A Gauged U(1) PQ symmetry

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Strong CP problem

Experimentally, **QCD** is known to preserve **CP** symmetry very well.

Hadron spectrum respects CP symmetry very well.

CP violating transitions in the SM are caused by CP violation in the weak interaction (i.e. by the CKM phase).



Picture from : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaon

Strong CP problem

This feature is not automatically guaranteed in **QCD**.

✓ QCD has its own CP-violating parameter : θ

$$S_{\rm QCD} = \int d^4x \left(-\frac{1}{4g^2} F^a_{\mu\nu} F^{a\mu\nu} + \frac{\theta}{32\pi^2} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} + \sum_{i=1}^{N_f} \bar{q}_i (D-M) q_i \right)$$

(positive valued quark mass)

 \checkmark θ - term violates the **P** and **CP** symmetries

$$\int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} \to -\int d^4x F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$$

The *θ* - term is highly constrained experimentally !



Why so small ? = Strong CP Problem

Strong CP problem

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(positive valued quark mass)

In the Standard Model, the quark mass matrix stems from the Yukawa couplings of **3x3** general complex matrices.

> $M_u \propto Y_u$ (general complex) $\rightarrow (m_u, m_c, m_t) > 0$ $M_d \propto Y_d$ (general complex) $\rightarrow (m_d, m_s, m_b) > 0$

The phases of the Yukawa matrices also contribute to **\theta**.

Why the θ parameter and the phases of the Yukawa coupling conspire to be cancelling with each other ?

= Strong CP Problem

Peccei-Quinn Mechanism ['77 Peccei, Quinn]

Two Higgs doublet Model (H_u , H_d)

$$\mathcal{L} = y_u H_u Q_L \bar{u}_R + y_d H_d Q_L \bar{d}_R - m_{H_u}^2 |H_u|^2 - m_{H_d}^2 |H_u|^2 - \cdots$$

U(1) Peccei-Quinn symmetry (anomaly of **SU(3)**_c)

 $H_{u,d} \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} H_{u,d}$ $\overline{u}_R \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \overline{u}_R$ $\overline{d}_R \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \overline{d}_R$

By the Peccei-Quinn rotation, **\theta** can be shifted away !

$$\theta \rightarrow \theta' = \theta - 2N_g \alpha$$
 (N_g=3)

so that the $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is unphysical (similar to $\boldsymbol{\theta}_{\boldsymbol{W}}$).

Weinberg-Wilczek Axion ['78 Weinberg, '78 Wilczek]

 $U(1)_{PQ}$ is spontaneously broken at the EWSB $\rightarrow axion = (CP - odd Higgs)$

$$a = \frac{\sqrt{2}v_u v_d}{\sqrt{v_u^2 + v_d^2}} (\arg H_u + \arg H_d)$$

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} \left(\theta - \frac{6a}{f_a}\right) G^{a\mu\nu} \tilde{G}^a_{\mu\nu} \qquad \left(f_a = 2\sqrt{2}v_u v_d / \sqrt{v_u^2 + v_d^2}\right)$$

Axion is massive due to the **SU(3)**_c anomaly

$$m_a = rac{N_g \sqrt{m_u m_d}}{m_u + m_d} rac{f_\pi}{f_a} m_\pi~~$$
~100 keV

In terms of the axion, the PQ mechanism can be interpreted as a dynamical tuning of the **\theta** angle.

$$\mathcal{L} = \frac{1}{2}m_a^2 f_a^2 (a/f_a - \theta/6)^2 \longrightarrow \langle a/f_a \rangle = \theta/6$$

$$\theta_{\text{eff}} = \mathbf{0} \qquad \theta_{\text{eff}} = \theta - 6\langle a/f_a \rangle = 0$$

Weinberg-Wilczek Axion ['78 Weinberg, '78 Wilczek]

f_a is constrained by a meson decay rate into axion.



Original PQ-mechanism has been excluded !

Invisible Axion : $f_a >> V_{EW}$ ['80 Zhitnitsky, '81 Dine, Fischler, Sredniki]

ZDFS axion : Two Higgs doublet Model (
$$H_u$$
, H_d) and a Singlet **S**

$$\mathcal{L} = y_u H_u Q_L \bar{u}_R + y_d H_d Q_L \bar{d}_R - m_{H_u}^2 |H_u|^2 - m_{H_d}^2 |H_u|^2 - \cdots + \frac{1}{M_{PL}^{n-2}} S^n H_u H_d + \cdots$$



U(1) *Peccei-Quinn symmetry is broken by QCD anomaly.*

By the Peccei-Quinn rotation, θ can be shifted away ! $\theta \rightarrow \theta' = \theta - 2N_g \alpha$ ($N_g=3$) so that the θ is unphysical. **Invisible Axion :** $f_a >> v_{EW}$ ['80 Zhitnitsky, '81 Dine, Fischler, Sredniki]

ZDFS axion : Two Higgs doublet Model (
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$$\begin{array}{l} U(1) \ Peccei-Quinn \ (PQ) \ symmetry \ (e.g. \ n=2) \\ H_{u,d} \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \ H_{u,d} \qquad \begin{array}{l} S \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} \ S \qquad \overline{u}_R \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \ \overline{u}_R \qquad \overline{d}_R \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} \ \overline{d}_R \end{array}$$

 $U(1)_{PQ}$ is spontaneously broken by $\langle S \rangle = v_s \gg v$

$$a = \frac{f_a}{2} \arg S \qquad f_a = 2\sqrt{2} \langle S \rangle$$
$$m_a = \mathcal{O}(1) \operatorname{meV} \times \left(\frac{10^9 \text{GeV}}{f_a}\right)$$

The axion appears as a pseudo-Goldstone boson.

Invisible Axion : $f_a >> V_{EW}$ ['79 Kim, '80 Shifman, Vainshtein, Zakharov]

KSVZ axion : **SM** matter field are not **U(1)**_{PQ} neutral.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\rm SM} + Sq_L\bar{q}_R - \cdots$$

Singlet **S** Extra colored fermions q_L , \bar{q}_R

$$U(1) PQ \text{ symmetry broken by } QCD \text{ anomaly}$$

$$S \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} S \qquad q_L \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha/2} q_L \qquad \overline{q}_R \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha/2} \overline{q}_R$$

 $U(1)_{PQ}$ is spontaneously broken by $\langle S \rangle = v_s \rangle \langle v \rangle$

$$a = f_a \operatorname{arg} S$$
 $f_a = \sqrt{2} \langle S \rangle$
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The axion appears as a pseudo-Goldstone boson.

Invisible Axion : f_a >> v_{EW}

✓ Invisible axion is very light :

$$m_a = \mathcal{O}(1) \mathrm{meV} \times \left(\frac{10^9 \mathrm{GeV}}{f_a}\right)$$

Axion can be emitted in astrophysical objects leading to stringent constraint on the decay constant f_a .

Resultant constraint on the decay constant is

$f_a > 10^9 GeV$

[see e.g. a comprehensive review by Raffelt '06]

Invisible axion is a good candidate for DM

 $\Omega_a h^2 \simeq 0.18 \,\theta_a^2 \left(\frac{F_A}{10^{12} \,\text{GeV}}\right)^{1.19} \quad \text{Initial angle } \boldsymbol{\theta_1} = \boldsymbol{0} - 2\boldsymbol{\pi} \quad [\text{ misalignment axion }]$ $\Omega_a h^2 \simeq 0.035 \pm 0.012 \, \left(\frac{F_A}{10^{10} \,\text{GeV}}\right)^{1.19} \quad [\text{ string-domain wall network axion }]$ [e.g. 1301.1123 Kawasaki, Nakayama]

The PQ symmetry cannot be an exact symmetry.

U(1) PQ symmetry is defined to be broken by the QCD anomaly.

✓ Why is the PQ symmetry broken only by the QCD anomaly?



The effective θ_{eff} -parameter is no more vanishing...

$$\Delta \theta_{\rm eff} = \frac{f_a^m}{f_\pi^2 m_\pi^2 M_{\rm PL}^{m-4}}$$

If we require $\theta_{eff} << 10^{-10}$, no term with m < 10 is allowed $f_a > 10^9 GeV$.

Gauge symmetries do not suffer from explicit breaking.

Can we make the **PQ** symmetry a gauge symmetry ?

The **PQ** symmetry has an **SU(3)**_c anomaly...

→ the **PQ** symmetry cannot be a gauge symmetry by itself.

U(1)_Y in the Standard Model

U(1)_Y symmetry of the lepton sector has an SU(2)_L anomaly.

Cannot be a gauge symmetry ? Absolutely Yes !

The $SU(2)_L$ anomaly of $U(1)_Y$ of the lepton sector is cancelled by the $SU(2)_L$ anomaly of $U(1)_Y$ of the quark sector! $U(1)_Y \sim \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{SU(2)_L}{SU(2)_L} + U(1)_Y \sim \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{SU(2)_L}{SU(2)_L} = 0$ lepton quark

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 \rightarrow the PQ symmetry cannot be a gauge symmetry by itself.

✔ Gauged U(1)_{PQ}

We arrange the **U(1)**_{PQ} charges so that the total **SU(3)**_c anomaly is cancelled !



Let us bring any "two" invisible axion models :





✓ No gauged U(1)_{PQ} breaking term is allowed since U(1)_{PQ} is an exact symmetry !

No global U(1)_{PQ1} breaking term consisting of fields in the sector 1 due to the gauged U(1)_{PQ} symmetry.

 $U(1)_{PQ1}$ breaking term = $U(1)_{PQ}$ breaking term

 $L = \Phi_1(\mathbf{x})^n + \mathbf{h.c.}$

No gauged U(1)_{PQ2} breaking term consisting of fields in the sector 2 due to the global U(1)_{PQ2} symmetry.

 $U(1)_{PQ2}$ breaking term = $U(1)_{PQ}$ breaking term

 $L = \Phi_2(\mathbf{x})^m + \mathbf{h.c.}$



✓ No gauged U(1)_{PQ} breaking term is allowed since U(1)_{PQ} is an exact symmetry !

 \checkmark Only dangerous operators to break $U(1)_{PQ1}$ and $U(1)_{PQ2}$ symmetries are

 $L = M_{PL}^{4-(\dim O1 + \dim O2)} O_1 O_2 + h.c.$ $U(1)_{PQ1} \text{ of } O_1 \neq 0 \qquad U(1)_{PQ2} \text{ of } O_2 \neq 0$ while $O_1 O_2$ is gauge invariant.

✓ If PQ₁ and PQ₂ breaking scales are O(10⁹)GeV, the resultant breaking of either PQ₁ or PQ₂ is suppressed by arranging the charge assignment so that

$dim O_1 + dim O_2 > 10$

→ well-protected *global PQ* symmetry by the *gauged PQ* symmetry !

Example : Barr-Seckel Model ['92 Barr-Seckel]

Bring two independent **KSVZ** axion models

 $\boldsymbol{L} = \boldsymbol{y}_1 \, \boldsymbol{S}_1 \, \boldsymbol{q}_{1L} \, \overline{\boldsymbol{q}}_{1R} + \boldsymbol{y}_2 \, \boldsymbol{S}_2 \, \boldsymbol{q}_{2L} \, \overline{\boldsymbol{q}}_{2R} + \boldsymbol{h.c.}$

KSVZ fermions : N₁ flavors of q₁, N₂ flavors of q₂



Example : Barr-Seckel Model ['92 Barr-Seckel]

Gauged U(1)_{PQ} symmetry $S_1(q_1) S_2(q_2)$ $q_1 : q_2 = N_2 : -N_1$ $\rightarrow \partial j_{PQ} = 0$

 $|q_1|$ and $|q_2|$ are taken to be relatively prime integers

The lowest dimensional U(1)PQ1,PQ2 breaking operators

 $L = M_{PL}^{4-(|q_1|+|q_2|)} \frac{S_1^{|q_1|} S_2^{|q_2|}}{S_1^{|q_1|} S_2^{|q_2|}} + h.c.$

To obtain high quality **global PQ** symmetry : $|q_1| + |q_2| > 10$ ex) $N_1 = 1$, $N_2 = 9$

Example 2 : Application to the Composite Axion Model

SU(N_c) gauge theory [1985 Kim]

	SU(N _c)	SU(3)	U(1) _{PQ}
Q_L	Nc	3	1
$\bar{\boldsymbol{Q}}_R$	Ν _c	3	1
qL	Nc	1	-3
Ā R	Ñс	1	-3

 \subset SU(4)

U(1)_{PQ} is free from *SU(N_c)* anomaly but is broken by *QCD* anomaly !

Assume no quark mass terms.

Strong dynamics of SU(N_c) exhibits the chiral symmetry breaking.

15 Goldstone Modes $SU(4)_L \times SU(4)_R$ $\rightarrow SU(4)_V$ $\begin{cases}
SU(3): Octet + 3 + \overline{3} = Massive (\sim g_s \Lambda_{Nc}) \\
U(1)_{PQ}: singlet = axion \\
\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} N_c \frac{a}{f_a} F^a \tilde{F}^a
\end{cases}$

Example 2 : Application to the Composite Axion Model

SU(N_c) gauge theory [1985 Kim]

	SU(N _c)	SU(3)	U(1) _{PQ}
QL	Nc	3	1
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Ā ₽	Νc	1	-3

 \subset SU(4)

U(1)_{PQ} is free from *SU(N_c)* anomaly but is broken by *QCD* anomaly !

Assume no quark mass terms.

✓ There are PQ breaking operators ;

```
L = m (Q_L \, \bar{Q}_R) + (Q_L \, \bar{Q}_R)^2 / M_{PL}^2 + \dots
```

which should be suppressed by hand.

Gauged PQ mechanism suppresses those operators !

Example 2 : Application to the Composite Axion Model



Bring two composite axion models and consider gauged $U(1)_{PQ}$ with the charge normalization

 $Q_{L}(q), \bar{Q}_{R}(q), Q_{L}'(q'), \bar{Q}_{R}'(q')$ $q: q' = N_{c}': -N_{c}$

 $\rightarrow \partial j_{PQ} = 0$

The lowest dimensional global PQ breaking operators

 $L = (Q_L \, \bar{Q}_R) |q'| \, (Q'_L \, \bar{Q}'_R) |q| \, / \, M_{PL} {}^{3} |q| + 3 |q'| - 4$

→ $N_c = 2$, $N_c' = 5$ model is good enough to obtain the high quality global PQ symmetry !

B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry

In the above examples, we assumed that [U(1)_{PQ}]³ and U(1)_{PQ}-gravitational anomalies are cancelled by the PQ charged but SM singlet fields.



→ The **PQ**-charged **SM** singlet fields tend to be light and have rather long lifetime.

Those long-lived particles sometime cause cosmological problems.

We can construct a good *gauged PQ symmetry* without stable *SM* singlets based on the *B-L* gauge symmetry !

<u>B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry</u>

✓ In the **SU(5)** GUT, **B-L** is achieved as the **U(1) fiveness = 5(B-L) - 4 Y**:

<u>10_{SM}(+1), $\bar{5}_{SM}(-3)$, $\bar{N}_{R}(+5)$ </u>

The seesaw mechanism is realized by introducing $\phi(-10)$;

$$\mathcal{L} = -\frac{1}{2} y_N \phi \bar{N}_R \bar{N}_R + h.c.$$

$$\rightarrow M_R = y_N < \phi >$$

✓ The fiveness in the SM and the right-handed neutrino sector is anomaly free.
[SU(5) x U(1)₅ ⊂ SO(10) without new fermions]

B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry

✓ Introduce an extra pair of $(5_{\kappa}, \bar{5}_{\kappa})$ coupling to $\phi(-10)$ as in the *KSVZ* model

$$\mathcal{L} = y_K \phi^* \underline{\mathbf{5}_K \mathbf{\overline{5}}_K} + h.c. \; ,$$
(-10)

→ U(1) fiveness has QCD anomaly

$$\partial j_5 \big|_{\rm SM+N+K} = -\frac{g_a^2}{32\pi^2} 10 F^a \tilde{F}^a$$

✓ For the gauged **PQ** mechanism, introduce, for example $\phi'(+1)$ and **10** pairs of $(5_{\kappa}', \bar{5}_{\kappa}')$.

$$\mathcal{L} = y'_K \phi'^* \underline{5'_K \overline{5'_K}} + h.c.$$

→ U(1) fiveness is free from QCD anomaly

$$\partial j_5 \big|_{\rm SM+N+K+K'} = 0$$

B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry

✓ We assign $\mathbf{\overline{5}}$'s the same quantum numbers with $\mathbf{\overline{5}}_{SM}$.

$$\underline{5_{\kappa}(-7), \, \overline{5}_{\kappa}(-3), \, 5_{\kappa}'(+4), \, \overline{5}_{\kappa}'(-3)} \longleftarrow \underline{\overline{5}_{SM}(-3)}$$

The **11** out of **14** indistinguishable $\overline{5's}$ become mass partners of 5_K and $5_{K'}$ All the extra matter particles decay into the **SM** particles.

✓ With this charge assignment, [U(1)_{PQ}]³ and gravitational anomalies are cancelled without SM singlets !

$$[U(1)_{gPQ}]^3 \propto \left((-10 - \bar{q}_K)^3 + (\bar{q}_K)^3 \right) + 10 \left((1 - \bar{q}'_K)^3 + (\bar{q}'_K)^3 \right) = \mathbf{0}$$

[gravitational] $\propto \left((-10 - \bar{q}_K) + (\bar{q}_K) \right) + 10 \left((1 - \bar{q}'_K) + (\bar{q}'_K) \right) = \mathbf{0}$

Satisfying these conditions is not easy than it looks.

Unlike the B-L of *SM* + *right-handed neutrinos*, there is no larger GUT group like *SO(10)* which guarantees the anomaly cancellation...

<u>B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry</u>

 \checkmark We assign **5** 's the same quantum numbers with **5**_{SM}.

$$\underline{5_{\kappa}(-7), \, \overline{5}_{\kappa}(-3), \, 5_{\kappa}'(+4), \, \overline{5}_{\kappa}'(-3)} \longleftarrow \underline{\overline{5}_{SM}(-3)}$$

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✓ Global PQ breaking operator :

$$\mathcal{L}_{PQ} \sim \frac{1}{10!} \frac{\phi \phi'^{10}}{M_{\rm PL}^7} + h.c. ,$$

Global **PQ** ($\phi'(+1)$, 5_K'(+1), others neutral) symmetry is well protected !

B-L as a gauged PQ symmetry



B-L (fiveness) works as the gauged PQ symmetry for a wide range of axion decay constant

$$F_a = \frac{f_1 f_2}{\sqrt{q_1^2 f_1^2 + q_2^2 f_2^2}}$$



Right handed neutrino mass is given by **O(f1)**

B-L does not only provide frameworks for seesaw mechanism and thermal leptogenesis but also solves the strong **CP** problem !

<u>Remarks on exact gauged discrete symmetry</u>

Exact discrete symmetry also protects the global PQ symmetry.

cf. In the exact gauged Z_{10} symmetric model,

$$\Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{S^{10}}{M_{\rm PL}^6} + h.c.$$

 \rightarrow a **global and continuous PQ** symmetry is well protected and leads to successful **PQ** mechanism.

✓ The gauged **PQ** mechanism converges to the discrete symmetry model when we take $\langle \phi(+10) \rangle = O(M_{PL})$.

$$\Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{\phi \phi'^{10}}{M_{\rm PL}^7} + h.c. \longrightarrow \Delta \mathcal{L} = \frac{\phi'^{10}}{M_{\rm PL}^6} + h.c.$$

 $< \phi(+10) >$ breaks the gauge PQ symmetry down to gauged Z_{10} symmetry.

<u>Remarks on exact gauged discrete symmetry</u>

✓ In the discrete symmetry model, the axion domain wall problem is serious.

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} N \frac{a}{f_a} F^a \tilde{F}^a$$

N should be the multiple of **10** due to the **exact Z**₁₀ symmetry.

- The axion spontaneously breaks the symmetry below the QCD scale if the PQ symmetry takes place after inflation.
 - → Stable domain wall dominates the universe below the **QCD** scale.
- If the PQ symmetry breaking takes place before inflation, no domain wall problem, but the axion iso-curvature constraints put stringent upper limit on the inflation scale.

$$H_{\rm inf} \lesssim 10^{-5} \times \frac{\Omega_{DM}}{\Omega_{\rm axion}} \times F_a$$

The gauged PQ mechanism, on the other hand, can evade both the domain wall problem even for a large H_{inf}.

Summary

- PQ axion models are one of the most successful solution to the strong
 CP problem.
- ✓ By definition, the **PQ** symmetry is quite puzzling...
- The *gauged PQ* mechanism provides a simple way to provide a wellprotected *global PQ* symmetry.
- ✓ Gauged B-L symmetry can solve the strong CP problem in addition to providing a good framework for the seesaw mechanism and thermal leptogenesis !

Backup Slides

Radiative generation of the global PQ breaking terms ?

- We assume that the effective Lagrangian is given by local operators with a cutoff around the Planck scale, M_{PL} .
- By the *gauged PQ* symmetry, the *global PQ* symmetry is broken only by higher dimensional terms.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{PQ \text{ symmetric}} + \frac{\kappa_1}{M_{PL}^7} \phi \phi'^{10} + \frac{\kappa_2}{M_{PL}^{18}} \left(\phi \phi'^{10}\right)^2 + \dots + h.c.$$
(c.f. a model with ϕ (+10) and ϕ' (-10)

[Here, we show operators relevant for the axion potential.]

After performing path-integration, *K*² term can be, for example, overlaid by

$$\frac{\kappa_1^2}{M_{\rm PL}^{14}m^4} \left(\phi\phi'^{10}\right)^2$$

where m is some mass scale which couples to ϕ and ϕ' .

(When $m << < \phi >$ or $< \phi' >$, it means that the coupling is highly suppressed, and hence, it is good enough to think of $m \sim < \phi >$ or $< \phi' >$)

Radiative generation of the global PQ breaking terms ?

- We assume that the effective Lagrangian is given by local operators with a cutoff around the Planck scale, *M_{PL}*.
- By the *gauged PQ* symmetry, the *global PQ* symmetry is broken only by higher dimensional terms.

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{PQ \text{ symmetric}} + \frac{\kappa_1}{M_{PL}^7} \phi \phi'^{10} + \frac{\kappa_2}{M_{PL}^{18}} \left(\phi \phi'^{10}\right)^2 + \dots + h.c.$$
(c.f. a model with ϕ (+10) and ϕ' (-10)

The lowest dimensional breaking term is, on the other hand, not overlaid by

$$\frac{\kappa_1}{M_{\rm PL}^{7-n}m^n}\phi\phi'^{10} \qquad (n>0)$$

since the **UV** divergences are renormalized by local operators.

EX), seesaw $M_R N_R N_R$ (Dim3) —> (LH)(LH)/ M_R (Dim5) but $M_R N_R N_R$ itself is not enhanced.

Why is the PQ symmetry broken only by the QCD anomaly?

The wormhole transitions may make things worse...



The charged particle under global symmetries can go through the wormhole leaving symmetry breaking terms

$L = g_n \Phi(x)^n + h.c.$ $g_n \sim (8\pi M_{PL})^{4-n} \text{ (for a large n)}$ [1989 Abott, Wise, 1995 Kallosh, Linde, Linda, Susskind 2017 Aronso Urbano]

The existence of the global symmetries is quite unnatural.

 \checkmark Axion appears when both $U(1)_{PQ}$'s are spontaneously broken



 \checkmark Axion appears when both $U(1)_{PQ}$'s are spontaneously broken



Only the gauge invariant axion has an anomalous coupling

$$\mathcal{L}_{QCD} = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} n_{GCD} \left(\frac{q_2 a_1}{f_1} - \frac{q_1 a_2}{f_2} \right) F^a \tilde{F}^a = \frac{g_s^2}{32\pi^2} n_{GCD} \frac{a}{F_a} F^a \tilde{F}^a$$

$$\frac{a}{F_a} = [0, 2\pi) \qquad F_a = \frac{f_1 f_2}{\sqrt{q_1^2 f_1^2 + q_2^2 f_2^2}} \qquad \text{domain wall number}$$

 n_{GCD} : the greatest common divisor of N_1 and N_2 ($N_1 = n_{GCD} |q_2|$, $N_2 = n_{GCD} |q_1|$)

<u>Weak θ phase ?</u>



 $\frac{\theta_W}{32\pi^2} W_{\mu\nu} W^{\mu\nu}$

The weak θ_W shifts by

$$\theta_W \rightarrow \theta_W + 6 a$$

under the baryon rotation

 $Q_L \rightarrow e^{i\alpha} Q_L$

$$u_{R}, d_{R} \rightarrow e^{-i\alpha} u_{R}, d_{R}$$

while other parameters in the theory intact.

 \rightarrow There is no weak θ_W problem.

Domain Wall Problem in conventional PQ models

In the conventional *PQ* model, *U(1)_{PQ}* is explicitly broken down to *Z_N* symmetry by the *QCD* anomaly.



 \checkmark **Z**_N is eventually broken spontaneously by the VEV of the axion .

→ Domain walls are formed when the axion gets VEV!

$$\rho_{DW} \sim \sigma \, x \, H \propto T^2 \qquad (\, \sigma \sim f_a \, \Lambda_{QCD}^2 \,)$$

[scaling solution 1990 Ryden, Press, Spergel]

Domain wall dominates over the energy density of the Universe for **N>1**!

What happens in the gauged **PQ** models ?

Domain Wall Problem in the conventional PQ model

Closer look at the domain wall problem :

(1) In the conventional **PQ** model, $U(1)_{PQ}$ is spontaneously broken at f_a .

One global strings are formed in each Hubble volume in average.

Tension : $\mu^2 \sim 2\pi f_a^2 \log[f_a/H] \sim 2\pi f_a^2 \log[M_{PL}/f_a]$

Energy density of the strings do not cause problem due to its scaling nature:

 $\rho_{string} \sim \mu^2 H^2 \propto T^4$

[e.g. 1012.5502 Hiramatsu et.al.]

Around the cosmic strings, the axion field takes nontrivial configuration.



Domain Wall Problem in the conventional PQ model

Closer look at the domain wall problem :

(2) Below the QCD scale, the axion feels its axion potential.

Non-trivial axion field values around the strings causes non-uniformity of the energy density around the cosmic strings.



In the gauged PQ model, the genuine symmetry is not Z_N but $U(1)_{PQ}$.

Does it mean that there is no domain wall problem ?



Around the local string, only the would-be goldstone mode winds, and hence, the axion is trivial.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a \\ b \end{pmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{q_1^2 f_1^2 + q_2^2 f_2^2}} \begin{pmatrix} q_2 f_2 & -q_1 f_1 \\ q_1 f_1 & q_2 f_2 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a_1 \\ a_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

→ Around the local string, *no domain walls are formed* even below the *QCD* scale !

Domain walls problems are solved ... No Unfortunately...

Even in the gauged PQ model, we could have global strings...



Once the global strings are formed in the universe, the domain walls are formed below the **QCD** scale unless global strings disappear which is unlikely due to the suppressed interaction between two sectors.

[The lifetime of the domain wall between the global strings are very long...]

Cosmologically Safe Scenarios ?

(1) Trivial solution : **PQ** breaking before inflation.

- In this case, the axion field value is fixed to a single value and hence, no domain wall problem happens.
- Such scenarios predict the isocurvature fluctuation which is constrained by CMB observations.

$$\begin{split} \frac{\delta\rho_a}{\rho_a} &\sim \frac{H_{\rm INF}}{\pi F_a} < 10^{-5} \times \frac{\Omega_{\rm DM}h^2}{\Omega_a h^2} \quad \text{[isocurvature constraint]} \\ \Omega_a h^2 &= 0.18 \ \theta_1^2 \left(\frac{F_a}{10^{12} {\rm GeV}}\right)^{1.19} \left(\frac{\Lambda}{400 {\rm MeV}}\right) \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{Initial angle} \\ \theta_1 &= 0.2\pi \end{array} \\ \Omega_{\rm DM} h^2 &\simeq 0.12 \quad \text{[e.g. 1301.1123 Kawasaki, Nakayama]} \end{split}$$

This scenario requires rather low scale inflation : e.g. $H_{INF} \sim 10^7 GeV$ for $\Omega_a = \Omega_{DM}$.

Cosmologically Safe Scenarios ?

(2) Less trivial solution : **PQ** breaking before inflation.

Bring two independent **KSVZ** axion models

 $L = \mathbf{y}_1 \, \mathbf{S}_1 \, \mathbf{q}_{1L} \, \overline{\mathbf{q}}_{1R} + \mathbf{y}_2 \, \mathbf{S}_2 \, \mathbf{q}_{2L} \, \overline{\mathbf{q}}_{2R} + \mathbf{h.c.}$

KSVZ fermions : N_1 flavor of 1 , N_2 flavor of 9 **Gauged U(1)**_{PQ} **charge :** $S_1(9)$, $S_2(-1)$

S₁-global string = axion winding number 1

S₂-global string = axion winding number 9

Arrange $\langle S_2 \rangle \gg T_R$ so that the gauged $U(1)_{PQ}$ is not restored after inflation while the global $U(1)_{PQ}$ breaking takes place after inflation.

All the non-trivial axion winding strings are inflated away.
 No isocurvature fluctuation is generated since there is no massless mode during inflation.



For a model with $n_{GCD} = 1$, the bottoms of the axion potential are gauge equivalent !



There is no absolutely stable domain wall !

Practically, however, we have domain wall problem...



ex) Gauged U(1)_{PQ} charge: S₁(3), S₂(-1)

Below the **QCD** scale, the non-uniformity of the energy density leads to the domain wall formation.



Since the domain wall formation is at very low energy, the walls do not know whether there were gauge bosons!

ex) Gauged U(1)_{PQ} charge: S₁(3), S₂(-1)

Some lucky domain walls can annihilate into composite strings



It is however difficult to imagine that all the walls annihilates away successfully, since the strings are typically separated by the Hubble length...

ex) Gauged U(1)_{PQ} charge: S₁(3), S₂(-1)

S₂ domain wall can be pierced by the S₁ string.



The tunneling rate is quite low...

$\boldsymbol{\Gamma} \propto \boldsymbol{Exp}[-\boldsymbol{F}_a^3/\boldsymbol{\Lambda}_{QCD^2}\boldsymbol{T}] \sim \boldsymbol{Exp}[-10^{10}]$

[1982, Kibble, Lazarides, Shafi]

The domain walls are almost stable...