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Neutrinos & Dark Matter: Detector Technologies and Geometric Insights in Cosmic Exploration

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Outline

- Scientific Context and Motivation
- Detector Technologies for Neutrinos
- Detector Technologies for Dark Matter
- Geometric and Theoretical Frameworks
- Multimessenger Astrophysics
- Future Perspectives & Conclusions

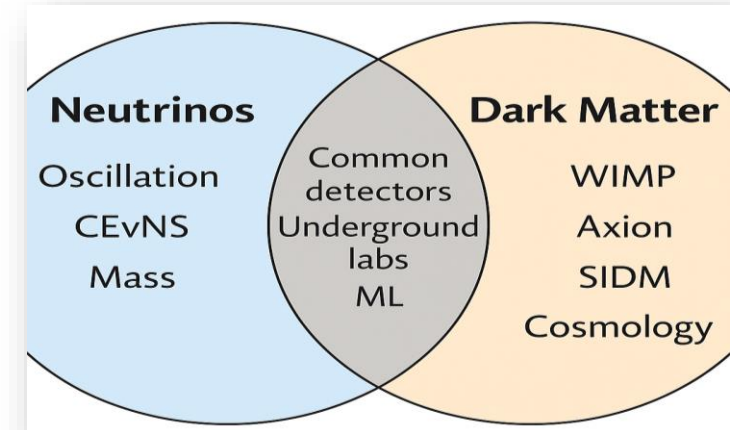
Scientific Motivation: Connecting the Invisible



Why Neutrinos and Dark Matter? — Connecting the Invisible Sectors

Key Questions:

- Why do neutrinos and dark matter share common detection challenges ?
- Can they probe complementary or overlapping aspects of the cosmic dark sector ?
- Is there a unified theoretical or experimental approach that justifies studying them together ?



Feature	Neutrinos	Dark Matter Candidates
Weakly interacting	✓	✓
Requires shielding/underground	✓	✓
Detected via nuclear/electron recoils	✓ (CEvNS, IBD, ES)	✓ (WIMP, SIDM, etc.)
Sensitive to cosmological relics	✓ (Σm_ν , N_{eff})	✓ (Ω_{DM} , σ_8 , structure)
Accessible through astrophysical sources	✓ (SN, AGN, solar)	✓ (Halo, galaxies, CMB)

Shared Technologies

Key Detection Technologies Used in Both Neutrino and Dark Matter Experiments

✓ The convergence of detection technologies in neutrino and dark matter physics is now a strategic advantage for both communities.

Technology	Neutrino Experiments	Dark Matter Experiments	Purpose / Advantage
Ultra-low background shielding	JUNO, SNO+, Hyper-Kamiokande	XENONnT, LZ, DarkSide-20k	Suppress cosmogenic/ambient radiation
Cryogenic operation	DUNE (LAr TPC), LEGEND-200	SuperCDMS, CRESST-III, EDELWEISS-III	Phonon/electron discrimination, enhanced sensitivity
Deep underground labs	Borexino, KamLAND, SNO+, DUNE	XENONnT, PandaX-4T, DarkSide-20k	Muon flux reduction by 5–6 orders of magnitude
High-purity materials	LEGEND-1000 (Ge), SNO+ (scintillator)	DarkSide-20k (Ar), LZ (Xe)	Reduce intrinsic backgrounds (Rn, Kr, 40K, 85Kr)
Precision timing & topology	DUNE, JUNO	DarkSide-50/20k, XENONnT	Signal/background separation via S1/S2, event reconstruction
Hybrid signal readout	DUNE (charge + light), ICARUS	XENONnT (S1+S2), ARGO/DARWIN (dual-phase)	Multiple channels improve particle ID and noise rejection

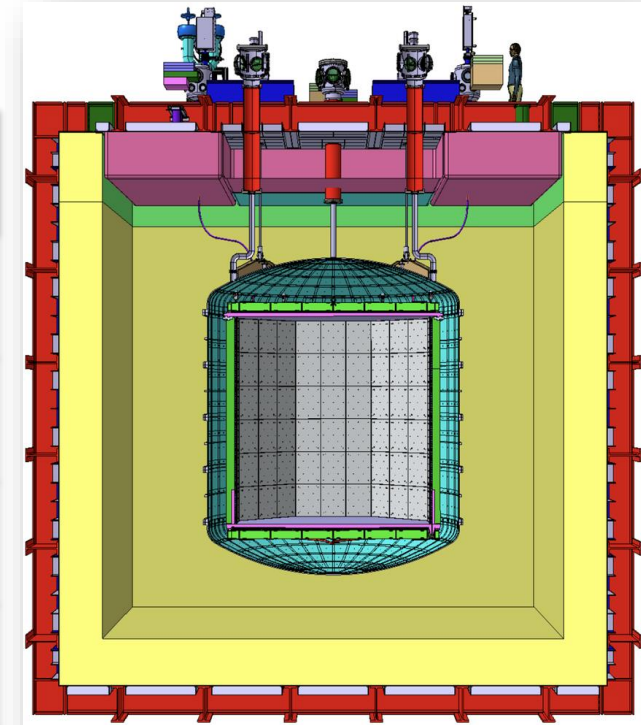
- **Shared challenges:** rare signals, low rates → shared innovations
- **Cryogenic technologies increasingly hybrid:** charge, light, phonons
- **Deep sites,** ultra-pure materials = common baseline for DM and ν
- **Data analysis protocols** (blind, ML-based) are being exchanged
- **Radiopurity R&D:** coordinated across SNOLAB, LNGS, SUR

From Photons to Phonons: Shared Architectures in Rare Event Detection

Converging Technologies in Neutrino and Dark Matter Experiments

Table: Signal Modalities Across Neutrino & Dark Matter Detectors

Signal Modality	ν Detectors	Dark Matter Detectors	Technological Notes
Scintillation (Light)	JUNO, Hyper-K, SNO+	XENONnT, DarkSide-20k, LZ	Dual-phase operation; SiPM/PMT readout
Ionization (Charge)	DUNE, ProtoDUNE, ICARUS	SuperCDMS, EDELWEISS,	Drift fields in LAr or Ge; low-noise readout
Phonons (Heat)	R&D (e.g., ν detection in crystals)	CRESST-III, EDELWEISS-III, SPHERES	Ultra-low temperature bolometry (<50 mK)
Hybrid (Light + Charge)	DUNE-DP, ARGONCUBE	XENONnT, PandaX-4T, DarkSide-20k	S1/S2 signal analysis; position reconstruction
Hybrid (Phonon + Charge)	—	SuperCDMS SNOLAB, EDELWEISS	Discrimination via timing & energy partition
3D Event Topology	DUNE, MicroBooNE	CYGNUS, NEWS-G (gas TPCs)	Directional signatures in TPCs, sub-GeV DM & CEvNS



Schematic of the DarkSide-20k dual-phase liquid argon TPC. Similar designs are used in ProtoDUNE-DP and DUNE for neutrino detection

[10.22323/1.449.0113](https://doi.org/10.22323/1.449.0113)

Design Challenges & Background Mitigation in Ultra-Low Signal Regimes

Engineering at the Frontier : Suppressing Noise in Rare Event Detectors

Table: Dominant Backgrounds & Mitigation Strategies (ν & DM)

Background Type	Source	Impact	Mitigation Strategy
Radiogenic (γ, β)	Detector materials, radon daughters	ER backgrounds in DM & ν detectors	Material screening, radon traps, passive shields
Cosmogenic ($\mu, \text{neutrons}$)	Atmospheric cosmic rays	Neutron spallation, muon-induced noise	Deep underground siting, active muon vetoes, neutron moderators
Neutrino Coherent Scattering (CEvNS)	Solar, reactor, geo- ν	Irreducible background for DM	Signal modeling, timing cuts, directional detection (R&D)
Electronic Noise	Readout, preamplifiers	Threshold limitation, fake signals	Cryogenic ASICs, shielding, pulse shape discrimination (PSD)
Surface Events	Beta decays near surface (e.g. ^{210}Pb)	Background in phonon/charge detectors	Fiducial volume cuts, dead layer design, phonon timing
Internal Radioactivity	^{39}Ar (LAr), ^{85}Kr (Xe), ^{222}Rn	High event rate, pileup	Isotope separation (Ar), cryogenic distillation (Kr, Rn)

Some “backgrounds” for dark matter are actually the **signal** for neutrino physics (CEvNS). Designing to reject these requires extreme care in modeling and engineering.

Real-World Engineering – Dual Approach

- ✓ **DarkSide-20k:** Cryogenic distillation to reach ppt-level Kr/Rn suppression
- ✓ **DUNE-DP:** HV noise control using cold electronics and grounding topology
- ✓ **SuperCDMS SNOLAB:** Phonon pattern discrimination for surface event veto

Neutrino Probes: Current and Emerging Insights

- **Solar & Atmospheric ν**
 - Precision θ_{12} , Δm^2_{21} (JUNO), flavor composition (IceCube, KM3NeT)
 - Test of MSW effect, Earth matter profile, flavor anomalies
- **Long-Baseline ν** (DUNE, T2HK, NOvA)
 - CP violation (δ_{CP}), mass hierarchy (MH), unitarity tests
- **Reactor ν** (JUNO, PROSPECT-II)
 - Sub-percent precision on Δm^2_{21} , spectral anomalies
- **Supernova ν**
 - Time-resolved ν burst signals, ν - ν interactions, early warning (SNEWS 2.0)
- **Cosmological ν**
 - $\Sigma m\nu$ from Planck+BAO+DESI+Euclid ($\rightarrow < 0.06$ eV?)
 - N_{eff} constraints ($\Delta N_{eff} < 0.3$ at 2σ), sterile ν exclusion
- **Coherent ν -N Scattering (CEvNS)**
 - Precision low-Ev cross-section (CONUS, COHERENT), BSM probes (NSI, light Z')

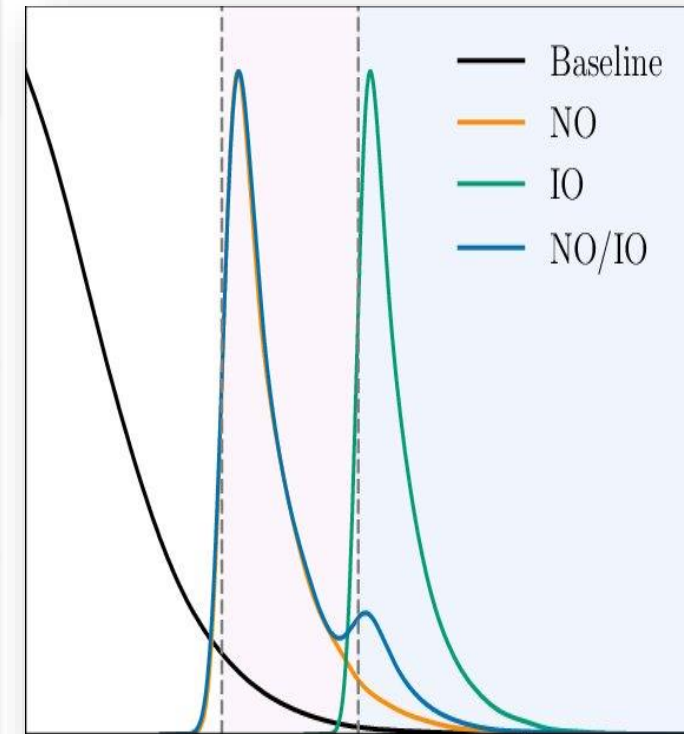
Highlights

- **JUNO:** Construction 98% complete (2025), energy resolution 3% @ 1 MeV $\rightarrow \Delta m^2_{21}$ to 0.5%
- **DUNE:** Far detector module installation started, near detector design finalized (2024 TDR)
- **Hyper-K:** Gd-doped water, 187 kton fiducial, CP reach $\sim 75\%$ at 5σ in 10 years
- **KM3NeT:** ORCA shows ν mass ordering sensitivity $> 3\sigma$ with 6 years of data
- **CMB-S4 & Euclid:** joint forecasts push $\Sigma m\nu$ limit below 0.05 eV
- **CEvNS:** Machine Learning used for CEvNS-background separation at COHERENT, novel nuclear form factor constraints (2023)

Absolute Neutrino Mass Scale

Table: Absolute Neutrino Mass Scale: Experimental & Cosmological Bounds

Method	Observable	Upper Limit	Experiment / Survey	Status (2025)
Beta decay (kinematic)	$m_\beta = \sqrt{\sum_i U_{ei} ^2 m_i^2}$	< 0.45 eV (90 % C.L.)	Katrin (Science)	Phase II complete, 259 days of data analysed
Cyclotron radiation	Tritium spectrum endpoint	~ 0.35 eV (projected)	Project 8 (R&D Phase III)	R&D continues; design for Phase IV
Cosmology (Σm_{ν})	Sum of neutrino masses	$\leq 0.053\text{--}0.064$ eV (95 % C.L.)	Planck + DESI DR2 + ACT	Strongest to date; approaching normal ordering
Neutrinoless double β -decay	Effective Majorana mass $m_{\beta\beta}$	~ 0.04–0.15 eV (NME-dependent)	LEGEND, CUPID, KamLAND-Zen	Model-dependent; assumes neutrinos Majorana

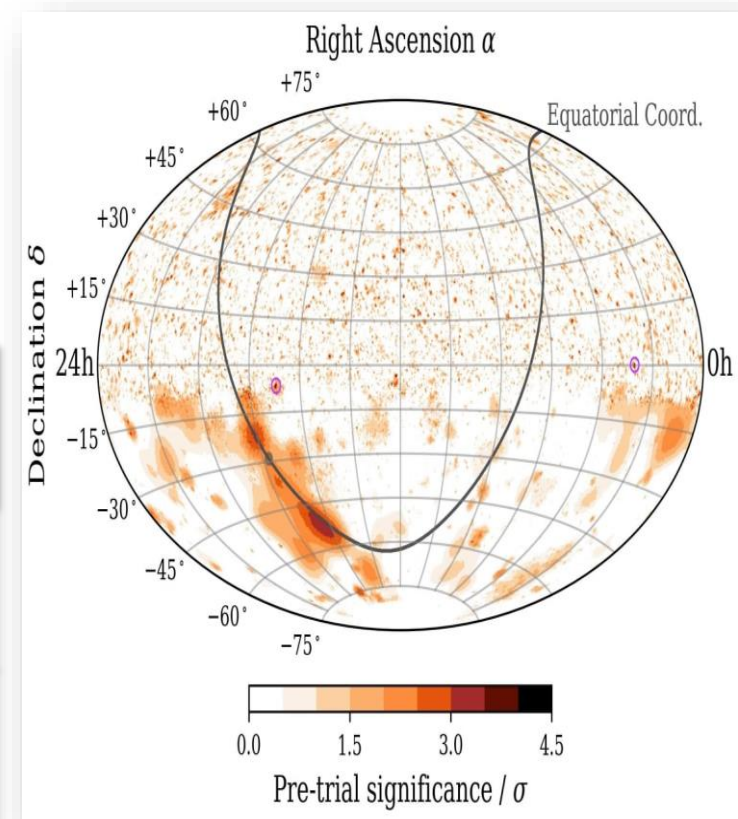


Constraints on Σm_{ν} from Planck + DESI DR2 + ACT, by mass ordering
[10.48550/arXiv.2503.14744](https://arxiv.org/abs/10.48550/arXiv.2503.14744)

Neutrino Astrophysics with IceCube & KM3NeT

- ✓ IceCube and KM3NeT represent **cubic-kilometre scale detectors** embedded in ice or seawater, exploiting geometric detection volume for astrophysical ν .
- ✓ IceCube has pioneered **combined track + cascade searches**, revealing the strongest signal near **NGC 1068** ($\sim 4\sigma$)
- ✓ KM3NeT deployments accelerate: **ARCA** targets TeV–PeV astrophysical ν ; **ORCA** focuses on few-GeV to ~ 100 GeV range for oscillations & mass hierarchy

Detector	Medium	Instrumented Volume	Primary Channel	Energy Threshold	Energy Range	Roles
IceCube	Antarctic ice	$\sim 1 \text{ km}^3$	Upward μ tracks	$\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$	100 GeV–10 PeV	Diffuse flux, point-source identification
IceCube-Gen2	Antarctic ice	$\sim 8 \text{ km}^3$ (planned)	Extended sensor array	$\sim 10 \text{ GeV}$ (DeepCore)	up to $\sim 100 \text{ PeV}$	Cosmogenic ν , next-gen multimessenger
KM3NeT/ARCA	Deep-sea (Sicily)	$\sim 1 \text{ km}^3$	Up-going μ events	$\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$	$\sim 100 \text{ GeV}$ –few PeV	Galactic & extragalactic sources
KM3NeT/ORCA	Deep-sea (France)	$\sim 0.005 \text{ km}^3$	ν_e/ν_μ atmospheric flux	$\sim 3 \text{ GeV}$	1–100 GeV	Mass ordering & oscillation precision



IceCube collaboration: Figure based on combined track and cascade data (2025), showing a sky map in J2000 equatorial coordinates. The hot spots indicate regions with the highest local significance of astrophysical neutrinos (notably NGC 1068).

Dark Matter Frontiers: Detection Landscapes & Theory

Mass ranges and experimental landscape

Ultralight DM: $m_\chi < 10^{-21}$ eV — impacts on large-scale structure formation; candidates include axions and fuzzy dark matter.

Sub-GeV DM: targeted by experiments such as SENSEI, DAMIC-M, Skipper CCDs, and SuperCDMS SNOLAB.

WIMP “desert” (1–10 TeV): strongly constrained by LZ and XENONnT, but still open for leptophilic or inelastic couplings.

Superheavy DM ($\geq 10^{12}$ GeV): searches focus on decay signatures via ultra-high-energy neutrinos detected by IceCube, GRAND, etc.

Direct dark matter detection rate

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} \cdot \frac{C_T}{m_T} \cdot \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{\max}} v f(\vec{v}) \frac{d\sigma_T}{dE_R}(v, E_R) dv$$

- ✓ Event rate per unit recoil energy, depending on the local dark matter density ρ_χ , the cross section σ , and the galactic velocity distribution $f(\vec{v})$

Table: Strategic directions in dark matter research

Frontier	Approach	Mass Range	Tech/Experiments	Goal
Direct Detection	Nuclear/electron recoils	~1 GeV – few TeV	LXe (XENONnT, LZ), Ge (SuperCDMS)	Test weak couplings (SI/SD)
Indirect Detection	Neutrinos, gamma rays, cosmic rays from DM	10 GeV – 10 TeV (to PeV)	IceCube, KM3NeT, Fermi-LAT	Detect DM annihilation/decay products
Collider Searches	Direct DM production; Signature: Missing Transverse Energy	>10 GeV – ~1 TeV	LHC (ATLAS/CMS: monojet, monoZ)	Search for DM mediators, direct DM production
Astrophysics/Cosmology	Signatures on CMB, LSS, 21 cm	10^{-24} GeV – 10^4 GeV	Planck, JWST, SKA	Constrain DM density, distribution, interactions

Dark Matter Direct Detection: Experimental Sensitivities

- Spin-independent WIMP–nucleon cross-section limits (2023–2025), with mass reach and detector specs

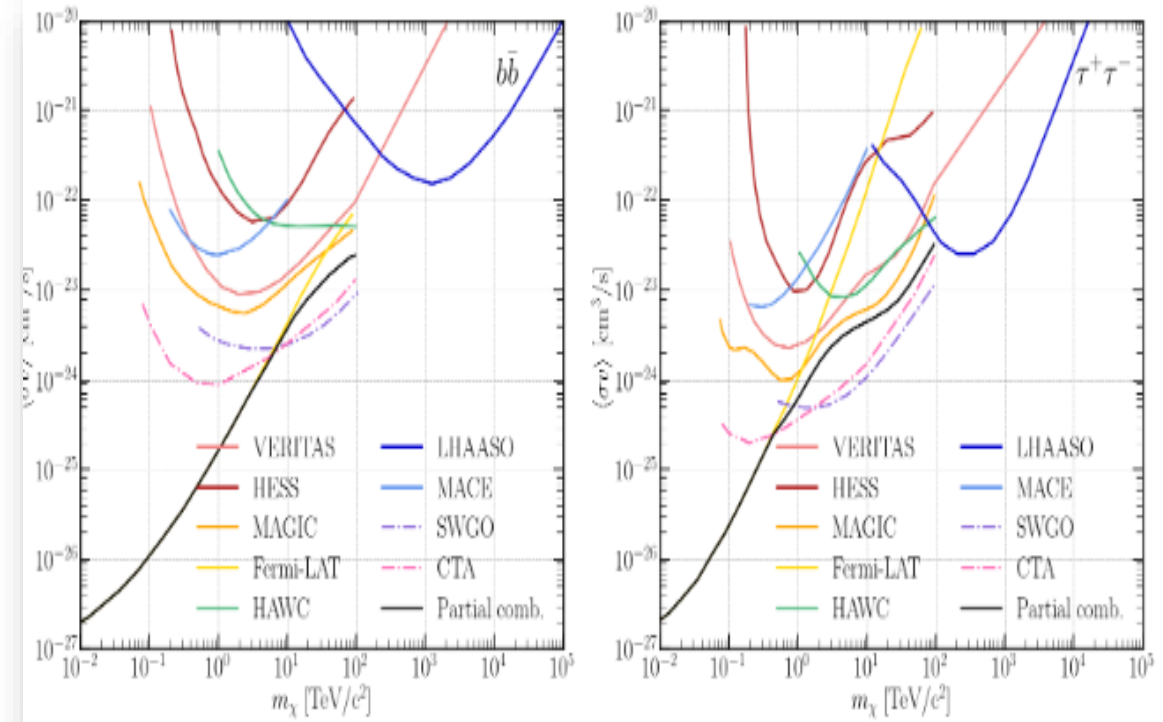
Table –Direct Detection Experiments

Experiment	Target Material	Mass [kg]	Threshold [keV]	σ_{SI} Limit [cm ²]	WIMP Mass Range [GeV]
LZ	Xe (dual-phase TPC)	7000	~1.5	5.9×10^{-48} @ 30 GeV	5 – 1000
XENONnT	Xe (dual-phase TPC)	5900	~1.6	1.06×10^{-47} @ 28 GeV	6 – 1000
PandaX-4T	Xe (dual-phase TPC)	4000	~1.5	1.4×10^{-47} @ 30 GeV	5 – 1000
DarkSide-20k	Ar (depleted LAr TPC)	20,000	~5.0	Goal: 1×10^{-47} @ 100 GeV	10 – 1000
SuperCDMS SNOLAB	Ge, Si (cryogenic)	~30	< 0.04 (Ge HV)	Goal: $<10^{-43}$ @ 1 GeV	0.3 – 10
CRESST-III	CaWO ₄ (phonon/scint.)	~24	< 0.03	2.2×10^{-38} @ 1 GeV	0.16 – 5
DARWIN (proto-ARGO)	Xe (TPC, ultra-large)	~50,000	1.0	Goal: 1×10^{-49} @ 40 GeV	5 – 5000

Indirect and Non-Standard Dark Matter Probes

- ✓ Indirect methods (**gamma rays, antiprotons, neutrinos**) complement direct research by exploring the annihilation or decay of DM particles in astrophysical environments.

Probe	Channel / Technique	Mass Range [GeV]	Result / Limit
Fermi-LAT (dSphs)	γ -ray stacking on 54 dSphs	2–1000	$\langle\sigma v\rangle \lesssim \text{few} \times 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$; local excesses $\sim 2\sigma$ en $\tau\tau$ & $\mu\mu$
AMS-02 \bar{p}/p	Cosmic-ray antiprotons	10–200	No detection DM; thermal WIMP exclu $< \sim 200 \text{ GeV}$; excess $\leq 1.8\sigma$
VERITAS dSphs	VHE γ -rays ($\tau\tau$ channel)	200 – 30 000	Combined limit close to thermal threshold for $\tau\tau$, high coverage
DM + LLL Mediators	Capture in dSph \rightarrow decay outside	~ 100	σ constrained $\sim 10^{-36} \text{ cm}^2$ via LLLM model



Limits on DM annihilation cross section from dwarf spheroidal searches assuming DM decay into $b\bar{b}$ (left) and $\tau^+\tau^-$ (right).
From : Zurowski et al., Dark Matter Signatures, Conf. ICRC 2023

Neutrino–Dark Matter Couplings & BSM Frameworks

Models of Neutrino–Dark Matter Couplings and Constraints

Model / Interactions	Observable effects	Control
ν -portal (fermion χ) via Yukawa HDL	ΔN_{eff} ν -invisible decays	$y \lesssim 10^{-7}$, $m\chi \gtrsim 10$ MeV (CMB + BBN)
Neutrinophilic scalar ϕ	ν –DM scattering, supernova attenuation	Couplings excluses sauf couplings ultra- faibles
$L\mu - L\tau$ vector mediator DM	Oscillations modulées, ν self-interact	$g \lesssim 10^{-6} - 10^{-7}$ (SK, DUNE projections)
LED portal + Majoron	ΔN_{eff} , ν decay, stériles KK warm DM	Consistent avec CMB-S4 ; param. restreints

Geometric Insights in Dark Sector Models

(Gauge Structure, Modified Geometry, and Effective Mediation in Neutrino–Dark Matter Coupling)

- Dark sectors may not only introduce **new mediators** (e.g., Z' , scalar portals) but also alter **the effective geometry** experienced by standard model fields.
- **Neutrino–dark matter interactions** can imprint signatures of these geometric deformations — both in **field space** (gauge structure) and in **spacetime** (metric, torsion, anisotropy).
- Such effects are detectable via time delays, energy spectra distortions, and halo profile asymmetries.

Theoretical Framework

1. Extended Gauge Symmetry ($U(1)'$, Z' portal):

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{int}} \supset g_{Z'} \bar{\nu} \gamma^\mu \nu Z'_\mu + g_\chi \bar{\chi} \gamma^\mu \chi Z'_\mu$$

→ A Z' mediator couples neutrinos and dark matter in a field-theoretic portal.

2. Effective Geometry Modifications:

Torsion from dark fields → modified affine connection:

$$\Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda \rightarrow \Gamma_{\mu\nu}^\lambda + K_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$$

with $K_{\mu\nu}^\lambda$: contorsion tensor.

Impacts neutrino **phase**, potentially altering oscillation paths or propagation delay.

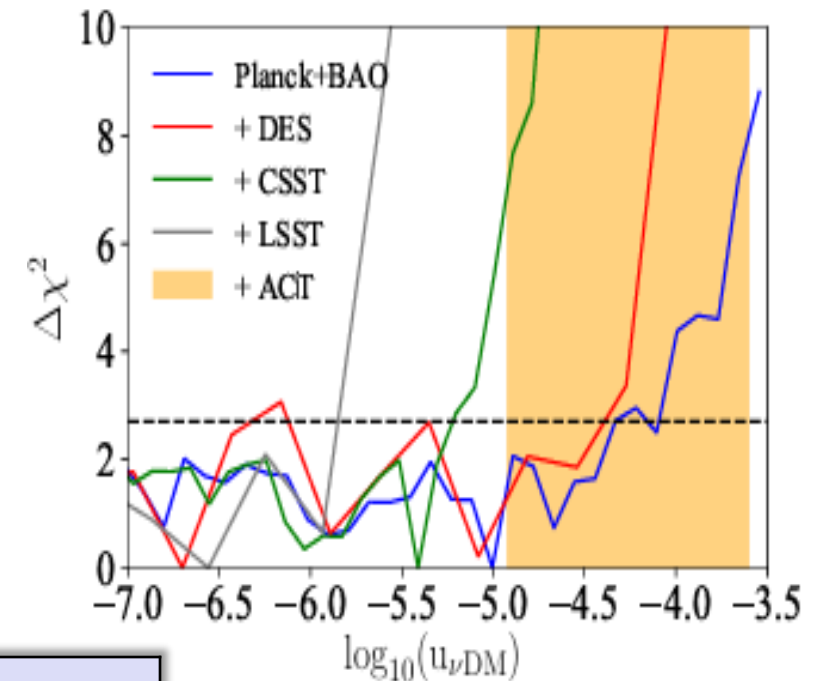
3. Halo Geometry and Neutrino Propagation:

- DM halos with **non-spherical** or **rotating** structure distort neutrino trajectories.
- Predictive effects on **diffuse neutrino flux anisotropies**, and local time-of-flight distortions.

DM– ν coupling may encode more than just interaction terms — it may reflect a **geometrical structure of the dark sector**, manifesting through torsion, effective metrics, or anisotropic propagation.

Cosmological & Multimessenger Probes of Neutrinos and Dark Matter

- **Neutrino–DM interactions alter structure growth** by damping small-scale matter fluctuations.
- These couplings are now probed via:
 - ✓ **Weak lensing (S_8 tension)**: DM– ν scattering reduces structure growth.
 - ✓ **CMB + LSS**: affects phase shifts and diffusion damping (Planck, DESI).
 - ✓ **Supernovae**: cooling via dark sector channels constrains low-mass DM– ν couplings.
 - ✓ **Local gravitational tracers**: orbits of asteroids and planetary data offer limits on local DM/neutrino clustering.



$\Delta\chi^2$ profile vs. $u_{\nu DM}$. Blue: Planck+BAO; red/green/gray: with DES Y3, CSST, LSST. Dashed line: 2σ limit. Orange band: 68% CL from Planck+BAO+ACT

Observable / Probe	Insight	Reference
S_8 (structure growth)	Detection of DM ν coupling $u \sim 10^{-4}$ reduces tension	Zu et al. (2025) [arXiv:2501.13785]
Supernova cooling (SN1987A)	$\times 10^4$ stronger constraints for sub-100 MeV DM– ν interactions	Cappiello & Dev (2025) [arXiv:2503.09691]
$\Sigma m\nu$ (CMB + DESI DR2)	Refined to ~ 0.07 eV (95% CL)	
Solar System dynamics (Bennu, LAGEOS)	Gravitational limits on local DM– ν clustering	Tsai et al. (2024) [JCAP]

Neutrino Echo Time Delays from BSM Scattering

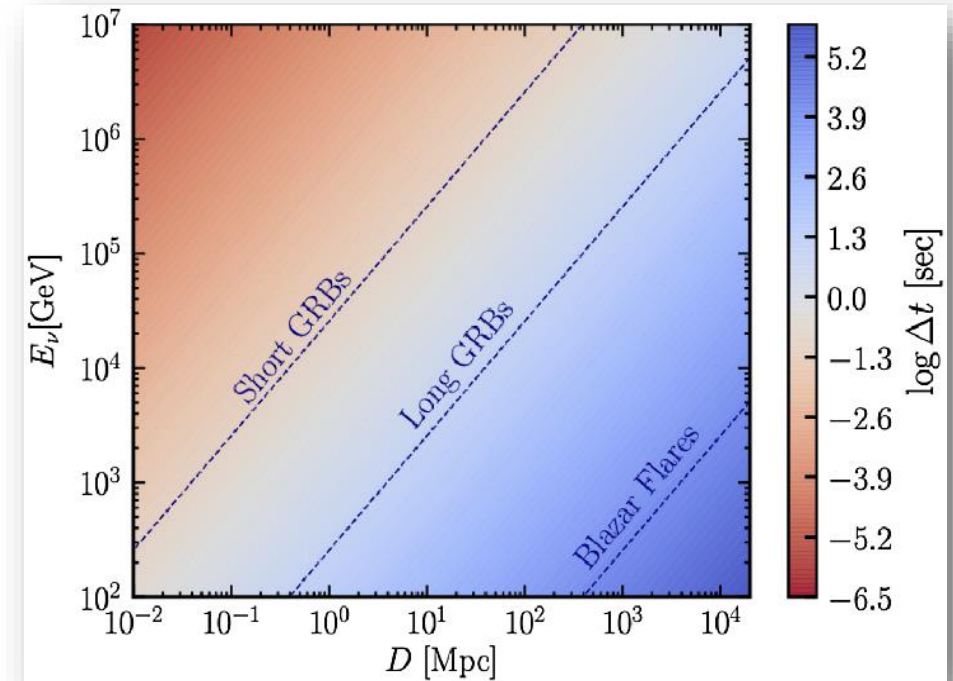
Neutrino Echoes from BSM ν - ν / ν -DM Interactions (Optically-Thin Limit)

- ✓ High-energy neutrinos traveling through the cosmic neutrino background or dark matter may experience **single scattering**, producing characteristic **delayed ‘echo’ light-curves**. These time-delay profiles are observationally accessible via multimessenger triggers

$$P(t) \approx \int d\phi \frac{1}{\sigma_\nu} \frac{d\sigma_\nu}{d\theta} \Big|_{\theta \approx \phi + 2t/(D\phi)} \quad \text{with} \quad \tau_\nu \approx n_\nu \sigma_\nu D \ll 1$$

- $P(t)$: time-delay probability distribution
- D : source distance
- τ_ν : optical depth
- Derived analytically in Eskenasy et al. 2023

Scenario	Parameter Range	Observable Effects	Experimental Reach
ν - ν scattering	$g\nu \gtrsim 10^{-2}, m\phi \sim \text{MeV}$	Delayed ν echo tail (Δt up to $\sim 10^4$ s)	IceCube-Gen2, KM3NeT, Hyper-K
ν -DM scattering	Similar range + DM density factor	Tail broadened, energy spectrum modified	Detection possible for extragalactic GRBs



Neutrino echo time-delay distributions in the optically-thin regime, varying with neutrino energy and source distance. The dashed horizontal lines mark typical transient durations: short-GRBs (~ 0.1 s), long-GRBs ($\sim 10^2$ s), and blazar flares ($\sim 10^5$ s). “Light curves of BSM-induced neutrino echoes in the optically thin limit »

From: *Phys. Rev. D* 107, 103038 (2023)

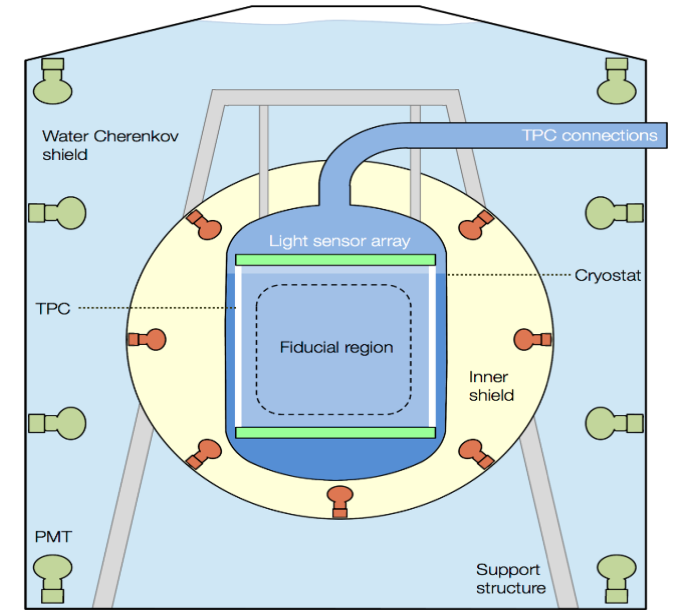
Advanced Detector Architectures for Ultra-Rare Signal Detection

Next-Generation Architectures: DARWIN, ARIA, GridPix & Paleo-Detectors

Emerging detection platforms—including **DARWIN’s multi-ton xenon TPC**, **ARIA’s argon isotope distillation**, **GridPix-based micro-TPCs**, and **paleo-detectors in ancient minerals**—are pushing sensitivities to the **zeptobarn scale**, vital for probing neutrino echoes and dark matter beyond the **neutrino floor**.

Table: Architecture Highlights

Platform	Target Material	Innovation & Status	Sensitivity Goal	Dual ν /DM Reach
DARWIN	Liquid Xenon (~40–50 t)	Large-scale multi-TPC; ultra-pure LXe; neutron veto, sub-keV threshold	$\sim 10^{-49} \text{ cm}^2$	Solar ν , SNB, DM WIMPs
ARIA (Seruci-0 proto)	Underground Argon (UAr)	26 m column prototype; isotopic separation of ^{39}Ar from ^{40}Ar ; full 350 m installation underway	$\sim 10^{-48}$ – 10^{-49} cm^2	DM direct, CEvNS neutrino background
GridPix	Pixelated micro-TPC	Ultra-fine readout (Timepix/Medipix family) for sub-keV recoil detection; recent application for axion and DM searches at CAST	$\sim 10^{-48}$ – 10^{-50} cm^2 possible	Low-energy DM, solar & axion-like particles
Paleo-detectors	Ancient minerals	Geological exposure over gigayears; fossil nuclear recoils captured in mica/olivine; projections include DM sub-halo tracking and cosmic wall imprints	$\lesssim 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$ over Gyr exposure	Paleo- ν , historic DM interactions



Pictorial view of the DARWIN base-line detector design
Aalbers et al., JCAP 1611 (2016) no.11, 017

Sensitivity Scaling:

$$\sigma_{\text{min}} \propto 1 / (M \cdot T \cdot B)$$

Neutrino Floor Breakthrough:

- CEvNS mimics WIMP recoils at sub- 10^{-48} cm^2
- Requires ML, directionality, recoil topology

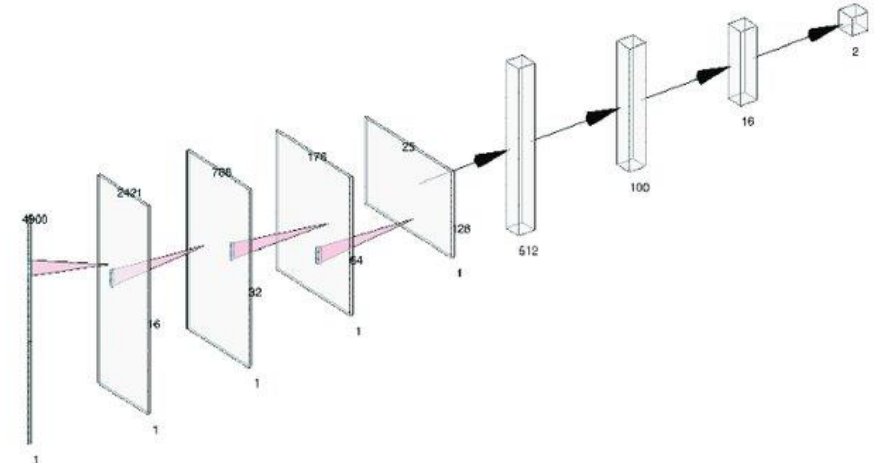
ML-based Data Strategy for Signal Discrimination in ν and DM Detectors

Machine Learning-powered Signal/Background Discrimination: Shared Innovations

- Both **neutrino** and **dark matter** detectors face extreme signal rarity and complex backgrounds.
- Machine learning models—**CNNs**, **GNNs**, **autoencoders**—are essential for accurate classification, energy estimation, topology reconstruction, and anomaly detection.
- Real-time inference on **edge devices** (FPGA/ASIC) is now feasible, improving trigger strategies and reducing false positives.
- Yet systematic robustness and explainability remain active research frontiers.

Experiment	ML Model	Application Area	Performance / Benefit
DarkSide-20k	CNN (1D-S2 pattern)	xy position & energy reconstruction	~1 cm spatial resolution; improved PSD
DUNE / ProtoDUNE	GNN (e.g., NuGraph2)	Hit clustering, track-shower separation, tau-neutrino ID	~98 % interaction labeling efficiency; improved event topology classification
Neutrino telescopes	GraphNeT framework	Real-time event reconstruction across multiple detectors	Real-time inference for IceCube extensions, scalable across platforms

Architecture of a 1D CNN for position reconstruction in the DarkSide-20k TPC



DarkSide-20k position-reconstruction CNN using top-array SiPM data, as presented in EPJ Web Conf., 251 (2021) 03029

Synthetic Table: Detector Technologies & Sensitivities for Neutrino and Dark Matter Searches (2023–2025)

Comprehensive Comparison of Detection Technologies & Sensitivities

Technology	Detector / Experiment(s)	Target Material(s)	Energy Sensitivity Range	Signal Types	Sensitivity / Limits (Cross-section or Equivalent)
Liquid Xenon TPC	XENONnT, LZ, DARWIN	Liquid Xenon (Xe)	keV to 100 keV	WIMPs (NR), Solar & DSNB ν	$\sim 1.4 \times 10^{-47} \text{ cm}^2$ (WIMP-nucleon SI) (XENONnT)
Liquid Argon TPC	DarkSide-20k, ARIA	Underground Argon (UAr)	keV to 100 keV	WIMPs, CEvNS, Solar neutrinos	$\sim 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$ projected (DarkSide-20k)
Cryogenic Solid-State	SuperCDMS SNOLAB, EDELWEISS	Ge, Si Crystals	$\sim 40 \text{ eV}$ to few keV	Light WIMPs, low-energy neutrinos	$\sim 10^{-48} - 10^{-49} \text{ cm}^2$ (SuperCDMS)
Neutrino Liquid Argon	DUNE, ProtoDUNE	Liquid Argon	MeV to GeV	Accelerator, supernova, atmospheric ν	Few % energy resolution, excellent timing
Water Cherenkov	Hyper-Kamiokande, Super-K	Water	MeV to multi-GeV	Solar, atmospheric neutrinos	Large volume, ms timing resolution
Neutrino Telescopes	IceCube Gen2, KM3NeT	Ice, Sea Water	TeV to PeV	Astrophysical neutrinos	Effective area $\sim 10 \text{ km}^2$, angular resolution $\sim 0.2^\circ$
Direct Light DM Detectors	CRESST-III, DAMIC-M	CaWO ₄ , Si CCDs	$\sim 30 \text{ eV}$ to keV	Sub-GeV dark matter candidates	Threshold $\sim 30 \text{ eV}$; limits $\sim 10^{-41} - 10^{-43} \text{ cm}^2$
Indirect DM Detection	Fermi-LAT, AMS-02, JWST	Space-based telescopes	keV to TeV (γ -rays, cosmic rays)	DM annihilation/decay products	Annihilation cross-section limits $\sim 10^{-26} \text{ cm}^3/\text{s}$
Advanced Gas TPCs	GridPix, CYGNUS	Gaseous Ar, CF ₄ mixtures	sub-keV to tens of keV	Directional DM, low-energy recoils	Target $\sim 10^{-49} - 10^{-50} \text{ cm}^2$ sensitivity
Paleo-detectors	Ancient Minerals (mica, olivine)	Solid-state minerals	Integrate recoils over Gyr	Long-term DM, neutrino archaeology	Projected $\sim 10^{-48} \text{ cm}^2$ over geological exposure

Conclusion & Key Questions

Synthesis and Fundamental Challenges Ahead

- **Unified progress:** Recent advances in neutrino and dark matter detection technologies are converging to provide complementary insights into the invisible universe.
- **Parameter space narrowing:** Precision measurements from JUNO, DUNE, IceCube, XENONnT, and LZ are increasingly constraining beyond-Standard Model scenarios.
- **BSM and coupling frontiers:** Novel probes such as neutrino echo time delays and ν -DM interactions in astrophysical environments open promising pathways for dark sector physics.
- **Multimessenger synergy:** Combined data from neutrino observatories, gravitational wave detectors, electromagnetic surveys, and cosmology enhance discovery potential and model discrimination.
- **Outstanding challenges:** Fundamental questions remain regarding the absolute neutrino mass scale, the particle nature of dark matter, and possible neutrino-dark matter coupling mechanisms.
- **Technological innovation essential:** Next-generation detectors, machine learning approaches, and interdisciplinary efforts will be critical for advancing sensitivities and interpretation frameworks

Outlook & Interdisciplinary Pathways



Future Directions: Synergies and Transformative Approaches

- **Next-generation facilities:** DARWIN, IceCube Gen2, Hyper-K, and ARIA poised to dramatically improve sensitivity to neutrinos and dark matter at unprecedented scales.
- **Machine learning and AI:** Integration of advanced ML algorithms for enhanced signal discrimination, background rejection, and real-time event classification.
- **Geometric and theoretical innovations:** Emerging models invoking modified spacetime geometry, torsion effects, and novel symmetry groups ($U(1)$ ', dark sectors) to explain astrophysical anomalies and particle couplings.
- **Multimessenger astrophysics growth:** Increasing synergy across neutrino, gravitational wave, electromagnetic, and cosmic surveys enabling deeper insights into cosmic phenomena and dark sector physics.
- **Interdisciplinary collaborations:** Strengthening bridges between particle physics, astrophysics, cosmology, and data science to tackle complex challenges.
- **Long-term visions:** Paleo-detectors and mineral-based neutrino archaeology to probe gigayear timescales; scalable, modular detector designs for future large-volume observatories



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Thank you for your attention

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