Testing Extended Technicolor with \( R_b \)

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We review the connection between \( m_t \) and the \( Zb\bar{b} \) vertex in ETC models and demonstrate the power of the resulting experimental constraint on models with weak-singlet ETC bosons. Some efforts to bring ETC models into agreement with experimental data on the \( Zb\bar{b} \) vertex are mentioned, and the most promising one (non-commuting ETC) is discussed in detail.

\section{Introduction}

Two outstanding questions in particle theory are the cause of electroweak symmetry breaking and the origin of the masses and mixings of the fermions. Because theories that use light, weakly-coupled scalar bosons to answer these questions suffer from the hierarchy and triviality problems, it is interesting to consider the possibility that electroweak symmetry breaking arises from strong dynamics at scales of order 1 TeV. This talk focuses on extended technicolor (ETC) models, in which both the masses of the weak gauge bosons and those of the fermions arise from gauge dynamics.

In extended technicolor models, the large mass of the top quark generally arises from ETC dynamics at relatively low energy scales. Since the magnitude of the Cabibbo-Kobayashi-Maskawa matrix element \( |V_{tb}| \) is nearly unity, \( SU(2)_W \) gauge invariance insures that ETC bosons coupling to the left-handed top quark couple with equal strength to the left-handed bottom quark. In particular, the ETC dynamics which generate the top quark’s mass also couple to the left-handed bottom quark thereby affecting the \( Zb\bar{b} \) vertex. This has been shown to provide a powerful experimental constraint on extended technicolor models – particularly on those models in which the ETC gauge group commutes with \( SU(2)_W \).

This talk begins by reviewing the connection between the top quark mass and the \( Zb\bar{b} \) vertex in ETC models. Next, the power of the resulting experimental constraint on ETC models with weak-singlet ETC bosons is demonstrated. Several recent attempts to bring ETC models into agreement with experimental data on the \( Zb\bar{b} \) vertex are mentioned, and the most promising one (non-commuting ETC) is discussed.

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§2. From $m_t$ To A Signal of ETC Dynamics

Consider a model in which $m_t$ is generated by the exchange of a weak-singlet ETC gauge boson of mass $M_{ETC}$ coupling with strength $g_{ETC}$ to the current

$$\xi \bar{\psi}_L^{ik} \gamma^\mu T_L^{ik} + \frac{1}{\xi} \tilde{r}_R^{ik} U_R^{ik}, \quad \text{where} \quad \tilde{\psi}_L \equiv \left( \frac{t}{b} \right)_L \quad T_L \equiv \left( \frac{U}{D} \right)_L$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.1)

where $U$ and $D$ are technifermions, $i$ and $k$ are weak and technicolor indices, and $\xi$ is an ETC Clebsch expected to be of order one. At energies below $M_{ETC}$, ETC gauge boson exchange may be approximated by local four-fermion operators. For example, $m_t$ arises from an operator coupling the left- and right-handed currents in Eq. (2.1)

$$-\frac{g^2_{ETC}}{M_{ETC}^2} \left( \bar{\psi}_L^{\mu} T_L^{i\mu} \right) \left( \bar{T}^{j\mu} \gamma^\mu \psi_L^j \right) + \text{h.c.}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.2)

When this is Fierzed into a product of technicolor-singlet densities, it generates a mass for the top quark when the technifermions’ chiral symmetries break. We can use the rules of naive dimensional analysis \cite{11} to estimate the size of $m_t$ generated by Eq. (2.2). Assuming, for simplicity, that there is only a doublet of technifermions and that technicolor respects an $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ chiral symmetry (so that the technipion decay constant, $F$, is $v = 246$ GeV) we have

$$m_t = \frac{g^2_{ETC}}{M_{ETC}^2} \langle U \bar{U} \rangle \approx \frac{g^2_{ETC}}{M_{ETC}^2} (4\pi v^3).$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.3)

The ETC boson responsible for producing $m_t$ also affects the $Zb\bar{b}$ vertex \cite{13}. Consider the four-fermion operator arising from the left-handed current in Eq. (2.1) – the part containing $b$ quarks.

$$-\xi^2 \frac{g^2_{ETC}}{M_{ETC}^2} \left( \bar{\psi}_L^{\mu} T_L^{i\mu} \right) \left( \bar{T}^{j\mu} \gamma^\mu \psi_L^j \right).$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.4)

When Fierzed into a product of technicolor singlet currents, this includes

$$-\frac{\xi^2 g^2_{ETC}}{2 M_{ETC}^2} \left( \bar{\psi}_L^{\mu} \tau^a \psi_L \right) \left( \bar{T}_L \gamma^\mu \tau^a T_L \right),$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.5)

where the $\tau^a$ are weak isospin Pauli matrices.

Adopting an effective chiral Lagrangian description appropriate below the technicolor chiral symmetry breaking scale, we may replace the technifermion current by a sigma-model current \cite{13}:

$$(\bar{T}_L \gamma^\mu \tau^a T_L) = \frac{v^2}{2} Tr \left( \Sigma^\dagger \tau^a iD_\mu \Sigma \right),$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.6)

where $\Sigma = \exp (2i \tilde{\pi} / v)$ transforms as $\Sigma \rightarrow L \Sigma R^\dagger$ under $SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$, and

$$D_\mu \Sigma = \partial_\mu \Sigma + i \frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} Z^\mu \left( \frac{\tau_3}{2} \Sigma - \sin \theta^2 |Q, \Sigma| \right) + ...$$ \hspace{1cm} (2.7)
In unitary gauge $\Sigma = 1$ this is seen to alter the $Z$-boson’s tree-level coupling to left-handed bottom quarks $g_L = \frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} (-\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} \sin \theta^2)$ by

$$
\delta g_L^{\text{ETC}} = -\frac{\xi^2 g_{\text{ETC}}^2 v^2}{2 M_{\text{ETC}}^2} \frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} (I_3) \quad (2.8)
$$

$$
= \frac{1}{4} \xi^2 \frac{m_t}{4\pi v} \frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} \quad (2.9)
$$

Here eq. (2.9) follows from applying eq. (2.3) to eq. (2.8).

§3. Comparison with the Standard Model and LEP data

To show that $\delta g_L$ provides a test of ETC dynamics, we must relate it to a shift in the value of an experimental observable, and compare that shift both to radiative corrections in the standard model and to the available experimental precision.

Because ETC gives a direct correction to the $Zb\bar{b}$ vertex, we need an observable that is particularly sensitive to direct, rather than oblique, effects. A natural choice is the ratio of $Z$ decay widths

$$
R_b \equiv \frac{\Gamma(Z \to \bar{b} \bar{b})}{\Gamma(Z \to \text{hadrons})} \quad (3.1)
$$

because both the oblique and QCD corrections largely cancel in this ratio. As

$$
\frac{\delta \Gamma_b}{\Gamma_b} = 2 \frac{g_L \delta g_L}{g_L^2 + g_R^2} \approx -6.5\% \xi^2 \left( \frac{m_t}{175\text{GeV}} \right) \quad (3.2)
$$

we find

$$
\frac{\delta R_b}{R_b} \approx -5.1\% \xi^2 \left( \frac{m_t}{175\text{GeV}} \right) \quad (3.3)
$$

The one-loop $Zb\bar{b}$ vertex correction in the standard model, which is largely due to exchange of longitudinal $W$ bosons, lies in the range $[-0.5\% ... -2.0\%]$ for $100 \text{ GeV} \leq m_t \leq 200 \text{ GeV}$. The ETC-induced correction (3.3) is larger and in the same direction. Furthermore, because ETC models include longitudinal $W$ bosons, the full shift in $R_b$ in an ETC model is the sum of the $W$-exchange and ETC contributions.

The LEP experiments now have sufficient precision to detect such large shifts in $R_b$. The experimental value of $R_b = 0.2202 \pm 0.0020$ actually lies above the 1-loop standard model value of $R_b = 0.2155$[4,7]. This implies that any contribution from non-standard physics is positive: $[\delta R_b/R_b]_{\text{new}} \approx +2.2\%$, thereby excluding ETC models in which the ETC and weak gauge groups commute.

§4. Interlude

Having demonstrated that measurements of $R_b$ can exclude a significant class of simple ETC models, we should check how more realistic models fare. Accordingly, we briefly review the impact of certain features of recent ETC models on the value of $R_b$. 
A slowly-running (‘walking’) technicolor beta-function is often included in ETC models in order to provide the light fermions with realistically large masses, while avoiding excessive flavor-changing neutral currents. Because a walking beta function enhances the size of the technifermion condensate $\langle \bar{T}T \rangle$, it leads to larger fermion masses for a given ETC scale, $M_{ETC}$. Enhancing $m_t$ relative to $M_{ETC}$ reduces the size of $\delta g_L$. However, it has been shown that the shift in $R_b$ generally remains large enough to be visible at LEP.

It is possible to build ETC models in which the ETC coupling itself becomes strong before the scale $M_{ETC}$ and plays a significant role in electroweak symmetry breaking. The spectrum of strongly-coupled ETC models include light composite scalars with Yukawa couplings to ordinary fermions and technifermions. Exchange of the composite scalars produces corrections to $R_b$ that are small enough to leave $R_b$ in agreement with experiment. The disadvantage of this approach is the need to fine-tune the ETC coupling close to the critical value.

ETC models also generally include ‘diagonal’ techni-neutral ETC bosons. The effect of these gauge bosons on $R_b$ is discussed at length in Ref. Suffice it to say that while exchange of the diagonal ETC bosons does tend to raise $R_b$, this effect is significant only when the model includes large isospin violation – leading to conflict with the measured value of the oblique parameter $T$.

Finally, we should recall that our analysis explicitly assumed that the weak and ETC gauge groups commute. More recent work indicates that relaxing that assumption can lead to models with experimentally acceptable values of $R_b$. The remainder of this talk will therefore focus on ‘non-commuting’ extended technicolor models.

§5. Non-commuting ETC Models

We begin by describing the symmetry-breaking pattern that enables non-commuting ETC models to include both a heavy top quark and approximate Cabibbo universality. A heavy top quark must receive its mass from ETC dynamics at low energy scales; if the ETC bosons responsible for $m_t$ are weak-charged, the weak group $SU(2)_{heavy}$ under which $(t, b)_L$ is a doublet must be embedded in the low-scale ETC group. Conversely, the light quarks and leptons cannot be charged under the low-scale ETC group lest they also receive large contributions to their masses; hence the weak $SU(2)_{light}$ group for the light quarks and leptons must be distinct from $SU(2)_{heavy}$. To approximately preserve low-energy Cabibbo universality the two weak $SU(2)$‘s must break to their diagonal subgroup before technicolor dynamically breaks the remaining electroweak symmetry. The resulting symmetry-breaking pattern is:

$$ETC \times SU(2)_{light} \times U(1)'^f$$
$$\downarrow \quad f$$
$$TC \times SU(2)_{heavy} \times SU(2)_{light} \times U(1)^y$$
$$\downarrow \quad u$$

(5.1)
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\[ TC \times SU(2)_W \times U(1)_Y \]
\[ \downarrow \quad v \]
\[ TC \times U(1)_{EM}, \]

where ETC and TC stand, respectively, for the extended technicolor and technicolor gauge groups, while $f$, $u$, and $v = 246$ GeV are the expectation values of the order parameters for the three different symmetry breakings (i.e. the analogs of $F_\pi$ for chiral symmetry breaking in QCD). Note that, since we are interested in the physics associated with top-quark mass generation, only $t_L$, $b_L$ and $t_R$ need transform non-trivially under ETC. But to ensure anomaly cancelation, it is more economical to assume that the entire third generation has the same non-commuting ETC interactions. Thus we take $(t,b)_L$ and $(\nu_\tau, \tau)_L$ to be doublets under $SU(2)_W$ heavy but singlets under $SU(2)_L$ light, while all other left-handed ordinary fermions have the opposite $SU(2)$ assignment.

Once again, the dynamics responsible for generating the top quark’s mass contributes to $R_b$. This time the ETC gauge boson involved transforms as a weak doublet coupling to

\[ \xi \bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu U_L + \frac{1}{\xi} \bar{t}_R \gamma^\mu T_R \quad (5.2) \]

where $\psi_L \equiv (t,b)_L$ and $T_R \equiv (U,D)_R$, are doublets under $SU(2)_{heavy}$ while $U_L$ is an $SU(2)_{heavy}$ singlet. Therefore, the four-fermion operator affecting the $Zb\bar{b}$ operator is (after Fierzing)

\[ -\frac{2\xi^2}{f^2} (\bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu \psi_L) (\bar{U}_L \gamma_\mu U_L). \quad (5.3) \]

Note that, since $\bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu U_L$ and $\bar{t}_R \gamma^\mu T_R$ must transform in the same way, if $\psi_L$ is a 2 of $SU(2)_{heavy}$ then $T_R$ is a 2* instead. Then in the effective chiral Lagrangian description, we find

\[ D_\mu \Sigma = \partial_\mu \Sigma - \frac{ie}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} Z_\mu \left( \frac{1}{2} \Sigma t_3^* + \sin^2 \theta [\Sigma, Q] \right) + \ldots \quad (5.4) \]

and in unitary gauge ($\Sigma = 1$) we have

\[ \bar{U}_L \gamma_\mu U_L = -\frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} \frac{v^2}{4} Z_\mu. \quad (5.5) \]

The effect of operator (5.3) on the coupling of $b_L$ to the $Z$ is therefore

\[ \delta g_L = -\frac{e}{\sin \theta \cos \theta} \frac{\xi^2 v^2}{2 f^2} \approx -\frac{\xi^2}{4} \frac{e m_t}{\sin \theta \cos \theta 4 \pi v}. \quad (5.6) \]

Since the tree-level $Zb_L\bar{b}_L$ coupling is also negative, the ETC-induced change tends to increase the coupling – and thereby increase $R_b$. We find that Eq. (5.4) results in a change to $R_b$ of

\[ \frac{\delta R_b}{R_b} \approx +5.1\% \xi^2 \left( \frac{m_t}{175 \text{GeV}} \right). \quad (5.7) \]
The change is similar in size to what was obtained in the commuting ETC models, but is opposite in sign.

But that is not the full story of $R_b$ in non-commuting ETC. Recall that there are two sets of weak gauge bosons which mix at the scale $u$. Of the resulting mass eigenstates, one set is heavy and couples mainly to the third-generation fermions while the other set is nearly identical to the $W$ and $Z$ of the standard model. That ‘nearly’ is important: it leads to a shift in the light $Z$’s coupling to the $b$ of order $10^{-3}$

\[
\delta g_L = \frac{e}{2 \sin \theta \cos \theta} \frac{g_{\text{ETC}}^2 u^2}{u^2} \sin^2 \alpha \quad (5.8)
\]

where $\tan \alpha = g_{\text{light}}/g_{\text{heavy}}$ is the ratio of the $SU(2)$ gauge couplings. The couplings of the light $Z$ to other fermions are similarly affected. When this is included, mixing alters $R_b$ by

\[
\frac{\delta R_b}{R_b} \approx -5.1\% \sin^2 \alpha \frac{e^2}{u^2} \left( \frac{m_t}{175 \text{GeV}} \right). \quad (5.9)
\]

The two effects on $R_b$ in non-commuting ETC models are of similar size and opposite sign, and their precise values are model-dependent. Thus, non-commuting ETC theories can yield values of $R_b$ that are consistent with experiment.

Since $R_b$ alone cannot confirm or exclude non-commuting ETC, we should apply a broader set of precision electroweak tests. Before doing this, we must describe the $SU(2) \times SU(2)$ symmetry breaking sector in more detail. The two simplest possibilities for the $SU(2)_{\text{heavy}} \times SU(2)_{\text{light}}$ transformation properties of the order parameters that produce the correct combination of mixing and breaking of these gauge groups are:

\[
\langle \varphi \rangle \sim (2,1)_{1/2}, \quad \langle \sigma \rangle \sim (2,2)_0, \quad \text{“heavy case”} \quad (5.10)
\]

\[
\langle \varphi \rangle \sim (1,2)_{1/2}, \quad \langle \sigma \rangle \sim (2,2)_0, \quad \text{“light case”}. \quad (5.11)
\]

Here the order parameter $\langle \varphi \rangle$ is responsible for breaking $SU(2)_L$ while $\langle \sigma \rangle$ mixes $SU(2)_{\text{heavy}}$ with $SU(2)_{\text{light}}$. We refer to these two possibilities as “heavy” and “light” according to whether $\langle \varphi \rangle$ transforms non-trivially under $SU(2)_{\text{heavy}}$ or $SU(2)_{\text{light}}$.

The heavy case, in which $\langle \varphi \rangle$ couples to the heavy group, is the choice made in [9], and corresponds to the case in which the technifermion condensation responsible for providing mass for the third generation of quarks and leptons is also responsible for the bulk of electroweak symmetry breaking. The light case, in which $\langle \varphi \rangle$ couples to the light group, corresponds to the opposite scenario in which different physics provides mass to the third generation fermions and the weak gauge bosons. While this light case is counter-intuitive (after all, the third generation is the heaviest!), it may provide a resolution to the issue of how large isospin breaking can exist in the fermion (and technifermion) mass spectrum without leaking into the $W$ and $Z$ masses.

We have performed a global fit for the parameters of the non-commuting ETC model ($s^2$, $1/x \equiv v^2/u^2$, and the $\delta g$’s) to all precision electroweak data: the $Z$ line shape, forward backward asymmetries, $\tau$ polarization, and left-right asymmetry measured at LEP and SLC; the $W$ mass measured at FNAL and UA2; the electron
and neutrino neutral current couplings determined by deep-inelastic scattering; the degree of atomic parity violation measured in Cesium; and the ratio of the decay widths of $\tau \to \mu \nu \bar{\nu}$ and $\mu \to e \nu \bar{\nu}$. Details of the calculation are reported in [10].

Table I compares the predictions of the standard model and the non-commuting ETC model (for particular values of $1/x$ and $s^2$) with the experimental values. For $s^2$, we have chosen a value of 0.97, at which the ETC gauge coupling is strong yet does not break the technifermion chiral symmetries by itself [3]. For $1/x$, in the heavy case we show the best fit value of $1/x = 0.0027$ or equivalently $M_W^H = 9$ TeV. The best fit for $1/x$ in the light case lies in the unphysical region of negative $x$ but has large uncertainty: $1/x = -0.17 \pm 0.75$. For illustration, we choose a value of $1/x$ from the large range of values that give a good fit to the data; our choice, $1/x = 0.055$, corresponds to $M_W^H = 2$ TeV. We use $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.115$ in these fits.

Table I. Experimental and predicted values of electroweak observables for the standard model and non-commuting ETC model (heavy and light cases) for $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.115$, and $s^2 = 0.97$. For the heavy case $1/x$ is allowed to assume the best-fit value of 0.0027; for the light case, $1/x$ is set to 0.055. The standard model values correspond to the best-fit values (with $m_t = 173$ GeV, $m_{Higgs} = 300$ GeV) in [16], corrected for the change in $\alpha_s(M_Z)$, and the revised extraction of $\alpha_{em}(M_Z)$.

Table II illustrates how well non-commuting ETC models fit the precision data. This table shows the fit to the standard model for comparison; as a further benchmark we have included a fit to purely oblique corrections (the $S$ and $T$ parameters) [13]. The percentage quoted in the Table is the probability of obtaining a $\chi^2$ as
large or larger than that obtained in the fit, for the given number of degrees of freedom (df), assuming that the model is correct. Thus a small probability corresponds to a poor fit. The $SM + S, T$ fit demonstrates that merely having more parameters does not ensure a better fit.

| Model      | $\chi^2$ | df | $\chi^2$/df | Probability |
|------------|----------|----|-------------|-------------|
| SM         | 33.8     | 22 | 1.53        | 5%          |
| SM+S,T     | 32.8     | 20 | 1.64        | 4%          |
| ETC_{light}| 22.6     | 20 | 1.13        | 31%         |
| ETC_{heavy}| 20.7     | 19 | 1.09        | 36%         |

Table II. The best fits for the standard model, beyond the standard model allowing $S$ and $T$ to vary, and the non-commuting ETC model (heavy and light cases). The inputs are: $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.115$, $s^2 = 0.97$ (for both ETC models), and $1/x = 0.055$ (light case ETC). $\chi^2$ is the sum of the squares of the difference between prediction and experiment, divided by the error.

From Tables I and II we see that because non-commuting ETC models accommodate changes in the $Z$ partial widths, they give a significantly better fit to the experimental data than the standard model does, even after taking into account that in the fitting procedure the non-commuting ETC models have two extra parameters. In particular non-commuting ETC predicts values for $\Gamma_Z$, $R_e$, $R_\mu$, $R_\tau$, and $R_b$ that are closer to experiment than those predicted by the standard model.

For comparison we also performed the fits using $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.124$; the quality of the fit is summarized in Table III. While the standard model fit improves for a larger value of $\alpha_s(M_Z)$, the light case of the non-commuting ETC model remains a better fit.

| Model      | $\chi^2$ | df | $\chi^2$/df | Probability |
|------------|----------|----|-------------|-------------|
| SM         | 27.8     | 21 | 1.33        | 15%         |
| SM+S,T     | 27.7     | 20 | 1.38        | 12%         |
| ETC_{light}| 25.0     | 20 | 1.25        | 20%         |
| ETC_{heavy}| 22.3     | 19 | 1.17        | 27%         |

Table III. The best fits for the standard model, beyond the standard model allowing $S$ and $T$ to vary, and the non-commuting ETC model. The inputs are: $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.124$, $s^2 = 0.97$, and for the light case $1/x = 0.055$.

As a bonus, the extra $W$ and $Z$ bosons can be relatively light. Figure 1 displays the 95% and 68% confidence level lower bounds (solid and dotted lines) on the heavy $W$ mass ($M_W^H$) for different values of $s^2$ (with $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.115$). The plot was created as follows: for each value of $s^2$ we fit to the three independent parameters ($\delta g_L^R, \delta g_L^{\nu R}$, and $1/x$); we then found the lower bound on $x$ and translated it into a lower bound on the heavy $W$ mass. Note that for $s^2 > 0.85$, the heavy $W$ gauge boson can be as light as 400 GeV. In the heavy case, similar work shows that the lowest possible heavy $W$ mass at the 95% confidence level is $\approx 1.6$ TeV, for $0.7 < s^2 < 0.8$. 
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Fig. 1. Figure 1. Lower bound on $M_W^H$ at 95% c.l. (solid line) and 68% c.l. (dotted line) as a function of $s^2$ for the light case (using $\alpha_s(M_Z) = 0.115$)

§6. Conclusions

The $Zb\bar{b}$ vertex is sensitive to the dynamics that generates the top quark mass. As such, it provides an excellent test of extended technicolor models. Measurements of $R_b$ at LEP have already excluded ETC models in which the ETC and weak gauge groups commute. Models in which ETC gauge bosons carry weak charge can give experimentally allowed values of $R_b$ because contributions to the $Zb\bar{b}$ vertex from $ZZ'$ mixing are similar in magnitude and opposite in sign to those from exchange of the ETC boson that generates the top quark’s mass. These non-commuting ETC models can actually fit the full set of precision electroweak data better than the standard model.

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