

The logo for DPF-PHENO 2024 features the text "DPF-PHENO 2024" in a bold, sans-serif font. The text is white and set against a blue background that has a light, hazy, cloud-like texture. The background is wider than the text, creating a banner effect.

Contribution ID: 368

Type: **not specified**

The Power of the Dark Sink

We describe a simple dark sector structure which, if present, has implications for the direct detection of dark matter (DM): *the Dark Sink*. A Dark Sink transports energy density from the DM into light dark-sector states that do not appreciably contribute to the DM density. As an example, we consider a light, neutral fermion ψ which interacts solely with DM χ via the exchange of a heavy scalar Φ . We illustrate the impact of a Dark Sink by adding one to a DM freeze-in model in which χ couples to a light dark photon γ' which kinetically mixes with the Standard Model (SM) photon. This freeze-in model (absent the sink) is itself a benchmark for ongoing experiments. In some cases, the literature for this benchmark has contained errors; we correct the predictions and provide them as a public code. We then analyze how the Dark Sink modifies this benchmark, solving coupled Boltzmann equations for the dark-sector energy density and DM yield. We check the contribution of the Dark Sink ψ 's to dark radiation; consistency with existing data limits the maximum attainable cross section. For DM with a mass between MeV – $\mathcal{O}(10\text{ GeV})$, adding the Dark Sink can increase predictions for the direct detection cross section all the way up to the current limits.

Mini Symposia (Invited Talks Only)

Authors: BHATTIPROLU, Prudhvi (University of Michigan); MCGEHEE, Robert (University of Minnesota); PIERCE, Aaron (University of Michigan)

Presenter: BHATTIPROLU, Prudhvi (University of Michigan)

Session Classification: Dark Matter

Track Classification: Dark Matter