



and closing

Opening Windows with Isospin- Violating Dark Matter

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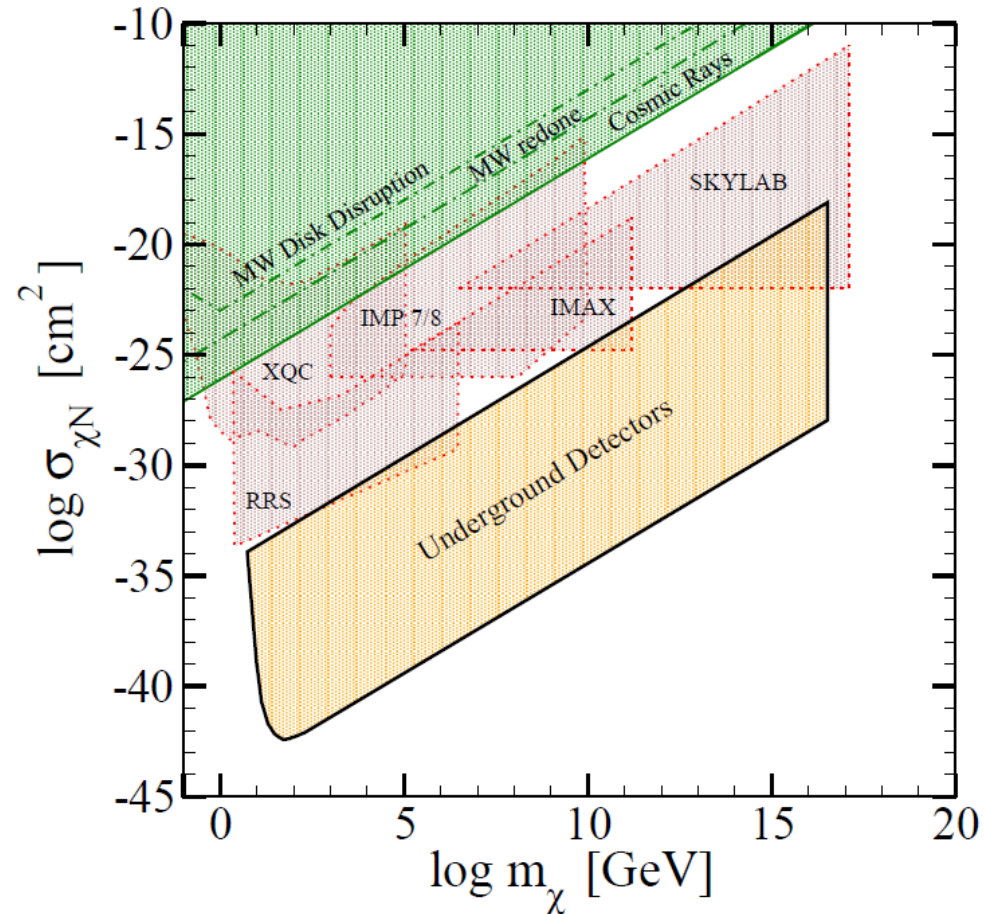
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direct detection with large σ

- deep underground dir. detection exs. have a **sensitivity ceiling**
 - if σ is large enough, DM scatters multiple times in **overburden**
 - may lose a lot of energy
 - E deposited in detector **below threshold**
- to raise ceiling, use detectors with **less overburden**
 - surface runs
 - balloons, sounding rockets
 - impact on cosmology observables
- are there **open windows**?





isospin-violating dark matter

- we often assume DM couples **equally** to protons and neutrons
- simple, but **need not be true**
- couplings could be **unequal**, and could **partially cancel**

- can **weaken** sensitivity by **reducing scattering in detector**
- can **strengthen** sensitivity by **reducing scattering in overburden**

- can we **open** some windows, or **close** others?

for **spin-independent**,
velocity-independent scattering

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} = \frac{m_A}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \sigma_0 f_{IV}^2 F^2(E_R)$$

$$f_{IV} = f_p Z + f_n (A - Z)$$

$$\sigma_j \propto \frac{\mu_{A_j}^2}{\mu_N^2} f_{IV}^2 \sigma_0$$

take

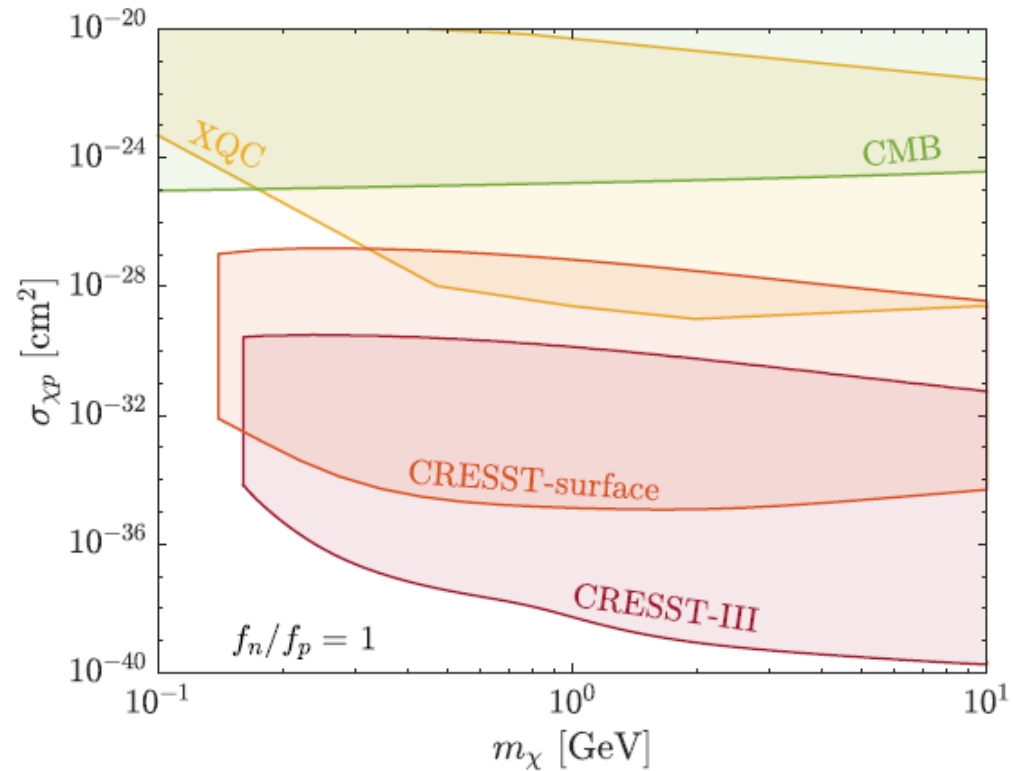
$$f_p = 1, \sigma_0 = \sigma_p, \text{ or}$$
$$f_n = 1, \sigma_0 = \sigma_n$$



low-mass

- we focus on $m_\chi < 10$ GeV
- direct detection experiments tend to have **reduced sensitivity**
- changes to sensitivity have a **larger effect**

- focus on
 - CRESST-surface (Al_2O_3)
 - CRESST-III (CaWO_4)
 - XQC – sounding rocket (Si)
 - CMB – DM scattering off baryons
 - couples DM to plasma



CRESST-surface → CRESST collaboration [1707.06749](#)

CRESST-III → CRESST collaboration [1904.00498](#)

XQC → Erickeck, Steinhard, McCammon, McGuire [0704.0794](#)

CMB → Gluscevic, Boddy [1712.07133](#)

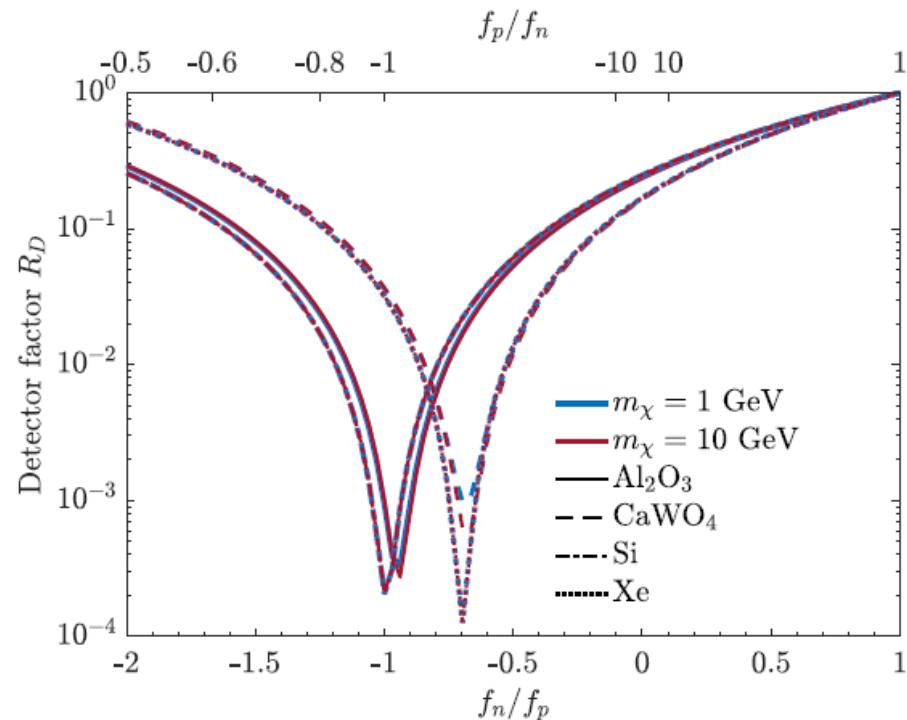


effect of IVDM - detector

- assume **single scatter** in detector
 - repurpose single scatter analysis
- low mass DM, so momentum transfer relatively **small**
- $F(E_R) \sim 1$
- R_D = roughly **detector rate suppression**, compared to $f_n = f_p$
- include **isotope** content
- for **heavier** target elements, trough at **smaller** $|f_n / f_p|$

$$R_D \equiv \frac{\sum_j N_j \mu_{A_j}^2 f_{IV}^2}{\sum_j N_j \mu_{A_j}^2 A_j^2}$$

N = number of target nuclei





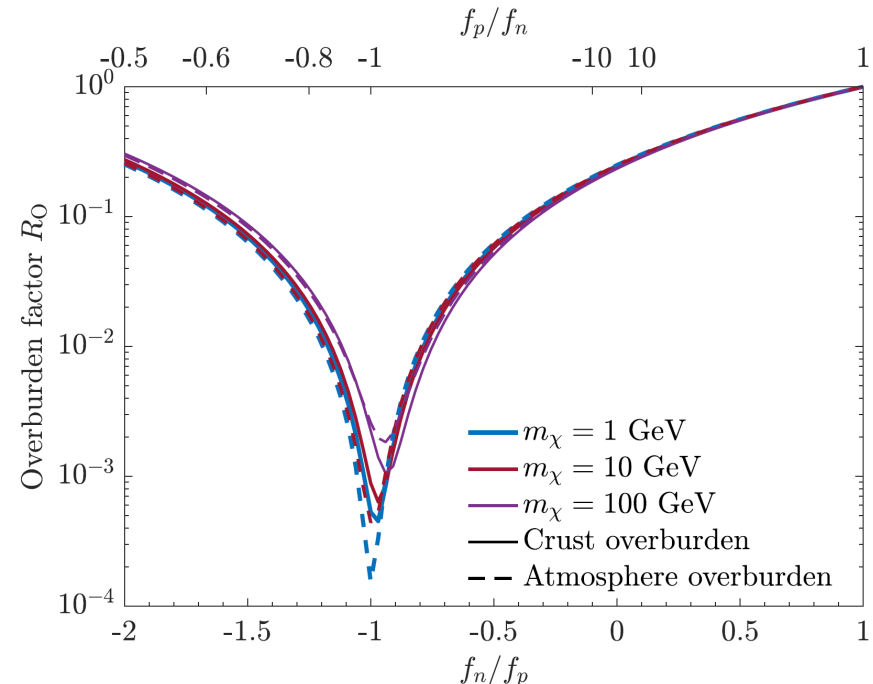
effect of IVDM - overburden

- **multiple scattering** relevant
- simplify with **SLA** (qualitative)
- $\Phi \propto$ fractional energy loss per length
- $R_O =$ **suppression of Φ** from **IVDM**
- roughly, keeping $R_O \sigma_0$ fixed keeps impact of overburden fixed
- experiments dominated by **crust** or **atmosphere**
- overburden dominated by **lighter elements** (trough near $f_n / f_p = -1$)

$$\Phi \equiv -\frac{1}{2E} \frac{dE}{dx} = \frac{n}{2E} \int_0^{E_{\max}} dE_R \left(E_R \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} \right)$$

$$= \sum_j \frac{n_j \mu_{A_j}^2}{m_\chi m_{A_j}} \sigma_j$$

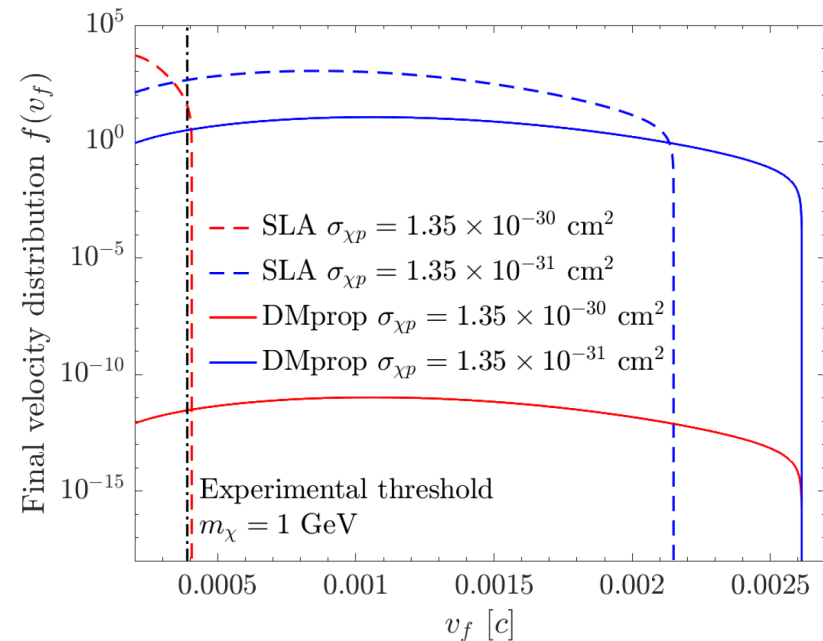
$$R_O \equiv \frac{\sum_j n_j \mu_{A_j}^4 f_{IV}^2 / m_{A_j}}{\sum_j n_j \mu_{A_j}^4 A_j^2 / m_{A_j}}$$





DM velocity distribution

- SLA (straight line approx.) may not be great for **low mass DM**
 - DM changes direction during scattering
- use **DMprop** (Cappiello 2301.07728)
 - “**flat-earth**” approx.
 - DM can **change direction** (**isotropic** in Earth frame)
 - include **probability** for scattering
 - modified to include **IVDM**
- compared to SLA
 - **reduced flux**
 - but tail of **high-v** particles from fluctuations in scattering



velocity distribution at CRESST-III
(1.4km underground , $f_n / f_p = 1$)



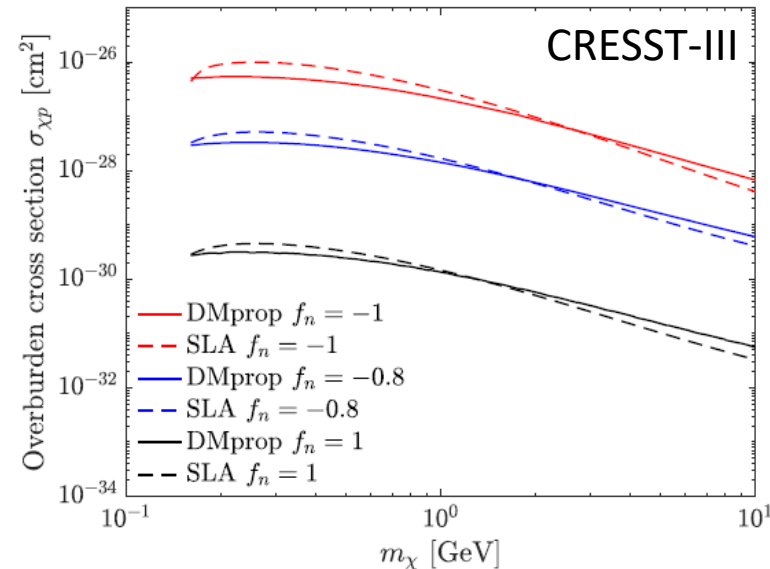
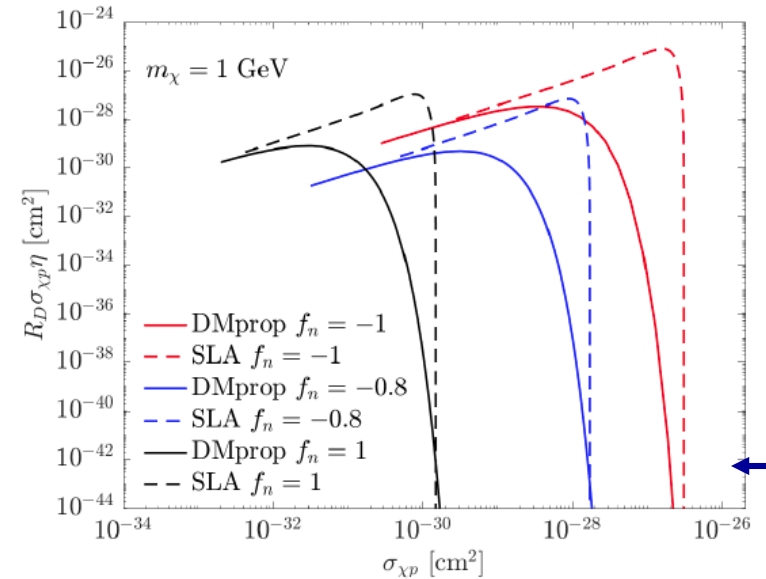
direct detection sensitivity

- only care about the **ceiling** and **floor** of sensitivity
 - don't need velocity distribution in interior
- at **floor**, overburden **irrelevant**
 - almost all events come from particles scattering only in detector
- at **ceiling**, can assume DM is **downward going**
 - increasing path length gives an exponential suppression
 - so “flat-earth” approximation will be reasonable
 - for low-mass DM, scattering close to isotropic in Earth frame
- **DMprop** should give a **good approximation**

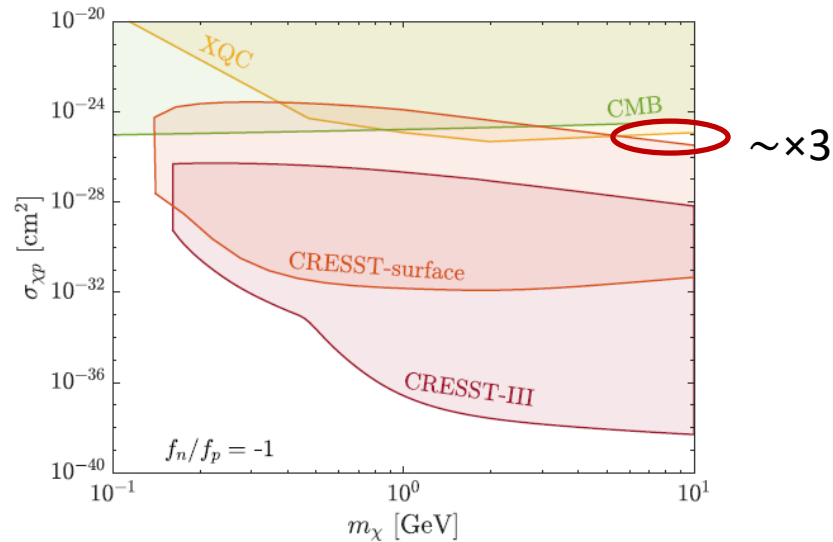
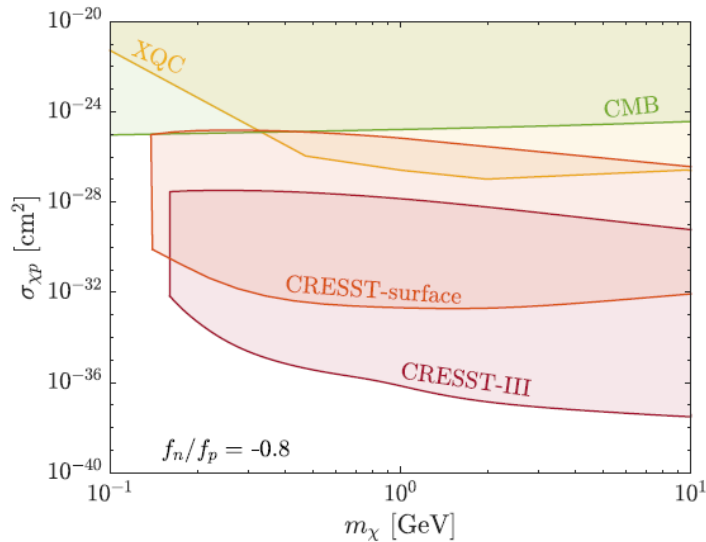
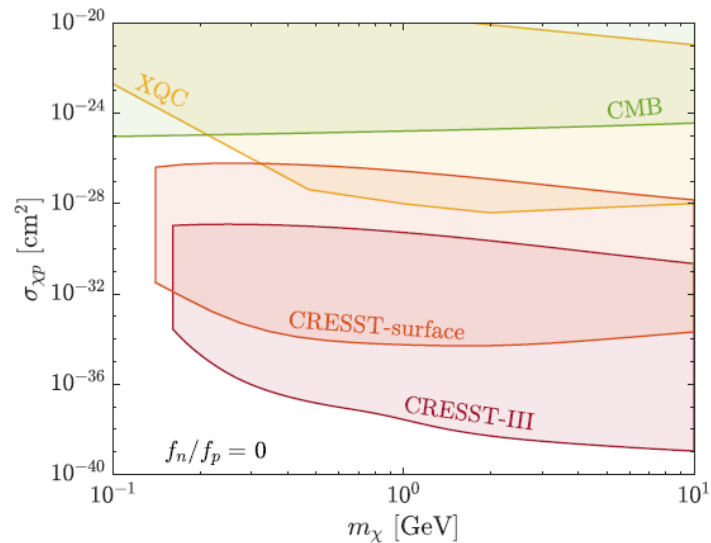
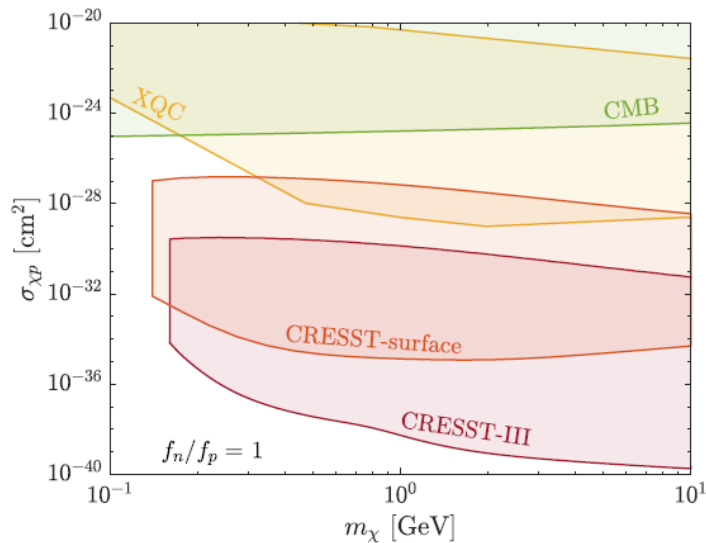


direct detection event rate

- $N_{\text{events}} \propto R_D \times \sigma_0 \times \eta$
- $\eta = \int dv_f f(v_f) / v_f$
 - weighted flux of detectable events
- at small σ_0 , rate $\propto \sigma_0$
- drops because of overburden
 - get ceiling and floor
- DMprop shows suppression of flux due to reflection
- but for **small detection rate**, SLA and DMprop **match up**
 - basically, find σ_0 where **almost nothing gets through**
- won't match if rate higher, so we use **DMprop**



results





future directions

- so far, we have only been interested in **sensitivity for detection**
 - only need the **ceiling** and **floor**
- with a **future detector**, might have enough events to be in the **interior** of sensitivity region
- could explore **daily modulation** with a **directional** detector
- but sensitive to how the **velocity distribution** is distorted by the **overburden**
- if you need to go beyond flat-Earth approximation, much **more computationally intensive**

conclusion

- **dark matter direct detection** exps. have a sensitivity ceiling and floor
- isospin-violation can **open** some sensitivity windows, while **closing** others
- competing effects from reduction of scattering in the **detector**, and reduction of scattering in **overburden**

- interesting effects, especially at **low mass**



Backup Slides



DMprop algorithm

- flux of particles at detector: start with
 - incoming flux
 - $P_0(z) \rightarrow$ probability of reaching depth z without scattering
 - $P(z-z') \rightarrow$ probability of reaching z from z' without scattering
- successively convolve to get $P_n(z) \rightarrow$ probability of reaching depth z after n scatters
- sum on n
- energy distribution at detector: start with
 - initial energy distribution
 - energy distribution after one scatter (assuming isotropic scattering in Earth frame)
 - successively convolve to get energy distribution after n scatters
 - sum over n , weighting energy distribution by $P_n(z)$
- doesn't account for correlation of energy with depth