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A. Incicchitti INFN sez. Roma Roma, Maggio 2009



# The Dark Side of the Universe: experimental evidences ... First evidence and confirmations:

- **1934 F. Zwicky:** studying dispersion velocity of Coma galaxies
- **1936** S. Smith: studying the Virgo cluster
- **1974 two groups:**systematical analysis of *mass* vs *distance from center* in many galaxies



#### COMA Cluster



# **Other experimental evidences**

- $\checkmark$  from LMC motion around Galaxy
- ✓ from X-ray emitting gases surrounding elliptical galaxies
- ✓ from hot intergalactic plasma velocity distribution in clusters

✓ ...

✓ bullet cluster 1E0657-558 -

visible Universe  $<< M_{gravitational effect} \Rightarrow$  about 90% of the mass is DARK



# Relic DM particles from primordial Universe

#### Heavy candidates:

- In thermal equilibrium in the early stage of Universe
- Non relativistic at decoupling time:

 $<\sigma_{ann} v > \sim 10^{-26} / \Omega_{WIMP} h^2 cm^3 s^{-1} \rightarrow \sigma_{ordinary matter} \sim \sigma_{weak}$ Expected flux:  $\Phi \sim 10^7 \cdot (GeV/m_W) cm^{-2} s^{-1} (0.2 < \rho_{halo} < 1.7)$ 

- GeV cm<sup>-3</sup>)
   Form a dissipationless gas trapped in the gravitational field of the Galaxy (v ~10<sup>-3</sup>c)
- Neutral, massive, stable (or with half life ~ age of Universe) and weakly interacting

SUSY

(R-parity conserved → LSP is stable)neutralino or sneutrino

the sneutrino in the Smith

and Weiner scenario

electron interacting dark matter

a heavy v of the 4-th family

#### Light candidates:

axion, sterile neutrino, axionlike particles cold or warm DM (no positive results from direct searches for relic axions with resonant cavity)

axion-like (light pseudoscalar and scalar candidate) self-interacting dark matter

mirror dark matter

#### Kaluza-Klein particles (LKK)

heavy exotic canditates, as "4th family atoms", ...

etc...

+ multi-component halo?

even a suitable particle not yet foreseen by theories

**Accelerators** 

#### **Cosmology and Astrophysics**

**Direct search** 

**Complementary information** 

**Indirect search** 

Different information can be only matched by logic grids in model dependent scenarios A model independent approach can be pursued by direct detection to investigate DM particle component in the Galactic halo

### Some direct detection processes:



e.g. signals from these candidates are completely lost in experiments based on "rejection procedures" of the electromagnetic component of their counting rate

... and more

### Dark Matter direct detection activities in underground labs

- Various approaches and techniques (many still at R&D stage)
- ✓ Various different target materials
- ✓ Various different experimental site depths
- ✓ Different radiopurity levels, etc.







## Main recipes for the Dark Matter particle direct detection

- Underground site
- Low bckg hard shields against γ's, neutrons
- Lowering bckg: selection of materials, purifications, growing techniques, ...
- Rn removal systems

#### **Background sources**

- LNGS:

muons

neutrons



surface

**Radon in the hall**  $\rightarrow \approx 30 \text{ Bq/m}^3$ 

- Internal Background:

#### selected materials (Ge, NaI, AAS, MS, ...)

 $\rightarrow$ 

 $\rightarrow$ 



#### Shielding

**Passive shield:** Lead (Boliden [< 30 Bq/kg from <sup>210</sup>Pb], LC2 [<0.3 Bq/kg from <sup>210</sup>Pb], lead from old roman galena), OFHC Copper, Neutron shield (low A materials, n-absorber foils) **Active shield:** Low radio-activity NaI(Tl) surrounding the detectors



# The "traditional" approach

• Experimental vs Expected spectra (with or without bckg rejection)



### **Bolometer/ionization bolometer/scintillation detectors**



Ge/NbSi3 Dionysos-1 (NTD) TBN-26 (NbSi) Test 20mK

CDMSII (PRL102(2009)011301) Experimental site: Soudan mine Target material:<sup>nat</sup>Ge, <sup>nat</sup>Si Target mass: 3.5 kg Ge depending on runs Used exposure:121.3 kg x day (before cuts 397.8 kg x day)

Experimental site: LSM Target material: <sup>nat</sup>Ge E Target mass:0.96 kg Used exposure: 62 kg x day

EDELWEISS II EDELWEISS I(PRD71(2005)122002)



heat bath



CRESST (AP23(2005)325, arXiv:0809.1829v2)

See next slide for drawbacks

Experimental site: LNGS Target material: CaWO<sub>4</sub> Target mass: 0.6 kg Used exposure: 48 kg x day

## **Bolometer/ionization experiments, an example: CDMSII**



"One Ge detector in tower 2, ZIP 5 [T2Z5(Ge)], had a spatial region of abnormal ionization response that was excluded from analysis. The Si detector T1Z6, known to be contaminated with <sup>14</sup>C, a beta emitter, was entirely excluded, as were detectors T1Z1(Ge) and T2Z1(Si) due to poor phonon sensor performance." PRL96(2006)011302



FIG. 3 (color online). Ionization yield versus recoil energy for events in all Ge detectors (upper) and all Si detectors (lower) passing initial data selection cuts prior to applying the surface electron recoil rejection cut. The signal region consists of recoil

#### **COMMENTS:**

•data "selection" and "handling"?(very small exposure released with respect to several years of the experiment)

 bckg rejection technique and associated uncertainties full under control?

•What about the needed continuous monitoring of rejection windows stability, energy scale and threshold, overall detection efficiency, calibration..?

•Are the two sensitive volumes (for ionization and bolometer signals) exactly identical?

•Bulk response, quenching factors, ....

•Starting from a high background level

# Experiments using liquid noble gases (see arXiv: astro-ph/0806.0011)

- Single phase: LXe,LAr, LNe  $\rightarrow$  scintillation, ionization
- Dual phase liquid /gas  $\rightarrow$  scintillation + scintillation

#### **Background rejection**

#### in single phase detector:

 pulse shape discrimination γ/recoils from the UV scintillation photons





DAMA/LXe



DAMA/LXe: low background developments and applications to dark matter investigation (since N.Cim. A 103 (1990) 767)



(ZEPLIN-III, XENON10)

#### in dual phase detector:

- prompt signal (S1): UV photons from excitation and ionisation
- delayed signal (S2): e<sup>-</sup> drifted into gas phase and secondary scintillation due to ionization in electric field



XENON, WARP, ZEPLIN

#### XENON10 (PRL100(2008)021303)





Experimental site: Boulby mine Target material:<sup>nat</sup>Xe Target mass:7.2 kg (tot: 31 kg) Used exposure: 225 kg x day

Experimental site:Gran Sasso (1400 m depth) Target material:<sup>nat</sup>Xe Target mass:≈5.4 kg (tot: 15 kg) Used exposure:136 kg × day

#### See next slide for drawbacks

Experimental site:Gran Sasso (1400 m depth) Target material:<sup>nat</sup>Ar Target mass:≈ 1.83 kg (tot: 2.6 kg) Used exposure:96.5 kg × day

#### ZEPLIN-III (arXiv:astro-ph/0812.1150) ZEPLIN-II(AP28(2007)287;PLB653(2007)161)



#### WARP (AP28(2008)495)



#### Examples of energy resolutions: comparison with Nal(TI)



Figure 3. (left) S1 scintillation spectrum from a <sup>57</sup>Co calibration. The light yield for the 122 keV photo-absorption peak is 3.1 p.e./keV. (right) S1 scintillation spectrum from a <sup>137</sup>Cs calibration. The light yield for the 662 keV photo-absorption peak is 2.2 p.e./keV.

JoP: Conf. Ser. 65 (2007) 012015

Fig. 5. Typical energy spectra for  ${}^{57}$ Co  $\gamma$ -ray calibrations, showing S1 spectrum (upper) and S2 spectrum (lower). The fits are double Gaussian fits which incorporate both the 122 keV and 136 keV lines in the  ${}^{57}$ Co  $\gamma$ -ray spectrum. The energy resolution of the detector is derived from the width of the S1 peak, coupled with calibration measurements at other line energies.

S2. nVs

1000

### ... non-uniformity of the two-phase detectors: intrinsic limit

tor after the WIMP search data taking. The S1 and S2 response from the <sup>131m</sup>Xe 164 keV gamma rays, which interact uniformly within the detector, were used to correct the position dependence of the two signals.

position dependent correction on S1 and S2 signals with maps obtained from activated Xe XENON10 astro-ph0706.0039v1.

where  $a_0 = 9.5$  keV,  $a_1 = 1.2$  keV and  $a_2 = 0.04$ . The three terms take into account the effects from non-uniform light collection ( $a_2$  term), statistical effects of non-uniform light collection accounted in WARP (NIMA 574 (2007) 83)

To convert the observed pulse height (in mV or photoelectrons) to electron equivalent energy for each event we calibrate with one or more gamma sources of known energy. We used <sup>57</sup>Co (122 keV) and <sup>137</sup>Cs (660 keV) sources placed under the xenon vessel. The <sup>137</sup>Cs source gave a measured light yield 25% lower than the <sup>57</sup>Co. Since previous laboratory work [7] had shown a response linear with energy, this difference is due to a position-dependent light collection, the

A geometrical correction is performed via a "rebinning matrix" evaluated by MonteCarlo in ZEPLIN-I, AP 23(2005)444.

E being the  $\gamma$ -ray energy in keV. This has the effect of mixing the events between energy bins, which can at the final stage of analysis be accounted for by applying a compensating rebinning matrix to the energy-binned spectral terms, as shown in detail in [7].

Thus the WIMP-nucleon cross-section limit setting procedure is

- (1) Apply an energy resolution correction as described in greater detail in a previous paper [7], by numerically applying the resolution rebinning matrix to the vector of binned spectral terms given by the right hand side of (1)
- [7] G. J. Alner et al. (2005) Astroparticle Phys. 23(5), 444–462

the position dependent correction is still applied in ZEPLIN-II, AP 28 (2007) 287

## Liquid noble gas experiments, an example: XENON10



#### (PRL100(2008)021303)

# Some other direct detection activities either in preparation or at R&D stage

#### ArDM: ton scale dual-phase Argon detector



WARP: double phase Argon detector at LNGS (fiducial volume 100 liters)



#### CLEAN: Cryogenic Low Energy Astrophysics with Neon



Single phase liquid Neon detector of tens of tons

**DEAP (SNOLAB):** scintillation light in LAr at  $85K \rightarrow PSD$  studying different lifetimes in singlet/ triplet states for electrons and nuclear recoil (ton scale)





Lux: dual phase time

projection chamber with

**SIGN:** A High-Pressure, Room-Temperature, Gaseous-Neon-Based Underground Physics Detector (100 kg @ 100 atm towards 10 tons)

#### XMASS



10 ton liquid Xe
 1350 3-in PMTs
 solar neutrinos by v + e → v + e
 0v ββ ~3.3x10<sup>26</sup> yr (5yr) (<m<sub>x</sub>> < 0.06-0.09 eV)</li>
 30 DM ev/day for 100

GeV 10-6 pb SI for proton

... they should certainly profit by the previous experience to suitably improve the detectors' responses and performances



a "discrimination on an eventby-event base" is possible just for zero systematics. Rejection procedures would require a much deeper and quantitative investigation than those done up to now at very small scale (from grams to few kg) e.m. component of the rate can contain the signal or part of it

even assuming pure recoil case and ideal discrimination on an event-byevent base, the result will NOT be the identification of the presence of WIMP elastic scatterings as DM signal, because of the well known existing recoil-like undistinguishable background

Therefore, even in the ideal case the "excellent background suppression" can not provide a "signal identification"

A model independent signature is needed

Directionality Correlation of Dark Matter impinging direction with Earth's galactic motion due to the distribution of Dark Matter particles velocities very hard to realize



Diurnal modulation Daily variation of the interaction rate due to different Earth depth crossed by the Dark Matter particles only for high o



Annual modulation Annual variation of the interaction rate due to Earth motion around the Sun

at present the only feasible one



# **Directionality, an example: DRIFT-IIa**

- Experimental site: Boulby mine
- Identification of the Dark Matter particle by exploiting the non-isotropic recoil distribution correlated to the Earth position with to the Sun
- dE/dx discrimination between gammas and neutrons
  - 1 m<sup>3</sup> active volume back to back MWPCs
  - Gas fill 40 Torr CS<sub>2</sub> => 167 g of target gas
  - 2 mm pitch anode wires left and right
  - Grid wires read out for  $\Delta y$  measurement
  - Veto regions around outside
  - Central cathode made from 20 µm diameter wires at 2 mm pitch
  - Drift field 624 V/cm
  - · Modular design for modest scale-up

After an exposure of 10.2 kg x days a population of nuclear recoils (interpreted as due to the decay of unexpected <sup>222</sup>Rn daughter nuclei, present in the chamber) has been observed.

also R&D by: DMTPC -low pressure CF<sub>4</sub> TPC (optical readout) MIMAC -2D (electronic readout with Micromegas) NEWAge - low pressure CF<sub>4</sub> TPC (μpic 2D readout)

Still far from results on Dark Matter particle





# Investigating the presence of a DM particle component in the galactic halo by the model independent annual modulation signature



Expected rate in given energy bin changes because of the Earth's motion around the Sun moving in the Galaxy

### **Requirements:**

- 1) Modulated rate according cosine
- 2) In a definite low energy range
- 3) With a proper period (1 year)
- 4) With proper phase (about 2<sup>nd</sup> June)

5) For single hit in a multi-detector set-up

6) With modulated amplitude in the region of maximal sensitivity < 7% (for usually adopted halo distributions, but it can be larger in case of some possible scenarios)

To mimic this signature, spurious effects and side reactions must not only be able to account for the whole observed modulation amplitude, but also to satisfy contemporaneously all the requirements

## Roma2,Roma1,LNGS,IHEP/Beijing



# DAMA: an observatory for rare processes @LNGS

DAMA/LXe DAMA/R&D

low bckg DAMA/Ge for sampling meas.

DAMA/NaI

DAMA/LIBRA

http://people.roma2.infn.it/dama

# DAMA/NaI : ~100 kg NaI(Tl)

**Performances**: N.Cim.A112(1999)545-575, EPJC18(2000)283, Riv.N.Cim.26 n. 1(2003)1-73, IJMPD13(2004)2127

#### **Results on rare processes:**

- Possible Pauli exclusion principle violation PLB408(1997)439
- CNC processes
- Electron stability and non-paulian transitions in Iodine atoms (by L-shell)
- Search for solar axions
- Exotic Matter search
- Search for superdense nuclear matter
- Search for heavy clusters decays

PLB460(1999)235 PLB515(2001)6 EPJdirect C14(2002)1 EPJA23(2005)7 EPJA24(2005)51

PRC60(1999)065501



data taking completed on July 2002, last data release 2003: total exposure ( 7 annual cycles) 0.29 ton x yr

#### **Results on DM particles:**

- PSD
- Investigation on diurnal effect
- Exotic Dark Matter search
   PRL83(1999
- Annual Modulation Signature

PLB389(1996)757 N.Cim.A112(1999)1541 PRL83(1999)4918

PLB424(1998)195, PLB450(1999)448, PRD61(1999)023512, PLB480(2000)23, EPJC18(2000)283, PLB509(2001)197, EPJC23(2002)61, PRD66(2002)043503, Riv.N.Cim.26 n.1 (2003)1, IJMPD13(2004)2127, IJMPA21(2006)1445, EPJC47(2006)263, IJMPA22(2007)3155, EPJC53(2008)205, PRD77(2008)023506, MPLA23(2008)2125, other works in progress ...

#### model independent evidence of a particle DM component in the galactic halo at $6.3\sigma$ C.L.

## DAMA/LIBRA ~250 kg NaI(Tl) (Large sodium Iodide Bulk for RAre processes)

LIBRA in DAMA

As a result of a second generation R&D for more radiopure NaI(TI) by exploiting new chemical/physical radiopurification techniques (all operations involving crystals and PMTs - including photos - in HP Nitrogen atmosphere)

etching staff at work **PMT** in clean room +HV divider Cu etching with super- and ultrapure HCl solutions dried and sealed in HP N, storing new crystal improving installation and environment

The new DAMA/LIBRA set-up ~250 kg Nal(TI) (Large sodium lodide Bulk for RAre processes)

> detectors during installation; in the central and right up detectors the new shaped Cu shield surrounding light guides (acting also as optical windows) and PMTs was not yet applied



view at end of detectors' installation in the Cu box

assembling a DAMA/ LIBRA detector

AMA/LII

filling the inner Cu box with further shield

installin

σ

The second sector of the second sector

closing the Cu box housing the detectors

# The calibration system





### Experimental single-hit residuals rate vs time and energy

- Model-independent investigation of the annual modulation signature has been carried out by exploiting the time behaviour of the residual rates of the *single-hit* events in the lowest energy regions of the DAMA/LIBRA data.
- These residual rates are calculated from the measured rate of the *single-hit* events (obviously corrections for the overall efficiency and for the acquisition dead time are already applied) after subtracting the constant part:

$$\left\langle r_{ijk} - flat_{jk} \right\rangle_{jk}$$





- r<sub>ijk</sub> is the rate in the considered *i*-th time interval for the *j*-th detector in the *k*-th energy bin
- *flat<sub>jk</sub>* is the rate of the *j-th* detector in the *k-th* energy bin averaged over the cycles.
- The average is made on all the detectors (j index) and on all the energy bins (k index)
- The weighted mean of the residuals must obviously be zero over one cycle.

## Model independent annual modulation result

DAMA/Nal (7 years) + DAMA/LIBRA (4 years)Total exposure: 300555 kg×day = 0.82 ton×yr EPJC 56(2008)333



component in the galactic halo at  $8.2\sigma$  C.L.

# Energy distribution of the modulation amplitudes, $S_m$ , for the total exposure

 $R(t) = S_0 + S_m \cos[\omega(t - t_0)]$ 

DAMA/Nal (7 years) + DAMA/LIBRA (4 years) total exposure: 300555 kg×day = 0.82 ton×yr

here  $T=2\pi/\omega=1$  yr and  $t_0=152.5$  day



A clear modulation is present in the (2-6) keV energy interval, while  $S_m$  values compatible with zero are present just above

In fact, the  $S_m$  values in the (6–20) keV energy interval have random fluctuations around zero with  $\chi^2$  equal to 24.4 for 28 degrees of freedom

The analysis at energies above 6 keV, the analysis of the multiple-hits events and the statistical considerations about  $S_m$  already exclude any sizeable presence of systematical effects.

#### Additional investigations on the stability parameters Modulation amplitudes obtained by fitting the time behaviours of main running

parameters, acquired with the production data, when including a DM-like modulation

Running conditions stable at a level better than 1%

|                                          | DAMA/LIBRA-1                                  | DAMA/LIBRA-2                                 | DAMA/LIBRA-3                                  | DAMA/LIBRA-4                                 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Temperature                              | -(0.0001 ± 0.0061) °C                         | (0.0026 ± 0.0086) °C                         | (0.001 ± 0.015) °C                            | (0.0004 ± 0.0047) °C                         |
| Flux N <sub>2</sub>                      | $(0.13 \pm 0.22)$ l/h                         | $(0.10 \pm 0.25)$ l/h                        | -(0.07 $\pm$ 0.18) l/h                        | -( $0.05 \pm 0.24$ ) l/h                     |
| Pressure                                 | $(0.015 \pm 0.030)$ mbar                      | -( $0.013 \pm 0.025$ ) mbar                  | $(0.022 \pm 0.027)$ mbar                      | $(0.0018 \pm 0.0074)$ mbar                   |
| Radon                                    | -(0.029 $\pm$ 0.029) Bq/m <sup>3</sup>        | -(0.030 $\pm$ 0.027) Bq/m <sup>3</sup>       | $(0.015 \pm 0.029) \text{ Bq/m}^3$            | -(0.052 $\pm$ 0.039) Bq/m <sup>3</sup>       |
| Hardware rate above single photoelectron | $-(0.20 \pm 0.18) \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{Hz}$ | $(0.09 \pm 0.17) \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{Hz}$ | $-(0.03 \pm 0.20) \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{Hz}$ | $(0.15 \pm 0.15) \times 10^{-2} \mathrm{Hz}$ |

All the measured amplitudes well compatible with zero +none can account for the observed effect

(to mimic such signature, spurious effects and side reactions must not only be able to account for the whole observed modulation amplitude, but also simultaneously satisfy all the 6 requirements)

Summary of the results obtained in the additional investigations of possible systematics or side reactions EPJC 56(2008)333

| Source                                       | Main comment                                                                                                                                               | Cautious upper<br>limit (90%C.L.)                                  |  |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| RADON                                        | Sealed Cu box in HP Nitrogen atmosphere, 3-level of sealing, etc.                                                                                          | <2.5×10 <sup>-6</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                   |  |
| TEMPERATURE                                  | Installation is air conditioned+<br>detectors in Cu housings directly in contact<br>with multi-ton shield→ huge heat capacity<br>+ T continuously recorded | <10 <sup>-4</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                       |  |
| NOISE                                        | Effective full noise rejection near threshold                                                                                                              | <10 <sup>-4</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                       |  |
| <b>ENERGY SCALE</b>                          | Routine + instrinsic calibrations                                                                                                                          | <1-2 ×10 <sup>-4</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                  |  |
| <b>EFFICIENCIES</b>                          | Regularly measured by dedicated calibrations <10 <sup>-4</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                                                                  |                                                                    |  |
| BACKGROUND                                   | No modulation above 6 keV;<br>no modulation in the (2-6) keV<br><i>multiple-hits</i> events;<br>this limit includes all possible<br>sources of background  | <10 <sup>-4</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                       |  |
| SIDE REACTIONS                               | Muon flux variation measured by MACRO                                                                                                                      | <3×10 <sup>-5</sup> cpd/kg/keV                                     |  |
| + even if la<br>satisfy all the<br>annual mo | arger they cannot<br>he requirements of<br>dulation signature                                                                                              | us, they can not mimic<br>the observed annual<br>modulation effect |  |

#### The positive and model independent result by DAMA/Nal + DAMA/LIBRA

- Presence of modulation for 11 annual cycles at ~8.2σ C.L. with the proper distinctive features of the DM signature; all the features satisfied by the data over 11 independent experiments of 1 year each one
- Absence of known sources of possible systematics and side processes able to quantitatively account for the observed modulation amplitude and to contemporaneously satisfy all the peculiarities of the signature





•Just to offer some naive feeling on the complexity of the argument: experimental  $S_m$  values vs expected behaviours

for some DM candidates in few of the many possible astrophysical, nuclear and particle physics scenarios and parameters values



**Examples** for few of the many possible scenarios superimposed to the measured modulation amplitues  $S_{m,k}$ 



[4] RNC 26 (2003) 1; [34] PRD66 (2002) 043503

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Examples for few of the many possible scenarios superimposed to the measured modulation amplitues  $S_{m,k}$ 



[4] RNC 26 (2003) 1; [34] PRD66 (2002) 043503

 $p'_{\mu}$ 

X-ray

Δ

18 MeV

 $55 {
m MeV}$ 

3 MeV

 $55 {
m MeV}$ 

 $28 {
m MeV}$ 

 $88 {
m MeV}$ 

60 keV

min

Cross

section (pb)

 $\xi \sigma_m^{coh} = 1.8 \times 10^{-6}$ 

 $\xi \sigma_m^{coh} = 2.8 \times 10^{-6}$ 

 $\xi \sigma_m^{inc} = 2.2 \times 10^{-2}$ 

 $\xi \sigma_m^{inc} = 4.6 \times 10^{-2}$ 

 $\xi \sigma_m^{coh} = 1.6 \times 10^{-6}$ 

 $\xi \sigma_m^{inc} = 4.1 \times 10^{-2}$ 

 $\xi \sigma^e_m = 0.3 \times 10^{-6}$ 

#### Model-independent evidence by DAMA/NaI and DAMA/LIBRA

well compatible with several candidates (in several of the many astrophysical, nuclear and particle physics scenarios); other ones are open



Possible model dependent positive hints from indisearches not in conflict with DAMA results (but interpretation, evidence itself, derived mass and cross sections depend e.g. on bckg modeling, on DM spatial velocity distribution in the galactic halo, etc.)

Available results from direct searches using different target materials and approaches do not give any robust conflict

# where we are ...

•DAMA/LIBRA over 4 annual cycles (0.53 ton×yr) confirms the results of DAMA/NaI (0.29 ton×yr)

•The cumulative confidence level for the model independent evidence for presence of DM particle in the galactic halo is 8.2  $\sigma$  (total exposure 0.82 ton  $\times$  yr)



•First upgrading of the experimental set-up in Sept. 2008

#### Phase 1

- Mounting of the "clean room" set-up in order to operate in HP N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere
- Opening of the shield of DAMA/LIBRA set-up in HP N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere
- Replacement of some PMTs in HP N<sub>2</sub> atmosphere
- · Closing of the shield



#### Phase 2

- Dismounting of the Tektronix TDs (Digitizers + Crates)
- Mounting of the new Acqiris TD (Digitizers + Crate)
- Mounting of the new DAQ system with optical read-out
- Test of the new TDs (*hardware*) and of the new required DAQ system (*software*)





• Since Oct. 2008 again in data taking

# ...and where we are going

- Continuing the data taking
- Updating of corollary analyses in some of the many possible scenarios for DM candidates, interactions, halo models, nuclear/atomic properties, etc. is in progress
- Next upgrading: replacement of all the PMTs with higher Q.E. ones
- Production of new Q.E. PMTs in progress.
   Goal: to study if it is possible to lower the energy threshold of the detectors
- Analyses/data taking to investigate other rare processes in progress/foreseen

A possible highly radiopure NaI(TI) multi-purpose set-up DAMA/1 ton (proposed by DAMA in 1996) is at present at R&D phase

# Epilogo

**Techniques** Results obtained with different target materials and/or different approaches cannot intrinsically be compared among them directly.

Models It does not existing information on and particle physical sectors.

It does not exist any approach (in direct and indirect DM investigation) which can offer information on the nature of the candidate independently on assumed astrophysical, nuclear and particle physics scenarios.

# **Methods**

**Epistemology** 

At the end, even in presence of an excess of nuclear recoil candidates, it is not guaranteed that these events are due neither to existing side processes nor to an instrumental effect. A model independent signature is needed.

"The question, then, is whether this flexibility generated by model-dependence can be mitigated by robustness - and here the answer is negative. Simply, because a model dependent is so burdened by assumptions, it follows that showing that the same result holds while varying a few parameters does little to lessen this dependence" ..... "from the fact that it is pragmatically convenient for us to have multiple lines of support for the same result, it does not follow that possessing these alternate lines of support is epistemically valuable", R. Hudson, Found. Phys. 39 (2009) 174.

# **Implications**

E.g. the sociological aspect: "Sometimes detailed information is only needed for the outsiders, if you doubt the data or the analysis, but not needed, if an analysis is trusted.", an anonymous reviewer.

di

or!

"Chi mira piu` alto, si differenzia piu` altamente; e 'l volgersi al gran libro della natura, che e` 'l proprio oggetto della filosofia, e` il modo per alzar gli occhi", Dialogo dei massimi sistemi, G. Galilei