Simplified t-channel Dark Matter Model at the LHC

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INTERSECTIONS - CIPANP 2025





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Simplified Models – What and Why?

- Many models feature a Dark Matter candidate.
- Many models; many parameters; difficult drawing general conclusions and repeating experimental analyses for each model.
- An EFT approach is very general and could cover all models; Validity of EFT at large momentum transfer? Not UV complete. Limitations when comparing between experiments that operate at different energy scales.
- Simplified model A UV complete theory (not necessarily simplification of a more complete/complicated theory). Captures essential features of classes of models.
- Construction of Simplified Model—Inspired by more complete models, consider models that contain dark matter as well as the most important mediator(s).

s-channel vs t-channel

S-channel couples separately to Dark Matter and SM

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{vector}} = -g_{\text{DM}} Z'_{\mu} \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi - g_q \sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b,t} Z'_{\mu} \bar{q} \gamma^{\mu} q - g_{\ell} \sum_{\ell=e,\mu,\tau} Z'_{\mu} \bar{\ell} \gamma^{\mu} \ell \,,$$

• T-channel couples to Dark matter and SM in a single term.

$$\hat{g}_{\mathrm{DM}} \tilde{X}_i^\dagger \overline{\chi} P_R q_i$$

t-channel dark matter model classification

$$\mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3S}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\psi}_f f_R \, \tilde{S} + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\psi}_Q Q_L \, \tilde{S} + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F1S}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\psi}_\ell \ell_R \, \tilde{S} + \lambda_L \, \bar{\psi}_L L_L \, \tilde{S} + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3C}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\psi}_f f_R \, S + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\psi}_Q Q_L \, S + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F1C}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\psi}_\ell \ell_R \, S + \lambda_L \, \bar{\psi}_L L_L \, S + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3C}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\chi} f_R \, \varphi_f^{\dagger} + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\chi} Q_L \, \varphi_Q^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{S1M}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\chi} \ell_R \, \varphi_\ell^{\dagger} + \lambda_L \, \bar{\chi} L_L \, \varphi_L^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{S3D}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\chi} f_R \, \varphi_f^{\dagger} + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\chi} Q_L \, \varphi_Q^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{S1D}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\chi} \ell_R \, \varphi_\ell^{\dagger} + \lambda_L \, \bar{\chi} L_L \, \varphi_L^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3V}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\chi} f_R \, \varphi_f^{\dagger} + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\chi} Q_L \, \varphi_Q^{\dagger} + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F1V}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\psi}_\ell \gamma^\mu \ell_R \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \lambda_L \, \bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu L_L \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3V}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\psi}_f \gamma^\mu f_R \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\psi}_Q \gamma^\mu Q_L \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F1W}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\psi}_\ell \gamma^\mu \ell_R \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \lambda_L \, \bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu L_L \, \bar{\psi}_\mu + \text{H.c.}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F3W}} = \sum_{f=u,d} \lambda_f \, \bar{\psi}_f \gamma^\mu f_R \, V_\mu + \lambda_Q \, \bar{\psi}_Q \gamma^\mu Q_L \, V_\mu + \text{H.c.}, \qquad \mathcal{L}_{XY}^{\text{F1W}} = \lambda_\ell \, \bar{\psi}_\ell \gamma^\mu \ell_R \, V_\mu + \lambda_L \, \bar{\psi}_L \gamma^\mu L_L \, V_\mu + \text{H.c.}, \end{cases}$$

(arXiv: 2504.10597)

A Simplified t-channel Model

• SM + Dark Matter Particle (χ : *Majorana*) + mediator (\tilde{X}_i (**3**, **1**, +2/3))

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \tilde{\sum_{i}} (D^{\mu} \tilde{X}_{i})^{\dagger} (D_{\mu} \tilde{X}_{i}) - m_{X}^{2} \tilde{X}_{i}^{\dagger} \tilde{X}_{i} + g_{\mathrm{DM}} \tilde{X}_{i}^{\dagger} \overline{\chi} P_{R} q_{i} + h. c.$$



DiFranzo et. al. 2013, KM et. al 2019 Arina et. al. 2020 & 2021

Complementarity of DD & LHC experiments





 In the early universe, dark matter was in thermal equilibrium with SM





Co-annihilation

[Griest&Seckel (1991)], [Edsjö&Gondolo (1997)], ...

Co-annihilations



- If $m_{X_i} \gg m_{\chi}$ then these are Boltzmann suppressed.
- If $m_{X_i} \sim m_{\chi}$ we would need a system of n Boltzmann equations



(3) Eventually, all the X_i will decay into the LSP DM

dark sector = {
$$\chi, X_2, X_3, ..., X_n$$
 }

Effective Boltzmann equation

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}\tilde{Y}}{\mathrm{d}x} = -\frac{s}{H\,x} \langle \boldsymbol{\sigma}_{\mathrm{eff}} \boldsymbol{v}_{\mathrm{rel}} \rangle \left(\tilde{Y} - \tilde{Y}^{\mathrm{eq}} \right)$$

$$egin{aligned} ilde{Y} &= Y_{\chi} + \sum Y_{X_i} \ &iggle & \left\langle \sigma_{ ext{eff}} v_{ ext{rel}}
ight
angle &= \sum_{ij} \left\langle \sigma_{ij} v_{ij}
ight
angle rac{Y_i^{ ext{eq}} Y_j^{ ext{eq}}}{ ilde{Y}^{ ext{eq}^2}} \end{aligned}$$

Co-annihilation





Sommerfeld Effect

A. Sommerfeld Ann. Phys. 403 (1931) 257

Slowly-moving massive particles experience the presence of the NR potential between them:

- Wavefunctions are distorted already at large distances (long-range effect)
- Probability of finding particle at interaction vertex is modified (non-perturbative)

Bound State Formation

$$\mathbf{R}_{1} \otimes \mathbf{R}_{2} = \sum \mathbf{\widehat{R}}$$

$$C_{2}(\mathbf{R}): \text{ quadratic Casimir of R}$$

$$V_{gluon}^{[\mathbf{\widehat{R}}]}(r) = -\frac{\alpha_{g}^{[\mathbf{\widehat{R}}]}}{r} = -\frac{\alpha_{s}}{2r} [C_{2}(\mathbf{R}_{1}) + C_{2}(\mathbf{R}_{2}) - C_{2}(\mathbf{\widehat{R}})] \xrightarrow{\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{\overline{3}} = \mathbf{1} \oplus \mathbf{8}} V(r)_{\mathbf{3} \otimes \mathbf{\overline{3}}} = \sqrt{\frac{4}{3} \frac{\alpha_{s}}{r}} [\mathbf{1}] + \frac{1}{6} \frac{\alpha_{s}}{r}} [\mathbf{1}] + \frac{1}{6} \frac{\alpha_{s}}{r}} [\mathbf{8}]$$

$$(X + X^{\dagger})_{[\mathbf{8}]} \rightarrow \{\mathcal{B}(XX^{\dagger})_{[\mathbf{1}]} + g\}_{[\mathbf{8}]}$$

$$\sigma_{\{100\}}^{[\mathbf{8}] \rightarrow [\mathbf{1}]} v_{\mathrm{rel}} = \frac{2^{7} \mathbf{17}^{2}}{3^{5}} \frac{\pi \alpha_{s,[\mathbf{1}]}^{\mathrm{BF}} \alpha_{s,[\mathbf{1}]}^{B}}{m_{X}^{2}} S_{\mathrm{BSF}}(\zeta_{S}, \zeta_{B})$$

$$S_{\mathrm{BSF}}(\zeta_{S}, \zeta_{B}) = \left(\frac{2\pi \zeta_{S}}{1 - e^{-2\pi \zeta_{S}}}\right) (1 + \zeta_{S}^{2}) \frac{\zeta_{B}^{4} e^{-4\zeta_{S} \operatorname{arccot}(\zeta_{B})}}{(1 + \zeta_{B}^{2})^{3}}$$

Bound state decay and ionization

If X_1 and X_2 can (co-)annihilate into n lighter particles, then their bound states $\mathcal{B}(X_1, X_2)$ are unstable against decay into the same final-state particles.

At $T \gg \mathcal{E}_{100} = \omega$, energetic gluons in thermal plasma can also dissociate/ionize B.S. into their constituents

BSF impact on Boltzmann equation

Relic density computation

- Several tools for calculating DM relic density + experimental signatures (non-exhaustive list)
 - MadDM [Backovic et al. (2013)]
 - Superlso Relic [Arbey&Mahmoudi (2009)]
 - DarkSUSY [Gondolo et al. (2004)]
 - MicrOMEGAs [Belanger et al. (2010)]
- BSF and Sommerfeld effects not included
 Exception: DarkSUSY includes Sommerfeld effect
 only for electroweak interactions.



We modified MicrOMEGAs v.5.2.7 including:

- 1. Sommerfeld effect $(3 \otimes \overline{3} \text{ and } 3 \otimes 3)$
- 2. BSF (singlet ground state) for colored particles.



• Bands $\leftrightarrow \Omega_{\rm DM} h^{\rm 2} = 0.120 \pm 0.005$

- Dramatic change in DM density with SE and SE+BSF for small $g_{\rm DM}$ when $\Delta m \ll m_{\rm DM}.$

• For $g_{\rm DM} \sim o(1)$ still sizable effects

• Stronger effective annihilations \Rightarrow larger DM masses needed \Rightarrow larger mass splittings Δm

M. Becker, E. Copello, J. Harz, KM, D. Sengupta, 2022

Cannot use a constant k factor



M. Becker, E. Copello, KM, J Harz, D. Sengupta (2021)



- **HSCP**: Heavy stable charged particle searches (decays in or outside detector)
- **BSF**: Bound State Formation Bound states form and decay to gauge bosons at LHC
- **SI** : Spin Independent Direct Detection
- **SD**: Spin Dependent Direct Detection



FCC 100TeV ?

Future Projection

- **HSCP**: Heavy stable charged particle searches (decays in or outside detector)
- BSF: Bound State Formation
- Bound states form and decay to gauge bosons at LHC
- **SI** : Spin Independent Direct Detection
- **SD**: Spin Dependent Direct Detection



Summary

- Simplified models useful to make more general statements about entire classes of models
- Classified t-channel dark matter models
- Looked at the impact of Sommerfeld enhancement and Bound State Formation on the relic density.
- Strong effect on the Simplified t-channel parameter space and should be taken seriously.
- Leads to rich phenomenology at LHC including
 - Bound State formation
 - Heavy Stable Charged particle searches
 - Jets + missing energy
 - Complementarity with Direct Detection