

Effective theory for dark matter-bound electron scattering

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Based on work in collaboration with

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- *Revisiting general dark matter-bound electron interactions*, PRD 110 (2024) L091701 [arXiv:2405.04855]
- *A systematic investigation on dark matter-electron scattering in effective field theories*, JHEP 07 (2024) 279 [arXiv:2406.10912]

ABC about dark matter

- Plenty of evidence for its existence but is restricted to gravitational effects
- Constitutes \approx 25% of total energy budget in the universe, [≈] 5 x ordinary/baryonic matter energy density [≈] 0.4 GeV/cm ଷ
- Attracts ordinary matter gravitationally, but is nonluminous \rightarrow very weak interaction with ordinary matter
- Typical velocity $\approx 10^{-3}$ \rightarrow nonrelativistic
- We know almost nothing else

ABC about dark matter

Dark Sector Candidates, Anomalies, and Search Techniques

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How to detect DM particles

- Detection means via ordinary matter scattering/production/annihilation depend on both momentum transfer – kinematics, and types of interaction $-$ dynamics direct detection: $DM + OM \rightarrow DM + OM$, in terrestrial labs indirect detection: $DM + DM \rightarrow OM$, in cosmic rays collider searches: $OM + OM \rightarrow DM + DM$
- I focus on direct detection from now on: A DM particle *in halo* around us collides on a target particle *in lab* a bulk/liquid/gas of matter to trigger an observable phenomenon nucleuselectron

$\text{Direct detection:} \quad \text{DM} + \text{OM} \rightarrow \text{DM} + \text{OM}$

DM particle must be *energetic enough* to make target particle *recoil visibly* both nonrelativistic

kinetic energy $\frac{1}{2}$ $\frac{1}{2}m_{\rm DM}v_{\rm DM}^2$ gain energy

the heavier, more energetic the heavier, more reluctant to recoil

Only relatively heavy DM can kick a nucleus,

while electron recoils visibly against relatively light DM.

Minimal energy required defines detection threshold,

which translates into detectable lower limit of DM mass.

Different types of recoil result in different signals to observe. I'll concentrate on electron recoil below. \sim 6

Effective theory approach: Outline

- From now on, DM-bound electron scattering
- Both DM and atomic electron are nonrelativistic (NR) i.e., experiments at low energy, but interest in physical origin at high energy How to relate the two?
- Bottom-up approach: from something certain to something less Knowns: interactions based on established symmetries and power counting Unknowns: interaction strengths parameterized without theoretical biases
- We distinguish clearly between what we know and what we don't.

Effective theory approach: Outline

- The DM-bound electron scattering: NR quantum mechanics for 2 bodies Parameterize possible NR interactions at leading order Compute event rate using NR interactions
- Above NR interactions are from reduction of relativistic interactions
	- Low energy effective field theory (LEFT)
- Getting closer to new physics
	- Standard model EFT (SMEFT)

Match LEFT with SMEFT, and further SMEFT with your favorite new phys model

• Employ data to constrain interactions/models at various energy scales

 $q = n - n'$

- Initial state: $|{\bm p},1\rangle$ with atomic electron $|1\rangle=|n,l,m\rangle$ Final state: $|p', 2\rangle$ with ionized atomic electron $|2\rangle = |k', l', m'\rangle$
- Transition amplitude:

$$
\mathcal{M}_{1\rightarrow 2} = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{\psi}_2^*(k+q) \mathcal{M}(q, \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{el}}^{\perp}) \tilde{\psi}_1(k) \qquad \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{el}}^{\perp} = \mathbf{v} - \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2\mu_{xe}} - \frac{\mathbf{k}}{m_e}
$$

Electron mass, **DM mass** $m_\chi,$ reduced massDM initial velocity, relative velocity (initial-final $\perp_{\boldsymbol{q}}$

amplitude for free particles depends only on $q, v_{\rm el}^{\rm \perp}$ by rotational and Galilean invariance

• Work at excellent precision to linear order in

$$
f_{\mathbf{S}}(\mathbf{q}) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{\psi}_2^*(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}) \tilde{\psi}_1(\mathbf{k}) \qquad f_{\mathbf{V}}(\mathbf{q}) = \int \frac{\mathrm{d}^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{\psi}_2^*(\mathbf{k} + \mathbf{q}) \mathbf{v}_{\mathrm{el}}^{\perp} \tilde{\psi}_1(\mathbf{k})
$$

$$
\longrightarrow \qquad \mathcal{M}_{1\rightarrow 2} = f_{\mathbf{S}}(q)\mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{S}} + f_{\mathbf{V}}(q) \cdot \mathcal{M}_{\mathbf{V}}
$$

 $\mathcal{M}(\boldsymbol{q},\boldsymbol{v}_{\mathrm{el}}^{\perp})=\mathcal{M}_{\mathrm{S}}+\boldsymbol{v}_{\mathrm{el}}^{\perp}\cdot\boldsymbol{\mathcal{M}}_{\mathrm{V}}$

This expansion in v_{el}^{\perp} makes our formalism

more advantageous than previous one in \bm{k} expansion – see later. $\hfill \Box$

• DM-spin-averaged and –summed:

 $\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{1\rightarrow2}|^2} = a_0|f_{\mathcal{S}}|^2 + a_1|f_{\mathcal{V}}|^2 + \frac{a_2}{x_e}\left|\frac{q}{m_e}\cdot f_{\mathcal{V}}\right|^2 + ia_3\frac{q}{m_e}\cdot(f_{\mathcal{V}}\times f_{\mathcal{V}}^*) + 2\text{Im}\left[a_4f_{\mathcal{S}}f_{\mathcal{V}}^*\cdot\frac{q}{m_e}\right]$

 $\overline{a}_{0,1,2,3,4}$: DM response functions (DMRF) $x_e = \frac{q^2}{m_e^2}$ \overline{c}

atomic response functions (ARF)

 $\bullet\,$ Summing over initial m and final $(k',l'$, $m^{\prime})$:

$$
\overline{|\mathcal{M}_{1\to 2}|^2} \quad \rightarrow \quad \overline{|\mathcal{M}_{\text{ion}}^{n\ell}|^2} = a_0 \tilde{W}_0 + a_1 \tilde{W}_1 + a_2 \tilde{W}_2
$$

• Differential ionization rate:

 $\frac{d\mathcal{R}^{n\ell}_{\text{ion}}}{d\ln E_e} = \frac{n_{\text{dm}}}{128\pi m_{\text{dm}}^2 m_e^2} \int dq q \int \frac{d^3 \boldsymbol{v}}{v} f_{\text{dm}}(\boldsymbol{v}) \overline{|\mathcal{M}^{n\ell}_{\text{ion}}|^2}$

• This formalism is universal, and does not depend on specific forms of interactions. Single restriction: include NR interactions to linear order in small v_{el}^{\perp} .

 ${W}_{0,1,2}$: generalized

• Advantages over previous formalism Catena et al, PR Res 2 (2020) 033195 (1) 3 generalized ARFs instead of 4.

(2) Our DMRF $a_{0,1,2,3,4}$ are indept. of atomic properties, and our ARF $\overline{W}_{0,1,2}$ are indept. of DM at level better than 1% for $m_\chi \geq 5$ MeV. VS Their DMRF depend significantly on atomic properties at level up to 40%.

(3) Clear physical significance:

 \overline{W}_0 , $a_0 \leftrightarrow$ velocity-indept. NR interactions including spin-indept./dept. ones $\overline{W}_{1,2}$, $a_{1,2} \leftrightarrow$ velocity-dept. NR interactions, involving axial-vector currents $a_{3,4}$ contain only interference of different NR interactions,

vanish for real effective couplings (Wilson coefficients)

• Examples of DMRF $a_{0,1,2}$: scalar DM: $a_0 = |c_1|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |c_{10}|^2 x_e$, $a_1 = \frac{1}{4} |c_7|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |c_3|^2 x_e$, $a_2 = -\frac{1}{4} |c_3|^2 x_e$. fermion DM: $a_0 = |c_1|^2 +$ 3 $\frac{3}{16} |c_4|^2 + \left(\frac{1}{8} |c_9|^2 + \cdots\right) x_e + (\cdots) x_e^2$ $\frac{2}{\rho}$, $a_1 = \frac{1}{4} |c_7|^2 + \frac{1}{4} |c_8|^2 + \frac{1}{8} |c_{12}|^2 + \left(\frac{1}{4} |c_3|^2 + \cdots\right) x_e + (\cdots) x_e^2$ 2
P $a_2 = 0 + \left(-\frac{1}{4}|c_3|^2 + \cdots\right)x_e + (\cdots)x_e^2$ 2. vecto a 0 ൌ $= |c$ $\frac{1}{2}$ 2 ╇ $+$ $\frac{1}{1}$ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ |c $\frac{1}{4}$ 2 $^{2}+\left(\frac{1}{3}\right)$ 3 $\frac{1}{3}|c$ ଽ| 2 $x^2 + \cdots x$ е $_{e}$ + (\cdots) χ е 2 , 2 22 2 52 2

r DM:
$$
a_0 = |c_1|^2 + \frac{1}{2}|c_4|^2 + (\frac{1}{3}|c_9|^2 + \cdots)x_e + (\cdots)x_e^2
$$
,
\n $a_1 = \frac{1}{4}|c_7|^2 + \frac{2}{3}|c_8|^2 + \frac{1}{3}|c_{12}|^2 + \frac{5}{36}|c_{21}|^2 + (\frac{1}{4}|c_3|^2 + \cdots)x_e + (\cdots)x_e^2$,
\n $a_2 = 0 + (-\frac{1}{4}|c_3|^2 + \cdots)x_e + (\cdots)x_e^2$.
\nCatena et al, PR Res:

2 (2020) 033195

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 \bullet Relations between our ARF $\overline{W}_{0,1,2}$ and previous ones $\overline{W}_{1,2,3,4}$

$$
\widetilde{W}_0 = W_1, \ \widetilde{W}_1 = |\mathbf{v}_0^{\perp}|^2 W_1 - 2\frac{y_e}{x_e} W_2 + W_3, \ \widetilde{W}_2 = \frac{y_e^2}{x_e} W_1 - 2\frac{y_e}{x_e} W_2 + \frac{1}{x_e} W_4
$$
\nwrong sign of W_2 corrected

Step 2: NR interactions

• DM-bound electron scattering:

 v_{DM} ~10⁻³, v_e ~ α ~10⁻² → well suited for NR quantum mechanics

- Construct basis of complete and indept. interaction operators up to $O(q^2)$), $\mathit{O}(v_{\rm el}^{\perp}) \hspace{0.2in} q\!\sim\! 100 - 10^{2} \rm keV$, $v_{\rm el}^{\perp} \sim \! 10^{-2}$ for DM of spin 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1.
- Symmetries:

Rotational invariance, Galilean invariance

• Building blocks:

coordinate space: $q \quad v_{\text{el}}^{\perp}$

spin space: $\mathbf{1}_e$, \mathbf{S}_e ; $\mathbf{1}_x$, \mathbf{S}_x , and \mathbf{S}_x for rank-2 traceless spin tensor for spin-1 DM $\tilde{\mathcal{S}}_x^{ij} = \frac{1}{2} \left(S_x^i S_x^j + S_x^j S_x^i \right) - \frac{2}{2} \delta^{ij}$ 13

Conventions in [39] Catena et al, PR Res 2 (2020) 033195 and [50] JCAP 03 (2023) 052.

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Step 2: NR interactions

scalar and fermion DM: Del Nobile, PR D98 (2018) 123003; Fitzpatrick et al, JCAP 02 (2013) 004. vector DM in simplified models: Catena et al, JHEP 08 (2019) 030; Dent et al, PR D92 (2015) 063515.

- NR interactions in QM can be considered as the low-energy limit of relativistic EFT
- At energy scale < electroweak scale $\Lambda_{\rm EW}$, this is called low-energy EFT, i.e., LEFT (1) symmetries: $SU(3)_{\rm c}\times U(1)_{\rm em}$ and Poincare

(2) dynamical DoFs: SM plus DM fields

(3) no requirements on other conservation laws or renormalizability,

relevance of effective interactions assessed by power counting in $p/\Lambda_{\rm EW}$

 Again, EFT framework is universal, and new phys models are parameterized by effective couplings (Wilson coefficients).

- LEFT has been widely applied, in particular, in low energy processes involving **light DM.** extensive literature not cited here
- Here I focus on DM-electron and DM-photon interactions directly related to DM direct detection via electron recoil.

• Higher-dimension operators are more suppressed by power in $p/\Lambda_{\rm EW}$:

effective interaction = Wilson coefficient \times effective operator dim $4=$ $(4-n)$ + n $(\Lambda_{\text{EW}})^{4-n}$

 \rightarrow concentrate on first few high-dimension operators

contribute via photon exchange

x: not for real scalar

First systematic NR reduction or matching

x: not for real vector

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missed

First systematic NR reduction or matching

Step 4: constraints on NR interactions

- I skip all details about numerical analysis, but show directly a few results.
- I assume one operator is activated a time.
- All results for scalar, fermion, or vector DM and for all operators can be obtained from results for 12 operators for vector DM by equivalent or scaling relations.
- Here are 3 best constraints among 12:

Step 5: constraints on LEFT interactions

- Again I assume one LEFT operator is activated a time. But it usually reduces to several NR operators, whose interference should be included.
- I show as an example for which reduces in NR limit to L^a_χ $\alpha_\chi^{\rm{anap}} = a_\chi \overline{\chi} \gamma^\mu \gamma^5 \chi \partial^\rho F_{\mu \rho} , \ \ a_\chi = 0$ g 2Λ 2 $L^{\rm NR}=c^{}_8\bm{\mathcal{v}}^\perp_{\rm el}$ $\frac{\text{d}}{\text{e} \text{l}} \cdot \mathcal{S}_{\chi} \mathbf{1}_{e} - c_{9} \mathcal{S}_{\chi} \cdot$ iq $m_{\it e}$ \times ${\cal S}$ $_{e}$, $c_8 = c_9 = 8$ e $m_e m_\chi$ \overline{g} Λ^2
- Our constraints are weaker by a factor \sim 2 than previous theory and experiment results,

because they were based on a formalism incurring a wrong sign in one ARF.

Summary

- Established a formalism for DM-bound electron scattering, aiming at direct detection of DM via electron recoil.
- \triangleright universal for general NR and R interactions up to some orders
- \triangleright advantages over previous formalism:
- \checkmark 3 generalized ARFs instead of 4;
- \checkmark ARFs depend only on atomic properties and DMRF only on DM properties, without cross reference;
- \checkmark clear physical significance:

 \overline{W}_0 and a_0 $(\overline{W}_{1,2}$ and $a_{1,2})$ associated with velocity-indept (dept) NR interactions.

Summary

- Provided a basis of complete and indept NR operators for spin-1 DM.
- Accomplished first systematic NR reduction/matching of LEFT operators for spin-1 DM.
- \bullet Comprehensive constraints on all NR interactions up to q^2 and $v_{\rm el}^{\scriptscriptstyle \perp}$ for DM of spin 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1.
- Comprehensive constraints on all LEFT interactions up to dim-6 (-7) for DM of spin 0, $\frac{1}{2}$, and 1, with interference among reduced NR operators.
- \bullet Corrected a sign mistake in previous calculation of ARF W_2 , thus modified constraints significantly.