

# Thermal Corrections to Dark Matter Annihilation Processes at NLO

Prabhat Butola

IMSc, Chennai & HBNI, Mumbai

Collaboration with

D. Indumathi & Pritam Sen

(In Preparation)

PHOENIX-2023, IIT Hyderabad



# OUTLINE

## 1 Introduction & Motivation

- Introduction
- Motivation

## 2 Theory & Technique

- Model
- Thermal Field Theory
- Cancellation of IR Divergence

## 3 Results & Summary

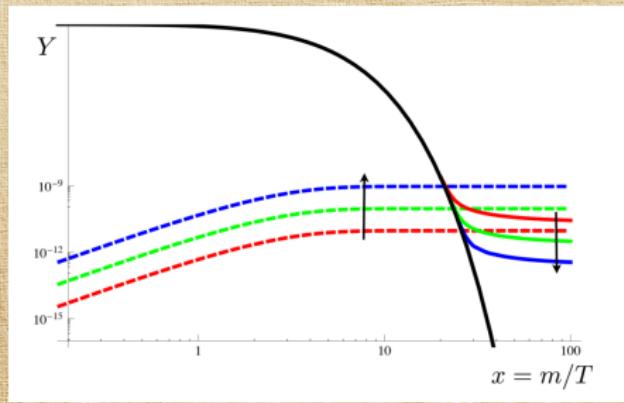
- LO scattering cross section
- Effect of Thermal Fluctuations at NLO
- Conclusion

# Introduction

- Boltzmann Equation

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3Hn_\chi = \langle \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow f\bar{f}, v_{rel}} \rangle (n_\chi^{eq} \cdot n_{\bar{\chi}}^{eq} - n_\chi \cdot n_{\bar{\chi}})$$

- Dark Matter Freeze-out scenario



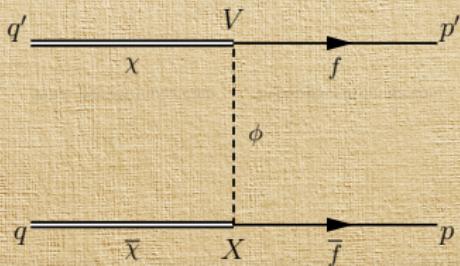
- Details

- 1 Relic abundance of Dark Matter  $0.120 \pm 0.001 (= \Omega_{DM} h^2)$
- 2  $\Omega = \rho / \rho_c$  ( $\rho_c$  : Critical Density for Our Universe)
- 3  $Y = n_\chi / T^3$
- 4  $x = m_\chi / T$
- 5 Coloured curves corresponds to different values of  $\langle \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow f\bar{f}, v_{rel}} \rangle$

# Motivation

- Temperature dependence of dark matter annihilation cross-section  $\sigma$  due to thermal fluctuation utilizing Thermal Field Theory

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3Hn_\chi = \langle \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow f\bar{f}} \cdot v_{rel} \rangle (n_\chi^{eq} \cdot n_{\bar{\chi}}^{eq} - n_\chi \cdot n_{\bar{\chi}})$$



- Details

- 1 DM freezes-out in thermal plasma when expansion rate of the Universe dominates over the annihilation rate of DM particles
- 2 This is determined by  $\langle \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow f\bar{f}} \cdot v_{rel} \rangle$
- 3 Thermal corrections due to thermal fluctuations can be important

# MODEL

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{L} = & -\frac{1}{4}F^{\mu\nu}F_{\mu\nu} + \bar{f}(iD\!\!\!/ - m_f)f + \frac{1}{2}\bar{\chi}(i\partial\!\!\!/ - m_\chi)\chi \\ & + (D_\mu\phi)^\dagger(D_\mu\phi) - m_\phi^2\phi^\dagger\phi + (\lambda\bar{\chi}P_L f^- \phi^+ + h.c.)\end{aligned}$$

## Details of Model

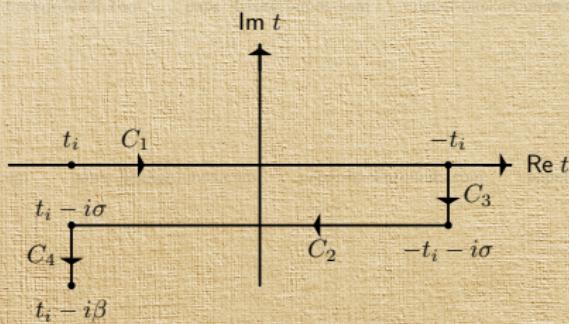
- 1  $f \equiv (f^0, f^-)^T$  are SM fermions, doublets under  $SU(2)$
- 2 DM :  $\chi$  (Majorana fermion), singlets under  $SU(2) \times U(1)$
- 3  $\phi = (\phi^+, \phi^0)^T$ , massive scalars,  $SU(2)$  doublets,  $m_\phi \gg m_\chi$
- 4  $m_\chi/T \sim 20$  at freeze-out

# Thermal Field Theory [TFT]

- Photon Propagator in TFT

$$iD_{\mu\nu}^{t_a, t_b}(k) = -g_{\mu\nu} \left( \begin{bmatrix} i\Delta_k & 0 \\ 0 & i\Delta_k^* \end{bmatrix} + 2\pi \delta(k^2) N_B(|k^0|) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & e^{\frac{k^0}{2T}} \\ e^{\frac{k^0}{2T}} & 1 \end{bmatrix} \right)$$

- Time Path (Real Time Formalism)



- Details

$$\mathbf{1} \quad i\Delta_k = i/(k^2 \pm i\epsilon)$$

$$N_B(|k^0|) \equiv \frac{1}{\exp\{|k^0|/T\}-1}$$

$$\mathbf{2} \quad S = i/(\not{p} - m + i\epsilon) \\ S' = (\not{p} + m)$$

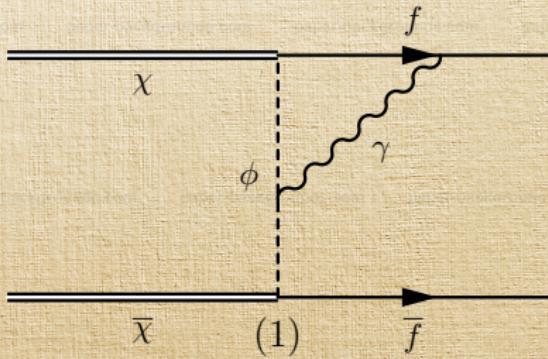
$$N_F(|p^0|) \equiv \frac{1}{\exp\{|p^0|/T\}+1}$$

- Fermion Propagator in TFT

$$iS_f^{t_a, t_b}(p, m) = \begin{bmatrix} S & 0 \\ 0 & S^* \end{bmatrix} - 2\pi S' \delta(p^2 - m^2) N_F(|p^0|) \begin{bmatrix} 1 & \epsilon(p_0) e^{\frac{|p^0|}{(2T)}} \\ -\epsilon(p_0) e^{\frac{|p^0|}{(2T)}} & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

# IR Divergence

- NLO scattering process



- Details

1 Consider the sample diagram shown:

$$\chi(q') \bar{\chi}(q) \rightarrow f(p') \bar{f}(p)$$

2 Thermal virtual photon is inserted between fermion and scalar

3 Photon Propagator is  $iD_{\mu\nu,k}^{t_\mu,t_\nu} = -ig_{\mu\nu} [i/k^2 \pm 2\pi\delta(k^2)N_B(k)]$

- Soft and Collinear IR div. @ NLO

$$N_B(|k^0|) = \frac{1}{\exp\{|k^0|/T\} - 1} \xrightarrow{k^0 \rightarrow 0} \frac{T}{k^0}$$

$$-i\mathcal{M} = \int d^4k \{ [\bar{u}_{p',m_f}(\gamma^\mu)(iS_{p'+k,m_f}^{t_\mu,t_\nu})(i\lambda^* P_R)u_{q',m_\chi}] [i\Delta_{q-p+k,m_\phi}^{t_\nu,t_\nu}]$$

$$[(2q - 2p + k)^\nu] [i\Delta_{q-p,m_\phi}^{t_\nu,t_X}] [\bar{v}_{q,m_\chi}(i\lambda P_L)v_{p,m_f}] [iD_{\mu\nu,k}^{t_\mu,t_\nu}] \}$$

# Cancellation of IR Divergence

- Rearrangement of Photon polarization sum [Virtual Photon]

$$-ig_{\mu\nu} \rightarrow -i\{g_{\mu\nu} - b_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu + \tilde{b}_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu\}$$

- Rearrangement of Photon polarization sum [Real Photon]

$$\sum_{\text{pol}} \epsilon^{*,\mu}(k) \epsilon^\nu(k) \rightarrow -g^{\mu\nu} \rightarrow [\tilde{G}_k^{\mu\nu} + \tilde{K}_k^{\mu\nu}]$$

- Structure of  $b_k(p_f, p_i)$

$$\frac{1}{2} \left[ \frac{(2p_f - k) \cdot (2p_i - k)}{((p_f - k)^2 - m^2)((p_i - k)^2 - m^2)} + (k \leftrightarrow -k) \right]$$

- Structure of  $\tilde{b}_k(p_f, p_i)$

$$\tilde{b}_k(p_f, p_i) = b_k(p_f, p_i)|_{k^2 \rightarrow 0}$$

- IR divergence cancellation takes place order by order between  $K_{\mu\nu}$  &  $\tilde{K}_{\mu\nu}$

- Details

1  $iD_{\mu\nu,k}^{t_\mu, t_\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} (iD_k^{t_\mu, t_\nu})$

- 2 IR Finite Contribution

$$G_{\mu\nu} := g_{\mu\nu} - b_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu$$

$$\tilde{G}_{\mu\nu} := g_{\mu\nu} - \tilde{b}_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu$$

- 3 IR Divergent Contribution

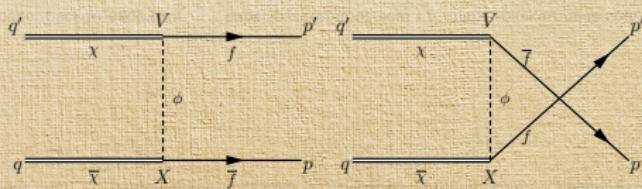
$$K_{\mu\nu} := b_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu$$

$$\tilde{K}_{\mu\nu} := \tilde{b}_k(p_i, p_f)k_\mu k_\nu$$

# LO scattering cross section $[\sigma_{LO}]$

$$\mathcal{M}_{LO}^t = \frac{i\lambda^2}{m_\phi^2} (\bar{v}(q, m_\chi) P_L v(p, m_f)) (\bar{u}(p', m_f) P_R u(q', m_\chi)) ,$$

- LO scattering processes



- Details

$$1 \quad P_L = \frac{1-\gamma^5}{2}$$

$$2 \quad P_R = \frac{1+\gamma^5}{2}$$

$$3 \quad H = \sqrt{s}/2$$

Figure: The  $t$ -channel and  $u$ -channel dark matter annihilation processes at leading order (LO).

$$\sigma_{LO} = \frac{1}{48\pi s} \frac{\lambda^4}{m_\phi^4} (8H^4 - 2H^2(4m_\chi^2 + m_f^2) + 5m_\chi^2 m_f^2) .$$

# Effect of Thermal Fluctuations [ $\sigma_{NLO(T)}$ ]

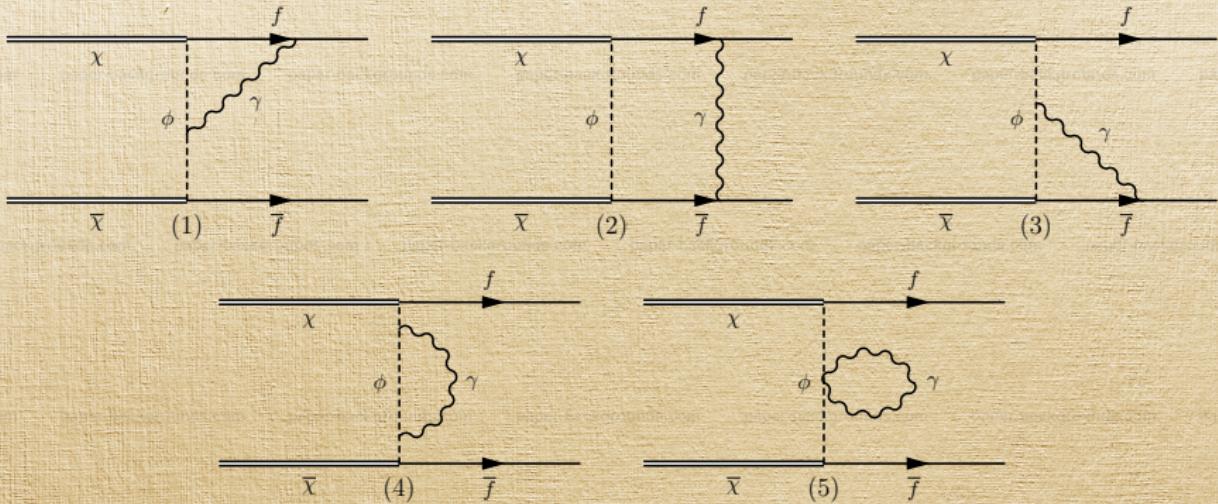
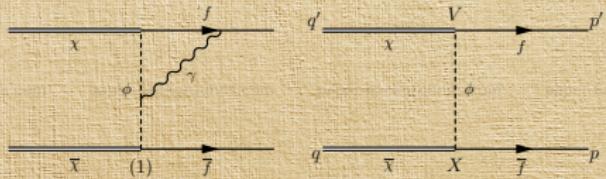


Figure: *The t-channel virtual photon corrections to the dark matter annihilation process at next to leading order (NLO). Diagrams are labelled from 1–5. Analogous contributions from the u-channel diagrams exist.*

# Effect of Thermal Fluctuations $[\sigma_{NLO}(T)]$

$$-i\mathcal{M}_{t,FS}^1 = [\bar{u}_{p',m_f}(-iQ_f\gamma^\mu)(iS_{p'+k,m_f}^{t_\mu,t_\nu})(i\lambda^*P_R)u_{q',m_\chi}][i\Delta_{q-p+k,m_\phi}^{t_\nu,t_\nu}] \\ [-iQ_\phi(2q-2p+k)^\nu][i\Delta_{q-p,m_\phi}^{t_\nu,t_X}][\bar{v}_{q,m_\chi}(i\lambda P_L)v_{p,m_f}][iD_{\mu\nu,k}^{t_\mu,t_\nu}]$$

- Feynman Diagram for Sample Calculation



**1** Thermal contribution from  $\phi$  is negligible ( $m_\phi \gg m_\chi$ )

**2**  $\phi$  Non-dynamical  
 $i\Delta \rightarrow i/(-m_\phi^2)$

**3**  $\phi$  Dynamical  
 $i\Delta_{q-p+k} \approx \frac{i}{\tilde{I}} \left( 1 + \frac{2(q-p) \cdot k}{\tilde{I}} \right)$   
 here  $\tilde{I} = (q-p)^2 - m_\phi^2$

$$\sigma^{NLO} \propto \left[ \frac{1}{4} \sum_{spins} (\mathcal{M}_{LO}^t - \mathcal{M}_{LO}^u)^\dagger (\mathcal{M}_{NLO}^t - \mathcal{M}_{NLO}^u) + h.c. \right],$$

# Effect of Thermal Fluctuations $[\sigma_{NLO}(T)]$

- It can be shown that the contribution with fermion and photon propagator simultaneously thermal, vanishes.
- Consider the contribution when the thermal part of the photon propagator is included.
- The photon propagator appearing in  $\mathcal{M}_{NLO}^t$  term contains the  $\delta - \text{function}$  term, which gives:

$$\begin{aligned}\int d^4k (2\pi\delta(k^2)) F(k) &= 2\pi \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dk^0 \int_0^{\infty} K^2 dK \int d\Omega_k [\delta((k^0)^2 - K^2)] F(k^0, K, \Omega_k), \\ &= 2\pi \int dk^0 \int d\Omega_k \int K^2 dK \frac{[\delta(k^0 - K) + \delta(k^0 + K)]}{|2k^0|} F(k^0, K, \Omega_k), \\ &= \pi \int d\Omega_k \left[ \int_0^{\infty} |k^0| dk^0 F(k^0, k^0, \Omega_k) + \int_{-\infty}^0 |k^0| dk^0 F(k^0, -k^0, \Omega_k) \right], \\ &\equiv \pi \int_0^{\infty} \omega d\omega \left[ \int d\Omega_k F_+(\omega, \omega, \Omega_k) + \int d\Omega_k F_-(-\omega, \omega, \Omega_k) \right],\end{aligned}$$

and the angular integrals can be performed analytically.

- If there is no explicit  $\omega$  dependence in this angular integral, we have

$$\int_0^{\infty} \omega d\omega N_B(\omega) = \frac{\pi^2 T^2}{6} .$$

# Effect of Thermal Fluctuations $[\sigma_{NLO(T)}]$

- Result for Sample Case

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{NLO}^{t,1\gamma} &= \frac{1}{128s(2\pi)^4} \frac{p'}{p} \int \omega d\omega n_B(\omega) \textcolor{red}{Int}_{NLO}^{t,1\gamma}, \\ &= \frac{1}{128s(2\pi)^4} \frac{p'}{p} \frac{\pi^2 T^2}{6} \times \textcolor{red}{Int}_{NLO}^{t,1\gamma},\end{aligned}$$

$$\textcolor{red}{Int}_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,1\gamma} = \frac{256\pi e^2 \lambda^4}{3m_\phi^6} (8H^4 - 2H^2 (4m_\chi^2 + m_f^2) + 5m_\chi^2 m_f^2),$$

- Collinear IR Divergences get cancelled after inclusion of real emission and absorption of photon at NLO

$$\begin{aligned}\textcolor{red}{Int}_{NLO,complete}^{tt+uu-tu,1\gamma} &= \frac{64\pi e^2 \lambda^4}{3m_\phi^6 p'} [4p' (8H^4 - 2H^2 (4m_\chi^2 + m_f^2) + 5m_\chi^2 m_f^2) \\ &\quad + 3 \log \frac{H-p'}{H+p'} (8H^5 - 4H^3 (2m_\chi^2 + m_f^2) + 5Hm_\chi^2 m_f^2)]\end{aligned}$$

# Effect of Thermal Fluctuations $[\sigma_{NLO}(T)]$

- Contribution to  $\sigma_{NLO}$  from one NLO process ( photon thermal )

$$Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,1\gamma} = \frac{64\pi e^2 \lambda^4}{3m_\phi^6 p'} 4p' (8H^4 - 2 H^2 (4m_\chi^2 + m_f^2) + 5m_\chi^2 m_f^2) \quad (1)$$

- Contribution to  $\sigma_{NLO}$  from all NLO processes ( photon thermal )

$$\begin{aligned} Int_{NLO}^{\gamma T} &= Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,1\gamma} + Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,2\gamma} + Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,3\gamma} + Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,4\gamma} + Int_{NLO}^{tt+uu-tu,5\gamma} \\ &= \frac{512\pi e^2 \lambda^4}{15m_\phi^8} [216H^6 - 4H^4 (68 m_\chi^2 + 7m_f^2) \\ &\quad + H^2 (56m_\chi^4 + 86m_\chi^2 m_f^2 + 5m_\phi^4) - 28m_\chi^4 m_f^2 - 5m_\chi^2 m_\phi^4] \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

- NLO scattering cross section for process ( photon / fermion thermal )

$$\sigma_{NLO} = \frac{1}{128s(2\pi)^4} \frac{\sqrt{H^2 - m_f^2}}{\sqrt{H^2 - m_\chi^2}} \frac{\pi^2 T^2}{6} \times \left[ Int_{NLO}^{\gamma T} + \frac{1}{2} Int_{NLO}^{fT} \right] \quad (3)$$

# Conclusion

- 1 We investigated Thermal correction to DM annihilation process due to thermal fluctuation ,
- 2 We performed analytic calculations Utilizing Grammer and Yennie's approach for IR Div. Cancellation , and obtain Finite Remainder for  $\sigma_{NLO}$  ,
- 3 Calculations are done with approximations ,  
Non-Dynamical Scalar  
Dynamical Scalar ( Long Expression not shown here) ,
- 4 Thermal fluctuation gives  $T^2$  contribution to  $\sigma_{NLO}$  ,
- 5 Quadratic correction due to thermal fluctuation will affect  $\langle \sigma v \rangle$  which will alter  $\rho_{DM}$ , in the solution of Boltzmann Equation.



*Thank You*

# References

- 1 Pritam Sen et al. , Eur.Phys.J.C 80 (2020) 10, 972
- 2 Martin Beneke et al. , JHEP 09 (2016) 031 & JHEP 10 (2014) 045
- 3 D. Indumathi, Annals Phys. 263 (1998) 310-339
- 4 G. Grammer, Jr. ,et al., Phys.Rev.D 8 (1973) 4332-4344
- 5 D.R. Yennie, et al., Annals Phys. 13 (1961) 379-452