

## Mass scales and stability of the proton in $[\text{SU}(6)]^3 \times Z_3$

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We prove that the proton is stable in the gauge model  $[\text{SU}(6)]^3 \times Z_3$  which unifies nongravitational forces with flavors, broken spontaneously by a minimal set of Higgs fields and vacuum expectation values down to  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_{\text{EM}}$ . We also compute the evolution of the gauge coupling constants and show how agreement with precision data can be obtained.

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Recently we proposed [1] a grand unification model of forces and flavors based on the gauge group  $G = [\text{SU}(6)]^3 \times Z_3$ . Our aim has been to provide some clues for the explanation of the intriguing fermion mass spectrum and mixing parameters.

The fermion content of our model includes in a single irreducible representation of  $G$  the three families of known fermions, each family being defined by the dynamics of the  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{SU}(2)_R \otimes \text{U}(1)_{Y_{(B-L)}}$  gauge group. This last group is the left-right symmetric (LRS) extension of the  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{U}(1)_Y$  standard model (SM).

Explicitly,  $G \equiv \text{SU}(6)_L \otimes \text{SU}(6)_C \otimes \text{SU}(6)_R \times Z_3$  [1], where  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  is a vectorlike group which includes three hadronic and three leptonic colors.  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  includes as a subgroup the  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_{Y_{(B-L)}}$  of the LRS model.  $\text{SU}(6)_L \otimes \text{SU}(6)_R$  is the left-right symmetric flavor group which includes the  $\text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{SU}(2)_R$  gauge group of the LRS model.

The 105 gauge fields (GF's) and the 108 Weyl fermions fields in  $G$  are explicitly depicted in Ref. [1]. Let us de-

scribe here some of them: The 105 GF's can be divided in two sets: 70 of them belonging to  $\text{SU}(6)_L \otimes \text{SU}(6)_R$  and 35 associated with  $\text{SU}(6)_C$ . The first set includes  $W_L^\pm$  and  $Z_L^0$ , the GF's of the known weak interactions, plus the GF's associated with the postulated right weak interaction, plus the GF's of the horizontal interactions, etc. All of them are  $\text{SU}(3)_C$  singlets and have electrical charges 0 or  $\pm 1$ . The second set includes the eight gluon fields of  $\text{SU}(3)_C$ ; nine leptoquark GF's,  $X_i$ ,  $Y_i$ , and  $Z_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  with electrical charges  $-2/3$ ,  $1/3$ , and  $-2/3$ , respectively, another nine leptoquark GF's charge conjugated to the previous ones, six diquark GF's,  $P_a^\pm$ ,  $P^0$ , and  $\tilde{P}^0$ ,  $a = 1, 2$ , with electrical charges as indicated, and three GF's associated with diagonal generators in  $\text{SU}(6)_C$ , where  $B_{Y_{(B-L)}}$ , the GF's associated with the  $\text{U}(1)_{Y_{(B-L)}}$  factor in the LRS model, is one of them.

The known fermion fields are included in  $\psi(108)_L = Z_3 \psi(6, 1, \bar{6}) \equiv \psi(6, 1, \bar{6})_L + \psi(1, \bar{6}, 6)_L + \psi(\bar{6}, 6, 1)_L$ , with quantum numbers with respect to  $(\text{SU}(3)_C, \text{SU}(2)_L, \text{U}(1)_Y)$  given by

$$\begin{aligned} \psi(\bar{6}, 6, 1) &\equiv \psi_a^\alpha : 3(3, 2, 1/3) \oplus 6(1, 2, -1) \oplus 3(1, 2, 1) , \\ \psi(1, \bar{6}, 6) &\equiv \psi_\alpha^A : 3(\bar{3}, 1, -4/3) \oplus 3(\bar{3}, 1, 2/3) \oplus 6(1, 1, 2) \oplus 9(1, 1, 0) \oplus 3(1, 1, -2) , \\ \psi(6, 1, \bar{6}) &\equiv \psi_A^\alpha : 9(1, 2, 1) \oplus 9(1, 2, -1) . \end{aligned}$$

As is clear,  $a, b, \dots; A, B, \dots, \alpha, \beta, \dots = 1, \dots, 6$  label  $\text{SU}(6)_L$ ,  $\text{SU}(6)_R$ , and  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  tensor indices, respectively.

The analysis done in Ref. [1] shows that the most economical set of Higgs fields (HF's) and vacuum expectation values (VEV's) which breaks the symmetry from  $G$  down to  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_{\text{EM}}$  and at the same time pro-

duces what we called the *modified horizontal survival hypothesis* is formed by

$$\phi_1 = \phi(675) = \phi_{1,[a,b]}^{[A,B]} + \phi_{1,[A,B]}^{[\alpha,\beta]} + \phi_{1,[\alpha,\beta]}^{[a,b]} \quad (1)$$

with VEV's in the directions  $[a, b] = [1, 6] = -[2, 5] =$

$-[3,4]$ ,  $[A, B]$  similar to  $[a, b]$  and  $[\alpha, \beta]=[5,6]$ ,

$$\phi_2 = \phi(1323) = \phi_{2,\{a,b\}}^{\{A,B\}} + \phi_{2,\{A,B\}}^{\{\alpha,\beta\}} + \phi_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}}^{\{a,b\}} \quad (2)$$

with VEV's in the directions  $\{a, b\} = \{1, 4\} = -\{2, 3\}$ ,  $\{A, B\}$  similar to  $\{a, b\}$  and  $\{\alpha, \beta\}=\{4,5\}$ ,

$$\phi_3 = \phi'(675) = \phi_{3,[a,b]}^{[A,B]} + \phi_{3,[A,B]}^{[\alpha,\beta]} + \phi_{3,[\alpha,\beta]}^{[a,b]} \quad (3)$$

with VEV's such that  $\langle \phi_{3,[a,b]}^{[A,B]} \rangle = \langle \phi_{3,[\alpha,\beta]}^{[a,b]} \rangle = 0$ , and  $\langle \phi_{3,[A,B]=\{4,6\}}^{[\alpha,\beta]=\{4,6\}} \rangle \equiv M_R$ ,

$$\phi_4 = \phi(108) = \phi_{4,\alpha}^A + \phi_{4,\alpha}^\alpha + \phi_{4,A}^a \quad (4)$$

with VEV's such that  $\langle \phi_\alpha^A \rangle = \langle \phi_\alpha^\alpha \rangle = 0$  and  $\langle \phi_A^a \rangle \equiv M_Z$ , with values different from zero only in the directions  $\langle \phi_2^2 \rangle = \langle \phi_4^2 \rangle = \langle \phi_6^2 \rangle = \langle \phi_4^4 \rangle = \langle \phi_4^4 \rangle = \langle \phi_6^4 \rangle = \langle \phi_2^6 \rangle = \langle \phi_4^6 \rangle = M_Z \sim 10^2$  GeV.

In Eqs. (1)–(3), the symbols  $\{.,.\}$  and  $[.,.]$  indicate symmetrization and antisymmetrization, respectively, of the indices inside the brackets. The mass hierarchy suggested in Ref. [1] is  $\langle \phi_3 \rangle > \langle \phi_1 \rangle \simeq \langle \phi_2 \rangle \gg M_Z \sim 10^2$  GeV.

For the renormalization group equation (RGE) analysis which follows, we adopt the working conditions known as “the survival hypothesis” [2] and “the extended survival hypothesis” [3]. The survival hypothesis claims that [2] at each energy scale, the only fermion fields which are relevant are those belonging to chiral representations of the unbroken symmetries. The extended survival hypothesis claims that [3] at each energy scale the only scalars which are relevant are those that develop VEV's at that scale and at lower mass scales. Both hypothesis are satisfied if a particular selection of scalar fields and VEV's is made, and appropriate terms in the scalar potential and Yukawa Lagrangian are included.

When the symmetry is broken in two steps,  $G \xrightarrow{M} \text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{U}(1)_Y \xrightarrow{M_I} \text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_{\text{EM}}$ , where  $M = \langle \phi_1 \rangle + \langle \phi_2 \rangle + \langle \phi_3 \rangle$  and  $M_Z = \langle \phi_4 \rangle$ , the one loop running coupling constants of the standard model satisfy

$$\alpha_i^{-1}(M_Z) = \alpha_i^{-1}(M) - b_i^0 \ln(M/M_Z), \quad (5)$$

where  $\alpha_i = g_i^2/4\pi$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  refers to  $\text{U}(1)_Y$ ,  $\text{SU}(2)_L$ , and  $\text{SU}(3)_C$ , respectively, and

$$b_i^\kappa = \left\{ \frac{11}{3} C_i^\kappa(\text{vectors}) - \frac{2}{3} C_i^\kappa(\text{Weyl fermions}) - \frac{1}{6} C_i^\kappa(\text{scalars}) \right\} / 4\pi \quad (6)$$

with  $C_i^\kappa(\dots)$  the index of the representation to which the  $(\dots)$  particles are assigned. For a complex field the value of  $C_i^\kappa(\text{scalars})$  should be doubled. With the normalization of the generators of  $G$  such that  $\alpha_1(M) = \alpha_2(M) = \alpha_3(M)$ , the relationship

$$\alpha_{\text{EM}} = \frac{1}{3} \alpha_2 \sin^2 \theta_W = \frac{3}{14} \alpha_1 \cos^2 \theta_W, \quad (7)$$

where  $\theta_W$  is the weak mixing angle, is valid at all energy scales. This last equation implies also that

$$3\alpha_{\text{EM}}^{-1} = 14\alpha_1^{-1} + 9\alpha_2^{-1}. \quad (8)$$

Equations (5)–(8) give straightforwardly

$$\frac{3}{23} \alpha_{\text{EM}}^{-1}(M_Z) = \alpha_3^{-1}(M_Z) + (b_3^0 - \frac{14}{23} b_1^0 - \frac{9}{23} b_2^0) \ln(M/M_Z) \quad (9)$$

and

$$\sin^2 \theta_W(M_Z) = 3\alpha_{\text{EM}}(M_Z) [\alpha_3^{-1}(M_Z) + (b_3^0 - b_2^0) \ln(M/M_Z)], \quad (10)$$

where  $b_3^0 = (11 - 4)/2\pi$ ,  $b_2^0 = [\frac{22}{9} - \frac{4}{3}(3 - n_2^0) - \frac{N_H}{18}]/2\pi$ ,  $b_1^0 = -[\frac{4}{3}(3 - n_1^0) + \frac{N_H}{28}]/2\pi$ ,  $N_H = 9$  is the number of low-energy Higgs fields doublets in  $\langle \phi_4 \rangle$ , and  $n_2^0 = 2$ ,  $n_1^0 = 27/14$  are related to the number of fermion fields which decouple from  $\psi(108)_L$  according to the survival hypothesis and the Appelquist-Carrazone theorem [4] [ $n_1^0 = n_2^0 = 0$  when all the fermion fields in  $\psi(108)_L$  contribute to  $b_{1,2}^0$ ].

Substituting in the last two equations the experimental values [5]  $\sin^2 \theta_W(M_Z) = 0.233$ ,  $\alpha_{\text{EM}}^{-1}(M_Z) = 127.9$ , and  $\alpha_3(M_Z) = 0.122$  we get from Eq. (9)  $\ln(M/M_Z) = 6.3$ , while from Eq. (10)  $\ln(M/M_Z) = 1.1$  which are widely incompatible solutions. Therefore the model with only two mass scales is excluded.

When the symmetry is broken in three steps:  $G \xrightarrow{M} G_L \otimes G_C \otimes G_R \otimes \dots \xrightarrow{M_I} \text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{U}(1)_Y \xrightarrow{M_Z} \text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_{\text{EM}}$  where  $M \gg M_I \gg M_Z = \langle \phi_4 \rangle$ , the one loop running coupling constants of the SM satisfy

$$\alpha_i^{-1}(M_Z) = \alpha_i^{-1}(M) - b_i^0 \ln(M_I/M_Z) - b_i^1 \ln(M/M_I). \quad (11)$$

It is easy then to show that

$$\frac{3}{23} \alpha_{\text{EM}}^{-1}(M_Z) = \alpha_3^{-1}(M_Z) + (b_3^0 - \frac{14}{23} b_1^0 - \frac{9}{23} b_2^0) \ln\left(\frac{M_I}{M_Z}\right) + (b_C^1 - \frac{14}{23} b_Y^1 - \frac{9}{23} b_L^1) \ln\left(\frac{M}{M_I}\right) \quad (12)$$

and

$$\sin^2 \theta_W(M_Z) = 3\alpha_{\text{EM}}(M_Z) \left[ \alpha_3^{-1}(M_Z) + (b_3^0 - b_2^0) \ln\left(\frac{M_I}{M_Z}\right) + (b_C^1 - b_L^1) \ln\left(\frac{M}{M_I}\right) \right], \quad (13)$$

where  $b_i^0$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3$  are the same as above, but  $b_i^1$ ,  $i = C, Y, L$  depend upon the structure of the subgroup  $G_L \otimes G_C \otimes G_R \otimes \dots \equiv G_I$ .

Equation (13) indicates that  $G_I$  cannot be  $\text{SU}(3)_C \otimes \text{SU}(2)_L \otimes \text{SU}(2)_R \otimes \text{U}(1)_{Y(B-L)}$  because if that were the case  $b_C^1 = b_3^0$  and  $b_L^1 = b_2^0$ , and since the first entry of the right-hand side of Eq. (13) has an experimental value of 0.192,  $M_I \simeq 3M_Z$  is required to be satisfied and, therefore, there is a very small value for the masses of the gauge bosons associated with  $\text{SU}(2)_R$ . With the minimal set of Higgs fields  $G_I$  contains therefore flavor-changing

neutral currents and thus  $M_I$  has to be greater than 100 TeV. The first two terms of the right-hand side of Eq. (13) have then a lower bound of 0.36, and the experimental value for  $\sin^2\theta_W(M_Z)$  requires that  $(b_C^1 - b_L^1) < 0$  which is not satisfied by the minimal set of Higgs fields and VEV's [1].

We are therefore led to consider introducing a minimum change in the set of HF's and/or VEV's such that the new set properly breaks the symmetry, guarantees the survival hypothesis, produces appropriate values for  $\sin^2\theta_W(M_Z)$ , and satisfies the mass hierarchy  $M \gg M_I \gg M_Z \sim 10^2$  GeV. An analysis of Table I shows that a symmetry-breaking pattern in three steps with  $G_I = \text{SU}(6)_L \otimes \text{SU}(4)_C \otimes \text{U}(1)_Y \otimes \dots$  produces consistent results provided we introduce the following two changes. First, add a new set of Higgs fields

$$\phi'_2 = \phi'(1323) = \phi'_{2,\{a,b\}} + \phi'_{2,\{A,B\}} + \phi'_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}} \quad (14)$$

with VEV's in the directions  $\{a,b\}=\{3,6\}=-\{4,5\}$ ,  $\{A,B\}$  similar to  $\{a,b\}$  and  $\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{5,5\}$ , and second, orient the VEV's such that  $\langle \phi'_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{5,5\}} \rangle = \langle \phi'_{2,\{a,b\}} \rangle = \langle \phi'_{2,\{A,B\}} \rangle = 0$ . For this particular choice of VEV's we have that  $b_C^1 = (\frac{88}{3} - \frac{2 \times 12}{3} - \frac{148}{3})/4\pi$ ,  $b_L^1 = (\frac{132}{3} - \frac{2 \times 12}{3} - \frac{107}{3})/4\pi$  and  $b_Y^1 = -(\frac{2 \times 12}{3} + \frac{9}{14})/4\pi$ , where the extended survival hypothesis [3] was taken into account for the contribution of the HF's.

As can be seen, the Higgs fields play a fundamental role in Eqs. (12) and (13). Notice also that the symmetry-breaking pattern is achieved with  $M = \langle \phi_3 \rangle$ ,  $M_I = \langle \phi_1 \rangle + \langle \phi_2 \rangle + \langle \phi'_2 \rangle$ ,  $M_Z = \langle \phi_4 \rangle$ , and that  $\phi_3$  plays no role in the evolution of the gauge coupling constants.

Substituting now in Eqs. (12) and (13) the experimental values for  $\sin^2\theta_W(M_Z)$ ,  $\alpha_{EM}(M_Z)$ ,  $\alpha_3(M_Z)$  we obtain the equations

$$1.10 = 1.02 \ln \left( \frac{M_I}{M_Z} \right) - 2.26 \ln \left( \frac{M}{M_I} \right),$$

$$7.83 = 1.25 \ln \left( \frac{M_I}{M_Z} \right) - 1.82 \ln \left( \frac{M}{M_I} \right),$$

which for  $M_Z = 91$  GeV have the solutions  $M_I \sim 10^9$  GeV and  $M \sim 10^{12}$  GeV. These results are in good agreement with those obtained from the analysis of the generational seesaw mechanism in this model [6].

## STABILITY OF THE PROTON

### A. Baryon number for the particles

The elementary particles in the model are the ones associated with the 105 GF's, the 108 Weyl fields in  $\psi(108)_L$  and the 4104 HF's in  $\phi_i$ ,  $i=1-4$  and  $\phi'_2$ . Now, all the elementary particles in our model have a well-defined Baryon Number  $B$ . Let us note the following.

(1) *The GF.* The 70 GF's associated with  $\text{SU}(6)_L \otimes \text{SU}(6)_R$  have  $B = 0$ . For  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  we have that the 9 leptoquarks have  $B$  equal to  $1/3$ , and the other 17 GF's have  $B = 0$  (including the 8 gluon fields).

(2) *The Weyl fermion fields.* The quark fields in  $\psi(\bar{6}, 6, 1)_L$  have  $B = 1/3$ , the quark fields in  $\psi(1, \bar{6}, 6)_L$  have  $B = -1/3$  and all the other fields in  $\psi(108)_L$  have  $B = 0$ .

(3) *The HF.*  $B$  for the 4104 HF's of the model is given in Table II.

### B. Baryon number as a symmetry of the model

In the subspace of the fundamental representation of  $\text{SU}(6)_C$   $B$  can be associated with the  $6 \times 6$  diagonal matrix  $B = \text{Diag}(1/3, 1/3, 1/3, 0, 0, 0)$ . This matrix does not correspond to a generator of  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  neither of  $G$ . Now, the full Lagrangian  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{gauge}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Higgs}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{Yukawa}}$  has a  $\text{U}(1)_\chi$  global symmetry, where  $\chi$  is a constant whose magnitude depends solely on the label of the  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  representation. For example  $\chi = 1$  for  $\psi(\bar{6}, 6, 1)$ ,  $\chi = 0$  for  $G(1, 35, 1)$ ,  $\chi = -2$  for  $\phi(1, \bar{15}, 15)$ , etc. Conveniently normalized, the  $\text{U}(1)_\chi$  generator may be written in the fundamental representation of  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  as  $\chi = \text{Diag}(1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)/\sqrt{12}$ , which is not an element of the Lie algebra of  $G$  either.

On the other hand, in the Lie algebra of  $G$  there is a generator, an element of the  $\text{SU}(6)_C$  subalgebra, of the form

TABLE I. The index of the scalars for  $\text{SU}(4)_C$  and  $\text{SU}(6)_L$ .

$\langle \phi \rangle$	$\text{SU}(4)_C$	$C_C^1(\text{scalars})$	$\text{SU}(6)_L$	$C_L^1(\text{scalars})$
$\langle \phi_{1,\{a,b\}}^{\{A,B\}} \rangle$		0	fourteen <b>15</b> 's	56
$\langle \phi_{1,\{A,B\}}^{\{\alpha,\beta\}} \rangle$	fourteen <b>4</b> 's	14		0
$\langle \phi_{1,\{\alpha,\beta\}}^{\{a,b\}} \rangle$	fifteen <b>4</b> 's	15	four <b>15</b> 's	16
$\langle \phi_{2,\{a,b\}}^{\{A,B\}} \rangle$		0	fourteen <b>21</b> 's	112
$\langle \phi_{2,\{A,B\}}^{\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{4,5\}} \rangle$	fourteen <b>4</b> 's	14		0
$\langle \phi_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{4,5\}}^{\{a,b\}} \rangle$	twenty-one <b>4</b> 's	21	four <b>21</b> 's	32
$\langle \phi_{2,\{a,b\}}^{\{A,B\}} \rangle$		0	fourteen <b>21</b> 's	112
$\langle \phi_{2,\{A,B\}}^{\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{5,5\}} \rangle$	fourteen <b>10</b> 's	84		0
$\langle \phi_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}=\{5,5\}}^{\{a,b\}} \rangle$	twenty-one <b>10</b> 's	126	ten <b>21</b> 's	80
$\langle \phi_{4,A}^a \rangle$		0	three <b>6</b> 's	3

TABLE II. Baryon number of the 4104 Higgs fields.

$\phi$	$\alpha, \beta$	$a, b$	$A, B$	$B$
$\phi_{1(3),[A,B]}^{[A,B]}$		$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$	$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	0
$\phi_{1(3),[A,B]}^{[\alpha,\beta]}$	$\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	-1/3
	$\alpha, \beta = 4, 5, 6$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	0
	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3; \beta = 4, 5, 6$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	1/3
$\phi_{1(3),\{\alpha,\beta\}}^{[\alpha,b]}$	$\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		1/3
	$\alpha, \beta = 4, 5, 6$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		0
	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3; \beta = 4, 5, 6$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		-1/3
$\phi_{2,\{a,b\}}^{(i)\{A,B\}}$		$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$	$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	0
$\phi_{2,\{A,B\}}^{(i)\{\alpha,\beta\}}$	$\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	2/3
	$\alpha, \beta = 4, 5, 6$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	0
	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3; \beta = 4, 5, 6$		$A, B = 1, \dots, 6$	1/3
$\phi_{2,\{\alpha,\beta\}}^{(i)\{a,b\}}$	$\alpha, \beta = 1, 2, 3$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		-2/3
	$\alpha, \beta = 4, 5, 6$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		0
	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3; \beta = 4, 5, 6$	$a, b = 1, \dots, 6$		-1/3
$\phi_{4,A}^a$		$a = 1, \dots, 6$	$A = 1, \dots, 6$	0
$\phi_{4,a}^\alpha$	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3$	$a = 1, \dots, 6$		1/3
	$\alpha = 4, 5, 6$	$a = 1, \dots, 6$		0
$\phi_{4,\alpha}^A$	$\alpha = 1, 2, 3$		$A = 1, \dots, 6$	-1/3
	$\alpha = 4, 5, 6$		$A = 1, \dots, 6$	0

$$B' = \text{Diag}(1, 1, 1, -1, -1, -1)/\sqrt{12}, \quad (15)$$

which distinguishes between quarks and leptons in our model. Therefore  $B$  can be written as  $B = [\chi + B']/\sqrt{3}$ .

Since the elementary particles of this model have a well-defined  $B$ , it is obvious that in the unbroken theory the exchange of particles cannot break  $B$ . This statement is also true after breaking the symmetry due to the following two facts: The baryon number is not gauged (there is no gauge boson associated to  $B$ );  $\phi_i, i=1-4$ , and  $\phi'_2$  with the VEV's as stated do not break  $B$  spontaneously. That is,  $B(\phi_i) = B(\phi'_2) = 0, i = 1, 2, 3, 4$ . Therefore,  $B$  is conserved in our model [7]. Since  $B$  is conserved, the proton is perturbatively stable.

Now, the single Goldstone boson associated with the broken orthogonal combination is absorbed by the massive gauge field associated with  $B'$ . Therefore, there are

no physical Goldstone bosons, and there is no extra long range force. This mechanism in which a global symmetry emerges from the simultaneous breaking of a gauge and global symmetry is due to 't Hooft [8] and was implemented in the context of grand unified models in Ref. [9].

Finally we would like to mention that, contrary to baryon number, lepton number is violated in this model due to the fact that the GF's associated with the  $U(1)_{Y(B-L)}$  generator is gauged. Therefore, neither  $L, (B-L)$  or  $(B+L)$  are conserved quantities.

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