

Recent developments of the PICO dark matter detectors

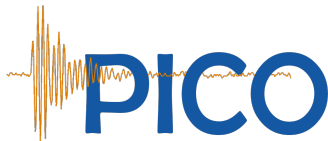
Colin Moore

Queen's University

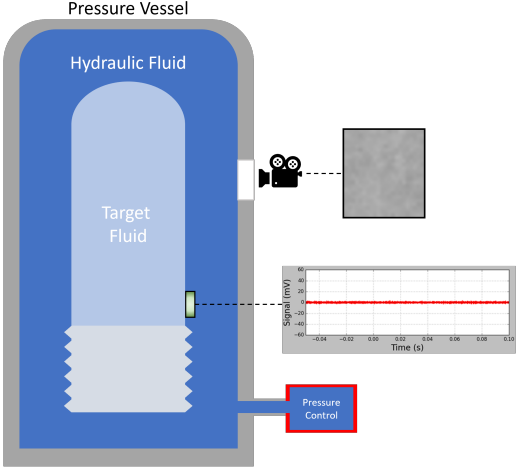
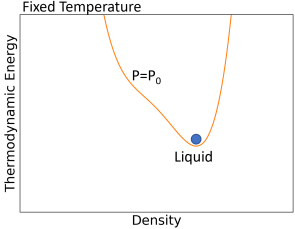
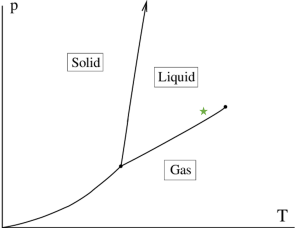
March 31, 2023



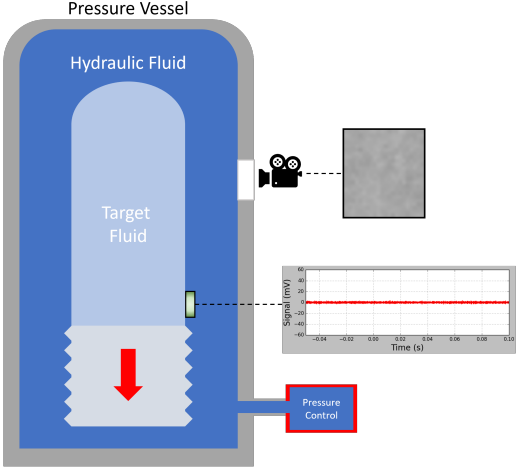
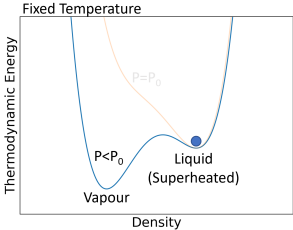
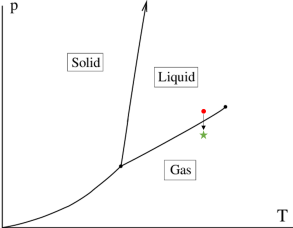
Queen's
UNIVERSITY



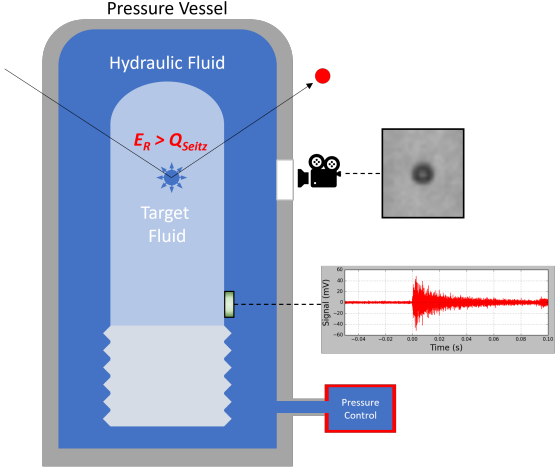
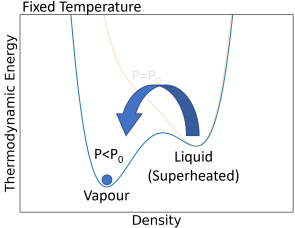
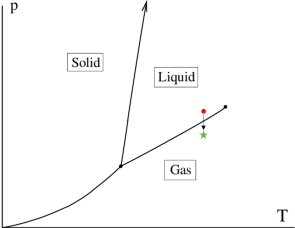
Bubble Chambers as Particle Detectors



Bubble Chambers as Particle Detectors



Bubble Chambers as Particle Detectors

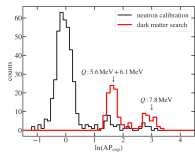


Background Events in Bubble Chambers

Alphas

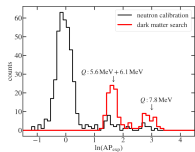
Nuclear Recoils

Electron Recoils



Background Events in Bubble Chambers

Alphas

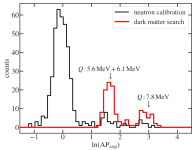


Nuclear Recoils

Electron Recoils

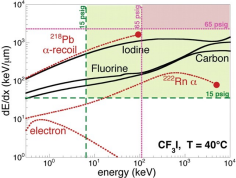
Background Events in Bubble Chambers

Alphas



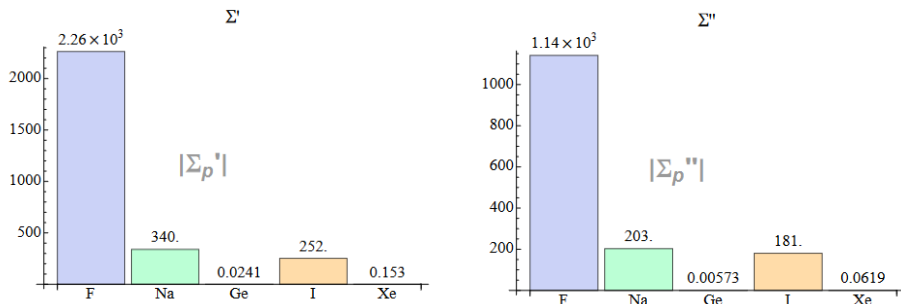
Nuclear Recoils

Electron Recoils



Why Bubble Chambers?

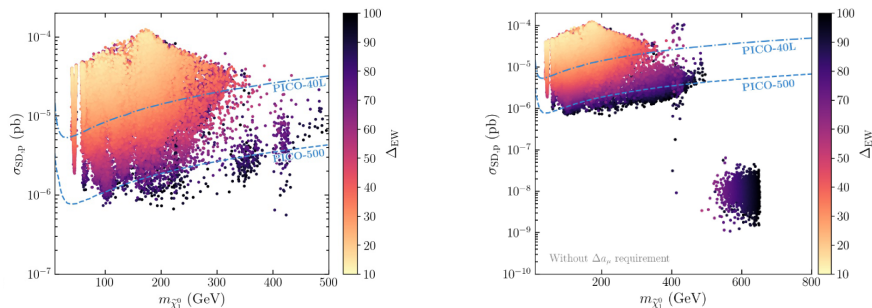
- Very low sensitivity to electron recoil events
- Ability to change target fluids to exploit sensitivities
- Large unexplored parameter space with promising physics results



A. Liam Fitzpatrick et al JCAP02(2013)004

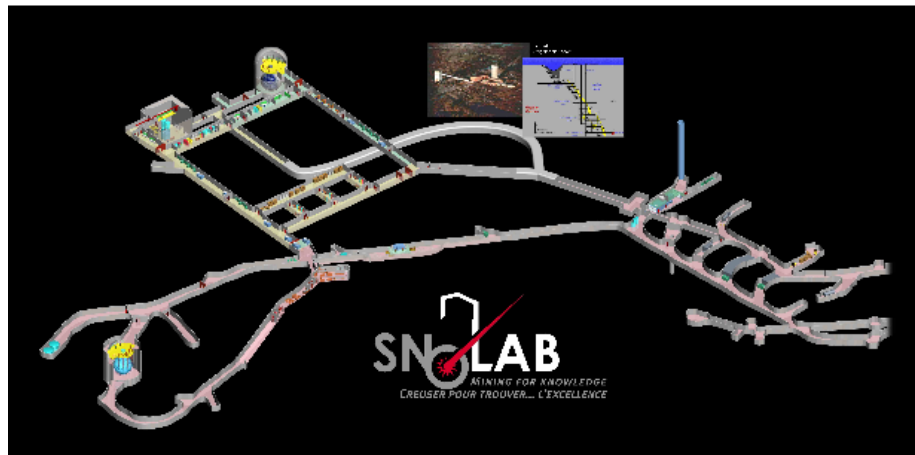
Why Bubble Chambers?

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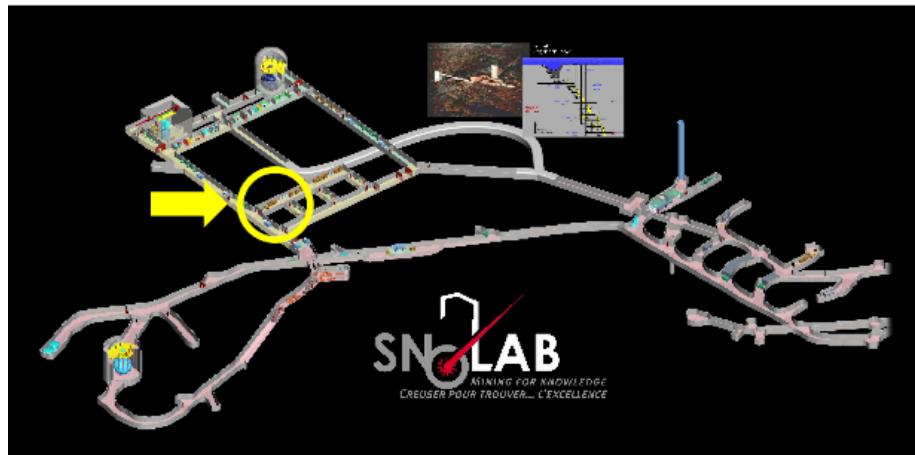
Beekveld *et al.* SciPost Phys. 11, 049 (2021)

PICO-40L at SNOLAB



Jillings, Chris. (2016). The SNOLAB Science Program. *Journal of Physics: Conference Series*. 718. 062028.
10.1088/1742-6596/718/6/062028

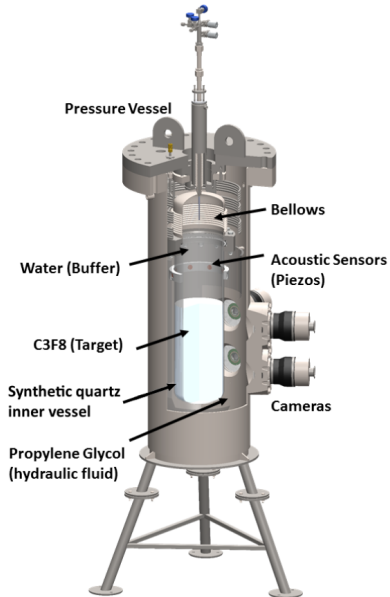
PICO-40L at SNOLAB



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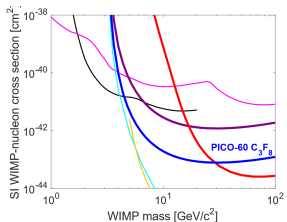
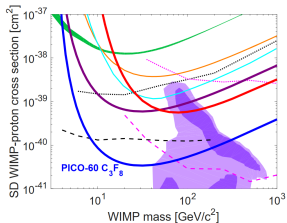
PICO-60

- 60 kg fiducial volume
- “Upside-down” design
- Full detector at constant temperature
- Superheated freon separated from bellows by layer of water
- World-leading WIMP-proton limit set in 2016 and 2017



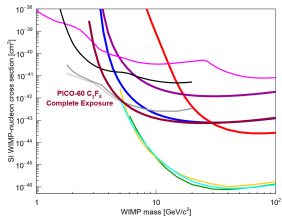
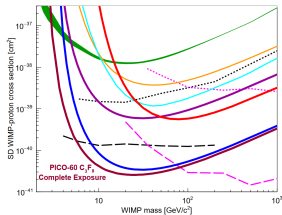
PICO-60 Results

Run 1



C. Amole et al. (PICO Collaboration) Phys. Rev. Lett. 118, 251301 (2017)

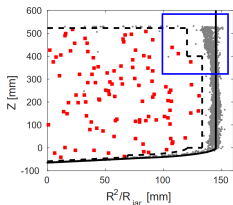
Combined (Run 1 + 2)



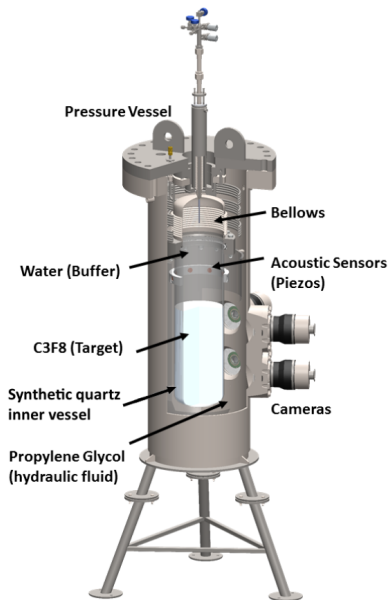
C. Amole et al. (PICO Collaboration) Phys. Rev. D 100, 022001 (2019)

PICO-60 Issues

- Water and freon mixed at interface
 - ▶ Water droplets stick to jar wall
 - ▶ Far higher rates observed near wall/freon/water interface

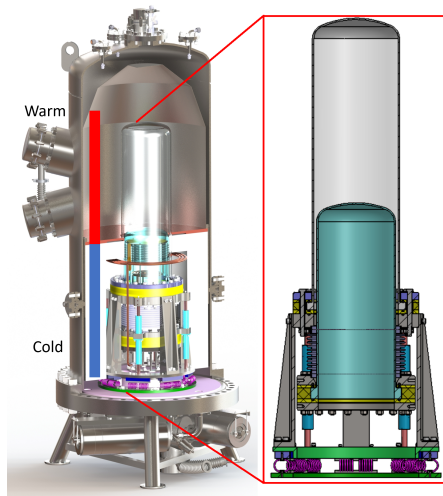


- Orientation of jar may lead to debris accumulating at bottom of jar



PICO-40L

- First large-scale implementation of “right-side up” design:
 - 1 Eliminate water buffer, replace with second jar
 - 2 Flip inner vessel, bellows at the bottom
 - 3 Keep bellows region cold to prevent nucleation on bellows

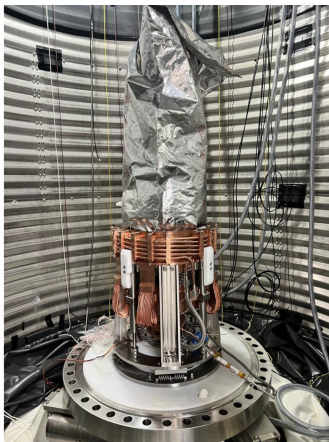


PICO-40L Timeline

- 2019: Assembly and system tests
- May 2020: Commissioning begins with all systems active
- September 2020: Commissioning halted due to chiller failure
- May 2021: Leak appears internal to detector; disassembly begins
- 2021-2022: Fix leak, upgrades to address shortcomings of thermal system
- 2022: Reassembly
- December 2022-Q1 2023: Recommissioning
- Imminent: Start of physics run

COVID

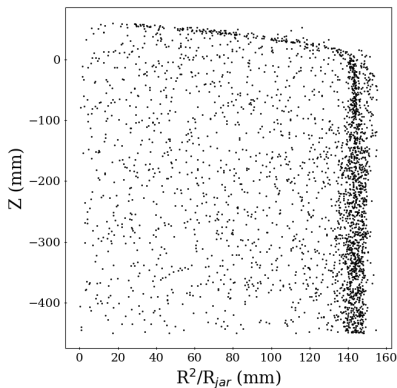
PICO-40L Construction



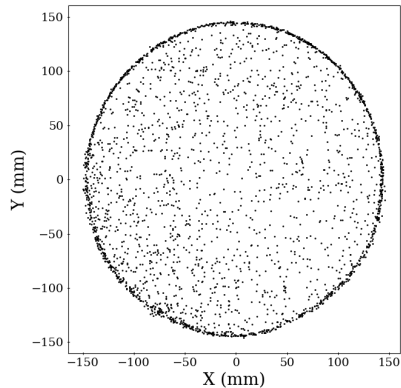
Position Reconstruction

- Stereoscopic images allow for 3D position
- Improved position reconstruction, with 2 mm spatial resolution

R^2 vs. Z



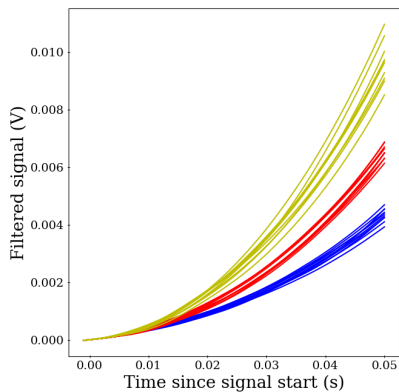
X vs. Y



Bubble Counting with Dytran

- Fast pressure transducer records change in pressure

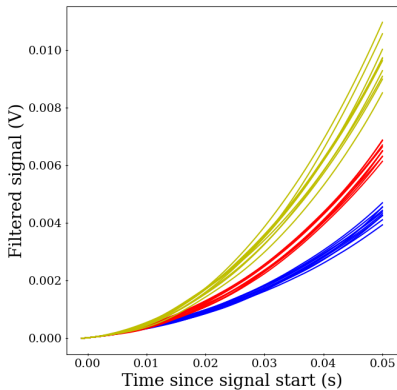
Filtered Dytran



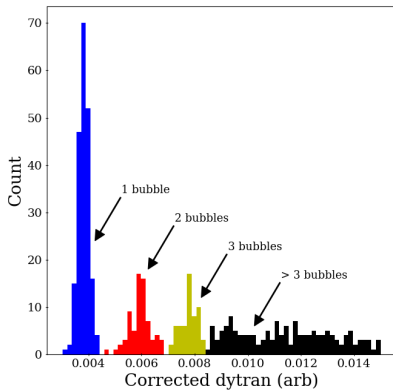
Bubble Counting with Dytran

- Fast pressure transducer records change in pressure
- Measuring pressure rise allows for precise bubble counting

Filtered Dytran



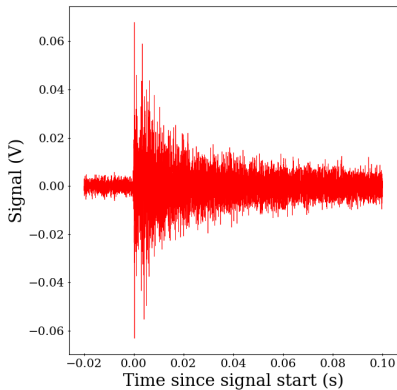
Corrected Dytran



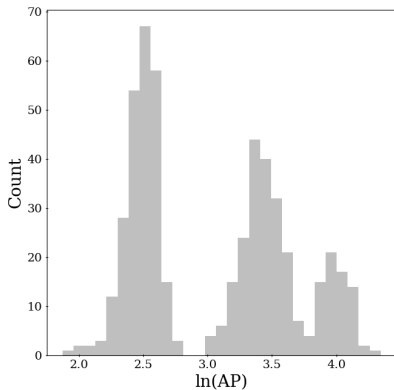
Particle Identification by Acoustics

- Piezoelectric sensors coupled to outer jar wall capture acoustic signal
- Magnitude of acoustic signal allows for discrimination of event types

Acoustic Signal



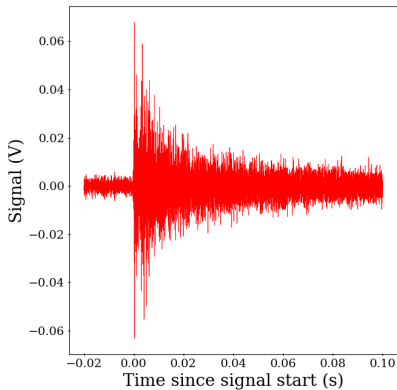
Acoustic Parameter



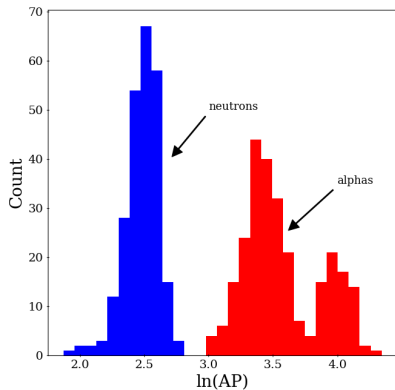
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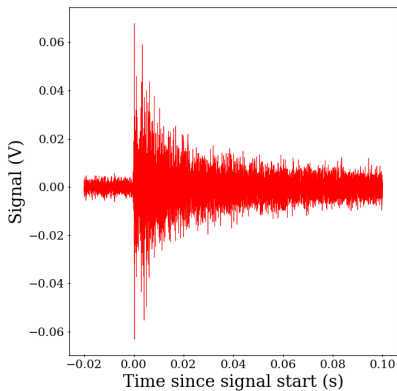
Acoustic Parameter



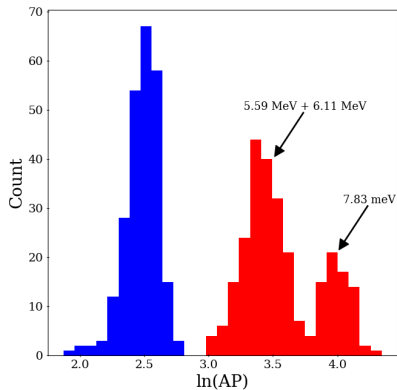
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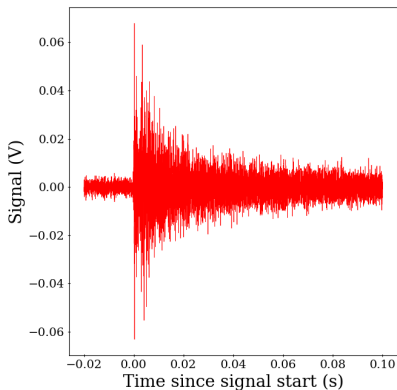
Acoustic Parameter



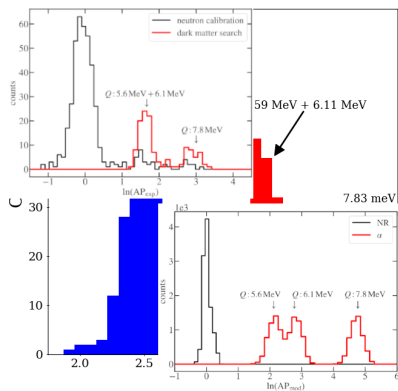
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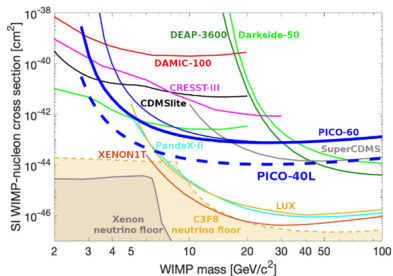
Acoustic Parameter



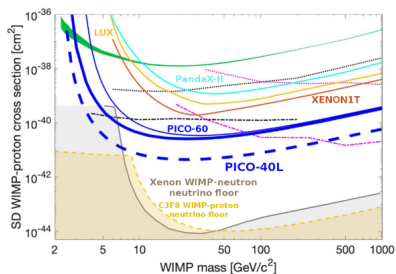
PICO-40L Projected Limits

Approximately 1 live year of data at 2.8 keV, with 2 background events.

Spin Independent Limit



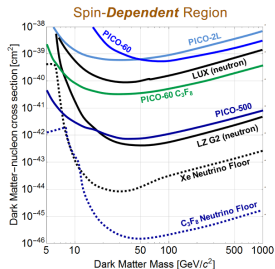
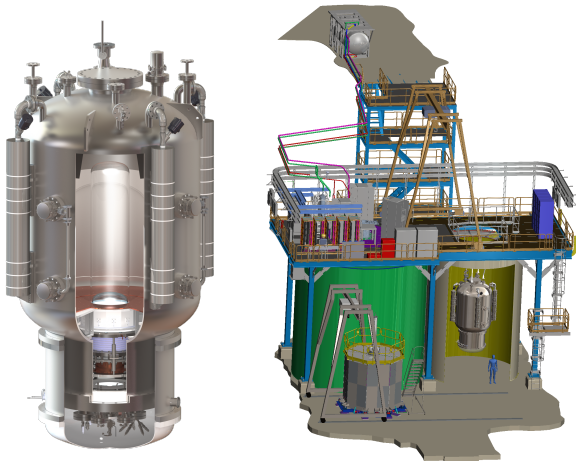
Spin Dependent Limit



C. Amole *et al.* (PICO Collaboration), Phys. Rev. D 100, 082006 (2019)

PICO-500: The Next Generation Chamber

- 250 L of C_3F_8
- Situated in cube hall at SNOLAB
- Currently in procurement phase



Thanks



PICO

SNOLAB
P. Grylls, A. Mathewson,
I. Lawson, S. Sekula

Northeastern
O. Harris

Fermilab
P.S. Cooper, M. Crisler,
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Drexel UNIVERSITY
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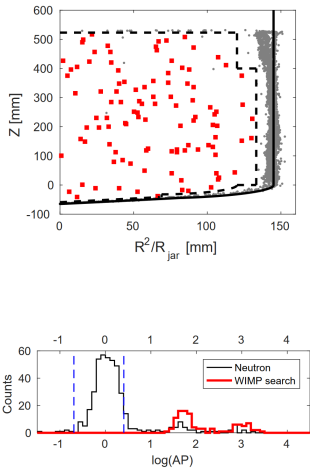
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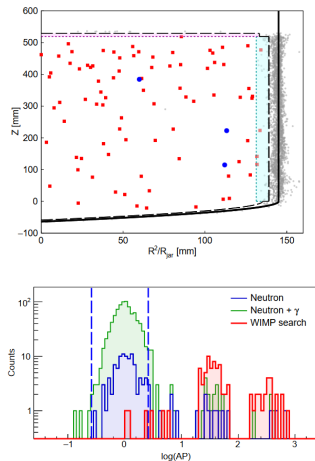
Extra Slides

PICO-60 Results

Run 1 ($Q_{Seitz} = 3.29$ keV)

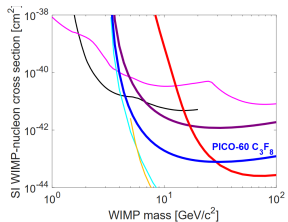
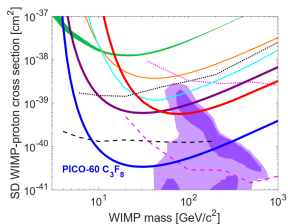


Run 2 ($Q_{Seitz} = 2.45$ keV)

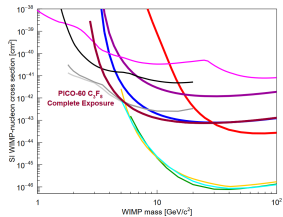
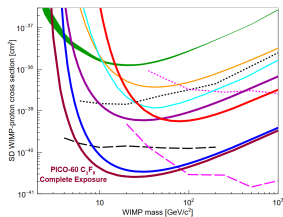


PICO-60 Results

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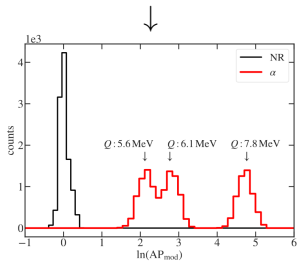
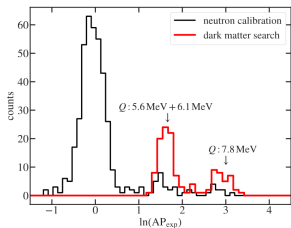


Combined (Run 1 + 2)



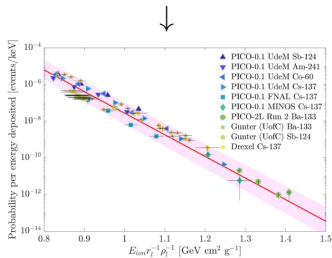
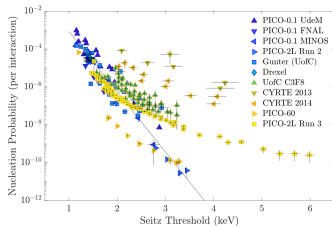
Other Physics

Molecular dynamics to model AP



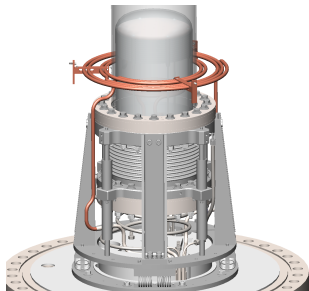
arXiv:1906.04712

Improved ER model



arXiv:1905.12522

Post-disassembly Work



Old cooling coil. Relied on convection of hydraulic fluid.



New cooling coil. Relies on conduction to cool critical components.

Current Status

- Jars reassembled
- New cooling coils reinstalled
- Internals being reassembled

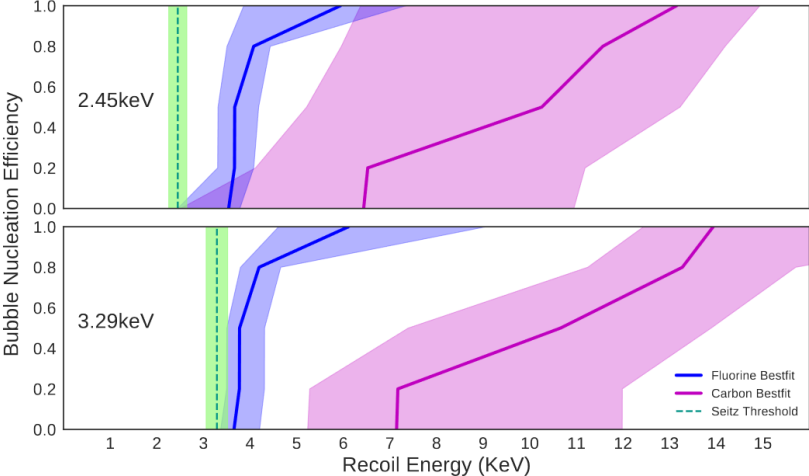


Thresholds

$$r_c = \frac{2\sigma}{P_b - P_\ell}$$
$$Q_{\text{Seitz}} = \underbrace{4\pi r_c^2 \left(\sigma - T \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial T} \right)}_{\text{Surfacetension}} + \underbrace{\frac{4\pi}{3} r_c^3 \rho_b (h_b - h_\ell)}_{\text{Convertingliquidtogas}} - \underbrace{\frac{4\pi}{3} r_c^3 (P_b - P_\ell)}_{\text{Gasexpansion}}$$

$$E_{\text{ion}} = 4\pi r_c^2 \left(\sigma - T \frac{\partial \sigma}{\partial T} \right) + \frac{4\pi}{3} r_c^3 P_\ell$$

Efficiency Curves



arXiv:1902.04031



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