

# Shining Light on the Dark Matter Problem With LZ



talk given on behalf of the LZ collaboration SUNY (RF) Prof. Matthew Szydagis, UAlbany SUNY

### The Dual-Phase Xenon Time Projection Chambers (TPCs)

- High scintillation light and ionization charge (e<sup>-</sup>) yields
- High Z, A, and density: self-shielding of backgrounds
- Energy reconstruction, across two channels (S1 and S2)
- Robust 3D position reconstruction, mm-cm level
- Relatively easy to purify to a very high degree
- No low-energy, long-lived radioisotopic contaminants
- Long history of TPCs across fields and across the globe



LZ is to LUX as CMS and ATLAS are to D0 and/or CDF 2/15

### How to Avoid a False Positive Detection Claim in LZ



- Go underground to avoid cosmic rays (huge rock overburden)
  - Especially muon-induced neutrons
  - But rock itself radioactive to a degree!
  - Have a water shield for leftover, high- $\tilde{E}$  cosmic muons and the rock
    - Used as an active veto (coincidence)
- Put additional layers between the water shield and the LXe TPC
  - Gd-doped liquid scintillator -> neutrons
  - Liquid Xe "skin" (no S2) -> gammas
- Radiopure construction materials
  - Even human sweat is radioactive!
  - Comprehensive paper on cleanliness EJPC <u>https://arxiv.org/abs/2006.02506</u>

Photo Credits: SURF, SDSTA

The Sanford Underground Research Facility, in beautiful Lead, SD (site of Homestake gold mine)



#### We go 4,850 feet underground!!

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- 174 nm ultraviolet photons
  - No wavelength shifter 0 needed (compare to LAr)
- Teflon to reflect it (at right)
  - ~100% reflective (diffuse)
- Approximately 5.5 tonne fiducial mass (largest) The outer detector was key 0
- 99.75 to 99.9% <- not best (cf. LAr) but good enough! discrimination of electronic recoil (ER) backgrounds Depending on *E* spectrum 0
- A 50% efficiency point @ 5.5 keVnr (nuclear recoil)
  - But non-zero efficiency dowpow known? NEST! 0 to the sub-keV scale https://github.com/NESTCollab oration/nest
- A US DOE flagship project



Electron Recoil (gammas)

> Nuclear Recoil neutrons, WIMPs)

NR

## More Xenon & LZ Facts !



#### SR = Science Run LZ's First WIMP-Search Results: SR1 (Published Recently) https://journals.aps.org/prl/abstract/ https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.03764 or => 1103/PhysRevLett.131.041002 4.50 60 keV 9.8 keV 45 keV 4.25 4.00log<sub>10</sub>(S2*c* [phd]) 3.75 3.50 3.50 This is Fig. 1\in the PRL - NEST agreed within 3.25 0.1-1% on band means 3.00 Greg 0.9 keV<sub>ee</sub> 5.1 keV<sub>ee</sub> 7.4 keVee 2.9 keV<sub>ee</sub> Rischbieter 15 keV<sub>nr</sub> 35 keV<sub>nr</sub> 5 keV<sub>nr</sub> 25 keV<sub>nr</sub> 2.75 20 30 40 60 70 80 10 50 S1c [phd]



## Efficiency of Detection for the **Different Basic Particle**



For BGs! BUT, also different potential signals

Types

https://arxiv.org/

Value

 $8.42 \,\mathrm{kV/cm}$ 

58.5 phd

 $80.5\,\%$ 

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# Actual vs. sim distributions<-

of selected <sup>222</sup>Rn daughters <sup>222</sup>Rn's distribution can be considered to be almost the same as that of <sup>218</sup>Po (in a)

 For the observed distributions, two additional dotted lines further separate the FV into upper, lower & outer regions, for the table
To quantify non-uniformity

				- 1 -		- 1
Radon	TPC Rate	Single Scatter	FV Rate	Lower Rate	Upper Rate	Outer Rate
Isotope	$[\mu Bq/kg]$	Efficiency	$[\mu Bq/kg]$	$[\mu Bq/kg]$	$[\mu Bq/kg]$	$[\mu Bq/kg]$
$^{222}$ Rn	$4.78\pm0.33$	$0.96\pm0.03$	$4.62\pm0.87$	$2.64\pm0.60$	$3.38\pm0.76$	$6.32\pm1.33$
<sup>218</sup> Po	$4.82\pm0.34$	$0.98\pm0.03$	$4.53\pm0.84$	$2.64\pm0.60$	$3.69\pm0.83$	$6.26\pm1.31$
$^{216}$ Po	$^*(8.2\pm0.6){\cdot}10^{-3}$	$0.56 \pm 0.25$	$(4.69\pm3.15){\cdot}10^{-3}$	$(6.43\pm4.39){\cdot}10^{-4}$	$(2.48\pm1.69){\cdot}10^{-3}$	$(7.63\pm5.18){\cdot}10^{-3}$
$^{214}$ Po	$2.65\pm0.19$	$(1.14\pm0.38){\cdot}10^{-3}$	$2.07\pm0.95$	$0.76\pm0.45$	$1.09\pm0.65$	$3.37\pm1.99$
$^{212}$ Po	$(3.7\pm0.3){\cdot}10^{-2}$	$0.34\pm0.08$	$(1.49\pm0.73){\cdot}10^{-2}$	$(5.72\pm2.89){\cdot}10^{-3}$	$(1.43\pm0.72){\cdot}10^{-2}$	$(2.89 \pm 1.44) {\cdot} 10^{-2}$

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#### Backgrounds in Science Run 1: E (Energy) Histograms



#### The Backgrounds in Science Run 1: S2 versus S1



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LZ Constraints on the WIMP Interaction Strengths (SI and SD)



### But Wait...There's More! Other LZ Papers

- Energy extension for EFT-motivated dark matter searches (higher-energy NR)
- Low-energy ER
  - Axions and ALPs (axion-like particles)
  - Neutrino physics
  - The Migdal Effect
- High-energy ER
  - Ultra-heavy dark matter

• Ask me questions please, I have plenty of backup slides on these analyses :-)

### Conclusions, and Then Q & A

- First off, let us remind ourselves that we are here to make DISCOVERIES
  - Not just set an umpteen number of limits, which can rapidly become very self-reinforcing / sad
- No dark matter conclusively observed yet, but we have to keep on trying, because of mountains of evidence from astronomy, astrophysics, cosmology
  - We're still orders of magnitude away from the neutrino fog
- Null results are extremely valuable: just ask Michelson and Morley for one
- Lack of discovery of vanilla WIMPs in the traditional parameter space motivates looking elsewhere; hence, LZ is conducting searches high and low (in mass)
  - Future work will include, but is not limited to, S2-only limit, WIMP-pion scattering, supernovae..
- LZ running stably for now, with possible future upgrades: HydroX? Crystallize?
- What are (or would be) dark matter particles good for in practical terms?
  - The same question could have been asked of electricity (Faraday) or of antimatter (PET scans)
  - Right now we're just extending the boundaries of human knowledge, as with Higgs physics
- But we'll have to find it first!! LUX-ZEPLIN is boldly going into new territories

#### LZ (LUX-ZEPLIN) Collaboration, 38 Institutions

- Black Hills State University
- **Brookhaven National Laboratory**
- **Brown University**
- **Center for Underground Physics** .
- **Edinburgh University**
- Fermi National Accelerator Lab.
- Imperial College London
- **King's College London**
- Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. •
- Lawrence Livermore National Lab.
- LIP Coimbra
- Northwestern University
- Pennsylvania State University
- **Royal Holloway University of London**
- SLAC National Accelerator Lab.
- South Dakota School of Mines & Tech
- South Dakota Science & Technology Authority .
- STFC Rutherford Appleton Lab. .
- Texas A&M University
- University of Albany, SUNY (MC)
- **University of Alabama**
- University of Bristol
- **University College London** .
- University of California Berkeley .
- **University of California Davis**
- **University of California Los Angeles**
- University of California Santa Barbara
- University of Liverpool .
- **University of Maryland**
- University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- **University of Michigan**
- University of Oxford
- **University of Rochester** •
- **University of Sheffield**
- University of Sydney
- University of Texas at Austin •
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- University of Zürich .





https://lz.lbl.gov/





Science and Technology **Facilities Council** 



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FCT



For I dipped into the future, far as human eye could see, Saw the Vision of the world, and all the wonder that would be.

~ Alfred Lord Tennyson



(backup slides to follow)

#### BACKUP



SCIENTIFIC

I LIKE TO

INSTEAD OF



## How to Look? Directly







• Top left: fit results for the inner 1-tonne TPC region (SR1 exposure)

700

- Top right: Fit to cavern gamma spectra from technical commissioning
  - when the TPC was filled with GXe and the water tank and OD were empty
- Left: Fitted (SR1) detector component spectra (FV)



Radon,	U, <sup>-</sup>	Th,
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Isotope/	Region	Screening	Best fit [Bq]
Chain		estimate [Bq]	
	Top	$1.13\pm0.11$	$1.05\pm0.11$
$^{60}$ Co	Side	$1.18\pm0.12$	$1.12\pm1.02$
	Bottom	$0.81\pm0.08$	$1.53\pm0.19$
	Total	$3.11\pm0.18$	$3.71 \pm 1.04$
	Top	$7.63 \pm 0.76$	$2.94 \pm 1.66$
$^{40}$ K	Side	$2.56\pm0.26$	$6.32\pm0.61$
	Bottom	$6.54\pm0.65$	$5.58\pm2.19$
	Total	$16.73\pm1.04$	$14.85\pm2.81$
	Top	$0.28\pm0.03$	$0.33\pm0.29$
<sup>232</sup> Th-early	Side	$0.66\pm0.07$	$0.66\pm0.49$
	Bottom	$0.22\pm0.02$	$0.23\pm0.17$
	Total	$1.16\pm0.07$	$1.22\pm0.59$
	Top	$0.25\pm0.02$	$0.11\pm0.16$
<sup>232</sup> Th-late	Side	$1.05\pm0.10$	$2.57 \pm 1.75$
	Bottom	$0.30\pm0.03$	$0.32\pm0.27$
	Total	$1.59\pm0.11$	$3.00 \pm 1.78$
2721011-0	Top	$2.37 \pm 0.24$	$3.70\pm1.80$
<sup>238</sup> U-early	Side	$1.99\pm0.20$	$3.92 \pm 1.53$
	Bottom	$1.86\pm0.19$	$2.72 \pm 1.40$
	Total	$6.21\pm0.36$	$10.34\pm2.75$
	Top	$0.84\pm0.08$	$0.63\pm0.30$
<sup>238</sup> U-late	Side	$0.54\pm0.05$	$3.01\pm0.61$
	Bottom	$0.95\pm0.09$	$1.28\pm0.73$
	Total	$2.32\pm0.14$	$4.92 \pm 1.00$

cumulative source activities for different groupings of sources used in the FV fit. Best fit #s were derived from that: lower left from the last slide.

# The Time Dependence of the LZ Backgrounds



https://arxiv.org/pdf/2211.17120.pdf



Component	Half-life	Pre-DD Fit	Post-DD Fit
	[days]	$[\mu Bq/kg]$	$[\mu Bq/kg]$
$^{127}$ Xe	36.4	$92.88 \pm 0.38$	$89.65\pm0.48$
$^{131m}$ Xe	11.8	$18.87\pm0.13$	$108.11\pm0.74$
$^{129m}$ Xe	8.9	$4.91\pm0.23$	$193.04\pm6.93$
$^{133}$ Xe	5.2	$2.01\pm0.11$	$1467.15\pm22.21$
$^{125}\mathrm{Xe^{a}}$	0.7	-3	$26.70\pm1.74$
<sup>214</sup> Pb	-	$3.05\pm0.12$	$3.10\pm0.10$
$^{212}$ Pb	-	$0.13\pm0.01$	$0.11\pm0.01$
$^{136}$ Xe	-	$3.89\pm0.18$	$3.96\pm0.17$
$^{85}\mathrm{Kr}$	-	$(4.21 \pm 0.42) \cdot 10^{-2}$	$(4.18 \pm 0.42) \cdot 10^{-2}$

[35] J. Katakura, Nuclear Data Sheets, Vol. 112, 495 (2011).

<sup>a</sup> Note that <sup>125</sup>Xe has a 16.9 hour half-life and is only measurable in the post-DD period [35]. With little time to homogenize, its distribution was seen to be highly non-uniform following DD calibrations, constrained to the upper third of the TPC, therefore its one-tonne estimate is not representative.

#### An Extension of the Energy Window



Solid green diamonds =  $\gamma$ -X BDT-removed post all other cuts Hollow indicate events outside FV classified as  $\gamma$ -X events

#### EFT (Effective Field Theory) Operator-Based Searches



#### Revised S2 versus S1 Parameter Space: Backgrounds





#### And... Simulated Dark Matter Signals! plus, a quick comparison to earlier works

Please see arXiv:2312.02030 for these references []

		64		
Experiment	Basis	Limit Type	Conversion in	plot
Xenon100: 2017 NREFT [10]	$egin{aligned} c^s &= rac{1}{2}(c^p+c^n)\ c^v &= rac{1}{2}(c^p-c^n) \end{aligned}$	$(c_i^s  imes m_v^2)^2$	None	different bases
LUX: WS2014-16 NREFT 9	$egin{array}{lll} c^s &= (c^p+c^n)\ c^v &= (c^p-c^n) \end{array}$	$(c^s_i  imes m^2_v)^2$	$\frac{1}{4}$	are used by
PandaX-II: SD EFT 8	$egin{array}{lll} c^s&=rac{1}{2}(c^p+c^n)\ c^v&=rac{1}{2}(c^p-c^n) \end{array}$	$d_5^{s/v} \; [rac{1}{m_v^2}]$	$(d_5^s)^2$	everyone,
LZ NREFT (This analysis)	$egin{array}{lll} c^s &= rac{1}{2}(c^p+c^n)\ c^v &= rac{1}{2}(c^p-c^n) \end{array}$	$(c_i^{s/v} imes m_v^2)^2$	None	complicating
NRET Theory paper [14]	$egin{aligned} c^s &= rac{1}{2}(c^p+c^n)\ c^v &= rac{1}{2}(c^p-c^n) \end{aligned}$	N/A	N/A	make
LUX: Combined 2017 SI $[\overline{55}]$	N/A	$\sigma^N_{SI}$	$\sigma_{SI}^N \frac{\pi \cdot m_v^4}{(\frac{(\hbar c)}{2})^2 \mu^2}$	comparisons
PandaX-4T: 2021 SI [56]	N/A	$\sigma^N_{SI}$	$\sigma_{SI}^{N} \frac{\frac{\pi \cdot m_{v}^{4}}{(\frac{(\hbar c)}{\text{GeV}})^{2} \mu_{N}^{2}}}$	(LUX no exception, despite ~same
LZ: 2023 SI [1]	N/A	$\sigma^N_{SI}$	$\sigma_{SI}^N rac{\pi \cdot m_v^4}{(rac{(\hbar c)}{GaV})^2 \mu_N^2}$	people! ;)
XENONnT: 2023 SI [2]	N/A	$\sigma^N_{SI}$	$\sigma_{SI}^N rac{\pi \cdot m_v^4}{(rac{(\hbar c)}{CeV})^2 \mu_N^2}$	



Solid lines represent the limit on O1 isoscalar from NREFT analyses: LZ i.e. this work (black), PandaX-II 2019 (blue), XENON100 (magenta), and LUX WS 2014-16 (brown point). Dotted lines represent recast SI limits, adding XENONnT (yellow dotted) and LUX full exposure (brown dotted). All at the right:









new paper brings even more to the table: https://arxiv.org/abs/2404.17666





LZ Does More Than Just Dark Matter: Neutrino Physics

It is a multifaceted i.e. interdisciplinary physics machine (XLZD will be such a detector even more so)







Cut ID	Name	Description	Events
0	Initial selection	See Section III (of arXiv:2402.08865)	10137
1	Multiplicity	>1 S1s; $>1$ S2s	1538
2	Good S1	No S1s are overly concentrated in one PMT or have a coincident signal in the OD	1400
3	Fiducial	$\geq 2$ S2s with z $\in (2, 135)$ cm and $r < 70$ cm	269
4	Colinearity	Reduced $\chi^2 < 2$ ; scatters are causally ordered along the track	237
5	Uniformity	Scatters are distributed along the track uniformly	67
6	Velocity	Reconstructed $v \in (50, 1200) \text{ km/s}$	11
7	ROI	Total S1 and total S2 area is within signal region	0

#### The Final Results (SR1)







Total pulse size spectra in the OD for both SR1 background data and an AmLi calibration of duration 7.4 hours

FIG. 9. Locations of MS neutron events identified in the SR1 dataset, correlated across all three detectors. *Top:* Distribution of the 10 identified neutron events in  $\log_{10}(S2c)$ -S1c space overlaid with the MS NR band, as well as their averaged positions in the TPC. White crosses denote three example events displayed in detail on the second row. *Bottom:* Chains of reconstructed scatters demonstrating inter-detector coincidences in tagging neutron events. Working outwards: the red outline indicates the SR1 FV; the gray curve highlights the TPC wall boundary in reconstructed space; the black box indicates the physical edges of the active xenon volume; the teal profile denotes the liquid xenon Skin; the outermost green region represents the OD acrylic tanks containing the GdLS. As the exact chronology of the event could not be determined, interactions were ordered by drift time. Black circles denote the locations of the scatters with shortest drift time in the given neutron MS chain, with empty circles showing the positions of other interactions in the TPC. Scatters in the Skin and OD are shaded in blue and green respectively. Neutron captures in the OD are marked as a \*, and resulting gamma-ray splashes observed in the Skin are labeled with a pink cross. OD points are randomly assigned radial positions as XY reconstruction there is often biased towards the centre, a correction for which is under development.

#### Additional Figures, From the LZ Backgrounds Publication

## Wall BG Modeling: The Position Resolution as a Function of the S2 size



#### Additional Plots from the Low-Energy ER Signals Paper

Figure 1: The SR1 search data (black points) is plotted in the  $\{S1c, \log_{10}S2c\}$  space, after all cuts and selections are applied. For illustration purposes, the exposure is shown separated into two periods of equal livetime (top panel is the first half of SR1, bottom panel is the second half). In both panels, the  $1\sigma$  and  $2\sigma$ regions are indicated for various background model components: <sup>37</sup>Ar (orange contours), <sup>127</sup>Xe (green contours), <sup>8</sup>B (filled green), and the broad-spectrum ER background encompassing <sup>212</sup>Pb, <sup>214</sup>Pb, <sup>85</sup>Kr, and external gammas (filled gray). The solid red line indicates the median, the dashed the 10% and 90%, quantiles of a flat NR background. This gray lines indicate contours of constant ER energy, with a spacing of 2 keV<sub>ee</sub>. A reduction in  ${}^{37}$ Ar rate is the dominant change between the two time periods.

