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# Scalar dark matter condensed by thermal fermions

Based on 2109.07423

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# Outline

- Ultralight scalar field as a **cold dark matter** candidate.

$$\frac{n_\phi}{s} \sim 10^{19} \frac{10^{-20} \text{eV}}{m_\phi}$$

- Its population can be in the form of **coherent oscillation** driven by misaligned initial amplitude in a flat potential.
- Classic example: QCD axion  $\sim f_a$  relaxed by instanton potential.
- New idea: **Coherent state** driven by feeble coupling to **thermal fermions**.

# Coherent oscillation as DM

- Scalar field in a coherent state = a classical field oscillation.

$$\hat{\phi}(x) = \int_k [a_k e^{-ik \cdot x} + a_k^+ e^{+ik \cdot x}]$$

$$\langle \hat{\phi}(x) \rangle_c = \phi_0 e^{-ik_0 \cdot x} + \phi_0^+ e^{+ik_0 \cdot x}$$

with  $k_0 \approx (m_\phi, m_\phi \vec{v})$

- Free field in the FRW universe:

$$\langle \hat{\phi}(x) \rangle_c = \phi(t)$$

$$\ddot{\phi}(t) + 3H\dot{\phi}(t) + m_\phi^2 \phi(t) = 0$$

$$H \gg m_\phi \quad (m_\phi t \ll 1) : \phi = \phi_i; \dot{\phi} = 0$$

$$H \ll m_\phi \quad (m_\phi t \gg 1) : \phi \sim \phi_i \frac{\sin(m_\phi t + \frac{\pi}{8})}{(m_\phi t)^{3/4}}$$

- Cold DM density:  $\rho_\phi \sim \frac{m_\phi^2 \phi_i^2}{(m_\phi t)^{3/2}} = \rho_{DM} \Rightarrow \phi_i \sim 0.01 M_p \left( \frac{10^{-20} \text{eV}}{m_\phi} \right)^{1/4}$

$$T = c_t \sqrt{M_p/2t}$$

$$c_t = 1.74/g_*^{1/4}$$

# Scalar field in thermal background

- Scalar field interacting with thermal fermions:

$$\mathcal{L}' = y_\phi \hat{\phi} (\bar{f}_R f_L + \bar{f}_L f_R)$$

$$\rightarrow V_{T,\text{eff}}(\phi) = -\frac{g_f}{2\pi^2} T^4 J_F \left( \frac{(m_f + y_\phi \phi)^2}{T^2} \right)$$

Dolan+Jackiw,  
Weinberg, 1974

- Leading thermal effect in cosmological evolution:

$$\ddot{\phi}(t) + 3H\dot{\phi}(t) + (m_\phi^2 + m_T^2)\phi(t) \approx \frac{\partial}{\partial \phi} \langle \mathcal{L}' \rangle_T$$

$$m_T^2 = \frac{g_f}{24} y_\phi^2 T^2, \quad \langle \mathcal{L}' \rangle_T = y_\phi \phi \frac{g_f m_f T^2}{24}$$

$$g_f = 4N_c \quad (2) \quad \text{for } f = q, l \quad (v)$$

Esteban+Salvado, 2101.05804

Batell+Ghalsasi, 2109.04476

# General features

- Evolution from  $T_{ew} \approx 100$  GeV down to  $T_{eq} \approx 0.8$  eV.

$$\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x} \tilde{\phi}'(x) + \left(1 + \frac{x_1}{x}\right) \tilde{\phi}(x) = \frac{x_S}{x}$$

$$x_1 \equiv y_\phi^2 \frac{c_t^2 g_f M_P}{48 m_\phi}, \quad x_S \equiv y_\phi \frac{c_t^2 g_f m_f}{48 m_\phi}$$

- Notation:  $x = m_\phi t$ ,  $\tilde{\phi} = \phi/M_P$ ,  
 $m_{20} \equiv m_\phi/10^{-20} \text{eV}$

$$x_{ew} \approx 10^{-15} m_{20} \quad x_{eq} \approx 2 \times 10^7 m_{20}$$

$$x_f \approx 5 \times 10^{-4} m_{20} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_f}\right)^2$$

$$x_1 \approx 5 \times 10^{46} g_f y_\phi^2 m_{20}^{-1} \quad x_S \approx 10^{24} g_f y_\phi m_{20}^{-1} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)$$

- Solution to get  $c_f$  or the resulting DM density:

$$\rho_\phi(x) \approx \frac{c_f^2 x_S^2 m_\phi^2 M_P^2}{\pi x^{3/2}}$$

$$\rho_\phi = \rho_{DM} \Rightarrow c_f^2 x_S^2 \approx 2.5 \times 10^{-4} m_{20}^{-1/2}$$

# Asymptotic solutions in different regimes

- Vanishing initial condition at  $x_{ew}$ :  $\phi = 0, \phi' = 0$ .
- Nontrivial evolution from  $x_{ew}$  to  $x_f$  for  $f = q, l$ , and then free evolution down to  $x_{eq}$ .
- Evolution from  $x_{ew}$  to  $x_{eq}$  for  $f = v$ .

$$\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x} \tilde{\phi}'(x) + \left(1 + \frac{x_1}{x}\right) \tilde{\phi}(x) = \frac{x_S}{x}$$

For  $f = q, l$ : I)  $x_1 < x_{ew} < x_f$

II)  $x_{ew} < x_f < x_1$

III)  $x_{ew} < x_1 < x_f$

For  $f = v$ :  $x_{ew} < x_1 < x_{eq}$

$$\text{I) } x_1 < x_{ew} < x_f$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) &\approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_{ew} \ll x \ll x_f \\ \tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) &= 0 \quad \text{for } x_f \ll x. \end{aligned}$$

$$\rho_\phi(x) \approx \frac{C_1^2 + C_2^2}{\pi} \frac{m_\phi^2 M_P^2}{x^{3/2}} \quad \frac{C_1}{x_S} = \frac{\pi}{2^{\frac{1}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})} G_1(x_f) - \frac{2^{\frac{5}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{3} G_2(x_f) \quad c_f^2 \approx \begin{cases} 4\sqrt{2}\Gamma(\frac{5}{4})^2 x_f^2 & \text{for } x_f \ll 1, \\ \frac{\pi\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})^2}{2\sqrt{2}} & \text{for } x_f \gg 1. \end{cases}$$

$$\frac{C_2}{x_S} = \frac{2^{\frac{5}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{3} G_2(x_f)$$

$$y_\phi \approx 3.6 \times 10^{-24} \frac{m_{20}^{-\frac{1}{4}}}{N_c} \frac{m_f}{m_e} \quad \text{with } \frac{550}{N_c^{\frac{2}{5}}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{4}{5}} \ll m_{20} \ll 2 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^2 \quad \text{for } x_f \ll 1,$$

$$y_\phi \approx 3 \times 10^{-27} \frac{m_{20}^{\frac{3}{4}}}{N_c} \frac{m_e}{m_f} \quad \text{with } m_{20} \gg \text{Max} \left[ \frac{2 \times 10^{16}}{N_c^2} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_f}\right)^4, 2 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^2 \right] \quad \text{for } x_f \gg 1.$$

$$m_\phi \ll 46 \text{ eV (5.7 MeV)} \quad \text{for } f = e \text{ (b),}$$

(\* Neglecting Freeze-In:

$$y_\phi \ll 5.3 (1.4) \times 10^{-11}.$$

II)  $x_{ew} < x_f < x_1$

$$\begin{aligned}\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \frac{x_1}{x}\tilde{\phi}(x) &\approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_{ew} \ll x \ll x_f \\ \tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) &= 0 \quad \text{for } x_f \ll x.\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{C_1}{x_S} &= -\frac{\pi x_f^{\frac{1}{4}}}{4x_1} \left[ 2x_f Y_{\frac{5}{4}}(x_f) - Y_{\frac{1}{4}}(x_f) \cos(2\sqrt{x_1 x_f}) + \sqrt{\frac{x_f}{x_1}} Y_{-\frac{3}{4}}(x_f) \sin(2\sqrt{x_1 x_f}) \right], \\ \frac{C_2}{x_S} &= \frac{\pi x_f^{\frac{1}{4}}}{4x_1} \left[ 2x_f J_{\frac{5}{4}}(x_f) - J_{\frac{1}{4}}(x_f) \cos(2\sqrt{x_1 x_f}) + \sqrt{\frac{x_f}{x_1}} J_{-\frac{3}{4}}(x_f) \sin(2\sqrt{x_1 x_f}) \right].\end{aligned} \quad c_f^2 \approx \begin{cases} 4\sqrt{2} \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{4}\right)^2 x_f^2 & \text{for } x_f \ll x_1 \ll 1, \\ \frac{\pi x_f^3}{2x_1^2} & \text{for } 1 \ll x_f \ll x_1.\end{cases}$$

$$\begin{aligned}y_\phi &\approx 3.6 \times 10^{-24} \frac{m_{20}^{-\frac{1}{4}}}{N_e} \frac{m_f}{m_e} \quad \text{with } m_{20} \ll \frac{31}{N_e^{\frac{2}{5}}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{8}{5}} \quad \text{for } x_f \ll x_1 \ll 1, \\ y_\phi &\approx 5.3 \times 10^{-24} m_{20} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_f}\right)^{\frac{1}{2}} \quad \text{with } m_{20} \gg 2 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^2 \quad \text{for } 1 \ll x_f \ll x_1.\end{aligned}$$

$$m_\phi \ll 10^{-6} (2.5 \times 10^{-3}) \text{ eV for } f = e (b),$$

(\*) BBN constraint:

$$y_\phi \ll 5.7 \times 10^{-10} (1.5 \times 10^{-8}).$$



### III) $x_{ew} < x_1 < x_f$

$$\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \frac{x_1}{x}\tilde{\phi}(x) \approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_{ew} \ll x \ll x_1$$

$$\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) \approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_1 \ll x \ll x_f$$

$$\tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) \approx 0 \quad \text{for } x_f \ll x.$$

(i)  $x_1 \ll x_f \ll 1$ :

$$y_\phi \approx 3.6 \times 10^{-24} \frac{m_{20}^{-\frac{1}{4}} m_f}{N_c m_e} \quad \text{with } \frac{28}{N_c^{\frac{5}{2}}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{8}{5}} \ll m_{20} \ll \text{Min} \left[ 2 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^2, \frac{6 \times 10^5}{N_c^{\frac{5}{2}}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{4}{5}} \right]$$

(ii)  $x_1 \ll 1 \ll x_f$ :

$$y_\phi \approx 3 \times 10^{-27} \frac{m_{20}^{\frac{3}{4}} m_e}{N_c m_f} \quad \text{with } 2 \times 10^3 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^2 \ll m_{20} \ll \text{Min} \left[ 3.2 \times 10^{11} N_c^2 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^4, \frac{2.1 \times 10^{16}}{N_c^2} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_f}\right)^4 \right]$$

(iii)  $1 \ll x_1 \ll x_f$ :

$$y_\phi \approx 1.9 \times 10^{-22} \frac{m_{20}^{\frac{1}{3}}}{N_c^{\frac{1}{6}}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} \quad \text{with } 1.2 \times 10^8 N_c^{\frac{5}{4}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{13}{4}} \ll m_{20} \ll 4.4 \times 10^{11} N_c^2 \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^4 \quad \text{for } x_1^5 \ll x_f$$

$$y_\phi \approx 4.5 \times 10^{-28} \frac{m_{20}}{N_c} \left(\frac{m_e}{m_f}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} \quad \text{with } m_{20} \gg 4.9 \times 10^8 N_c^{\frac{5}{4}} \left(\frac{m_f}{m_e}\right)^{\frac{13}{4}} \quad \text{for } x_f \ll x_1^5.$$

(\*) BBN+Feeze-In:  $y_\phi \ll 5.7 (1.2) \times 10^{-10}$ .  $m_\phi \ll 1.3 \times 10^{-2} (6.1 \times 10^3)$  eV for  $f = e (b)$

# Neutrinos driving DM condensate

$$x_{ew} < x_1 < x_{eq} < x_\nu$$

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \frac{x_1}{x}\tilde{\phi}(x) &\approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_{ew} \ll x \ll x_1 \\ \tilde{\phi}''(x) + \frac{3}{2x}\tilde{\phi}'(x) + \tilde{\phi}(x) &\approx \frac{x_S}{x} \quad \text{for } x_1 \ll x \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{C_1}{x_S} &= -\frac{\pi}{2^{\frac{3}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}G_1(x_1) + \frac{2^{\frac{5}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{3}G_2(x_1) - \frac{\pi Y_{\frac{1}{4}}(x_1)\sin^2(x_1) - Y_{-\frac{3}{4}}(x_1)[x_1 - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2x_1)]}{x_1^{3/4}} \\ \frac{C_2}{x_S} &= -\frac{2^{\frac{5}{4}}\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})}{6}G_2(x_1) + \frac{\pi J_{\frac{1}{4}}(x_1)\sin^2(x_1) - J_{-\frac{3}{4}}(x_1)[x_1 - \frac{1}{2}\sin(2x_1)]}{x_1^{3/4}} \end{aligned}$$

$$c_\nu^2 = \frac{\pi\Gamma(\frac{3}{4})^2}{2\sqrt{2}} + \frac{2^{\frac{3}{4}}\pi^{\frac{3}{2}}C_1}{\Gamma(\frac{1}{4})x_S} + \frac{C_1^2 + C_2^2}{x_S^2} = \begin{matrix} 3.34 & \text{for } x_1 \gg 1 \\ 1.67 & \text{for } x_1 \ll 1 \end{matrix}$$

$$y_\phi \approx 4.2 \times 10^{-20} m_{20}^{3/4} \left( \frac{0.05\text{eV}}{m_\nu} \right) \quad \text{with } m_{20} \gg 710 \left( \frac{0.05\text{eV}}{m_\nu} \right)^4 \quad (x_1 \gg 1)$$

$$(*) \text{ BBN: } y_\phi \lesssim 7 \times 10^{-6} \quad m_\phi \lesssim 0.092 \text{ eV} \left( \frac{m_\nu}{0.05 \text{ eV}} \right)^{4/3}$$

# Conclusion

- A ultralight scalar boson can form a coherent DM state through its tiny little coupling to SM fermions.
- Considering the  $\phi qq$  or  $\phi ll$  coupling, it works for wide ranges of  $m_\phi \sim (10^{-22}, 10^6)\text{eV}$  and  $y_\phi \sim (10^{-28}, 10^{-8})$ .
- For the  $\phi\nu\nu$  coupling, DM genesis requires  $m_\phi \sim (10^{-17}, 10^{-1})\text{eV}$  and  $y_\phi \sim (10^{-17}, 10^{-5})$ , and can occur **very late**, even at around  $T_{eq}$ .