## LLP2024: Fourteenth workshop of the Long-Lived Particle Community



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## Freeze-in sterile neutrino dark matter in feeble gauged B - L model

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We consider the gauged  $U(1)_{B-L}$  model and examine the situation where the sterile neutrino becomes a dark matter candidate by the freeze-in mechanism. In our model, the dark matter N is mainly produced by the decay of a  $U(1)_{B-L}$  breaking scalar field  $\phi$ . We point out that the on-shell production of  $\phi$  through annihilation of the  $U(1)_{B-L}$  gauge field Z' plays an important role. We find that the single production of Z' from the photon bath is one of the main production processes of Z'. To prevent N from being overproduced, we show that the  $U(1)_{B-L}$  gauge coupling constant  $g_{B-L}$  must be as small as  $10^{-13}$ - $10^{-10}$ . We also consider the case where the decay of  $\phi$  into N is kinematically forbidden. In this case, N is generated by the scattering of Z' and the  $g_{B-L}$  takes values of  $10^{-7}$ - $10^{-6}$ , which can be explored in collider experiments like FASER.

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