

# Fermionic DM absorption

1905.12635: with Gilly Elor, Robert McGehee

1908.10861: with Gilly Elor, Robert McGehee

191x.xxxxx: with Gilly Elor, Robert McGehee, Tien-Tien Yu



- Time for a debate...

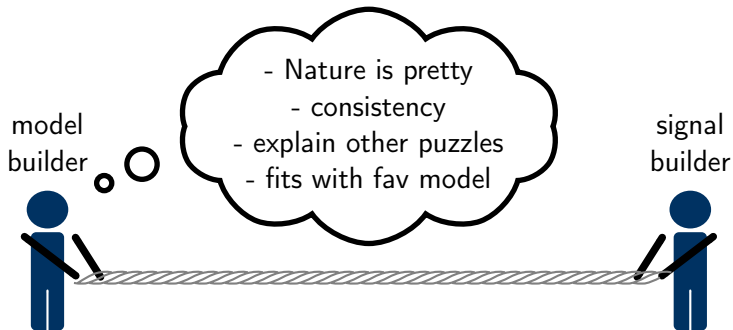
model  
builder



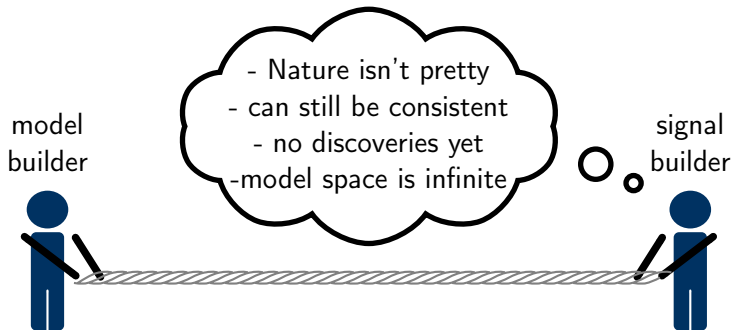
signal  
builder



- Time for a debate...



- Time for a debate...



This talk: signal approach

- Types of searches

## Elastic scattering

WIMPs  
 $\chi$  freeze-in  
...

## Bosonic absorption

dark photon  
axion-like particle  
...

- Progress getting expensive

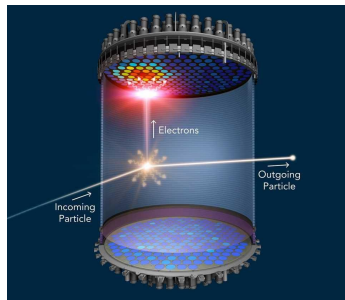
Xenon1T  $\sim \$10^7$

DARWIN  $\sim \$10^8$

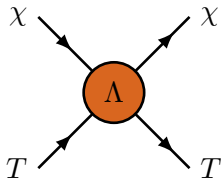
- About to hit  $\nu$  floor

- Different signals?

$\Rightarrow$  big gain/small cost



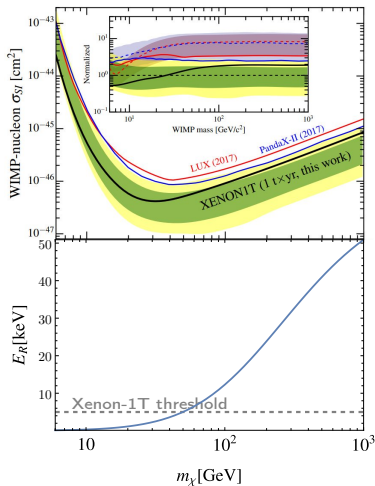
- Elastic scattering ( $T = n, e$ );



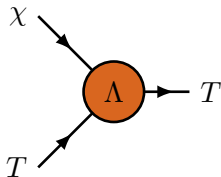
- Conserves DM-number (stable)
- Target recoil energy:

$$E_R = \frac{\mu^2}{2m_T} v^2$$

- $f(v) \sim e^{-v^2/v_0^2}$



- Absorption of bosonic dark matter

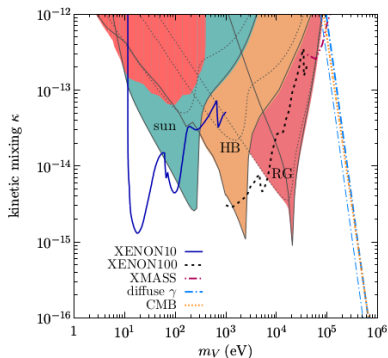


- Recoil energy:  $E_R \simeq m_\chi$
- Lighter DM (by  $\sim v^2$ )
- DM is inherently unstable

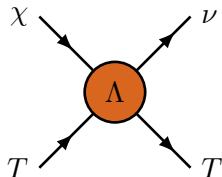
$$A' \rightarrow \gamma\gamma\gamma$$

$$a \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$$

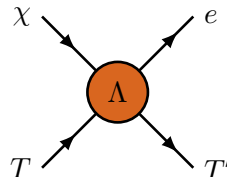
- Metastable for  $m_\chi \lesssim \text{MeV}$



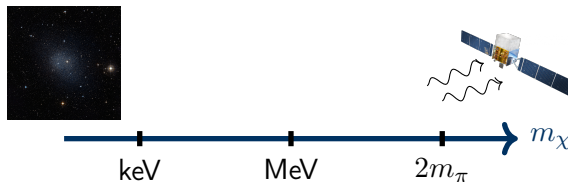
"Neutral current"



"Charged current"



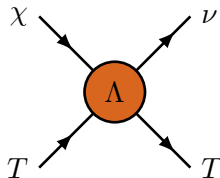
- Mass range:





- Operators of the form,

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} [\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{T} \Gamma_j T]$$



- Neutrino carries away most of energy:

$$E_\nu \sim m_\chi \quad E'_T \sim m_\chi^2 / 2m_T$$

- Look for (smaller) nuclear recoil:

$$m_\chi \sim \text{MeV}, m_T \sim 10 \text{ GeV} \Rightarrow E'_T \sim 0.1 \text{ keV}$$

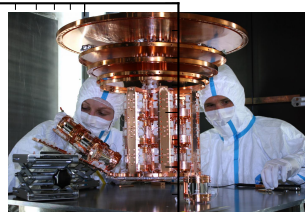
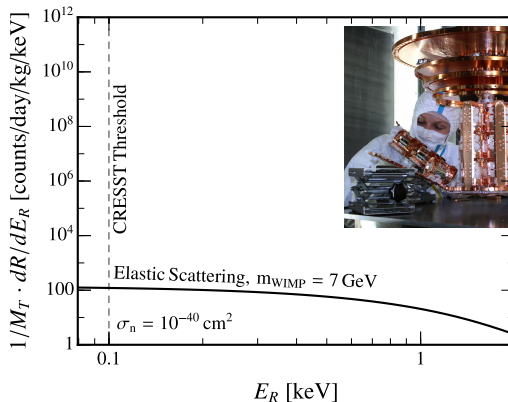
- Related ideas:

[Kile, Soni - 0908.3892]

[Graham, Harnik, Rajendran, Saraswat - 1004.0937]

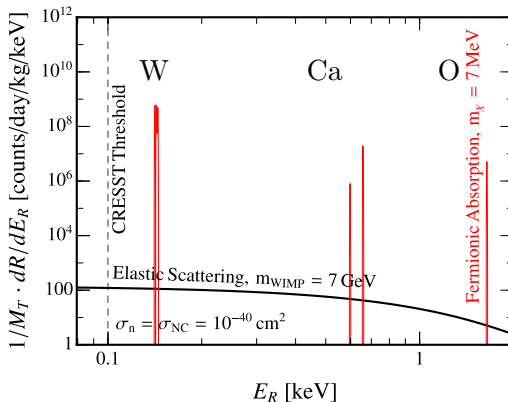
- Elastic scattering ( $\text{CaWO}_4$ ):

## Scattering in CRESST



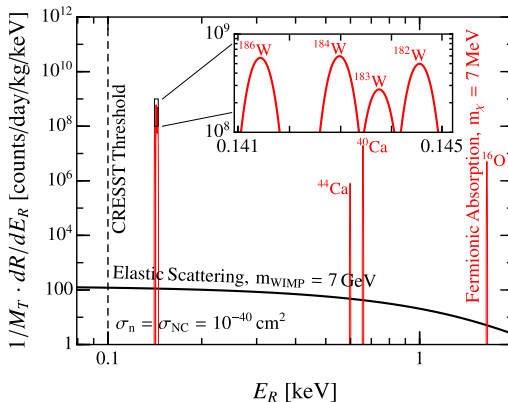
- Peak at  $E_R \sim m_\chi^2/2m_T$ , width  $\Delta E_R/E_R \sim 10^{-3}$

Scattering in CRESST



- Peak at  $E_R \sim m_\chi^2/2m_T$ , width  $\Delta E_R/E_R \sim 10^{-3}$

## Scattering in CRESST



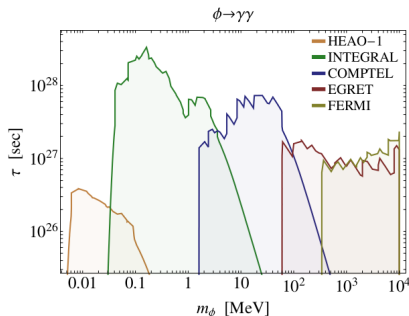
- No neutrino floor

- Complete models will have decays:

$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma$$

$$\bar{\chi} F_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu$$

← often zero



[Essig, Kuflik, McDermott, Volansky, Zurek - 1309.4091]

- Complete models will have decays:

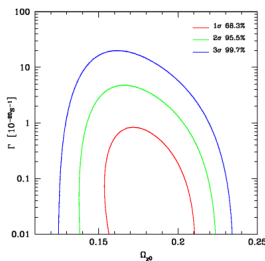
$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma$$

$$\bar{\chi} F_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu$$

← often zero

$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \nu \nu$$

$$[\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{\nu} \Gamma_j \nu] \quad \leftarrow \text{can vanish to } \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4})$$



[Gong, Chen - 0802.2296]

- Complete models will have decays:

$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma$$

$$\bar{\chi} F_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu$$

← often zero

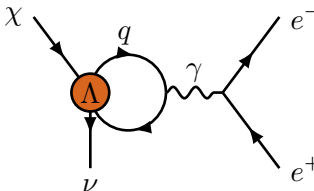
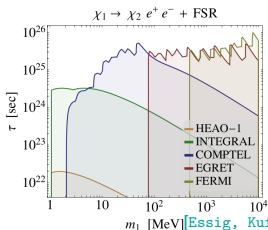
$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \nu \nu$$

$$[\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{\nu} \Gamma_j \nu] \quad \leftarrow \text{can vanish to } \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4})$$

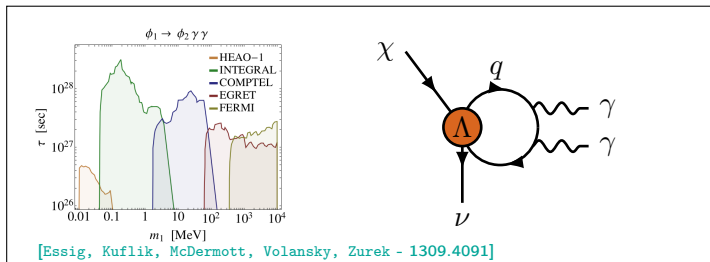
$$\chi \rightarrow e^+ e^- \nu$$

$$[\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{e} \Gamma_j e]$$

← loop induced



- Complete models will have decays:



$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma$$

$$[\bar{\chi} \Gamma \nu] F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu}$$

← loop induced



- Complete models will have decays:

$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \quad \bar{\chi} F_{\mu\nu} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \nu \quad \leftarrow \text{often zero}$$

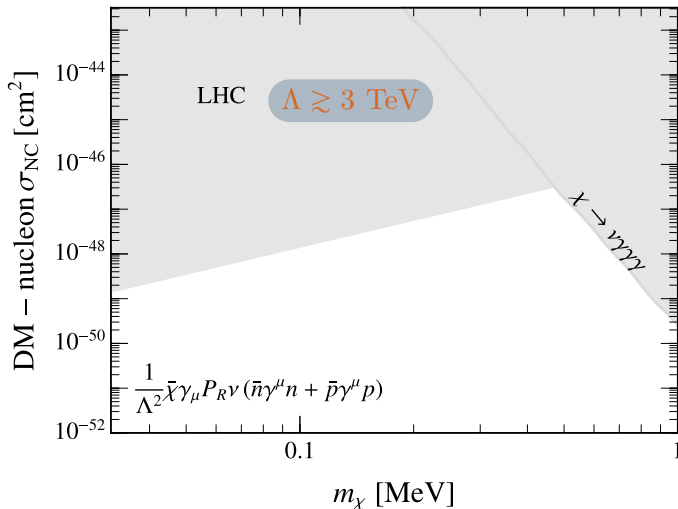
$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \nu \nu \quad [\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{\nu} \Gamma_j \nu] \quad \leftarrow \text{can vanish to } \mathcal{O}(\Lambda^{-4})$$

$$\chi \rightarrow e^+ e^- \nu \quad [\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i \nu] [\bar{e} \Gamma_j e] \quad \leftarrow \text{loop induced}$$

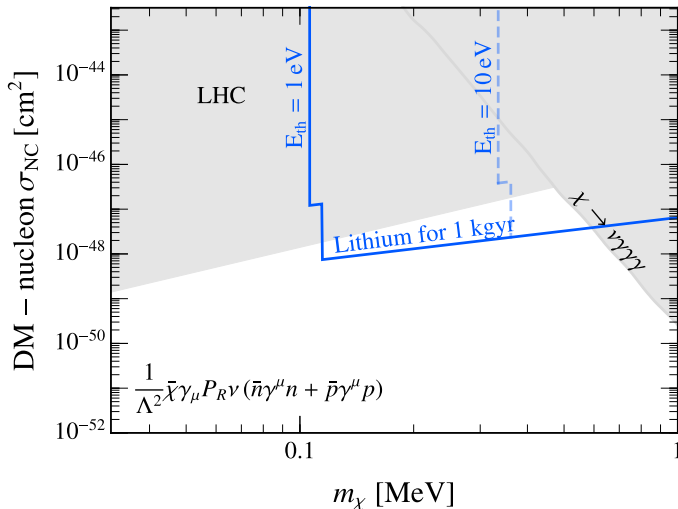
$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma \quad [\bar{\chi} \Gamma \nu] F_{\mu\nu} F^{\mu\nu} \quad \leftarrow \text{loop induced}$$

$$\chi \rightarrow \nu \gamma \gamma \gamma \quad [\bar{\chi} \Gamma \nu] F_{\mu\nu} F^{\nu\alpha} F_{\alpha}^{\mu} + \dots \quad \leftarrow \text{small}$$

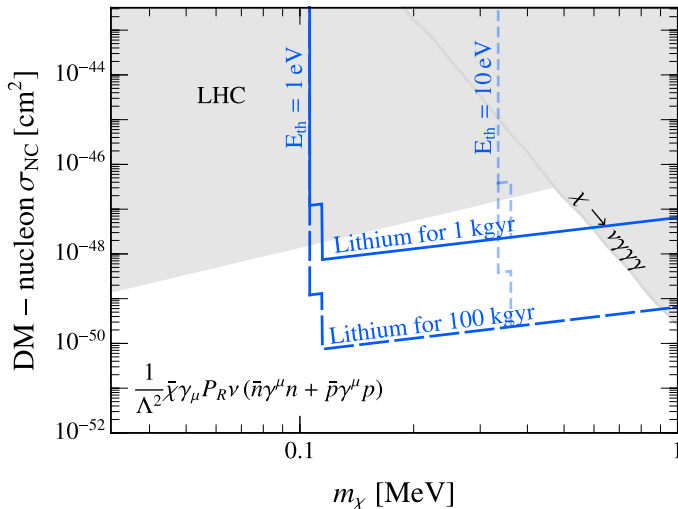
- Projected sensitivity ( $\sigma_{\text{NC}} \equiv m_\chi^2/4\pi\Lambda^4$ )



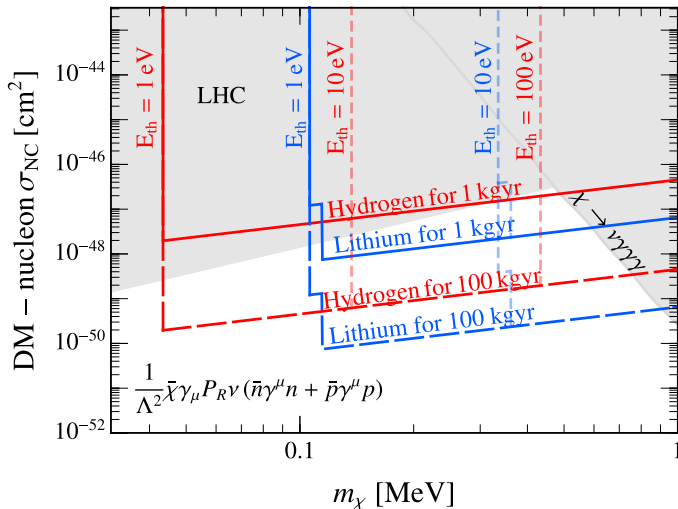
- Lithium target ( ${}^6\text{Li}$  and  ${}^7\text{Li}$ )



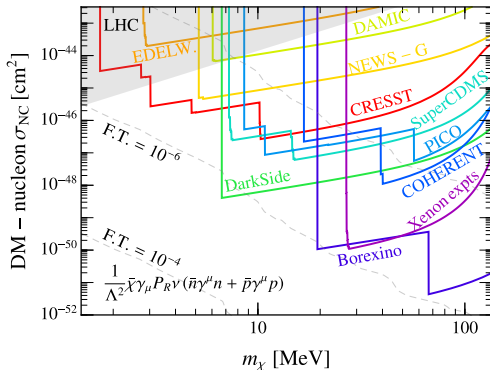
- Larger experiments



- Hydrogen target

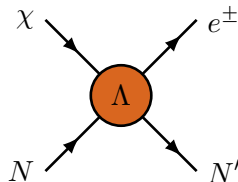


- Current experiments-larger thresholds
- Need  $m_\chi \gtrsim \text{MeV}$
- Tune away decays?



- Operators of the form,

$$\frac{1}{\Lambda^2} [\bar{\chi} \Gamma_i e] [\bar{n} \Gamma_j p]$$



- Induce a  $\beta^-$  or  $\beta^+$  decay in a nucleus:

$$\chi + n \rightarrow p + e^- \Rightarrow \chi + {}^A_Z\text{N} \rightarrow {}^A_{Z+1}\text{N} + e^-$$

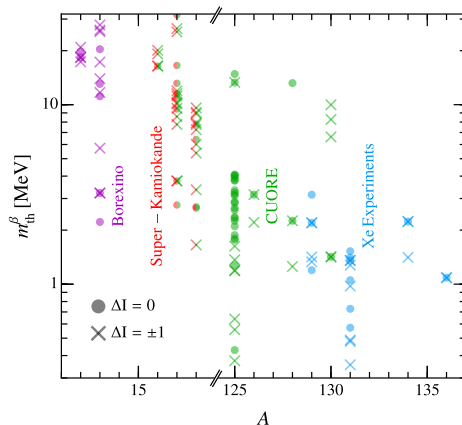
$$\bar{\chi} + p \rightarrow n + e^+ \Rightarrow \chi + {}^A_Z\text{N} \rightarrow {}^A_{Z-1}\text{N} + e^+$$

- $e^\pm$  gets most of  $\chi$  energy
- $\beta^-$  transition allowed if,

$\beta^+$  on Hydrogen: [Kile, Soni - 0908.3892]  
Sterile  $\nu$ : [Lasserre et al - 1609.04671]

$$m_\chi > m_{\text{th}} \equiv M_{A,Z+1} + m_e - M_{A,Z}$$

- Best transition in SM:  $^{163}_{66}\text{Dy} \rightarrow ^{163}_{67}\text{Ho}$  (2.6keV)
- Thresholds in known experiments:

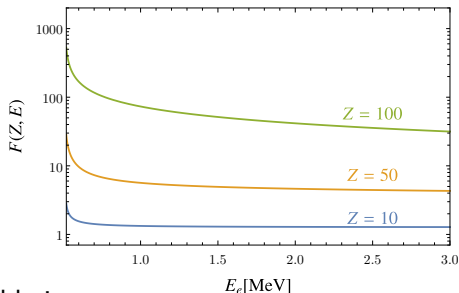




- Rate analogous to neutrino scattering:

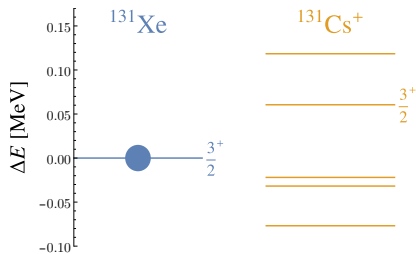
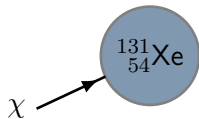
$$R \sim N_T \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} F(Z, E) \sigma_{\chi n \rightarrow p \nu}$$

- Coulomb enhancement



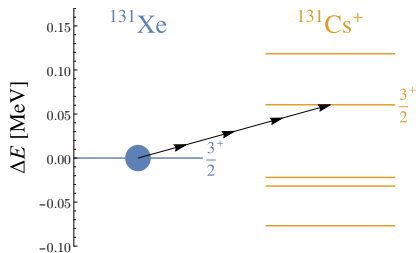
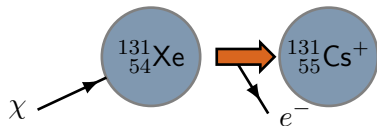
- Focus on stable isotopes

- Multiple detection opportunities:

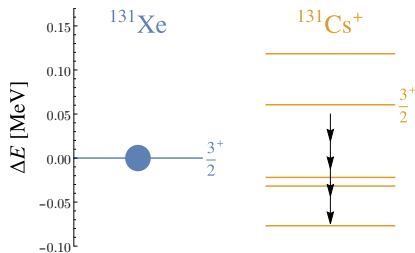
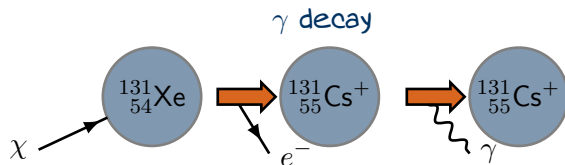


- Multiple detection opportunities:

Shoot off electron + nuclear recoil

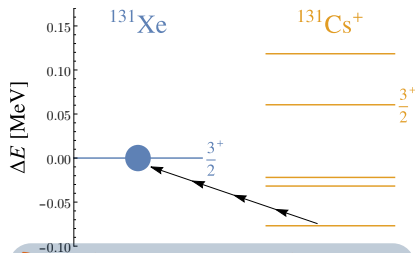
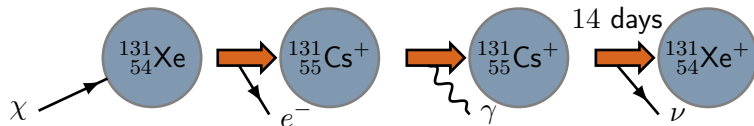


- Multiple detection opportunities:



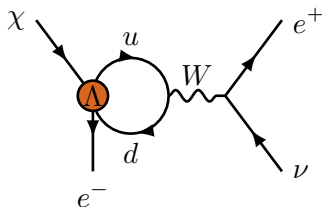
- Multiple detection opportunities:

Swallow an electron + nuclear recoil



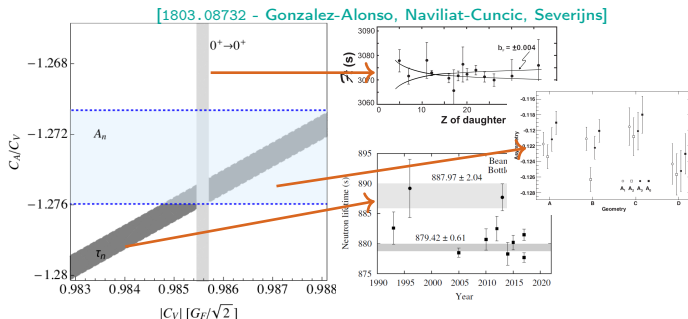
Details depend on isotope

- Same decays as neutral current
  - $\chi \rightarrow \nu\gamma$
  - $\chi \rightarrow \nu\nu\nu$
  - $\chi \rightarrow \nu e^+e^-$
  - $\chi \rightarrow \nu\gamma\gamma$
  - $\chi \rightarrow \nu\gamma\gamma\gamma\ldots$
- Can all be suppressed by additional  $m_W^2$  or  $\Lambda^2$



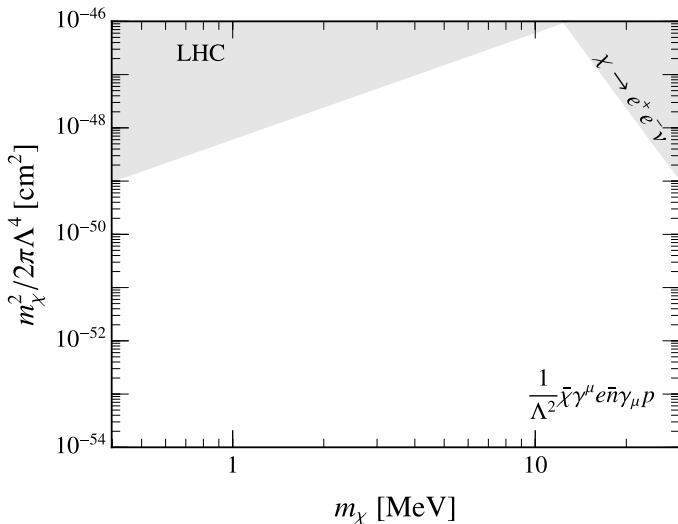
- Current experiments probe un-tuned parameter space!

- LHC:  $\Lambda \gtrsim 3 \text{ TeV}$
- $\beta$  decay test of  $V - A$  structure:  $(\bar{\nu}\Gamma e)(\bar{n}\Gamma p)$



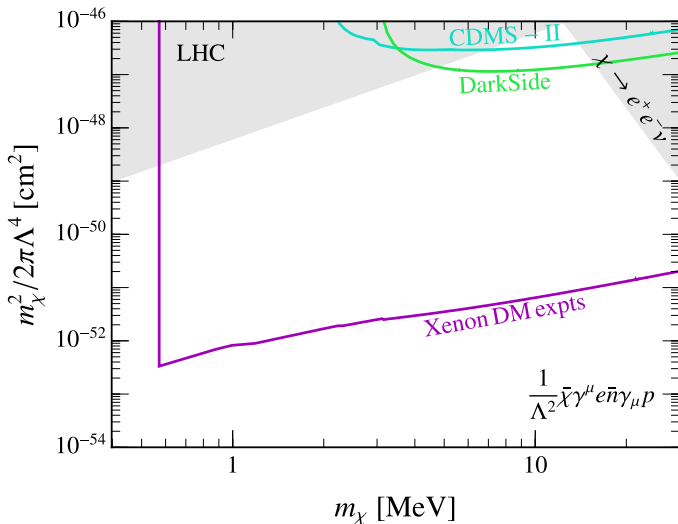
- Fermion absorption: no interference ( $\mathcal{O}(G_F^2 \Lambda^{-4})$  vs  $\mathcal{O}(G_F^{-1} \Lambda^{-2})$ )
- Constraints satisfied if  $\Lambda \gtrsim \text{TeV}$

- Projected sensitivity

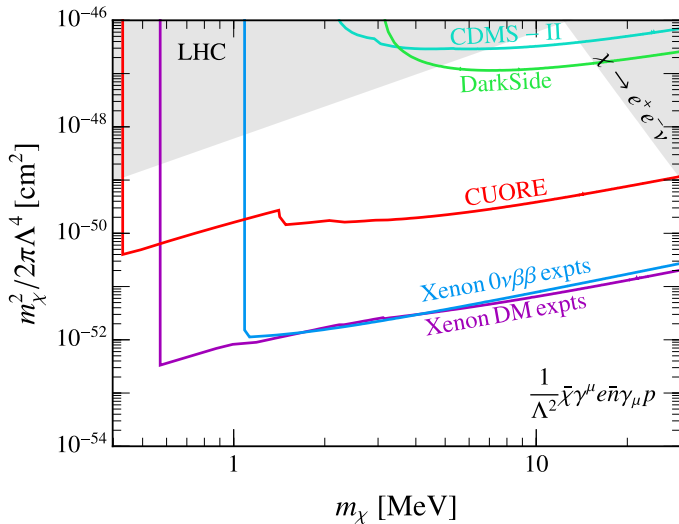




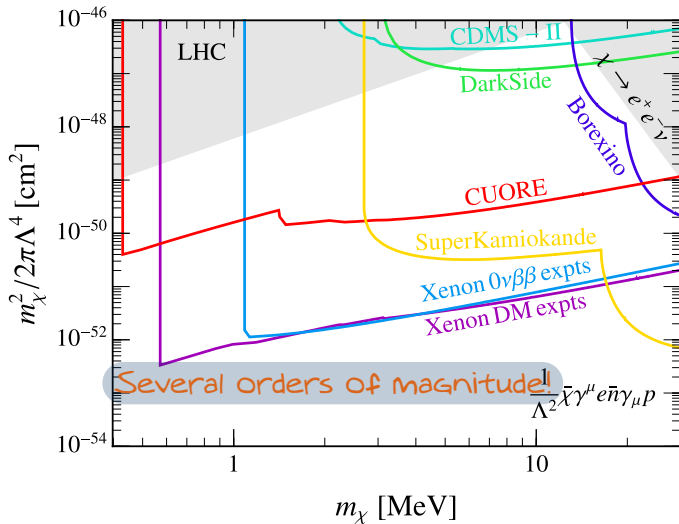
- Direct detection



○  $0\nu 2\beta$



- Neutrino monsters

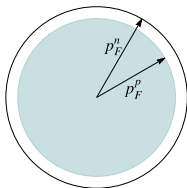


- Alternative:  $\beta^+$  decay

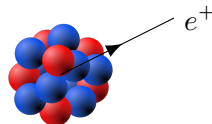
$$\bar{\chi} + p \rightarrow n + e^+$$

- May be only signal (asymmetric DM)
- Rate suppressed in heavy elements

1) Pauli blocking

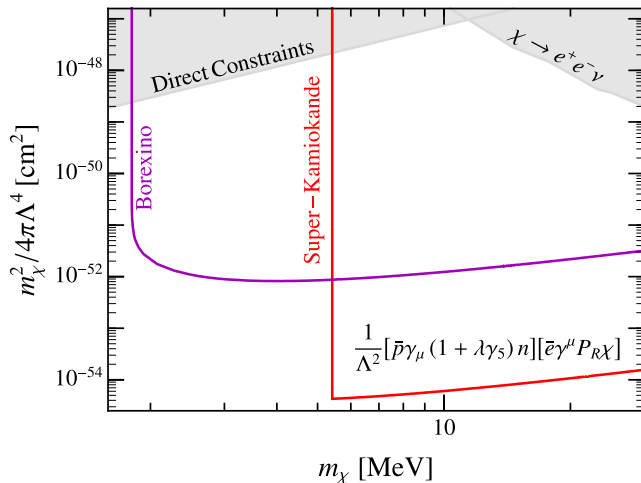


2) Coulomb repulsion

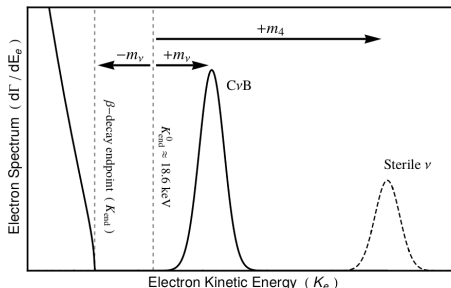


- Focus on Hydrogen targets (Borexino, SuperK)

- Projections from neutrino experiments:



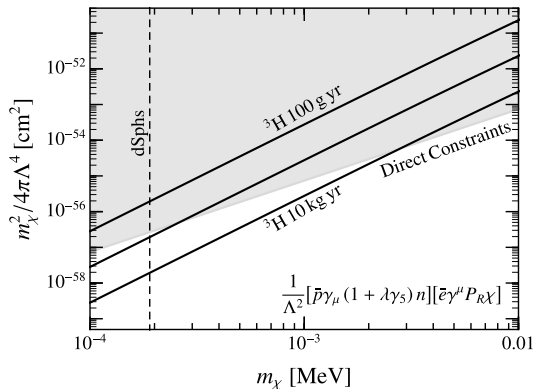
- Can also have DM altered  $\beta^\pm$  spectra
- Tritium - popular transition  ${}^3_1\text{H} \rightarrow {}^3_2\text{He} + e^- + \nu$



[Long, Lunardini, Sabancilar - 1405.7654]

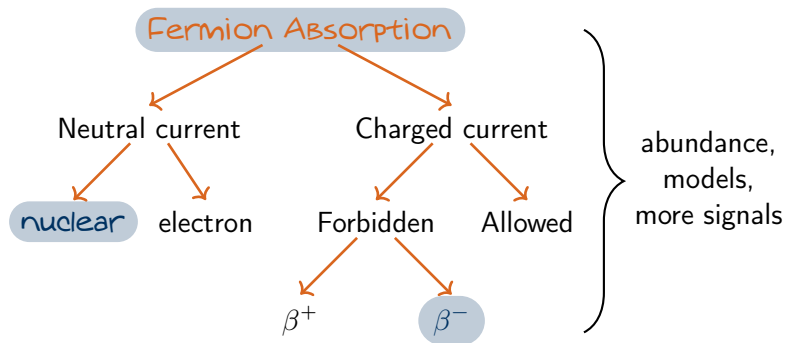
- Small experiments (typically  $\sim$  gram)
- PTOLEMY (100 gram)

- Projections... need some optimism



- Simple question...

Can fermions be absorbed in DM experiments?





Thanks!



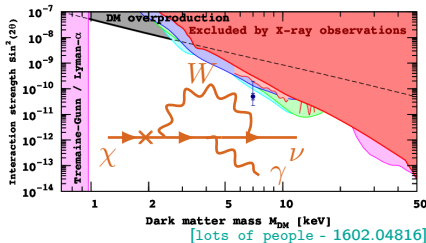
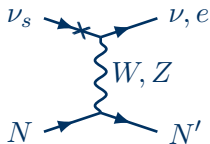
# Relation to sterile neutrinos



- Fermion absorption can occur for “classic” sterile neutrinos
- Only interaction through mixing:  $(\mathcal{L} \supset (s_\theta m_s) \nu_s \nu)$

$$\chi \xrightarrow{s_\theta} \nu$$

- Direct detection is related to Decay



$$\Lambda^2 \simeq m_W^2 / s_\theta \gtrsim (100 \text{ TeV})^2 \quad (\text{hard})$$

- UV completion:  $U(1)$  broken at a TeV ( $m_{Z'} = \text{TeV}$ )

$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_X \left( \frac{1}{3} \sum_{q \in u, d} Q_q \bar{q} \gamma_\mu q + Q_\chi \bar{\chi} \gamma_\mu \chi \right) Z'^\mu$$

- “Protophobic”  $Q_u = -1/3$ ,  $Q_d = 2/3$
- Integrating out  $Z'$ :

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_X^2 Q_q Q_\chi}{m_{Z'}^2} \bar{n} \gamma^\mu n \bar{\chi} \gamma_\mu \chi$$

- So far model only has elastic scattering

- Now suppose we have some mixing between  $\chi$  and  $\nu$ :

$$\mathcal{L} \supset H (y\bar{\nu} + y'\bar{\chi}) P_L \ell + m\bar{\chi} P_R \nu + m'\bar{\chi} \chi$$

- Mixing between states:

$$\theta_R \simeq -\frac{m}{m'}, \quad \text{and} \quad \theta_L \simeq -\frac{y'v}{m'}$$

- Set mixing between left handed states to be small ( $y' \rightarrow 0$ ):

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_X^2 Q_q Q_\chi s_{\theta_R}}{m_{Z'}^2} \bar{n} \gamma_\mu n \bar{\chi} \gamma_\mu P_R \nu + \text{h.c.}$$

- Additional interactions induce  $\chi \rightarrow 3\nu$
- $\Gamma_{\chi \rightarrow 3\nu} \propto s_{\theta_R}^6 \Rightarrow$  easy to suppress

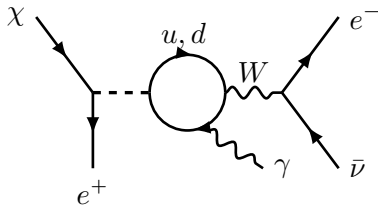
- Consider hypercharged, SU(2)-singlet, scalar,  $\phi^\pm$  ( $Y = 1$ )
- It can have interactions:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset g_X (Q_e \phi^- \bar{\chi} P_R e + \phi^- Q_q \bar{u} P_R d)$$

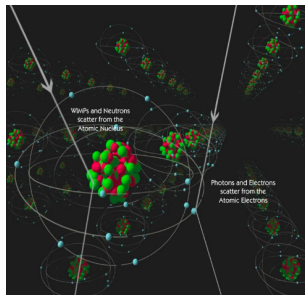
- Integrating out scalar:

$$\mathcal{L} \supset \frac{g_X^2 Q_e Q_q}{m_\phi^2} \bar{\chi} P_R e \bar{u} P_R d$$

- Leading decay:



- $\chi e \rightarrow \nu e$ : natural place to look for fermion absorption
- $E_e \sim m_\chi^2/m_e$
- keV DM  $\Rightarrow E_e \sim \text{eV}$
- Reach Tremaine-Gunn!
- Decays are suppressed  
(no  $\chi \rightarrow e^+ e^- \nu$ , small  $m$ )
- Only have  
 $\chi \rightarrow \nu\gamma, \nu\gamma\gamma, 3\nu, \dots$
- Direct detection: Hard to compute
- Future work...



- Rich indirect detection signatures
- Decays always present
- Excess of events in baryon rich regions
- CMB constraints:

$$\begin{aligned}n_{\chi} n_b \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi n \rightarrow ep} &\simeq n_{\chi}^2 \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi \chi \rightarrow e^+ e^-} \\ \Rightarrow \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi n \rightarrow ep} &= \frac{\Omega_b}{\Omega_{\chi}} \frac{m_p}{m_{\chi}} \langle \sigma v \rangle_{\chi \chi \rightarrow e^+ e^-} \\ &= 2 \times 10^{-38} \text{cm}^2\end{aligned}$$

- (much larger than our parameter space)
- Can you do better with specialized indirect detection?