Direct Dark Matter searches: overview

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- Motivation
- How and what to search
- Experimental status
- Outlook

Dark Matter puzzle

- Cosmology
 - non-baryonic DM in the earlyUniverse [WMAP, Planck, ...]
- Astrophysics
 - Gravitational probes at galactic/cluster

sizes

- WIMPs present in our Galaxy with density $\sim 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$
- Particle Physics
 - Thermal relics WIMPs appear as natural consequence of SUSY [LHC]
- Indirect Searches
 - Annihilation decay products:

too many phenomena too be decisive (?), many experiments with different approaches

- Direct Searches:
 - background free measurements
 - winter/summer modulation measurements
 - Is DM particles of the halo are those can be produced at LHC?



Dark Matter searches



How to detect

According to models of cosmological structure formation, the luminous matter of galaxies is gravitationally bound to a more massive halo of Dark Matter. Its local density is 0.3 GeV/cm³. If Dark Matter indeed consist from WIMPs, its expect to recoil on the ordinary matter moving through Dark Matter halo (Solar System around Galactic Centre).

A process that can be used for WIMP detection is the elastic scattering of WIMP off nuclei. The energy deposited in the detector during the WIMP elastic scattering can be measured.







Rate $\approx (\rho_{wimp} \times f(Velocity)) \times$ $\times F(Coherence)$ $\sigma_{_{wimp-nucleon}}$ M_{wimp} Mass

Astrophysics:

- Lewin&Smith [Astrop 6 (1996) 87] agreement for comparison of experiments
- $\rho_{wimp} = 0.3 \text{ GeV/c}^2/\text{cm}^3$
 - ... even there is the updated value: 0.39±0.02 [Ullio+Catena 0907.0018]
- Spherical isothermal halo : v_{WIMP} ~ v_{SUN} ~ 230 км/сек

... despite the fact that more complex halo models exist and can more accurately reflect the reality

Nuclear and particle physics:

- Free parameters / theoretical predictions : M_{WIMP} , $\sigma_{WIMP-nucleon}$
 - Extrapolation WIMP-quark -> WIMP-nucleon:
- Other factors (Coherence):
 - ~A² for scalar interaction (SI is dominant for A>~20)
 - ~J(J+1) for axial interaction (SD)
 - Nuclear form factor (suppresses A² gain for large A)

Maxwellian (exponential) distribution for WIMPs

→ Exponential shape for the recoil spectrum, rather similar to background !!



An increasing gain of interest for the search of low-mass, very-heavy WIMPs, other exotics

- Non evidence yet for SUSY at the LHC;
- New theoretical approaches favoring lighter candidates;
- No WIMP signals in the "expected" region;
- Controversial results in the region around and below of 10 GeV/c^2 .



Liquid noble gas: large mass, heavy elements, very low background

 \rightarrow above few 10 GeV/c²

Cryogenic experiments: *precise energy measurement, multi-target (incl. light elements), low thresholds*

 \rightarrow below 10 GeV/c²

What is Dark Matter & where to look for?



In anyway the expected signal rate for direct search is small !!!

A lot of space...



R. Hill 2016 Aspen Winter Conference

• Main experimental challenges are:

event rate is ultra small (below of 1 per 100 kg of matter per day);
energy deposition is tiny (below of 100 keV)

Thus main tasks for experiments are:

- Detector mass + long stable data taking + stable predictable detector response
- Detectors' performance (low energy thresholds, good resolutions)
- Background reduction



Background

- Cosmic Rays and cosmic activation
- \bullet Natural radioactivity from rock γ and neutrons
- Radioactive dust
- Radon in air from U-Th radioactive chains
- Natural radioactivity in materials
- •••
- Exotics (neutrino, etc)

Shield/ underground

Primary cosmic rays composed essentially of all periodic elements:

- ~ 89% protons, ~ 10% helium nuclei
- ~1% heavy elements (C, O, Si, ...)
- At sea level, most are muons with mean energy at 4 GeV, but there are also much higher energies
- Also, about 20% are fast neutrons
- Only deep underground laboratories can provide effective shield from the cosmic







muons at Earth's surface

Background / γ (β)

Natural radioactivity is presented everywhere,

This days background requirement: <1 event per kg per year For example human body has: ~100 Bq/kg Need to reduce by 10⁹ times (minimum) All construction materials have to be selected by their low radioactivity

High penetration power

Connected problem – radioactive gases in the atmosphere (Rn, Kr, Ar)

Connected problem – radon progenies, ¹⁴C, ...

• Ultra pure materials (screening facilities, distillation and purification of liquids, radon free clean rooms for storage / assembly/ run).

• Shields (Roman lead, ...)

New bigger detectors provides effective self-shielding

• Special methods (γ /nuclear recoil discrimination, fiducial cut, etc)

Background / neutrons

Neutron background sources underground:

Low energy neutrons induced by U/Th activities

- fission and (α,n) reactions in the surrounding rock/concrete
- fission reactions in detector shield

High energy neutrons induced by muons





Fight with neutron background:

- 1) Go underground laboratory / reduce neutron flux by 4+ orders
- 2) Material selection
- 3) Muon veto system
- 4) Passive neutron shield
- 5) Multi-detector assembly / neutron background identification

Traditional methods of background suppression are not enough for direct DM search experiments.

Experiment specific reduction/study of the background (selection of nuclear recoil events, seasonal modulations, ...)

Main experimental techniques for direct DM search:

Cryogenic (Ge, Si, ...) Solid Scintillator (NaI, CsI) Noble Liquids (LXe, LAr) Others (bubble formation, gas-tracking)



Cryogenic Techniques (Combination of phonon measurement with measurement of ionization or scintillation)



Phonon: most precise total energy measurement

Ionization / Scintillation: yield depends on recoiling particle

Nuclear / electron recoil discrimination.

CRESST







EDELWEISS (Heat and ionization Ge bolometers)

Using of *Heat* and *Ionization* HPGe detectors, running in ³He-⁴He dilution cryostat (<20 mK)

Ratio E_{ionization}/E_{recoil} is =1 for electronic recoil ≈0.3 for nuclear recoil ⇒Event by event identification of the recoil ⇒Discrimination g/n > 99.99%



Detectors with special concentric planar electrodes for active rejection of surface events (miss-collected charge)



EDELWEISS/CDMS-LT: Neganov-Luke Amplification

Due to the heat dissipated in the substrate by the drifting electron-hole pairs the phonon signal is amplified.





- First Dark Matter run with HV detectors ongoing
- Even in HV mode, we can still readout both ionization and heat signals
- Working up to 100 V leading to a boost factor of ~35 with Lowest threshold achieved of 60 eVee

Noble liquid detectors

- **Xe:** large A;
- **Ar**: low cost
- High purification (recirculation)
 - 39 Ar (1Bq/kg): requires >10⁷ rejection for 10⁻⁸pb,
 - or depleted Ar (DarkSide)
- Background suppression
 - Self-shielding in large volume
 - Ratio (prompt scintillation)/(ionization)
 - Scintillation pulse shape

Noble liquid detectors





Now we decide what is better like this:

Liquid noble gas: large mass, heavy elements, very low background \rightarrow above few 10 GeV/c² *Cryogenic experiments:* precise energy measurement, multi-target (incl. light elements), low thresholds <10 GeV/c²





2005-2007	2008-2016	2012-2018	2019-2023
25 kg - 15cm drift	161 kg - 30 cm drift	3.2 ton - 1 m drift	8 ton - 1.5 m drift
~10 ⁻⁴³ cm ²	~10 ⁻⁴⁵ cm ²	~10 ⁻⁴⁷ cm ²	~10 ⁻⁴⁸ cm ²

0



DarkSide-50



To prove WIMP observation one needs

- > A characteristic spectrum that depends on nuclear mass and spin;
- Annual modulation in both the event rate and the recoil;
- Events distributed uniformly throughout the detector;
- Experiment-independent DM parameters;
- Characteristic properties for DM event

Conclusions:

- Direct Dark Matter Searches: crucial to detect presence of WIMPs in our environment; The main challenge: *extreme low-backgrounds;*
- To study DM we need variety of targets (*Ar/Xe*, *Ge+scintillation*);
- Intense world-wide competition of R&D efforts;
- SUSY at LHC potentially can be discovered at any time soon.

What is omitted:

Spin-dependent, ...

Innelastic, ...

Axions, ...

...