# Stealth dark matter and gravitational waves



#### David Schaich (University of Liverpool)

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Work in progress with the Lattice Strong Dynamics Collaboration

# Lattice Strong Dynamics Collaboration

Argonne Xiao-Yong Jin, James Osborn Bern Andrew Gasbarro Boston Rich Brower, Dean Howarth, Claudio Rebbi Colorado Ethan Neil. Oliver Witzel UC Davis Joseph Kiskis Livermore Paylos Vranas Liverpool **DS** Nvidia Evan Weinberg Oregon Graham Kribs **BIKEN Enrico Binaldi** Yale Thomas Appelguist, Kimmy Cushman, George Fleming

Exploring the range of possible phenomena in strongly coupled field theories



**Overview** 

Stealth dark matter

Attractive and viable composite dark matter model

Exploring gravitational waves from first-order transition

Stealth dark matter motivational review

4-flavor SU(4) lattice phase diagram

Gravitational wave prospects









### Dark matter

### Consistent gravitational evidence from kiloparsec to Gpc scales

$$\frac{\Omega_{dark}}{\Omega_{ordinary}}\approx 5 ~~\dots not~10^5~or~10^{-5}$$

# $\longrightarrow$ non-gravitational interactions with standard model



## Composite dark matter



#### Early universe

Deconfined charged fermions  $\longrightarrow$  non-gravitational interactions

#### Present day

Confined neutral 'dark baryons'  $\longrightarrow$  no experimental detections

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## Stealth dark matter

#### [PRL 115 171803; PRD 92 075030]

SU(4) dark sector with four moderately heavy fundamental fermions Lightest scalar 'baryon' is stable dark matter candidate



#### Gravitational waves



#### Gravitational waves

First-order confinement transition  $\longrightarrow$  stochastic background

 $\implies$  Lattice studies of stealth dark matter phase transition

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# Phase diagram expectations



Using  $N_F = 4$  unrooted staggered fermions gauge action with both fundamental & adjoint plaquette terms

# The lattice phase diagram game

Fermion masses m = 0.05, 0.067, 0.1, 0.2 (and pure gauge)

 $\times$ 

Temporal extents  $N_T = 4$ , 6, 8, 12

 $\times$ 

X

Aspect ratios  $L/N_T = 2, 3, 4, 6, 8$ 

Scan coupling  $\beta_F$  to sweep temperatures high  $\longrightarrow$  low and low  $\longrightarrow$  high

= 985 ensembles and counting [5,000–50,000 MD time units per ensemble]

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#### Pure gauge checks: Bulk and thermal transitions



Try to avoid bulk transition for small  $N_T \longrightarrow \text{use } \beta_A = -\beta_F/4$ 

Still need  $N_T > 4$  for clear separation between bulk & thermal transitions

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## Pure gauge checks: Order of thermal transition



Two peaks in Polyakov loop magnitude histogram  $\longrightarrow$  first-order transition  $\checkmark$ 

Hysteresis not clearly visible even in pure-gauge case

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## Dynamical results: Still looks first order



Fundamental fermions explicitly break  $Z_N \rightarrow$  don't see two peaks in histograms

### What does $m \ge 0.1$ mean?



Previous work considered  $0.55 \le M_P/M_V \le 0.77 \longrightarrow$  now adding m = 0.05

## From first-order transition to gravitational wave signal

First-order transition  $\longrightarrow$  gravitational wave background will be produced

#### How do we predict its features?

Four key parameters Transition temperature  $T_* \leq T_c$ 

Vacuum energy fraction from latent heat

Bubble nucleation rate (transition duration)

Bubble wall speed



### Next step: Latent heat $\Delta \epsilon$

First-order transition  $\longrightarrow$  gravitational wave background will be produced

#### How do we predict its features?

0.5  $SU(4) = N_T = 8$ VERY Vacuum energy fraction 0.4PRELIMINARY  $\alpha \approx \frac{30}{4N(N^2-1)} \frac{\Delta \epsilon}{\pi^2 T_*^4}$ 0.3  $\frac{\Delta \epsilon}{\pi^2 T^4}$ 0.2 Latent heat  $\Delta \epsilon$ ¥ 0.1 is change in energy density φ m = 0.2at transition Pure gauge  $\mapsto$ 24 32 36 12 16 L

# Recapitulation and outlook

Stealth dark matter

Attractive and viable composite dark matter model

Exploring gravitational waves from first-order transition

Gravitational wave observatories will add to constraints from collider searches and direct detection experiments

SU(4) confinement transition appears first order for  $M_P/M_V \gtrsim 0.8$ , smaller masses underway

Next steps are latent heat, etc., for signal prediction









# Thank you!

Lattice Strong Dynamics Collaboration Especially Graham Kribs, Ethan Neil, Enrico Rinaldi

Funding and computing resources











# Backup: Thermal freeze-out for relic density



## Backup: Two roads to natural asymmetric dark matter

Relate dark matter relic density to baryon asymmetry

 $\Omega_D pprox 5\Omega_B \ \Longrightarrow M_D n_D pprox 5 M_B n_B$ 

 $n_D \sim n_B \implies M_D \sim 5M_B \approx 5 \text{ GeV}$ High-dim. interactions relate baryon# and DM# violation

 $M_D \gg M_B \implies n_B \gg n_D \sim \exp[-M_D/T_s] \qquad T_s \sim 200 \text{ GeV}$ EW sphaleron processes above  $T_s$  distribute asymmetries

Both require non-gravitational interactions with known particles

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### Backup: Confirming thermal transition

Fix  $m \cdot N_T \approx 0.8 \longrightarrow$  transition moves to  $\beta_F \to \infty$  as  $N_T \to \infty \checkmark$ 

