

# RELIC DENSITY AT NLO

## THE THERMAL CORRECTIONS

Andrzej Hryczuk

University of Oslo\*



based on: M. Beneke, F. Dighera, AH, I409.3049  
M. Beneke, F. Dighera, AH, I607.03910



# DARK MATTER AT NLO

Bergstrom '89; Drees et al., 9306325;  
Ullio & Bergstrom, 9707333

} helicity suppression lifting

⋮

Bergstrom et al., 0507229;  
Bringmann et al., 0710.3169

} spectral features in indirect searches

⋮

Ciafaloni et al., 1009.0224  
Cirelli et al., 1012.4515  
Ciafaloni et al., 1202.0692  
AH & Iengo, 1111.2916

} large EW corrections

⋮

Chatterjee et al., 1209.2328  
Harz et al., 1212.5241  
Ciafaloni et al., 1305.6391  
Hermann et al., 1404.2931  
Boudjema et al., 1403.7459

} ***thermal relic density***

$$\Omega_{DM} h^2 = 0.1187 \pm 0.0017. \quad <1.5\% \text{ uncertainty!}$$

Planck+WMAP pol.+highL+BAO; 1303.5062

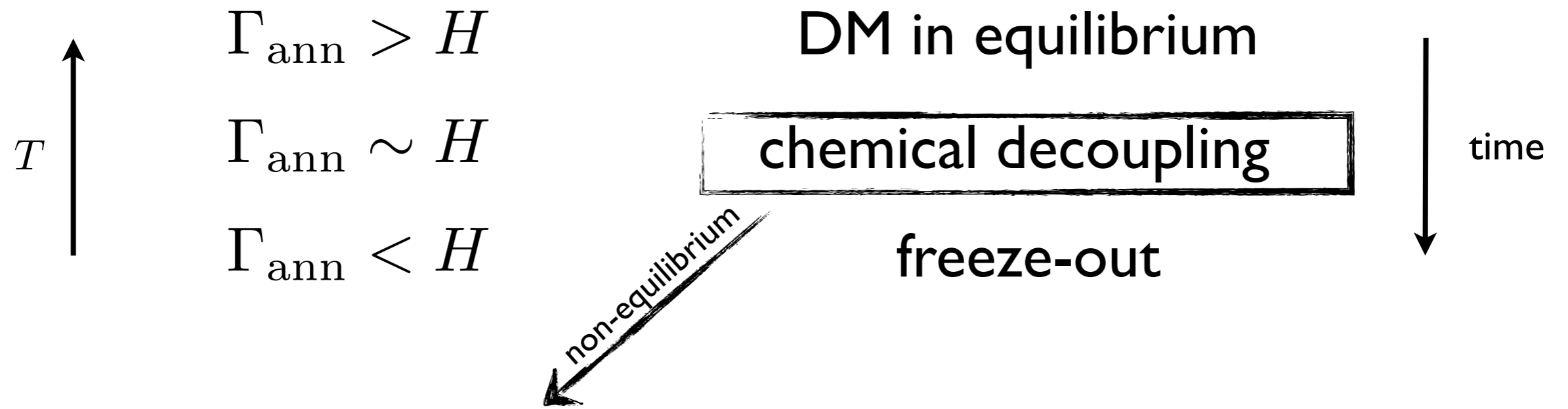
⋮

SloopS, DM@NLO, PPC4DMID

} NLO codes

# RELIC DENSITY

## STANDARD APPROACH



time evolution of  $f_\chi(p)$  in kinetic theory:

$$\boxed{E (\partial_t - H \vec{p} \cdot \nabla_{\vec{p}})} f_\chi = \mathcal{C}[f_\chi] \implies \frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3H n_\chi = C$$

Liouville operator in FRW background      the collision term      integrated

assumptions for using Boltzmann eq: classical limit, molecular chaos,...

# RELIC DENSITY

## BOLTZMANN EQ.

$$\frac{dn_\chi}{dt} + 3Hn_\chi = -\langle\sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij}\sigma_{\text{rel}}\rangle^{\text{eq}} (n_\chi n_{\bar{\chi}} - n_\chi^{\text{eq}} n_{\bar{\chi}}^{\text{eq}})$$

Re-written for the comoving number density:

$$\frac{dY}{dx} = \sqrt{\frac{g_*\pi m_\chi^2}{45G}} \frac{\langle\sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij}\sigma_{\text{rel}}\rangle^{\text{eq}}}{x^2} (Y^2 - Y_{\text{eq}}^2)$$

$$\lim_{x\rightarrow 0} Y = Y_{\text{eq}} \quad \lim_{x\rightarrow\infty} Y = \text{const}$$

Recipe:

compute LO annihilation **cross-section**,  
take a **thermal bath average**,  
plug in to **BE**... and voilà

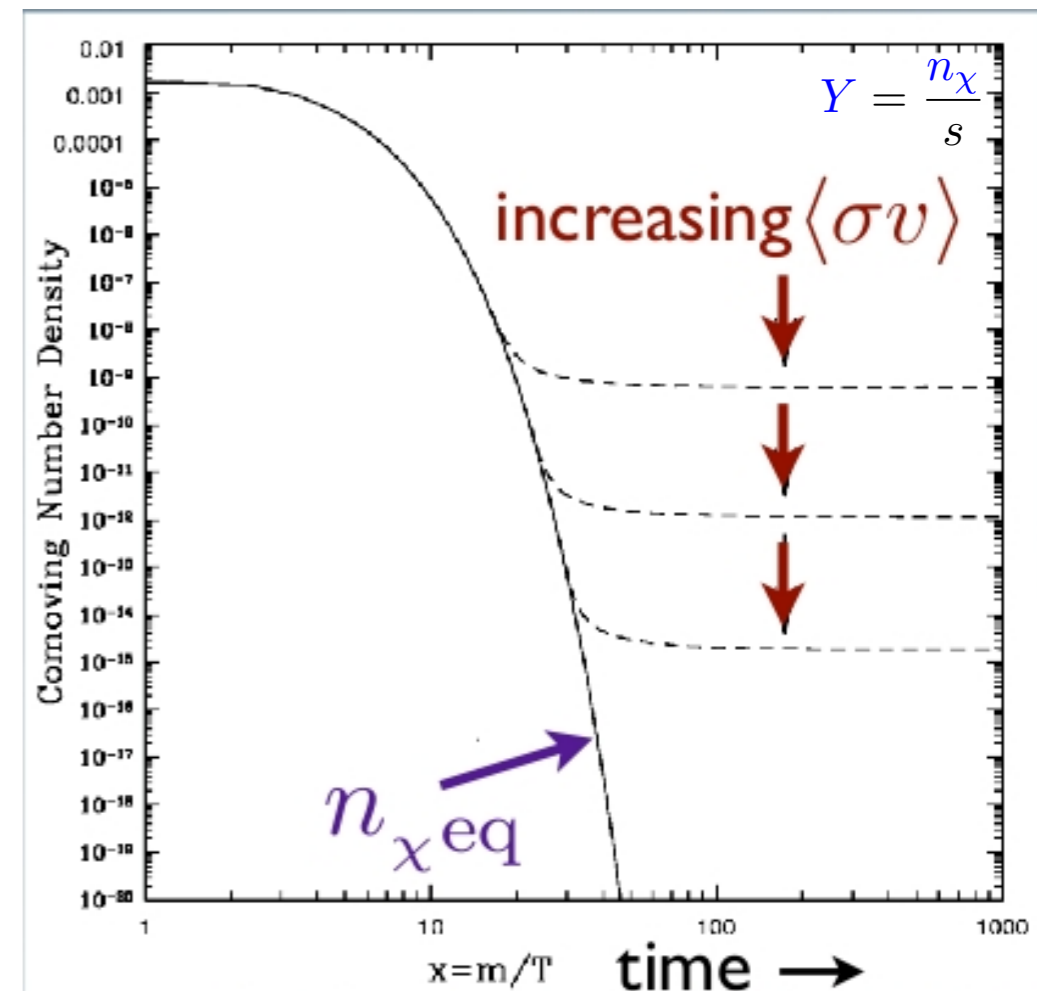


Fig.: Jungman, Kamionkowski & Griest, PR'96

# RELIC DENSITY AT NLO

Recall at LO:

$$C_{\text{LO}} = -h_{\chi}^2 \int \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\chi}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\bar{\chi}}}{(2\pi)^3} \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow ij} v_{\text{rel}} [f_{\chi} f_{\bar{\chi}} (1 \pm f_i)(1 \pm f_j) - f_i f_j (1 \pm f_{\chi})(1 \pm f_{\bar{\chi}})]$$

crucial point:

$$p_{\chi} + p_{\bar{\chi}} = p_i + p_j \Rightarrow f_{\chi}^{\text{eq}} f_{\bar{\chi}}^{\text{eq}} \approx f_i^{\text{eq}} f_j^{\text{eq}}$$

in Maxwell approx.

at NLO both virtual one-loop and 3-body processes contribute:

$$C_{\text{1-loop}} = -h_{\chi}^2 \int \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\chi}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\bar{\chi}}}{(2\pi)^3} \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow ij}^{1\text{-loop}} v_{\text{rel}} [f_{\chi} f_{\bar{\chi}} (1 \pm f_i)(1 \pm f_j) - f_i f_j (1 \pm f_{\chi})(1 \pm f_{\bar{\chi}})]$$

$$C_{\text{real}} = -h_{\chi}^2 \int \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\chi}}{(2\pi)^3} \frac{d^3 \vec{p}_{\bar{\chi}}}{(2\pi)^3} \sigma_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow ij\gamma} v_{\text{rel}} [f_{\chi} f_{\bar{\chi}} (1 \pm f_i)(1 \pm f_j)(1 + f_{\gamma}) - f_i f_j f_{\gamma} (1 \pm f_{\chi})(1 \pm f_{\bar{\chi}})]$$

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$$p_{\chi} + p_{\bar{\chi}} = p_i + p_j \pm p_{\gamma} \Rightarrow$$

photon can be  
arbitrarily soft

$$f_{\gamma} \sim \omega^{-1}$$

Maxwell approx. not valid anymore...

...even bigger problem:  $T$ -dependent IR divergence! 5

# RELIC DENSITY

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT NLO?

$$\begin{aligned}
 C_{\text{NLO}} \sim & \int d\Pi_{\chi\bar{\chi}ij} f_{\chi} f_{\bar{\chi}} \left\{ |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij}^{\text{LO}}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij}^{\text{NLO } T=0}|^2 + \int d\Pi_{\gamma} |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij\gamma}|^2 + \right. \\
 & |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij}^{\text{NLO } T\neq 0}|^2 + \int d\Pi_{\gamma} [f_{\gamma} (|\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\rightarrow ij\gamma}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}\gamma\rightarrow ij}|^2) \\
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# RELIC DENSITY

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENS AT NLO?

only this used in NLO literature so far

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$$\left. - f_i (|\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow ij\gamma}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}i \rightarrow j\gamma}|^2) - f_j (|\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi} \rightarrow ij\gamma}|^2 + |\mathcal{M}_{\chi\bar{\chi}j \rightarrow i\gamma}|^2) \right\}$$

thermal 1-loop

SM fermions emission

SM fermions absorption

photon emission

photon absorption

# QUESTIONS:

Beneke, Dighera, AH, 1409.3049

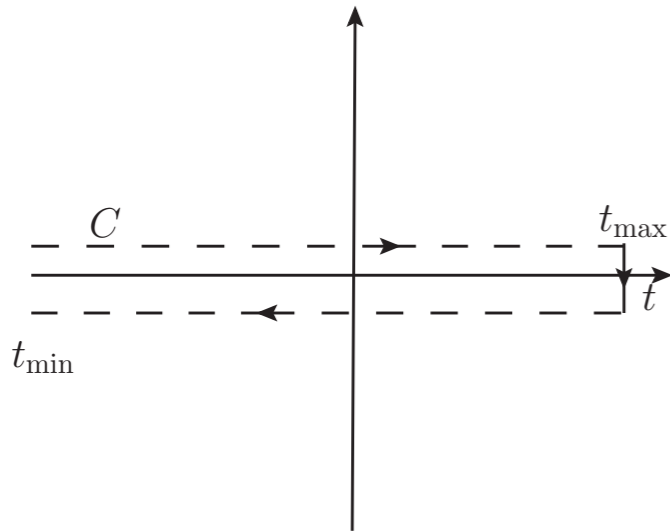
1. how the (soft and collinear) **IR divergence cancellation** happen?
2. does Boltzmann equation itself receive **quantum corrections**?
3. how large are the remaining **finite T corrections**?

**Program: develop a method for relic density calculation directly from QFT and free from IR problems**

framework exists: **non-equilibrium thermal field theory**

# CLOSED TIME PATH

## FORMALISM



$$i\Delta(x, y) = \langle T_C \phi(x) \phi^\dagger(y) \rangle,$$

$$iS_{\alpha\beta}(x, y) = \langle T_C \psi_\alpha(x) \bar{\psi}_\beta(y) \rangle,$$

contour Green's functions obey Dyson-Schwinger eqs:

$$\Delta(x, y) = \Delta_0(x, y) - \int_C d^4 z \int_C d^4 z' \Delta_0(x, z) \Pi(z, z') \Delta(z', y),$$

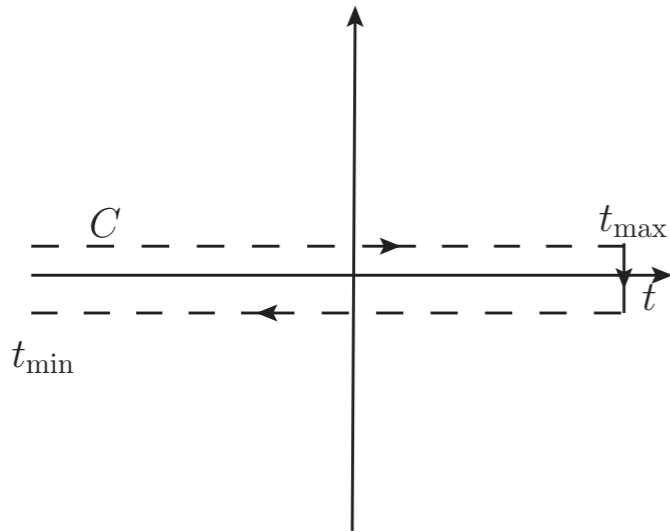
$$S_{\alpha\beta}(x, y) = S_{\alpha\beta}^0(x, y) - \int_C d^4 z \int_C d^4 z' S_{\alpha\gamma}^0(x, z) \Sigma_{\gamma\rho}(z, z') S_{\rho\beta}(z', y),$$

which can be rewritten in the form of **Kadanoff-Baym** eqs:

$$(-\partial^2 - m_\phi^2) \Delta^{\lessgtr}(x, y) - \int d^4 z \left( \Pi_h(x, z) \Delta^{\lessgtr}(z, y) - \Pi^{\lessgtr}(x, z) \Delta_h(z, y) \right) = \mathcal{C}_\phi,$$

$$(i\cancel{\partial} - m_\chi) S^{\lessgtr}(x, y) - \int d^4 z \left( \Sigma_h(x, z) S^{\lessgtr}(z, y) - \Sigma^{\lessgtr}(x, z) S_h(z, y) \right) = \mathcal{C}_\chi,$$

# CLOSED TIME PATH FORMALISM



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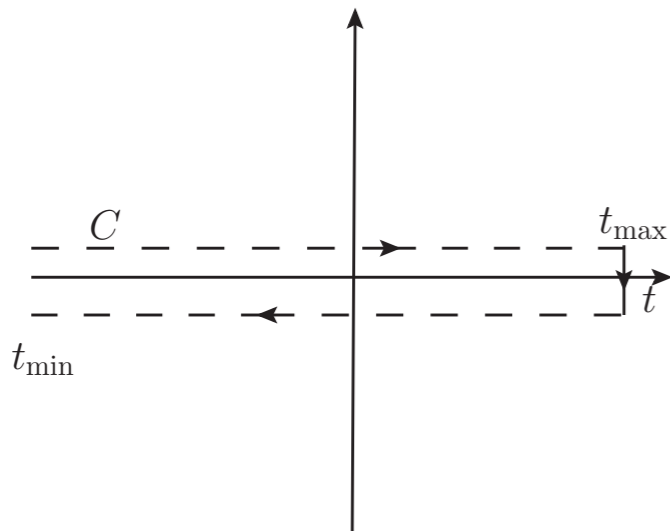
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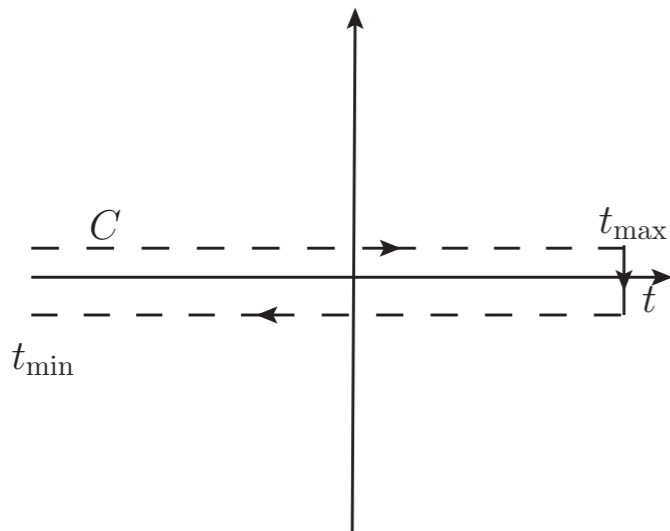
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# CLOSED TIME PATH

## FORMALISM: COLLISION TERM

the fermion collision terms is defined as:

$$C_\chi = \frac{1}{2} \int d^4 z \left( \Sigma^>(x, z) S^<(z, y) - \Sigma^<(x, z) S^>(z, y) \right)$$

where the **propagators**:

$$iS^c(p) = \frac{i(\not{p} + m)}{p^2 - m^2 + i\eta} - \boxed{2\pi(\not{p} + m) \delta(p^2 - m^2) f(p^0)}$$

thermal part

$$iS^a(p) = -\frac{i(\not{p} + m)}{p^2 - m^2 + i\eta} + 2\pi(\not{p} + m) \delta(p^2 - m^2) (1 - f(p^0))$$

$$iS^>(p) = 2\pi(\not{p} + m) \delta(p^2 - m^2) (1 - f(p^0))$$

$$iS^<(p) = -2\pi(\not{p} + m) \delta(p^2 - m^2) f(p^0)$$

} "cut" propagators

the presence of **distribution functions** inside **propagators**  $\Rightarrow$  known collision term structure



# RESULTS

## IR DIVERGENCE CANCELLATION: S-WAVE

The divergent part  $J_{-1}$

Type A	Real	Virtual	External	Type B	Real	Virtual	External
	$\frac{\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$-\frac{\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$-\frac{\alpha}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$\frac{\alpha}{\pi\epsilon^2}$
	$\frac{\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$-\frac{\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$-\frac{\alpha}{\pi\epsilon^2}$		$\frac{\alpha}{\pi\epsilon^2}$
	0				0		
	0	0			0	0	
	0				0		
	0				0		
	0				0		
	0				0		
		0				0	
		0				0	
		0				0	
	$\frac{2\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)^2}{\pi\epsilon^2\sqrt{1-4\epsilon^2}}L$	$-\frac{2\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)^2}{\pi\epsilon^2\sqrt{1-4\epsilon^2}}L$			$\frac{2\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2\sqrt{1-4\epsilon^2}}L$	$-\frac{2\alpha(1-2\epsilon^2)}{\pi\epsilon^2\sqrt{1-4\epsilon^2}}L$	

→ cancels in every row separately

⇒ every CTP self-energy is **IR finite**

# RESULTS

## FINITE T CORRECTION: S-WAVE

factorized  $\frac{\pi}{6} \alpha \tau^2 \frac{a_{\text{tree}}}{\epsilon^2}$

The finite part  $J_1$

Type A	Real	Virtual	External
	$\frac{2(1-\xi^2)}{D^2 D_\xi^2} + \frac{(1-2\epsilon^2)p_1(\epsilon, \xi)}{2D^2 D_\xi^2} + \frac{1}{2\sqrt{D}} L$		$\frac{(1-2\epsilon^2)(\xi^2-3D)}{2DD_\xi} - \frac{1}{2\sqrt{D}} L$
	— " —		— " —
	$-\frac{4(1-2\epsilon^2)D}{D_\xi^2}$		
	$-\frac{2(1-2\epsilon^2)\xi^2}{D_\xi^2} - \frac{f_1(\epsilon, \xi)}{\sqrt{DD_\xi^2}} L$	$\frac{2(1-2\epsilon^2)(D-\xi^2)}{D_\xi^2} + \frac{f_1(\epsilon, \xi)}{\sqrt{DD_\xi^2}} L$	
	— " —	— " —	
	— " —	— " —	
	— " —	— " —	
		$-\frac{4(1-2\epsilon^2)D}{D_\xi^2}$	
		— " —	
	$\frac{2(1-2\epsilon^2)p_2(\epsilon, \xi) + (1-\xi^2)^2}{D^2 D_\xi^2} + \frac{4f_2(\epsilon, \xi)}{\sqrt{DD_\xi^2}} L$	$\frac{16\epsilon^2(2-3\epsilon^2) - (3-\xi^2)^2}{D_\xi^2} - \frac{4f_2(\epsilon, \xi)}{\sqrt{DD_\xi^2}} L$	

→ **Log terms**  
cancels in  
**every row**  
separately



**no collinear**  
divergence!

separate contributions complicated, but when summed up...

$$\Delta a_{\tau^4}^{\epsilon=0} = \frac{8\pi^2 \lambda^4 \alpha \tau^4}{45} \frac{1}{(1+\xi^2)^4} = \frac{4\pi}{45} \alpha \tau^4 \frac{1}{(1+\xi^2)^2} \frac{a_{\text{tree}}}{\epsilon^2} \Big|_{\epsilon=0}$$

$$\xi = \frac{m_\phi}{m_\chi} \gtrsim 1$$

$$\tau = \frac{T}{m_\chi} \ll 1$$

$$\epsilon = \frac{m_f}{2m_\chi} \ll \tau$$

strongly suppressed as at kinetic equilibrium  $\tau \sim v^2$

# THE POWER OF THERMAL OPE

M. Beneke, F. Dighera, AH, I607.03910

The **cross section** can be written as the **Im part** of the **forward scattering amplitude**:

$$\sigma v_{\text{rel}} = \frac{2}{s} \text{Im} \left\{ (-i) \int d^4x \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spin}} \langle \bar{\chi}\chi; T | \mathcal{T} \left\{ \mathcal{O}_{\text{ann}}(0) \mathcal{O}_{\text{ann}}^\dagger(x) \right\} | \bar{\chi}\chi; T \rangle \right\}$$

clear separation of soft (**thermal effects**)  
and hard (**annihilation/decay**) modes

$$T \ll m$$

$\Rightarrow$  **Operator Product Expansion**

$$-i \int d^4x e^{-ip \cdot x} \mathcal{T} \left\{ J_A^\mu(0) J_B^{\nu\dagger}(x) \right\} = \sum_i C_{AB}^i(p) \cdot \mathcal{O}_i$$

Possible operators up to dim 4:

	$\mathbb{1}$	$F^{\alpha\beta} F^{\gamma\delta}$	$m_f \bar{f} \Gamma f$	$\bar{f} \Gamma i D^\alpha f$
	$\nearrow$	$\uparrow$	$\uparrow$	$\uparrow$
Matrix elements:	LO	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha T^4)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha m_f^2 T^2)$	$\mathcal{O}(\alpha T^4)$

Wilson coeffs.  
matched at T=0

No dim 2 operator!

No IR divergence to begin with!

# ADVANTAGES OF OPE

- The **scaling with T** is manifest
- Separation of **T=0** and **T-dependent** contributions
- **Significant simplification** of the computations
- Clear **physics interpretation**: at  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha\tau^2)$  effects of thermal **kinetic energy**

Example: muon decay in thermal bath\*

Czarnecki et al. '11

$$-i \int d^4x e^{-ip \cdot x} \mathcal{T}\{J^\mu(0) J^{\nu\dagger}(x)\} = C_0^{\mu\nu} \bar{\psi}\psi + C_2^{\mu\nu} \bar{\psi} \frac{i}{2} \sigma_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta} \psi + \mathcal{O}(m_\psi^{-3}),$$

\*Analogy: semi-leptonic  $H_b$  decay in QCD

In the Literature:

OPE in finite temperature - [Hatsuda, Koike, Lee '93](#); [Mallik '97](#); ...

Related EFT approach - [Biondini, Brambilla, Escobedo, Vairo '13](#); ...

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$$\bar{\psi}\psi = \bar{\psi}\psi + \frac{1}{2m_\psi^2} \bar{\psi} (iD_\perp)^2 \psi + \frac{i}{4m_\psi^2} \bar{\psi} \sigma_{\alpha\beta} F^{\alpha\beta} \psi + \mathcal{O}(m_\psi^{-3}),$$

↑  
LO

↑  
 $\mathcal{O}(\alpha\tau^2)$

...and the final correction:

$$\Gamma_T = \Gamma_0 (1 - K_\psi) + \mathcal{O}(T^3/m_\psi^3).$$

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In the Literature:

OPE in finite temperature - Hatsuda, Koike, Lee '93; Mallik '97; ...

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# CONCLUSIONS

1. how the (soft and collinear) **IR divergence cancellation** happen?  
automatic in thermal QFT formalism, cancellation at the level of **every CTP self-energy**
2. does Boltzmann equation itself receive **quantum corrections**?  
no, not at NLO
3. how large are the remaining **finite T corrections**?  
strongly suppressed, of order  $\mathcal{O}(\alpha T^4)$
4. the **thermal OPE method** provides a useful tool and also physics interpretation of the **thermal correction**

To take home:

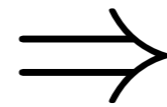
**complete framework for computations  
of relic density at NLO w/ thermal effects**

BACKUP SLIDES

# CLOSED TIME PATH

## PATH TO BOLTZMANN EQUATION

Kadanoff-Baym



Boltzmann

$$E (\partial_t - H \vec{p} \cdot \nabla_{\vec{p}}) f = \mathcal{C}[f].$$

collision term **derived** from thermal QFT

Assumptions:

weak inhomogeneity

gradient expansion

quasi-particle approx.

weak interactions

Justification:

inhomogeneity

plasma excitation  
momenta

$$\partial \ll k$$

freeze-out happens  
close to equilibrium



# RESULTS

coming back to our example...

every contribution can be written in a form:

$$\int_0^\infty d\omega f_\gamma(\omega) S(\omega, e_\chi, \epsilon, \xi)$$

↑ photon energy      S(ω, e<sub>χ</sub>, ε, ξ)

$$f_\gamma(\omega) = \frac{1}{1 - e^{\omega/T}}$$

↓ expand in ω

$$S = \sum_{i=-1}^{\infty} s_n \omega^n$$

note:

$$J_n \equiv \int_0^\infty f_B(\omega) \omega^n d\omega = \begin{cases} \text{div} & n \leq 0 \\ \sim \tau^{n+1} & n > 0 \end{cases}$$

**IR divergence** in separate terms:  $J_{-1} \leftrightarrow T = 0$  soft div  
 $J_0 \leftrightarrow T = 0$  soft eikonal

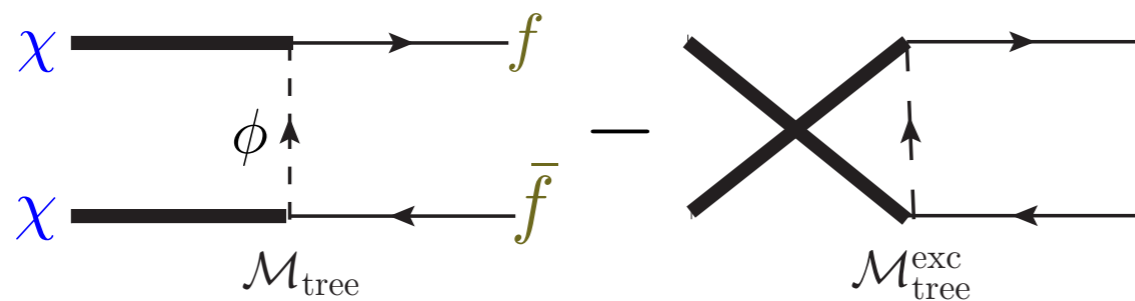
**finite T** corrections:  $J_1 \leftrightarrow \mathcal{O}(\tau^2) \dots$

# COLLISION TERM

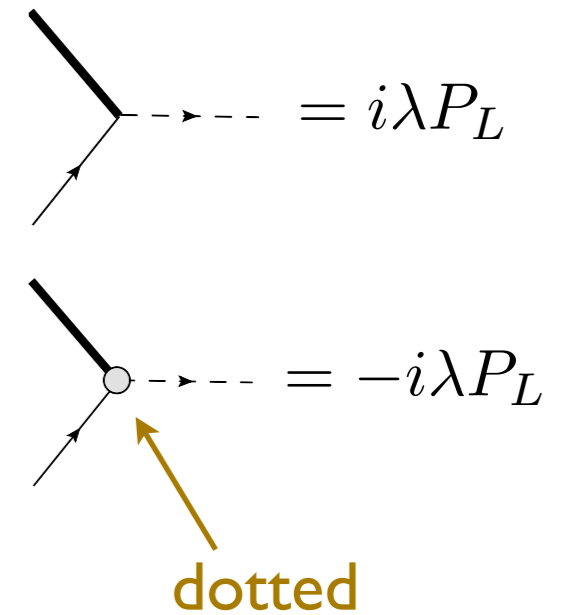
## EXAMPLE

Bino-like DM:  $\chi$  Majorana fermion, SM singlet

annihilation process at tree level:



vertices (2 types):

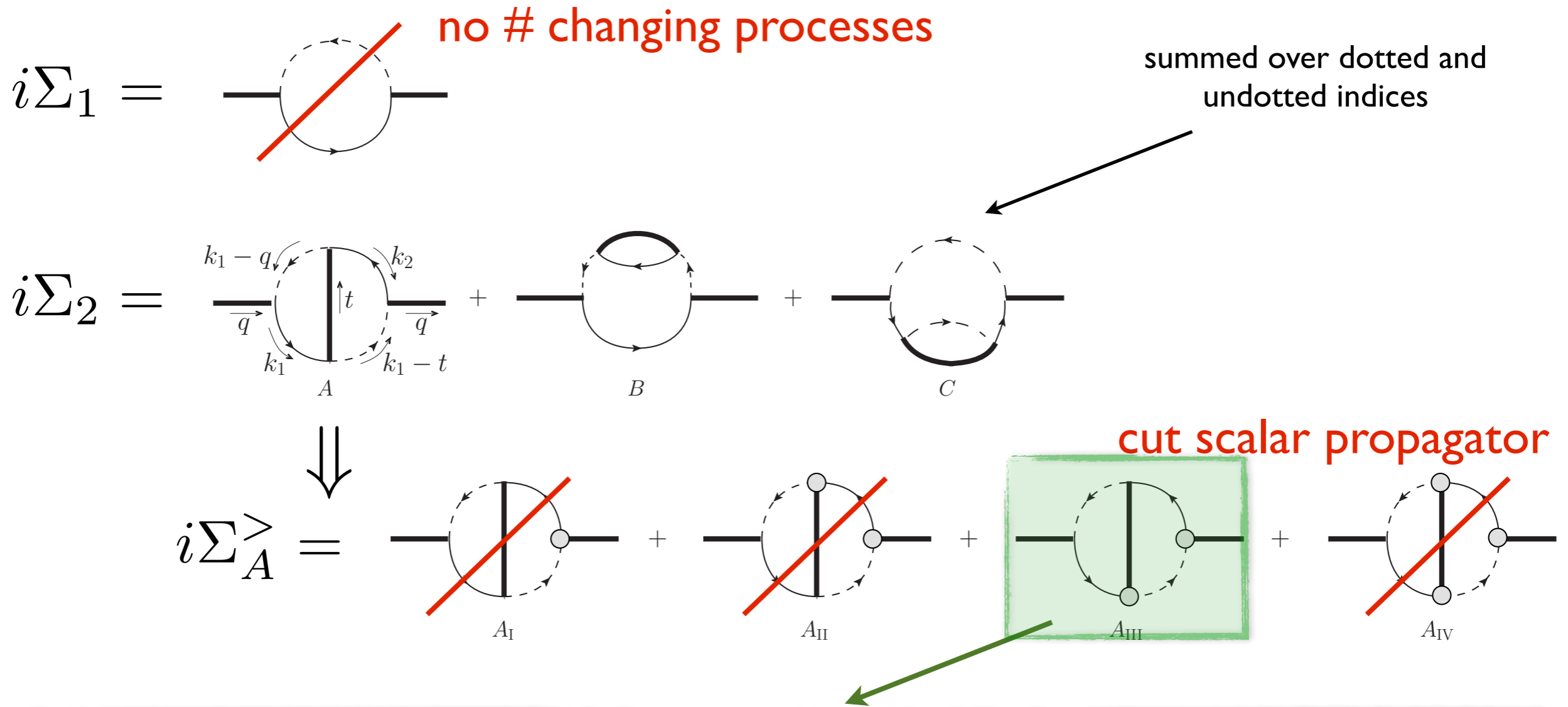


scale hierarchy:  $m_\phi \gtrsim m_\chi \gg T \gg m_f$

no thermal contributions      effectively massless

rescaled variables:  $\tau = \frac{T}{m_\chi} \ll 1$        $\epsilon = \frac{m_f}{2m_\chi} \ll \tau$        $\xi = \frac{m_\phi}{m_\chi} \gtrsim 1$

# COLLISION TERM COMPUTATION



$$\Sigma_{A_{III}}^>(q) S^<(q) = -\lambda^4 \int \frac{d^4 t}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4 k_1}{(2\pi)^4} \frac{d^4 k_2}{(2\pi)^4} (2\pi)^4 \delta(q + t - k_1 - k_2)$$

$$\underbrace{i\Delta^{11}(k_1 - q) i\Delta^{22}(k_1 - t)}_{\equiv \mathcal{S}} \underbrace{P_R iS^{21}(k_2) P_L iS^{12}(t) P_L iS^{21}(k_1) P_R iS^{12}(q)}_{\equiv \mathcal{F}}$$

# COLLISION TERM MATCHING

after inserting the propagators:

$$\Sigma_{A_{III}}^>(q) S^<(q) = \frac{1}{2E_{\chi_1}} (2\pi) \delta(q^0 - E_{\chi_1}) \int \frac{d^4t}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{\chi_2}} \delta(t^0 - E_{\chi_2}) \times$$

$$\int \frac{d^3\vec{k}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{f_1}} \frac{d^3\vec{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{f_2}} (2\pi)^4 \delta(q + t - k_1 - k_2) |\mathcal{M}_A|^2 \left[ f_\chi(q) f_\chi(t) \left(1 - f_f^{\text{eq}}(k_1^0)\right) \left(1 - f_f^{\text{eq}}(k_2^0)\right) \right]$$

⇒ one indeed recovers the known collision term and

$$|\mathcal{M}_A|^2 = \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \longrightarrow \longrightarrow \longrightarrow \text{---} \\ \uparrow \hspace{10em} \downarrow \\ \text{---} \longleftarrow \longleftarrow \longleftarrow \text{---} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \diagdown \hspace{1em} \diagup \\ \text{---} \end{array} \quad \text{(part of) tree level } |\mathcal{M}|^2$$

$\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}} \qquad (\mathcal{M}_{\text{tree}}^{\text{exc}})^*$

repeating the same for B type diagrams the bottom line:

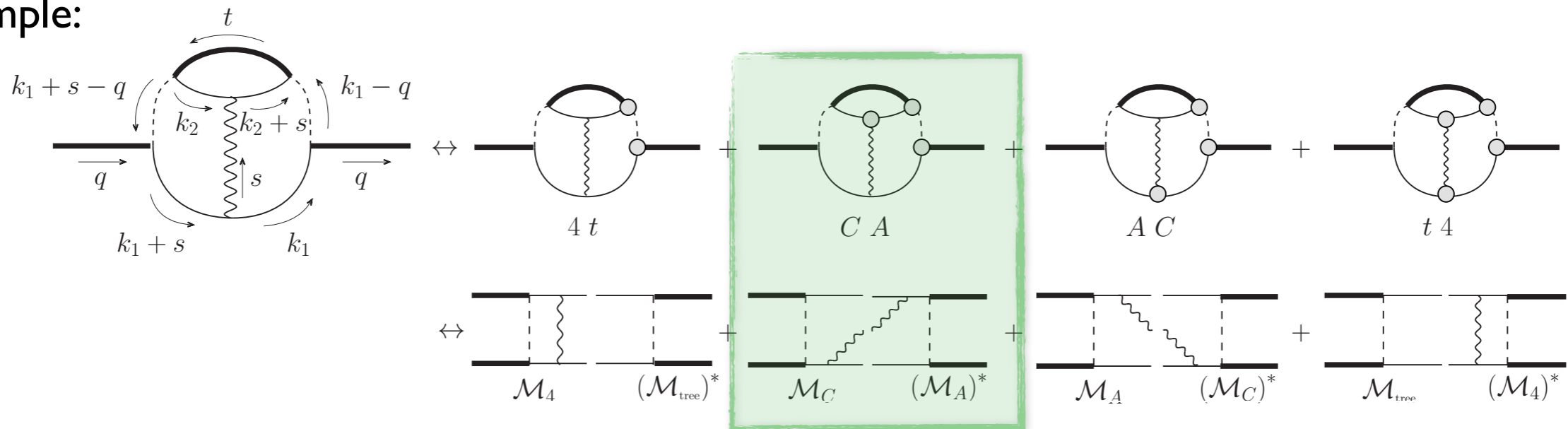
$$i\Sigma^> \leftrightarrow \text{tree level annihilation contribution to the collision term}$$

# COLLISION TERM

## MATCHING AT NLO

$i\Sigma_3 = 20$  self-energy diagrams

example:



$$\begin{aligned}
 \Sigma_{CA}^>(q) S^<(q) &= \frac{1}{2E_{\chi_1}} (2\pi) \delta(q^0 - E_{\chi_1}) \int \frac{d^4 t}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{\chi_2}} \delta(t^0 - E_{\chi_2}) \\
 &\int \frac{d^3 \vec{k}_1}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{f_1}} \frac{d^3 \vec{k}_2}{(2\pi)^3 2E_{f_2}} \frac{d^3 \vec{s}}{(2\pi)^3 2E_\gamma} (2\pi)^4 \delta(q + t - k_1 - k_2 - s) \\
 &\mathcal{M}_C (\mathcal{M}_A)^* \left[ f_\chi(q) f_\chi(t) \left(1 - f_f^{\text{eq}}(k_1^0)\right) \left(1 - f_f^{\text{eq}}(k_2^0)\right) \left(1 + f_\gamma^{\text{eq}}(s^0)\right) \right]
 \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  at NLO thermal effects do not change the **collision therm structure**