Abstract

We examine the effects on baryogenesis of spontaneous CPT violation in a string-based scenario. Under suitable circumstances, certain CPT-violating terms can produce a large baryon asymmetry at the grand-unified scale that reduces to the observed value via sphaleron or other dilution mechanisms. © 1997 Elsevier Science B.V.

1. Introduction

Mechanisms for generation of the baryon asymmetry of the Universe naturally link cosmology with ideas from particle physics. Simultaneous conditions that are sufficient for baryogenesis are the violation of baryon number, the violation of C and CP symmetries, and the existence of nonequilibrium processes [11]. These conditions can be met in a grand-unified theory (GUT) through the decay of heavy states at high energy [2–6], through the decay of states in supersymmetric or superstring-inspired models at somewhat lower energies [7–11], or via the thermalization of the vacuum energy of supersymmetric states [12]. The conditions can also be met in the electroweak model through sphaleron-induced transitions between inequivalent vacua above the electroweak phase transition [5,13]. Under suitable circumstances, such transitions can dilute baryon asymmetries generated at higher energies [14].

A mechanism is known by which certain string theories may spontaneously break CPT symmetry [15]. If CPT and baryon number are violated, a baryon asymmetry could arise in thermal equilibrium [16,17]. This mechanism for baryogenesis would have the advantage of being otherwise independent of C- and CP-violating processes, which in a GUT are typically contrived to match the observed baryon asymmetry and are unrelated to the experimentally measured CP violation in the standard model.

In this work, we investigate the consequences for baryogenesis of certain CPT-violating terms arising in a string-based framework. The basic effects are determined in Section 2, while dilution mechanisms are considered in Section 3. We show that the observed baryon asymmetry could be reproduced via this scenario.

2. CPT violation and baryogenesis

For definiteness, we assume the source of baryon-number violation is one or more processes mediated by heavy leptoquark bosons of mass $M_X$ in a GUT, possibly supersymmetric. The details of this theory play no essential role in what follows. Baryon-number
violation in the early Universe from the leptoquarks is assumed to be negligible below some temperature $T_D$. However, we do not take $T_D \sim M_X$ a priori. Instead, we estimate the value of $T_D$ needed to reproduce the observed baryon asymmetry via CPT-violating interactions. Verification that $T_D$ is large and of order $M_X$ therefore provides a consistency check.

We take the CPT-violating interactions to arise from a string-based scenario, via couplings between Lorentz tensors $T$ and fermions $\chi, \psi$ in the low-energy four-dimensional effective lagrangian [15]. Suppressing Lorentz indices for simplicity, these have the schematic form $\mathcal{L}_T \supset \lambda M^{-k} T \cdot \tilde{\psi} i \partial \psi + \text{h.c.}$, where $\lambda$ is a dimensionless coupling constant, $M$ is a large mass scale (presumably within roughly an order of magnitude of the Planck mass), $\Gamma$ denotes a gamma-matrix structure, and $(i \partial)^k$ represents the action of a four-derivative at order $k \geq 0$. The CPT violation appears when appropriate components of $T$ acquire nonzero expectation values $\langle T \rangle$.

For simplicity, we limit the scope of the present work to the subset of these CPT-violating terms leading directly to a momentum- and spin-independent energy shift of particles relative to antiparticles. Terms of this type can produce effects in neutral-meson systems that could be observed in laboratory experiments [15,18]. These terms are diagonal in the fermion fields and involve expectation values $\langle T \rangle$ of only the zero components of $T$:

$$c_{ik} > A(T) - \delta_{ik} \eta \left[ \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E+\mu)/T}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-\mu)/T}} \right].$$

Since no large CPT violation is observed in nature, the expectation $\langle T \rangle$ must be suppressed in the effective theory relative to the low-energy scale $m_i$. The suppression factor is presumably some (non-negative) power $l$ of the ratio of the low-energy scale to $M$: $\langle T \rangle \sim (m_i/M)^l M$. Since each factor of $i \partial \psi$ also acts to provide a low-energy suppression, the condition $k+l = 2$ determines the dominant terms [15]. In what follows, we consider the various values of $k$ and $l$ in turn.

In the context of baryogenesis, we assume each fermion $\psi$ represents a standard-model quark of mass $m_q$ and baryon number $1/3$. The energy splitting between a quark and its antiquark arising via Eq. (1) can be viewed as a contribution to an effective chemical potential $\mu$ that drives the production of baryon number in thermal equilibrium.

To begin, consider a CPT-violating coupling for a single quark field. The equilibrium phase-space distributions of quarks $q$ and antiquarks $\bar{q}$ at temperature $T$ are $f_q(p) = (1 + e^{(E-\mu)/T})^{-1}$ and $f_{\bar{q}}(p) = (1 + e^{(E+\mu)/T})^{-1}$, respectively, where $p$ is the momentum and $E = \sqrt{m_q^2 + p^2}$. If $g$ is the number of internal quark degrees of freedom, then the difference between the number densities of quarks and antiquarks is

$$n_q - n_{\bar{q}} = \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int d^3p \left[ f_q(p) - f_{\bar{q}}(p) \right]$$

$$= \frac{g}{2\pi^2} \int d^3p \sqrt{E^2 - m_q^2}$$

$$\times \left[ \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E+\mu)/T}} - \frac{1}{1 + e^{(E-\mu)/T}} \right].$$

The contribution to the baryon-number asymmetry per comoving volume is given by $(n_q - n_{\bar{q}})/3s$, where the entropy density $s$ of relativistic particles is

$$s(T) = \frac{2\pi^2}{45} g_3(T) T^3,$$

$$g_3(T) = \sum_B g_B \left( \frac{T_B}{T} \right)^3 + \frac{7}{8} \sum_F g_F \left( \frac{T_F}{T} \right)^3.$$
With two spins and three colors, \( g = 6 \) for a given quark flavor. The result (4) applies for each flavor. In GUT models, \( g_s \gtrsim 10^2 \) for \( T \gtrsim 100 \) MeV. Disregarding possible cancellations among contributions from different flavors, the net baryon number per comoving volume produced in this way with three generations of standard-model particles is therefore \( n_B/s \sim (10^{-2} \mu/T) I_0(m_q/T) \sim (10^{-19} m_l/T) I_0(m_q/T) \). This is far too small to reproduce the observed value \( n_B/s \sim 10^{-10} \). Note that choices of \( l \geq 3 \) would produce even smaller values. We can therefore exclude baryogenesis with standard-model quarks via \( k = 0 \) CPT-violating couplings.

Consider next the cases with \( k \geq 1 \). These have CPT-violating couplings of the type in Eq. (1) involving at least one time derivative. In thermal equilibrium, it is a good approximation to replace each time derivative with a factor of the associated quark energy. This produces energy-dependent contributions to the effective chemical potential, given by

\[
\mu \sim \left( \frac{m_l}{M} \right)^l \frac{E^k}{M^{k-1}}. \tag{6}
\]

Using Eq. (2), we find that each quark generates a contribution to the baryon number per comoving volume of

\[
\frac{n_B - n_B}{3s} \sim \frac{15g}{4\pi^4 g_s(T)} I_k(m_q/T), \tag{7}
\]

where

\[
I_k(r) = \int_r^\infty dx \frac{x^k}{x^2 - r^2} \frac{\sinh(\lambda_k x)}{\cosh x + \cosh(\lambda_k x)}. \tag{8}
\]

If \( k = 1 \), the dominant contribution arises when \( l = 1 \). Then, \( \lambda_1 = m_l/M \ll 1 \) and we have

\[
I_1(r) \approx \frac{m_l}{M} \int_r^\infty dx \frac{x^2}{1 + \cosh x}. \tag{10}
\]

It can be shown that \( I_1 < 12m_l/M \). This means that the contribution to \( n_B/s \) from the \( k = 1 \) terms is again too small to reproduce the known baryon asymmetry.

If \( k \geq 2 \), the dominant contribution appears when \( l = 0 \). This gives \( \lambda_k = (T/M)^{k-1} \). Assuming the decoupling temperature \( T_D \) is well below the scale \( M \), the integral \( I_k \) has integrand peaking near \( x \sim 1 \) and exponentially suppressed in the region \( 1 < x < M/T \).

This shows that baryogenesis is more suppressed as \( k \) increases from the value \( k = 2 \).

For an appropriate value of the decoupling temperature \( T_D \), it follows that the observed baryon asymmetry can be matched provided the interactions violating baryon number are still in thermal equilibrium at this temperature. In estimating the value of \( T_D \), the effects of dilution mechanisms must be taken into account. We do this in the next section. Note that for \( k \geq 3 \) the extra suppression by powers of \( T/M \) further raises the decoupling temperature \( T_D \) required.

### 3. Dilution mechanisms

A potentially important source of baryon-asymmetry dilution is the occurrence of sphaleron transitions, which violate baryon number. These processes are
expected to be unsuppressed at temperatures above the electroweak phase transition [13].

Denote the total baryon- and lepton-number densities by $B$ and $L$, respectively. We assume that the GUT conserves the quantity $B - L$. Sphaleron-induced baryon-asymmetry dilution occurs when $B - L$ vanishes [14]. The dilution can be estimated by calculating the expectation of the baryon number density using standard model fields in thermal equilibrium at the temperature $T_S$ where the sphaleron transitions freeze out.

Consider $N$ generations of quarks with masses $m_{qi}$ and leptons with masses $m_{li}$, $i = 1, \ldots, N$. The free energy in a unit volume for the system in equilibrium at temperature $T$ is given by

$$ F = 6 \sum_{i=1}^{2N} F(m_{qi}, \mu) + \sum_{i=1}^{N} [2F(m_{li}, \mu_i) + F(0, \mu_i)], $$

where the parameters $\mu$ and $\mu_i$ are the chemical potentials of the quarks and the $i$th lepton, respectively. Note that these are true chemical potentials here, unlike the effective chemical potential used in the preceding section. In the expression (13), the free energy in a unit volume for each constituent fermion field of mass $m$ and chemical potential $\mu$ is given by the standard expression

$$ F(m, \mu) = -T \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \left[ \ln(1 + e^{-(E-\mu)/T}) + (\mu \to -\mu) \right], $$

where $E$ is the energy of a fermion with momentum $k$.

Sphaleron transitions preserve the $N$ quantities $L_i = l_i - N^{-1}B$, where the individual lepton-number densities are denoted $l_i$. In thermal equilibrium, this leads to the relation $\mu = -\sum_i \mu_i / 3N$. Since the sphaleron freeze-out temperature $T_S$ is larger than any fermion mass, the free energy in a unit volume can be well approximated by

$$ F(m, \mu) \approx F(m, 0) - \frac{1}{12} \mu^2 T^2 \left( 1 - \frac{3}{2\pi^2} \frac{m^2}{T^2} \right). $$

The conserved number densities $L_i$ are therefore given by

$$ L_i = -\frac{\partial F}{\partial \mu_i} \approx -\frac{\mu T^2}{3N} \alpha + \frac{\mu_i T^2}{2} \beta_i, $$

where

$$ \alpha \equiv 2N - \frac{3}{2\pi^2} \sum_{i=1}^{2N} \frac{m_{qi}^2}{T^2}, \quad \beta_i \equiv 1 - \frac{1}{\pi^2} \frac{m_{li}^2}{T^2}. $$

Solving for $\mu_i$ and summing over $i$ leads to the expression

$$ \mu = -\frac{6}{T^2} \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{L_i}{\beta_i} \right) \left( 9N + \frac{2\alpha}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{1}{\beta_j} \right)^{-1}. $$

Since each quark carries baryon number $1/3$, the expectation of baryon density is [14]

$$ B = -2 \sum_{i=1}^{2N} \frac{\partial F(m_{qi}, \mu)}{\partial \mu} = -2\alpha \left( \sum_{i=1}^{N} \frac{L_i}{\beta_i} \right) \left( 9N + \frac{2\alpha}{N} \sum_{j=1}^{N} \frac{1}{\beta_j} \right)^{-1} \approx \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} \frac{4}{13} (B - L), & B - L = 0, \\ \frac{4}{13} (B - L), & B - L \neq 0. \end{array} \right. $$

In the last step, only the leading-order contribution has been kept.

Consider first the case where $B - L = 0$ initially. Taking the leptoquark decays to be dominated by the heaviest lepton of mass $m_L$ [14], it follows from Eq. (19) that the baryon- and lepton-number densities are diluted through sphaleron effects by a factor of approximately $4(N - 1)m_L^2/13\pi^2NT_S^2$. Combining this result with Eq. (12) produces at the present epoch a net contribution from three generations to the magnitude of the baryon-number asymmetry per comoving volume of

$$ \frac{n_B}{s} \sim \frac{28g_s m_L^2 T_D}{13\pi^2 g_s(T_D) T_S^2 M}. $$

Taking the heaviest lepton to be the tau and the freeze-out temperature $T_S$ to be the electroweak scale, this means the baryon asymmetry produced via GUT processes is diluted by a factor of about $10^{-6}$. Thus, the
observed value of the baryon asymmetry can be reproduced if, in a GUT model conserving $B - L$ with $B - L = 0$ initially, baryogenesis takes place via $k = 2$ CPT-violating terms at a decoupling temperature $T_D \approx 10^{-4} M$, followed by sphaleron dilution. This value of $T_D$ is close to the GUT scale and leptoquark mass $M_X$, as is required for consistency.

Note that in obtaining Eq. (20) we have used the estimate of the baryon asymmetry obtained in Eq. (12) of section 2, which neglects any possible effects from sphalerons occurring at the GUT scale. The sphaleron transition rate at high temperatures $T$ is $\Gamma \approx \alpha_W^2 T^4$ [19], where $\alpha_W$ is the electroweak coupling constant. This implies that the rate of baryon-number violation exceeds the expansion rate of the Universe

$$H \approx \sqrt{8 \pi T^2 / M}$$

for temperatures below $\alpha_W^2 M \approx 10^{12}$ GeV [20]. Sphaleron effects at the GUT scale can therefore safely be disregarded.

If instead we examine the case $B - L \neq 0$, Eq. (19) shows that essentially no sphaleron dilution occurs. A less attractive possibility then could be countenanced: baryogenesis at $T_D$ as above, but with the asymmetry introduced via initial conditions. In this case dilution might occur through other mechanisms, such as the decay of the dilaton in string theories [21,22].

If Eq. (20) is to hold, then at the GUT scale the leptoquark interactions that violate baryon number must still be in thermal equilibrium with respect to the expansion rate of the Universe. Suppose baryon number is violated via (direct and inverse) leptoquark decays and scattering, occurring with gauge-coupling strength $\alpha_X$. Then, the rates $\Gamma_D$ for decay and $\Gamma_S$ for scattering at temperature $T > M_X$ are (see, for instance, ref. [4]):

$$\Gamma_D \approx g_s \alpha_X M_X^2 / \sqrt{T^2 + M_X^2}, \quad \Gamma_S \approx g_s^2 \alpha_R^2 T^5 / (T^2 + M_X^2)^2.$$ (22)

These rates are to be compared with the expansion rate $H$ of the Universe, Eq. (21). With the above decoupling temperature $T_D$ and a reasonable coupling $\alpha_X$, both $\Gamma_D / H$ and $\Gamma_S / H$ exceed one and so the decay and scattering processes are indeed in thermal equilibrium at the GUT scale.

As an aside, we remark that for $k = 2$ the decoupling temperature $T_D$ is low enough for baryogenesis to be compatible with primordial inflationary models of the chaotic type and possibly also with new inflationary models. The examples given in refs. [23,24] are also consistent with COBE bounds on the primordial energy-density fluctuations and with the upper bound on the reheating temperature that avoids the overproduction of gravitinos [24,25].

4. Summary

In this work, we have explored the possibility that baryogenesis involves spontaneous CPT breaking arising in a string-based framework. In the presence of interactions that violate baryon number, the CPT-breaking terms with $k = 2$ appearing in Eq. (1) can generate a large baryon asymmetry with the Universe in thermal equilibrium at the GUT scale. If the interactions preserve $B - L = 0$, the subsequent sphaleron dilution reproduces the observed value of the baryon asymmetry.

Acknowledgements

We thank A. Krasnitz for discussion. O.B. and R.P. thank Indiana University for hospitality. This work was supported in part by the Junta Nacional de Investigação Científica e Tecnológica (Portugal) under grant number CERN/P/FAE/1030/95 and by the U.S. Department of Energy under grant number DE-FG02-91ER40661.

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