

An useful expression for collision term for a two-to-two process ($1 + 2 \rightarrow 3 + 4$) is that [1]:

$$C_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} \approx \frac{T}{32\pi^4} \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} s^{1/2} (s - 4m^2) \sigma_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} K_1 \left(\frac{s^{1/2}}{T} \right) ds, \quad (1)$$

where $C_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4}$ is defined by

$$C_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} = \int d\Pi_1 d\Pi_2 d\Pi_3 d\Pi_4 f_1^{\text{eq}} f_2^{\text{eq}} |\mathcal{M}|^2 (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_1^\mu + p_2^\mu - p_3^\mu - p_4^\mu), \quad (2)$$

$$f_i^{\text{eq}} = g_i e^{-E_i/T}. \quad (3)$$

To derive it, we can start from the basic conceptions. The Boltzmann equation for $m_1 = m_2 \equiv m$ and $n_1 = n_2$ is

$$a^{-3} \frac{d(n \cdot a^3)}{dt} = -\langle \sigma v \rangle (n^2 - n_{\text{eq}}^2). \quad (4)$$

Generally, the dimensionless variable Y is defined by

$$Y \equiv \frac{n}{s}, \quad (5)$$

where the entropy density s is given by

$$s = \frac{2\pi^2}{45} g_{s*} T^3, \quad (6)$$

The total entropy per comoving volume

$$S = sa^3 \quad (7)$$

is constant in absence of entropy production. Therefore, applying this equation, we obtain

$$\dot{Y} = -s \langle \sigma v \rangle (Y^2 - Y_{\text{eq}}^2). \quad (8)$$

Now, we have to compute the thermally averaged cross section $\langle \sigma v \rangle$.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle \sigma v \rangle &= \frac{1}{\int f_1^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_1 f_2^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_2} \int f_1^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_1 f_2^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_2 \sigma v, \\ &= \frac{1}{\int f_1^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_1 f_2^{\text{eq}} d\Lambda_2} C_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

where

$$d\Lambda_i = d^3 \mathbf{p}_i / (2\pi)^3, \quad (10)$$

We already know that the denominator is exactly the production of number density in equilibrium

$$n_1^{(0)} n_2^{(0)} = \frac{g_1 g_2}{2\pi^2} m^4 T^2 \left[K_2 \left(\frac{m}{T} \right) \right]^2. \quad (11)$$

And cross section and the “relative velocity” σv is defined by

$$\sigma = \frac{1}{4E_1 E_2 v} \int d\Pi_3 d\Pi_4 (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}(p_1^\mu + p_2^\mu - p_3^\mu - p_4^\mu) |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad (12)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
v &= \left[|v_1 - v_2|^2 - |v_1 \times v_2|^2 \right]^{1/2} \\
&= \frac{1}{E_1 E_2} \sqrt{(p_1^\mu p_{2\mu})^2 - m^4}
\end{aligned} \tag{13}$$

Now we should compute the numerator. It's necessary to choose a proper variables set to simplify the multiple integrals (we have use p^μ to denote 4-vector and p to denote the magnitude of 3-vector of \mathbf{p}):

$$d\Lambda_1 d\Lambda_2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} p_1^2 dp_1 d\Omega_1 p_2^2 dp_2 d\Omega_2. \tag{14}$$

First, we can perform a rotation so that the polar angle θ of the particle 2 can be the angle between \mathbf{p}_1 and \mathbf{p}_2 . Therefore,

$$d\Lambda_1 d\Lambda_2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} 4\pi p_1 E_1 dE_1 4\pi p_2 E_2 dE_2 \frac{1}{2} d\cos\theta.$$

Defining that

$$\begin{aligned}
E_+ &= E_1 + E_2, & E_- &= E_1 - E_2, \\
s_M &= 2m^2 + 2E_1 E_2 - 2p_1 p_2 \cos\theta,
\end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

we know that

$$dE_+ dE_- = 2dE_1 dE_2.$$

Because E_+, E_- is not explicit function of θ , we just need to be concerned about $\partial s_M / \partial \theta$. Therefore,

$$d\Lambda_1 d\Lambda_2 = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} 2\pi^2 E_1 E_2 dE_+ dE_- ds_M. \tag{16}$$

The integration limits can be solved by the MMA Reduce function, which are

$$\begin{aligned}
s_M &\geq 4m^2 \\
E_+ &\geq \sqrt{s_M} \\
|E_-| &\leq \sqrt{1 - 4m^2/s_M} \sqrt{E_+^2 - s_M}
\end{aligned} \tag{17}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} \int d^3 p_1 d^3 p_2 e^{-E_+/T} \sigma v \\
&= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^6} \int 2\pi^2 E_1 E_2 v dE_+ dE_- ds_M e^{-E_+/T} \sigma \\
&= \frac{2\pi^2}{(2\pi)^6} \int dE_+ dE_- ds_M \sqrt{(p_1^\mu p_{2\mu})^2 - m^4} e^{-E_+/T} \sigma \\
&= \frac{2\pi^2}{(2\pi)^6} \int dE_+ dE_- ds_M \sqrt{\left(\frac{s_M}{2} - m^2\right)^2 - m^4} e^{-E_+/T} \sigma \\
&= \frac{2\pi^2}{(2\pi)^6} \int ds_M dE_+ (s_M - 4m^2) \sqrt{E_+^2 - s_M} e^{-E_+/T} \sigma \\
&= \frac{T}{32\pi^4} \int_{4m^2}^{\infty} ds_M (s_M - 4m^2) \sqrt{s_M} \sigma_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} K_1\left(\frac{\sqrt{s_M}}{T}\right).
\end{aligned} \tag{18}$$

Applying this result, we are able to compute the collision term for the process $\nu_R + \bar{\nu}_R \rightarrow \chi + \bar{\chi}$, where ν_R denotes the right-handed neutrino and χ denotes the dark matter fermion. It's necessary for us to calculate the cross-section firstly. ν_R couples to χ through a dark matter scalar ϕ . The interaction terms can be written as

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = -y \chi \nu_R \phi. \quad (19)$$

Therefore, the process $\nu_R + \bar{\nu}_R \rightarrow \chi + \bar{\chi}$ has a contribution of t -channel.

The invariant matrix element \mathcal{M} is given by

$$\mathcal{M} = (-iy\bar{u}(k)u(p)) \frac{i}{q^2 - m_\phi^2} (-iy\bar{v}(p')v(k')). \quad (20)$$

The Mandelstam variables are defined by equations below:

$$s = (p + p')^2, \quad (21)$$

$$t = (p - k)^2, \quad (22)$$

$$u = (p - k')^2. \quad (23)$$

Since q can be expressed by

$$q = p - k, \quad (24)$$

we can rewrite the equation for \mathcal{M} :

$$\mathcal{M} = (-iy\bar{u}(k)u(p)) \frac{i}{t - m_\phi^2} (-iy\bar{v}(p')v(k')). \quad (25)$$

The averaged squared amplitude is

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{4} \sum_{\text{spins}} |\mathcal{M}|^2 \\ &= \frac{y^4}{4(t - m_\phi^2)^2} \text{tr} [(k + m_\chi)(\not{p} + m_{\nu_R})] \text{tr} [(\not{k}' - m_\chi)(\not{p}' - m_{\nu_R})] \\ &= y^4 \left(\frac{t - m_\chi^2}{t - m_\phi^2} \right)^2 \quad (\text{we have assumed that } m_{\nu_R} = 0). \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

The cross-section is defined by

$$\frac{d}{d\Omega} \sigma_{1+2 \rightarrow 3+4} = \frac{1}{4E_1 E_2 v_{\text{Møller}}} \frac{|\mathbf{p}_3|}{(2\pi)^2 4E_{\text{cm}}} |\mathcal{M}|^2, \quad (27)$$

$$\frac{d}{d\Omega} \sigma_{2\nu_R \rightarrow 2\chi} = \frac{y^4}{64\pi^2 s} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} \left(\frac{t - m_\chi^2}{t - m_\phi^2} \right)^2. \quad (28)$$

$$t = (p - k)^2 = p^2 + k^2 - 2p \cdot k = m_\chi^2 - \frac{s}{2} + \frac{s}{2} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} \cos \theta \quad (29)$$

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{d}{d\Omega}\sigma_{2\nu_R\rightarrow 2\chi} &= \frac{y^4}{64\pi^2 s} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} \frac{1}{\left(1 + \frac{2(m_\phi^2 - m_\chi^2)/s}{1 - \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} \cos \theta}\right)^2} \\ &= \frac{y^4}{64\pi^2 s} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_\phi^2 - m_\chi^2}{s}\right).\end{aligned}\quad (30)$$

$$\sigma_{2\nu_R\rightarrow 2\chi} = \frac{y^4}{16\pi s} \sqrt{1 - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{s}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{m_\phi^2 - m_\chi^2}{s}\right) \quad (31)$$

Now, we just need to replace the σ the collision term with this express. For the 0-order approximation, we have

$$\begin{aligned}C_{2\nu_R\rightarrow 2\chi} &= \frac{y^4 T}{512\pi^5} \int_{4m_\chi^2}^{\infty} ds \sqrt{s - 4m_\chi^2} K_1\left(\frac{\sqrt{s}}{T}\right) \\ &= \frac{y^4 T^4}{512\pi^5} \int_{\frac{4m_\chi^2}{T^2}}^{\infty} dx \sqrt{x - \frac{4m_\chi^2}{T^2}} K_1(\sqrt{x}) \\ &= \frac{y^4}{128\pi^5} \left[m_\chi T K_1\left(\frac{m_\chi}{T}\right)\right]^2\end{aligned}\quad (32)$$

For high- and low-temperature limits:

$$\lim_{T\rightarrow\infty} C_{2\nu_R\rightarrow 2\chi} \approx \frac{y^4}{128\pi^5} T^4, \quad (33)$$

$$\lim_{T\rightarrow 0} C_{2\nu_R\rightarrow 2\chi} \approx \frac{y^4}{256\pi^4} T^3 m_\chi e^{-2m_\chi/T}. \quad (34)$$

Monte Carlo Method

To obtain the collision term, a general way and almost useful in every situation is calculating it via numerical method, especially the *Monte Carlo Method*. Two related references [4, 2] give the methods. The phase space

$$d\Phi_n \equiv (2\pi)^4 \delta^{(4)}\left(p - \sum_{i=1}^n p_i\right) \prod_{i=1}^n \frac{d^3 p_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_i}. \quad (35)$$

Using the technology of induction, one can obtain that

$$\int d\Phi_n = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^{3n-4}} \int_{\mu_{n-1}}^{M_n - m_n} dM_{n-1} \cdots \int_{\mu_2}^{M_3 - m_3} dM_2 \left(\int \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} d\Omega_i \right) \frac{1}{2^n M_n} \prod_{i=2}^n P_i, \quad (36)$$

where

$$P_i \equiv \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(M_i^2, M_{i-1}^2, m_i^2)}}{2M_i}, \quad (37)$$

$$\lambda(x, y, z) \equiv (x - y - z)^2 - 4yz, \quad (38)$$

$$\mu_i \equiv \sum_{j=1}^i m_j, \quad (39)$$

and $d\Omega_i$ is defined as the differential solid angle in the rest frame of $k_{i+1} \equiv \sum_{j=1}^{i+1} p_j$. More generally, the phase space for $m \rightarrow n$ process is

$$\prod_{i=1}^m \frac{d^3 p_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_i} \prod_{j=1}^n \frac{d^3 p'_j}{(2\pi)^3 2E'_j} (2\pi)^4 \delta^4(p_{in} - p_{out}) \quad (40)$$

By introducing the parameter

$$\kappa = \sum_i^m p_i \quad (41)$$

The phase space can be written as

$$\int d^4 \kappa \prod_{i=1}^m \frac{d^3 p_i}{(2\pi)^3 2E_i} \delta^4 \left(\kappa - \sum_i^m p_i \right) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_n'^2 \right) d\Phi'_n(\kappa). \quad (42)$$

It is natural to rewrite the integration as

$$\frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4 \kappa d\Phi_m(\kappa) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_n'^2 \right) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_m'^2 \right) d\Phi'_n(\kappa). \quad (43)$$

Now, applying this result for a $2 \rightarrow 2$ process, the collision term under Boltzmann approximation is

$$\begin{aligned} C^n(T) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4 \kappa d\Phi_2(\kappa) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2 \right) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2 \right) d\Phi'_2(\kappa) \exp[-(E_1 + E_2)/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2 \\ &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4 \kappa \int \frac{d\Omega_1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1^2, m_2^2)}}{8\kappa^2} \int \frac{d\Omega'_1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1'^2, m_2'^2)}}{8\kappa^2} \\ &\quad \times \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2 \right) \theta \left(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2 \right) \exp[-\kappa^0/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2 \end{aligned} \quad (44)$$

Example 1. $2\nu \rightarrow 2e$

A typical squared amplitude of neutrino annihilation is[3]:

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = G(p_1 \cdot p_2)(p'_1 \cdot p'_2), \quad (45)$$

which is equivalently

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = \frac{G}{4} (\kappa^2 - m_1^2 - m_2^2) (\kappa^2 - m_1'^2 - m_2'^2). \quad (46)$$

Learning from the results, we understand that our Monte Carlo integration code may be correct, except for 10% of the coefficient. I have thought of a possible reason. Assuming that the samples are evenly distributed in the phase space, there are only about 30 kinds of assignments for each

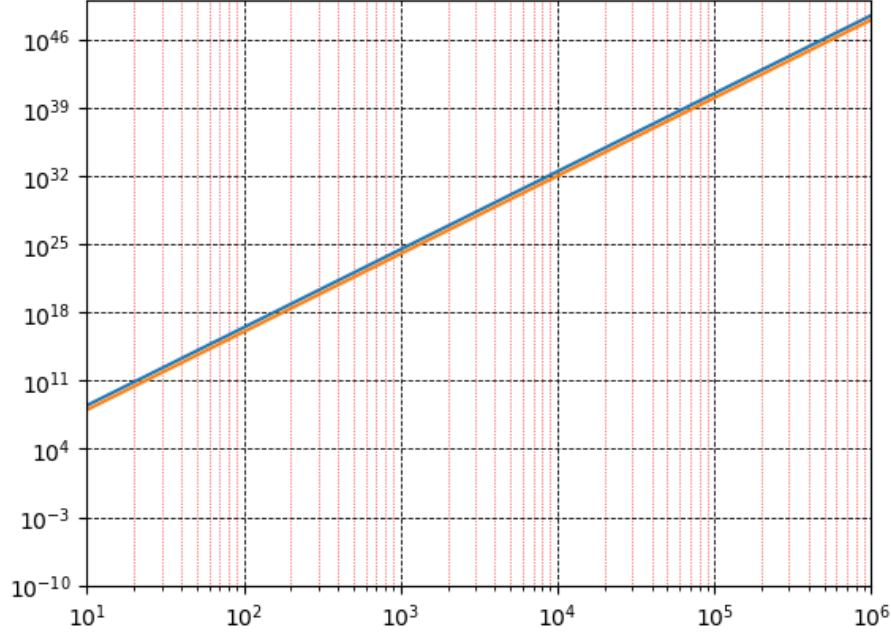


Figure 1: Calculated from 4D Monte Carlo. Apparently, the numeric result shows the power law correctly. However, the coefficient is about 10% of $3/(8\pi^5)$, which is obtained with 10^6 samples generated.

coordinate. Considering that the integrand does not explicitly contain the angles, the collision term is then

$$C^n(T) = \frac{\Omega_{\vec{\kappa}}}{(2\pi)^4} \int dE k^2 dk \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1^2, m_2^2)}}{8\pi\kappa^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1'^2, m_2'^2)}}{8\pi\kappa^2} \times \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2^2) \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2) \exp[-E/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2 \quad (47)$$

Later, we find that the 4D spherical Monte Carlo integration fits the analytic results well. And it is equivalent to 2D Monte Carlo integration. And we find that there are only $\frac{4\pi}{3} \times \frac{1}{8} \times \frac{1}{4} \simeq 13\%$ samples that are valid and should be taken into account in the Cartesian 4D Monte Carlo integration, which is restricted by $\kappa^2 > 0$. These condition may make the integration converge slow.

Example 2. $2\nu_R \rightarrow 2\chi$

With our derived formula, we can test whether our Monte Carlo method agree with the eq.(32)

$$C_{2\nu_R \rightarrow 2\chi}^n(T) = \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4\kappa d\Phi_2(\kappa) \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2^2) \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2) d\Phi_2'(\kappa) \exp[-(E_1 + E_2)/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2, \quad (48)$$

where

$$|\mathcal{M}|^2 = y^4, \quad \text{for } m_\phi = m_\chi. \quad (49)$$

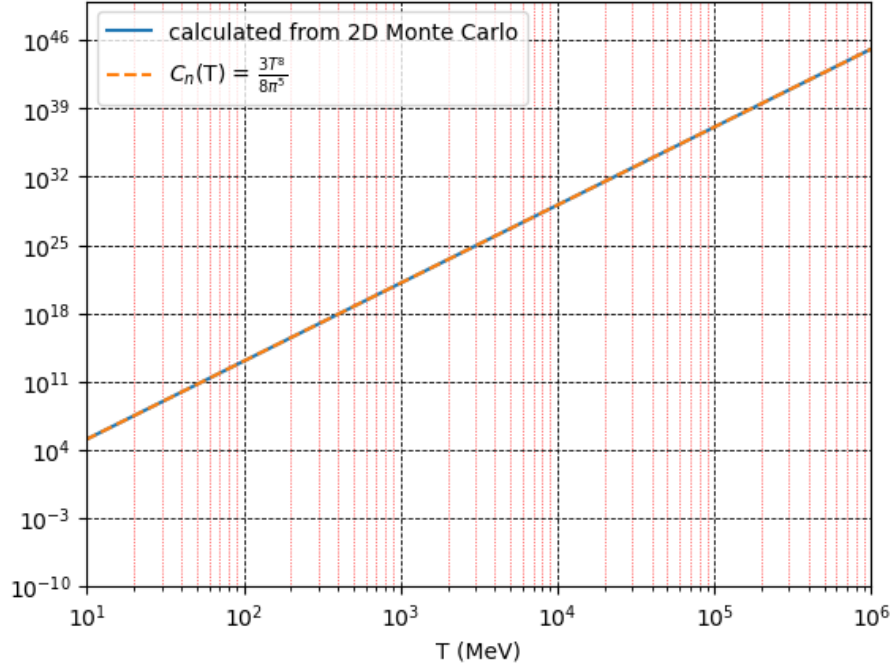


Figure 2: Obtained from 2D Monte Carlo integration

$$\begin{aligned}
C_{2\nu_R \rightarrow 2\chi}^m(T) &= \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4\kappa \int \frac{d\Omega_1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, 0, 0)}}{8\kappa^2} \int \frac{d\Omega'_1}{(2\pi)^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_\phi^2, m_\phi^2)}}{8\kappa^2} \\
&\quad \times \theta(\kappa^2 - (2m_\phi)^2) \exp[-\kappa^0/T] \\
&= \frac{|\mathcal{M}|^2}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4\kappa \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, 0, 0)}}{8\pi\kappa^2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_\phi^2, m_\phi^2)}}{8\pi\kappa^2} \theta(\kappa^2 - (2m_\phi)^2) \exp[-\kappa^0/T]
\end{aligned} \tag{50}$$

Example 3. semi-Compton scattering

The amplitude of $e^- + \gamma \rightarrow e^- + Z'$ is relatively complex to compute the collision term analytically. It can be a good example to apply our Monte Carlo method.

$$\begin{aligned}
|\mathcal{M}|^2 &= \frac{16\pi\alpha g_{Z'}^2 (2 + r_{m,e})}{3} \left(\frac{m_e^2}{2p_1 \cdot p_2} + \frac{m_e^2}{m_{Z'}^2 - 2p_1 \cdot k_2} \right) \left(\frac{m_e^2}{2p_1 \cdot p_2} + \frac{m_e^2}{m_{Z'}^2 - 2p_1 \cdot k_2} + 1 \right) \\
&\quad - \frac{16\pi\alpha g_{Z'}^2 (2 + r_{m,e})}{3} \frac{r_{m,e} m_e^4}{(2p_1 \cdot p_2)(m_{Z'}^2 - 2p_1 \cdot k_2)} - \frac{8\pi\alpha g_{Z'}^2}{3} \left(\frac{2p_1 \cdot p_2}{m_{Z'}^2 - 2p_1 \cdot k_2} + \frac{m_{Z'}^2 - 2p_1 \cdot k_2}{2p_1 \cdot p_2} \right)
\end{aligned} \tag{51}$$

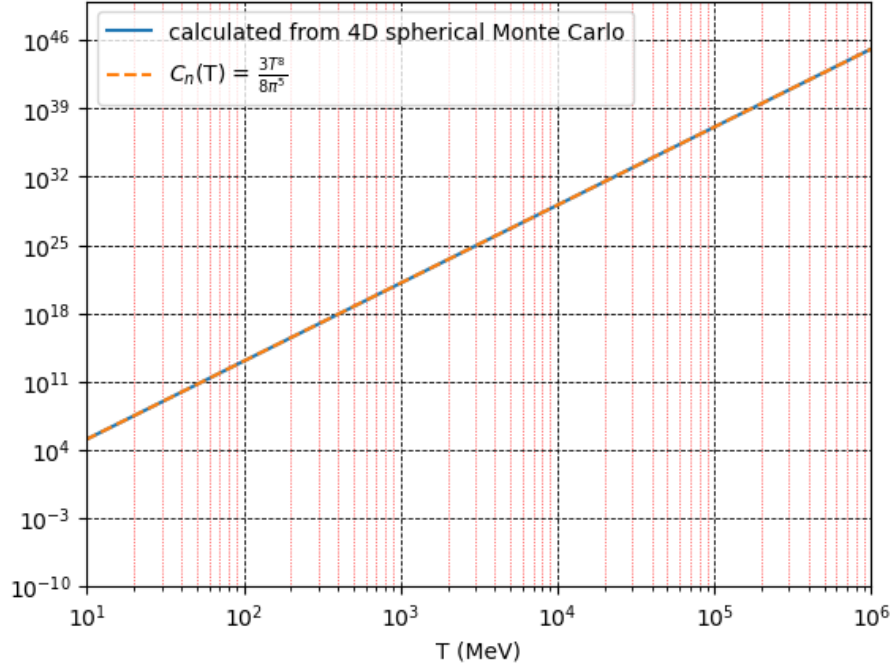


Figure 3: Obtained from 4D spherical Monte Carlo integration

$$\begin{aligned}
C_s^n(T) &= \frac{1}{(2\pi)^4} \int d^4\kappa d\Phi_2(\kappa) \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2^2) \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2) d\Phi_2'(\kappa) \exp[-(E_1 + E_2)/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2 \\
&= \frac{\Omega_{\tilde{\kappa}}}{(2\pi)^4} \int d\kappa^0 \tilde{\kappa}^2 d\tilde{\kappa} \frac{1}{\pi} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1^2, m_2^2)}}{8\kappa^2} \int \frac{d\cos\theta}{2\pi} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(\kappa^2, m_1'^2, m_2'^2)}}{8\kappa^2} \\
&\quad \times \theta(\kappa^2 - \mu_2'^2) \exp[-\kappa^0/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2 \\
&= \frac{\Omega_{\tilde{\kappa}}}{(2\pi)^6} \int_{\mu_2'}^{\infty} dE \int_{\mu_2'^2}^{E^2} ds (E^2 - s)^{1/2} \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(s, m_1^2, m_2^2)}}{8s} \int_{-1}^1 d\cos\theta \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(s, m_1'^2, m_2'^2)}}{8s} \\
&\quad \times \exp[-E/T] |\mathcal{M}|^2
\end{aligned} \tag{52}$$

The kinematic parameters is given by

$$2p_1 \cdot p_2 = s - m_e^2 = \kappa^2 - m_e^2 \tag{53}$$

$$p_1 \cdot k_2 = E_1 E_2' - PK \cos\theta \tag{54}$$

$$E_1 = \sqrt{P^2 + m_e^2}, E_2' = \sqrt{K^2 + m_{Z'}^2} \tag{55}$$

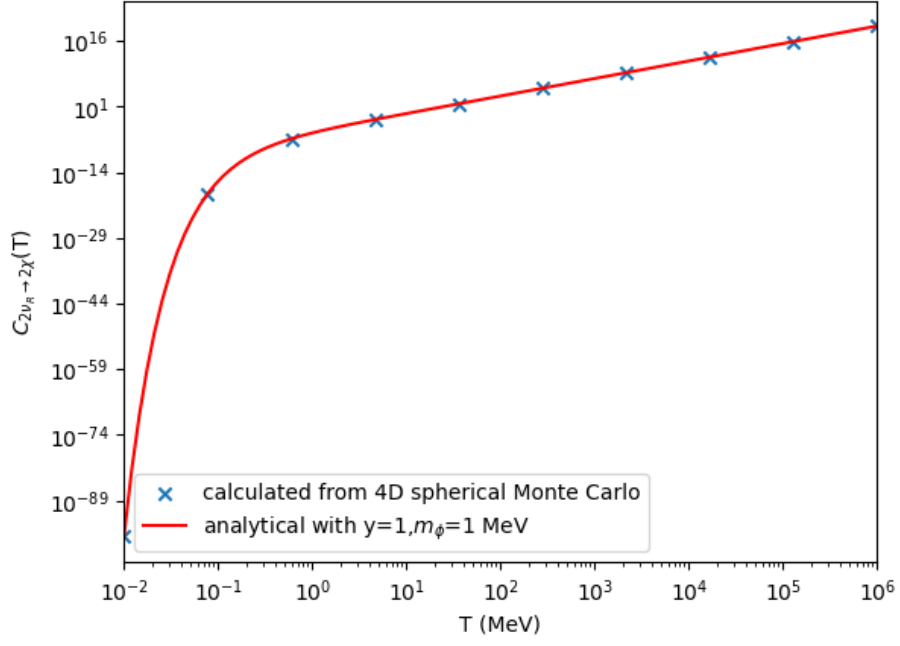


Figure 4: Numerical calculation of eq.(32) via 4D spherical Monte Carlo integration

$$P = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(s, m_e^2, 0)}}{2\sqrt{s}}, \quad K = \frac{\sqrt{\lambda(s, m_e^2, m_{Z'}^2)}}{2\sqrt{s}} \quad (56)$$

References

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