

## Spontaneous Peccei-Quinn symmetry breaking renders sterile neutrino, axion and $\chi$ boson to be candidates for dark matter particles

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We study the Peccei-Quinn (PQ) symmetry of the sterile right-handed neutrino sector and the gauge symmetries of the Standard Model. Due to four-fermion interactions, spontaneous breaking of these symmetries at the electroweak scale generates top-quark Dirac mass and sterile-neutrino Majorana mass. The top quark channels yield massive Higgs,  $W^\pm$  and  $Z^0$  bosons. The sterile neutrino channel yields the heaviest sterile neutrino Majorana mass, sterile Nambu-Goldstone axion (or majoron) and massive scalar  $\chi$ boson. Four-fermion operators effectively induce their tiny couplings to SM particles. We show that a sterile QCD axion is the PQ solution to the strong CP problem. The lightest and heaviest sterile neutrinos ( $m_N^e \sim 10^2$  keV and  $m_N^r \sim 10^2$  GeV), a sterile QCD axion ( $m_a < 10^{-8}$  eV,  $g_{a\gamma} < 10^{-13} \text{GeV}^{-1}$ ) and a Higgs-like  $\chi$ boson ( $m_\chi \sim 10^2$  GeV) can be dark matter particle candidates, for the constraints of their tiny couplings and long lifetimes inferred from the  $W$ -boson decay width, Xenon1T and precision fine-structure-constant experiments. The axion and  $\chi$ boson couplings to SM particles are below the values reached by current laboratory experiments and astrophysical observations for directly or indirectly detecting dark matter particles.

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