# Update on the current status of (directional) Dark Matter searches

An Elisabetta surfing (for the first time)



Soft electrons in CYGNO prototype at LNGS

## or else, why imaging TPC allow us to surf on other experiments at low WIMP masses

A personal and biased view by:





Elisabetta Baracchini





CYGNO Collaboration meeting 2023







- DM searches overview & contest
- Low mass dedicated experiments, i.e. bolometers
- Ton scale noble liquid experiments analysis for low mass
- Where CYGNO stands in this picture

# **Overview & Context**

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# S Overview & Context

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# **Overview & Context**

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gate m

particle (source)

- Ton scale detector with heavy nuclei
- Can go to M<sub>WIMP</sub> <10 GeV only completely giving up background discrimination (S<sub>2</sub> only analyses)
- Eventually, will be dominated by neutral background also at high masses

drift time

(depth)

°S1

#### GS SI

# **Overview & Context**





Ton scale detector with heavy nuclei

WIMP Mass [GeV/c<sup>2</sup>]

particle (source)

- ✤ 10<sup>3</sup> (LXe) 10<sup>7-10</sup> (LAr) rejection
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#### GS SI

Electron propagation

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#### GS SI

# **Overview & Context**





#### The "third way": directional tracking detectors for both SI and SD



Electron propagation

#### WIMP nuclear recoil track charge Tail Head

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# Low-mass dedicated experiments: bolometers

## **Low-mass dedicated experiments: bolometers**





# G S CRESST and the intrinsic background problem



#### **CRESST-II**

Positive background signal

• Origin: Non-Scintillating bronze clamps

 $^{210}$ Pb ightarrow  $^{206}$ Pb (103keV)+ lpha(5.3MeV)

...but interpreted as real DM signal at that time, hence contourns in the limit plot!



#### From CRESST-II to CRESST-III



# G S CRESST and the intrinsic background problem



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#### From CRESST-II to CRESST-III



#### **CRESST-III**



• 4 out of 5 detectors exceed design goal of 100 eV threshold

#### but 4 out of 5 detector exeeced also the expected background! Only detector A used for setting limit.....



## **COSINUS** (not yet quantified) **background** discrimination





13

AmBe neutron source

events due to inelastic scattering

Na recoil events from elastic scattering recoil events from elastic scattering

proof of particle identification in a Nalbased detector

....but actual discrimination capabilities not quantified yet

#### COSINUS WIMP mass goal are the DAMA regions, that are largely accessible to CYGNO-04! (see later)

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## SuperCDMS detectors concept



#### $\underline{\textbf{iZIP detector}} \rightarrow \textbf{low background}$

- Interleaved Z-sensitive Ionization and Phonon detector
- Prompt phonon and ionization signals allow for NR/ER event discrimination





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#### $\underline{\textbf{HV detector}} \rightarrow \textbf{low threshold}$

Drifting charge carriers (e<sup>-</sup>/h<sup>+</sup>) across a potential (V<sub>b</sub>) generates a large number of Luke phonons (NTL effect)
 Trade-off: no NR/ER discrimination
 E<sub>t</sub> = E<sub>r</sub> + (N<sub>eh</sub> · e · V<sub>b</sub>)
 total phonon primary Luke phonon energy recoil energy energy



hence, HV detectors need to strongly rely on the intrinsic background minimisation

#### **SuperCDMS iZIP background discrimination** S G



#### 2 x 10<sup>-5</sup> @ 10 keV with 63% fiducial volume



Low Radioactivity Techniques 2013 - April 10-13, 2013



Bulk electron recoils

• Bulk nuclear recoils

Surface events

#### .but SuperCDMS adventure started <u>24 years ago</u>

15

## G S ...but, a new emerging feature common to many experiments

The low energy excess (LEE)

First observations: 2016 – 2018







#### ...here presented for CRESST only as example,

Unexplained event population at low energies

- high count rate
- steep rise in energy below ~200 eV
- · different shape in different detectors

| Detector | Threshold |  |
|----------|-----------|--|
| Det-A    | 30.1 eV   |  |
| Det-B    | 120 eV    |  |
| Det-E    | 64.8 eV   |  |
| Det-J    | 83.4 eV   |  |





count rate decreases over time

# CESS EXCESS22@IDM: Experiments

S The EXCESS initiative in 2022





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#### **EXCESS** preliminary findings S G S



#### **Excluded hypotheses on major** contributions

- **DM** interactions  $\bigcirc$
- 0
- External and intrinsic radioactivity Noise triggers and electronic artifacts 0
- Scintillation light 0
- **Possible options under further** investigation
  - Intrinsic crystal effects 0
  - Sensor related effects 0
  - Holding induced stress 0



Glued down to copper substrate => high stress



Suspended from wire bonds => low stress

#### ..but not yet demonstrated nor suceeded.....

- Low stress rate still ~200x SuperCDMS-CPD, ~10<sup>5</sup>x CRESST
  - Hypothesis: fabrication-induced strain at TÉS interface varies greatly between detectors
- Stress event rate decreases while cold, may anneal out while warm too
  - Mitigation Plan: Fanatically minimize stress everywhere in the detectors

#### Stress creates enormous low energy background!



# **EXCESS conclusive slide @ TAUP2023**



Three unique types of excesses identified!

- Excesses in cryo-detectors (non-ionizing, decaying, ...) have possibly one common origin! Hot suspect: interface and bulk stress. Currently focused research topic, transferable impact expected (qubits, ...).
- Excesses in CCDs (single electron production) can be explained by dark current and detector effects, but further reduction is required or future experiments (e.g. OSCURA).
- The **DAMIC excess** remains a riddle.

The workshop continues as a platform for focussed discussions. We are currently scouting a location for the next iteration, planned for summer 2024.

- Contact us at excessworkshop@gmail.com

## Reasons for optimism! Lot's of progress so far! We will figure this out!

Wish: map observations to phenomena as easy as a hitchhikers map (left).

**Reality:** a lot is going on close to energy thresholds, with many paths leading apart and some leading back together (right).

Wish



Reality







# Take away message: if not solved, LEE could kill the bolometric approach at very low energies

#### G S Large noble liquid detector analysis for < 10 GeV WIMP masses



#### G S Large noble liquid detector analysis for < 10 GeV WIMP masses: S2 only analysis





### G S Large noble liquid detector analysis for < 10 GeV WIMP masses: S2 only analysis



NQ fluctuation QF fluctuation

Signal amplitude mostly affected by uncertainty on the NR ionization response and fiducial volume. X10 more stringent limit @ 3GeV/c2 Cut on S<sub>2</sub> time width (related to diffusion, i.e. Z distance) rejects part of e.m. background from cathode wires





## Take away message: **S2** only analyses heavily raises the requirement for detector material radiopurity and for capability to precisely predict the expected background, further hampering the possibility to positively identify a DM signal with these

#### Large noble liquid detector analysis for < 10 GeV WIMP S G masses: S2 only Migdal analysis S





Dark matter nucleus scattering



Miadal Effect - nucleus moves relative to the electron cloud. Individual electron might be ejected leading to ionisation.

- 1) the DM interaction produces a simultaneous ER + NR from the same vertex;
- 2) NR are quenched w.r.t. ER

3) Hence, for a given energy threshold the Migdal-induced ER might be above threshold while the Migdal-induced NR might be below

4) An isolated ER signature is interpreted as a Migdal induced ER + NR event where the NR was not detectable, effectively lowering the threshold on NR

5) Since ER is the signature, ER/NR discrimination is given up to further lower the threshold (i.e. S2-only analysis)

6) The limit on DM search is evaluated assuming the Migdal effect as calculated from theory (often with simplistic assumptions)







# ....but Migdal effect has never been experimentallly measured!

See M. D'Astolfo talk for details on our efforts towards this goal

## **Migdal effect measurement excursus**



NOTE: Migdal effect is independent from DM existence: i.e. you can induce it with any neutral particle having elastic scatter with nuclei (i.e. fast neutrons)



Fig. 2 Kinematically allowed region of  $E_R$  and  $\Delta E$  for Ar atoms elastically scattered by WIMP with velocity  $v_{DM}$  of 1-2 x 10<sup>-3</sup> on the left from [2] and for He (blue), Ar (pink), C (red), and F (black) atoms elastically scattered by neutrons of 2.5 MeV and 14.1 MeV energies on the center and right respectively.

# G S Current status of Migdal searches: test with LXe

- High energy neutrons (14.1 MeV): enhance Migdal cross section, reduce neutron multi-scatter (NMS)
- Tag scattered neutrons: obtain interaction time, reduce background with neutron time of flight (TOF)
- Quasi-mono-energetic NR: reduce signal rate uncertainties from nuclear cross section and efficiency
- Low scatter angle: reduce NR energy, separate Migdal events from pure NRs



#### No signal observed at the expected rate.

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# G S Current status of Migdal searches: test with LXe

CINFN Istitute Nazionale di Fisica Nucleare

- High energy neutrons (14.1 MeV): enhance Migdal cross section, reduce neutron multi-scatter (NMS)
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- Electrons and ions produced by the NR track and ER track overlap in space
- Recombination can be enhanced relative to that of NR or ER



#### No signal observed at the expected rate: possible explanation from Xe physics

## G S Current status of Migdal searches: the Migdal experiment







- Low-pressure gas: 50 Torr of CF<sub>4</sub>
  - Extended particle tracks
  - Avoid gamma interactions
  - $\circ$  Can stably work with fraction of Ar
- TPC Signal amplification
  - 2 x glass-GEMs (Cu + Ni cladded)
- Readout :

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- Optical : Camera + photomultiplier tube
- Charge: GEMs + 120 ITO anode strips
- High-yield neutron generator
  - D-D: 2.47 MeV (10<sup>9</sup>n/s)
  - D-T: 14.7 MeV (10<sup>10</sup>n/s)
  - Defined beam, "clear" through TPC

- The First Science run took place from the 17<sup>th</sup> of July to the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August.
- Data taken using D-D neutron generator, with a lower NR rate than designed, is recorded continuously during 10 hour long shifts, and includes significant fraction of empty frames.
- Frames taken with 20 ms exposure time. Longer than planned due to problems with camera's Linux firmware.

Half of the data is blinded.

#### Dedicated D-D (10<sup>9</sup> n/s) and D-T (10<sup>10</sup> n/s) neutron gun



Experiment setup with D-T generator



## G S A Migdal like event in the Migdal experiment



Extremely encouraging first science run (project exclusively dedicated to Migdal measurement)





## Take away message: until Migdal effect is effectively measured in the actual target material, limits exploiting Migdal effect can not be trusted at 100%

### G S Looking for DM is a search hampered by many false promises both at high and low masses

#### *i.e. many things can look like a signal if you don't know where they are coming from* **Direction is the only way**



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# Where does CYGNO stand in this picture?

## PHASE 1 back of the envelope final background estimation

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#### Preliminary CYGNO-04 background evaluation through scaling from CYGNO-1 full simulation



# **CYGNO-04 physics reach**



constant 30° angular resolution assumed with full head tail capability: optimistic at low energies/WIMP masses) pessimistic at high energy/WIMP masses



**THIS IS NOT** the goal of CYGNO-04, but as nice byproduct we have the potentialities of:

put the best directional limit on SD improving on several order of magnitude w.r.t. other
directional experiments

*⊌put the first directional limit on SI, probing the DAMA region (also for SD)* 

## G S CYGNO-30 vs bolometers & S2 analyses



## G S CYGNO-30 vs bolometers & S2 analyses



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# CYGNO-30 vs Migdal

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# GIN CYGNO-30 SD reach





- PICO is a threshold detector, i.e. no event energy measurement (only lower limit): if a DM-like signal event is observed, no possibility of constraining DM mass vs coupling
- Improvement of 6-7 order of magnitude with respect to current directional limits
- With Hydrogen doping, unique capability to extend sensitivity to a WIMP mass region not explored by any other experiment.

## G S Many thanks to you all for your contribution to the success of the CYGNO project



#### I told you since the start it was biased ;)





# Backup slides

## **Comparison of "neutrino floors"**



C. A. J. O'Hare, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021) 25, 251802



FIG. 1. Present exclusion limits on the spin-independent DMnucleon cross section (assuming equal proton or neutron couplings) [7,58–71]. Beneath these limits we show three definitions of the neutrino floor for a xenon target. The previous discoverylimit-based neutrino floor calculation shown by the dashed line is taken from the recent APPEC report [72] (based on the technique of Ref. [32]). The envelope of 90% C.L. exclusion limits seeing one expected neutrino event is shown as a dotted line. The result of our work is the solid orange line. We define this notion of the neutrino floor to be the boundary of the neutrino fog, i.e., the cross section at which any experiment sensitive to a given value of  $m_{\chi}$  leaves the standard Poissonian regime and begins to be saturated by the background.

# G S CRESST data from det A



## **Nuetrino fog for various targets**

C. A. J. O'Hare, Phys. Rev. Lett. 127 (2021) 25, 251802



# G SNot only WIMP Dark Matter: potentialities forG Sdiscovery of MeV DM from SN with directionality

WIMP recoils in Galactic coordinates (Scenario 2)

100



SNDM recoils in Galactic coordinates (Scenario 2)

100

60

-60 -80

-100

-50

Discovering supernova-produced dark matter with directional detectors #1
Elisabetta Baracchini (GSSI, Aquila and Gran Sasso), William Derocco (Stanford U., ITP), Giorgio Dho (GSSI,
Aquila and Gran Sasso) (Sep 18, 2020)
Published in: *Phys.Rev.D* 102 (2020) 7, 075036 • e-Print: 2009.08836 [hep-ph]

W. DeRocco, P. W. Graham, D. Kasen, G. Marques-Tavares,

and S. Rajendran, Phys. Rev. D 100, 075018 (2019).



80

60

40

-20

-60

\_80

-150

-100

-50

# **G S The importance of HT**

**Required number of detected He and F recoils to exclude solar neutrinos at 90% C.L. vs angular resolution and head-tail efficiency** 



## **Solar neutrino spectroscopy with gaseous TPCs**



# **S** SuperCDMS expected sensitivity

|                              | Soudan | SNOLAB         |
|------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Phonon resolution, eVt       | ~250   | 10 HV, 50 iZIP |
| HV Bias Voltage, V           | 70     | 100            |
| iZIP Charge resolution, eVee | ~400   | 160            |
| HV Threshold, eVnr           | 300    | 40             |

.....to my knowledge, not yet demonstrated



E. Baracchini - Directional Dark Matter Searches -CYGNO Collaboration Meeting 20th December 2022











only surface event discrimination via diffusion, no ER/NR

...even with achinos, field lines on sphere north emisphere very weird

Aim at maximal radiopurity (...the bigger you go, the more radiocontaminants you discover.....)



# **News-G latest results**







- Constructed and first operated in LSM
- Initial commissioning data taking in LSM
- •UV Laser and <sup>37</sup>Ar calibration systems
- •Multi-anode sensor ACHINOS
- Temporary lead + water shielding installed end 2019
- ~10 days of commissioning data taken
- •135 mbar of CH4 (~100g)

#### Constraints on Spin-Dependent WIMP-protoncross-section



SNOGLOBE (140 cm diameter) now taking data at SNOLAB with Ne+CH<sub>4</sub>

## NOTE: pure CH<sub>4</sub> operation at >= 1 bar are dangerous.....



# **EXCESS** studies





Review on Low-Energy Excess Signals Observed in Cryogenic Rare Event Search Experiments - J. Gascon

#### Key features to study and compare

- Rise and decay times of event
  - Faster/slower pulse: indications of nature/location of event
- (Non-) ionizing nature of event
- Timing
  - Coincidence with external events?
  - Correlation between successive events?  $\bigcirc$
- Variation of rate with time since cool-down
  - Consistent with known radioactive backgrounds? 0
  - Accumulated stress as potential source? Ο
- Energy
  - Range Ο
  - Shape / steepness of rise 0



Data: all events • Data: passing  $\Delta \chi^2$  cuts Simulation: normal ever nulation: slow events nulation: snike event

Belina von Krosigk | Margarita Kaznacheeva

IDM 2022

keV-

kg

## From neutrino floor to neutrino fog



#### D. S. Akerib et al., 2022 Snowmass Summer Study, arXiv:2203.08084

Discovery limit as function of the observed N neutrino background events and uncertainty δΦ on neutrino fluxes

#### **Background free**

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 $N < 1, \sigma \propto 1/N$ 

Poissonian background subtraction $N\delta\Phi^2 \ll 1, \sigma \propto 1/\sqrt{N}$ 

Purely dominated by systematics

$$N\delta\Phi^2\gg 1,\sigma\propto \sqrt{(1+N\delta\Phi^2)/N}$$

*n* is defined so that *n* = 2 under normal Poissonian subtraction, and *n* > 2 when there is saturation

> The value of the cross section σ at which n crosses 2 is defined as the neutrino floor.

 $n = - \Bigl(\frac{d\log\sigma}{d\log MT}\Bigr)^{-1}$ 



#### Reducing the sensivity of an experiment by a factor *x* requires an increas in the exposure by *at least x<sup>n</sup>*

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## **The need to penetrate the fog**





#### <u>S. Vahsen et al., Ann. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 71 (2021) 189-224</u>

## **B** How to see through the neutrino fog?





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DM and solar neutrinos event rate as a function of some angle  $\phi$  on a twodimensional readout plane at 12 h time distance or 180° of longitude



#### What is required to clear the neutrino fog?

(see our review [2102.04596] and Snowmass WP [2203.05914] for reasoning)

- Angular resolution <30°
- Correct head / tail >75% of the time
  Fractional energy resolution < 20%</li>

If you don't achieve these then directionality adds nothing to the sensitivity (in the context of the  $\nu$  fog)

#### And achieved...

- At the level of individual events
- In as high a density target as possible
- Below <10 keVr
- With a timing resolution better than a few hours

Can this be done? Maybe, but the way to go seems to be "recoil imaging"