



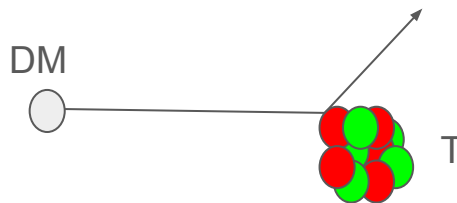
# Photon-mediated interactions in BULLKID-DM

Alberto Acevedo-Rentería  
advised by Eric Vázquez-Jáuregui  
Physics Institute, UNAM

Collaboration meeting at Ferrara, July 1st, 2025

# Dark matter-nucleon interactions

- We consider a  $2 \rightarrow 2$  scattering between a Dark Matter particle  $\chi$  and a nucleon  $N$  in a target nucleus  $T$



- It is not ruled out the possibility of DM coupling to electromagnetic radiation
- Photon-mediated DM-nucleon interaction
  - DM couples to the photon and then interacts with the nucleons
  - DM exchanges photons with the nucleus, long range interaction

# Dark matter-nucleon interactions: electromagnetic multipoles

- Interaction spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  DM with the photon

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} = \epsilon_{\chi} e \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi A_{\mu} + \frac{\mu_{\chi}}{2} \bar{\chi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \chi F_{\mu\nu} + \frac{d_{\chi}}{2} i \bar{\chi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma^5 \chi F_{\mu\nu} + c_A \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \chi \partial^{\nu} F_{\mu\nu} + b_{\chi} \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi \partial^{\nu} F_{\mu\nu}$$

millicharge

magnetic dipole  
moment

electric dipole  
moment

anapole moment

charge radius

- If the momentum transfer and the relative velocity are small, the most general interaction lagrangian is

$$\mathcal{L} = \sum_i c_i \mathcal{O}_i$$

- With non-relativistic effective field theory operators  $\mathcal{O}_i$

# Non-Relativistic Effective Field Theory (NREFT)

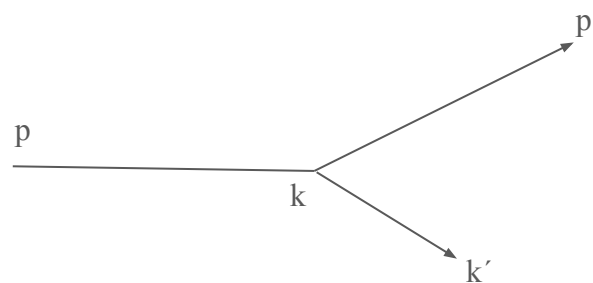
- Developed for elastic scattering in direct detection
- Identify DM-nucleus response functions to characterize DM
- The momentum transfer is

$$q = p - p' = k' - k$$

- Galilean invariance and Hermiticity
- Effective operators are four-field operators of the form

$$\mathcal{L} = \chi \mathcal{O}_\chi \chi N \mathcal{O}_N N$$

- $q^2$  is a completely invariant scalar that depends only on DM kinematic quantities



# NREFT

- DM spin  $\frac{1}{2}$  there are 4 Galilean invariants and 15 operators

$$\mathbf{S}_N, \mathbf{S}_\chi, i\mathbf{q}, \mathbf{v}^\perp = \mathbf{v} + \frac{\mathbf{q}}{2\mu_N}$$

$$\mathcal{O}_1 \equiv 1_\chi 1_N,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_4 \equiv \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \mathbf{S}_N,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_6 \equiv \left( \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right) \left( \mathbf{S}_N \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_8 \equiv \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \mathbf{v}^\perp,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{10} \equiv i\mathbf{S}_N \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{12} \equiv \mathbf{v}^\perp \cdot (\mathbf{S}_\chi \times \mathbf{S}_N),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{14} \equiv i \left( \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right) \left( \mathbf{S}_N \cdot \mathbf{v}^\perp \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_3 \equiv i\mathbf{S}_N \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \times \mathbf{v}^\perp \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_5 \equiv i\mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \left( \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \times \mathbf{v}^\perp \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_7 \equiv \mathbf{S}_N \cdot \mathbf{v}^\perp,$$

$$\mathcal{O}_9 \equiv i\mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \left( \mathbf{S}_N \times \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{11} \equiv i\mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N},$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{13} \equiv i \left( \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \mathbf{v}^\perp \right) \left( \mathbf{S}_N \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right),$$

$$\mathcal{O}_{15} \equiv \left( \mathbf{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \right) \left( \mathbf{S}_N \cdot \left[ \frac{\mathbf{q}}{m_N} \times \mathbf{v}^\perp \right] \right)$$

# NREFT

- It is of some interest to study the electromagnetic interactions

- Millicharge

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{M}} = e\epsilon_{\chi} A_{\mu} \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{M}} = e^2 \epsilon_{\chi} \frac{1}{q^2} \mathcal{O}_1$$

- Magnetic dipole moment

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{MD}} = \frac{\mu_{\chi}}{2} \bar{\chi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \chi F_{\mu\nu} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{MD}} = e\mu_{\chi} \sum_{N=n,p} \left[ \frac{1}{2m_{\chi}} \mathcal{O}_1 + 2 \frac{m_N}{q^2} \mathcal{O}_5 + g_N \left( \frac{1}{m_N} \mathcal{O}_4 - \frac{2m_N}{q^2} \mathcal{O}_6 \right) \right]$$

- Electric dipole moment

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{ED}} = \frac{d_{\chi}}{2} i \bar{\chi} \sigma^{\mu\nu} \gamma^5 \chi F_{\mu\nu} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{ED}} = 2ed_{\chi} \frac{m_N}{q^2} \mathcal{O}_{11}$$

- Anapole moment

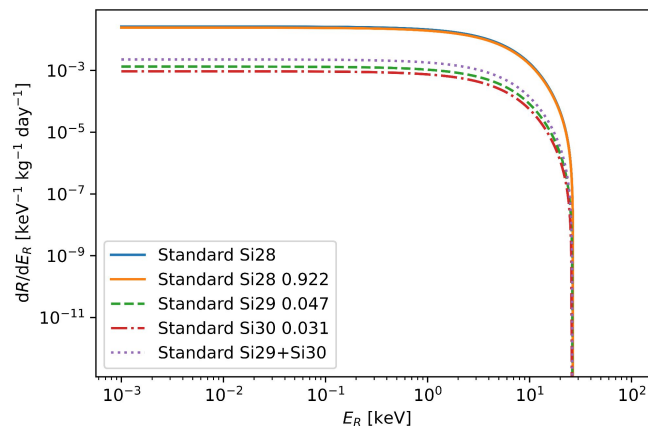
$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{A}} = c_{\mathcal{A}} \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \gamma^5 \chi \partial^{\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{A}} = c_{\mathcal{A}} (2e\mathcal{O}_8 + [g_p + g_n]\mathcal{O}_9)$$

- Charge radius

$$\mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{CR}} = b_{\chi} \bar{\chi} \gamma^{\mu} \chi \partial^{\nu} F_{\mu\nu} \quad \rightarrow \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{CR}} = eb_{\chi} \mathcal{O}_1$$

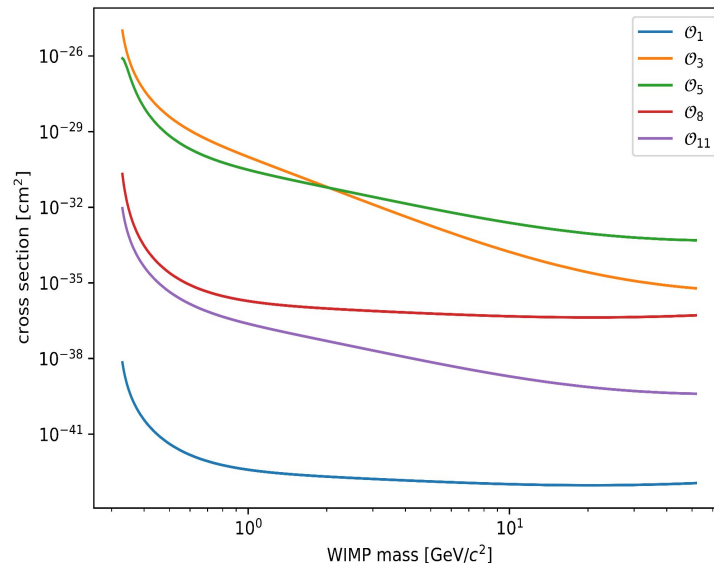
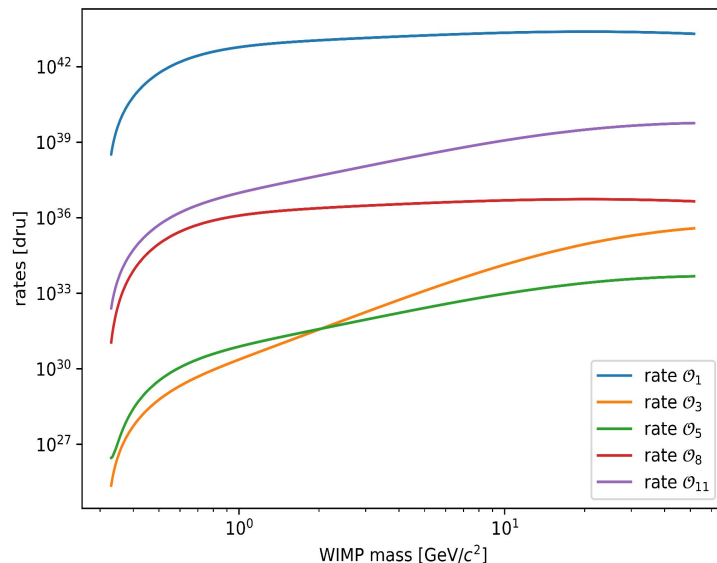
# WIMpy

- WIMpy\_NREFT is a python code developed by B. J. Kavanah & T. Edwards for calculating DM-Nucleus scattering rates in the framework of NREFT ([https://github.com/bradkav/WIMpy\\_NREFT](https://github.com/bradkav/WIMpy_NREFT))
- Current version supports operators for spin 0,  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 1 DM as well as millicharge, anapole moment and magnetic dipole moment DM
- For BULLKID, we have considered that our target mass is pure  $^{28}\text{Si}$ 
  - Nuclear structure functions for  $^{29}\text{Si}$  and  $^{30}\text{Si}$  are not available in the NREFT framework



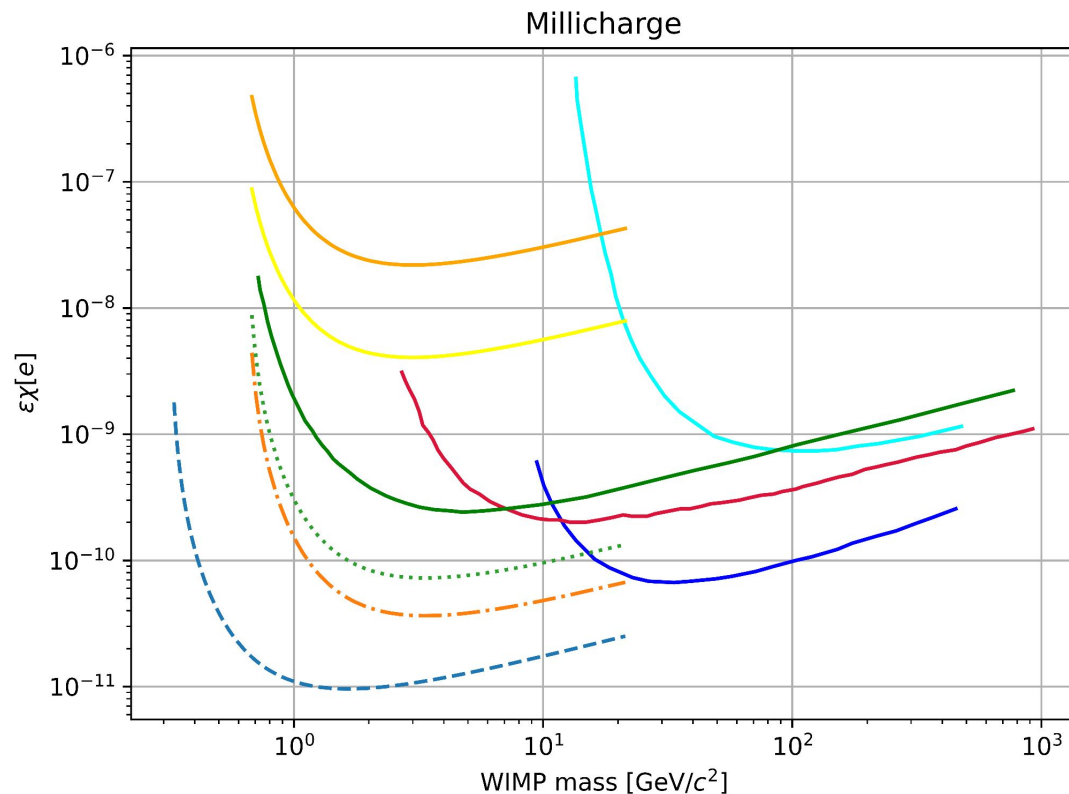
# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NLEFT)

- BULLKID is sensitive to spin-dependent operators (4.7%  $^{29}\text{Si}$ ) but for the analysis in WIMpy we cannot study them now
  - Operator 3 is sensitive to spin-orbit coupling rather than nuclear spin





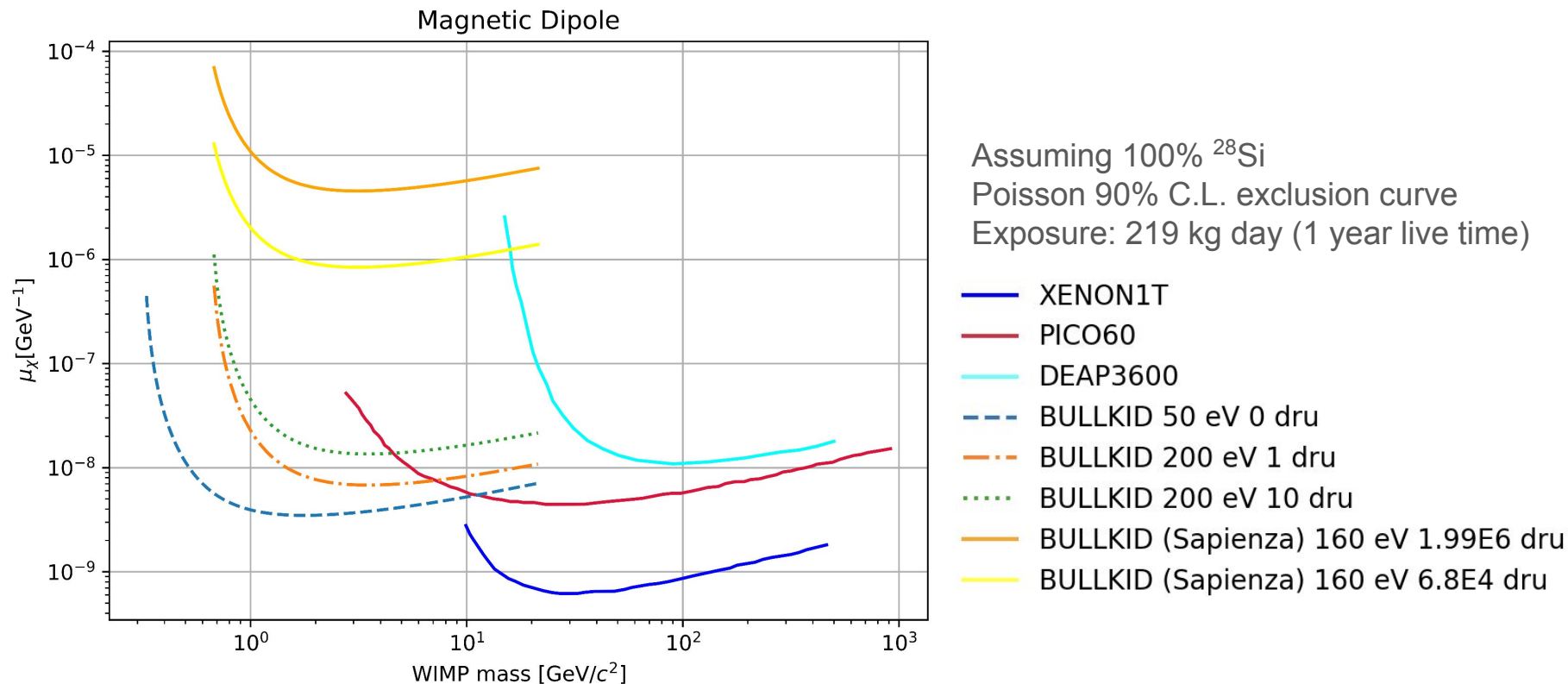
# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NREFT) without Migdal



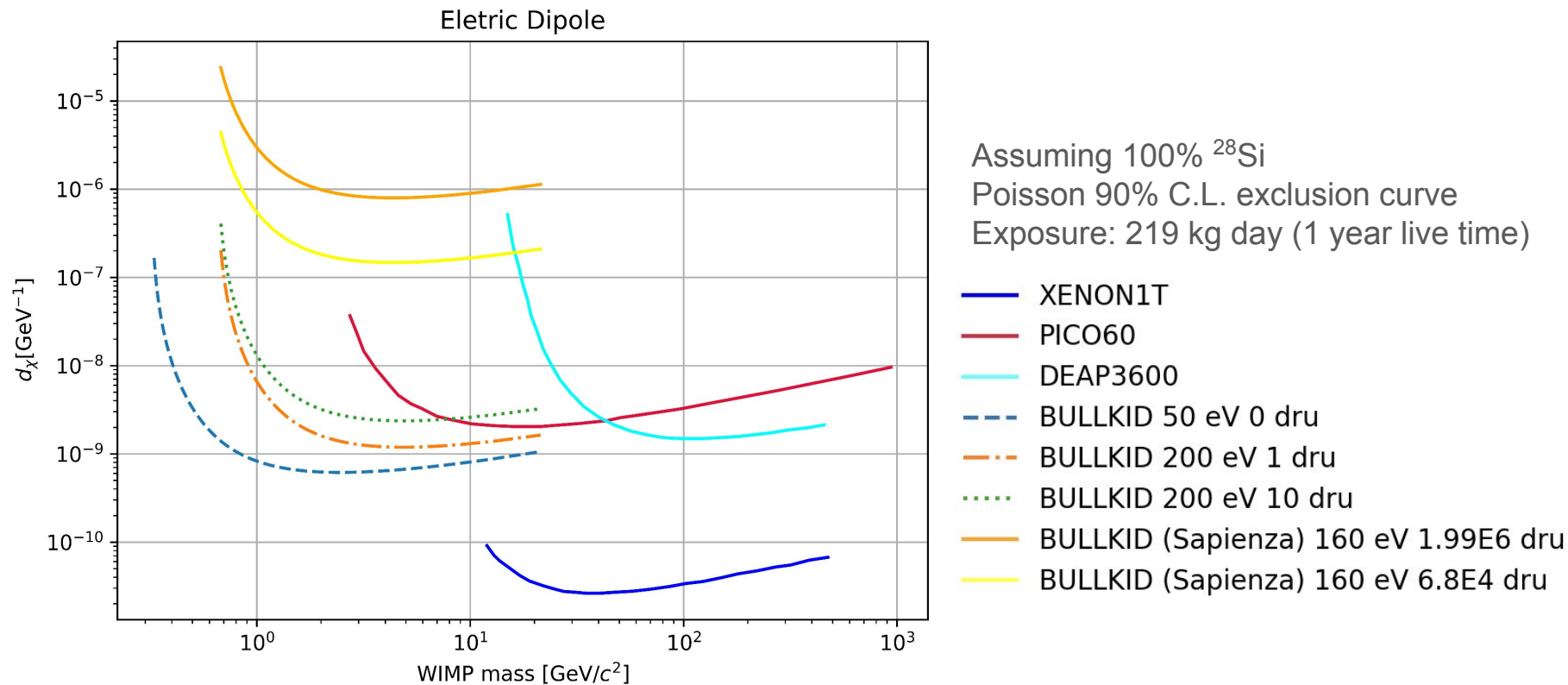
Assuming 100%  $^{28}\text{Si}$   
Poisson 90% C.L. exclusion curve  
Exposure: 219 kg day (1 year live time)

DarkSide limit took from [arXiv:2408.15760](https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.15760)

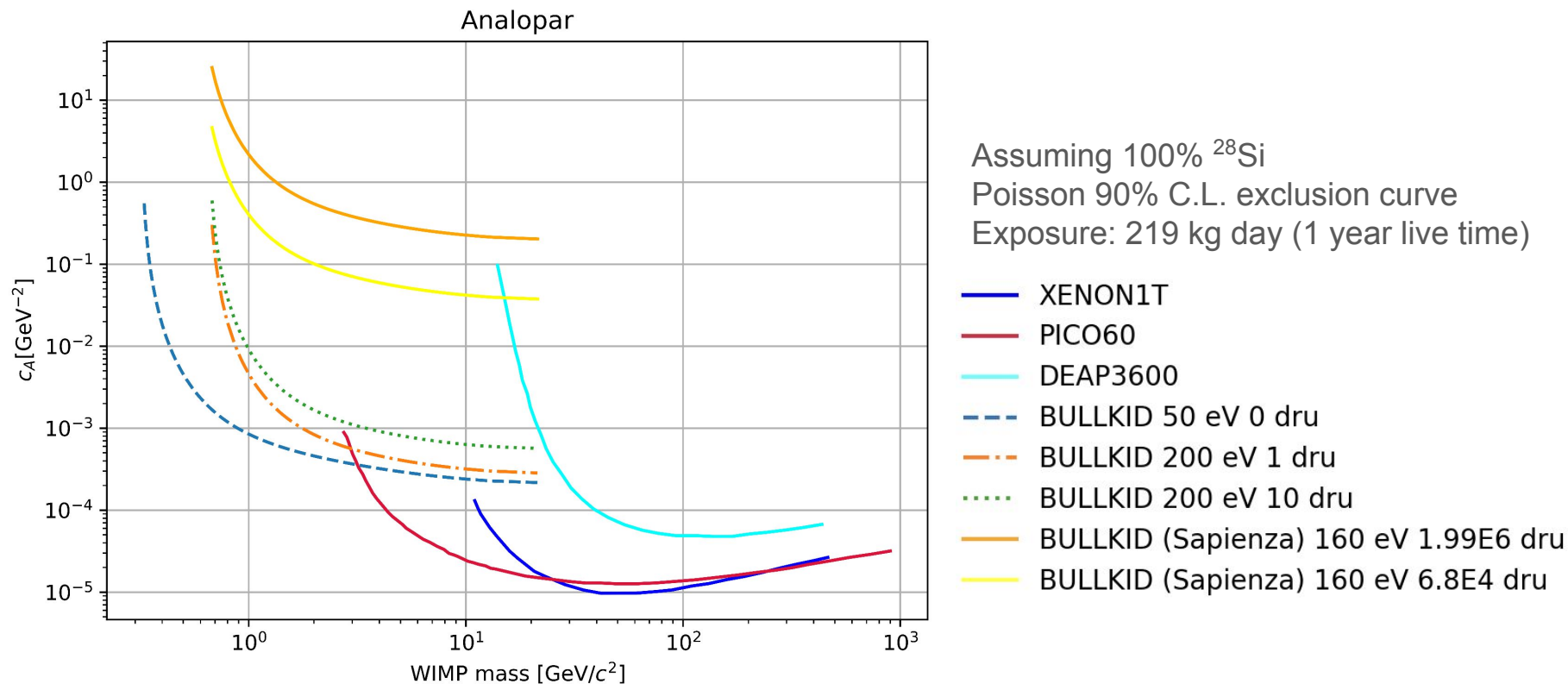
# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NREFT) without Migdal



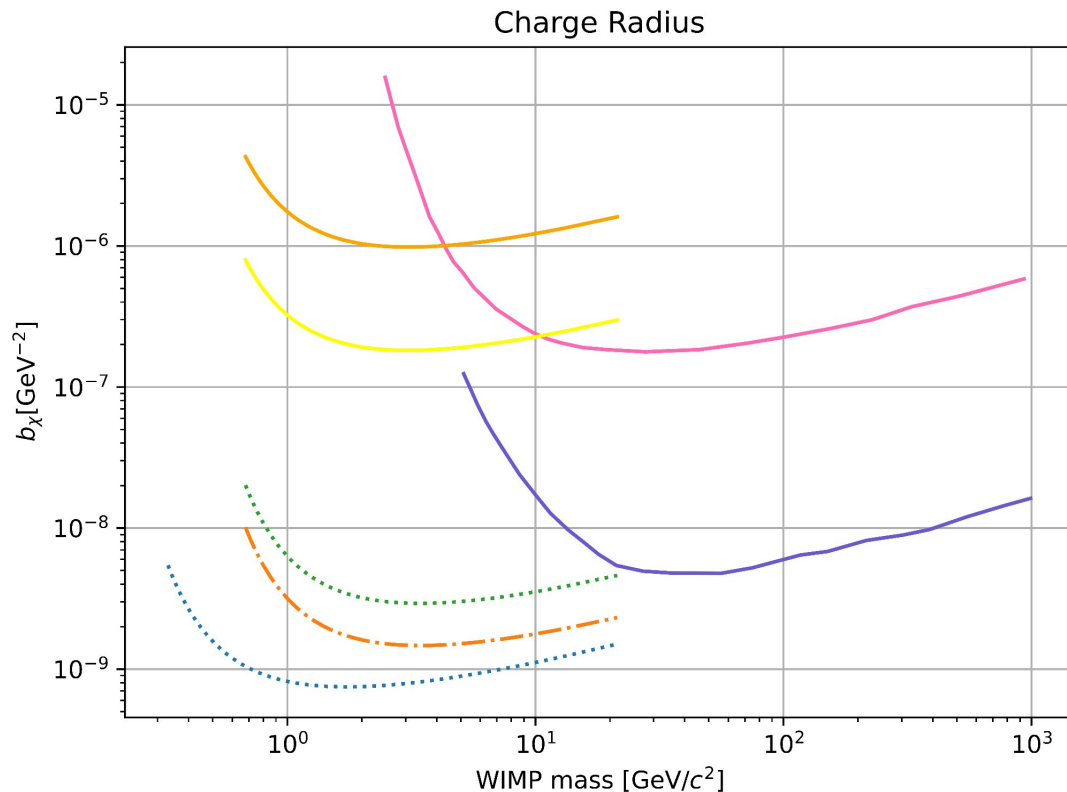
# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NREFT) without Migdal



# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NREFT) without Migdal



# BULLKID-DM Sensitivity (NREFT) without Migdal



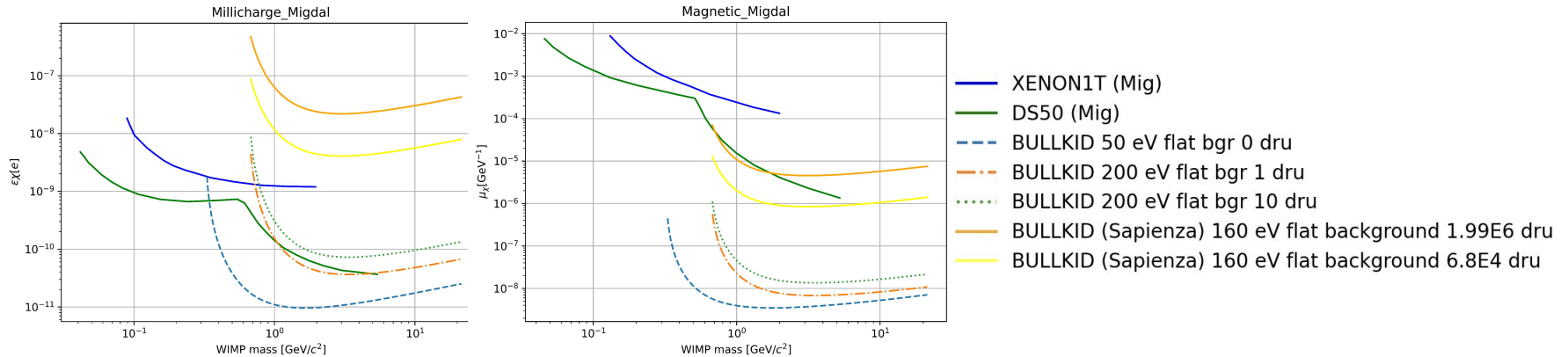
Assuming 100%  $^{28}\text{Si}$   
Poisson 90% C.L. exclusion curve  
Exposure: 219 kg day (1 year live time)

- PandaX-4T
- PICO60
- BULLKID 50 eV 0 dru
- BULLKID 200 eV 1 dru
- BULLKID 200 eV 10 dru
- BULLKID (Sapienza) 160 eV 1.99E6 dru
- BULLKID (Sapienza) 160 eV 6.8E4 dru

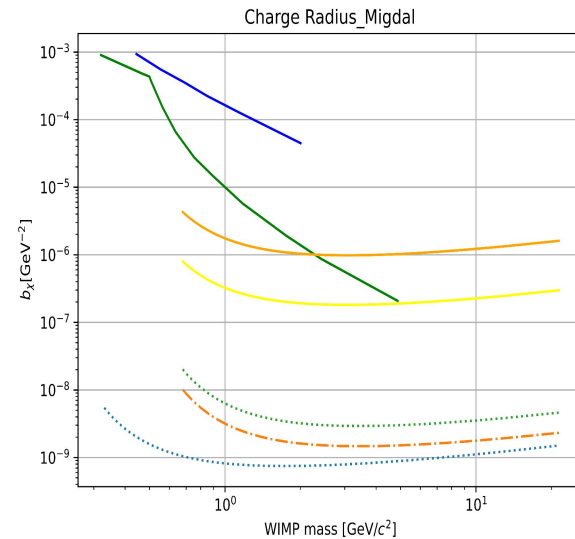
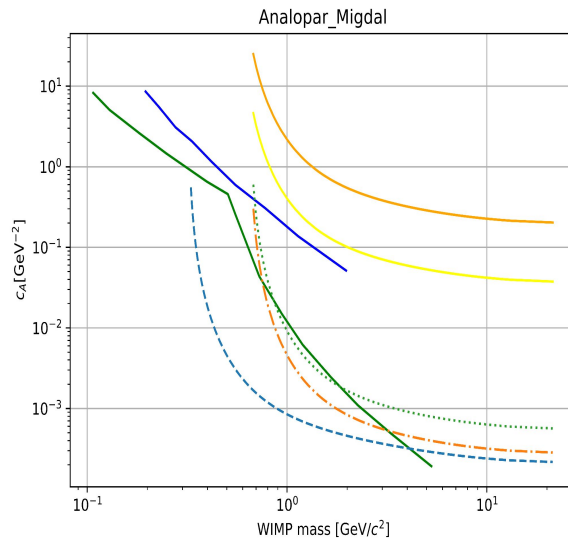
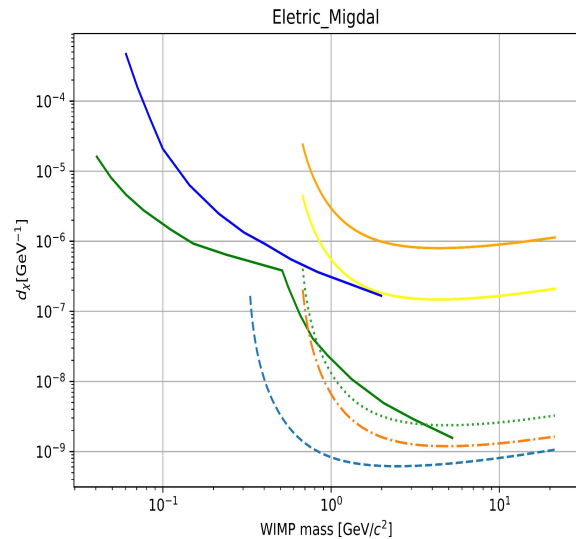
PICO-60 limit took from [arXiv:2408.15760](https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.15760)

# BULLKID-DM (NREFT) Migdal

- Many Collaborations have been extending the range of their limits for Spin-Dependent (SD) and Spin-Independent through Migdal effect
- Some authors are considering Migdal effect to put limits for the electromagnetic properties of DM



# BULLKID-DM (NREFT) Migdal



- XENON1T (Mig)
- DS50 (Mig)
- - - BULLKID 50 eV flat bgr 0 dru
- . - BULLKID 200 eV flat bgr 1 dru
- . . . BULLKID 200 eV flat bgr 10 dru
- BULLKID (Sapienza) 160 eV flat background 1.99E6 dru
- BULLKID (Sapienza) 160 eV flat background 6.8E4 dru

# Next steps

- Study how to include the spin-dependent operators in the NREFT framework
  - other codes, estimations on the nuclear structure functions for  $^{29}\text{Si}$  and  $^{30}\text{Si}$
- Consider electron and nuclear recoils
- Check Migdal effect for BULLKID
- Aim for a publication
  - Surface and sensitivity limits



# Further readings

- NREFT
  - A. Liam Fitzpatrick *et al* JCAP02(2013)004 ([arXiv:1203.3542v3](#))
  - E. Del Nobile, Lect. Notes Phys. 996 (2022) ([arXiv:2104.12785v1](#))
- PICO-60 and XENON1T exclusion limits NREFT
  - PICO Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 106, 042004(2022) ([arXiv:2204.10340v1](#))
- DEAP-3600 exclusion limits NREFT
  - DEAP Collaboration, Phys. Rev. D 102, 082001 (2020) ([arXiv:2005.14667v3](#))
- PandaX-4T exclusion limits NREFT
  - PandaX Collaboration, Nature 618, 47–50 (2023)
- Migdal in semiconductors
  - Knapen S. *et al* Phys. Rev. Lett. 127,081805 ([arXiv:2011.09496](#))