A dark matter WIMP that can be detected and definitively identified with currently planned experiments

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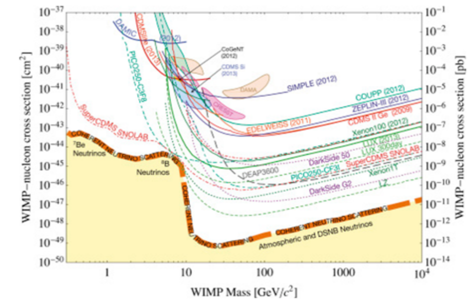
Bailey Tallman, Caden LaFontaine, Trevor Croteau, Alexandra Boone, and Roland Allen
Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas A&M University

Prediction: Within the next 5 years, at least one of the Xe-based direct-detection experiments (XENONnT, LZ, or PandaX) will detect a dark matter particle with a mass of about 72 GeV/c^2.

We estimate the cross-section of the WIMP proposed here to be slightly below 10^{-47} cm^2. Both XENONnT and LZ anticipate a sensitivity that extends to 1.4×10^{-48} cm^2.

Prediction on a longer time scale: With a creation cross-section of roughly 1 femtobarn, this particle should be observed at the high-luminosity LHC in 12-15 years.

Postdiction: There is a strong case that it may already have been detected in the gamma rays observed by Fermi-LAT and the antiprotons observed by AMS-02.



A cross-section for direct detection slightly below 10^{-47} cm^2 at 72 GeV/c^2 is above the neutrino floor and is accessible to LZ, Xenon nT, and PandaX.

Credit -- J. Billard, L. Strigari, E. Figueroa-Feliciano, "Implication of neutrino backgrounds on the reach of next generation dark matter direct detection experiments", Phys. Rev. D, 89, 023524 (2014), arXiv:1307.5458 , https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dark.2014.10.005 .

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Essential points:

A recently proposed dark matter WIMP [1,2] with mass ~ 72 GeV/c^2 has only second-order couplings to gauge bosons and itself. As a result, it has small annihilation, scattering, and creation cross-sections, and is consequently consistent with all current experiments and the observed abundance of dark matter.

These cross-sections are, however, still sufficiently large to enable detection in experiments that are planned for the near future, and definitive identification in experiments proposed on a longer time scale.

The cross-section for annihilation is consistent with thermal production and freeze-out in the early universe, and with current evidence for dark matter annihilation in analyses of the observations of gamma rays by Fermi-LAT and antiprotons by AMS-02, as well as the constraints from Planck and Fermi-LAT.

The cross-section for direct detection via collision with xenon nuclei is estimated to be slightly below 10^{-47} cm^2, which should be attainable by LZ and Xenon nT and well within the reach of Darwin.

The cross-section for collider detection via vector boson fusion is estimated to be ~1 fb, and may be ultimately attainable by the high-luminosity LHC. Definitive collider identification may require the more powerful facilities now being proposed.

[1] Reagan Thornberry, Maxwell Throm, John Killough, Dylan Blend, Michael Erickson, Brian Sun, Brett Bays, Gabe Frohaug, and Roland E. Allen, "Experimental signatures of a new dark matter WIMP", EPL (European Physics Letters), 34, 49001 (2021), arXiv:2104.11715 [hep-ph].

[2] Caden LaFontaine, Bailey Tallman, Spencer Ellis, Trevor Croteau, Brandon Torres, Sabrina Hernandez, Diego Cristancho Guerrero, Jessica Jaksik, Drue Lubanski, and Roland E. Allen, ``A Dark Matter WIMP That Can Be Detected and Definitively Identified with Currently Planned Experiments'', Universe 7, 270 (2021), arXiv:2107.14390 [hep-ph]

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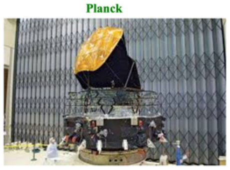
Three of the space-based studies of astrophysical phenomena:

Fermi-LAT

AMS-02

Planck



Christopher Karwin, Simona Murgia, Tim M. P. Tait, Troy A. Porter, and Philip Tanedo, Phys. Rev. D 95, 103005 (2017), arXiv:1612.05687 [hep-ph]:

"The center of the Milky Way is predicted to be the brightest region of γ-rays generated by self-annihilating dark matter particles. Excess emission about the Galactic center above predictions made for standard astrophysical processes has been observed in γ-ray data collected by the Fermi Large Area Telescope.

It is well described by the square of a Navarro, Frenk, and White dark matter density distribution. Although other interpretations for the excess are plausible, the possibility that it arises from annihilating dark matter is valid."

"… its spectral characteristics favor a dark matter particle with a mass in the range approximately from 50 to 190 (10 to 90) GeV … for pseudoscalar (vector) interactions."

Rebecca K. Leane and Tracy R. Slatyer, "Revival of the Dark Matter Hypothesis for the Galactic Center Gamma-Ray Excess", Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 241101 (2019), arXiv:1904.08430 [astro-ph.HE]:

"… we conclude that dark matter may provide a dominant contribution to the GCE after all."

Intriguing results from two careful analyses of AMS-02 observations of antiprotons and Fermi-LAT observations of gamma rays from the Galactic Center

Ilias Cholis, Tim Linden, and Dan Hooper, "A Robust Excess in the Cosmic-Ray Antiproton Spectrum: Implications for Annihilating Dark Matter", Phys. Rev. D 99, 103026 (2019); arXiv:1903.02549 [astro-ph.HE]:

"This excess is well fit by annihilating dark matter particles, with a mass and cross section in the range of $m_\chi \approx$ 46-94 GeV ..."

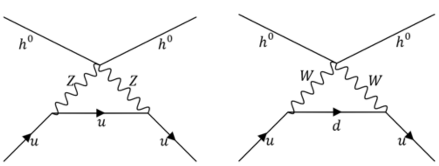
"… it is particularly intriguing that the range of dark matter models that can accommodate the antiproton excess is very similar to those which could generate the excess of GeV-scale gamma rays observed from the Galactic Center…"

Alessandro Cuoco, Jan Heisig, Lukas Klamt, Michael Korsmeier, and Michael Krämer, "Scrutinizing the evidence for dark matter in cosmic-ray antiprotons", Phys. Rev. D 99, 103026 (2019); arXiv:1903.01472 [astro-ph.HE]:

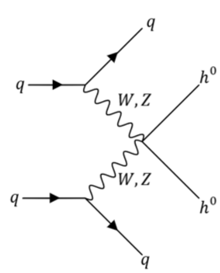
"… strong limits on heavy DM have been derived from global CR fits. At the same time, the data have also revealed a tentative signal of DM, corresponding to a DM mass of around 40–130 GeV …"

"This signal, if confirmed, is compatible with a DM interpretation of the Galactic center γ-ray excess …"

The inferred masses and cross-sections in the analyses are consistent with those for the present dark matter candidate – e.g., a mass ~ 72 GeV/c^2.



These gauge-mediated one-loop interactions appear to be the best prospect for direct detection, with cross-section slightly below 10^{-47} cm^2.

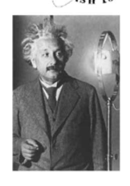


Vector boson fusion appears to be the best prospect for collider detection, with a cross-section of only ~ 1 fb, but possibly within reach of the high-luminosity LHC if it can attain 3000 fb^{-1}. The signature is ≳ 150 GeV of missing energy and two jets.

The history of spin 1/2 fermions begins with the discovery of the electron in 1897 by J. J. Thomson.

The history of spin 1 gauge bosons begins with the 1905 paper of Einstein which introduced the photon.

A spin 0 boson is something new (2012), and surprises may *again* lie ahead!



Picture credits: phy.cam.ac.uk/history/electron, spaceandmotion.com, CERN

The present scenario is consistent with, and to some extent stimulated by, the successes of the Large Hadron Collider – in particular the discovery of the Higgs boson.

In the present theory, there are two kinds of scalar fields and particles that are formed by the combination of more primitive spin ½ fields.

The Higgs/amplitude modes are formed from two fields with the same quantum numbers and opposite spin:

$$\widetilde{\Phi}_R = \begin{pmatrix} \widetilde{\Phi}_r \\ \widetilde{\Phi}_{r'} \end{pmatrix}$$

They are somewhat analogous to the Higgs/amplitude modes observed in superconductors: P. B. Littlewood and C. M. Varma, "Amplitude collective modes in superconductors and their coupling to charge density waves", Phys. Rev. B. 26, 4883 (1982).

The higgson fields are formed from two fields with opposite quantum numbers:

$$\Phi_S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_s \\ \Phi_s^c \end{pmatrix}$$

The present picture results from a fundamental theory: arXiv:1101.0586 [hep-th].

The fields associated with the dark matter candidate and related particles are Majorana-like bosonic fields with the form

$$\Phi_S = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \begin{pmatrix} \Phi_s \\ \Phi_s^c \end{pmatrix}$$

which ultimately results in only second-order gauge couplings for the physical higgson fields h^0 (which are 1-component, real, scalar boson fields) :

$$\mathcal{L}_0^Z = -\frac{g_Z^2}{4} h^{0\dagger} Z^\mu Z_\mu h^0 \quad , \quad \mathcal{L}_0^W = -\frac{g^2}{2} h^{0\dagger} W^{\mu +} W_\mu h^0$$

The phenomenologies are very different for the various other -- *ad hoc* -- extended Higgs models which have been proposed.

In the inert doublet model, for example, the additional doublet field, which is odd under a postulated new Z_2 symmetry, has the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} H_I^+ \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \left(H_I^0 + i A_I^0 \right) \end{pmatrix}$$

with first-order couplings of the dark-matter candidate H_I^0 to the other two (neutral and charged) particles.

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The dark matter WIMP proposed here has the following properties:

(1) It will yield the observed dark matter abundance if its mass is ~ 72 GeV/c^2.

(2) The cross-section for nuclear scattering is consistent with direct-detection limits.

(3) The cross-section for collider production is consistent with limits from the LHC.

(4) The cross-section for annihilation is consistent with the general (multiple-channel) limits from gamma-ray observations of dwarf spheroidal galaxies.

(5) The mass and annihilation cross-section are in agreement with analyses of the observations of gamma rays from the Galactic center by Fermi-LAT supporting WIMP annihilation.

(6) They are similarly in agreement with analyses of the antiprotons observed by AMS-02 supporting this same interpretation.

(7) The most promising signature for collider detection appears to be two jets plus missing transverse energy of ⩾ 150 GeV following creation through vector boson fusion, with a small but attainable cross-section.

(8) The best hope for direct detection appears to be a one-loop process with exchange of two vector bosons, again with a small but attainable cross-section.

(9) The present dark matter particle and the lightest neutralino of supersymmetry (susy) can stably coexist in a multicomponent dark matter scenario.