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# Conformal Supersymmetry Breaking and Dynamical Tuning of the Cosmological Constant

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## Abstract

We propose “conformal supersymmetry breaking” models, which tightly relate the conformal breaking scale (i.e. R-symmetry breaking scale) and the supersymmetry breaking scale. The both scales are originated from the constant term in the superpotential through the common source of the R-symmetry breaking. We show that dynamical tuning between those mass scales significantly reduces the degree of fine-tuning necessary for generating the almost vanishing cosmological constant.

# 1 Introduction

The origin of mass scale in the standard model has always been a hot issue. Supersymmetry (SUSY) is an illuminating approach to this problem by avoiding otherwise uncontrollable quadratic divergences from radiative corrections. In absence of the quadratic divergences, the mass scale of the standard model is tightly related to the SUSY breaking scale. The idea of dynamical SUSY breaking [1] is a next step to accomplish this pursuit by providing a naturally small SUSY breaking scale through dimensional transmutation.

The success of the dynamical SUSY breaking, however, is still halfway. In any theory with a spontaneous SUSY breaking, we need yet another dimensionful parameter in addition to the SUSY breaking scale: a constant term should be included in the superpotential in order to realize the flat universe after the SUSY breaking. Since the constant term is nothing to do with the SUSY breaking scale in generic dynamical SUSY breaking models, the requirement of the flat universe leads to a severe fine-tuning.

In this letter, we try to answer this remaining half of the problem by introducing an idea of “conformal SUSY breaking” based on “conformal extension” of the dynamical SUSY breaking models. In this scenario, the conformal symmetry and its subsequent breaking at a lower-energy scale constrain the system in quite a non-trivial way. Almost all parameters of the theory are fixed by the conformal invariance. A remaining relevant deformation, typically a unique mass parameter of the model, then, disturbs the conformal invariance at the lower-energy scale. The resultant conformal symmetry breaking triggers the dynamical SUSY breaking, and consequently, the SUSY breaking scale is determined uniquely by the conformal breaking scale.

A far-reaching consequence of this scenario is that when the conformal extended theory is strongly coupled, we can identify the origin of the unique mass parameter of the model with a constant term in the superpotential through the underlying R-symmetry breaking. This, in turn, gives us a dynamical tuning mechanism of the cosmological constant. The conformal SUSY breaking, therefore, consolidates two independent mass scales into one, completing our pursuit of its origin.

The organization of the paper is as follows. In section 2, we introduce conformally extended SUSY breaking models. In section 3, we discuss the resolution of the cosmological

constant problem through conformal SUSY breaking by identifying the constant term in the superpotential with a mass deformation of the conformally extended SUSY breaking models. In section 4, we show two explicit examples of the model. The last section is devoted to our conclusions with a further discussion.

## 2 Conformal SUSY breaking model

A “conformal SUSY breaking” is a novel way to understand the scale of the SUSY breaking. At first sight, as is clear from the definition, any characteristic energy scale cannot appear in conformal field theories. However, a key idea of the conformal SUSY breaking is to relate the conformal breaking scale (i.e. R-symmetry breaking scale<sup>1</sup>) and the SUSY breaking scale.<sup>2</sup> For this purpose, we introduce a concept of conformally extended dynamically SUSY breaking models.

The starting point is a particular class of dynamical SUSY breaking models which break SUSY from the strong interaction of the gauge interaction. To construct their conformal extension, we add massive  $N_f$  vector-like representations  $(P, \bar{P})$  as new flavors. The mass is simply given by the superpotential:

$$W = \sum m P \bar{P} . \tag{1}$$

This extension is, in a sense, trivial: the extended model reduces to the original model after the new flavors decouple [2], leading to a dynamical SUSY breaking at low energy. Even worse, it might appear that the introduction of the new mass scale is a major drawback that spoils the understanding of the origin of the mass scale in the dynamical SUSY breaking model.

This extension, however, shows its real potential when  $N_f$  is chosen in a specific range so that the extended model has a non-trivial infrared (IR)-fixed point in the massless limit of the new flavors ( $m \rightarrow 0$ ). As we will see shortly, the conformal dynamics essentially

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<sup>1</sup>We further postulate that the R-symmetry breaking is originated from a constant term in the superpotential,  $w_0$ .

<sup>2</sup>The superconformal symmetry automatically demands the existence of R-symmetry [3]. Therefore, the conformal symmetry breaking and the R-symmetry breaking is intimately related, which will be important later when we discuss the cosmological constant.

removes arbitrary dependence on the ratio between the dynamical scale and the newly added mass scale, avoiding the drawback just mentioned.

Conformally extended SUSY breaking models have many examples. The extension of the non-calculable dynamical SUSY breaking model based on SO(10) gauge theory with a spinor representation [4, 5] is known to have a non-trivial IR-fixed point for  $7 < N_f < 21$  [6, 7]. As another example, the extension of the vector-like dynamical SUSY breaking model based on the SP( $N$ ) gauge theory [8, 9] also possesses a non-trivial IR-fixed point [10].

To utilize the full power of conformal invariance, we make a crucial assumption that the conformally extended SUSY breaking model is in the vicinity of the IR-fixed point at the ultraviolet (UV) cut-off scale where we can neglect the mass of the new flavors. In this paper, we identify the UV cut-off scale with the reduced Planck scale  $M_{\text{PL}} \simeq 2.4 \times 10^{18}$  GeV. Under this assumption, all the coupling constants in the SUSY breaking sector immediately converge to the values at the IR-fixed point once they evolve down to the IR from the UV cut-off scale. Therefore, there remains no free parameter in the conformally extended SUSY breaking sector at the IR scale.

Down in the far IR limit, the conformal invariance is disturbed by the mass term of the new flavors. Since the newly added flavor decouples at the scale

$$m_{\text{phys}} = m \left( \frac{m}{M_{\text{UV}}} \right)^{\frac{\gamma_P}{1-\gamma_P}}, \quad (2)$$

the SUSY is dynamically broken below the scale. Here  $\gamma_P$  denotes the anomalous dimension of  $P$  and  $\bar{P}$  at the IR-fixed point, and  $M_{\text{UV}} \simeq M_{\text{PL}}$  is the scale of the UV cut-off. Notice that since all the coupling constants of the SUSY breaking sector are fixed at the IR-fixed point, the SUSY breaking scale is related to the conformal breaking scale induced by the mass of the new flavors in a unique fashion:

$$\Lambda_{\text{susy}} \simeq c_{\text{susy}} m_{\text{phys}} \quad (3)$$

with a coefficient  $c_{\text{susy}}$ . We emphasize that the ratio  $c_{\text{susy}}$  is not a free parameter of the model but determined by the dynamics. When the model is strongly coupled at the IR-fixed point,  $c_{\text{susy}}$  is expected to be  $O(1)$  because the gauge coupling constant of the SUSY breaking sector blows up just below the decoupling scale of the new flavors.

To sum up, in the conformal SUSY breaking scenario, the SUSY breaking scale is uniquely determined by the mass of the new flavors. Despite a seemingly additional mass scale, the SUSY breaking dynamics is controlled by only one mass parameter. One may even attribute the origin of the mass to the dimensional transmutation of another dynamics. Thus, the conformal extension is not a drawback at all but provides us with a novel answer to the origin of the small mass scale as in the dynamical SUSY breaking scenarios.<sup>3</sup>

### 3 Dynamical tuning of the cosmological constant

Now, let us move on to the remaining half of the problem, i.e. the relation between the SUSY breaking scale and the scale of the constant term in the superpotential. In the course of the discussion, we will see the relevance of the strongly coupled conformal dynamics to the cosmological constant problem.

Whenever SUSY is broken, a positive contribution to the cosmological constant from the SUSY breaking source,  $\Lambda_{\text{susy}}^4$ , should be cancelled by a constant term in the superpotential to obtain the observed (almost) flat universe:

$$\langle V \rangle = \Lambda_{\text{susy}}^4 - 3 \frac{|w_0|^2}{M_{\text{PL}}^2} = \Lambda_{\text{c.c.}}^4 \simeq 0 . \quad (4)$$

Here,  $\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}}^4$  is the cosmological constant, and  $w_0$  is the constant term in the superpotential:

$$W = w_0 . \quad (5)$$

Thus, even if we explained the SUSY breaking scale by dimensional transmutation of the strong dynamics, we still would need to explain the origin of the constant term. Furthermore, in terms of the degree of fine-tuning for the cosmological constant problem, since the constant term  $w_0$  is independent of the SUSY breaking scale, the usual models require  $O(\Lambda_{\text{c.c.}}^4/M_{\text{PL}}^4)$  fine-tuning.

The conformal SUSY breaking models can go one step further. In the supergravity, R-symmetry should be (spontaneously) broken due to the constant term in the superpo-

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<sup>3</sup>In some dynamical SUSY breaking models, the conformal extension has extra benefits: the conformal dynamics fixes all the dimensionless parameters at the IR-fixed point value, reducing the number of otherwise freely-tunable parameters in the original model and increasing the predictability.

tential. We assume that the new flavors  $P$  and  $\bar{P}$  have classical R-charge 0.<sup>4</sup> Then, we can attribute the origin of the mass term for the new flavors to the R-symmetry breaking constant term in the superpotential as

$$W = w_0 \left( 1 + \frac{c_m}{M_{\text{PL}}^2} P \bar{P} \right) \quad (6)$$

with a coefficient  $c_m = O(1)$  (i.e.  $m = c_m w_0 / M_{\text{PL}}^2$ ) at the Planck scale  $M_{\text{PL}}$ . This linear identification of the constant term and the mass term is natural because both terms break the R-symmetry and could be derived from the same origin.

To connect the R-symmetry breaking and the cancellation of the cosmological constant, suppose that the conformally extended model is strongly interacting at the IR-fixed point and the anomalous dimension of the new flavors is close to the unitarity bound  $\gamma_P \simeq -1$  [11]. Then, new flavors decouple at the scale

$$m_{\text{phys}} \simeq \sqrt{c_m \frac{w_0}{M_{\text{PL}}}}, \quad (7)$$

where we have used Eq. (2) with  $\gamma_P \simeq -1$ . By recalling that the scale of the dynamical SUSY breaking in the strongly coupled conformally extended model is given by the decoupling scale of the new flavors (Eq. (3)), the above mass of the new flavors results in

$$\Lambda_{\text{susy}} \simeq c_{\text{susy}} \sqrt{c_m \frac{w_0}{M_{\text{PL}}}} \quad (8)$$

with  $c_{\text{susy}} = O(1)$ . Remarkably, the resultant SUSY breaking scale is the mass scale just required to realize the flat universe. In fact, by plugging Eq. (8) into Eq. (4), the flat universe condition is satisfied for  $c_m = O(1)$ .<sup>5</sup>

Our scenario is summarized as follows. The mass term of the new flavors given in Eq. (6) grows up as it evolves down to the IR scale, eventually breaking the conformal symmetry to trigger the SUSY breaking. In this process, the resultant SUSY breaking

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<sup>4</sup>The classical R-charge here is different from the conformal R-charge mentioned in footnote 2. However, in many cases (e.g. in conformally extended SO(10) model), this R-symmetry appears as a quantum R-symmetry even at the interacting fixed point.

<sup>5</sup>A similar tuning of the cosmological constant works in the meta-stable supersymmetry breaking model of Intriligator-Seiberg-Shih (ISS) [12] without the conformal dynamics if the dynamical scale  $\Lambda_{\text{dyn}}$  in the electric theory is of the order of the Planck scale,  $\Lambda_{\text{dyn}} \simeq M_{\text{PL}}$ . Suppose the quark mass  $m$  is also given by Eq. (6). Then, the SUSY breaking scale in the ISS model is  $\Lambda_{\text{SUSY}} = \sqrt{m \Lambda_{\text{dyn}}} \simeq \sqrt{m M_{\text{PL}}} \simeq \sqrt{c_m w_0 / M_{\text{PL}}}$ , which leads to the desired cancellation as shown in the text.

scale  $\Lambda_{\text{susy}}$  is dynamically tuned to the scale which is appropriate for the cancellation of the cosmological constant from the negative contribution of the constant term in the superpotential. The flat universe condition is assisted by the “dynamical tuning” of the SUSY breaking scale, and the degree of fine-tuning is significantly reduced from  $O(\Lambda_{c.c.}^4/M_{\text{PL}}^4)$  to  $O(\Lambda_{c.c.}^4/\Lambda_{\text{susy}}^4)$ .

To emphasize the importance of the strong conformal dynamics, we attempt to achieve the dynamical tuning of the cosmological constant for a generic value of  $\gamma_P$ . Again, by assuming the mass term of the new flavors in Eq. (6), we obtain a required value of  $c_m$  which satisfies the flat universe condition Eq. (4) as

$$c_m = (3c_{\text{susy}}^{-2})^{(1-\gamma_P)/2} \left( \frac{M_{\text{PL}}^3}{w_0} \right)^{(1+\gamma_P)/2}. \quad (9)$$

Clearly, the required value of  $c_m$  becomes very large:  $c_m \gg O(1)$  unless  $\gamma_P \simeq -1$  and  $c_{\text{susy}} = O(1)$ . Therefore, it is difficult to naturally attribute the origin of the mass of the new flavors to the constant term  $w_0$  in weakly coupled theories (i.e.  $|\gamma_P| \ll 1$  and  $c_{\text{susy}} \ll 1$ ). It is also interesting to note that for a generic value of  $\gamma_P$ , the gravitino mass is given by

$$m_{3/2} = \frac{w_0}{M_{\text{PL}}^2} = M_{\text{PL}} (3c_{\text{susy}}^{-2})^{\frac{1-\gamma_P}{1+\gamma_P}} c_m^{-2/(1+\gamma_P)}. \quad (10)$$

Thus, for  $\gamma_P \simeq -1$ , we may be able to understand the huge hierarchy between the Planck scale and the SUSY breaking scale through the enhancement of the small number  $c_m$  and the cancellation of the cosmological constant.

## 4 Examples of strongly coupled conformal extension

We present two examples of the strongly coupled conformal extension of the dynamical SUSY breaking which realize the above mechanism.<sup>6</sup> We will briefly mention phenomenological applications of these models in the next section.

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<sup>6</sup> In a model proposed in Ref. [13], the SUSY breaking scale and the constant term in the superpotential is tuned by a similar dynamics. However, since that model introduces an extra mass scale that has nothing to do with the R-symmetry breaking constant  $w_0$ , it does not fit into the realm of our conformal SUSY breaking models.

The first example is the conformal extension of the dynamical SUSY breaking model of SO(10) gauge theory with a spinor representation [4, 5] augmented by  $N_f$  flavors ( $7 < N_f < 21$ ) in vector representation. As analyzed in Refs. [14, 15] the anomalous dimensions of the chiral superfields at the conformal fixed point can be computed by using the  $a$ -maximization technique [16], and that for the added flavors is given by  $\gamma_P \simeq -0.97$  for  $N_f = 10$ . Therefore, the conformal extension of the SO(10) dynamical SUSY breaking model is a good example of the conformal SUSY breaking model we have proposed in this letter.

Another example is a model based on  $SP(3) \times SP(1)^2$  gauge theory [10] which is a conformal extension of SP(3) vector-like SUSY breaking model [8, 9] with added bi-fundamental matter  $P, \bar{P}$ . As discussed in Ref. [10], the anomalous dimension of the new flavors are given by  $\gamma_P = -1$ . Thus, this model is also a good example of our proposal.

## 5 Conclusion and Discussion

In this letter, we have proposed a new concept of conformal SUSY breaking, which makes it possible to relate the conformal breaking scale (i.e. R-symmetry breaking scale) and the SUSY breaking scale. In the strongly coupled case, we can further identify the origin of the SUSY breaking scale with the constant term in the superpotential through the underlying R-symmetry breaking. As a result, we found that the degree of fine-tuning for the cosmological constant problem can be tremendously reduced by the dynamical tuning between those parameters.

So far, we have concentrated on the mass scales of the SUSY breaking sector. The mass scale of the SUSY standard model (SSM) sector, on the other hand, depends on how the SUSY breaking effects are mediated. For example, if the breaking effects are mediated by the supergravity effects, the mass scale of the SSM is given by  $\Lambda_{\text{susy}}^2/M_{\text{PL}}$  which is also controlled by the constant term  $w_0$  via Eq. (8). Thus, in the case of the supergravity mediation [17], the origin of the mass scale of the SSM is directly explained by the R-breaking constant term  $w_0$  in the superpotential. In the case of the anomaly mediation [18, 19], we can also explain the origin of the mass scale of the SSM because it is given by the gravitino mass suppressed by the loop factors. Interestingly, the model

based on  $SP(3) \times SP(1)^2$  exemplified in section 4 encodes a key idea to realize the anomaly mediation [10]: it is also an example of the conformal sequestering [20]. Thus, the model realizes both of the conformal sequestering and the dynamical tuning of the cosmological constant. As for the gauge mediation models [21], the situation is much more complicated since they require another mass scale as the messenger scale. By employing the conformal gauge mediation [22], however, we can construct the gauge mediation model where the mass scale of the SSM is directly related to only one parameter, the constant term  $w_0$  [23].

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