# Effectively Understanding Dark Matter Searches

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### WIMP Miracle

• If DM was in 0.01 thermal 0.001 0.0001 10-5 equilibrium, then 10-6 Comoving Number Density 10-7 its current density 10-8 10-10 is easily calculable. 10-11

![](_page_2_Figure_2.jpeg)

10-9

Increasing  $\langle \sigma_{A} v \rangle$ 

#### **WIMP Search Strategies**

![](_page_3_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_3_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_3_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_3_Picture_4.jpeg)

William Shep

![](_page_4_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_5_Figure_0.jpeg)

# What's in the Middle?

 Many, many models have been proposed to explain dark matter, each with its own stabilizing symmetry and interactions with ordinary matter

– Supersymmetry, Extra Dimensions, Inert Higgs...

- Analyses of each model are useful, but far from interchangeable
- We need a more general language for these translations between experiments

### Effective Field Theory

- In this case, let's imagine that whatever physics is responsible for dark matter interactions is very heavy compared to the scale our experiments can probe
- This leaves us with contact interactions between dark and ordinary matter
- Can be scalar-like or vector-like with various spin structures, of form  $\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \bar{\chi} \Gamma \chi \bar{q} \Gamma q$

# DM EFT

- Every interaction must have two DM particles in it, and it must respect the rules of the Standard Model
- This leaves a fair amount of freedom, but a manageable number of possibilities to explore
- The choice of interactions will impact the behavior of dark matter at each of our dark matter experiments

# EFT at Colliders

 The goal at colliders is to produce a pair of dark matter particles

Once made they won't interact with the detector

- Something we can see will have to be produced along with the DM
- The class of searches that are used to constrain these models are generically called mono-X searches

### EFT at Colliders

- All the particles involved in a collision are relativistic, so that spin structures are not very important
- Interactions with light quarks and gluons are most strongly constrained
  - Some prefer heavier quarks, those are much harder to see at colliders

#### **Collider Results vs Direct Detection**

![](_page_11_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### The Effective Hooperon

- Within the EFT picture, there are two main requirements to fit the Hooperon
  - Must annihilate
    efficiently enough
  - Must be able to have right relic density

![](_page_12_Figure_4.jpeg)

Alves, Profumo, Queiroz, WS 1403.5027

#### Gamma Ray Lines

- Couplings of WIMPs to ordinary matter leads to higher-order couplings of WIMPs to photons and other force-carriers of the SM
- Allows the annihilation of WIMPs directly to photons, giving rise to a new gamma-ray spectral line

![](_page_13_Picture_3.jpeg)

#### Gamma Ray Lines

Coogan, Profumo, WS, in preparation

![](_page_14_Figure_2.jpeg)

# Positrons and Gamma Rays

- If cosmic ray positrons are due to DM annihilations we can predict the gamma-ray line flux
- This eliminates some coupling choices as possible explanations of the Pamela/AMS excess

![](_page_15_Figure_3.jpeg)

 $M_{\gamma}$  (GeV)

Coogan, Profumo, WS, in preparation

# **EFT Kinetic Decoupling**

 Dark matter distribution through space is set by scattering interactions after the relic density is already set

- Akin to direct detection processes

 Calculating the scattering rate in the early universe, we can find the smallest size allowed for dark matter haloes for any assumed interaction

#### **EFT Kinetic Decoupling**

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

# **EFT Shortcomings**

- We assumed we can't see any new particles other than the dark matter candidate, but that certainly doesn't have to be true
- If we can see the particle mediating interactions with dark matter then the rates we calculated can be changed
  - Biggest issue is at colliders, where we are probing high energies

# **Light Mediators**

- Bringing the mediator mass down into range can have large effects!
- This is one possible cause of 'conflict' between different DM search techniques

![](_page_19_Figure_3.jpeg)

Fox, Harnik, Kopp, Tsai 1109.4398

# Simplified Models and Mappings

 Mediator can couple either to two or one dark matter particle at a time, giving very different behavior

![](_page_20_Figure_2.jpeg)

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Beyond effective field theory for dark matter searches at the LHC

O. Buchmueller,<sup>a</sup> Matthew J. Dolan,<sup>b</sup> and Christopher McCabe<sup>b</sup>

#### Beyond effective field theory for dark matter searches at the LHC

#### On the Validity of the Effective Field Theory for Dark Matter Searches at the LHC Part II: Complete Analysis for the *s*-channel

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Characterising dark matter searches at colliders and direct detection experiments: Vector mediators

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#### Characterising dark matter searches at colliders and direct detection experiments: Vector mediators

Simplified Models for Dark Matter and Missing Energy Searches at the LHC

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### Conclusions

- These EFTs are useful tools for understanding the interplay between different searches for dark matter
- It gives sensible and attainable targets for present and future experiments
- Guides us to understand what signals and phenomena are very difficult to obtain from generic dark matter dynamics
  - Either require more subtle model building or are less likely to be truly due to dark matter dynamics
- While EFT predictions are subject to very important caveats, any violation of the expectations they lead us to would be very exciting for future experiments