



Diurnal modulation signal from dissipative hidden sector dark matter



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ABSTRACT

We consider a simple generic dissipative dark matter model: a hidden sector featuring two dark matter particles charged under an unbroken $U(1)'$ interaction. Previous work has shown that such a model has the potential to explain dark matter phenomena on both large and small scales. In this framework, the dark matter halo in spiral galaxies features nontrivial dynamics, with the halo energy loss due to dissipative interactions balanced by a heat source. Ordinary supernovae can potentially supply this heat provided kinetic mixing interaction exists with strength $\epsilon \sim 10^{-9}$. This type of kinetically mixed dark matter can be probed in direct detection experiments. Importantly, this self-interacting dark matter can be captured within the Earth and shield a dark matter detector from the halo wind, giving rise to a diurnal modulation effect. We estimate the size of this effect for detectors located in the Southern hemisphere, and find that the modulation is large ($\gtrsim 10\%$) for a wide range of parameters.

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1. Introduction

Dark matter might plausibly arise within a hidden sector. That is, a sector of additional particles and forces which couple to ordinary matter predominantly via gravity. An interesting class of such hidden sector dark matter arises when the hidden sector features an unbroken $U(1)'$ gauge symmetry. The associated massless gauge boson, the *dark photon*, mediates self-interactions among the dark matter particles which can also be dissipative.

Dissipative dark matter has been studied in the context of mirror dark matter [1] (MDM, for an up-to-date review see [2]), where the hidden sector is exactly isomorphic to the Standard Model [3], and more generally in [4]. In the latter case, focused on here, dark matter consists of two hidden sector particles, F_1 and F_2 , both charged under an unbroken $U(1)'$ symmetry. Within this picture, the halos around spiral galaxies such as the Milky Way are (currently) mainly in the form of a pressure-supported plasma of F_1 and F_2 particles. The dark matter halo is assumed to have evolved into a steady state configuration where it is in hydrostatic equilibrium and the energy it loses to dissipative interactions (via e.g. thermal dark bremsstrahlung) is balanced by a heat source. Such a dynamically evolved halo appears capable of explaining small-scale structure observations: the inferred cored profile of dark matter halos, the Tully–Fisher relation, and so forth [4].

A possible heat source arises if the kinetic mixing interaction exists:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{km}} = \frac{\epsilon}{2} F^{\mu\nu} F'_{\mu\nu}. \quad (1)$$

This interaction endows the dark particles, F_1 and F_2 , with a tiny ordinary electric charge. The studies [2,4] have shown that kinetic mixing induced processes in the core of ordinary core-collapse supernovae can supply the energy needs of such a halo, if $\epsilon \sim 10^{-9}$. That is, these processes are able to generate enough energy (transported to the halo via dark photons) to compensate for the energy lost due to dissipative interactions. This mechanism, and other astrophysical and cosmological considerations, also constrain the masses of the F_1 and F_2 particles, with one of them being light, $m_{F_1} \sim \text{MeV}$, and the other heavier, $m_{F_2} \sim \text{GeV–TeV}$.¹ Kinematic considerations then indicate that the processes F_1 -electron and F_2 -nuclei scattering will be of particular importance in the context of direct detection experiments.

MeV scale dark matter particles scattering off electrons have been proposed as a mechanism to potentially explain the DAMA [5] and CoGeNT [6] annual modulation signals [7]. Scattering of the light F_1 particles off electrons might thereby explain the annual modulation signals observed by DAMA and CoGeNT. However, the details are quite subtle, as the flux of the light F_1 particles in the proximity of the Earth is expected to be strongly influenced by dark electromagnetic fields, generated within the Earth

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¹ Here and throughout the article, natural units with $\hbar = c = k_B = 1$ will be used.

by captured F_1 and F_2 dark matter. Further details of F_1 -electron scattering will be postponed to future work. Here we focus on the F_2 -nuclei scattering detection channel, and study possible diurnal modulation signatures expected due to the effect of captured F_2 dark matter which can block the halo wind.

2. Two-component dissipative hidden sector dark matter

The model we consider comprises a hidden sector consisting of dark matter particles charged under an unbroken $U(1)'$ symmetry, and possibly other interactions which we shall not be concerned with. The dynamics of our theory are described by the Lagrangian:

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{HS}} + \mathcal{L}_{\text{mix}}, \quad (2)$$

where \mathcal{L}_{SM} is the Standard Model Lagrangian, \mathcal{L}_{HS} is the hidden sector Lagrangian, and \mathcal{L}_{mix} encompasses interaction terms which interconnect the two sectors. The interactions associated with the unbroken $U(1)'$ symmetry (dark electromagnetism) are mediated by a massless gauge boson, the *dark photon* (γ_D). A particularly simple instance occurs when the hidden sector consists of two Dirac fermions, described by the fields F_1 and F_2 , with masses m_{F_1} and m_{F_2} and dark charges Q'_{F_1} and Q'_{F_2} , opposite in sign but not necessarily equal in magnitude²:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{\text{HS}} = & -\frac{1}{4}F'^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu} + \bar{F}_1(iD_\mu\gamma^\mu - m_{F_1})F_1 \\ & + \bar{F}_2(iD_\mu\gamma^\mu - m_{F_2})F_2. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

Here, $F'_{\mu\nu} = \partial_\mu A'_\nu - \partial_\nu A'_\mu$ is the field-strength tensor associated with the $U(1)'$ interaction, with A'_μ being the relevant gauge field. The covariant derivative relevant to this interaction acts on the fermionic fields as $D_\mu F_j = \partial_\mu F_j + ig'Q'_{F_j}A'_\mu F_j$, where g' is the coupling constant for the dark electromagnetic interaction. The presence of an accidental $U(1)$ global symmetry, together with the gauge symmetry, implies conservation of F_1 and F_2 number, and hence stability of the two dark fermions. The particle content of the hidden sector is thus massive, dark and stable, essential characteristics of a suitable dark matter candidate.

In the early Universe, a primordial particle-antiparticle asymmetry is presumed to set the relic abundance of the F_1 and F_2 particles. Any symmetric component is expected to be efficiently annihilated by the dark electromagnetic interactions. This means that the dark matter content of the Universe today is dominated by particles with a potentially negligible amount of anti- F_1 and anti- F_2 particles.³ The model is then an example of *asymmetric dark matter*, extensively discussed in the recent literature (see e.g. [11] and references therein). Dark matter asymmetry and local neutrality of the Universe imply:

$$n_{F_1}Q'_{F_1} + n_{F_2}Q'_{F_2} = 0, \quad (4)$$

where n_{F_j} denotes the F_j particle number density.

² Replacing the F_1, F_2 particles with two scalar fields leads to an equally simple model. Furthermore, the diurnal modulation signal to be discussed in the present paper depends in no essential way on the spin of the dark matter particles. For concreteness, though, we here focus on the fermionic model.

³ Of course, the exact ratio of dark matter antiparticles to particles today depends on the thermal history of the dark and visible sectors in the early Universe. If $T_{Y_D} \ll T_Y$ when $T_{Y_D} \approx m_{F_2}$, then the relic abundance of dark antiparticles can be negligibly small for all of the parameter space of interest. On the other hand if $T_{Y_D} \simeq T_Y$ when $T_{Y_D} \approx m_{F_2}$, an upper bound on m_{F_2} of order 8 TeV, 350 GeV, 35 GeV, 3 GeV for $\alpha' = 10^{-1}, 10^{-2}, 10^{-3}, 10^{-4}$ respectively can be derived by requiring the symmetric component to be efficiently annihilated away [8] (see also [9,10]).

The possible interactions described by \mathcal{L}_{mix} are strongly constrained by the requirements of gauge invariance and renormalizability. For our model, this restricts \mathcal{L}_{mix} to only a kinetic mixing term [12], which leads to photon-dark photon kinetic mixing:

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mix}} = \frac{\epsilon'}{2}F^{\mu\nu}F'_{\mu\nu}. \quad (5)$$

A non-orthogonal transformation can remove the kinetic mixing. The net effect of this interaction is to provide the dark fermions with a tiny ordinary electric charge [13]. As a result, the dark fermions couple to the visible photon with charge:

$$g'Q'_{F_j}\epsilon' \equiv \epsilon_{F_j}e. \quad (6)$$

The interactions of F_1 with the dark photon are characterized by the dark fine structure constant, $\alpha' \equiv (g'Q_{F_1})^2/4\pi$, while the coupling of F_2 with the dark photon is modified by the charge ratio, $Z' \equiv Q'_{F_2}/Q'_{F_1}$. The fundamental physics of this model is described by five parameters: $m_{F_1}, m_{F_2}, \alpha', Z'$ and $\epsilon \equiv \epsilon_{F_1}$.

The model described above has been thoroughly analyzed in the context of early Universe cosmology and galactic structure in [4]. Its dark matter phenomenology is similar to, but generalizes the MDM case, and is more distantly related to a number of other hidden sector models which feature an unbroken $U(1)'$ interaction (see e.g. [14]). Within the scenario being considered, the dark matter halo in spiral galaxies is presumed to be (currently) in the form of a roughly spherical plasma composed of F_1 and F_2 particles. The plasma can cool via dissipative processes, for instance thermal dark bremsstrahlung, thus requiring a heat source which can replace this energy lost. It has been argued that kinetic mixing induced processes within the core of ordinary core-collapse supernovae can provide such a heat source, provided $\epsilon \sim 10^{-9}$ and $m_{F_1} \lesssim 100$ MeV.

The analysis of early Universe phenomenology (including bounds on the number of relativistic degrees of freedom encoded by $N_{\text{eff}}[\text{CMB}]$ and $N_{\text{eff}}[\text{BBN}]$) and galactic structure arguments constrained the five parameters of the model [4]. These considerations indicated a favored region of parameter space for the masses of the two fermions: the lighter particle (F_1) with mass in the MeV range and the heavier one (F_2) with mass in the GeV–TeV range. Some implications for direct detection experiments of this same model have been considered in [15], which also focused on the case $m_{F_1} \ll m_{F_2}$, additionally assuming $|Z'| \gg 1$.⁴

In the dark halo of the Milky Way, the dark electromagnetic interactions are expected to keep the particles in thermal equilibrium, at a common temperature T . In the proximity of the Earth, under the assumption of hydrostatic equilibrium, this temperature can be roughly estimated [15]:

$$T \simeq \frac{1}{2}\bar{m}v_{\text{rot}}^2. \quad (7)$$

Here, $v_{\text{rot}} \approx 220$ km/s is the Milky Way's rotational velocity, while \bar{m} designates the mean mass of the particles in the dark plasma

⁴ An interesting question is whether this model is consistent with measurements on cluster scales, e.g. those associated with the Bullet Cluster. The main difficulty in addressing this point is that the dark matter distribution on cluster scales is poorly constrained and also very difficult to model. Adopting the NFW distribution (or similar) for the cluster dark matter derived from simulations of collisionless dark matter may be unreliable, especially when self-interaction cross sections are large ($\sigma/M \gtrsim 1$ cm²/g). A significant fraction of the dark matter could be bound into galactic or subgalactic-sized halos, or into more compact systems such as hypothetical “dark stars” (see [16,24] for relevant discussions). If dark matter is sufficiently clumpy then the dark matter associated with each cluster would pass through each other essentially unimpeded, potentially consistent with the observations [17].

which, in the two-component case we are considering, is given by:

$$\bar{m} = \frac{n_{F_1} m_{F_1} + n_{F_2} m_{F_2}}{n_{F_1} + n_{F_2}}. \quad (8)$$

The galaxy structure arguments of [4] indicate that the Milky Way halo could be nearly fully ionized, except for the K-shell atomic states, so that $|Z'| \geq 3$ (see [4] for further details). It follows that the mean mass can be approximated as being $\bar{m} \approx m_{F_2}/(|Z'| - 1)$.

In a reference frame with no bulk halo motion, we expect the distribution function of the halo dark matter particles to be Maxwellian. The velocity dispersion of the i -th particle species, $v_0[F_i]$ is mass-dependent, and is given by (see e.g. [15]):

$$v_0[F_i] \simeq v_{\text{rot}} \sqrt{\frac{\bar{m}}{m_i}}. \quad (9)$$

Combining Eqs. (4), (8), (9), it follows that $v_0[F_2] \ll v_{\text{rot}}$ for $m_{F_1} \ll m_{F_2}$ and $|Z'| \gg 1$. This mass dependent velocity dispersion is a distinctive feature of this type of dark matter.

The F_1 and F_2 particles can potentially be observed in direct detection experiments. With $m_{F_1} \sim \text{MeV}$ and $m_{F_2} \sim \text{GeV–TeV}$, F_1 -electron and F_2 -nuclei scattering are expected to be of most interest (essentially Rutherford scattering, possible due to the kinetic mixing induced small electric charge). In principle, both of these interaction channels can be searched for. In this article, we focus on the F_2 -nuclei scattering channel, and consider the diurnal modulation signal which we will show is a characteristic feature of this type of dark matter.

A diurnal modulation in a direct detection experiment can arise if dark matter particles are captured within the Earth and block the halo dark matter wind. Diurnal modulation due to self-interacting dark matter was first studied in the context of MDM [18]. A diurnal modulation effect can also ensue following interactions of dark matter particles with the constituent nuclei of the Earth [19]. This can be important for some models, such as the case of light GeV scale dark matter (and could be important in our case for part of the parameter space) [20]. Here we focus on the diurnal modulation effect arising from self-interactions between halo and captured dark matter particles, which we show is large for a wide range of parameter space.

3. Dark matter shielding radius

A distinctive feature of this model, and of hidden sector models in general, is the self-interacting nature of the dark matter particle content. The self-interactions can lead to a significant quantity of dark matter being captured within the Earth, potentially blocking the F_2 dark matter galactic halo wind. In this section we will quantify this effect, by estimating the *shielding radius* due to dark matter capture.

Initially, F_2 particles will occasionally be captured by the Earth, through hard scattering processes of F_2 on constituent nuclei within the Earth, and thus accumulate inside our planet (cf. [21]). When a sufficient number have accumulated, F_2 particles will be captured following self-interactions. Let us define d_{min} to be the distance of closest approach to the center of the Earth of a halo F_2 particle, for a given trajectory. The shielding radius, R_s , is the maximum value d_{min} can take for which the incoming F_2 particle will be captured due to self-interactions with the Earth bound dark matter. That is, halo F_2 particles with trajectories having $d_{\text{min}} < R_s$ will be captured and accumulate within the Earth. This means that F_2 particles will be captured at the “geometric” rate given by:

$$\frac{d\mathcal{N}}{dt} \approx \pi R_s^2 v_{\text{rot}} n_{F_2}, \quad (10)$$

where $v_{\text{rot}} \simeq 220 \text{ km/s}$ is the galactic rotational velocity, n_{F_2} is the number density of halo F_2 particles ($n_{F_2} = \rho_{\text{dm}}/m_{F_2}$, with $\rho_{\text{dm}} \approx 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$ at the Earth’s location). Here \mathcal{N} denotes the total number of captured F_2 particles accumulated within the Earth.

In the analysis to follow, we assume no significant initial population of dark matter particles in the Earth. In fact, during the formation of the Solar System, we expect dark matter particles to be captured within the newly forming Earth. To estimate the “initial” number of captured dark matter particles would require us to model the formation of the Solar System, and is beyond the scope of this paper. Here we simply note that, by assuming that a negligible number of dark matter particles are captured initially, the derived shielding radius will be underestimated. It follows that the diurnal modulation signal can potentially be maximal for a larger range of parameters than those given.

To gain further insight into the process of dark matter capture, and hence estimate the shielding radius, we have to determine the density distribution of captured F_2 particles within the Earth, $N_{F_2}(r)$ [spherical symmetry is assumed]. This can be determined from the hydrostatic equilibrium condition, but first we need to work out the temperature profile, $T(r)$.

In addition to F_2 particles, the light F_1 particles will also be captured in the Earth. The rate of F_1 capture is expected to be influenced by dark electromagnetic fields in such a way as to keep the net $U(1)'$ charge of the Earth small (cf. [7]). Kinetic mixing induced interactions allow the captured F_1 and F_2 particles to interact with ordinary nuclei and electrons via Rutherford scattering, with cross-section $d\sigma/d\Omega \propto \epsilon^2/v^4$, where v is the relative velocity of the captured F_1/F_2 particle. Given that the captured particles lose energy rapidly, and hence decrease their velocity, the dependence of the Rutherford scattering cross-section on velocity ($\propto 1/v^4$) suggests that the F_1/F_2 particles and ordinary matter will quickly thermalize. That is, the dark matter particles and ordinary matter in the Earth will share a common temperature profile, $T(r)$ [a possible exception is near the “surface” of the dark matter distribution, where halo heating can be important]. At the relevant temperature range within the Earth, the astrophysical and cosmological constraints derived in [4] indicate that the F_1 and F_2 states will combine to form atoms for essentially all of the fundamental parameter space of interest.⁵ Thus the captured F_1 and F_2 particles ultimately form a gas of F_2 atoms with known temperature profile $T(r)$.

The density $N_{F_2}(r)$ is dictated by gravity and pressure through the hydrostatic equilibrium condition:

$$\frac{dP(r)}{dr} = -\rho(r)g(r). \quad (11)$$

In the above equation [Eq. (11)], $P(r) = N_{F_2}(r)T(r)$ and $\rho(r) = m_{F_2}N_{F_2}(r)$ are the pressure and mass density profiles of the captured F_2 atoms, and $g(r)$ is the local gravitational acceleration:

$$g(r) = \frac{G}{r^2} \int_0^r 4\pi r'^2 \rho_E(r') dr'. \quad (12)$$

⁵ Astrophysical and cosmological considerations were exploited to determine bounds on the kinetic mixing parameter, ϵ , in [4]. For the heating mechanism arising from ordinary core-collapse supernovae to work, $\epsilon \gtrsim 10^{-10}$ is required. Large-scale structure considerations (ensuring that dark acoustic oscillations do not modify LSS early growth) were used to set an upper bound on ϵ : $\epsilon \lesssim 10^{-8}(\alpha'/\alpha)^4(m_{F_1}/\text{MeV})^2(\mathcal{M}/m_e)^{\frac{1}{2}}$, where $\mathcal{M} \equiv \max(m_e, m_{F_1})$. These bounds constrain the binding energy of the “valence” F_1 particle, $I \sim \alpha'^2 m_{F_1}/2 \gtrsim \text{eV}$, which is greater than the relevant temperature for essentially all of the fundamental parameter space of interest.

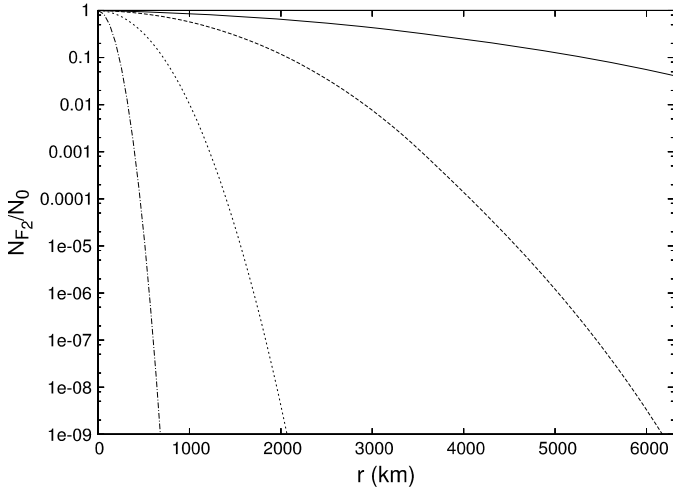


Fig. 1. Number density profile of captured F_2 particles, $N_{F_2}(r)$, normalized to the central number density [$N_0 = N_{F_2}(r=0)$]. Curves from right to left: $m_{F_2} = 1$ GeV, 10 GeV, 100 GeV, 1 TeV.

Here $\rho_E(r)$ denotes the Earth mass density profile. The hydrostatic equilibrium condition [Eq. (11)] can be rearranged to the form:

$$\frac{dN_{F_2}(r)}{dr} = -\frac{N_{F_2}(r)}{T(r)} \left(m_{F_2} g(r) + \frac{dT(r)}{dr} \right). \quad (13)$$

Solving Eq. (13) entails specifying a form for the Earth temperature and density profiles, $T(r)$ and $\rho_E(r)$ [the latter entering Eq. (13) through the local gravitational acceleration profile, $g(r)$]. Following [18], we adopt a linear approximation for the profiles obtained from the Preliminary Reference Earth Model [22]. Eq. (13) can now be solved to obtain the number density of captured F_2 particles (some examples are shown in Fig. 1). Note that the obtained number density profile depends only on the mass of the dark matter particle, m_{F_2} , and is independent of the other fundamental parameters.

Having estimated the number density profile of captured F_2 particles, it is now straightforward to work out the shielding radius, R_s . We approximate the trajectories of the incoming dark matter particles by straight lines. Along the trajectory, the distance is traced by the coordinate q , in such a way that the point of closest approach to the center of the Earth ($r = d_{\min}$) has $q = 0$. An incoming F_2 particle is captured if it loses its energy to self-interactions. We find, following a calculation completely analogous to that in [18], that an F_2 particle is captured within the Earth if the following condition is satisfied:

$$\int_{q_{\min}}^{q_{\max}} n_{F_2} \left(r = \sqrt{d_{\min}^2 + q^2} \right) dq \gtrsim \frac{E_i^2}{4\pi Z'^4 \alpha'^2 \ln \left[\left(\frac{m_{F_2}}{m_{F_1}} \right) \left(\frac{v_{\text{rot}}}{\alpha'} \right) \right]}, \quad (14)$$

where, as a measure of the average initial energy of the F_2 particles, we take $\langle E_i \rangle \approx m_{F_2} v_{\text{rot}}^2 / 2$. In the above, $q_{\max, \min} = \pm \sqrt{R_E^2 - d_{\min}^2}$ and $R_E \simeq 6371$ km is the Earth's radius. For a given point in parameter space, we can solve Eq. (14) numerically by iterating over increasing values of d_{\min} and determining the largest value of d_{\min} for which the left-hand side of Eq. (14) exceeds the right-hand side. This value defines the shielding radius, R_s . Our numerical study determined that the solution displays a very minor dependence on m_{F_1} , depending mainly on the remaining three parameters (m_{F_2} , α' and Z') and is currently:

$$R_s \simeq 5300 \left(\frac{\alpha'}{10^{-3}} \right)^{0.06} \left(\frac{m_{F_2}}{10 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-0.55} \left(\frac{|Z'|}{10} \right)^{0.14} \text{ km}. \quad (15)$$

The above estimate [Eq. (15)] is valid to a good approximation within the range of parameter space: $5 \times 10^{-4} \lesssim \alpha' \lesssim 5 \times 10^{-2}$, $5 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_{F_2} \lesssim 300 \text{ GeV}$, $3 \lesssim |Z'| \lesssim 40$.

We point out a few caveats. From Fig. 1 it can be inferred that F_2 particles might be able to escape the Earth if $m_{F_2} \lesssim 5 \text{ GeV}$. Thus, the analysis to follow is strictly only valid for $m_{F_2} \gtrsim 5 \text{ GeV}$. Also, for m_{F_2} sufficiently light, the shielding radius can exceed the Earth's radius. If this occurs, our analysis will be invalid and for R_s sufficiently large the halo dark matter wind will be shielded from all directions. This would suppress any diurnal modulation signal. In our analysis we assume that downward going F_2 particles are unshielded ($R_s \lesssim R_E$), which from Eq. (15) implies:

$$m_{F_2} \gtrsim 7 \left(\frac{\alpha'}{10^{-3}} \right)^{0.11} \left(\frac{|Z'|}{10} \right)^{0.25} \text{ GeV}. \quad (16)$$

4. Diurnal modulation signal

The captured dark matter particles will shield a dark matter detector located on the Earth from part of the halo dark matter wind. This effect can suppress the rate of F_2 -nuclei interactions observed in direct detection experiments. Importantly, relative to a given detector location, the direction of the halo wind changes during the day as the Earth rotates. Thus, the amount of shielding of the halo dark matter wind varies during the day, giving rise to a diurnal modulation effect. As we will discuss, given the direction of the Earth's motion through the galaxy, this diurnal modulation effect is expected to be particularly enhanced for direct detection experiments located in the Southern hemisphere.

Let us denote by θ_l the detector's latitude, by $T_d \simeq 23.9345$ hrs the sidereal day, and by θ_h the angle subtended by the Earth's motion through the halo with respect to the Earth's spin axis.⁶ We finally denote by ψ the angle between the direction of the Earth's motion through the dark matter halo and the normal vector to the Earth's surface at the relevant detector location. A value $\psi = 0^\circ$ indicates that the dark matter halo wind is coming vertically down on the detector, while $\psi = 180^\circ$ indicates that the halo wind is approaching from the other side of the Earth, and hence transiting in proximity of the center of the Earth. Because of the Earth's rotation around its axis, ψ varies during the course of a sidereal day:

$$\cos \psi(t) = \cos \theta_l \sin \left(2\pi \frac{t}{T_d} \right) \sin \langle \theta_h \rangle \pm \sin \theta_l \cos \langle \theta_h \rangle. \quad (17)$$

In Eq. (17), the +[−] sign holds for a detector located in the Northern [Southern] hemisphere respectively. This difference in sign plays a crucial role in the discussion to come, since it implies that ψ can be as large as $\sim 180^\circ$ only in the Southern hemisphere, as shown in Fig. 2. Hence, a diurnal modulation signal is expected to be much more pronounced in the Southern hemisphere since, for part of the day, the dark matter particles are unable to reach the detector, having been blocked by the captured dark matter particles within the Earth.

We now proceed to quantify this suppression of the interaction rate due to dark matter capture. Let us define \mathbf{v} to be the velocity of the halo dark matter particles relative to the Earth (with $v = |\mathbf{v}|$ being the magnitude of this velocity). Additionally define

⁶ Because of the Earth's motion around the Sun, θ_h varies slightly during the course of the year. We expect this to give rise to an additional annual modulation of the diurnal modulation effect; here we will ignore this effect, and will simply take the average value $\langle \theta_h \rangle \simeq 43^\circ$.

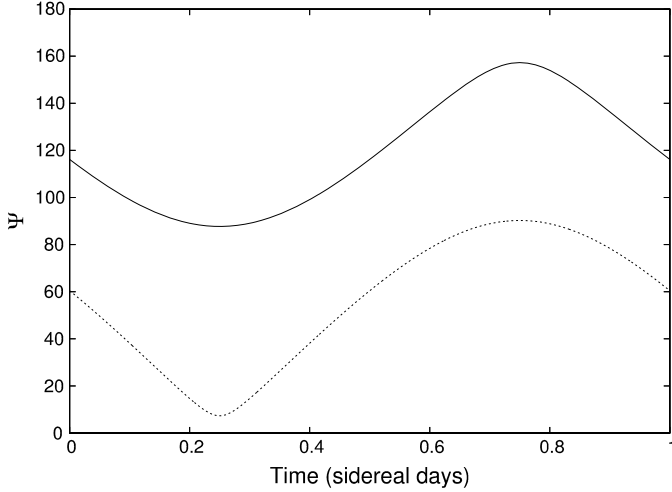


Fig. 2. Variation of $\psi(t)$ during the course of a sidereal day for a detector located in the Stawell mine (solid line) and under the Gran Sasso d'Italia (dashed line).

v_E to be the velocity of the Earth relative to the galactic halo ($|v_E| \simeq 220$ km/s). In the absence of any shielding of the halo dark matter particles, the differential interaction rate of F_2 scattering off target nuclei is given by (see e.g. [18]):

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{N_T n_{F_2}}{(\pi v_0^2)^{\frac{3}{2}}} \int_{|v| > v_{\min}(E_R)}^{\infty} \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} v e^{-\frac{(v+v_E)^2}{v_0^2}} d^3v, \quad (18)$$

where N_T denotes the number of target atoms per kg of detector, n_{F_2} is the number density of halo F_2 particles (not to be confused with $N_{F_2}(r)$, the number density of captured F_2 particles), and $d\sigma/dE_R$ is the relevant interaction cross-section [$d\sigma/dE_R = F_T^2 2\pi \epsilon^2 Z'^2 Z^2 \alpha'^2 / (m_T E_R^2 v^2)$, where m_T is the mass of the target nuclei and F_T is the form factor which accounts for their finite size]. Additionally, v_0 is defined by Eq. (9), $v_{\min} = \sqrt{(m_T + m_{F_2})^2 E_R / (2m_T m_{F_2}^2)}$ is a lower velocity limit determined by kinematics, and E_R is the relevant recoil energy at which we wish to investigate the modulation effect.

Barring constant factors, and accounting for the dependence of the interaction cross-section on v , the interaction rate of halo F_2 particles with the target nuclei in the detector is proportional to the quantity:

$$\mathcal{I}_0 \equiv \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \int_{v_{\min}}^{\infty} v e^{-\frac{(v+v_E)^2}{v_0^2}} dv. \quad (19)$$

To account for dark matter capture and hence shielding of the dark matter halo wind, we multiply the integrand of Eq. (19) by a Heaviside step function:

$$\mathcal{I}[\psi(t)] \equiv \int_0^{2\pi} d\phi \int_{-1}^1 d(\cos\theta) \int_{v_{\min}}^{\infty} v e^{-\frac{(v+v_E)^2}{v_0^2}} H[d_{\min}(\theta, \phi, \psi) - R_s] dv. \quad (20)$$

Recall R_s is the shielding radius, given in Eq. (15). The distance of closest approach, d_{\min} , is given by [18]:

$$d_{\min} = \begin{cases} R_E \sqrt{1 - g^2(\theta, \phi, \psi)}, & \text{if } g(\theta, \phi, \psi) \geq 0, \\ R_E, & \text{if } g(\theta, \phi, \psi) < 0, \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

where $g(\theta, \phi, \psi) \equiv \sin\theta \sin\phi \sin\psi - \cos\theta \cos\psi$.

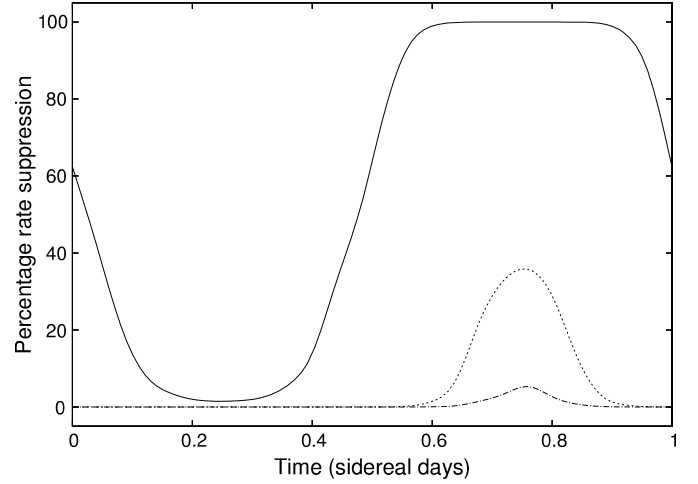


Fig. 3. Percentage rate suppression for a detector situated in the Stawell mine for $m_{F_2} = 10$ GeV (solid line), $m_{F_2} = 100$ GeV (dashed line), $m_{F_2} = 1$ TeV (dot-dashed line). We have assumed $\alpha' = 10^{-2}$, $|Z'| = 10$, a recoil energy of 2 keV and an Na target ($m_T \simeq 23m_p$).

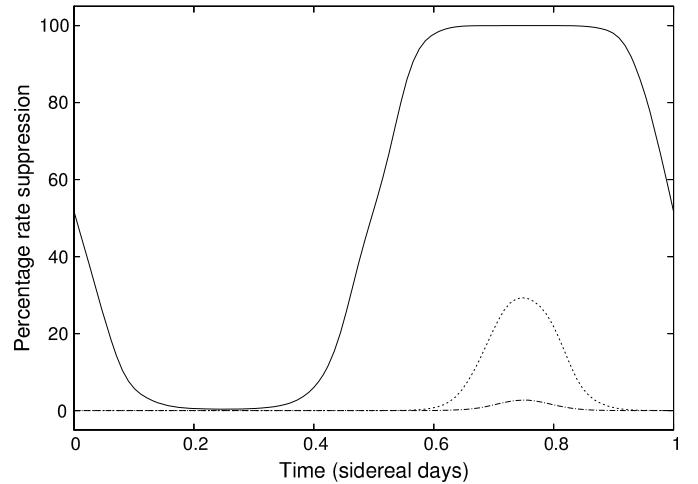


Fig. 4. Same parameters as per Fig. 3 except for a detector located in the Andes Lab.

We can now evaluate $\mathcal{R}(t)$, the percentage rate suppression due to dark matter shielding, where $\mathcal{R} = 100\%$ indicates a total suppression of the interaction rate:

$$\mathcal{R}(t) = 100 \left(1 - \frac{\mathcal{I}[\psi(t)]}{\mathcal{I}_0} \right) \%. \quad (22)$$

In Figs. 3, 4 we present results for $\mathcal{R}(t)$ for proposed detectors located in the Stawell mine (near Melbourne, $\theta_l \simeq 37.1^\circ$) and in the Andes Lab (on the Argentinean–Chilean border, $\theta_l \simeq 30.2^\circ$). As the figures show, the diurnal modulation effect can be very large for these Southern hemisphere detectors. For a detector located in the Northern hemisphere, such an effect is instead expected to be much smaller, and hence more difficult to observe.

An important quantity is \mathcal{R}_{\max} , the maximum value the percentage rate suppression reaches during the course of a sidereal day. In principle, \mathcal{R}_{\max} is expected to depend on six parameters. Three of them are fundamental: m_{F_2} , α' and Z' . The other three are instead related to the experimental setup: m_T , E_R and θ_l , that is, the mass of the target nuclei, the relevant recoil energy and the latitude of the detector. To simplify our analysis, we shall fix θ_l focusing on two latitudes of particular interest: $\theta_l \simeq 37.1^\circ$ and $\theta_l \simeq 30.2^\circ$, as discussed above. Further, our numerical analysis determines that \mathcal{R}_{\max} manifests a very minor dependence on the

target nuclei mass, m_T , and the recoil energy, E_R , for recoil energies in the range $0.1 \text{ keV} \lesssim E_R \lesssim 20 \text{ keV}$. The end result is that, at a fixed latitude, \mathcal{R}_{\max} depends mainly on the three fundamental parameters: m_{F_2} , α' and Z' . For detectors located in the Stawell mine and at the Andes Lab, we find that the maximum percentage suppression rate during the course of a sidereal day can be roughly approximated by:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{R}_{\max} &\approx \min \left[55 \left(\frac{\alpha'}{10^{-3}} \right)^{0.1} \left(\frac{m_{F_2}}{50 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-0.9} \left(\frac{|Z'|}{10} \right)^{0.6} \%, 100\% \right] \\ &\quad (\text{Stawell}), \\ \mathcal{R}_{\max} &\approx \min \left[40 \left(\frac{\alpha'}{10^{-3}} \right)^{0.1} \left(\frac{m_{F_2}}{50 \text{ GeV}} \right)^{-0.9} \left(\frac{|Z'|}{10} \right)^{0.6} \%, 100\% \right] \\ &\quad (\text{Andes}). \end{aligned} \quad (23)$$

The above results hold approximately within the region of parameter space: $5 \times 10^{-4} \lesssim \alpha' \lesssim 5 \times 10^{-2}$, $5 \text{ GeV} \lesssim m_{F_2} \lesssim 300 \text{ GeV}$, $5 \lesssim |Z'| \lesssim 40$. Observe that for both of these locations $\mathcal{R}_{\max} \gtrsim 10\%$ for nearly all of this parameter space.

5. Conclusion

Dissipative hidden sector dark matter appears to be a viable and interesting scenario which has the potential to explain the observed properties of galaxies (as well as large-scale structure). This explanation entails nontrivial galactic dynamics with halo dissipative cooling balanced by heating. It has been shown that ordinary core-collapse supernovae can supply the required heating provided that kinetic mixing interaction with strength $\epsilon \sim 10^{-9}$ exists. Such kinetically mixed dark matter can be probed by direct detection experiments. The self-interactions imply that this type of dark matter can be captured within the Earth and shield a dark matter detector from part of the halo dark matter wind. We have shown that, because the direction of this wind changes during the day, so does the amount of shielding, thereby giving rise to a diurnal modulation effect. This effect is expected to be particularly enhanced for a detector located in the Southern hemisphere because, for part of the day, the halo dark matter wind travels through the core of the Earth to reach the detector.

We have estimated the size of this effect, by computing the maximum rate suppression due to dark matter capture for two detectors located in the Southern hemisphere [Eqs. (23)]. Interestingly, we have found that for a large range of parameters the maximum percentage rate suppression during the course of a sidereal day can be large ($\gtrsim 10\%$). Such an effect can potentially be observed in direct detection experiments located in the Southern hemisphere, and would be a smoking gun for self-interacting dark matter.

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