#### XX International Workshop on Neutrino Telescopes

Monday, 23 October 2023 - Friday, 27 October 2023 Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti, Venice

# Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment

### Emanuele Angelino

on behalf of the XENON collaboration











## The XENON project

Direct search for dark matter with **liquid xenon (LXe)** deep underground at the INFN **Laboratori Nazionali del Gran Sasso** (LNGS) in Italy



VENICE LNGS 1.4 km rock/3600 m.w.e. 10<sup>6</sup> µ reduction factor XENON

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Dark matter searches require **extremely low background** 

Many other physics channels can be investigated! LNGS 1.4 km rock/3600 m.w.e. 10<sup>6</sup> µ reduction factor



01

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### WATER TANK SERVICE BUILDING







#### Dual-phase Xe TPC

Drift length	1.5 m
Total mass	8.5 t
Active mass	5.9 t
Photosensors	494 PMTs

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02

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Water **Cherenkov** detector (33 m<sup>3</sup>) **Neutron tagging** efficiency: **53% Soon** with **Gd-doped water** (expected **87%** efficiency) Photosensors **120 PMTs** 

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#### Muon veto

700 t ultra-pure water
Water Cherenkov detector
Muon tagging efficiency:
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### SERVICE BUILDING



#### Cryogenics

GXe Purification Calibration System

#### **Electronics**

Data Acquisition Slow Control

#### **Recovery & Purification**

Kr Distillation Column **Rn Distillation Column** LXe Storage **LXe Purification** 



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### **Dual-phase Time Projection Chamber**



In **dual-phase** Time Projection Chamber (**TPC**) **scintillation** and **ionization** signals:

- Prompt scintillation light → S1
- Secondary scintillation proportional to drifted electrons → S2

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## **Dual-phase Time Projection Chamber**



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#### **ENERGY RECONSTRUCTION**

from combining S1 and S2 signals

#### **3D POSITION RECONSTRUCTION**

x-y from PMTs light pattern, z from drift time

#### **RECOIL TYPE IDENTIFICATION**

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**S2/S1** different for **Electronic Recoils** (**ER**) and **Nuclear Recoils** (**NR**), resulting in two bands

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→ S1



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#### **Electronic Recoils**

Electrons, photons, neutrinos, (axions ...)

#### **Nuclear Recoils**

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Neutrons, neutrinos via coherent scattering, (WIMPs ...)



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Coherent elastic neutrino nucleus scattering (CEvNS) has the same signature of low mass spin-independent WIMP interaction, producing low-energy NRs (via Z-exchange,  $\propto$  (A-Z)<sup>2</sup>)





Nuclear Recoil





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Nuclear Recoil

**Current** detectors are approaching the **neutrino "fog**", where **distinction** between WIMPs and neutrinos is **challenging** 

Neutrino "**floor**", indicated where DM experiment are inevitably limited by **irreducible background** from neutrinos



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Nuclear Recoil

CEvNS process, first measured in 2017 by COHERENT, has never been observed for solar neutrinos

Solar <sup>8</sup>B, which is the main contributor, can be treated as a signal and detected in LXe DM experiment! **Current** detectors are approaching the **neutrino "fog**", where **distinction** between WIMPs and neutrinos is **challenging** 

Neutrino "**floor**", indicated where DM experiment are inevitably limited by **irreducible background** from neutrinos



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### **Nuclear Recoils in XENONnT SR0**





	I.		Signal-like
ER	134	$135^{+12}_{-11}$	$0.92\pm0.08$
Neutrons	$1.1^{+0.6}$	$1.1 \pm 0.4$	$0.42\pm0.16$
CE <i>v</i> NS	$0.23\pm0.06$	$0.23\pm0.06$	$0.022\pm0.006$
AC	$4.3\pm0.9$	$4.4^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$	$0.32\pm0.06$
Surface	$14\pm3$	$12\pm 2$	$0.35\pm0.07$
Total background	154	$152\pm12$	$2.03^{+0.17}_{-0.15}$
WIMP		2.6	1.3
Observed		152	3



### **Nuclear Recoils in XENONnT SR0**



Nominal Best fit ROI Signal-like ER 134  $135^{+12}_{-11}$  $0.92 \pm 0.08$  $1.1^{+0.6}$ Neutrons  $1.1 \pm 0.4$  $0.42 \pm 0.16$ **CE***v***NS**  $0.23 \pm 0.06$  $0.23\pm0.06$  $0.022 \pm 0.006$ AC  $4.4^{+0.9}_{-0.8}$  $0.32\pm0.06$  $4.3 \pm 0.9$ Surface  $0.35 \pm 0.07$  $14 \pm 3$  $12 \pm 2$ Total background 154  $152 \pm 12$  $2.03^{+0.17}_{-0.15}$ WIMP 2.6 1.3 ... Observed 152 3

Expected **hundreds** of events from **CEvNS** in detector:

 $R=\phi(
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u} imes ext{exposure} \ \simeq 600 ext{ events}/( ext{tonne} imes ext{year})$ 

but at extremely low energies. Detection **efficiency** for **v** in **NR** search is around 0.04%, too **low** for **detection** 



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Blinded NR analysis with 4.2 t fiducial mass and total exposure of 1.1 t × y in Science Run 0 (SR0)

No significant excess

**Upper limit** for **WIMP** interactions  $\sigma$ , minimum at **2.6 × 10<sup>-47</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>** at **28 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>** (spin-independent)



### **Electronic Recoils in XENONnT SRO**



Component	Constraint	Fit
<sup>214</sup> Pb	(570, 1200)	$960\pm120$
<sup>85</sup> Kr	$90\pm60$	$90\pm60$
Materials	$270\pm50$	$270\pm50$
<sup>136</sup> Xe	$1560\pm60$	$1550\pm50$
Solar neutrino	$300\pm30$	$300\pm30$
<sup>124</sup> Xe		$250\pm 30$
AC	$0.70\pm0.04$	$0.71\pm0.03$
<sup>133</sup> Xe		$150\pm60$
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Lowest background rate ever achieved in this energy range thanks to radio-purity screening and online cryogenic radon distillation (16.1 ± 1.3 events / t × y × keV ) in [1,30] keV

**Solar neutrinos (pp** reaction) elastic scattering off **e**<sup>-</sup> of LXe

Magnetic moment of neutrino would cause enhanced interaction with e



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Magnetic moment of neutrino would cause enhanced interaction with e

Blinded ER analysis with 1.16 t × y exposure (SRO)

**Strongest** experimental limit to date, **competitive** to **indirect** searches, for magnetic moment

$$\mu_
u < 6.3 imes 10^{-12} \mu_{
m B}$$

With **lower background, solar pp** neutrino interaction rate could be directly **measured** 









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## Solar <sup>8</sup>B Neutrinos CEvNS search

#### INCREASED DETECTION EFFICIENCY

S1 threshold: 3 > 2 PMTs coincidence

#### S2 threshold: 200 → 120 PE

Expected total efficiency for CEvNS around 1%

Lower energy threshold → Background rate increased by two orders of magnitude





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08

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#### LOW-ENERGY BACKGROUND REDUCTION

Main background for CEvNS given by Accidental Coincidences (AC), resulting from random pairing of isolated SIs and S2s.

Various **mitigation** strategies: excluded events in **proximity** of **large peaks**, dedicated **selection** in **specific observables**, **machine learning** techniques and AC background modeling



- → PMT dark counts
- → Misidentified single electron
- → Below-cathode and surface events

#### Isolated S2s

 → Single electrons from delayed extraction or photo-ionization
 → Misidentified PMT afterpulses





### <sup>8</sup>B neutrino discovery potential



09



Accidental coincidence background reduced and modelling validated in the XENONNT WIMP analysis (Science Run 0)

Now need to perform a dedicated **low-threshold 2-fold** coincidence analysis!



## <sup>8</sup>B neutrino discovery potential



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	lsolated S1	Isolated S2	Drift field	Max drift	Relative AC rate	Exposure
XENONIT	11.2 Hz	1.1 mHz	82 V/cm	730 us		0.6 t × y
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#### Higher exposure in XENONnT

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Larger AC rate but improved **AC suppression** with new :echniques

**Discovery potential** in XENONnT should be increased

Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment





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XENONNT will be more sensitive to solar <sup>8</sup>B neutrino and a first observation could be within reach

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Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment

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### Solar pp neutrino elastic scattering

#### **ELECTRONIC RECOILS SEARCH**

**Solar** neutrinos **below 100 keV** (**pp** process) can be detected due to **elastic scattering** off **e**<sup>-</sup> in LXe (charged and neutral current)

<sup>214</sup>Pb (from <sup>222</sup>Rn) is one major background in this region but improvements to Radon
 Removal System reduced it below 1 uBq/kg for the next science runs



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10

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#### **SOLAR NEUTRINO FLUX**

**Not** directly **measured yet** in SR0 but **constrained** component in the fit

First measurement in [1, 200] keV possible if even lower background is reached





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#### ENHANCED NEUTRINO MAGNETIC MOMENT

Non-standard magnetic moment would increase cross-section with electrons

Not observing an excess results in upper limits on magnetic moment

TITLE TOTAL



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#### Supernova neutrino



#### SUPERNOVA NEUTRINO CHANNELS IN XENONnT

→ TPC, 6 t of LXe

 $u_{e,\,\mu,\,\tau}\,, \bar{\nu}_{e,\,\mu,\,\tau}\,$  via **CEvNS** (charged and other neutral current are subdominant)

~ 100 expected events from supernova at 10 kpc

→ MUON & NEUTRON VETO, 700 t ultra-pure water

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u}_e$  via **inverse beta** decay with H

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#### Supernova neutrino



77



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## PREDICTIONS

Neutrinos deposit around O(1) keV in LXe

**Background stable** in time, can be reduced with **specific selection** (similar to <sup>8</sup>B search)

Possible improvements using **coincident** signals from **vetoes** 



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#### SENSITIVITY PROJECTIONS

Cuts can reduce background down to ~3 Hz, while average signal (SN at 10 kpc) will results in ~45 events in ~ 6 s (~ 18 background events)

Triggerless DAQ allows continuous data taking and increases in rate with respect to a dynamic threshold can be monitored online

Considering signal evolution, time **window** can be **optimized**, resulting in ~8<del>0</del> significance (10 kpc)







12

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#### **SNEWS INTEGRATION**

XENONnT is **ready** to join the **Supernova Early Warning System** (**SNEWS**)

It will **receive** incoming **alerts** to check data and **send** possible **supernova observations** 





In XENONnT <sup>124</sup>Xe & <sup>136</sup>Xe (0.1% and 8.9% abundancy) are long-lived isotope which produce detectable ER signals

First observation of <sup>124</sup>Xe 2vDEC in XENONIT demonstrated sensitivity to extremely rare events and can be used to constrain Nuclear Matrix Element (NME) calculations



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**2vββ-decaying** <sup>136</sup>Xe isotope with  $Q_{\beta\beta} = (2457.83 \pm 0.37)$  keV is a good candidate for **0vββ** 

 $0\nu\beta\beta$  would demonstrate the violation of total lepton number and a nonzero Majorana component of neutrino mass

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 $0\nu\beta\beta$  would demonstrate the violation of total lepton number and a nonzero Majorana component of neutrino mass <sup>124</sup>Xe & <sup>136</sup>Xe produce single site ER events due to LXe high stopping power

### They became a major **background** for **electronic recoil** searches



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 $0\nu\beta\beta$  would demonstrate the violation of total lepton number and a nonzero Majorana component of neutrino mass

<sup>124</sup>Xe & <sup>136</sup>Xe produce single site ER events due to LXe high stopping power

### They became a major **background** for **electronic recoil** searches



Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment

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In XENONNT <sup>124</sup>Xe & <sup>136</sup>Xe (0.1% and 8.9% abundancy) are long-lived isotope which produce detectable ER signals

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Dedicated treatment of signals for saturation effects in digitizers and PMTs at MeV energies



Phys. Rev. C 106, 024328, 2022

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Phys. Rev. C 106, 024328, 2022

#### Emanuele Angelino

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#### **XENONIT RESULTS**

 $T^{0\nu\beta\beta}_{1/2}$  > 1.2 × 10<sup>24</sup> yr with tonne-scale fiducial mass, resulting in isotope exposure of 36.16 kg × yr

Best results for a non enriched target detector

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### NOT COMPETITIVE YET WITH $0\nu\beta\beta$ EXPERIMENTS

#### Non-enriched target

(dedicated experiments with 90% isotopic abundance)

Materials optimized for DM search (stainless steel cryostat)



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#### **XENONnT SENSITIVITY PROJECTION**

With **275** kg × yr exposure, expected upper limit of  $T^{0\nu\beta\beta}_{1/2}$  > **2.1 × 10<sup>25</sup> yr** 

**Future xenon DM** detector with **optimized** high-energy **backgrounds** and **larger exposure** can perform also Ονββ searches

#### ΝΟΤ COMPETITIVE YET WITH 0νββ EXPERIMENTS

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(dedicated experiments with 90% isotopic abundance)

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### **Conclusions and future perspective**

#### **IN A NUTSHELL**

XENONnT performed blinded searches of electronic and nuclear recoils, finding no significant excess in SR0

It achieved the lowest ER background in the field

Potential to search for different rare processes regarding neutrino, such as SN neutrino or  $0\nu\beta\beta$ 

In particular, XENONnT is **currently sensitive** to <sup>8</sup>B solar **neutrino**, which can be **detected** via **CEvNS** 

**XENONnT** has already started **acquiring** new **data** (SRI)



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New science runs with 50% lower <sup>222</sup>Rn (ER background)

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#### NEXT-GENERATION LXe EXPERIMENT

Dual-phase Xe TPC with ~50 t of LXe, from the joint efforts of XENON, LZ and DARWIN collaboration into the XLZD consortium

Multi-purpose observatory for dark matter, neutrino and rare events, probing WIMPs down to neutrino floor







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# Thank you for your attention!



XENON OFFICIAL WEBSITE



xe-pr@lngs.infn.it



STAY TUNED! XENONNT is going to take and analyze more science data!

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instagram.com/xenon\_experiment/

twitter.com/xenonexperiment



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### **Direct detection of dark matter**



#### **EXPERIMENTAL SEARCH OF DM**

- Production at **colliders**
- Indirect search from annihilation products
- <u>Direct detection of DM</u> <u>scattering off SM particles</u>



#### **DETECTION OF DM HALO PARTICLES**

Local dark matter density  $\rho_0 = 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$ 

For WIMPs, with mass = 100 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>:

- Density: 3000 particles / m<sup>3</sup>
- Flux: **10**<sup>5</sup> particles / (cm<sup>2</sup> s<sup>1</sup>)



### **Neutron veto**

	Neutron capture cross-section	γ energy	Mean capture time
н	0.33 b	Single, 2.2 MeV	200 us
Gd	49000 b	3-4 γ, 8 MeV in total	30 us

In demi-water neutron tagging efficiency ~ 53% and livetime reduction of 1.6 %

**3 multiple** scatter + **1 single** scatter tagged by neutron veto, resulting in **total neutron** expectation of **1.1**<sub>-0.5</sub><sup>+0.6</sup> in ROI

Plan to dissolve **3.4 t** of Gd sulphate octahydrate  $Gd_2(SO_4)_3 \cdot 8H_2O$  to reach **0.2%** of **Gd** in mass





#### Gd-WATER PURIFICATION PLANT COMMISSIONING AT LNGS



Emanuele Angelino

Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment



### 2v Double-Electron Capture in <sup>124</sup>Xe

First direct observation of nuclear decay via two-neutrino double electron capture (2VDEC):

 $^{124}$ Xe  $\rightarrow ^{124}$ Te + v<sub>e</sub> + v<sub>e</sub>

Expected signature: (64.3 ± 0.6) keV monoenergetic peak

**Observed** peak of **126 ± 29 events** at (**64.2** ± 0.5) **keV** 

4.4  $\sigma$  discovery significance

Measured half-life: (1.8  $\pm$  0.5<sub>stat</sub>  $\pm$  0.1<sub>sys</sub>) × 10<sup>22</sup> yr

 $\sim 10^{12}$  times larger than the age of the Universe





#### The rarest process ever directly observed!

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### Neutrino fog in LXe detectors





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### **XENONnT Science Run 0**





#### **ER and NR blinded analyses**

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• 97.1 days of exposure from July 6th - Nov 11th 2021

• **Radon** column operating in **gas-only** mode

• 477 out of 494 PMTs operative, gain stable at 3% level

• Drift field 23 V/cm (cathode voltage limited to -2.75 kV due short-circuit with bottom screen mesh)

• Extraction field in LXe 2.9 kV/cm

• Localized high single-electron emission (hotspot) occurring seemingly at random, anode ramped down

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### **Background comparison in LXe experiment**





5x ER background reduction with respect to XENONIT

Dominated by beta-decays from <sup>214</sup>Pb a daughter of <sup>222</sup>Rn

Lowest background level ever achieved by a dark matter experiment: (16.1 ± 0.3) events/(t y keV)

**8.6**  $\sigma$  exclusion on XENONIT **excess** 

<u> Phys. Rev. Lett. 129, 161805</u>



### **Other ER searches in XENONnT**



#### **SOLAR AXIONS**

Best limit from dark matter direct detection experiments

- Included axio-electric and reverse Primakoff effect
- Improved constraints on axion-photon, axion-electron and axion-nucleon couplings
- Upper limit on the <sup>57</sup>Fe solar axion rate

#### **BOSONIC DARK MATTER**

No peak-like signals. New limits on:

- Axion like particle dark matter
- Dark photon dark matter



Neutrinos in XENONnT dark matter experiment

TITLE TOTAL

### WIMP search background model in SR0

#### Low ER background

- Dominated by beta-decays from <sup>214</sup>Pb a daughter of <sup>222</sup>Rn
- 16 events/(t\*y\*keV) in the [1, 30] keV range

#### Accidental background (AC)

- Random pairing of S1 and S2 lone signals
- **Suppressed** by a dedicated Gradient Boosted Decision Tree cut (GBDT), using S2 shape, R and Z information

Surface background

- Due to <sup>210</sup>**Pb** plate out at TPC walls (beta-decay)
- Suppressed by **R**<sub>max</sub> < **61.35** cm of fiducial volume NR background
  - Neutrons from spontaneous fission and (α,n) reactions
  - CEvNS (coherent elastic neutrino-nucleus scattering)

	Nominal	Best Fit		
	R	Signal-like		
ER	134	$135^{+12}_{-11}$	$0.86\substack{+0.08\\-0.07}$	
Neutrons	$1.1^{+0.6}_{-0.5}$	$1.1\pm0.4$	$0.42\pm0.17$	
$CE\nu NS$	$0.23\pm0.06$	$0.23\pm0.06$	$0.022\pm0.011$	
AC	$4.3\pm0.2$	$4.32\pm0.15$	$0.366 \pm 0.013$	
Surface	$14\pm3$	$12^{+0}_{-4}$	$0.35\substack{+0.01\\-0.11}$	
Total Background	154	$152\pm12$	$2.0\pm0.2$	
WIMP	-	2.6	1.3	
Observed	-	152	3	



**Pie-chart** representing **component fraction** of the **best-fit model** including a 200 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> **WIMP evaluated** at **event position** 



### **Comparison with other NR searches**



Log-Likelihood-ratio as test statistics, median upper limits at 90% confidence, p-values of test statistic indicate no significant excess for all WIMP masses

Community had agreed on using Power-Constraint Limit (PCL) to avoid too low exclusion limits, but the PCL critical threshold  $\beta_r$  was defined on discovery power instead of rejection power

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Typically PCL used to constrain the limit at -1 $\sigma$  ( $\beta_r$ =0.16) but it was show to be **pathological** for **downward fluctuations** and it was **raised** to be conservative to 0.5 (median), it need to be further discussed within the community
## **Purification and distillation**



### NEW!

#### **RADON DISTILLATION COLUMN**

<sup>222</sup>Rn intrinsic background from materials

**Dedicated system** in addition to Kr column

Lowest level in LXe TPCs (~ µBq/Kg <sup>222</sup>Rn)

#### LIQUID Xe PURIFICATION

**Removal** of electronegative impurities

High-flux purification (350 kg/h)

High efficiency O<sub>2</sub> filter

Electron lifetime improved by factor 50



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## **Calibration sources**

### **PMTs**

LEDs → Dark rate, gains, SPE acceptance

**Material Radioactivity** 

<sup>214</sup>Bi, <sup>60</sup>Co, <sup>40</sup>K → High-energy lines

**External sources** 

<sup>241</sup>AmBe → Continuous spectrum of NRs

#### **Internal Sources**

<sup>131m</sup>Xe, <sup>129m</sup>Xe → Activated during AmBe calibration, lines at 163.9 keV and 236.2 keV with half-lives of 11.8 days and 8.9 days

<sup>220</sup>Rn → Continuous spectrum of ERs at low energy down to 1 keV

<sup>83m</sup>Kr → Two-transition (32.1 keV and 9.4 keV) decay resulting in 41.5 keV line

<sup>37</sup>Ar → Monoenergetic source producing 2.82 keV line (K-shell)



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### Next generation LXe experiment



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