



Contribution ID: 166

Type: **Oral**

Zero-Range Effective Field Theory for Resonant Wino Dark Matter

Wednesday 9 August 2017 16:15 (15 minutes)

The most dramatic “Sommerfeld enhancements” of neutral-wino-pair annihilation occur when the wino mass is near a critical value where there is a zero-energy S-wave resonance at the neutral-wino-pair threshold. Near a critical mass, low-energy winos can be described by a zero-range effective field theory in which the winos interact nonperturbatively through a contact interaction. The effective field theory is controlled by a renormalization-group fixed point at which the neutral and charged winos are degenerate in mass and their scattering length is infinite. The parameters of the zero-range effective field theory can be determined by matching wino-wino scattering amplitudes calculated by solving the Schrödinger equation for winos interacting through a potential due to the exchange of weak gauge bosons. If the wino mass is larger than the critical value, the resonance is a wino-pair bound state. The power of the zero-range effective field theory is illustrated by calculating the rate for formation of the bound state in the collision of two neutral winos through the emission of two soft photons.

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Session Classification: Dark matter

Track Classification: Dark matter (direct detection, indirect detection, theory, etc.)