribution from superpartners to muon $g-2$ is almost independent of these parameters because small LFV slepton masses do not affect it. So in the parameter space in Fig. 1, the superpartner contribution to muon $g-2$ is almost constant, $\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}} \approx 2 \times 10^{-9}$. For fixed $\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}}$, the messenger-model dependence can be read from Fig. 2, and the dependence on the neutrino parameters and the messenger scale can be seen from Fig. 1. It should be noted also that $\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}}$ is approximately proportional to $\tan\beta$, and $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ is proportional to $\tan^2\beta$. Since $R(\mu \rightarrow e) \propto [(m_{\tilde{L}}^2)_{12}/m_{\tilde{L}}^2]^2 (\delta a_\mu^{\text{SUSY}})^2$ as can be seen from Fig. 2 [29], potentially the precise determination of muon $g-2$ together with LFV searches would provide a significant handle on models with LFV.

B. Non-degenerate right-handed neutrinos $M_{R_3} \geq M_{R_2} \geq M_{R_1}$

When the right-handed neutrinos are not degenerate $M_{R_3} \geq M_{R_2} \geq M_{R_1}$, a dependence on the R matrix enters in the

slepton masses, and hence the LFV event rates generally depend on the unknown⁹ parameters of R_{ij} .

First let us consider the case with $R=\mathbf{1}$. When $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$, the third generation right-handed neutrino does not induce μ - e flavor violation. In this case, whatever the value of M_{R_3} is (even if $M_{R_3} > M$), the μ - e conversion rate is the same as that found in Fig. 1 except that now we should read M_R in Fig. 1 as M_{R_2} . However, LFV generated by the third generation right-handed neutrino is important in the $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ process especially when $M > M_{R_3}$ and M_{R_2} is rather small (say, less than 10^{12} GeV).

In Fig. 3, branching ratio contours of $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ are shown as a function of the messenger scale M and the third generation right-handed neutrino mass M_{R_3} . Here we assumed MGMSB with $n_m=1$ and $M_2=300$ GeV, $\tan\beta=30$, $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$ and $R=\mathbf{1}$. We took $M_{R_1}=10^{10}$ GeV, $M_{R_2}=10^{12}$ GeV, and thus the μ - e conversion is typically small [$R(\mu \rightarrow e) \sim 10^{-16} \text{ to } 10^{-17}$] because the third generation right-handed neutrino does not contribute ($U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$) and M_{R_2} is so low. Nevertheless, as can be seen from Fig. 3, the search for $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ could be interesting and capable of probing the region around $M > 10^{15}$ GeV and $M_{R_3} > 10^{14}$ GeV if the future improved measurement of $B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma)$ gets to the level of

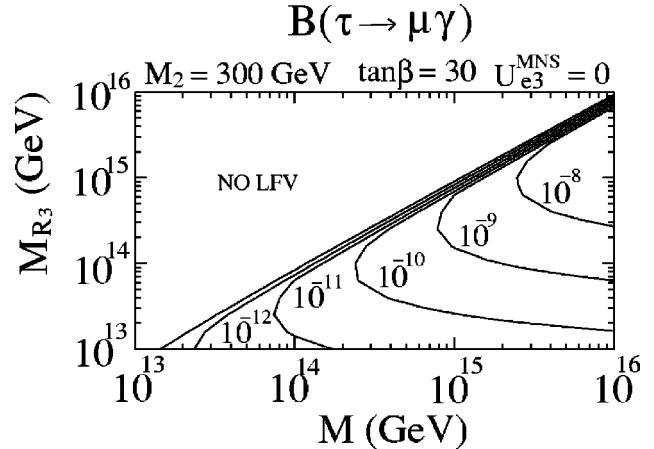


FIG. 3. Branching ratios of the $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ process, $B(\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma)$ as a function of the messenger scale M and the third generation right-handed neutrino mass M_{R_3} . Here we consider the hierarchical right-handed neutrinos, $M_{R_1}=10^{10}$ GeV and $M_{R_2}=10^{12}$ wino. We assume MGMSB with $n_m=1$ and $M_2=300$ GeV, and $\tan\beta=30$, $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$ and $R=\mathbf{1}$. Future experimental sensitivity might be as low as 10^{-9} , in which case there is a significant region of M_{R_3} and M that this LFV observable would probe.

10^{-8} – 10^{-9} [30]. Therefore $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$ will be independently important in the framework of GMSB.

Next, we consider cases where $R \neq \mathbf{1}$. We parametrize the R matrix as follows:

$$R = \begin{pmatrix} c_{R_2} c_{R_1} & s_{R_2} c_{R_1} & s_{R_1} \\ -s_{R_2} c_{R_3} - c_{R_2} s_{R_3} s_{R_1} & c_{R_2} c_{R_3} - s_{R_2} s_{R_3} s_{R_1} & s_{R_3} c_{R_1} \\ s_{R_2} s_{R_3} - c_{R_2} c_{R_3} s_{R_1} & -c_{R_2} s_{R_3} - s_{R_2} c_{R_3} s_{R_1} & c_{R_3} c_{R_1} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (28)$$

where $s_{R_i} = \sin \theta_{R_i}$ and $c_{R_i} = \cos \theta_{R_i}$.

Assuming that one of the angles θ_{R_i} is non-zero, we present μ - e conversion rates showing the dependence on each angle θ_{R_i} in Figs. 4 and 5. We assumed MGMSB with $n_m=1$, $M_2=300$ GeV and $\tan\beta=30$. We fixed the messenger scale and right-handed neutrino masses to be $M=10^{15}$ GeV, $M_{R_1}=10^{10}$ GeV, $M_{R_2}=10^{12}$ GeV, and $M_{R_3}=10^{14}$ GeV.

In Fig. 4, U_{e3}^{MNS} is set to zero. As can be understood from Eq. (19), because of non-zero mixing in the R matrix, several comparable terms are generated in Eq. (19), and then for some specific values of θ_{R_i} , a cancellation occurs between terms. That is why we find some steep suppressions of $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ in Fig. 4. Otherwise the event rates in most of Fig. 4 are comparable or larger than those when $R=\mathbf{1}$ ($\theta_{R_i}=0$).

⁹None of the successful neutrino oscillation experiments can pin down or even constrain the R matrix entries. It takes additional observables, such as LFV signals, to make progress in constraining this matrix.

In Fig. 5, we show a similar figure to Fig. 4 except that U_{e3}^{MNS} is set to be 0.1. Again at some (different) values of θ_{R_i} a cancellation occurs and $R(\mu \rightarrow e)$ dips precipitously. How-

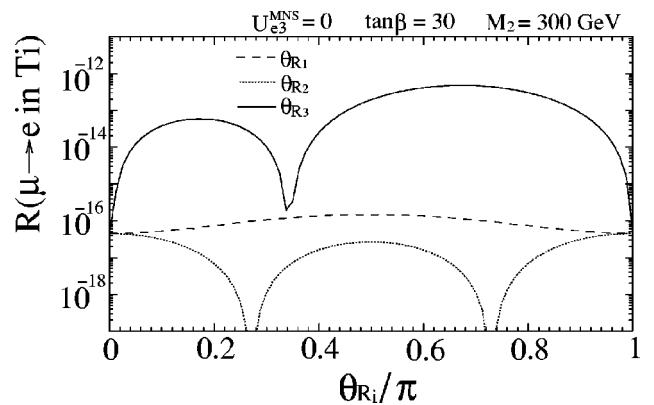


FIG. 4. The μ - e conversion rates, $R(\mu \rightarrow e \text{ in Ti})$, as a function of an angle θ_{R_i} in the unknown R matrix. Each line in the plot is drawn by varying only one non-zero angle θ_{R_i} . We assume MGMSB with $n_m=1$ and $M_2=300$ GeV, $\tan\beta=30$ and $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$. Here we set $M=10^{15}$ GeV, $M_{R_1}=10^{10}$ GeV, $M_{R_2}=10^{12}$ GeV, and $M_{R_3}=10^{14}$ GeV.

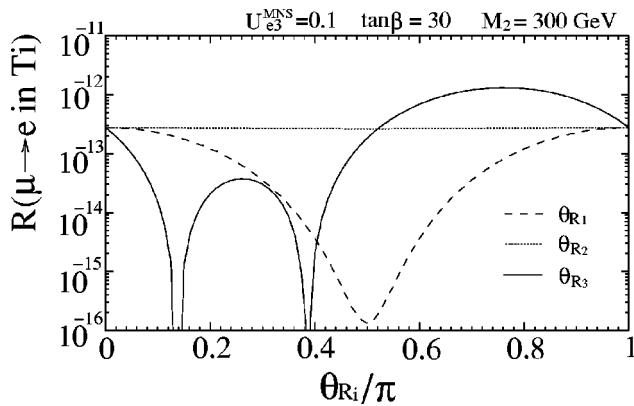


FIG. 5. Same as Fig. 4 except for $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0.1$.

ever, the typical value of the event rates are often considerably larger than those when $U_{e3}^{\text{MNS}}=0$, especially when the hierarchy between M_{R_2} and M_{R_3} is large. Therefore, we conclude that we should generally expect large LFV event rates even though the R matrix is unknown.

IV. CONCLUSION

We have found that if we incorporate neutrino masses and leptogenesis into the superstructure of direct gauge-mediated

supersymmetry breaking, significant low-energy LFV signals are possible in observables such as $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$, μ - e conversion in nuclei and $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$. Heavy right-handed neutrinos below the high messenger scale are what induce the large rates. This is because the full Yukawa couplings of neutrinos are part of the effective theory between the messenger scale and the lower right-handed neutrino scale, thereby enabling their highly mixed off-diagonal entries to infect the slepton masses via renormalization group running. The large LFV mass entries in the slepton mass matrix that result from the neutrino Yukawa coupling RG effect contribute in loops to the LFV observables.

We have shown that small regions of parameter space are already ruled out by carefully correlating what the theories predict for LFV observables to what the experiments have (not) measured. Large regions of parameter space will be tested and probed by future experiments dedicated to significant improvements in the search for $\mu \rightarrow e \gamma$, μ - e conversion in nuclei and $\tau \rightarrow \mu \gamma$. And as we have emphasized in this article, a non-zero measurement of these LFV decays is not only consistent with some versions of gauge mediation; it is to be expected.

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