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Pseudo-Goldstone Dark Matter in SO(10)

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We propose a pseudo-Goldstone boson dark matter (pGDM) particle in SO(10) grand unified theory (GUT). Due to its Goldstone nature, this pGDM evades the direct DM detection experiments which, otherwise, severely constrain the parameter space of DM models. In SO(10), the pGDM is embedded as a linear combination of the Standard Model (SM) singlet scalars in ${\bf 16_H}$ and ${\bf 126_H}$ representations. We consider two scenarios for the intermediate route of SO(10) symmetry breaking (SB) to the SM: $SU(5) \times U(1)_X$ and Pati-Salam the $SU(4)_c \times SU(2)_L \times SU(2)_R$ gauge groups. The vacuum expectation value of ${\bf 126_H}$, which triggers the breaking of $U(1)_X$ and 4-2-2 symmetry in the two scenarios, respectively, determines the pGDM lifetime whose astrophysical lower bound provides one of the most stringent constraints. The proton lifetime in the SU(5) case is predicted to be 4.53×10^{34} years, which lies well within the sensitivity reach of the Hyper-Kamiokande experiment.

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