# Topological Portal to the Dark Sector

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#### Motivation



- Dark matter revealed its presence through gravitational interactions.
- Portals to the dark sector are critical to probing its nature.
- They drive:
  - Cosmological history (Relic abundance),
  - Direct / Indirect detection,
  - Collider searches.
- Known portals are scarce.
  - Renormalizable:  $H^{\dagger}HS^{\dagger}S$ ,  $B_{\mu\nu}X^{\mu\nu}$ ,  $\overline{L}HN$ .
  - Higher-dimensional:  $aG \wedge G$ , ...

#### Today



**hep-th** A novel portal topological interaction between QCD and Dark Pions!

**hep-ph** Elegant realization of the light thermal inelastic DM scenario.

**hep-ex** Novel signatures at Belle-II

## Introduction

- *χPT*
- Chiral anomalies
- Dirac quantisation
- The WZW term

## **Chiral Lagrangian**

- Low-energy limit of QCD
- Chiral symmetry breaking

- Coset space = vacuum manifold  $\langle \rangle_{ij} \rightarrow (L^{\dagger}R)_{ij} \qquad X = \frac{G}{\mathscr{H}} = SU(3)$
- Goldstone (Pion) matrix  $U(x): M^4 \rightarrow SU(3)$  $G: U(x) \rightarrow L^{\dagger}U(x)R$

## **Chiral Lagrangian**

- Low-energy limit of QCD
- Chiral symmetry breaking

 $G = SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$  $m_{u,d,s} < \Lambda \qquad \qquad \checkmark \quad \langle \bar{q}_L^i q_R^j \rangle \approx \Lambda^3 \delta^{ij}$  $\mathcal{H} = SU(3)_{L+R}$ 

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• χPT (non-linear effective action) Weinberg '68, CCWZ '69

$$\mathscr{L} = \frac{f_{\pi}^{2}}{4} \operatorname{tr} \left( D_{\mu} U^{\dagger} D^{\mu} U \right) + \mathscr{O}(D_{\mu}^{4})$$
$$U(x) = \exp\left(\frac{2i}{f_{\pi}} \pi(x)\right)$$
$$\pi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\pi^{0}}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{6}} & \pi^{+} & K^{+} \\ \pi^{-} & -\frac{\pi^{0}}{\sqrt{2}} + \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{6}} & K^{0} \\ K^{-} & \bar{K}^{0} & -\frac{2\eta}{\sqrt{6}} \end{pmatrix}$$

- <u>Symmetries</u>
  - 1.  $P_0: \vec{x} \to -\vec{x}$ 2.  $(-1)^{N_{\pi}}: U \to U^{\dagger} \implies \pi^a \to -\pi^a$ 
    - CCWZ terms are invariant under both.
  - QCD preserves only  $P = P_0(-1)^{N_{\pi}}$ e.g.  $K^+K^- \rightarrow (\phi) \rightarrow \pi^+\pi^-\pi^0$

#### **Chiral anomalies**





Anomaly matching ('t Hooft): Deep IR

**Q**: How does  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{N_c e^2}{96\pi^2 f_{\pi}} \pi^0 \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu} F_{\rho\sigma}$  arise in a *G*-invariant EFT? Wess, Zumino '71 Witten '83

#### Invariant action?

• An attempt to construct a G-invariant Lagrangian:

• But 4d covariant EOM exist: Witten '83

$$\frac{1}{2} f_{\pi}^2 \partial_{\mu} (U^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} U) = \frac{k}{48\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} U^{\dagger} (\partial_{\mu} U) U^{\dagger} (\partial_{\nu} U) U^{\dagger} (\partial_{\rho} U) U^{\dagger} (\partial_{\sigma} U)$$

• How can we build an invariant action?

## Invariant action?

Witten '83: Global aspects of current algebra

- The WZW action:
  - Extend U(x) to a 5d bulk D whose boundary is a 4d spacetime • Action  $S \sim \int_D \omega_5$  where  $\omega_5 \sim \operatorname{tr}(U^{-1}dU)^5$  is a 5-form

#### Properties of $\omega_5$ :

- G-invariant
- Closed:  $d\omega_5 = 0$
- Integral: The path integral phase  $e^{iS}$  independent of D (Topological)



#### Dirac quantisation

Consider a charge e moving on a unit sphere  $S_2$  around a monopole g

EOM: 
$$m\frac{d\mathbf{v}}{dt} = e\mathbf{v} \times \mathbf{B}$$
  
$$\mathbf{B} = \frac{g\hat{r}}{4\pi r^2} \implies \int d\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B} = g$$

- <u>Symmetries</u> of  $\ddot{x}_i = \epsilon_{ijk} x_j \dot{x}_k$
- SO(3) rotations
- LHS: P and T
- RHS: *PT*

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 $\int d\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B} = g$   
 $A_{\phi}^{N} = \frac{g(1 - \cos\theta)}{4\pi r \sin\theta}$ 

#### Dirac string

Rotational symmetry violated, thus

$$S = \int dt \, \left(\frac{1}{2}m\mathbf{v}^2 + e\mathbf{v}\cdot\mathbf{A}\right)$$

is not manifestly symmetric.

<u>Symmetries</u> of  $\ddot{x}_i = \epsilon_{ijk} x_j \dot{x}_k$ 

- SO(3) rotations
- LHS: P and T
- RHS: *PT*

#### Dirac quantisation

Consider a charge e moving on a unit sphere  $S_2$  around a monopole g

In QM, a phase of a closed orbit

$$\alpha = \oint_{\gamma} \mathbf{A} \cdot d\mathbf{x} = \int_{D} d\mathbf{S} \cdot \mathbf{B}$$

• 
$$SO(3)$$
-invariant 2-form  
 $F_{ij} \sim \epsilon_{ijk} x^k / |x|^3$   
but  $D$  is not unique.



Thus, 
$$e^{ie\alpha} = e^{ie\alpha'}$$
, implies  
 $eg = 2\pi n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$ 

"integrality condition"

$$\pi_2(S^2) = Z$$

#### The WZW action

- Compactify the spacetime to a large 4d sphere  $S^4$  (fields asymptote at infinity) Witten '83
- The goldstone matrix  $U(x) : S^4 \rightarrow SU(3)$

$$S = \frac{f_{\pi}^2}{4} \int d^4 x \, \operatorname{tr}(\partial_{\mu} U^{\dagger} \partial^{\mu} U) + k \int_D d^5 y \, \omega \qquad \partial D = \mathbf{S}^4$$

*G*-invariant Closed:  $d\omega = 0$ 

•  $U(y): S^5 \rightarrow SU(3)$ , unique 5-form:

$$\omega = -\frac{i}{240\pi^2} \,\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} \mathrm{tr} \left( U^{\dagger} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y^{\mu}} \, U^{\dagger} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y^{\nu}} \, U^{\dagger} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y^{\rho}} \, U^{\dagger} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y^{\sigma}} \, U^{\dagger} \frac{\partial U}{\partial y^{\tau}} \right)$$

Tong, Gauge Theory

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Tong, Gauge Theory

- $\pi_4(SU(3)) = 0, \, \partial D = S^4.$
- Ambiguity in the choice of D. Phase independence of D $\Longrightarrow \\ \exp\left(ik \int_{D} d^{5}y \ \omega\right) = \exp\left(-ik \int_{D'} d^{5}y \ \omega\right)$   $\int_{\text{opposite orientation}} D \cup D' = \mathbf{S}^{5} \quad \exp\left(ik \int_{\mathbf{S}^{5}} d^{5}y \ \omega\right) = 1$  16

$$\int_{\mathbf{S}^5} d^5 y \ \omega = 2\pi n \quad \text{winding } n \in \mathbf{Z},$$
$$\pi_5(SU(3)) = Z$$

 $k \in \mathbf{Z}$ 



#### The WZW action

• Expand 
$$U^{\dagger}\partial_{\mu}U = \frac{2i}{f_{\pi}}\partial_{\mu}\pi + \mathcal{O}(\pi^2)$$
 Witten '83

$$\int_{D} d^{5}y \ \omega = \frac{2}{15\pi^{2}f_{\pi}^{5}} \int_{D} d^{5}y \ \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma\tau} \partial_{\mu} \operatorname{tr} \left(\pi \partial_{\nu}\pi \partial_{\rho}\pi \partial_{\sigma}\pi \partial_{\tau}\pi\right) + \mathcal{O}(\pi^{6}) \quad \text{Use Stoke's theorem} \Longrightarrow$$
$$= \frac{2}{15\pi^{2}f_{\pi}^{5}} \int_{\mathbf{S}^{4}} d^{4}x \ \epsilon^{\nu\rho\sigma\tau} \operatorname{tr} \left(\pi \partial_{\nu}\pi \partial_{\rho}\pi \partial_{\sigma}\pi \partial_{\tau}\pi\right) + \mathcal{O}(\pi^{6})$$



- Violates  $(-1)^{N_{\pi}}$
- Phenomenology dominated by gauging, next slide

Witten '83

- $Q = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{2}{3} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{3} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\frac{1}{3} \end{pmatrix} \quad \bullet \text{ Gauge } U(1)_{\text{QED}} \supset SU(3)_{L+R}$  $\bullet U \to U + i\epsilon[Q, U]$
- Gauging must take place in 4d where no manifest G-invariance
- Non-trivial derivation using Noether method ( $\delta S \sim \partial_{\mu} \epsilon J^{\mu}$ ).

Witten '83

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- Gauging must take place in 4d where no manifest G-invariance
- Non-trivial derivation using Noether method ( $\delta S \sim [\partial_{\mu} \epsilon J^{\mu})$ .

• After trial and error 
$$J^{\mu} = \frac{1}{48\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\rho\sigma\tau} \operatorname{tr}\left(\{Q, U^{\dagger}\} \partial_{\rho} U U^{\dagger} \partial_{\sigma} U U^{\dagger} \partial_{\lambda} U\right)$$

$$S_{WZW} = k \left[ \int_{D} d^{5}x \ \omega - e \int d^{4}x \ A_{\mu}(x) J^{\mu} + \frac{ie^{2}}{24\pi^{2}} \int d^{4}x \ \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (\partial_{\mu}A_{\nu}) A_{\rho} \operatorname{tr} \left( \{Q^{2}, U^{\dagger}\} \ \partial_{\sigma}U + U^{\dagger}QUQU^{\dagger}\partial_{\sigma}U \right) \right]$$

Witten '83

$$S_{WZW} = k \left[ \int_{D} d^{5}x \ \omega - e \int d^{4}x \ A_{\mu}(x) \ \frac{1}{48\pi^{2}} \epsilon^{\mu\rho\sigma\tau} \mathrm{tr} \left( \{Q, U^{\dagger}\} \partial_{\rho}U \ U^{\dagger}\partial_{\sigma}U \ U^{\dagger}\partial_{\lambda}U \right) \right. \\ \left. + \frac{ie^{2}}{24\pi^{2}} \int d^{4}x \ \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} (\partial_{\mu}A_{\nu}) A_{\rho} \mathrm{tr} \left( \{Q^{2}, U^{\dagger}\} \partial_{\sigma}U + U^{\dagger}QUQU^{\dagger}\partial_{\sigma}U \right) \right] \\ \left. \mathcal{L} = \frac{ke^{2}}{96\pi^{2}f_{\pi}} \pi^{0} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma} \right] \\ \left. \mathcal{L} = \frac{ke^{2}}{96\pi^{2}f_{\pi}} \pi^{0} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} F_{\mu\nu}F_{\rho\sigma} \right]$$



#### **Invariant forms?**

$$G = SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R$$
$$X = \frac{G}{\mathcal{H}} = SU(3) \bigvee$$
$$\mathcal{H} = SU(3)_{L+R}$$

#### The only two G-invariant forms on X

$$\omega_5 \sim \operatorname{tr}(U^{-1}dU)^5$$

WZW

$$\omega_3 \sim \operatorname{tr}(U^{-1}dU)^3$$

#### What can we do with this?

#### The 3-form $\omega_3 \sim \operatorname{tr}(U^{-1}dU)^3$

- It does not appear in the QCD action.
- However, it does appear in the topologically conserved current, the baryon number! Goldstone, Wilczek '81

Consider a static field configuration:  $U(\mathbf{x}) : \mathbf{S}^3 \mapsto SU(N_f)$ 

$$B^{\mu} = \frac{1}{24\pi^2} \epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma} \operatorname{tr} \left( U^{\dagger}(\partial_{\nu}U) U^{\dagger}(\partial_{\rho}U) U^{\dagger}\partial_{\sigma}U \right)$$

$$\partial_{\mu}B^{\mu} = 0$$
  $B = \int d^3x B^0$  Conserved winding no:  $B \in \mathbb{Z}_{\pi_3(SU(3)) = Z}$ 

(antisymmetry)

The global symmetry of QCD:  $G \times U(1)_V$ 

The only candidate symmetry is  $U(1)_V$ !

#### What else can we do with this?

 $\omega_5^{\text{PORTAL}} = \omega_3^{\text{QCD}} \wedge \omega_2^{\text{DARK}}$ Davighi, AG, Selimovic; 2401.09528

## The topological portal

- Formulation
- Relic abundance
- Direct/Indirect detection
- Collider searches

#### The setup

• We formulate a low-energy EFT for pions and dark pions

$$X = \frac{SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R \times K}{SU(3)_{L+R} \times H} \cong SU(3) \times \frac{K}{H}$$

#### The setup

• We formulate a low-energy EFT for pions and dark pions

$$X = \frac{SU(3)_L \times SU(3)_R \times K}{SU(3)_{L+R} \times H} \cong SU(3) \times \frac{K}{H}$$

- Properties of  $\omega_5^{\mathrm{PORTAL}} = \omega_3^{\mathrm{QCD}} \wedge \omega_2^{\mathrm{DARK}}$ 
  - Closed:  $d\omega_5^{\text{PORTAL}} = 0$  implies  $d\omega_2^{\text{DARK}} = 0$  since  $d\omega_3^{\text{QCD}} = 0$
  - G-invariance: Product structure implies  $\omega_2^{\text{DARK}}$  is K-invariant
  - Integrality: Cycles factorize; normalize  $\omega_2^{\rm QCD}$  and  $\omega_2^{\rm DARK}$  separately

#### Which dark coset fits?

## Cosetology

Searching for a closed, invariant, and integral K/H 2-form

• Consider following cosets (motivated by QCD-like theories):

$$\frac{K}{H} = \left\{ \frac{SU(N)_L \times SU(N)_R}{SU(N)_{L+R}}, \frac{SU(N)}{SO(N)}, \frac{SU(2N)}{Sp(2N)} \right\}$$

• All these are symmetric spaces  $\implies$ *K*-invariant forms on *K*/*H* are in 1-to-1 with cohomology classes see e.g. Davighi, Gripaios, Randal-Williams, 2011.05768

The portal **B** iff 
$$H^2(K/H) \neq 0$$

de Rham cohomology  $H^k(M)$  - the set of closed modulo exact k-forms on M

#### Cosetology

• Unique choice of the dark coset!



The SIMP mechanism  $(3 \rightarrow 2)$ Hochberg et al, 1402.5143, 1411.3727

QCD

(mutually exclusive)

• Take  $K/H = SU(2)/SO(2) \cong S^2$ 

Two dark pions

- $\Omega_2 = \epsilon_{ij} d\chi_i \wedge d\chi_j / (8\pi f_D^2)$  the volume form on  $S^2$
- The portal  $\omega_{\text{portal}} = \frac{n}{24\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left( U^{-1} dU \right)^3 \wedge \Omega_2, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$

- Take  $K/H = SU(2)/SO(2) \cong S^2$ 
  - $\Omega_2 = \epsilon_{ij} d\chi_i \wedge d\chi_j / (8\pi f_D^2)$  the volume form on  $S^2$   $\chi_1/f_D \in [0,\pi], \ \chi_2/f_D \in [0,2\pi)$

Two dark pions

- The portal  $\omega_{\text{portal}} = \frac{n}{24\pi^2} \text{Tr} \left( U^{-1} dU \right)^3 \wedge \Omega_2 \,, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}$ 
  - Expanding  $U^{-1}dU \Longrightarrow \omega_{\text{portal}} = \frac{n}{96\pi^3 f_\pi^3 f_D^2} f_{abc} \epsilon_{ij} d\pi_a d\pi_b d\pi_c d\chi_i d\chi_j$
  - Use Stoke's theorem

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{portal}}^{e=0} = \frac{in\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}}{48\pi^2 f_\pi^3 f_D^2} f_{abc}\epsilon_{ij}\pi_a\partial_\mu\pi_b\partial_\nu\pi_c\partial_\rho\chi_i\partial_\sigma\chi_j$$





$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{portal}}^{e=0} = \frac{in\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}}{48\pi^2 f_\pi^3 f_D^2} f_{abc}\epsilon_{ij}\pi_a\partial_\mu\pi_b\partial_\nu\pi_c\partial_\rho\chi_i\partial_\sigma\chi_j$$





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- As before, QED gauging drives the phenomenology  $U(1)_Q \subset SU(3)_{L+R}$  $\frac{1}{f_{\pi}^2}\partial_{\mu}\pi^+\partial^{\mu}\pi^- \sim eF^{\mu\nu}$
- Prescription

Yonekura, 2009.04692

Shift 
$$\omega_3^{\rm QCD}$$
 by  $-\frac{-e}{4\pi^2}F\wedge{\rm Tr}\left(Qg^{-1}dg\right)$ 



 $\mathscr{L} = \frac{ne \,\epsilon^{\mu\nu\rho\sigma}}{16\pi^2 f_\pi f_D^2} \left(\pi^0 + \frac{\eta}{\sqrt{3}}\right) F_{\mu\nu} \partial_\rho \chi_1 \partial_\sigma \chi_2$ 

The leading portal in the EFT power counting. The next term  $\frac{1}{f_{\pi}^2 f_D^2} (D_{\mu} \pi_a D^{\mu} \pi^a) (\partial_{\nu} \chi_i \partial^{\nu} \chi^i)$ 

#### DM relic abundance



- Quick thermalization all we need is the theory at the freeze-out!
- Our EFT applies when the freeze-out occurs after the QCD phase transition

#### DM relic abundance

- Consistent EFT description:  $m_{\chi} \lesssim 23T_{\rm QCD} \approx 3.7 \, {\rm GeV}$
- Relic abundance fits for  $~f_D\sim \mathcal{O}(5.5-7) imes \sqrt{n}~m_\chi$

 $\implies \chi_{1,2}$  indeed the lightest dark states Dark number conservation ( $Z_2$  symmetry) ensures the stability of the lightest dark pion.

- A small explicit breaking of K needed to give  $m_{\chi} \neq 0$ , as in QCD
- For a small mass splitting **co-annihilations**

$$\Delta := \frac{\Delta m_{\chi}}{m_{\chi_1}} \quad \Longrightarrow \quad f_D(\Delta) \approx f_D(0) \, e^{-\frac{x_{\max}\Delta}{4}}$$

(Boltzmann suppression)

#### **Direct & Indirect DM detection**

- $\chi_2 \rightarrow \chi_1 \gamma \pi^0$  before the onset of BBN when  $\Delta m_{\chi} > m_{\pi}$
- Dark matter is composed only of  $\chi_1$

#### • Indirect detection:

2-form antisymmetrization:  $\chi_1 \wedge \chi_2$  $\chi_1 \chi_1$  annihilations highly suppressed

Evades limits from CMB anisotropies on elastic s-wave scattering, Planck, 1807.06209

#### • Direct detection:

 $\chi_1 \rightarrow \chi_2$  inelastic up-scattering kinematically forbidden

 $\chi_1 \rightarrow \chi_1$  highly suppressed

The antisymmetrization inherent to forms provides an elegant and natural realization of the *light thermal inelastic DM* scenario!

#### **Collider searches**

- Production  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma^* \rightarrow \chi_1 \chi_2 \pi^0$



- Novel signatures yet to be explored by the experiment
- New analysis is needed, in particular for the displaced vertex
- Excellent prospects at Belle-II
- If the signal is found, look for  $\eta$

#### Outlook

• A well-rounded EFT tale



• The open question:

## UV completion?

Alhambra of Granada



Thank you



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