



GUT and Flavor Models for Neutrino Masses and Mixing

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In the recent years neutrino experiments have studied in detail the phenomenon of neutrino oscillations and most of the oscillation parameters have been measured with a good accuracy. However, in spite of many interesting ideas, the problem of flavor in the lepton sector remains an open issue. In this review, we discuss the state of the art of models for neutrino masses and mixing formulated in the context of flavor symmetries, with particular emphasis on the role played by grand unified gauge groups.

Keywords: grand unified theory, neutrino mass, flavor symmetries, discrete symmetries, group theory

1. INTRODUCTION

In the course of the last two decades, valuable experimental evidences for three families of massive neutrinos and flavor neutrino oscillations were obtained in various experimental channels, and the parameters which characterize the mixing are now known with a relatively high precision. As a consequence, the existence of non-vanishing neutrino masses and mixing have been firmly established. In spite of the huge amount of available data, many properties of the neutrino physics are yet poorly known or even completely unknown as, just to mention some of them, whether the massive neutrinos are Dirac or Majorana particles [1], what kind of spectrum the neutrino masses obeys, what is the absolute scale of neutrino masses, what is the octant for the atmospheric mixing angle θ_{23} and what are the values of the CP violating phases in the leptonic sector. In a unified description of fermion masses and mixing, the above-mentioned features must be somehow linked to quark properties which, however, appear so dissimilar to make such a connection very hard to find; this is the well-known *flavor problem*. Let us take the mixing angles as an example. Quark and neutral leptonic mixings are described by the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix V_{CKM} [2, 3] and the Pontecorvo-Maki-Nakagawa-Sakata matrix U_{PMNS} [4–7], respectively. Although one can assume an identical parametrization, **Figure 1** shows that the absolute values of the matrix elements are quite different: the V_{CKM} is an almost diagonal matrix, with the largest deviation from 1 coming from the Cabibbo angle in the (12) position while the U_{PMNS} exhibits a pattern where all but the (13) entry are of the same order of magnitude of $\mathcal{O}(1)$. Since at the end of the day the V_{CKM} and U_{PMNS} matrices all come from the Yukawa matrices of the theory, one would naively expect no sort of relations among their entries, which is obviously the case. Unless one decides to take seriously the numerical *quark-lepton complementarity* relation [8–11] that connects the solar θ_{12} and atmospheric θ_{23} leptonic angles to the Cabibbo angle θ_C , $\theta_{12} + \theta_C \sim \pi/4$. In this case (and also for other similar relations), Grand Unified Theories (GUT) supplemented with the help of family symmetries could provide a simple explanation so that their role in deciphering the flavor problem cannot be neglected. In fact, while GUT groups relate the properties of particles belonging to different species, thus establishing a connections among mass matrices of leptons and quarks, flavor symmetries act on the members of particles of the same species but different families, enabling a strong connection between the matrix elements of a given mass matrix. Thus, one can arrange the theory in such a way that flavor symmetries are mainly responsible for a definite mixing

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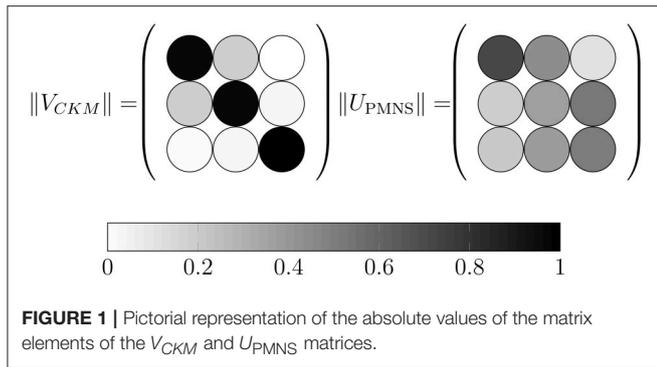
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pattern in the neutrino sector and that GUT symmetries introduce the Cabibbo angle in the leptonic sector as a correction to the U_{PMNS} given by the diagonalization of the charged lepton mass matrix (somehow related to the down quark masses).

Notice that the additional degree of symmetry involved in these theories allows a substantial decrease of the number of independent parameters compared to the Standard Model case (which amounts to 19) and, quite often, the model produces observable predictions that can be verified by experiments. The typical example in GUT theories is related to the mean life of the proton τ_p ; since the new colored gauge bosons and scalars implied by the larger symmetry can mediate proton decay at a rate faster than the age of the Universe, many variations have been ruled out based on the predicted upper limit on τ_p . On the other hand, the less freedom in the elements of the mass matrices subsequent to the imposition of flavor symmetries allowed in the past to derive patterns of leptonic mixing in very good agreement with the old neutrino data which unfortunately do not resist to the comparison with the more precise measurements as we currently have. The typical example is provided by the so-called Tribimaximal mixing (TBM [12–16], more on this and other patterns later in section 4) which predicts $\theta_{13} = 0$ and requires *ad-hoc* large corrections to fall over acceptable ranges. Given the vastness of the scientific production in terms of models employing flavor symmetries, we restrict ourselves here to non-abelian discrete symmetries and abelian $U(1)$'s. While the latter have been inspired by the Froggatt and Nielsen mechanism [17], the former answers to the necessity of explaining the existence of three generations of fermions or at least to unify two of them (that is why *non-abelian* group), avoiding at the same time the presence of Goldstone and gauge bosons coming from their spontaneous symmetry breaking (that is why *discrete*). Discrete symmetries can be inspired by different extensions of the Standard Model (SM); for example, one can start with an $SU(3)$ invariant theory and then break it into its discrete groups using large Higgs representations [18]; or one can consider extra dimensional theories [19] (also string inspired), where the new dimensions are properly compactified and the discrete group appears as a remnant of the n -dimensional space-time symmetry [19].

Although the combination $GUT \oplus flavor$ seems to be even more restrictive in terms of free parameters, the aim of this short review is to show that several attempts in this direction have

been done that produced good results. But, before arriving at this conclusion, we will devote section 3 to the understanding of the main prediction for neutrino masses in GUT theories and section 4 on the role played by flavor. Only in section 5 we will investigate the physics opportunity given by the union of these two different types of symmetries.

2. REMARKS ON NEUTRINO MASSES

2.1. Dirac Mass Term

Dirac neutrino masses can be generated by the same Higgs mechanism that gives masses to quarks and charged leptons in the SM. To this aim, we need to introduce SM singlet fermions ν_{Ri} and the related Yukawa couplings with the Higgs field; after spontaneous symmetry breaking, the Lagrangian containing the lepton mass terms is given by:

$$\mathcal{L}_{mass} = -\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{\alpha,\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (\bar{\nu}_{\alpha L} Y_{\alpha\beta}^{\nu} \nu_{\beta R} + \text{h.c.}) -\frac{v}{\sqrt{2}} \sum_{\alpha,\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (\bar{\ell}_{\alpha L} Y_{\alpha\beta}^{\ell} \ell_{\beta R} + \text{h.c.}), \quad (1)$$

where ℓ_{α} represents the charged lepton fields, v is the vacuum expectation value (vev) of the Higgs field and Y^{ν} and Y^{ℓ} are the Yukawa couplings of neutrinos and charged leptons, respectively, accommodated in 3×3 matrices. The diagonalization of $Y^{\nu,\ell}$ can be performed with a biunitary transformation:

$$U_L^{\nu\dagger} Y^{\nu} U_R^{\nu} = Y'^{\nu} \quad \text{with} \quad Y'_{ij}{}^{\nu} = y_i^{\nu} \delta_{ij}, \quad (2)$$

$$U_L^{\ell\dagger} Y^{\ell} U_R^{\ell} = Y'^{\ell} \quad \text{with} \quad Y'_{\alpha\beta}{}^{\ell} = y_{\alpha}^{\ell} \delta_{\alpha\beta}, \quad (3)$$

and, consequently, the left and right-handed components of the fields with definite mass are as follows:

$$\nu_{kL} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (U_L^{\nu\dagger})_{k\beta} \nu_{\beta L}, \quad \nu_{kR} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (U_R^{\nu\dagger})_{k\beta} \nu_{\beta R}, \quad (4)$$

$$\ell'_{\alpha L} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (U_L^{\ell\dagger})_{\alpha\beta} \ell_{\beta L}, \quad \ell'_{\alpha R} = \sum_{\beta=e,\mu,\tau} (U_R^{\ell\dagger})_{\alpha\beta} \ell_{\beta R}. \quad (5)$$

In terms of the mass states defined in Equations (4) and (5), the Lagrangian in (1) can be rewritten as:

$$\mathcal{L}_{mass} = -\sum_{k=1,2,3} \frac{vy_k^{\nu}}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{\nu}_{kL} \nu_{kR} + \text{h.c.}) -\sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \frac{vy_{\alpha}^{\ell}}{\sqrt{2}} (\bar{\ell}'_{\alpha L} \ell'_{\alpha R} + \text{h.c.}) = \quad (6)$$

$$= -\sum_{k=1,2,3} \frac{vy_k^{\nu}}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\nu}_k \nu_k -\sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \frac{vy_{\alpha}^{\ell}}{\sqrt{2}} \bar{\ell}'_{\alpha} \ell'_{\alpha}, \quad (7)$$

with

$$\nu_k = \nu_{kL} + \nu_{kR}, \quad \ell'_{\alpha} = \ell'_{\alpha L} + \ell'_{\alpha R}.$$

More importantly, the mixings driven by $U_L^{\nu,\ell}$ enter in the leptonic charged current expressed in terms of mass eigenstates as

$$J_{CC}^\mu = \sum_{k=1,2,3} \sum_{\alpha=e,\mu,\tau} \bar{\nu}_{kL} \gamma^\mu (U_L^{\nu\dagger} U_L^\ell)_{k\alpha} e'_{\alpha L}, \quad (8)$$

and give rise to the well known PMNS matrix:

$$U_{\text{PMNS}} = U_L^{\ell\dagger} U_L^\nu. \quad (9)$$

This unitary matrix is generally parametrized in terms of three mixing angles and one CP-violating phase, in a way similar to that used for V_{CKM} :

$$U_{\text{PMNS}} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (10)$$

where $c_{ij} = \cos(\theta_{ij})$, $s_{ij} = \sin(\theta_{ij})$ and θ_{ij} are the mixing angles ($0 \leq \theta_{ij} \leq \pi/2$). δ is the Dirac CP-violating phase ranging in the interval $0 \leq \delta < 2\pi$.

The current best-fit values and the allowed 1σ and 3σ ranges for the oscillation parameters as well as for the two independent mass differences $\Delta m_{kj}^2 = m_k^2 - m_j^2$, as obtained from the flavor transition experiments, are summarized in **Table 1**. Normal Ordering refers to the situation in which $m_1 < m_2 < m_3$, whereas for the Inverted Ordering we mean $m_3 < m_1 < m_2$.

The reported values are obtained from the global analysis of Esteban et al. [20].

2.2. Majorana Mass Terms

With the minimal particle content of the SM, namely leptons L_i and the Higgs doublet H :

$$L_i = \begin{pmatrix} \nu \\ e \end{pmatrix}_{iL}, \quad H = \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (11)$$

one can generate dimension five operators of the form:

$$\mathcal{L}_5 \sim \frac{Y_{ij}}{\Lambda} \bar{L}_i L_j \tilde{H} \tilde{H}^T, \quad (12)$$

TABLE 1 | Value of the oscillation parameters obtained from a global analysis from Esteban et al. [20].

Parameter	Normal ordering		Inverted ordering	
	Best fit	3 σ range	Best fit	3 σ range
$\sin^2 \theta_{12}/10^{-1}$	$3.06^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$	$2.71 \div 3.45$	$3.06^{+0.12}_{-0.12}$	$2.71 \div 3.45$
$\sin^2 \theta_{13}/10^{-2}$	$2.166^{+0.075}_{-0.075}$	$1.934 \div 2.392$	$2.179^{+0.076}_{-0.076}$	$1.953 \div 2.408$
$\sin^2 \theta_{23}/10^{-1}$	$4.41^{+0.27}_{-0.21}$	$3.85 \div 6.35$	$5.87^{+0.20}_{-0.24}$	$3.93 \div 6.40$
δ	$4.56^{+0.89}_{-1.03}$	$0 \div 2\pi$	$4.83^{+0.70}_{-0.80}$	$0 \div 2\pi$
$\Delta m_{21}^2/10^{-5} \text{ [eV}^2\text{]}$	$7.50^{+0.19}_{-0.17}$	$7.03 \div 8.09$	$7.50^{+0.19}_{-0.17}$	$7.03 \div 8.09$
$\Delta m_{3\ell}^2/10^{-3} \text{ [eV}^2\text{]}$	$+2.524^{+0.039}_{-0.040}$	$+2.407 \div +2.643$	$-2.514^{+0.038}_{-0.041}$	$-2.635 \div -2.399$

For the squared mass difference in the last line, $\ell = 1$ in the Normal Ordering and $\ell = 2$ in the Inverted Ordering.

where Λ can be understood as the scale where new physics probably sets in and $\tilde{H} = -i\tau_2 H^*$. In fact, two SM singlets are built from the product of four $SU(2)_L$ doublets as [21]:

$$2 \otimes 2 \otimes 2 \otimes 2 = (3 \oplus 1) \otimes (3 \oplus 1), \quad (13)$$

either via the product of two triplets or by the product of two singlets. Since L and H are different fields, we have four possible combinations that can give an overall $SU(2)_L$ singlet:

$$\begin{aligned} O_1 &= (L_i H)_1 (L_j H)_1 & O_2 &= (L_i L_j)_1 (H H)_1 \\ O_3 &= (L_i L_j)_3 (H H)_3 & O_4 &= (L_i H)_3 (L_j H)_3, \end{aligned}$$

where the subscript 1, 3 refer to the $SU(2)_L$ representation. Since $(H H)_1 = 0$ due to the antisymmetry under the exchange of the two doublets, only $O_{1,3,4}$ contribute to neutrino masses. In particular, the explicit form of the bilinear are as follows:

$$(L_i L_j)_1 \sim \nu_i e_j - e_i \nu_j \quad (L_i L_j)_3 \sim \begin{pmatrix} \nu_i \nu_j \\ \nu_i e_j + e_i \nu_j \\ e_i e_j \end{pmatrix} \quad (14)$$

$$(L_i H)_1 \sim \nu_i \phi^0 - e_i \phi^+ \quad (L_i H)_3 \sim \begin{pmatrix} \nu_i \phi^+ \\ \nu_i \phi^0 + e_i \phi^+ \\ e_i \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (15)$$

$$(H H)_3 \sim \begin{pmatrix} \phi^+ \phi^+ \\ \phi^+ \phi^0 + \phi^0 \phi^+ \\ \phi^0 \phi^0 \end{pmatrix} \quad (16)$$

from which we realize that O_1 , O_3 and O_4 all contain the combination of fields $\nu_i \nu_j (\phi^0)^2$ that generate neutrino masses after electroweak spontaneous symmetry breaking. However, giving their different contractions of the $SU(2)_L$ indices, O_1 has a tree-level realization in terms of the interchange of a heavy SM singlet ν_R , the type-I see-saw mechanism [22–26], whereas heavy triplets are needed to realize O_3 and O_4 , either with the interchange of a scalar particle (the type-II see-saw mechanism [27]) or of a fermion field (the type-III mechanism [28]), see **Figure 2**.

In the first case, the introduction of three right-handed neutrinos $N_i \equiv \nu_{R_i}$ allows for an invariant mass Lagrangian of the form [29]:

$$\mathcal{L}_m = -Y_{ij} \bar{L}_i (\tilde{H} N_j) + \frac{1}{2} \bar{N}_i^c M_{ij} N_j + h.c. \quad (17)$$

The first term in this equation is known as the *Dirac mass term* and it is essentially a copy of the mass term “employed” by the charged fermions and quarks to get their masses. The second term, instead, is a pure *Majorana* contribution to the neutrino mass. After spontaneous symmetry breaking, \mathcal{L}_m gives rise to the Dirac mass matrix $(m_D)_{ij} \equiv Y_{ij}(H)$, which is non-hermitian and non-symmetric, and to the Majorana mass matrix M which is symmetric. Assuming all N_i to be very heavy, one can integrate them away so that the resulting light neutrino mass matrix reads:

$$m_\nu = -m_D M^{-1} m_D^T. \quad (18)$$

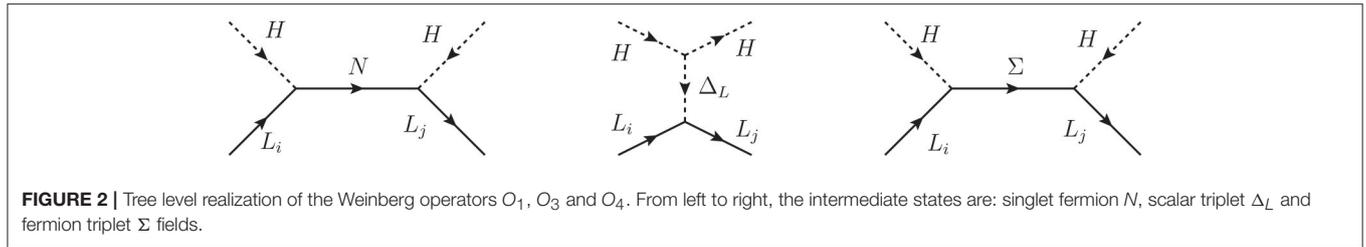


FIGURE 2 | Tree level realization of the Weinberg operators O_1 , O_3 and O_4 . From left to right, the intermediate states are: singlet fermion N , scalar triplet Δ_L and fermion triplet Σ fields.

The type-I see-saw mechanism shows that the light neutrino masses depend quadratically on the Dirac masses but are inversely proportional to the large Majorana mass, so that the scale of new physics is clearly $\Lambda = M$.

In the case of type-II mechanism, at least one scalar $SU(2)_L$ triplet must be added to the field content of the SM; for values of the weak hypercharge equal to +1, the triplet has the following components:

$$\Delta_L = \begin{pmatrix} \Delta^{++} \\ \Delta^+ \\ \Delta^0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{19}$$

and the Lagrangian terms that accommodate the new states and are relevant for neutrino masses are:

$$\mathcal{L}_\Delta \sim \left(k_{ij} \bar{L}_i (\sigma \cdot \Delta_L^\dagger) L_j^c - \mu_\Delta \tilde{H}^T (\sigma \cdot \Delta_L) \tilde{H} + h.c. \right) + m_\Delta^2 |\Delta_L|^2, \tag{20}$$

where σ_i are the Pauli matrices and k_{ij} the new Yukawa couplings induced by the presence of Δ_L . Assuming that the scalar potential has a minimum in the direction $\langle \Delta_L \rangle = (0, 0, v_\Delta)$ (as well as in the standard vacuum $\langle H \rangle = (0, v)$) and that the hierarchy $m_\Delta^2 \gg \mu_\Delta v$ is valid, then the light neutrino mass matrix is:

$$(m_\nu)_{ij} \sim \frac{\mu_\Delta v^2}{m_\Delta^2} k_{ij}; \tag{21}$$

in this case, the scale of new physics is approximately given by $\Lambda \sim m_\Delta^2 / \mu_\Delta$.

In the last case of type-III see-saw mechanism, the triplet hyperchargeless fermions Σ can be arranged in the following form:

$$\Sigma = \begin{pmatrix} \Sigma^0 / \sqrt{2} & \Sigma^+ \\ \Sigma^- & -\Sigma^0 / \sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{22}$$

and the related Lagrangian reads:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\Sigma-} \sim k_{ij}^\Sigma \bar{L}_i \tilde{H} \Sigma_j + (m_\Sigma)_{ij} \text{Tr} (\bar{\Sigma}_i^c \Sigma_j), \tag{23}$$

where again k_{ij}^Σ is a Yukawa coupling matrix. Under the hypothesis that $m_\Sigma \gg k^\Sigma v$, the light mass matrix assumes the form

$$m_\nu \sim -k^\Sigma \frac{1}{m_\Sigma} (k^\Sigma)^T v^2, \tag{24}$$

which is very similar to Equation (18) since, for the purposes of neutrino masses, the state Σ^0 acts like a right-handed neutrino.

It has to be noted that the Majorana nature of neutrinos modifies the PMNS matrix of Equation (10) to take into account two more independent CP violating phases α and β that cannot be eliminated by a rotation of the neutrino fields; a possible convention for the *new* U_{PMNS} is as follows:

$$U'_{\text{PMNS}} = U_{\text{PMNS}} \times \text{diag}\{1, e^{i\alpha/2}, e^{i\beta/2}\}. \tag{25}$$

Neutrino oscillation data cannot determine whether the massive neutrinos are Dirac or Majorana particles because the new phases cancel out of the oscillation amplitudes.

3. NEUTRINO MASSES AND MIXING IN GUT THEORIES

The possibility to generate non-zero neutrino masses through the see-saw mechanism, which requires quite a large $B - L$ scale, fit rather naturally in grand unified models based on the gauge group $SO(10)$ [30]. Putting aside Supersymmetry (SUSY) for the moment, the experimental constraints from the lifetime of the proton and from the weak mixing angle $\sin^2 \theta_W$ impose that $SO(10)$ breaks to the SM at least in two or more steps [31, 32]. In a minimal setup which allows for a two-step breaking, the intermediate gauge groups (typically a Pati-Salam group $SU(4) \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R \equiv 4_C 2_L 2_R$ [33]) is broken down to the SM at a scale around 10^{12} GeV, which is usually also the scale of the Majorana masses. To accomplish this program, the Higgs sector must be carefully chosen in such a way to avoid bad mass relations of the $SU(5)$ type [34]. Let us discuss an example. Consider the following chain:

$$SO(10) \xrightarrow{M_U - 210_H} 4_C 2_L 2_R \xrightarrow{M_I - 126_H} SM \xrightarrow{M_Z - 10_H} SU(3)_C U(1)_{EM} \tag{26}$$

where the three mass scales refer to the scale where $SO(10)$ is broken down to the PS (M_U), where PS is broken to the SM (M_I) and finally where the SM group is broken down to the electromagnetism (M_Z). The $SO(10)$ representations used to perform the various stages of symmetry breaking are also indicated. With fermions in the **16** representation, the Yukawa Lagrangian contains two terms:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathbf{16} (h \mathbf{10}_H + f \overline{\mathbf{126}}_H) \mathbf{16}, \tag{27}$$

where the couplings h and f are 3×3 symmetric matrices in flavor space. In terms of their PS quantum numbers, the Higgses in Equation (26) decompose as:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{10}_H &= (1, 2, 2) \oplus (6, 1, 1), \\ \mathbf{126}_H &= (6, 1, 1) \oplus (\overline{10}, 3, 1) \oplus (10, 1, 3) \oplus (15, 2, 2). \end{aligned}$$

Of all the previous sub-multiplets, the ones useful for generating neutrino (and fermion) masses are the $(1, 2, 2) \equiv \Phi \in \mathbf{10}_H$ entering the last breaking in Equation (26) and that contains an $SU(2)_L$ doublet, the $(10, 1, 3) \equiv \Delta_R \in \mathbf{126}_H$ to allow for right-handed Majorana masses and the $(15, 2, 2) \equiv \Sigma \in \mathbf{126}_H$ which also contains an $SU(2)_L$ doublet. Using the extended survival hypothesis [31], we assume that both Δ_R and Σ have masses around M_I , and all other multiplets are close to the GUT scale¹.

A comment here is in order. The $(1, 2, 2)$ of the $\mathbf{10}_H$ representation can be decomposed into

$$(1, 2, 2) = (1, 2, +\frac{1}{2}) \oplus (1, 2, -\frac{1}{2}) \equiv H_u \oplus H_d \quad (28)$$

under the SM group; if $10_H = 10_H^*$ then $H_u^* = H_d$ as in the SM but, as it has been shown in Bajc et al. [37], in the limit $V_{cb} = 0$ the ratio m_t/m_b should be close to 1, in contrast with the experimental fact that at the GUT scale $m_t/m_b \gg 1$. On the other hand, even though the $\mathbf{10}_H$ is a real representation from the $SO(10)$ point of view, one can choose its components to be either real or complex. In the latter case, $10_H \neq 10_H^*$ and then $H_u^* \neq H_d$. In order to keep the parameter space at an acceptable level, it is a common practice to introduce an extra symmetry (for instance, the Peccei-Quinn $U(1)_{PQ}$ [38]) to avoid the Yukawa couplings related to 10_H^* .

For the vev values of the $\mathbf{10}_H$ components we will use the following short-hand notation:

$$k_u \equiv \langle (1, 2, 2)_{10}^u \rangle \neq k_d \equiv \langle (1, 2, 2)_{10}^d \rangle. \quad (29)$$

For the vev of the $\mathbf{126}_H$, instead, one can take full advantage of the fact that a vev for the doublet Σ (that we call $v_{u,d}$) can be induced by a term in the scalar potential of the form [39]:

$$V = \lambda \mathbf{126}_H \overline{\mathbf{126}_H} \mathbf{126}_H \mathbf{10}_H \rightarrow \lambda \Delta_R \overline{\Delta_R} \Sigma \Phi,$$

which gives:

$$v_{u,d} \sim \lambda \frac{v_R^2}{M_{(15,2,2)}^2} k_{u,d}, \quad (30)$$

where $v_R = \langle (10, 1, 3) \rangle$. According to this, the fermion mass matrices of the model assume the form:

$$\begin{aligned} M_u &= h k_u + f v_u, & M_d &= h k_d + f v_d \\ M_\nu^D &= h k_u - 3 f v_u, & M_l &= h k_d - 3 f v_d, & M_\nu^M &= f v_R. \end{aligned} \quad (31)$$

¹One can safely estimate that the colored states Δ_R and Σ do not give a catastrophic contribution to proton decay [35, 36].

These relations clearly show why the Yukawa sector requires more than the $\mathbf{10}_H$; in fact, in the absence of the $\mathbf{126}_H$ (or $\mathbf{120}_H$) one would get $M_d \equiv M_l$, which is phenomenologically wrong. The role of the $\mathbf{126}_H$ in $SO(10)$ theories is exactly to break the wrong mass relations and the factor of 3 appearing in Equation (31), derived from the vev of Σ of the $\mathbf{126}_H$, is the equivalent of the Georgi-Jarlskog factor of the non-minimal $SU(5)$ [40].

Under the hypothesis that the type-I see-saw mechanism is responsible for the light neutrino masses, a fit can be performed which fixes the entries of the h and f couplings to reproduce the low energy observables in the flavor sector (also in the supersymmetric case) in the full three-flavor approach [35, 41, 42]. This partially contradicts the conclusions derived in the two-flavor limit, where the type-I see-saw mechanism has been shown to be incompatible with a large atmospheric mixing. To show this, let us approximate $M_\nu^D \approx M_u$ and work in the basis where the charged leptons are diagonal; assuming a small up and down quark mixings λ_C (of the order of the Cabibbo angle), Equation (18) tells us that

$$m_\nu \sim 4 r_R \begin{pmatrix} m_c^2/(m_s - m_\mu) & \lambda_C \\ \lambda_C & m_t^2/(m_b - m_\tau) \end{pmatrix}, \quad (32)$$

so that two non-degenerate eigenvalues can be generated whose squared difference can be made of the correct order of magnitude $\sim 10^{-3} eV^2$, but the atmospheric mixing angle is suppressed by λ_C , thus making this construction incompatible with the data.

Relations of the form (31) are also obtained in the minimal $SU(5)$ scenario with a $\mathbf{5}_H$ and fermions in the reducible $\overline{\mathbf{5}} \oplus \mathbf{10}$ representation. With this minimal Higgs content, the prediction at the GUT scale is again $M_d \equiv M_l$. To solve this problem, the scheme proposed in Georgi and Jarlskog [40] involved a slightly more complicated Higgs structure due to the presence of the $\mathbf{45}_H$ representation. It replaces the above wrong relations with the more appropriate $m_d = 3m_e$ and $3m_s = m_\mu$, which can be derived from the following textures [43]:

$$Y_u = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & p & 0 \\ p & 0 & q \\ 0 & q & v \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_d = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & r & 0 \\ r & s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_e = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & r & 0 \\ r & -3s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & t \end{pmatrix}, \quad (33)$$

and whose flavor structure can be obtained, for example, by means of additional symmetries (discussed later). In the context of $SO(10)$, the textures in Equation (33) have been obtained in Harvey et al. [44, 45], in a model with three families of left-handed fermions, $16_{1,2,3}$, two real $\mathbf{10}_H$'s, three $\mathbf{126}_H$ and one $\mathbf{45}_H$. Equally successful phenomenological attempts where instead all quark and lepton mass matrices have the same zero texture with vanishing (1,1), (1,3) and (3,3) entries have been proposed in Matsuda et al. [46].

Going beyond the type-I see-saw mechanism for neutrino masses, it has been shown that there exists a very elegant connection between the large atmospheric angle θ_{23} and the relation $m_b = m_\tau$, if the type-II see-saw is the dominant one [47, 48]. To show this, let us allow the $(\overline{10}, 3, 1)$ component of the $\mathbf{126}_H$ to take a large vev v_L . This generates a “left” mass matrix for

the Majorana neutrinos $M_\nu^L = f \nu_L$ so that the total light neutrino mass matrix is given by $m_\nu = M_\nu^L - m_D^T (M_\nu^M)^{-1} m_D$. Under the hypothesis of the dominance of type-II, in the basis where the charged leptons are diagonal we easily get:

$$m_\nu = M_\nu^L \approx M_d - M_l \approx \begin{pmatrix} m_s - m_\mu & \theta_D \\ \theta_D & m_b - m_\tau \end{pmatrix}, \quad (34)$$

(θ_D being a small down quark mixing) and a maximal atmospheric mixing necessarily requires a cancellation between m_b and m_τ . However, SM extrapolation of the fermion masses from the electroweak scale up to the GUT scale (but see [49, 50] for the effects of the intermediate mass scales in the running) shows that $m_b \sim 1.7m_\tau$ [51], so this mechanism does not seem to fit well with a non-SUSY $SO(10)$ GUT with the $\mathbf{10}_H \oplus \mathbf{126}_H$ Higgs sector [52]. This conclusion is not altered when the fit takes into account the three families of fermions. On the other hand, in the SUSY case the relation $m_b = m_\tau$ is roughly fulfilled for low $\tan \beta \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$ with no threshold corrections but also for larger $\tan \beta \sim \mathcal{O}(40)$ with significant threshold corrections. The quality of the full three-family fits in these cases is comparable.

If we insist on minimality in the Higgs sector, the next combinations are the $\mathbf{120}_H \oplus \mathbf{126}_H$ and $\mathbf{10}_H \oplus \mathbf{120}_H$. Both of them make use of the $\mathbf{120}_H$ representation which, according to the following decomposition under the PS gauge group, contains several bi-doublets useful for fermion masses:

$$\mathbf{120}_H = (10 + \overline{10}, 1, 1) \oplus (6, 3, 1) \oplus (6, 1, 3) \oplus (15, 2, 2) \oplus (1, 2, 2).$$

Models of the first kind ($\mathbf{120}_H \oplus \mathbf{126}_H$) have been considered predictive when restricted to the second and third generations [37]. However, the predicted ratio $m_b/m_\tau \sim 3$ strongly disfavors a SM (for which $m_b/m_\tau \sim 2$) and SUSY (for which $m_b/m_\tau \sim 1$) fits with neither type-I nor type-II see-saw dominance. The second combination, $\mathbf{10}_H \oplus \mathbf{120}_H$ [53], in spite of being compatible with the $b - \tau$ unification [54], produces either down-quark mass or top-quark mass unrealistically small.

In the case of a non-minimal Higgs content with $\mathbf{10}_H \oplus \mathbf{120}_H \oplus \mathbf{126}_H$, the Yukawa sector contains a large number of independent parameters but, except the supersymmetric case, the use of the $\mathbf{120}_H$ does not improve the fits in the type-II see-saw dominated case. On the other hand, the fits obtained for the type-I scenario, including neutrino observables, are considerably better than the corresponding SUSY as well as better of the $\mathbf{10}_H \oplus \mathbf{126}_H$ non-SUSY case.

4. NEUTRINO MASSES AND MIXING FROM FLAVOR SYMMETRIES

4.1. Lepton Mixing from Discrete Symmetry

The general strategy to get the leptonic mixing matrix U_{PMNS} from symmetry consideration is to assume that at some large energy scale the theory is invariant under the action of a flavor symmetry group \mathcal{G}_f ; the scalar sector is then built in a suitable way as to be broken to different subgroups in the neutrino sector \mathcal{G}_ν , and in the charged lepton sector, \mathcal{G}_ℓ . The lepton mixing originates

then from the mismatch of the embedding of \mathcal{G}_ℓ and \mathcal{G}_ν into \mathcal{G}_f . Let us assume that

$$\mathcal{G}_\ell \subset \mathcal{G}_f \quad \mathcal{G}_\nu \subset \mathcal{G}_f \quad \mathcal{G}_\ell \cap \mathcal{G}_\nu = \emptyset. \quad (35)$$

For Majorana particles, we can write the action of the elements of the subgroups of \mathcal{G}_f on the mass matrix as²

$$Q^\dagger M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell Q = M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell \quad Q \in \mathcal{G}_\ell \quad (36a)$$

$$Z^T M_\nu Z = M_\nu \quad Z \in \mathcal{G}_\nu. \quad (36b)$$

For Dirac neutrinos the last relation must be modified as:

$$Z^\dagger M_\nu^\dagger M_\nu Z = M_\nu^\dagger M_\nu \quad Z \in \mathcal{G}_\nu. \quad (37)$$

If we restrict ourselves to matrices Z with $\det Z = 1$ and to Majorana neutrinos, then the maximal invariance group of the neutrino mass matrix which leave the neutrino masses unconstrained is the Klein group $V = Z_2 \otimes Z_2$ [55–58]. The charged leptonic subgroup \mathcal{G}_ℓ could be either a cyclic group Z_n , with the index $n \geq 3$, or a product of cyclic symmetries like, for example, $Z_2 \otimes Z_2$. We discard in the discussion possible residual non-abelian symmetries because their character would result in a partial or complete degeneracy of the mass spectrum, and thus incompatible with the current data on charged lepton masses. For the same reason we assume that $Z \in \mathcal{G}_\nu$ decomposes into three inequivalent representations under \mathcal{G}_ℓ .

The diagonalization of the mass matrices is equivalent, using (36), to a rotation of the group elements Q and Z through unitary matrices as:

$$Q^{\text{diag}} = U_\ell^\dagger Q U_\ell \quad (38a)$$

$$Z^{\text{diag}} = U_\nu^\dagger Z U_\nu, \quad (38b)$$

because both \mathcal{G}_ℓ and \mathcal{G}_ν are abelian. The matrices U_ℓ and U_ν are determined up to unitary diagonal $K_{\ell,\nu}$ and permutation $P_{\ell,\nu}$ matrices:

$$U_\ell \longrightarrow U_\ell P_\ell K_\ell \quad (39a)$$

$$U_\nu \longrightarrow U_\nu P_\nu K_\nu. \quad (39b)$$

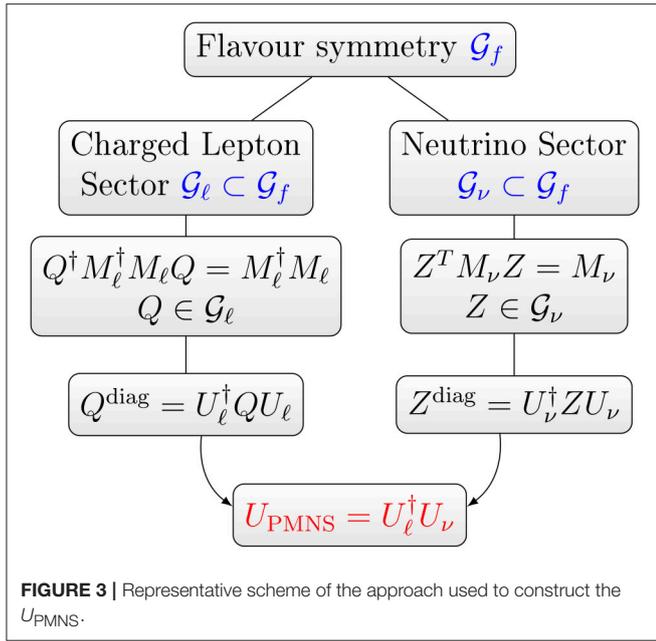
Thus, up to Majorana phases and permutations of rows and columns, the lepton mixing matrix U_{PMNS} is given by:

$$U_{PMNS} = U_\ell^\dagger U_\nu. \quad (40)$$

Notice that, as a consequence of the fact that U_{PMNS} is not completely determined, the mixing angles are fixed up to a small number of degeneracies. For the same reason, the Dirac CP phase δ is determined up to a factor π and the Majorana phases cannot be predicted because the matrix M_ν remains unconstrained in this setup. In **Figure 3** we have pictorially summarized the above procedure.

It is remarkable that, under particular assumptions on the residual symmetry groups in the neutrino and charged lepton

²The charged lepton mass matrix M_ℓ is written in the right-left basis.



sectors³, the construction we have just discussed allow for model (and mass)-independent predictions on the mixing angles (or columns of U_{PMNS}). As it has been shown in Grimus [59], Hernandez and Smirnov [60, 61], if only a cyclic group from each sector is a subgroup of the full flavor group \mathcal{G}_f , then it is possible to derive non-trivial relations between the mixing matrix in terms of the symmetry transformations which, in turn, provoke the appearance of well-defined connections among different mixing angles, also called *sum rules*. In particular, non-zero θ_{13} , deviations from maximal mixing for θ_{23} and predictions for the CP Dirac phase [62, 63] are relevant predictions in (quasi perfect) agreement with the current data. An interesting and useful classification of all possible mixing matrices completely determined by residual symmetries (originated from a finite flavor symmetry group) can be found in Fonseca and Grimus [58].

Since the family symmetry \mathcal{G}_f has to be broken to generate the observed pattern of masses and mixing, the models generally consider an enlarged Higgs sector where Higgs-type fields, called *flavons* ϕ , are neutral under the SM gauge group and break spontaneously the family symmetry by acquiring a vev

$$\epsilon = \frac{\langle \phi \rangle}{\Lambda}, \tag{41}$$

where Λ denotes a high energy mass scale. If the scale of the vev is smaller (or at least of the same order of magnitude) than Λ , one can consider ϵ as a small expansion parameter which can be used to derive Yukawa matrices with built-in hierarchies and/or precise relations among their entries. In order to do that, it is often necessary that all three lepton families are grouped into

³For instance, one can impose relations between the generators of these residual groups and/or force the determinants to assume specific values.

triplet irreducible representations, so that the possible choices for \mathcal{G}_f are $U(3)$ and subgroups. To give an example, in the case of $SU(3)$ and for the Weinberg operator of Equation (12), one can consider lepton doublets into a triplet of $SU(3)$ and the Higgs doublet H in a singlet of \mathcal{G}_f [64, 65]; the lowest dimensional $SU(3)$ invariant operator is built using a pair of flavon fields transforming in the $\bar{3}$ of $SU(3)$. For a generic flavon alignment $\langle \phi \rangle \propto (a, b, c)^T$, the neutrino mass matrix is then proportional to

$$\begin{pmatrix} a^2 & ab & ac \\ ba & b^2 & bc \\ ca & cb & c^2 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{42}$$

Special mixing patterns, as the ones discussed below, are obtained assuming particular flavon alignments in the flavor space which, quite frequently, imply well defined relations among the mixing angles and the Dirac CP-violating phase [66–72].

For a model to be consistent, the alignment must descend from the minimization of the scalar potential, without *ad-hoc* assumptions on the potential parameters. Widely used ingredients for this type of constructions are:

- the presence of additional scalar degrees of freedom, which are called *driving* fields, and are singlets under the gauge group;
- additional (perhaps cyclic) symmetries, apart from \mathcal{G}_f , which are necessary to forbid those Lagrangian operators which would prevent the desired vacuum alignment.

In SUSY frameworks, both flavons and driving fields are needed to derive the superpotential w of the model. In the limit of unbroken SUSY, the minimum of the related scalar potential V is given by the derivatives of w with respect to the components of the driving fields, which determine a set of equations for the components of the flavon fields. A detailed account of such a procedure has been given in Altarelli and Feruglio [73], to which we refer the interested reader. Here we limit ourselves to a simple representative example, extracted from de Medeiros Varzielas et al. [74]. Suppose that the SM singlet pair (φ_0, φ) is made up of a driving (φ_0) and a flavon (φ) triplet fields in such a way that terms like $\varphi_0\varphi$ and $\varphi_0\varphi^2$ are flavor invariant; thus, the most general renormalizable superpotential is given by:

$$w = M(\varphi_0\varphi) + g(\varphi_0\varphi\varphi). \tag{43}$$

The vacuum minimization conditions for the φ field are then:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial w}{\partial \varphi_{01}} &= M\varphi_1 + g\varphi_2\varphi_3 = 0, \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial \varphi_{02}} &= M\varphi_2 + g\varphi_3\varphi_1 = 0, \\ \frac{\partial w}{\partial \varphi_{03}} &= M\varphi_3 + g\varphi_1\varphi_2 = 0, \end{aligned} \tag{44}$$

which are solved by:

$$\varphi = v(1, 1, 1), \quad v = -\frac{M}{g}. \tag{45}$$

This simple case does not obviously exhaust all possible situations arising after the minimization procedure; in more complicated

cases, it could happen that some of the vevs depends on unknown parameters which are not related to the parameters appearing in w . This indicates that there are flat directions in the flavon potential, as one could check by analyzing the flavons and driving fields mass spectrum in the SUSY limit. SUSY breaking effects and radiative corrections are eventually important to give mass to the modes associated to these flat directions.

The presence of driving fields is not a necessary condition for obtaining the correct vacuum alignment. While this implies to deal with longer and more complicated potentials [75–77], one can avoid intricated calculations formulating flavor models in extra dimensions where the scalar fields live in the bulk of the higher-dimensional space [78]. The vacuum alignment is then achieved by the boundary conditions of the scalar fields and the physics at low energy is described by massless zero modes which break the flavor symmetries [79].

4.2. Typical Discrete Patterns

The use of discrete symmetries was first suggested to explain a simplified form of the neutrino mass matrix called *Tri-Bi-Maximal* mixing (TBM) [12–16]:

$$U_{TB} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}, \tag{46}$$

which implies $s_{12}^2 = 1/3$, $s_{23}^2 = 1/2$ and $s_{13} = 0$. In this case the matrix m_ν takes the form:

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} x & y & y \\ y & x + \nu & y - \nu \\ y & y - \nu & x + \nu \end{pmatrix}, \tag{47}$$

(x, y and ν are complex numbers) which can also parametrized as:

$$m_\nu = m_1 \Phi_1 \Phi_1^T + m_2 \Phi_2 \Phi_2^T + m_3 \Phi_3 \Phi_3^T, \tag{48}$$

where

$$\Phi_1^T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}}(2, -1, -1), \quad \Phi_2^T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}}(1, 1, 1), \quad \Phi_3^T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(0, -1, 1) \tag{49}$$

are the respective columns of U_{TB} and m_i are the neutrino mass eigenvalues given by the simple expressions $m_1 = x - y$, $m_2 = x + 2y$ and $m_3 = x - y + 2\nu$ [80].

Notice that, in the basis where charged leptons are diagonal, the mass matrix for TBM mixing is the most general matrix which is invariant under the so-called 2-3 (or $\mu - \tau$) symmetry [81, 82] under which

$$m_\nu = A_{23} m_\nu A_{23}, \tag{50}$$

where A_{23} is given by:

$$A_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{51}$$

and, in addition, under the action of a unitary symmetric matrix S_{TB} which commutes with A_{23} :

$$m_\nu = S_{TB} m_\nu S_{TB}, \tag{52}$$

where S_{TB} is given by:

$$S_{TB} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & -1 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & -1 \end{pmatrix}. \tag{53}$$

In practice, the matrices A_{23} and S_{TB} realize the action of $Z \in \mathcal{G}_\nu$.

For bimaximal (BM) mixing [83], instead, we have $s_{12}^2 = s_{23}^2 = 1/2$ and accordingly:

$$U_{BM} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{54}$$

The respective mass matrix is of the form:

$$m_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} x & y & y \\ y & z & x - z \\ y & x - z & z \end{pmatrix}, \tag{55}$$

that is

$$m_\nu = m_1 \Phi_1 \Phi_1^T + m_2 \Phi_2 \Phi_2^T + m_3 \Phi_3 \Phi_3^T, \tag{56}$$

where

$$\Phi_1^T = \frac{1}{2}(\sqrt{2}, 1, 1), \quad \Phi_2^T = \frac{1}{2}(-\sqrt{2}, 1, 1), \quad \Phi_3^T = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}(0, -1, 1). \tag{57}$$

The resulting matrix is characterized by the invariance under the action of A_{23} and also under the application of the real, unitary and symmetric matrix S_{BM} of the form

$$m_\nu = S_{BM} m_\nu S_{BM}, \tag{58}$$

with S_{BM} given by:

$$S_{BM} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & -\frac{1}{2} & \frac{1}{2} \end{pmatrix}. \tag{59}$$

In this case, are the matrices A_{23} and S_{BM} that realize the action of $Z \in \mathcal{G}_\nu$ on the neutrino mass matrix.

Other examples of special patterns can be found in the literature; among them, a vast production has been devoted to the Golden Ratio mixing (GR), of which two slightly different versions have attracted much attention: in one of them [84–87] the solar angle is given by $\tan \theta_{12} = 1/\phi$, where $\phi = (1 + \sqrt{5})/2$ is the golden ratio, which implies $\theta_{12} = 31.7^\circ$; in the other one, suggested in Rodejohann [88], $\cos \theta_{12} = \phi/2$ and $\theta_{12} = 36^\circ$.

Since these special patterns mainly differ for the value of the solar angle, we report in **Figure 4** the predictions for $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ of GR and TBM and compare them with three different fit results coming from Capozzi et al. [89] (labeled as CLMMP), Forero et al. [90] (labeled as FTV) and Gonzalez-Garcia et al. [91] (labeled as GMS). See the caption for more details.

The neutrino mass matrices analyzed so far have been derived in the basis where charged leptons are diagonal; then one can ask which features the matrix Q of Equation (36) must have in order to maintain the hermitian product $M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell$ diagonal; observing that the most general diagonal $M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell$ is left invariant under the action of a diagonal phase matrix with 3 different phase factors, one can easily see that if $Q^n = 1$ then the matrix Q generates a cyclic group Z_n . Examples for $n = 3$ and $n = 4$ are the following:

$$Q_{TB} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \omega^3 = 1 \tag{60}$$

$$Q_{BM} = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -i & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & i \end{pmatrix}.$$

We stress again that a realistic flavor model that reproduces all experimental features of neutrino masses and mixing can be realized from a theory invariant under the spontaneously broken symmetry described by \mathcal{G}_f which, in turn, must contain at least the S and Q transformations. These generate the subgroups \mathcal{G}_ν and \mathcal{G}_ℓ , respectively. The breaking of \mathcal{G}_f must be arranged in such a way that it is broken down to \mathcal{G}_ν in the neutrino mass sector and to \mathcal{G}_ℓ in the charged lepton mass sector. In some cases also the

symmetry under A_{23} is part of \mathcal{G}_ℓ and then must be preserved in the neutrino sector or it can arise as a consequence of the breaking of \mathcal{G}_ℓ .

Notice that it is not strictly necessary to deal with diagonal charged leptons because the special patterns analyzed so far can be considered as a good first approximation of the data and suitable corrections, for example coming explicitly from the charged leptons, must be taken into account [92–94].

Many discrete groups with the previous properties have been studied and their potentialities to describe neutrino masses and mixings scrutinized in detail. Just to give some examples, the groups A_4 , S_4 and T' are commonly utilized to generate TBM mixing (see, for example, [73, 95–103]); the group S_4 can also be used to generate BM mixing [83, 104, 105]; A_5 can be utilized to generate GR mixing [84–87] and the groups D_{10} and D_{12} can lead to another type of GR [88, 106] and to hexagonal mixing [107, 108]. Excellent reviews in this sector can be found, for instance, in King [65], Altarelli and Feruglio [80], Ishimori et al. [109] and Grimus and Ludl [110].

4.3. TBM and BM from Discrete Symmetries

To make a direct connection with the procedure outlined in section 4.1, we study here two examples on how to get the TBM and BM patterns from $\mathcal{G}_f = S_4$. This is the permutation group of order four, it has $4! = 24$ elements and it is isomorphic to the symmetry group of the cube. The algebra contains two generators, S and T , that satisfy the condition $S^2 = T^4 = (ST)^3 = 1$. The group contains five irreducible representations: two singlets $\mathbf{1}$ and $\mathbf{1}'$, one doublet $\mathbf{2}$ and two triplets $\mathbf{3}$ and $\mathbf{3}'$. The (non trivial) tensor products are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{1}' \otimes \mathbf{1}' &= \mathbf{1} \\ \mathbf{1}' \otimes \mathbf{2} &= \mathbf{2} \\ \mathbf{1}' \otimes \mathbf{3} &= \mathbf{3}' \\ \mathbf{1}' \otimes \mathbf{3}' &= \mathbf{3} \\ \mathbf{2} \otimes \mathbf{2} &= \mathbf{1}_s \oplus \mathbf{2}_s \oplus \mathbf{1}'_a \\ \mathbf{2} \otimes \mathbf{3} &= \mathbf{2} \otimes \mathbf{3}' = \mathbf{3} \oplus \mathbf{3}' \\ \mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3} &= \mathbf{3}' \otimes \mathbf{3}' = \mathbf{1}_s \oplus \mathbf{2}_s \oplus \mathbf{3}'_s \oplus \mathbf{3}_a \\ \mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{3}' &= \mathbf{1}' \oplus \mathbf{2} \oplus \mathbf{3} \oplus \mathbf{3}', \end{aligned}$$

where the subscript s (a) denotes symmetric (antisymmetric) combinations. The S_4 elements can be classified by the order h of each element, where $\omega^h = e$ (see **Table 2** where the five conjugacy

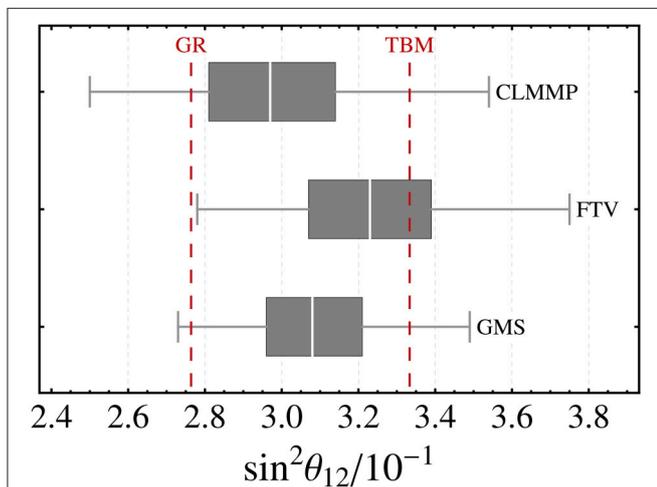


FIGURE 4 | Predictions for $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ for GR and TBM mixing patterns (red dashed lines); the box charts represent the value of the global fits (for NO only since the allowed region is the same for both orderings) performed in Capozzi et al. [89] (labeled as CLMMP), Forero et al. [90] (labeled as FTV) and Gonzalez-Garcia et al. [91] (labeled as GMS). The white vertical lines inside the boxes are the best fit values, the gray boxes the 1σ confidence regions and the gray lines the 3σ allowed regions.

TABLE 2 | Characters of the S_4 group.

S_4	C_1	$3C_2^{[2]}$	$6C_3^{[2]}$	$6C_4^{[4]}$	$8C_5^{[3]}$
$\chi^{[1]}$	1	1	1	1	1
$\chi^{[1']}$	1	1	-1	-1	1
$\chi^{[2]}$	2	2	0	0	-1
$\chi^{[3]}$	3	-1	1	-1	0
$\chi^{[3]}$	3	-1	-1	1	0

classes and their characters are summarized. As expected, we have $1 + 3 + 6 + 6 + 8 = 24$ elements in each class and the superscript indicates the order of each element in the conjugacy classes). A possible choice for the three dimensional generators is

$$S = \frac{1}{2} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{2} \\ \sqrt{2} & -1 & 1 \\ \sqrt{2} & 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & e^{i\pi/2} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & e^{i3\pi/2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (62)$$

The group S_4 contains another three dimensional representation, whose generators are related to those in Equation (62) through $\{S, T\} \rightarrow \{-S, -T\}$. The abelian subgroups of S_4 are four Klein groups V , four Z_3 groups and three different Z_4 . These are summarized in **Table 3**.

The patterns of interest can be obtained using the following choices of subgroups:

- $\mathcal{G}_\ell = Z_3$ and $\mathcal{G}_\nu = V$

These subgroups are useful to reproduce the TBM only. We assume $C_3 \in Z_3$ and $K_1 \in V$ as representative algebra. The absolute value of the PMNS matrix is therefore given by:

$$\|U_{\text{PMNS}}\| = U_{\text{TBM}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{6}} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & \sqrt{2} & 0 \\ 1 & \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{3} \\ 1 & \sqrt{2} & \sqrt{3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (63)$$

Notice that the Jarlskog invariant J_{CP} [112], defined as:

$$J_{\text{CP}} \equiv \Im \left[(U_{\text{PMNS}})_{11} (U_{\text{PMNS}})_{13}^* (U_{\text{PMNS}})_{31}^* (U_{\text{PMNS}})_{33} \right] = \frac{1}{8} \sin 2\theta_{12} \sin 2\theta_{23} \sin 2\theta_{13} \cos \theta_{13} \sin \delta, \quad (64)$$

is zero. To obtain a realistic mixing pattern with $\theta_{13} \sim 9^\circ$ we need to include large corrections.

- $\mathcal{G}_\ell = Z_4$ and $\mathcal{G}_\nu = V$

In this case only the BM pattern is possible; therefore both θ_{12} and θ_{23} are maximal. Next to leading order corrections of roughly the same order of magnitude of the Cabibbo angle are needed to reproduce the data as discussed, for instance, in Altarelli et al. [105].

- $\mathcal{G}_\ell = V$ and $\mathcal{G}_\nu = V$

This case, discussed in Lam [113], produces a BM mixing pattern. A representative choice for the subalgebras for \mathcal{G}_ℓ is K_1 and for \mathcal{G}_ν is K_2 .

4.4. Other LO Patterns

The fact that the value of the reactor angle is non-zero with high accuracy opens the possibility to use discrete symmetries to enforce the LO leptonic mixing patterns to structures where θ_{13} is different from zero from the beginning. The various realizations all differ by the amount of the NLO needed to reconcile the theoretical predictions with the experimental data. Some of the new patterns, that have been obtained and studied in specific model realizations, are the following:

- the Trimaximal mixing [114], which refers to schemes where the first or the second column is the same as the corresponding one of TB matrix [107, 115, 116]. In both cases, the good TB prediction of $\theta_{12} \sim 35^\circ$ is maintained and θ_{13} is always different from zero.
- the Tri-Permuting (TP) mixing matrix, introduced in Bazzocchi [117]. The mixing is defined by two maximal angles and a large θ_{13} according to

$$\sin \theta_{12} = \sin \theta_{23} = -\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}, \quad \sin \theta_{13} = \frac{1}{3}, \quad (65)$$

which corresponds to the following mixing matrix:

$$U_{\text{TP}} \sim \frac{1}{3} \begin{pmatrix} 2 & -2 & 1 \\ 2 & 1 & -2 \\ 1 & 2 & 2 \end{pmatrix}. \quad (66)$$

- the Bi-trimaximal (BT) mixing, introduced in King et al. [118] and corresponding to the mixing matrix:

$$U_{\text{BT}} = \begin{pmatrix} a_+ & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & a_- \\ -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \\ a_- & -\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & a_+ \end{pmatrix}, \quad (67)$$

where $a_\pm = (1 \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}})/2$, and leads to the following predictions:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin \theta_{12} = \sin \theta_{23} &= \sqrt{\frac{8 - 2\sqrt{3}}{13}} \approx 0.591 \quad (\theta_{12} = \theta_{23} \approx 36.2^\circ), \\ \sin \theta_{13} &= a_- \approx 0.211 \quad (\theta_{13} \approx 12.2^\circ). \end{aligned} \quad (68)$$

4.5. Discrete Symmetries and Invariance Under CP

Let us now enlarge the symmetry content of the theory assuming, in addition to the invariance under the discrete group, also invariance under CP [119–121].

As in section 4.1, we consider that the residual symmetry in the charged sector \mathcal{G}_ℓ is a cyclic group $Z_n, n \geq 3$, or the product $Z_2 \otimes Z_2$. Under the action of CP , a generic field Φ transforms as [122–124]:

$$\Phi(x) \longrightarrow \Phi'(x) = X\Phi^*(x_{CP}), \quad (69)$$

TABLE 3 | Possible independent algebras of S_4 subgroups (same classification as the one adopted in de Adelhart Toorop et al. [111]).

Z_4		Z_3		V	
Algebra	Generators	Algebra	Generators	Algebra	Generators
Q_1	T	C_1	ST	K_1	$\{T^2, ST^2S\}$
Q_2	T^2S	C_2	TS	K_2	$\{S, T^2ST^2\}$
Q_3	STS	C_3	T^2ST	K_3	$\{T^2, ST^2ST\}$
		C_4	TST^2	K_4	$\{ST^2S, T^3ST\}$

where X is the representations of the CP operator in field space and x_{CP} is the space-time coordinate transformed under the usual CP transformation $x \rightarrow x_{CP} = (x^0, -\mathbf{x})$. The invariance of the field under \mathcal{G}_f is expressed as:

$$\Phi(x) \longrightarrow \Phi'(x) = A\Phi(x), \tag{70}$$

where A is an element of a non-abelian discrete symmetry group. X can be chosen as a constant unitary symmetric matrix⁴:

$$XX^\dagger = XX^* = 1, \tag{71}$$

in such a way that the square of the CP transformation is the identity, $X^2 = 1$. The action of X on the mass matrices, before the symmetry breaking, is given by

$$X^* M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell X = (M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell)^* \tag{72a}$$

$$X M_\nu X = M_\nu^*, \tag{72b}$$

if neutrinos are Majorana particles. If instead neutrinos are Dirac particles, (72b) has to be modified to

$$X^* M_\nu^\dagger M_\nu X = (M_\nu^\dagger M_\nu)^*. \tag{73}$$

The fact that the theory is invariant under the flavor symmetry group \mathcal{G}_f requires that for the generators of the group A the representations X in the field space must satisfy the following relation:

$$(X^{-1}AX)^* = A' \quad A, A' \in \{\mathcal{G}_f\}, \tag{74}$$

where in general $A \neq A'$. Notice that if X is a solution of (71) and (74) also $e^{i\rho}X$, with ρ being an arbitrary phase, is a solution.

Let us now specify this framework to the case where the residual symmetry \mathcal{G}_ν is $Z_2 \otimes CP$, with Z_2 contained in the flavor group; the matrix Z representing the generator of the former symmetry and the CP transformation X have to fulfil the constraint

$$XZ^* - ZX = 0, \tag{75}$$

which is invariant under (74). In the neutrino sector, the light neutrino mass matrix satisfies both relations:

$$Z^T M_\nu Z = M_\nu \tag{76a}$$

$$X M_\nu X = M_\nu^*. \tag{76b}$$

Notice that it is always possible to choose a basis where

$$X = \Omega \Omega^T \quad Z_c = \Omega^\dagger Z \Omega \quad Z_c = \text{diag}\{(-1)^{z_1}, (-1)^{z_2}, (-1)^{z_3}\}, \tag{77}$$

with $z_i = 0, 1$. Since Z generates a Z_2 symmetry, two of the three parameters z_i have to coincide and the combination $\Omega^T M_\nu \Omega$ is

⁴The requirement that X is a symmetric matrix has been shown in Bajc et al. [119] to be a necessary condition, otherwise the neutrino mass spectrum would be partially degenerate.

constrained to be block-diagonal and real. Thus, this matrix can be diagonalized using a rotation $R(\theta)$ in the ij -plane of degenerate eigenvalues of Z , where θ is an unconstrained parameter that can be fixed to describe the neutrino mixing parameters. The positiveness of the light neutrino masses is ensured by the diagonal matrix K_ν with elements equal to ± 1 or $\pm i$. In this way the matrix M_ν can be diagonalized with unitary matrix defined as

$$U_\nu \equiv \Omega R_{ij}(\theta) K_\nu. \tag{78}$$

The mass spectrum is not fixed and thus permutations of columns are admitted. The inclusion of the charged leptons into the game proceeds as discussed in section 4.1. So, called U_ℓ the matrix diagonalizing $M_\ell^\dagger M_\ell$, the full U_{PMNS} is given by:

$$U_{PMNS} \equiv U_\ell^\dagger U_\nu = U_\ell \Omega R_{ij}(\theta) K_\nu, \tag{79}$$

up to permutations of rows and columns. To give an explicit example [125], let us assume that $U_\ell = 1$ and take Ω to be

$$\Omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2} \cos \varphi & -\sqrt{2} i \sin \varphi & 0 \\ \sin \varphi & i \cos \varphi & -1 \\ \sin \varphi & i \cos \varphi & 1 \end{pmatrix}; \tag{80}$$

this matrix fulfils (77) for Z and X chosen as $(Z, X) = (T^2 S T^3 S T^2, S X_0)$, with $X_0 \equiv A_{23}$. Since z_1 and z_3 of the diagonal combination $\Omega^\dagger Z \Omega$ are equal, the indices ij of the rotation matrix $R_{ij}(\theta)$ in (79) are $\{i, j\} = \{1, 3\}$. Thus, the PMNS mixing matrix simply reads

$$U_{PMNS} = \Omega R_{13}(\theta) K_\nu. \tag{81}$$

Extracting the mixing angles from (81) we find:

$$\begin{aligned} \sin^2 \theta_{12} &= \frac{2}{2 + (3 + \sqrt{5}) \cos^2 \theta}, \\ \sin^2 \theta_{13} &= \frac{1}{10} (5 + \sqrt{5}) \sin^2 \theta, \\ \sin^2 \theta_{23} &= \frac{1}{2} - \frac{\sqrt{2} (5 + \sqrt{5}) \sin 2\theta}{7 + \sqrt{5} + (3 + \sqrt{5}) \cos 2\theta}, \end{aligned} \tag{82}$$

which also call for an exact sum rule among the solar and the reactor mixing angles:

$$\sin^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{\sin^2 \varphi}{1 - \sin^2 \theta_{13}} \approx \frac{0.276}{1 - \sin^2 \theta_{13}}. \tag{83}$$

Using for $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ its best fit value $(\sin^2 \theta_{13})^{\text{bf}} = 0.0217$, we find for the solar mixing angle $\sin^2 \theta_{12} \approx 0.282$ which is within its 3σ range, see **Table 1**.

Models that explore the predictability of the CP symmetry in conjunction with non-abelian discrete symmetries have been massively explored in the very recent years; for example, the interplay between S_4 and CP has been studied, among others, in Mohapatra and Nishi [126], Feruglio et al. [127], Luhn [128], and

Penedo et al. [129], while the role of A_5 has been elucidated in Li and Ding [130], Ballett et al. [131] and Turner [132] and that of several Δ groups in de Medeiros Varzielas and Emmanuel-Costa [133], Bhattacharyya et al. [134], Ma [135], Hagedorn et al. [136] and Ding and King [137].

4.6. The Use of Abelian Symmetries

Let us now investigate the possibility to construct SUSY models where the only flavor symmetry is a continuous $U(1)$ [17]; thus the following procedure can be used:

- given that the flavor symmetry acts horizontally on leptons, the related charges can be written as $e^c \sim (n_1^R, n_2^R, 0)$ for the $SU(2)_L$ lepton singlets and as $L \sim (n_1^L, n_2^L, 0)$ for the lepton doublets. Since only charge differences impact the mass hierarchies and the mixing angles, the third lepton charges can be set to zero and one can safely assume a charge ordering as $n_1^R > n_2^R > 0$. To prevent flavor-violating Higgs couplings, the Higgs fields $H_{u,d}$ are not charged.
- Once we have assigned $U(1)$ charges to leptons, the Yukawa terms are no longer invariant under the action of the flavor symmetry and new scalar fields θ must be introduced that transforms non-trivially under $U(1)$, with charge n_θ . Thus, the Yukawa part of the Lagrangian is as follows:

$$\mathcal{L}_Y = (Y_e)_{ij} L_i H_d e_j^c \left(\frac{\theta}{\Lambda}\right)^{p_e} + (Y_\nu)_{ij} \frac{L_i L_j H_u H_u}{\Lambda_L} \left(\frac{\theta}{\Lambda}\right)^{p_\nu} + \text{H.c.} \tag{84}$$

where Λ is the cut-off of the effective flavor theory and Λ_L the scale of the lepton number violation, in principle distinct from Λ . Here $(Y_e)_{ij}$ and $(Y_\nu)_{ij}$ are free complex parameters with modulus of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ while p_e and p_ν are appropriate powers of the ratio θ/Λ needed to compensate the $U(1)$ charges for each Yukawa term. Without loss of generality, we can fix $n_\theta = -1$; consequently, $n_1^{L,R}, n_2^{L,R} > 0$ for the Lagrangian expansion to make sense. For the neutrino masses we consider that they are described by the effective Weinberg operator, while the extension to see-saw mechanisms is straightforward.

- Once the flavor and electroweak symmetries are broken by the vevs of the flavon and the Higgs fields, the mass matrices arise, with entries proportional to the expanding parameter $\epsilon \equiv \frac{\langle \theta \rangle}{\Lambda} < 1$.

The lepton charges assignments reported in **Table 4**, some of them already studied in Altarelli et al. [138], give rise to the following mass matrices [139]:

$$\begin{aligned} A: \quad Y_e &= \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & 1 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & 1 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ A_{\mu\tau}: \quad Y_e &= \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^4 & \epsilon^3 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & 1 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^2 & \epsilon & \epsilon \\ \epsilon & 1 & 1 \\ \epsilon & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ H: \quad Y_e &= \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^7 & \epsilon^5 & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon^6 & \epsilon^4 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^5 & \epsilon^3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^4 & \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^2 & \epsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \end{aligned} \tag{85}$$

TABLE 4 | Examples of charge assignment under $U(1)$.

Model	e^c	L
Anarchy (A)	(3,2,0)	(0,0,0)
$\mu\tau$ -Anarchy ($A_{\mu\tau}$)	(3,2,0)	(1,0,0)
Hierarchy (H)	(5,3,0)	(2,1,0)
New Anarchy (A')	(3,1,0)	(0,0,0)
New Hierarchy (H')	(8,3,0)	(2,1,0)

With anarchy we refer to models where no symmetry at all is acting on the neutrino sector [140–142] and so the charge of the lepton doublets is vanishing.

$$\begin{aligned} A': \quad Y_e &= \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^3 & \epsilon & 1 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon & 1 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ H': \quad Y_e &= \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^{10} & \epsilon^6 & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon^9 & \epsilon^5 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^8 & \epsilon^4 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y_\nu = \begin{pmatrix} \epsilon^4 & \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 \\ \epsilon^3 & \epsilon^2 & \epsilon \\ \epsilon^2 & \epsilon & 1 \end{pmatrix}. \end{aligned} \tag{86}$$

As already remarked, the coefficients in front of ϵ^n are complex numbers with absolute values of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ and arbitrary phases. Considering that Y_ν is a symmetric matrix, the total number of undetermined parameters that arise in this type of constructions is 30 plus the unknown value of ϵ . In order to establish which models adapt better to the data of **Table 1**, one cannot use a χ^2 -based analysis because the minimum is always very close to zero for every (Y_e, Y_ν) pairs; thus, a meaningful comparison of two models is better achieved with the help of a Bayesian analysis. This has been done in Bergstrom [139] and the results of the Bayes factor between all models and A' are reported in **Figure 5**.

The relevant features of such an analysis can be summarized as follows: when using only the neutrino data, the hierarchical models are all weakly preferred over the anarchical ones. When also the charged lepton data are taken into account in the analysis, the A model turns out to be strongly disfavored. Adding in the comparison also the H' and A' models, the former is the best one: it is moderately better than $A_{\mu\tau}$ and A' , and weakly preferred over H .

Other possibilities in the direction of using $U(1)$ rely on the fact that the $U(1)$ charges are not completely arbitrary but are determined by an underlying symmetry of the type $L_e - L_\mu - L_\tau$ for lepton doublets and arbitrary right-handed charges [143–145]. In the limit of exact symmetry, the neutrino mass matrix has the following structure:

$$m_\nu = m_0 \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & x \\ 1 & 0 & 0 \\ x & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \tag{87}$$

which leads to a spectrum of inverted type and mixing angles as $\theta_{12} = \pi/4$, $\tan \theta_{23} = x$ (i.e., large atmospheric mixing for $x \sim \mathcal{O}(1)$) and $\theta_{13} = 0$. An important limitation of such a texture is that two eigenvalues have the same absolute values and the solar mass difference cannot be reproduced. Successful tentatives to describe also Δm_{21}^2 have been presented, for instance, in Lavoura and Grimus [146] and Grimus and Lavoura [147] where, however, either the reactor angle was almost vanishing or the

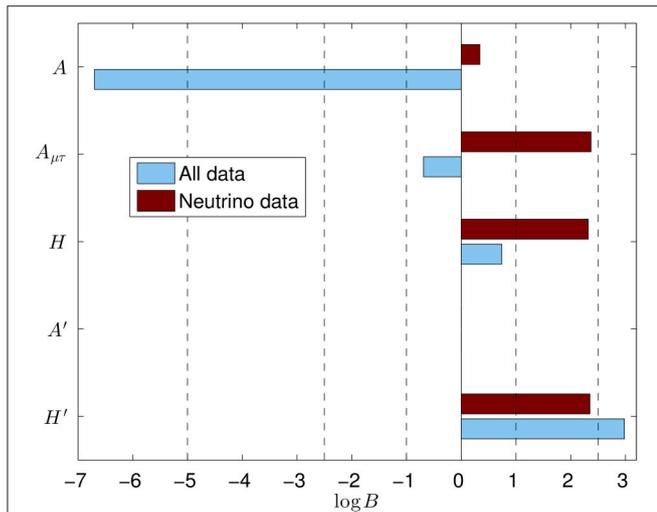


FIGURE 5 | Logarithms of Bayes factors with respect to the model A' for the models in **Table 4** using only neutrino data (dark-red bars) and all data (light-blue bars). Positive values of $\log B$ indicate a weak evidence ($\log B = 1$), a moderate evidence ($\log B = 2.5$) and a strong evidence ($\log B = 5$) of the supposed model against the reference one A' . Numerical estimates on ϵ are not reported but values in the range (0.1–0.2) emerged from the analysis as the most appropriate ones.

solar angle was too large with respect to its current value. Corrections of $\mathcal{O}(\lambda_C)$ from the charged lepton sector [92–94] could be invoked to properly shift θ_{12} from maximal mixing and θ_{13} from zero, thus allowing a sizable reactor angle, but at the prize of a too large solar-to-atmospheric mass ratio r . A possible solution to the previous issues was discussed in Meloni [145], where the $U(1)$ flavor symmetry was broken by the vevs of *two* complex fields ϕ and θ (instead of one) of charges $Q_\phi = 1$ and $Q_\theta = -1/2$. An appropriate breaking of $L_e - L_\mu - L_\tau$ in the neutrino sector assures the correct value of $r \sim \lambda_C^2$ and preserves the leading order (LO) prediction of large θ_{23} , whereas the necessary deviations for the solar and reactor angles are instead obtained from the charged lepton mass matrix with complex entries.

5. WHERE GUT MEETS FLAVOR

The importance of the discovery of neutrino masses and mixing angles is that they provide interesting information on the problem of understanding the origin of three families of quarks and leptons and their mixing parameters. In this respect, as we have already outlined before, the relevance of GUT groups resides on the fact that some of the mass matrices of different fermions are related in a non-trivial way, see for example Equation (31), whereas family symmetries impose stringent constraints on the matrix elements of the same mass matrix. **Figure 6** summarizes in concise way how GUT and family symmetries act on the observable fermions (see caption for more details).

The next obvious step is to merge these two different type of symmetries in order to construct a flavor sector with very few

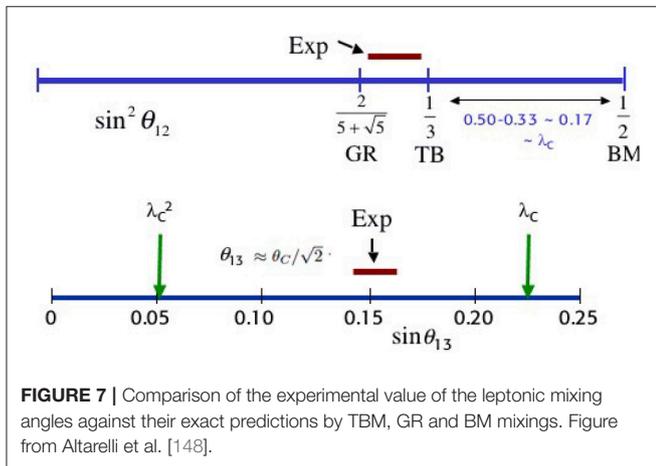
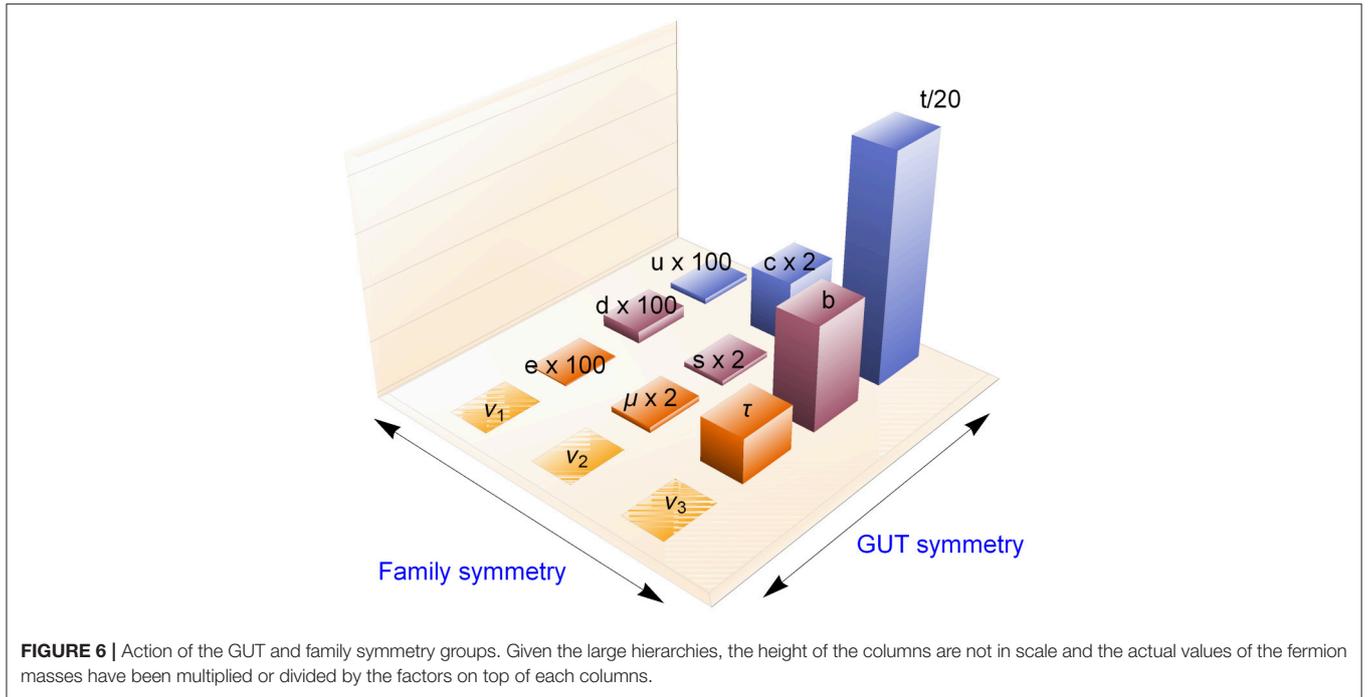
free parameters. As it was the case for the special patterns of lepton mixing, also in the case with GUT one needs to identify which features of the data are really relevant for the formulation of a model. In this sense, the fact that the reactor angle θ_{13} is approximately related to the Cabibbo angle θ_C by the relation $\theta_{13} \sim \theta_C/\sqrt{2}$ may be a hint of a connection between leptonic and quark mixing [9]. And this is not restricted to the reactor angle only. In fact, as shown in **Figure 7**, the experimental value of $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ is related to the predictions of exact TBM or GR by a jump of order λ_C^2 , or of order λ_C in the case of BM.

This idea seems to agree with the empirical observation that $\theta_{12} + \theta_C \sim \pi/4$, a relation known as *quark-lepton complementarity* [8]–[11], sometimes replaced by $\theta_{12} + \mathcal{O}(\theta_C) \sim \pi/4$ (*weak complementarity*). If we want to realize in a complete model the previous relations, one possibility is to start from BM and generate universal corrections to the mixing angles of order λ_C , arriving at the following relations:

$$\sin^2 \theta_{12} \sim \frac{1}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_C) \quad \sin^2 \theta_{23} \sim \frac{1}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_C) \quad \sin \theta_{13} \sim \mathcal{O}(\lambda_C), \quad (88)$$

which are all in agreement with the experimental data. These corrections can be appropriately fabricated by charged lepton rotations which differ from the identity by off-diagonal elements whose magnitude is obviously of order of the Cabibbo angle. The game becomes highly non-trivial in GUT theories which demand that also masses for the quarks and the CKM matrix are reproduced at the same time. An example based on $SU(5)$ that permits to realize the program of having the BM structure in the neutrino sector and then to correct it by terms arising from the diagonalization of the charged lepton mass matrix is built as follows [149] (but see [150] for a variant using the A_4 family group). The construction is a SUSY $SU(5)$ model in 4+1 dimensions [151, 152] with a flavor symmetry $S_4 \otimes Z_3 \otimes U(1)_R \otimes U(1)$ [105, 149], where $U(1)$ is the Froggatt-Nielsen (FN) symmetry that leads to the hierarchies of fermion masses and $U(1)_R$ is the usual R-symmetry. The particle assignments are displayed in **Table 5** where, for the sake of simplicity, we have not reported the driving fields needed to realize the wanted symmetry breaking pattern. From the table we see that the three $\bar{5}$ are grouped into the S_4 triplet F , while the tenplets $T_{1,2,3}$ are assigned to the singlet of S_4 . The breaking of the S_4 symmetry is ensured by a set of $SU(5)$ -invariant flavon supermultiplets, which are three triplets $\varphi_\ell, \varphi_\nu$ (3_1), χ_ℓ (3_2) and one singlet ξ_ν . The alignment in flavor space of their vevs along appropriate directions will be the source of the BM lepton mixing. The GUT Higgs fields H_5 and $H_{\bar{5}}$ are singlets under S_4 but equally charged under Z_3 , so that they are distinguished only by their $SU(5)$ transformation properties. The tenplets T_1 and T_2 are charged under the $U(1)$ flavor group which is spontaneously broken by the vevs of the θ and θ' fields, both carrying $U(1)$ charges -1 and transforming as a singlet of S_4 .

As a result of symmetries and field assignments to the irreducible representations of $SU(5) \times S_4$, the charged lepton masses are diagonal at LO and exact BM is achieved for neutrinos. Higher dimension vertices in the Lagrangian, suppressed by powers of a large scale Λ , generate corrections to the diagonal



where the a_{ij} are generic complex coefficients of modulus of $\mathcal{O}(1)$ not predicted by the theory. The corresponding lepton rotation is thus:

$$U_\ell \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & u_{12}\lambda_C & u_{13}\lambda_C \\ -u_{12}^*\lambda_C & 1 & 0 \\ -u_{13}^*\lambda_C & -u_{12}^*u_{13}^*\lambda_C^2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (91)$$

(u_{ij} again of $\mathcal{O}(1)$) so that $\theta_{23}^\ell = 0$.

The neutrino masses are obtained by Weinberg operators of the form:

$$(FF)_1(H_5H_5), (FF)_{3_1}H_5H_5\varphi_\nu, (FF)_{3_1}H_5H_5\xi_\nu, \quad (92)$$

which are diagonalized by exact BM, so the mixing angles are easily derived:

$$\sin^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \operatorname{Re}(u_{12} + u_{13})\lambda_C \quad \sin^2 \theta_{23} = \frac{1}{2} + \mathcal{O}(\lambda_C^2)$$

$$\sin \theta_{13} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |u_{12} - u_{13}|\lambda_C.$$

We observe that the model produces at the same time the “weak” complementarity relation and the empirical fact that $\sin \theta_{13}$ is of the same order than the shift of $\sin^2 \theta_{12}$ from the BM value of $1/2$, both of order λ_C .

It is important to stress that the predictions of GUT models are valid at the GUT scale and, in order to compare with the experimental results, the evolution of the Yukawa matrices down to the electroweak scale must be performed [153, 154]. Although the final values depend somehow on the details of the model, it is known that in the case of a quasi-degenerate neutrino mass

charged leptons and to exact BM. We adopt the definitions:

$$\frac{v_{\varphi_\ell}}{\Lambda} \sim \frac{v_\chi}{\Lambda} \sim \frac{v_{\varphi_\nu}}{\Lambda} \sim \frac{v_\xi}{\Lambda} \sim \frac{\langle \theta \rangle}{\Lambda} \sim \frac{\langle \theta' \rangle}{\Lambda} \sim s \sim \lambda_C, \quad (89)$$

where $s = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi R \Lambda}}$ is the volume suppression factor and v_ϕ are the vevs of the flavon fields listed in **Table 5**. This simple (and democratic) choice leads to a good description of masses and mixing. In fact, the charged lepton mass matrix turns out to be:

$$m_e \sim \begin{pmatrix} a_{11}\lambda_C^5 & a_{21}\lambda_C^4 & a_{31}\lambda_C^2 \\ a_{12}\lambda_C^4 & -c\lambda_C^3 & \dots \\ a_{13}\lambda_C^4 & c\lambda_C^3 & a_{33}\lambda_C \end{pmatrix} \lambda_C, \quad (90)$$

TABLE 5 | Matter and Higgs assignment of the model.

Field	F	T_1	T_2	T_3	$H_5, H_{\bar{5}}$	φ_ν	ξ_ν	φ_ℓ	χ_ℓ	θ	θ'
SU(5)	$\bar{5}$	10	10	10	$5, \bar{5}$	1	1	1	1	1	1
S_4	3_1	1	1	1	1	3_1	1	3_1	3_2	1	1
Z_3	ω	ω	1	ω^2	ω^2	1	1	ω	ω	1	ω
$U(1)_R$	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
$U(1)$	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1
	br	bu	bu	br	bu	br	br	br	br	br	br

The symbol br(bu) indicates that the corresponding fields live on the brane (bulk).

spectrum, the renormalization group corrections to the neutrino parameters can be dramatically large [155, 156]. However, as it has been elucidated in Antusch et al. [157, 158], in SUSY models small $\tan \beta$ and small neutrino Yukawa couplings are sufficient conditions for having the corrections to the mixing angles (and CP phases) are under control.

The requirement of having a BM mixing as a starting point is not a necessary ingredient to get a good description of fermion observables; as pointed out in Hagedorn et al. [159], even from the TBM at LO one can conceive a model where the corrections to the reactor angle are large enough to meet the experimental value, maintaining at the same time the solar and atmospheric mixing at acceptable values. Also the choice of the discrete group is not restricted to S_4 ; examples where a large θ_{13} is obtained after substantial corrections from higher order operators can be found, for example, in King et al. [118], Antusch et al. [154], Cooper et al. [160], Marzocca et al. [161], Antusch et al. [162, 163], Björkeröth et al. [164], Antusch and Hohl [165], Gehrlein et al. [166], and Meroni et al. [167], which employ the A_4, A_5, T' and $\Delta(96)$ groups, respectively, within an $SU(5)$ framework.

If the gauge group is enlarged to $SO(10)$, we loose the advantages of using the $SU(5)$ -singlet right-handed neutrinos since one generation of fermion belongs to the 16-dimensional representation. One possible strategy to separate neutrinos from the charged fermions is to assume the dominance of type-II see-saw with respect to the more usual type-I see-saw.

As we have already seen, in models of this type neutrino masses are described by $\mathcal{M}_\nu \sim f v_L$, where v_L is the vev of the $B - L = 2$ triplet in the $\mathbf{126}_H$ Higgs field and f is its Yukawa coupling matrix with the 16. Since one can decide to work in a basis where the matrix f is diagonalized by the BM or by TBM matrices, the results of a fit of the model parameters on the fermion observables performed in one basis lead to the same χ^2 than the fit in the other basis, thus a χ^2 analysis cannot decide whether TBM or BM is a better starting point [148]. This is confirmed by the plot in **Figure 8**, where it is shown that, within uncertainties, the χ^2 as a function of the reactor angle is equal in the two cases, and this is true also for values of $\sin \theta_{13}$ different than the measured value. In particular, the minimum χ^2 value, $\chi^2 = 0.003$, is obtained for $\sin^2 \theta_{13} \sim 0.015$, just a bit below the experimental value $\sin^2 \theta_{13} \sim 0.022$. Nevertheless, as the minimum χ^2 is quite shallow for $\sin^2 \theta_{13} < 0.1$, the fit does not exhibit any strongly preferred value of θ_{13} .

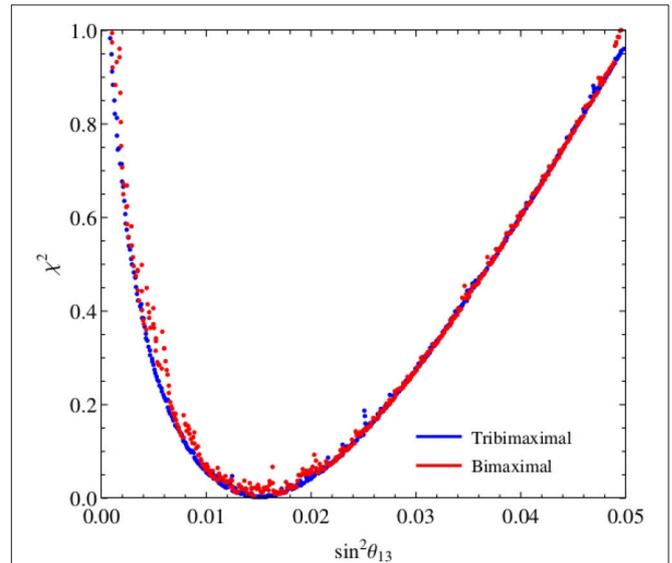


FIGURE 8 | χ^2 as a function of $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$ in the type-II see-saw $SO(10)$ models obtained when starting in the TBM or BM basis.

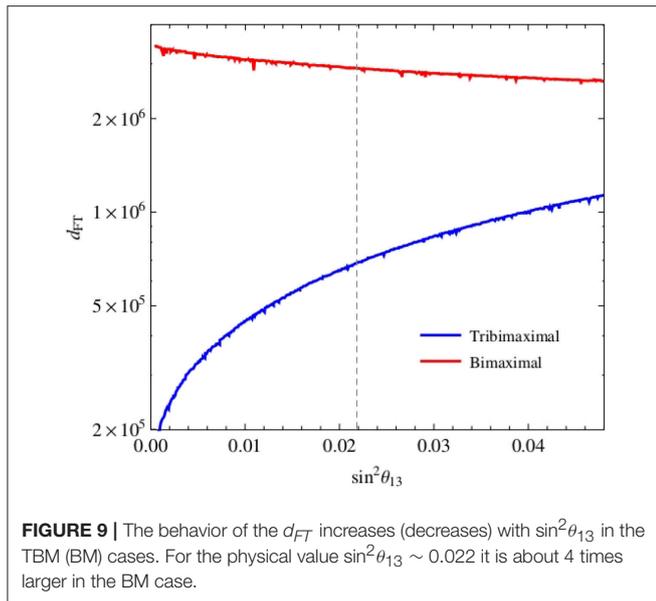
Having established that the χ^2 is not the best variable to decide whether TBM or BM is better, one can consider to measure the amount of fine-tuning needed to fit a set of data by means of the parameter d_{FT} introduced in Altarelli and Blankenburg [168]:

$$d_{FT} = \sum \left| \frac{p_i}{e_i} \right|, \tag{93}$$

where e_i is the “error” of a given parameter p_i defined as the shift from the best fit value that changes the χ^2 by one unit, with all other parameters fixed at their best fit values. In **Figure 9** we report a study of the fine tuning parameter when the fit is repeated with the same data except for $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$. It clearly shows that:

- for the physical value of $\sin^2 \theta_{13}$, d_{FT} is smaller in the TBM case;
- the fine tuning increases (decreases) with $\sin \theta_{13}$ for TBM (BM).

A closer inspection of the d_{FT} parameter reveals a series of interesting features: first of all, that the large values are



predominantly driven by the smallness of the electron mass; then, due to the presence of mixing, the d_{FT} coming from the 33 component of h (mainly responsible for the top mass) is actually one of the largest contributions to the global d_{FT} because of its relevance to the electron mass in both TBM and BM scenarios. Although this might be surprising, one has to take into account that the dependence of the observables on the parameters is quite complicated due to the off-diagonal elements of the mass matrices.

Other classes of renormalizable and non-renormalizable $SO(10)$ models supplemented by discrete and continuous symmetries have been discussed in the literature. In Altarelli and Blankenburg [168] a model comparison based on a χ^2 analysis and on the values of d_{FT} has been carried out with sufficient details to allow for a discrimination in terms of performance in the description of the data. **Table 6** has been extracted from Altarelli and Blankenburg [168] and reports the results of such a comparison. The model called BSV [47] (no flavor symmetries involved here) has a minimal Yukawa sector with $\mathbf{10}_H$ and $\overline{\mathbf{126}}_H$ and has been compared with the data in Bertolini et al. [52], where the type-I and mixed type-I and type-II cases were considered. As it is well known, the restricted Higgs content calls for complex h and f matrices. Even increasing the number of free parameters, with type-II dominance no good fit of the data can be obtained. The situation changes if one introduces the $\mathbf{120}_H$ of Higgs, as in the model with type-II see-saw dominance introduced by Joshipura and Kodrani (JK) [169]. The relevant feature of this model is the existence of a broken $\mu - \tau$ symmetry in addition to the parity symmetry which causes hermitian mass matrices. Similarly, Grimus and Kuhbock [170] (GK) also have an extended Higgs sector with $\mathbf{10}_H$, $\overline{\mathbf{126}}$ and $\mathbf{120}_H$ but their model is based on type-I see-saw dominance.

In the class of non-renormalizable $SO(10)$ theories, we can cite the model of Dermisek and Raby (DR) [171, 172]; it contains Higgses in the $\mathbf{10}_H$, $\mathbf{45}_H$ and $\overline{\mathbf{16}}_H$, and it is based on the flavor symmetry $S_3 \times U(1) \times Z_2 \times Z_2$. In the symmetric S_3 limit only

TABLE 6 | Comparison of different $SO(10)$ models fitted to the data.

Model	d.o.f.	χ^2	$\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$	d_{FT}
DR [171, 172]	4	0.41	0.10	$7.0 \cdot 10^3$
ABB [173, 174]	6	2.8	0.47	$8.1 \cdot 10^3$
JLM [175]	4	2.9	0.74	$9.4 \cdot 10^3$
BSV [52]	<0	6.9	–	$2.0 \cdot 10^5$
JK [169]	3	3.4	1.1	$4.7 \cdot 10^5$
GK [170]	0	0.15	–	$1.5 \cdot 10^5$

Above the double lines mark we report the non-renormalizable models whereas below we list the renormalizable models considered in this paper. Adapted from Altarelli and Blankenburg [168].

the masses of the third generation are non-vanishing while the second and first generation masses are generated by a symmetry breaking stage. The neutrino masses are obtained through a type-I see-saw mechanism with a hierarchical Majorana mass matrix. Enough freedom to reproduce the observed neutrino properties is guaranteed by new $SO(10)$ -singlet neutrino and new scalar fields.

A similar Higgs sector with $\mathbf{10}_H$, $(\mathbf{16} + \overline{\mathbf{16}})_H$ and $\mathbf{45}_H$ representations and a few $SO(10)$ singlets constitute the scalar sector of the model by Albright, Babu and Barr (ABB) [173, 174]. However, this model is based on a flavor symmetry $U(1) \times Z_2 \times Z_2$ which is mainly used to select the desired terms which in the Lagrangian and reject those that would not help in reproducing the data. A modification of this model has been proposed by Ji, Li, Mohapatra (JLM) [175]; the charged lepton and the down quark mass matrices are the same as in the ABB model but the up and Dirac neutrino mass matrices are modified thanks to new dimension five and six vertices introduced in the theory. The model is based on type-I see-saw and the new operators provide a sufficient number of free parameters to fit the leptonic mixing angles.

The relevant feature of the results presented in **Table 6** is that the realistic $SO(10)$ models which are non-renormalizable with type-I see-saw (DR, ABB, JLM), have a $\chi^2/\text{d.o.f.}$ smaller than 1 and a moderate level of fine tuning d_{FT} , if compared with the relatively more constrained BSV, JK and GK. They all have a large amount of fine tuning and, with the exception of the GK model, a worst χ^2 . The larger fine tuning arises from the more pronounced difficulty of fitting the light first generation of charged fermion masses, together with the neutrino mass differences and mixing angles.

More recently, successful attempts to completely describe neutrino data within S_4 and $\Delta(27)$ have been presented in Björkeröth et al. [176–178], where also the ability to provide a framework for the leptogenesis mechanism has been addressed [178].

Beside the models with complete unification at the GUT scale, one can also consider the possibility of supplementing with flavor symmetries models with *partial* unification, that is theories where the gauge group at the GUT scale is not a unique group. Good examples in this direction are those based on the Pati-Salam group $SU(4)_c \otimes SU(2)_L \otimes SU(2)_R$ (PS), as discussed in de Adelhart Toorop et al. [179], where S_4

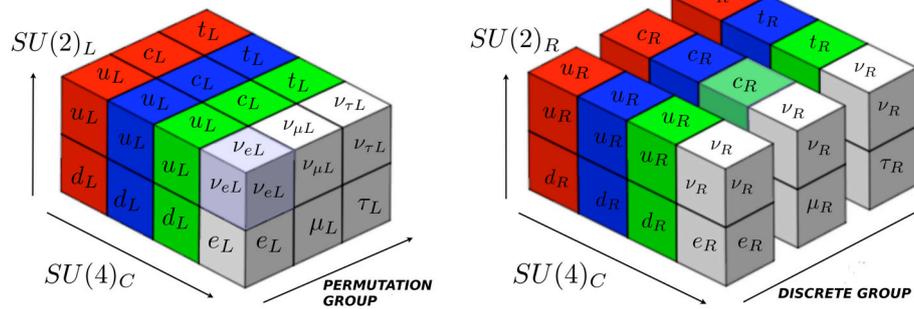


FIGURE 10 | Pictorial representation of a possible particle assignment in models with $[PS \otimes \text{permutation} \otimes \text{discrete}]$ groups. Figure taken and modified from King [181].

was employed to recover the quark-lepton complementarity at LO and in King [180, 181], which explores the capabilities of A_4 to describe quark and lepton masses, mixing and CP violation⁵. As usual, these models also need the presence of additional discrete (or continuous $U(1)$) symmetries to forbid or suppress unwanted operators. In **Figure 10**, modified from King [181], we sketch a possible particle assignment for models with $[PS \otimes \text{permutation} \otimes \text{discrete}]$ groups, where it is understood that the permutation group contains triplet representations. In both panels, the red, blue and green colors represent the $SU(3)$ triplets, which are accompanied with the light gray particles to complete the fundamental 4 representation of $SU(4)_c$. The left-handed families are assigned to triplet presentations of the permutation groups and are doublets under $SU(2)_L$, left panel. On the right panel we consider that the right-handed families are distinguished by different charges of the discrete group and are doublets of $SU(2)_R$.

6. CONCLUSIONS

The question of the theoretical understanding of the experimental numbers of fermion masses and mixing is a very old story. Although neutrinos were considered as a promising tool to access the fundamental properties of particle interactions, the new data helped to discard some theoretical model on lepton mixing (mainly those based on $\theta_{13} = 0$ at the LO) but many other still offer a viable solution, spanning a wide range of possibilities going from a situation with no structure and no symmetry in the neutrino sector (*anarchy*) to a maximum of symmetry for the models based on discrete non-abelian flavor groups.

In this respect, neutrinos have not offered so far any crucial insight on the problem of flavor. The extension to include GUT (or Partial Unification) symmetry exacerbates the difficulties in the model building, as also the quark properties must be taken into account and the larger symmetry reduces the useful number of free parameters.

⁵See King [182] for an example of a PS model where, instead of a discrete group, the continuous $SO(3)$ gauged family symmetry has been employed.

If one is driven by the fact that the quark-lepton complementarity is a real feature of Nature, then models based on $SU(5)$ with a broken S_4 symmetry emerge as one among the most viable and predictive theory, in which fermion masses and mixing are all well reproduced inside their experimental ranges at the prize of small fine-tunings in very few model parameters.

As we have seen in **Table 1**, the octant of the atmospheric angle, the value of the CP violating phase δ and the neutrino mass orderings are features of the neutrinos that have not been clearly addressed so far. Thus, from the model building point of view, the results coming from the running (for instance, NOvA [183] and T2K [184]) and planned experiments (like DUNE [185]) can certainly help in selecting the class of models that, more than others, will be able to incorporate the new information. In this respect, the emerging indication of $\delta \sim 3/2\pi$ seems to exclude the whole class of models predicting CP-conserving Dirac phase, as many do of those listed in section 4.5.

On the other hand, the uncertainties affecting the already measured mixing angle and mass differences are expected to be reduced to a sub-percent level in the next 5–10 years (as it is the case for the solar parameters measured by the JUNO detector [186]) and, in a framework where the mixing parameters are obtained from a LO neutrino mass texture corrected by charge lepton rotations, this can influence in a critical manner which LO mass matrix is the most useful starting point; with more precise measurements, the *jumps* described in **Figure 7**, needed to reconcile the LO predictions with the data, must be chosen more carefully.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The author confirms being the sole contributor of this work and approved it for publication.

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