

# Light fermionic dark matter

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With Ran Huo and Wanqiang Liu,  
Based on 1812.05699 and 19XX.XXXXX

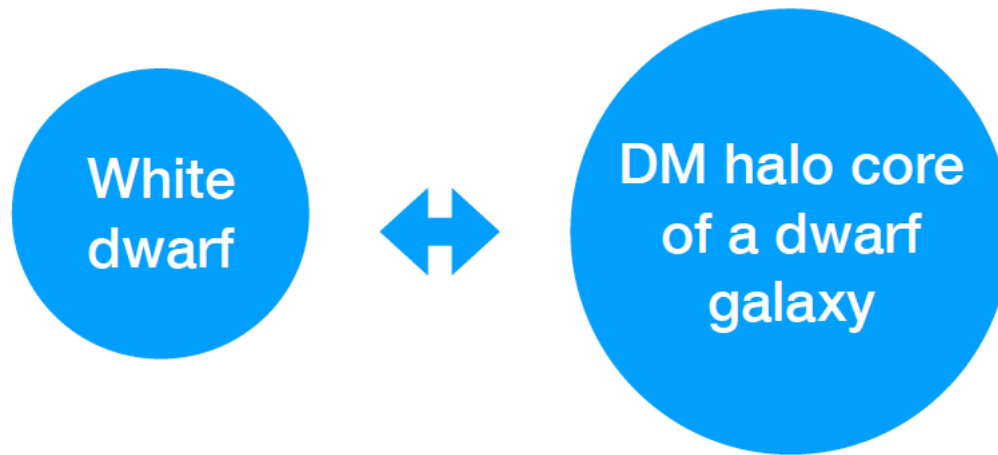
Strong DM and LDM, ESI, Vienna, 2019

# Motivations

- Small scale anomalies:
  - Core-cusp
  - Too big to fail
  - Missing satellites
  - ...
- Solutions:
  - Baryonic feedback
  - Self-interaction
  - Fuzzy dark matter
  - ...

# Motivations

- From White dwarves to dwarf galaxies



Tremaine and Gunn PRL 42, 407 (1979).

...

# Core-cusp problem fixes $m_D$

- Dwarf galaxy:

- $10^8$  solar mass
- Core size 500 pc
- $V \sim 10^{-4}$

$$n_D \sim \frac{1}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{4\pi m_D^3 v_F^3}{3}$$

$$\frac{\mathcal{M}_{\text{DG}}}{m_D} \sim \frac{4\pi R_{\text{DG}}^3}{3} \times n_D$$

$$\begin{aligned} m_D &\sim \left[ \frac{(2\pi)^3 \mathcal{M}_{\text{DG}}}{(R_{\text{DG}} v_F)^3} \left( \frac{3}{4\pi} \right)^2 \right]^{1/4} \\ &= 240 \text{ eV} \times \left( \frac{\mathcal{M}_{\text{DG}}}{10^8 M_\odot} \right)^{1/4} \left( \frac{R_{\text{DG}}}{500 \text{ pc}} \right)^{-3/4} \left( \frac{v_F}{10^{-4}} \right)^{-3/4} \end{aligned}$$

# Core-cusp problem fixes $m_D$

- Dwarf galaxy:

- $10^8$  solar mass
- Core size 500 pc
- $V \sim 10^{-4}$

- $70 \text{ eV} < m_D < 400 \text{ eV}$

L. Randall, J. Scholtz, J. Unwin, Mon. Not. Roy. Astron. Soc. 467, no. 2, 1515 (2017)

- $245 \text{ eV} < m_D < 305 \text{ eV}$

B.G.Glimore, R. Peschanski, arXiv:1806.07283

# The constraints

- For light DM if its temperature is comparable to SM, its free streaming length may erase the small scale structure of the universe.
- Lyman-alpha forests observations can detect the structure of the universe down to about a few hundred kpc.
- For warm DM model with two fermionic degrees of freedom,

$$T_{\text{WDM}} > 5.3 \text{ keV} \quad (3.5 \text{ keV})$$

V. Iršič *et al.*, Phys. Rev. D **96**, no. 2, 023522 (2017)  
doi:10.1103/PhysRevD.96.023522 [arXiv:1702.01764  
[astro-ph.CO]].

# Warm DM model

- $\rho_{\text{DM}} = m_{\text{WDM}} \times n_{\text{WDM}}$

- In the early universe when DM is relativistic

$$n_{\text{WDM}} = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} 2T_D^3 \quad \longrightarrow \quad T_D/T_{\text{SM}} \approx 0.1$$

$T_{\text{WDM}} > 5.3 \text{ keV} \text{ (3.5 keV)}$

- In tension with the request for solving the core-cusp problem! (even with much colder DM)

# Our goal

- To build a model with  $O(100)$  eV fermionic DM which can avoid the Lyman-alpha constraint.
- Two models:
  - Freeze-in self interacting DM
  - Light fermionic DM from scalar decay



# Freeze-in model

mass →	~2.3 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	~1.275 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	~173.07 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	0	~126 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>
charge →	2/3	2/3	2/3	0	0
spin →	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	0
	<b>u</b> up	<b>c</b> charm	<b>t</b> top	<b>g</b> gluon	<b>H</b> Higgs boson
<b>QUARKS</b>					
	~4.8 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	~95 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	~4.18 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	0	
	-1/3	-1/3	-1/3	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	<b>d</b> down	<b>s</b> strange	<b>b</b> bottom	<b>γ</b> photon	
	0.511 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	105.7 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	1.777 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	91.2 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	
	-1	-1	-1	0	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	<b>e</b> electron	<b>μ</b> muon	<b>τ</b> tau	<b>Z</b> Z boson	
<b>LEPTONS</b>					
	<2.2 eV/c <sup>2</sup>	<0.17 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	<15.5 MeV/c <sup>2</sup>	80.4 GeV/c <sup>2</sup>	
	0	0	0	±1	
	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	
	<b>ν<sub>e</sub></b> electron neutrino	<b>ν<sub>μ</sub></b> muon neutrino	<b>ν<sub>τ</sub></b> tau neutrino	<b>W</b> W boson	
					<b>GAUGE BOSONS</b>

↓  
QED

Dirac fermion, the DM candidate

$$\bar{\chi}(i\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_D)\chi$$

Connecting the DM to the SM sector

$$-\frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_V^2V^2$$

$$-\frac{\kappa'}{2}B^{\mu\nu}V_{\mu\nu}$$

↓

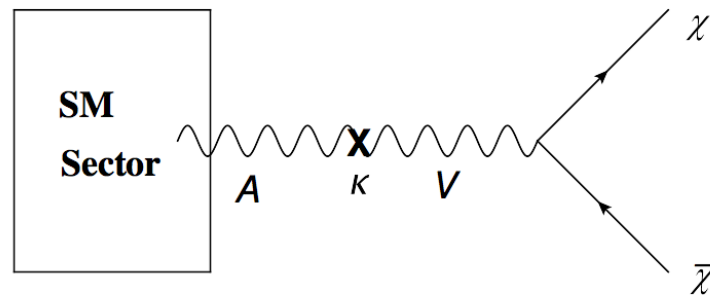
Spontaneous symmetry breaking

$$-\frac{\kappa}{2}F^{\mu\nu}V_{\mu\nu}$$

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{QED}} - \frac{\kappa}{2}F_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{4}V_{\mu\nu}V^{\mu\nu} + \frac{1}{2}m_V^2V_\mu V^\mu + \bar{\chi}(\gamma^\mu D_\mu - m_D)\chi$$

$$m_V \sim 1 \text{ MeV}, \quad \alpha_D \sim \alpha_{\text{EM}}, \quad \kappa \sim 10^{-11}, \quad m_D \ll m_V$$

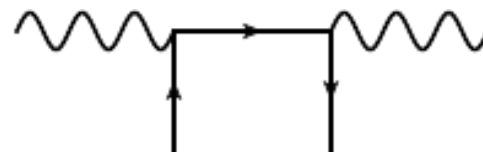
# Freeze-in model



1.  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$

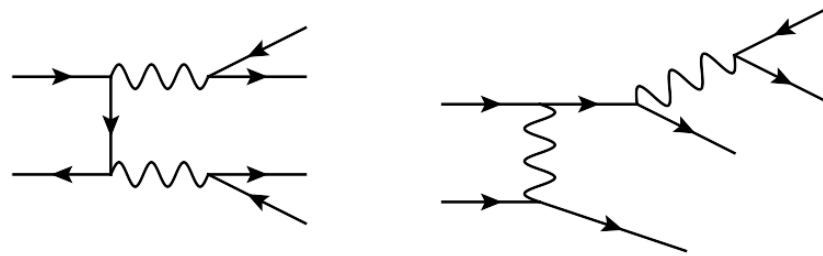
2. Plamson decay

Photon gets a "mass"



# Dark sector cools down through self-replication

- 2 to 4 self-replication processes



- If self-replication is fast enough, the DM can be seen as a thermal relic. (warm dark matter)

$$f(E) = \frac{g_D}{1 + \exp(E/T_D)}$$

# Relic abundance

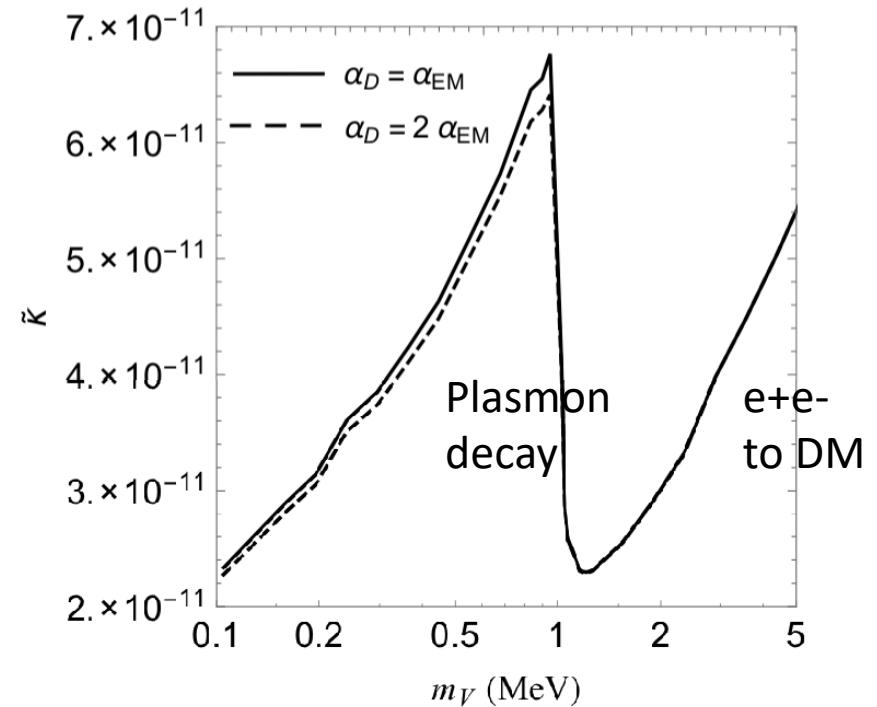
- Boltzmann equation

To generate the observed DM relic abundance

$$\frac{d\rho_\chi}{dt} + 4H\rho_\chi = \Gamma_{e^\pm}^{\rho_\chi} + \Gamma_R^{\rho_\chi}$$

$$\kappa = \tilde{\kappa}(\alpha_D, m_V) \times \left(\frac{m_D}{200 \text{ eV}}\right)^{-2/3}$$

1.  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \chi\bar{\chi}$
2. Plasmon decay

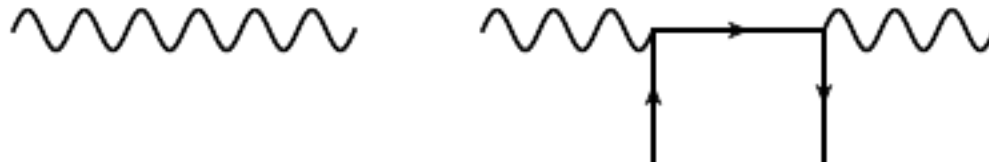


# Constraints on model

- Stellar constraints (DM is light)
- Lyman-alpha constraints (DM is light)
- From the bullet cluster and the shape of clusters (Self interaction)

# Stellar constraints

- Energy loss to the dark side can change the evolution of stars.
- Inside the stars is thermal plasma. (NR)



- Change the dispersion relations
  - Transverse  $\omega^2 - k^2 = \omega_p^2$
  - Longitudinal  $\omega = \omega_p \quad (k < \omega_p)$

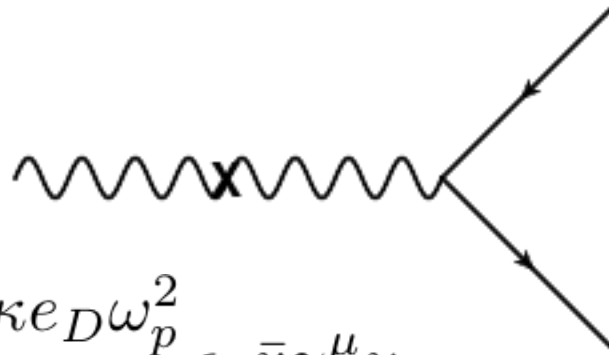
# Stellar constraints

- “Photon decay”

$$\mathcal{M} = \frac{\kappa e_D q^2}{q^2 - m_V^2} \epsilon_\mu \bar{v} \gamma^\mu u \approx \frac{\kappa e_D \omega_p^2}{m_V^2} \epsilon_\mu \bar{v} \gamma^\mu u$$

$$\Gamma_\chi \propto \left( \frac{\omega_p}{m_V} \right)^4 \quad \omega_p^2 \approx \frac{4\pi\alpha_{\text{EM}} n_e}{m_e}$$

- We need stars with large density and high temperature.
- In supernova,  $V$  can be produced on shell, so the resonant conversion process is also important.



# Stellar constraints

- Red giant stars:
  - $T_C \approx 8.6 \text{ keV}$  ,  $\omega_p \approx 20 \text{ keV}$
  - Dark radiation  $< 10\%$  of the luminosity

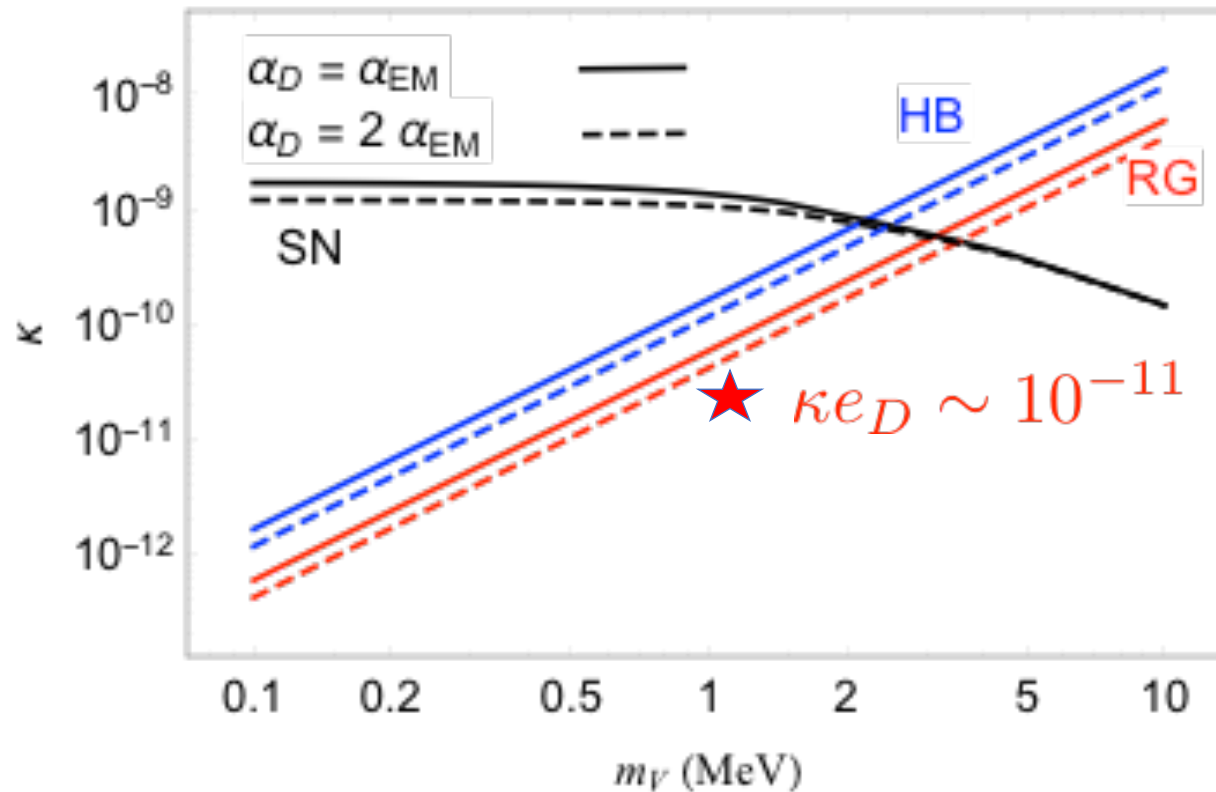
*J. Redondo and G. Raffelt, JCAP 1308, 034 (2013)*
- Supernovae
  - $T_C \approx 20 \text{ MeV}$  ,  $\omega_p \approx 10 \text{ MeV}$
  - Stronger constraint in the large  $m_V$  region
  - We reinterpret the constraints on dark photon and milli-charged particles.

*J. H. Chang, R. Essig, S. D. McDermott, arXiv:1803.00993*

$$\Gamma_\chi \propto \left( \frac{\omega_p}{m_V} \right)^4$$



# Stellar constraints



# Constraints on self interaction

- Clusters ( $\sim 100$  kpc) has mass deficit in the inner 3 kpc compared to NFW. [Newman et al. APJ 765, 25 \(2013\)](#)

- Can be solved if DM has a self-interaction

$$\sigma_T/m_D \sim 0.1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{gram}$$

[Kaplinghat et al. PRL 116, no.4 041302 \(2016\), 1508.03339](#)

- Because of the effect of baryonic processes, observations of clusters alone cannot provide unambiguous support for DM theories. [Newman et al. APJ 765, 25 \(2013\)](#)

- $\sigma_T/m_D > 0.1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{gram}$  is disfavored. [Elbert et al. 1609.08626](#)

- This is stronger than the constraints from bullet cluster that

$$\sigma_T/m_D < 1.25 \text{ cm}^2/\text{gram}$$


# Constraints from Lyman-alpha forests observations

- Free streaming distance

$$l_{\text{fs}} = \int_0^{t_0} \frac{a_{\text{today}}}{a(t)} v_{\text{phys}}(t) dt$$

# Constraints from Lyman-alpha forests observations

- Free streaming distance

$$l_{\text{fs}} = \int_0^{t_0} \frac{a_{\text{today}}}{a(t)} v_{\text{phys}}(t) dt$$


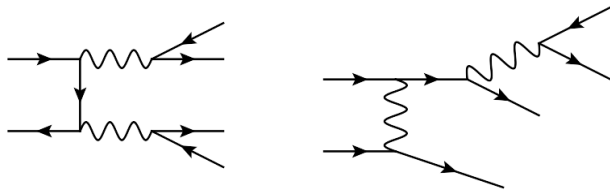
The diagram shows a blue arrow pointing downwards from the lower limit '0' of the integral to the label  $t_{\text{fs}}$ , indicating that the integration starts at the time of free streaming,  $t_{\text{fs}}$ .

- With self scattering, the free streaming becomes Brownian motion.

# Constraints from Lyman-alpha forests observations

- Free streaming distance

$$l_{\text{fs}} = \int_0^{t_0} \frac{a_{\text{today}}}{a(t)} v_{\text{phys}}(t) dt$$



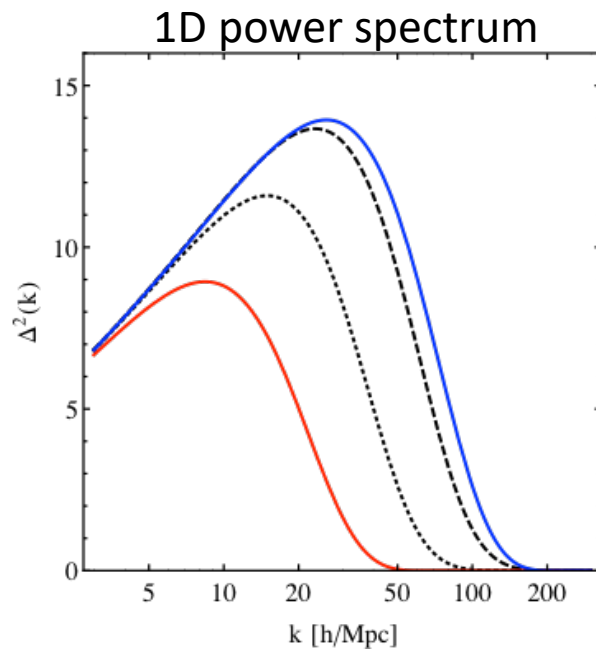
Smaller with lower temperature

- The best one can do is to make it like WDM.

# Self scattering and Lyman-alpha bound

- Scattering turns free-streaming into Brownian motion, migration distance much shorter.

$$T_{\text{fs}} \approx 1 \text{ eV} \times \left( \frac{\alpha_D}{\alpha_{\text{EM}}} \right)^{-1} \left( \frac{T_D/T_{\text{SM}}}{0.1} \right)^{-1/2} \left( \frac{m_V}{1 \text{ MeV}} \right)^2$$

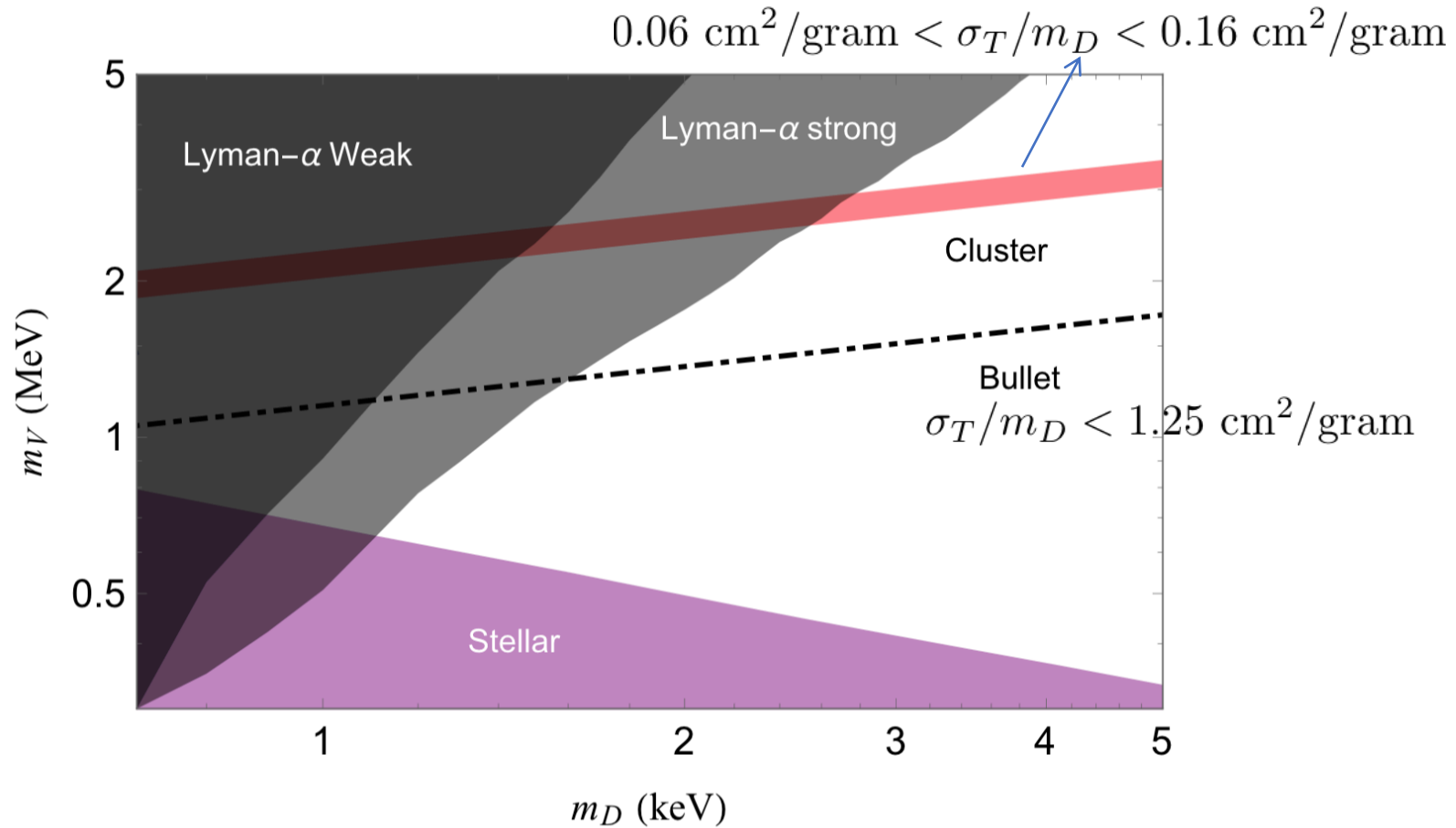


CAMB simulation result

- 5.3 keV WDM       $\lambda_{\text{fs}} \sim 0.02 \text{ Mpc}$
- ..... 3.5 keV WDM
- $m_D = 1 \text{ keV}, \sigma_T/m_D = 0.1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{gram}$
- $m_D = 3 \text{ keV}, \sigma_T/m_D = 0.1 \text{ cm}^2/\text{gram}$

Cluster mass deficit problem

# Numerical result



$$\kappa = \tilde{\kappa}(\alpha_D, m_V) \times \left( \frac{m_D}{200 \text{ eV}} \right)^{-2/3}$$

# Summary of the freeze-in model

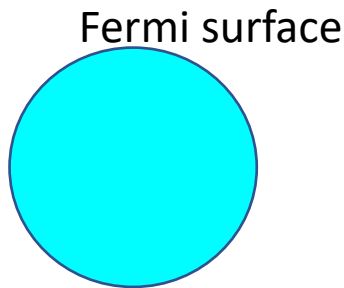
- We propose a freeze-in self-scattering warm dark matter model, which can generate the observed relic abundance.
- The self-scattering and self replication processes alleviate the Lyman-alpha constraints.

$$T_{\text{WDM}} > 5.3 \text{ keV} \text{ (3.5 keV)} \quad \longrightarrow \quad m_D > 2.2 \text{ keV} \text{ (1.4 keV)}$$



# Light fermionic DM from scalar decay

- Fermions move at zero kelvin.



$$v_F > 0 \quad \bar{v}_D \approx 4.6 \times m_D^{-4/3} \left( \frac{\rho_D}{g_D} \right)^{1/3}$$

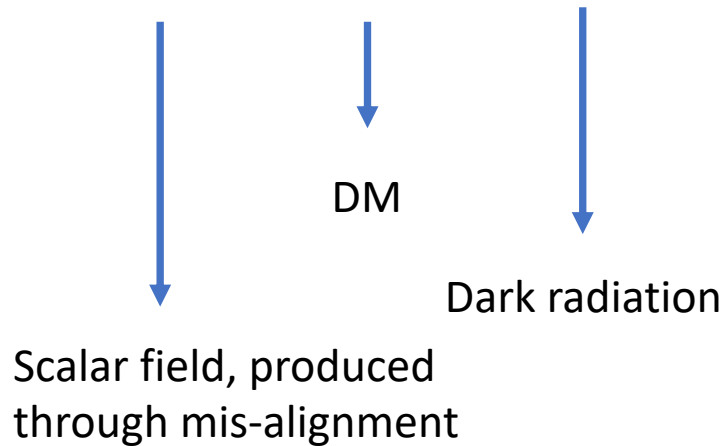
- By comparing the free streaming length of zero temperature fermion to that of the WDM,

$$m_{\text{DM}}^{(0\text{K})} > 3.5 \text{ keV} \quad (2.5 \text{ keV})$$

# Light fermionic DM from moduli decay

- In the early universe the energy of the DM must be in the form of bosons.
- The model

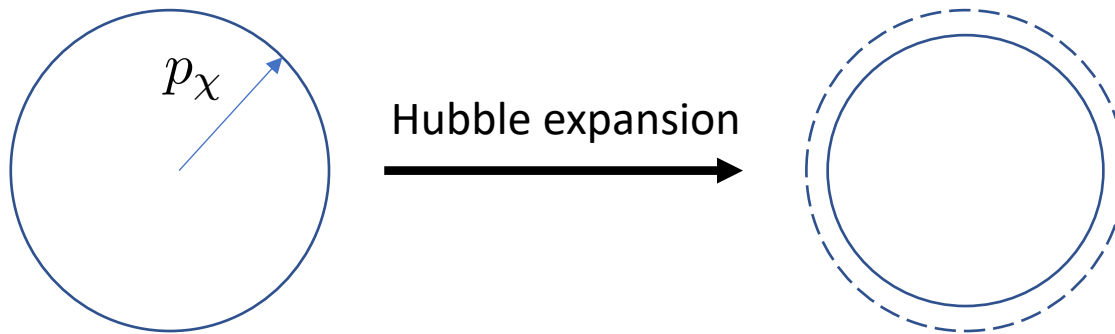
$$\mathcal{L} = \phi + \mathcal{L}_\chi + \mathcal{L}_\psi + g(\phi\bar{\psi}\chi) + \text{h.c.}$$



$$m_\phi \gtrsim m_\chi \gg m_\psi$$

# The decay of the scalar field

- In 1 to 2 decay, in the rest frame of the mother particle the momenta of the final state particles are fixed.
- The Hubble expansion makes the momentum of DM smaller, which makes the decay possible.



- When the universe is large enough the effect of the Pauli exclusion principle can be neglected.

# The decay of the scalar field

Physical momentum  
of  $\chi$  in the rest frame  
of  $\phi$

$$\frac{dn_\phi}{dt} \approx -\frac{Ha^3 p^3}{2\pi^2} \left[ 1 - \exp\left(1 - \frac{2\pi^2 n_\phi \Gamma_\phi}{a^3 p^3 H}\right) \right]$$

Early universe

$$\frac{dn_\phi}{dt} \approx -\frac{Ha^3 p^3}{2\pi^2}$$

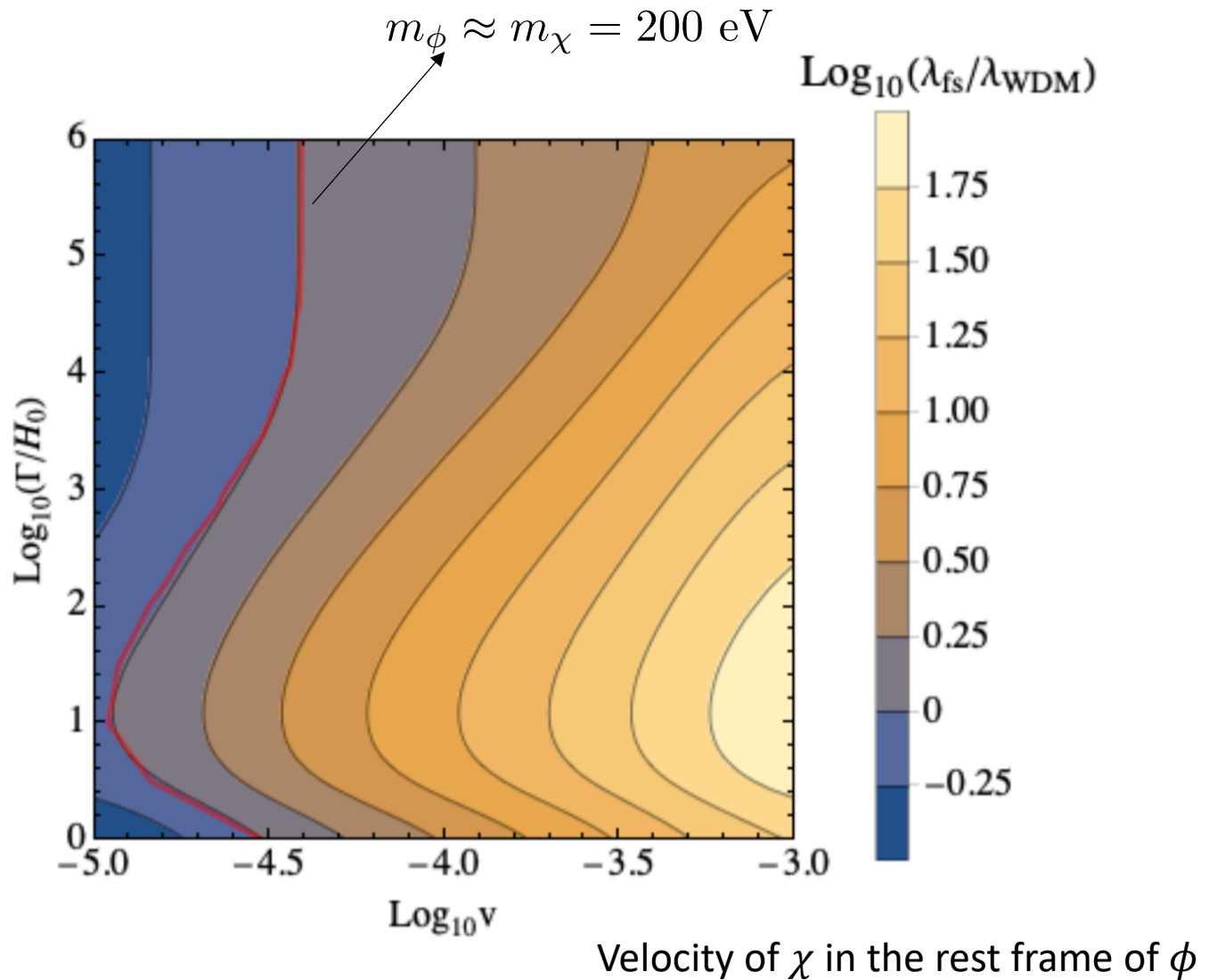
When the universe is large

$$\frac{dn_\phi}{dt} \approx -\Gamma_\phi n_\phi$$

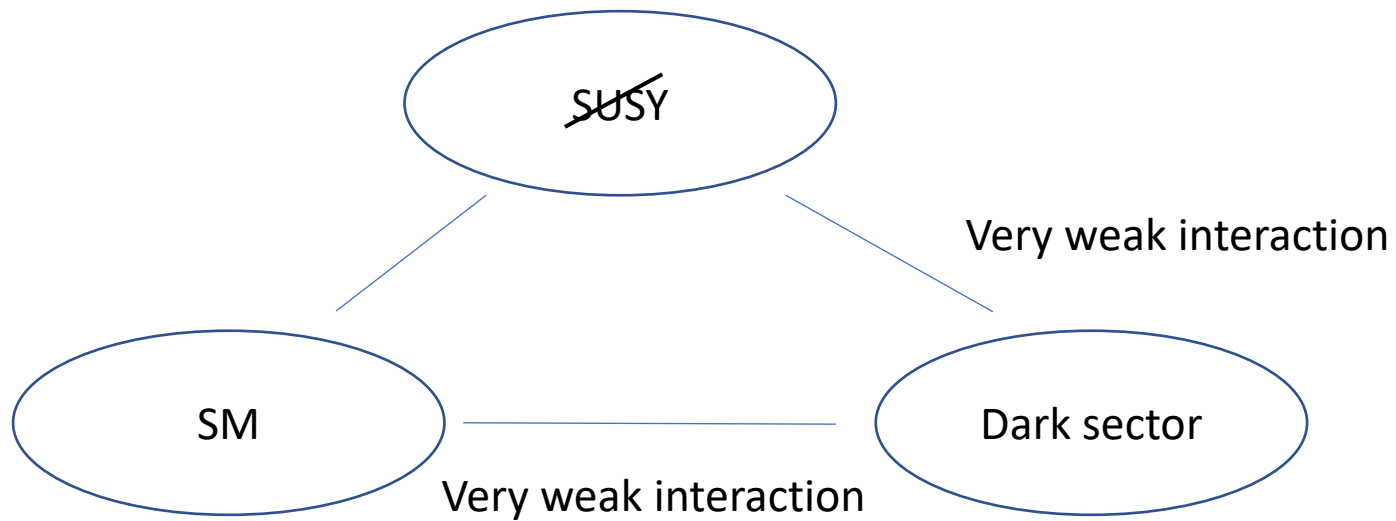
# The constraint from Lyman-alpha forests observations

- We compare the free streaming length of  $\chi$  to the free streaming length of WDM.
- In this model the free streaming length is proportional to the velocity of  $\chi$  in the rest frame of  $\phi$ .

# Numerical result



# How to generate the small mass gap? (work in progress)



# Summary

- We build a freeze-in DM model.
  - With the self scattering and the self replication processes, the Lyman-alpha constraint can be lowered to about 2 keV.
- If we want to have  $O(100)$  fermionic DM, the energy of the DM should be stored in the form of bosonic field.
  - The mass gap required is very small. Maybe we can realize a natural model with SUSY.