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Impact of bound states on non-thermal dark matter production

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In this talk I will discuss the influence of non-perturbative effects,

namely Sommerfeld enhancement and bound state formation, on the cosmological production of non-thermal dark matter (DM). For this purpose, I will focus on a class of simplified models with t-channel mediators. These naturally combine the requirements for large corrections in the early Universe, i.e. beyond the Standard Model states with long range interactions, with a sizable new physics production cross section at the LHC.

I will show that the dark matter yield of the superWIMP mechanism is suppressed considerably due to the non-perturbative effects under consideration, which leads to a significant shift in the cosmologically preferred parameter space of non-thermal dark matter in these models. By revisiting the implications of LHC bounds on long-lived particles associated with non-thermal dark matter, I will conclude that testing this broad class of DM models at the LHC and its successors is a bigger challenge than previously anticipated.

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