

Down-to-earth searches for cosmological dark matter Carter Hall, University of Maryland October 19, 2016

Astrophysical evidence for dark matter



380,000 years after the big bang

Credit: Andrey Kravtsov, KICP, U. Chicago





1970's - 1980's: Cold dark matter is needed to seed the formation of galaxy clusters

Temperature and density fluctuations are 1 part in 10⁵.



The cosmic microwave background anisotropy imaged Planck (2014).

CMB multipole expansion - measured by Planck (2014)





The thermal hypothesis:

Was the dark matter an interacting component in the very early universe?

Early universe plasma

Dark matter annihilation Normal Dark matter matter 7 Dark Normal matter matter

Age of universe ~ 1 nanosecond; Temperature ~ 100 GeV



The thermal hypothesis:

Was the dark matter an interacting component in the very early universe?



The Milky Way's dark matter halo

- **Typical orbital vel.** = 230 km/sec ~ 0.1% speed of light
- Density: ~ $300 \text{ m}_{\text{proton}}$ / liter
 - WIMPs (~100 GeV): 3 per liter
- deBroglie wavelength:
 - WIMPs: larger than a nucleus. Coherent scalar scattering on ordinary nuclear matter, $\sigma \sim A^2$
- Production:
 - WIMPs: thermal







PHYSICAL REVIEW D 90, 122002 (2014)

Sensitivity of HAWC to high-mass dark matter annihilations

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HAWC projected five-year sensitivity (start 2015)





FIG. 3 (color online). The projected dark matter limits from the Virgo cluster and the galaxy M31 for HAWC after five years, for the $b\bar{b}$, $t\bar{t}$, $\mu^+\mu^-$, $\tau^+\tau^-$, and W^+W^- dark matter annihilation channels. From top to bottom, the curves are for the Virgo cluster with a smooth (sm) NFW profile (blue), M31 with a smooth (sm) NFW profile (red), the substructure-boosted (bst) Virgo cluster (magenta), and the substructure-boosted (bst) M31 (black). The triple-dot-dashed purple line is the limit from the H.E.S.S. observatory observations of the Fornax cluster [41], boosted (bst) using the substructure boost model of Ref. [31]. The dot-dashed purple line is the limit from the Fermi-LAT observations of the Virgo cluster [36], boosted (bst) using the substructure boost model of Ref. [31]. For the $\mu^+\mu^-$ channel, both the H.E.S.S. Fornax limit and the Fermi-LAT Virgo limit are for a combination of prompt emission and IC emission. Here we employ the substructure boost of 35 for the Virgo cluster, 15 for M31, and 29 for the Fornax cluster, based on Ref. [31]. The solid curves are the dark matter limits for just the prompt gamma-ray emission, and the dot-dashed curves are the limits considering both the prompt gamma-ray mission and the IC emission from electrons and positrons scattering on the CMB. In the W^+W^- plot, the dashed curves are the limit on the early-universe annihilation cross section when natural Sommerfeld enhancement is included in the cross section today (with $v_{rel} \sim 300 \text{ km s}^{-1}$). The width of the gray bands above the smooth Virgo cluster lines to the right of the figure indicate the range in the dark matter limit for all masses due to possible uncertainty from the point-source subtraction in the analysis. The solid purple line shows the expected dark matter thermal cross section. All limits are at 95% CL.



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PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS

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Searching for Dark Matter Annihilation from Milky Way Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies with Six Years of Fermi Large Area Telescope Data

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(The Fermi-LAT Collaboration)





FIG. 1 (color). Constraints on the DM annihilation cross section at the 95% CL for the $b\bar{b}$ (left) and $\tau^+\tau^-$ (right) channels derived from a combined analysis of 15 dSphs. Bands for the expected sensitivity are calculated by repeating the same analysis on 300 randomly selected sets of high-Galactic-latitude blank fields in the LAT data. The dashed line shows the median expected sensitivity while the bands represent the 68% and 95% quantiles. For each set of random locations, nominal J factors are randomized in accord with their measurement uncertainties. The solid blue curve shows the limits derived from a previous analysis of four years of PASS7 REPROCESSED data and the same sample of 15 dSphs [13]. The dashed gray curve in this and subsequent figures corresponds to the thermal relic cross section from Steigman *et al.* [5].

'Direct detection'





The parameter space of direct detection



Nuclear recoil energy spectra





Detection modes for ionizing radiation





Typical Event in LUX



Strong background rejection from kinematics





Simulation of self-shielding in liquid xenon

Volume cut rejects most gamma backgrounds.

Particle ID: recoil discrimination in LUX





370 kg of liquid xenon

26









Sanford Underground Research Facility



Davis Cavern 1480 m (4200 mwe) LUX Water Tank South Dakota USA



Davis Cavern @ SURF, March 2011



Davis Campus dedication, May 30, 2012



Davis Campus water tank, home of LUX



Ana Davis, widow of Ray Davis

On top of the water shield, Sept. 2012



LUX installed underground, Sept. 2012



LUX recoil bands and energy scales



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2013 initial results (Run 3): Phys.Rev.Lett. 112 (2014) 091303. 2015 re-analysis of Run 3: Phys.Rev.Lett. 116 (2016) 161301. **SPACE & COSMOS**

Q

Dark Matter Experiment Has Detected Nothing, Researchers Say Proudly

By DENNIS OVERBYE OCT. 30, 2013



Inside the Large Underground Xenon dark matter detector. Matthew Kapust/South Dakota Science and Technology Authority

October 30, 2013

Calibration: external gamma sources (¹³⁷Cs)



Tritium: an ideal electron-recoil band calibration source



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Injection and removal of tritium from LUX, August 2013



38

Tritium event locations in LUX – August 2013



Charge vs Light from tritium in LUX at 170 V/cm





178,000 fiducial tritium events

41



Nuclear-recoil calibration w/mono-energetic neutrons





Nuclear-recoil calibration of LUX Neutron scattering with a neutron generator



LUX final WIMP search results – Run 3 & 4 combined, 2013 - 2016



LUX -> LZ (2020) Scale up LUX fiducial mass by x40



The LZ Experiment – coming in 2020



LZ Sensitivity (5.6 Tonnes, 1000 live days)



History of WIMP sensitivity @ 50 GeV





Uranium-238 decay chain



Ordinary radioactive decay here on earth

Two problems from particle physics

1) Why is the weak scale so light? → New weak physics? → WIMPs

2) Why no CP violation in QCD ? → Peccei-Quinn symmetry? → Axions

Electron-recoil and nuclear-recoil calibration data

99.8 % background rejection in low energy region of interest 10 10 99.9 leakage fraction discrimination (%) 10 99.99 Observed Leakage 13 0 Gaussian Extrapolation 10 99,999 10 20 30 40 50 S1 detected photons

Gray contours indicate constant energies using a \$1-\$2 combined energy scale

July 22, 2016

LOST IN SPACE Super sensitive £7 million LUX dark matter detector finds... NOTHING

Ambitious and very costly experiment fails to solve one of the great mysteries of the universe

BY JASPER HAMILL 22nd July 2016, 11:16 am

Scientists are celebrating today after a massively expensive dark matter detector built in a gold mine spotted absolutely nothing.

Boffins hoped to use a £7million machine called the Large Underground Xenon to find fragments of mysterious substance called dark matter, which is believed to make up more than four-fifths of the mass of the universe.

But this pioneering detector managed to find absolutely no trace of these elusive particles.

Despite perceptions that their experiment had failed, researchers hailed it as a success because it allowed them to rule out several theories about the make up of dark matter.