

Direct dark matter detection experiments: an overview

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Solvay-Francqui workshop on neutrinos Brussels, May 27-29, 2015



The dark matter puzzle

The dark matter puzzle is *fundamental*: dark matter leads to the formation of structure and galaxies in our universe

We have a standard model of CDM, from 'precision cosmology' (CMB, LSS): however, *measurement* ≠ *understanding*

For ~85% of matter in the universe is of unknown nature



What do we know about the dark matter?

So far, we mostly have "negative" information

Constraints from astrophysics and searches for new particles:

No colour charge

No electric charge

No strong self-interaction

Stable, or very long-lived



Probing dark matter through gravity



What do we know about the dark matter?

• The mass and cross section span many orders of magnitude



How to detect Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

Direct detection

nuclear recoils from elastic scattering

dependance on A, J; annual modulation, directionality

local density and v-distribution

Indirect detection

high-energy neutrinos, gammas, charged CRs

look at over-dense regions in the sky

astrophysics backgrounds difficult

Accelerator searches

missing E_T, mono-'objects', etc

can it establish that the new particle is the DM?



WIMP detection in the laboratory

By searching for collisions of invisibles particles with atomic nuclei => E_{vis} (q ~ tens of MeV)

Need very low energy thresholds

Need *ultra-low backgrounds*, good background understanding (no "beam off" data collection mode) and discrimination

Need large detector masses



 $E_R = \frac{q^2}{2m_N} < 30 \,\mathrm{keV}$

REVIEW D

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 12

Detectability of certain dark-matter candidates

Mark W. Goodman and Edward Witten Joseph Henry Laboratories, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey 08544 (Received 7 January 1985)

We consider the possibility that the neutral-current neutrino detector recently proposed by Drukier and Stodolsky could be used to detect some possible candidates for the dark matter in galactic halos. This may be feasible if the galactic halos are made of particles with coherent weak interactions and masses $1-10^6$ GeV; particles with spin-dependent interactions of typical weak strength and masses $1-10^2$ GeV; or strongly interacting particles of masses $1-10^{13}$ GeV.

What do we expect in a terrestrial detector?

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = N_N \frac{\rho_0}{m_W} \int_{\sqrt{(m_N E_{th})/(2\mu^2)}}^{v_{max}} dv f(v) v \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R}$$

Astrophysics $\rho_0, f(v)$

Particle/nuclear physics $m_W, d\sigma/dE_R$

Detector physics N_N, E_{th}





Astrophysics

Dark matter density profile in cosmological MW-like galaxy simulations with baryons (Eris) and DM only (ErisDark)



Velocity distribution of WIMPs in the galaxy



From cosmological simulations of (DM only) galaxy formation: departures from the simplest case of a Maxwell-Boltzmann distribution

 $\rho(R_0) = 0.2 - 0.56 \,\mathrm{GeV \, cm^{-3}} = 0.005 - 0.015 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot} \, pc^{-3}}$

Survey by J. Read, J.Phys. G41 (2014) 063101

=> WIMP flux on Earth: $\sim 10^5 \text{ cm}^{-2}\text{s}^{-1}$ (M_W=100 GeV, for 0.3 GeV/cm³)

Particle Physics

- Use effective operators to describe WIMP-quark interactions
- Example: vector mediator $\mathcal{L}_{\chi}^{\mathrm{eff}} = \frac{1}{\Lambda^2} \bar{\chi} \gamma_{\mu} \chi \bar{q} \gamma^{\mu} q$
- The effective operator arises from integrating out the mediator with mass M and couplings g_q and g_X to the quark and the WIMP:

$$\Lambda = \frac{M}{\sqrt{g_q g_\chi}} \Rightarrow \sigma_{\rm tot} \propto \Lambda^{-4}$$





spin-spin interactions (coupling to the nuclear spin JN, from axial-vector part of L)

$$\sigma_{SD} \sim \mu^2 \frac{J_N + 1}{J_N} (a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle)^2$$

 a_p , a_n : effective couplings to p and n; $\langle S_p \rangle$ and $\langle S_n \rangle$ expectation values of the p and n spins within the nucleus

=> nuclei with non-zero angular momentum - corrections due to spin structure functions



Expected interaction rates



Dark matter signatures

- Rate and shape of recoil spectrum depend on target material
- Motion of the Earth causes:
 - temporal variation in rate: June December ~ 2-10%
 - directional modulation asymmetry: ~20-100% in forward-backward event rate





Motion of the Earth and the detection of weakly interacting massive particles

David N. Spergel* Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey 08540 (Received 21 September 1987)

If the galactic halo is composed of weakly interacting massive particles (WIMP's), then cryogenic experiments may be capable of detecting the recoil of nuclei struck by the WIMP's. Earth's motion relative to the galactic halo produces a seasonal modulation in the expected event rate. The direction of nuclear recoil has a strong angular dependence that also can be used to confirm the detection of WIMP's. I calculate the angular dependence and the amplitude of the seasonal modulation for an isothermal halo model.





Expected backgrounds

- Cosmic rays & cosmic activation of detector materials
- Natural (²³⁸U, ²³²Th, ⁴⁰K) & anthropogenic (⁸⁵Kr, ¹³⁷Cs) radioactivity
- Ultimately: solar, atmospheric and supernovae neutrinos





F. Ruppin et al., 1408.3581

LB et al., JCAP01 (2014) 044



The WIMP landscape in 2015



Low mass region

"Anomalies" heavily constrained by many experiments & techniques



DAMA/LIBRA annual modulation signal

- Period = 1 year, phase = June 2 ± 7 days
- Several experiments to directly probe the modulation signal with similar detectors (NaI, CsI): SABRE, ANAIS, DM-Ice, KIMS



Definitive (5 σ) detection or exclusion with 500 kg-yr Nal(Tl) (DAMA x 2 yrs) and same or lower threshold (< 2 keV_{ee})



Cryogenic Detectors at T ~ mK

Absorber masses from ~100 g to 1.4 kg; TES read out small T changes



Phonon & ionisation/scintillation sensors

- SuperCDMS: iZIPs (1.4 kg Ge, 615 g Si), interleaved ionisation and phonon sensors: 2 x (6 phonon, 6 ionisation)
- EDELWEISS-III: operates new fully inter-digitised FID800 sensors
- CRESST: strategy change -> reduce volume of the target crystal (24 g) and optimise detector layout => gain sensitivity for low WIMP masses (1 - 6 GeV)



SuperCDMS: Ge, Si iZIPs







Edelweiss: Ge FID



SNOLAB cryostat and shield design

- Experience based on CRESST/EDELWEISS/ CDMS cryostats & shields
- SuperCDMS shield: to include neutron veto scintillator detector
- SuperCDMS cryostat payload: initially 50 kg, up to 400 kg
- Cooperation between SuperCDM and EURECA (CRESST+EDELWEISS):
 - cryogenic design (T \leq 15 mK, cooling power 5 $\mu W)$
 - shielding concept
 - tower design and prototype (must be compatible with SuperCDMS concept)



Start data taking in 2018

Single-phase noble liquid detectors





LXe: XMASS at Kamioka New dark matter run with "refurbished" detector



LAr: DEAP-3600 at SNOLAB In commissioning First results in late 2015

Dual-phase noble liquid detectors



WIMP physics with xenon detectors

Probe WIMP-nucleus interactions via:

- spin-independent elastic scattering: ¹²⁴Xe, ¹²⁶Xe, ¹²⁸Xe, ¹²⁹Xe, ¹³⁰Xe, ¹³¹Xe, ¹³²Xe (26.9%), ¹³⁴Xe (10.4%), ¹³⁶Xe (8.9%)
- spin-dependent elastic scattering: ¹²⁹Xe (26.4%), ¹³¹Xe (21.2%)
- inelastic WIMP-¹²⁹Xe and WIMP-¹³¹Xe scatters $\chi + \chi^{129,131} Xe \rightarrow \chi + \chi^{129,131} Xe^* \rightarrow \chi + \chi^{129,131} Xe + \gamma$ 1 ns, 0.5 ns 40 keV, 80 keV



Example: LUX dark matter data

- Exposure: 85.3 days x 118 kg fiducial liquid xenon mass
- No sign of dark matter, observed event distribution consistent with backgrounds
- New run of 300 live-days planned for 2015-2016, sensitivity increase by a factor of 5



Phys. Rev. Lett. 112 (2014)

Example: Solar axions with XENON100



Look for solar axions via their couplings to electrons, g_{Ae}, through the axio-electric effect

$$\sigma_{Ae} = \sigma_{pe}(E_A) \frac{g_{Ae}^2}{\beta_A} \frac{3E_A^2}{16\pi\alpha_{em}m_e^2} \left(1 - \frac{\beta_A^{2/3}}{3}\right)$$

$$\phi_A \propto g_{Ae}^2 \Longrightarrow R \propto g_{Ae}^4$$

 XEON100: based on 224.6 live days x 34 kg exposure; using the electronic-recoil spectrum, and measured light yield for low-energy ERs (LB et al., PRD 87, 2013; arXiv:1303.6891)

XENON, Phys. Rev. D 90, 062009 (2014)

Example: Galactic axion-like particles with XENON100



Look for ALPs via their couplings to electrons, g_{Ae}, through the axio-electric effect

Expect line feature at ALP mass

Assume $\rho_0 = 0.3 \,\mathrm{GeV/cm}^3$

$$\phi_A = c\beta_A \times \frac{\rho_0}{m_A}$$

$$R \propto g_{Ae}^2$$

 XEON100: based on 224.6 live days x 34 kg exposure; using the electronic-recoil spectrum, and measured light yield for low-energy ERs (LB et al., PRD 87, 2013; arXiv:1303.6891)

XENON, Phys. Rev. D 90, 062009 (2014)

Upcoming results from XENON100





- Search for annual modulation (2 papers submitted)
- Analysis of 153 live days of blinded dark matter search data close to unblinding; search for inelastic scattering on ¹²⁹Xe, search for low-mass WIMPs

Calibration measurements:

- probe lowest nuclear recoil energies (max at 4.5 keVnr) with YBe source placed inside the shield; more than 80 live days collected and clear signal due to neutron scatters observed
- currently ^{83m}Kr calibration run & analysis
- XENON100 is also used as a test facility for XENON1T/nT: novel online radon purification technique, by cryogenic distillation (Rn has 10 x lower vapour pressure than xenon) verified

Future noble liquid detectors

- Under construction: XENON1T/nT (3.3 t/ 7t LXe) at LNGS
- Proposed: LUX-ZEPLIN 7t LXe (approved), XMASS 5t LXe, DarkSide 20 t LAr, DEAP 50 t LAr
- Design & R&D: DARWIN, 30-50 t LXe; ARGO 150 t LAr







LZ: 7t LXe

LXe



DARWIN: 50 t LXe

The XENON1T experiment

- Under construction at LNGS since autumn 2013; commissioning planned for late 2015
- Total (active) LXe mass: 3.3 t (2 t), 1 m electron drift, 248 3-inch PMTs in two arrays
- Background goal: 100 x lower than XENON100 ~ 5x10⁻² events/(t d keV)



XENON1T/nT: status of construction work

- · Water Cherenkov shield built and instrumented
- Cryostat support, service building, electrical plant completed
- Several subsystems (cryostat, cryogenics, storage, purification, cables & fibres, pipes) installed/ being tested underground



The XENON1T detector

- PMTs are screened with HPGe, then tested in cold gas and a subsample in LXe
- TPC design is finalised, currently under prototyping, materials being screened

The TPC



PMT test facility



Field shaping rings production



DARWIN Dark matter WIMP search with noble liquids



- R&D and design study for 30-50 tons LXe detector
- ~ few $x \ 10^3$ photosensors
- >2 m drift length
- >2 m diameter TPC
- PTFE walls with Cu field shaping rings (baseline scenario, 4-π readout under study)
- Background goal: dominated by neutrinos
- Physics goal:
 - WIMP spectroscopy
 - many other channels (pp neutrinos, double beta decay, axions and ALPs, bosonic SuperWIMPs...)

WIMP physics: spectroscopy

Capability to reconstruct the WIMP mass and cross section for various masses (20, 100, 500 GeV/c²) and a spin-independent cross section of 2x10⁻⁴⁷ cm² (assuming different exposures)



1 and 2 sigma credible regions after marginalizing the posterior probability distribution over:

$$v_{esc} = 544 \pm 40 \text{ km/s}$$

 $v_0 = 220 \pm 20 \text{ km/s}$
 $\rho_{\chi} = 0.3 \pm 0.1 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$

Update: Newstead et al., PHYSICAL REVIEW D 88, 076011 (2013)

Directional detectors

- R&D on low-pressure gas detectors to measure the recoil direction, correlated to the Galactic motion towards Cygnus
- Challenge: good angular resolution
- One technology to be propose







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30-50 keVnr



Sensitivity for spin-independent cross sections

• $E = [3-70] \text{ pe} \sim [4-50] \text{ keV}_{nr}$

DARWIN: 200 t y exposure, 99.98% discrimination, 30% NR acceptance, LY = 8 pe/keV at 122 keV



Note: "nu floor" = 3-sigma detection line at 500 CNNS events above 4 keV

Complementarity with indirect searches

- High-energy neutrinos from WIMP capture and annihilation in the Sun (point-source)
- Sun is made of protons => strong constraints on SD WIMP-p interactions



IceCube collab. PRL 110, 2013 (79 string)

Complementarity with the LHC

- Minimal simplified DM model with only 4 variables: mDM, Mmed, gDM, gq
- Here DM = Dirac fermion interacting with a vector or axial-vector mediator; equalstrength coupling to all active quark flavours



Evolution of the experimentally probed WIMPnucleon cross section

 Sensitivity at WIMP masses above ~ 6 GeV/c² is clearly dominated by noble liquid (Xe) time projection chambers



Update from Physics of the Dark Universe 1, 94 (2012)

Cold dark matter is still a viable paradigm explaining cosmological & astrophysical observations

It could be made of WIMPs (and axions, + many other options, some less predictive and/or more difficult to test in the laboratory)

So far, no convincing detection of a dark matter particle

In the best of all worlds: multiple discoveries (direct detection, the LHC, indirect detection) & constraints of the dark matter properties & dark matter astronomy

If no discovery: "ultimate" dark matter detectors might at least be able to disprove the WIMP hypotheses (still valuable information)

However, we should be open for new theoretical ideas & new experiments!

The end

Will directional information help?

- Yes, but mostly at low WIMP masses
- Directional detection techniques currently in R&D phase
- Would be very challenging to reach 10⁻⁴⁸ 10⁻⁴⁹ cm² with these techniques



P. Grothaus, M. Fairbairn, J. Monroe, arXiv: 1406.5047

XENONnT: 2018-2020

- Plan: double the amount of LXe (~7 tons), double the number of PMTs
- XENON1T is constructed such that many sub-systems will be reused for the upgrade:



- Water tank + muon veto
- Outer cryostat and support structure
- Cryogenics and purification system
- LXe storage system
- Cables installed for XENONnT as well
- More LXe, PMTs, electronics will be needed

The XENON1T photosensors

R11410-21 3-inch PMTs; average QE at 175 nm: 36%, average gain: 2 x 10⁶ at 1500 V

Material screening/selection for PMT production



Screening of final product



XENON collaboration, arXiv:1503.07698v1



XENON1T background predictions

- Materials background: based on screening results for all detector components
- ⁸⁵Kr: 0.2 ppt of ^{nat}Kr with 2x10^{-11 85}Kr; ²²²Rn: 1 μBq/kg; ¹³⁶Xe double beta: 2.11x10²¹ y
- ER vs NR discrimination level: 99.75%; 40% acceptance for NRs
 - ➡ Total ERs: 0.3 events/year in 1 ton fiducial volume, [2-12] keVee
 - Total NRs: 0.2 events/year in 1 ton, [5-50] keVnr (muon-induced n-BG < 0.01 ev/year)



XENON1T backgrounds and WIMP sensitivity

Single scatters in 1 ton fiducial 99.75% S2/S1 discrimination NR acceptance 40% Light yield = 7.7 PE/keV at 0 field $L_{eff} = 0$ below 1 keVnr

WIMP mass: 50 GeV Fiducial LXe mass: 1 t Sensitivity at 90% CL



ER + NR backgrounds and WIMP spectra

Sensitivity versus exposure (in 1 ton fiducial mass)

DARWIN physics reach: double beta decay



- 136 Xe: Q-value = 2458.7 ± 0.6 keV
- Fiducial mass of 6 t of xenon
- sensitivity to the neutrinoless double beta decay of ¹³⁶Xe:
- $T_{1/2} > 5.6 \text{ x } 10^{26} \text{ yr}$ (95% CL) in 30 t yr
- T_{1/2} > 8.5 x 10²⁷ yr (95% CL) in 140 t yr, assuming negligible backgrounds from detector materials



Expected backgrounds in DARWIN

- From detailed MC simulations, employing 20 t LXe geometry and Geant4
- Electronic recoils: dominated by solar neutrinos and 2-neutrino double beta decays of ¹³⁶Xe (assumptions: 0.1 ppt of ^{nat}Kr, 0.1 µBq/kg ²²²Rn)
- Nuclear recoils (as expected from WIMPs and fast neutrons): < 0.03 events/t/y



LB et al., JCAP01 (2014) 044

Backgrounds and WIMPs

- A WIMP with a mass of 40 GeV (100 GeV) and sigma=2x10⁻⁴⁸ cm² (2x10⁻⁴⁷ cm²) is well above the solar neutrino background
- A WIMP with a mass of 6 GeV and sigma=4x10⁻⁴⁵ cm² has a similar rate as solar ⁸B neutrinos interacting via coherent neutrino-nucleus scatters

