# Dark Matter Theory

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# New Ideas in Dark Matter Theory

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### Why?

## Past 40 years

#### WIMP, glorious WIMP\*



## WIMP



#### Correct relic abundance for

 $m_{\rm DM} = \alpha \times 30 \text{ TeV}$ 

For Weak coupling, Weak scale emerges Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)

## WIMP



### Thermal Relic: Simple and Predictive

time

## WIMP



### Thermal Relic: Simple and Predictive

time

Guiding principle in cosmology

# Searching for WIMPs

#### **Direct Production**

**Direct Detection** 

#### **Indirect Detection**



e.g. LHC

e.g. LUX



e.g. FERMI

Experiments are getting increasingly sensitive... but we still haven't found it

# Status in 2019\*

#### Dominant paradigm being challenged.

#### Great opportunity for new ideas!

### \*2020 never happened













Light dark matter



# New Theory Ideas

. . . . . .

 Weakly coupled WIMPs [Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin 2007; Feng, Kumar 2008] SIMPs [Hochberg, EK, Volansky, Wacker, 2014; + Murayama, 2015] ELDERs [EK, Perelstein, Rey-Le Lorier, Tsai, 2016] [Griest, Seckel 1991; D'Agnolo, Ruderman, 2015] Forbidden dark matter [D'Agnolo, Pappadopulo, Ruderman, 2017] Co-scattering dark matter [Berlin, Blinov 2017] Sub-MeV thermal dark matter [Kim, **EK** 2019] Super heavy thermal dark matter [Kramer, **EK**, Levi, Outmezguine, Ruderman, 2020] Zombies ... are abundant





## Ex. 1: Weakly Coupled $2 \rightarrow 2$



#### $m_{\rm DM} = \alpha \times 30 {\rm ~TeV}$

 $\alpha \ll 1$ 

[Pospelov, Ritz, Voloshin 2007

Feng, Kumar 2008]

## **Ex. 2: Forbidden Channels**



[Hochberg, **EK**, Wacker, Volansky, 2014]

## Ex. 3: SIMPs



#### $m_{\rm DM} = \alpha \times 100 \,\,{\rm MeV}$

For strong coupling, strong scale emerges Strongly Interacting Massive Particle (SIMP) [Hochberg, **EK**, Wacker, Volansky, 2014]

## Ex. 3: SIMPs



#### Generic.

## **Dark Sectors**

#### Visible sector



SM is a particle zoo.

Dark sector



Why not in the dark sector too?

# **QCD-like sector**

Think Standard Model!

Dark matter from strongly coupled gauge theories

e.g.  $SU(3)_{dark} \times U(1)_{dark}$ 

 $\mathrm{Sp}(N_c),\,\mathrm{SU}(N_c),\,\mathrm{SO}(N_c)$ 

kinetically mixed hidden photon (V)

QCD-like theories, pions = dark matter. Many processes, many dark matter mechanisms.



 $3 \rightarrow 2$  processes

(From the Wess-Zumino-Witten term. In QCD describes  $K K \rightarrow \pi \pi \pi$ )



 $3 \rightarrow 2$  processes



forbidden

$$m_{
ho} \gtrsim m_{\pi}$$



 $3 \rightarrow 2$  processes



forbidden



 $2 \rightarrow 2$  annihilations



 $3 \rightarrow 2$  processes



forbidden



 $2 \rightarrow 2$  annihilations



## Predictive

Kinetically mixed U(1) mediator



## Predictive

Kinetically mixed U(1) mediator



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# **Direct Detection**



Dark Spectroscopy  
$$e^+e^- \rightarrow \text{resonances}$$

center of mass energy traces the  $\mathbf{QCD}$  resonance structure



**Dark Spectroscopy**  $e^+e^- \rightarrow \gamma + \text{invisible resonances}$ 

mono-photon energy also traces the resonance structure



#### Super heavy dark matter





Correct relic abundance for  $m_{\rm DM} = \alpha \times 30 \text{ TeV}$ 

For perturbative couplings  $\alpha < 4\pi$ 

 $m_{\rm DM} \lesssim 300 {
m ~TeV}$ 

## Ex. 1: Composite Interactions

dark hydrogen anti-hydrogen annihilation



Harigaya, Ibe, Kaneta, Nakano, Suzuki (2016); J. Smirnov, J. F. Beacom, (2019); Contino, Mitridate, Podo, Redi, (2019); Gross, Mitridate, Redi, Smirnov, Strumia (2019); Geller, Iwamoto, Lee, Shadmi, Telem (2018)

## Ex. 1: Composite Interactions

dark hydrogen anti-hydrogen annihilation



#### Predicts much heavier DM

## **Compare Processes**

VS.





$$\Gamma_{\rm ann} = n_{\rm DM} \left\langle \sigma_{\rm ann} v \right\rangle \propto e^{-m_{\rm DM}/T}$$

$$\Gamma_{\rm ann} = n_{\rm light} \left< \sigma_{\rm ann} v \right>$$

Less efficient

Much more efficient!

[Kramer, EK, Levi, Outmezguine, Ruderman, 2020]

## Ex. 2: Zombies



time



[Kramer, EK, Levi, Outmezguine, Ruderman, 2020]

## Ex. 2: Zombies



time

 $m_{\rm DM} > m_{\psi}$ 

## Ex. 2: Zombies



$$\left\langle \sigma_{\text{zombie}} v \right\rangle = \frac{\alpha^2}{m_{\text{DM}}^2}$$

time

 $m_{\rm DM} = \alpha^{2/3} \times 10^6 \text{ TeV} \qquad (m_{\rm DM} = 2m_{\psi})$ 



## Ex. 2: Zombies



#### Metastable DM with strong indirect detection signal



Very efficient because the SM particles are abundant







$$\left\langle \sigma_{\text{chain}} v \right\rangle = \frac{\alpha^2}{m_{\text{DM}}^2}$$

time

$$m_{\rm DM} \simeq \alpha^2 \times 10^{16} {
m GeV}$$



# Outlook

- Lots of activity for thermal dark matter.
- Many different interactions, processes, and their relative importance throughout the cosmological history.
- Novel dark matter frameworks.
- Generic.
- Lots of discovery potential for experiments.
- Much more to do.

# Thank you!