

# Two-body currents in WIMP–nucleus scattering

Martin Hoferichter



INSTITUTE for  
NUCLEAR THEORY

Institute for Nuclear Theory  
University of Washington



INT program on

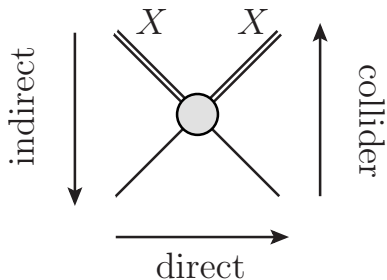
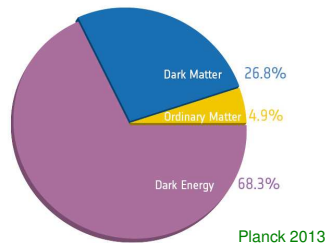
Nuclear ab initio Theories and Neutrino Physics

Seattle, March 16, 2018

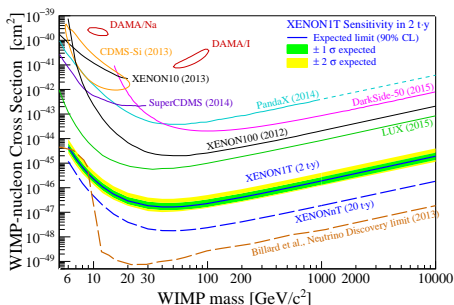
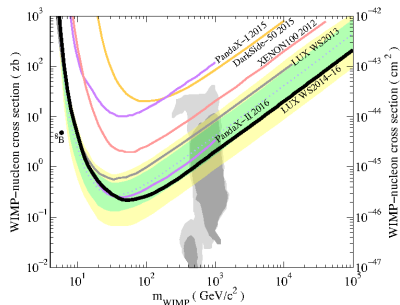
PLB 746 (2015) 410, PRD 94 (2016) 063505, PRL 119 (2017) 181803, with P. Klos, J. Menéndez, A. Schwenk  
1802.04294, with A. Fieguth, P. Klos, J. Menéndez, A. Schwenk, C. Weinheimer  
work in progress

# How to search for dark matter?

- Search strategies: direct, indirect, collider
- Assume DM particle is WIMP
- **Direct detection**: search for **WIMPs** scattering off nuclei in the large-scale detectors
- Ingredients for interpretation:
  - **DM halo**: velocity distribution
  - **Nucleon matrix elements**: WIMP–nucleon couplings
  - **Nuclear structure factors**: embedding into target nucleus

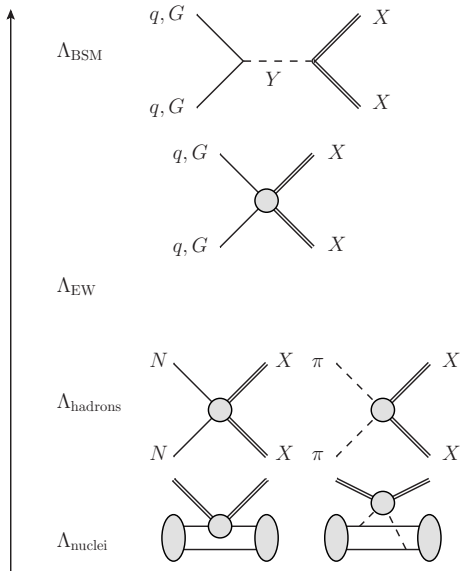


# Direct detection of dark matter: schematics



- **Nuclear recoil** in WIMP–nucleus scattering
  - **Flux factor**  $\Phi$ : DM halo and velocity distribution
  - **WIMP–nucleus cross section**
- **Spin-independent**: coherent  $\propto A^2$
- **Spin-dependent**:  $\propto \langle \mathbf{S}_p \rangle$  or  $\langle \mathbf{S}_n \rangle$
- Information on BSM physics encoded in normalization at  $q = 0$ 
  - ↔ for SI case:  $\sigma_{\chi N}^{\text{SI}}$

# Direct detection of dark matter: scales



1 **BSM scale**  $\Lambda_{\text{BSM}}$ :  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{BSM}}$

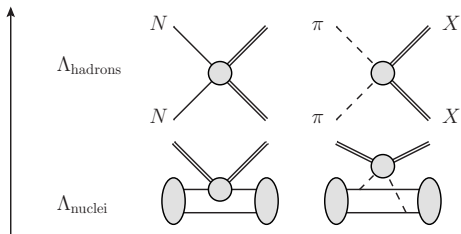
2 **Effective Operators**:  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{SM}} + \sum_{i,k} \frac{1}{\Lambda_{\text{BSM}}^i} \mathcal{O}_{i,k}$

3 Integrate out **EW physics**

4 **Hadronic scale**: nucleons and pions  
 $\hookrightarrow$  effective interaction Hamiltonian  $H_I$

5 **Nuclear scale**:  $\langle \mathcal{N} | H_I | \mathcal{N} \rangle$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  nuclear wave function

# Direct detection of dark matter: scales



4 **Hadronic scale:** nucleons and pions  
 $\hookrightarrow$  effective interaction Hamiltonian  $H_I$

5 **Nuclear scale:**  $\langle \mathcal{N} | H_I | \mathcal{N} \rangle$   
 $\hookrightarrow$  nuclear wave function

- Typical WIMP–nucleon **momentum transfer**

$$|\mathbf{q}_{\text{max}}| = 2\mu_{\mathcal{N}\chi} |\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}| \sim 200 \text{ MeV} \quad |\mathbf{v}_{\text{rel}}| \sim 10^{-3} \quad \mu_{\mathcal{N}\chi} \sim 100 \text{ GeV}$$

- QCD constraints: spontaneous breaking of chiral symmetry

$\Rightarrow$  **Chiral effective field theory for WIMP–nucleon scattering**

Prézeau et al. 2003, Cirigliano et al. 2012, 2013, Menéndez et al. 2012, Klos et al. 2013, MH et al. 2015, Bishara et al. 2017

- In NREFT [Fan et al. 2010](#), [Fitzpatrick et al. 2012](#), [Anand et al. 2013](#) need to **match to QCD** to extract information on BSM physics  $\Rightarrow$  “the” EFT approach not unique!

- 1 Chiral effective field theory and dark matter
- 2 Two-body currents in spin-dependent scattering
- 3 Coherently enhanced two-body currents
- 4 Limits on Higgs Portal dark matter
- 5 Low-energy neutrino–nucleus scattering
- 6 Conclusions

# Chiral EFT: a modern approach to nuclear forces

- Traditionally: meson-exchange potentials
- Chiral effective field theory
  - Based on **chiral symmetry** of QCD
  - **Power counting**
  - **Low-energy constants**
  - Hierarchy of multi-nucleon forces
  - Consistency of  $NN$  and  $3N$

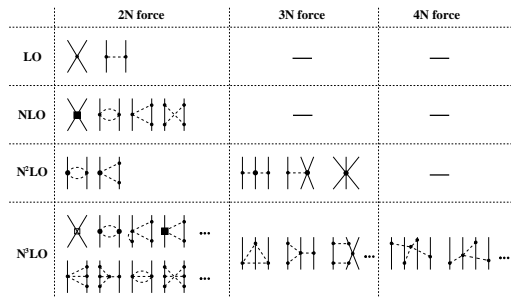
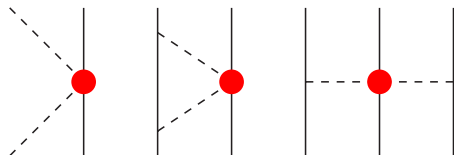


Figure taken from 1011.1343

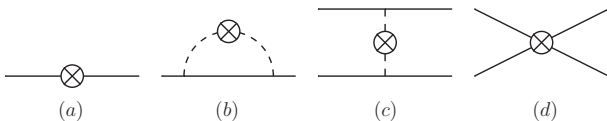
↔ modern theory of nuclear forces

- Long-range part related to **pion-nucleon scattering**

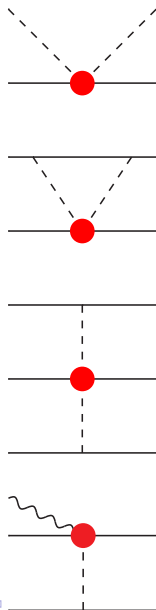


# Chiral EFT: currents

- Coupling to **external sources**  $\mathcal{L}(v_\mu, a_\mu, s, p)$
- Same LECs appear in **axial current**
  - $\hookrightarrow \beta$  decay, neutrino interactions, dark matter
- Vast literature for  $v_\mu$  and  $a_\mu$ , up to one-loop level
  - With unitary transformations: Kölling et al. 2009, 2011, Krebs et al. 2016
  - Without unitary transformations: Pastore et al. 2008, Park et al. 2003, Baroni et al. 2015
- For **dark matter** further currents:  $s$ ,  $p$ , tensor, spin-2,  $\theta_\mu^\mu$

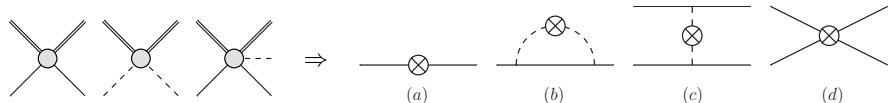


$\hookrightarrow$  in this talk: concentrate on **2b effects** (c)+(d)





# Direct detection and chiral EFT



- Expansion around **chiral limit** of QCD
  - ↪ simultaneous expansion in momenta and quark masses
- Three classes of corrections:
  - **Subleading 1b responses** (a)
  - **Radius corrections** (b)
  - **Two-body currents** (c), (d)
- NREFT covers (a), but misses (b)–(d)
  - (b): modifies coefficient of  $\mathcal{O}_i$  by momentum-dependent factor
  - (c), (d): do not match directly onto NREFT, need **normal ordering**

$$\langle N^\dagger N \rangle N^\dagger N \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_i^{\text{eff}}$$

- (a)+(b) just **ChPT for nucleon form factors**, but (c)+(d) genuinely new effects

- Starting point: **effective WIMP Lagrangian** Goodman et al. 2010

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_\chi = & \frac{1}{\Lambda^3} \sum_q \left[ C_q^{SS} \bar{\chi} \chi m_q \bar{q} q + C_q^{PS} \bar{\chi} i \gamma_5 \chi m_q \bar{q} q + C_q^{SP} \bar{\chi} \chi m_q \bar{q} i \gamma_5 q + C_q^{PP} \bar{\chi} i \gamma_5 \chi m_q \bar{q} i \gamma_5 q \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \sum_q \left[ C_q^{VV} \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi \bar{q} \gamma_\mu q + C_q^{AV} \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \chi \bar{q} \gamma_\mu q + C_q^{VA} \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q + C_q^{AA} \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \gamma_5 \chi \bar{q} \gamma_\mu \gamma_5 q \right] \\ & + \frac{1}{\Lambda^3} \left[ C_g^S \bar{\chi} \chi \alpha_s G_{\mu\nu}^a G_a^{\mu\nu} \right] \end{aligned}$$

- Chiral power counting**

$$\partial = \mathcal{O}(p), \quad m_q = \mathcal{O}(p^2) = \mathcal{O}(M_\pi^2), \quad a_\mu, v_\mu = \mathcal{O}(p), \quad \frac{\partial}{m_N} = \mathcal{O}(p^2)$$

↪ construction of effective Lagrangian for nucleon and pion fields

↪ organize in terms of **chiral order**  $\nu$ ,  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{O}(p^\nu)$

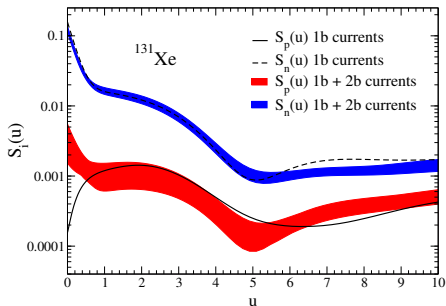
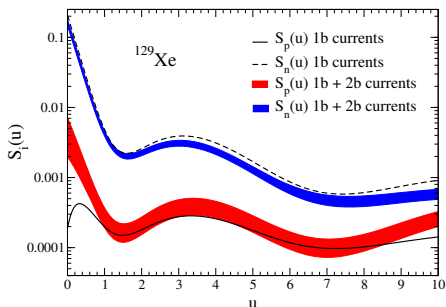
# Chiral counting: summary

WIMP	Nucleon		$V$		$A$	
	$t$	$\mathbf{x}$	$t$	$\mathbf{x}$		
$V$	1b	0	1 + 2	2	0 + 2	
	2b	4	2 + 2	2	4 + 2	
	2b NLO	—	—	5	3 + 2	
$A$	1b	0 + 2	1	2 + 2	0	
	2b	4 + 2	2	2 + 2	4	
	2b NLO	—	—	5 + 2	3	

WIMP	Nucleon	$S$	$P$
	$S$	1b	2
2b		3	5
2b NLO		—	4
$P$	1b	2 + 2	1 + 2
	2b	3 + 2	5 + 2
	2b NLO	—	4 + 2

- +2 from NR expansion of WIMP spinors, terms can be dropped if  $m_\chi \gg m_N$
- **Red**: all terms up to  $\nu = 3$
- Two-body currents:  $AA$  [Menéndez et al. 2012](#), [Klos et al. 2013](#),  $SS$  [Prézeau et al. 2003](#), [Cirigliano et al. 2012](#), but **new currents in AV and VA channel** [1503.04811](#)
- Worked out the matching to NREFT and BSM Wilson coefficients for spin-1/2  
 $\hookrightarrow$  **hierarchy** predicted from chiral expansion

# Two-body currents: SD case

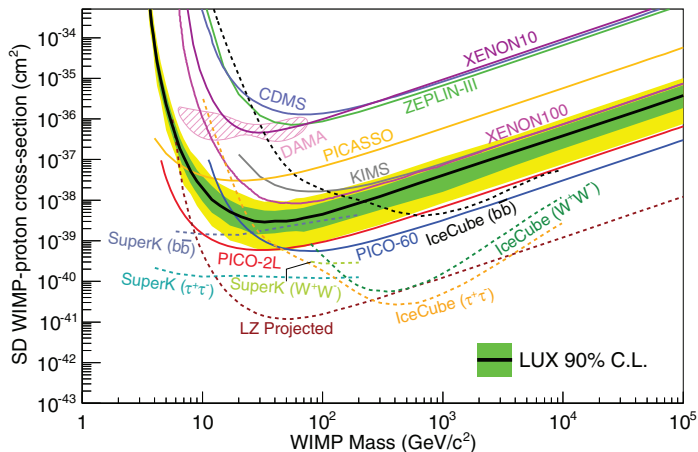


- Nuclear structure factors for **spin-dependent interactions**

Klos et al. 2013

- Based on chiral EFT currents (1b+2b)
- Shell model, normal ordering over Fermi gas
- $u = q^2 b^2 / 2$  related to momentum transfer
- 2b currents probe the same combination of BSM Wilson coefficients and hadronic couplings  
↔ absorb into 1b current

## Two-body currents: SD case



**Xenon becomes competitive for  $\sigma_p$  thanks to 2b currents!**

# Coherence effects

- Six distinct nuclear responses

Fitzpatrick et al. 2012, Anand et al. 2013

- $M \leftrightarrow \mathcal{O}_1 \leftrightarrow SI$
- $\Sigma', \Sigma'' \leftrightarrow \mathcal{O}_4, \mathcal{O}_6 \leftrightarrow SD$
- $\Phi'' \leftrightarrow \mathcal{O}_3 \leftrightarrow$  quasi-coherent, spin-orbit operator
- $\Delta, \tilde{\Phi}'$ : not coherent

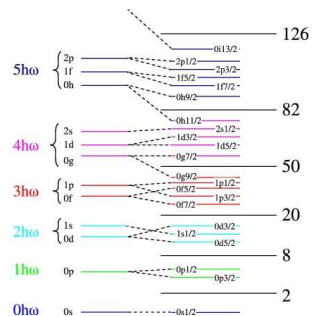
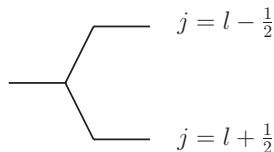
- **Quasi-coherence** of  $\Phi''$

- Spin-orbit splitting
- Coherence until mid-shell
- About 20 coherent nucleons in Xe
- Interference  $M-\Phi'' \leftrightarrow \mathcal{O}_1-\mathcal{O}_3$

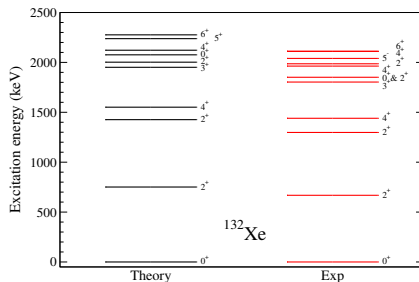
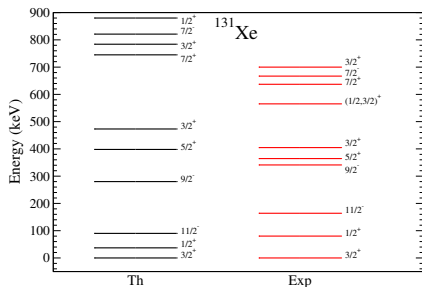
- Coherent 2b currents:

- Scalar  $\propto N + Z$
- Vector  $\propto N - Z$

$\hookrightarrow$  concentrate on scalar case



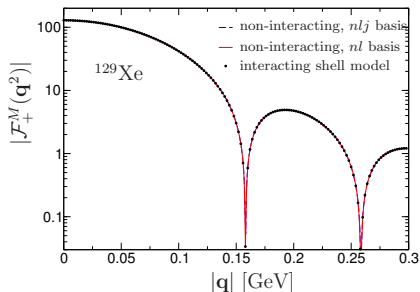
# Spectra and shell-model calculation



- **Shell-model diagonalization** for Xe isotopes with  $^{100}\text{Sn}$  core
- **Uncertainty estimates**: currently phenomenological shell-model interaction
  - ↪ chiral-EFT-based interactions in the future?
  - ↪ **ab-initio calculations for light nuclei?**

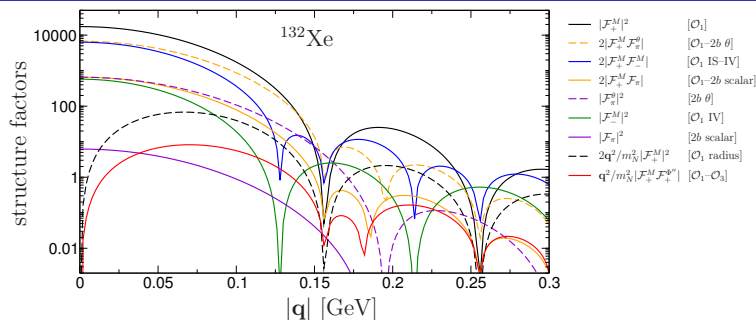
$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{F}_\pi(\mathbf{q}^2) &= \frac{M_\pi}{2} \left( \frac{g_A}{2F_\pi} \right)^2 \sum_{n_1 l_1 n_2 l_2} \sum_{\tau_1 \tau_2} \int \frac{d^3 p_1 d^3 p_2 d^3 p'_1 d^3 p'_2}{(2\pi)^6} R_{n_1 l_1}(|\mathbf{p}'_1|) R_{n_2 l_2}(|\mathbf{p}'_2|) R_{n_1 l_1}(|\mathbf{p}_1|) R_{n_2 l_2}(|\mathbf{p}_2|) \\
 &\times \frac{(2l_1 + 1)(2l_2 + 1)}{16\pi^2} P_{l_1}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_1 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_1) P_{l_2}(\hat{\mathbf{p}}'_2 \cdot \hat{\mathbf{p}}_2) (2\pi)^3 \delta^{(3)}(\mathbf{p}_1 + \mathbf{p}_2 - \mathbf{p}'_1 - \mathbf{p}'_2 - \mathbf{q}) \\
 &\times (3 - \tau_1 \cdot \tau_2) \frac{\mathbf{q}_1^{\text{ex}} \cdot \mathbf{q}_2^{\text{ex}}}{((\mathbf{q}_1^{\text{ex}})^2 + M_\pi^2)((\mathbf{q}_2^{\text{ex}})^2 + M_\pi^2)}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Two-body current defines genuinely **new structure factor**
- Checked the oscillator model for 1b case  
 $\hookrightarrow$  reproduces perfectly the  $L = 0$  multipole
- Another structure factor related to **trace anomaly**  $\theta_\mu^\mu$





# Full set of coherent contributions



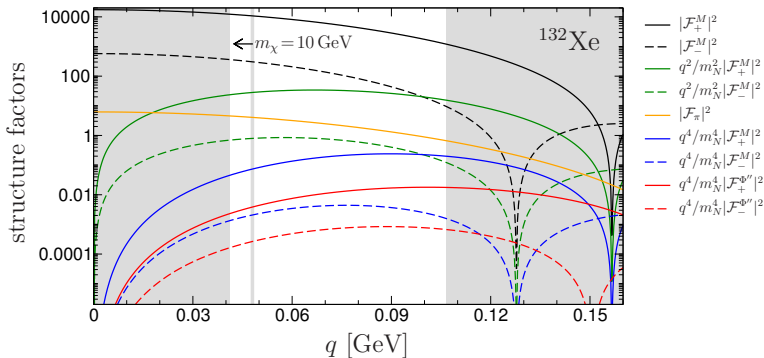
- Parameterize cross section as

$$\frac{d\sigma_{\chi\mathcal{N}}^{\text{SI}}}{dq^2} = \frac{1}{4\pi\mathbf{v}^2} \left| \left( c_+^M - \frac{q^2}{m_N^2} \dot{c}_+^M \right) \mathcal{F}_+^M(q^2) + \left( c_-^M - \frac{q^2}{m_N^2} \dot{c}_-^M \right) \mathcal{F}_-^M(q^2) \right. \\ \left. + c_\pi \mathcal{F}_\pi(q^2) + c_\pi^\theta \mathcal{F}_\pi^\theta(q^2) + \frac{q^2}{2m_N^2} \left[ c_+^{\Phi''} \mathcal{F}_+^{\Phi''}(q^2) + c_-^{\Phi''} \mathcal{F}_-^{\Phi''}(q^2) \right] \right|^2$$

- Single-nucleon cross section:  $\sigma_{\chi\mathcal{N}}^{\text{SI}} = \mu_N^2 |c_+^M|^2 / \pi$

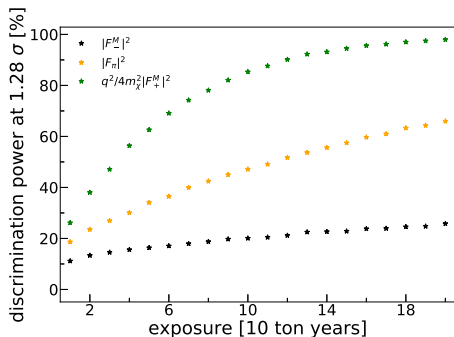
- $c$  related to Wilson coefficients and nucleon form factors

# Discriminating different response functions



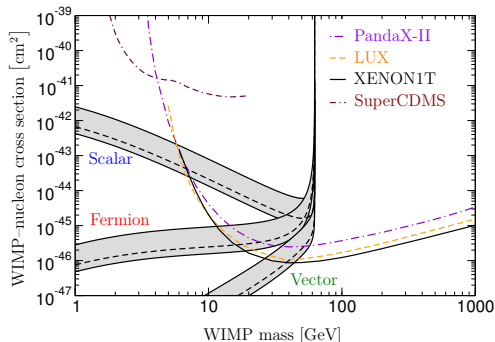
- White region accessible to XENON-type experiment
- Can one tell these curves apart in a realistic experimental setting?
- Consider XENON1T-like, XENONnT-like, DARWIN-like settings

# Discriminating different response functions



- DARWIN-like setting,  $m_\chi = 100 \text{ GeV}$
- $q$ -dependent responses more easily distinguishable
- If interaction not much weaker than current limits, DARWIN could discriminate most responses from standard SI structure factor

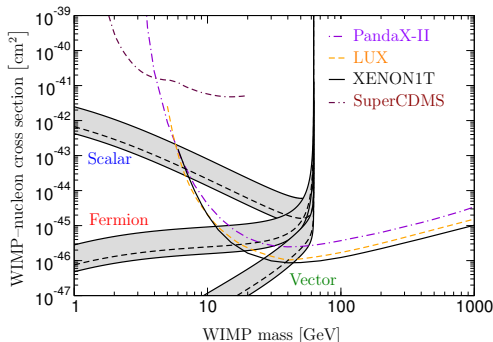
- **Higgs Portal:** WIMP interacts with SM via the Higgs
  - **Scalar:**  $H^\dagger H S^2$
  - **Vector:**  $H^\dagger H V_\mu V^\mu$
  - **Fermion:**  $H^\dagger H \bar{f} f$
- If  $m_h > 2m_\chi$ , should happen at the LHC
  - ↔ limits on **invisible Higgs decays**



- **Higgs Portal:** WIMP interacts with SM via the Higgs

- **Scalar:**  $H^\dagger H S^2$
- **Vector:**  $H^\dagger H V_\mu V^\mu$
- **Fermion:**  $H^\dagger H \bar{f} f$

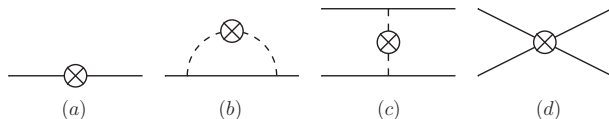
- If  $m_h > 2m_\chi$ , should happen at the LHC  
 $\leftrightarrow$  limits on **invisible Higgs decays**



- Translation requires input for **Higgs–nucleon coupling**

$$f_N = \sum_{q=u,d,s,c,b,t} f_q^N = \frac{2}{9} + \frac{7}{9} \sum_{q=u,d,s} f_q^N + \mathcal{O}(\alpha_s) \quad m_N f_q^N = \langle N | m_q \bar{q} q | N \rangle$$

- Issues: input for  $f_N = 0.260 \dots 0.629$  outdated, 2b currents missing



- **One-body contribution**

$$f_N^{1b} = 0.307(9)_{ud}(15)_s(5)_{\text{pert}} = 0.307(18)$$

- Limits on WIMP–nucleon cross section subsume **2b effects**

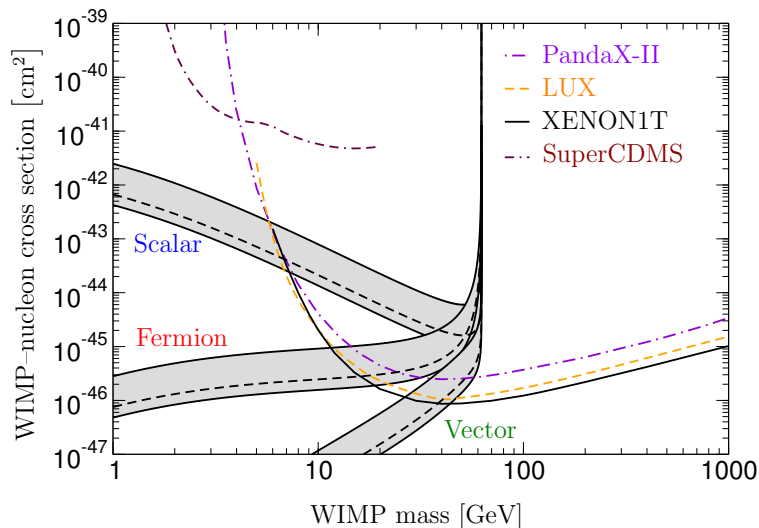
↪ have to be included for meaningful comparison

- **Two-body contribution**

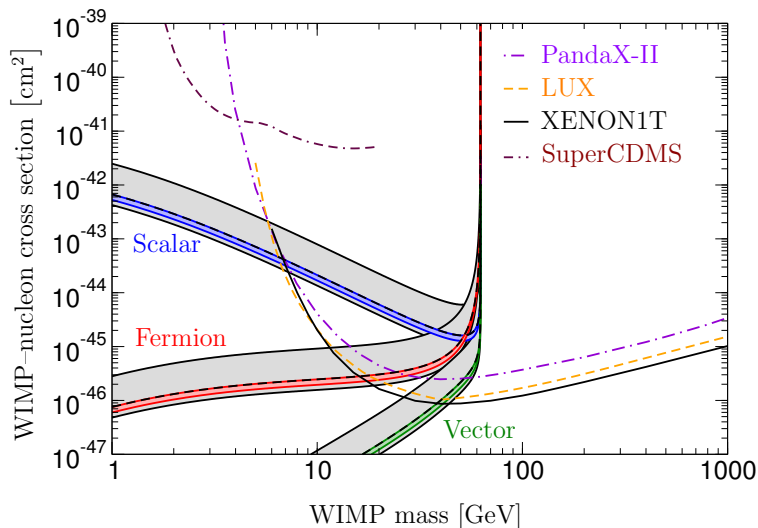
- Need  $s$  and  $\theta_\mu^\mu$  currents
- Treatment of  $\theta_\mu^\mu$  tricky: several ill-defined terms combine to  $\langle \Psi | T + V_{NN} | \Psi \rangle = E_b$
- A cancellation makes the final result anomalously small

$$f_N^{2b} = [ - 3.2(0.2)_A(2.1)_{\text{ChEFT}} + 5.0(0.4)_A ] \times 10^{-3} = 1.8(2.1) \times 10^{-3}$$

# Improved limits for Higgs Portal dark matter



# Improved limits for Higgs Portal dark matter





# Chiral counting for neutrino–nucleus scattering

WIMP	Nucleon	$V$		$A$	
		$t$	$\mathbf{x}$	$t$	$\mathbf{x}$
$V$	1b	0	$1 + 2$	2	$0 + 2$
	2b	4	$2 + 2$	2	$4 + 2$
	2b NLO	—	—	5	$3 + 2$
$A$	1b	$0 + 2$	1	$2 + 2$	0
	2b	$4 + 2$	2	$2 + 2$	4
	2b NLO	—	—	$5 + 2$	3

WIMP	Nucleon	$S$	$P$
$S$	1b	2	1
	2b	3	5
	2b NLO	—	4
$P$	1b	$2 + 2$	$1 + 2$
	2b	$3 + 2$	$5 + 2$
	2b NLO	—	$4 + 2$

# Chiral counting for neutrino–nucleus scattering

WIMP	Nucleon	$V$		$A$	
		$t$	$\mathbf{x}$	$t$	$\mathbf{x}$
$V$	1b	0	1	2	0
	2b	4	2	2	4
	2b NLO	—	—	5	3
$A$	1b	0	1	2	0
	2b	4	2	2	4
	2b NLO	—	—	5	3

WIMP	Nucleon	$S$	$P$
$S$	1b	2	1
	2b	3	5
	2b NLO	—	4
$P$	1b	2	1
	2b	3	5
	2b NLO	—	4

# Chiral counting for neutrino–nucleus scattering

WIMP	Nucleon	V		A	
		$t$	$\mathbf{x}$	$t$	$\mathbf{x}$
V	1b	0	1	2	0
	2b	4	2	2	4
	2b NLO	—	—	5	3
A	1b	0	1	2	0
	2b	4	2	2	4
	2b NLO	—	—	5	3

WIMP	Nucleon	S	P
	S	1b	2
2b		3	5
2b NLO		—	4
P	1b	2	1
	2b	3	5
	2b NLO	—	4

- **Standard interactions:** coherent 2b currents scale with  $N - Z$ , but

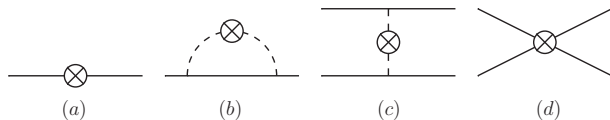
$$C_u^{VV} = \frac{G_F}{2\sqrt{2}\cos^2\theta_w} \left(1 - \frac{8}{3}\sin^2\theta_w\right) \quad C_d^{VV} = \frac{G_F}{2\sqrt{2}\cos^2\theta_w} \left(-1 + \frac{4}{3}\sin^2\theta_w\right)$$

↪ proton coupling  $2C_u^{VV} + C_d^{VV} \propto 1 - 4\sin^2\theta_w$  suppressed

↪ 1b only scales with  $N^2$ , not  $(N + Z)^2$

- **Non-standard interactions:** potentially large corrections from scalar 2b currents

# Conclusions



- **Chiral EFT** for WIMP–nucleon scattering
- Predicts **hierarchy** for corrections to leading coupling
- Connects nuclear and hadronic scales
- Ingredients: **nuclear matrix elements** and **structure factors**
- Applications:
  - $\sigma_p^{\text{SD}}$  limits from xenon via two-body currents
  - Discriminating nuclear responses
  - Improved limits on Higgs Portal dark matter from LHC searches
- Outlook: same formalism applies to low-energy neutrino scattering