

Direct Dark Matter Searches: Lecture 1

Elena Aprile Columbia University

NIJMEGEN09 Summer School, August 24, 2009

Outline of Lectures

Lecture 1:

What we know about DM (in brief)

Principle of direct detection

Expected rate, signal and background sources

Experimental tour:

- 1) crystal scintillators DAMA/LIBRA & KIMS
- 2) noble liquid scintillators XMASS & DEAP/CLEAN

Lecture 2:

- 3) noble liquid (LXe) TPCs XENON, ZEPLIN, LUX
- 4) noble liquid (LAr) TPCs WArP & ArDM
- 5) bubble chambers COUPP
- 6) drift chambers DRIFT, DM-TPC, NEWAGE, MIMAC
- 7) bolometers CDMS, EDELWEISS & CRESST

References and Additional Readings

Rate/Signal Definition

J. D. Lewin and P. F. Smith, Astropart. Phys. 6, (1996) 87.

F. Donato, N. Fornengo, and S. Scopel, Astropart. Phys. 9,(1998) 247.

Backgrounds and more

G. Heusser, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci., 45, (1995) 543.

R. J. Gaiskell, Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci., 54, (2004) 315.

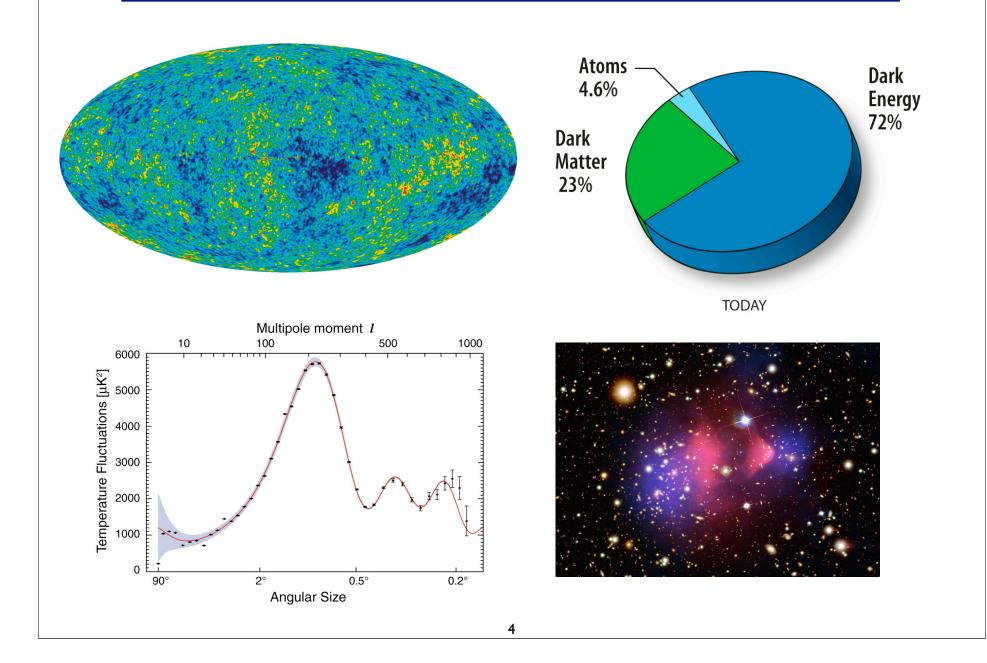
Detectors and experimental methods

W. R. Leo, *Techniques for nuclear and particle physics experiments*, Springer, (1994) G. F. Knoll, *Radiation Detection and Measurement*, Wiley, (2000).

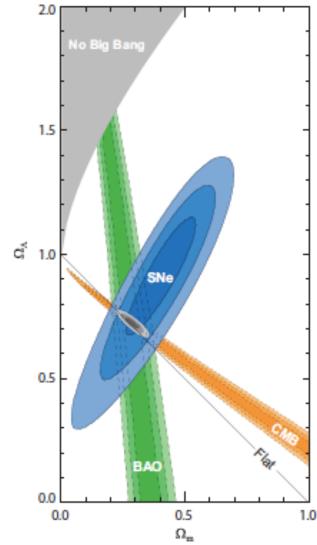
LXe Detectors and Applications

E. Aprile and T. Doke, to appear in Review of Modern Physics (2009).

The Universe is mostly "dark"



Concordance cosmology Fig. from M. Kowalski et al 2008



$$\Omega = \rho/\rho_c$$
 $\rho_c \simeq 5 \text{ keV/cm}^3$

68.3%, 95.4%, 99.7%CL constraints on Ω_M and Ω_Λ obtained from Cosmic Background Radiation Anisotropy CMB (orange), Baryon Acoustic Oscillations BAO (green), and the Union Compilation of 307 Type Ia supernovae (SNe Ia) (blue); $\Omega_M = 0.285^{+0.020}_{-0.019} ({\rm stat})^{+0.011}_{-0.011} ({\rm sys})$ assuming DE is a cosmological constant

WMAP5, BAO, SN: E. Komatsu, et al., 2009 $\Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.721 \pm 0.015$, $\Omega_{m} = 0.279 \pm 0.015$,

where Ω_m is:

 $\Omega_b = 0.0462 \pm 0.0015, \, \Omega_{DM} = 0.233 \pm 0.0013$

most of the matter in the Universe is non-baryonic!

WHAT IS DARK MATTER?

- Evidence for Dark Matter convincing at all scales.. BUT only from gravitational effects
- Independent measurements: BBN, CMB, Large Scale Structures, SN IA, etc..
- Relic Density known with precision: $\Omega_{DM} = 0.233 \pm 0.0013$
- Constraints on basic properties: neutral, stable, non-baryonic, cold, with right relic abundance
- Identity of DM impacts Cosmology and Fundamental Physics:
 - DM determines the physics of structure formation and impact evolution of Universe
 - DM is the leading empirical evidence for a new particle new physics beyond the SM
- Favored scenario: DM is a thermal relic of the Big Bang, massive & with only weak interaction
 - Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)

WIMPs as DARK MATTER

• WIMPs: long lived or stable particles left over from the BB. Produced when T >> m_{χ} via annihilation through Z (+other channels). Annihilation/pair creation maintain thermal equilibrium.

• as T drops below m_{χ} , equilibrium abundance drops as $\exp(-m_{\chi}/T)$: annihilation continues, production

becomes suppressed.

 But, weakly interacting ⇒ may freeze out (to become a relic particle) before total annihilation

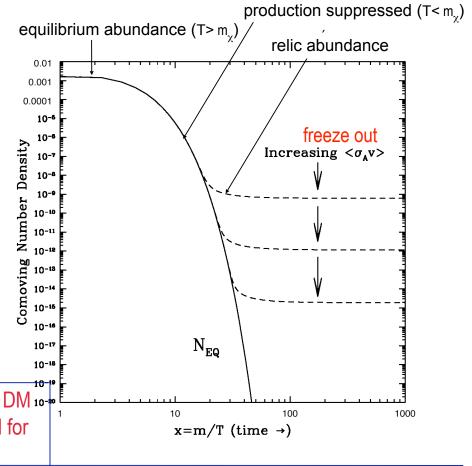
$$H > \Gamma_{ann} \sim n_{\chi} \langle \sigma_{ann} v \rangle$$

i.e., if annihilation too slow to keep up with Hubble expansion

 To a first order the relic abundance is inversely proportional to the annihilation cross section:

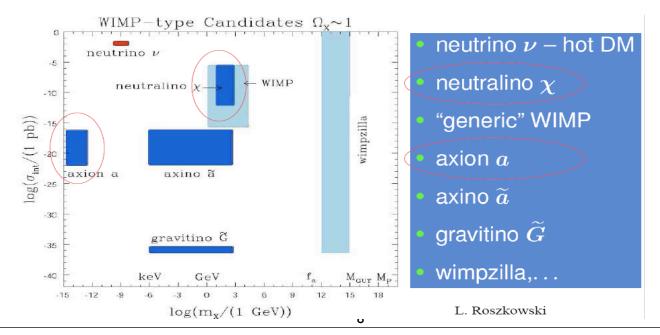
$$\Omega_{\rm X}\,{\rm h}^2\approx 10^{\text{-}27}\,{\rm cm}^3\,{\rm s}^{\text{-}1}/\left<\sigma_{\text{ann}}\,{\rm V}\right>_{\text{fr}}$$

The remarkable fact is that $\Omega \sim 1$ as required by DM 10-10 problem, if $\langle \sigma_{ann} \, v \rangle_{fr}$ is equal to that predicted for particles at the EW scale!



Dark Matter and the WIMP Miracle

- Electroweak symmetry breaking requires new particles with mass ~100 GeV TeV
- Particles at this mass scale with right relic abundance appear naturally in theories beyond SM
- Many candidates with a large difference in mass and cross-section
- Some favored WIMP candidates for Cold Dark Matter:
 - Lightest Neutralino of Supersymmetry with ~0.1 1 TeV and sub-weak interactions
 - Lightest Kaluza-Klein state of UED with mass ~0.4 1 TeV and sub-weak interactions
 - Axion, not a thermal relic, not easily testable, but search in progress



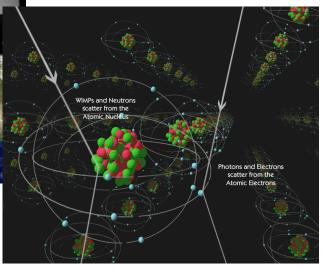
Strategies for WIMP Detection

INDIRECT DETECTION: measure gamma rays, neutrinos, positrons, antiprotons, anti-deuterons, etc. from WIMP annihilation in GC, in Sun, in MW

PARTICLE COLLIDERS:
Produce and Detect WIMPs

DIRECT DETECTION:

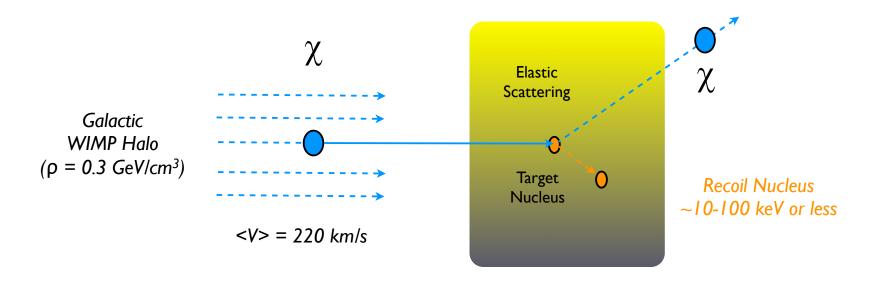
measure WIMP scattering off targets in detectors on Earth



Potential for Breakthrough in coming decade: WIMP models will be stringently probed by one or more method

Principle of Direct Detection

Goodman and Witten: coherent scattering of WIMPs off nuclei (1985)

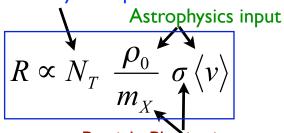


 $\sigma_{\chi N}$ probed to-date ~ 10^{-44} cm²

What is measured (with different target nuclei and detectors): energy of the recoiling nucleus What are the challenges: very small energy, very large backgrounds and very small rate

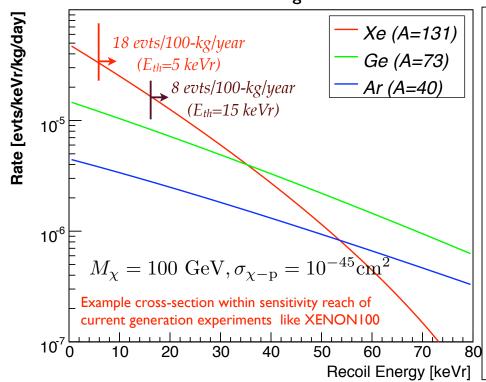
Typical WIMP Rate





WIMP Scattering Rates

Particle Physics input



requirements for direct DM detectors

- → large mass (ton scale)
- → low energy threshold (a few keV)
- → low background noise
- → intrinsic S/N discrimination

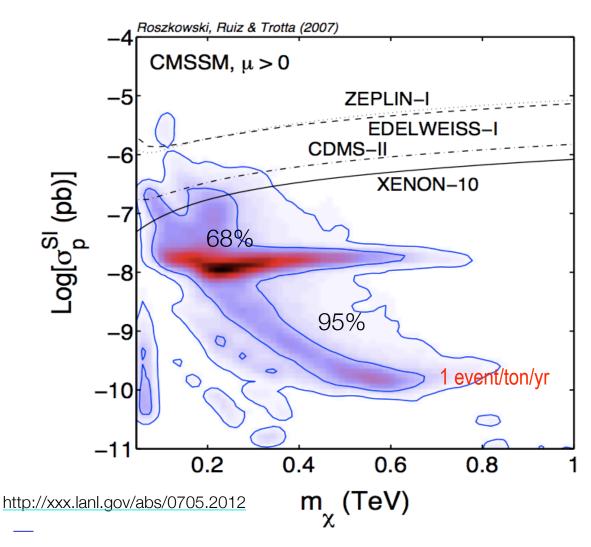
Let's calculate the energy spectrum and interaction rate in a detector on Earth

- To calculate the rate we need to know the properties of DM particles in our Galaxy (density
 of WIMPs in the halo of our Galaxy and their velocity distribution) --> large uncertainties on
 inputs from astrophysics
- We also need to know a cross-section --> not much guidance from theory as we are presented with a large range of parameter space and cross-sections spanning several orders of magnitude

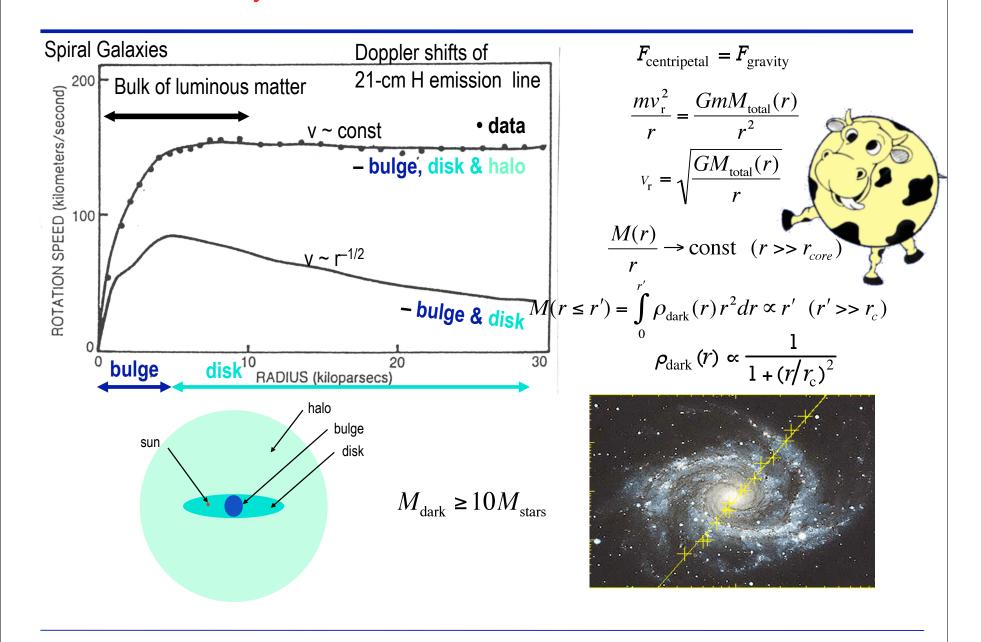
WIMP-Nucleon Cross Section

To calculate a cross section we need a particle physics model

Example: CMSSM -> scalar cross sections on nucleons between 10⁻¹¹ and 10⁻⁷ pb



Dark Matter Dynamical Evidence: Individual Galactic Halos



The Local Dark Matter Density

• Measured galactic rotation curve of the Milky Way + modeling of various components (disk, bulge, halo) give

$$M_{tot,lum} \approx 9 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$$

 $M_{virial} \approx 1...2 \times 10^{12} M_{\odot}$

$$\rightarrow \rho_{dark} \simeq 0.3 - 0.6 \; GeV \cdot cm^{-3}$$

(Klypin, Zhao & Somerville 2002)

200

200

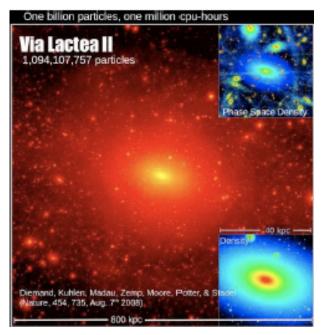
disk+bulge

bulge

R(kpc)

•Density and velocity could be very different if Earth is within a DM clump or stream or if there is a Dark Disk.

 Numerical simulations now include influence of baryons on DM..stars and gas significantly alter local DM density



(J. Diemand et all, Nature 454, 2008, 735-738)

The Flux of Dark Matter through the Earth

We take the local DM density at our position in the galaxy to be (Astrophysics input)

$$\rho_0 \approx 0.3 \,\mathrm{GeV} \,\mathrm{cm}^{-3}$$

• For a DM particle with mass $m_x = 100 \text{ GeV}$, this implies a number density

$$n = \rho_0/m_\chi$$
 to be $n \approx 3 \times 10^{-3} \, \mathrm{cm}^{-3}$

• Taking the WIMP velocity as $v \approx 300 \, \mathrm{km \, sec^{-1}}$

the WIMP flux is
$$J=n\,v \approx 10^5\,\mathrm{cm}^{-2}\,\mathrm{sec}^{-1}$$

a very large number, but remember these particles are weakly-interacting particles

Direct Detection Rate

· The total event rate is

$$R \propto N_T \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \sigma \langle v \rangle$$

where N_T is the number of nuclei in the target (Detector physics input), $\sigma = \sigma_{X\!N}$ is the WIMP-nucleus elastic scattering cross section (Particle physics input), and $<\nu>$ is the average WIMP velocity in the lab frame (Astrophysics input).

$$\langle v \rangle = \int_0^\infty v f(v) dv$$

- The differential event rate is $\frac{dR}{dE_R} \propto \frac{d}{dE_R} \left(N_T \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \sigma \left\langle v \right\rangle \right)$
- Since only <v> depends on the recoil energy

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} \propto N_T \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \sigma \frac{d}{dE_R} \langle v \rangle$$

usually expressed in differential rate unit (dru) or counts/kg/keV/day

$$\left\langle v\right\rangle = \int_0^\infty v \, f(v) \, dv$$

In practice we replace the integration limits with

$$\langle v \rangle = \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{escape}} v f(v) dv$$

and thus

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} \propto N_T \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \sigma \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{escape}} v f(v) dv$$

 The upper limit for the velocity is formally infinite. In practice one takes the escape velocity which depends on the halo properties

$$498 \, \mathrm{km \, s}^{-1} < v_{escape} < 608 \, \mathrm{km \, s}^{-1}$$
 Smith et al. RAVE Survey, 07

• The lower limit is the minimum WIMP velocity necessary to produce a detectable recoil of energy $E_{\it R}$, given as

$$v_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{E_R^{\max} m_N}{2\mu^2}}$$

Let's calculate this v_{min}

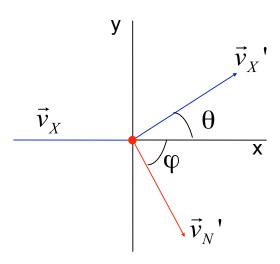
- The WIMP is non-relativistic when it collides with a nucleus N
- In the laboratory (LAB) frame
 the recoil energy of the nucleus is

$$E_R = \frac{\mu^2 v_X^2 \left(1 - \cos\theta\right)}{m_N} \quad \leftarrow$$

where v_X is the WIMP velocity in the CM frame and the reduced mass is

$$\mu = \frac{m_X m_N}{m_X + m_N}$$





WIMP:
$$m_X$$
, $\vec{v}_X = \vec{v}_{X,LAB}$
 $\vec{v}_{X,LAB} = \vec{v}_{X,CM} + \vec{w}$, $\vec{w} = \text{CM}$ velocity

Nucleus:
$$m_N$$
, $\vec{v}_N = \vec{v}_{N,LAB}$
 $\vec{v}_{N,LAB} = \vec{v}_{N,CM} + \vec{w}$

In the CM frame:

$$m_X \vec{v}_{X,CM} = -m_N \vec{v}_{N,CM}$$

$$\vec{v}_{N,CM} = -\frac{m_X}{m_N} \vec{v}_{X,CM}$$

The energy of the recoiling nucleus is maximum for head-on collision

$$\cos \theta$$
 ' = -1 $(P_{max} = 2 \mu v)$

$$E_R^{\text{max}} = \frac{2\mu^2 v^2}{m_N}$$

• Typical energy: for $m_N = m_X = 100 \text{ GeV/c}^2$ and v = 300 km/s,

$$E_{max} = \frac{2\mu^2 \nu^2}{m_N} = \frac{2(m_\chi m_N)^2 \nu^2}{(m_\chi + m_N)^2 m_N} = \frac{2(100 \frac{\text{GeV}}{c^2}) \frac{v^2}{c^2} c^2}{(200 \frac{\text{GeV}}{c^2})^2 (100 \frac{\text{GeV}}{c^2})} \sim 50 \text{keV}$$

• This condition gives the minimum WIMP velocity to produce a recoil energy E_R

$$v_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{E_R^{\max} m_N}{2\mu^2}}$$

• This quantity is the lower limit v_{min} of our integral for the WIMPs event rate

Going back to the differential rate
$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} \propto N_T \; \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \; \sigma \int_{v_{\rm min}}^{v_{escape}} v \; f(v) \, dv$$

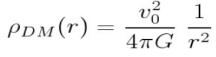
- To calculate the rate we need to know the velocity distribution function f(v)
- The simplest model: **Isothermal spherical halo**
- ✓ Standard halo model choice for calculations of experimental sensitivities
- From the observations, the density is $ho(ec{r}) = \int d^3 ec{v} f(ec{r}, ec{v})$
- For the isothermal spherical halo the velocity distribution function is Maxwellian

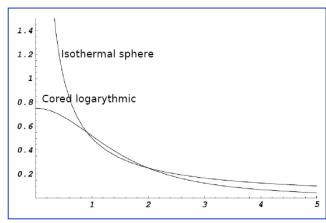
$$f(\mathbf{v}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} \exp\left(-\frac{|\mathbf{v}|^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$$

which gives the correct behavior for the density

• Since there is a singularity when $r \rightarrow 0$ a core radius R_C is added

$$\rho_{DM}(r) = \frac{v_0^2}{4\pi G} \frac{3R_c^2 + r^2}{(R_c^2 + r^2)^2}$$





with a Maxwellian velocity distribution, the integral is

$$\int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{escape}} v f(v) dv \propto \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{escape}} \exp\left(-v^2/v_0^2\right) \propto \exp\left(-v^2/v_0^2\right)$$

• Since the WIMP velocity is related to the recoil energy $E_R = \frac{2\mu^2 v^2}{m_N}$

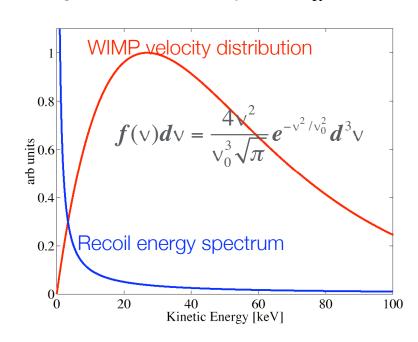
we find that the differential event rate for WIMPs goes exponentially with E_R

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{R}{k E_0} \exp(-E_R/k E_0)$$

where R is the total event rate

$$E_0 = \frac{m_X v_0^2}{2}$$

$$k = \frac{4\mu}{m_X + m_N}$$



Correction: Earth velocity

Up to now we have neglected the motion of the Earth in the Galaxy

Then the corrected differential rate is

$$\frac{dR(v_{E,G}, \infty)}{dE_R} = c_1 \frac{R}{k E_0} \exp(-c_2 E_R / k E_0)$$

where c_1 and c_2 are fitting constants: $c_1 = 0.751$ $c_2 = 0.561$

This expression would be fine for a point-like nucleus but the nucleus has a structure!

Correction: The Form Factor

The scattering of electrons from a point-like target nucleus is described by

$$\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\Omega}\right)_{\mathrm{Rutherford}} = \frac{(zZe^2)^2}{(4\pi\varepsilon_0)^2 \cdot (4E_{\mathrm{kin}})^2 \sin^4\frac{\theta}{2}}$$

• It agrees with the experimental cross-sections only for $\vec{q} \rightarrow 0$

The experimental cross-sections are systematically smaller and show typical diffraction patterns

The spatial extension of a nucleus is described by the Form Factor $F(q^2)$

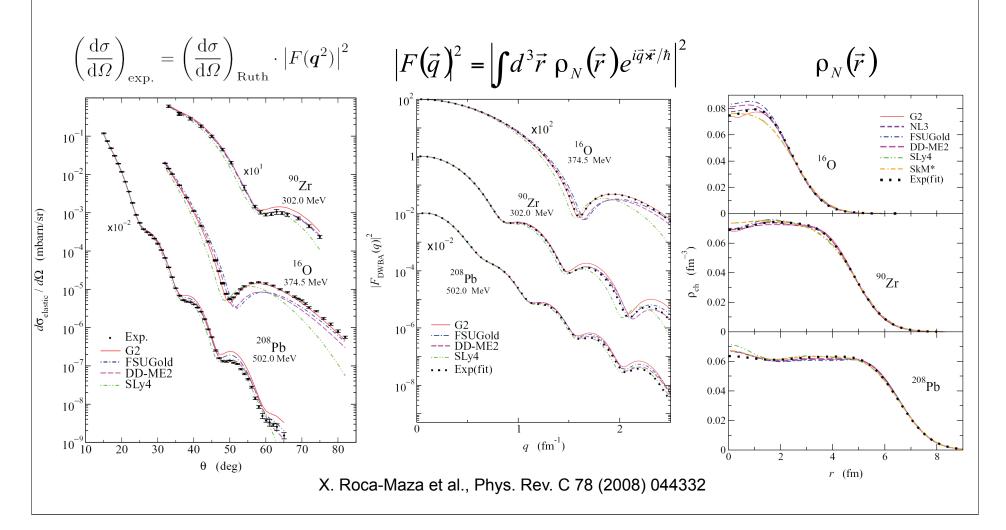
$$\left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\Omega}\right)_{\mathrm{exp.}} = \left(\frac{\mathrm{d}\sigma}{\mathrm{d}\Omega}\right)_{\mathrm{Ruth}} \cdot \left|F(\boldsymbol{q}^2)\right|^2$$

 $F(q^2)$ is the Fourier transform of the (charge or mass) nuclear density

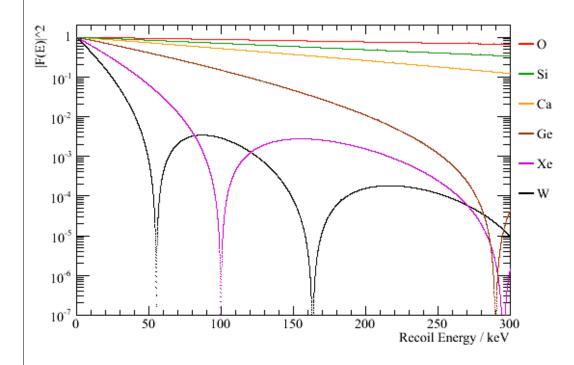
$$F(\vec{q}) = \int d^3 \vec{r} \, \rho_N(\vec{r}) e^{i\vec{q}\cdot\vec{r}/\hbar}$$

Example of Form Factor

- The more extended the distribution, the stronger the fall-off of $F(q^2)$ with q^2
- For lighter nuclei $F(q^2)$ falls off slowly
- In the limit of a point-like target $F(q^2) \rightarrow 1$
- The location of the minima tells us the size of the scattering nucleus



Form Factor for different nuclei used in direct DM search



With the Helm parametrization for the nuclear density the form factor is

$$F^{2}(Q) = \left[\frac{3j_{1}(qR_{1})}{qR_{1}}\right]^{2}e^{-(qs)^{2}}$$

J = 1st Bessel function s = nuclear skin thickness ~1 fm

 $R_1 \propto 1.14 \, A^{1/3} \sim 7 A^{1/3} \, GeV^{-1}$

Form factor is important for large nuclei, such as Xe,W, etc.

For these targets, a low energy threshold essential to minimize Form factor suppression of rate

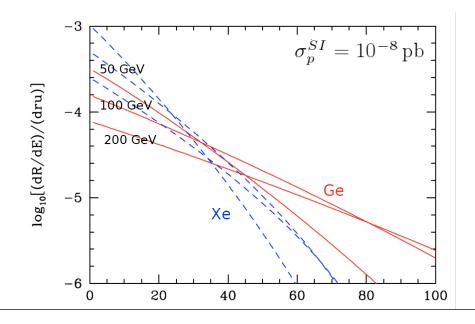
At the same time, the coherence of the scattering favors large nuclei

Taking into account the Form Factor, the WIMP differential event rate becomes

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} \propto N_T \frac{\rho_0}{m_X} \sigma F^2 (E_R) \int_{v_{\min}}^{v_{escape}} v f(v) dv$$

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{R_0}{k E_0} F^2(E_R) \exp(-E_R/k E_0)$$

- Rate higher in target with large nuclei (if detector's energy threshold is low).
- For a given cross-section and target rate higher for low mass WIMPs



WIMP-Nucleus Interactions

- In non-relativistic case (v<<c) scalar and axial vector interactions dominate
- We simply speak of spin-independent and spin-dependent interactions
- Interaction is coherent over the nucleus since the De Broglie wavelength of a WIMP is of nuclear dimension:

$$\frac{\lambda_{WIMP}}{2\pi} = \frac{\hbar}{p} = \frac{\hbar c}{mc^2 v/c} = \frac{197 \text{ MeV fm}}{100 \text{ GeV } 10^{-3}} \approx \text{fm} \approx r_N$$



✓ For spin-independent scattering targets with large nuclei favored since cross section boosted by A²

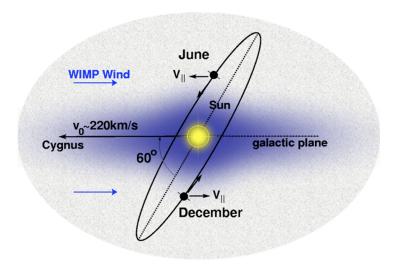
$$P = \left| A \sigma_{Xn}^{si} \right|^2 = A^2 \left(\sigma_{Xn}^{si} \right)^2$$

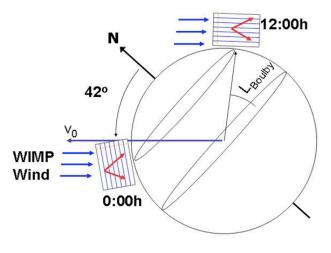
✓ For spin dependent scattering targets with odd nuclei favored - particle shell model assumes nuclear spin due to spin of the single unpaired proton or neutron and thus vanishes for even nuclei

$$P = \left| J\sigma_{Xn}^{sd} \right|^2 = J(J+1) \left(\sigma_{Xn}^{sd} \right)^2$$

WIMP Signatures

- Nuclear recoils: single scatters with uniform distribution in target volume
- A^2 & $F^2(Q)$ Dependence: test consistency of signal with different targets (SI and SD)
- Annual Modulation: Earth annual rotation around Sun: orbital velocity has a component that is anti-parallel to WIMP wind in summer and parallel to it in winter. So apparent WIMP velocity (and hence the rate) will increase (decrease) with season: rate modulation with a period of I year and phase ~2 June; difficult to detect since it is ~2% effect and hard to disentangle from other effects which also have seasonal dependence
- Diurnal Direction Modulation: Earth rotation about its axis, oriented at angle w/respect to WIMP "wind", change the signal direction by 90 degree every 12 hrs. ~30% effect.





Background Sources

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

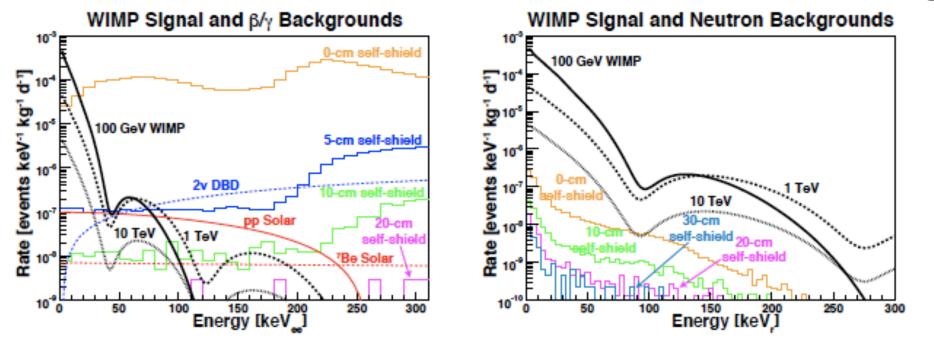
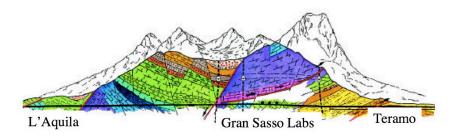
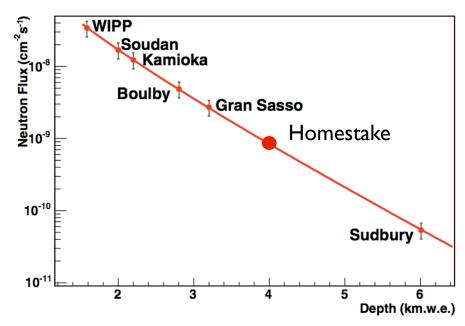


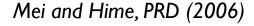
FIG. 8: Expected energy spectra of WIMP interactions, solar neutrinos, two-neutrino double beta decays from 136 Xe (assuming τ =10 22 yr) and gamma ray backgrounds as a function of self-shielding cuts (after S2/S1 and multiple-scattering cuts.)

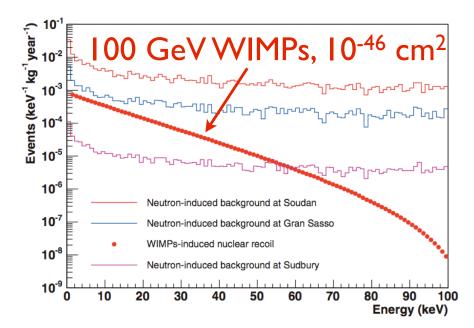
Neutron Background: the need for deep underground laboratories





muon induced neutron flux





signal/background event rates

Quenching factor and discrimination

WIMPs (and neutrons) scatter off nuclei

Most background (gammas, electrons) scatter off electrons

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

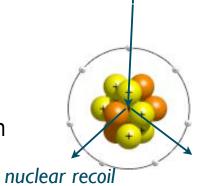
Quenching factor = describes the difference in the amount of visible energy in a detector for these 2 classes of events

- ♠ keVe = measured signal from an electron recoil
- keVr = measured signal from a nuclear recoil
- => for nuclear recoil events:

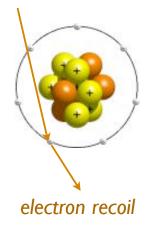
Evisible (keVe) = QF x Erecoil (keVr)

the energy scale is calibrated with gamma and neutron sources

WIMPs/Neutrons



Gammas



Baezal, Feb 6, 2008

Elena Aprile

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

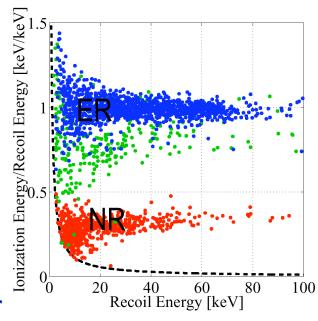
 $E_{\text{visible}} \sim 1/3 E_{\text{recoil}}$ for NR

 $(=> QF \sim 30\% \text{ in Ge})$

ER = background

NR = WIMPs or neutrons (background)

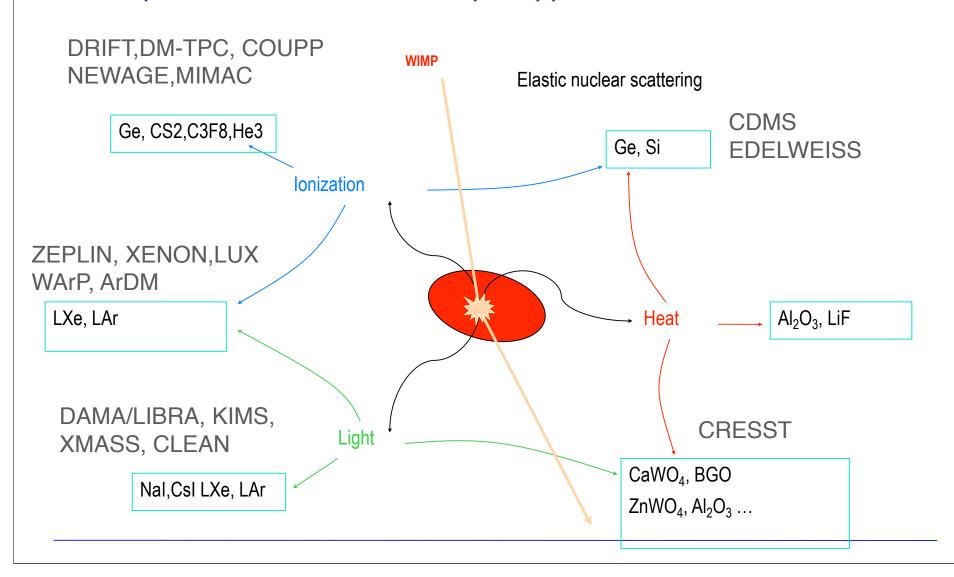
Similarly in noble liquids..discussed later



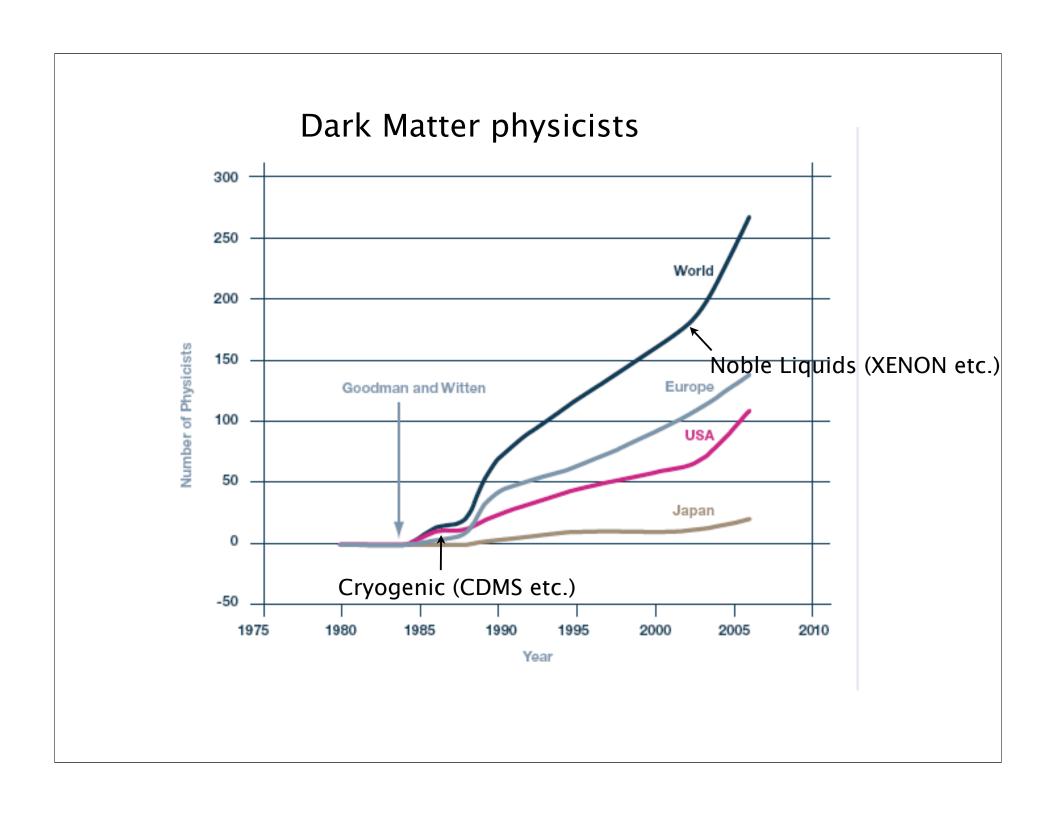
Baezal, Feb 6, 2008 Elena Aprile

Direct Detection Experiments

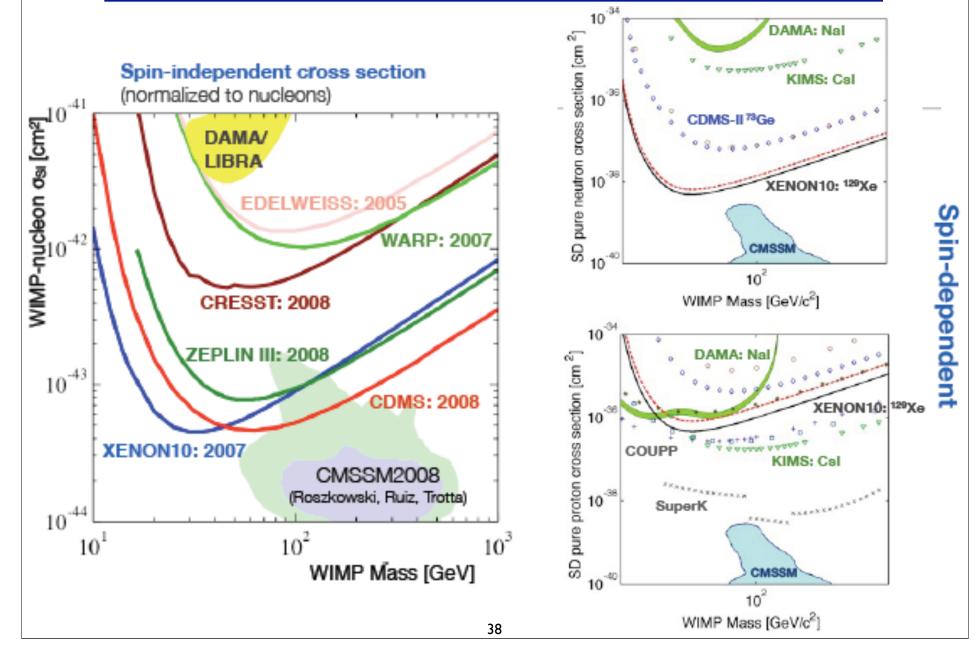
After Drukier and Stodolsky, PRD 30 (1984) 2295 (and Goodman and Witten (1985))







Experimental Results: August 2009



Room Temperature Scintillation Experiments

- Inorganic alkali halide crystals (NaI (TI), CsI (TI): high density, high light output
- can be produced with high purity in large mass at affordable cost (annual modulation study)
- Sensitive to both SD and SI WIMP interactions
- PSD (better for CsI) but no discrimination between electron and nuclear recoils on an event-by-event basis
- Experiments: DAMA-LIBRA/Italy, KIMS/Korea, ANAIS/Spain (plan for 100kg NaI expt at Canfranc)

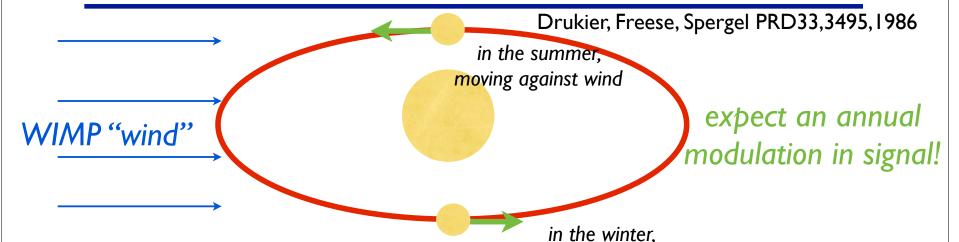




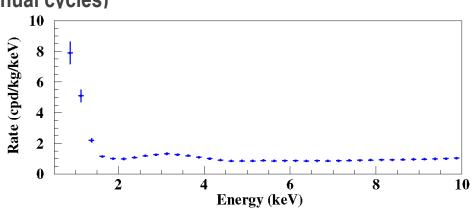




DAMA/LIBRA @ LNGS (Italy)



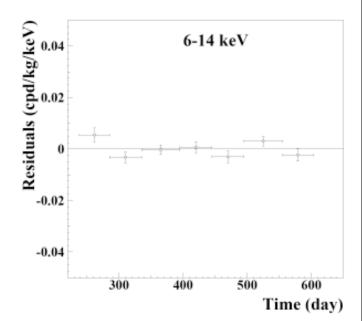
- Designed to search for annual modulation
- Data accumulated: ~ 0.8 ton x year
- DAMA (100 kg): 9 x 9.7 Nal (Tl) crystals (7 annual cycles)
- LIBRA (250 kg): 25 x 9.7 Nal (TI) crystals (4 annual cycles)
- BG level: 1-2 events/kg/d/keV
- E_{threshold} ≈ 2keV_{ee} ≈ 25 keV_r
- Careful control of data taking conditions

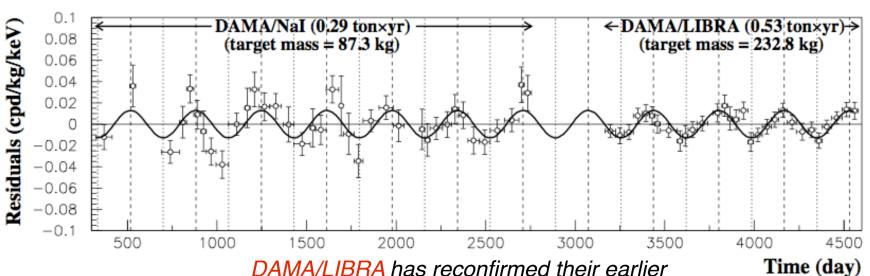


moving away from wind

Annual Modulation Results

- Modulation amplitude: A cos [ω(t-t₀)]
- Right period (1.00±0.01) year
- Right phase t₀ (140±22) days
- Right amplitude A = (0.0215 ± 0.0026) cpd/kg/keV
- Large significance (8.3 σ CL)
- No modulation above 6 keV
- Many phenomena exhibit annual modulation: are they all clearly excluded??





observation of annual modulation signal

2-6 keV

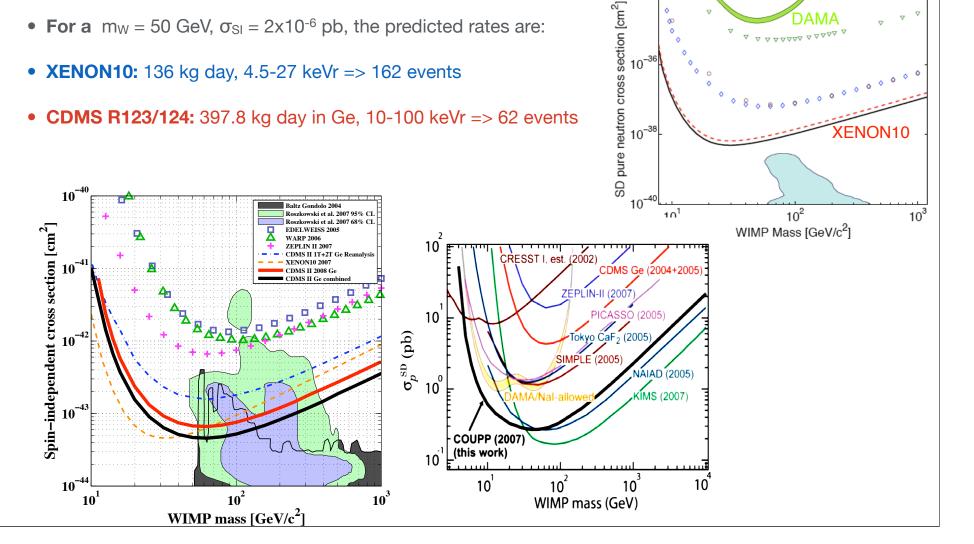
Tension with other experiments continues

• WIMP recoils, in a standard scenario, excluded by other experiments, for both SD and SI

• For a $m_W = 50$ GeV, $\sigma_{SI} = 2x10^{-6}$ pb, the predicted rates are:

• **XENON10:** 136 kg day, 4.5-27 keVr => 162 events

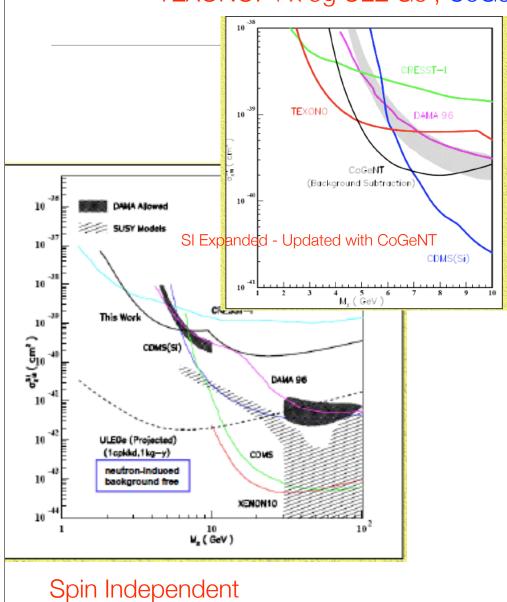
• CDMS R123/124: 397.8 kg day in Ge, 10-100 keVr => 62 events

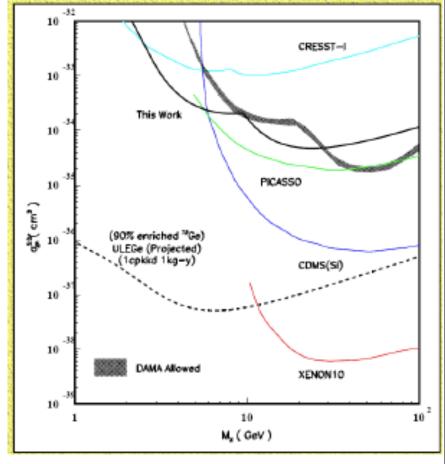


(ENON10

New Results at Low Mass WIMPs

TEXONO: 4 x 5g ULE Ge; CoGeNT: 500 g PPC Ge



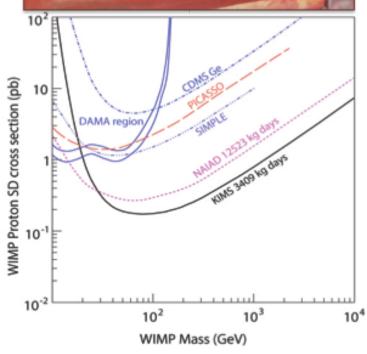


Spin Dependent

KIMS @ Yang Yang (Korea)

- Csl (Tl) crystals (~100 kg): 12 x 8.7 kg
- 5pe/keV and very good PSD (better than NaI(TI))
- Designed for annual modulation study
- Direct check of DAMA/LIBRA signal by I-127 recoil
- Data accumulated for over 1yr; analysis ongoing
- Sensitive to both SI and SD WIMP interactions
- published data (~3000 kg days) rule out DAMA for both SD and SI interactions for >20 GeV WIMPs
- Most stringent limit on SD interactions for pure proton coupling





How/when will the DAMA question be resolved?

- KIMS is improving background and results are eagerly awaited but..it is not Nal
- ANAIS (the only other Nal based effort) is still in planning phase..
- Noble liquid scintillators (LXe and LAr) will soon have large enough mass and operating stability to check annual modulation signature..
- but.. CsI, LXe and LAr are different than Nal..so it may take a while to sort things out
- is Nal special?? DAMA invokes astrophysics and "channeling" in Nal to explain why others do not agree: efficiency for nuclear recoil in crystal scintillators depends on ion direction relative to principal axes. For low energy ions, channeling shifts allowed region to lower mass and cross section so others have no sensitivity