

Neutrino Mixing: A_4 Variations

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Abstract

In the context of the non-Abelian discrete symmetry A_4 , the neutrino mass matrix has been studied extensively. A brief update is presented to focus on the conceptual shift from tribimaximal mixing ($\theta_{13} = 0$, $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$, $\tan^2 \theta_{12} = 1/2$) to cobimaximal mixing ($\theta_{13} \neq 0$, $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$, $\delta_{CP} = \pm\pi/2$) which agrees well with present data. Three specific realistic examples are proposed, two with three and the third with just two parameters.

The non-Abelian discrete symmetry A_4 is the symmetry of the tetrahedron. It has 12 elements and is the smallest group which admits an irreducible $\underline{3}$ representation. It also has three one-dimensional representations $\underline{1}, \underline{1}', \underline{1}''$. The basic multiplication rule is

$$\underline{3} \times \underline{3} = \underline{1} + \underline{1}' + \underline{1}'' + \underline{3} + \underline{3}. \quad (1)$$

Its application to neutrino mixing began with Ref. [1], where the representation matrices were chosen so that

[1] E. Ma and G. Rajasekaran, Phys. Rev. D64, 113012 (2001).
"Softly Broken A_4 Symmetry for Nearly Degenerate Neutrino Masses",
arXiv:hep-ph/0106291

$$a_1 b_1 + a_2 b_2 + a_3 b_3 \sim \underline{1}, \quad (2)$$

$$a_1 b_1 + \omega a_2 b_2 + \omega^2 a_3 b_3 \sim \underline{1}', \quad (3)$$

$$a_1 b_1 + \omega^2 a_2 b_2 + \omega a_3 b_3 \sim \underline{1}'', \quad (4)$$

$$(a_2 b_3 \pm a_3 b_2, a_3 b_1 \pm a_1 b_3, a_1 b_2 \pm a_2 b_1) \sim \underline{3}, \quad (5)$$

where $a_i, b_i \sim \underline{3}$ and $\omega = \exp(2\pi i/3) = -1/2 + i\sqrt{3}/2$. The three lepton families are assumed to transform as follows:

$$(\nu_i, l_i)_L \sim \underline{3}, \quad l_{iL}^c \sim \underline{1}, \underline{1}', \underline{1}'', \quad (6)$$

with three Higgs doublets $(\phi_i^+, \phi_i^0) \sim \underline{3}$. Hence the charged-lepton mass matrix is given by

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{h_{ijk}(\nu_i, l_i)_L} l_{jR} \Phi_k + h.c. \xrightarrow{\text{After EWSB}} \mathcal{M}_l &= \begin{pmatrix} f_e v_1^* & f_\mu v_1^* & f_\tau v_1^* \\ f_e v_2^* & f_\mu \omega^2 v_2^* & f_\tau \omega v_2^* \\ f_e v_3^* & f_\mu \omega v_3^* & f_\tau \omega^2 v_3^* \end{pmatrix} \quad h_{i1k} = h_1 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}, \quad h_{i2k} = h_2 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega^2 \end{bmatrix}, \quad h_{i3k} = h_3 \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \omega^2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \omega \end{bmatrix} \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} v_1^* & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & v_2^* & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & v_3^* \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_e & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & f_\mu & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & f_\tau \end{pmatrix}. \quad (7) \end{aligned}$$

For $v_1 = v_2 = v_3$, the A_4 symmetry breaks to its residual Z_3 and the unitary transformation linking \mathcal{M}_l to \mathcal{M}_ν is [2, 3]

$$U_\omega = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & \omega & \omega^2 \\ 1 & \omega^2 & \omega \end{pmatrix}. \quad (8)$$

In the (e, μ, τ) basis, the neutrino mass matrix (assumed Majorana) is

$$\underline{\mathcal{M}_\nu^{(e,\mu,\tau)}} = U_\omega \mathcal{M}_A U_\omega^T. \quad (9)$$

For many years, the preferred neutrino mixing matrix is of the tribimaximal form [4], i.e.

$$\text{TBM: } U_B = \begin{pmatrix} \sqrt{2/3} & 1/\sqrt{3} & 0 \\ -1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{3} & -1/\sqrt{2} \\ -1/\sqrt{6} & 1/\sqrt{3} & 1/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (10)$$

It is related to U_ω through

$$U_A = U_\omega^\dagger U_B = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & i/\sqrt{2} \\ 1/\sqrt{2} & 0 & -i/\sqrt{2} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (11)$$

The neutrino mass matrix in the tribimaximal basis is then

$$\mathcal{M}_B = U_A^\dagger \mathcal{M}_A U_A^*. \quad (12)$$

Let [5, 6]

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix}, \quad (13)$$

then for [7]

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix}, \quad (14)$$

they are related by

$$m_1 = b + (d + f)/2, \quad m_2 = a, \quad m_3 = b - (d + f)/2, \quad (15)$$

$$m_4 = i(f - d)/2, \quad m_5 = i(e - c)/\sqrt{2}, \quad m_6 = (e + c)/\sqrt{2}. \quad (16)$$

To obtain tribimaximal mixing ($\theta_{13} = 0$, $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$, $\tan^2 \theta_{12} = 1/2$), $c = e = 0$ and $f = d$ are required. The remaining three parameters (a, b, d) are in general complex. To obtain cobimaximal mixing ($\theta_{13} \neq 0$, $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$, $\delta_{CP} = \pm\pi/2$) which agrees well with present data [8] with $\delta_{CP} = -\pi/2$ [9], what is required [7] is that \mathcal{M}_A be diagonalized by an orthogonal matrix. To see this, let

$$U_{l\nu} = U_\omega \mathcal{O}, \quad (17)$$

where \mathcal{O} is a real orthogonal matrix, then it is obvious that $U_{\mu i} = U_{\tau i}^*$ for $i = 1, 2, 3$. Comparing this with the Particle Data Group (PDG) convention of the neutrino mixing matrix, i.e.

$$U_{\nu}^{PDG} = \begin{pmatrix} c_{12}c_{13} & s_{12}c_{13} & s_{13}e^{-i\delta} \\ -s_{12}c_{23} - c_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{12}c_{23} - s_{12}s_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & s_{23}c_{13} \\ s_{12}s_{23} - c_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & -c_{12}s_{23} - s_{12}c_{23}s_{13}e^{i\delta} & c_{23}c_{13} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (18)$$

it is obvious that after rotating the phases of the third column and the second and third rows, the two matrices are identical if and only if $s_{23} = c_{23}$ and $\cos \delta = 0$, i.e. $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$ and $\delta_{CP} = \pm\pi/2$. This important insight is a rediscovery of what was actually known already many years ago [10, 11]. It is guaranteed if (a, b, c, d, e, f) are all real, so that \mathcal{M}_A is both symmetric and Hermitian.

Another way to arrive at cobimaximal mixing is to use Eqs. (9) and (14), i.e.

$$\mathcal{M}_{\nu}^{(e,\mu,\tau)} = U_{\omega} \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix} U_{\omega}^T = \begin{pmatrix} \underline{A} & \underline{C} & \underline{E^*} \\ \underline{C} & \underline{D^*} & \underline{B} \\ \underline{E^*} & \underline{B} & \underline{F} \end{pmatrix}, \quad (19)$$

where

$$A = (a + 2b + 2c + d + 2e + f)/3, \quad \longrightarrow m_{ee} = |A| \quad (20)$$

$$B = (a - b - c + d - e + f)/3, \quad (21)$$

$$C = (a - b - \omega^2 c + \omega d - \omega e + \omega^2 f)/3, \quad (22)$$

$$D^* = (a + 2b + 2\omega c + \omega^2 d + 2\omega^2 e + \omega f)/3, \quad (23)$$

$$E^* = (a - b - \omega c + \omega^2 d - \omega^2 e + \omega f)/3, \quad (24)$$

$$F = (a + 2b + 2\omega^2 c + \omega d + 2\omega e + \omega^2 f)/3. \quad (25)$$

If again (a, b, c, d, e, f) are real, then A, B are real, whereas $E = C$ and $F = D$. This well-known special form was written down already many years ago [12, 13], and it was pointed out soon afterward [14] that it is protected by a generalized CP transformation

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[Grimus & Lavoura]

[12] E. Ma, Phys. Rev. D66, 117301 (2002).

[13] K. S. Babu, E. Ma, and J. W. F. Valle, Phys. Lett. B552, 207 (2003)

[14] W. Grimus and L. Lavoura, Phys. Lett. B579, 113 (2004).

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix},$$

under $\mu - \tau$ exchange, and it guarantees cobimaximal mixing. With the knowledge that $\theta_{13} \neq 0$ [15, 16, 17], this extended symmetry is now the subject of many studies, which began with generalized S_4 [18]. In fact, remnant residual symmetries may be used [19, 20, 21] to reconstruct the neutrino mixing matrix with cobimaximal mixing.

Since tribimaximal mixing is not what the data show, \mathcal{M}_B cannot be diagonal. Many studies are then centered on looking for small off-diagonal terms, i.e. $m_{4,5,6}$ which may be complex. On the other hand, data are perfectly consistent with \mathcal{M}_A as long as it is real. Of course, θ_{13} and θ_{12} are not predicted, but if extra conditions are imposed, they may be correlated. For example, it has been proposed [22] that $c = e = 0$, but $f \neq d$, with a, b, d, f real. This yields cobimaximal mixing together with the prediction that

[22] X.-G. He, arXiv:1504.01560 [hep-ph].
A Model of Neutrino Mass Matrix
With $\delta = -\pi/2$ and $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$

$$\tan^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{1}{2 - 3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}} > \frac{1}{2}. \quad (26)$$

Using the 2014 Particle Data Group value [8]

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{13}) = (9.3 \pm 0.8) \times 10^{-2}, \quad (27)$$

the value of $\sin^2(2\theta_{12})$ from Eq. (26) is 0.90 with very little deviation, as compared with the PDG value

$$\sin^2(2\theta_{12}) = 0.846 \pm 0.021. \quad (28)$$

This is a generic result corresponding to choosing $m_5 = m_6 = 0$ in Eq. (13). If $m_4 = m_6 = 0$ is chosen instead, then another generic prediction is

$$\tan^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}). \quad (29)$$

Again using Eq. (27), $\sin^2(2\theta_{12}) = 0.866 \pm .002$ is obtained, which agrees well with Eq. (28).

Note that both generic results hold for arbitrary values of δ_{CP} . In Ref. [6], $e + c = 0$ is assumed so that $m_6 = 0$. In addition, $\delta_{CP} = 0$ and $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$ are assumed, which can be achieved if both m_4 and m_5 are nonzero. In the case $m_4 = m_6 = 0$, but $m_{1,2,3,5}$ complex,

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix},$$

[21] Origin of Constrained Maximal CP Violation in Flavor Symmetry
Hong-jian He, Werner Rodejohann, Xun-Jie Xu

[19] Neutrino Mixing from CP Symmetry
Peng Chen, Chang-Yuan Yao, Gui-Jun Ding (Hefei, CUST)
arXiv:1507.03419 [hep-ph]

[20] Generalized μ - τ symmetry and discrete subgroups of $O(3)$
Anjan S. Joshipura, Ketan M. Patel
arXiv:1507.01235 [hep-ph]

[6] E. Ma and D. Wegman, Phys. Rev. Lett. 107, 061803 (2011).
Nonzero θ_{13} for neutrino mixing in the context of A_4 symmetry,
[arXiv:1106.4269]

an analysis shows [23] that large δ_{CP} correlates with $\theta_{23} \neq \pi/4$ for a fixed nonzero θ_{13} . Of course, $\theta_{23} = \pi/4$ and $\delta_{CP} = -\pi/2$ are now favored by data, and cobimaximal mixing should be chosen as the preferred starting point of any improved model of neutrino mass and mixing.

Starting case:

Consider a real \mathcal{M}_A with $d = f$ and $c = -e$, i.e.

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & -e & e \\ -e & d & b \\ e & b & d \end{pmatrix}. \quad (30)$$

In that case,

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} b+d & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & i\sqrt{2}e \\ 0 & i\sqrt{2}e & b-d \end{pmatrix}, \quad (31)$$

i.e. $m_4 = m_6 = 0$, hence the desirable condition of Eq. (29) is obtained. Let \mathcal{M}_B be diagonalized by

$$U_E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c & is \\ 0 & is & c \end{pmatrix}, \quad (32)$$

so that

$$\mathcal{M}_B = U_E \begin{pmatrix} m'_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & m'_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & m'_3 \end{pmatrix} U_E^T, \quad (33)$$

where $s = \sin \theta_E$, $c = \cos \theta_E$. Then

$$\frac{sc}{c^2 - s^2} = \frac{e\sqrt{2}}{a + b - d}, \quad (34)$$

and the three neutrino mass eigenvalues are

$$m'_1 = b + d, \quad (35)$$

$$m'_2 = \frac{1}{c^2 - s^2} [c^2 a + s^2 (b - d)], \quad (36)$$

$$m'_3 = \frac{1}{c^2 - s^2} [s^2 a + c^2 (b - d)]. \quad (37)$$

The neutrino mixing matrix is now $U_B U_E$, from which

$$s = \sqrt{3} \sin \theta_{13} \quad (38)$$

is obtained. As it is, \mathcal{M}_A has four real parameters (a, b, d, e) to fit three observables $(\theta_{13}, \Delta m_{21}^2, \Delta m_{32}^2)$, hence no prediction is possible other than cobimaximal mixing and Eq. (29). $\rightarrow \tan^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 3 \sin^2 \theta_{13})$. (Altarelli&Feruglio, E.Ma)

In the case of tribimaximal mixing, i.e. $e = 0$, the simplest A_4 model [24, 25] has $d = a$.

Example: With this condition, but $e \neq 0$, the three neutrino masses are (d=a & d=f, c=-e)

$$m'_1 = b + a, \quad m'_2 = a + \frac{s^2 b}{c^2 - s^2}, \quad m'_3 = -a + \frac{c^2 b}{c^2 - s^2}. \quad (39)$$

Using Eq. (27) with the central value $s = 0.2673$, they become

$$m'_1 = b + a, \quad m'_2 = a + 0.08336b, \quad m'_3 = -a + 1.08336b. \quad (40)$$

Using the central values of [8]

$$\Delta m_{21}^2 = 7.53 \pm 0.18 \times 10^{-5} \text{ eV}^2, \quad \Delta m_{32}^2 = 2.44 \pm 0.06 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}^2, \quad (41)$$

the solution is $b/a = -1.714$ and $a = 0.0183 \text{ eV}$, with $e/a = -0.3642$. Using Eq. (20), the effective neutrino mass in neutrinoless double beta decay is predicted to be

$$m_{ee} = |A| = |a + 2b/3| = 2.6 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV}, \quad (42)$$

which is very small, as expected from a normal ordering of neutrino masses, and beyond the sensitivity of current and planned experiments.

Example: Another possible three-parameter model is to assume $d = b$, then (d=f, c=-e) &

$$m'_1 = 2b, \quad m'_2 = 1.08336a, \quad m'_3 = 0.08336a. \quad (43)$$

This implies inverted ordering of neutrino masses with $a = 0.0465 \text{ eV}$, $b = 0.0248 \text{ eV}$, and $e = 0.0099 \text{ eV}$. Hence $m_{ee} = |(a + 4b)/3| = 0.0486 \text{ eV}$ which is presumably verifiable in the future.

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix},$$



$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & -e & e \\ -e & d & b \\ e & b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} b+d & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & i\sqrt{2}e \\ 0 & i\sqrt{2}e & b-d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & d & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix},$$



$$\mathcal{M}_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & -e & e \\ -e & d & b \\ e & b & d \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$\mathcal{M}_B = \begin{pmatrix} b+d & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & i\sqrt{2}e \\ 0 & i\sqrt{2}e & b-d \end{pmatrix}$$

$$M_B = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 & m_6 & m_4 \\ m_6 & m_2 & m_5 \\ m_4 & m_5 & m_3 \end{pmatrix},$$

$$M_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & c & e \\ c & b & b \\ e & b & f \end{pmatrix},$$



$$M_A = \begin{pmatrix} a & -e & e \\ -e & 2b & -2a \\ e & -2a & 2b \end{pmatrix}.$$

$$(44)^{M_B} = \begin{pmatrix} 4a & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & a & i\sqrt{2}e \\ 0 & i\sqrt{2}e & -4a \end{pmatrix}$$

Example: As a third example, consider the following new remarkable model of just two parameters, with $d = -b = 2a$: (& $d=f, c=-e$)

$$m'_1 = 0, \quad m'_2 = \left(\frac{c^2 - 4s^2}{c^2 - s^2} \right) a = 0.75a, \quad m'_3 = \left(\frac{s^2 - 4c^2}{c^2 - s^2} \right) a = -4.25a. \quad (44)$$

As a result, $\Delta m_{21}^2 / \Delta m_{32}^2$ is predicted to be 0.032, as compared with the experimental value of 0.031. In this case, $a = 0.0116$ eV and $m_{ee} = |a/3| = 3.9 \times 10^{-3}$ eV, with $e/a = -0.6375$.

In conclusion, it has been pointed out in this paper that A_4 is intimately related to cobimaximal mixing ($\theta_{13} \neq 0, \theta_{23} = \pi/4, \delta_{CP} = \pm\pi/2$) which agrees well with present data. In particular, a model is proposed with just two real parameters, with the following predictions:

$$\theta_{23} = \pi/4, \quad \delta_{CP} = \pm\pi/2, \quad \tan^2 \theta_{12} = \frac{1}{2}(1 - 3 \sin^2 \theta_{13}), \quad (45)$$

$$\frac{\Delta m_{21}^2}{\Delta m_{31}^2} = \left(\frac{1 - 15 \sin^2 \theta_{13}}{4 - 15 \sin^2 \theta_{13}} \right)^2, \quad m_{ee} = 3.9 \times 10^{-3} \text{ eV (for } \sin^2 2\theta_{13} = 0.093), \quad (46)$$

which are all well satisfied by present data (except m_{ee} which is yet to be measured).

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