WIMPs and superWIMPs

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Dark Matter

• The dawn (mid-morning?) of precision cosmology:

 $\Omega_{\text{DM}} = 0.23 \pm 0.04$

 $\Omega_{\text{total}} = 1.02 \pm 0.02$ $\Omega_{\text{baryon}} = 0.044 \pm 0.004$ $t_0 = 13.7 \pm 0.2 \text{ Gyr}$

WMAP (2003)

- We live in interesting times: We know how much dark matter there is We have no idea what it is
- Our best evidence for new particle physics

WIMPs

- Weakly-interacting particles with weak-scale masses decouple with $\Omega_{\rm DM} \sim 0.1$; this is remarkable [Cf. quarks with natural $\Omega_B \sim 10^{-11}$]
- Either
 - a devious coincidence,
 - or
 - a strong, fundamental, and completely cosmological motivation for new physics at the electroweak scale



Jungman, Kamionkowski, Griest (1995)

SUSY WIMPs

- Neutralinos:
 - Depends on composition, but generally $\Omega_{\rm DM} \sim 0.1$ in much of parameter space
- Requirements:
 - high supersymmetry breaking scale (supergravity)
 - *R*-parity conservation

Relic density regions (blue $0.1 < \Omega \chi h^2 < 0.3$)



SUSY WIMP Detection



Particle probes Direct DM detection Indirect DM detection

- Astrophysical and particle searches are promising: many possible DM signals before 2007
- This is generally true of WIMPs: undetectable → weak interactions → weak annihilation → too much relic density

superWIMPs

 Are neutralinos the only viable SUSY DM candidates? In SUGRA,

 $m_{3/2} \sim m_0 \sim M_{1/2} \sim \langle F \rangle / M_{\rm Pl}$, unknown O(1) coefficients determine ordering. Gravitino LSPs may be *cold* dark matter.

- If NLSP is a WIMP, the WIMP freezes out with the desired Ω, then decays much later via WIMP → gravitino.
- Gravitino inherits the desired Ω, retains all WIMP virtues.



 BUT: Gravitino is superweakly-interacting, undetectable by all DM searches. Gravitino = superWIMP (also KK gravitons in UED,...)

superWIMP Lifetime

- The WIMP decay width depends only on the WIMP and gravitino massses
- For $\Delta m \ll m$, $\tau \sim (\Delta m)^{-3}$ and is independent of the overall mass scale
- For Bino NLSP,

$$\Gamma(\tilde{B} \to \tilde{G}\gamma) = \frac{\cos^2 \theta_W}{48\pi M_*^2} \frac{m_{\tilde{B}}^5}{m_{\tilde{G}}^2} \left[1 - \frac{m_{\tilde{G}}^2}{m_{\tilde{B}}^2}\right]^3 \left[1 + 3\frac{m_{\tilde{G}}^2}{m_{\tilde{B}}^2}\right]$$

1000 500 100 Δm (GeV) 50 10 5 11110 10² 10^{4} 106 108 1010 10 $\tau_{\rm WJMP}$ (sec) Feng, Rajaraman, Takayama (2003)

 $m_{\rm sWIMP}$ = 0.1, 0.3, 1 TeV (from below)

BBN

- Late decays may destroy BBN light element abundance predictions
- γ typically quickly thermalize, BBN constrains total energy release $\zeta_X = \varepsilon_{\gamma} n_{\text{SWIMP}} / n_{\text{BG}}$
- Constraints are weak for early decays: universe is hot,
 γ γ_{BG} → e⁺e⁻ suppresses spectrum at energies above nuclear thresholds



Cyburt, Ellis, Fields, Olive (2002)

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CMB

- Late decays may also destroy black-body spectrum of CMB
- Again get weak constraints for early decays, when

 $e^{-}\gamma \rightarrow e^{-}\gamma$ $e^{-}X \rightarrow e^{-}X\gamma$ $e^{-}\gamma \rightarrow e^{-}\gamma\gamma$ are all effective

• superWIMP DM:

 $m_{\text{WIMP}}, m_{\text{SWIMP}} \rightarrow \tau, \varepsilon_{\gamma}$ $\Omega_{\text{SWIMP}} = \Omega_{\text{DM}} \rightarrow \text{abundance } Y_{\text{SWIMP}}$

Excluded regions (above CMB contours)



Diffuse Photon Flux

- For very late decays with small Δm , photons do not interact
- Photons produced at earlier times have larger initial

 $E\gamma \sim \Delta m$

but redshift by

 $1+z \sim \tau^{-2/3} \sim (\Delta m)^2$

and so are now softer

→ stringent bounds on $\Delta m < 10 \text{ GeV}$



Feng, Rajaraman, Takayama (2003)

superWIMP Dark Matter



Weak-scale superWIMPs are viable CDM for natural parameters

Is it testable?

• BBN versus CMB baryometry is a powerful probe



Fields, Sarkar, PDG (2002)



Cyburt, Fields, Olive (2003)

Gravitino superWIMPs: predicted lifetime and abundance are in the range to resolve BBN tensions



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Conclusions

- DM guiding principles:
 - well-motivated particle physics
 - naturally correct Ω_{DM}
- superWIMPs: gravitinos naturally obtain desired thermal relic density, preserve all WIMP virtues but are inaccessible to all conventional searches
- Bino NLSP: BBN, CMB signals
- Many other NLSP candidates to investigate Escape from the tyranny of neutralino dark matter!