



Low energy ionization signals in DarkSide

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Liquid Argon double phase TPC



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The DarkSide program timeline



DarkSide-50 (end)

Sensitivity to WIMP -nucleon cross section 10⁻⁴⁴ cm² for a WIMP mass of 100 GeV/c². Leading S2 only low mass limit (2018).

-> Updated low mass DM result in 2022



Acrylic TPC, test first PDM motherboard, S2 studies. Running @ Napoli:





Acrylic TPC to test NR response to low energy recoils



<u>TPC Mockup (2024)</u>

Scaled down DS20k version, 0.4t active LAr acrylic TPC.Test: final detector design & UAr cryogenics. CERN -> now LNGS:



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DarkSide-20k @LNGS (2023-26)

50t UAr (20t fiducial) acrylic TPC, 8280 PDM channels. Acrylic+Gd n-veto in AAr protoDUNE cryostat.100 ton-yr exposure. TDR submitted dec.21, now baselined Sensitivity to WIMP-nucleon cross sec. of 2.10⁻⁴⁸ cm² at 100 GeV/c² WIMP mass.



Global Ar DM Collaboration, GADMC: ArDM, miniDEAP, DEAP-3600, DarkSide-50 ... and future 300t ARGO

DarkSide-50 LAr TPC and vetoes



DS50 zero-background high mass DM search with underground Ar

³⁹Ar β emitter (565 keV) with 269y T_{1/2} Atmospheric Ar act. 1Bq/kg from ³⁹Ar \rightarrow expect UAr depleted in ³⁹Ar

- → extract Ar from **underground source**
- \rightarrow DS50 filled with UAr in 2015



Fitted ³⁹Ar activity in UAr: 0.73 \pm 0.11 mBq/kg

For DarkSide-20k need 100 tons of UAr Extracted at DOE Canyon (CO) with URANIA and distilled at ARIA facility in Sardinia Based on 532 live days of DarkSide-50 with underground Argon



LAr TPC Zero-background for an exposure of about 44 ton years

-> scale to 200 ton years for DarkSide-20k

Low mass DM scattering off Argon

Low mass DM scattering, Ar recoil Energy :

$$\begin{split} E_R &= \frac{q^2}{2m_N} \le \frac{2\mu_{\chi N}^2 v^2}{m_N} \simeq 50 \; keV \; \left(\frac{m_{\chi}}{100 \; GeV}\right)^2 \left(\frac{100 \; GeV}{m_N}\right) \\ m_N^{Ar} \sim 37 \; \text{GeV} \\ \text{For } m_{\chi} &= 10 \; \text{GeV} \implies E_R \sim 1.4 \; \text{KeV} \end{split}$$

below threshold for S1 signal at ~6 keV_{nr} (2 keV_{ee}) but above S2 threshold ~ 0.4 keV_{nr} (0.1 keV_{ee})



Low Mass WIMPs: < 20 GeV/c²

- Range: 0.7-15 keV_{nr}
- Lighter nucleus, larger recoil energy
- S2 ionization signal only → (no S1) with g2 > 20 PE/e-(x-y g2 dependence, higher in core PMTs at center)

Low mass WIMPs E_R spectra for Ar, Ge, Xe



Measuring ionization only events in DS50

Detection efficiency :

Acceptance estimated with data/MC Fiducialization: use volume under 7 central PMTs \rightarrow drives acceptance, at ~40%

Analysis threshold at above 4 N_e

Single-electron line-shape :

- PMTs have zero dark rate at 88K
- Radioactivity very low in the detector
- One ionization electron (Ne = 1) under center PMT gives an S2 signal of 23±1 PE
- The gain in the gas region (~70 PE/e-, reduced to 23 PE/e- when accounting for the 30% QE of the PMTs)
- Sensitive to a single extracted electron





Low Mass DM ionization only search background :



Low Mass DM 90% C.L. exclusion limit result :



- Profile Likelihood Method for $N_e > 4$ and $N_e > 7$ thresholds shown respectively for $M\chi < 3.5$ GeV and $M\chi > 3.5$ GeV

- Uncertainties for both WIMP signals (NR ionization yield, single electron yields) and BG spectrum (rates, ER ioniz. yield)

Due to lack of knowledge about fluctuation at very low recoil energy, two cases :

- Binomial fluctuation for NR energy quenching, ionization, and recombination processes.
- No Fluctuation for NR energy quenching process. Corresponding to apply hard cut off in quenched energy ~0.6 keV_{nr}

Spurious (few) electrons in S2 only data

Photo-ionization events of the cathode (within the maximum drift time) have been studied extensively in: "A study of events with photoelectric emission in the DarkSide-50 liquid Ar TPC" (astro part 140 2022 102704)



Event categorization:

- *Multi scatter*: γ events, random pileup (S1 + multiple S2)
- Single scatter: Normal events (S1 + S2)
- S1 only: Cherenkov, surface events (no/small S2)
- No pulse: Triggered, but pulse finder failed (noise triggers, low Ne- events near TPC edges).
- S2 only: No /small S1, $N_{e-} \ge 4$ (low energy events)
- *Multi* S2: Multi scatters where S1 and the first S2 pileup (due to low t_{drift})
- SE: Single S2 with $N_{e-} < 4$
- **Other:** All the rest, 1 mHz (<0.1% of all events), e.g., event with S2 + S1 + \dots
- -> increase in SE and no-pulse rate
 In getter off suggests a link to impurities

Zoom in the low Ne region



Time correlation of SE with large energy events

- large-energy events (parent events): S1>1000PE, t_drift defined (at least two pulses), and x-y
 position reconstructed.
- Register trigger time of events for large events and SE separately.
 - correlated ⊿T: for each identified SE, fill time difference from all preceding large events within 10s from the SE.
 - random ∆T: for each identified large event, fill time difference from all preceding SE events within 10s from the large event.
- Random ΔT helpings modeling the uncorrelated fraction that is present in the correlated ΔT





A fraction of 40% - 70% of SE rate is correlated to well identified preceding events

Space/Energy correlations of SE with large energy events

- For all parent events, count how many SE events follow until next parent event.
- The fraction of parent events with no SE events, one SE event, two SE events, so on, is calculated as a function of parent S2.
- Only single-scatter parent events to have a well-defined z-position.
- Clear linear relationship with z-position of parent. -> The longer the drift time, the higher the chance of electrons to be captured.
- Consistent with the correlated-events

Also observed (see backups):

- x-y correlation between SE and parent S2
- with parent energy S1
- with total TPC activity
- with Rn trap temperature (impurity trapping efficiency)



Longer drift time -> higher chance of electrons capture



New S2 only events selection - 2023

Adding Delta T cut to reduce delayed SE:



Ionization S2 only background fit



Excess in the low Ne region still prevents to lower the threshold below 4 Ne Background only fit for 4 < Ne < 170 excellent data/MC backgrounds agreement

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DS50 results in low mass DM search

DS50 2018 analysis updated in 2023 with new calibration, selection and MC.

Non zero background search. Limited by energy response at low energy and internal ER back. World best sensitivity to GeV DM



<u>arXiv:2207.11966</u> - 2023 low mass analysis

Phys. Rev. D 107, 063001 (2023) Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 101001 (2023) Phys. Rev. Lett. 130, 101002 (2023)

<u>Also:</u>

- Migdal effect inclusion (see backup)
- ER interpretation of S2 only signature: Axions, dark photons, ...
- Baiesian approach with evolved Likelihood including calibration parameters in the fit

Low energy NR study with ReD experiment at LNS



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Future DarkSide-LowMass concept

Phys. Rev. D 107, 112006

- Low activity of ³⁹Ar
- Low impurity
 - good electron lifetime
 - Iow rate of the single electron events
- Ultra-pure photo-sensor
- Pure (or no) cryostat

DarkSide-LowMass conceptual design



• Optimized TPC ~1 ton UAr fiducial with depletion factor x10 or x100 wrt to DS50

Future DarkSide-LowMass sensitivity

90% CL upper limits



DarkSide-20k in construction at LNGS















TPC optical plane ($\sim 21 \text{ m}^2$) 525 PDUs

Photo-detection unit 16 tiles arranged into 4 channels

Tile / photo-detector module 24 SiPMs + signal amplifier

SiPM ($\sim 1~cm^2$)







- TPC:
 - Active UAr mass: 49.7 tonnes;
 - Fiducial UAr mass: 20.2 tonnes.
- Active neutron veto
 - Gd-PMMA;
 - Active UAr mass: 32 tonnes.
- SiPM as the photosensor;
- Single readout channel size: 10 cm x 10 cm;
- TPC: 2112 channels:
 - Top and bottom optical plane (OP);
- Veto: 480 channels.



DarkSide-20k high mass DM sensitivity





NEW: DarkSide-20k sensitivity to light DM

- assuming same UAr purity in ³⁹Ar as in DS50 (conservative), at Ne>=4, ³⁹Ar background is dominant.
- Assume ⁸⁵Kr is negligible (distillation in extraction site URANIA)
- SiPMs Photo Detection Modules and TPC material (PMMA) are very radio pure wrt to DS50 and the SS Vessel is far from the fiducial.
- Large detector allows effective x-y fiducialization
- Scale SE low Ne background as in DarkSide-LowMass. Use shape in the fit for Ne>2.
- Limits for Ne>4 and Ne>2: with 1 year data taking: O(10²) times better than DS50

Publication being submitted this weekend. For details see: -> talk by Marie van Uffelen next week at IDM



DM-electron scattering interpretation:



Electron recoils backgrounds



Nuclear recoil backgrounds



Neutron background active veto



High Mass - S2/S1 additional discrimination



High mass 90% C.L. exclusion limit result



Ionization (S2) only backgrounds



Ionization (S2) only signal model

arXiv:2207.11966 - 2023 low mass analysis



Signal shape uncertainties from low energy NR calibration and quenching fluctuations —> future improvements from low energy recoils from neutron sources on small LAr TPCs: ReD experiment at LNS tandem, ²⁵²Cf source, neutron d-d gun

Migdal effect

- » Teorizzato dal fisico russo Arkadij Benediktovič Migdal come fenomeno di ionizzazione/eccitazione di un atomo in seguito ad un urto tra il suo stesso nucleo e una particella neutra incidente. (A. Migdal "Ionizatsiya atomov pri yadernykh reaktsiyakh", ZhETF, 9, 1163-1165, 1939).
- » Successivamente esteso anche a fenomeni di ionizzazione che possono accompagnare i decadimenti α e β. (A. Migdal, "Ionization of atoms accompanying α and β-decay", J. Phys. Acad. Sci. USSR 4, 449, 1941).





DS50 results Migdal effect



Sub-GeV S2 only Migdal signal spectra in Ne -> sensitivity to sub GeV DM particles



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Electron and Nuclear Recoil low energy scales in DS50

Electron Recoil energy scale :

With first 100 days UAr dataset, very low-energy ER calibration peaks from ${}^{37}Ar$ (t_{1/2} = 37d). ${}^{37}Ar$ lines :

 $E = 0.27 \text{ keV} \rightarrow N_e = 11$ E = 2.8 keV \rightarrow N_e = 47.9

Nuclear Recoil Ionization yield Q_y:

NR primary ionization yield in LAr from MC template **fit** (red line) to DS-50 Am-Be and Am-13C neutron spectra data

Uncertainty red band from deviations wrt external neutron calibrations (ARIS, SCENE).

Nuclear Recoil Scale AmBe and AmC fit

MC + Ionization model ^[1] fit to NR data from AmBe and AmC.

^[1] F. Bezrukov, F. Kahlhoefer, and M. Lindner, Astropart. Phys. 35, 119 (2011).

AmBe neutrons selected in coincidence with 4.4 MeV gamma in the veto

Random/correlated background strongly suppressed

Strong inefficiency for S2 only events

No gamma emission correlated with AmC (alpha,n) reaction

Gammas from $^{\rm 241}{\rm Am}$ decay accounted with MC

Accidentals subtracted using UAr normalized by the exposure

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NEW CALIBRATION: Calibration of the liquid argon ionization response

to low energy electronic and nuclear recoils with DarkSide-50

ER calibration: high energy gammas, ³⁷Ar

NR calibration: Am-Be, Am-C sources, n beams

Cosmogenic activated ³⁷Ar in UAr first 100 days

FIG. 1. LAr ionization response to nuclear (NR) and electronic (ER) recoils as a function of the deposited energy, as Sandro De Cecco measured by DarkSide-50 [16].

The Underground Argon road: URANIA and ARIA

UAr also of interest for other future experiments: LEGEND, COHERENT, Argo, DuNe ... URANIA and ARIA currently in construction.

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Cosmogenic Argon activation

³⁹Ar ³⁷Ar ⁴²Ar activation from cosmogenic neutrons on ⁴⁰Ar during transportation

Study of cosmogenic activation above ground for the DarkSide-20k experiment - Astropart.Phys. 152 (2023) 102878.

The activity of ³⁹Ar induced during extraction, purification and transport on surface is evaluated to be 2.8% of the activity measured in UAr by DarkSide-50 experiment

DarkSide-20k UAr cryogenic systems

General neutron background budget in 200 t yr

Total NR background events from alpha-n neutrons in 200 t yr : 0.095

Background type	Bg events in ROI
	$[200 t yr]^{-1}$
(α, n) neutrons from U and Th	$9.5 imes 10^{-2}$
Fission neutrons from U-238	$<\!\!2.3 \times 10^{-3}$
Neutrons from Rn-222 diffusion and surface plate-out	$< 1.4 \times 10^{-2}$
Cosmogenic neutrons	$<\!6.0 imes10^{-1}$
Neutrons from the lab rock	$1.5 imes 10^{-2}$
Random surface α decay + S2 coincidence	${<}5.0 imes10^{-2}$
Correlated ER + Cherenkov	$< 1.8 \times 10^{-2}$
Uncorrelated ER + Cherenkov	${<}3.0 imes10^{-2}$
ER	${<}1.0 imes10^{-1}$

TABLE 26. Nuclear recoil (NR) backgrounds expected during the full DS-20k exposure, based on current data and Monte Carlo simulations. The right column is the total number of events surviving the veto cut, fiducial volume cut, and PSD.

... + 3.2 events from CEvNS (irreducible atmospheric v background))

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DarkSide-20k cryogenic SiPMs

Technology change from PMT to low background SIPMs to cover large areas w high efficiency

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Parameter	1 SiPM
Pixel pitch	30 X 30 μm²
Fill Factor	76.6%
Active area	689 μm²
Number of cells	94904
Total Area	11.7 x 7.9 mm2
Breakdown voltage[77 K]	26.8 +- 0.2 V
Internal Cross Talk Prob. [77 K]	<33% (7 V over voltage)
Dark noise rate [77 K]	<0.01 Hz/mm2 (7 V over voltage)
After Pulse prob. [77 K] within 5 μs	<10%
PDE [77 K] @420 nm	>40%
Single Cell Capacitance	62.5 +-2.5 fF

- NUV-HD-cryo SiPMs R&D by FBK & DarkSide
- Preproduction tested at cold in several sites
- Tech. Transfer and Production at LFoundry (SiPMs produced in 2022, currently tested
- Mass assembly is starting at LNGS

Dark noise rate

S/N ratio > 8; time res. ~ 10 ns PDE: Particle detection efficiency @420 nm 87K After a careful calibration of the light source and mea

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Photo Detection Units production and test

TPC optical plane ($\sim 21 \text{ m}^2$) **525 PDUs**

Photo-detection unit 16 tiles arranged into 4 channels Tile / photo-detector module

SiPM ($\sim 1 \text{ cm}^2$)

PDU assembly and mass production at NOA clean room, a 400 m² new infrastructure at LNGS

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24 SiPMs + signal amplifier 16 Tiles

1 single PCB for the Tile and amplifier (signal peaking time few ns)

24 SiPM: 4s 6p + TIA amplifier based on discrete elements for TPC

24 SiPM: 4 X(2s3p) + ASIC amplifier (for the Veto)

1 single 20X20 Arlon based PCB with all functions implemented (MB+, Mother Board +)

Thin structure

Sum of 4 amplified tile signals

Differential output

PDU mass test at Napoli cryogenic facility also now testing long term performances and PDU prototypes, proto0 for S2 reco + DAQ.

Other SE correlations

