

# Electroweakly-Interacting Dirac Dark Matter

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We consider a class of fermionic dark matter candidates that are charged under both the  $SU(2)_L$  and  $U(1)_Y$  gauge interactions. Such a dark matter is stringently restricted by the dark matter direct detection experiments, since the  $Z$ -boson exchange processes induce too large dark matter-nucleus elastic scattering cross sections. Effects of ultraviolet (UV) physics, however, split it into two Majorana fermions to evade the constraint. These effects may be probed by means of the dark matter-nucleus scattering via the Higgs-boson exchange process, as well as the electric dipole moments induced by the dark matter and its  $SU(2)_L$  partner fields. In this Letter, we evaluate them with effective operators that describe the UV-physics effects. It turns out that the constraints coming from the experiments for the quantities have already restricted the dark matters with hypercharge  $Y \geq 3/2$ . Future experiments have sensitivities to probe this class of dark matter candidates, and may disfavor the  $Y \geq 1$  cases if no signal is observed. In this case, only the  $Y = 0$  and  $1/2$  cases may be the remaining possibilities for the  $SU(2)_L$  charged fermionic dark matter candidates.

## INTRODUCTION

Weakly interacting massive particles are well-known candidates for dark matter (DM) in our Universe. They are assumed to have TeV-scale masses and weak couplings to ordinary matters so that their thermal relic abundance is consistent with the observed DM density,  $\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2 = 0.1196 \pm 0.0031$  (68% C.L.) [1]. One of the simplest approaches to provide such a candidate is to introduce an  $SU(2)_L$  multiplet which contains a neutral component and has a TeV-scale mass [2]. This sort of multiplets is characterized by the number of components  $n$  and its hypercharge  $Y$ . The authors of Ref. [2] have found that an  $n = 5$  fermion or an  $n = 7$  scalar multiplet with  $Y = 0$  offers a viable DM candidate since their neutral components become automatically stable due to an accidental  $U(1)$  symmetry. Other choices of the quantum numbers may also work well if one imposes a  $\mathbb{Z}_2$  symmetry to stabilize the neutral components. Indeed, such an example can be found in various new-physics models; for example, wino-like ( $n = 3$  and  $Y = 0$ ) and higgsino-like ( $n = 2$  and  $Y = 1/2$ ) neutralinos in the  $R$ -parity conserving supersymmetric Standard Models are known to be promising candidates for DM. Moreover, a remnant discrete symmetry resulting from the grand unified symmetry may give rise to stable DM candidates charged under the  $SU(2)_L \otimes U(1)_Y$  gauge interactions [3].

In this letter, we consider the  $Y \neq 0$  fermion cases. These multiplets distinguish themselves from others as they form Dirac fermions. Dirac fermions with having hypercharges are in general significantly constrained by the direct detection experiments, since the  $Z$ -boson exchanging processes induce the vector-vector coupling between the DM and quarks, which gives too large DM-nucleus elastic scattering cross sections. However, the

constraints may be evaded if there exist ultraviolet (UV)-physics effects which violate the particle-number conservation of the fermionic DM. After the electroweak symmetry breaking, the effects can split the Dirac fermion DM into two Majorana fermions with the mass difference  $\Delta m$ . Since a Majorana fermion cannot have a vector-interaction, it can avoid the above constraint and thus the lighter component again becomes a promising DM candidate.

If  $\Delta m$  has fallen below  $\mathcal{O}(100)$  keV, however, the DM again suffers from the direct detection limits since the inelastic scattering becomes significant. This gives, therefore, an upper limit on the UV-physics scale  $\Lambda$ . On the other hand, if the scale is low enough, various experiments may catch the signature of the DM. Especially, the elastic scattering of DM with a nucleon via the Higgs exchange process and the electric dipole moments (EDMs) induced by the fermion multiplet loop diagrams offer good probes. The experimental constraints on these quantities then give a lower limit on  $\Lambda$ . In the following discussion, we evaluate both the upper and lower limits considering the present experimental limits. We will find that these experiments are powerful especially for the DMs with large hypercharges. We also discuss the future prospects of searching for this class of DMs.

## MODEL

Let  $\psi_m$  be the  $SU(2)_L$   $n$ -tuple Dirac fermions with hypercharge  $Y > 0$ . The index  $m$  labels the eigenvalues of  $T_3$  with  $T_a$  ( $a = 1, 2, 3$ ) the  $n$ -dimensional representation of the generators of the  $SU(2)_L$  gauge group. In the basis,  $T_{\pm} \equiv T_1 \pm iT_2$  and  $T_3$  are represented by  $(T_{\pm})_{lm} = \sqrt{(j \mp m)(j \pm m + 1)} \delta_{l, m \pm 1}$  and

$(T_3)_{lm} = m \delta_{lm}$  with  $j \equiv \frac{n-1}{2}$ . We require that the multiplets should contain the neutral components; the condition reads  $Y \leq j$  and  $(j - Y)$  being an integer. Further, the lightest neutral component is assumed to be the dominant component of DM in the Universe. The mass term of the multiplets is given by

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{mass}} = -\mu \bar{\psi} \psi, \quad (1)$$

with  $\mu$  taken to be real and positive, without loss of generality. We assume it to be around TeV scale in the following discussion. Without UV-physics effects, the fermions interact with the Standard Model sector only through the gauge interactions. As discussed in the Introduction, however, it is required to include the effects to evade the constraints coming from the DM direct detection experiments.<sup>1</sup> Such effects are described by the following effective operators that break the conservation of the fermion number associated with the multiplets:<sup>2</sup>

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}^{(c)} = \frac{c_s}{2\Lambda^{(4Y-1)}} \sum_{M,m,m'} \langle jmjm' | (2Y)M \rangle [(H_M^{4Y})^* \bar{\psi}_m^c \psi_{m'} + \text{h.c.}], \quad (2)$$

where  $c_s$  is an  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  dimension-less constant and  $\psi^c$  is the anti-particle field of  $\psi$ ;  $\Lambda$  is taken to be real and positive without loss of generality.  $H = (H^+, H^0)^T$  is the Higgs field;  $(H)^k$  is composed of  $k$  Higgs fields to form an isospin- $k/2$  object and defined such that its lowest component is given by  $(H^0)^k$ ;  $\langle jmjm' | JM \rangle$  are the Clebsch-Gordan coefficients. Notice that from their symmetry properties,  $\langle jmjm' | (2Y)M \rangle = (-1)^{2(j-Y)} \langle jm'jm | (2Y)M \rangle$  follows, and thus the operators in Eq. (2) vanish unless  $(j - Y)$  is an integer. The condition is, however, always satisfied in the present scenario since we have assumed that the multiplets have the neutral components.

In general, the UV-physics effects that induce the above operator also generate other operators that have lower mass dimensions but give no contribution to the mass splitting between the neutral components. Among them, the following dimension-five operators give rise to the dominant contribution to the low-energy physics:<sup>3</sup>

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{eff}}^{(d)} = \frac{1}{\Lambda} |H|^2 \bar{\psi} (d_s + id_{s5} \gamma_5) \psi + \frac{1}{\Lambda} (H^* t_a H) \bar{\psi} (d_t + id_{t5} \gamma_5) T_a \psi, \quad (3)$$

where  $t_a \equiv \sigma_a/2$  with  $\sigma_a$  the Pauli matrices, and the coefficients are dimension-less and of  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . In what follows,

we study the phenomenology of these  $SU(2)_L$  multiplets in the presence of the effective operators (2) and (3),<sup>4</sup> and discuss the constraints on  $\Lambda$  for each  $Y$ .

## INELASTIC SCATTERING

As mentioned above, the effective operators in Eq. (2) generate the mass splitting between the neutral components after the electroweak symmetry breaking. Once the Higgs field gets a vacuum expectation value,  $\langle H \rangle = (0, v)^T/\sqrt{2}$  with  $v \simeq 246$  GeV, the operators yield the mass splitting as

$$\Delta m = \frac{v^{4Y} C_{jY} |c_s|}{2^{(2Y-1)} \Lambda^{(4Y-1)}}. \quad (4)$$

Here we define  $C_{jY} \equiv \langle jYjY | (2Y)(2Y) \rangle$ .

If  $\Delta m < \mathcal{O}(100)$  keV, the inelastic scattering of the DM with a nucleus may occur via the  $Z$ -boson exchange processes, which is significantly restricted by the direct detection experiments. The scattering cross section is

$$\sigma_{\text{inel}} = \frac{G_F^2 Y^2}{2\pi} [N - (1 - 4 \sin^2 \theta_W) Z]^2 M_{\text{red}}^2. \quad (5)$$

Here,  $G_F$  is the Fermi constant;  $\theta_W$  is the weak mixing angle;  $M_{\text{red}}$  is the reduced mass in the DM-target nucleus system;  $Z$  and  $N$  are the numbers of protons and neutrons in the nucleus, respectively. By using the cross section, we obtain the differential event rate with the recoil energy  $E_R$  in a direct detection experiment as

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{N_T m_T \rho_{\text{DM}}}{2m_{\text{DM}} M_{\text{red}}^2} \sigma_{\text{inel}} F^2(E_R) \int_{v_{\text{min}}}^{\infty} \frac{f(v)}{v} dv, \quad (6)$$

where  $N_T$  is the number of the target nuclei;  $m_{\text{DM}}$  and  $m_T$  are the masses of the DM and the nucleus, respectively;  $\rho_{\text{DM}}$  is the local DM density;  $f(v)$  is the local DM velocity distribution;  $F^2(E_R)$  denotes a nuclear form factor. The minimum speed  $v_{\text{min}}$  in the integral is given by

$$v_{\text{min}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{2m_T E_R}} \left( \frac{m_T E_R}{M_{\text{red}}} + \Delta m \right). \quad (7)$$

Current direct detection experiments have sensitivities to a recoil energy of  $E_R < \mathcal{O}(100)$  keV, and thus the event rate  $R$  strongly depends on  $\Delta m$  if  $\Delta m < \mathcal{O}(100)$  keV, while the scattering basically never happens if  $\Delta m \gg 1$  MeV. As a consequence, the direct detection experiments impose a lower limit on the mass difference, which is interpreted as an upper limit on the scale  $\Lambda$  through the relation in Eq. (4).

In Fig. 1, we show the constraints on the mass splitting  $\Delta m$  coming from the direct detection experiments as

<sup>1</sup> The constraints can be also avoided if  $\mu$  is much higher than the TeV scale. Such a possibility is studied in Ref. [4].

<sup>2</sup> In addition, there is a similar pseudo-scalar operator. However, we find that it plays no role in the following discussion.

<sup>3</sup> Dipole-type operators are usually suppressed by a loop-factor, and thus their contribution is sub-dominant.

<sup>4</sup> For recent related studies, see Refs. [5, 6].

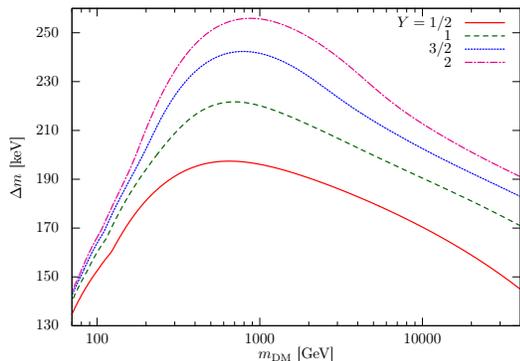


FIG. 1. Lower bound on the mass splitting  $\Delta m$  from the inelastic-scattering limits as functions of the DM mass  $m_{\text{DM}}$ .

functions of the DM mass  $m_{\text{DM}}$ . The  $Y = 1/2, 1, 3/2, 2$  cases are presented from bottom to top. We combine the results of XENON10 [7], XENON100 [8] and LUX [9], and give the lower limits at 90% C.L. by using a simple merging and maximum gap method [10, 11]. We use the same parameters for the nuclear form factor and the astrophysical DM velocity distribution as Ref. [7], except for  $v_{\text{esc}} = 544$  km/s [12]. Although the constraints strongly depend on these parameters, the limit  $\Delta m > 100$  keV is robust in a range of the DM masses shown in the figure. As a result, we have the upper-bounds on  $\Lambda$  as,

$$\Lambda \lesssim (10^9, 3 \times 10^4, 4 \times 10^3) \text{ GeV for } Y = \left(\frac{1}{2}, 1, \frac{3}{2}\right). \quad (8)$$

A larger  $Y$  leads to a smaller  $\Lambda$ , which gives significant impacts on low-energy observables, as we will see below.

## ELASTIC SCATTERING

As we have discussed so far, by considering the inelastic scattering processes, we obtain an upper limit on the scale  $\Lambda$  for each multiplet. If the scale is low enough, on the other hand, the dimension-five operators in Eq. (3) get significant. The operators induce the DM-nucleon elastic scatterings, which are again constrained by the direct detection experiments. Let us evaluate the cross sections. In the presence of the effective operators, the DM-quark scalar coupling  $f_q$  is induced as

$$f_q = -\frac{1}{2m_h^2\Lambda} \left( d_s + \frac{Y}{2} d_t \right), \quad (9)$$

where  $m_h$  denotes the mass of the Higgs boson. Here we neglect the contribution of the operators in Eq. (2). It is actually sub-dominant when  $Y \geq 1$ . In the following analysis we use Eq. (9) for the  $Y = 1/2$  case as well, for brevity. The inclusion of the contribution is straightforward; see Ref. [6] for details.

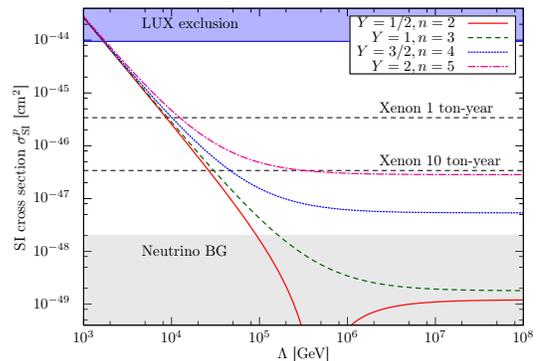


FIG. 2. DM-proton SI scattering cross sections as functions of  $\Lambda$ . We set  $m_{\text{DM}} = 1$  TeV,  $d_s = 1$ , and the others coefficients to be zero. Blue shaded region represents the present bound given by the LUX experiment [9], while gray shaded region indicates the border line below which the neutrino background dominates the DM signals [15].

The DM-quark scalar coupling induces the effective coupling of the DM with nucleons. The DM-proton coupling is, for instance, given by

$$\frac{f_p}{m_p} = \sum_{q=u,d,s} f_q f_{T_q} + \frac{2}{27} \sum_{Q=c,b,t} f_Q f_{T_Q}. \quad (10)$$

Here,  $m_p$  is the proton mass, and  $f_{T_u} = 0.019$ ,  $f_{T_d} = 0.027$ ,  $f_{T_s} = 0.009$ , and  $f_{T_Q} \equiv 1 - \sum_{q=u,d,s} f_{T_q}$ . They are extracted from the recent results of the lattice QCD simulations [13]. In addition, electroweak gauge boson loop diagrams contribute to the effective coupling. The contribution is computed as [14]

$$f_p^{\text{EW}} = (n^2 - 1 - 4Y^2) f_p^W + Y^2 f_p^Z, \quad (11)$$

with  $f_p^W \simeq 2.3 \times 10^{-11} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$  and  $f_p^Z \simeq -1.1 \times 10^{-10} \text{ GeV}^{-2}$ . These values scarcely depend on the DM mass when it is larger than the gauge boson masses. The spin-independent (SI) DM-proton elastic scattering cross section  $\sigma_{\text{SI}}^p$  is then given by

$$\sigma_{\text{SI}}^p = \frac{4}{\pi} M_{\text{red}}^2 f_p^2. \quad (12)$$

In Fig. 2, we show the DM-proton SI scattering cross sections  $\sigma_{\text{SI}}^p$  as functions of  $\Lambda$  for some selected model parameters. The  $Y = j = 1/2, 1, 3/2, 2$  cases are plotted from bottom to top. We set  $m_{\text{DM}} = 1$  TeV,  $d_s = 1$ , and the other coefficients to be zero. The cross sections turn out to be almost independent of the DM mass. The blue shaded region represents the current experimental bound given by the LUX collaboration [9]. As can be seen, it has already restricted the region of  $\Lambda < \text{a few TeV}$  for  $m_{\text{DM}} = 1$  TeV. We also show the expected sensitivities of the future Xenon-based experiments [16] in black dashed lines for reference. It is found that the future experiments

can probe  $\Lambda = \mathcal{O}(10^{(4-5)})$  GeV, which is significantly higher than the conditions from the inelastic-scattering limits (8) for  $Y \geq 1$ . In addition, larger  $Y$  and  $n$  tend to yield larger scattering rates via the electroweak loop contributions, which are independent of  $\Lambda$ . Anyway we see that larger  $Y$  scenarios can be relatively easily tested with future DM detection experiments.

## ELECTRIC DIPOLE MOMENTS

The DM direct detection bounds discussed above are relevant to the parity-even part of the effective operators. The parity-odd part is, on the other hand, probed or constrained with the EDMs. The experimental constraints on the quantities give another lower limit on the scale  $\Lambda$ . The EDM of a fermion  $f$  is induced at two-loop level<sup>5</sup> through the so-called Barr-Zee diagrams [17], which is computed as follows:

$$d_f = d_f^{h\gamma} + d_f^{hZ} + d_f^{WW}, \quad (13)$$

with

$$d_f^{h\gamma} = \frac{e^3 Q_f m_f n}{3(4\pi)^4 \Lambda \mu} f_0 \left( \frac{\mu^2}{m_h^2} \right) \times [(n^2 - 1 + 12Y^2)d_{s5} - Y(n^2 - 1)d_{t5}], \quad (14)$$

$$d_f^{hZ} = \frac{eg^2 m_f n}{12(4\pi)^4 \Lambda \mu} (T_f^3 - 2Q_f \sin^2 \theta_W) f_1 \left( \frac{m_Z^2}{m_h^2}, \frac{\mu^2}{m_h^2} \right) \times [2\{(n^2 - 1) - 12Y^2 \tan^2 \theta_W\}d_{s5} - Y(n^2 - 1)(1 - \tan^2 \theta_W)d_{t5}], \quad (15)$$

$$d_f^{WW} = \frac{eg^2 m_f T_f^3}{6(4\pi)^4 \Lambda \mu} Y n(n^2 - 1) d_{t5} f_0 \left( \frac{\mu^2}{m_W^2} \right). \quad (16)$$

Here,  $e = |e|$  is the positron charge;  $g$  is the  $SU(2)_L$  coupling constant;  $m_f$ ,  $Q_f$ , and  $T_f^3$  are the mass, electric charge in the unit of  $e$ , and isospin of the fermion  $f$ , respectively. The mass functions in the expressions are

$$f_0(r) = r \int_0^1 dx \frac{1}{r - x(1-x)} \ln \left( \frac{r}{x(1-x)} \right), \quad (17)$$

$$f_1(r_1, r_2) = \frac{1}{1 - r_1} \left[ f_0(r_2) - r_1 f_0 \left( \frac{r_2}{r_1} \right) \right]. \quad (18)$$

Currently the electron EDM bound  $|d_e| < 8.7 \times 10^{-29}$  ecm by the ACME Collaboration [18] gives the most stringent limit on the UV-physics scale. For the

<sup>5</sup> EDMs are in general induced also at one-loop level through the effects of UV-physics above the scale  $\Lambda$ . As long as  $|\mu| \ll \Lambda$  holds, however, such a contribution is sub-dominant.

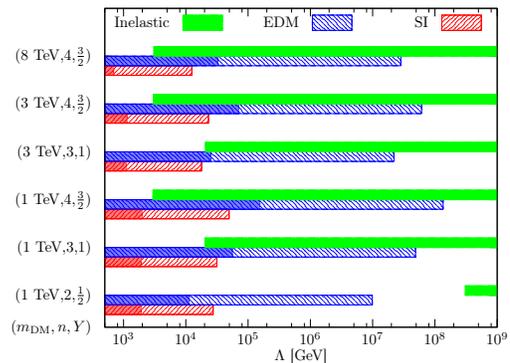


FIG. 3. Constraints and prospects for the cut-off scale  $\Lambda$ . We set  $d_s = d_{s5} = c_s = 1$  and  $d_t = d_{t5} = 0$ . Each hatched region with (without) filled with same color shows the current constraints (prospects).

electron EDM, the  $h\gamma$  and  $WW$  contributions are dominant. The prefactor of Eq. (14) is

$$\frac{e^3 Q_e m_e}{3(4\pi)^4 \Lambda \mu} f_0 \simeq -3 \times 10^{-29} \text{ ecm} \times \left( \frac{10^6 \text{ GeV}^2}{\Lambda \mu} \right) \ln \left| \frac{\mu}{m_h} \right|. \quad (19)$$

With  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  CP-violating coefficients  $d_{s5}$  and  $d_{t5}$ ,  $\Lambda$  less than several TeV is disfavored for  $m_{\text{DM}} = \mathcal{O}(1)$  TeV.

The sensitivity of the EDM measurements is expected to be improved by a few orders of magnitude in future [19, 20]; e.g.,  $|d_e| \sim 10^{-31}$  ecm. With the improved measurements the cut-off scale  $\Lambda$  even above the PeV scale can be tested.

## SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

We have studied the electroweak interacting DM with non-zero hypercharge. With the higher-dimensional operators (2), dangerous  $Z$ -boson mediated scatterings can be avoided if they give the mass-splitting  $\Delta m \gtrsim 100$  keV between the neutral components. However, other operators with the same cut-off scale  $\Lambda$  may induce large signals for the DM-nucleus elastic scatterings and/or the EDMs. In Fig. 3, we show the complementary feature for some selected examples. Here, we take  $d_s = d_{s5} = c_s = 1$  and  $d_t = d_{t5} = 0$ . Each hatched region with (without) filled with same color shows the current constraints (prospects). For prospects we refer to the expected reach of a Xenon-based 10 ton-year experiment [16] for the direct detection limits and  $|d_e| = 10^{-31}$  ecm for the EDM bounds [19, 20]. Generally speaking, a larger  $n$  with  $Y$  fixed leads to a more severe limit. Note that when the cut-off scale  $\Lambda$  approaches to the DM mass, analyses based on the effective theories become invalid anymore. Constraints in such a case should be dependent on each UV model, since it implies an additional sector showing

up around the TeV-scale. Generically, however, we may expect more direct effects on the EDM and DM signals, as well as on the data in the indirect DM searches and the collider experiments, coming from this sector. The contributions make the DMs more restricted. Keeping this notice in mind, in Fig. 3 we extrapolate the results computed in effective theories, just for references. From this figure, it is found that the DMs with  $Y \geq 3/2$  are now strongly disfavored. Even the  $Y = 1$  cases start to be constrained, and future experiments can examine the cases. If no signal is observed, only the  $Y = 0$  and  $1/2$  cases may be the remaining possibilities for the  $SU(2)_L$  charged fermionic DM candidates.

Finally, we briefly comment on the scalar DM cases. Similarly to the Dirac fermion DMs, a scalar DM with non-zero hypercharge also has the vector-coupling to  $Z$ -boson. For the  $Y \geq 1$  cases, only non-renormalizable operators can induce the mass splitting between the neutral components to avoid the coupling. Thus, in the case of the  $Y \geq 1$  scalar DMs, the inelastic bound can give an upper limit on the UV-physics scale, just like the fermion DM cases. We have  $\Lambda \lesssim (10^5, 4 \times 10^3)$  GeV for  $Y = 1, 3/2$ , respectively, with  $m_{\text{DM}} = 1$  TeV. On the other hand, the DM-nucleus elastic scattering via the Higgs-boson exchange is induced by renormalizable interactions, and thus it is not necessarily dependent on the UV scale. Further, EDMs are not induced and thus play no role in the scalar DM cases. Nonetheless, when an upper limit on  $\Lambda$  is as low as the DM mass, it indicates the presence of extra particles other than the DM multiplet around the TeV scale, which provides us various ways to probe the scalar DM in experiments.

The work of N.N. is supported by Research Fellowships of the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science for Young Scientists.

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