



107° CONGRESSO NAZIONALE della SOCIETÀ ITALIANA DI FISICA

Introduzione alle ricerche dirette di Dark Matter e il caso dell'esperimento CRESST

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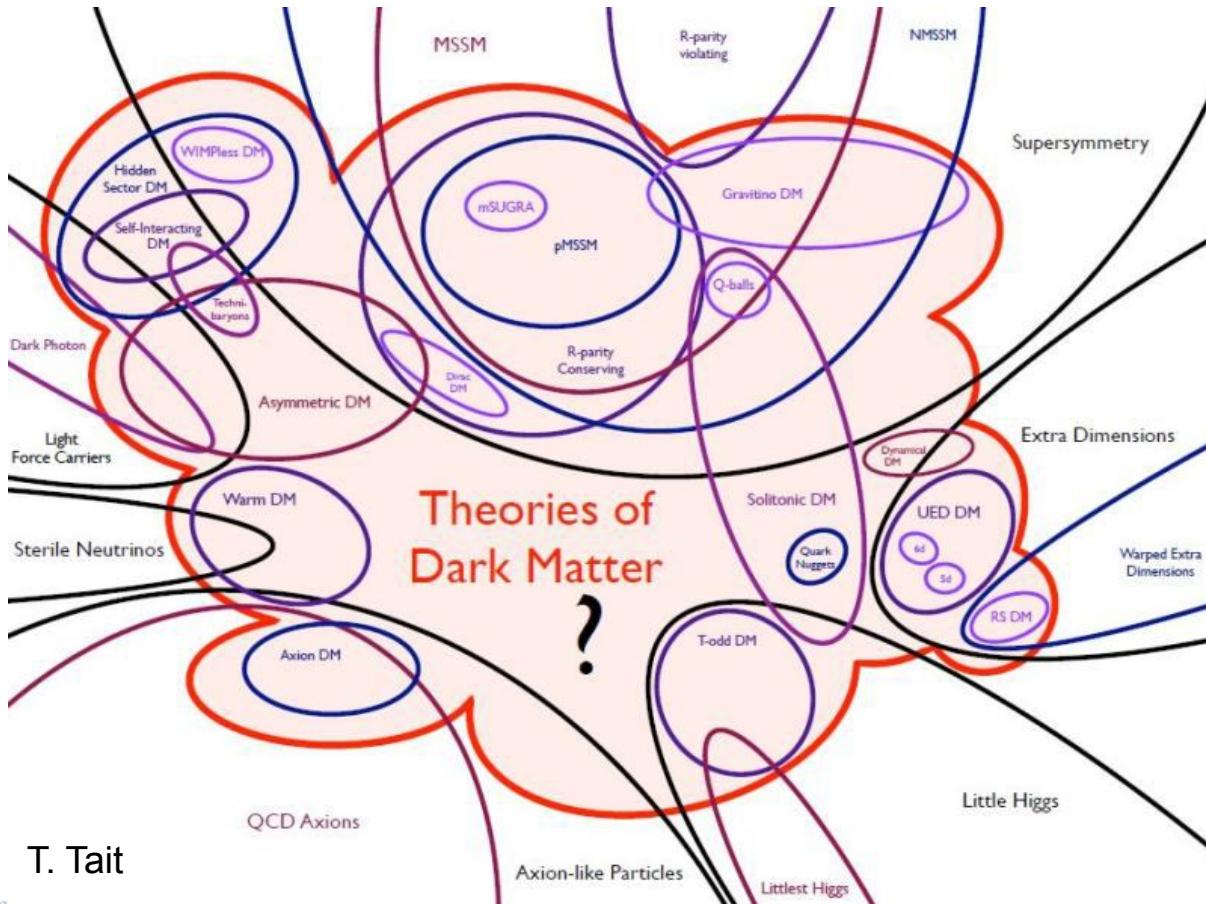
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13-17 Settembre 2021



THE DARK MATTER PROBLEM



Standard scenario for DM:

- Cold (non-relativistic)
- Non baryonic
- Stable/Long lived
- Gravitationally interacting and maybe also at some subweak scale

T. Tait



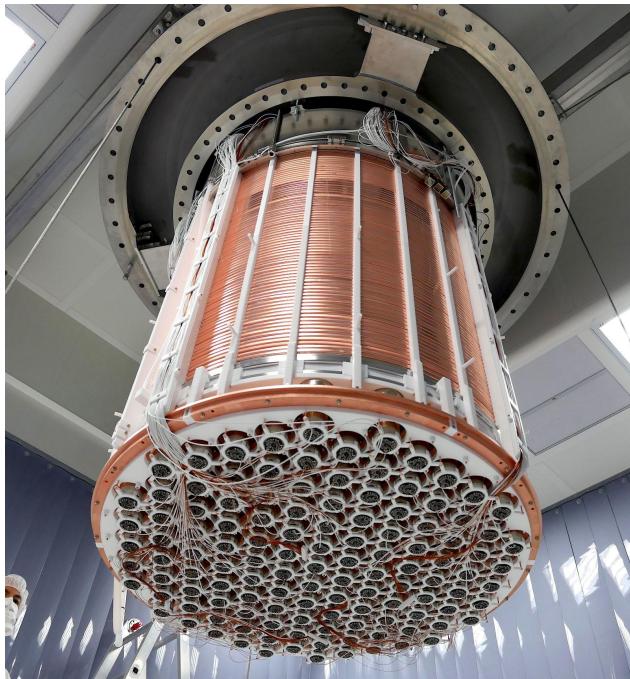
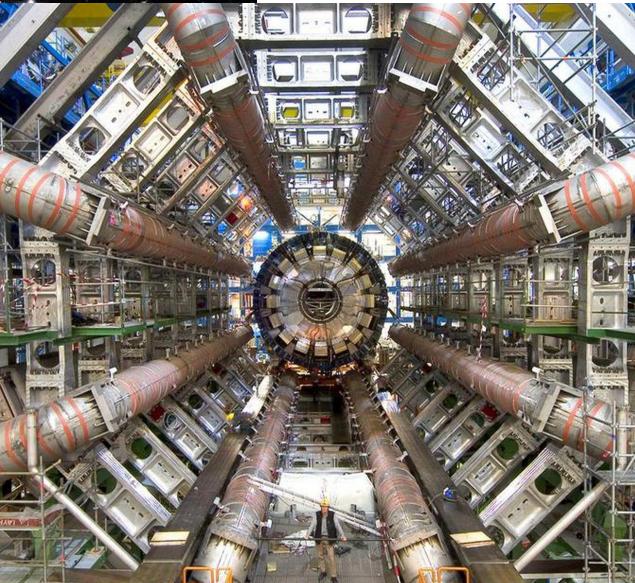
SEARCH FOR DARK MATTER



Indirect searches



Collider searches



Direct searches

DARK MATTER: DIRECT DETECTION IDEA

a

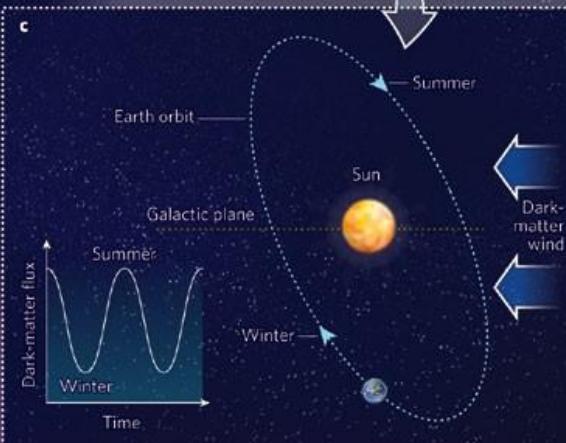
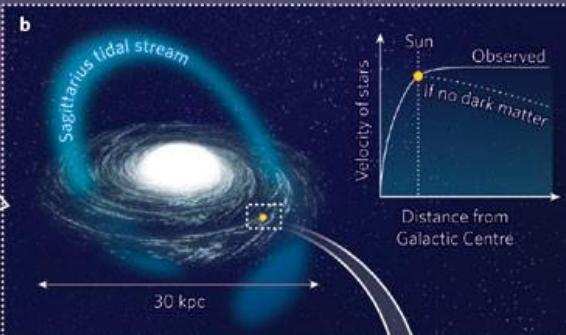


γ -ray

Caldwell, R., Kamionkowski, M.
Dark matter and dark energy.

Nature **458**, 587–589 (2009).

<https://doi.org/10.1038/458587a>

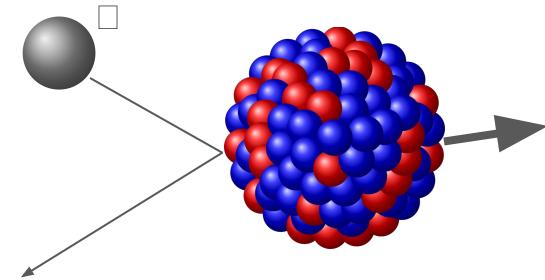
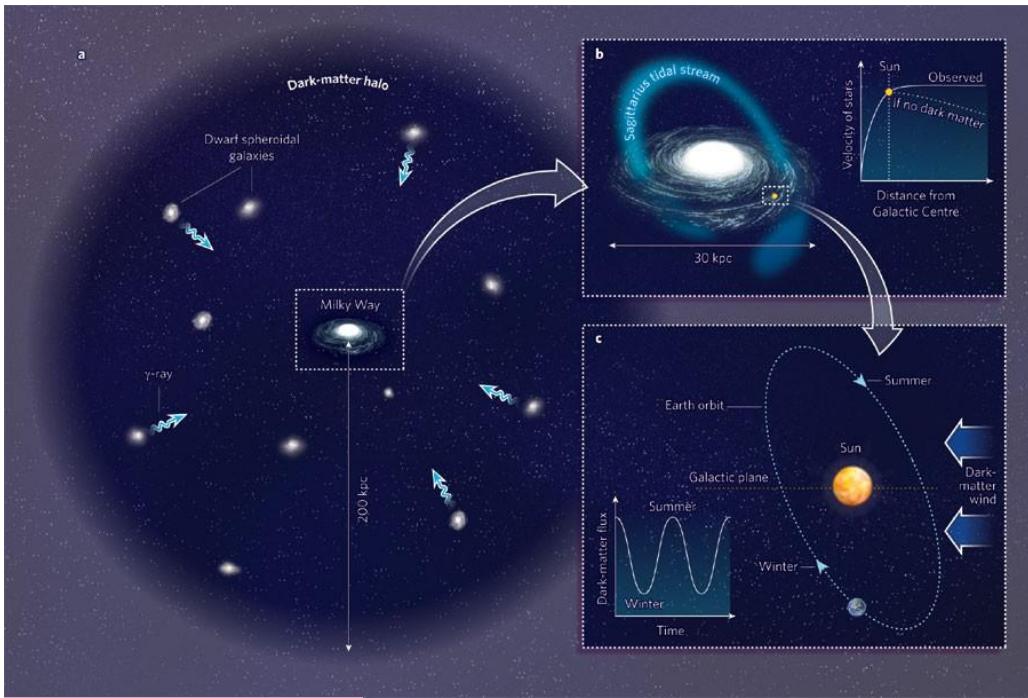


Key point for direct DM searches
↓
DM halo model

Standard assumptions:

- Maxwellian velocity distribution with most probable value v_0 220 km/s
- Galactic escape velocity 544 km/s
- Local DM density 0.3 GeV/cm^3

DARK MATTER: DIRECT DETECTION EVENT RATE



Astrophysical input

Nuclear physics input

Caldwell, R., Kamionkowski, M.
Dark matter and dark energy.
Nature **458**, 587–589 (2009).
<https://doi.org/10.1038/458587a>

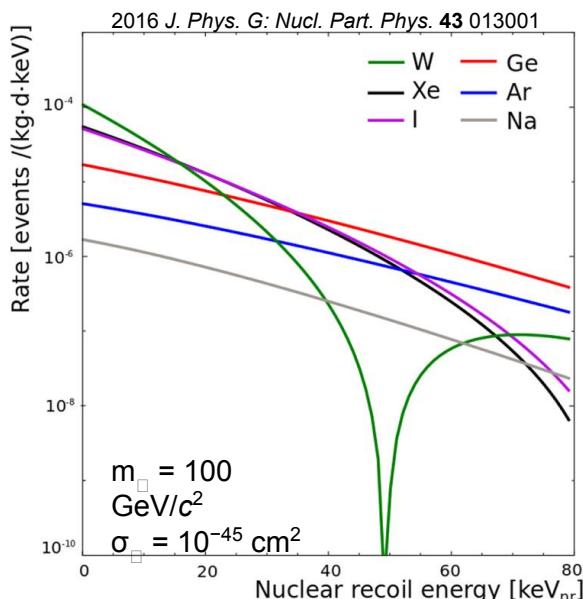
$$\frac{dR}{dE_r} \propto \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} N_T \sigma_0 F^2(E_r) \int_{v_{min}(E_r)}^{v_{esc}} \frac{f(\vec{v})}{v} d^3v$$

strongly affected by the DM halo model

Particle theory dependencies: goals of experiments

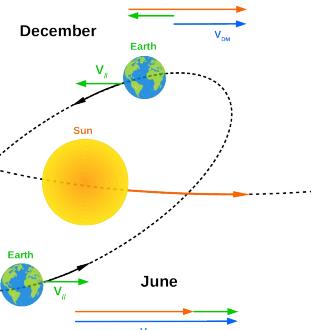
EXPERIMENTAL SIGNATURES

Spectral shape



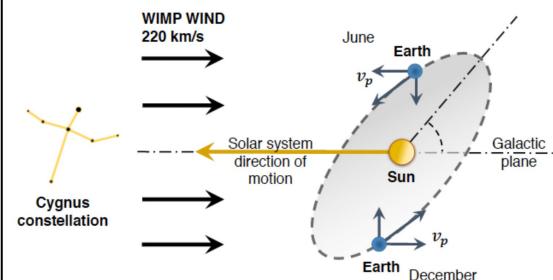
Shape of recoil spectra on different target material

Annual modulated rate



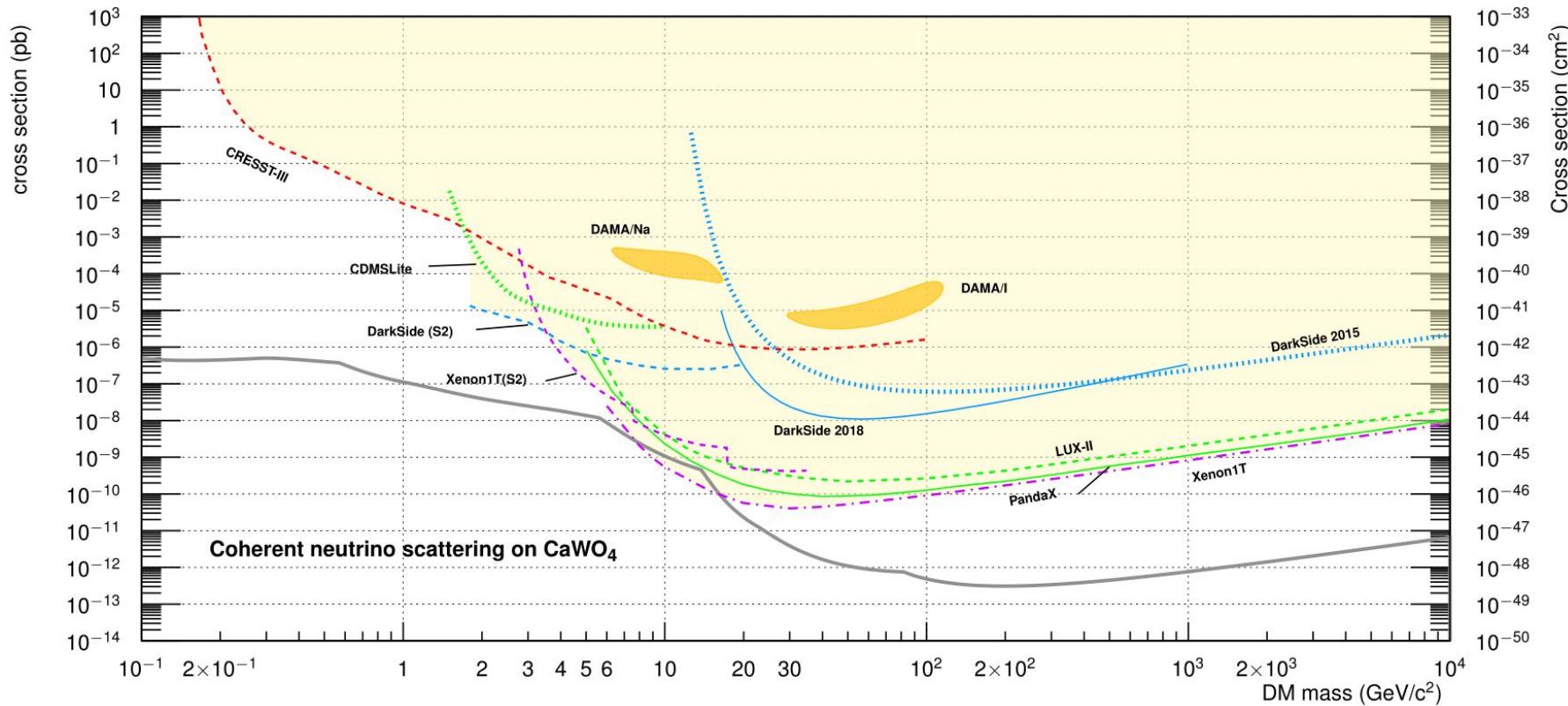
Periodic modulation of the signal due to motion of the Earth orbiting around the Sun

Directional dependence



Motion of the Sun in the Galaxy leads to a directional dependence of nuclear recoils due to dark matter scattering

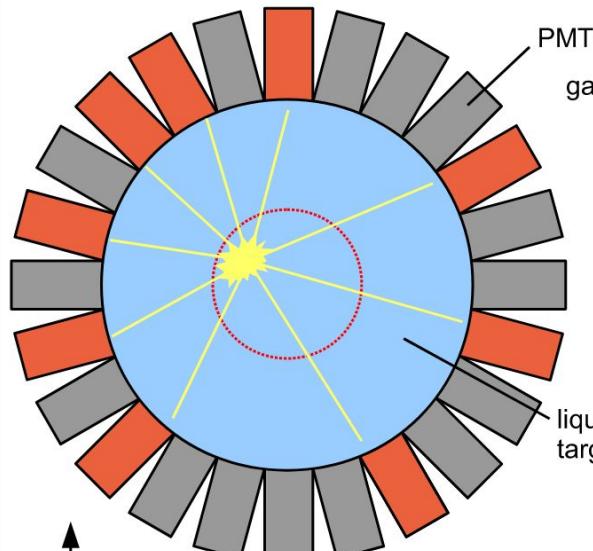
THE EXPERIMENTAL LANDSCAPE



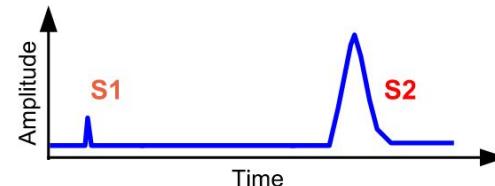
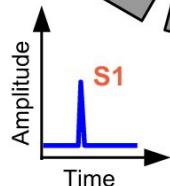
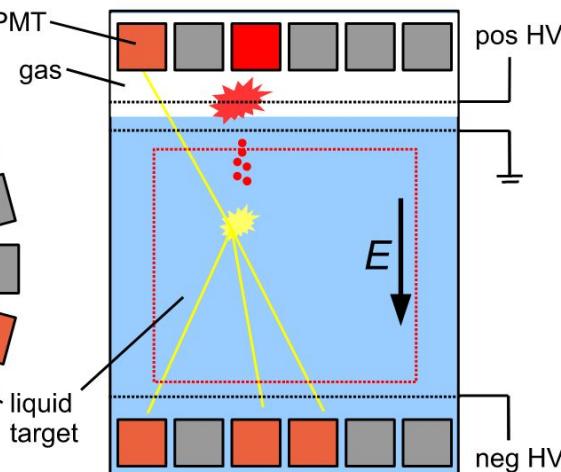
LIQUID NOBLE GASSES

XENON 1T/nT LUX/LZ Panda-X ArDM DarkSide
DEAP XMASS

Single Phase Detector



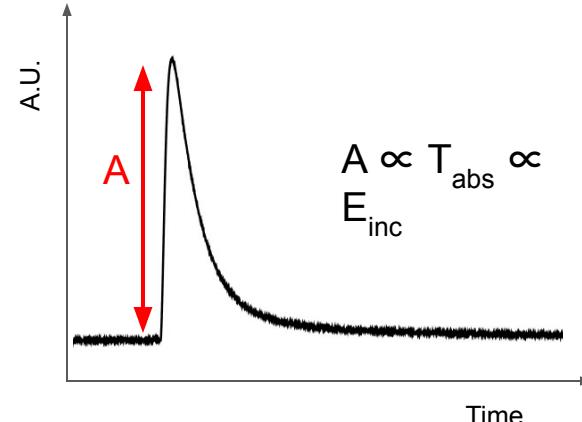
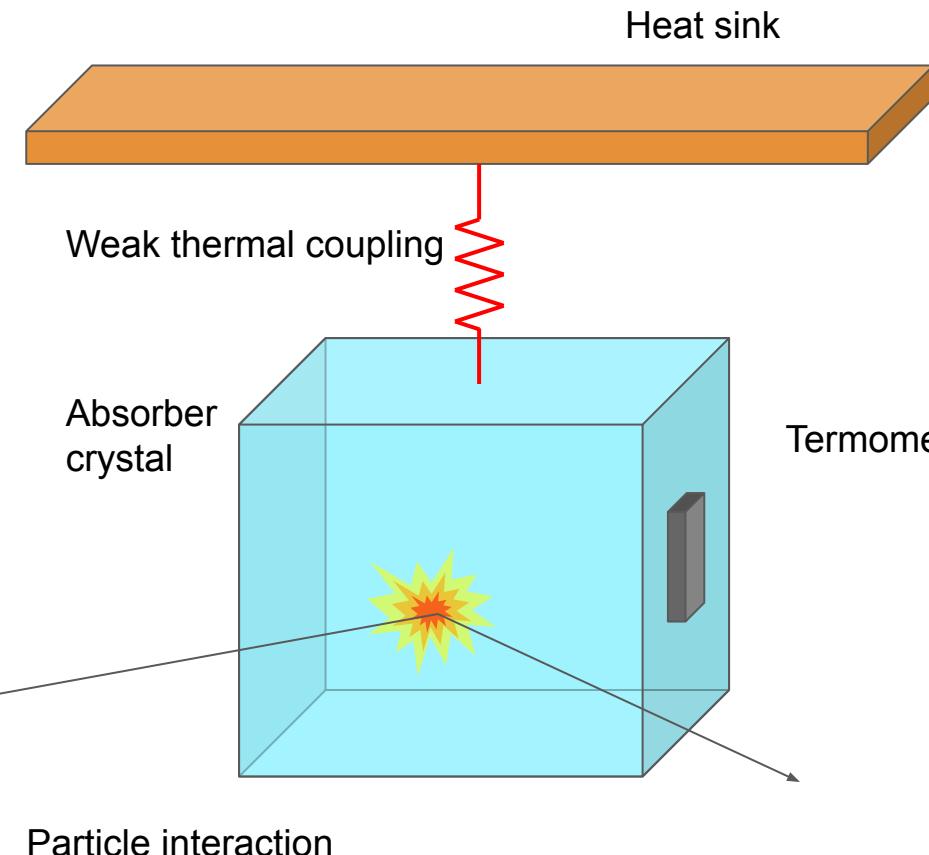
Time Projection Chamber



- ★ Easily scalable to very large masses (multi-tonne)
- ★ Fiducialisation (self-shielding)
- ★ Very effective in the WIMP-like scenario and for heavy dark matter

More details: September the 16th

CALORIMETERS



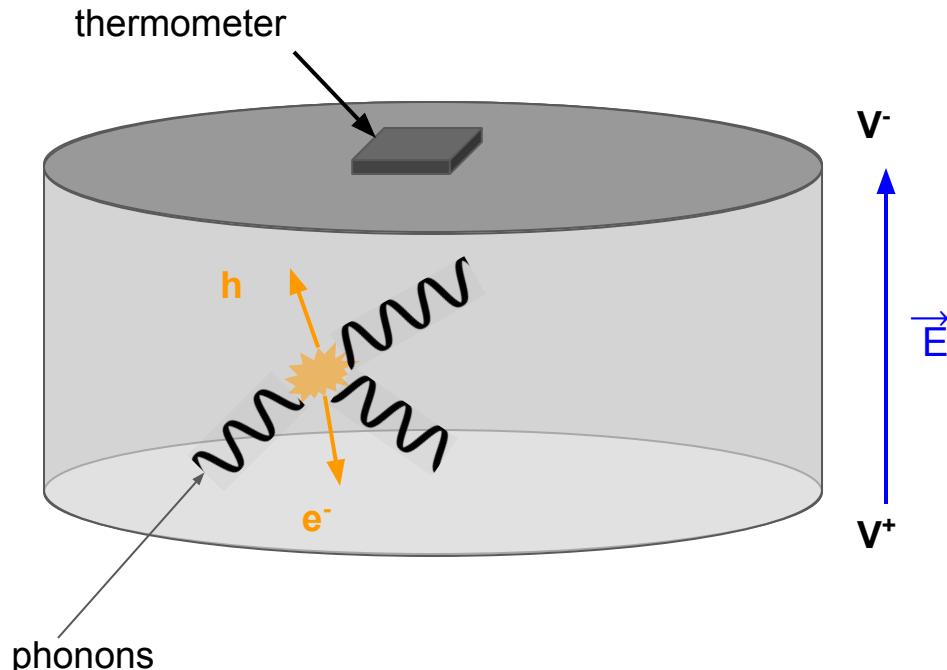
$$\Delta T = \Delta E/C$$

- ❖ Direct measurement of the (almost) full energy deposition
- ❖ Low ($< 100\text{eV}$) nuclear recoil energy thresholds
- ❖ Background rejection down to low energy
- ❖ mK operating temperature

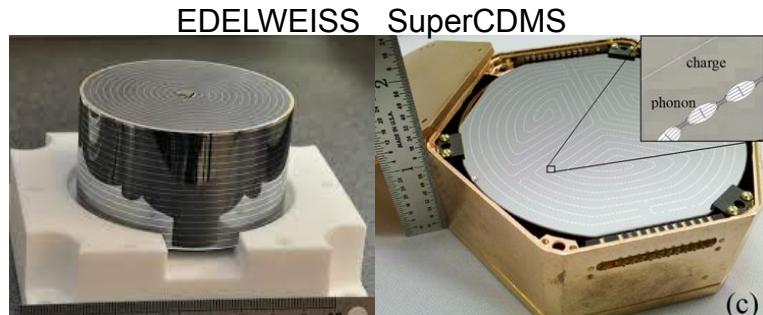
SEMICONDUCTING CALORIMETERS

Phonon + Ionization

SuperCDMS EDELWEISS



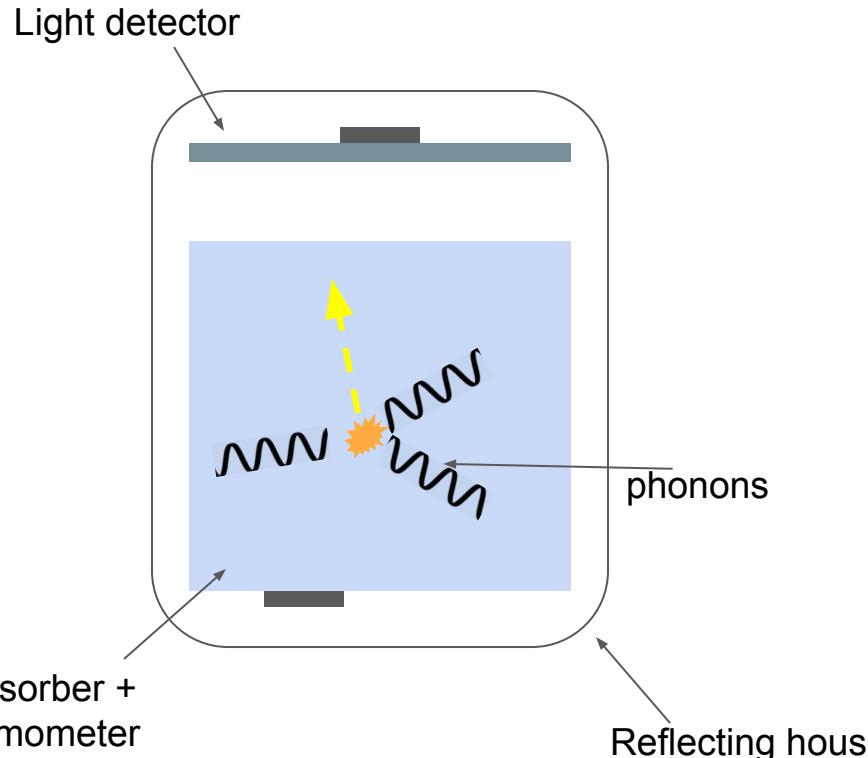
- ❖ Phonon and charge sensors on the target crystal
- ❖ Particle identification via ratio of ionization and primary phonon
- ❖ Surface events identified thanks to ID electrodes



SCINTILLATING CALORIMETERS

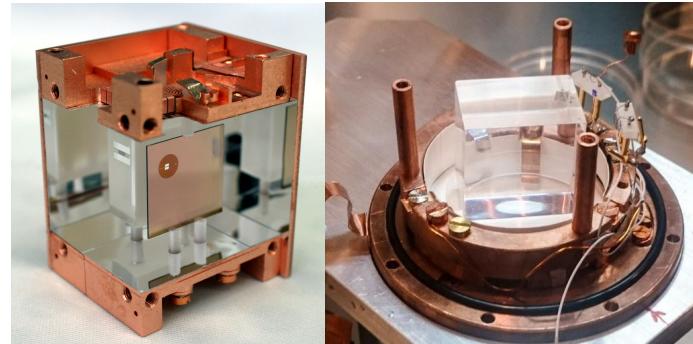
Phonon + Light

CRESST COSINUS



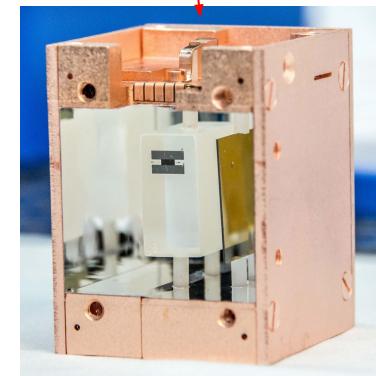
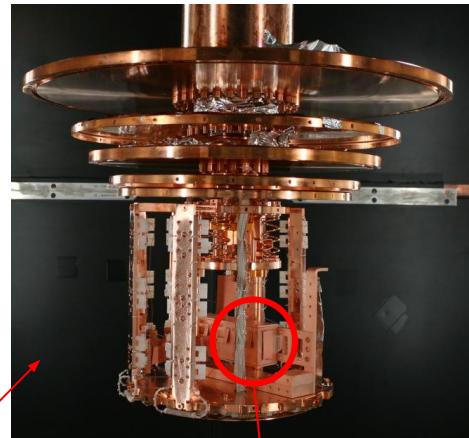
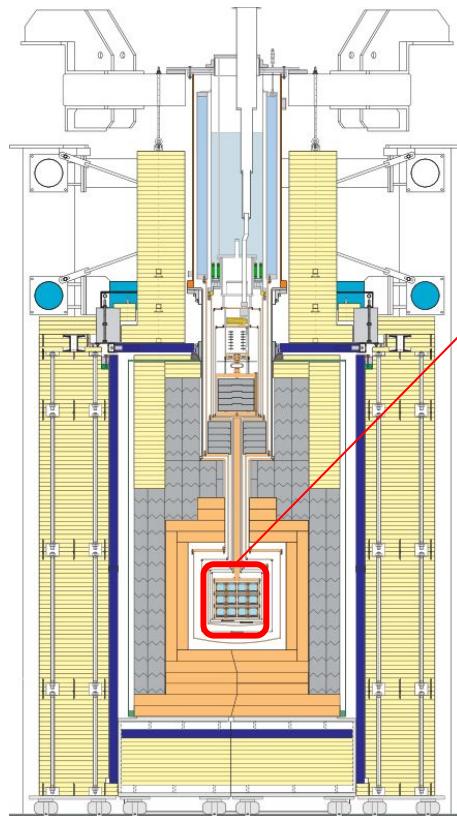
- ❖ Phonon sensor on the target crystal, separate cryogenic detector for light signal
- ❖ Particle identification via ratio of light to primary phonon

CRESST COSINUS



The CRESST experiment

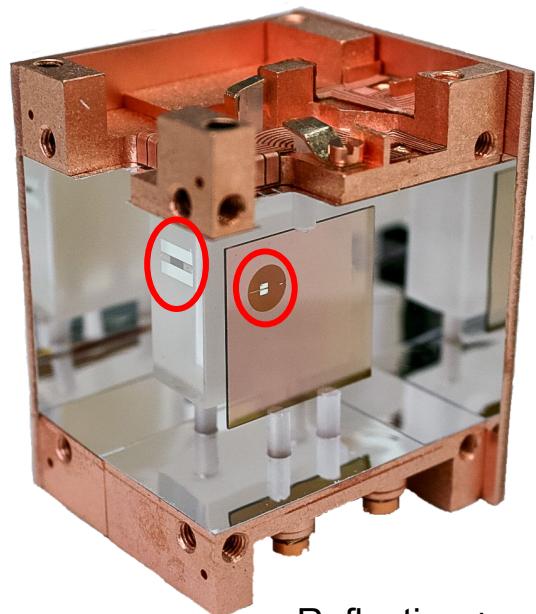
Cryogenic Rare Event Search with Superconducting Thermometer



Target = CaWO_4 crystals
operated at ~ 15 mK

The CRESST detector

→ Optimized for low mass dark matter particle

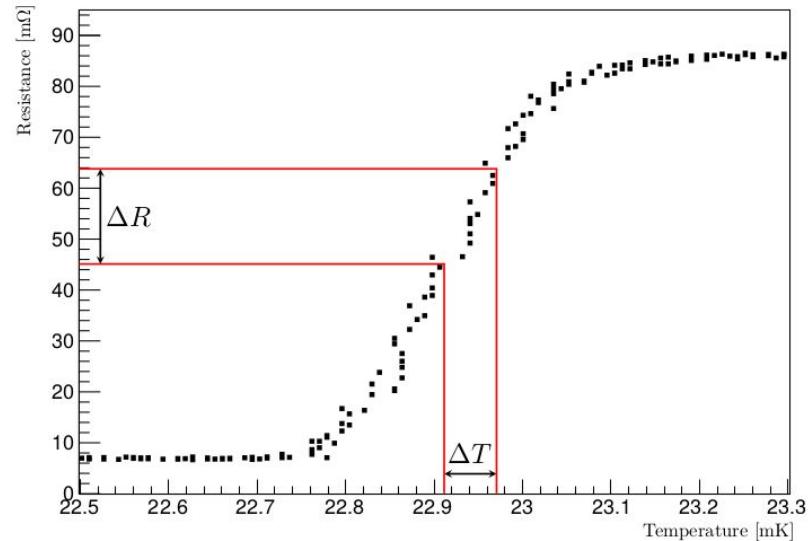


Phonon detector
~24g of CaWO₄
scintillating
crystal+TES

Light detector
Silicon On
Sapphire+TES

Reflective + scintillating
housing

Transition Edge Sensor allows to be sensitive
to extremely small changes in temperature



Energy ~keV \Rightarrow Temperature $\sim \mu\text{K}$ \Rightarrow Resistance $\sim \text{m}\Omega$

Data processing and selection

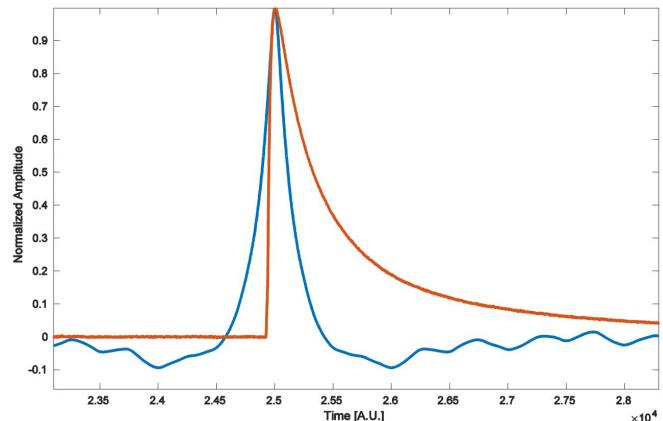
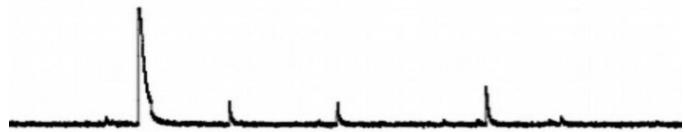
- Continuous stream of data
- Optimum Filter/Trigger algorithm
- Data selection training done on a subset of data
- Applied without change to the blind dataset

Rate: noise conditions

Stability: Detector(s) in operating point

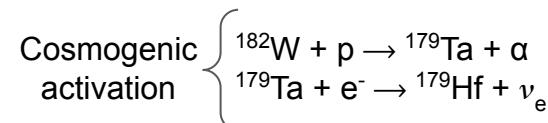
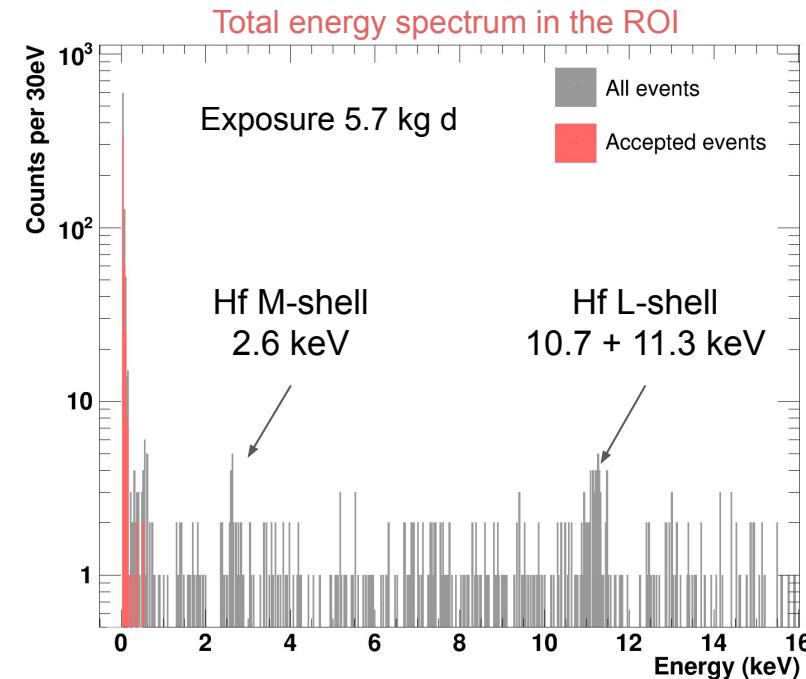
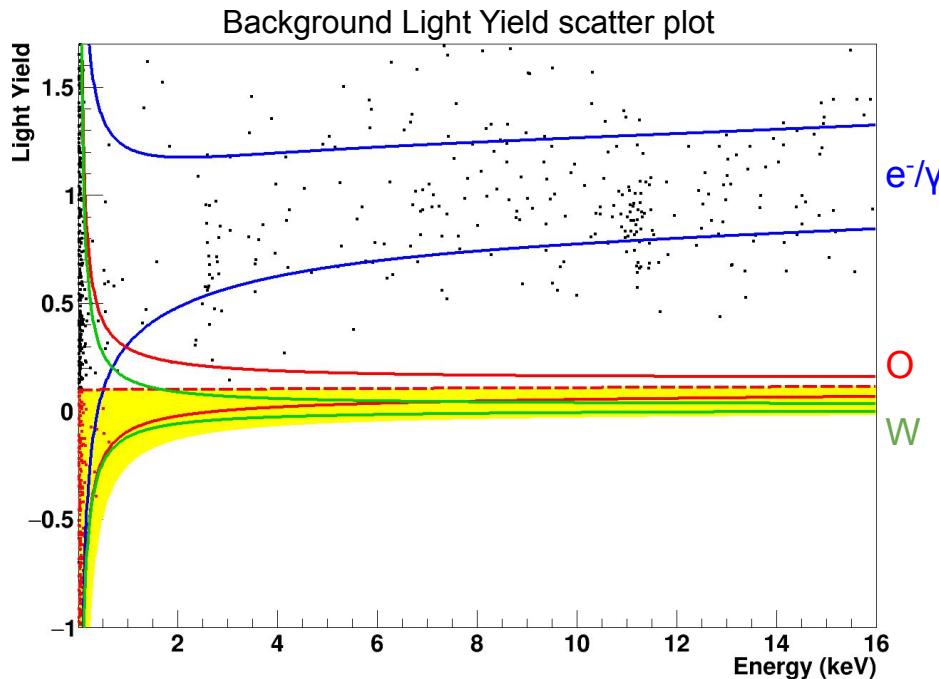
Data quality: Non-standard pulse shapes (e.g. pileup)

Coincidences: with μ -veto, i-Sticks, other detectors



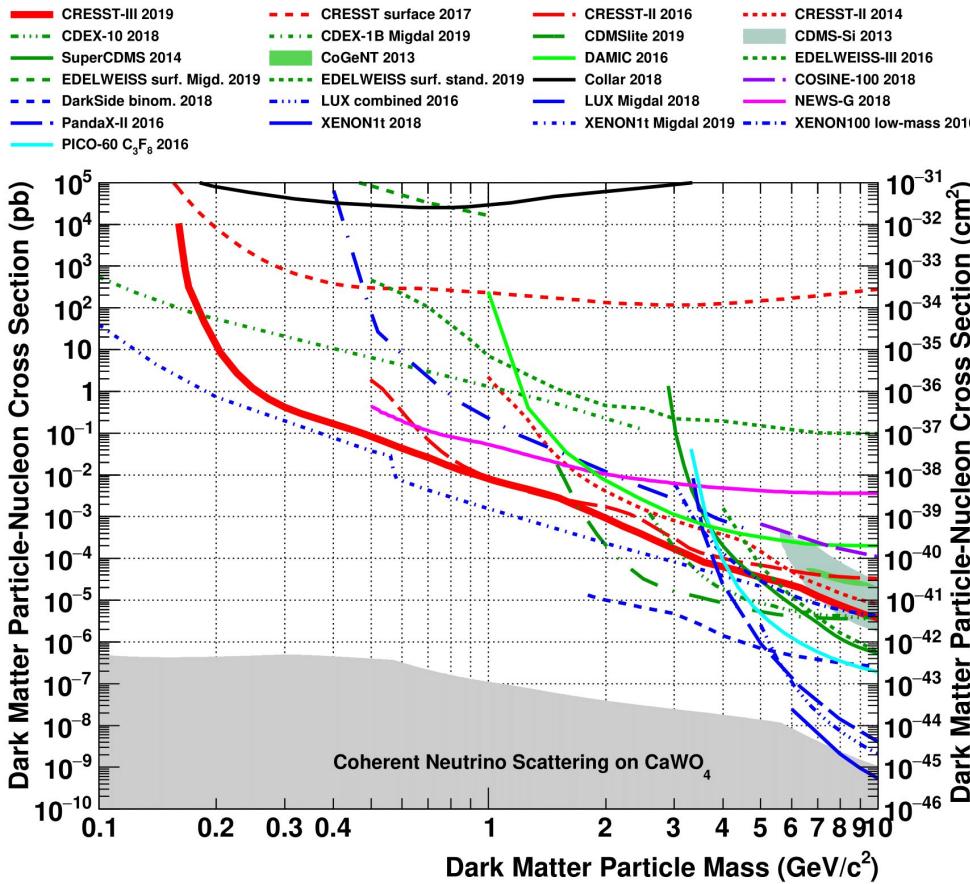
Detector A: energy spectrum

Run 34 (05/2016 – 02/2018)



CRESST results

Adapted from: Phys. Rev. D 100, 102002 (2019)



*Leading limit at low-mass $< 1.7 \text{ GeV}/c^2$

Excess also present in other detectors
but with different shapes
⇒ no common origin

Run 35 (11/2018 – 10/2019)
⇒ excess present with different shapes
also in 2 sapphire crystals

Run 36 (03/2020 – ongoing)
⇒ detectors with different target
materials and dedicated modifications to
the housing to learn more about the
origin of the low-energy excess



Thank you for the attention

