Oscillons and Dark Matter

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Talk based on: J.Ollé, O. Pujolàs, FR; 1906.06352



University of Sussex, 08/07/2019

Outline

- Utra-Light scalar Dark Matter (ULDM)
- Attractive self-interactions
- Oscillon biography
- Observational legacy

Visible structures in the Universe arise as gravitational bound states



r~10 - 100 km



 $r \sim 10^3 - 10^4 \ km$



r~10¹⁰ km~10⁻³ pc



r~10² pc -10 kpc

What we do not see/know

 What is the typical length/mass scale of Dark Matter (DM)?



- Does DM form **bound states**?
- Does DM experience dark forces (i.e. not gravity)?

Small (scale) troubles

- Cold Dark Matter (CDM) paradigm works very well on **cosmological** scales (CMB, LSS, Lyman- α).
- On sub-galactic scales, N-body CDM simulations produce cusps, whereas observations show smooth cores.
- Maybe simple pressureless CDM is not the whole story.

(Pseudo)Scalar Dark Matter



(Pseudo)Scalar Dark Matter

Motivation: simplicity/ strong CP/string axiverse $V(\phi)$

(Pseudo)Scalar Dark Matter









Ultra-Light scalar Dark Matter (ULDM)

• Particle de Broglie wavelength

$$\lambda_{dB} \approx 190 \text{ pc} \left(\frac{100 \text{ km/s}}{v}\right) \left(\frac{10^{-22} \text{ eV}}{m}\right)$$

Galactic-core size for

$$m \sim 10^{-21} \text{ eV} \div 10^{-22} \text{ eV}$$

Fuzzy Dark Matter! Hu, Barkana, Gruzinov '00/.../ Hui, Ostriker, Tremaine Witten '16

Schive, Chiueh, Broadhurst '14



Indistinguishable from CDM on cosmological scales

Schive, Chiueh, Broadhurst '14



Develops cores on sub galactic scales!

Schive, Chiueh, Broadhurst '14



Develops cores on sub galactic scales!

Understanding the core

• Non-relativistic regime

$$\phi(x,t) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2m}} e^{-imt} \psi(x,t) + \text{c.c.}$$

• Solve Schrödinger-Poisson equation

$$i\partial_t \psi = -\frac{1}{2m} \nabla^2 \psi + m \Phi \psi$$
$$\nabla^2 \Phi = 4\pi G |\psi|^2$$

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 Gravity

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Wave pressure Gravity

Solitonic Cores

Bar, Blas, Blum, Sibiryakov '18



Iršič et al./Armengaud et al./Kobayashi et al. `17



from Kobayashi, Murgia, De Simone, Iršič, Viel `17

Deng, Hertzberg, Namjoo, Masoumi `18



For ULDM solitons

$$o_c \sim R_c^{-4}$$

Bar, Blas, Blum, Sibiryakov '18



Soliton + host halo rotation curve



However

- Constraints are derived assuming homogeneous field with cosine potential at matter-radiation (MR) equality.
- Soliton solution obtained neglecting early **attractive self interactions.** see Hertzberg, Schiappacasse '18 for late effects of self interactions
- •ULDM with $m \gtrsim 10^{-21} \text{ eV}$ maybe do not solve core vs cusp, but still very interesting!

In this talk

Implications of self interactions in axion potentials

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DM bound states/inhomogeneities at MR equality!

lot of activity since Kolb, Tkachev '93/'94/...

Implications of attractive self-interactions

Inhomogeneity from axion potentials

• Standard axion potential from gauge (and gravitational?) instantons:

$$V(\phi) \sim \Lambda^4 \left[1 - \cos\left(\frac{\phi}{F}\right) \right]$$

- If PQ symmetry broken after inflation, axion is inhomogeneous from the very beginning due to topological defects (strings and domain walls).
- Initial overdensities lead to *miniclusters*.

Axions with large F

• Ultra-Light Axions (ULAs) usually come with

 $F \gtrsim 10^{14} \text{ GeV} \gtrsim H_{\text{inflation}}$

• Field very likely homogenised by **inflation**!

 $\phi(x,t) = \phi(t) + \delta \phi(t,x) \quad \text{ with } \quad \delta \phi \ll \phi$

However, self-interactions can lead to growth of inhomogeneities!

Hertzberg, Schiappacasse '17 / Fukunaga, Kitajima, Urakawa '19
• Motion of field is periodic. Perturbations obey

$$\delta\ddot{\phi}_k(t) + 3H\delta\dot{\phi}_k(t) + \left(\frac{k^2}{a^2} + V''(\phi)\right)\delta\phi_k(t) = 0$$

• Motion of field is periodic. Perturbations obey

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V" is also periodic — Floquet theory

$$\delta\phi_k(t) \sim e^{\mu_k t} f(t) \quad \blacktriangleleft$$

Instability when $\Re(\mu_k) > 0$

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V" is also periodic ---> Floquet theory

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Instability when $\Re(\mu_k) > 0$

Requires V" > 0, i.e. attractive self-interactions!

Axion potentials

- Parametric Resonance occurs if potential is flatter than quadratic in some region.
- However, not efficient for cosine potential...

Hertzberg, Schiappacasse '17 / Fukunaga, Kitajima, Urakawa '19

 Well motivated possibility from UV point of view: breaking of shift symmetry/multi-branched potential:

$$V(\phi) = \frac{m^2 F^2}{2p} \left[-1 + \left(1 + \frac{\phi^2}{F^2} \right)^p \right]$$

Axion potentials



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Axion potentials



Self-resonance in axion See also Amin, Easther, Finkel, Flauger, Hertzberg '11/... in reheating context



Initial misalignment can be larger than F

Self-resonance in axion See also Amin, Easther, Finkel, Flauger, Hertzberg '11/... in reheating context



Hubble friction changes resonant k, but effect still there.

Oscillon Biography



Chapter I: Birth



from Kitajima, Soda, Urakawa '18

Oscillon birth

 Parametric resonance leaves behind localized, approx spherically symmetric overdensities.
Profile well fitted by

$$\delta\phi\sim rac{A}{\cosh(r/\sigma)}$$

Oscillon birth

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• Configurations keep oscillating in time!

Oscillons

Bogolyubosky, Makhanov '76/ Gleiser '93/Copeland, Gleiser, Muller '95/.../ Hindmarsh et al

Oscillons are **attractor** solution of Klein-Gordon equation in flat spacetime with nonlinear potential (similar to breather of sine-gordon in 1+1).

$$\ddot{\phi}(t,r) - \partial_r^2 \phi(t,r) - \frac{2}{r} \partial_r \phi(t,r) + V'(\phi(t,r)) = 0$$

Oscillons

Bogolyubosky, Makhanov '76/ Gleiser '93/Copeland, Gleiser, Muller '95/.../Hindmarsh





Oscillons are kept together purely by attractive **self-interactions**, **gravity** not involved. see Ikeda, Yoo, Cardoso

'17 for gravity effects

Well-known in **inflationary** models, in connection with late reheating.

Amin, Easther, Finkel, Flauger, Hertzberg '11/.../ Lozanov, Amin '19

Sometimes referred to as **axitons** for QCD axion DM, but in this case they decay soon and/or form very late.

Kolb, Tkachev '93/.../ Visinelli et al. '18

Oscillon ID



Oscillon ID



Chapter II: Lifetime

 Long-lived oscillon is attractor, initial conditions not particularly relevant to estimate lifetime.



Oscillon lifetime

 Oscillon radius is much smaller than Hubble radius at formation, object is essentially **decoupled** from Hubble flow and behaves as DM.



Oscillon lifetime





For small m, oscillon survive until MR equality!

Chapter III: death

Decay occurs via burst of scalar waves with

$$k \sim R_{\rm osc}^{-1} \lesssim m$$



- Potential warm contribution to DM.
- However, overdensity will generically be trapped by its own gravitational potential, leading to mini clusters and/or gravitational solitons.

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Chapter IV: Legacy

Or

Observational Impact

Oscillon independence

- **Before** parametric resonance, will-be DM is made only of parent homogeneous (pseudo)scalar field.
- After parametric resonance

Light scalar quanta/waves _____ Heavy oscillons from misalignment

Observational impact depends on **epoch** at which oscillon decays.

Determined by the lifetime τ , which depends on ${\bf p}$ and ${\bf m}$.



Decay after MR equality

- If decay occurs after MR equality, gravity comes into play. Difficult to understand further evolution (numerical simulations?)
- Single oscillon: does gravity increase stability?
- **Overdensities of oscillons**: they grow and lead to interactions, e.g. mergers, disruptions.
- Oscillon leftovers: gravitational soliton waiting for them at

$$R_{\rm sol} \sim \left(\frac{M_p}{F}\right)^2 R_{\rm osc}$$

Constraints from warm DM?

Not straightforward due to gravity.

Conservative constraint

 $R_{\rm sol} \lesssim H^{-1}(\tau)$

Constraints from warm DM?



Immortal oscillons?

• Can gravity extend lifetime (independently of p)?

• Potentials with p<0: currently only a lower bound ~ $10^9 m^{-1}$ on lifetime.

• Simple fits suggest that lifetime is much larger!

Immortal oscillons?



DM constraints and oscillon masses for

$$p = -1/2$$

Summary

- Attractive self-interactions in the DM sector can lead to bound states/structures.
- Relevant e.g. for ULDM, with/without connection to cusp vs core problem.
- **Self-interactions** can lead to fragmentation of originally homogeneous field.

Summary

- Parametric resonance leads to formation of longlived oscillating bound states (oscillons) in certain well motivated potentials.
- For small masses and/or p<0, oscillons survive until and beyond MR equality!
- Need to take them into account as initial conditions for numerical simulations/analytical studies of ULDM.
Open questions

- Fate of decaying oscillons after MR equality?
 - Effects of **gravity** on oscillons?

Amin, Mocz '19

- Oscillon-to-soliton transition?
- Black hole formation? Cotner, Kusenko, Takhistov '18
- p<0, how to estimate **lifetime**?
- **Signatures** of oscillons/solitons today?

Khmelnitsky, Rubakov '13/De Martino et al. ´17 Thank you!

Gravitational soliton solution

$$M_1 \approx 2.8 \cdot 10^{12} \left(\frac{10^{-22} \text{ eV}}{m}\right) M_{\odot}$$

Fundamental solution

$$R_1 \approx 0.08 \left(\frac{10^{-22} \text{ eV}}{m}\right) \text{ pc}$$

One-parameter family of solutions

$$M_{\lambda} = \lambda M_{1} \qquad \lambda \ll 1$$
$$R_{\lambda} = \lambda^{-1} R_{1}$$

$$M_{\lambda} = M_{\rm osc} \sim \frac{F^2}{m}$$
$$R_{\lambda} \sim \left(\frac{M_p}{F}\right)^2 R_{\rm osc}$$

Matching to oscillon

Decay before MR equality



Signature of ULDM from PTAs



Khmelnitsky, Rubakov '13

Signature of ULDM from PTAs





Solitonic core enhances the signal

What about oscillons?