Halo-independent bounds on dark matter-nucleon effective interactions

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FRIF Day 2024

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 December 5, 2024

Dark matter : WIMPs

- Dark Matter (DM) exists and provides ~25% of the energy density of the Universe
- Evidences of DM through gravitational effects :

galactic rotation curves, CMB anisotropy, structure formation, Bullet Cluster, etc.

- Microscopic natures of DM are still unknown
- Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) : one of the most popular candidates for DM
	- \triangleright no electric charge, no colors, stable
	- \triangleright mass at the weak scale (GeV TeV)
	- \triangleright weak interactions ($\sigma v \sim 10^{-26}$ $\rm cm^3 s^{-1}$) keep WIMPs in thermal equilibrium in the early Universe and provide correct relic abundance through thermal decoupling

"WIMP miracle"

● WIMP searches

- \triangleright Direct detection
- \triangleright Indirect detection
- ➢ Collider searches

Direct Detection searches of WIMP DM

● The visible part of the Galaxy is embedded in an invisible DM Halo [Evidence: galactic rotation curve]

● **Direct Detection (DD)** : mainly based on the scatterings of local halo WIMPs off the nuclei in underground detectors and the observation of the corresponding nuclear recoils

● Such measurements constrain WIMP-nucleus scattering cross-section (or WIMP-nucleon coupling) and WIMP mass *m*^χ

Indirect searches: annihilation of WIMPs captured in the Sun

● **WIMPs can be gravitationally captured in the Sun over its age and build a large population in its core**

- Such a population of WIMPs can continuously annihilate in the Sun
- Among the annihilation products only v's can escape the Sun

Neutrino Telescopes (Super-K, IceCube)
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• For GeV – TeV WIMPs, produced $v' s$ are much more energetic (> 100 MeV) than the standard solar neutrinos

"smoking-gun signal for WIMPs"

Mechanism of WIMP Capture in the Sun

- WIMP scatters off nucleus at a distance *r* inside the Sun
- If its outgoing speed v_{out} is below the escape velocity $v_{\text{esc}}(r)$ it gets locked into a gravitationally bound orbit
- Keeps scattering again and again until it settles down in the stellar core
- **WIMPs moving slowly in the halo are easier to capture by the Sun**

Uncertainties in the prediction of WIMP signals

- Non-detection of any new signal in Direct Detection (DD) and Neutrino Telescopes
	- upper-bounds on WIMP-nucleus scattering (or WIMP-nucleon interaction couplings)
- Major uncertainties for both Direct Detection (DD) signal and WIMP capture rate in the Sun :
	- 1. Nature of the WIMP-nucleon interaction
	- 2. WIMP speed distribution in the local halo that determines the incoming WIMP flux

DD:
$$
R_{\text{DD}} = \int du f(u) H_{\text{DD}}(u)
$$
 Capture: $C_{\odot} = \int du f(u) H_{C}(u)$
\nWIMP speed distribution response function
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common choice: Maxwell-Boltzmann speed distribution w.r.t. the Galactic reference frame and boosted to the Solar frame **Standard Halo Model (SHM)**

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● WIMP-nucleon interaction:

common choice: **standard spin-independent (SI)** or **spin-dependent (SD)** interaction

WIMP speed distribution: Halo-independent approach

 $f(u) \implies$ WIMP speed distribution in the local DM halo

$$
\int_{0}^{u_{max}} f(u) du = 1
$$
\n
$$
u = \text{WIMP speed in the halo (w.r.t. Solar frame)}
$$
\n
$$
u_{max} = \text{Galactic escape speed (w.r.t. Solar frame)}
$$
\n
$$
\approx 800 \text{ km/s}
$$

- MB distribution (based on Isothermal Model) provides a zero-order approximation to *f (u)*
- Numerical simulations of Galaxy formation can only tell us about the statistical average properties of DM halos
- Merger events can add sizeable non-thermal components in *f (u)*
- Growing number of observed dwarf galaxies suggests that our halo is not perfectly thermalized

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● **Halo–independent approach**:

➢ Bounds on WIMP-nucleus interactions **independent of the WIMP speed distribution in the halo**

$$
f(u) \implies
$$
 any possible WIMP speed distribution

 $\int_0^{u_{max}}$ Only, $\int_{0}^{2\pi} f(u) du = 1$

● Is it possible to obtain such a halo-independent bound?

Halo-independent approach

Considering a WIMP-nucleon coupling c_i , the expected number of events in a DD experiment $/$ the expected WIMP capture rate in the Sun:

$$
R(c_i^2) = \int du \; f(u) \; H(c_i^2, u) = \int du \; f(u) \; c_i^2 \, H(c_i = 1, u) \leq R_{\text{max}}
$$

 $R_{\text{max}} \equiv$ corresponding experimental bound

$$
c^2_{i\max}(u)=\frac{R_{\max}}{H(c_i=1,u)}
$$

upper-limit on *cⁱ* when all WIMPs are in a single speed stream *u*

● **A finite Halo-independent bound requires experimental sensitivity covering the full WIMP speed range [0 ,** *u* **max]**

NT observations should be combined with DD observations

[F. Ferrer, A. Ibarra, S. Wild; JCAP 09 (2015) 052]

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● **Application of the halo-independent method for the general structure of the WIMP-nucleus interaction (beyond standard SI / SD interactions)**

Effective theory of WIMP-nucleon scattering

● Non-observation of new physics predicted by popular extensions of the Standard Model (e.g., SUSY)

motivation for bottom–up approaches that go beyond the standard SI/SD scenario

- Usually the WIMP-nucleus scattering process is non-relativistic
- \bullet In general the WIMP-nucleon interaction can be parameterized with an effective Hamiltonian $\mathcal H$, that complies with Galilean symmetry :

$$
\mathcal{H} = \sum_i \sum_{\tau=0,1} c_i^{\tau} \mathcal{O}_i t^{\tau}
$$

Non–relativistic effective theory

 \mathcal{O}_i : Galilean-invariant operators

 c_i^{τ} : Wilson coefficients, with τ (= 0,1) the isospin

 $c_i^P = c_i^0 + c_i^1$, $c_i^P = c_i^0 - c_i^1$

$$
t^0=\mathbb{1},\,t^1=\tau_3
$$

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$$
c_i^{\tau} \equiv \frac{\alpha_i^{\tau}}{q^2 + M_0^2}
$$

Contact interaction : $\lim_{M_0 \to \infty} \frac{\alpha_i^{\tau}}{q^2 + M_0^2} \to \frac{\alpha_i^{\tau}}{M_0^2} \equiv c_i^{\tau}$

$$
t^0=\mathbb{1},\,t^1=\tau_3
$$

 $\vec{q} \equiv$ transferred momentum

 M_0 : Mediator mass

Effective theory of WIMP-nucleon scattering

• All \mathcal{O}_i 's in the effective \mathcal{H} can be constructed out of 4 vectors:

$$
\boxed{i\frac{\vec{q}}{m_N},\quad \vec{v}^\perp,\quad \vec{S}_\chi,\quad \vec{S}_N}
$$

 $m_N \equiv$ nucleon mass ; $\vec{q} \equiv$ transferred momentum ; \vec{v}^{\perp} . $\vec{q} = 0$

All NR operators for a WIMP of spin $\frac{1}{2}$ (up to linear terms in the WIMP velocity \vec{v})

$$
\begin{array}{ll}\n\mathcal{O}_1 = 1_{\chi} 1_N \text{ (standard SI)} & \mathcal{O}_9 = i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\vec{S}_N \times \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) \\
\mathcal{O}_3 = i \vec{S}_N \cdot (\frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) & \mathcal{O}_{10} = i \vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\
\mathcal{O}_4 = \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \vec{S}_N \text{ (standard SD)} & \mathcal{O}_{11} = i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\
\mathcal{O}_5 = i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) & \mathcal{O}_{12} = \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) \\
\mathcal{O}_6 = (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) & \mathcal{O}_{13} = i (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) \\
\mathcal{O}_7 = \vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp} & \mathcal{O}_{14} = i (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp}) \\
\mathcal{O}_{15} = -(\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})(\vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}\n\end{array}
$$

 \bullet These \mathcal{O}_i 's are the most general building blocks of the low-energy effective theory of WIMP-nucleus scattering

[Fitzpatrick *et al*. (JCAP02(2013)004)] , [Anand *et al*. (PRC 89, 065501 (2014))] , [Catena *et al*. (JCAP04(2015)042)] [Bishara *et al*. (JHEP11(2017)059)]

Direct Detection (DD) events & Capture rate

● Expected WIMP induced events in a DD experiment :

$$
R_{\rm DD} = \int du f(u) H_{\rm DD}(u)
$$

$$
H_{\text{DD}}(u) = M \tau_{\text{exp}} \left(\frac{\rho_{\odot}}{m_{\chi}} \right) \underbrace{u}_{T \in \text{DD targets}} N_T \int_{E_{R_{\text{th}}}}^{2\mu_{\chi T}^2 u^2/m_T} dE_R \epsilon(E_R) \underbrace{\left[\frac{d\sigma_T}{dE_R} \right]}_{\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\tau=0,1} \sum_i \epsilon_i^{\tau} \mathcal{O}_i}
$$

• Capture rate of WIMPs in the Sun :

$$
C_{\odot} = \int du f(u) H_C(u)
$$

$$
\rho_{\odot} \simeq 0.3 \ \mathrm{GeV cm^{-3}}
$$

$$
H_C(u) = \left(\frac{\rho_{\odot}}{m_{\chi}}\right) \frac{1}{u} \int_0^{R_{\odot}} dr \, 4\pi r^2 \, w^2
$$

\$\times \sum_{T \in \text{Solar nuclei}} n_T(r) \Theta(u_T^{\text{C-max}} - u) \int_{m_{\chi}u^2/2}^{2\mu_{\chi}^2 \pi^{w^2/m_T}} dE_R \underbrace{\left[\frac{d\sigma_T}{dE_R}\right]}_{\mathcal{H} = \sum_{\tau=0,1} \sum_i c_i^{\tau} \mathcal{O}_i} \times \mathcal{H} = \sum_{\tau=0,1} \sum_i c_i^{\tau} \mathcal{O}_i\$

The neutrino flux at Earth :

$$
\frac{d\phi_{\nu}}{dE_{\nu}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\odot}(C_{\odot}, m_{\chi})}{4\pi d_{\odot}^2} \frac{dN_{\nu}}{dE_{\nu}}
$$

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Halo–independent bounds on WIMP-nucleon couplings

[S. Kang, AK, S. Scopel, (JCAP 03 (2023) 011)]

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Relaxing factor

 \bullet Moderate relaxing factors for low and high m_{χ}

• Moderate relaxing factors (in the intermediate m_x range) for "spin-dependent" type operators:

$$
O_4
$$
, O_7 (q^0) ; O_9 , O_{10} , O_{14} (q^2) ; O_6 (q^4)

● Small relaxing factor \Rightarrow SHM is not a very optimistic assumption

Halo–independent bounds on Long–range WIMP-nucleon interactions

K. Choi, I. Jeong, S. Kang, AK, S. Scopel (2408.09658)

Halo–independent bounds on Long–range WIMP-nucleon interactions

 $\frac{(c_i)_{\text{halo-indep.}}}{(c_i)_{\text{SHM}}}$ relaxing factor \equiv

K. Choi, I. Jeong, S. Kang, AK, S. Scopel (2408.09658)

Summary

- Combining DM Direct Detections with Neutrino Telescopes (looking for v's from annihilations of WIMPs captured in the Sun) it is possible to obtain halo-independent bounds on WIMP-nucleon interactions
- \bullet We obtain halo-independent bounds on different couplings of the non-relativistic effective $\mathcal H$ that drives the WIMP(spin $\frac{1}{2}$) - nuclei scattering
- For most of the couplings, the relaxation of the halo-independent bounds compared to those ϵ obtained for the Standard Halo Model (SHM) is relatively moderate in the low and high m_χ regimes
- For some of the effective couplings (e.g., "SD"-types), such relaxations can be more moderate (within an order of magnitude)

- SHM is not a very optimistic choice
- One single coupling is considered at a time

 \Rightarrow a first step towards the general scenario involving multiple NR operators at the same time

Backup slides

Neutrino signal from the annihilation of WIMPs captured in the Sun

$$
\frac{dN_{\chi}}{dt} = C_{\odot} - C_{A} N_{\chi}^{2}
$$
\nSolution: $N_{\chi}(t_{\odot}) = \sqrt{\frac{C_{\odot}}{C_{A}}} \tanh\left(\frac{t_{\odot}}{\tau_{\odot}}\right)$ $t_{\odot} \rightarrow$ age of the Sun
\nwhere $\frac{t_{\odot}}{\tau_{\odot}} = 330 \left(\frac{C_{\odot}}{\mathrm{s}^{-1}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\langle \sigma v \rangle}{\mathrm{cm}^{3} \mathrm{s}^{-1}}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{m_{\chi}}{10 \mathrm{ GeV}}\right)^{3/4}$ [Jungman, Kamionkowski & Griest,
\nPhys.Rept. 267 (1996) 195-373]
\n $\langle \sigma v \rangle \rightarrow$ WIMP annihilation cross-section times velocity

Annihilation rate : $\qquad \qquad \Gamma_{\odot} \; = \; \mathcal{C}_A \frac{\mathcal{N}_\chi^2}{2} \; = \; \frac{\mathcal{C}_{\odot}}{2} \; \; \tanh^2 \left(\frac{t_{\odot}}{\tau_{\odot}} \right)$

Assuming $\langle \sigma v \rangle \simeq 3 \times 10^{-26}$ cm³ s⁻¹ (gives correct relic density of WIMPs through thermal decoupling)

$$
\Gamma_{\odot} = \Gamma_{\odot}(\bigodot m_{\chi})
$$

The neutrino flux at Earth :

WIMP–nucleus scattering in Effective theory

● **Differential cross-section of WIMP-nucleus scattering** :

(required for calculating both DD signal and capture rate in the Sun for WIMPs)

$$
\frac{d\sigma_T}{dE_R} = \frac{2m_T}{4\pi v^2} \left[\frac{1}{2j_\chi + 1} \frac{1}{2j_T + 1} |\mathcal{M}_T|^2 \right]
$$

 $\mathsf{E}_{\mathsf{R}}^{}$: recoil energy

[Fitzpatrick *et al*. (JCAP02(2013)004)] , [Anand *et al*. (PRC 89, 065501 (2014))] , [Catena *et al*. (JCAP04(2015)042)]

$$
|\mathcal{M}_T|^2 = 4\pi (2j_{\chi} + 1) \sum_{\tau=0,1} \sum_{\tau'=0,1} \sum_{k} R_k^{\tau \tau'} \left[(c_i^{\tau})^2, (\nu^{\perp})^2, \frac{q^2}{m_N^2} \right] W_{Tk}^{\tau \tau'}(q)
$$

$$
(\nu^{\perp})^2 = \nu^2 - \nu_{\min}^2 \;, \quad \ \nu_{\min}^2 = \frac{q^2}{4\mu_{\chi\tau}^2} = \frac{m_T E_R}{2\mu_{\chi\tau}^2}, \quad \ q^2 = 2m_T E_R
$$

WIMP response functions: $R_k^{\tau\tau'} = R_{0k}^{\tau\tau'} + R_{1k}^{\tau\tau'}(\mathbf{v}^2 - \mathbf{v}_{\min}^2)$

Nuclear response functions (form factor): $W^{\tau\tau'}_{\tau\mathbf{k}}(\mathbf{q})$

 $k = M$, $\Phi'', \tilde{\Phi}', \Sigma'', \Sigma', \Delta$ (index representing different effective nuclear operators)

Details of the Operator structure in Effective theory

index k corresponding to each operator \mathcal{O}_i , for the velocity-independent and the velocity-dependent components parts of the WIMP response function. The power of q in the WIMP response function is in parenthesis.

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$$
\frac{d\phi_{\nu}}{dE_{\nu}} = \frac{\Gamma_{\odot}(C_{\odot}, m_{\chi})}{4\pi d_{\odot}^2} \frac{dN_{\nu}}{dE_{\nu}}
$$

The neutrino flux at Earth :

Considering a WIMP-nucleon coupling c_i , the expected number of events in a DD experiment $/$ the expected WIMP capture rate in the Sun:

$$
R_{\exp}(c_i^2) = \int du \, f(u) \, H_{\exp}(c_i^2, u) \le R_{\max}
$$

 $R_{\text{max}} \equiv$ corresponding experimental bound

Define

$$
{c_{i\max}^2(u)=\frac{R_{\max}}{H_{\exp}({c_i=1,u})}}
$$

Using $H_{\text{exp}}(c_i^2, u) = c_i^2 H_{\text{exp}}(c_i = 1, u)$,

$$
H_{\rm exp}(c_{i\max}^2(u),u)=c_{i\max}^2(u)\;H_{\rm exp}(c_i=1,u)=R_{\rm max}
$$

upper-limit on *cⁱ* when all WIMPs are in a single speed stream *u*

$$
R(c_i^2)=\int_0^{u_{\max}} du\, f(u)\, H(c_i^2,u)\leq R_{\max}
$$

Since $H(c_i^2, u) = c_i^2 H(c_i = 1, u)$, one can write

$$
R(c_i^2) = \int_0^{u_{\max}} du f(u) H(c_i^2, u)
$$

=
$$
\int_0^{u_{\max}} du f(u) \frac{c_i^2}{c_{i_{\max}}^2(u)} H(c_{i_{\max}}^2(u), u)
$$

=
$$
\int_0^{u_{\max}} du f(u) \frac{c_i^2}{c_{i_{\max}}^2(u)} R_{\max} \leq R_{\max}
$$

upper bound on the coupling c_i :

$$
c_i^2 \leq \left[\int_0^{u_{\max}} du \frac{f(u)}{c_{i\max}^2(u)} \right]^{-1}
$$

 $(c^{\rm NT})^2_{\rm max}(u) \leq c_*^2$
 $(c^{\rm DD})^2_{\rm max}(u) \leq c_*^2$

 $c_i^2 \leq \left[\int_0^{u_{\rm max}} du \frac{f(u)}{c_{i_{\rm max}}^2(u)} \right]^{-1}$

for $0 \le u \le \tilde{u}$

$$
c^2 \leq c_*^2 \left[\int_0^{\tilde{u}} du f(u) \right]^{-1} = \frac{c_*^2}{\delta} \qquad \text{with} \qquad \delta = \int_0^{\tilde{u}} du f(u)
$$

$$
c^2 \leq c_*^2 \left[\int_{\tilde{u}}^{u_{\text{max}}} du f(u) \right]^{-1} = \frac{c_*^2}{1 - \delta} \qquad \text{with} \qquad 1 - \delta = \int_{\tilde{u}}^{u_{\text{max}}} du f(u)
$$

$$
\Rightarrow \delta = 1/2 \qquad \qquad \boxed{c^2 \leq 2 c_*^2}
$$

For a choice of a large u_{max} it may happen that

$$
(\textit{c}^{\text{DD}})^2_{\text{ max}}(\textit{u}_{\text{max}})>\textit{c}^2_*
$$

[Mainly due to the suppression of the scattering amplitude by the nuclear form factor at large recoil energies (large WIMP speeds)]

$$
c^{2} \leq c_{*}^{2} \left[\int_{0}^{\tilde{u}} du f(u) \right]^{-1} = \frac{c_{*}^{2}}{\delta}
$$

$$
c^{2} \leq (c^{DD})^{2} \max(u_{\max}) \left[\int_{\tilde{u}}^{u_{\max}} du f(u) \right]^{-1} = \frac{(c^{DD})^{2} \max(u_{\max})}{1 - \delta}
$$

$$
c^{2} \leq (c^{DD})^{2} \max(u_{\max}) + c_{*}^{2}
$$

• $u_{\text{max}} = 8000$ km/s (much larger than the Galactic escape speed \sim 800 km/s) is also considered, but the bounds do not change much

Relaxing factor

● Explanation for the low relaxing factors for "SD" type WIMP-proton couplings:

$$
\text{relaxing factor} \equiv \frac{(c_i)_{\text{halo-independent.}}}{(c_i)_{\text{SHM}}}\left(\simeq \frac{\sqrt{2}c_*}{(c_i)_{\text{SHM}}}\right)
$$
\n
$$
\frac{a_* \, m_\chi = 30 \, \text{GeV}}{a_* \, m_\chi = 30 \, \text{GeV}}
$$
\n
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$$
\n
$$
\frac{a_* \, m_\chi = 30 \, \text{GeV}}{a_* \, m_\chi = 30 \, \text{GeV}}
$$
\n
$$
\frac{a_* \, m_\chi = 3
$$

● For "SD" type operators WIMP capture is strongly enhanced due to scattering off abundant ¹*H*

c∗ (peak value of the convolution of NT and DD limits) is lower

smaller relaxing factor

[S. Kang, AK, S. Scopel, (JCAP 03 (2023) 011)]

$$
\begin{array}{c|c|c} \hline \mathcal{O}_1 &= 1_{\chi} 1_N \; (\text{standard SI}) & \mathcal{O}_9 = i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\vec{S}_N \times \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) \\ \mathcal{O}_3 &= i \vec{S}_N \cdot (\frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) & \mathcal{O}_{10} = i \vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\ \mathcal{O}_4 &= \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \vec{S}_N \; (\text{standard SD}) & \mathcal{O}_{11} = i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\ \mathcal{O}_5 &= i \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) & \mathcal{O}_{12} = \vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot (\vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) \\ \mathcal{O}_6 &= (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) & \mathcal{O}_{13} = i (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) \\ \mathcal{O}_7 &= \vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp} & \mathcal{O}_{14} = i (\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})(\vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^{\perp}) \\ \mathcal{O}_{15} &= -(\vec{S}_{\chi} \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N})((\vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^{\perp}) \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N}) \end{array}
$$

 \mathcal{O}_4 , \mathcal{O}_7 (q⁰); \mathcal{O}_9 , \mathcal{O}_{10} , \mathcal{O}_{14} (q²); \mathcal{O}_6 (q⁴)

Halo–independent bounds on Long–range WIMP-nucleon interactions

SD long-range WIMP-proton interaction

K. Choi, I. Jeong, S. Kang, AK, S. Scopel (2408.09658)

Bounds on Long-range WIMP-nucleon interactions in Standard Halo Model (SHM)

