



# Direct Detection of Dark Matter and Exclusion Limits

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The question for most particle physicists is not whether dark matter exists but rather what type of particle- or particles-make up dark matter

#### Is Dark Matter part of a Dark Sector?



#### spans 90 order of magnitude in mass





220 km/second

$$\lambda_{\rm dB} \sim \frac{h}{p} \sim \frac{h}{m_{\rm DM} \ v_{\rm DM,0}} \sim 34 \ \mu {\rm m} \ \left(\frac{50 \ {\rm eV}}{m_{\rm DM}}\right)$$

The New Dark Matter Landscape, Budnik & Essig (2023)



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- Ultralight DM must be a boson, since fermion would not be able to form observed dwarf galaxies due to Pauli exclusion principle.
- The 10<sup>-22</sup> eV limits corresponds to the de Broglie wavelength comparable to the size of observed dwarf galaxies.
- QCD axion: It would also solve the strong CP problem in QCD.

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#### **Terrestrial Probes**

#### **Production of DM**

Accelerators could be able to produce DM in collisions of SM particles, and then look for missing energy.

#### **Precision measurements**

Reducing the uncertainty in SM cross section determination helps to constraint DM cross section interaction.

#### **Direct detection**

Search for the small signals created when a DM particle in our halo scatters off a target material.







Silicon sensor used to look for Dark Matter

#### **Ultralight Dark Matter searching**



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Axion Dark Matter eXperiment (ADMX) uses strong magnetic field in a cavity to convert DM axions to microwave photons.

- > ADMX-HF
- > NASDUCK
- > HAYSTAC
- > CASPEr
- ABRACADABRA
- DM-Radio

#### Accelerator-based probes of Light Dark Matter

Particle-like dark matter with masses below proton have historically been scarcely explored

- FASER, in the far-forward region of the LHC to catch elusive dark-sector particles.
- MiniBooNE, a neutrino experiment able to search for DM produced in a proton beam dump.
- LDMX, electron beam incident on a fixed target and search for missing momentum of the electron after it passes through the target, which could be caused by the radiation of dark matter particles.



MiniBoone Cherenkov Detectors

#### **Terrestrial Probes: Direct Detection of Dark Matter**



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#### **Direct Detection of Particle-like Dark Matter**



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Elastic interaction of DM with a nucleus

$$E_{\rm NR} \sim 1 \, {\rm eV} \left( \frac{m_{\rm DM}}{100 \, {\rm MeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{28 \, {\rm GeV}}{m_{\rm N}} \right)$$
 Light \_\_\_\_\_\_

- Inelastic interaction:
  - DM-electron scattering
  - Migdal effect
  - DM scattering off collective excitations

$$E_{\rm kin} \sim 100 \ {\rm eV} \left( \frac{m_{\rm DM}}{100 \ {\rm MeV}} \right)$$



#### **Direct Detection of Particle-like Dark Matter**

Elastic interaction of DM with a nucleus

CEvNS produced an irreducible background

$$E_{\mathrm{NR}^+} \sim 1 \ \mathrm{eV} \left( \frac{m_{\mathrm{DM}}}{100 \ \mathrm{MeV}} \right)^2 \left( \frac{28 \ \mathrm{GeV}}{m_{\mathrm{N}}} \right)^2$$

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#### Quenching factor

#### **Direct Detection of WIMPs**



The XENONnT being installed in the LNGS laboratory in Italy

- WIMPs, with a mass 1 to 10 000 GeV, would be produced in the early Universe shortly after the Big Bang with a calculable abundance that roughly matches the one observed.
- Experiments: Multi-ton scale detectors with noble-liquid targets (xenon and argon) led by:
  - XENONnT
  - LZ
  - PandaX-4T
  - DarkSide-20k.

100 events per tonne per year100 events per people per second on Earth's surface.

#### **Direct Detection of WIMPs**

#### Neutrino floor (fog?)



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#### **Direct Detection of Light Dark Matter**



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# **Charge Coupled Device**



Selfie by Boyle and Smith in 1969

Nobel Prize in 2009

Skipper-CCD

Used by SENSEI to look for Dark Matter

































#### SENSEI @ MINOS



@ Fermilab









énsei







ensei

Mariano Cababie





Hot pixels and hot columns





#### Hot pixels and hot columns

#### Bleeding





Hot pixels and hot columns

Bleeding

High energy halo





Hot pixels and hot columns

Bleeding

High energy halo

All criteria applied

#### Results

1312 events of 1e in 1.38 g-day
5 events of 2e in 2.09 g-day
0 events of 3e in 9.03 g-day
0 events of 4e in 9.10 g-day

Physical Review Letters 125, 171802 (2020)

#### **Dark Matter exclusion limits**





Journal of High Energy Physics 2016, 46 (2016).

Physical Review Letters 125, 171802 (2020).

First, we use the frequentist prescription to establish the 90% confidence level upper limit for the number of observed events in each channel

	2e	3e	4e
Observed events	5	0	0
90 % C.L. Upper limit			
Effective exposure [g-day]	2.09	9.03	9.10
90 % C.L. [g-day] <sup>-1</sup>			

















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	2e	3e	4e
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90 % C.L. [g-day] <sup>-1</sup>	4.449		



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	2e	3e	4e
Observed events	5	0	0
90 % C.L. Upper limit	9.27	2.30	2.30
Effective exposure [g-day]	2.09	9.03	9.10
90 % C.L. [g-day] <sup>-1</sup>	4.449	0.255	0.253



$$\frac{rystal}{nE_e} = \frac{p\chi}{m_{\chi}} N_{\text{cell}} \,\overline{\sigma}_e \,\alpha$$

$$\times \frac{m_e^2}{\mu_{\chi e}^2} \int d\ln q \left(\frac{E_e}{q} \eta \left(v_{\min}(q, E_e)\right)\right) F_{\text{DM}}(q)^2 \left|f_{\text{crystal}}(q, E_e)\right|^2$$

- For a given DM mass, we make the conservative assumption that all of the events observed are signal.
- > Then, we calculate the cross-section,  $\sigma_e$  such that  $N_{obs,90\%CL} = N_{signal}$ .
- We repeat the procedure for each DM mass.

Journal of High Energy Physics 2016, 46 (2016).

#### **Dark Matter Exclusion limits**

ensei



Physical Review Letters 125, 171802 (2020)

#### SENSEI @ SNOLAB



#### SENSEI @ SNOLAB



SENSEI already has 65 gr (26 detectors) 2000 mts underground

#### **Oscura: 10 kg Skipper-CCD experiment**





Detector payload

Oscura review paper: arXiv:2202.10518

#### Laboratorio Argentino de Mediciones de Bajo umbral de Detección y sus Aplicaciones

#### LAMBDA (A)

Detectores de Bajo Umbral y sus Aplicaciones

Low Threshold Detectors and their Applications

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#### **Oscura: Early Science: milliCharged particles search**



arXiv:2304.08625

#### **BSM** physics at a nuclear reactor in Argentina with Skipper-CCD



Journal of High Energy Physics. 2022, 127 (2022).



Phys. Rev. Applied 19, 064044 – Published 14 June 2023

We've already got the third little star ...



Now, we go for the Dark Matter ...

