New Approaches in Search for Light DM: Boosted Dark Matter (BDM)

Jong-Chul Park



PPC 2024 October 17 (2024)



- * Dark Matter? Dark Sector?
- ***** Boosted Dark Matter (BDM) & Its Searches
- ***** Issues in BDM Searches
- ***** Exciting Prospects for BDM Searches
- ***** Summary

Dark Matter? Dark Sector?

Message from Cosmology: Dark Matter (DM)



Dark Sector: Dark Particles & Portals



- ✓ Vector portal (kinetic mixing): $\frac{\sin \epsilon}{2} B_{\mu\nu} X^{\mu\nu}$
- ✓ Scalar (Higgs) portal: $\lambda_{H\phi}|H|^2|\phi|^2$
- ✓ Fermion (neutrino) portal: $\lambda_{\chi} HL\chi$
- ✓ Pseudo-scalar (axion) portal: $\frac{1}{f_{a\gamma/ag}} a F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu}$

$$\frac{1}{f_{af}}\partial_{\mu}a(\bar{\psi}\gamma^{\mu}\gamma^{5}\psi)$$

- ✓ Dilaton portal: $\frac{\sigma}{f} (M_V^2 V_\mu V^\mu + \dots + V_{\mu\nu} V^{\mu\nu} + \dots)$
- ✓ Gauged SM global #: B-L, L_{μ} - L_{τ} , ...
- ✓ **Dark axion** portal: $G_{a\gamma\gamma}, aF_{\mu\nu}\tilde{X}^{\mu\nu}$
- ✓ Double portal: combination of portals [Belanger, Goudelis, JCP (2013)]

- ✓ DM spin: fermion, scalar, vector
- ✓ DM species: single-/two-/multi-component
- ✓ DM mass: light, heavy, light & heavy
- ✓ DM interaction: flavor-conserving (elastic),

flavor-changing (inelastic)

√ ???

Various Ideas for DM

✓ ...

Various mechanisms for DM relic determination: Self-interaction Self-interaction can be strong ✓ Assisted freeze-out [Belanger & JCP, 1112.4491] Maybe unstable can be strong can be strong ✓ Asymmetric dark matter [0901.4117] DM1 DM₂ ✓ Cannibal dark matter [1602.04219; 1607.03108] ✓ Co-annihilation [PRD43 (1991) 3191] ✓ Co-decaying dark matter [Bandyopadhyay, Chun, JCP, 1105.1652; 1607.03110] can be ✓ Continuum dark matter [2105.07035] very weak ✓ Co-scattering mechanism [1705.08450] ✓ Dynamical dark matter [1106.4546] SM ✓ ELastically DEcoupling Relic (ELDER) [1512.04545] ✓ Freeze-in [0911.1120] ✓ Forbidden channels [PRD43 (1991) 3191; 1505.07107] ✓ Inverse decay dark matter [2111.14857] ✓ Pandemic dark matter [2103.16572] ✓ Semi-annihilation [0811.0172; 1003.5912] χ/ψ $2 \leftrightarrow 2$, ✓ Strongly Interacting Massive Particle (SIMP) [1402.5143; 1702.07860] $3 \leftrightarrow 2$,

 $\chi/\psi/$

 X/φ

χ/ψ/

X/φ

...

Current Status of DM Searches



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Boosted Dark Matter (BDM)

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Dark Sector: DM Boosting Mechanisms





Boosted DM (BDM) coming from the Universe



Two-Component Scenario: Freeze-out



[Belanger, **JCP**, JCAP (2012)] [Kamada, Kim, **JCP**, Shin, JCAP (2022)]

"Assisted Freeze-out" Mechanism

✓ Heavier relic *χ*₀: hard to directly detect it due to tiny coupling to SM

$$\frac{dY_{\chi_0}}{dx} = -\frac{\lambda_{\chi_0}(x)}{x} \left[Y_{\chi_0}^2 - \left(\frac{Y_{\chi_0}^{eq}(x)}{Y_{\chi_1}^{eq}(x)} \right)^2 Y_{\chi_1}^2 \right],$$

$$\frac{dY_{\chi_1}}{dx} = -\frac{\lambda_{\chi_1}(x)}{x} \left[Y_{\chi_1}^2 - \left(Y_{\chi_1}^{eq}(x) \right)^2 \right] + \frac{\lambda_{\chi_0}(x)}{x} \left[Y_{\chi_0}^2 - \left(\frac{Y_{\chi_0}^{eq}(x)}{Y_{\chi_1}^{eq}(x)} \right)^2 Y_{\chi_1}^2 \right]$$

$$\frac{dY_{\chi_1}}{dx} \simeq -\frac{\lambda_{\chi_1}(x)}{x} \left[Y_{\chi_1}^2 - \left(Y_{\chi_1}^{eq}(x) \right)^2 - Y_{ast.}^2(x) \right]$$

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Two-Component Scenario: BDM Signatures



DM Boosting Mechanisms: <u>Cosmic-Rays</u> (CRs)

Cosmic-Ray-Induced BDM



- ★ Energetic cosmic-ray-induced BDM: <u>energetic cosmic-rays</u> <u>kick DM</u> (large $E_{e^{\pm},p^{\pm},\text{He},\nu,\dots}$ → large E_{χ})
 - → Efficient for Light DM



- Charged CRs: [Bringmann & Pospelov, PRL (2019); Cappiello, Ng & Beacom, PRD
 (2019); Ema et al., PRL (2019); Cappiello & Beacom, PRD (2019); Dent & Dutta et al., PRD
 (2020); Jho, JCP, Park & Tseng, PLB (2020); Cho et al., PRD (2020); more]
- CR ν (νBDM): [Jho, JCP, Park & Tseng,
 2101.11262; Das & Sen, 2104.00027; Chao, Li,
 Liao, 2108.05608; Lin, Wu, Wu, Wong,
 2206.06864; more]

BDM from astrophysical processes:
Solar evaporation - Kouvaris, PRD (2015)
Dark cosmic rays - Hu +, PLB (2017)
Solar reflection - An +, PRL (2018)
Solar acceleration - Emken +, PRD (2018)
Atmospheric collider - Alvey+, PRL (2019)
PBH evaporation - Calabrese +, PRD (2022)
Blazar jets - Wang +, PRL (2022)

BDM Searches @ Neutrino Experiments





Issues in BDM Searches

Minimal Two-component Scenario



***** Example model: fermionic heavier(χ_0)/lighter(χ_1) DM + dark gauge boson(*X*)

[G. Belanger, **JCP** (2011)]

◆ Elastic electron [Agashe, Cui, Necib, Thaler (2014)] & elastic proton (even DIS @ e.g. DUNE) [P. Machado, D.
 Kim, JCP & S. Shin, JHEP (2020)] scattering channels are available. → Energetic recoil

Issue 1: Background



- ✤ Irreducible backgrounds: atmospheric-neutrino-induced events
- ◆ Neutral- & charged-current (even DIS) scattering channels are available. → Energetic recoil
- Good angular resolution allows to isolate source regions, especially very good for point-like sources such as the GC, Sun & dwarf galaxies.

Issue 2: Distinction from v Scenario



- ♦ (Light) BDM behaves like a neutrino.
- * Signature-wise, it is challenging to distinguish the BDM scenario from the neutrino one.

Issue 1 & 2: Avoidable by iBDM Scenario



- ✤ iBDM: inelastic DM+BDM [Kim, JCP & Shin, PRL (2017)]
- * Additional signatures from the decay of heavier unstable dark-sector state (or excited state)

 χ_2 at the expense of "minimalism" of underlying BDM models.

Is it possible to have distinctive signatures in the minimal scenario?



Issue 2: Avoidable by Sub-leading Process



- Distinctive signatures may arise even under the minimal setup, once higher-order corrections are taken into account.
- ✤ A new BDM search strategy utilizing initial-/final-state dark gauge boson radiation, i.e.

"Dark-Strahlung" from cosmogenic BDM [Kim, JCP & Shin, PRD (2019)]

Only recoiled e/p?



Inelastic Nuclear Scattering

Why inelastic channel?





➤ Signatures

- $\checkmark \gamma$ cascade ($\Delta E \lesssim 10$ MeV)
- ✓ γ cascade + nucleons ($\Delta E \gtrsim 10$ MeV)

Motivation

- \checkmark A new channel to study
- ✓ Large energy $\sim O(1 10)$ MeV
- ✓ Better S/B ratio

➢ Recent

improvements

Dutta, Newstead et al., [2206.08590]

- \checkmark Inclusion of multiple excited states
- ✓ Consistent handling of hadronic currents

 \checkmark Exclusive cross sections for each state

Inelastic Nuclear Scattering of CR-BDM

* Focus: the interaction between DM & quark

 $\mathcal{L} \supset g_D A'_\mu \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi + \epsilon Q_b A'_\mu \bar{q} \gamma^\mu q$

- → DM boosted by cosmic rays (p, He)
- Gamow-Teller (GT) transitions are the dominant contribution to the inelastic cross section.

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}^{\text{inel}}}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{2\epsilon^2 g_D^2 E'_{\chi} p'_{\chi}}{(2m_T E_R + m_{A'}^2 - \Delta E^2)^2} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{4\pi}{2J+1}$$
$$\times \sum_{s_i, s_f} \vec{l} \cdot \vec{l}^* \frac{g_A^2}{12\pi} |\langle J_f|| \sum_{i=1}^A \frac{1}{2} \hat{\sigma_i} \hat{\tau_0} || J_i \rangle|^2,$$
$$\sum_{s_i, s_f} \vec{l} \cdot \vec{l}^* = 3 - \frac{1}{E_{\chi} E'_{\chi}} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(p_{\chi}^2 + p'_{\chi}^2 - 2m_T E_R \right) + \frac{3m_{\chi}^2}{4} \right]$$

* For more details, See e.g. Dutta et al., [2206.08590].

[Dutta, Huang, Kim, Newstead, JCP & Shaukat Ali, PRL (2024)]



✓ Inelastic (solid) better than elastic (dashed)

Knockout Neutron @ Cherenkov Detectors

→ n can be better than p, especially e.g. @ SK-Gd Gd/H

* For n, no Cherenkov radiation but γ 's from capture

* For p, higher $p_{th} > 1.07 \text{ GeV}$



- ✓ Two-component (χ_0, χ_1) BDM model w/ the following interaction between lighter DM (χ_1) & the SM sector,
 - $\mathcal{L} \supset iq_B g_B X'_{\mu} [\chi_1^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} \chi_1 (\partial^{\mu} \chi_1^{\dagger}) \chi_1] + \frac{1}{3} g_B X'_{\mu} \bar{q} \gamma^{\mu} q$

[K. Choi & **JCP**, 2409.05646]



- * Rising interest in dark sector (multi-component) scenarios & BDM (Energetic DM)
- Various BDM production scenarios: Dark sector, Reversing direct detection, Astrophysical
- ♦ Various detection channels: elastic e/p, DIS, inelastic N, n-capture, ...
- ***** BDM searches are promising & provide a new direction to explore dark sector physics.
- * Experimental studies have already begun, e.g. SK, COSINE-100, Panda-X, CDEX, NEWSdm, DUNE, ...



Supplemental

Many More Well-Motivated Exps.

[P. Machado, D. Kim, JCP & S. Shin, JHEP (2020)]



p-Scattering vs. e-Scattering



[P. Machado, D. Kim, JCP & S. Shin, JHEP (2020)]

- ✓ If a BDM search hypothesizes a heavy dark photon (say, sub-GeV range), the *p*-channel may expedite discovery.
- ✓ If a model conceiving iBDM signals allows for large mass gaps between χ_1 and χ_2 , the *p*-channel is more advantageous.
- ✓ The *e*-channel becomes comparable in probing the parameter regions with smaller m_1 and m_X .
- ✓ As the boosted χ_1 comes with more energy, more parameter space where the *e*-channel is comparable opens up.
- ✓ With cuts, more e-channel favored region.

p-Scattering vs. DIS: Numerical Study



[P. Machado, D. Kim, JCP & S. Shin, JHEP (2020)]

- ✓ We study $\sigma_{\chi_1 p}^{\text{cut}} / \sigma_{\text{DIS}}$ where 200 MeV < p_p < 2 GeV is applied to $\sigma_{\chi_1 p}$ while no cuts are imposed to σ_{DIS} .
- ✓ *p*-scattering dominates over DIS for $m_X < O(GeV)$ (cf. *v* scattering via W, Z).
- ✓ As the process becomes more "inelastic", *p*-scattering dominates over DIS for a given E_1 .
- ✓ DIS-preferred region expands in increasing E_1 .

Inelastic Nuclear Scattering of DM

Solution Contribution to the inelastic cross section.

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}^{\text{inel}}}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{2\epsilon^2 g_D^2 E'_{\chi} p'_{\chi}}{(2m_T E_R + m_{A'}^2 - \Delta E^2)^2} \frac{1}{2\pi} \frac{4\pi}{2J+1} \\ \times \sum_{s_i, s_f} \vec{l} \cdot \vec{l}^* \frac{g_A^2}{12\pi} |\langle J_f|| \sum_{i=1}^A \frac{1}{2} \hat{\sigma_i} \hat{\tau_0} ||J_i\rangle|^2 ,$$
$$\sum_{s_i, s_f} \vec{l} \cdot \vec{l}^* = 3 - \frac{1}{E_{\chi} E'_{\chi}} \left[\frac{1}{2} \left(p_{\chi}^2 + p'_{\chi}^2 - 2m_T E_R \right) + \frac{3m_{\chi}^2}{4} \right]$$

* For more details, See e.g. Dutta et al., [2206.08590].

The expected # of signal events

$$N_{\chi} = N_T \Delta t \int \sigma_{\chi N}^{\text{inel}}(E_{\chi}) \frac{d\Phi_{\chi}}{dE_{\chi}} dE_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\Gamma_{N^* \to N\gamma}}{\Gamma_{\text{total}}}$$

[Dutta, Huang, Kim, Newstead, JCP & Shaukat Ali, PRL (2024)]



The GT strengths are derived from experimental

results & the large-scale shell model code BIGSTICK.

Estimated Background Rates



BDM=Hot DM?



★ BDM=hot DM → Strong constraints from cosmological evolution, structure formation, etc?

$$\lambda_{2}\chi_{2} \rightarrow \chi_{1}\chi_{1} \text{ Vs } \chi\chi \rightarrow \nu\nu$$

$$h_{\chi_{1}} \propto \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi_{2}\chi_{2} \rightarrow \chi_{1}\chi_{1}}}{m_{2}^{2}} \text{ with } \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi_{2}\chi_{2} \rightarrow \chi_{1}\chi_{1}} \sim 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^{3}/\text{s}$$

✓ χ_2 : heavy DM, χ_1 : light DM

Self-Heating Effects?

[Kamada, H. Kim, **JCP** & Shin, JCAP (2022)] [J. Kim, Lim, **JCP** & Kong, 2312.07660]

Large self-scattering is quite natural_for light dark sector! For $g_{\chi_1} \approx O(1)$

 $\&\,m\approx {\cal O}(10~{\rm MeV}),$

 $\sigma_{\chi_1}^{\text{self}} \approx \frac{g_{\chi_1}^4}{\pi} \frac{m_{\chi_1}^2}{m_{\text{med}}^4}$

→
$$\sigma_{\chi_1}^{\text{self}}/m_{\chi_1} \approx \mathbf{0} (1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g})$$



1. The heavy χ_2 annihilates to light χ_1 which becomes boosted.

Self-Heating Effects!

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Large self-scattering is <u>quite natural</u> for light dark sector! For $g_{\chi_1} \approx O(1)$ & $m \approx O(10 \text{ MeV})$,

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→
$$\sigma_{\chi_1}^{\text{self}}/m_{\chi_1} \approx \mathbf{0} (1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g})$$



annihilates to light χ_1 which becomes boosted. 2. Sharing energies through selfinteraction $\sigma_{\chi_1}^{\text{self}}$ which increases the χ_1 temperature.

Thermal Evolution



Cosmological Constraints & Dark Photon Searches



Perturbation Evolution

[J. Kim, Lim, **JCP** & Kong, 2312.07660 & 2410.05382]

Coupled equations for the density perturbation

$$\frac{d\delta_2}{dt} + \frac{\theta_2}{a} - 3\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{22 \to 11}}{m_2 \bar{\rho}_2} \left(-\Psi\left(\bar{\rho}_2^2 - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{2,eq}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2}\bar{\rho}_1^2\right) - \bar{\rho}_2^2 \delta_2 + \frac{\bar{\rho}_{2,eq}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2}\bar{\rho}_1^2 \left(2\delta_{2,eq} - \delta_2 - 2\delta_{1,eq} + 2\delta_1\right) \right),$$

$$\frac{d\theta_2}{dt} + H\theta_2 + \frac{\nabla^2 \Psi}{a} = \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{22 \to 11}}{m_2 \bar{\rho}_2} \frac{\bar{\rho}_{2,eq}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2}\bar{\rho}_1^2 \left(\theta_1 - \theta_2\right),$$

$$\frac{d\delta_1}{dt} + \frac{\theta_1}{a} - 3\frac{d\Phi}{dt} = -\frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{22 \to 11}}{m_2 \bar{\rho}_1} \left(-\Psi\left(\bar{\rho}_2^2 - \frac{\bar{\rho}_{2,eq}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2}\bar{\rho}_1^2\right) - \bar{\rho}_2^2 (2\delta_2 - \delta_1) + \frac{\bar{\rho}_{2,eq}^2}{\bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2}\bar{\rho}_1^2 \left(2\delta_{2,eq} + \delta_1 - 2\delta_{1,eq}\right) \right)$$

$$+ \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{11 \to XX}}{m_1 \bar{\rho}_1} \left(-\Psi\left(\bar{\rho}_1^2 - \bar{\rho}_{1,eq}^2\right) - \bar{\rho}_1^2 \delta_1 + \bar{\rho}_{1,eq} \left(2\delta_{1,eq} - \delta_1\right) \right) \right)$$

$$\frac{d\theta_1}{dt} + H\theta_1 + \frac{\nabla^2 \Psi}{a} + c_{s,1}^2 \frac{\nabla^2 \delta_1}{a} = \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{22 \to 11}}{m_2 \bar{\rho}_1} \bar{\rho}_2^2 \left(\theta_2 - \theta_1\right),$$

$$\frac{\partial \theta_1}{\partial t} + H\theta_1 + \frac{\nabla^2 \Psi}{a} + c_{s,1}^2 \frac{\nabla^2 \delta_1}{a} = \frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle_{22 \to 11}}{m_2 \bar{\rho}_1} \bar{\rho}_2^2 \left(\theta_2 - \theta_1\right),$$

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Linear Matter Power Spectrum

Linear power spectrum by CLASS

[J. Kim, Lim, **JCP** & Kong, 2312.07660 & 2410.05382]



N-Body Simulation

 N-body simulations: twocomponent DM simulation
 built on GADGET-3 to
 investigate the non-linear
 effects

✤ Visualization of DM density in the periodic 3 h^{-1} Mpc box at $z = 0 \rightarrow$ fewer sub-

halos

$$\checkmark \ \frac{\sigma_1^{\text{self}}}{m_{\chi_1}} = 1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$$

✓ $m_{\chi_2} = 30 \text{ MeV}$ ✓ $m_{\chi_1} = 5 \text{ MeV}$



N-Body Simulation: Observational Constraints



[J. Kim, Lim, **JCP** & Kong, 2312.07660 & 2410.05382]



✓ The number of sub-halos is more reduced with smaller $m_{\chi_1} \& m_{\chi_2}$, larger $\sigma_1^{\text{self}}/m_{\chi_1}$.

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Galactic Density Profile: Total



Galactic Density Profile: Individual

