DAMIC Preliminary result – Best world limit @ low mass



CCD: charge generation





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CCD: readout



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CCD: readout - typical operation at Snolab



The blank images provide an excelent measurement of the background produced by readout noise







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Energy calibration using X-rays



Electron energy scale calibrated down to 280eV, 63eV RMS @6keV

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Energy calibration using X-rays



Electron energy scale calibrated down to 280eV, 63eV RMS @6keV

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Diffusion



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Measuring diffusion



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Diffusion can be measured as a function of the interaction depth. **No need to rely on models**.

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3D reconstruction of low energy (point like) like events



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Data Analysis



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Data Analysis



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Data Analysis



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Data Analysis: exposure



Simulation used to estimate the efficiency down to threshold. Based on this efficiency, an exposure is calculated.



No WIMP detected



Null hypotesis bkg: 74±5 dru Min -LL: -396.1

- Background is still high (~74 dru)
- We associate this to Radon in the volume around the lead shield.
- We have a nitrogen gas purge, but it is not performing as it should.
- Upgrade last week to address this purge performance.



The DAMIC detector has two unique capabilities, not used for the preliminary result yet.

However, they demonstrate the flexibility of this technology.



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Binning



- Every readout introduces a 2e⁻ noise
- The CCD allows you to add charge in the sensor (binning) and then readout many pixels as a single one
- This improves signal to noise, effectively increasing the efficiency at low energy

$$\mathsf{S}/\mathsf{Noise} = rac{\mathsf{Q}}{\mathsf{N}_{\mathsf{reads}}}\sigma$$

Reading the charge in less pixels is good!



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Binning

Improves signal to noise, effectively increasing the efficiency at low energy



Binned data not used for preliminary result shown here

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Background from Silicon: could be a limiting factor



Low energy electrons from β decays could be a significant background in silicon





Background from Silicon: candidate ³²Si event

The precise position reconstruction in the CCD allows the study of spatial coincidences of those decay chains to measure and veto ³²Si and ²¹⁰Pb events in the CCD



The pixilation of the DAMIC detector allows us reject this background. This is a unique capability of the DAMIC sensors.



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- DAMIC is now science ready, leading experiment at low mass.
- Currently upgrading to larger active mass. Parts available, some assembly required.
- We are asking for support to install, commission and operate this upgrade.



BACK UP SLIDES



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Quenching factor.



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Quenching factor: nuclear recoil ionization efficiency



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• Scattering experiment at a neutron beam.

- Neutron capture: $^{28}{\rm Si+n} \rightarrow {^{29}}{\rm Si+\gamma}$
 - Using a LAAPD + Nal detector in coincidence.
 - Using a CCD at a nuclear reactor.

• *Monochromatic* neutron exposure: ⁸⁸Y/Be source

• CCD activation at a proton beam: measure nuclear recoils after EC of ²²Na.



Measuring Q: ongoing efforts

Ionization efficiency in low E regime



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hit extraction





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