Direct searches for Dark Matter particles
(above LN$_2$ temperature)
Relic DM particles from primordial Universe

**Heavy candidates:**
- In thermal equilibrium in the early stage of Universe
- Non relativistic at decoupling time:
  \[<\sigma_{\text{ann}}\cdot v> \sim 10^{-26}/\Omega_{\text{WIMP}} h^2 \text{ cm}^3\text{s}^{-1}\] \[\rightarrow \quad \sigma_{\text{ordinary matter}} \sim \sigma_{\text{weak}}\]
- Expected flux: \[\Phi \sim 10^{7} \cdot (\text{GeV/mW}) \text{ cm}^{-2} \text{ s}^{-1}\]
  \[(0.2 < \rho_{\text{halo}} < 1.7 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3})\]
- Form a dissipationless gas trapped in the gravitational field of the Galaxy \((v \sim 10^{-3}c)\)
- Neutral, massive, stable (or with half life \(~\text{age of Universe}\)) and weakly interacting

**Light candidates:**
- axion, sterile neutrino, axion-like particles cold or warm DM
- (no positive results from direct searches for relic axions with resonant cavity)

- **SUSY**
  - (R-parity conserved \(\rightarrow\) LSP is stable)
  - neutralino or sneutrino
  - the sneutrino in the Smith and Weiner scenario

- **sterile \(\nu\)**
- electron interacting dark matter
- a heavy \(\nu\) of the 4-th family

+ multi-component halo?

**even a suitable particle not yet foreseen by theories**

etc…
What accelerators can do:

to demonstrate the existence of some of the possible DM candidates

What accelerators cannot do:

to credit that a certain particle is the Dark Matter solution or the “single” Dark Matter particle solution...

+ DM candidates and scenarios exist (even for neutralino candidate) on which accelerators cannot give any information

DM direct detection method using a model independent approach
Some direct detection processes:

- Scatterings on nuclei
  → detection of nuclear recoil energy

- Excitation of bound electrons in scatterings on nuclei
  → detection of recoil nuclei + e.m. radiation

- Conversion of particle into electromagnetic radiation
  → detection of $\gamma$, X-rays, $e^-$

- Interaction only on atomic electrons
  → detection of e.m. radiation

- ... and more
Dark Matter direct detection activities in underground labs

- Various approaches and techniques (many still at R&D stage)
- Various different target materials
- Various different experimental site depths
- Different radiopurity levels, etc.

- Gran Sasso (depth ~ 3600 m.w.e.): DAMA/Nal, DAMA/LIBRA, DAMA/LXe, HDMS, WARP, CRESST, Xenon10
- Boulby (depth ~ 3000 m.w.e.): Drift, Zeplin, NAIAD
- Modane (depth ~ 4800 m.w.e.): Edelweiss
- Canfranc (depth ~ 2500 m.w.e.): ANAIS, Rosebud, ArDM
- Snolab (depth ~ 6000 m.w.e.): Picasso, DEAP, CLEAN
- Stanford (depth ~10 m): CDMS I
- Soudan (depth ~ 2000 m.w.e.): CDMS II
- Kamioka (depth ~2700 m.w.e.): XMASS
- Y2L (depth ~ 700 m): KIMS
- Oto (depth ~ 1400 m.w.e.): PICO-LON
## DIRECT DETECTION EXPERIMENTS

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<td>SH droplet</td>
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<tr>
<td>SIMPLE</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>SH droplet</td>
<td>R&amp;D</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MIMAC</td>
<td>$^3$He gas</td>
<td>TPC</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Experiments using liquid noble gases

- Single phase: LXe, LAr, LNe → scintillation, ionization
- Dual phase liquid/gas → scintillation + scintillation

**Background rejection**

**in single phase detector:**
- pulse shape discrimination $\gamma$/recoils from the UV scintillation photons

**in dual phase detector:**
- prompt signal (S1): UV photons from excitation and ionisation
- delayed signal (S2): $e^-$ drifted into gas phase and secondary scintillation due to ionization in electric field

DAMA/LXe, ZEPLIN-I

DAMA/LXe: low background developments and applications to dark matter investigation (since N.Cim. A 103 (1990) 767)

XENON10, WARP, ZEPLIN-II
Experimental site: Gran Sasso (1400 m depth)
Target material: natXe
Target mass: \approx 5.4 \text{ kg (tot: 15 kg)}
Used exposure: 136 \text{ kg \times day}

Many cuts are applied, each of them can introduce systematics. The systematics can be variable along the data taking period; can they and the related efficiencies be suitably evaluated in short period calibration?

- Ten events survives the many cuts.
- Some speculations about their nature.
- Has the (intrinsic) limitations of the method been reached?
Recent results of a liquid noble gas experiment: WARP

Experimental site: Gran Sasso (1400 m depth)
Target material: natAr
Target volume: ≈2.3 liters
Used exposure: 96.5 kg × day

Integral Rate = 3×10^5 cpd/kg

But cautious actitude:

Many cuts are applied, each of them can introduce systematics. The systematics can be variable along the data taking period; can they and the related efficiencies be suitably evaluated in short period calibration?

- Eight events survives the many cuts.
- Some speculations about their nature.
- Has the (intrinsic) limitations of the method been reached?
Experimental site:  Boulby mine  
Detector:  7.2 kg (tot: 31 kg) two phase Xenon  
Exposure:  225 kg x day  

Discrimination between nuclear recoils and background electron recoils by recording scintillation and ionisation signals generated within the liquid xenon  

Many cuts are applied, each of them can introduce systematics. The systematics can be variable along the data taking period; can they and the related efficiencies be suitably evaluated in short period calibration?  

- 50% efficiency
- Rn within active volume
- In the acceptance region registered 29 events
- Some speculations about their nature: interpreted as $\gamma$ and radon progeny induced background
- Has the (intrinsic) limitations of the method been reached?
... some warnings, comments, ...

on dual phase detectors

- Physical energy threshold unproved by source calibrations
- Disuniformity of detector: intrinsic limit? corrections applied: which systematics?
- The used gas is natural xenon and argon, that is with an unavoidable content of Kripton and $^{39}$Ar, respectively
- Duty cycles
- Small light responses (e.g. 2.2 and $\approx0.5\pm1$ ph.e./keVee for XENON10 and for WARP, respectively)
- Poor energy resolutions (e.g. $\sigma/E \approx 13\%$ and 16\% @ 122 keV for WARP and ZEPLIN, respectively)

WARP:
- for $\gamma$: $\sigma/E=13\%$ @ 122 keV (they quote 2.9 ph.e./keV)
- for recoils: they quote $Y_{Ar} \approx 1.6$ ph.e./keV
  $\rightarrow$ quenching factor for recoils: $>0.6$?

- Despite of the small light response an energy threshold of 2 keVee is claimed (XENON10)
- What about the energy resolution at 2 keV (XENON10)?
- It is quite hard to justify low levels of background taking into account all the materials involved in the core of the experiment.

- Case of XENON10: 89 PMTs (with photocathodes of Rb-Cs-Sb), all the materials for the electric field, the stainless steel containers, ...

- Notwithstanding the larger A of Xenon than that of Germanium, much lower WIMP masses are reported as reached in sensitivity in an exclusion plot under the single set of used expt and theo assumptions.
- How is it robust? It depends on all the assumptions about the energy thresholds, energy resolutions, ...
Examples of energy resolutions: comparison with NaI(Tl)

**NaI(Tl)**

![Graph of NaI(Tl) energy resolution](image)

**ZEPLIN-II**

![Graph of ZEPLIN-II energy resolution](image)

**XENON10**

![Graph of XENON10 energy resolution](image)

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**Fig. 2.** Energy spectra taken with external $\gamma$-ray sources, superimposed with the corresponding Monte Carlo simulations. (a) $^{57}$Co source ($E = 122$ keV, B.R. 85.6%, and 136 keV, B.R. 10.7%), (b) $^{137}$Cs source ($E = 662$ keV).

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**Fig. 3.** (left) S1 scintillation spectrum from a $^{57}$Co calibration. The light yield for the 122 keV photo-absorption peak is 3.1 p.e./keV. (right) S1 scintillation spectrum from a $^{137}$Cs calibration. The light yield for the 662 keV photo-absorption peak is 2.2 p.e./keV.
Some other direct detection activities either in preparation or at R&D stage

**ArDM**: ton scale dual-phase Argon detector

**WARP**: double phase Argon detector at LNGS (fiducial volume 100 liters)

**DEAP (SNOLAB)**: scintillation light in LAr at 85K → PSD studying different lifetimes in singlet/ triplet states for electrons and nuclear recoil (ton scale)

**Lux**: dual phase time projection chamber with 100 kg LXe (tot: 300 kg)

**CLEAN**: Cryogenic Low Energy Astrophysics with Neon

**SIGN**: A High-Pressure, Room-Temperature Gaseous-Neon-Based Underground Physics Detector (100 kg @ 100 atm towards 10 tons)

**XMASS**

- 10 ton liquid Xe
- 1350 3-in PMTs
- solar neutrinos by 
  
  $\nu + e \rightarrow \nu + e$
- 0νββ~3.3 × 10^{-26} yr (5yr) ($<m_{\beta\beta} < 0.06-0.09$ eV)
- 30 DM ev/day for 100 GeV $10^5$ pb SI for proton

… they should certainly profit by the previous experience to suitably improve the detectors’ responses and performances
even assuming pure recoil case and ideal discrimination on an event-by-event base, the result will NOT be the identification of the presence of WIMP elastic scatterings as DM signal, because of the well known existing recoil-like undistinguishable background.

Therefore, even in the ideal case the “excellent background suppression” can not provide a “signal identification”

A model independent signature is needed

Directionality Correlation of Dark Matter impinging direction with Earth's galactic motion due to the distribution of Dark Matter particles velocities very hard to realize

Diurnal modulation Daily variation of the interaction rate due to different Earth depth crossed by the Dark Matter particles only for high $\sigma$

Annual modulation Annual variation of the interaction rate due to Earth motion around the Sun at present the only feasible one
• Experimental site: Boulby mine
• Identification of the Dark Matter particle by exploiting the non-isotropic recoil distribution correlated to the Earth position with to the Sun
• dE/dx discrimination between gammas and neutrons

After an exposure of 10.2 kg x days a population of nuclear recoils (interpreted as due to the decay of unexpected $^{222}$Rn daughter nuclei, present in the chamber) has been observed.

Not yet results on Dark Matter particle
The annual modulation: a model independent signature for the investigation of Dark Matter particles component in the galactic halo

With the present technology, the annual modulation is the main model independent signature for the DM signal. Although the modulation effect is expected to be relatively small, a suitable large-mass, low-radioactive set-up with an efficient control of the running conditions would point out its presence.

Drukier, Freese, Spergel PRD86
Freese et al. PRD88

\[ v_{\oplus}(t) = v_{\text{sun}} + v_{\text{orb}} \cos \gamma \cos(\omega(t-t_0)) \]

Requirements of the annual modulation

1) Modulated rate according cosine
2) In a definite low energy range
3) With a proper period (1 year)
4) With proper phase (about 2 June)
5) For single hit events in a multi-detector set-up
6) With modulation amplitude in the region of maximal sensitivity must be <7% for usually adopted halo distributions, but it can be larger in case of some possible scenarios

To mimic this signature, spurious effects and side reactions must not only be able to account for the whole observed modulation amplitude, but also to satisfy contemporaneously all the requirements

~ 232 km/s (Sun velocity in the halo)
\( v_{\text{orb}} = 30 \) km/s (Earth velocity around the Sun)
\( \gamma = \pi/3 \)
\( \omega = 2\pi/T \quad T = 1 \text{ year} \)
\( t_0 = 2^{\text{nd}} \text{ June (when } v_{\oplus} \text{ is maximum)} \)

Expected rate in given energy bin changes because the annual motion of the Earth around the Sun moving in the Galaxy

\[ S_k[\eta(t)] = \int \frac{dR}{dE_R} dE_R \Delta E_k \cong S_{0,k} + S_{m,k} \cos[\omega(t-t_0)] \]
DAMA: an observatory for rare processes @LNGS

DAMA/LXe

DAMA/R&D

low bckg DAMA/Ge for sampling meas.

DAMA/NaI

DAMA/LIBRA

Roma2, Roma1, LNGS, IHEP/Beijing

http://people.roma2.infn.it/dama
**DAMA/NaI(Tl)~100 kg**


**Results on rare processes:**
- Possible Pauli exclusion principle violation
- CNC processes
- Electron stability and non-paulian transitions in Iodine atoms (by L-shell)
- Search for solar axions
- Exotic Matter search
- Search for superdense nuclear matter
- Search for heavy clusters decays

**PLB389(1996)757**
**PRC60(1999)065501**
**PLB460(1999)235**
**PLB515(2001)6**
**EPJdirect C14(2002)1**
**EPJA23(2005)7**
**EPJA24(2005)51**

**Results on DM particles:**
- PSD
- Investigation on diurnal effect
- Exotic Dark Matter search
- Annual Modulation Signature


**data taking completed on July 2002 (still producing results)**

**total exposure collected in 7 annual cycles**

**107731 kg×d**
The final model independent result by DAMA/NaI

7 annual cycles: total exposure \( \sim 1.1 \times 10^5 \) kg\( \times \)d


Experimental residual rate of the single hit events in 2-6 keV over 7 annual cycles

\[
\text{Acos}[\omega(t-t_0)]
\]

P(\(A=0\) = 7 \(\times\) 10^{-4}

Solid line: \(t_0 = 152.5\) days, \(T = 1.00\) years from the fit:

\(A = (0.0192 \pm 0.0031)\) cpd/kg/keV

from the fit with all the parameters free:

\(A = (0.0200 \pm 0.0032)\) cpd/kg/keV

\(t_0 = (140 \pm 22)\) d

\(T = (1.00 \pm 0.01)\) y

Experimental residual rate of the multiple hit events (DAMA/NaI-6 and 7) in the 2-6 keV energy interval: \(A = -(3.9 \pm 7.9) \times 10^{-4}\) cpd/kg/keV

This result offers an additional strong support for the presence of DM particles in the galactic halo further excluding any side effect either from hardware or from software procedures or from background

Model independent evidence of a particle Dark Matter component in the galactic halo at 6.3\(\sigma\) C.L.
Summary of the results obtained in the investigations of possible systematics or side reactions

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<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Main comment</th>
<th>Cautious upper limit (90% C.L.)</th>
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<tr>
<td>RADON</td>
<td>installation excluded by external Rn + 3 levels of sealing in HP Nitrogen atmosphere, etc</td>
<td>&lt;0.2% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEMPERATURE</td>
<td>Installation is air conditioned + detectors in Cu housings directly in contact with multi-ton shield → huge heat capacity + T continuously recorded + etc.</td>
<td>&lt;0.5% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
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<tr>
<td>NOISE</td>
<td>Effective noise rejection near threshold ($\tau_{\text{noise}} \sim$ tens ns, $\tau_{\text{NaI}} \sim$ hundreds ns)</td>
<td>&lt;1% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENERGY SCALE</td>
<td>X-rays + periodical calibrations in the same running conditions + continuous monitoring of $^{210}\text{Pb}$ peak</td>
<td>&lt;1% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EFFICIENCIES</td>
<td>Regularly measured by dedicated calibrations</td>
<td>&lt;1% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BACKGROUND</td>
<td>No modulation observed above 6 keV + this limit includes possible effect of thermal and fast neutrons + no modulation observed in the multiple-hits events in 2-6 keV region</td>
<td>&lt;0.5% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SIDE REACTIONS</td>
<td>Muon flux variation measured by MACRO</td>
<td>&lt;0.3% $S_m^{\text{obs}}$</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

+ even if larger they cannot satisfy all the requirements of annual modulation signature

Thus, they can not mimic the observed annual modulation effect
... about the interpretation of the direct DM experimental results

The positive and model independent result of DAMA/NaI

- Presence of modulation for 7 annual cycles at \( \sim 6.3\sigma \) C.L. with the proper distinctive features of the signature; all the features satisfied by the data over 7 independent experiments of 1 year each one
- Absence of known sources of possible systematics and side processes able to quantitatively account for the observed effect and to contemporaneously satisfy the many peculiarities of the signature

No other experiment whose result can be directly compared in model independent way is available so far

To investigate the nature and coupling with ordinary matter of the possible DM candidate(s), effective energy and time correlation analysis of the events has to be performed within given model frameworks

Corollary quests for candidates

- astrophysical models: \( \rho_{DM} \), velocity distribution and its parameters
- nuclear and particle Physics models
- experimental parameters

  e.g. for WIMP class particles: SI, SD, mixed SI&SD, preferred inelastic, scaling laws on cross sections, form factors and related parameters, spin factors, halo models, etc.

  + different scenarios
  + multi-component halo?

THUS uncertainties on models and comparisons
**First case:** the case of DM particle scatterings on target-nuclei. When just the recoil energy is the detected quantity.

- **DM particle-nucleus elastic scattering** (SI, SD, SI&SD coupling)
- **Preferred inelastic DM particle-nucleus scattering** \((S_m/S_0\) enhanced with respect to the elastic scattering case)

The differential energy distribution depends:

- on the assumed scaling laws, nuclear form factors, spin factors, free parameters (→ kind of coupling, mixed SI&SD, pure SI, pure SD, pure SD through \(Z_0\) exchange, pure SD with dominant coupling on proton, pure SD with dominant coupling on neutron, preferred inelastic, ...),
- on the assumed astrophysical model (halo model, presence of non-thermalized components, particle velocity distribution, particle density in the halo, ...)
- on instrumental quantities (quenching factors, energy resolution, efficiency, ...)
Few examples of corollary quests for the WIMP class - DAMA/NaI

WIMP class: examples of allowed volumes/regions

DM particle with elastic SI&SD interactions

DM particle with dominant SI coupling

DM particle with dominant SD coupling

DM particle with preferred inelastic interaction

Examples of slices of the allowed volume in the space \((\xi_{\text{SI}}, \xi_{\text{SD}}, m_W, \theta)\) for some of the possible \(\theta \) (\(\tan \theta = a_y/a_x\) with \(0 \leq \theta < \pi\)) and \(m_W\)

Most of these allowed volumes/regions are unexplorable e.g. by Ge, Si, TeO₂, Ar, Xe, CaWO₄ targets

not exhaustive + different scenarios? + different halo features?

Example: Investigating the effect of Sagittarius Dwarf satellite galaxy (SagDEG)

Possible contributions due to the tidal stream of Sagittarius Dwarf satellite (SagDEG) galaxy of Milky Way

signature: SagDEG tail affects the phase of the annual modulation signal

green areas: no SagDEG

pure SI case

Example of a slice \((\theta=\pi/4; 0 \leq \theta < \pi)\) of the allowed volume in the space \((m_W, \xi_{\text{SD}}, \theta)\)

pure SD case: examples of slices of the 3-dim allowed volume

EPJC47(2006)263 few examples
Other contributions and effects involved in the DM particle scatterings on target-nuclei?
Investigating electromagnetic contributions in the detection of WIMP candidates

Ionization and the excitation of bound atomic electrons induced by the presence of a recoiling atomic nucleus in the case of the WIMP-nucleus elastic scattering (named hereafter Migdal effect)

→ the recoiling nucleus can "shake off" some of the atomic electrons
→ recoil signal + e.m. contribution made of the escaping electron, X-rays, Auger electrons arising from the rearrangement of the atomic shells
→ e.m. radiation fully contained in a detector of suitable size

Although the effect of the inclusion of the Migdal effect appears quite small:
- the unquenched nature of the e.m. contribution
- the behaviour of the energy distribution for nuclear recoils induced by WIMP-nucleus elastic scatterings
- etc.

can give an appreciable impact at low WIMP masses

Example

Example of a purely SI WIMP

Adopted assumptions in the examples:

i) WIMP with dominant SI coupling and with \( \sigma \propto A^2 \);
ii) non-rotating Evans logarithmic galactic halo model with \( R_c = 5 \text{ kpc}, v_0 = 170 \text{ km/s}, \rho_0 = 0.42 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3} \)
iii) form factors and \( q \) of \(^{23}\text{Na}\) and \(^{127}\text{I}\) as in case C of Riv.N.Cim 26 n1 (2003)1

WARNING:
1) to point out just the impact of the Migdal effect the SagDEG contribution has not been included here.
2) considered frameworks as in Riv.N.Cim 26 n1 (2003)1
Further uncertainties in the quest for WIMPs: the case of the recoils’ quenching

- **In crystals**, ions move in a different manner than that in amorphous materials.
- In the case of motion along crystallographic axes and planes, a channeling effect is possible, which is manifested in an anomalously deep penetration of ions into the target.

**Channeling effect in crystals**

- Occurs in crystalline materials due to correlated collisions of ions with target atoms.
- Steering of the ions through the open channels can result in **ranges several times the maximum range** in no-steering directions or in amorphous materials.
- **Electronic losses** determine the range and there is very little straggling.
- When a low-energy ion goes into a channel, its energy losses are mainly due to the electronic contributions. This implies that a channeled ion transfers its energy mainly to electrons rather than to the nuclei in the lattice and, thus, its **quenching factor approaches the unity**.

\[
R_{\text{ion}}(E) \approx R_{\text{el.}}(E), \quad q(E) \approx 1
\]

\[
L_{\text{ion}} \approx L_{\text{el}}
\]

Well-known effect, discovered on 1957, when a deep penetration of $^{134}$Cs$^+$ ions into a Ge crystal to a depth $\lambda_c \approx 10^3 \, \text{Å}$ was measured (according to SRIM, a 4 keV Cs$^+$ ion would penetrate into amorphous Ge to a depth $\lambda_a = 44 \, \text{Å}$, $S_e/S_o = 32$ and $q=0.03$). Within a channel, mostly electronic stopping takes place (in the given example, $\lambda_c \approx \lambda_a/q \approx 1450 \, \text{Å}$).
Modeling the channeling effect: Examples of light responses

- Iodine 4 keV
- Sodium 4 keV
- Iodine 40 keV
- Sodium 40 keV

No energy resolution
Quenched peak with the straggling effect
Dechanneled events
Channeled events (q≈1)

The effect of channeling on the energy spectra. An example:

- NaI(Tl) (as those of DAMA)
- $m_W=20$ GeV
- pure SI
- $\sigma_{SI}=10^{-6}$ pb
- halo model A5
- NFW, $v_0=220$ km/s, $\rho_{max}$
- FF parameters and q factors at the mean values (case A in RNC26(2003)1)
What about the neutron calibrations of NaI(Tl) detectors?

- neutron data can contain channeled events
- but – owing to the low-statistics of these measurements and to the small effect looked for – they cannot be identified
- At higher energy and for Iodine recoils the channeling effect becomes less important and gives more suppressed contributions in the neutron scattering data

Therefore, there is no hope to identify the channeling effect in the already-collected neutron data on NaI(Tl)
... while the accounting of the channeling effect can give a significant impact in the sensitivities of the Dark Matter direct detection methods when WIMP (or WIMP-like) candidates are considered.

**Effect for DM direct detection experiments**

- Lower cross sections explorable for WIMP and WIMP-like candidates by crystal scintillators, such as NaI(Tl) (up to more than a factor 10 in some mass range), lower recoil energy thresholds, lower mass thresholds, ...

- The same holds for purely ionization detectors, as Ge (HD-Moscow – like).

- Loss of sensitivity when PSD is used in crystal scintillators (KIMS); in fact, the channeled events ($q\approx 1$) are probably lost.

- No enhancement on *liquid noble gas* expts (DAMA/LXe, WARP, XENON10, ZEPLIN, ...).

- No enhancement for *bolometer double read-out* expts; on the contrary some loss of sensitivity is expected since events (those with $q_{ion}\approx 1$) are lost by applying the discrimination procedures based on $q_{ion}\ll 1$. 
Some examples of accounting for the channeling effect on the DAMA/NaI allowed regions

- the modeling in some given frameworks

purely SI WIMP

purely SD WIMP

SI & SD WIMP

for details on model frameworks see Riv.N.Cim 26 n1 (2003)1

WARNING:
- to point out just the impact of the channeling effect the Migdal and SagDEG contributions have not been included here.
- the slices of the volumes shown here are focused just in the low mass region where the channeling effect is more effective.
Other kind of interactions involved in the DM particle interactions on a detector?
Another class of DM candidates: light bosonic particles

Light bosons: Axion-like particles, similar phenomenology with ordinary matter as the axion, but significantly different values for mass and coupling constants are allowed.

A wide literature is available and various candidate particles have been and can be considered.

A complete data analysis of the total 107731 kgxday exposure from DAMA/NaI has been performed for pseudoscalar (a) and scalar (h) candidates in some of the possible scenarios.

Allowed multi-dimensional volume

Example of the pseudoscalar case (a)

- Maximum allowed photon coupling
- Only electron coupling
- Cosmological interest: at least below

Di Lella, Zioutas AP19(2003)145

Majaron as in PLB99(1981)411

The scalar case is interesting as well

Many configurations are of cosmological interest

The detection is based on the total conversion of the absorbed bosonic mass into electromagnetic radiation.

Axion-like, some astrophysical hints:
- Solar corona problem
- X-ray from dark side of the Moon
- Soft X-ray background radiation
- "Diffuse" soft X-ray excess

Hypothesis: ~ keV axion-like (K.K. axion) trapped in the Sun neighborhood and $\gamma\gamma$ decay

In these processes the target nuclear recoil is negligible and not involved in the detection process (i.e. signals from these candidates are lost in experiments applying rejection procedures of the electromagnetic contribution)

Main processes involved in the detection:

- Compton-like
- Axielectric or Photoclectric-like
- Primakov

| a | $S_0$ | $S_0S_m$ | $S_0S_m$ |
| h | $S_0S_m$ | $S_0$ | $S_0S_m$ |
DAMA/NaI vs ...

... supersymmetric expectations in MSSM

The result is consistent with the most popular candidate, the neutralino, over a large range of mass and cross sections (see the Scopel’s talk)

- Assuming for the neutralino a dominant purely SI coupling
- When releasing the gaugino mass unification at GUT scale: $M_1/M_2 \neq 0.5$ (where $M_1$ and $M_2$ U(1) and SU(2) gaugino masses) low mass configurations are obtained

scatter plot of theoretical configurations vs DAMA/NaI allowed region in the given model frameworks for the total DAMA/NaI exposure (area inside the green line)

... other DM candidate particles, as (see literature)

- the sneutrino in the Smith and Weiner scenario
- self-interacting dark matter
- mirror dark matter
- Kaluza-Klein particles (LKK)
- heavy exotic candidates, as “4th family atoms”, ...
- a heavy $\nu$ of the 4-th family
- ... and more; even a suitable particle not yet foreseen by theories
- ... and more

... indirect searches of DM particles in the space

- Positron excess (see e.g. HEAT)
- Excess of Diffuse Galactic Gamma Rays for energies above 1 GeV in the galactic disk and for all sky directions (see EGRET).

interpretation, evidence itself, derived $m_W$ and cross sections depend e.g. on bckg modeling, on DM spatial velocity distribution in the galactic halo, etc.

Hints from indirect searches are not in conflict with DAMA/NaI for the WIMP class candidate
FAQ:  ... DAMA/NaI “excluded” by others?  Obviously No

They give a single model dependent result
DAMA/NaI gives a model independent result

Assuming their expt. results as they quote:

Case of DM particle scatterings on target-nuclei

• In general:  
  The results are fully “decoupled” either because of the different sensitivities to the various kinds of candidates, interactions and particle mass, or simply taking into account the large uncertainties in the astrophysical (realistic and consistent halo models, presence of non-thermalized components, particle velocity distribution, particle density in the halo, ...), nuclear (scaling laws, FFs, SF) and particle physics assumptions and in all the instrumental quantities (quenching factors, energy resolution, efficiency, ...) and theor. parameters.

• At least in the purely SI coupling they only consider:  
  Still room for compatibility either at low DM particle mass or simply accounting for the large uncertainties in the astrophysical, nuclear and particle physics assumptions and in all the expt. and theor. parameters.

Case of bosonic candidate (full conversion into electromagnetic radiation) and of whatever e.m. component

• These candidates are lost by these expts.  

+ they usually quote in an uncorrect, partial and unupdated way the implications of the DAMA/NaI model independent result
The new DAMA/LIBRA set-up ~250 kg NaI(Tl) (Large sodium Iodide Bulk for RAre processes)

As a result of a second generation R&D for more radiopure NaI(Tl) by exploiting new chemical/physical radiopurification techniques (all operations involving crystals and PMTs - including photos - in HP Nitrogen atmosphere)

installing DAMA/LIBRA detectors
assembling a DAMA/ LIBRA detector
filling the inner Cu box with further shield

view at end of detectors’ installation in the Cu box
closing the Cu box housing the detectors

DAMA/LIBRA started operations on March 2003
detectors during installation; in the central and right up detectors the new shaped Cu shield surrounding light guides (acting also as optical windows) and PMTs was not yet applied
**DAMA/LIBRA**

- Data collected up to March 2007:
  - Exposure: of order of $1.5 \times 10^5$ kg $\times$ d
  - Calibrations: acquired $\approx 40$ M events of sources
  - Acceptance window eff: acquired $\approx 2$ M ev/keV
  - Continuously running operations involving crystals and PMTs — including photos — in HP N$_2$ atmosphere

Stability of the low energy calibration factors

Stability of the high energy calibration factors

First release of results not later than end of 2008

- Model independent analysis already concluded almost in all the aspects on an exposure of
  $$\approx 0.40 \text{ ton } \times \text{ year}$$

+ in progress

$$[(\alpha - \beta^2) = 0.537]$$
Towards possible DAMA/1ton: now at R&D stage

1) Proposed since 1996 (DAMA/NaI and DAMA/LIBRA intermediate steps)
2) Technology largely at hand (large experiences and fruitful collaborations among INFN and companies/industries)
3) Still room for further improvements in the low-background characteristics of the set-up (NaI(Tl) crystals, PMTs, shields, etc.)
4) 1 ton detector: the cheapest, the highest duty cycle, the clear signature, the fast realization in few years

A possible design: DAMA/1 ton can be realized by four replicas of DAMA/LIBRA:

- the detectors could be of similar size than those already used
- the features of low-radioactivity of the set-up and of all the used materials would be assured by many years of experience in the field
- electronic chain and controls would profit by the previous experience and by the use of compact devices already developed, tested and used.
- new digitizers will offer high expandibility and high performances
- the daq can be a replica of that of DAMA/LIBRA

• R&Ds on PMTs and crystals in progress
• 1st detector prototype ready for measurements

Electronic chain and example of the trigger system
Some scintillation detector experiments either in preparation or at R&D stage

KIMS:
Experimental site: Yangyang und. lab. (depth 700m)
Detector: 4 CsI(Tl) scintillators of 8.7 kg maintained at 0°C
Exposure: 3409 kg x day
(arXiv:0704.0423v2)

PSD to discriminate \(\gamma, e^- / nuclear recoils\)

Extracted Nuclear Recoils event rates of the CsI(Tl) crystals

• Energy spectra after data handling and cuts: about 10 cpd/kg/keV at 3 keV.
• Level of background still high. Cesium presence.

ANAIS: NaI(Tl) scintillator for studying annual modulation signature in Canfranc laboratory

Home-made efforts to improve old detectors.
Example of a prototype:
Some alternative techniques for direct detection experiments

PICASSO 3 kg
- fluorine loaded active superheated liquid $C_4F_{10}$
- dispersed in the form of 50-100 µm diameter droplets in a polymerized or viscous medium
- 32 detectors, 3 kg of $C_4F_{10}$
- 288 acoustic channels
- First detectors installed at SNOLAB
- Data taking ongoing

SIMPLE: a freon-loaded superheated droplet detector ($CF_3$I)

COUPP (NUMI TUNNEL)

MIMAC: Micro-tpc Matrix of Chambers of He3

First results from a prototype submitted on April 2007

- 2 kg $CF_3$I Bubble chamber
- until Sept. 06 running
- sensitive to SD and SI interactions

also DMTPC, see Dujmic
Conclusions

- Different techniques can give complementary results.
- Some further efforts to demonstrate the solidity of some techniques are desirable.
- The model independent signature is the definite strategy to investigate the Dark Matter particles.
- Solid experimental results obtained by considering different detectors, target materials, techniques, etc., can – at least at some extent – constrain the dark matter particle nature and disentangle among the different astrophysical scenarios, nuclear and particle physics models.

_Felix qui potuit rerum cognoscere causas_ (Virgilio, Georgiche, II, 489)