



# Dark matter search with cryogenic sodium iodide detectors

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#### **Dark Matter Direct Detection**

Relic dark matter particle scattering off detector material nuclei.

Expected differential recoil rate:

Astro physics: Velocity distribution, escape velocity minin

*Particle physics*: Form factor, energy threshold, detector material, dark matter mass



#### **Dark Matter Direct Detection**

Movement of the earth w.r.t. the sun introduces an annual modulation in the expected signal:

$$S(t)=B(t)+S_0+S_m\cos\left[\omega(t-t_0)
ight]$$

B(t) ... Background

- S<sub>0</sub> ... Constant signal share
- $\rm S_m$  ... Modulating signal share (~ 0.05  $\rm S_0)^*$

<sup>\*</sup>J. Billard et al. (2021), arXiv:2104.07634, p. 21



## The DAMA/LIBRA results

Observation of positive evidence for the presence of dark matter particles via *annual modulation*.

Target: 250 kg sodium iodide Nal(TI) crystals.

R. Bernabei et al. (2018), DOI: 10.15407/jnpae2018.04.307

Location	LNGS
Material	250 kg Nal(Tl)
Signal(s)	Light (PMTs)
Particle Discrimination	no
Energy Threshold	1keVee
Data taking	since 1996



#### The DAMA/LIBRA results

R. Bernabei et al. (2018), DOI: 10.15407/jnpae2018.04.307



Modulation Amplitude:  $S_m = (0.0103 \pm 0.0008) / (keV \times kg \times day)$ 

Exposure: 2.46 t×year over 20 annual cycles in 2-6 keV

#### *C.L.:* 12.9 σ

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#### **Dark Matter Landscape**



#### Other experiments with Nal targets:

Anais.	J. Amare et al., Phys. Rev. D 103, 102005 (2021)			
Sabre.	M. Antonello et al., Eur. Phys. J. C (2019) 79: 363			
Cosine.	G. Adhikari et al., Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 031302 (2019)			
all of them measure scintillation light,				

but no total energy deposition.

J. Billard et al. (2021), arXiv:2104.07634, p. 27

# The COSINUS Experiment

- *Two channel approach (heat, light):* In-situ measurement of nuclear energy scale.
- Nal as target material: Immune against *material dependence*.
- Operation as *cryogenic detector*: <1 keV nuclear recoil energy threshold.



## **Cryogenic Calorimeters**

Small scintillating crystals (~50 g), operated at *cryogenic temperatures* (~10-20 mK).

A particle recoil in the crystal produces *heat* and *scintillation light*.

Amount of emitted light depends on particle type: *Light quenching*.

Sensitive *thermometers (TES - transition edge sensors)* measure the temperature of the detector crystal.



# **Cryogenic Calorimeters**

Original detector concept developed by the CRESST collaboration!

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Light Yield: Light Energy / Phonon Energy



G. Angloher et al. (2016), DOI: 10.1140/epjc/s10052-016-4278-3

## Superconducting Thermometers

A *Transition Edge Sensor* (TES) measures the temperature of the detector crystal.

A small increase in temperature produces a large increase in resistance.

The changing electrical current is run through a coil, inducing a magnetic field change.

The field is measured by a SQUID amplifier, producing a voltage signal.



#### **Detector Response Model**

*Equivalent thermal circuit* of the detector components provides matrix-valued differential equation for all temperatures:

$$C_irac{dT_i}{dt}+G_{ib}(T_i-T_b)+\sum_j G_{ji}(T_j-T_i)=P_i$$

Solution for thermometer temperature after *particle recoil* in the crystal:

$$\Delta T_e(t) = \Theta(t) \Big[ A_n \Big( \mathrm{e}^{-t/ au_n} - \mathrm{e}^{-t/ au_{in}} \Big) + A_t \Big( \mathrm{e}^{-t/ au_t} - \mathrm{e}^{-t/ au_n} \Big)$$



#### **Analysis Methods**

*Continuous data taking* enables offline triggering and various simulation methods.

Two independent software packages for validation:

- CAT (Cryogenic Analysis Tools): ROOT/C++-based standard analysis.
- Cait (Cryogenic Artificial Intelligence Tools): Open Source Python Package for machine learning-based raw data analysis.



F. Wagner (2021), DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.5091416



#### Time Scale

#### COSINUS – 1π (2022-2025)

Exclude or confirm nuclear recoil origin of DAMA, independent of dark matter halo, for any interaction of dark matter with nuclei.

#### COSINUS – 2π (≥2026)

Investigate annual modulation signature with COSINUS.



"It has been evaluated that if COSINUS excludes a DM scattering rate of about 0.01 events/( kg×day), with an energy threshold of 1.8keV, it will rule out the explanations of DAMA/LIBRA in terms of DM scattering off sodium and/or iodine." - 2021 APPEC Committee Report

> J. Billard et al. (2021), arXiv:2104.07634, p. 27 F. Kahlhöfer et al., JCAP 1805 (2018) no.05, 074



# Setup @ LNGS

Construction @ LNGS (3600 mwe), starting 2021.

A PMT-equipped water tank acts as passive shielding and active veto.

Result of simulation studies:

- Cylindrical water tank, 7 m height and diameter.
- 8 cm Cu.
- No lead (Pb) layer: Water provides enough shielding against gammas, less muon-induced events in Cu.
- No polyethylen (PE) layer: Contaminations could cause additional neutrons.



#### **Baseline Design**

Measurement at LNGS (2017).

66 g Nal crystal, 1.32 kg days exposure.

 $^{241}$ Am source (~60 keV).

Beaker-shaped light detector (Si).

Three thermal components: Absorber crystal, thermometer and carrier crystal.





F. Reindl et al., J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 1342 012099 (2020) Schäffner, K. et al. J Low Temp Phys (2018)

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## **Baseline Design**

Energy Threshold Nal:

8.26 +/- 0.02 keV

Energy Resolution Nal:

1.1 keV (baseline) - 4.5 keV (60 keV)

**Energy Resolution Light:** 

~0.6 keVee

Pulse shape identification of carrier events.

#### Challenges:

- hygroscopicity
- high Debye temperature
- potassium (K) contamination



F. Reindl et al., J. Phys. Conf. Ser. 1342 012099 (2020) Schäffner, K. et al. J Low Temp Phys (2018)

#### Current developments: Extended Pulse Shape Model



developed by V. Zema, paper in preparation

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# Current developments: remoTES

remoTES idea first suggested by M. Pyle et al. in 2015, arXiv:1503.01200

Nal has to be exclusively handled in controlled atmosphere:

- avoid the carrier crystal, thus avoid that phonons have to
- pass through another material except of Nal
- avoid the amorphous interface (e.g. glue, grease, oil, ...)
- instead: profit from good e-ph coupling of Au



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#### Results from above-ground test measurements

Absorber material	Au-pad	Au wire	Threshold (eV)
Si	Prelimi sputtered	nary! glued on pad	323
Prelir	ninarv!		arv!
TeO2	foil, glued	2 wedge bonds	1100

#### Current developments: remoTES

Measurement of first Nal remo-TES detector is running *this week* in cryo2 of CRESST at MPP.









#### Todo List for Dark Matter Module

Operate Nal as cryogenic detector.

Beaker-shaped light detector.

Radiopure Nal crystals.



Phonon threshold of 1 keV (current: 8.23 keV).

Prototype measurement results:

```
G. Angloher et al. JINST 12
P11007 (2017)
F. Reindl et al., J. Phys. Conf.
Ser. 1342 012099 (2020)
Schäffner, K. et al. J Low Temp
Phys (2018)
```

# Summary



Cosinus provides:

- Particle identification on event-by-event basis,
- Low(er) threshold for nuclear recoils,
- Precise energy information independent of event type,
- Same sensitivity at smaller target mass (~1kg for COSINUS vs. 250kg for DAMA),
- ... and brings therefore *everything we need to validate the DAMA claim*.

#### The Collaboration







#### www.cosinus.it



#### **Quenching Factor Uncertainty**

Measurements of quenching factors at room temperature disagree at low energies.

This introduces an uncertainty on the nuclear recoil energy scale.



H. Joo et al., Astropart. Phys. 108 (2019), pp. 50–56

#### Perspective

Collection of a net exposure of 100kg days, with 10 modules (50g) for 1 year (efficiency 0.5), in a low-background cryogenic facility.

#### COSINUS – 1π (2022-2025)

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#### Perspective

Dark matter exclusion limits for different recoil energy thresholds, under standard scenario assumptions.



