Technicolor Assisted Leptogenesis with an Ultra-Heavy Higgs Doublet

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If fermion condensation is a main source of electroweak symmetry breaking, an ultra-heavy Higgs doublet of mass $\sim 10^8$ GeV can yield naturally small Dirac neutrino masses. We show that such a scenario can lead to a new leptogenesis mechanism based on the decays of the ultra-heavy Higgs. Given its very large mass, the requisite Higgs doublet can be considered an elementary particle and would point to a cutoff scale $\sim 10^{10}$ GeV. We outline how our scenario can also naturally lead to composite asymmetric dark matter. Some potential signals of this scenario are discussed.

The mechanism for electroweak symmetry breaking (EWSB) is a question of great fundamental importance and remains a mystery. While the Standard Model (SM) picture based on a single Higgs doublet can accommodate all the relevant phenomenology, it could very well be the case that Nature realizes EWSB in a more complicated way. For example, multiple sectors could contribute different pieces of the observed effects at low energy, with some mainly providing $W^\pm$ and $Z$ boson masses, while others are responsible for the masses of the fermions. In fact, some theoretical considerations lead to such a scenario. In particular, the apparent hierarchy between the weak scale $\sim 100$ GeV and other potentially large scales of physics motivates one to consider a dynamical mechanism based on condensation of fermion pairs with quantum numbers of the SM Higgs, such as those in technicolor models [1, 2]. However, while a dynamical mechanism can naturally endow $W^\pm$ and $Z$ with their observed masses $m_W \sim m_Z \sim 100$ GeV, generation of fermion masses is a challenge in this framework [3, 4].

The above considerations have provided motivation for a hybrid proposal, namely the bosonic technicolor scenario [5–8], where fermions obtain their masses through Yukawa couplings with a Higgs doublet $\Phi$, as in the SM. To see how this works in a bit more detail, let us assume that $\Psi_L$ and $\psi_R$ are a left-handed $SU(2)_L$ doublet and a right-handed singlet, respectively, endowed with the appropriate $U(1)_Y$ hypercharge quantum numbers to couple to $\Phi$. The Higgs potential is then given by

$$V_\Phi = m_\Phi^2 \Phi^\dagger \Phi - \lambda_\psi \Phi \Psi_L \psi_R - \lambda_f \Phi F_L f_R + \ldots,$$

where $F_L$ and $f_R$ are SM weak doublet and singlet fermions, respectively. Upon EWSB through $(\Psi_L \psi_R) \neq 0$, quite generally a vacuum expectation value $(\Phi) \neq 0$ is induced for $\Phi$, given by

$$\langle \Phi \rangle = \lambda_\psi \frac{\langle \Psi_L \psi_R \rangle}{m_\Phi^2}.$$

Now we have two sources of electroweak symmetry breaking: $(\Phi)$ and $(\Psi_L \psi_R) \approx 4\pi f_{TC}^2$, where $f_{TC}$ is the techni- pion decay constant and $(\Phi)^2 + f_{TC}^2 \approx (246$ GeV$)^2$. For reasonable values of Yukawa couplings, say $\lambda_t = 2$ and $\lambda_\psi = 1$, we see that the the Higgs doublet responsible for the top mass $m_t \approx 172$ GeV can easily have a mass of a few hundred GeV to a TeV. However, for somewhat heavier Higgs fields $(\Phi) \ll m_W$ and one does not need very small Yukawa couplings to obtain the lighter fermions masses. To avoid reintroducing the hierarchy problem through ultraviolet quadratic quantum corrections, this Higgs must be assumed to be composite, or else protected by a symmetry, such as supersymmetry [8]. Here, we mainly assume the former possibility, but the nature of this doublet does not enter our discussion in a crucial way. If the Higgs field in bosonic technicolor models is to be composite, we may expect $m_\Phi \lesssim 1$ TeV and some small Yukawa couplings become necessary.

Here, we make the simple observation that the extreme smallness of neutrino masses, compared to other mass scales of the SM, motivates one to treat them somewhat differently. That is, if $m_\nu$ is set by compositeness for all Higgs fields, neutrino masses require very suppressed Yukawa couplings $\lambda_\nu$. Instead, we will consider a Higgs doublet $H$ that, like other SM fields, is an elementary degree of freedom and interacts with neutrinos through $O(1)$ Yukawa couplings. This elementary Higgs particle is then subject to large quadratic quantum corrections to its mass and is generally expected to be very heavy. For $m_\nu \sim 0.1$ eV, and assuming $\lambda_\nu \sim 1$, we need $(H) \sim 0.1$ eV. As before, we can have interactions of the form

$$V_H = m_H^2 H^\dagger H - \lambda_\chi H \tilde X_L \chi_R - \lambda_\nu H^* \bar L \nu_R + \ldots$$

where $X_L$ and $\chi_R$ are techni-fermions coupled to $H$, in analogy to $\Psi_L$ and $\psi_R$ coupled to $\Phi$ in Eq. (1). $L$ is a lepton doublet in the SM, and $\nu_R$ is a singlet right-handed neutrino. We will assume $\lambda_\chi \sim \lambda_\nu \sim 1$. Let us take $(\tilde X_L \chi_R) \sim (100$ GeV$)^3$. Eq. (2), applied to $H$, then yields $m_H \sim 10^8$ GeV. We see that the requisite mass for $H$ is quite large. However, as mentioned before, this is a typical expectation for an elementary Higgs, which is the origin of the hierarchy problem in the SM! Here, assuming a typical loop-suppression, we may infer a cut-off scale of order $\Lambda \sim 10^{10}$ GeV, relevant for the SM.

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1 Another alternative being the well-known possibility of weak scale supersymmetry which is being tested by the LHC experiments.
As mentioned before, the generation of neutrino masses $m_\nu$ in the picture presented above is analogous to the usual seesaw mechanism, except that the smallness of $m_\nu$ is due to the ultra-heavy Higgs instead of the ultra-heavy right-handed neutrino in conventional models [14]. We will show that this analogy can be extended to the possibility of leptogenesis, where it is typically assumed that out-of-equilibrium decays of heavy right-handed neutrinos lead to the generation of a $B - \bar{L}$ charge [13] that electroweak sphaleron processes turn into a baryon asymmetry [10, 13]. Here, we will see that a similar mechanism can realize a new kind of Dirac leptogenesis [13, 20], where the out-of-equilibrium decays of $H$ lead to $\delta(B - L) \neq 0$.

Given that the couplings $\lambda_{\chi, \nu}$ in Eq. (3) are generally complex, the decays $H \to X_L \bar{X}_R$ and $H \to L\nu_R$ are CP violating and would lead to the generation of an asymmetry in the fermions numbers. In particular, if these decays are out-of-equilibrium, a $\delta(B - L) \neq 0$ asymmetry produced by $H$ decays will be processed into $\delta B \neq 0$ and $\delta L \neq 0$, as long as sphalerons are in thermal equilibrium, requiring a reheat temperature $T_{\text{RH}} \gtrsim 100$ GeV. Nonetheless, complex couplings are not sufficient for the generation of the asymmetry through CP violation; this also requires interference between processes at leading and sub-leading orders that involve physical phases. This can be arranged if there is another Higgs particle that can contribute the necessary phase. Note that in the absence of a Majorana mass, the one-loop vertex corrections do not contribute to the decay process of interest. Hence, in order to provide a mechanism for leptogenesis, we enlarge the content of the model and assume that there are two elementary and ultra-heavy Higgs doublets, $H_1$ and $H_2$, leading to a simple generalization of Eq. (3)

$$V_H = m_h^2 H_u^\dagger H_d - \lambda_{\chi, \nu}^a H_u \bar{X}_L \chi_R^D - \lambda_{\nu}^a H_u^a \bar{X}_L \chi_R^U - \lambda_\nu^a H_u^a \bar{L}\nu_R + \ldots,$$

with $a = 1, 2$, $m_a$ the mass of $H_a$ and we have explicitly shown the couplings of up- and down-type $\chi$ techniquarks.

We will assume that $m_2 > m_1$ and that the initial population of particles is dominated by the symmetric production of $H_1 H_1^\ast$. Hence, the effects of $H_2$ are only important through their virtual contributions to $H_1$ decays. To prevent the asymmetries from getting washed out, we must ensure that inverse decay processes are decoupled from the thermal bath after $H_1$ decays have taken place. This amounts to decoupling processes of the sort $\bar{X}_L \chi_R \rightarrow \bar{L}\nu_R$. At temperatures $T < m_1$, such processes are mediated by a dimension-6 operator suppressed by $m_1^4$ and we must demand that their rate is smaller than the Hubble rate $H(T_{\text{RH}}) = 1.79^{1/2}T_{\text{RH}}^2/M_P$ at $T = T_{\text{RH}}$, where $g_*$ is the number of relativistic degrees of freedom and $M_P = 1.2 \times 10^{19}$ GeV. This implies that $T_{\text{RH}}$ should
satisfy

\[ T_{RH} \lesssim g_\ast^{1/6} \left( \frac{m_1}{M_P} \right)^{1/3} m_1. \]  

We then see that for \( g_\ast \sim 100 \) and \( m_1 \sim 10^8 \text{ GeV} \), we get \( T_{RH} \lesssim 5 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV} \), which is well above the electroweak phase transition temperature, but well-below \( m_a \). Thus, one must assume that some non-thermal process, such as inflation, gives rise to a population of \( H_1 \) particles and a relatively low-reheat initial plasma (such requirements are shared by a variety of other models; see for example Ref. [21]). The details of the non-thermal process are not very crucial, as long as the above general features can be obtained from it.

For a simple estimate, let us assume a modulus field \( \rho \) that couples universally with gravitational strength; for example, it couples to the heavy Higgs fields through \( (\rho/M_P)(\partial^\mu H^\dagger \partial_\mu H) \). The width of \( \rho \) is roughly estimated by

\[ \Gamma_\rho \sim g_\ast \frac{m_\rho^3}{16\pi M_P^2}. \]  

We assume that the Universe was at some early stage in a matter dominated era due to the oscillations of \( \rho \). These oscillations get damped by the decay of \( \rho \), leading to a radiation dominated era at a reheat temperature estimated by

\[ T_{RH} \sim (g_\ast^{1/2} m_\rho^3/M_P)^{1/2}. \]  

Upon the decay of \( \rho \) and the subsequent prompt decays of the heavy Higgs fields, the SM and the techni sectors come to thermal equilibrium, at \( T = T_{RH} \), via their gauge interactions. Requiring \( T_{RH} \lesssim 5 \times 10^4 \text{ GeV} \) yields \( m_\rho \lesssim 2 \times 10^9 \text{ GeV} \), which easily allows for \( \rho \) to decay into \( H_1 \) fields of mass \( \sim 10^8 \text{ GeV} \).

We will parametrize the asymmetry generated in the \( H_1 \) decays by

\[ \varepsilon \equiv \frac{\Gamma(H_1 \rightarrow L\nu_R) - \Gamma(H_1^\ast \rightarrow L\bar{\nu}_R)}{2\Gamma(H_1)}, \]  

where \( \Gamma(H_1) \) is the total width of \( H_1 \). For \( \lambda_\chi \sim \lambda_\nu \), we expect that \( \varepsilon \sim 1/(16\pi^2) \), given by the interference between the tree-level and the 1-loop amplitude for \( H_1 \) decay into the leptons. For example, assuming that diagonal couplings of \( H_3 \) to lepton flavors are dominant, \( \varepsilon \) is mostly given by the contribution of diagrams of the type in Fig. 1. With the techni-fermions in the fundamental representation of a \( SU(N_{TC}) \) technicolor gauge group, we find

\[ \varepsilon \sim \frac{N_{TC}}{8\pi} \frac{m_1^2}{m_2^2 - m_1^2} \sum_i \text{Im} \left[ \left( \lambda_{iD}^1 \lambda_{iD}^2 \alpha \lambda_{iD}^1 \lambda_{iD}^2 \right) + \lambda_{iD}^1 \lambda_{iD}^2 \right]. \]  

As expected, \( \varepsilon \) is of order \( 10^{-2} \) for \( m_2 \approx 2 m_1 \) and order one couplings of \( H_1 \) to leptons and techni-fermions in Eq. (4).

Let us now estimate the size of baryon asymmetry of the universe (BAU) in our scenario. After a period of inflation, we assume that the universe gets reheated to \( T_{RH} \), through the decay of the inflaton into \( H_1 \) and the massless degrees of freedom in the theory. The prompt decays of the \( H_1 \) population contribute to the reheating. However, since we would like to maintain a low reheat temperature, that is \( T_{RH} \ll m_1 \), we must require the ratio

\[ r = \frac{n_1 m_1}{g_\ast T_{RH}^4} \]  

of the energy densities in \( H_1 \) and radiation to be smaller than unity; here \( n_1 \) is the \( H_1 \) number density. We can then estimate the abundance of \( H_1 \) by

\[ Y_1 = \left( \frac{T_{RH}}{m_1} \right) r. \]  

As usual, we will give the BAU in terms of the ratio

\[ \eta = \frac{n_B}{s}, \]  

where \( n_B \) is the baryon number density and \( s \approx g_\ast T^3 \) is the entropy density. Cosmological observations have yielded \( \eta \approx 9 \times 10^{-11} \) [22]. The asymmetry \( \varepsilon \) generated in \( H_1 \) decays will get processed by the various interactions that are in thermal equilibrium in the plasma. In particular, electroweak sphaleron processes will distribute an initial asymmetry in \( B - L \) (which does not get violated by any of the thermal interactions assumed here) and provide various other asymmetries. We will outline the derivation of general formulas for such asymmetries that are relevant in our framework in the Appendix. However, let us assume a minimal setup with one generation of \((X_L, \chi_R)\) and \((\psi_L, \psi_R)\) techni-fermions each, \( N_\chi = N_\psi = 1 \), charged under a technicolor group \( SU(2) \) \((i.e. \ N_{TC} = 2)\), and only one light Higgs doublet \( \Phi \) near the weak scale. One can then show from the results in the Appendix that

\[ B = \frac{13}{67} (B - L). \]  

In the above equation, \( B - L \) is given by the amount of lepton asymmetry produced in the \( H_1 \) decays. It is
also assumed that at $T_{RH}$ the weak scale Higgs $\Phi$ behaves as an elementary particle (it is not resolved into its constituents). For this minimal setup, we then get an estimate for $\eta$ given by

$$\eta \sim \frac{13}{67} \varepsilon Y_1. \quad (14)$$

Assuming $r \sim 0.1$, $T_{RH} \sim 10^4$ GeV, $m_1 \sim 10^8$ GeV, $m_2 \approx 2 m_1$, and adopting $O(1)$ couplings for $H_1$, we find $\eta \sim 10^{-8}$ which is about two orders of magnitude larger than the observed value. Hence, our leptogenesis model can easily account for the BAU, say, for somewhat smaller values of couplings or slightly larger values of $m_2$.

With the minimal parameters used for Eq. (13) and the results presented in the Appendix, we also find

$$B_\psi = \frac{13}{201} (B - L), \quad (15)$$

where $B_\psi$ refers to the total techni-baryon number from a single generation of $(\Psi_L, \psi_R)$ fermions. Let us assume that these fermions form the lightest techni-baryon $S = \Psi^a \psi^a$ with zero electric charge. If we also assume that all the interactions that would violate $B_\psi$ are sufficiently suppressed, in analogy with the SM proton decay operators, the associated $S$-baryons are cosmologically stable. The above result (15) then suggests that such a particle made of $(\Psi_L, \psi_R)$ could be a good dark matter (DM) candidate.

Since the energy density in DM is about 5 times larger than that in ordinary baryons, Eqs. (13) and (15) imply that with a mass $m_S \sim 15$ GeV $S$ could be a good DM candidate. However, most likely, $m_S \sim 1$ TeV, given that we expect $(\Psi_L \psi_R) \sim (100$ GeV)$^3$. This seems to suggest that a suppression of $O(10^{-2})$ in $B_\psi$ is necessary, so that $S$ can have the required cosmological energy density. Remarkably, given a reasonable value for $T_c \sim 200$ GeV, the sphalerons will typically lead to a suppression of order $(m_S/T_c)^3/2 e^{-m_S/T_c} \sim 10^{-2}$ [23, 24]. Hence, we see that our leptogenesis mechanism can, in principle, naturally lead to a good asymmetric DM candidate $S$ [23]. In any event, the viability of the DM candidate in our scenario depends on the details of its specific implementation, which is outside the main scope of the current work.

It may also be possible that techni-baryon number is violated by higher dimensional operators and techni-baryons are unstable. In such a case, the decay of the primordial techni-baryons into light SM particles will cause a large increase in the entropy of the early universe. If this decay occurs during or after Big Bang Nucleosynthesis (BBN), the increase in entropy will strongly perturb the abundances of the light elements. Hence, the techni-baryons must either decay before BBN, i.e., $\tau_{TB} \ll 1$ second, where $\tau_{TB}$ is the techni-baryon lifetime, or be long-lived on cosmological time scales. Assuming that techni-baryon number is violated by a dimension six operator, the first scenario leads to the condition

$$\frac{m_5^2}{M^4} \gtrsim 10^{-24} \text{ GeV.} \quad (16)$$

Hence, for $m_S \sim 1$ TeV, the cutoff for the techni-baryon violating process is $M \lesssim 10^{10}$ GeV, close to the cutoff for the SM sector. In the second, “long-lived”, scenario, agreement with observation require $\tau_{TB} \gtrsim 10^{20}$ sec. Such a case would lead to the interesting possibility of decaying DM [24]. For $m_S \sim 1$ TeV, Eq. (16) implies the cutoff is then $M \gtrsim 10^{16}$ GeV, near the Grand Unified scale.

Although the mechanism for neutrino mass generation is far out of the reach of present experimental searches, the model presented here is still falsifiable and may have some signatures at the LHC. First, this scenario generates Dirac neutrino masses. Hence, if neutrinos are determined to be Majorana, for example through observation of neutrinoless double $\beta$-decay [27], our model will be ruled out.

Since technicolor is the main source of EWSB, we would expect to see TeV scale techni-hadrons at the LHC. In the scenario presented here technicolor was paired with a composite Higgs. For this specific realization, Higgs like scalars may also be accessible at the LHC. As mentioned earlier, for reasonable values of $\lambda_1$ and $\lambda_2$, the composite Higgs scalars have masses on the order of several hundred GeV to a TeV. Compared to the SM, the composite Higgs has a suppressed coupling to $W/Z$; hence, traditional searches [25] for a high mass Higgs boson may need to be modified. It is also possible for the Higgs like scalars to have masses near the LEP Higgs mass bound 114 GeV [26]. In that case, using a holographic approach, it has been shown that in a bosonic technicolor model similar to ours, LEP data and EW precision constraints bound the techni-hadrons to have masses above $\sim 2$ TeV and techni-pion decay constant $f_{TC} \lesssim 100$ GeV [27].

The Higgs like scalar may then have couplings to SM particles similar to those of the SM Higgs boson and, hence, may have similar signatures as the SM Higgs at the LHC. However, we stress that this neutrino mass scenario does not rely on the mechanism through which the other fermions gain mass, i.e., it can be paired with any viable technicolor model.

We examined the possibility that dynamical electroweak symmetry breaking, as in technicolor models, could provide Dirac masses for neutrinos via an ultra-heavy Higgs doublet of mass $\sim 10^8$ GeV, with couplings of order unity. The hierarchic mass scale of this doublet suggests it should be considered an elementary degree of freedom, far above the weak scale. Adopting the bosonic technicolor framework for illustrative purposes, we showed that the CP violating decays of the ultra-heavy Higgs scalar can provide a novel mechanism for leptogenesis. Typical parameters in our setup can yield the correct cosmological baryon number. This setup, under some conditions, can also lead to a viable asym-
metric dark matter density made up of techni-baryons. Our model implies the emergence of techni-hadrons at the TeV scale. In a bosonic technicolor framework one would also expect the appearance of composite Higgs-like scalars at the weak scale, but with non-Standard-Model-like interactions, which could be studied at the LHC. Quite generally, the observation of neutrinoless double $\beta$-decay can rule out the scenario introduced here.

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**Baryon Number Calculation**

The asymmetry between particle and anti-particle density is proportional to the particle’s chemical potential, $\mu_i$. Hence, only relationships between chemical potentials need to be calculated. Here we comment on properties peculiar to our scenario. Generic details of the calculation can be found in Ref. [15].

As noted previously, sphaleron processes are expected to contribute to rapid fermion number violation at temperatures $T > T_c$. These interactions will create $N_f$ baryons and leptons, and $N_\chi$ and $N_\psi$ techni-baryons of $\chi$ and $\psi$ type, respectively. When interactions are in thermal equilibrium the sum of the chemical potentials of the incoming particles is equal to the sum of the outgoing. Hence, for $T > T_c$ sphaleron processes imply

$$0 = \frac{N_{TC}}{2} \left( \sum_i (\mu_{\chi^U_i} + \mu_{\chi^D_i}) + \frac{N_{TC} N_{\psi}}{2} (\mu_{\psi^U} + \mu_{\psi^D}) \right) + N_f (2 \mu_{dL} + \mu_{uL}) + \sum_i \mu_{\nu_{iL}}. \tag{17}$$

Flavor changing Yukawa interactions equalize the chemical potentials of the $\psi^U$, $\psi^D$ and quark generations and we use one chemical potential for each particle type. At the reheat temperatures we are interested in, the flavor changing interactions of neutrinos, $X_L$ and $\chi_R$ are out of equilibrium; hence, the generational chemical potentials are kept distinct.

Following the usual arguments for $B - L$ conservation, we find that $N_\chi L - N_f B_{XL}$ and $N_\psi L - N_f B_\psi$ are also conserved, where $L$ is charged lepton and $\nu_L$ number, and $B_{XL}$ is the $X_L$ techni-baryon number. We expect $\chi_R$ and $\nu_R$ numbers to be separately conserved since the reheat temperature is below the energy at which interactions mixing $\chi_R$ or $\nu_R$ with other species are in thermal equilibrium. Finally, we note that if in Eq. (4) $\chi^B = \chi^* \chi^U$, then

$$B - L = \frac{N_f}{N_\chi} B_{XL} - L = \frac{N_f}{N_\psi} B_\psi - L = B_{\chi^U_R} - B_{\chi^D_R} = -L_{\text{init}}, \tag{18}$$

where $L_{\text{init}}$ is the initial lepton number injected by $H_1$ decays. Once the algebra is accomplished, one obtains Eqs. (13) and (15).

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