

Title: Ugrnd Experiments

Speakers:

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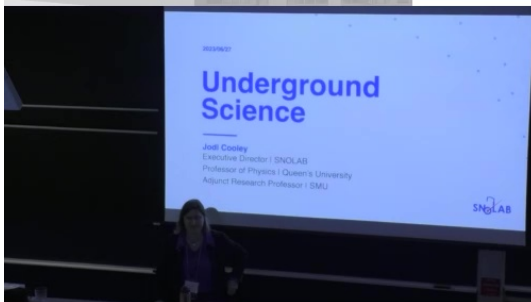
# Underground Science

**Jodi Cooley**

Executive Director | SNOLAB

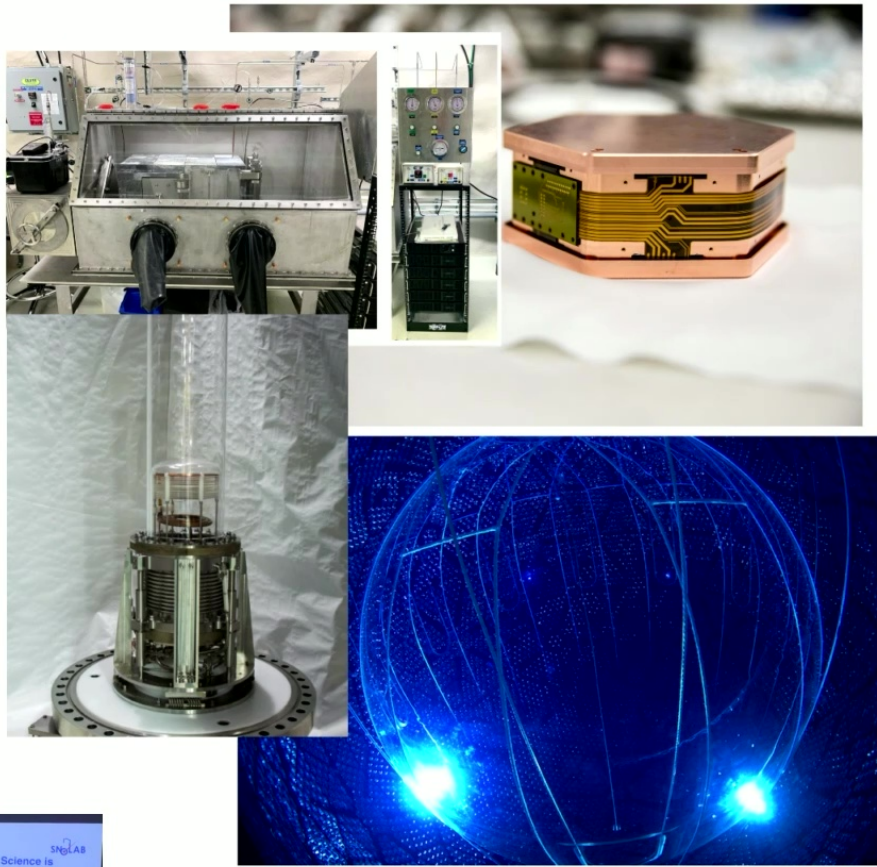
Professor of Physics | Queen's University

Adjunct Research Professor | SMU



## World Class Science is Done in Underground Laboratories

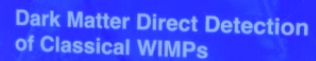
- Dark Matter
- Neutrino Physics
- Double Beta Decay
- Nuclear Astrophysics
- Quantum Technology
- Rare Processes
- Geophysics
- Gravitational Waves
- General Relativity
- Underground Biology
- Nuclear Security
- ....



# Dark Matter Direct Detection of Classical WIMPs

[arXiv: 2110.02359](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.02359)

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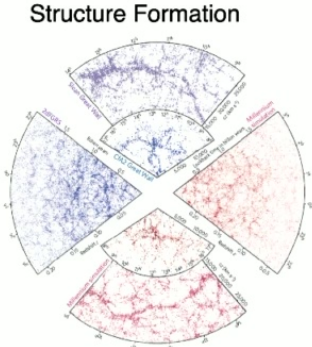
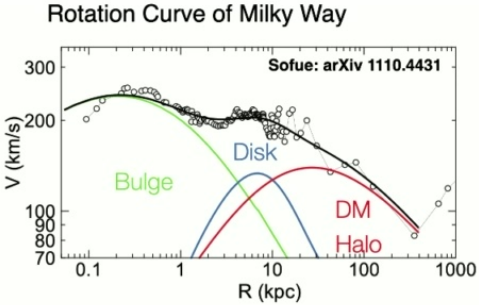
An inset image showing a presentation screen in a dark room. The screen displays the title 'Dark Matter Direct Detection of Classical WIMPs' and the arXiv ID 'arXiv: 2110.02359'. The SNOLAB logo is visible in the top right corner of the screen. A person is partially visible in the bottom left corner of the inset.

Dark Matter Direct Detection  
of Classical WIMPs

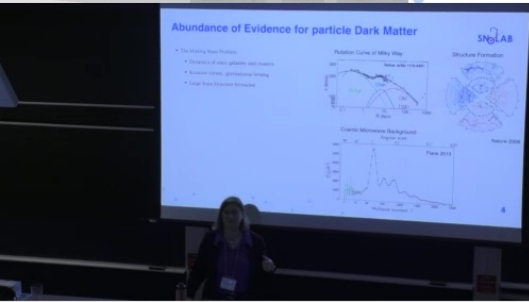
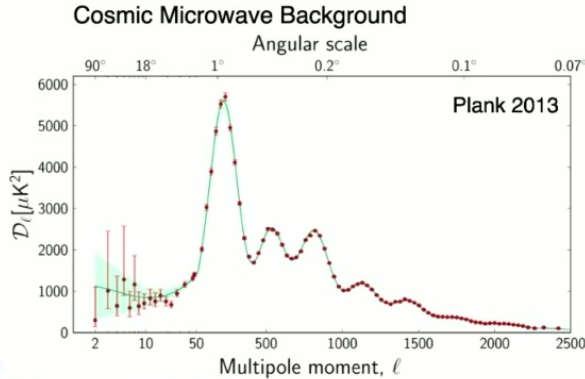
# Abundance of Evidence for particle Dark Matter



- ▶ The Missing Mass Problem:
  - ▶ Dynamics of stars, galaxies, and clusters
  - ▶ Rotation curves, gravitational lensing
  - ▶ Large Scale Structure formation



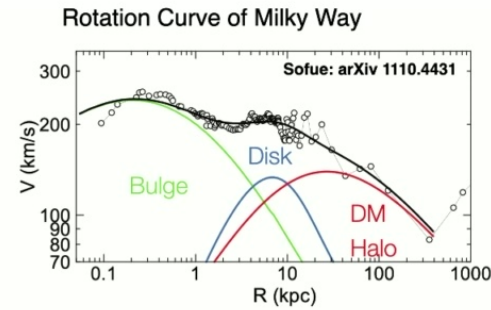
Nature 2006



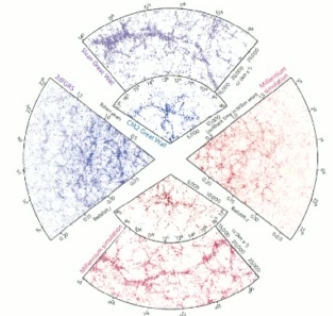
# Abundance of Evidence for particle Dark Matter



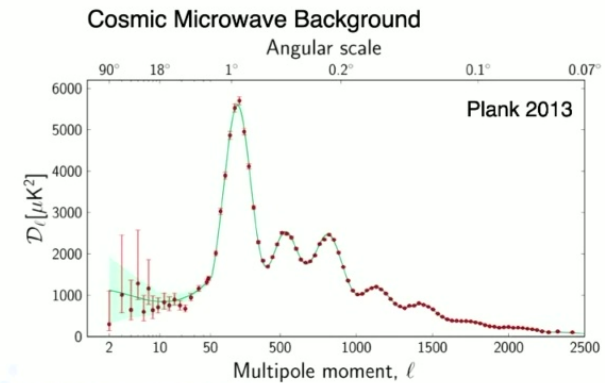
- The Missing Mass Problem:
  - Dynamics of stars, galaxies, and clusters
  - Rotation curves, gravitational lensing
  - Large Scale Structure formation
- Wealth of evidence for a particle solution
  - Microlensing (MACHOs) mostly ruled out
  - MOND has problems with Bullet Cluster
- Non-baryonic
  - Height of acoustic peaks in the CMB ( $\Omega_b, \Omega_m$ )
  - Power spectrum of density fluctuations ( $\Omega_m$ )
  - Primordial Nucleosynthesis ( $\Omega_b$ )
- And STILL HERE!
  - Stable, neutral, non-relativistic
  - Interacts via gravity and (maybe) a weak force



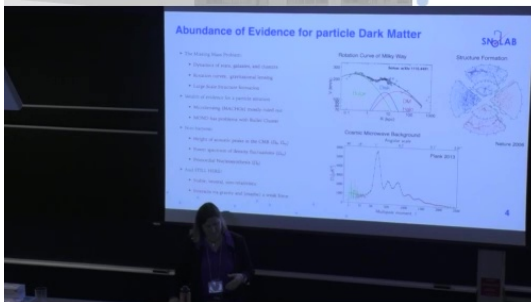
Structure Formation

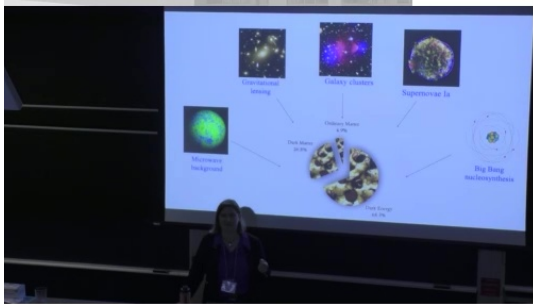
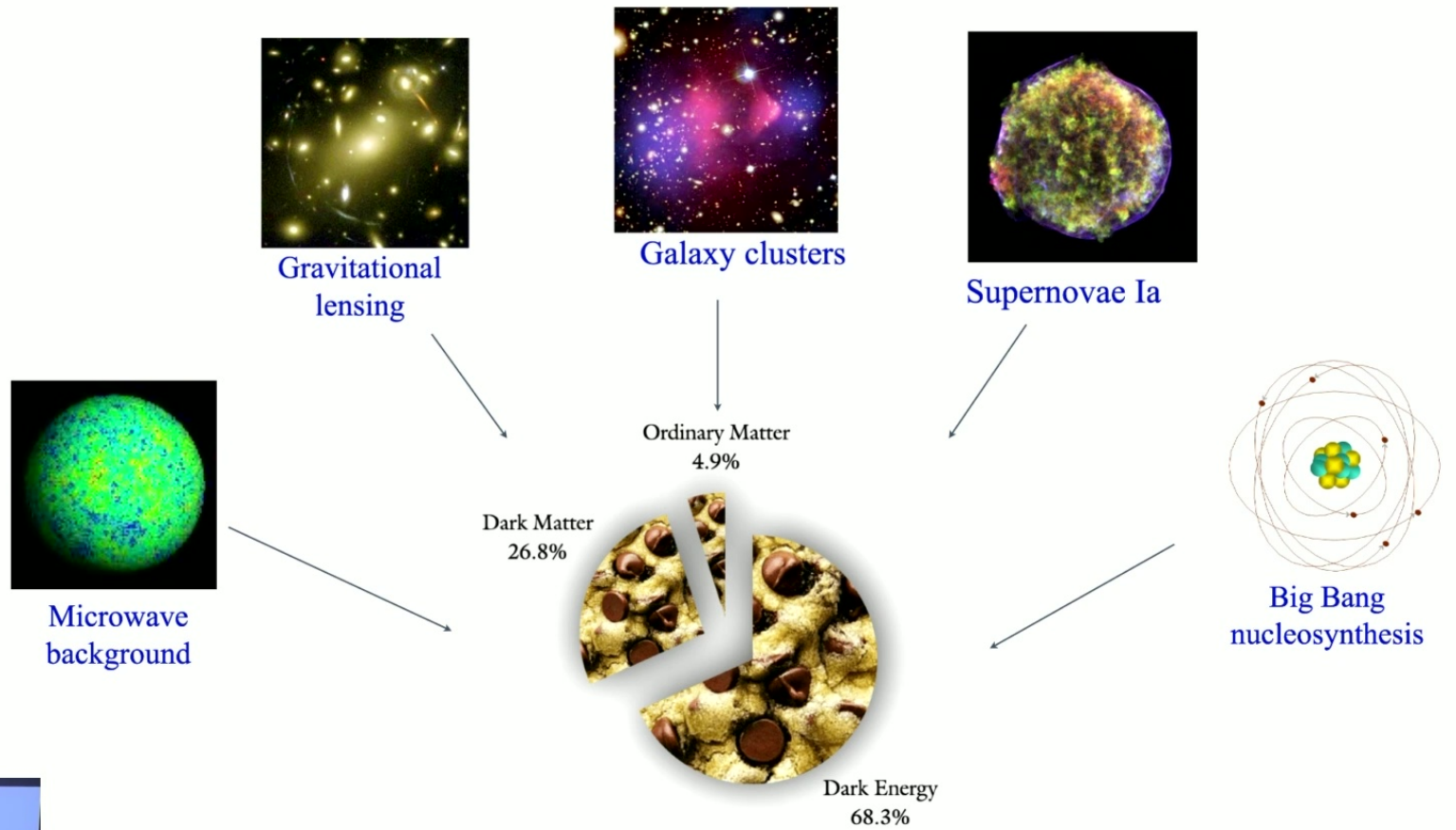


Nature 2006



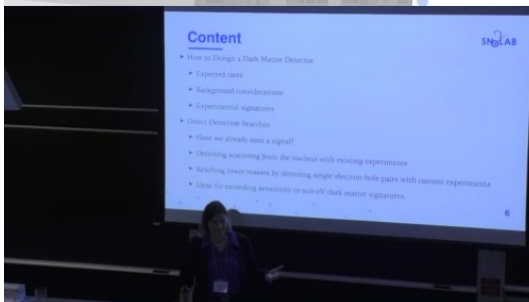
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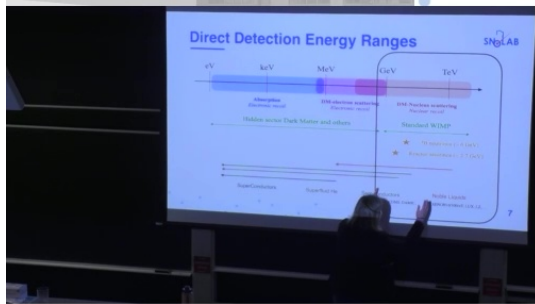
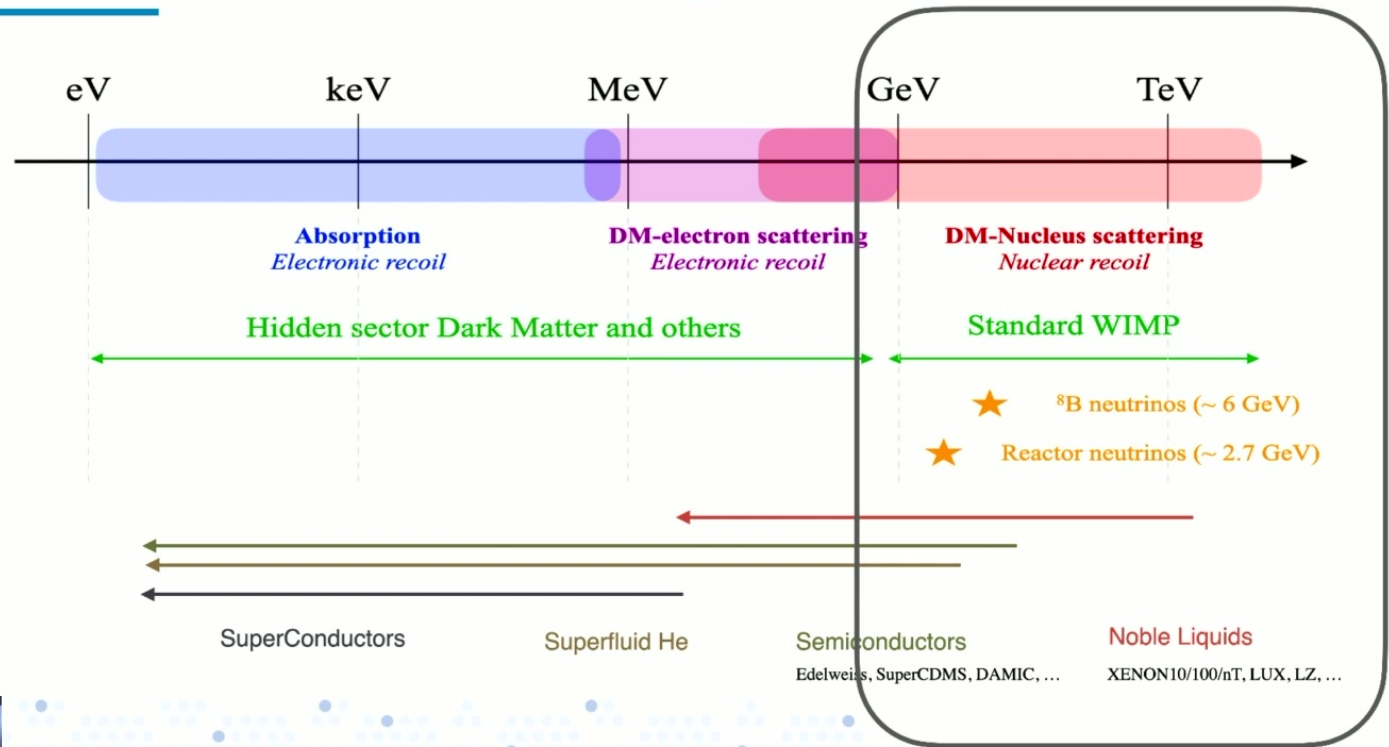
# Content

- ▶ How to Design a Dark Matter Detector
  - ▶ Expected rates
  - ▶ Background considerations
  - ▶ Experimental signatures
- ▶ Direct Detection Searches
  - ▶ Have we already seen a signal?
  - ▶ Detecting scattering from the nucleus with existing experiments
  - ▶ Reaching lower masses by detecting single electron-hole pairs with current experiments
  - ▶ Ideas for extending sensitivity to sub-eV dark matter signatures.

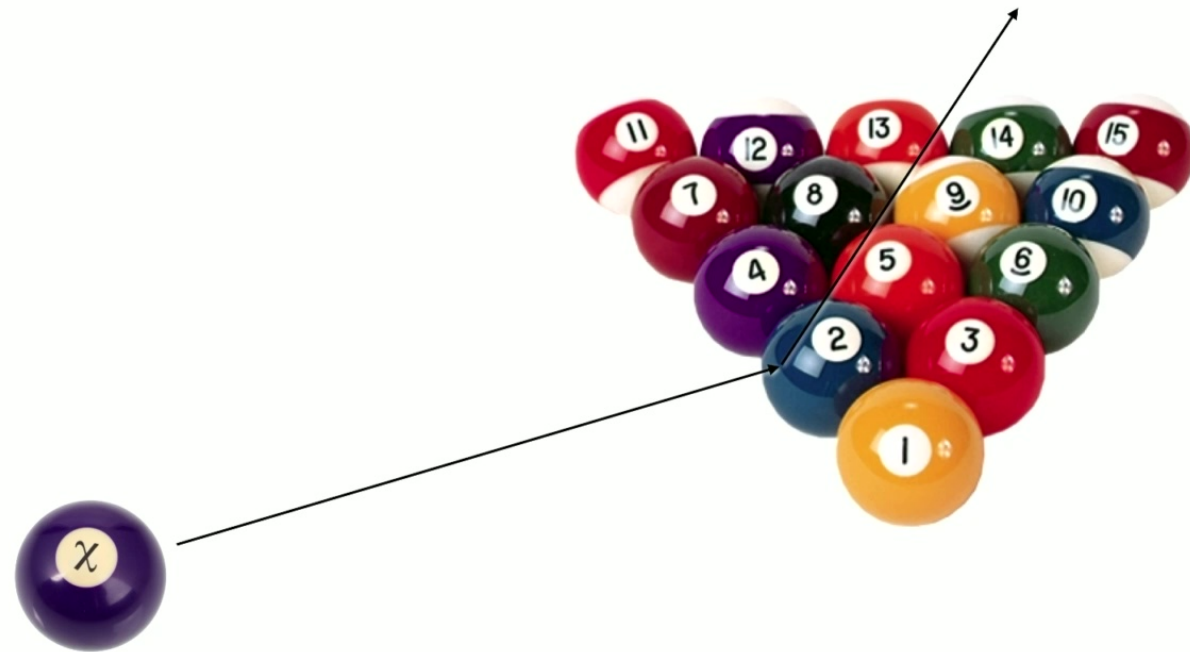




# Direct Detection Energy Ranges



# Considerations - Detecting Dark Matter Via Nuclear Scattering



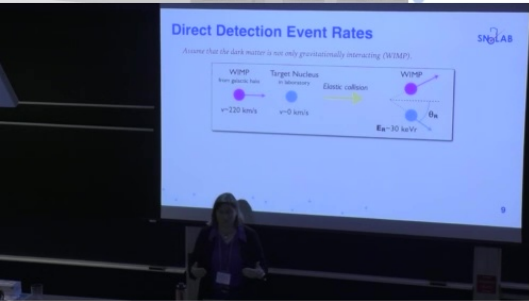
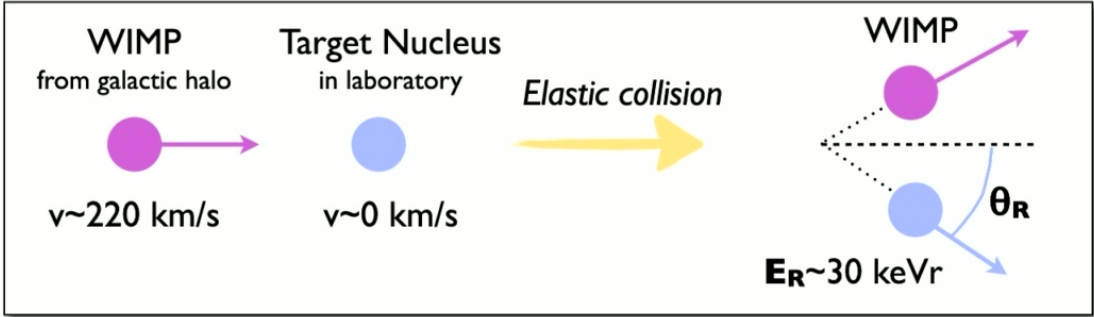
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# Direct Detection Event Rates

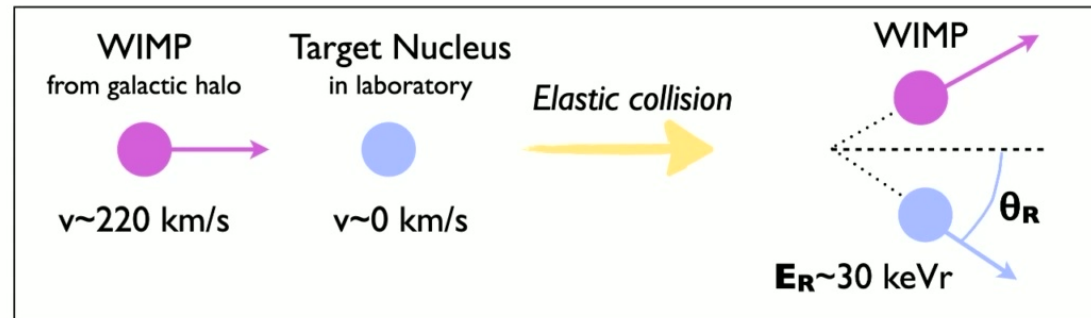


Assume that the dark matter is not only gravitationally interacting (WIMP).

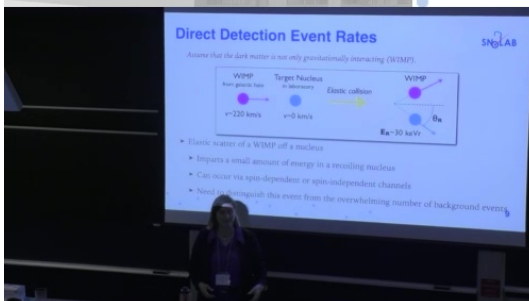


# Direct Detection Event Rates

*Assume that the dark matter is not only gravitationally interacting (WIMP).*



- ▶ Elastic scatter of a WIMP off a nucleus
  - ▶ Imparts a small amount of energy in a recoiling nucleus
  - ▶ Can occur via spin-dependent or spin-independent channels
  - ▶ Need to distinguish this event from the overwhelming number of background events



# Kinematics

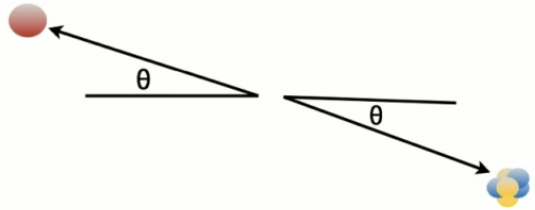
- Calculate the recoil energy of a nucleus in the center of mass frame.

initial momentum:  $\vec{p} = -\vec{E}_k$   
 final momentum:  $\vec{p}' = -\vec{E}_k' = \vec{q} + \mu\vec{v}_\chi$

where

WIMP-nucleus reduced mass:  $\mu = \frac{m_\chi m_N}{m_\chi + m_N}$

$q = \text{momentum transfer}$



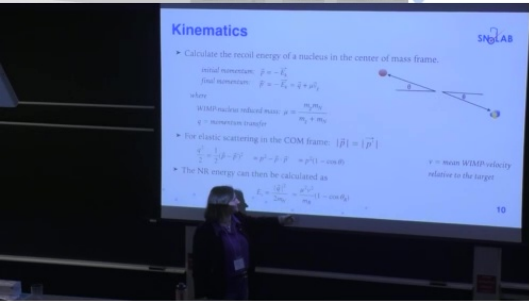
- For elastic scattering in the COM frame:  $|\vec{p}| = |\vec{p}'|$

$$\frac{q^2}{2} = \frac{1}{2}(\vec{p} - \vec{p}')^2 = p^2 - \vec{p} \cdot \vec{p}' = p^2(1 - \cos \theta)$$

$v = \text{mean WIMP-velocity relative to the target}$

- The NR energy can then be calculated as

$$E_r = \frac{|\vec{q}|^2}{2m_N} = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos \theta_R)$$



# Kinematics

$$E_R = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos \theta_R)$$

$$E_r = \frac{|\vec{q}|^2}{2m_N}$$

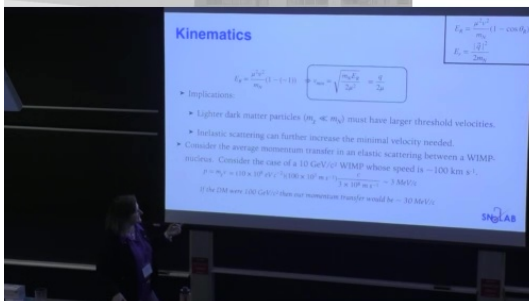
$$E_R = \frac{\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - (-1)) \Rightarrow v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{m_N E_R}{2\mu^2}} = \frac{q}{2\mu}$$

► Implications:

- Lighter dark matter particles ( $m_\chi \ll m_N$ ) must have larger threshold velocities.
- Inelastic scattering can further increase the minimal velocity needed.
- Consider the average momentum transfer in an elastic scattering between a WIMP-nucleus. Consider the case of a 10 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> WIMP whose speed is  $\sim 100$  km s<sup>-1</sup>.

$$p = m_\chi v = (10 \times 10^8 \text{ eV } c^{-2})(100 \times 10^3 \text{ m } s^{-1}) \frac{c}{3 \times 10^8 \text{ m } s^{-1}} \sim 3 \text{ MeV}/c$$

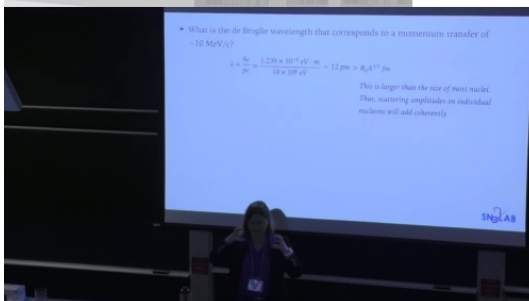
If the DM were 100 GeV/c<sup>2</sup> then our momentum transfer would be  $\sim 30$  MeV/c



- What is the de Broglie wavelength that corresponds to a momentum transfer of  $\sim 10 \text{ MeV}/c$ ?

$$\lambda = \frac{hc}{pc} = \frac{1.239 \times 10^{-6} \text{ eV} \cdot \text{m}}{10 \times 10^6 \text{ eV}} \sim 12 \text{ pm} > R_0 A^{1/3} \text{ fm}$$

*This is larger than the size of most nuclei.  
Thus, scattering amplitudes on individual  
nucleons will add coherently.*

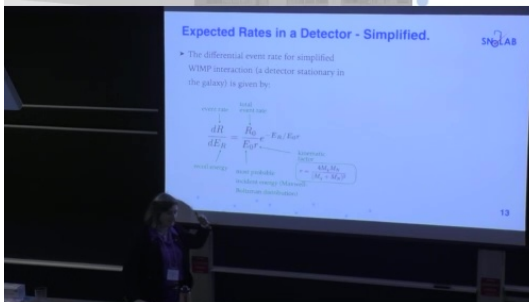


# Expected Rates in a Detector - Simplified.

- The differential event rate for simplified WIMP interaction (a detector stationary in the galaxy) is given by:

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{R_0}{E_0 r} e^{-E_R/E_0 r}$$

event rate  $\downarrow$   $\frac{dR}{dE_R}$   $\uparrow$  recoil energy  
 total event rate  $\downarrow$   $R_0$   
 $\uparrow$   $E_0 r$   $\leftarrow$  kinematic factor  
 most probable incident energy (Maxwell-Boltzman distribution)  $\uparrow$   $r = \frac{4M_X M_N}{(M_X + M_N)^2}$



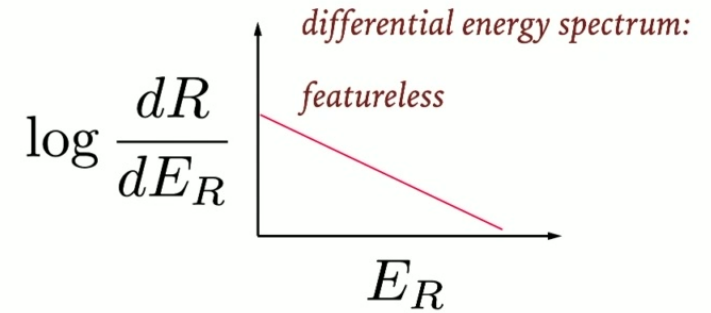


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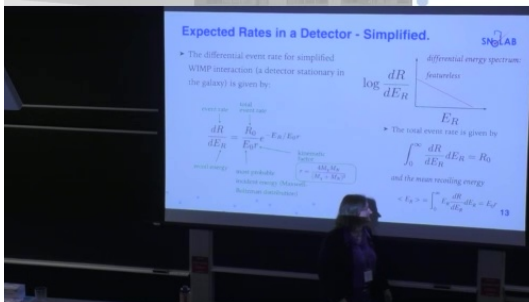


- The total event rate is given by

$$\int_0^\infty \frac{dR}{dE_R} dE_R = R_0$$

and the mean recoiling energy

$$\langle E_R \rangle = \int_0^\infty E_R \frac{dR}{dE_R} dE_R = E_0 r$$



## Example: Calculate the Mean NR Deposited in a Detector

- ▶ Assume that the DM mass and the nucleus mass are identical:

$$m_\chi = m_N = 100 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

- ▶ Our formula is

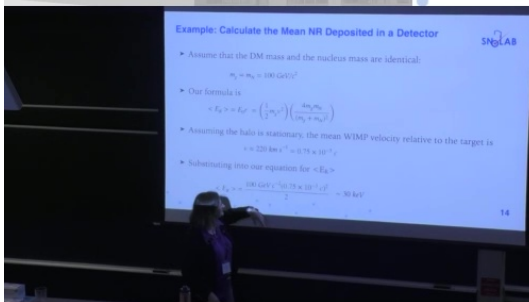
$$\langle E_R \rangle = E_0 r = \left( \frac{1}{2} m_\chi v^2 \right) \left( \frac{4m_\chi m_N}{(m_\chi + m_N)^2} \right)$$

- ▶ Assuming the halo is stationary, the mean WIMP velocity relative to the target is

$$v \approx 220 \text{ km s}^{-1} = 0.75 \times 10^{-3} c$$

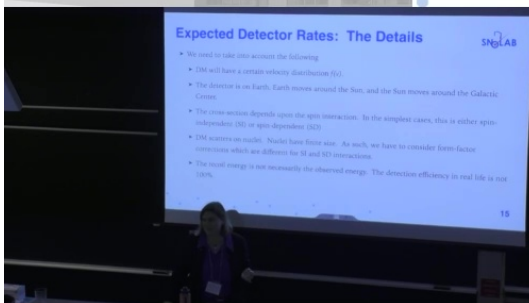
- ▶ Substituting into our equation for  $\langle E_R \rangle$

$$\langle E_R \rangle = \frac{100 \text{ GeV } c^{-2} (0.75 \times 10^{-3} c)^2}{2} \sim 30 \text{ keV}$$



# Expected Detector Rates: The Details

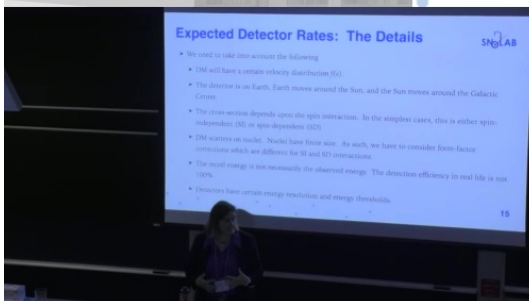
- ▶ We need to take into account the following
  - ▶ DM will have a certain velocity distribution  $f(v)$ .
  - ▶ The detector is on Earth, Earth moves around the Sun, and the Sun moves around the Galactic Center.
  - ▶ The cross-section depends upon the spin interaction. In the simplest cases, this is either spin-independent (SI) or spin-dependent (SD)
  - ▶ DM scatters on nuclei. Nuclei have finite size. As such, we have to consider form-factor corrections which are different for SI and SD interactions.
  - ▶ The recoil energy is not necessarily the observed energy. The detection efficiency in real life is not 100%.



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  - ▶ The recoil energy is not necessarily the observed energy. The detection efficiency in real life is not 100%.
  - ▶ Detectors have certain energy resolution and energy thresholds.

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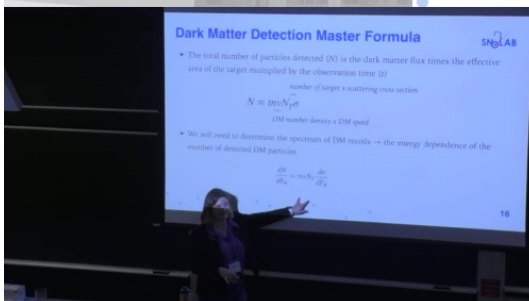
# Dark Matter Detection Master Formula

- ▶ The total number of particles detected ( $N$ ) is the dark matter flux times the effective area of the target multiplied by the observation time ( $t$ )

$$N = \underbrace{tnv}_{\text{DM number density} \times \text{DM speed}} \underbrace{N_T \sigma}_{\text{number of target} \times \text{scattering cross section}}$$

- ▶ We will need to determine the spectrum of DM recoils  $\rightarrow$  the energy dependence of the number of detected DM particles

$$\frac{dN}{dE_R} = tnvN_T \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R}$$



$$\frac{dN}{dE_R} = tnvN_T \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R}$$

- We need to consider the DM particles are described by their local velocity distribution,  $f(\vec{v})$ , where  $\vec{v}$  is the DM velocity in the reference frame of the detector.

$$\frac{dN}{dE_R} = tnN_T \int_{v_{min}} v f(\vec{v}) \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} d\vec{v}$$

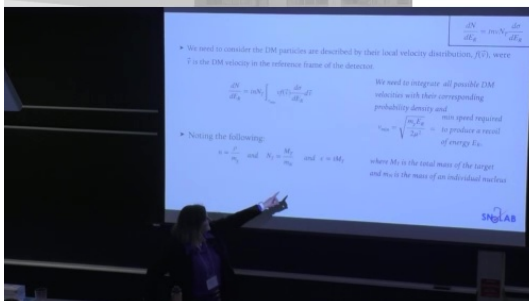
We need to integrate all possible DM velocities with their corresponding probability density and

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{m_\chi E_R}{2\mu^2}} = \begin{matrix} \text{min speed required} \\ \text{to produce a recoil} \\ \text{of energy } E_R. \end{matrix}$$

- Noting the following:

$$n = \frac{\rho}{m_\chi} \quad \text{and} \quad N_T = \frac{M_T}{m_N} \quad \text{and} \quad \epsilon = tM_T$$

where  $M_T$  is the total mass of the target and  $m_N$  is the mass of an individual nucleus



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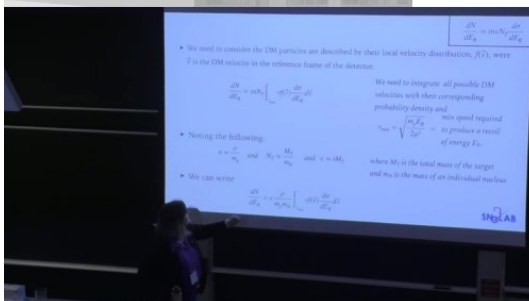
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- We can write

$$\frac{dN}{dE_R} = \epsilon \frac{\rho}{m_\chi m_N} \int_{v_{min}} v f(\vec{v}) \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} d\vec{v}$$



# Elements of Ideal Event Rate in Direct Detection:

**Differential Event Rate:**

[events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\rho_0}{m_N m_\chi} \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} v f(v) \frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}}{dE_R} dv$$

local WIMP density
WIMP-nucleon scattering cross section

nucleus mass
WIMP mass
WIMP speed distribution in detector frame

need input from astrophysics, particle physics and nuclear physics

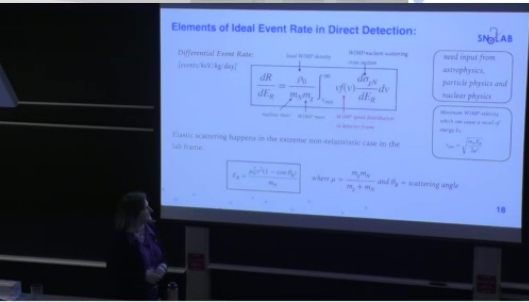
Minimum WIMP velocity which can cause a recoil of energy  $E_R$ .

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{m_N E_R}{2\mu^2}}$$

Elastic scattering happens in the extreme non-relativistic case in the lab frame.

$$E_R = \frac{\mu_N^2 v^2 (1 - \cos \theta_R)}{m_N}$$

where  $\mu = \frac{m_\chi m_N}{m_\chi + m_N}$  and  $\theta_R =$  scattering angle





# Elements of Ideal Event Rate in Direct Detection:

**Differential Event Rate:**  
[events/keV/kg/day]

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\rho_0}{m_N m_\chi} \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} v f(v) \frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}}{dE_R} dv$$

local WIMP density  $\rho_0$   
 nucleus mass  $m_N$   
 WIMP mass  $m_\chi$   
 WIMP-nucleon scattering cross section  $\frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}}{dE_R}$   
 WIMP speed distribution in detector frame  $v f(v)$

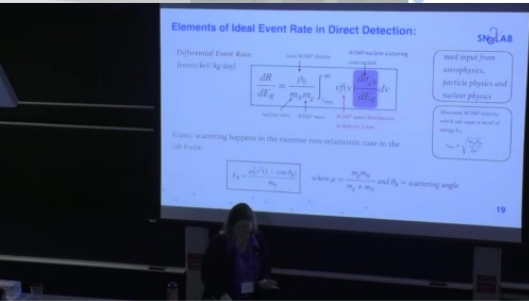
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# The Scattering Cross Section

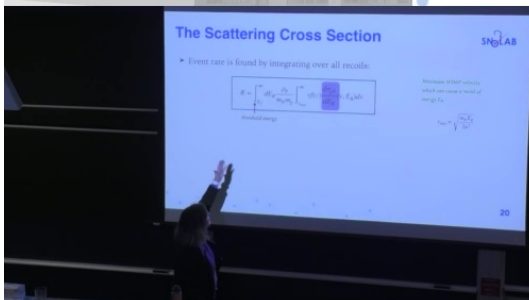
- Event rate is found by integrating over all recoils:

$$R = \int_{E_T}^{\infty} dE_R \frac{\rho_0}{m_N m_\chi} \int_{v_{min}}^{\infty} v f(v) \frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}}{dE_R}(v, E_R) dv$$

↑
threshold energy

Minimum WIMP velocity which can cause a recoil of energy  $E_R$ .

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{m_N E_R}{2\mu^2}}$$



# The Scattering Cross Section

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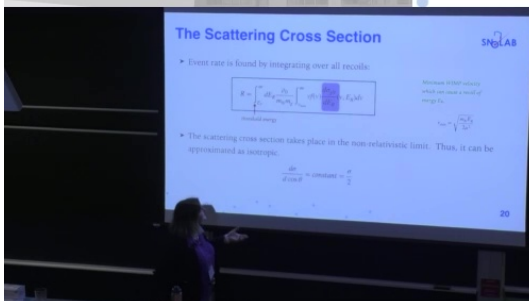
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Minimum WIMP velocity which can cause a recoil of energy  $E_R$ .

$$v_{min} = \sqrt{\frac{m_N E_R}{2\mu^2}}$$

- ▶ The scattering cross section takes place in the non-relativistic limit. Thus, it can be approximated as isotropic.

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} = \text{constant} = \frac{\sigma}{2}$$



- ▶ Recall,  $E_R^{max} = 2\mu^2 v^2 / m_N$ . That means we can write ...

$$\frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{\sigma}{2}$$

$$E_R = E_R^{max} \frac{1 + \cos\theta}{2} \rightarrow \frac{dE_R}{d\cos\theta} = \frac{E_R^{max}}{2}$$

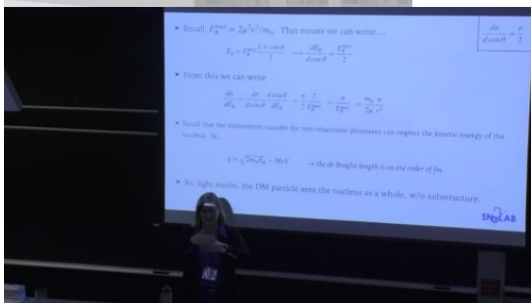
- ▶ From this we can write

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} = \frac{d\sigma}{d\cos\theta} \frac{d\cos\theta}{dE_R} = \frac{\sigma}{2} \frac{2}{E_R^{max}} = \frac{\sigma}{E_R^{max}} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu} \frac{\sigma}{v^2}$$

- ▶ Recall that the momentum transfer for non-relativistic processes can neglect the kinetic energy of the nucleus. So,...

$$q = \sqrt{2m_N E_R} \sim MeV \rightarrow \text{the de Broglie length is on the order of fm.}$$

- ▶ So, light nuclei, the DM particle sees the nucleus as a whole, w/o substructure.



- ▶ Heavier nuclei require inclusion of the nuclear form factor to account for the loss of coherence.
- ▶ The WIMP-nucleon cross section can be separated:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} = \left[ \left( \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} \right)_{SI} + \left( \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} \right)_{SD} \right]$$

*Spin-Independent + Spin-Dependent*

*SI arise from scalar or vector couplings to quarks.*

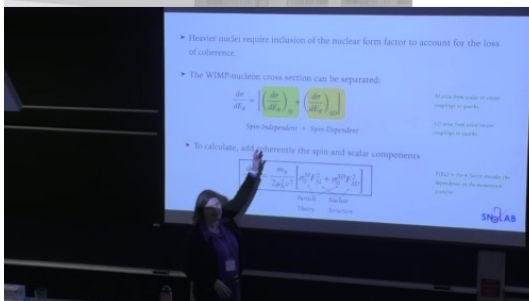
*SD arise from axial-vector couplings to quarks.*

- ▶ To calculate, add coherently the spin and scalar components

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE_R} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \left[ \sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \right]$$

*Particle Theory*
*Nuclear Structure*

*F(E<sub>R</sub>) = Form factor encodes the dependence on the momentum transfer.*



$$\frac{d\sigma_{\chi N}}{dE_R} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \left[ \sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \right]$$

- Spin Independent: Woods-Saxon Form Factor

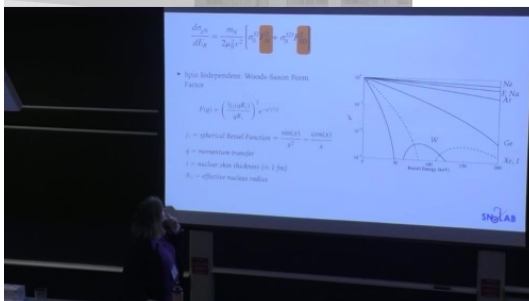
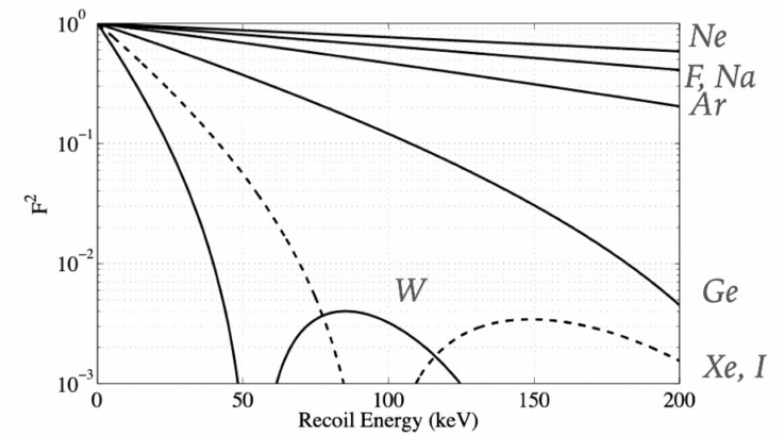
$$F(q) = \left( \frac{3j_1(qR_1)}{qR_1} \right)^2 e^{-q^2 s^2 / 2}$$

$$j_1 = \text{spherical Bessel Function} = \frac{\sin(x)}{x^2} - \frac{\cos(x)}{x}$$

$q$  = momentum transfer

$s$  = nuclear skin thickness ( $\approx 1$  fm)

$R_1$  = effective nucleus radius



$$\frac{d\sigma_{WN}}{dE_R} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \left[ \sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \right]$$

► Spin Dependent Interactions

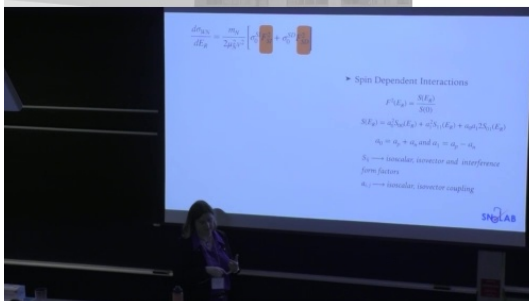
$$F^2(E_R) = \frac{S(E_R)}{S(0)}$$

$$S(E_R) = a_0^2 S_{00}(E_R) + a_1^2 S_{11}(E_R) + a_0 a_1 2S_{01}(E_R)$$

$$a_0 = a_p + a_n \text{ and } a_1 = a_p - a_n$$

$S_{ij} \longrightarrow$  isoscalar, isovector and interference form factors

$a_{i,j} \longrightarrow$  isoscalar, isovector coupling



$$\frac{d\sigma_{WN}}{dE_R} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \left[ \sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \right]$$

► **Spin-Independent**

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \frac{4\mu^2}{\pi} \left[ Zf_p + (A-Z)f_n \right]^2 \propto A^2$$

↑ coupling to proton      ↑ coupling to neutron

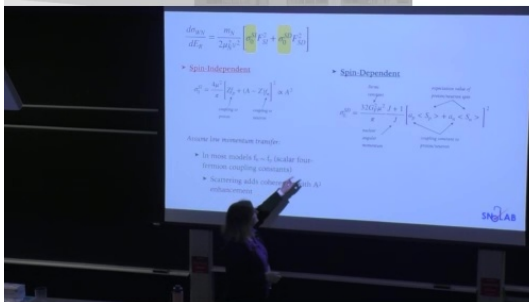
Assume low momentum transfer:

- In most models  $f_n \sim f_p$  (scalar four-fermion coupling constants)
- Scattering adds coherently with  $A^2$  enhancement

► **Spin-Dependent**

$$\sigma_0^{SD} = \frac{32G_F^2 \mu^2}{\pi} \frac{J+1}{J} \left[ a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle \right]^2$$

↑ Fermi constant      ↑ expectation value of proton/neutron spin  
↑ nuclear angular momentum      ↑ coupling constant to proton/neutron





$$\frac{d\sigma_{WN}}{dE_R} = \frac{m_N}{2\mu_N^2 v^2} \left[ \sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \right]$$

► **Spin-Independent**

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \frac{4\mu^2}{\pi} \left[ Zf_p + (A-Z)f_n \right]^2 \propto A^2$$

↑ coupling to proton      ↑ coupling to neutron

Assume low momentum transfer:

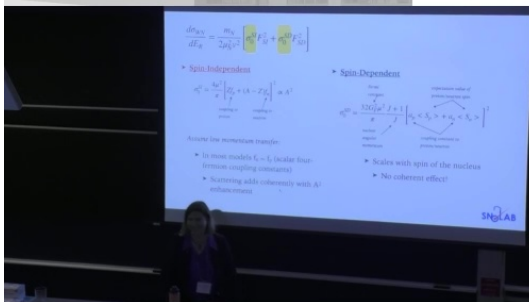
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$$\sigma_0^{SD} = \frac{32G_F^2 \mu^2}{\pi} \frac{J+1}{J} \left[ a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle \right]^2$$

↑ Fermi constant      ↑ expectation value of proton/neutron spin  
↑ nuclear angular momentum      ↑ coupling constant to proton/neutron

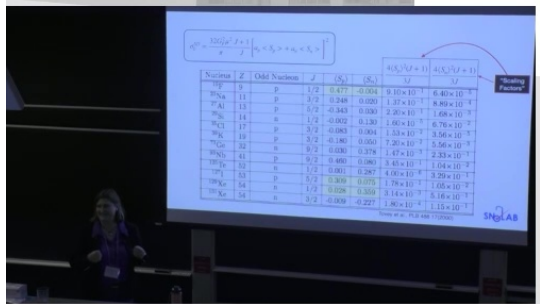
- Scales with spin of the nucleus
- No coherent effect!



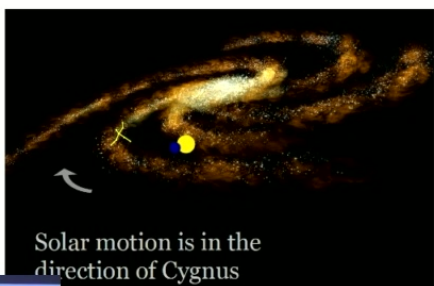
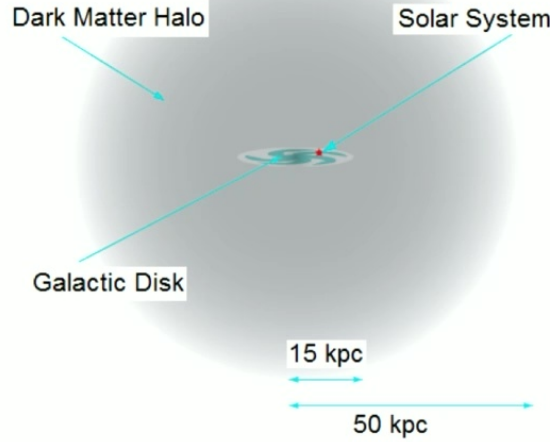
$$\sigma_0^{SD} = \frac{32G_F^2 \mu^2}{\pi} \frac{J+1}{J} \left[ a_p \langle S_p \rangle + a_n \langle S_n \rangle \right]^2$$

Nucleus	Z	Odd Nucleon	J	$\langle S_p \rangle$	$\langle S_n \rangle$	$\frac{4\langle S_p \rangle^2(J+1)}{3J}$	$\frac{4\langle S_n \rangle^2(J+1)}{3J}$
						"Scaling Factors"	
<sup>19</sup> F	9	p	1/2	0.477	-0.004	$9.10 \times 10^{-1}$	$6.40 \times 10^{-5}$
<sup>23</sup> Na	11	p	3/2	0.248	0.020	$1.37 \times 10^{-1}$	$8.89 \times 10^{-4}$
<sup>27</sup> Al	13	p	5/2	-0.343	0.030	$2.20 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.68 \times 10^{-3}$
<sup>29</sup> Si	14	n	1/2	-0.002	0.130	$1.60 \times 10^{-5}$	$6.76 \times 10^{-2}$
<sup>35</sup> Cl	17	p	3/2	-0.083	0.004	$1.53 \times 10^{-2}$	$3.56 \times 10^{-5}$
<sup>39</sup> K	19	p	3/2	-0.180	0.050	$7.20 \times 10^{-2}$	$5.56 \times 10^{-3}$
<sup>73</sup> Ge	32	n	9/2	0.030	0.378	$1.47 \times 10^{-3}$	$2.33 \times 10^{-1}$
<sup>93</sup> Nb	41	p	9/2	0.460	0.080	$3.45 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.04 \times 10^{-2}$
<sup>125</sup> Te	52	n	1/2	0.001	0.287	$4.00 \times 10^{-6}$	$3.29 \times 10^{-1}$
<sup>127</sup> I	53	p	5/2	0.309	0.075	$1.78 \times 10^{-1}$	$1.05 \times 10^{-2}$
<sup>129</sup> Xe	54	n	1/2	0.028	0.359	$3.14 \times 10^{-3}$	$5.16 \times 10^{-1}$
<sup>131</sup> Xe	54	n	3/2	-0.009	-0.227	$1.80 \times 10^{-4}$	$1.15 \times 10^{-1}$

Tovey et al., PLB 488 17(2000)



# Relic WIMP Distribution: Simplified Model



- ▶ WIMPs are distributed in isothermal spherical halos with Gaussian velocity distribution (Maxwellian)

$$f(\vec{v}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{|\vec{v}|^2}{2\sigma^2}}$$

- ▶ The speed dispersion is related to the local circular speed by

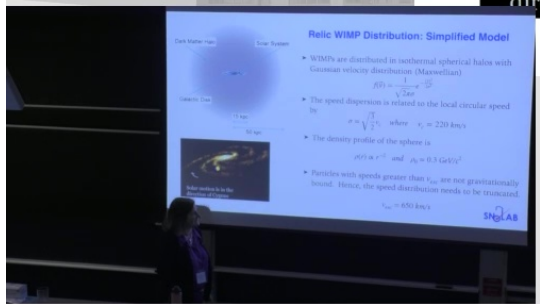
$$\sigma = \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}}v_c \quad \text{where} \quad v_c = 220 \text{ km/s}$$

- ▶ The density profile of the sphere is

$$\rho(r) \propto r^{-2} \quad \text{and} \quad \rho_0 = 0.3 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

- ▶ Particles with speeds greater than  $v_{esc}$  are not gravitationally bound. Hence, the speed distribution needs to be truncated.

$$v_{esc} = 650 \text{ km/s}$$





## Density of WIMPs in Your Work area

- ▶ The local dark matter density is

$$\rho_0 = 0.3 \text{ GeV/cm}^3$$

- ▶ Pick your favored mass for the dark matter particle

$$m = 5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

$$m = 60 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

- ▶ What is the number density?

$$60,000 \text{ particles/m}^3 \quad \longrightarrow \text{for } 5 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

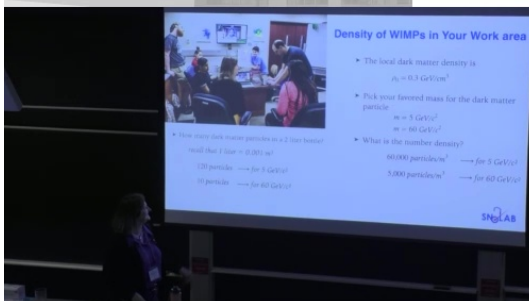
$$5,000 \text{ particles/m}^3 \quad \longrightarrow \text{for } 60 \text{ GeV}/c^2$$

- ▶ How many dark matter particles in a 2 liter bottle?

*recall that 1 liter = 0.001 m<sup>3</sup>*

*120 particles → for 5 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>*

*10 particles → for 60 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>*



# Maybe Not that Simple?

- Effective Field Theory considers leading order and NLO operators that can occur in the effective Lagrangian that describes the WIMP-nucleon interactions.
- Contains 14 operators, that rely on a range of nuclear properties in addition to the SI and SD cases. They combine such that the WIMP-nucleon cross section depends on six independent nuclear response functions:
  - One “Spin independent”
  - Two “Spin Dependent”
  - Three “Velocity-Dependent”
- Two pairs of these interfere, resulting in eight independent parameters that can be probed

## The effective field theory of dark matter direct detection

A. Liam Fitzpatrick,<sup>a</sup> Wick Haxton,<sup>b</sup> Emanuel Katz,<sup>a,c,d</sup>  
 Nicholas Lubbers,<sup>c</sup> Yiming Xu<sup>c</sup>

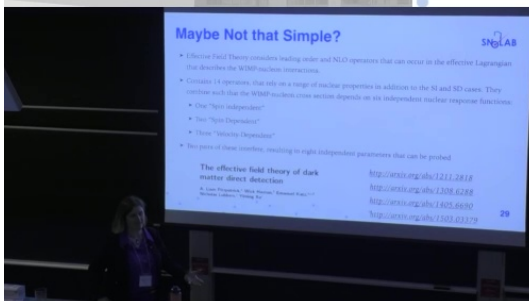
<http://arxiv.org/abs/1211.2818>

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1308.6288>

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1405.6690>

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1503.03379>

29



$$\begin{aligned}
\mathcal{O}_1 &= 1_\chi 1_N \\
\mathcal{O}_3 &= i\vec{S}_N \cdot \left[ \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^\perp \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_4 &= \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \vec{S}_N \\
\mathcal{O}_5 &= i\vec{S}_\chi \cdot \left[ \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \times \vec{v}^\perp \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_6 &= \left[ \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \left[ \vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_7 &= \vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^\perp \\
\mathcal{O}_8 &= \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \vec{v}^\perp \\
\mathcal{O}_9 &= i\vec{S}_\chi \cdot \left[ \vec{S}_N \times \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_{10} &= i\vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\
\mathcal{O}_{11} &= i\vec{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \\
\mathcal{O}_{12} &= \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \left[ \vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^\perp \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_{13} &= i \left[ \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \vec{v}^\perp \right] \left[ \vec{S}_N \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_{14} &= i \left[ \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \left[ \vec{S}_N \cdot \vec{v}^\perp \right] \\
\mathcal{O}_{15} &= - \left[ \vec{S}_\chi \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right] \left[ \left( \vec{S}_N \times \vec{v}^\perp \right) \cdot \frac{\vec{q}}{m_N} \right]
\end{aligned}$$

► The EFT framework parameterizes the WIMP-nucleus interaction in terms of the 14 operators listed to the left.

$\vec{v}^\perp$  = relative velocity between incoming WIMP and nucleon

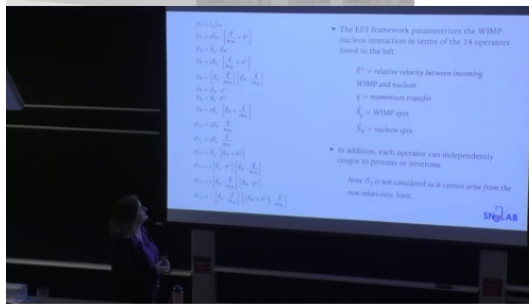
$q$  = momentum transfer

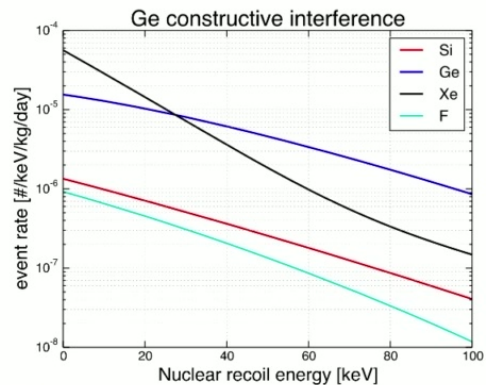
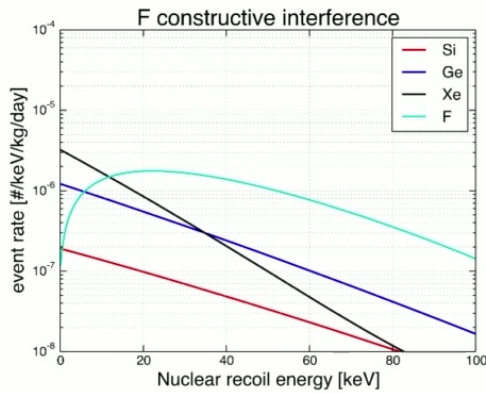
$\vec{S}_\chi$  = WIMP spin

$\vec{S}_N$  = nucleon spin

► In addition, each operator can independently couple to protons or neutrons.

Note  $\mathcal{O}_2$  is not considered as it cannot arise from the non-relativistic limit.



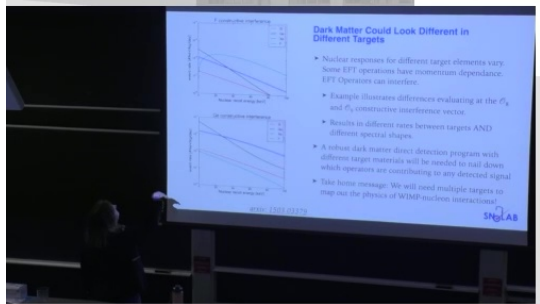


## Dark Matter Could Look Different in Different Targets

- Nuclear responses for different target elements vary. Some EFT operations have momentum dependence. EFT Operators can interfere.
- Example illustrates differences evaluating at the  $\mathcal{O}_8$  and  $\mathcal{O}_9$  constructive interference vector.
- Results in different rates between targets AND different spectral shapes.
- A robust dark matter direct detection program with different target materials will be needed to nail down which operators are contributing to any detected signal
- Take home message: We will need multiple targets to map out the physics of WIMP-nucleon interactions!

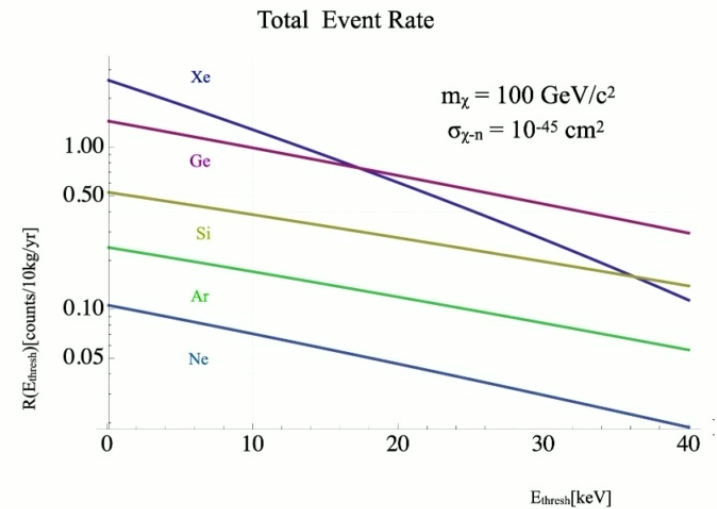


[arxiv: 1503.03379](https://arxiv.org/abs/1503.03379)

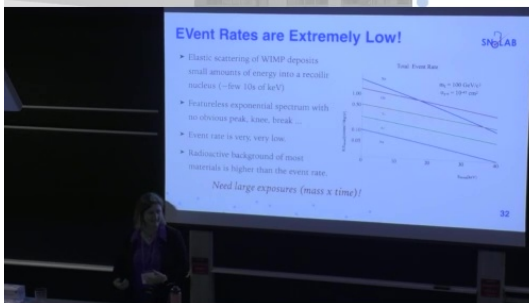


# Event Rates are Extremely Low!

- ▶ Elastic scattering of WIMP deposits small amounts of energy into a recoiling nucleus (~few 10s of keV)
- ▶ Featureless exponential spectrum with no obvious peak, knee, break ...
- ▶ Event rate is very, very low.
- ▶ Radioactive background of most materials is higher than the event rate.

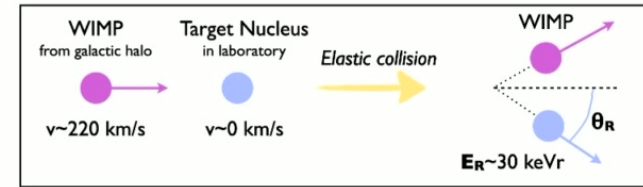
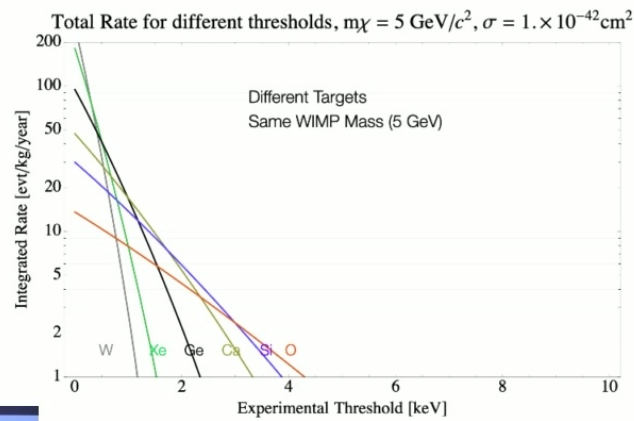
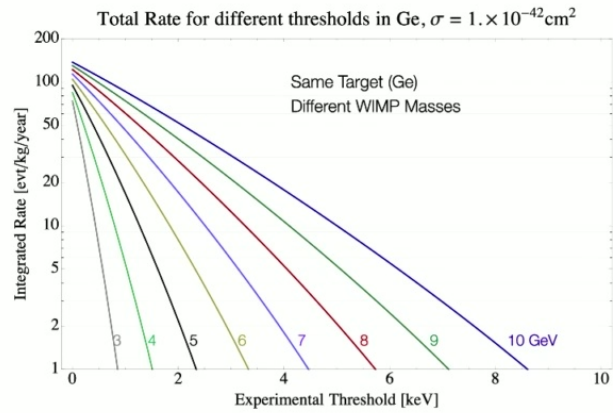


*Need large exposures (mass x time)!*



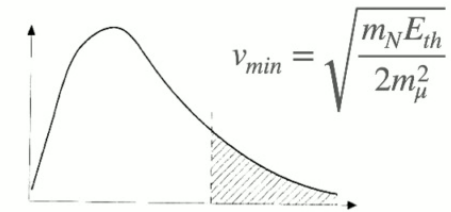


# The Low-Mass WIMP Challenge

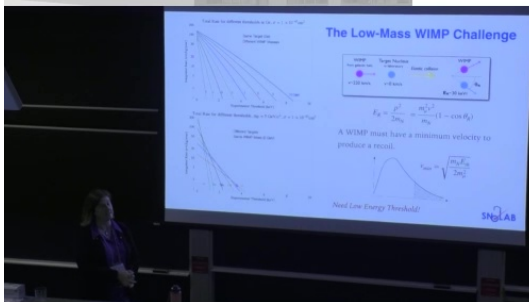


$$E_R = \frac{p^2}{2m_N} = \frac{m_\mu^2 v^2}{m_N} (1 - \cos \theta_R)$$

A WIMP must have a minimum velocity to produce a recoil.

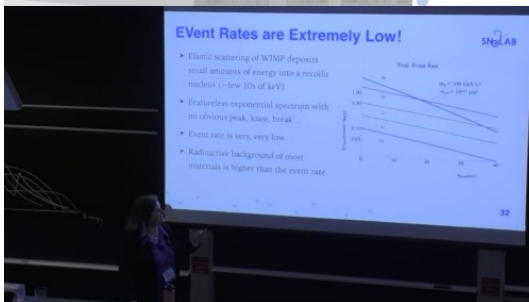
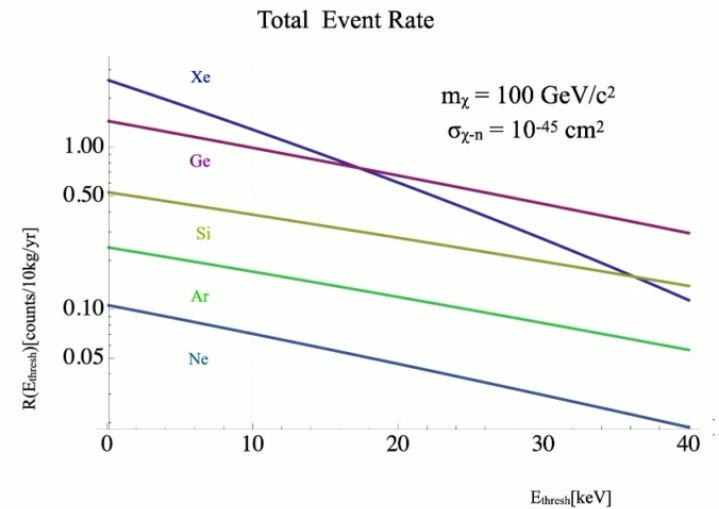


*Need Low Energy Threshold!*



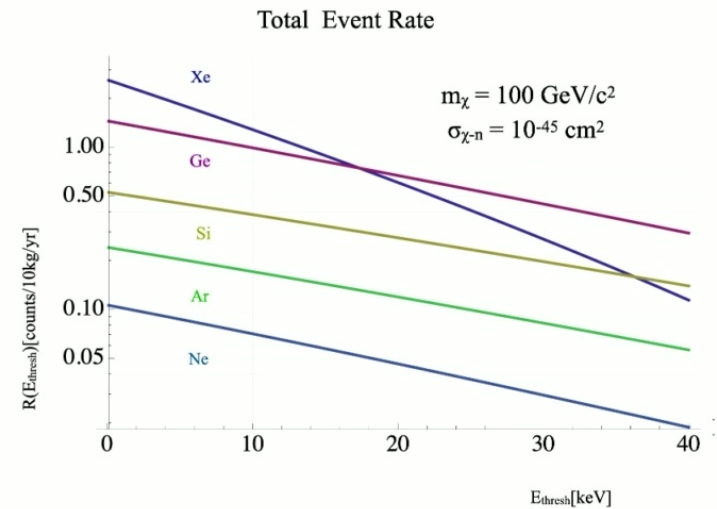
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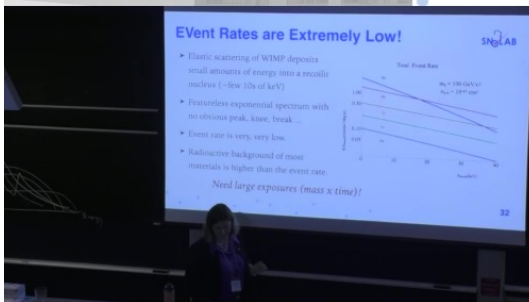


# Event Rates are Extremely Low!

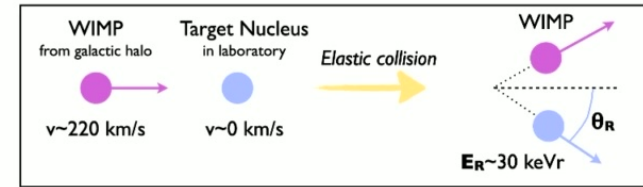
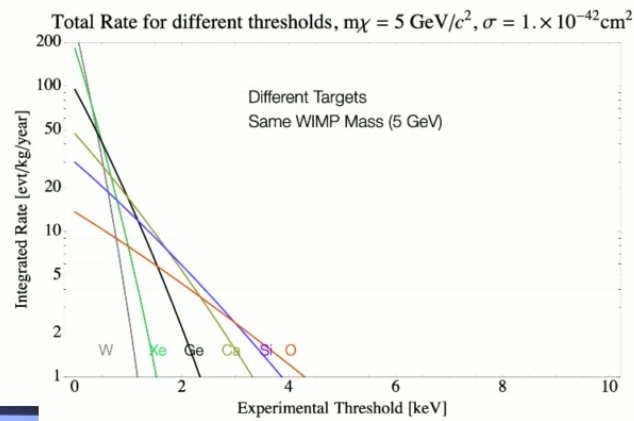
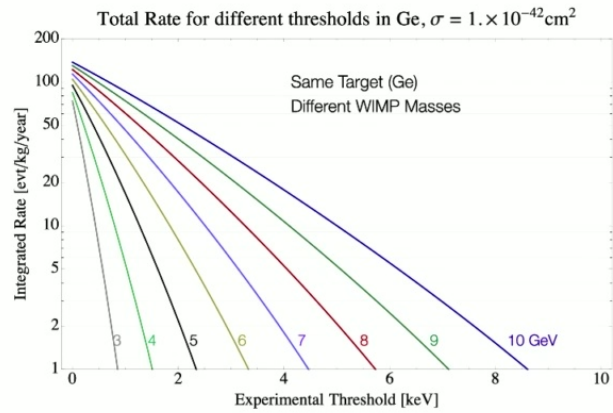
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*Need large exposures (mass x time)!*

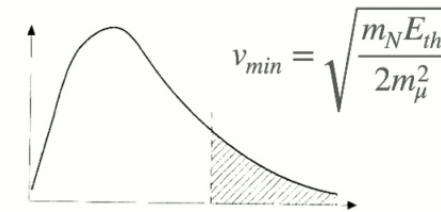


# The Low-Mass WIMP Challenge

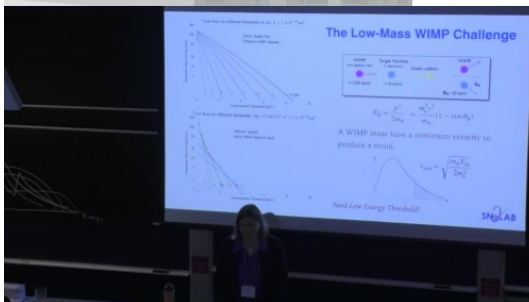


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A WIMP must have a minimum velocity to produce a recoil.

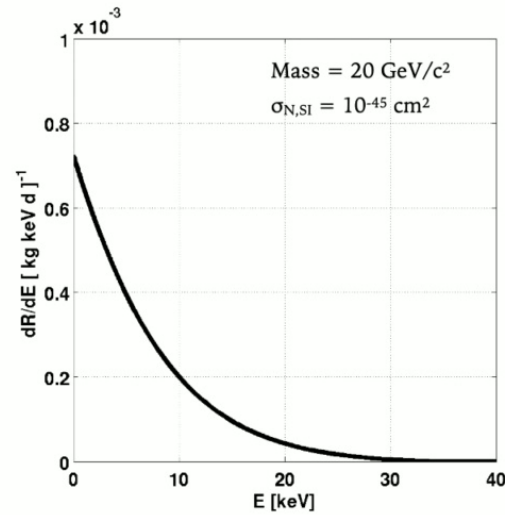


*Need Low Energy Threshold!*

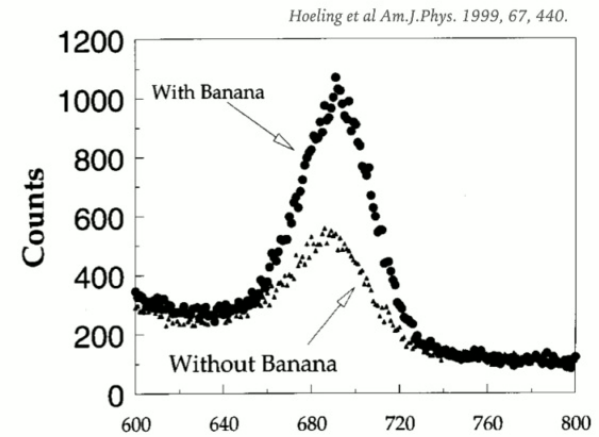


# The Event Rates Are Extremely Low!

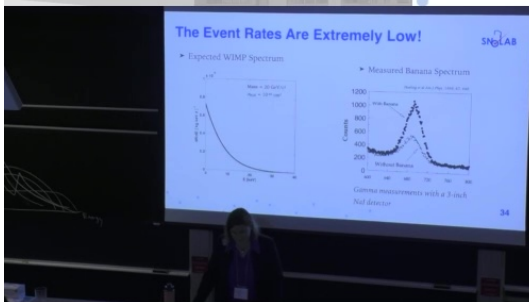
## ► Expected WIMP Spectrum



## ► Measured Banana Spectrum

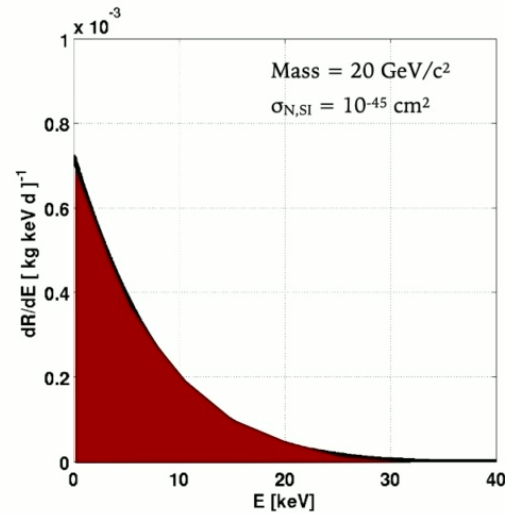


*Gamma measurements with a 3-inch NaI detector*



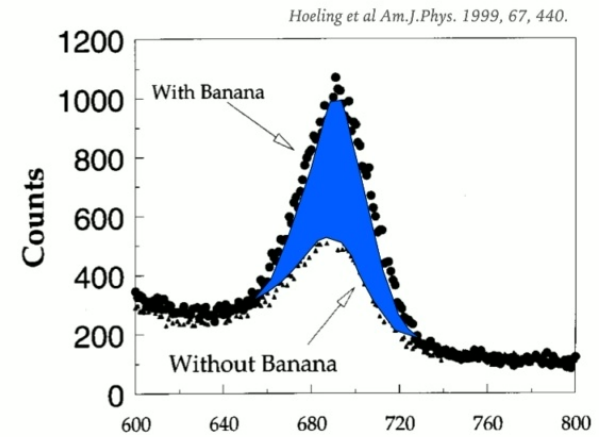
# The Event Rates Are Extremely Low!

## ► Expected WIMP Spectrum



~1 event per kg per year  
(*nuclear recoils*)

## ► Measured Banana Spectrum

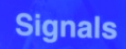


~100 events per kg per year  
(*electron recoils*)

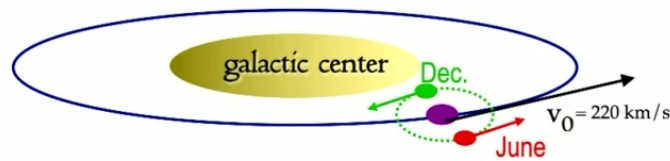
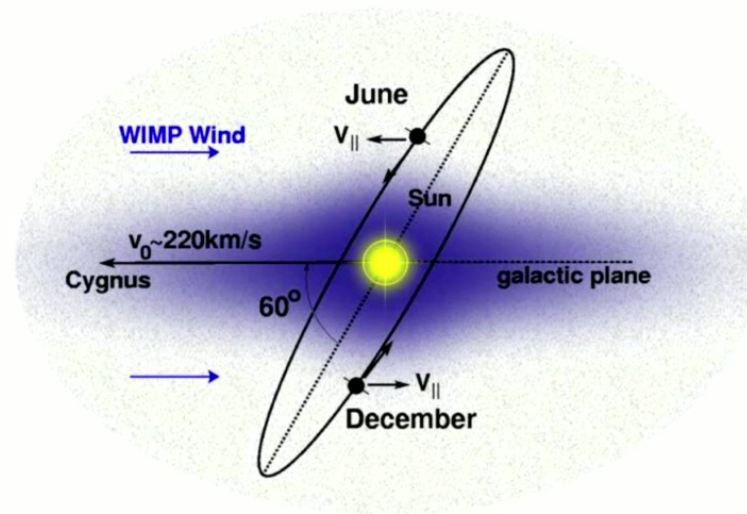
35



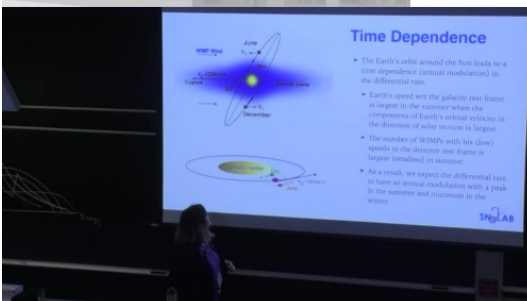
# Signals

An inset image showing a presentation screen in a lecture hall. The screen displays the word 'Signals' in white text on a blue background. The SNOLAB logo is visible in the top right corner of the screen. A person is partially visible in the foreground, standing in front of the screen.

# Time Dependence



- ▶ The Earth's orbit around the Sun leads to a time dependence (annual modulation) in the differential rate.
- ▶ Earth's speed wrt the galactic rest frame is largest in the summer when the components of Earth's orbital velocity in the direction of solar motion is largest.
- ▶ The number of WIMPs with his (low) speeds in the detector rest frame is largest (smallest) in summer.
- ▶ As a result, we expect the differential rate to have an annual modulation with a peak in the summer and minimum in the winter.





Detecting cold dark-matter candidates

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 80 Garden Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Katherine Freese and David N. Spergel  
 Department of Astronomy, Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, 80 Garden Street,  
 Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138  
 (Received 2 August 1985)

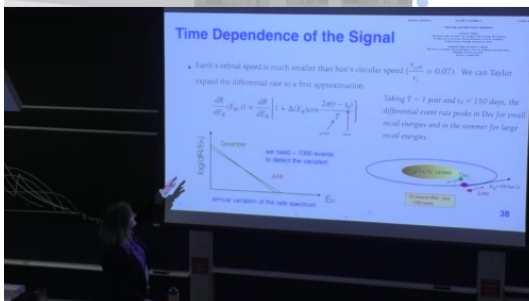
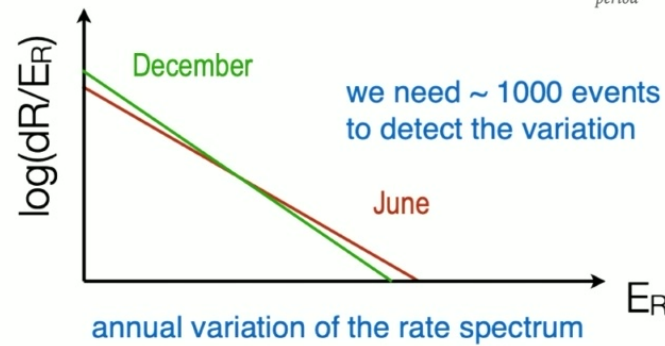
# Time Dependence of the Signal

- Earth's orbital speed is much smaller than Sun's circular speed ( $\frac{v_{orb}}{v_c} \simeq 0.07$ ). We can Taylor expand the differential rate to a first approximation.

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R}(E_R, t) \approx \frac{dR}{dE_R} \left[ 1 + \Delta(E_R) \cos \frac{2\pi(t - t_0)}{T} \right]$$

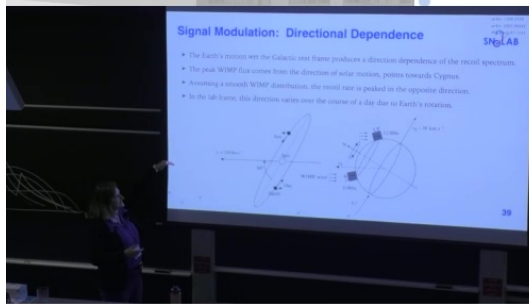
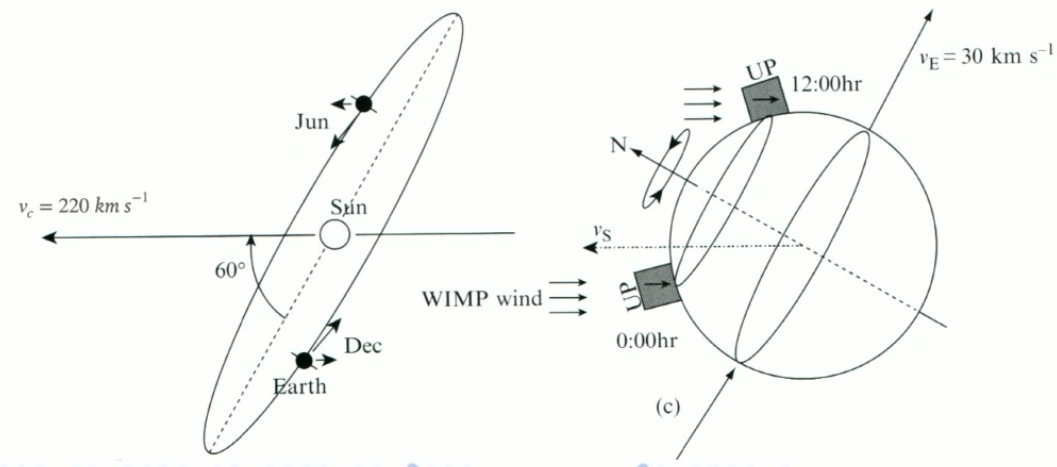
$\swarrow$  period  $\quad \uparrow$  phase

Taking  $T = 1$  year and  $t_0 = 150$  days, the differential event rate peaks in Dec for small recoil energies and in the summer for large recoil energies.



# Signal Modulation: Directional Dependence

- ▶ The Earth's motion wrt the Galactic rest frame produces a direction dependence of the recoil spectrum.
- ▶ The peak WIMP flux comes from the direction of solar motion, points towards Cygnus.
- ▶ Assuming a smooth WIMP distribution, the recoil rate is peaked in the opposite direction.
- ▶ In the lab frame, this direction varies over the course of a day due to Earth's rotation.



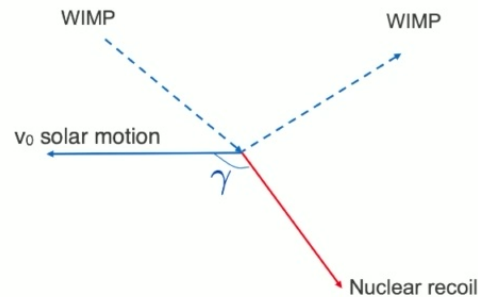
# Signal Modulation: Directional Dependence

- ▶ The number of NR along a particular direction in the lab frame will change over the course of a day.
- ▶ Assuming a Standard Halo model, the dependence is given by

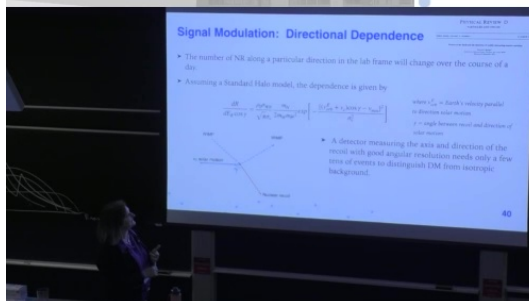
$$\frac{dR}{dE_R \cos \gamma} = \frac{\rho_0 \sigma_{WN}}{\sqrt{\pi} \sigma_v} \frac{m_N}{2m_W m \mu^2} \exp \left[ -\frac{[(v_{orb}^E + v_c) \cos \gamma - v_{min}]^2}{\sigma_v^2} \right]$$

where  $v_{orb}^E$  = Earth's velocity parallel to direction solar motion

$\gamma$  = angle between recoil and direction of solar motion

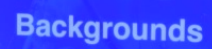


- ▶ A detector measuring the axis and direction of the recoil with good angular resolution needs only a few tens of events to distinguish DM from isotropic background.



# Backgrounds

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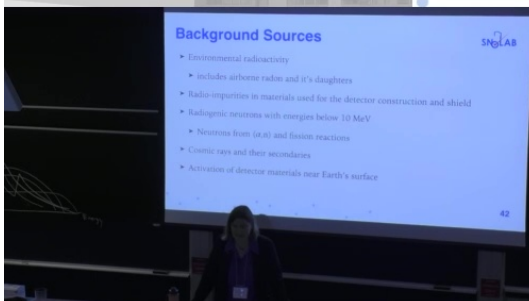
An inset image showing a presentation screen in a dark room. The screen displays the word 'Backgrounds' in white text on a blue background. The SNOLAB logo is visible in the top right corner of the screen. A person is partially visible in the foreground, looking at the screen.

Backgrounds

# Background Sources

- Environmental radioactivity
  - includes airborne radon and it's daughters
- Radio-impurities in materials used for the detector construction and shield
- Radiogenic neutrons with energies below 10 MeV
  - Neutrons from ( $\alpha$ ,n) and fission reactions
- Cosmic rays and their secondaries
- Activation of detector materials near Earth's surface

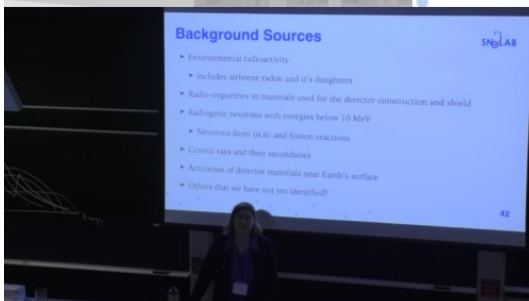
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# Background Sources

- Environmental radioactivity
  - includes airborne radon and it's daughters
- Radio-impurities in materials used for the detector construction and shield
- Radiogenic neutrons with energies below 10 MeV
  - Neutrons from ( $\alpha$ ,n) and fission reactions
- Cosmic rays and their secondaries
- Activation of detector materials near Earth's surface
- Others that we have not yet identified?

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## Aside: Reminder of Radioactive Decay

- ▶ Activity [decays/time] is a measure of the decay rate of a radionuclide.

$$A = \frac{dN}{dt} = \lambda N$$

$\lambda = \text{decay constant}$   
 $N = \text{total number of radioactive atoms}$

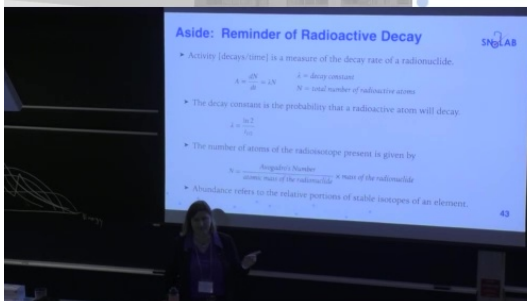
- ▶ The decay constant is the probability that a radioactive atom will decay.

$$\lambda = \frac{\ln 2}{t_{1/2}}$$

- ▶ The number of atoms of the radioisotope present is given by

$$N = \frac{\text{Avogadro's Number}}{\text{atomic mass of the radionuclide}} \times \text{mass of the radionuclide}$$

- ▶ Abundance refers to the relative portions of stable isotopes of an element.



# Event Signatures

The most problematic backgrounds are interactions from neutrons that result from  $(\alpha, n)$  and fission reactions from  $^{238}\text{U}$  and  $^{232}\text{Th}$  decays in detector components and in close vicinity of target materials.

## Electron Recoils (ER)

Gamma: Most prevalent background

Beta: on surface or in bulk

## NUCLEAR Recoils (NR)

Neutron: NOT distinguishable from WIMP

Alpha: almost always a surface event

Recoiling Parent Nucleus: surface event

