## **Direct Detection Experiments:** Scintillators and Liquid Detectors

Elena Aprile Columbia University Workshop: Searching for Dark Matter Les Houches, March 25, 2009

## **Outline of Lectures**

Lecture 1:

Event Rates Background Sources Properties of Noble Liquid Detectors Liquid Xenon Experiments: XENON, ZEPLIN, LUX, XMASS

Lecture 2:

Liquid Argon Experiments: WArP, ArDM, CLEAN Properties of Crystal Scintillator Detectors Experiments: DAMA/LIBRA, ANAIS, KIMS Directional Experiments: DRIFT, DM-TPC, NEWAGE, MIMAC

# **Principle of Direct Detection**

WIMPs elastically scatter off nuclei in targets, producing nuclear recoils: Goodman and Witten (1985)



 $\sigma_{\chi,p}$  can be as low as 10<sup>-46</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>

The energy of the nuclear recoil is:

$$Q = \frac{|\vec{q}|^2}{2m_N} = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos\theta) \le 100 keV$$

The expected rate is:

$$R \propto N rac{
ho_{\chi}}{m_{\chi}} < \sigma_{\chi N} >$$

N = number of target nuclei in detector  $\rho_{\chi}$  = local WIMP density  $m_{\chi}$  = WIMP mass  $<\sigma_{\chi N}$  > = scattering cross section

Baezal, Feb 6, 2008

# **Energy Spectrum and Rate**

Differential event rate for elastic WIMP-nucleus scattering

$$\frac{dR}{dQ} = \mathcal{A}F^2(Q) \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{\text{esc}}} \left[ \begin{array}{c} f_1(v) \\ v \end{array} \right] dv$$

Here

 $v_{\min} = \alpha \sqrt{Q}$ 

is the minimal incoming velocity of incident WIMPs that can deposit the recoil energy Q in the detector.

Astrophysics

$$\mathcal{A} \equiv \frac{\rho_{0} \sigma_{0}}{2(m_{\chi} m_{r,N}^{2})} \qquad \alpha \equiv \sqrt{\frac{m_{N}}{2m_{r,N}^{2}}}$$
Particle Physics

$$m_{\rm r,N} = \frac{m_{\chi} m_{\rm N}}{m_{\chi} + m_{\rm N}}$$

 $\rho_0$ : WIMP density near the Earth  $\sigma_0$ : total cross section ignoring the form factor suppression F(Q): elastic nuclear form factor

 $f_1(v)$ : one-dimensional velocity distribution of halo WIMPs



WIMP velocity distribution

 $v_0=230$  km/s  $v_{esc}=650$  km/s

Recoil energy spectrum (depends on WIMP mass)

## **WIMP Density in the Halo**

- Energy spectrum and rate depend on WIMP distribution in dark matter halo
- From the measured galactic rotation curve + modeling of various components (disk, bulge, halo)



density  $\rho_0 \approx 0.3 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}$ ( x 10<sup>5</sup> larger than in the universe at large)



NASA/JPL-Caltech image

Baezal, Feb 6, 2008

## **WIMP-Nucleon Cross Section**

The energy spectrum and rate depend on the scattering cross-section. To calculate a cross section we need a particle physics model Example: CMSSM -> scalar cross sections on nucleons between 10<sup>-11</sup> and 10<sup>-7</sup> pb



In general: a spin-dependent and a spin-independent contribution:

$$\begin{split} \frac{d\sigma_{spin}}{d|\vec{q}|^2} &= G_F^2 \frac{C_A}{v^2} F^2(|\vec{q}|) = \frac{\sigma_0}{4\mu^2 v^2} F^2(|\vec{q}|) & \propto J(J+1) \\ \frac{d\sigma_{scalar}}{d|\vec{q}|^2} &= G_F^2 \frac{C_S}{v^2} F^2(Q) = \frac{\sigma_0}{4\mu^2 v^2} F^2(Q) & \stackrel{\propto A^2}{} \\ G_F^2 &\approx 10^{-10} GeV^{-4} & \mu = \frac{m_\chi m_A}{m_\chi + m_A} & \text{reduced mass} \end{split}$$

 $c_A$ ,  $c_s$  = dimensionless numbers containing the particle-physics model information

$$C_S = rac{1}{\pi v^2} [Z f_p + (A-Z) f_n]^2$$
 for scalar couplings

v = WIMP velocity ~  $10^{-3}$ c; F<sup>2</sup>(Q): nuclear form factor



# **WIMP Signatures**

#### • WIMP interactions in detector should be:

- nuclear recoils
- single scatters, uniform throughout detector volume
- as we sweep the WIMP halo, interaction rate is low and modulated
- Spectral shape (exponential, however similar to background)
- Dependance on material (A<sup>2</sup>, F<sup>2</sup>(Q), test consistency between different targets)
- Annual flux modulation (~ 3% effect, most events close to threshold)
- Diurnal direction modulation (larger effect, requires low-pressure gas target)



# **Sources of Background**

#### • Detector related:

- intrinsic radioactivity (U, Th, K, Co, etc.) in materials: a source of gammas and neutrons background--> careful screening and selection
- intrinsic radioactivity in target itself (U, Th, Rn, Kr85, Ar39, etc.) --> purification and careful handling

#### • Environment related:

- radioactivity of environment materials (gammas and neutrons from (alpha,n) and muon-spallation): shielding (Pb, Cu, PE, H2O, etc.)
- cosmic ray muons: go underground
- fast neutrons induced by muons (ultimate background)

#### Other physics processes related:

solar neutrinos, double beta decay --> start to be relevant for very sensitive
 DM searches and as threshold is lowered

## **Example: XENON1T**



FIG. 8: Expected energy spectra of WIMP interactions, solar neutrinos, two-neutrino double beta decays from  $^{136}$ Xe (assuming  $\tau = 10^{22}$  yr) and gamma ray backgrounds as a function of self-shielding cuts (after S2/S1 and multiple-scattering cuts.)

Figure 8 shows the expected rate of WIMP signal (for masses of 0.1, 1, 10 TeV and  $\sigma_{\chi N}=10^{-44}$  cm<sup>2</sup>), compared with the total  $\gamma$ -ray background rate, and neutron background rate after S2/S1 and multiple-scattering cuts. The expected background from pp solar neutrinos and <sup>136</sup>Xe 2- $\nu$  double- $\beta$  decay is also shown. The power of the LXe self-shielding is apparent. A cut of only ~10 cm of active LXe is sufficient to reduce the overall background rate below  $10^{-7}$  events/keV/kg/d. Figure 7b shows the spatial distribution of the overall  $\gamma$ -ray and neutron backgrounds in the TPC. With the ~10 cm self-shielding cut, the residual backgrounds are 0.15  $\gamma$ /yr and 0.13 n/yr, with pp-chain solar neutrinos becoming the irreducible background at a level of 0.5 event/ton/year.





### Energy sharing for low energy ions

For slow ions,  $v < v_0 = e^2/\hbar$ , electronic  $S_e$  and nuclear  $S_n$  stopping powers are similar in magnitude. The secondaries, recoil atoms and electrons, may again suffer collisions and transfer the energy to new particles and so on. After this cascade process is complete, the energy of the incident particle *E* is given to atomic motion v and electronic excitation  $\eta$ .



## Quenching factor and discrimination

WIMPs (and neutrons) scatter off nuclei

Most background noise sources (gammas, electrons) scatter off electrons

Detectors have a different response to nuclear recoils than to electron recoils!

Quenching factor = describes the difference in the amount of visible energy in a detector for these 2 classes of events

keVe = measured signal from an electron recoil

- keVr = measured signal from a nuclear recoil
- ♦ => for nuclear recoil events:

#### Evisible (keVe) = QF x Erecoil (keVr)

the energy scale is calibrated with gamma and neutron sources

## Quenching factor and discrimination

the quenching allows to distinguish between electron and nuclear recoils if two simultaneous detection mechanisms are used

example:

charge and phonons in Ge

 $E_{visible} \sim$  1/3  $E_{recoil}$  for NR

(=> QF ~ 30% in Ge)

ER = background NR = WIMPs or neutrons (background) Similarly in noble liquids ..







### Liquified Noble Gases: Basic Properties

Dense and homogeneous Do not attach electrons, heavier noble gases give high electron mobility Easy to purify (especially lighter noble gases) Inert, not flammable, very good dielectrics Bright scintillators

	Liquid density (g/cc)	Boiling point at 1 bar (K)	Electron mobility (cm²/Vs)	Scintillation wavelength (nm)	Scintillation yield (photons/MeV)	Long-lived radioactive isotopes	Triplet molecule lifetime (µs)
LHe	0.145	4.2	low	80	19,000	none	13,000,000
LNe	1.2	27.1	low	78	30,000	none	15
LAr	1.4	87.3	400	125	40,000	<sup>39</sup> Ar, <sup>42</sup> Ar	1.6
LKr	2.4	120	1200	150	25,000	<sup>81</sup> Kr, <sup>85</sup> Kr	0.09
LXe	3.0	165	2200	175	42,000	<sup>136</sup> Xe	0.03

Material	Ar	Kr	Xe
Gas			
Ionization potential $I$ (eV)	15.75	14.00	12.13
W-values (eV)	26.4 <sup>a</sup>	24.2 <sup>a</sup>	22.0 <sup>a</sup>
Liquid			
Gap energy (eV)	14.3	11.7	9.28
W-value (eV)	$23.6{\pm}0.3^{\rm b}$	$18.4{\pm}0.3^{\rm c}$	$15.6 {\pm} 0.3^{d}$

### Ionization/Scintillation Mechanism in Noble Liquids



# **Scintillation Pulse Shape**

- Two decay components from de-excitation of singlet and triplet states of dimers >
- While the singlet/triplet lifetimes do not depend on the ionization density of particle, their intensity ratio  $\succ$ does: it is larger for heavily ionizing particles allowing particle ID
- LXe: the fastest of all noble liquid scintillators (4ns / 22ns)  $\succ$
- LAr: large separation b/w singlet/triplet decay times allow easy PSD  $\succ$



## Charge and Light response of different particles in LXe



Distribution of ionization around the track of a high energy a-particle or electron

Aprile et al., Phys. Rev. D 72 (2005) 072006

### **Charge and Light Yield of Nuclear Recoils in LXe**

- these quantities are essential for LXe as DM target/detector
- yields measured at low nuclear recoil energies for the first time (XENON R&D)



### Why Noble Liquids for Dark Matter

- **scalability** : relatively inexpensive for large scale (multi-ton) detectors
- ✦easy cryogenics : 170 K (LXe), 87 K (LAr)
- **self-shielding** : very effective (especially for LXe case) for external background reduction
- **low threshold** : high scintillation yield (similar to NaI(TI) but much faster timing)
- h-recoil discrimination: by charge-to-light ratio and pulse shape discrimination
- **\***Xe nucleus (A~131) : good for SI plus SD sensitivity (~50% odd isotopes)
- ◆ For Xe: no long-lived radioactive isotopes (Kr-85 can be removed)
- ◆ For Ar: radioactive Ar-39 is an issue but there are ways to overcome it



## **Quasi-free Electron Emission from Noble Liquids**

- Excess electrons liberated by ionizing radiation can exist in a quasi-free state.
- The potential energy distribution near the interface of two-phase dielectrics favors emission of excess electrons from the quasi-free state
- In LAr the height of the potential barrier is comparable with the thermal energy of excess electrons. Electrons with p<sub>z</sub> > p<sub>0</sub> have sufficient energy for emission
- In LXe the potential barrier |V<sub>0</sub>| >> kT and spontaneous emission is not easily achieved. However, with a high electric field, electrons are heated and when p<sub>z</sub> > p<sub>0</sub> they escape from the condensed phase
- Electrons drifting in the gas, under a high electric field (>1kV/(cm bar) in Xe, generate electroluminescence or proportional scintillation. One electron in gas Xe can produce more than 1000 UV photons/cm of drift path

- B. Dolgoshein et al. JETP Lett. 11 (1970) 513
  - A. Bolozdynya, NIM A422 (1999) 314



### **Noble liquid two-phase TPC**







## XENON10 @ LNGS

#### • 22 kg of liquid xenon

- ➡ 15 kg active volume
- ⇒20 cm diameter, 15 cm drift
- ➡ PTFE walls for VUV reflectivity

 89 Hamamatsu R8520 1"×3.5 cm PMTs bialkali-photocathode Rb-Cs-Sb, Quartz window; ok at -100°C and 5 bar Quantum efficiency > 20% @ 178 nm

⇒x-y position from PMT hit pattern;  $\sigma_{x-y} \approx 1 \text{ mm}$ 

→z-position from  $\Delta t_{drift}$  (v<sub>d,e-</sub> ≈ 2mm/µs),  $\sigma_z$ ≈0.3 mm

• Cooling: Pulse Tube Refrigerator (PTR), 90W, coupled via cold finger (LN<sub>2</sub> for emergency)



#### **XENONIO WIMP-Nucleon Cross-Section Upper Limits**



# **ZEPLIN III @ Boulby Mine**

# **ZEPLIN III Features**

- 8kg fiducial mass
- PMTs in liquid to improve light collection
- 3.5 cm drift depth higher E-field
- 0.5 cm electroluminescent gap
- 31 small PMTs for fine position sensitivity flange
- open plan no surfaces reduced feedback
- Lower-background PMTs available
- Copper construction
- Low-background xenon (from ITEP)







## **ZEPLIN III: First Data from Boulby**



## **ZEPLIN III- Sensitivity Projected**









### **XENON100: current phase of the XENON DM Program**



- New TPC with 170 kg Xe (100 kg active shield)
  - x 10 fiducial mass of XENON10
  - x 2 drift gap (30 cm)
- Improved PMTs (242 for Target & Veto) and DAQ
  - Low activity (U/Th ~1 mBq/PMT)
  - QE >30% @ 175 nm (bottom array)
  - New Cryostat and Cryogenics System
  - Low activity SS (U/Th<1 mBq/kg)
  - Cryocooler and Feedthroughs outside shield
  - Kr85-removal by distillation tower
- Background goal:100 x less than XENON10
- Operational: waiting for improved light yield
- 1st Science Data: Fall 09

#### **XENON100** Collaboration

US - Swizerland - Germany - France - Italy - Portugal - Japan

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#### XENON100 background run

data



First Measured background Spectrum with SI signal only in good agreement with MC prediction.

### **Expected Background and Sensitivity Reach**

		Current X	ENON100		
Fiducial Mass	50	kg	30 kg		
Background	ER	NR	ER	NR	
Units <sup>a</sup>	$[10^{-3} dru_{ee}]$	$[10^{-7} dr u_{nr}]$	$[10^{-3} dru_{ee}]$	$[10^{-7} dr u_{nr}]$	
PMTs and bases	4.91	3.25	<1.4	2.87	
QUPIDs	_	_	_	_	
Stainless steel	<2.01	<2.01	< 0.35	<1.66	
PTFE	<0.18	<6.99	< 0.03	<5.04	
Copper Cryostat	_	_	_	_	
Polyethylene	<2.50	<5.37	<1.2	<4.73	
<sup>85</sup> Kr/U/Th <sup>b</sup>	< 0.2	_	<0.2	_	
Concrete/Rocks <sup>c</sup>	_	1.34	_	1.11	
$\mu$ -induced n in shield	_	33	_	33	
$\mu$ -induced n in rock	_	< 3.7	_	< 3.7	
Total Bkg	<9.8	<55.7	<3.2	<52.1	
Run Time	40 (	lays	200 days		
Raw Exposure	2000 1	kg-day	6000 kg-day		
Total Bkg events	<	1.0	<1.2		
# of WIMP events <sup>e</sup>	3	.9	11.8		
SI $\sigma_{\chi-p}$ reach	$6 \times 10^{-45}$ cm	<sup>2</sup> (early 2009)	$2 \times 10^{-45} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ (end 2009)}$		

<sup>e</sup> assume cross section 10<sup>-44</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>

dru<sub>ee</sub> = evts/keVee/kg/day

# **XENON: The Power of a TPC**

- > 3D position sensitivity with a few millimeters resolution in X-Y and sub-millimeter in Z
- select fiducial volume with no background events- powerful background reduction
- dense LXe has high stopping power for penetrating radiation- powerful self-shielding XENON10 Current XENON100: gamma bkg









#### Sensitivity Reach of the XENON100 Program





# LUX @ Homestake Mine

- The LUX Concept
  - 350 kg total/100 kg fiducial dual phase xenon detector
  - 2.5 m thick purified water shield

- Project Cost = 2.8 M\$
- Fully funded by DOE + NSF
- Significant support by Sanford Laboratory @ Homestake



### Cryostat at Case 2007



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# XMASS @ Kamioka Mine





- Single phase liq. Xe
- Pentakis-dodecahedron
   ← 12 pentagonal pyramids

Each pyramid  $\leftarrow$  5 triangles

- Radius: 39~42 cm
- 642 Hex. PMT immersed in liq. Xe
- PMT photo-cathode coverage: 64%
- Inner mass of Xenon: 857kg (~3g/cm<sup>3</sup>)

Y.Suzuki. IDM2008. Stckholm. Sweden



### <u> Aim:</u>

- 10<sup>-4</sup> dru (ev/kg/keV/day) before any PSD applied
- ➔ 10<sup>-45</sup>cm<sup>2</sup> SI for ~100GeV WIMPs

### For the signal detection

- Low threshold: ~ 5 keV or less
- ← 8 pe /keV (64% photo-cov.)
- Large fiducial volume: 100kg or more

20cmφ: 100kg (20cm self-shield) 25cmφ: 200kg (15cm self-shield)



2008/8/19

Y.Suzuki, IDM2008, Stckholm, Sweden



