#### Bound state effects in dark matter genesis: pushing the boundaries of higher excitations

based on 2112.01499 and 2308.01336 in collaboration with T. Binder, M. Garny, S. Lederer, K. Urban

#### Jan Heisig (RWTH/UVA)









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### Outline

- Introduction to particle dark matter
  - Effects of (excited) bound state
- Implications for t-channel mediator models
  - Implications for LHC searches

### The phenomenon of Dark Matter

- More matter: gravitational effect on dynamics of visible matter
- Present on very different length scales



### The phenomenon of Dark Matter

More matter: gravitational effect on dynamics of visible matter



### Particle Dark Matter $\chi$



Explain appearance on all scales: Most plausible  $\rightarrow$  new particle



### Particle dark matter: a thermal relic

- Relic from thermal abundance
- Consider cosmological history of Universe:



Particle physics +cosmology: Extrapolate to early hot Universe ⇒ Boltzmann Eqs.

Expansion with Hubble rate H

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Expansion with Hubble rate H

[Zel'dovich, Okun, Pikel'ner 1966; Lee, Weinberg 1977; Binetruy, Girardi, Salati 1984; Bernstein, Brown, Feinberg 1985; Srednicki, Watkins, Olive 1988; Kolb, Turner 1990; Griest, Seckel 1991; Gondolo, Gelmini 1991; Edsjo, Gondolo 1997]

$$E_{\chi}\left(\partial_t - Hp\,\partial_p\right)f_{\chi}(p,t) = C\left[f_{\chi}\right]$$

Relativistic Liouville operator for homogeneous, isotropic Universe

**Collision** operator

Cosmology

**Particle Physics** 

 $H \gtrsim \Gamma$ 

[Zel'dovich, Okun, Pikel'ner 1966; Lee, Weinberg 1977; Binetruy, Girardi, Salati 1984; Bernstein, Brown, Feinberg 1985; Srednicki, Watkins, Olive 1988; Kolb, Turner 1990; Griest, Seckel 1991; Gondolo, Gelmini 1991; Edsjo, Gondolo 1997]



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#### Thermal equilibrium:

 $\Gamma_{\rm dec} \gg H$ 

$$\Gamma_{\rm ann} = n_{\chi} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\rm ann} \gg H \quad \text{and/or}$$

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 $(\Omega h^2)_{\rm Planck} \simeq 0.12$ 

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### WIMP paradigm attractive

- Works with simple/natural models ("WIMP miracle")
- Independent of largely unconstrained/unknown physics of the very early universe (inflation/reheating)
- Naturally provides perfectly cold dark matter (CDM)
- Testable at indirect detection, direct detection and collider experiments

### WIMP Dark Matter: searches

Indirect detection



SM X SM  $10^{-23}$  $10^{-24}$ AMS-02  $[cm^3/s]$  $\langle \sigma v \rangle = 3 \times 10^{-26} \, \mathrm{cm}^3 / \mathrm{s}$  $\langle \sigma v \rangle$  $10^{-26}$ CR  $b\bar{b}$ dSphs  $10^{-27}$  $10^{4}$  $10^{3}$  $m_{\rm DM}$  [GeV] [Cuoco, JH, Korsmeier, Krämer 2017] Direct production





Direct detection







$$s_{M} \longleftrightarrow X_{1}$$









Large hierarchy of couplings:

 $\lambda_{\mathrm{strong}} \gg \lambda_{\mathrm{feeble}}$ 

- Interesting for the subject for two reasons:
  - (i) 'strong' coupling: significant bound state effects
  - (ii) very weak ('feeble') coupling: suppresses scattering and decay rates
    - $\Rightarrow$  typically prolonged freeze-out process



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    - $\Rightarrow$  typically prolonged freeze-out process
    - $\Rightarrow$  bound state at late times (low T): excitations highly relevant

### Effects of (excited) bound state

### Non-relativistic effects

I. Sommerfeld effect:



[see e.g. Hisano, Matsumoto, Nojiri hep-ph/0307216; Hisano, Matsumoto, Nojiri, Saito hep-ph/0412403; …]

### Non-relativistic effects



[see e.g. K. Petraki, M. Postma, M. Wiechers 1505.00109; S.P. Liew, F. Luo 1611.08133; J. Harz, K. Petraki 1805.01200; A. Mitridate, M. Redi, J. Smirnov, A. Strumia 1702.01141; T. Binder, B. Blobel, J. Harz, and K. Mukaida 2002.07145; ...]

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 Force carrier = vector (gauge field): bound state formation XS ~ dipole transition:

$$(\sigma v)_{n\ell} \propto |\langle \psi_{n\ell} | \mathbf{r} | \psi_{\mathbf{p}} \rangle|^2$$

$$g \, \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{E} \stackrel{\text{[(Color-)electric}}{\underset{\text{(in pNRQCD),}}{\text{see e.g. Yao+ 2019]}}}$$

• Force carrier massless (unbroken gauge theory): Coulomb limit:  $V_{[R]}(r) = -\frac{\alpha_{[R]}^{\text{eff}}}{r}$  in unconfined phase

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[Harz, Petraki]

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#### Bound state formation cross section



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### Partial-wave unitarity violating?

[Binder, Garny, JH, Lederer, Urban 2308.01336]

- Derived recursion formulas for highly efficient and stable computation of (σv)<sub>nℓ</sub> up to n = 1000, ℓ ≤ n − 1 (~million states)
- Impose partial-wave unitarity: [Griest, Kamionkowski 1990]

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma v)^{\ell'} &= \sum_{n,\ell} (\sigma v)_{n\ell}^{\ell'} \\ &\leq \frac{\pi (2\ell'+1)}{\mu^2 v} \end{aligned}$$

[see also Harling, Petraki 2014; Baldes, Petraki 2017; Smirnov, Beacom 2019; Bottaro, Redigolo 2023]



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Decay















# Boltzmann equations including excitations [Garny, JH 2112.01499]

$$\begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \text{Mard process+Sommerfeld)} \\ \text{Mard process+Sommerfeld)} \\ \hline \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \text{Bound state} \\ \text{formation} \end{array} \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \begin{array}{l} \frac{d}{d} \\ \frac{d}$$

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#### Effective annihilation cross section [Binder, Garny, JH, Lederer, Urban 2308.01336]



- Steepening of slope w.r.t. Sommerfeld only  $\gamma=0.5$
- Note: no unitarity violation within unconfined phase
- No bound-to-bound transition in 'dark QCD' because no 1→1 transitions mediated by a gluon (8)

$$\langle \sigma v \rangle_{
m eff} \propto x^{\gamma}$$









### Implications for t-channel mediator models

















#### superWIMP scenario [Covi et al. 1999; Feng et al. 2003]

- Coupling  $\lambda_{\chi} \sim 10^{-16} 10^{-10}$ , dark matter thermally decoupled
- Produced in late decays of frozen out  $\tilde{q}$

 $\Rightarrow$  Relic density independent of  $\lambda_{\chi}$ 



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#### Effective annihilation cross section [Binder, Garny, JH, Lederer, Urban 2308.01336]



- $\tilde{q}$  also electrically charged: dipole transitions  $\mathcal{B}_{nl} \leftrightarrow \mathcal{B}_{n'l'}$  via photons  $\Rightarrow$  High impact on slope, super-critical (even w/o running)
- No unitarity-violating XS involved in unconfined phase, i.e.  $T>\Lambda_{\rm QCD}$

## Impact on the relic abundance [Binder, Garny, JH, Lederer, Urban 2308.01336]



- Excited bound states highly relevant
- No freeze-out before decay ( $T_{\text{decay}} > 1 \text{GeV}$ )
- Order-of-magnitude effect on relic density

## Impact on the relic abundance [Binder, Garny, JH, Lederer, Urban 2308.01336]



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### **Conversion-driven freeze-out**

[Garny, JH, Lülf, Vogl 2017; D'Agnolo, Pappadopulo, Ruderman 2017]

- Coupling  $\lambda_{\chi} \sim 10^{-6}$  just large enough to thermalize dark matter
- Conversions on the edge of being efficient  $\Gamma \sim H$ , initiate chemical decoupling  $\Rightarrow$  prolonged freeze-out process







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Large mass splittings  $\Delta m = m_{\tilde{q}} - m_{\chi}$  require large  $\lambda_{\chi}$ 



Smaller mass splittings  $\Delta m = m_{\tilde{q}} - m_{\chi}$  require much smaller  $\lambda_{\chi}$ : sudden drop in the coupling!



Boundary between WIMP and conversion-driven region at characteristic  $\Delta m = m_{\tilde{q}} - m_{\chi}$ 













# Implications for LHC searches

# Feeble couplings: Long-lived particles at LHC



# Lifetime in conversion scenario

Conversion rate on the edge of being efficient:

 $\Gamma_{\rm conv} \sim H$ 

# $\Rightarrow \Gamma_{\rm dec} \lesssim H$

$$c\tau \gtrsim H^{-1} \simeq 1.5 \,\mathrm{cm} \left( \frac{(100 \,\mathrm{GeV})^2}{T^2} \right)$$

 $T \lesssim (10 - 100) \, \text{GeV}$  $\Rightarrow \text{Long-lived particles (LLPs) at LHC!}$ 









# Collider constraints



# Relevance for current searches



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# Relevance for current searches



# Collider constraints



# Summary

- Dark matter elusive: systematically explore mechanisms of DM genesis
- Consider minimal extensions to SM with large hierarchy in couplings  $\lambda_{strong} \gg \lambda_{feeble}$
- Prolonged freeze-out dynamics:
  ⇒ effects of excited bound states highly relevant
- Non-abelian theory: 'eternal' annihilation
- superWIMP scenario: Relic density does depend on decay rate
- Conversion-driven freeze-out: parameter space largely enhanced
- Interesting prospects for long-lived particle searches
- Open problem: Unitarization of BSF cross section