LNGS

a laboratory with the vocation of the Dark Matter

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Columbia University and LNGS

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Dark Matter: a brief history

- 1922: Jacobus Kapteyn coined the name "dark matter", while studying stellar motions in our galaxy. He found that the Galaxy had a center of rotation
- 1932: Jan Oort, student of Kapteyn, did a Ph.D. whose title was *High velocity stars*. He suggested that there would be more dark than visible matter in the vicinity of the Sun (later the result turned out to be wrong)
- 1933: F. Zwicky found "dunkle Materie" in the Coma cluster - the redshift of galaxies were much larger than the escape velocity due to luminous matter alone







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The Dark Matter puzzle

The bulk of the matter in the Universe (about 85%) is observable only through its gravitational effects.

DARK MATTER

Credit: NASA/WMAP Science Team

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Evidence for Dark Matter, Galaxy rotation curves



Spiral galaxies show
$$\frac{M}{L} \sim 30 - 40 \frac{M_{\odot}}{L_{\odot}}$$
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Evidence for Dark Matter, Cosmic Microwave Background



Credit: NASA/WMAP Science Team

Detailed measurements of the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) temperature fluctuations.

They support Λ CDM model with a flat Universe.

$\Omega_{\Lambda}\,\sim\,0.72,\,\Omega_{CDM}\,\sim\,0.23,\,\Omega_{B}\,\sim\,0.046,\,\Omega_{Tot}\,=\,1$

M Messina (Columbia University-LNGS) Compact Stars in the QCD phase diagram V

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Dark Matter is a component of the Universe with these features:

- It's DARK, neither emitting nor absorbing light. No electric charge.
- It's massive, gravitational effects.
- Small interaction between DM particles, basically collisionless.
- Small interaction with baryons.
- It's COLD, non relativistic.
- It's stable, its mean decay time is much longer than the age of the Universe.

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A Standard Model particle as Dark Matter candidate?



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No SM particle is a suitable DM candidate. Study of DM \rightarrow Study of physics beyond the SM.

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Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs) are a class of DM candidates.

A new stable neutral particle, with feeble interaction and O(100 GeV) mass.

This kind of particles arises in a few theories beyond SM, as Supersimmetry (SUSY).

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Final abundance determined by annihilation cross section σ_A . For WIMPs this is at the electroweak scale. This naturally gives the correct relic abundance $\Omega_{CDM} \sim 0.1$.

WIMP miracle

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WIMPs detection channels





Independent and complementary approaches

Indirect detection

Products of DM particles annihilation: e^+ , \bar{p} , γ , energetic ν s.

Production in colliders Missing energy in LHC collisions

Direct detection

WIMPs interactions with target nuclei

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Direct detection: effect of WIMPs interactions

WIMPs induce nuclear recoils in a terrestrial detector.



 $ho_0 \sim 0.3 \, {\rm GeV} \cdot cm^{-3}$ (few particles per liter) at the Sun position. Standard assumption is a Maxwellian velocity distribution with $v_0 = 220 \, {\rm km/s}$



Nuclear recoil energies O(10 keV) Total recoil rate as low as $1-10^{-3}$ events / (day \cdot kg)

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Direct detection: annual modulation



Annual modulation of the recoil rate:

- Modulation present only in a definite energy region
- Modulation ruled by a cosine function
- Period of 1 year
- Phase is 152.5^{th} day in the year (June 2^{nd})
- Amplitude of the modulation order few percents

Strong signature.

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Direct detection: design of a WIMP detector

- Very low energy threshold for nuclear recoils, O(1 keV)
- Underground site to avoid cosmic rays (LNGS)
- Very low radioactive background at low energies, with careful material selection and detector design
- Sensitivity to a recoil, i.e. specific observable, to reject the abundant γ and β background
- Space resolution to reject multiple-hit events (induced by neutrons)
- Sensitivity to a WIMP specific observable: annual modulation, rate scaling with A of target.

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Direct detection: different techniques



Double Read-Out: use of two signals to discriminate nuclear and electronic recoils



Direct detection: LNGS experiments



DAMA: light (annual modulation)



CRESST: light + phonons



XENON: light + charge



DARKSIDE: light + charge

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Array of radiopure sodium iodine (NaI) scintillating crystals. Light is detected by means of PMTs. Look for *annual modulation* in single-hit events.



DAMA/NaI: 87.3 kg of NaI, completed data taking in July 2002, total exposure 0.29 ton \times year.

DAMA/LIBRA: 232.8 kg of Nal, first phase ended August 2013, total exposure 1.04 ton × year.

Total exposure (NaI+LIBRA): 1.33 ton \times year (14 annual cycles). 9.3 σ evidence for annual modulation in single-hit events, 2-6 keV energy range (electron calibration).



From R.Cerulli's talk @ MG14-ICRA, Roma

Compatible with annual modulation expected from DM particles in the halo of the Galaxy. No modulation in multiple-hit events and in the energy range above 6 keV.

Interpretation as WIMP with M \sim 10 GeV and $\sigma \sim 10^{-40}$ cm² is challenged by other experiments.

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From R.Cerulli's talk @ MG14-ICRA, Roma

- DAMA/LIBRA phase 2 in data taking at lower energy threshold (below 2 keV).
- DAMA/LIBRA phase 3 under study (increasing light collection and with new high q.e. PMTs).
- R&D for a possible DAMA/1 ton setup.

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CRESST

It uses scintillating CaWO₄ crystals (300 g each) as target at cryogenic temperatures (\sim 10 mK). Very low threshold (0.4 keV).





$$\Delta T = \frac{E}{C(T)} e^{-\frac{t}{\tau}}, \tau = \frac{C(T)}{G(T)}$$

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Phonon signal (heat) \rightarrow deposited energy Scintillation light \rightarrow particle discrimination

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Very good electronic recoil discrimination.

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From F.Reindl's talk @ NDM 2015, Jyvaskyla

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Very good electronic recoil discrimination.

CRESST

An array of 33 modules (10 kg target mass).





CRESST-II Phase 1 (2009-2011): excess above known background, mild tension with previous data.

CRESST-II Phase 2 (since July 2013): background reduction, currently running. Very good performance at low WIMP mass (<3 GeV).

CRESST-III: smaller crystals (24 g), lowering threshold (100 eV). Starting this year.

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Dual-phase Xenon Time Projection Chamber (TPC).





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Charge/Light ratio to discriminate electronic recoils. 3D reconstruction of the position of the interactions (drift time + light pattern on the PMTs).



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XENON100: 62 kg Xenon target mass (161 kg total) started data taking in 2007, still running. Led the field for many years with longest run (i.e. 225 days).

XENON1T: 1 ton Xenon fiducial volume (3.3 tons total) just stared the data taking. Complemented by a Cherenkov detector for μ .

The design embeds already the upgrade at larger mass \sim 7 tonnes, larger detector in a larger vessel, where all the infrastructures will be exploited while only the inner vessel of the cryostat and a new TPC will be re-built.

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Dual-phase Argon TPC.







Use of Underground Argon (UAr) to get rid of the radioactive ³⁹Ar isotope.

Borated Liquid Scintillator Veto for neutrons, Water Cherenkov detector for μ .

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Discrimination with charge/light ratio + Pulse Shape Discrimination.



From S.Davini's talk @ TAUP 2015, Torino

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Currently running is DarkSide-50, with 46 kg Ar active mass, total mass 153 kg.

- Started data taking in late 2013 using atmospheric Argon.
- Filled with UAr in April 2015, 70 days data taking. ³⁹Ar reduced by a factor 1400. No evidence of DM interactions.

Future: DS-20k, 20 tons fiducial volume mass (30 tons total). Use of SiPMs.



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- Filled with UAr in April 2015, 70 days data taking. ³⁹Ar reduced by a factor 1400. No evidence of DM interactions.

Future: DS-20k, 20 tons fiducial volume mass (30 tons total). Use of SiPMs.



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What about future

SABRE: It was motivated to definitively proof or disproof the controversial DAMA/LIBRA results.



- Crystal Nal \sim 5 kg
- Crystal PMTs: 3 inch flat Hamamatsu R11065-20
- Vessel: 1.3 m diameter,1.5 m length
- 2 tonnes of LS 2.25 m³
- LS veto PMTs: 8 inch semi-spherical PMTs R5912

Experimental installation for the proof of principle (PoP) setup is ongoing in the HallB

SABRE's strategy to lower BG

- Grow Nal(TI) crystal with improved radio-purity: cleaner powder, higher-purity growth method, and low radioactivity enclosure, plus veto LS detector, mainly vetoing ⁴⁰K and ²²N_a
- High QE PMTs directly coupled to the crystals and lower HV to reduce dynode afterglow.
- Twin detectors in northern and southern hemisphere to reduce seasonal effect (LNGS Italy, & SUPL, Australia)



Crystal	SABRE measure	DAMA measure
mass (so far)	1.5 kg	
OD/length	88 mm / 50 m	
light yield	41 pe/keV	
pe yield	14	7 pe/keV
^{nat} K in crystal	9 ppb	13 ppb
Rb	<0.1 pb	0.35 ppb
Th	0.5 ppt	0.5-7.5 ppt
U	0.6 ppt	\sim ppt

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MoscaB a promising R&D

A detector technology based on superheated liquid (C_3F_8) . When an energy release, above a

certain threshold (E_c and dE/dx), take place, a micro-bubble can grow to become visible.



The read out is done by means of the high

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quality cameras, (50 frames/s). A trigger is generated when a pixel detects a signal above threshold. This happen when a micro-bubble is generated. Then 50 frames before and after he trigger are recorded.

In the next months a 40 kg target mass detector will be installed at the LNGS. This is one module

out of 10 foreseen if the expected performance are achieved.

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MoscaB working principle:

When a bubble is generated in the liquid phase (at given T_{liq}) it grows to become visible while migrating to the liquid-glycol interface. Once the droplet leaves the glycol-vapour interface at

 T_{vap} > T_{lia} it re-liquify and goes back to the liquid phase restoring the equilibrium



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MoscaB BG and exclusion plot for SD interactions with

1 year exposure

The working parameters are tuned such that electrons (or gammas) do not start nucleation process at level of 10¹⁰. So the electrons are not really a background.

A significant source of BG can be the spontaneous nucleation started on the surface of the vessel. This can be largely reduced with a surface treatment.

Another relevant source of BG are α particles from contaminants. However, acoustic

measurements are under development where α and nuclear recoils can be distinguished by

means of the sound signal fe



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LNGS are leading the field of Dark Matter direct detection.

4 different experiments are ongoing, using different techniques and a variety of targets. More is already planned for the near future.

Important results already achieved and good prospects for the near future.

STAY TUNED FOR NEXT RESULTS!



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