



University
of Glasgow

FLAVOUR HIERARCHIES VIA NON-MINIMAL IRREPS

with Hannah Banks, Matthew McCullough & Dave Sutherland

arxiv: 2510.03403

Graeme Crawford

YTF 2025

December 17, 2025

University of Glasgow

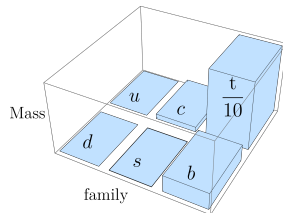
THE SM FLAVOR PUZZLE

Only the Yukawa couplings break the SM flavor symmetries

$$U(3)_Q \times U(3)_u \times U(3)_d \times U(3)_L \times U(3)_e$$

Why is this breaking hierarchical?

Analyse via a **spurion** – a dynamical field which is the only parameter to explicitly break global symmetries.



Isidori, Kaon 2025

Framework	Spurion	Flavor Puzzle?
Minimal Flavour Violation (MFV)	Yukawa is $3_Q \times \bar{3}_{u(d)}$ spurion	No NP FCNCs, but only accommodates hierarchy

Framework	Spurion	Flavor Puzzle?
Minimal Flavour Violation (MFV)	Yukawa is $3_Q \times \bar{3}_{u(d)}$ spurion	No NP FCNCs, but only accommodates hierarchy
Froggatt–Nielsen (FN)	Additional $U(1)_{FN}$ Spurion (flavon) gets a vev Fermion charges generation dependent	Generates hierarchy, but charges under $U(1)$ are ad-hoc

$$\mathcal{L} \supset y_{ij} \bar{Q}_i H d_j \left(\frac{\theta}{\Lambda}\right)^{x_{ij}}, \text{ for flavon } \theta \text{ and charge } x_{ij}$$

Framework	Spurion	Flavor Puzzle?
Minimal Flavour Violation (MFV)	Yukawa is $3_Q \times \bar{3}_{u(d)}$ spurion	No NP FCNCs, but only accommodates hierarchy
Froggatt–Nielsen (FN)	Additional $U(1)_{FN}$ Spurion (flavon) gets a vev Fermion charges generation dependant	Generates hierarchy but charges under $U(1)$ are ad-hoc
Accidental Hierarchy (AH)	Spurion in non-minimal irrep of $SU(3)$ flavour symmetries e.g. $6_Q \times \bar{6}_{u(d)}$	Can a random $\mathcal{O}(1)$ spurion accidentally lead to flavour hierarchies?

Essentially, how do we make the Yukawa ($y \sim \mathbf{3}_Q \times \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{u(d)}$) from copies of our spurion ($\mathcal{Y} \sim \mathbf{6}_Q \times \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{u(d)}$) ?

$$y \sim \mathcal{Y}^2 \bar{\mathcal{Y}} + \epsilon \left(\mathcal{Y}^4 + \mathcal{Y} \bar{\mathcal{Y}}^3 \right) + \epsilon^2 \left(\bar{\mathcal{Y}}^5 + \mathcal{Y}^3 \bar{\mathcal{Y}}^2 \right) + \dots$$

Essentially, how do we make the Yukawa ($y \sim \mathbf{3}_Q \times \bar{\mathbf{3}}_{u(d)}$) from copies of our spurion ($\mathcal{Y} \sim \mathbf{6}_Q \times \bar{\mathbf{6}}_{u(d)}$) ?

$$y \sim \mathcal{Y}^2 \bar{\mathcal{Y}} + \epsilon \left(\mathcal{Y}^4 + \mathcal{Y} \bar{\mathcal{Y}}^3 \right) + \epsilon^2 \left(\bar{\mathcal{Y}}^5 + \mathcal{Y}^3 \bar{\mathcal{Y}}^2 \right) + \dots$$

$$\left(\begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(1) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(1) & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ \mathcal{O}(1) & \mathcal{O}(1) & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \\ \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) \\ 0 & \mathcal{O}(1) & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} & \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \end{array} \right)$$

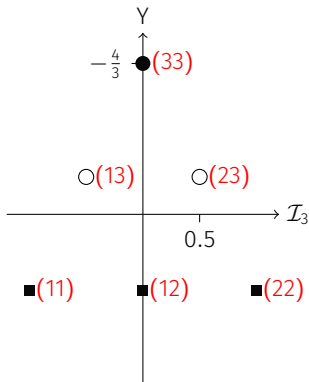
$\mathcal{Y}$

$$\Rightarrow y \approx \begin{pmatrix} \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) & \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) \\ 0 & \mathcal{O}(\epsilon) & \mathcal{O}(1) \end{pmatrix} + \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2)$$

Eigenvalues: $(\mathcal{O}(1), \mathcal{O}(\epsilon), \mathcal{O}(\epsilon^2))$

BACKUP: CONSTRUCTING THE SPURION

The spurion $\mathcal{Y}_{ab}^{\alpha\beta}$ transforms under indices $(\alpha\beta)$ of $SU(3)_Q$ and $(a\ b)$ of $SU(3)_{u(d)}$



$$\begin{pmatrix} (11) & (12) & (13) \\ (21) & (22) & (23) \\ (31) & (32) & (33) \end{pmatrix}$$

Indices of the **6** in terms of flavour charges and how they form the matrices that build up the spauron $\mathcal{Y}$. $(12) = (21)$ etc. from symmetry.

Consider the pattern of flavour violation in kaon mixing for dim-6 SMEFT operators.

	MFV	AH	FN
	sd		
C_{LL}	$y_c^4 s_{12}^2$	ϵ^2	$\dot{\epsilon}^2$
C_{LR}	$y_c^4 s_{12}^2 y_d y_s$	ϵ^1	1
C_{RR}	$y_c^4 s_{12}^2 y_d^2 y_s^2$	1	$\dot{\epsilon}^2$

Upshot? Frameworks generating same SM structure can have very different NP structure.