Asymmetric dark matter with a possible Bose-Einstein condensate

Shakiba HajiSadeghi, S. Smolenski, and J. Wudka

Department of Physics and Astronomy, UC Riverside, Riverside, California 92521-0413, USA

(Received 24 October 2018; published 9 January 2019)

We investigate the properties of a Bose gas with a conserved charge as a dark matter candidate, taking into account the restrictions imposed by relic abundance, direct and indirect detection limits, big-bang nucleosynthesis and large scale structure formation constraints. We consider both the WIMP-like scenario of dark matter masses $\gtrsim 1$ GeV, and the small mass scenario, with masses $\lesssim 10^{-11}$ eV. We determine the conditions for the presence of a Bose-Einstein condensate at early times, and at the present epoch.

DOI: 10.1103/PhysRevD.99.023514

I. INTRODUCTION

Understanding the nature of dark matter (DM) remains one of the most pressing contemporary issues in astroparticle physics and cosmology. To date, all DM properties have been inferred from its gravitational effects [1]; other probes, such as direct [2–5] and indirect [6–8] detection experiments and LHC measurements [9] have produced only limits. These constraints have led to a significant shrinkage of the allowed parameter space in many theoretically favored models [10–12], and this has spurred interest in alternative models involving dark sectors of varied complexity [13–18].

A large number of models for DM assume a dark sector that contains one or more dark scalars, which in some cases are the main contributors to the relic abundance required by the CMB experiments [19]. Having such scalar relics opens the possibility of such particles undergoing a transition to a Bose-condensed phase; in fact, a variety of models of this kind have been studied in the literature. In some cases the condensate can appear only in the nonrelativistic regime, as it happens in axion [20–26] and axionlike [27–51] models, where the scalars are assumed to be extremely light. The effects of a Bose-Einstein condensate (BEc) in such cases have been studied extensively in cosmology [27-41,44, 52–56] and in astrophysics [42–51], especially in the context of galactic dynamics, where quantum effects of these very light scalars address the cusp vs core [57] and "too big to fail" [58] problems when the scalar mass is $\sim O(10^{-22})$ eV (though simulations including both baryonic and Bose-gas components are still lacking). Recently, the authors of Ref. [59] investigated the effects of these light bosons on the Lyman α forest and gave a *lower* bound on the scalar mass $\gtrsim O(10^{-20})$ eV that excludes the favored mass range, though this result is still being debated [60].

A prerequisite for the possible appearance of a BEc is the existence of a conserved charge, which is associated with a chemical potential. The simplest model of this type involves a single complex scalar field χ , and a U(1)symmetry,

$$\chi \to e^{i\alpha}\chi, \qquad (\alpha = \text{const.})$$
 (1)

that leads to the required conservation law. Models without an exact conservation law can still exhibit a BEc, but only in the nonrelativistic regime, where particle number plays the role of a conserved charge; in these cases the condensate necessarily disappears as the temperature approaches the particle mass. In contrast, the presence or absence of a condensate in models with a conserved charge is determined by the temperature and density of the gas, in particular, relativistic gases of this sort can condense if the density is sufficiently high.

In this paper we will study several aspects of a dark matter model that obeys Eq. (1) in a flat, homogeneous and isotropic universe. The thermodynamic parameters then will include the corresponding chemical potential¹ μ assumed to be non-vanishing. The condition $\mu \neq 0$ presupposes the presence of a primordial charge whose possible origin we will not discuss in this paper. We will consider two mass regions for the mass $m_{\rm be}$ of the DM particle: (i) $m_{\rm be} \ge 1$ GeV where the behavior in many situations is WIMP-like; and (ii) $m_{\rm be} \le 2 \times 10^{-11}$ eV where the gas can exhibit a condensate at the present epoch.

Published by the American Physical Society under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license. Further distribution of this work must maintain attribution to the author(s) and the published article's title, journal citation, and DOI. Funded by SCOAP³.

¹The explicit definition of μ is given in Eq. (3) below; in the non-relativistic regime it is customary to define a shifted quantity $\mu' = \mu - m_{be}$ so that condensation corresponds to the condition $\mu' = 0$.

The model we consider has then the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = |\partial \chi|^2 - m_{\rm be}^2 |\chi|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\rm be} |\chi|^4 + \epsilon |\chi|^2 |\phi|^2 + \mathcal{L}_{\rm sm}, \qquad (2)$$

where ϕ denotes the SM scalar isodoublet and the last term represents the standard model Lagrangian; all standard model particles are invairaint under Eq. (1). We assume throughout that the model is in the perturbative regime and that the BE field does not acquire a vacuum expectation value. If the Higgs potential takes the form $\lambda_{\rm sm}(|\phi| - v^2)^2/2$, we require (i) $\epsilon > -\sqrt{\lambda_{\rm be}\lambda_{\rm sm}}$ to ensure (tree-level) stability; (ii) $(m_{\rm be}/v)^2 > \epsilon$ so that $\langle \chi \rangle = 0$, $\langle \phi \rangle \neq 0$; and (iii) $4\pi \gtrsim \lambda_{\rm sm}, \lambda_{\rm be} > 0$, so that the model remains perturbative.

This is a simple extension of the usual Higgs-portal models that involve a real scalar field. Various cosmological aspects of this type of model have been studied [27–41,44], with emphasis on the low mass regime. Here we will be interested in a much wider range of masses, on the relic abundance and direct detection of dark matter, and in studying the conditions under which a BEc can occur. We work to $O(\lambda_{be})$: though radiative effects are small in most cases (especially in the nonrelativistic regime), they play an important role when obtaining the conditions for the presence of a BEc in the early universe (Sec. II) and in deriving the restrictions from big-bang nucleosynthesis when the DM is very light (Sec. VI).

In the usual Higgs-portal models [61,62], for a given choice of DM mass, the relic abundance and direct detection constraints impose, respectively, lower and upper limits on the DM self coupling constant, and these limits are consistent only in a restricted range of masses (55 GeV < m_{be} < 62 GeV or m_{be} > 400 GeV) [63]; in particular, light masses are excluded. The model Eq. (2) sidesteps some of these constraints because the relic abundance depends on the mass m_{be} , the portal coupling ϵ and μ ; the possibility of adjusting the chemical potential relaxes the constraints on the first two parameters (the more severe restrictions found in the simplest Higgs-portal models reappear if one requires $\mu = 0$).

The BE gas may or may not be in equilibrium with the SM. This is determined by the strength of the coupling ϵ in Eq. (2) and by the rate of expansion of the universe. As long as the gas and the SM are in equilibrium, they will have the same temperature; when the gas and SM are not in equilibrium they can have different temperatures, but even then the gas will be in equilibrium with *itself* and behave as a regular statistical system. In most publications the relic abundance is calculated using the Boltzmann equation to determine the DM abundance through the decoupling era and into the late universe. We will follow a different approach based on the Kubo formalism [64,65] that can be used to describe the decoupling of two statistical systems; since the Bose gas remains a statistical system.

after decoupling such an approach is desirable. For the relic abundance calculation we will use the naive criterion, where decoupling occurs when the interaction rate falls below the Hubble parameter. We do this for simplicity, but also because the presence of a chemical potential allows us to adjust the relic abundance to the experimentally required value, so the full calculation using the kinetics of a Bose gas is not warranted.

The rest of the paper is organized as follows: in the next section we discuss the cosmology of a Bose gas to first order² in λ_{be} and discuss some aspects of the conditions under which a condensate is present. We next consider relic abundance and the decoupling transition (Sec. IV) and direct detection (Sec. V) in the WIMP regime. We discuss the low-mass scenario in Sec. VI, including constraints from large scale structure formation and big-bang nucleosynthesis. Section VII contains parting comments and conclusions, while the Appendices involve some formulas used in the text.

II. COSMOLOGY WITH A BOSE GAS

As mentioned in the introduction, we will consider the behavior of a Bose gas in an expanding universe, including the possibility that a Bose-Einstein condensate (BEc) may be present in some epoch. We will assume that the rate of expansion of the universe is sufficiently slow that the gas will be in local thermodynamic equilibrium.³ To zeroth order in λ_{be} [defined in Eq. (2)] the thermodynamics quantities correspond to the well-known expressions for an ideal Bose gas [66]. The $O(\lambda_{be})$ can be obtained using standard perturbative methods; we summarize the results in Appendix A. In the calculations below we neglect the $O(\epsilon)$ contributions [cf. (A5)], where ϵ is the portal coupling [cf. Eq. (2)] since they are subdominant for the range of parameters being considered in this section: $m_{be} \lesssim m_{H}$ and $|\epsilon| \lesssim \lambda_{be}$ (see Appendix A).

The occupation numbers for particles and antiparticles are given by

$$n_{\rm be}^{+} = (e^{(E-\mu)/T} - 1)^{-1} = \left(e^{x(\sqrt{u^{2}+1}-\varpi)} - 1\right)^{-1};$$

$$x = \frac{m_{\rm be}}{T}, \qquad \varpi = \frac{\mu}{m_{\rm be}}.$$

$$n_{\rm be}^{-} = (e^{(E+\mu)/T} - 1)^{-1} = \left(e^{x(\sqrt{u^{2}+1}+\varpi)} - 1\right)^{-1}, \qquad (3)$$

where $E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^2 + m^2}$ and $u = |\mathbf{p}|/m_{\text{be}}$. Defining [see Eq. (A7)]

$$\delta = \frac{\mu^2 - m_{\rm be}^2}{\lambda_{\rm be}}, \quad \mathbb{F} = 2 \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^3 2E} [n_{\rm be}^+ + n_{\rm be}^-]_{\mu = m_{\rm be}}, \quad (4)$$

²See Appendix A for a summary of the perturbative expansion. ³This is discussed in detail in [40].

the phase transition line is given by

$$\delta = \mathbb{F}.$$
 (5)

A condensate will not form if $\mu^2 < m_{be}^2 + \lambda_{be} \mathbb{F}$; when $\lambda_{be} = 0$ this reduces to the well-known result that a condensate is present only if $|\mu| = m_{be}$.

The conserved charge associated with the symmetry of Eq. (1) is given by

$$q_{be} = q_{be}^{(c)} + q_{be}^{(e)}$$

= $q_{be}^{(c)} + m_{be}{}^{3}\nu_{be};$
 $\nu_{be} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{duu^{2}}{2\pi^{2}}(n_{be}^{+} - n_{be}^{-}) + O(\lambda_{be}),$ (6)

where $q_{be}^{(e,c)}$ are the charge densities in the excited states and in the condensate (if present). Without loss of generality we will assume $q_{be}^{(c)} \ge 0$; if there is a condensate then $\mu > 0$.

The entropy and energy densities for the Bose gas are given by

$$s_{be} = m_{be}{}^{3}\sigma_{be};$$

$$\sigma_{be} = \int_{0}^{\infty} \frac{duu^{2}}{2\pi^{2}} \sum_{n=n_{be}^{\pm}} [(1+n)\ln(1+n) - n\ln n] + O(\lambda_{be}),$$

 $\rho_{\rm be} = q_{\rm be}\mu + Ts_{\rm be} - P_{\rm be}$

$$= m_{\rm be} q_{\rm be}^{(c)} + m_{\rm be}{}^4 r_{\rm be};$$

$$r_{\rm be} = \int_0^\infty \frac{du u^2}{2\pi^2} \sqrt{u^2 + 1} (n_{\rm be}^+ + n_{\rm be}^-) + O(\lambda_{\rm be}).$$
(7)

The $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections are given in Eqs. (A10) and (A12), and though we will use them in the calculations below, they are not displayed so as not to clutter the above expressions.

The standard model energy and entropy densities are approximately given by [67]

$$\rho_{\rm sm} = \frac{\pi^2}{30} T^4 g_\star(T), \qquad s_{\rm sm} = \frac{2\pi^2}{45} T^3 g_{\star s}(T), \qquad (8)$$

where

$$g_{\star}(T) \simeq \sum_{\text{bosons}} g_i \left(\frac{T_i}{T}\right)^4 \theta(T - m_i) + \frac{7}{8} \sum_{\text{fermions}} g_i \left(\frac{T_i}{T}\right)^4 \theta(T - m_i), g_{\star s}(T) \simeq \sum_{\text{bosons}} g_i \left(\frac{T_i}{T}\right)^3 \theta(T - m_i) + \frac{7}{8} \sum_{\text{fermions}} g_i \left(\frac{T_i}{T}\right)^3 \theta(T - m_i),$$
(9)

where g_i denotes the number of internal degrees of freedom, and T_i the temperature for each particle; we assumed a zero chemical potential for the SM particles.

In the discussion below we repeatedly use the fact that when the SM and Bose gas are in equilibrium with each other the ratio $q_{\rm be}/s_{\rm tot}$ is conserved, where $s_{\rm tot} = s_{\rm be} + s_{\rm sm}$ is the total entropy. When the SM and Bose gas are not in equilibrium with each other the ratios $q_{\rm be}/s_{\rm sm}$ and $s_{\rm be}/s_{\rm sm}$ are separately conserved (in this case $q_{\rm be}/s_{\rm tot}$ is also conserved, but it is not independent of these quantities).

III. THE BOSE-EINSTEIN CONDENSATE

As noted above, whether the SM and gas are in equilibrium with each other or not, the ratio Y

$$Y = \frac{q_{\rm be}}{s_{\rm tot}} \tag{10}$$

is conserved [though the (*e*) and (*c*) contributions in general are not]. A condensate will be present whenever the total charge cannot be accommodated in the excited states, that is, when $Y > Y^{(e)}$:

$$q_{be}^{(c)} \neq 0 \text{ if } Y > Y^{(e)} = \frac{\nu_{be}}{\sigma_{be} + s_{sm}/m_{be}{}^3}\Big|_{\delta = \mathbb{F}}.$$
 (11)

Now, since $s_{\rm sm} > 0$, we have the following inequality:

$$Y^{(e)} < \frac{\nu_{\mathrm{be}}}{\sigma_{\mathrm{be}}} \bigg|_{\delta = \mathbb{F}} < \frac{\nu_{\mathrm{be}}}{\sigma_{\mathrm{be}}} \bigg|_{\delta = \mathbb{F}, T \to 0} = \frac{\zeta_{3/2}}{(5/2)\zeta_{5/2}} \simeq 0.78.$$
(12)

Therefore, a condensate will be always present if Y > 0.78.

The behavior of $Y^{(e)}$ for various choices of m_{be} and λ_{be} is given in Fig. 1. For large temperatures⁴ and $\lambda_{be} = 0$, $\nu_{be}/s_{be} \sim 1/T$ [cf. Eq. (A14)] since the leading particle and antiparticle contributions to ν_{be} in Eq. (6) cancel; it follows that $Y^{(e)}(\lambda_{be} = 0) \rightarrow 0$ as $T \rightarrow \infty$, in particular, in an ideal gas a condensate would always be present at sufficiently high temperatures⁵ [68]. This behavior changes when $\lambda_{be} \neq 0$: $Y^{(e)}$ has an m_{be} -dependent minimum,⁶ so that a self-interacting BE gas with a sufficiently small Y will never condense. If the behavior of $Y^{(e)}$ to $O(\lambda_{be})$ is indicative of the exact result, then $Y^{(e)}$ diverges as $x \rightarrow 0$ and the condensate will disappear for sufficiently high temperatures, this is discussed further in Appendix A.

To clarify this behavior note that in an expanding universe both the (comoving) volume and temperature

⁴The Bose gas entropy and charge are not exponentially suppressed as $T \to 0$ when $|\mu| = m_{be} + O(\lambda_{be})$.

³This holds whether the SM and Bose gas are in equilibrium or not.

⁶For a discussion of the validity of our expressions in this region see Appendix A.



FIG. 1. Plot of the Bose charge in the excited states per entropy when $\lambda_{be} = 0.5$ (solid curves) and $\lambda_{be} = 0$ (dashed curves) and for two mass values and $m_{be} = 10$ GeV (black curves) $m_{be} = 10^{-12}$ eV (gray curves); the dotted line corresponds to the bound in Eq. (12). For illustration purposes we assumed the Bose gas and the SM have the same temperature. The discontinuities are caused by the step functions in Eq. (9) and $x = m_{be}/T$ [cf. Eq. (3)].

change with a, the distance scale in the Robertson-Walker metric, with $T \to \infty$ as $a \to 0$: a contracting comoving volume accompanies an increasing temperature. There are then two competing effects on the Bose gas: the reduction of volume favors the formation of the condensate, while the increase in temperature tends to destroy it; the above results indicate that when $\lambda_{be} = 0$ the volume effect dominates. When $\lambda_{be} \neq 0$ a third effects comes into play: the repulsive force generated by the Bose gas self-interactions, which gives rise to the nonmonotonic behavior of $Y^{(e)}$.

Because of the exact U(1) symmetry of the dark sector, the presence of this condensate does not require the gas to be nonrelativistic (in which case q_{be} is equals particle number). We will see later (see Sec. VI) that experimental constraints allow for the condensate to persist to the present day only if m_{be} is in the pico-eV range; for WIMP scenarios ($m_{be} \gtrsim 1$ GeV) the condensate disappears already in the very early universe.

A. Conditions for a BEc at decoupling

We will show below that for WIMP-like masses $(m_{\rm be} \gtrsim 1 \text{ GeV})$ the gas and SM decouple at a temperature T_d , at which point the gas will be nonrelativistic; it then follows that it will also be nonrelativistic at present. In the nonrelativistic limit the $O(\lambda_{\rm be})$ corrections to the expressions below can be ignored since they are smaller than the $O(T/m_{\rm be})$ relativistic corrections [see Eq. (A13) and surrounding discussion in Appendix A]. Then

$$\frac{q_{\rm be}}{s_{\rm sm}} \simeq \frac{1}{m_{\rm be}} \frac{\rho_{\rm DM}}{s_{\rm sm}} = \frac{0.4 \text{ eV}}{m_{\rm be}} \quad (T < T_d),$$
 (13)

where we used the known value of the SM entropy now, and the fact that for a nonrelativistic gas $\rho_{\rm DM} = m_{\rm be}q_{\rm be}$; as noted in Sec. II, the left-hand side of Eq. (13) is conserved below T_d .

This can be used to determine whether a BEc would have been present when $T = T_d$: a condensate is present if

$$\frac{q_{\rm be}(T_d)}{(m_{\rm be}T_d)^{3/2}} > \frac{\zeta_{3/2}}{(2\pi)^{3/2}} \simeq 0.166. \tag{14}$$

using Eq. (13) to eliminate $q_{be}(T_d)$ and Eq. (8) for the SM entropy, this implies

$$\frac{T_d^{3/2}}{m_{\rm be}^{5/2}}g_{\star \rm s}(T_d) > \frac{1}{1.06 \ {\rm eV}}. \tag{15}$$

whence, since for a nonrelativistic gas $m_{be} > T_d$, and since $g_{\star s} < 106.75$, we find (using 3σ errors)

$$m_{\rm be} < 1.3 \text{ keV}.$$
 (16)

A condensate can occur at decoupling only for light Bose particles, which can be difficult to accommodate phenomenologically (cf. Sec. VI).

B. Conditions for a BEc to exist at present

Before proceeding with the calculation of the cross section relevant for direct detection, we study the possibility that the Bose gas supports a condensate at present. To this end we note first that a nonrelativistic Bose gas will have a condensate provided $q_{be}(m_{be}T)^{-3/2} > \zeta_{3/2}(2\pi)^{-3/2}$, see Eq. (14); denoting the current gas temperature by T_{now} it follows that a condensate will be currently present if

$$\left(\frac{0.0215 \text{ eV}}{m_{\text{be}}}\right)^{5/3} {}^{o}\mathrm{K} > T_{\text{now}}.$$
 (17)

We now use the fact that the conservation of s_{be}/s_{sm} allows us to obtain a relation between T_{now} and the decoupling temperature T_d . Noting that the gas is non relativistic at T_d , and that a condensate at T_{now} implies a condensate was also present at T_d (see Sec. II), we find

$$\frac{4.3 \ ^{o}\mathrm{K}}{g_{\star s} (T_d)^{1/3}} = \sqrt{T_d T_{\mathrm{now}}},\tag{18}$$

where we used Eqs. (7) and (8). Combining this with Eq. (17) and using Eq. (A15),

$$[g_{\star s}(T_d)]^{2/3}T_d \gtrsim \left(\frac{m_{\rm be}}{0.009 \text{ eV}}\right)^{5/3} {}^o\mathrm{K},$$
 (19)

and since $m_{be} > T_d$, this gives

$$9.5g_{\star s}(T_d) \text{ eV} \gtrsim m_{be} \Rightarrow 88 \text{ eV} > m_{be}.$$
 (20)

It follows that a WIMP-like Bose gas will not exhibit a condensate at the present era^7 (nonetheless, for completeness we include in Appendix B the expressions for the cross section when a condensate does occur). The case of a light Bose gas with a condensate will be considered in Sec. VI.

C. The BEc transition temperature

For WIMP-like masses we will show (Sec. IV) that the SM and Bose gas will be in equilibrium down to a decoupling temperature T_d . Below T_d the ratios q_{be}/s_{sm} and s_{be}/s_{sm} will be separately conserved, above T_d only q_{be}/s_{tot} is conserved. We will also show that in this case the gas was nonrelativistic at $T = T_d$ and that the relic abundance constraint reduces to the simple relation $q_{be} = 0.4 \text{ eV}(s_{sm}/m_{be})$ [cf. Eq. (13)]. Combining these results we find that the temperature T_{BEc} at which the condensate forms (the same for the gas and SM since $T_{BEc} > T_d$) is given by

$$[2 + g_{\star s}(T_{\rm BEc})]T_{\rm BEc} = \frac{15}{2\pi^2} \left[\frac{5}{2} - \ln z_d + \frac{m_{\rm be}}{0.4 \text{ eV}} \right] m_{\rm be}$$

$$\Rightarrow T_{\rm BEc} \simeq m_{\rm be}^2 \frac{1.9 \text{ eV}^{-1}}{g_{\star s}(T_{\rm BEc}) + 2}, \qquad (21)$$

where⁸ $z = \exp[(\varpi - 1)x]$, and we used the fact that $|\ln z| \ll m_{be}/(0.4 \text{ eV})$ for all cases being considered. As noted previously, the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections can be ignored in these calculations; the subscript *d* denotes a quantity at decoupling.

For example, $T_{\rm BEc} \sim 10^7$ GeV if $m_{\rm be} \sim 1$ GeV and $g_{\star}(T_{\rm BEc}) \sim 100$ (though, of course, the number of relativistic degrees of freedom at these high temperatures may be much higher); while $T_{\rm BEc} \sim 1.75$ TeV if $g_{\star}(T_{\rm BEc}) = 106.75$ and $m_{\rm be} \sim 10$ MeV. It is worth noting that for the WIMP-like scenario, the condensate, should it form, would hold a small fraction of the total energy density of the gas: using Eqs. (A14) and (A15) and the above conservation laws we find,

$$\frac{m_{\rm be}q_{\rm be}}{\rho_{\rm be}}\Big|_{T>T_{\rm BEc}} = \frac{2 + g_{\star s}(T) - (5/\pi^2)Ax}{2 + g_{\star s}(T) + Ax^{-1}},$$
$$A = \frac{3}{2} \left[\frac{5}{2} - \ln z + \frac{m_{\rm be}}{0.4 \text{ eV}}\right] \simeq \frac{m_{\rm be}}{0.27 \text{ eV}}$$
(22)

$$\simeq (0.27 \text{ eV}) \frac{2 + g_{\star s}(T)}{T}$$

for $x \ll 0.4 \text{ eV}/m_{\text{be}}.$ (23)

So in the early universe $Y^{(e)} \rightarrow 0$ but $\rho(e)_{be}/\rho_{be} \rightarrow 1$: the charge resides mainly in the condensate, but the energy is carried mainly by the excited states.

For an ultralight DM ($m_{be} \sim 10^{-12}$ eV) the situation is completely different. We discuss this in Sec. VI.

IV. RELIC ABUNDANCE

In obtaining the relic abundance we will follow an approximate method that will not involve solving the Boltzmann equation. Instead we imagine the Bose gas and the SM to be in equilibrium at some early time and describe their decoupling using the Kubo formalism [64]. As we see below, the BE gas will be non-relativistic, so that in this section the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections can be ignored (see Appendix A).

The total Hamiltonian for the system is of the form

$$H = H_{\rm sm} + H_{\rm be} - H', \quad H' = -\epsilon \int d^3 x \mathcal{O}_{\rm sm} \mathcal{O}_{\rm be}, \quad (24)$$

where $\mathcal{O}_{\rm sm} = |\phi|^2 \mathcal{O}_{\rm be} = |\chi|^2$ and ϵ is defined in Eq. (2). Using the same arguments as in [65], we find that the temperature difference (and hence a lack of equilibrium) between the SM and Bose gas obeys

$$\dot{\vartheta} + 4\mathbb{H}\vartheta = -\Gamma\vartheta; \qquad \vartheta = T_{\rm be} - T_{\rm sm}, \qquad (25)$$

where \mathbb{H} is the Hubble parameter. This expression is valid when $\vartheta \ll T_{\text{be,sm}}$, so the width Γ can be evaluated at the (almost) common temperature *T*. We use this expression to define the temperature T_d at which the SM and Bose gas decouple by the standard condition [67]

$$T = T_d \Rightarrow \Gamma = \mathbb{H}.$$
 (26)

Explicitly we have [65],

$$\Gamma = \left(\frac{1}{c_{\rm be}} + \frac{1}{c_{\rm sm}}\right) \frac{\epsilon^2 G}{T},\tag{27}$$

where $c_{\rm sm}$, $c_{\rm be}$ denote the heat capacities per unit volume, T the common temperature, and

$$G = \int_{0}^{\beta} ds \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \int d^{3} \mathbf{x} \langle \mathcal{O}_{\rm BE}(-is, \mathbf{x}) \dot{\mathcal{O}}_{\rm BE}(t, \mathbf{0}) \rangle \\ \times \langle \mathcal{O}_{\rm SM}(-is, \mathbf{x}) \dot{\mathcal{O}}_{\rm SM}(t, \mathbf{0}) \rangle.$$
(28)

⁷Since the gas is again nonrelativistic the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections to the above expressions can be ignored; see Eq. (A13).

⁸It follows from Eq. (A15) and the conservation laws that z is constant below T_d for a nonrelativistic gas without a condensate.

The heat capacities are given by

$$c_{\rm sm} = \frac{4\pi^2}{30} T^3 g_{\star s};$$

$$c_{\rm be} = \left(\frac{m_{\rm be}T}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} \times \begin{cases} (15/4) \text{Li}_{5/2}(1) & (\text{BEc}), \\ (15/4) \text{Li}_{5/2}(z) - (9/4) [\text{Li}_{3/2}(z)]^2 / \text{Li}_{1/2}(z) & (\text{no BEc}), \end{cases}$$
(29)

where Li denotes the polylogarithmic function, and $z = \exp[(\mu - m_{be})/T]$.

A. Evaluation of G

In the presence of a condensate we follow [69] and write $\chi = [(A_1 + C) + iA_2]/\sqrt{2}$, where $A_{1,2}$ denote the fields and C the condensate amplitude. We also assume that decoupling occurs below the electroweak phase transition so that $|\phi|^2 = (v + h)^2/2$, where v is the SM vacuum expectation value, and h the Higgs field. Substituting in Eq. (28) we find, after an appropriate renormalization,

$$G_{\rm BEc} = \left[v^2 C^2 G_{2-2} + \frac{1}{4} C^2 G_{2-4} + \frac{1}{4} v^2 G_{4-2} + \frac{1}{16} G_{4-4} \right]_{\mu=m_{\rm bc}},$$
(30)

where

$$G_{2-2} = \int_{0}^{\beta} ds \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left\langle A_{1}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dA_{1}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle \left\langle h(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dh(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle,$$

$$G_{2-4} = \int_{0}^{\beta} ds \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left\langle A_{1}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dA_{1}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle \left\langle h^{2}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dh^{2}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle,$$

$$G_{4-2} = \int_{0}^{\beta} ds \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left\langle \mathbf{A}^{2}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{d\mathbf{A}^{2}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle \left\langle h(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dh(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle,$$

$$G_{4-4} = \int_{0}^{\beta} ds \int_{0}^{\infty} dt \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left\langle \mathbf{A}^{2}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{d\mathbf{A}^{2}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle \left\langle h^{2}(-is,\mathbf{x}) \frac{dh^{2}(t,\mathbf{0})}{dt} \right\rangle.$$
(31)

In the absence of a condensate we have

$$G_{\rm BEc} = \frac{1}{4} v^2 G_{4-2} + \frac{1}{16} G_{4-4}, \tag{32}$$

 $(G_{\text{BEc}} \text{ denotes the expression for } G \text{ in the absence of a condensate})$ evaluated at a chemical potential $|\mu| < m_{\text{be}}$.

We evaluate the G_{n-m} using the standard Feynman rules for the real-time formalism of finite-temperature field theory (see e.g., [70]) and the propagators derived in Sec. A. The calculation is straightforward but tedious; to simplify the expressions we use the following shortcuts:

$$E = E_{\mathbf{k}}, \qquad E' = E_{\mathbf{k}'}, \qquad \bar{E} = \bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}}, \qquad \bar{E}' = \bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}'}, n_{\mathrm{H}} = n_{\mathrm{H}}(E_{\mathbf{k}}), \qquad n'_{\mathrm{H}} = n_{\mathrm{H}}(E_{\mathbf{k}'}), \qquad n^{\pm}_{\mathrm{be}} = n^{\pm}_{\mathrm{be}}(\bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}}), \qquad n^{\pm}_{\mathrm{be}'} = n^{\pm}_{\mathrm{be}}(\bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}'}),$$
(33)

and

$$d\tilde{\mathbf{k}} = \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{2E_{\mathbf{k}}(2\pi)^3}, \qquad d\tilde{\mathbf{q}} = \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{2\bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}}(2\pi)^3}; \tag{34}$$

where

$$E_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{m_{\rm H}^2 + \mathbf{k}^2}, \qquad \bar{E}_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{m_{\rm be}^2 + \mathbf{q}^2}; \qquad n_{\rm be}^{(\pm)}(\bar{E}) = [e^{\beta(\bar{E}\mp\mu)} - 1]^{-1}, \tag{35}$$

and $m_{\rm H}$ denotes the Higgs mass.

Then the G_{n-m} (for arbitrary μ) are given by

(i) G_{4-4}

$$G_{4-4} = 16\pi\beta \int d\tilde{\mathbf{k}} d\tilde{\mathbf{k}}' d\tilde{\mathbf{q}} d\tilde{\mathbf{q}}' (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)} (\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}' + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q}') \mathcal{G}_{4-4};$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{4-4} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + n_{\rm H}) (1 + n'_{\rm H}) n_{\rm be}^+ n_{\rm be}^- ' \delta (E + E' - \bar{E} - \bar{E}') (E + E')^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 + n_{\rm be}^+) (1 + n_{\rm be}^-) n_{\rm H} n'_{\rm H} \delta (E + E' - \bar{E} - \bar{E}') (E + E')^2 + (1 + n_{\rm H}) (1 + n_{\rm be}^+) n'_{\rm H} n_{\rm be}^+ \delta (E + \bar{E} - E' - \bar{E}') (E - E')^2 + (1 + n_{\rm H}) (1 + n_{\rm be}^-) n'_{\rm H} n_{\rm be}^- ' \delta (E + \bar{E} - E' - \bar{E}') (E - E')^2, \qquad (36)$$

where the 4 terms represent the processes $hh \leftrightarrow \chi \chi^{\dagger}$, $h\chi \rightarrow h\chi$ and $h\chi^{\dagger} \rightarrow h\chi^{\dagger}$ respectively; the factors of 1/2 are due to Bose statistics.

(ii) *G*₂₋₄

$$G_{2-4} = 2\pi\beta \int d\tilde{\mathbf{k}} d\tilde{\mathbf{k}}' d\tilde{\mathbf{q}} (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)} (\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{k}' + \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{G}_{2-4};$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2-4} = \frac{1}{2} (1 + n_{\rm H}) (1 + n'_{\rm H}) n_{\rm be}^- \delta(E + E' - \bar{E} - m_{\rm be}) (E + E')^2 + \frac{1}{2} (1 + n_{\rm be}^-) n_{\rm H} n'_{\rm H} \delta(E + E' - \bar{E} - m_{\rm be}) (E + E')^2 + (1 + n_{\rm H}) n'_{\rm H} n_{\rm be}^+ \delta(E + m_{\rm be} - E' - \bar{E}) (E - E')^2 + (1 + n_{\rm H}) (1 + n_{\rm be}^+) n'_{\rm H} \delta(E + \bar{E} - E' - m_{\rm be}) (E - E')^2,$$
(37)

these 4 terms represent the processes hh ↔ Cχ[†] and hC ↔ hχ, where C corresponds to a particle in the condensate (mass m_{be} and zero momentum); the factors of 1/2 are due to Bose statistics.
(iii) G₄₋₂

$$G_{2-4} = 4\pi\beta \int d\tilde{\mathbf{k}} d\tilde{\mathbf{q}} d\tilde{\mathbf{q}}'(2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q} + \mathbf{q}') \mathcal{G}_{4-2};$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{4-2} = [(1 + n_{\rm be}^+)(1 + n_{\rm be}^{-\prime})n_{\rm H} + (1 + n_{\rm H})n_{\rm be}^+ n_{\rm be}^{-\prime}] E^2 \delta(\bar{E} + \bar{E}' - E), \qquad (38)$$

these 2 terms represent the processes $h \leftrightarrow \chi \chi^{\dagger}$. (iv) G_{2-2}

$$G_{2-2} = \frac{1}{2}\pi\beta \int d\tilde{\mathbf{k}} d\tilde{\mathbf{q}} (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}) \mathcal{G}_{2-2};$$

$$\mathcal{G}_{2-2} = [(1+n_{\rm H})n_{\rm be}^- + (1+n_{\rm be}^-)n_{\rm H}(E)] E^2 \delta(E-m_{\rm be} - \bar{E}),$$
(39)

these 2 terms represent the processes $h \leftrightarrow C\chi^{\dagger}$. In the nonrelativistic limit, where $m_{be}, m_{H} \gg T$ we find⁹

$$\begin{split} G_{2-2}^{(\mathrm{NR})} \Big|_{\mu=m_{\mathrm{be}}} &\simeq \frac{m_{\mathrm{H}}}{r\sqrt{(2\pi)^{3}_{\mathrm{X}}}} \frac{2u_{\Gamma}e^{-2x}}{u_{\Gamma}^{2} + (r^{2} - 4)^{2}}; \\ G_{2-4}^{(\mathrm{NR})} \Big|_{\mu=m_{\mathrm{be}}} &\simeq \left(\frac{m_{\mathrm{H}}}{2\pi r^{\mathrm{X}}}\right)^{3} \left[2r^{2}x^{2}\rho K_{1}(\rho) + \zeta_{3}\left(\frac{(r+1)^{2}}{4r}\right) \right] e^{-rx}; \\ G_{4-2}^{(\mathrm{NR})} &\simeq \left(\frac{m_{\mathrm{H}}}{2\pi}\right)^{3} \frac{4}{x^{2}r^{3}} \left[e^{-rx}\sqrt{\pi \left(\frac{rx}{2}\right)^{3} \left(\frac{r^{2}}{4} - 1\right)} \theta(r-2) + \frac{\mathrm{Li}_{3/2}(z)}{z} \frac{2u_{\Gamma}e^{-2x}}{u_{\Gamma}^{2} + (r^{2} - 4)^{2}} \right]; \\ G_{4-4}^{(\mathrm{NR})} &\simeq \frac{1}{16} \frac{m_{\mathrm{H}}^{5}}{r^{3}(1+r)^{7/2}} \left(\frac{2}{\pi x}\right)^{9/2} e^{-rx} \left(z + \frac{1}{z}e^{-2x}\right), \end{split}$$
(40)

 $^{{}^{9}}G_{2-2,2-4}$ contribute only when there is condensate, so we evaluate then them only for $\mu = m_{be}$; the expressions for $G_{4-2,4-4}$ are valid for all μ .

where K_1 , ζ_3 and Li denote the usual Bessel, zeta and polylogarithmic functions, and we defined

$$r = \frac{m_{\rm H}}{m_{\rm be}}, \qquad \rho = \frac{4r|r-1|x}{\sqrt{2(r^2+1)}}, u_{\Gamma} = r^2 \frac{\Gamma_{\rm sm}}{m_{\rm H}}, \qquad z = e^{\beta(\mu-m_{\rm be})}.$$
(41)

Before continuing it is worth pointing out a slight difference between the expression for Γ derived from Eqs. (28) and (27), and the corresponding expression usually found in the literature (see e.g., [67]): Equation (27) describes the energy transfer between the SM and the Bose gas, which leads to the $(E \pm E')^2$ factors in Eqs. (36)–(39). As a result Γ in Eq. (27) has a factor $\sim (\text{mass}/T)^2$ compared to the usual expressions, which determine the change in the DM particle number. Because of this the decoupling temperature obtained from Eq. (26) will be somewhat higher than usual; this difference, however, is not significant given that the criterion Eq. (26) itself is not sharply defined.

B. The decoupling temperature

For a non-relativistic at $T = T_d$, we have from Eq. (13)

$$\frac{0.4 \,\text{eV}}{m_{\text{be}}} s_{\text{sm}}(T_d) \simeq 2 \left(\frac{m_{\text{be}} T_d}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} \cosh(\mu/T_d) e^{-m_{\text{be}}/T_d}.$$
 (42)

We will use this expression to eliminate μ in Eq. (26); in doing this we implement the requirement that the Bose gas generates the correct DM relic abundance.¹⁰

Using then Eq. (42) to eliminate μ , the condition $\Gamma = \mathbb{H}$ in Eq. (26) provides a relation between T_d , m_{be} and ϵ , which we plot in Fig. 2. The resonance effects are broadened below $m_{\rm H}/2$ due to the effects of the nonresonant term in G_{4-2} that are proportional to $\theta(r-2)$. The rapid change in curvature observed for $m_{be} \sim 100$ GeV is produced by G_{4-4} , which dominates Γ for large masses. We also see that, for the range of couplings being considered, $T_d \leq m_{be}/10$ so that the gas is nonrelativistic at decoupling, as was assumed above.

V. DIRECT DETECTION

We first calculate the cross section for the process $\eta \chi \rightarrow \eta \chi$, where η denotes a neutral scalar coupled to the Bose gas via an interaction

$$\mathcal{L}_{\eta-\chi} = \frac{1}{2} g \eta^2 |\chi|^2.$$
(43)

The interesting case of nucleon scattering will reduce to the expressions obtained for η in the nonrelativistic limit (for an appropriate choice of g), except for a spin multiplicity factor.

The transition probability is given by

$$W_{i \to f} = |_{\text{out}} \langle f | i \rangle_{\text{in}} |^2, \qquad (44)$$

where the initial state consists of an η particle with momentum **p** and the Bose gas in state I: $|i\rangle_{in} = a_{\mathbf{p}}^{in\dagger}|0;I\rangle$ (where 0 denotes the perturbative vacuum for the η); the final state has an η of momentum **q** and the Bose gas in a state F: $|f\rangle_{out} = a_{\mathbf{q}}^{out\dagger}|0;F\rangle$. We require $\mathbf{p} \neq \mathbf{q}$, since we are looking for non-trivial interactions.

Using the standard Lehman-Symanzik-Zimmermann reduction formula we find¹¹

$$\begin{split} _{\text{out}}\langle f|i\rangle_{\text{in}} &= \langle 0; \mathbf{F}|\Theta_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}}|0;\mathbf{I}\rangle,\\ \Theta_{\mathbf{p},\mathbf{q}} &= -\int d^{4}x d^{4}x' e^{-ip\cdot x + iq\cdot x'}(\Box_{x} + m^{2})\\ &\times (\Box_{x'} + m^{2})\mathbb{T}[\eta(x)\eta(x')], \end{split} \tag{45}$$

where \mathbb{T} is the time-ordering operator and we ignored a wave-function renormalization factor (we will be working to lowest nontrivial order, where this factor is one). In order to obtain the cross section, we sum over the final gas states (F) and thermally average over initial gas states (I); this gives

$$\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta} = \int d^4 x d^4 x' d^4 y d^4 y' e^{i(p \cdot y - q \cdot y' - p \cdot x + q \cdot x')} \\ \times (\Box_x + m^2) (\Box_{x'} + m^2) (\Box_y + m^2) (\Box_{y'} + m^2) \\ \times \langle \mathbb{T}[\eta(x^0 - i\beta, \mathbf{x})\eta(x'^0 - i\beta, \mathbf{x}')\eta(y^0, \mathbf{y})\eta(y'^0, \mathbf{y}')] \rangle_{\beta},$$

$$(46)$$

where $\langle ... \rangle_{\beta}$ indicates a thermal average at temperature $1/\beta$. $\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta}$ can be evaluated using standard techniques of the real-time formulation of finite-temperature field theory¹² [70], while the optical theorem relates this quantity to the desired cross section:

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{2q_{\rm be}|\mathbf{p}|} \left(\frac{1}{\mathcal{V}} \int' \frac{d^3 \mathbf{q}}{2E_{\mathbf{q}}(2\pi)^3} \langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta} \right), \qquad (47)$$

where $E_{\mathbf{q}}$ is the energy of the outgoing η , q_{be} the number density of Bose gas particles, and \mathcal{V} denotes the volume of space-time; the prime indicates that the region $\mathbf{p} \simeq \mathbf{q}$ is to be excluded.

¹⁰This calculation can yield $|\mu| > m_{be}$ for some choice of m_{be} and T_d , this only means that such masses and temperatures are excluded by the relic abundance constraint.

¹¹We work to O(g) and assume a non-relativistic gas, so the $O(\lambda_{\text{pe}})$ corrections can be ignored.

¹²In particular, under \mathbb{T} , the complex times in Eq. (46) are later than the real ones.



FIG. 2. Values of T_d satisfying the decoupling condition Eq. (26) as a function of m_{be} for $\epsilon = 0.001, 0.01, 0.1, 1, 10$ (bottom to top curves) and for low and high values of m_{be} (top left and top right graphs, respectively), and in the resonance region (bottom graph). The trough at $m_{be} \simeq 62.5$ GeV corresponds to the effects of the Higgs resonance. The shaded region is excluded by the relic abundance constraint.

To lowest order in g [see Eq. (43)] we have

$$\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta} = g^2 \int \frac{d^4k}{(2\pi)^4} [D^<(k+P)]_{ij} [D^>(k)]_{ij} |_{C=0};$$

$$P = p - q,$$
(48)

where the propagators are given in Eqs. (A22) and (A24), and C = 0 implements the absence of a condensate. The evaluation of this expression is straightforward, we find

$$\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta} = \frac{g^2 T f(-P_0)}{2\pi |\mathbf{P}|} \ln \left| \frac{1 + n_{\rm be}^+(E_-)}{1 + n_{\rm be}^+(E_+)} \frac{1 + n_{\rm be}^-(E_-)}{1 + n_{\rm be}^-(E_+)} \right|,$$

$$\simeq \frac{g^2}{4\pi |\mathbf{P}|\beta} e^{-\beta E_-} \cosh(\beta \mu);$$

$$E_{\pm} = \frac{1}{2} \left[|\mathbf{P}| \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_{\rm be}^2}{P^2}} \mp P_0 \right],$$
(49)

where $n_{be}^{(\pm)}$ are defined in Eq. (33), and f in Eq. (A22); the

second expression is valid in the nonrelativistic limit. Substituting this into Eq. (47) gives

$$\sigma = \left[\frac{1}{\sqrt{\pi u}}e^{-u^2} + \left(1 + \frac{1}{2u^2}\right)\operatorname{Erf}(u)\right]\sigma_0;$$

$$u = \frac{|\mathbf{p}|}{m_{\rm H}}\sqrt{\frac{m_{\rm be}}{2T}},$$

$$= \left[1 + \frac{1}{2u^2} + O(u^{-5}e^{-u^2})\right]\sigma_0, \qquad (u \to \infty) \qquad (50)$$

where σ_0 is the T = 0 nonrelativistic cross section, and in Eq. (47) we used

$$n = 2\left(\frac{m_{\rm be}T}{2\pi}\right)^{3/2} e^{-\beta m_{\rm be}} \cosh(\beta\mu).$$
(51)

The above expression for $\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta}$ holds also for nonrelativistic nucleons, except for a factor of $2m_N^2$, where m_N is the nucleon mass. Also, since for the direct-detection



FIG. 3. Left: the curves give the direct-detection cross section Eq. (53) for (lower to upper curves, respectively) $\log \epsilon = -6, -4.5, -3, -0.5, 1$ with the shaded area denoting the region excluded by the XENON and CDMSLite experiments. Right: the shaded area denotes the region of the $m_{be} - \epsilon$ plane excluded by direct-detection.

reactions the momentum transfer for this process is very small, the coupling g will be given by

$$g \to \frac{\epsilon v}{m_H^2} g_{\mathrm{N-}H} \Rightarrow \sigma_0 = \frac{1}{8\pi m_{\mathrm{be}}^2} \left[\frac{m_{\mathrm{be}} m_N}{m_{\mathrm{be}} + m_N} \frac{\epsilon g_{\mathrm{N-}H} v}{m_{\mathrm{H}}^2} \right]^2,$$
(52)

where v denotes the SM vacuum expectation value, m_N the nucleon mass, and $g_{N-H} \simeq 0.0034$ the Higgs-nucleon coupling [12,71,72].

For the range of parameters we consider, the temperature of the Bose gas at present, T_{be} is very small, so that

$$\sigma = \frac{\epsilon^2}{8\pi m_{\rm be}^2} \left(\frac{m_{\rm be}/m_N}{1 + m_{\rm be}/m_N} \frac{g_{\rm N-H} v m_N}{m_{\rm H}^2} \right)^2 \left(1 + r^2 \frac{T_{\rm be}}{m_{\rm be} v^2} \right),$$

$$\simeq 6.93 \times 10^{-34} \left(\frac{\epsilon}{1 + m_{\rm be}/m_N} \right)^2 \left(1 + \frac{m_N^3}{m_{\rm be}^3} \frac{T_{\rm be}}{600^{\circ} K} \right) \,\rm cm^2,$$
(53)

where *r* is defined in Eq. (41), $v \simeq 10^{-3}$ is the nucleon-dark matter relative velocity and, as above, $r = m_{\rm H}/m_{\rm be}$.

These results can be compared to the most recent XENON [4] and CDMSLite [73] constraints, we present the results in Fig. 3. We find that the leading temperature correction in Eq. (53) is negligible except for very small $m_{\rm be}$, in this case, however the cross section itself is very small.

The graphs in Fig. 3 represent the strongest constraints on the model parameters. If the parameters are allowed by the direct-detection constraint the model will satisfy the relic abundance requirement for an appropriate choice of μ .

VI. BOSE CONDENSATE IN THE SMALL MASS REGION

As noted above, a condensate can occur when the gas has sub-eV masses. In this case, however, there are additional constraints stemming form the possible effects of such light particles on large scale structure (LSS) formation and on big-bang nucleosynthesis (BBN). In this section we will investigate the regions in parameter space allowed by these constraints assuming that the gas is currently condensed; as noted in Sec. II this ensures the presence of a condensate in earlier times.¹³

For the small masses needed to ensure the presence of a BEc now (see below) the condition $H = \Gamma$ used in Sec. IV [Eqs. (26) and (27)] would require a coupling ϵ orders of magnitude above the perturbativity limit¹⁴ (see Sec. I), hence in this case the gas is decoupled from the SM during the BBN and LSS epochs.

LSS formation occurred at redshift $z_{LSS} \sim 3400$, when the matter-dominated era began [67]. To ensure that the Bose gas does not interfere with the formation of structure we require it to be non-relativistic at that time; in addition, since we assume the presence of a BEc at present, a BEc was also present at the LSS epoch (Sec. III). Then the conservation of a^3s_{be} gives, using Eq. (A15), $a^3x^{-3/2} =$ constant (*a* denotes the scale factor in the Robertson-Walker metric); equivalently,

$$\frac{a^2}{\mathbf{x}}\Big|_{\text{now}} = \frac{a^2}{\mathbf{x}}\Big|_{\text{LSS}} \Rightarrow \mathbf{x}_{\text{now}} = (1 + z_{\text{LSS}})^2 \mathbf{x}_{\text{LSS}}.$$
 (54)

Since the gas must be nonrelativistic during the LSS epoch, $x_{LSS} > 3$, so we have

¹³At least as long as $x > \lambda_{be}/8.8$, see Eq. (A18).

¹⁴To see this we used Eqs. (36)–(39) since the expressions in Eq. (40) are not valid for the small values of $m_{\rm be}$ considered here.



FIG. 4. Regions of the $m_{be} - T$ and r - x planes where a non-relativistic Bose condensate occurs consistent with the LSS constraint of Eq. (55). On the left-hand graph the low-T limit results form Eq. (56), while the upper limit is due to Eq. (55).

$$x_{now} > 3.5 \times 10^7.$$
 (55)

In addition, the requirement that a BEc be present now implies

$$\frac{0.4 \text{ eV}}{m_{\text{be}}} s_{\text{sm}}|_{\text{now}} > \left(\frac{m_{\text{be}}^2}{2\pi x_{\text{now}}}\right)^{3/2} \zeta_{3/2}, \tag{56}$$

where we used the fact that the gas is currently nonrelativistic.¹⁵

The regions in the $m_{be} - T$ and $m_{be} - x$ planes allowed by Eqs. (55) and (56) are given in Fig. 4 (here *T* refers to the gas temperature). It is worth noting that if these conditions occur at present, most of the gas will be in the condensate: using Eqs. (13) and (55) the gas fraction in the excited states is given by

$$\left. \frac{q_{\rm be}^{(e)}}{q_{\rm be}} \right|_{\rm now} < \left(\frac{m_{\rm be}}{1.82 \text{ eV}} \right)^4, \tag{57}$$

which is negligible in view of the range of masses being here considered (see Fig. 4).

We now turn to the BBN constraints. We write the contributions from the gas to the energy density in the form of an effective number of neutrino species ΔN_{ν} :

$$\rho_{\rm be}|_{\rm BBN} = \frac{3}{\pi^2} \frac{7}{4} \left(\frac{4}{11}\right)^{4/3} \Delta N_{\nu} T_{\gamma}^4 \simeq 0.138 \Delta N_{\nu} T_{\gamma}^4, \quad (58)$$

where $T_{\gamma} \simeq 0.06$ MeV denotes the photon temperature during BBN [74]. Imposing the relic-abundance constraint Eq. (13) we find, using Eqs. (6) and (7),

$$\Delta N_{\nu} = 7.2 \times 10^{-5} + 7.24 \frac{m_{be}^4}{T_{\gamma}^4} [r_{be}(\mathbf{x}_{BBN}) - \nu_{be}(\mathbf{x}_{BBN})]_{\delta \ge \mathbb{F}}.$$
(59)

where $r_{be} - \nu_{be}$ corresponds to the energy outside the condensate.

The limit (see [75]) $-0.7 < \Delta N_{\nu} < 0.4$ shows that the first contribution to ΔN_{ν} can be ignored. Also, the LSS constraint $m_{\rm be} < 2 \times 10^{-11}$ eV (see Fig. 4), implies $(m_{\rm be}/T_{\gamma}) \lesssim 10^{-62}$, so that the second contribution to ΔN_{ν} is also small except if the gas was ultrarelativistic during BBN. In this case

$$\Delta N_{\nu} \simeq 4.76 \left(\frac{m_{\rm be}}{T_{\gamma} x_{\rm BBN}}\right)^4 \left[1 + \frac{5\lambda_{\rm be}}{16\pi^2}\right], \qquad x_{\rm BBN} \ll 1,$$
(60)

so the BBN constraint is significant only in the extreme ultrarelativistic case where $x_{\text{BBN}} < 10^{-62}$.

To examine this possibility we first obtain in Fig. 5 the regions in the $x_{BBN} - x_{now}$ plane consistent with the fact that s_{be}/s_{sm} and q_{be}/s_{sm} are conserved, together with the assumption that a BEc is currently present. The lower bound in this region corresponds to $x_{BBN} \ge 4.9/\sqrt{x_{now}}$; using this, and the BBN constraint $\Delta N_{\nu} < 0.4$ in Eq. (60), we obtain

$$x_{\text{now}} < 1.1 \times 10^{125} \left(\frac{m_{\text{be}}}{10^{-11} \text{ eV}} \right)^{-2} \left(1 - \frac{5\lambda_{\text{be}}}{32\pi^2} \right),$$
 (61)

 $^{^{15} {\}rm The}~O(\lambda_{\rm be})$ corrections can be ignored in this case, see Appendix A.



FIG. 5. Region in the $x_{BBN} - x_{now}$ plane consistent with the conservation laws, and with the assumption that a BEc is currently present. We used the expressions in Appendix A and $s_{sm}|_{now} = 2889.2/\text{cm}^3$, $s_{sm}|_{BBN} = 4.82 \times 10^{28}/\text{cm}^3$ and took $\lambda_{be} = 0.5$. When $\lambda_{be} = 0$ the allowed region collapses to the bold dark line in the figure.

To understand the gap that appears in Fig. 5 consider the expressions in Eq. (A12): we write $s_{be} = s_{be}^{(e)} + [\lambda_{be}C^2/(2m_{be}^2)]s_{be}^{(c)}$ (this defines¹⁶ $s_{be}^{(e,c)}$) and use $C^2 = [q_{be} - q_{be}^{(e)}]/m_{be} + O(\lambda_{be})$; then, noting that $s_{be}^{(e)} \gg s_{be}^{(c)}q_{be}^{(e)}$ (which we verified numerically), and using the fact that s_{be}/s_{sm} and q_{be}/s_{sm} are constant, we find

$$\frac{[s_{\rm be}^{(e)}/s_{\rm sm}]_{\rm BBN} - [s_{\rm be}^{(e)}/s_{\rm sm}]_{\rm now}}{[s_{\rm be}^{(c)}]_{\rm now} - [s_{\rm be}^{(c)}]_{\rm BBN}} = \frac{\lambda_{\rm be}}{2m_{\rm be}^3} \frac{q_{\rm be}}{s_{\rm sm}} > \frac{\lambda_{\rm be}}{2m_{\rm be}^3} \frac{q_{\rm be}^{(e)}}{s_{\rm sm}}\Big|_{\rm now},$$
(62)

where the inequality on the right-hand side imposes the constraint that a BEc is present now. The gap in Fig. 5 corresponds to values of $x_{\text{BBN,now}}$ where the denominator and numerator have opposite signs. For example, if the gas is nonrelativistic during nucleosynthesis,

$$\frac{1 - \vartheta (x_{\text{now}}/x_{\text{BBN}})^{3/2}}{1 - \sqrt{x_{\text{now}}/x_{\text{BBN}}}} > \frac{3\lambda_{\text{be}}}{40\pi} \frac{\zeta_{3/2}^2}{\zeta_{5/2}} \frac{1}{2\pi x_{\text{now}}},$$
$$\vartheta = \frac{s_{\text{sm}}|_{\text{now}}}{s_{\text{sm}}|_{\text{BBN}}} \simeq 6 \times 10^{-26}; \tag{63}$$

in this case the gap corresponds to $\log x_{\text{now}} \gtrsim \log x_{\text{BBN}} \gtrsim -16.8 + \log x_{\text{now}}$.

The parameter region where the gas exhibits a BEc now and satisfies both the LSS and BBN constraints are determined by Eqs. (61), (55) and the allowed $x_{BBN} - x_{now}$

and $m_{\rm be} - T_{\rm now}$ regions in Figs. 4 and 5, respectively. It is worth noting that when $\lambda_{\rm be} = 0$ the allowed region in the $x_{\rm BBN} - x_{\rm now}$ plane reduces to the dark line in Fig. 5, in which case the BBN constraint does not impose new restrictions.

It remains to see whether a gas satisfying Eq. (55) can be in equilibrium with the SM at an epoch earlier than that of BBN. Given the small range for m_{be} and the large values of x_{now} , such equilibrium could have occurred only when the gas was ultrarelativistic, in which environment the presence or absence of a condensate will have no effect. The situation then reduces to that of a standard Higgs-portal model with DM masses in the pico-eV range. Concerning direct detection experiments it is clear that for the very small masses being considered in this section the cross sections will be negligible. We will not consider these points further.

VII. COMMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS

In this paper we investigated various properties of a complex scalar model of dark matter and studied the possible presence of a Bose condensate, which can occur even in the relativistic regime due to the presence of a conserved charge, associated an exact "dark" U(1) symmetry.

We showed that a Bose condensate will be present at sufficiently early times provided the charge per unit entropy is above a λ_{be} and m_{be} -dependent minimum (when $m_{be} > m_{H}$ this minimum will also depend on ϵ); for $\lambda_{be} = 0$ a condensate will always form in the early universe. As $T \to \infty$ one-loop results suggest that the condensate will disappear despite the vanishing of the comoving volume in that limit. The constraints derived form large scale structure

¹⁶By definition, $s_{be}^{(c)}$ contains all terms $\propto C^2$ [up to a factor of $\lambda_{be}/(2m_{be})$] in Eq. (A12); $s_{be}^{(e)}$ contains all remaining terms. Note that $s_{be}^{(e)}$ includes $O(\lambda_{be})$ contributions.

formation imply that a condensate will persist until the present only if the dark matter mass is in the pico-eV range.

The model can meet the relic-density constraint for all masses in the cold dark-matter regime ($m_{be} \gtrsim 1 \text{ GeV}$) provided the portal coupling $\epsilon \leq 0.1$ and for a wide range of masses; for larger values of ϵ the mass range is somewhat narrower, see Fig. 2). The limits derived from direct-detection experiments are much more restrictive allowing only small couplings and/or small masses (Fig. 3); still the allowed region in parameter space is considerably extended compared to the usual Higgs-portal model [63] because of the presence of a chemical potential that can be adjusted to ensure the correct relic density.

For WIMP-like masses we have shown above that there is no condensate for $T < T_d$ but that a condensate can form in the early universe, at least for a period of time; at very high temperatures the condensate then carries the net charge of the gas, but most of the energy density is carried by the excited states (Sec. II). In contrast, for very small masses, $m_{\rm be} \sim 10^{-12}$ eV the gas can form a condensate even at present temperatures, while also satisfying the relic abundance requirement. In this case, however, the Bose gas and the SM are never in equilibrium (assuming natural values of the portal coupling ϵ).

Most of the radiative effects in this model are small, being suppressed not only by powers of λ_{be} , but, in the nonrelativistic limit, by inverse powers of m_{be}/T . We found two exceptions: first, the above-mentioned condition on the formation of a condensate in the early universe. Second, the constraint in Eq. (61) derived from BBN.

We have not discussed indirect detection constraints because, for WIMP-like masses they will be identical to those derived for the standard Higgs portal models [76].

APPENDIX A: THERMODYNAMICS OF A BOSE GAS

In this Appendix we provide for completeness a summary of the Bose gas thermodynamics. We begin with the Lagrangian

$$\mathcal{L} = |\partial \chi|^2 - m^2 |\chi|^2 - \frac{1}{2} \lambda_{\rm be} |\chi|^4, \qquad (A1)$$

and write $\chi = (A_1 + iA_2)/\sqrt{2}$. Then the Hamiltonian and total conserved charge Q_{be} are given by

$$H = \int d^{3}\mathbf{x} \left[\frac{1}{2} \pi^{2} + \frac{1}{2} |\nabla \mathbf{A}|^{2} + V \right],$$

$$Q_{\rm be} = -\int d^{3}\mathbf{x} (A_{1}\pi_{2} - A_{2}\pi_{1}), \qquad (A2)$$

where π_i is the canonical momentum conjugate to A_i .

To include the possibility of a Bose condensate we replace $A_1 \rightarrow A_1 + C$; using then standard techniques of

finite-temperature field theory (we use here the Matsubara formalism) [77] we find that to $O(\lambda_{be})$ the pressure P_{be} is given by [68,69]

$$P_{\rm be} = \frac{\mu^2 - m_{\rm be}^2}{2} C^2 + \frac{2}{3} \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} p^2 \mathcal{F}_+ + \frac{1}{8} \lambda_{\rm be} C^4 - \lambda_{\rm be} \left(\frac{1}{2} C^2 + \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}_+\right)^2 + O(\lambda_{\rm be}^2), \tag{A3}$$

where

$$\mathcal{F}_{\pm} = \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E-\mu)} - 1} \pm \frac{1}{e^{\beta(E+\mu)} - 1}; \qquad \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{\pm} = \mathcal{F}_{\pm}|_{\mu=m_{be}},$$
$$d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} = \frac{d^{3}\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}2E}; \qquad E = \sqrt{\mathbf{p}^{2} + m_{be}^{2}}. \tag{A4}$$

When one adds the coupling $\epsilon |\phi|^2 |\chi|^2$ to the standard model [see Eq. (2)] there is an additional contribution

$$\Delta P_{\rm be} = -\epsilon F_{\rm H} \left(\frac{1}{2} C^2 + \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}_+ \right);$$

$$F_{\rm H} = \frac{m_{\rm H}^2}{\pi^2} \int_0^\infty d\alpha \frac{\sinh^2 \alpha}{e^{(m_{\rm H}/T)\cosh \alpha} - 1}, \qquad (A5)$$

where $F_{\rm H}$ is generated by the ϕ , when the ϕ acquires an expectation value $F_{\rm H} \rightarrow v^2 + F_{\rm H}/4$. This term is subdominant when $m_{\rm H} > m_{\rm be}$ as we will assume for the most part of this paper; note also that stability conditions (see Sec. I) do not allow ϵ to be too large and negative. The *total* pressure has additional terms, generated by the standard model; these terms, however, do not involve *C*.

Before proceeding we remark on the type of perturbative expansion we will use: we assume that *C* is independent of λ_{be} , and μ to have a λ_{be} dependence¹⁷; we believe this to be reasonable because, e.g., the condition for the presence of a BEc when $\lambda_{be} = 0$ is $\mu = m_{be}$, and becomes $\mu > m_{be}$ when $\lambda_{be} \neq 0$ (see below) that naturally leads to a relation of the form $\mu = m_{be} + O(\lambda_{be})$.

The zero-momentum component *C* is determined by the condition that it minimizes the thermodynamic potential $-P_{be}(C, \mu, T)$:

$$\left(\frac{\partial P_{\rm be}}{\partial C}\right) = \lambda_{\rm be} C \left\{\delta - \mathbb{F} - \frac{1}{2}C^2\right\} + O(\lambda_{\rm be}^2), \quad (A6)$$

where $[\bar{\mathcal{F}}_{\pm}$ are defined in (A4)]

$$\mu^2 = m_{\rm be}{}^2 + \lambda_{\rm be}\delta; \qquad \mathbb{F} = 2\int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}}\bar{\mathcal{F}}_+. \tag{A7}$$

So there are two cases:

¹⁷If, on the other hand μ is assumed to be independent of λ_{be} , then $C \propto 1/\sqrt{\lambda_{be}}$ diverges as $\lambda_{be} \to 0$.

- (1) $\delta < \mathbb{F}$: then there is a single extremum, C = 0, which is a maximum and corresponds to the stable state; there is no BEc.
- (2) $\delta > \mathbb{F}$: then there are two extrema: C = 0 which is now a minimum, and does not correspond to the stable state, and

$$C^{2} = 2(\delta - \mathbb{F}) + O(\lambda_{be}), \qquad (A8)$$

which is a maximum and corresponds to the stable (BEc) configuration.

(i)
$$\delta < \mathbb{F}$$
:

The transition occurs when $\delta = \mathbb{F}$; approximating $\mathbb{F} \simeq \mathbb{F}(m_{be} = 0)$ we find that the critical temperature is

$$T_c^2 \simeq \frac{6}{\lambda_{\rm be}} (\mu^2 - m_{\rm be}^2),$$
 (A9)

which is a known result [68,69].

From P_{be} we find the expressions for the charge density q_{be} and entropy density s_{be} to $O(\lambda_{be})$:

$$P_{be} = \frac{2}{3} \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} p^{2} \mathcal{F}_{+} - \lambda_{be} \left(\int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}_{+} \right)^{2}$$

$$q_{be} = \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \mathcal{F}_{-} - \lambda_{be} \left(\int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}_{+} \right) \left(\int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} p^{-2} \mathcal{F}_{-} \right)$$

$$s_{be} = \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \left(1 - \lambda_{be} \frac{K^{2}}{p^{2}} \right) \sum_{\pm} \left[(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) \ln(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) - n_{be}^{\pm} \ln n_{be}^{\pm} \right], \quad (A10)$$

where $K^2 = 4 \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \mathcal{F}_+$. (ii) $\delta = \mathbb{F}$:

$$P_{be} = \frac{2}{3} \int d\tilde{p} p^{2} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+} - \frac{1}{4} \lambda_{be} \mathbb{F} \left(\mathbb{F} - \frac{2}{m} \int d_{3} \mathbf{p} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} \right),$$

$$q_{be} = \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} + \frac{4\lambda_{be} \mathbb{F}}{m} \left(\frac{m}{4} \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \frac{\bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+} - \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-}}{p^{2}} + \int d\tilde{\mathbf{p}} \frac{E + m/2}{E + m} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+} \right),$$

$$s_{be} = \int d_{3} \mathbf{p} \left(1 - \lambda_{be} \frac{2\mathbb{F}}{p^{2}} \right) \sum_{\pm} \left[(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) \ln(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) - n_{be}^{\pm} \ln n_{be}^{\pm} \right]_{\mu = m_{be}}$$

$$+ \frac{\lambda_{be} \mathbb{F}}{T} \int d\tilde{p} \left\{ \frac{E^{2} + p^{2}}{p^{2}} (\bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} - \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+}) + \frac{3E^{2} + mE - m^{2}}{m(E + m)} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} \right\}.$$
(A11)

(iii) $\delta > \mathbb{F}$:

$$P_{be} = \frac{2}{3} \int d\tilde{p} p^{2} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+} - \frac{1}{4} \lambda_{be} \left[\mathbb{F}^{2} - \frac{C^{4}}{2} - \frac{C^{2} + 2\mathbb{F}}{m} \int d_{3} \mathbf{p} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} \right],$$

$$q_{be} = q_{be}^{(c)} + \int \frac{d^{3} \mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} + O(\lambda_{be}),$$

$$s_{be} = \int d_{3} \mathbf{p} \left(1 - \lambda_{be} \frac{2(C^{2} + \mathbb{F})}{p^{2}} \right) \sum_{\pm} \left[(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) \ln(n_{be}^{\pm} + 1) - n_{be}^{\pm} \ln n_{be}^{\pm} \right]_{\mu = m_{be}}$$

$$+ \frac{\lambda_{be} (\mathbb{F} + C^{2}/2)}{T} \int d\tilde{p} \left\{ \frac{E^{2} + p^{2}}{p^{2}} (\bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} - \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+}) + \frac{3E^{2} + mE - m^{2}}{m(E + m)} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{-} \right\}.$$
(A12)

with $q_{be}^{(c)} = m_{be}C^2 + O(\lambda_{be})$. The $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections to q_{be} in the BEc phase are obtained from the $O(\lambda_{be}^2)$ terms in P_{be} , fortunately these are not needed.

The curvature of the thermodynamic potential $-P_{be}(C, \mu, T)$ at C = 0 equals $\lambda_{be}(\mathbb{F} - \delta) \simeq \lambda_{be}T^2/6 + m_{be}^2 - \mu^2$ for large T [see Eq. (A6)]. In this regime the radiative corrections oppose the formation of a condensate; if this is indicative of the exact result, the condensate will disappear as $T \to \infty$. The behavior of the critical density (q_{be} at the transition) is given in Fig. 6 which also illustrates the effects of the $O(\lambda_{be}T^2)$ contributions.

x

x >



FIG. 6. Plot of the critical density as a function of *T* for $\lambda_{be} = 0$ (light gray), 0.1 (dark gray), and 0.5 (black).

When the volume V is constant and the total charge in the system is Q_{be} the behavior of the condensate as a function of T can be obtained using standard arguments; the results are illustrated in Fig. 7 where the critical temperature T_C is defined by requiring $q_{be} = Q_{be}/V$ when $\delta = \mathbb{F}$.

In the non-relativistic limit (x \gg 1) the $O(\lambda_{be})$ can be ignored in the phase where there is no condensate. To see this, consider, e.g., the expression for P_{be} :

$$P_{be} = \frac{m_{be}^{4}}{\pi^{2} x^{2}} \left[\cosh(\beta \mu) K_{2}(x) + \frac{\cosh(2\beta \mu)}{4} K_{2}(2x) - \frac{\lambda_{be} \cosh^{2}(\beta \mu)}{4\pi^{2}} K_{1}^{2}(x) + \cdots \right],$$
(A13)

which shows that the leading $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections are smaller than the subdominant $O(\lambda_{be}^0)$ contributions. This behavior is reproduced in all thermodynamic quantities in when $x \gg 1$ and there is no BEc.

We also need the behavior of the thermodynamic quantities at the transition (when $\delta = \mathbb{F}$) in the ultra-relativistic (x \ll 1) and nonrelativistic (x \gg 1) limits:



FIG. 7. Plot of the condensate density $q_{be}^{(c)}$ as a function of *T* for constant volume and $\lambda_{be} = 0$ (light gray), 0.1 (dark gray) and 0.5 (black), when the critical temperature (see text) $T_C = 10m_{be}$. When $T_C \ll m_{be}$ the $O(\lambda_{be})$ effects are negligible.

$$\ll 1: P_{be} = \frac{\pi^2 m_{be}^4}{45x^4} \left[1 + \frac{15\lambda_{be}}{16\pi^2} \right] + \cdots$$

$$q_{be} = \frac{m_{be}^3}{3x^2} \left[1 - \frac{3x}{\pi^2} + \frac{\lambda_{be}}{12x^2} \left(1 - \frac{3}{\pi^2} x \ln x \right) + \cdots \right]$$

$$s_{be} = \frac{4\pi^2 m_{be}^3}{45x^3} \left[1 + \frac{5\lambda_{be}}{16\pi^2} \right] + \cdots$$

$$\rho_{be} = \frac{\pi^2 m_{be}^4}{15x^4} \left[1 + \frac{5\lambda_{be}}{16\pi^2} \right] + \cdots$$
(A14)

$$\gg 1: P_{be} = \frac{m_{be}^{4} \zeta_{5/2}}{(2\pi)^{3/2} x^{5/2}} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta_{7/2}}{\zeta_{5/2}} \frac{15}{8x} + \cdots \right] + \lambda_{be} \frac{m_{be}^{4} \zeta_{3/2}^{2}}{(2\pi x)^{3}} + \cdots q_{be} = \frac{m_{be}^{3} \zeta_{3/2}}{(2\pi x)^{3/2}} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta_{5/2}}{\zeta_{3/2}} \frac{15}{8x} + \cdots \right] + \frac{3\lambda_{be} m_{be}^{3} \zeta_{3/2}^{2}}{2(2\pi x)^{3}} + \cdots s_{be} = \frac{5m_{be}^{3} \zeta_{5/2}}{2(2\pi x)^{3/2}} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta_{7/2}}{\zeta_{5/2}} \frac{21}{8x} + \cdots \right] + \frac{9\lambda_{be} m_{be}^{3} \zeta_{3/2} \zeta_{5/2}}{128\pi^{3} x^{3}} + \cdots \rho_{be} = \frac{m_{be}^{4} \zeta_{3/2}}{(2\pi x)^{3/2}} \left[1 + \frac{\zeta_{5/2}}{\zeta_{3/2}} \frac{27}{8x} + \cdots \right] + \frac{\lambda_{be} m_{be}^{4} \zeta_{3/2}^{2}}{(2\pi x)^{3/2}} + \cdots$$
(A15)

where ρ_{be} is the energy density. In particular, for small x,

$$\frac{q_{be}}{s_{be}} = \frac{15}{4\pi^2} \left[1 - \frac{5\lambda_{be}}{8\pi^2} \right] \left[x - \frac{3x^2}{\pi^2} + \frac{\lambda_{be}}{12x} \left(1 - \frac{3}{\pi^2} x \ln x \right) + \cdots \right],$$

($\delta = \mathbb{F}, x < 1$) (A16)

which has a minimum when

$$\mathbf{x}_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_{be}}{12}} + \frac{3\lambda_{be}}{8\pi^2} + \cdots$$
 (A17)

The above minimum occurs when the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections to q_{be} are of the same size as the $O(\lambda_{be}^0)$ contributions, so the validity of the expressions for such values of x should be examined. The leading expression for q_{be} is $\propto \int d^3 \mathbf{p} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_$ and behaves as x^{-2} , instead of x^{-3} as might be expected on dimensional grounds; such a suppression is not present in the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections. We argue that a reasonable estimate of the region where perturbation theory is valid is obtained by comparing the $O(\lambda_{be})$ corrections to q_{be} with a quantity that does not exhibit the above suppression, such as $\int d^3 \mathbf{p} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_+$. Using this we obtain

$$\int \frac{d^{3}\mathbf{p}}{(2\pi)^{3}} \bar{\mathcal{F}}_{+} > \frac{m_{be}^{3} \lambda_{be}}{36x^{4}} \left(1 - \frac{3}{\pi^{2}} x \ln x + \cdots\right)$$
$$\Rightarrow \frac{x}{1 - (3/\pi^{2}) x \ln x} > \frac{\lambda_{be}}{8.8}$$
(A18)

as specifying the lowest value of x for which our perturbative expressions are trustworthy. Since x_{min} satisfies this condition, the expression for q_{be}/s_{be} can be trusted near the minimum.

1. χ propagator

The above Hamiltonian and charge operators can be used to derive the propagator and Feynman rules in the fnintetemperature real-time formalism, which we use in some of our calculations. Defining, as usual¹⁸

$$D_{ij}^{>}(x-x') = \langle A_i(x)A_j(x')\rangle_{\beta},$$

$$D_{ij}^{<}(x-x') = \langle A_j(x')A_i(x)\rangle_{\beta},$$
 (A19)

(so that $D_{ij}^{<}(x - x') = D_{ji}^{>}(x' - x)$) where

$$\langle \cdots \rangle_{\beta} = \frac{\operatorname{tr}\{e^{-\beta H} \cdots\}}{\operatorname{tr}\{e^{-\beta H}\}}.$$
 (A20)

Then if,

$$\rho_{ij}(k) = D_{ij}^{>}(k) - D_{ij}^{<}(k); \quad D_{ij}^{\geq}(k) = \int d^4x e^{+ik.x} D_{ij}^{\geq}(x),$$
(A21)

we have

$$D_{ij}^{<}(k) = f(k_0)\rho_{ij}(k), \qquad D_{ij}^{>}(k) = -f(-k_0)\rho_{ij}(k);$$

$$f(k_0) = (e^{k_0\beta} - 1)^{-1}.$$
(A22)

A straightforward (though tedious) calculation yields

$$\rho(k) = 2\pi\varepsilon(k_0) \left[\frac{\delta(\omega^2 - \Omega_+^2) - \delta(\omega^2 - \Omega_-^2)}{\Omega_+^2 - \Omega_-^2} \right] \mathbb{R}(k),$$

$$\mathbb{R}(k) = \binom{k^2 + \mu^2 - m^2 - \lambda_{\rm be}C^2/2}{2i\mu k_0} \frac{-2i\mu k_0}{k^2 + \mu^2 - m^2 - 3\lambda_{\rm be}C^2/2}.$$

(A23)

This has the expected form when $\mu = 0$. For the calculations in this paper we only need the expression when $\lambda_{be} = 0$:

$$\rho(k)|_{\lambda_{bc}=0} = \pi \sum_{s=\pm 1} (\mathbb{1} \pm \tau_2) \varepsilon(k_0 \mp \mu) \delta((k_0 \mp \mu)^2 - \bar{E}_k^2),$$
(A24)

where $\bar{E}_{\mathbf{k}} = \sqrt{m_{\text{be}}^2 + \mathbf{k}^2}$. This expression is also valid in the presence of a condensate, when $\mu = m_{\text{be}}$.

2. Higgs propagator and resonant contributions

When the SM and the Bose gas are in thermal equilibrium a similar expression can be derived for the Higgs propagator, however, this approach misses an important resonant contribution which can occur when $m_{\rm H} = 2m_{\rm be}$; to include it we replace

$$2\pi\delta(p^2 - m_{\rm H}^2) \to \frac{2\Gamma_{\rm H}m_{\rm H}}{(p^2 - m_{\rm H}^2)^2 + (\Gamma_{\rm H}m_{\rm H})^2}$$
 (A25)

in $D_{\rm H}^{\gtrless}$, where $\Gamma_{\rm H}$ denotes the Higgs width.

APPENDIX B: CROSS SECTION IN THE PRESENCE OF A CONDENSATE

In this case, writing again $\chi \rightarrow [(A_1 + C) + iA_2]/\sqrt{2}$ we find, to lowest order,

$$\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle_{\beta} = C^2 \int d^4x d^4y e^{-i(p-q).(x-y)} \langle T_c[A_1(t-i\beta, \mathbf{x})A_1(y)] \rangle_{\beta}$$

$$+ \frac{1}{4} \int d^4x d^4y e^{-i(p-q).(x-y)} [\langle T_c[\mathbf{A}^2(t-i\beta, \mathbf{x})\mathbf{A}^2(y)] \rangle_{\beta} - \langle \mathbf{A}^2 \rangle_{\beta}^2],$$
 (B1)

where $\langle W_{i \to f} \rangle$ is defined in Eq. (46), \mathcal{V} denotes the volume of space time, and we assumed that the incoming momentum p of the SM particle is different form its outoging momentum q. Now, using Eqs. (A22) and (A24) we find

$$\frac{1}{\mathcal{V}} \langle W_{i \to f} \rangle = C^2 D_{11}^{>}(P)|_{\mu=m_{\rm bc}} + \frac{g^2 T f(-P_0)}{2\pi |\mathbf{P}|} \ln \left| \frac{1 + n_{\rm be}^+(E_-)}{1 + n_{\rm be}^+(E_+)} \frac{1 + n_{\rm be}^-(E_-)}{1 + n_{\rm be}^-(E_+)} \right|_{\mu=m_{\rm bc}},\tag{B2}$$

where $n_{be}^{(\pm)}$ are defined in Eq. (33), E_{\pm} in Eq. (49), and P = p - q. Then

¹⁸We follow the conventions of LeBellac [70].

$$\sigma = \sigma^{(1)} + \sigma^{(2)},$$

$$\sigma^{(1)} = \frac{q_{be}^{(c)}}{2m_{be}|\mathbf{p}|q_{be}} \int' \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{2E_{\mathbf{q}}(2\pi)^3} D_{11}^{>}(P)|_{\mu=m_{be}}; \qquad E_{\mathbf{q}} = \sqrt{\mathbf{q}^2 + m_{\eta}^2},$$

$$\sigma^{(2)} = \frac{1}{2q_{be}|\mathbf{p}|} \int' \frac{d^3\mathbf{q}}{2E_{\mathbf{q}}(2\pi)^3} \frac{g^2 T f(-P_0)}{2\pi |\mathbf{P}|} \ln \left| \frac{1 + n_{be}^+(E_-)}{1 + n_{be}^+(E_+)} \frac{1 + n_{be}^-(E_-)}{1 + n_{be}^-(E_+)} \right|_{\mu=m_{be}}, \qquad (B3)$$

where $E_{\mathbf{q}}$ is the energy of the outgoing η , q_{be} the number density of Bose gas particles, and we used $q_{\mathrm{be}}^{(c)} = m_{\mathrm{be}}C^2$ for the number density in the condensate; the prime indicates that the region p = q should be excluded.

In the nonrelativistic limit, and for $m_{be} \neq m_{\eta}$, we find

$$\sigma^{(1)} = -\frac{Tn_0/n}{32\pi m_{\rm be} \mathbf{p}^2} \ln |f(-\mathcal{E}_-)f(\mathcal{E}_+)|;$$

$$\mathcal{E}_{\pm} = \frac{2m_{\rm be} \mathbf{p}^2}{m_{\rm be}^2 + m_\eta^2 \pm 2m_{\rm be}\bar{E}_{\mathbf{p}}},$$
(B4)

where $\bar{E}_{\mathbf{p}}$ is defined in Eq. (35), and f in Eq. (A22). For $T \to 0$ (so that $q_{be}^{(c)} \to q_{be}$) this reduces to the standard result, $\sigma^{(1)} \to [16\pi(m_{be} + m_{\eta})^2]^{-1}$; also, $\sigma^{(1)} > 0$ for all parameters of interest.

The evaluation of $\sigma^{(2)}$ is more involved. We begin with the nonrelativistic expression for E_{\pm} :

$$E_{\pm} = m_{\rm be} + \frac{1}{8m_{\rm be}|\mathbf{P}|^2} \left[|\mathbf{P}|^2 \mp \frac{m_{\rm be}}{m_{\eta}} (\mathbf{p}^2 - \mathbf{q}^2) \right]^2.$$
(B5)

Then, defining new integration variables

$$w = \frac{|\mathbf{P}|}{|\mathbf{p}|}, \qquad z = \frac{1}{w} \left(\frac{|\mathbf{q}|^2}{|\mathbf{p}|^2} - 1\right) \frac{m_{\eta}}{m_{\text{be}}}, \qquad (B6)$$

we find

$$\sigma^{(2)} = \frac{T|\mathbf{p}|}{256\pi^3 q_{\rm be} m_{\rm be}} \int_0^\infty dww \\ \times \int_{(w-2)m_{\rm be}/m_\eta}^{(w+2)m_{\rm be}/m_\eta} \frac{dz}{\exp\{4\ell' wz\} - 1} \\ \times \ln \left| \frac{1 - \exp\{-\ell' (w+z)^2\}}{1 - \exp\{-\ell' (w-z)^2\}} \right|, \tag{B7}$$

where $\ell = \beta |\mathbf{p}|^2 / (8m_{\rm be})$. This must be evaluated numerically for moderate values of ℓ , while for $\ell \to \infty$, it gives Eq. (53).

- [1] G. Bertone, D. Hooper, and J. Silk, Phys. Rep. **405**, 279 (2005).
- [2] B. Sadoulet, NATO Sci. Ser. C 511, 517 (1998).
- [3] P. Beltrame (LUX Collaboration), Dark Matter Searches with the LUX Experiment, in *Proceedings, 11th Patras Workshop on Axions, WIMPs and WISPs, AXION-WIMP* 2015, edited by I. G. Irastorza *et al.* (Verlag Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron, 2015), DOI: 10.3204/DESY-PROC-2015-02/beltrame_paolo.
- [4] E. Aprile *et al.* (XENON Collaboration), Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 181301 (2017).
- [5] B. Serfass (CDMS and SuperCDMS Collaborations), J. Low Temp. Phys. 167, 1119 (2012).
- [6] P. Salati, arXiv:1605.01218.
- [7] V. Vitale *et al.* (Fermi-LAT Collaboration), arXiv:0912 .3828.
- [8] L. Bergstrom, J. Edsjo, and P. Gondolo, Phys. Rev. D 58, 103519 (1998).
- [9] J. Pazzini (ATLAS and CMS Collaborations), Nuovo Cimento C 40, 3 (2017).

- [10] P. Huang, R. A. Roglans, D. D. Spiegel, Y. Sun, and C. E. M. Wagner, Phys. Rev. D 95, 095021 (2017).
- [11] K. A. Olive, Proc. Sci., 2015 (2016) 035 [arXiv:1604.07336].
- [12] G. Jungman, M. Kamionkowski, and K. Griest, Phys. Rep. 267, 195 (1996).
- [13] J. K. Hwang, Mod. Phys. Lett. A 32, 1730023 (2017).
- [14] B. Sahoo, M. K. Parida, and M. Chakraborty, Nucl. Phys. B938, 56 (2018).
- [15] Y. Kajiyama, H. Okada, and T. Toma, Phys. Rev. D 88, 015029 (2013).
- [16] Q. H. Cao, C. R. Chen, C. S. Li, and H. Zhang, J. High Energy Phys. 08 (2011) 018.
- [17] V. González-Macías, J. I. Illana, and J. Wudka, J. High Energy Phys. 05 (2016) 171.
- [18] A. Drozd, B. Grzadkowski, and J. Wudka, J. High Energy Phys. 04 (2012) 006; 11 (2014) 130(E).
- [19] P. A. R. Ade *et al.* (Planck Collaboration), Astron. Astrophys. **594**, A13 (2016).
- [20] Y. Nomura and J. Thaler, Phys. Rev. D 79, 075008 (2009).

- [21] P. Sikivie and Q. Yang, Phys. Rev. Lett. **103**, 111301 (2009).
- [22] A. Ringwald, Proc. Sci., 2016 (**2016**) 081 [arXiv:1612 .08933].
- [23] A. S. Sakharov and M. Y. Khlopov, Yad. Fiz. 57, 514 (1994)
 [Phys. At. Nucl. 57, 485 (1994)].
- [24] A. S. Sakharov, D. D. Sokoloff, and M. Y. Khlopov, Yad. Fiz. 59N6, 1050 (1996) [Phys. At. Nucl. 59, 1005 (1996)].
- [25] M. Y. Khlopov, A. S. Sakharov, and D. D. Sokoloff, Nucl. Phys. B, Proc. Suppl. 72, 105 (1999).
- [26] M. Khlopov, B. A. Malomed, and I. B. Zeldovich, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 215, 575 (1985).
- [27] T. Matos and L. A. Urena-Lopez, Phys. Rev. D 63, 063506 (2001).
- [28] B. Kain and H. Y. Ling, Phys. Rev. D 85, 023527 (2012).
- [29] L. A. Urena-Lopez, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 01 (2009) 014.
- [30] A. P. Lundgren, M. Bondarescu, R. Bondarescu, and J. Balakrishna, Astrophys. J. 715, L35 (2010).
- [31] D. J. E. Marsh and P. G. Ferreira, Phys. Rev. D 82, 103528 (2010).
- [32] I. Rodriguez-Montoya, J. Magana, T. Matos, and A. Perez-Lorenzana, Astrophys. J. 721, 1509 (2010).
- [33] I. Rodriguez-Montoya, A. Perez-Lorenzana, E. De La Cruz-Burelo, Y. Giraud-Heraud, and T. Matos, Phys. Rev. D 87, 025009 (2013).
- [34] A. Suarez and T. Matos, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 416, 87 (2011).
- [35] T. Harko, Phys. Rev. D 83, 123515 (2011).
- [36] T. Harko, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 413, 3095 (2011).
- [37] T. Matos, A. Vazquez-Gonzalez, and J. Magana, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. **393**, 1359 (2009).
- [38] P.H. Chavanis, Astron. Astrophys. 537, A127 (2012).
- [39] H. Velten and E. Wamba, Phys. Lett. B 709, 1 (2012).
- [40] A. Aguirre and A. Diez-Tejedor, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 04 (2016) 019.
- [41] J. Magana, T. Matos, A. Suarez, and F. J. Sanchez-Salcedo, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 10 (2012) 003.
- [42] A. Arbey, J. Lesgourgues, and P. Salati, Phys. Rev. D 64, 123528 (2001).
- [43] W. Hu, R. Barkana, and A. Gruzinov, Phys. Rev. Lett. 85, 1158 (2000).
- [44] A. Suarez, V. H. Robles, and T. Matos, Astrophys. Space Sci. Proc. 38, 107 (2014).
- [45] S. J. Sin, Phys. Rev. D 50, 3650 (1994).
- [46] J. w. Lee and I. g. Koh, Phys. Rev. D 53, 2236 (1996).
- [47] J. Goodman, New Astron. 5, 103 (2000).
- [48] T. Rindler-Daller and P. R. Shapiro, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 422, 135 (2012).
- [49] T. Rindler-Daller and P. R. Shapiro, Mod. Phys. Lett. A 29, 1430002 (2014).

- [50] C. G. Boehmer and T. Harko, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 06 (2007) 025.
- [51] T. Harko and E. J. M. Madarassy, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 01 (2012) 020.
- [52] T. Fukuyama and M. Morikawa, Phys. Rev. D 80, 063520 (2009).
- [53] T. Fukuyama, M. Morikawa, and T. Tatekawa, J. Cosmol. Astropart. Phys. 06 (2008) 033.
- [54] T. Fukuyama and M. Morikawa, J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 31, 139 (2006).
- [55] P. S. B. Dev, M. Lindner, and S. Ohmer, Phys. Lett. B 773, 219 (2017).
- [56] H. Ziaeepour, Phys. Rev. D 81, 103526 (2010).
- [57] W. J. G. de Blok, Adv. Astron. 2010, 789293 (2010).
- [58] M. Boylan-Kolchin, J. S. Bullock, and M. Kaplinghat, Mon. Not. R. Astron. Soc. 415, L40 (2011).
- [59] V. Irsic, M. Viel, M. G. Haehnelt, J. S. Bolton, and G. D. Becker, Phys. Rev. Lett. 119, 031302 (2017).
- [60] J. Zhang, J. L. Kuo, H. Liu, Y. L. S. Tsai, K. Cheung, and M. C. Chu, Astrophys. J. 863, 73 (2018).
- [61] B. Patt and F. Wilczek, arXiv:hep-ph/0605188.
- [62] J. McDonald, Phys. Rev. D 50, 3637 (1994).
- [63] P. Athron *et al.* (GAMBIT Collaboration), Eur. Phys. J. C 77, 568 (2017).
- [64] R. Kubo, J. Phys. Soc. Jpn. 12, 570 (1957).
- [65] B. Grzadkowski and J. Wudka, Phys. Rev. D 80, 103518 (2009).
- [66] R. K. Pathria and P. D. Beale, *Statistical Mechanics*, 3rd ed. (Elsevier, India, 2011), ISBN: .
- [67] E. W. Kolb and M. S. Turner, *The Early Universe*, Frontiers in Physics Vol. 69 (Westview Press, 1994), ISBN: 9780201626742.
- [68] H. E. Haber and H. A. Weldon, Phys. Rev. D 25, 502 (1982).
- [69] J. I. Kapusta, Phys. Rev. D 24, 426 (1981).
- [70] M. L. Bellac, *Thermal Field Theory* (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 2000).
- [71] M. A. Shifman, A. I. Vainshtein, and V. I. Zakharov, Phys. Lett. B 78B, 443 (1978).
- [72] S. Dawson and H. E. Haber, Report No. SCIPP-89/14.
- [73] R. Agnese *et al.* (SuperCDMS Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 97, 022002 (2018).
- [74] D. Baumann, Lectures on Cosmology, http://www.damtp .cam.ac.uk/user/db275/Cosmology/Lectures.pdf.
- [75] R. H. Cyburt, B. D. Fields, K. A. Olive, and T. H. Yeh, Rev. Mod. Phys. 88, 015004 (2016).
- [76] M. Ackermann *et al.* (Fermi-LAT Collaboration), Astrophys. J. **840**, 43 (2017).
- [77] J. I. Kapusta and C. Gale, Finite-Temperature Field Theory: Principles and Applications, 2nd ed. (Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, England, 2011).