Self-interacting dark matter as a solution to the problems in small-scale structures

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In collaboration with Xiaoyong Chu and Thomas Hambye. Based on JHEP 1611 (2016) 048.

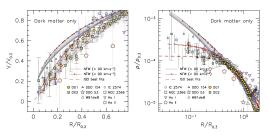
Challenges to the ACDM model at small scales

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Core vs. cusp problem

dwarf galaxies exhibit a core while N-body simulations predict a cusp at their center

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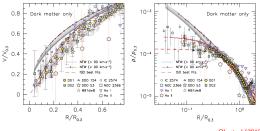
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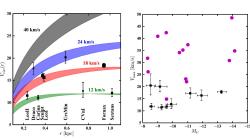
Too big to fail problem

simulations of the Milky Way predict subhalos too massive and too dense to host the brightest observed satellites

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Boylan-Kolchin et al.(2011)
Ferrero et al. (2014)
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Oh et al.(2010)



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Astrophysical possible solutions:

- Including baryons on the simulations
- Supernova feedback
- Tidal effects
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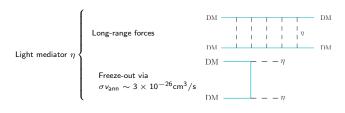
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Wandelt, et.al (2000), Vogelsberger et.al (2012)

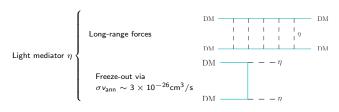
Simulations show that this is indeed a solution

Peter et.al (2012), Rocha et.al (2013), Zavala et.al (2012) Elbert et.al (2014), Kaplinghat (2015), Vogelsberger et.al (2015) Francis-Yan Cvr-Racine (2015)

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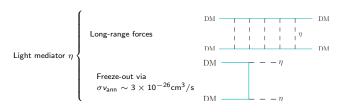
Implementing the freeze-out is challenging because thermal equilibrium between the SM and DM is needed, which leads to problems Bernal, Chu, CGC, Hambye, Zaldivar (2015)



- In the early universe the mediator is produced in large amounts affecting the CMB and BBN.
- Large direct detection rates, Kaplinghat, Sean Tulin, Yu (2013)
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Can we still consider the standard freeze-out?

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DM annihilations (freeze-out)

DM self-interactions (small structures)

Portals to the SM

SM

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Interactions within the dark sector Heavy mediator Contact interaction

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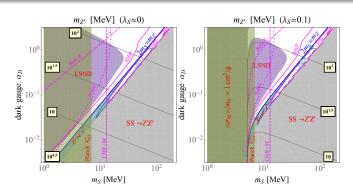
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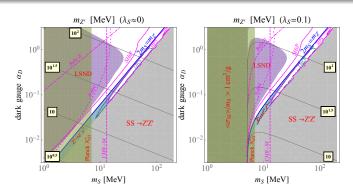
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Freeze-out: Scalar DM coupled to a heavier Z'



- Five parameters: λ_S , the kinetic mixing ϵ , $M_{Z'}$, M_S and α_D . The freeze-out via $SS \to Z' \to f_{SM} \overline{f_{SM}}$ and the self-interaction hypothesis constrain two of them.
- Annihilations into fermions are p-wave suppressed. No annihilation into photons.
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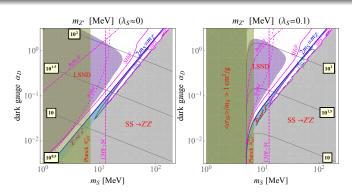


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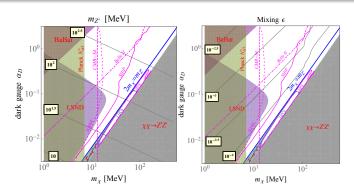
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- DM Scattering off electrons in semiconductors might exclude it completely.

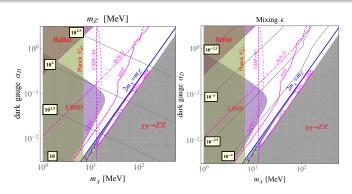
Essig, Fernandez-Serra, Soto, Volansky, T.-T. Yu (2016)

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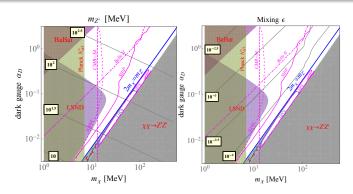


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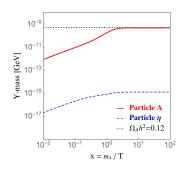


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- lacktriangle Model building is required because there must be a dark scalar close in mass to the Z'.

Freeze-in

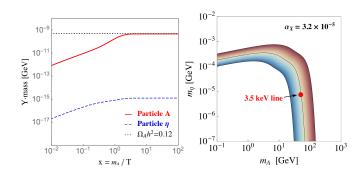


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Conclusions

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- The freeze-out mechanism can still work if no light mediator is present. Concretely, when scalar or Majorona DM interact via a heavier Z' boson. This is a highly testable scenario.
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Thanks for your attention!