#### Marco Drewes, Université catholique de Louvain

#### STERILE NEUTRINOS AS DARK MATTER CANDIDATES

21. 10. 2020

University of Helsinki & University of Jyväskylä

#### Finnland

mostly based on 1602.04816, 1807.07938

#### The Dark Matter Puzzle



#### The Standard Model of Particle Physics



The "periodic table" of elementary particles

# $\begin{aligned} & \text{The Seesaw Mechanism (type I)} \\ & \mathcal{L}_{SM} \ + \ i \bar{\nu}_R \partial \!\!\!/ \nu_R - \bar{\ell_L} Y \nu_R \tilde{H} - \tilde{H}^{\dagger} \bar{\nu_R} Y^{\dagger} \ell_L \\ & - \frac{1}{2} \left( \bar{\nu_R^c} M_M \nu_R + \bar{\nu_R} M_M^{\dagger} \nu_R^c \right) \,. \end{aligned}$



three light neutrinos mostly "active" SU(2) doublet  $\nu \simeq U_{\nu}(\nu_L + \theta \nu_R^c)$ with masses  $m_{\nu} \simeq -\theta M_M \theta^T = -v^2 Y M_M^{-1} Y^T$ 

three heavy mostly singlet neutrinos  $N \simeq \nu_R + \theta^T \nu_L^c$  Mink with masses  $M_N \simeq M_M$  Yanag

Minkowski 79, Gell-Mann/Ramond/ Slansky 79, Mohapatra/Senjanovic 79, Yanagida 80, Schechter/Valle 80

### Have we seen it?



### Have we seen it?



### Overview

- introduction
- model independent bounds

phase space density

indirect detection (x-ray)

nuclear  $\beta$  decay spectra

• model dependent bounds

minimal model (vMSM)

DM from scalar decay

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### Phase Space Bounds

#### Model independent bound:

Fermions must respect Pauli's principle and have velocities below the escape velocity

> $M \ge 0.18 \text{ keV} \text{ at } 68\% \text{ CL}$  $M \ge 0.13 \text{ keV} \text{ at } 95\% \text{ CL}$

#### Model dependent bound:

This must hold throughout the history of the universe

 $M \ge 2.80 \text{ keV} \text{ at } 68\% \text{ CL}$  $M \ge 1.74 \text{ keV} \text{ at } 95\% \text{ CL}$ 

Updated numbers from Alvey et al 2010.03572

### How heavy do they have to be?

velocity distribution for DM particles:

$$F_X(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{\left(\sqrt{2\pi} M_X \sigma_X\right)^3} \exp\left(-\frac{\mathbf{v}^2}{2\sigma_X^2}\right),\,$$

the maximum number density must be consistent with Pauli principle

$$f_X^{\max}(\mathbf{v}, \mathbf{x}) = \frac{\rho_X(\mathbf{x})}{M_X} F_X(0) \qquad \qquad f_F^{\operatorname{crit}} \equiv \frac{g_X}{(2\pi)^3},$$

$$\frac{(2\pi)^{3/8}}{g_X^{1/4}} \left(\frac{\rho_X}{\sigma_X^3}\right)^{1/4} \le M_X$$
for milky way:
$$M_X \gtrsim 25 \, \mathrm{eV}$$

### DM Phase Space Density

Liouville's theorem: phase space volume constant



But coarse grained phase space density decreases in dense regions

$$\tilde{f}(\mathbf{k},\mathbf{x},t) \leq \max_k f_i(\mathbf{k})$$

#### Tremaine Gunn Bound

Astronomical data constraints the quantity

For spheroidal dwarf galaxies:

 $\langle {f v}_{\parallel}^2 
angle = \langle {f v}^2 
angle/3, \qquad 
ho_0 = M_X \, n_X$ 

Combining the equations

$$Q = 3^{3/2} M_X^4 \frac{n}{\langle \mathbf{p}^2 \rangle^{3/2}} \simeq 3^{3/2} M_X^4 \tilde{f}(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{X}, t_0)$$

using coarse grained **Tremaine** phase space **Gunn**  $M_X \gtrsim \left(\frac{Q}{3^{3/2} \max \tilde{f}_i}\right)^{1/4}$ distribution

$$egin{aligned} Q &\equiv rac{
ho_0}{\langle \mathbf{v}_{\parallel}^2 
angle^{3/2}} \ \langle \mathbf{p}^2 
angle &= M_X^2 \langle \mathbf{v}^2 
angle \end{aligned}$$

#### Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter



Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

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Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

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#### Dark Matter Decay

primary decay channel N 
ightarrow 3 
u

$$\Gamma_{N \to 3\nu} = \frac{G_F^2 M^5}{96\pi^3} \sum_{\alpha} |\theta_{\alpha}|^2 \approx \frac{1}{1.5 \times 10^{14} \sec} \left(\frac{M}{10 \,\mathrm{keV}}\right)^5 \sum_{\alpha} |\theta_{\alpha}|^2$$

lifetime must be longer than the age of the universe

$$\theta^2 < 3.3 \times 10^{-4} \left(\frac{10 \,\mathrm{keV}}{M}\right)^5$$

#### Indirect DM Searches

loop level decay into photons

![](_page_16_Figure_2.jpeg)

$$\Gamma_{N \to \gamma \nu} = \frac{9 \,\alpha \, G_F^2}{256 \pi^4} \theta^2 M^5 = 5.5 \times 10^{-22} \theta^2 \left[\frac{M}{1 \,\text{keV}}\right]^5 \,\text{sec}^{-1}$$

One can search for an emission line!

![](_page_16_Picture_5.jpeg)

### Has the line been seen?

![](_page_17_Figure_1.jpeg)

Boyarsky/Ruchayskiy/Iakubovskyi/Franse 2014 see also Bulbul/Markevitch/Foster/Smith/Loewenstein/Randall 2014

#### Situation unclear...

...need better spectral resolution (XRISM, ATHENA+ will help)

#### Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter

![](_page_18_Figure_1.jpeg)

Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

The Seesaw Mechanism (type I)  

$$\mathcal{L}_{SM} + i\bar{\nu}_R \partial \!\!\!\!/ \nu_R - \bar{\ell_L} Y \nu_R \tilde{H} - \tilde{H}^{\dagger} \bar{\nu_R} Y^{\dagger} \ell_L \\ - \frac{1}{2} \left( \bar{\nu_R^c} M_M \nu_R + \bar{\nu_R} M_M^{\dagger} \nu_R^c \right)$$

![](_page_19_Picture_1.jpeg)

- A sterile neutrino that is DM makes no measurable contribution to the seesaw
- Simple check:  $m_{\nu} \sim \theta^2 M < 10^{-7} \text{eV}$
- But with three RHN the two siblings can do the seesaw... and leptogenesis...

three light neutrinos mostly "active" SU(2) doublet  $\nu \simeq U_{\nu}(\nu_L + \theta \nu_R^c)$ with masses  $m_{\nu} \simeq -\theta M_M \theta^T = -v^2 Y M_M^{-1} Y^T$ 

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### A Minimal Model: The vMSM

#### Pure Type I seesaw with RH Neutrinos below EW scale

Asaka/Shaposhnikov <u>0503065</u>, <u>0505013</u>

- two RH Neutrinos have degenerate
   ~GeV masses
   seesaw + leptogenesis
- one has a ~keV mass and feeble couplings
   Dark Matter candidate

![](_page_20_Figure_5.jpeg)

Could in principle be complete EFT up to the Planck scale

Bezrukov et al <u>1205.2893</u>

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#### KATRIN/TRISTAN & keV Sterile Neutrinos

#### Imprint of keV Neutrinos on Tritium $\beta$ -spectrun

#### dΓ/dE (a.u.) $\cos^2\Theta d\Gamma/dE(m_{light})$ 25 $\sin^2\Theta d\Gamma/dE(m_1)$ with mixing 20 ····· no mixing 15 10 5 0 10 12 16 18 20 6 8 14 E (keV) **TRISTAN:** Technical Realization Signal rate is 10<sup>12</sup> x higher than in regular KATRIN ! KATRIN Need for a new detector system (in 2021, after KATRIN)

![](_page_22_Figure_3.jpeg)

**Statistical Sensitivity** 

#### Novel Silicon Detector System (R&D)

- Handling high rates (10<sup>9</sup> cts/s)
  - >10 000 pixels
- 300 eV energy resolution & 1 keV threshold
  - Thin deadlayer (~10 nm)
- 1 mm pixels with <0.2 pF capacity
  - Multi-drift-ring design (SDD)
- Minimize systematics (ppm-level)
  - Low ADC non-linearity read-out, etc...

### Detector is under way...

#### Search for sterile neutrinos with a Novel detector system for KATRIN

- 3500-pixel silicon drift detector (SDD) focal plane array
- Excellent performance (noise, resolution, linearity) of first prototypes demonstrated
- Production of first detector module completed
- Integration after KATRIN's nu-mass measurement

![](_page_23_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### Slide by Susanne Mertens

![](_page_23_Picture_8.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_10.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Picture_11.jpeg)

#### Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter

![](_page_24_Figure_1.jpeg)

Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

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### How to make Sterile Neutrino DM?

#### • Thermal production via their mixing $\theta$

- happens unavoidably for  $\theta \neq 0$  Barbieri/Dolgov 91, Dodelson/Widrow 94
- never reach equilibrium for realistic θ ("freeze in DM", "FIMP DM") ⇒ non-thermal spectrum!
- can be resonantly enhanced by MSW effect Shi/Fuller 99

#### Non-thermal production in the decay of heavy particles

- inflaton or other scalar Kusenko 06, Shaposhnikov/Tkachev 06, Bezrukov/Gorbunov 09, Kusenko/Petraki 07, ...
- can occur when scalar is in equilibrium or during scalar production ("freeze in") see e.g. Merle/Totzauer 15
- charged scalar Boyanovsky 08, Frigerio/Yaguna 14, leptophilic Higgs
   Adulpravitchai/Schmidt 15, fermion Abada 14 or vector particles Shuve/Yavin 14

#### Thermal production via (gauge) interactions at high energies very difficult to dilute Bezrukov/Hettmansperger/Lindner, ... [I won't talk about this]

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### Production through Mixing

Consider system with one active and one sterile neutrino

 $|\nu_a\rangle = \cos\theta |\nu_1\rangle + \sin\theta |\nu_2\rangle,$  $|\nu_s\rangle = -\sin\theta |\nu_1\rangle + \cos\theta |\nu_2\rangle.$ 

In the primordial plasma there is an effective mixing angle

$$|\nu_a\rangle = \cos \theta_m(t) |\nu_1(t)\rangle + \sin \theta_m(t) |\nu_2(t)\rangle, |\nu_s\rangle = -\sin \theta_m(t) |\nu_1(t)\rangle + \cos \theta_m(t) |\nu_2(t)\rangle$$

Thermal production rate  $\pm \Gamma_N \sim G_F^2 T^5 \sin^2(2 heta_m)$  .

$$\sin^2(2\theta_m) = \frac{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta)}{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta) + \left[\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T\right]^2}$$

The active-sterile mass splitting enters via

 $\Delta(p) = \Delta m^2 / (2p)$ 

And the "matter potentials" are

$$V_T \simeq -\frac{8}{3}\sqrt{2}G_F \left[\frac{\rho_{\nu}}{m_Z^2} + \frac{\rho_{\ell}}{m_W^2}\right] E_{\nu'}$$
$$V_D \simeq 2\sqrt{2}G_F n_{\gamma} l_{\nu} = 2\sqrt{2}G_F \frac{2\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} T^3 l_{\nu},$$

$$\sin^2(2\theta_m) = \frac{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta)}{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta) + \left[\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T\right]^2}.$$

The active-sterile mass splitting enters via

 $\Delta(p) = \Delta m^2 / (2p)$ 

 $V_D \simeq 0$ 

And the "matter potentials" are

$$V_T \simeq -G_{\text{eff}}^2 T^4 p \qquad G_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim 10^2 G_F^2$$

Thermal production rate peaks at T ~ 0.1 - 1 GeV :  $\Gamma_N \sim G_F^2 T^5 \sin^2(2\theta_m)$ 

$$\sin^{2}(2\theta_{m}) = \frac{\Delta^{2}(p)\sin^{2}(2\theta)}{\Delta^{2}(p)\sin^{2}(2\theta) + [\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_{D} - V_{T}]^{2}}$$
The active-sterile mass splitting enters via
$$\Delta(p) = \Delta m^{2}/(2p) \quad \text{vacuum mixing angle smaller than 10-6}$$
And the "matter potentials" are
$$V_{T} \simeq -G_{\text{eff}}^{2}T^{4}p \quad G_{\text{eff}}^{2} \sim 10^{2}G_{F}^{2}$$

$$V_{D} \simeq 0 \quad \text{Thermal production rate peaks at T ~ 0.1 - 1 GeV}$$

$$\sin^{2}(2\theta_{m}) = \frac{\Delta^{2}(p)\sin^{2}(2\theta)}{\Delta^{2}(p)\sin^{2}(2\theta) + [\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_{D} - V_{T}]^{2}}.$$
The active-sterile mass splitting enters via
$$\Delta(p) = \Delta m^{2}/(2p) \quad \text{at high T the matter potential suppresses the effective mixing angle}}$$
And the "matter potentials" are
$$V_{T} \simeq -G_{\text{eff}}^{2}T^{4}p \quad G_{\text{eff}}^{2} \sim 10^{2}G_{F}^{2}$$

$$V_{D} \simeq 0 \quad \text{Thermal production rate peaks at T ~ 0.1 - 1 GeV}$$

$$= \Gamma_{N} \sim G_{F}^{2}T^{5}\sin^{2}(2\theta_{m}).$$

 $\boldsymbol{\nu}$ 

$$\sin^2(2\theta_m) = \frac{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta)}{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta) + \left[\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T\right]^2}.$$

The active-sterile mass splitting enters via

 $\Delta(p) = \Delta m^2 / (2p)$ And the "matter potentials" are  $V_T \simeq -G_{\text{eff}}^2 T^4 p \qquad G_{\text{eff}}^2 \sim 10^2 G_F^2$   $V_D \simeq 0$ Thermal production rate peaks at T ~ 0.1 - 1 GeV  $\Gamma_N \sim G_F^2 T^5 \sin^2(2\theta_m)$ 

### **Resonant Production**

$$\sin^2(2\theta_m) = \frac{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta)}{\Delta^2(p)\sin^2(2\theta) + \left[\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T\right]^2}.$$

The active-sterile mass splitting enters via

$$\Delta(p) = \Delta m^2 / (2p)$$

resonance condition

$$\Delta(p)\cos(2\theta) - V_D - V_T = 0$$

resonance condition strongly depends on lepton asymmetries  $M^2 - 2 \frac{4\sqrt{2}\zeta(3)}{\pi^2} G_F l_{\nu} p T^3 + 2G_{\text{eff}}^2 p^2 T^4 = 0, \ l_{\nu} \equiv (n_{\nu} - n_{\bar{\nu}})/n_{\gamma}$ 

#### **Resonance** Condition

resonance for mode with  $x \equiv p/T$  occurs at

$$x_{res} = \frac{G_F}{G_{\text{eff}}^2 T^2} \frac{4\zeta(3)}{\sqrt{2}\pi^2} l_{\nu} \left[ 1 \pm \sqrt{1 - \frac{1}{2} \frac{M^2}{T^2} \frac{G_{\text{eff}}^2}{G_F^2}} \frac{\pi^4}{8\zeta(3)^2} \frac{1}{l_{\nu}^2} \right]$$

resonance requires a lepton asymmetry

$$|l_{\nu}| > \frac{1}{2} \frac{M}{T} \frac{G_{\text{eff}}}{G_F} \frac{\pi^2}{2\zeta(3)},$$

this is several orders of magnitude larger than the baryon asymmetry! (but well below the observational bound)

## DM Spectrum

#### DM momentum distribution has two components:

- A "warm" part from the non-resonant production
- A "cold" part from the resonant production

![](_page_36_Figure_4.jpeg)

**Updated spectra:** 

![](_page_36_Figure_6.jpeg)

#### Structure Formation

DM free streaming length

$$\lambda_{\rm fs}(t) \equiv a(t) \int_{t_i}^t dt' \, \frac{v(t')}{a(t')} \approx 1 \, {\rm Mpc} \frac{\rm keV}{M} \frac{\langle p_{\rm DM} \rangle}{\langle p_{\nu} \rangle}$$

#### affects matter power spectrum

![](_page_37_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Structure Formation

![](_page_38_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter

![](_page_39_Figure_1.jpeg)

Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

#### Sterile Neutrino Dark Matter

![](_page_40_Figure_1.jpeg)

Boyarsky/MaD/Lasserre/Mertens/Ruchayskiy 18 M [keV]

#### Leptogenesis Senarios

![](_page_41_Figure_1.jpeg)

"big bang"

 $T = 130 \ GeV$ 

### Leptogenesis with 2RHN

![](_page_42_Figure_1.jpeg)

The region in which the freeze-out scenario ("resonant leptogenesis") and freeze-in scenario ("ARS leptogenesis") work overlap!

Klaric/Shaposhnikov/Timirsyasov 2008.13771

### How to make a large lepton asymmetry?

![](_page_43_Figure_1.jpeg)

been done

- We showed a long time ago that the asymmetry needed for resonant DM production can be generated in the vMSM from the late time decay of the heavier N
- But our analysis contained a number of simplifications

![](_page_43_Figure_4.jpeg)

### Complementarity in the vMSM

**Resonant production relies on properties of the two heavier RHN** 

![](_page_44_Figure_2.jpeg)

 $M_{\rm H} = 2.0 \, {\rm GeV}$ 

Their properties can be constrained by combining data from many sources

![](_page_44_Figure_4.jpeg)

#### Accelerator-based Heavy Neutrino Searches

![](_page_45_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

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#### Example I: DM from scalar singlet decay

**consider scalar singlet model:**  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{SM} + \left| \frac{i}{2} \overline{N} \partial N + \frac{1}{2} (\partial_{\mu} S) (\partial^{\mu} S) - \frac{y}{2} S \overline{N^c} N + \text{h.c.} \right| - V_{\text{scalar}} + \mathcal{L}_{\nu}$ 

![](_page_48_Figure_2.jpeg)

scalar potential:

 $V_{\text{scalar}} = \frac{1}{2}m_S^2 S^2 + \frac{\lambda_S}{4}S^4 + 2\lambda \left(\Phi^{\dagger}\Phi\right)S^2$ 

- DM can be produced before scalar comes into equilibrium ("freeze in", left panel) or after ("freeze out", right panel)
- DM momentum distribution differs in both cases

Konig/Merle/Totzauer 2004.10766

#### Example I: DM from scalar singlet decay

![](_page_49_Figure_1.jpeg)

### Example I: DM from scalar singlet decay

![](_page_50_Figure_1.jpeg)

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

 $N = sterile \ neutrino \ Dark \ Matter$  $\Phi = leptophilic \ Higgs$  $\Psi = charged \ lepton$ 

![](_page_51_Figure_3.jpeg)

*N* can be produced in decays  $\Phi \rightarrow \Psi N$ 

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

 $N = sterile \ neutrino \ Dark \ Matter$  $\Phi = leptophilic \ Higgs$  $\Psi = charged \ lepton$ 

![](_page_52_Figure_3.jpeg)

*N* can be produced in decays  $\Phi \rightarrow \Psi N$  Decay occurs in the hot primordial plasma

- modified (quasi)particle dispersion relations
- quantum statistical effects
- scatterings of  $\Phi$  in the plasma contribute to Dark Matter production

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

 $N = sterile \ neutrino \ Dark \ Matter$  $\Phi = leptophilic \ Higgs$  $\Psi = charged \ lepton$ 

Decay rate in the medium MaD/Kang 16

$$\tilde{\Gamma}_{\Phi\mathbf{q}} \simeq \tilde{\Gamma}_0 \frac{M_{\Phi}}{m_{\Phi}} \frac{M_{\Phi}}{\Omega_{\Phi\mathbf{q}}} \left[ \frac{T}{\mathbf{q}} \log \left[ \frac{f_F\left(\frac{\Omega_{\Phi\mathbf{q}}-\mathbf{q}}{2}\right)}{f_F\left(\frac{\Omega_{\Phi\mathbf{q}}+\mathbf{q}}{2}\right)} \right] + \alpha \left[ -1 + \frac{T}{\beta\mathbf{q}} \log \left[ \frac{f_F\left(\beta \frac{(\Omega_{\Phi\mathbf{q}}-\mathbf{q})}{2}\right)}{f_F\left(\beta \frac{(\Omega_{\Phi\mathbf{q}}+\mathbf{q})}{2}\right)} \right] \right] \right]$$

![](_page_54_Figure_1.jpeg)

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

 $N = sterile \ neutrino \ Dark \ Matter$  $\Phi = leptophilic \ Higgs$  $\Psi = charged \ lepton$ 

![](_page_55_Figure_3.jpeg)

*N* can be produced in decays  $\Phi \rightarrow \Psi N$ 

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

 $N = sterile \ neutrino \ Dark \ Matter$  $\Phi = leptophilic \ Higgs$  $\Psi = charged \ lepton$ 

![](_page_56_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_56_Figure_4.jpeg)

*N* can be produced in decays  $\Phi \rightarrow \Psi N$ 

scatterings of  $\Phi$  also contribute to the production

new scalar  $\Phi$  with Yukawa coupling  $y\Phi\bar{\Psi}N$ to charged fermion  $\Psi$  and heavy neutrinos N

*N* = *sterile neutrino Dark Matter* 

 $\Phi = leptophilic Higgs$  $\Psi = charged lepton$ 

![](_page_57_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_58_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_59_Figure_1.jpeg)

#### Heavy Neutrino Dark Matter Summary

![](_page_60_Figure_1.jpeg)

JCAP01(2017)025

#### Important Aspects of Sterile Neutrino DM

#### **Indirect searches**

• radiative decay  $N \rightarrow v\gamma$  gives emission line at M/2

![](_page_61_Picture_3.jpeg)

![](_page_61_Picture_4.jpeg)

- 3.5 keV excess observed, but disputed
- new missions (XRISM, ATHENA, Lynx...)

#### **Structure formation**

Free streaming of DM affects formation of structures at sub-Mpc lengths

- matter power spectrum (Lyman  $\alpha$  forest, 21 cm astronomy, weak lensing)
- # collapsed structures (dwarf galaxy counts, reionisation history; collapsed objects at high-z)
- matter distribution within collapsed objects

![](_page_61_Picture_12.jpeg)

• uncertainties: baryonic feedback, IGM temperature...

#### **Production mechanisms**

Three known production mechanisms:

- thermal production through mixing-suppressed weak interaction (resonant or non-resonant)
- thermal production through new interactions at high energies (e.g. gauge interactions in L-R symm. model)
- decay of heavy particle/field (e.g. inflaton during reheating)

#### Phase space

- fermions are subject to Pauli principle M > 25 eV
- applying this throughout the history of the universe yields Temaine-Gunn bound
- Tremaine-Gunn bound depends on production mechanism, • excludes M < 0.5 keVdisfavours M < 2 keV

![](_page_61_Picture_24.jpeg)