

Direct Dark Matter Searches

Bjoern Penning



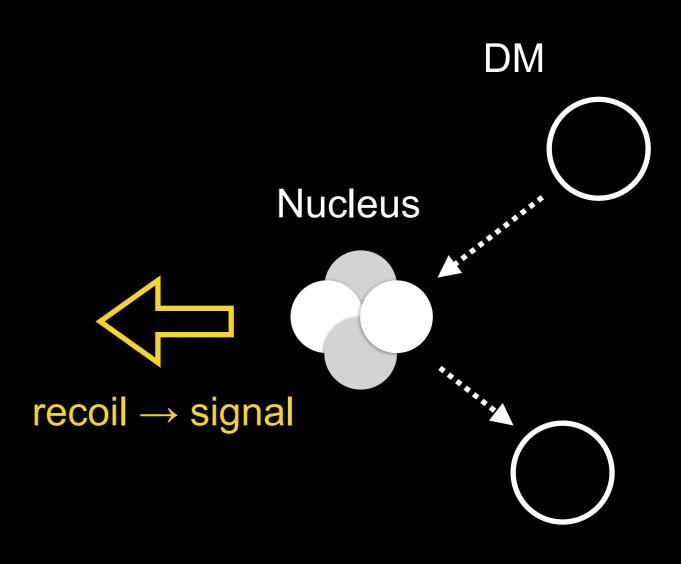
Overview

- Direct dark-matter searches
- Astrophysical aspects & signatures
- Backgrounds
- Technologies and status of direct searches
 - Scintillating crystals at room temperature
 - Cryogenic bolometers
 - Liquid noble gas detectors
 - Super-heated liquids
 - Directional detectors
- Summary



Direct Detection Overview

- Look for DM as our solar system passes through the galactic halo
- Direct Searches look for halo DM interacting with the nuclei of a target material
- Interactions are expected to happen rarely and at low energies
- Roughly 1 interaction per kg per year
- Detected by recoils off ultra sensitive detectors placed deep underground
- Very active field with exciting physics prospects and technical challenges



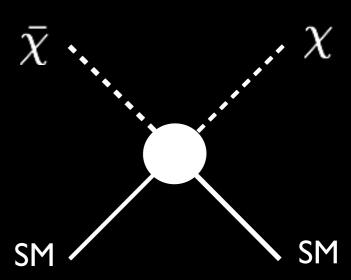


The particle physics picture

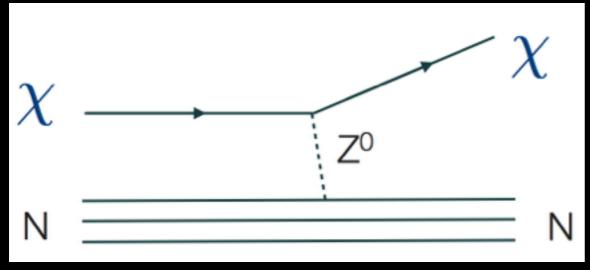
Effective operators used to describe WIMP-quark interactions (always valid at DD)

$$\mathcal{L}_{\chi}^{ ext{eff}} = rac{1}{\Lambda^2} ar{\chi} \gamma_{\mu} \chi ar{q} \gamma^{\mu} q$$
 $\Lambda = m_R / \sqrt{g_q g_\chi}$

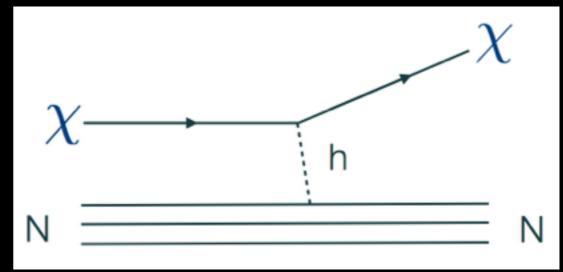
$$\Lambda = m_R/\sqrt{g_q g_\chi}$$



- Example (more exist):
 - Vector couplings→ Spin-independent
 - Axial couplings → Spin-dependent



$$\sigma_0 \sim 10^{-39} \text{cm}^2$$



$$\sigma_0 \sim 10^{-45} \text{cm}^2$$



- Spin-independent interactions:
 - Same couplings to proton/neutron (isospin conservation)
 - Scattering amplitude for each nucleon adds in phase and results in a coherent process (e.g. coupling to nuclear mass, for low q)
 - If f^p=fⁿ, then σ~A²

$$\sigma_0^{\mathrm{SI}} = \sigma_p \cdot \frac{\mu_A^2}{\mu_p^2} \cdot [Z \cdot f^p + (A - Z) \cdot f^n]^2$$

μ=reduced DM-nucleus mass, f^{p,n}=coupling constants



DM-Nucleus Interactions

- Spin-dependent interactions: coupling to nuclear spin
 - Only unpaired nucleons contribute to scattering
 e.g. only nuclei with an odd number of protons or neutrons
 - Cross section related to the quark spin content of the nucleon with components from both proton and neutron couplings
- Experiments typical a few orders of magnitude less sensitive

$$\sigma_0^{\text{SD}} = \frac{32}{\pi} \mu_A^2 \cdot G_F^2 \cdot [a_p \cdot \langle S^p \rangle + a_n \cdot \langle S^n \rangle]^2 \cdot \frac{J+1}{J}.$$

(Sp,n): expectation of the spin content of the p, n in the target nuclei ap,n: effective couplings to p and n.

arXiv:1509.0876

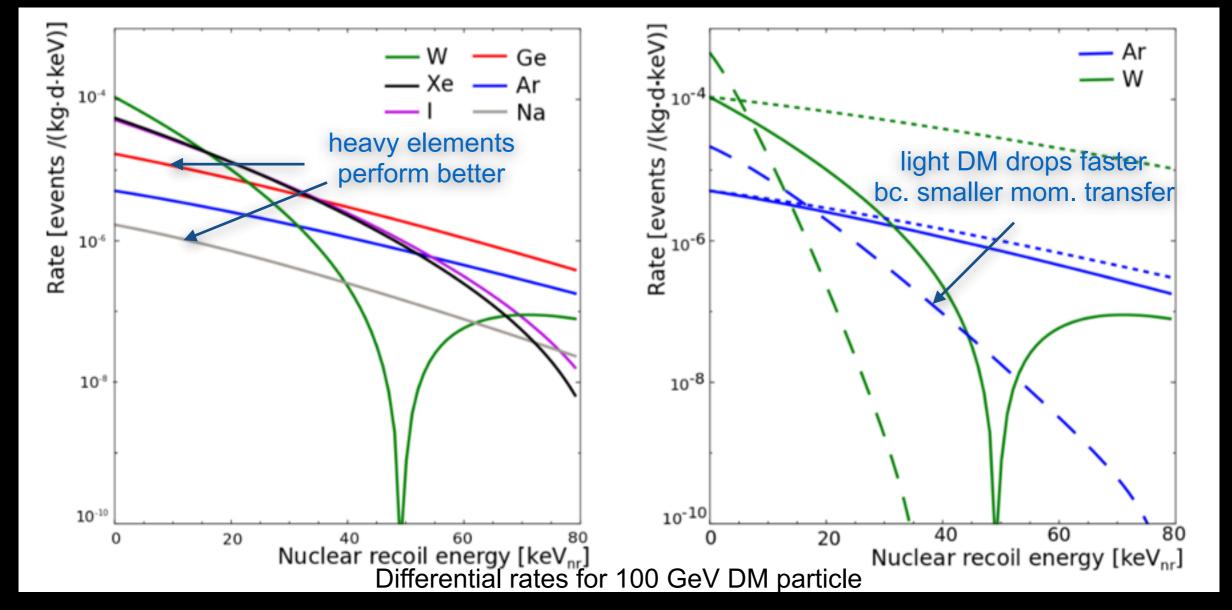
Expected Detection Rates

$$\frac{dR}{dE}(E,t) = \frac{\rho_0}{m_\chi \cdot m_A} \cdot \int v \cdot f(\mathbf{v},t) \cdot \frac{d\sigma}{dE}(E,v) \, d^3v,$$

- Astrophysical parameters:
 - ρ_0 = local density of the dark matter in the Milky Way
 - f (v, t) = WIMP velocity distribution
- Parameters of interest:
 - mχ = WIMP mass (~100 GeV)
 - σ = WIMP-nucleus elastic scattering cross section



Event Rates



- Event rates as function of nuclear recoil energy for different targets
 - Dotted line: no form factor correction
 - Dashed line: for a 25 GeV WIMP mass
- Energy transfer is largest for WIMP and target with identical mass.



The energy scale

- Energy of recoils is tens of keV
- Entirely driven by kinematics, elastic scattering of things with approximately similar masses (100 GeV) and v ~ 0.001c

$$\frac{1}{2}m_N v_N^2 = \frac{1}{2} \times 100 \,\text{GeV} \times 10^{-6} = 50 \,\text{keV}$$



Isotropic, isothermal sphere with a Maxwellian velocity distribution

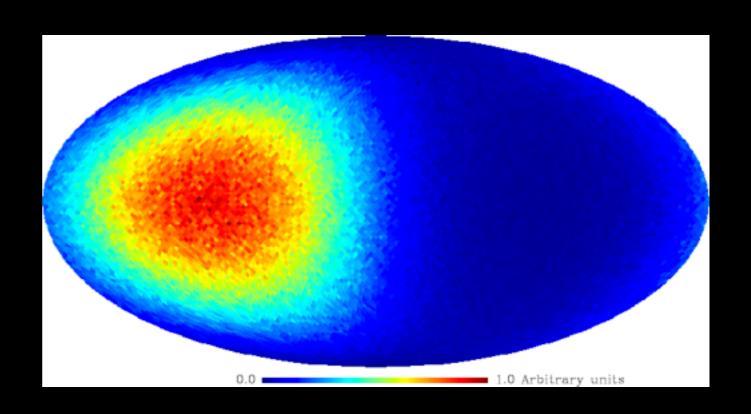
$$f(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma}} \cdot \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{v}|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

Local density:

$$\rho_0 = 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

= 0.008 M_o/pc³ = 5x10⁻²³ g/cm³

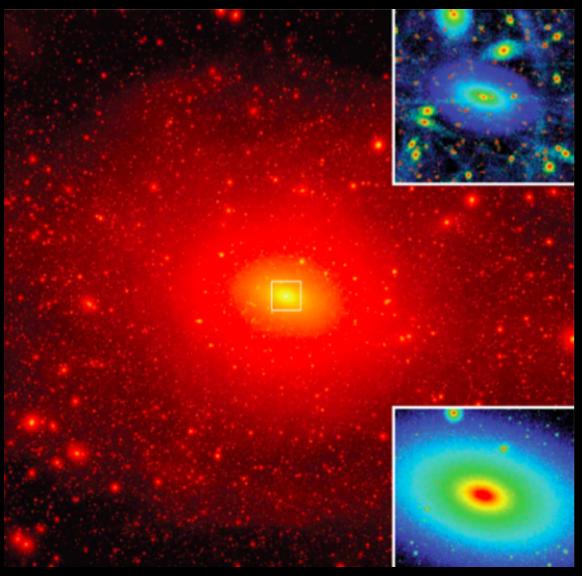
- Circular velocity v = 220 km/s, radial dispersion $\sigma_r = v_c / \sqrt{2}$
- Escape velocity:
 v_{esc}=544km/s



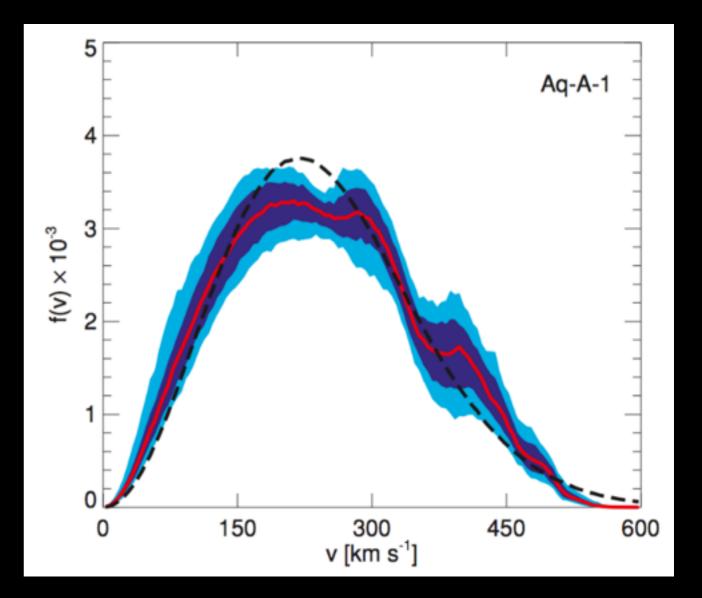


Dark Matter Distribution

- Rates depend on velocity & density distributions:
 - Standard model: isotropic Maxwellian
 - Simulations: triaxial and with non-smooth |v|, sub-structure, sub-halos

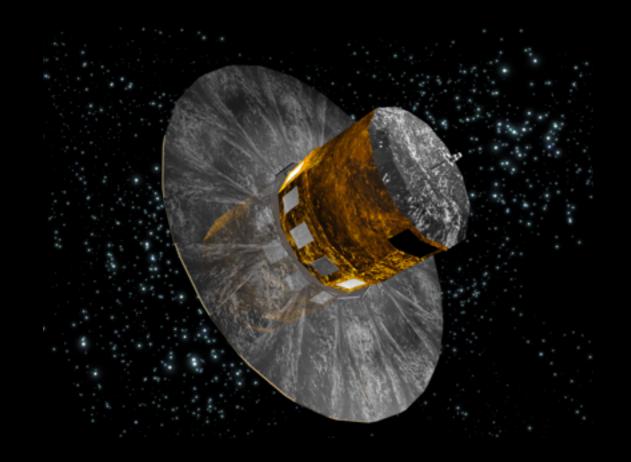


DM density of a galaxy similar to ours

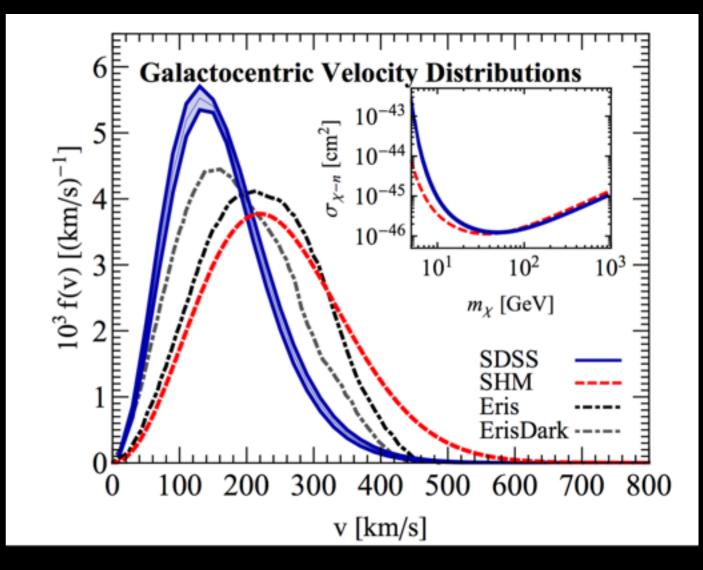


Velocity modulus distribution a simulated halo





- Measured differences can have up to 0(10) effect!
- GAIA satellite will measure 1B stars in our Galaxy precisely
 - produce 3D dynamic ap



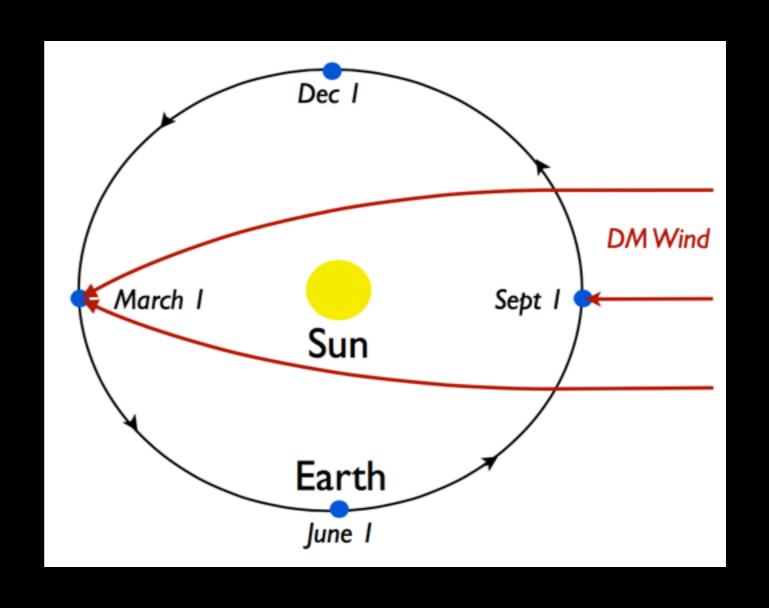
Velocity modulus distribution a simulated halo



Signatures: Annual Modulation

$$\frac{dR}{dE}(E,t) \approx S_0(E) + S_m(E) \cdot \cos\left(\frac{2\pi(t-t_0)}{T}\right)$$

- DM 'wind' from rotation of Sun around Galactic center.
- Earth rotation around the Sun
- Relative velocity of DM particles relative to Earth largest in summer (June 2)
- E.g. larger number of nuclear recoils above threshold
- Potentially modulation due to gravitational lensing





Signatures: Directionality

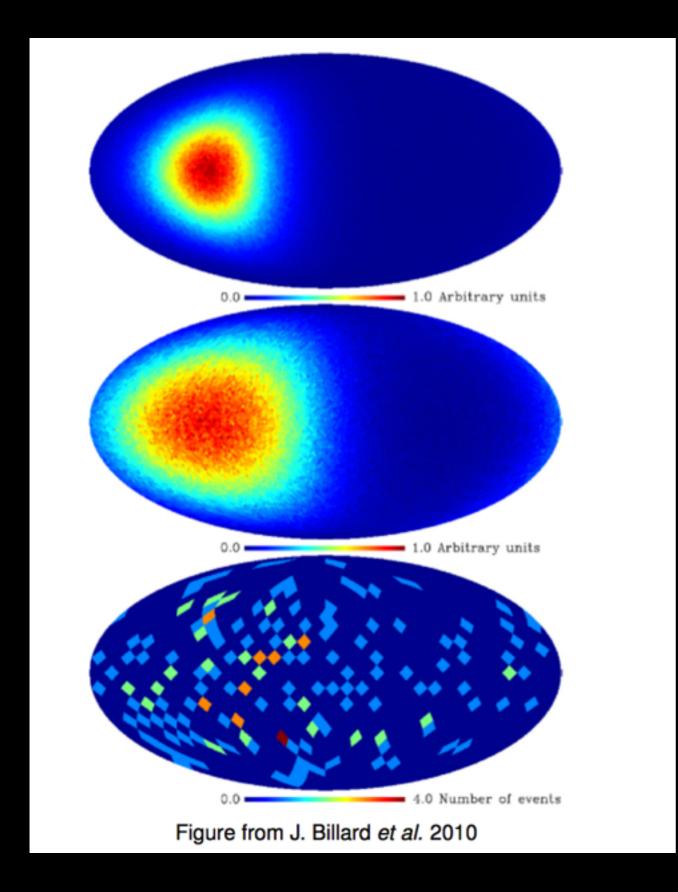
- Nuclear recoil (NR) direction has an angular dependence
- Mostly low-pressure gases used for directional searches

$$\frac{dR}{dE \ d\cos\gamma} \propto \exp\left[\frac{-[(v_E+v_\odot)\cos\gamma-v_{min}]^2}{v_c^2}\right]$$

- γ: NR direction relative to the mean direction of solar motion
- v_E and v_⊙: the Earth and Sun motions
- vc = sqrt(3/2v_☉): halo circular velocity



Directionality visualisation



- WIMP flux in the case of an isothermal spherical halo
- WIMP-induced recoil distribution
- A typical simulated measurement:
 100 WIMP recoils and 100 background events (low angular resolution)



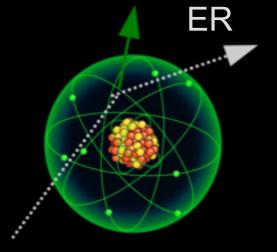
Background Sources

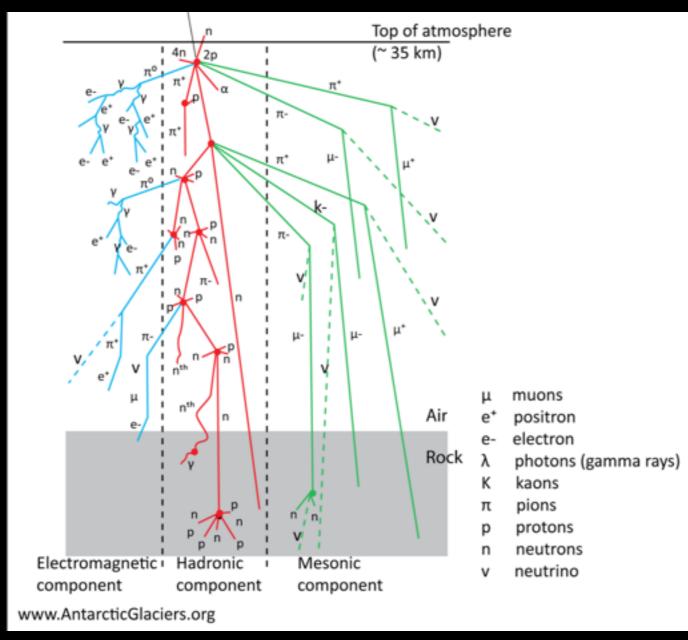
- Cosmic rays are constantly streaming through
 - All experiments have to go underground to get away from cosmic rays
- Radioactive contaminants rock, radon in air, impurities
 - Emphasis on purification and shielding
- The detector itself steel, glass, detector components
 - Self-shielding to leave a clean inner region
- Discrimination can you tell signal from background (gamma rays, alphas, neutrons, etc)?



External Backgrounds

- γ-rays
- Decay of natural uranium and thorium (α,β)
 - $E_v \sim O(10 \text{ keV} 2.6 \text{ MeV})$
- Radon, etc
- Subsequent interactions with matter (phoelectric effect, compton scat., e+e-) cause electrons with energy in target: O(keV)
- Reduce using
 - Active and passive shielding
 - Material screening and selection
 - Rejection of multiple scatters & discrimination







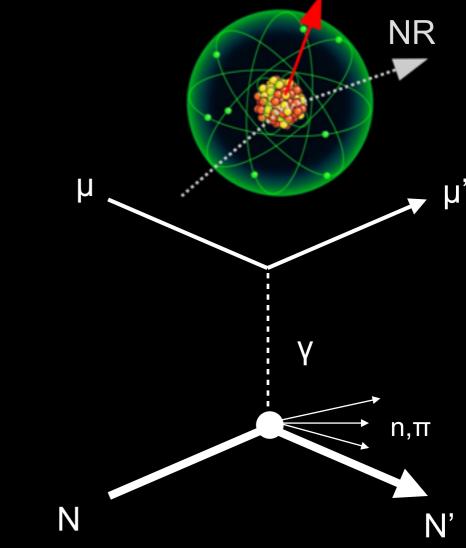
External Backgrounds

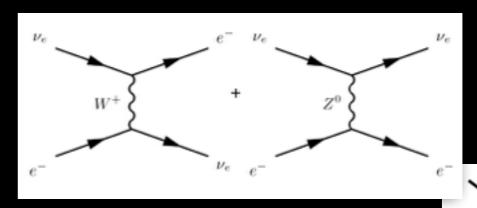
External neutrons:

- Create nuclear recoils via elastic scattering (WIMP-y!)
- Produced from μ induced spallation, (α, n)- and spontaneous fission
- From natural occurring U, Th
- Go underground!
 - Shield: passive (polyethylene) or active (water/scintillator vetoes)
 - Use low U and Th det. material

Neutrinos:

- from the Sun, atmospheric and from supernovae
- Elastic neutrino-electron scattering
- Coherent neutrino-nucleus scattering (not yet measures)







Internal & Surface Backgrounds

Solid detectors:

- Germanium detectors and solid scintillators grown from high purity materials → low intrinsic background
- Surface contamination from radon decay products (α, β decay), K, Rb
- Cosmic activation

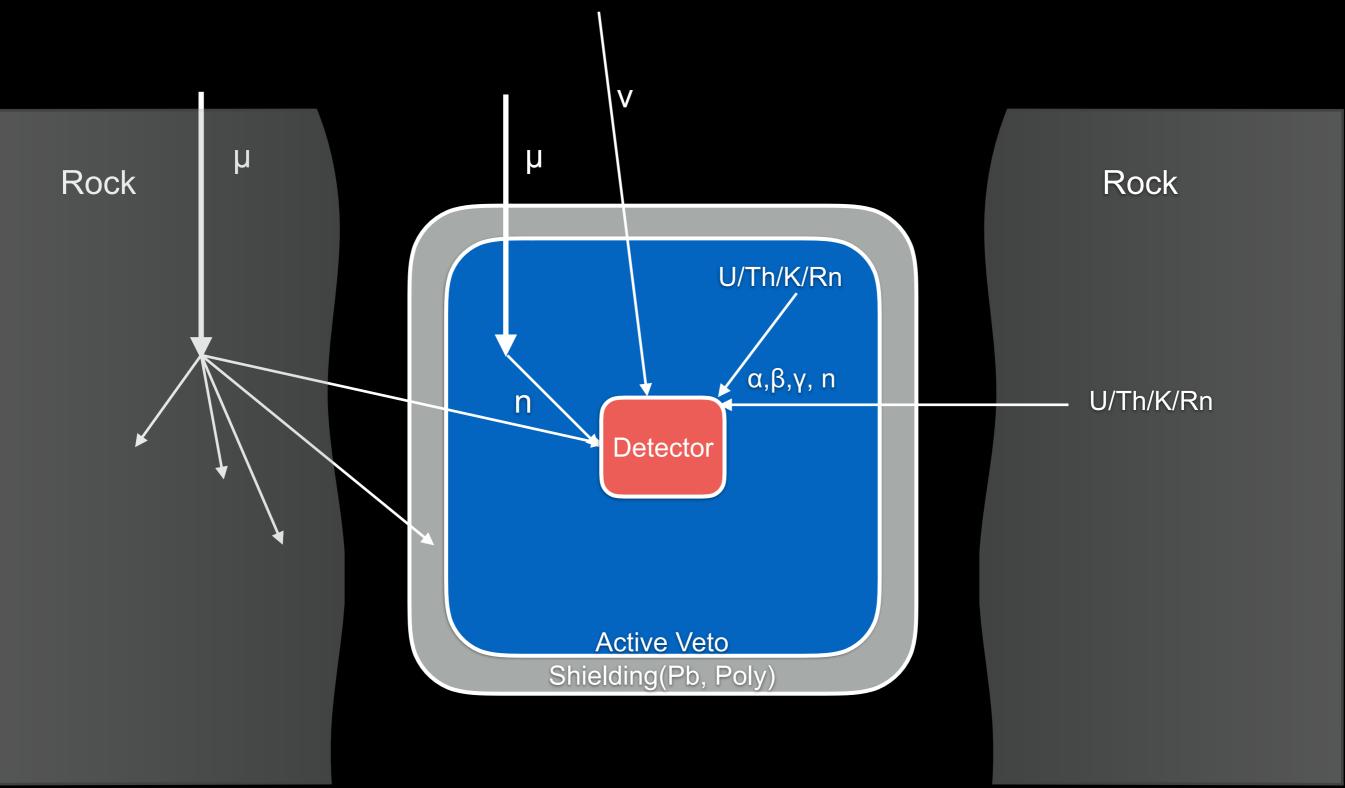


Liquid detectors:

- Cosmogenic-activated radioactive isotopes contained in the target nuclei
- Radon emanated from materials containing U, TH, diffuses into target
- Remove using cryogenic distillation/chromatography/centrifuges

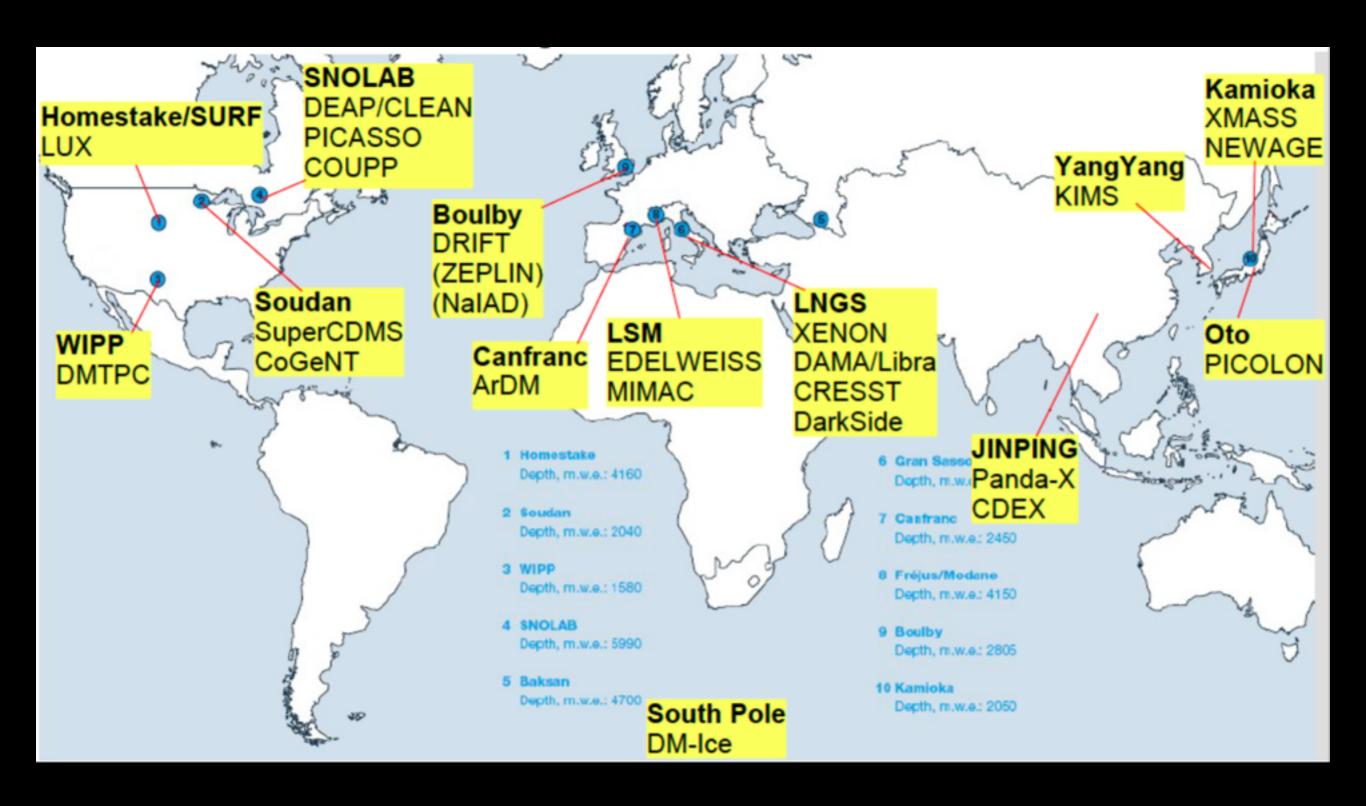


Background Overview





Underground Laboratories



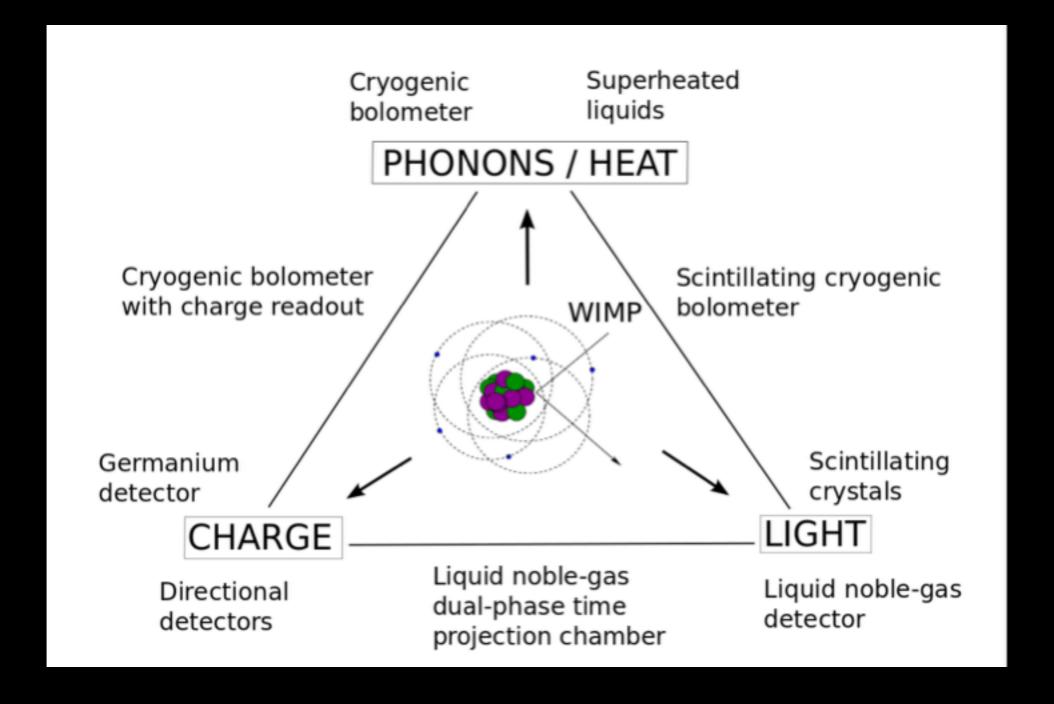
Reduce muon/CR flux underground



Experimental Approaches



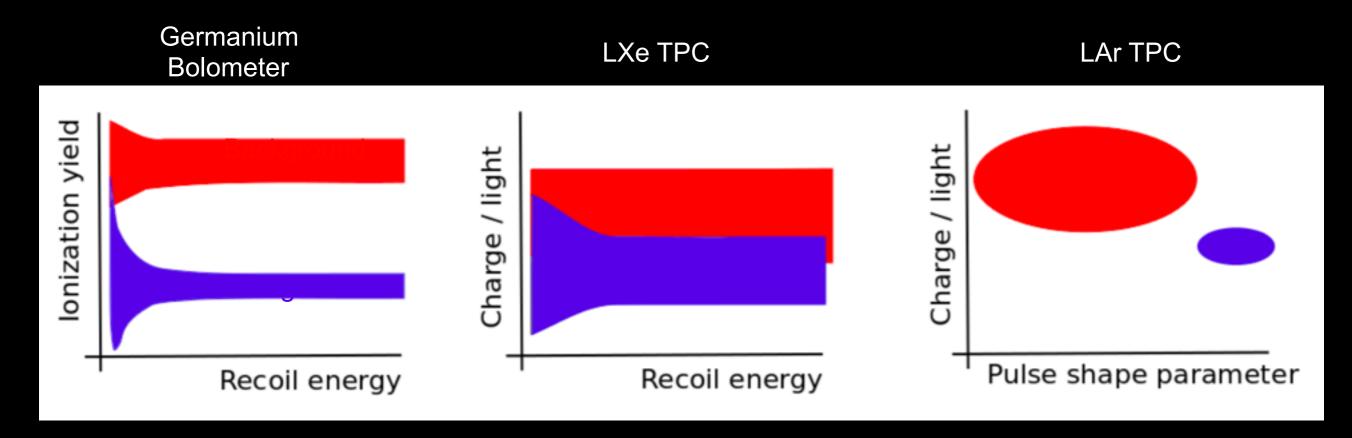
Direct detection experiments



- DM energy transfer to nuclei
- Combination of two channels allows to identify particle



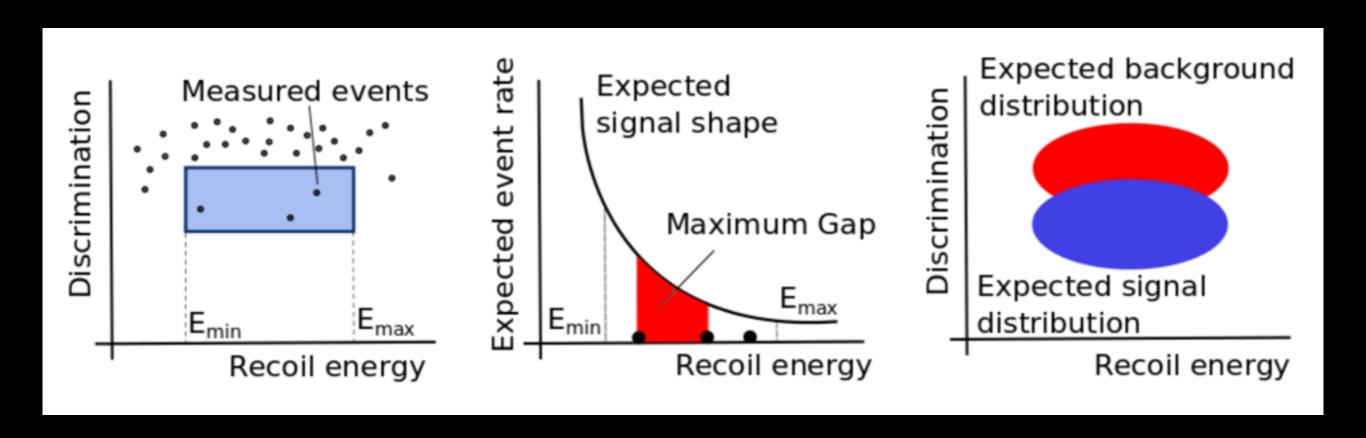
Generic Results



- Left: Cryogenic germanium detector
 - Best separation, ~10⁶ rejection of electronic recoils
- Middle: Liquid xenon
 - Less discriminating, ~5x10³ electronic recoil
- Right: Liquid argon detector (right):
 - Also use pulse shape of scintillation signal to separate signal and background
- Real world of course things might change



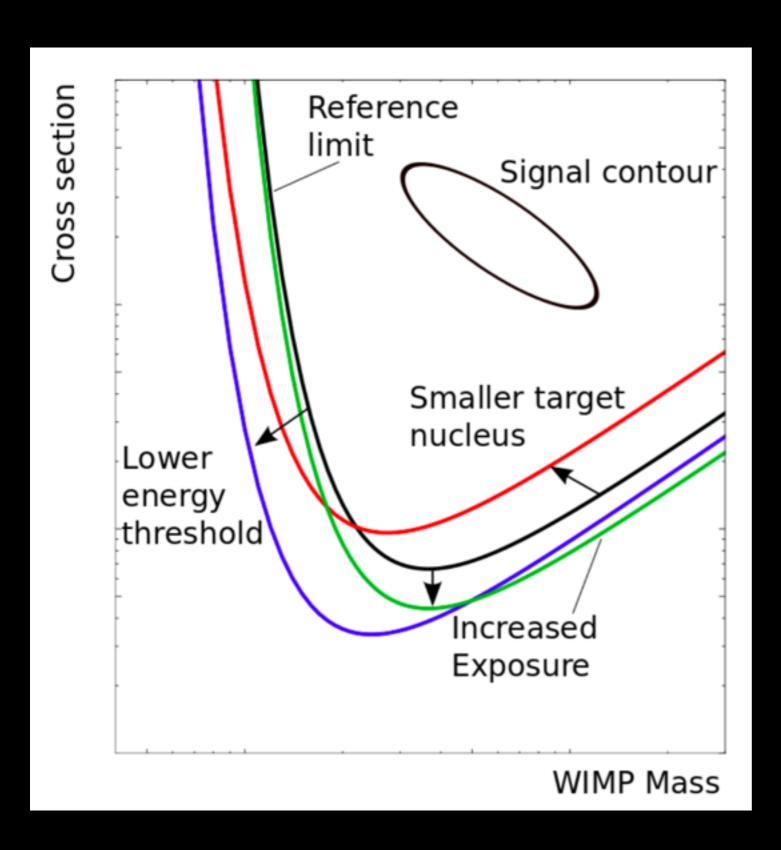
Interpretation of Results



- Statistical interpretations:
 - Simple counting-experiment, Poison statistics
 - Max Gap: Calculate upper limit because of absence of events (no discovery possible)
 - Maximum likelihood method: Details of background distribution are used to calculate two sides confidence limits:



Result of a direct detection experiment



- Positive signal
 - Region in σ_X versus m_X
- No signal:
 - Exclusion limits
 - Low mass: kinematic threshold
 - High mass:
 Suppressed event rate because of density, exposure important



Detectors

- Crystals -

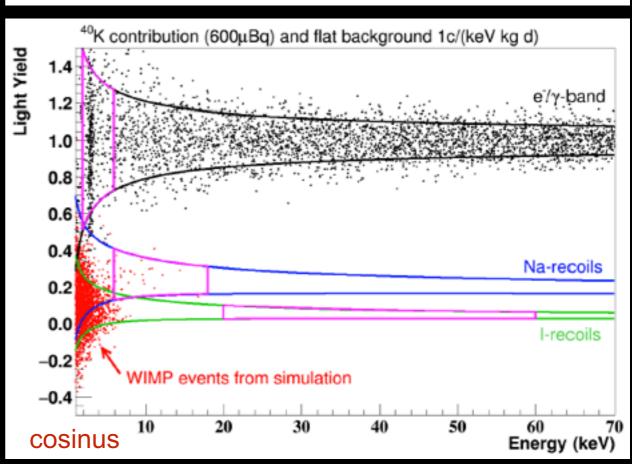


Scintillating crystals (Warm)

DAMA/LIBRA

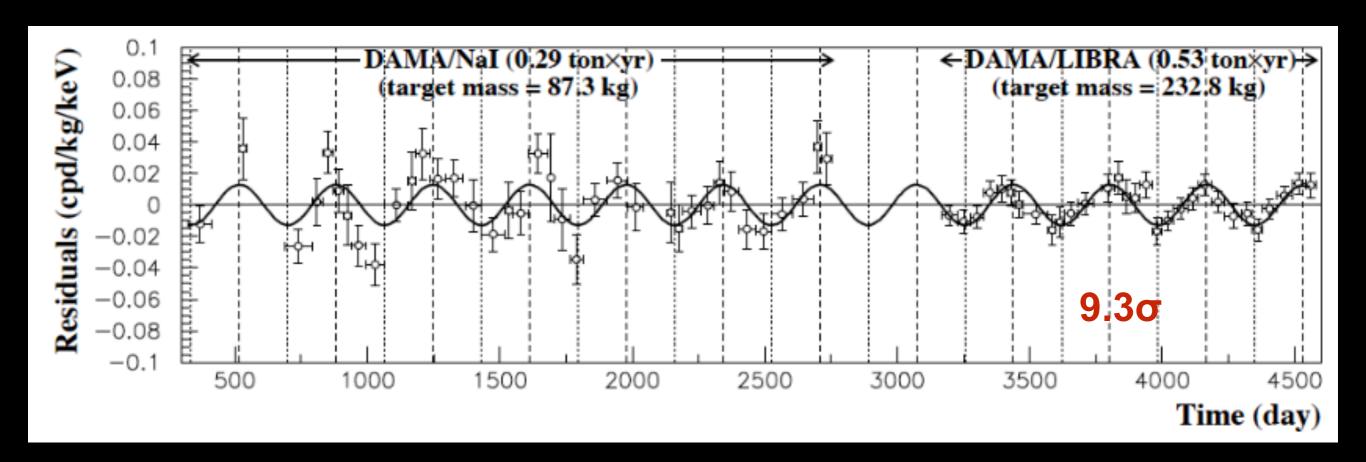
- Nal(TI) and Csl(TI) often used for DM searches
 - Na,Cs, I provide WIMP recoil
 - Thallium for scintillations
- High density and light yield
- Combine crystals for larger target masses
- At room temperature:
 - Only scintillation signal
 - No particle discrimination
 → annual modulation signal
 - "Simple" long term stable operations
 - But Na very hygroscopic







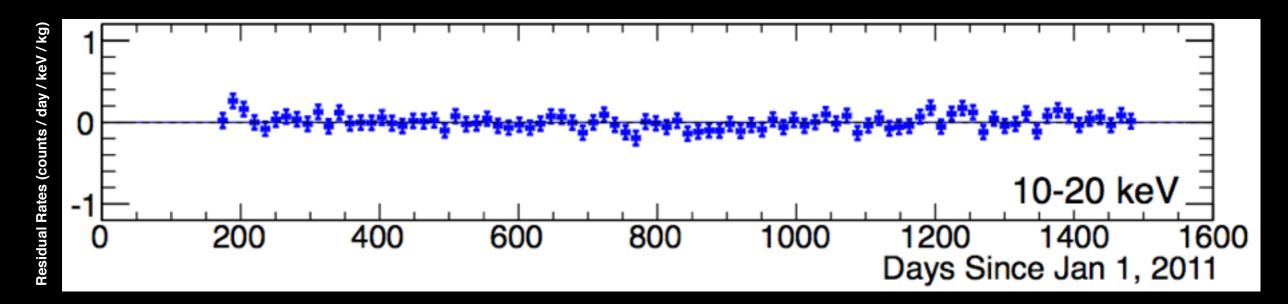
Annual Modulation Experiments



- DAMA/Libra at LNGS running for many years
- Ultra radio-pure Nal crystals
- Annual modulation of the background rate in the energy region (2 − 6) keV → 9.3σ significance!

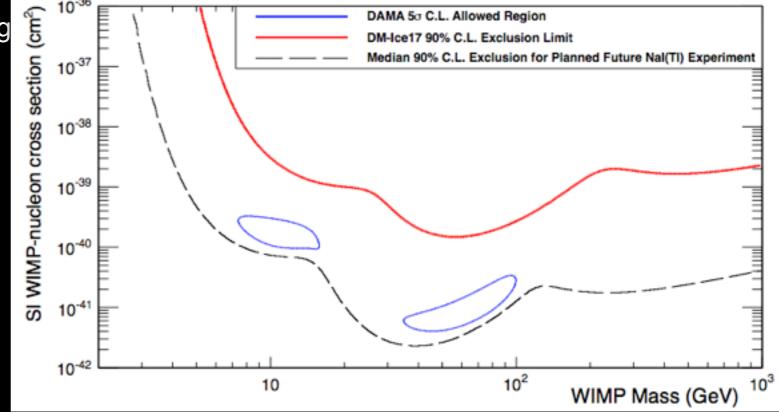


Tests of annual modulation



Other exp. using Nal

- ANAIS @ Canfranc running with 25 kg
- SABRE @ LNGS, SUPL; both hemispheres
- PICO-LON @ Japan, 250kg
- DM-Ice @ south Pole with
 17 kg Nal running since June 2011
- KIMs @ Yangyang Lab in Korea, running!
- DM-Ice+KIMs = Cosine, @YYL, run



• Challenge: radio-purity of the crystals and components!



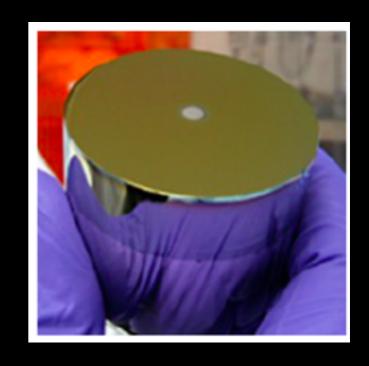
What might cause the DAMA signal?

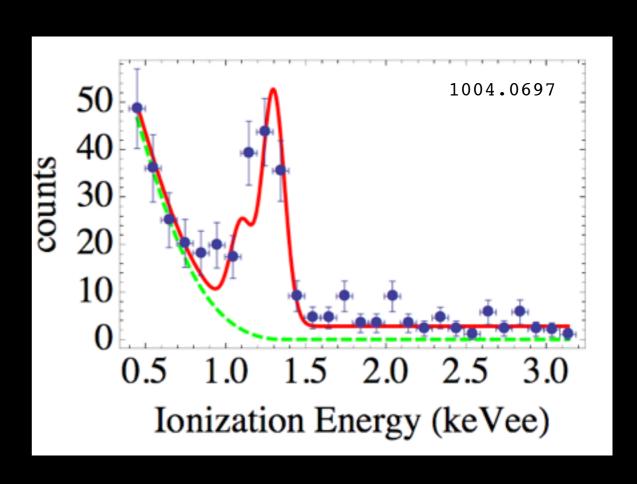
- Muon-flux modulates due to the changing temperature of the atmosphere: muon-induced signal? Blum, arXiv:1110.0857 → wrong phase phase
- Neutrinos also modulate (due to the varying Sun-Earth distance) → Combination of muon-induced and neutrino flux? Davis, arXiv:1407.1052
- Varying rates of background neutrons? Ralston, arXiv: 1006.5255
- Experimental effect?



Ionizing (Ge) detectors (cold)

- Combine radio-purity with very low threshold (~0.5 keV)
- Cooled down to LN temperature, i.e. relatively easy, to reduce noise
- Very good energy resolution (0.15 % at 1.3 MeV) to understand backgrounds
- No separation between electronic/ nuclear recoil
- CoGeNT: Excess of events at low energies and annual modulation of the rate,
- Tests with Ge detectors:
 CDEX (China) and
 TEXONO (Taiwan)
 → no indication of dark matter

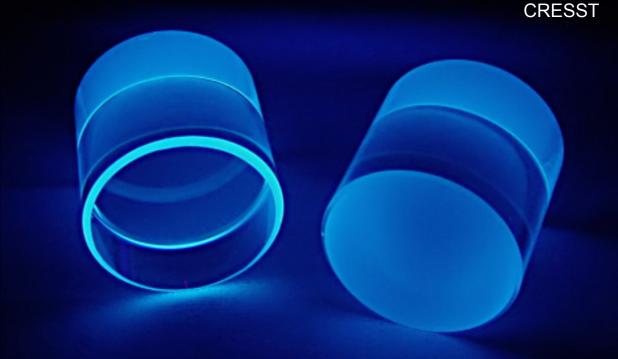


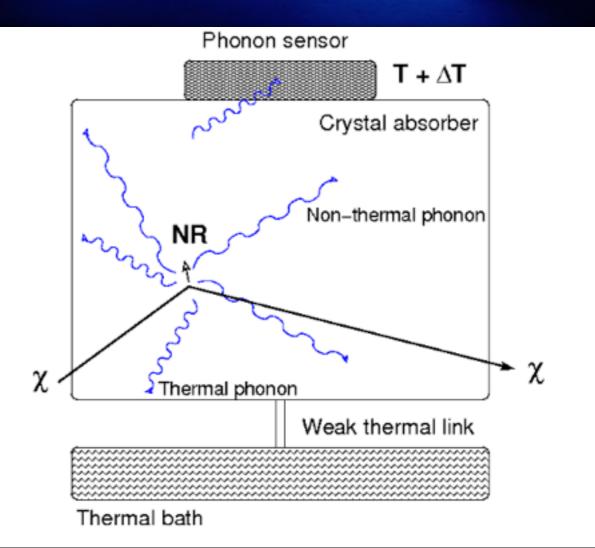




Cryogenic Detectors

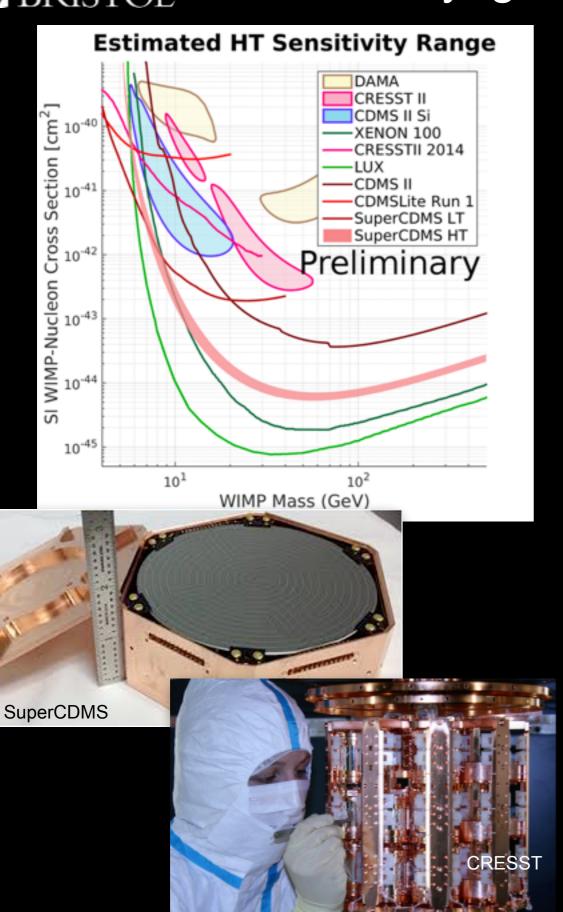
- Thermal and athermal phonons can be used to obtain energy and location
- Produce more phonons by applying drift field
- Recording in addition to phonon signal also scintillation light for recoil discr.
- Limited crystal size (like Ge)
- Crystals at (10-100) mK
- Temp. rise: ΔT~O(20μK) for few keV recoil
- Measurements of ∆T:
 - Neutron transmutation-doped Ge sensors (NTD)
 - Transition edge sensors (TES)







Cryogenic Detectors



- Cryogenic detectors offer best sensitivities at low WIMP masses
- SuperCDMS
 - Germanium bolometers at Soudan
 - No significant signal with respect to the expected background

CRESST

- Scintillating CaWO4 crystals in LNGS
- 2014: low-threshold analysis with an upgraded detector TUM-40
- Previous signal indication rejected for most WIMP masses
- CRESST-III exp. 2017
- Others: EDELWEISS, ROSEBUD, EURECA



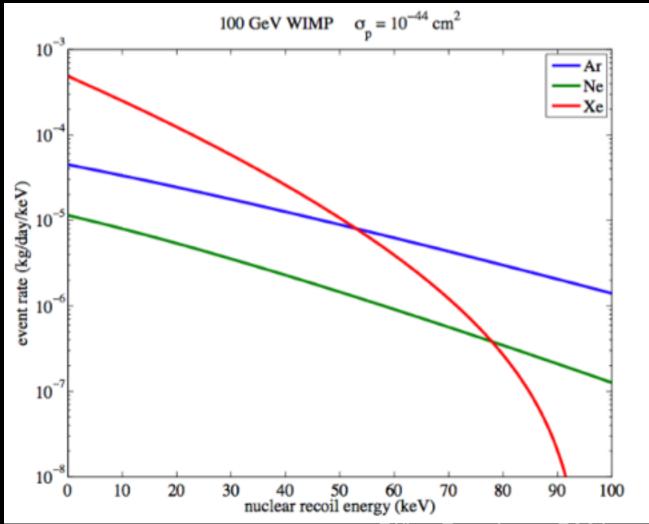
Detectors

- Liquid -



Noble liquid gases

- Large masses and homogeneous targets (LXe, LAr, (LNe))
- Two detector concepts: single & double phase
- 3D position reconstruction → fiducial volme
- Transparent to their own scintillation light
- Distinguish ER and NR by using pulse-shape discrimination or charge-to-light ratio



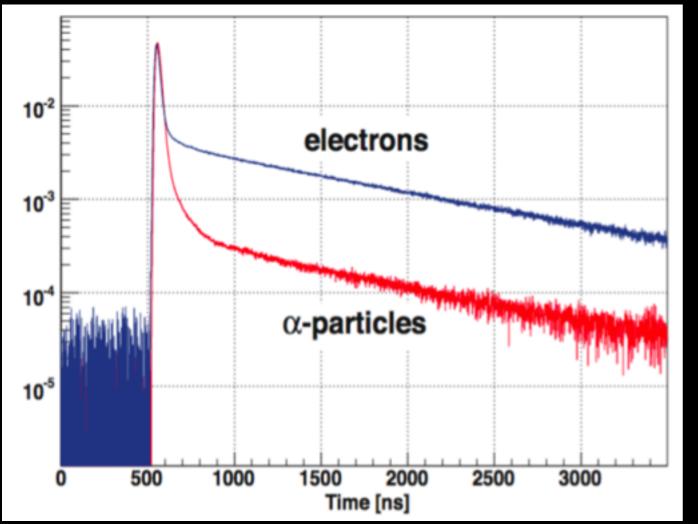
	LNe	LAr	LXe
Z (A)	10 (20)	18 (40)	54 (131)
Density [g/cm ³]	1.2	1.4	3.0
Scintillation λ	78 nm	125 nm	178 nm
BP [K] at 1 atm	27	87	165
Ioniz. [e ⁻ /keV]*	46	42	64
Scint. [γ /keV]*	7	40	46

^{*} for electronic recoils

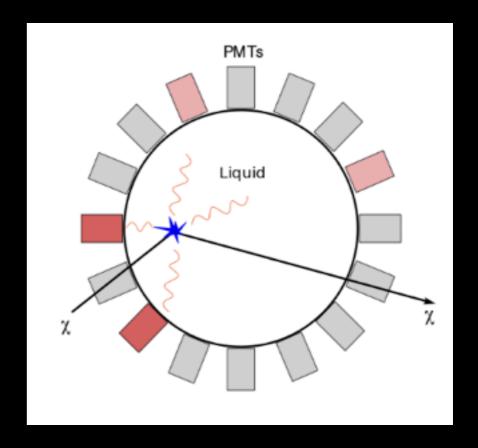


Single phase (liquid) detectors

- 4π photosensor coverage → high light yield
- Use distribution and timing of the photons for the position of the interaction: ~O(cm)
- Pulse shape discrimination (PSD) used as main discriminator



Scintillation decay constants of Ar by ArDM



- Very different singlet and triplet lifetimes in argon & neon
- Discrimination DEAP-I obtained 10⁸ discrimination in LAr above 25 keVee (50% acceptance)
- PSD less powerful in LXe: similar decay constants
- Detectors: DEAP, CLEAN, XMAss



Single Phase Detectors



- DEAP (Dark matter Experiment with Argon and Pulse shape discrimination)
 - 3 600 kg LAr
 - Results imminent
 - Heroic surface cleaning
- CLEAN (Cryogenic Low Energy Astrophysics with Noble gases)
 - 150 kg FV with LAr/LNe MiniCLEAN cool down just started
 - DEAP & CLEAN at SNOlab, Canada

XMASS

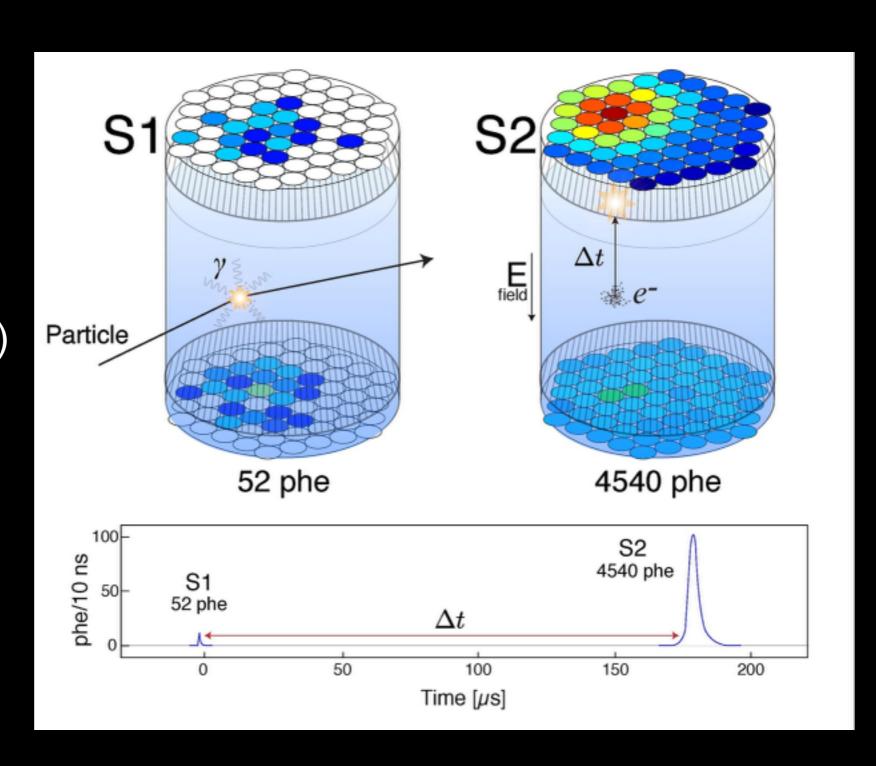
- 800 kg FV LXe (at Kamioka, Japan)
- Ultra-low background required + Self-shielding
- High light yield Detector refurbished, resumed data-taking in Nov. 2013,
- Currently designing XMASS-1.5





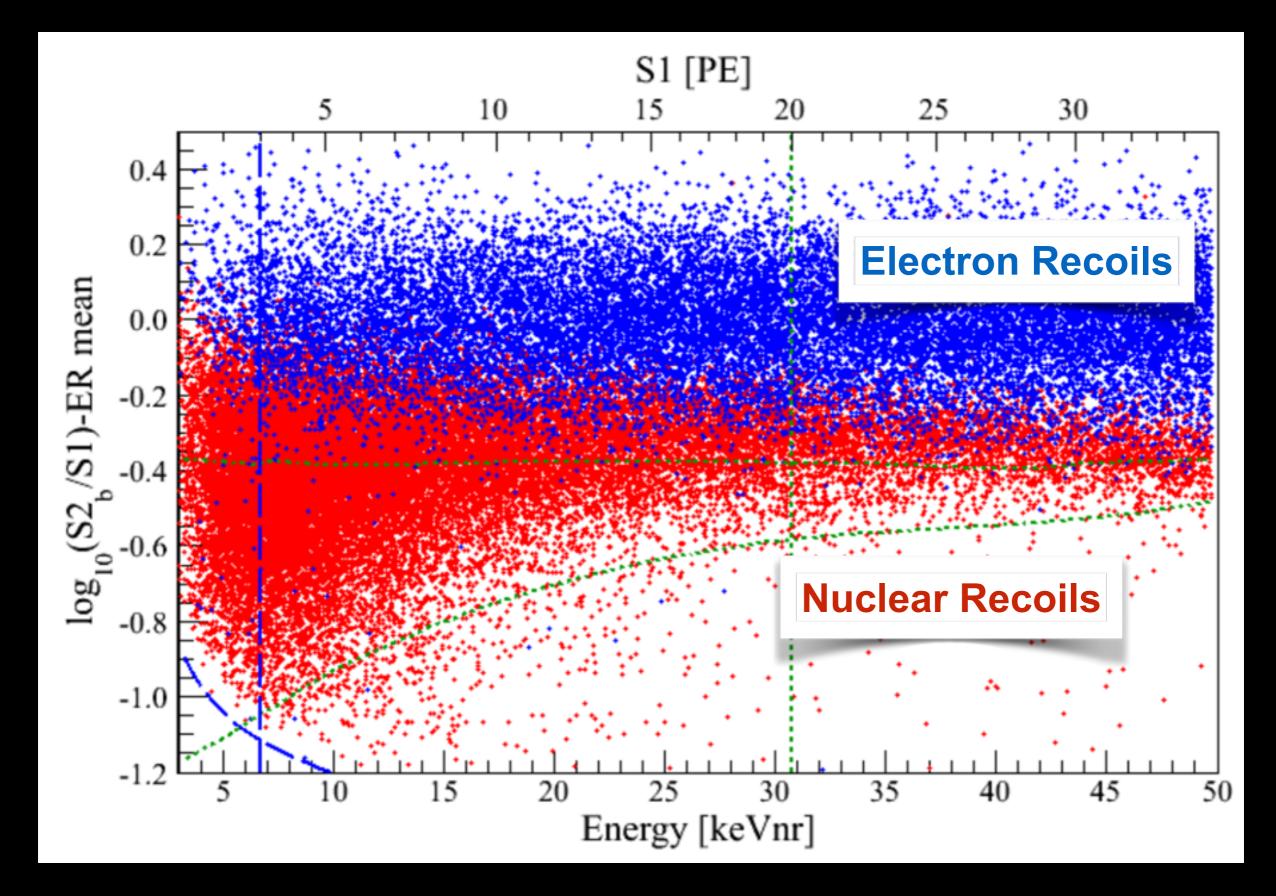
Two Phase TPCs

- Detect two signals
 - Prompt scintillation light (S1)
 - Prop. charge signal amplified in gas (S2)
- Ratio allows to discriminate particle
- Depths from drift time between S1/S2 and light pattern in (x, y): O(mm) resolution



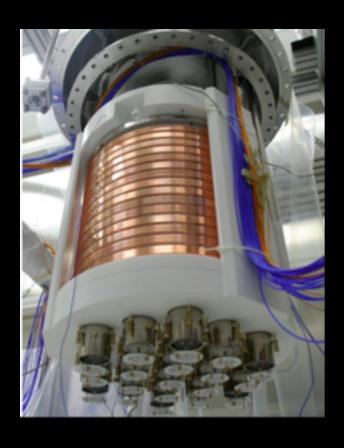


Double phase LAr & LXe experiments





LAr double-phase TPCs

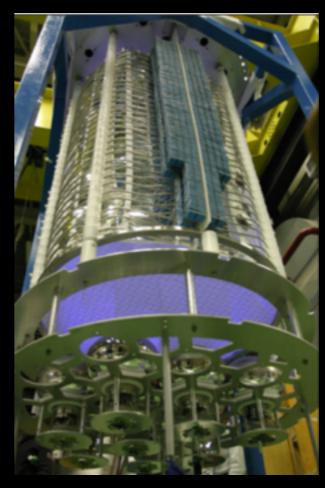


DarkSide-50:

- Detector inside Borexino counting facility, LNGS
- 50 kg depleted argon from underground sources, > 100 reduction in ³⁹Ar level
- Running since 2015, 3 yr. run ongoing
- DarksSide-20T in preparatin, using also SiPMs

ArDM:

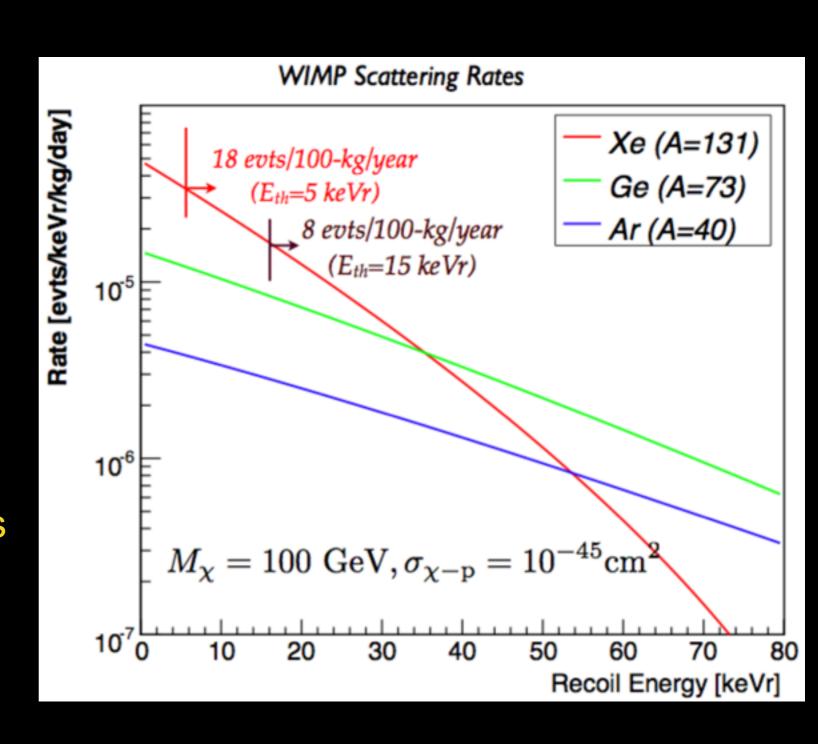
- 1T liquid argon
- Technology demonstrator
- A year long operation of 2 tons of LAr in single phase
- Installed at Canfranc (Spain)
- Run 2: plan to install TPC instrumented with SiPMs





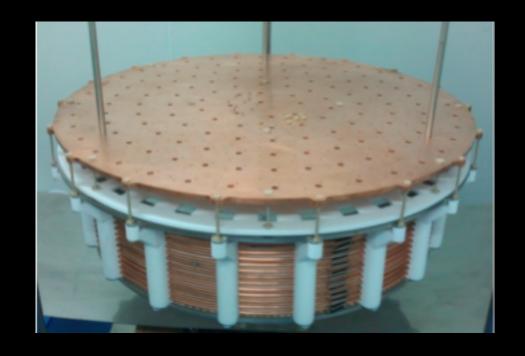
Xenon targets

- Large homogeneous targets (kg-tons)
- Self-shielding
 → High stopping power
- 178 nm UV photons
 → no wavelength-shifter
- High atomic mass: ~131
 → spin-indep. interactions
- 129Xe and 131Xe
 → spin-dep. interactions





LXe double-phase TPCs



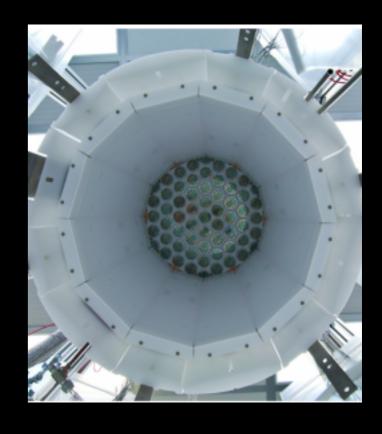


- Stage I: 54 kg fiducial mass (450 kg total)
- Stage II: 300 kg fiducial mass
- Recent full dataset



XENON 1T:

- 1T fiducial mass (3.3 total)
- Running since 2016
- Currently most sensitive dataset



LUX:

- 118 kg fiducial mass
- First results in 2013,
- Just finished data taking
- Under construction: LZ (Lux-Zeplin)
- 7T Fiducial Mass

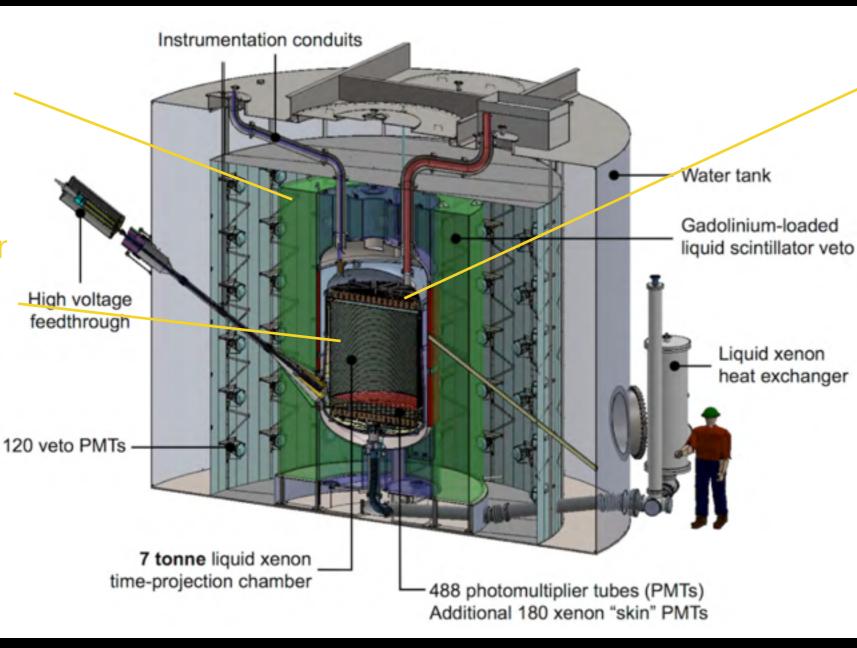
arXiv:1608.07648



LZ experiment

ultra-pure water shield

20t Iq. scintillator outer detector

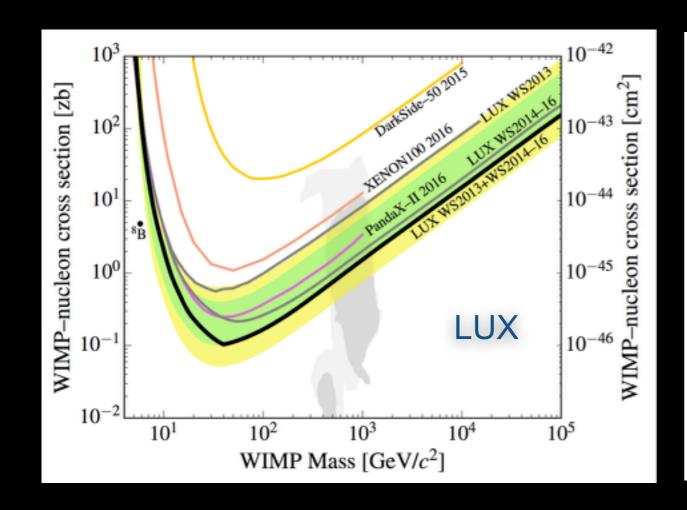


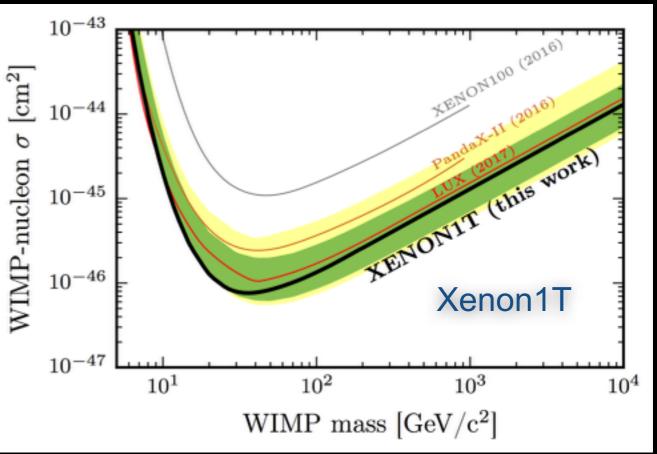
7t LXe TPC 494 PMTs 131 'skin' PMTs

- LZ is 7t LXe target mass surrounded by 20t liquid scintillator outer detector
- Operations start in 2019
- Outer detector allows doubling of sensitive volume



Xe Detector Results





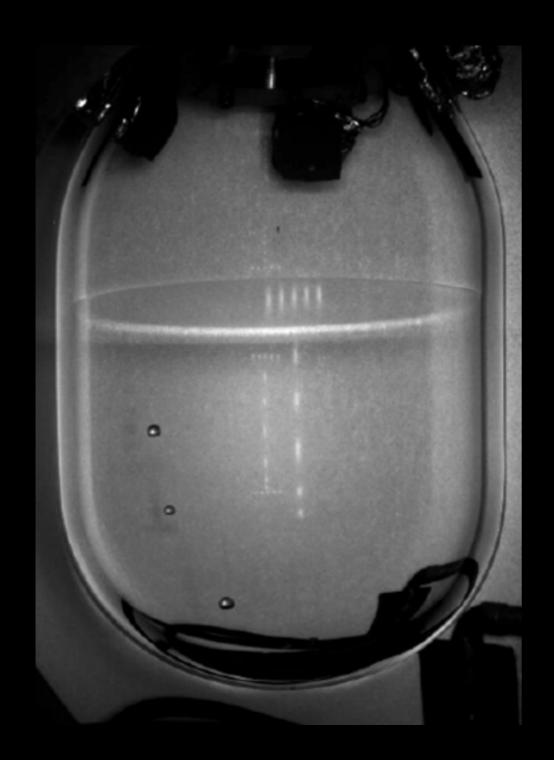
- Several recent results with comparable sensitivity
- Many future developments ongoing



Other Detectors

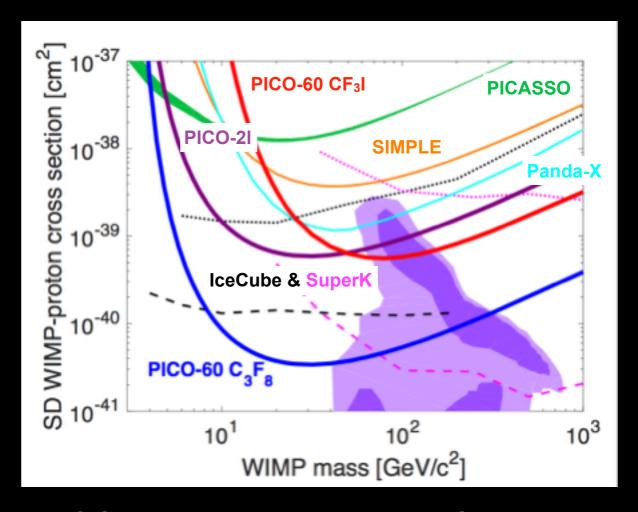


Superheated fluid detectors



COUPP/PICO

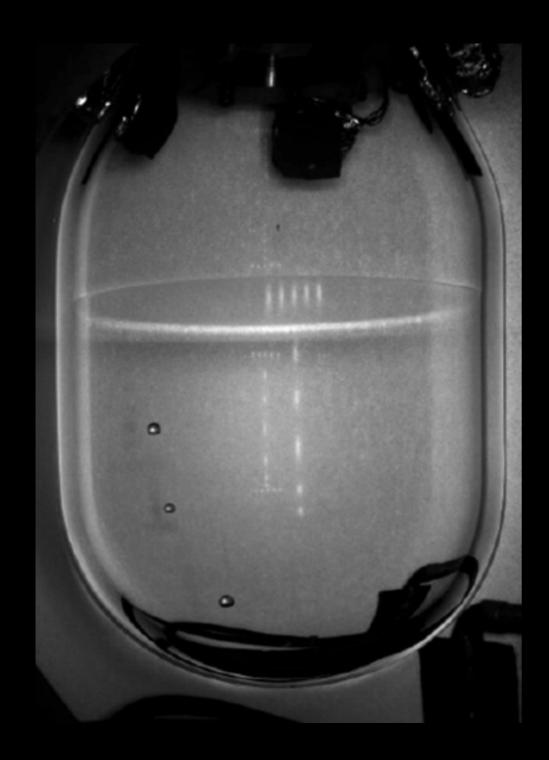
- Bubble chamber filled with superheated fluid (C₃F₈) in meta-stable state
- Energy depositions → Bubble expands → detected via cameras % piezo-acoustic sensors
 - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4kPhBsu4L8
- Also: COUPP, Picasso, Simple



PICO: Best proton-coupling SD sensitivity



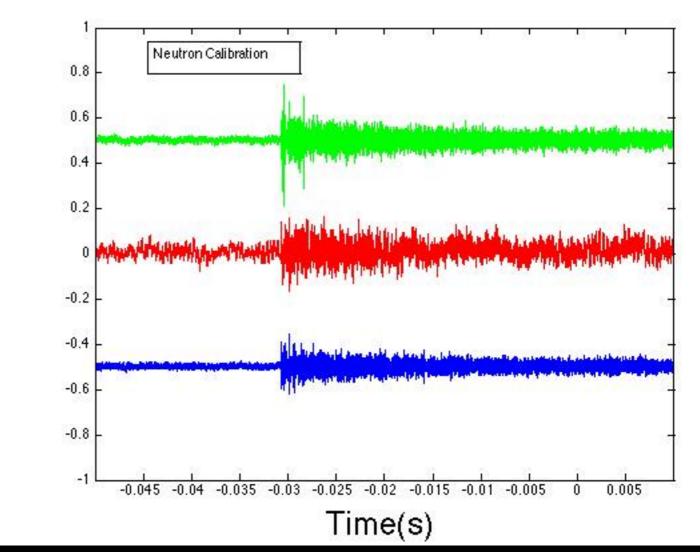
This is what DM would sound like



COUPP/PICO

Hello darkness my old friend, I've come to talk with you again. Because a vision softly creeping, left its seeds while I was sleeping.

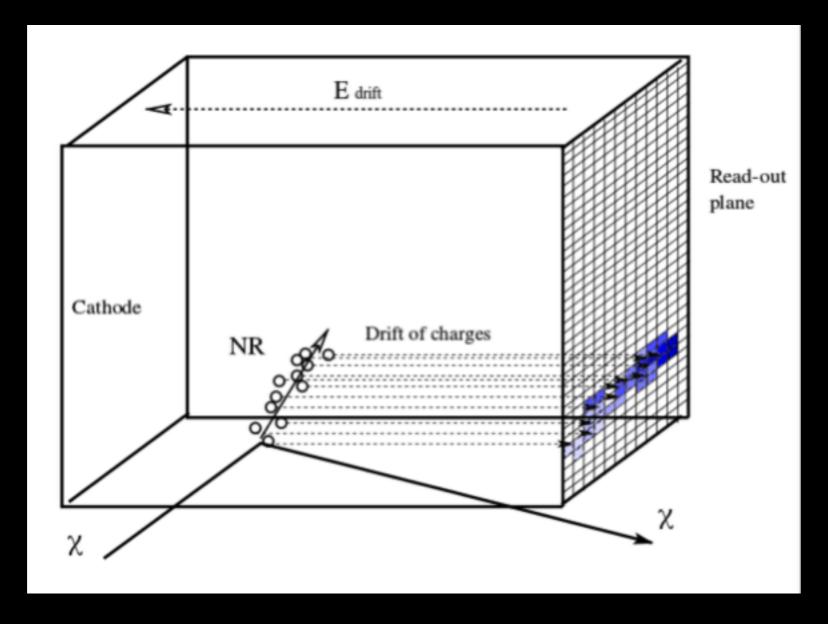






Directional Searches

- Solids or liquids: O(keV) recoil is short (<100 nm)
- Low pressure-gas (p < 100 Torr): The range is ~O(10) mm
- Most projects use low pressure TPCs with CF₄ (¹⁹F) as target



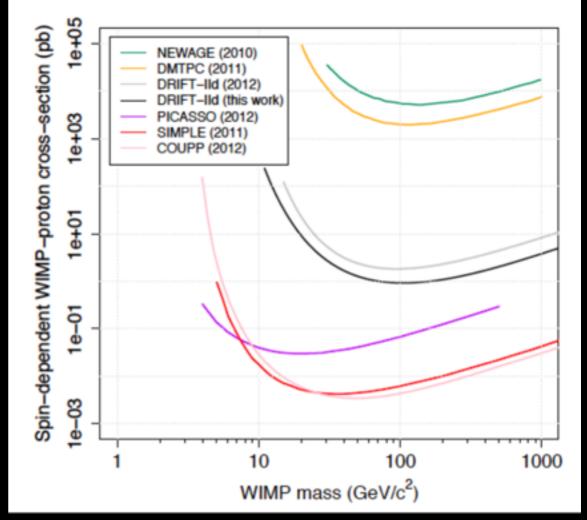


- Key parameter angular resolution: Tracking ionisation detectors

 → Not competitive with liquids or solids bc. of mass but important confirmation in case of a WIMP detection
- Might be best way to overcome 'neutrino floor' but long way to go



 Other experiments: DMTPC, NewAge, Emulsion detectors

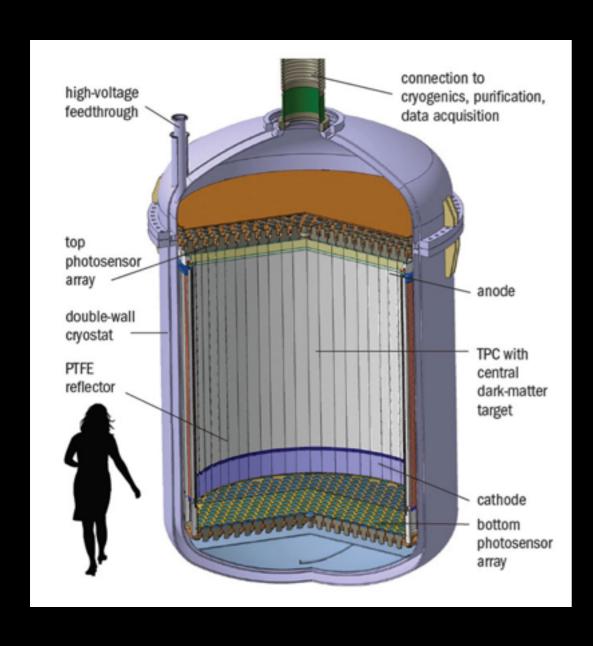


DRIFT collaboration

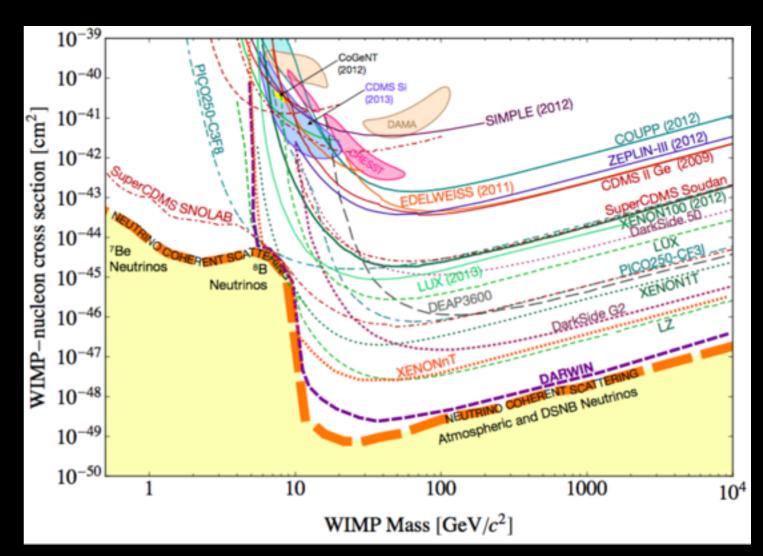


DARWIN: 3rd Gen. WIMP detector



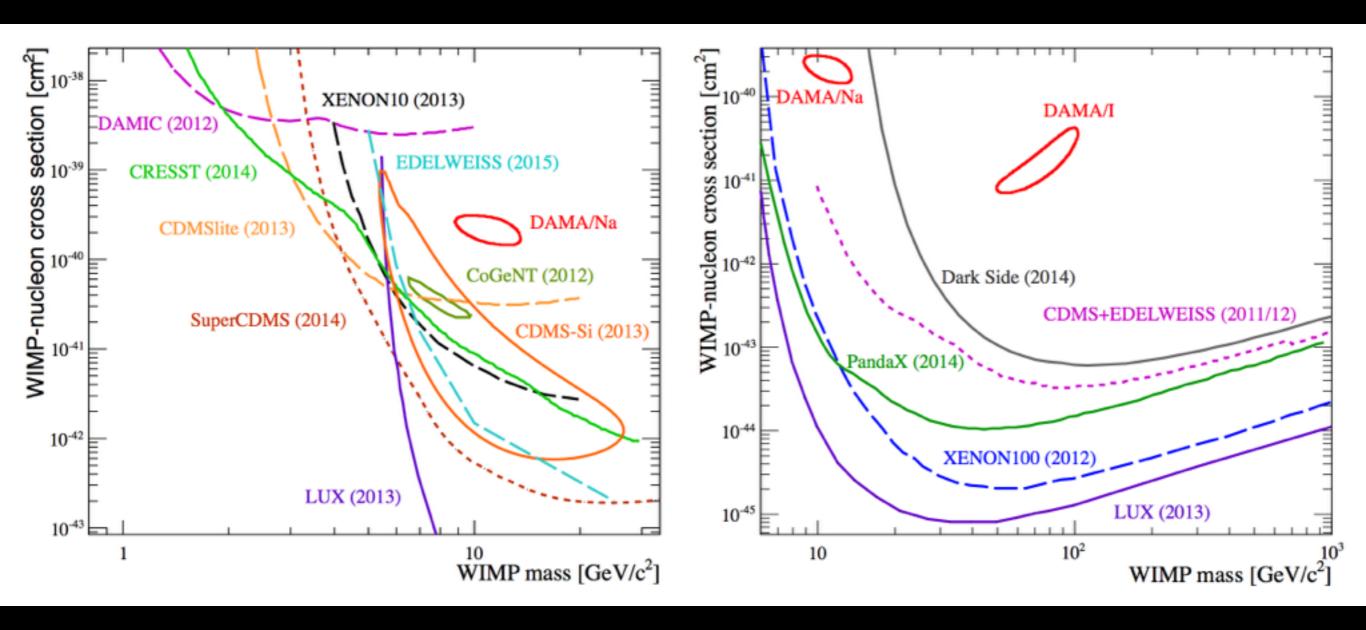


- R&D and design study for a noble liquid facility in Europe
- LAr and LXe communities involved
- 28 groups from 10 countries
- Construction: mid 2020s?



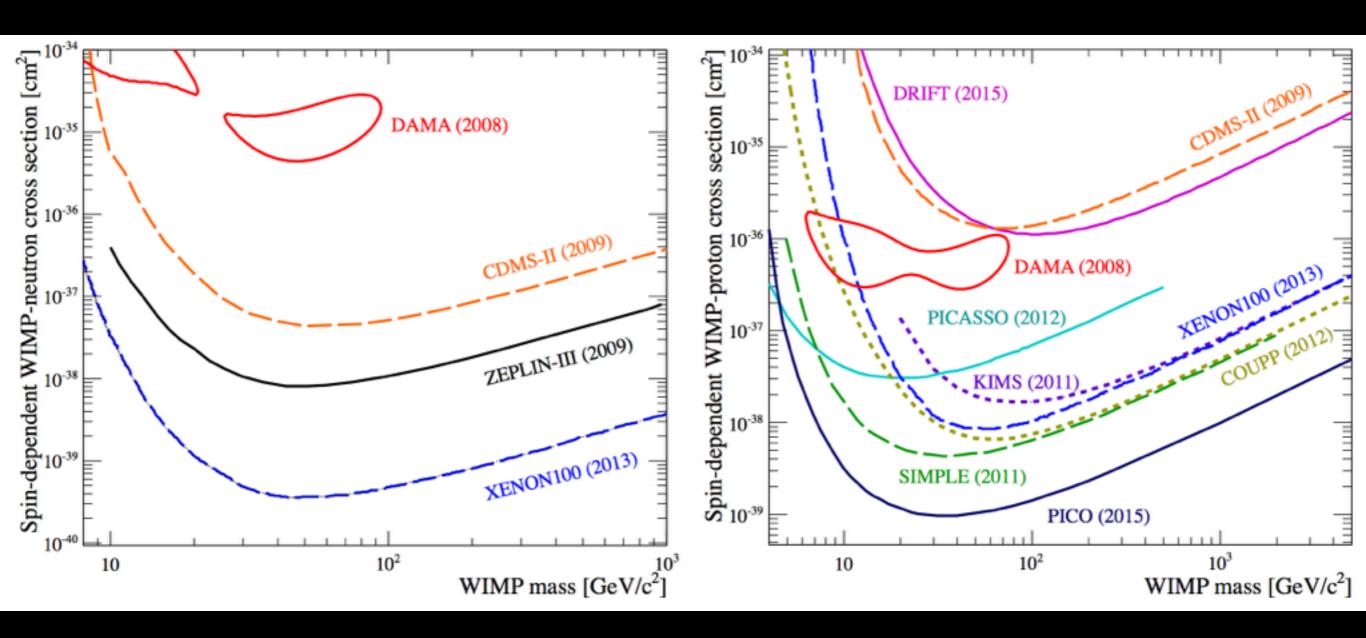


Summary of Direct Searches: SI





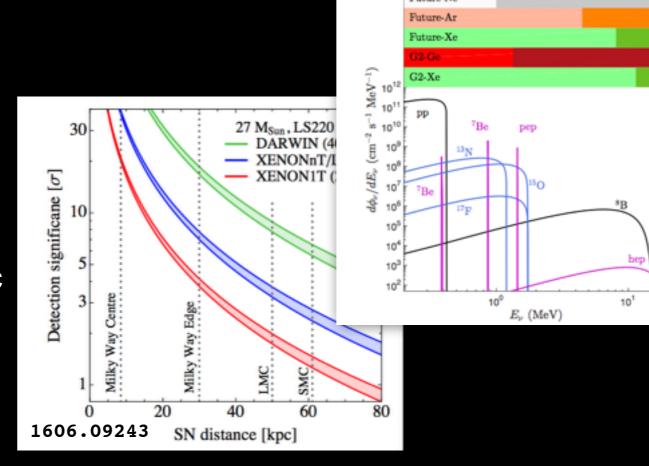
Summary of Direct Searches: SD





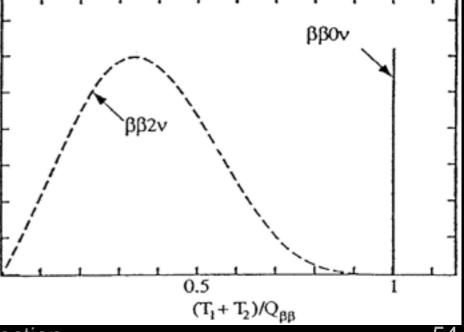
No only DM...

- Modern DD experiments are 'physics laboratories', not only DM
- Neutrino/Supernovae physics with LZ:
 - Sensitive up to 35kpc out
 - Observe full v envelope w.r.t T2K etc
 - Lower energy thresholds
 - Determine sinO_W using solar v





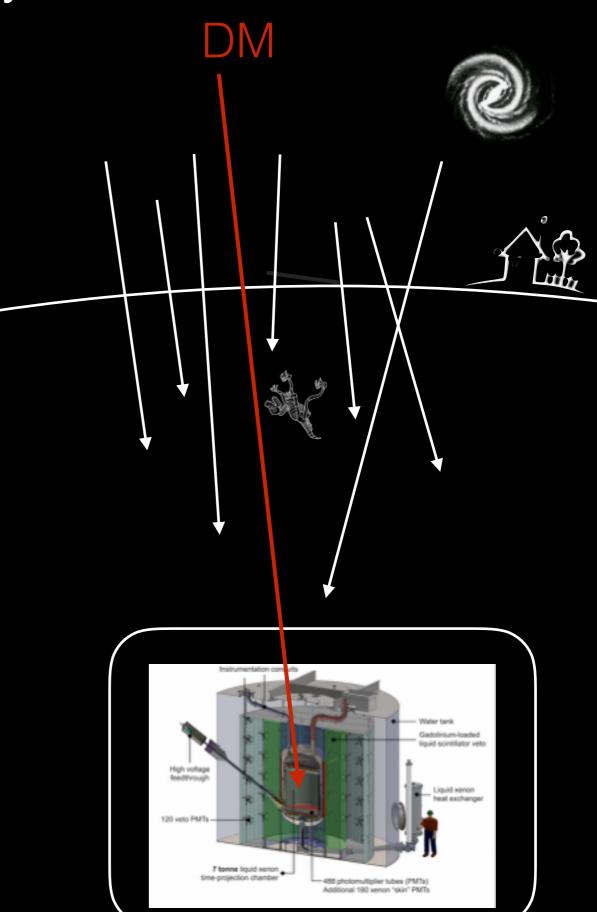
Also search for Ovbb:





Summary

- Requirements for a dark matter detector
 - Large detector mass
 - Low energy threshold ~ keV
 - Ultra low background rates
- Possible signatures of dark matter
 - Spectral shape of the recoil spectrum
 - Annual modulated rate
 - Directional dependance
- Second generation of DD detectors starting now
- Wide range of physics probed





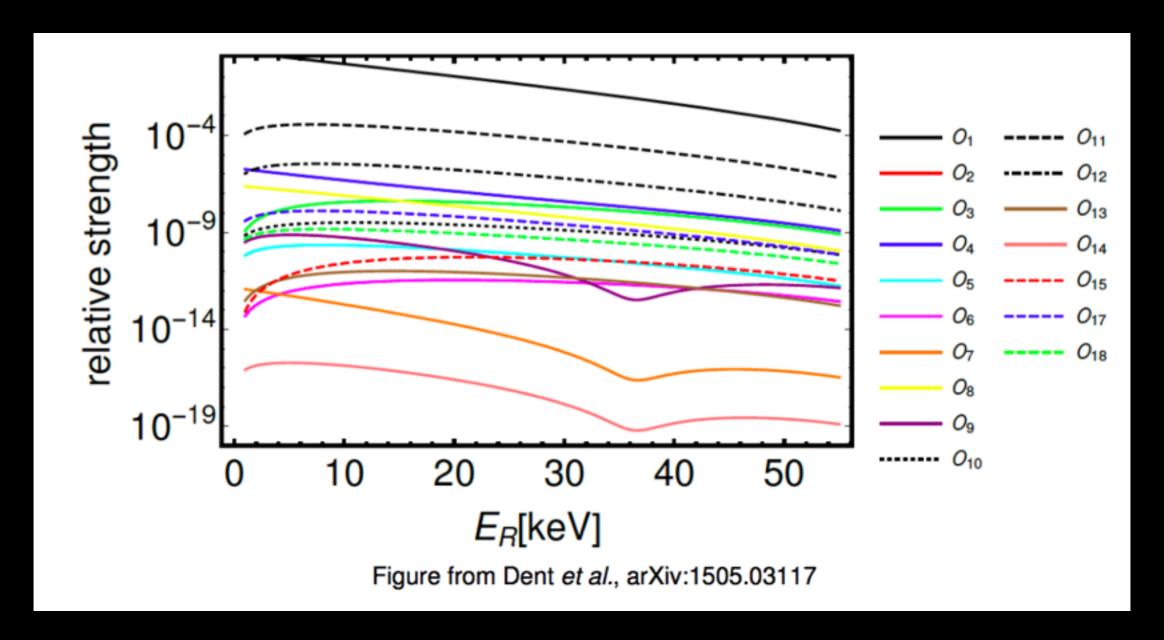
Backup



Effective Field Theory

- Detailed description of WIMP couplings to matter Fitzpatrick et al., arXiv:1211.2818 and arXiv:1203.3542 Anand et al., arXiv:1308.6288
- Composite nature of the nucleus is reflected
- EFT operators are composed by 4 three-vectors:

$$irac{ec{q}}{m_{N}},\;ec{v}^{\perp},\;ec{S}_{N}\;and\;ec{S}_{\chi}$$





Annual Modulation Effects

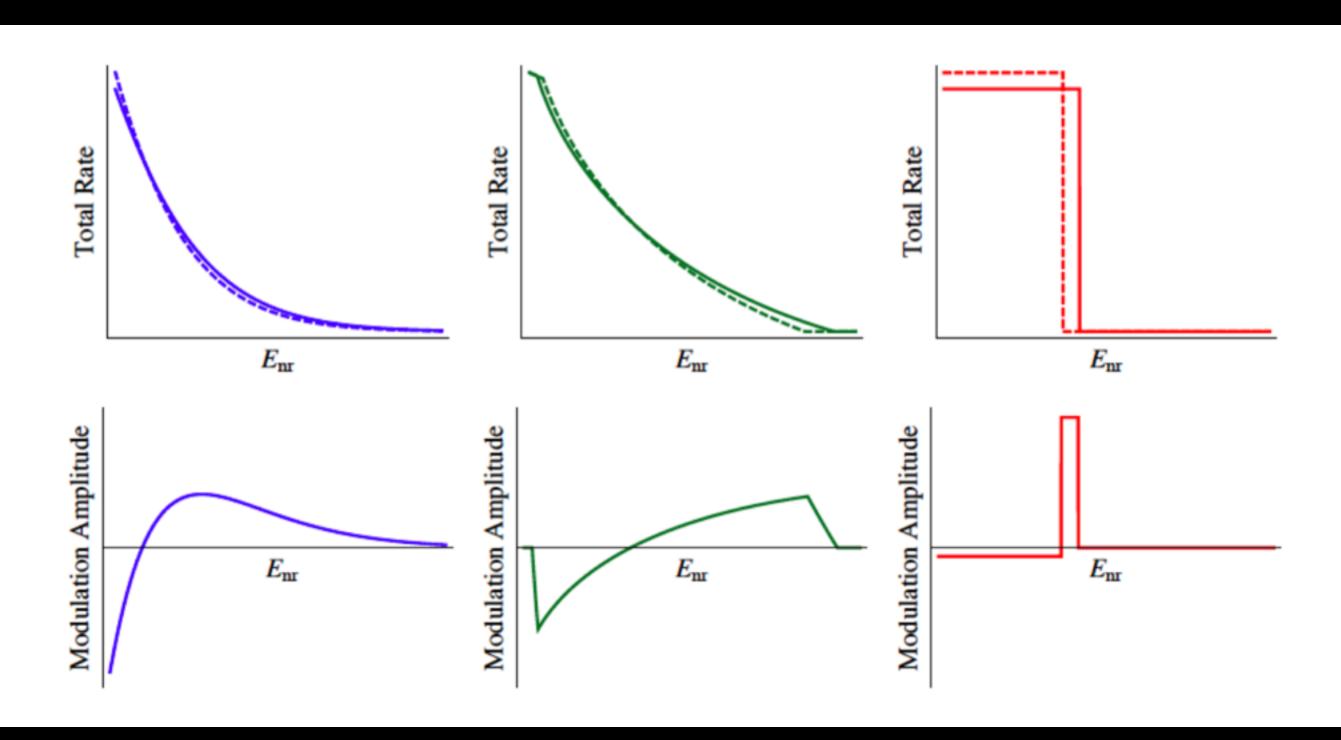


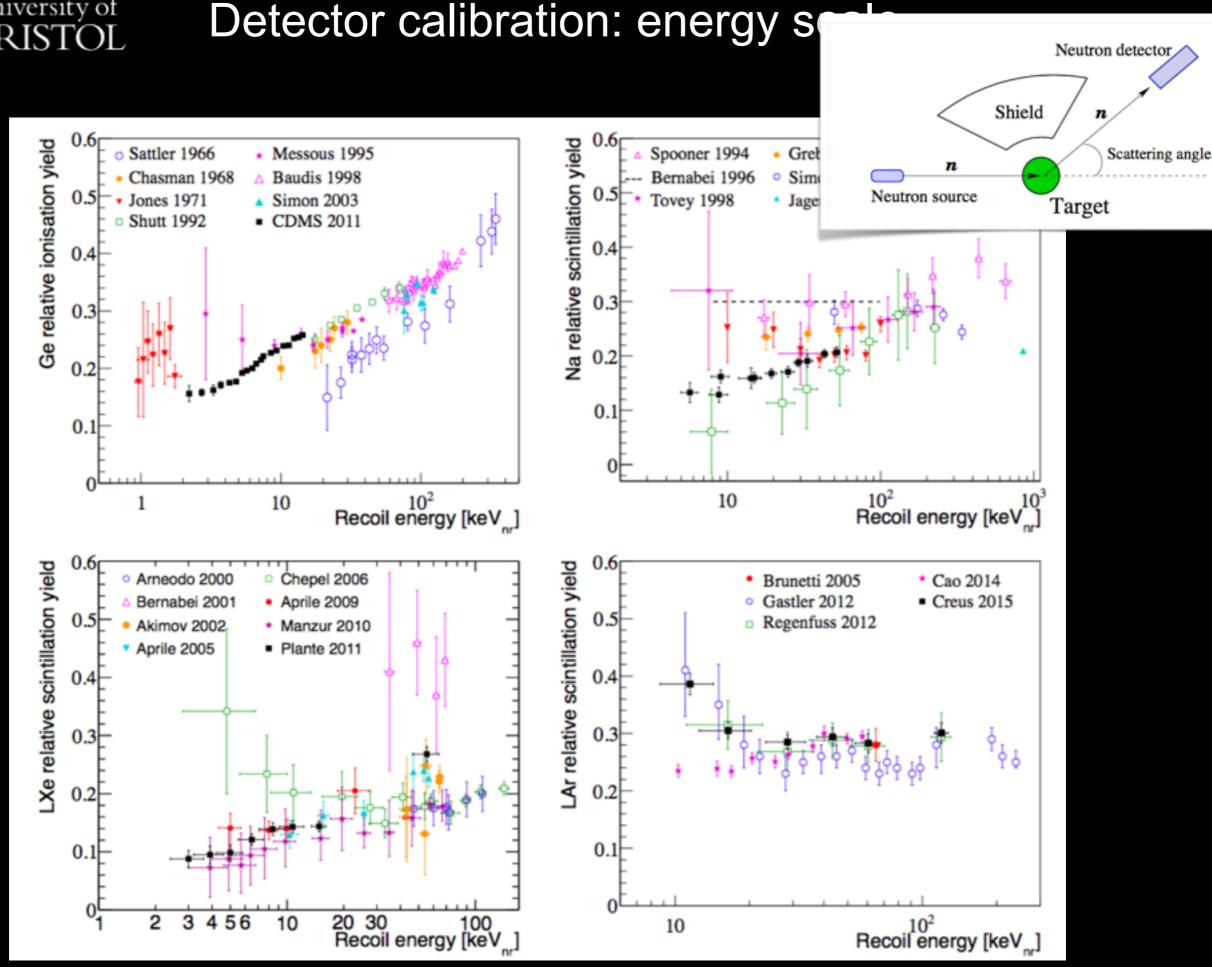
Figure from K. Freeze al. arXiv:1209.3339



Detector calibration

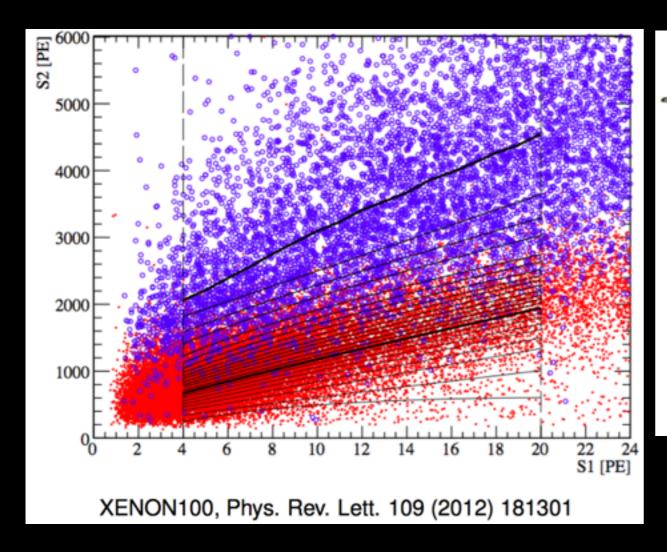
- Purposes of detector calibration:
- Data stability: monitoring of detector parameters (amplification of signals, slow control parameters, ..) and of the related electronics
- Determination of energy scale: detector signals are photoelectrons, charges or heat → need to convert to keVnr
- Determination of signal and background regions: description of nuclear and electronic recoil regions







Title



$$\mathcal{L} = \prod_{j=1}^{K} \text{Poiss}(n^{j} | \epsilon_{s}^{j} N_{s} + \epsilon_{b}^{j} N_{b})$$

$$\times \prod_{j=1}^{n^{j}} \frac{\epsilon_{s}^{j} N_{s} f_{s}(S1) + \epsilon_{b}^{j} N_{b} f_{b}(S1)}{\epsilon_{s}^{j} N_{s} + \epsilon_{b}^{j} N_{b}}$$

$$\times \text{Poiss}(m_{b}^{j} | \epsilon_{b}^{j} M_{b}) \times \text{Poiss}(m_{s}^{j} | \epsilon_{s}^{j} M_{s})$$

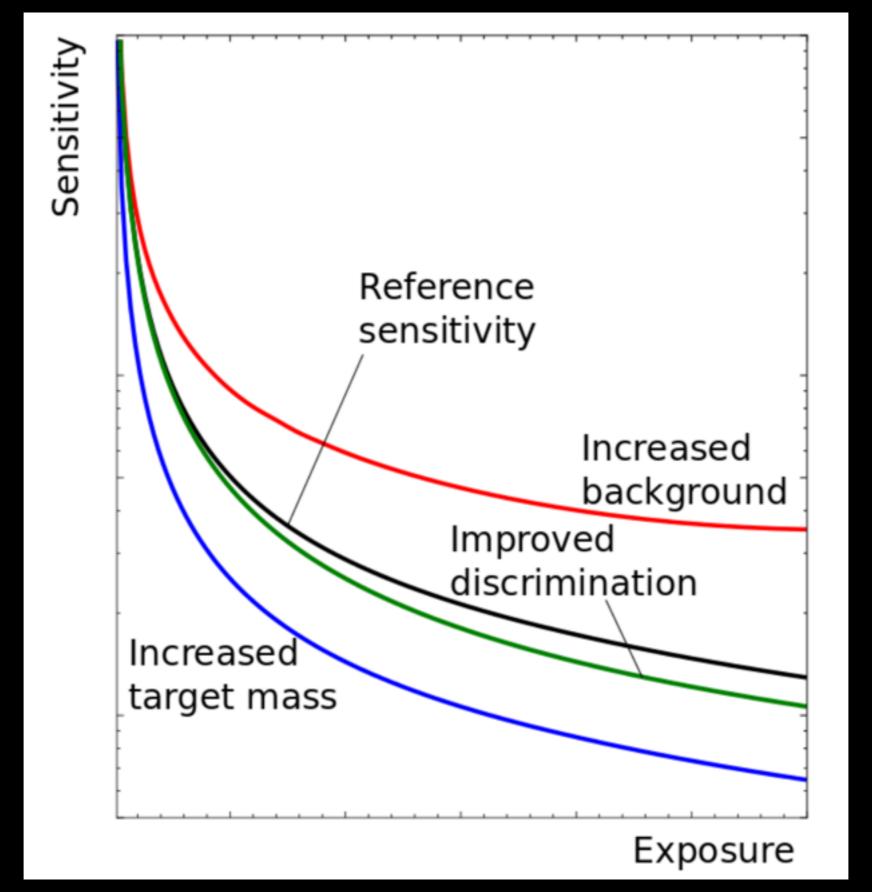
$$\times e^{-(t-t^{\text{obs}})^{2}/2} \times f_{v}(v_{\text{obs}} | v_{\text{esc}}).$$

- Calibration data: background ER from γ-sources signal NR from a neutron source
- Bands defined with equal number of signal events

- Likelihood function:
 - Poisson on data for each band
 - Event distribution per band
 - Poisson on calibration data
 - Penalty term for energy scale parametrisation

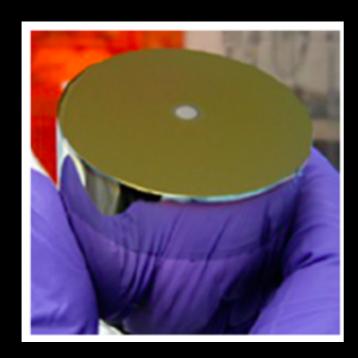


University of BRISTOL Sensitivity evolution with measuring time





The CoGeNT experiment

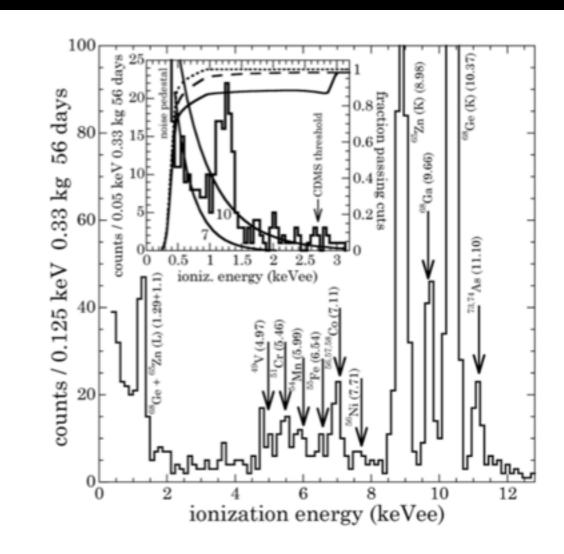


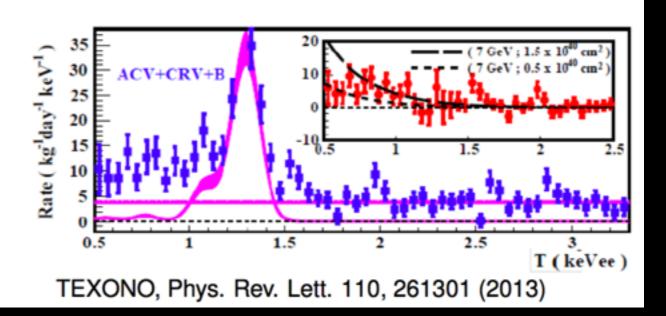
 Excess of events at low energies and annual modulation of the rate CoGeNT,

Phys. Rev. Lett. 106 131301 (2011)

- Independent analysis of the data find no significant modulation

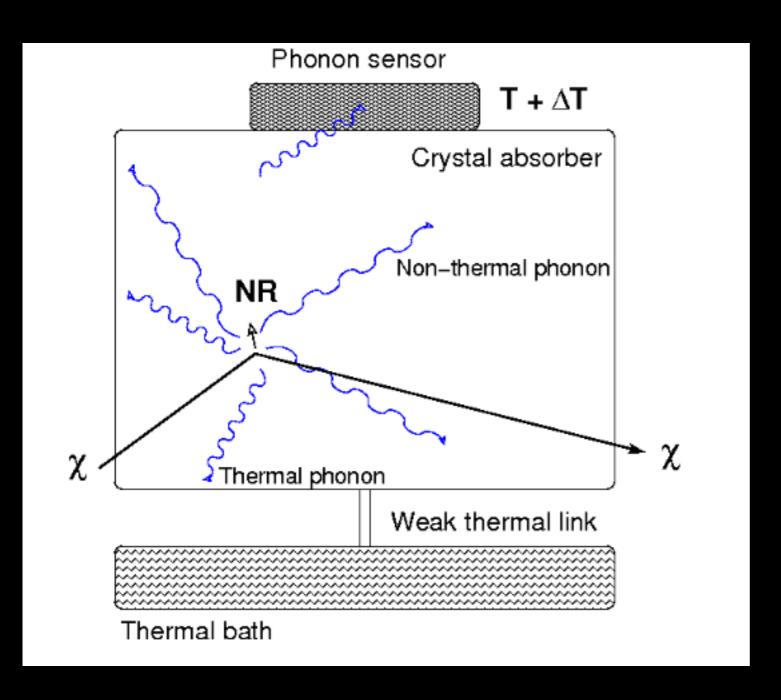
 Davis, 1405.0495 & Aalseth et al., 1401.6234
- Tests with Ge detectors:
 CDEX (China) and
 TEXONO (Taiwan)
 → no indication of dark matter







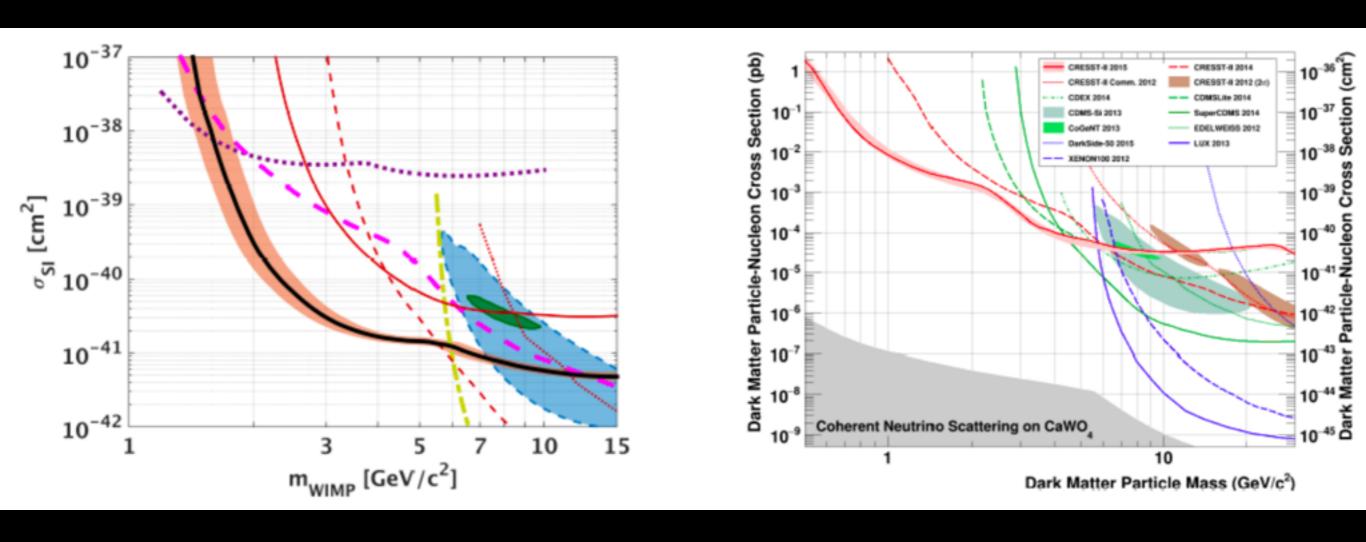
Cryogenic bolometers



- Crystals at (10 100) mK
- Temperature rise:
 ΔT =E/C(T)
 E.g. Ge at 20mK, ΔT =
 20μK for few keV recoil
- Measurements of ∆T:
 - Neutron transmutationdoped Ge sensors (NTD)
 - Transition edge sensors (TES)
- Discrimination: combination with light or charge read-out



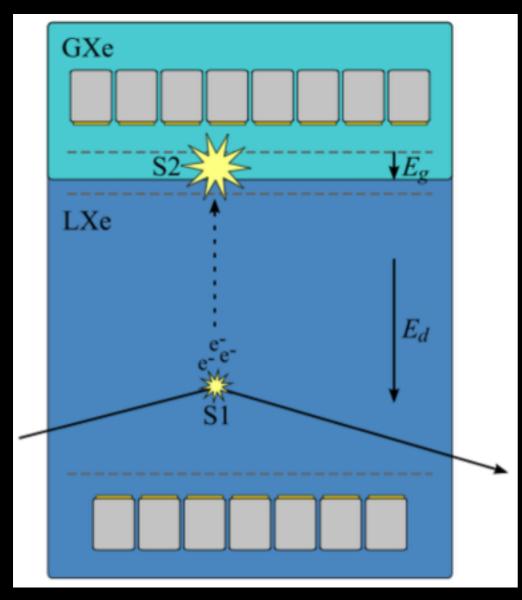
Cryogenic bolometers: recent results



- Low WIMP mass results in September
 - CDMSlite, arXiv:1509.02448
 - CRESST-II, arXiv:1509.01515

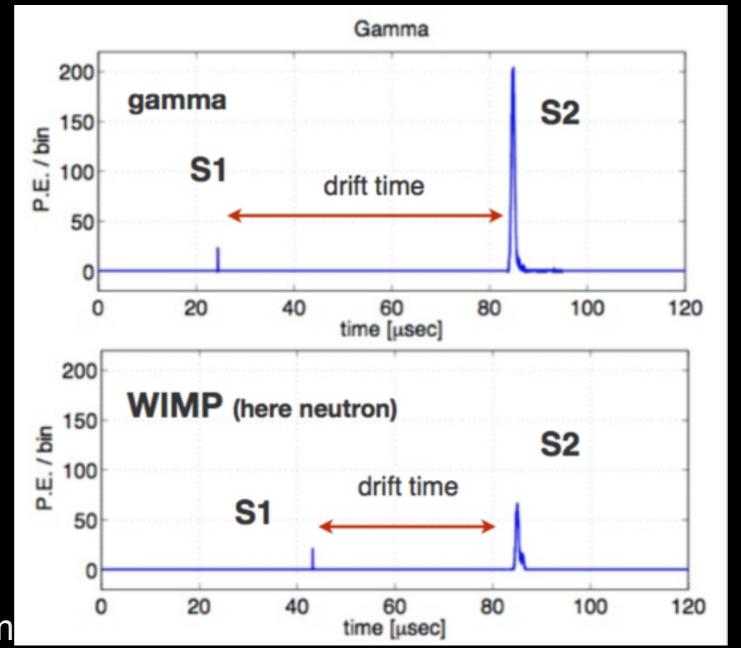


Two phase noble gas TPC



- Drift field necessary
- Electronegative purity required
- 3D position resolution in mm

- Scintillation signal (S1)
- Charges drift to the liquid-gas surface
- Proportional signal (S2)
 - ->Electron- /nuclear recoil discrimination





XENON experiment



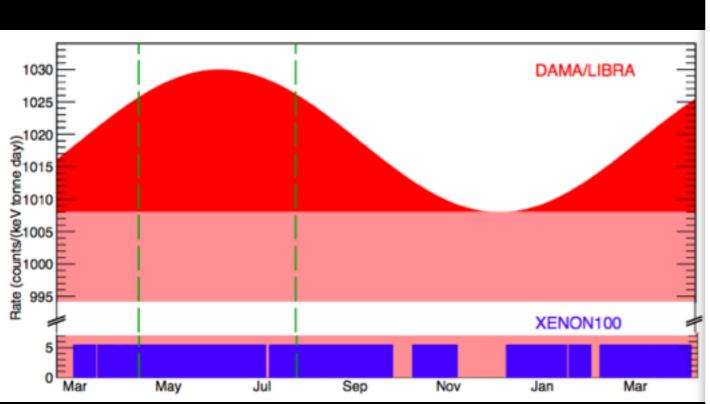
- XENON10: 15 kg active mass
- XENON100: 62 kg active mass
- XENON1T: 1T active mass, running

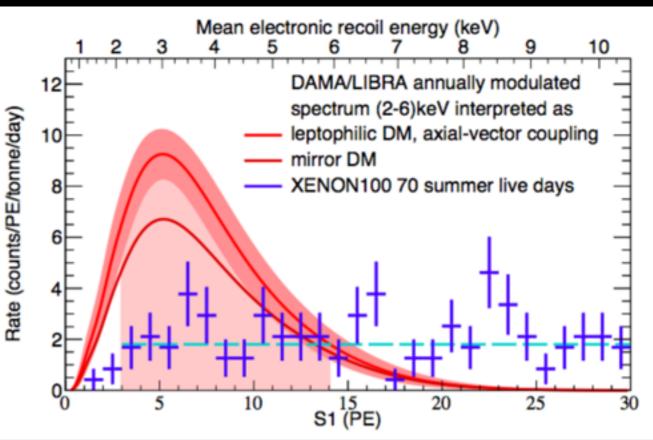
- Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso (Italy)
- ~ 3 650 m.w.e. shielding





Excluding models producing ER signals

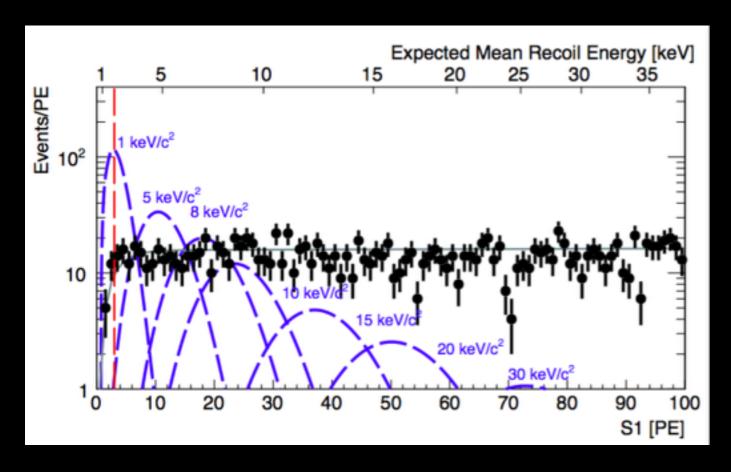


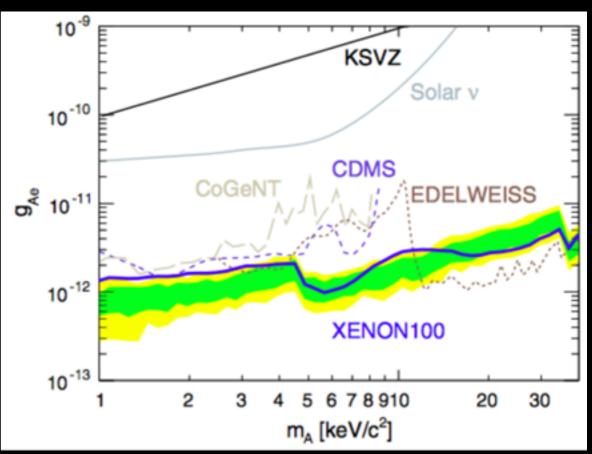


- Testing further possible interpretations of DAMA signal
- XENON100 background rate ~ 2 orders of magnitude below DAMA
- Conservative assumptions: DAMA signal is 100% modulated
 - Leptophilic models with axial-vector interactions ruled out at 4.4
 - Mirror dark matter ruled out at 3.6
 - Luminous dark matter ruled out at 4.6



Axion Search results

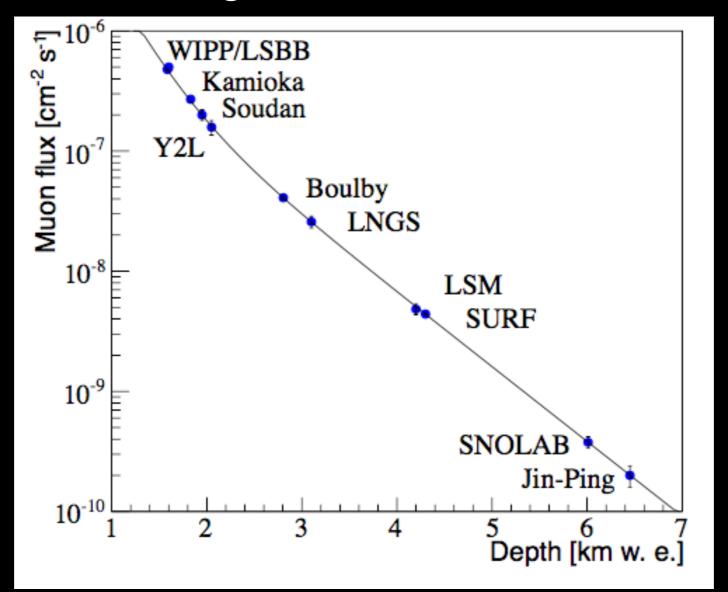




- Axions can couple to electrons gAe in a detector target
- Axio-electric effect (similar to photoelectric)
- Signal consist of electronic recoil events



Underground Laboratories



- WIPP in USA (DMTPC)
- LSBB in France (SIMPLE)
- Kamioka in Japan (XMASS, NEWAGE)
- Soudan in USA (SuperCDMS, GoGeNT)
- Y2L in Korea (KIMS)
- Boulby in UK (DRIFT, ZEPLIN)

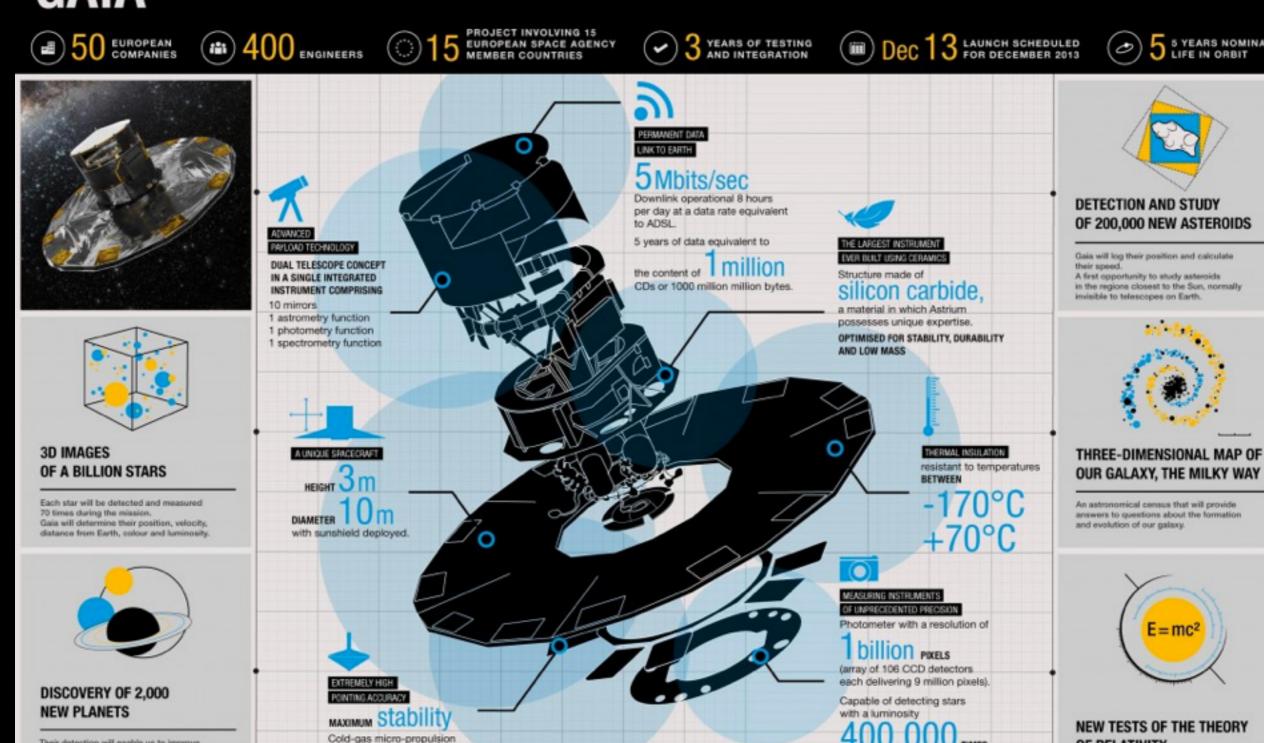
- LNGS in Italy (XENON, DAMA, Cresst, DarkSide)
- LSM in France (Edelweiss, MIMAC)
- SURF in USA (LUX, LZ, DAMIC)
- SNOLAB in Canada (DEAP/CLEAN, PICASSO, COUPP)
- Jin-Ping in China (PandaX, CDEX)



GAIA

GAIA ASTRIUM'S GAIA SATELLITE - BUILT TO MAP THE MILKY WAY

system for fine attitude control.





E = mc

OF RELATIVITY

lower than those visible to the

naked eye.

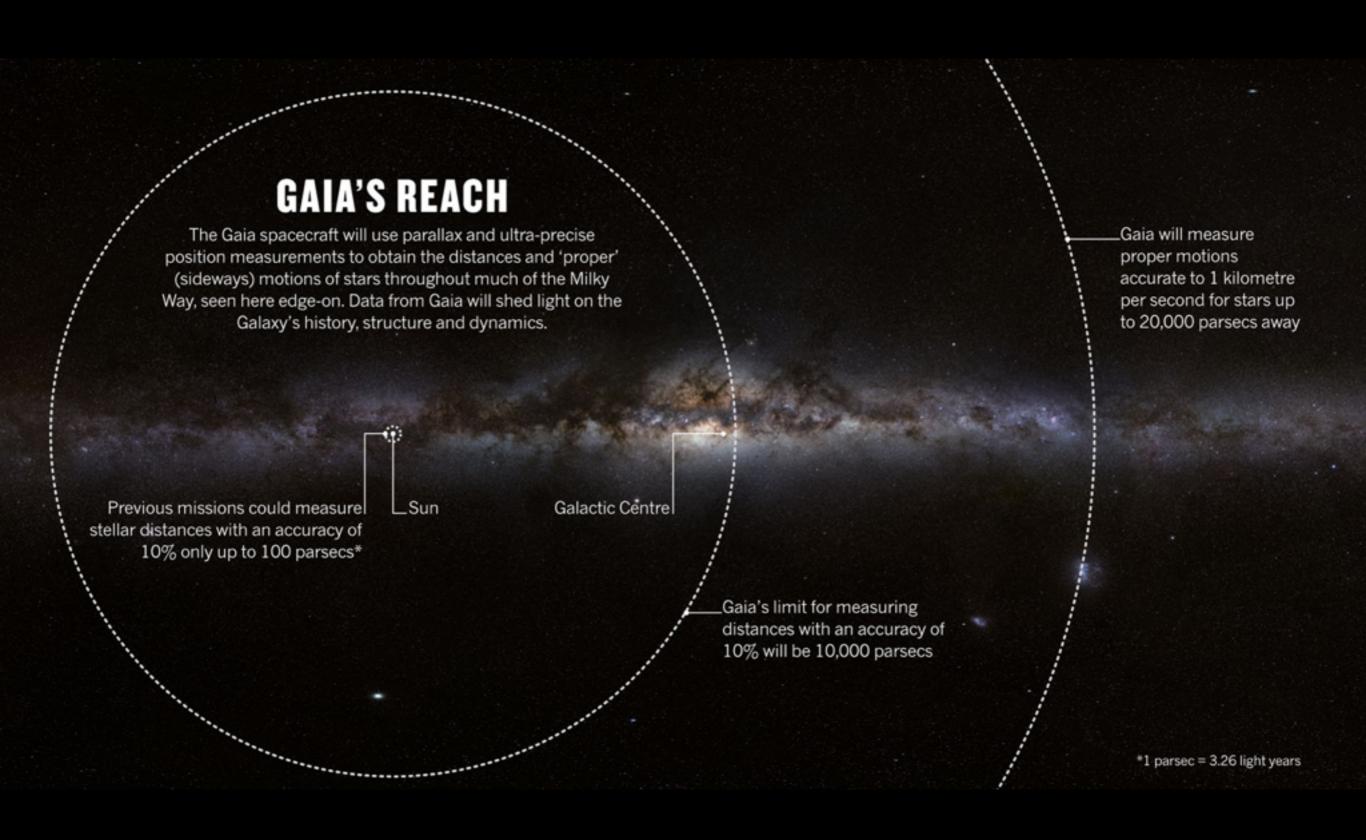
5 YEARS NOMINAL

Their detection will enable us to improve

in planetary systems.

our knowledge of the mechanisms at work

GAIA





Internal & Surface Backgrounds

Solid detectors:

- Germanium detectors and solid scintillators grown from high purity materials → low intrinsic background
- Surface contamination from radon decay products (α, β decay), K, Rb
- Cosmic activation



Liquid detectors:

- Cosmogenic-activated radioactive isotopes contained in the target nuclei
 - Argon: ³⁹Ar (565 keV endpoint, 1 Bq/kg), ⁴²Ar
 - Xenon: 127 Xe (short lived), 136 Xe $\beta\beta$ decay (T1/2 = 2.2x10 21 yr) long lifetime
 - Rn, ⁸⁵Kr (nuclear power plants, weapons) contamination of targets
- Radon emanated from materials containing U, TH, diffuses into target
- Remove using cryogenic distillation/chromatography/centrifuges



Spin-independent Results

