DAMIC@SNOLAB

DAMIC
(Dark Matter in CCDs)

DAMIC-M

Probing 10 orders of magnitude of dark matter mass using CCDs

U. Birmingham particle physics seminar, June 2, 2021

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U. Zürich

PHYSIK INSTITUT
UNIVERSITÄT ZÜRICH

University of Zurich UZH


Most of this :
is dark matter

Where is it ?

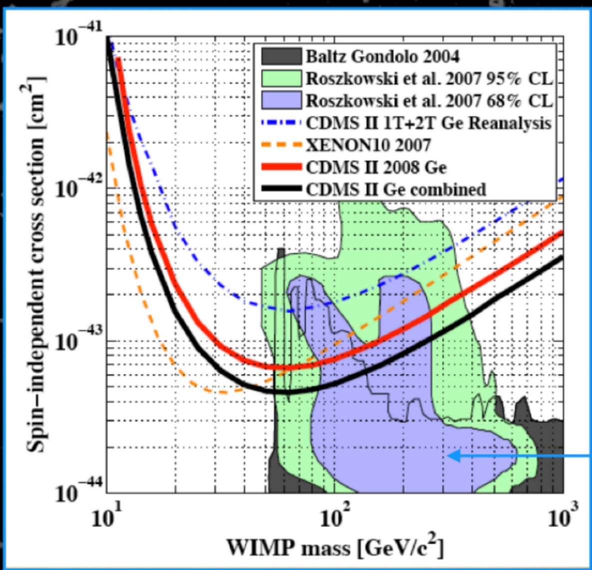
Conventional wisdom :

Dark matter is a (yet undetected) weakly interacting particle (WIMP) motivated by supersymmetry (SUSY)

2007 : Prospects for SUSY dark matter

Cross-section

10^{-44} cm^2

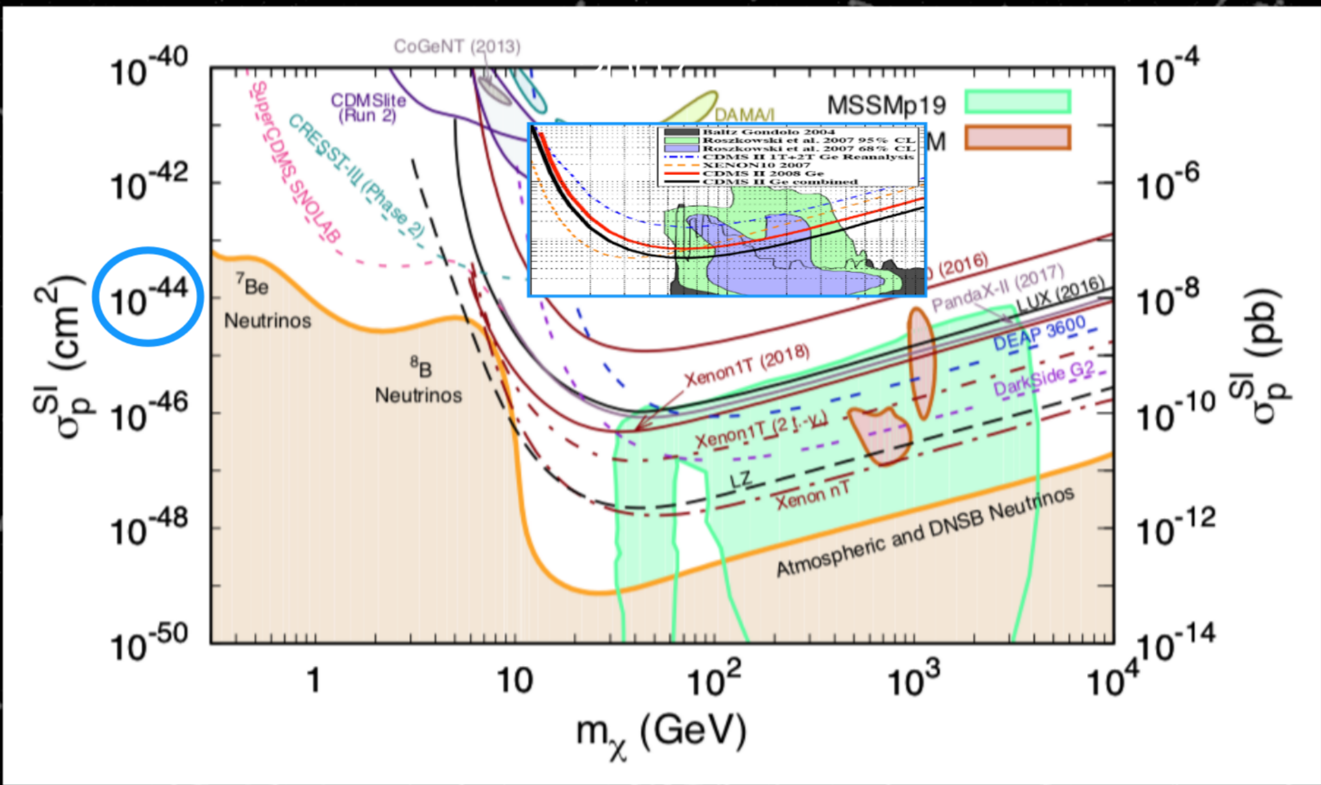


Experimental searches

SUSY favored region

Mass of WIMP dark matter

~Today



SUSY is a moving target

Naturalness of Dark Matter Mass scale

Standard WIMP :

1. "WIMP miracle" scale : $M_{DM} \sim 100$ GeV

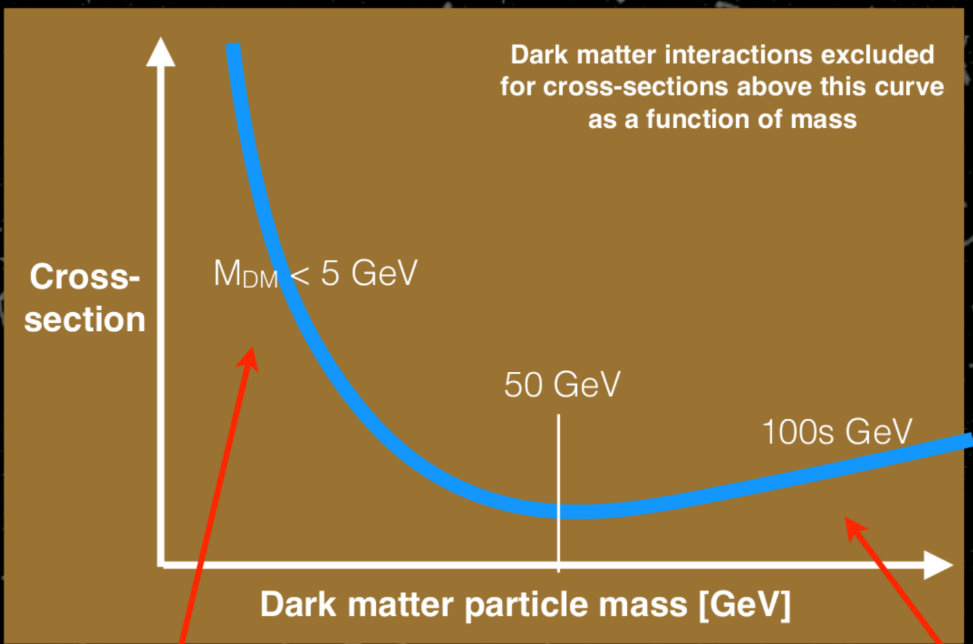
- Coincidence that SUSY weak cross-sections provide DM density relic Ω_{DM}

Light WIMP :

2. "Baryon-DM coincidence" scale : $M_{DM} \sim 5$ GeV
   - $\rho_{DM} \approx 5\ \rho_B$
     - ρ_B is set by CP violating phase
     - ρ_{DM} is set by mass of dark matter
   - If we consider the two related :
     → $M_{DM} = 5 * M_{proton}$

Asymmetric DM
hep-ph/1111.0293

Typical limit plot of DM search

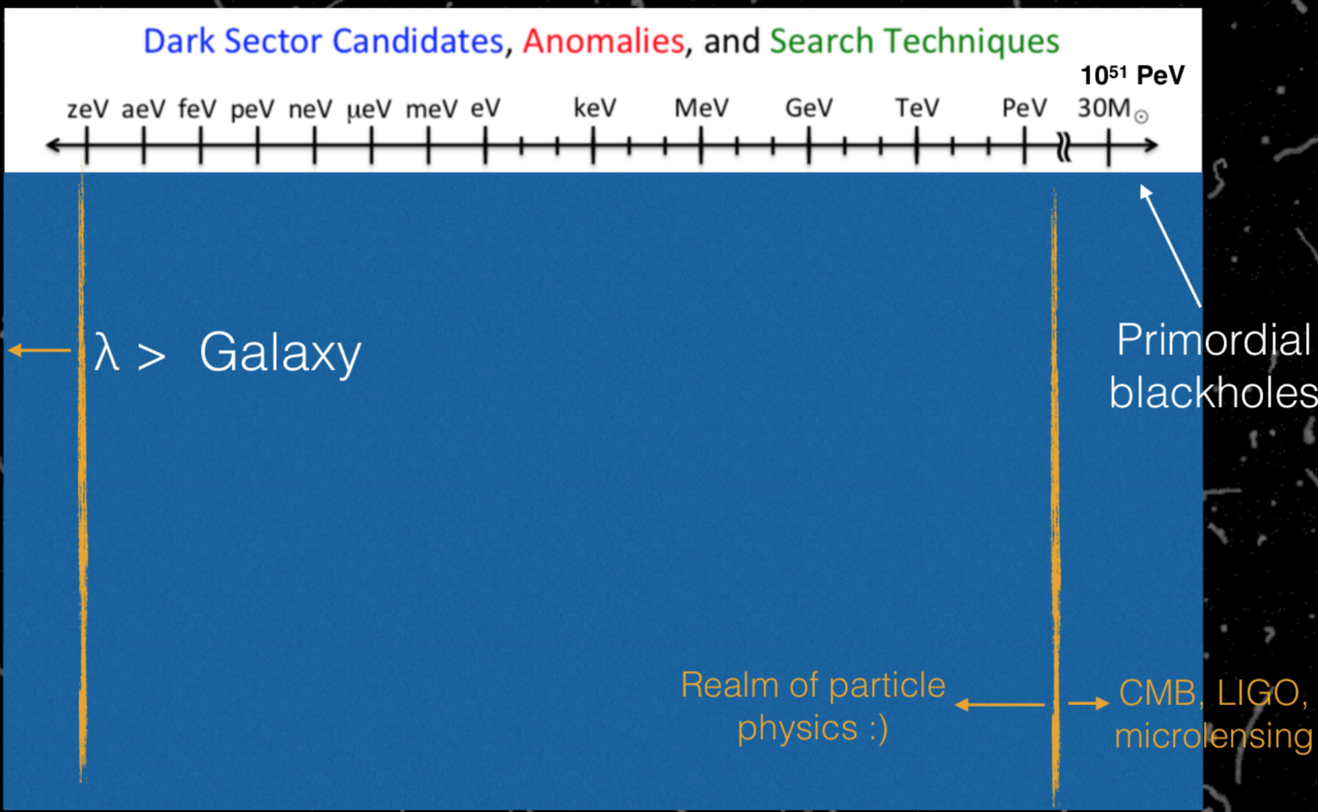


Baryon-DM coincidence:
Limited by energy threshold
(need to detect lower energies)

SUSY WIMP:
Limited by exposure mass
(need bigger detector)

Revisiting dark matter

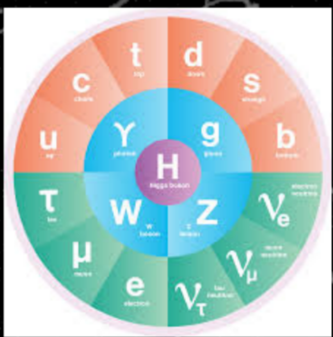
Dark matter candidates



U.S. cosmic visions report 1707.04591

Reexamine simple assumptions

- Matter 15% of universe mass



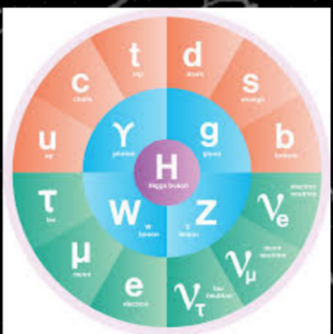
Rich substructure of forces and particles

- Dark matter 85% of universe mass

1 particle ???

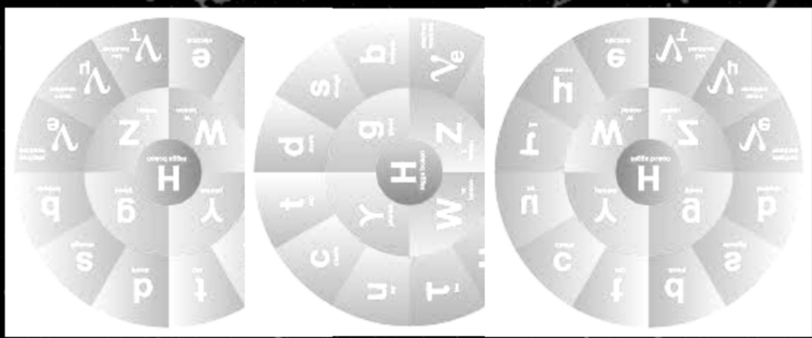
More likely

- Matter 15% of universe mass



Rich substructure of forces and particles

- Dark matter 85% of universe mass



Perhaps even more rich set of hidden forces and particles

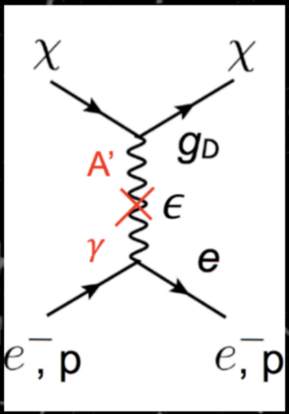
Yet $\rho_{DM} \sim \rho_B$ implies some connection between them

A strong possibility

- Hidden photon, A’
  - Hidden sector connected to thermal history of universe
    → its interactions set the relic DM abundance
  - Perhaps the only hidden particle that communicates with SM particles besides through gravitation
  - Interaction is many orders of magnitude below the weak interaction
  - A’ interacts with SM by kinetic mixing with the SM photon

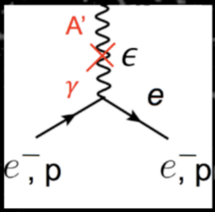
A’ couples to SM particles with electric charge

Case 1:



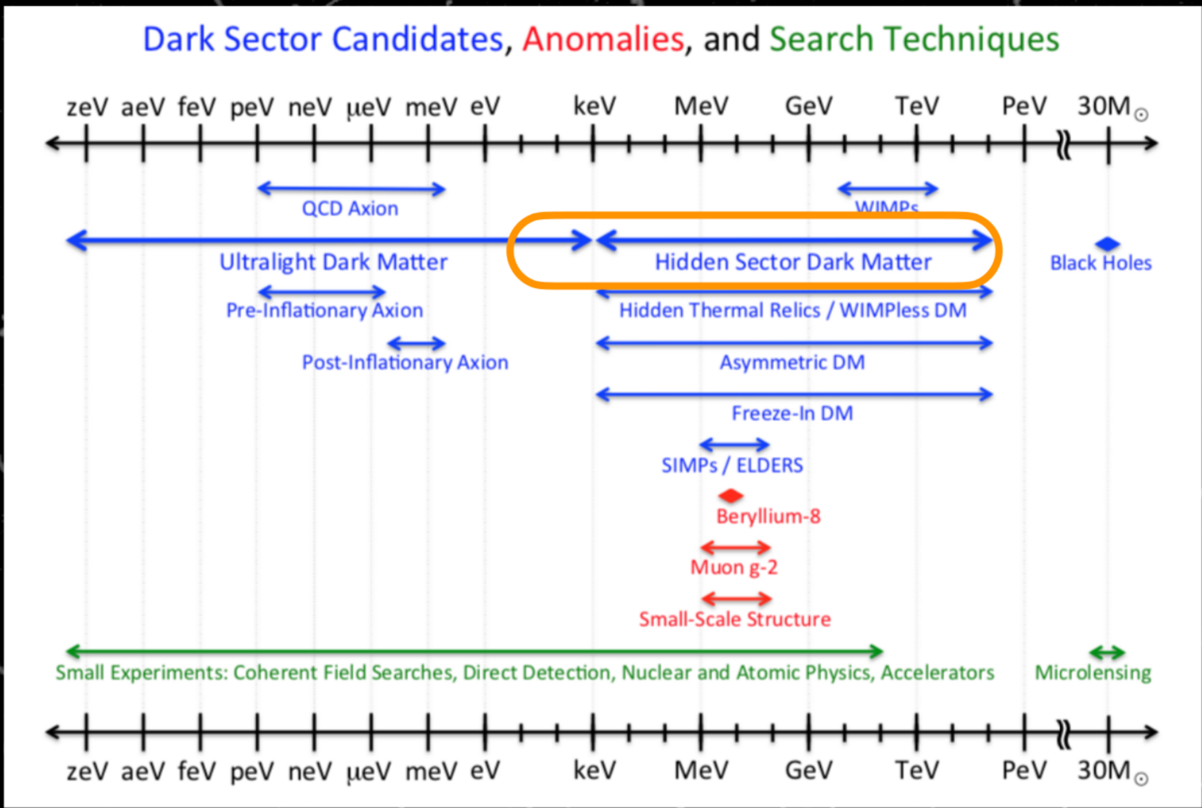
A’ mediates DM-M interaction

Case 2:



A’ is DM

Dark matter candidates



U.S. cosmic visions report 1707.04591

Low-mass direct dark matter searches

TeV → GeV → MeV → keV → eV→ meV

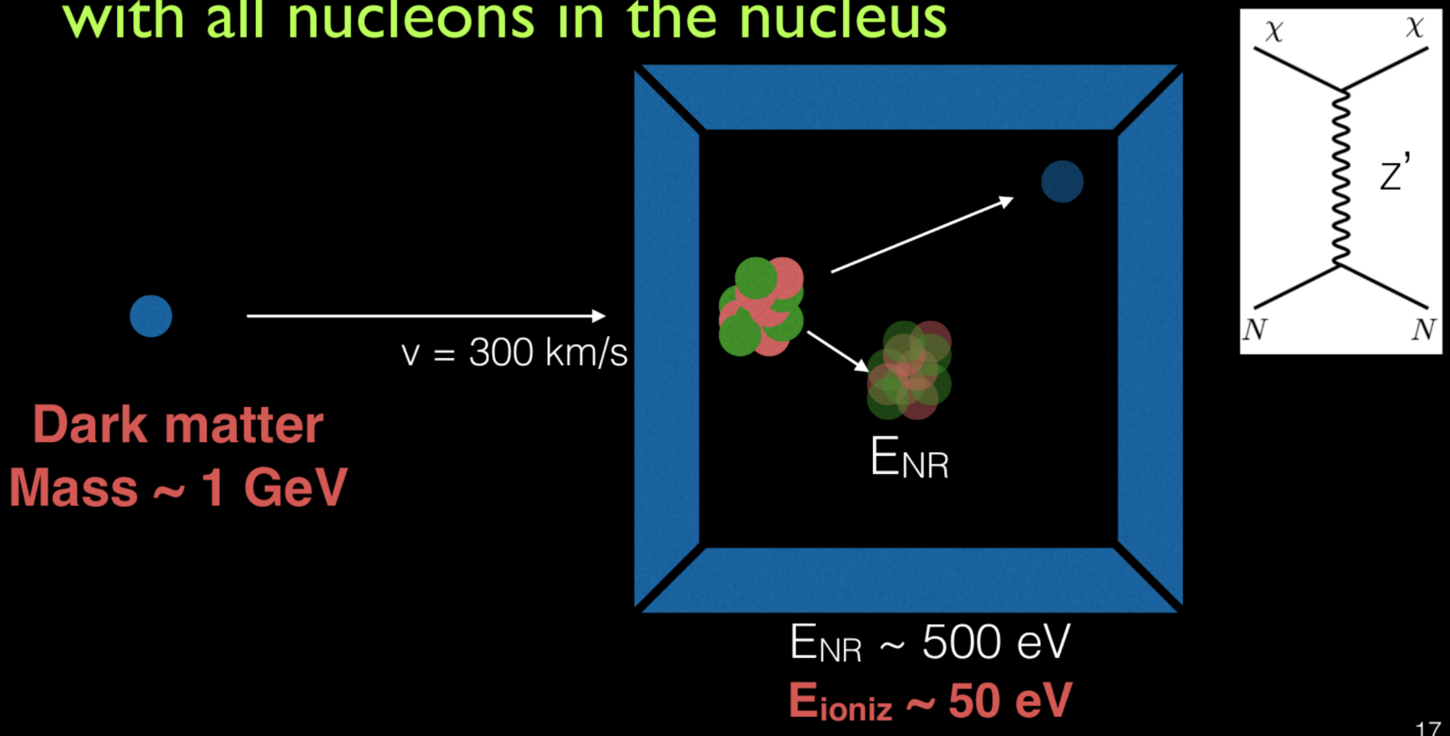
How far can we go ?

Depends on the detector

Detecting asymmetric DM (m_{DM} ~ GeV)

Elastic scattering of galactic DM

- Dark matter interacts once, coherently with all nucleons in the nucleus

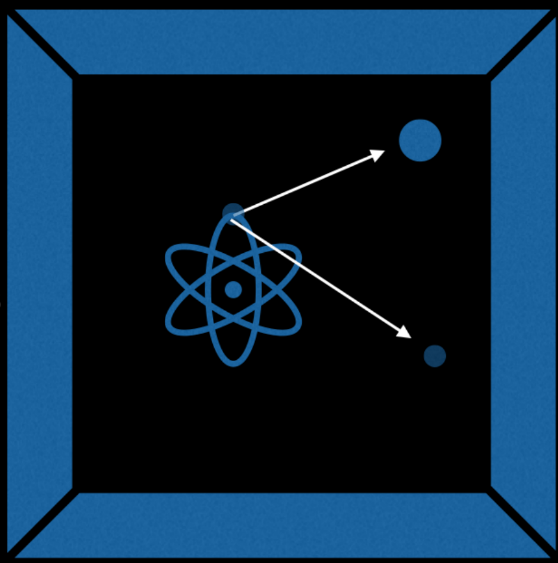


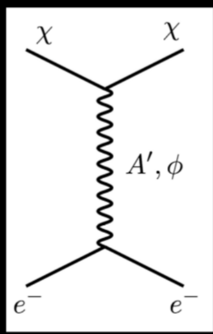
Hidden photon mediating DM (m$_{DM}$ ~ MeV)

DM-electron elastic scattering

- Kinetic energy of DM becomes the ionization energy measured

v = 300 km/s





Dark matter
Mass : 1 MeV

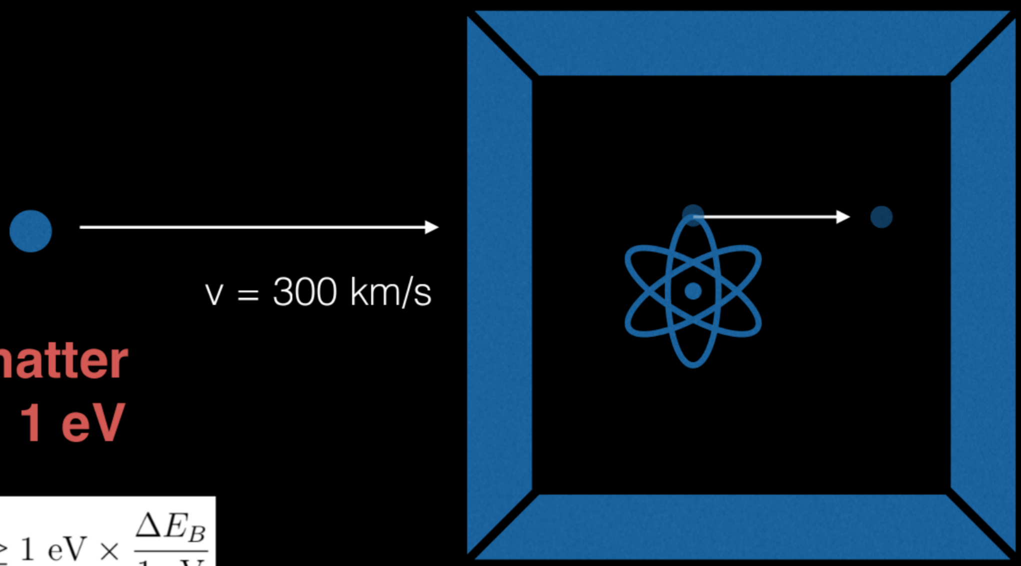
$$E_e \leq \frac{1}{2} m_\chi v_\chi^2 \lesssim 3 \text{ eV} \left(\frac{m_\chi}{\text{MeV}}\right)$$

E$_{ioniz}$ ~ 3 eV

Hidden photon as DM (m_{DM} ~ eV)

Electron absorbs bosonic DM, and recoils

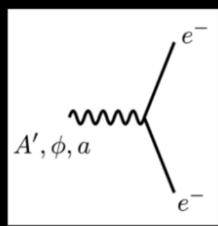
- Mass of DM becomes the ionization energy measured



Dark matter
Mass : 1 eV

$$m_\chi \geq 1 \text{ eV} \times \frac{\Delta E_B}{1 \text{ eV}}$$

E_{ioniz} ~ 1 eV

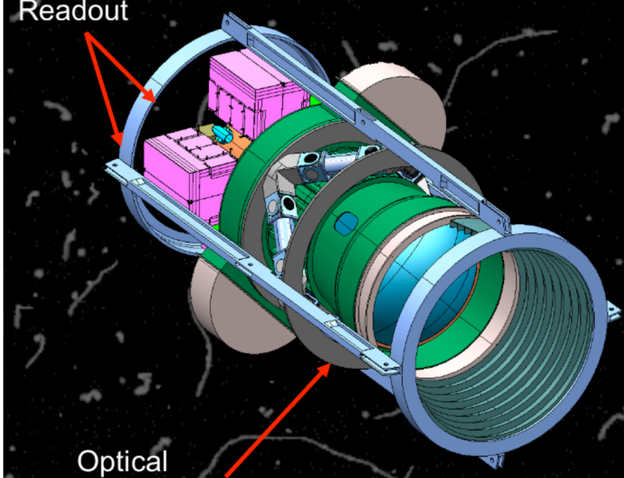


We want to detect ionization energies down to ~ 1eV

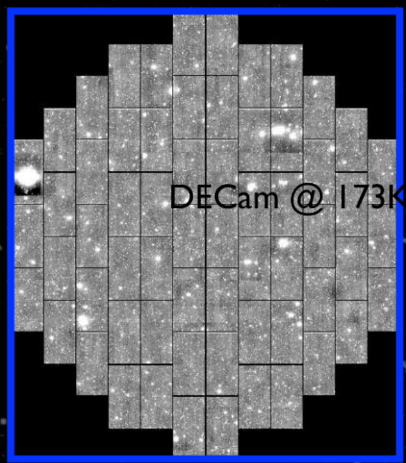
We need a low-energy threshold Detector

(the start of my talk)

Scientific CCDs



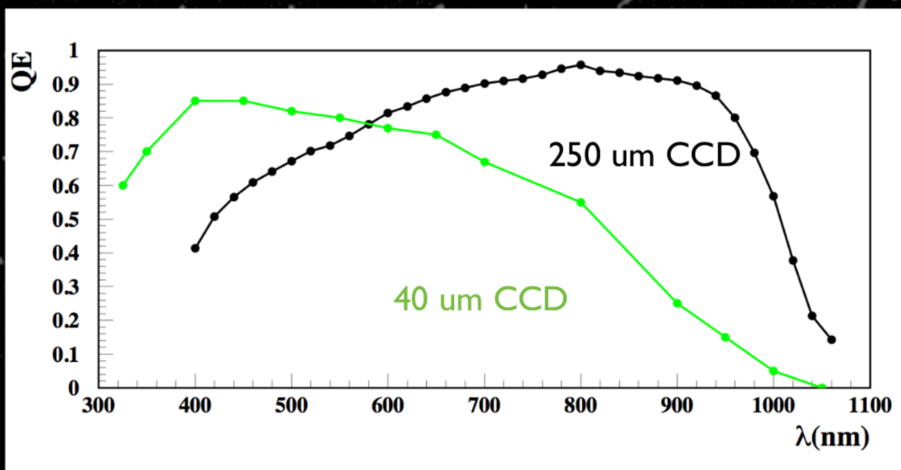
Images collected on ~60 CCDs ~600 Mpix



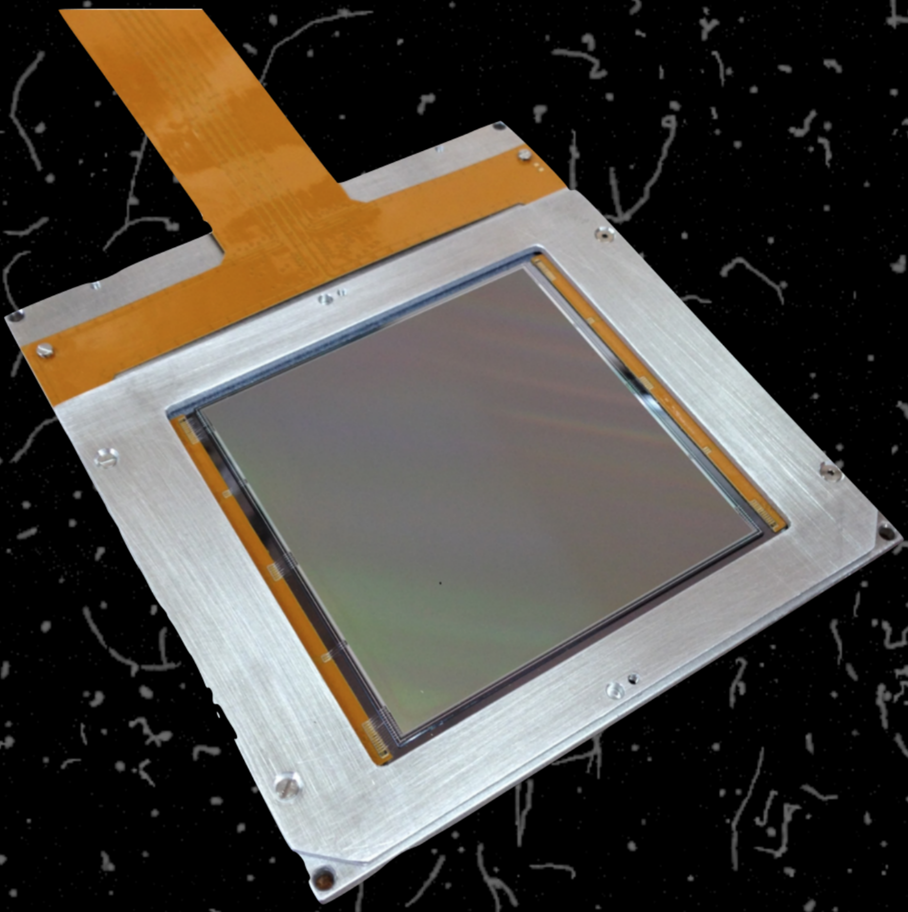
CCDs originally created for DES (DECam) by LBNL

Thick to be sensitive to infrared

= massive !

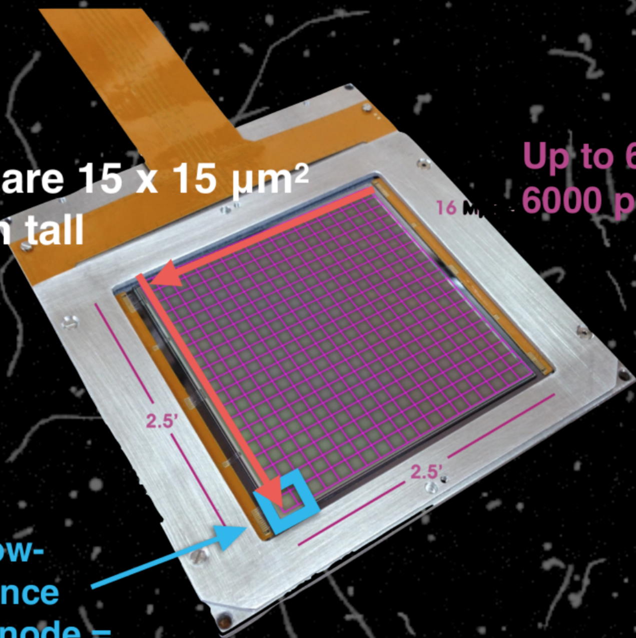


Scientific CCDs



DAMIC (Dark matter in CCDs)

Pixels are 15 x 15 μm^2
675 μm tall



Up to 6000 x 6000 pixels

Single low-capacitance readout node = low noise = low energy threshold

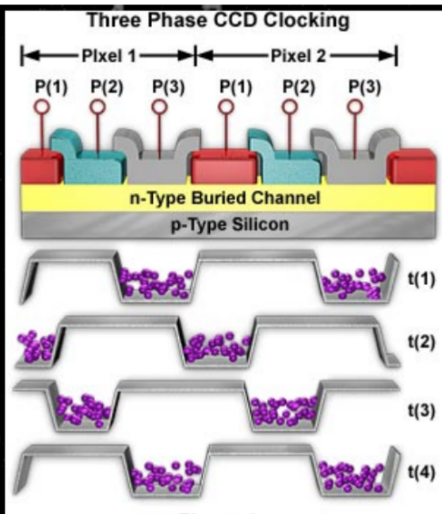


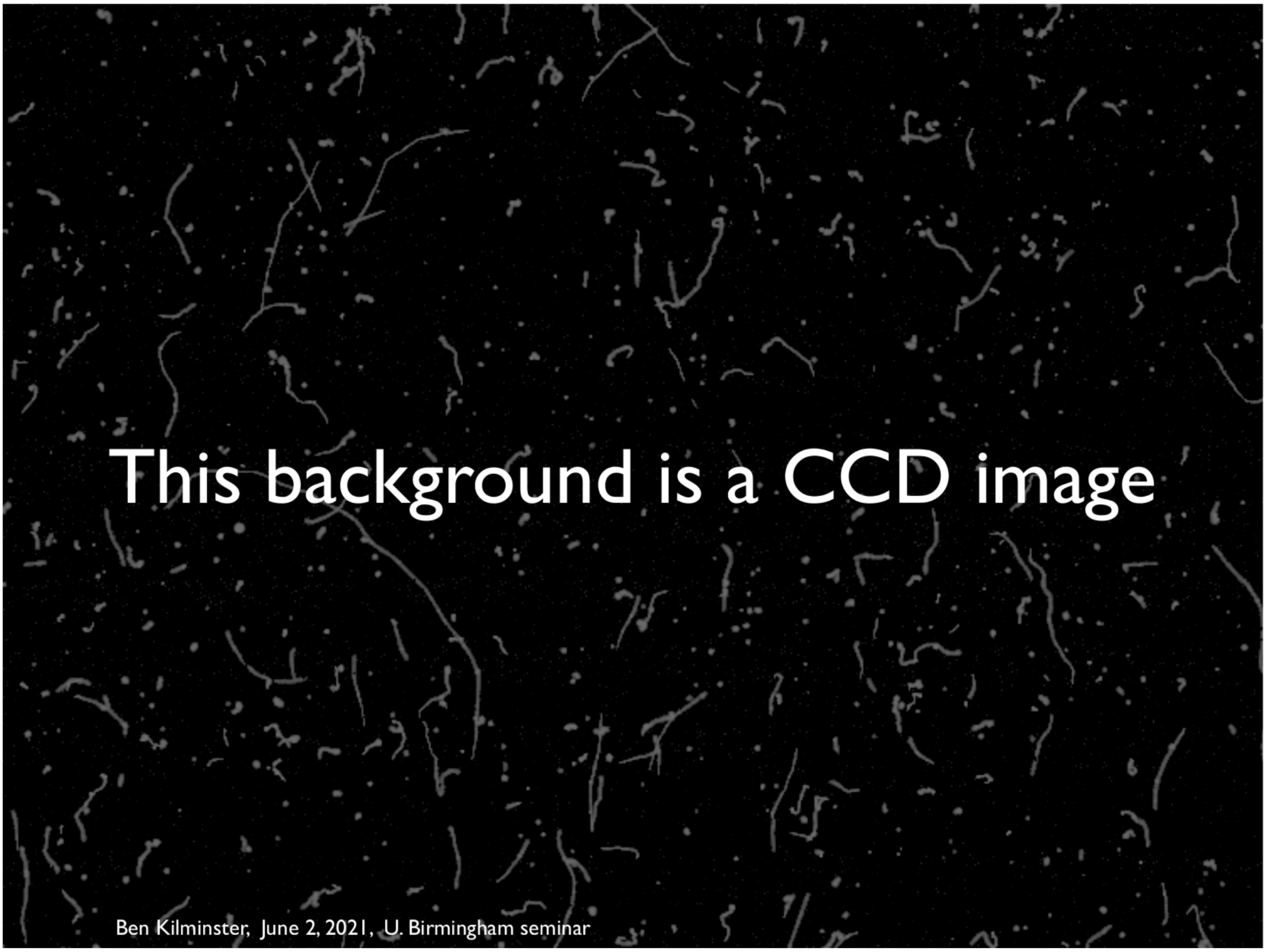
Figure 1

Charge shifted to output readout gate by 3 potential gates per pixel

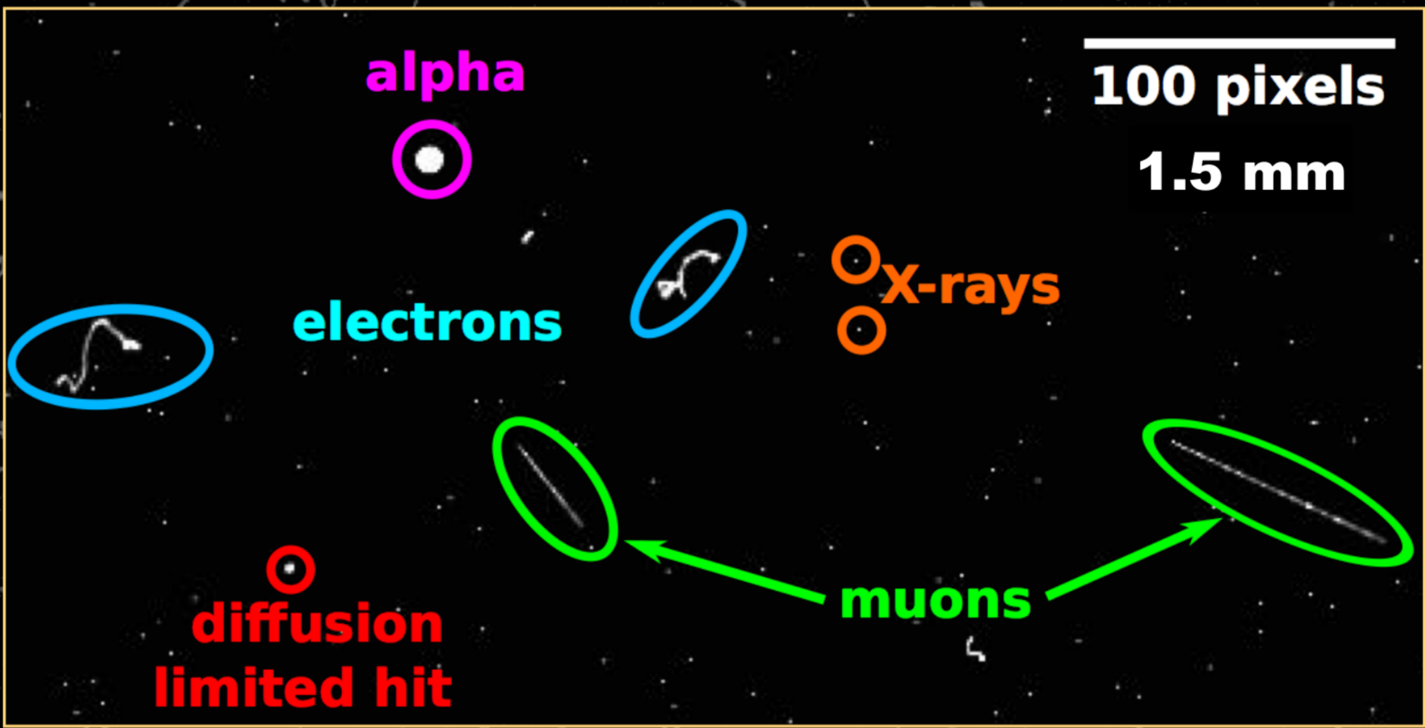
DAMIC-M will use the thickest and biggest CCDs ever made :

Size = 9 cm x 9 cm x 0.675 mm
Mass = 20 g / CCD

(Likely diced into 4 for better yield !)


This background is a CCD image
Ben Kilminster, June 2, 2021, U. Birmingham seminar

Particle identification in CCD



single point resolution ~ 7 um

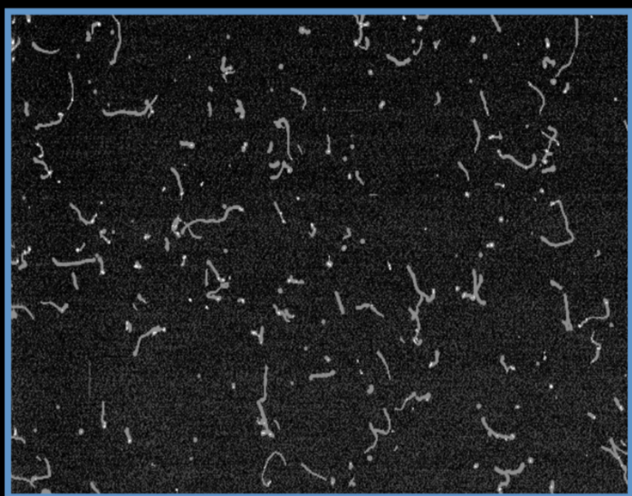
pixel size : 15 x 15 um²

We can calibrate with various sources

X-ray ^{55}Fe (5.9 keV)

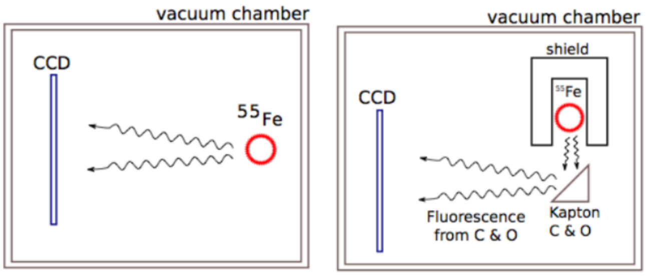
Point like hits
(diffusion limited)

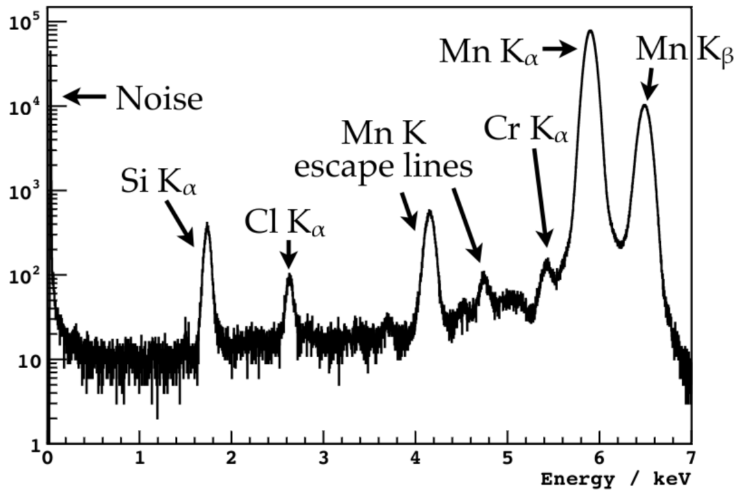
Gammas ^{60}Co (1.33 & 1.77 MeV)

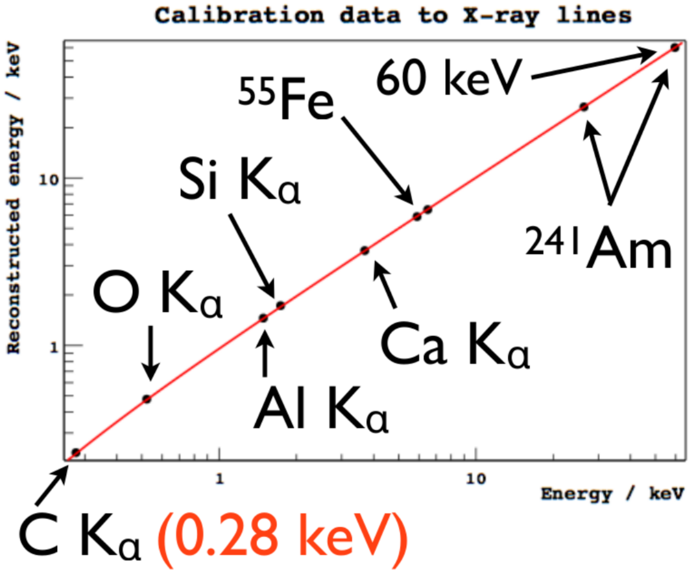


Compton
electrons
(worms) and
point-like hits.

X-ray calibration of CCDs



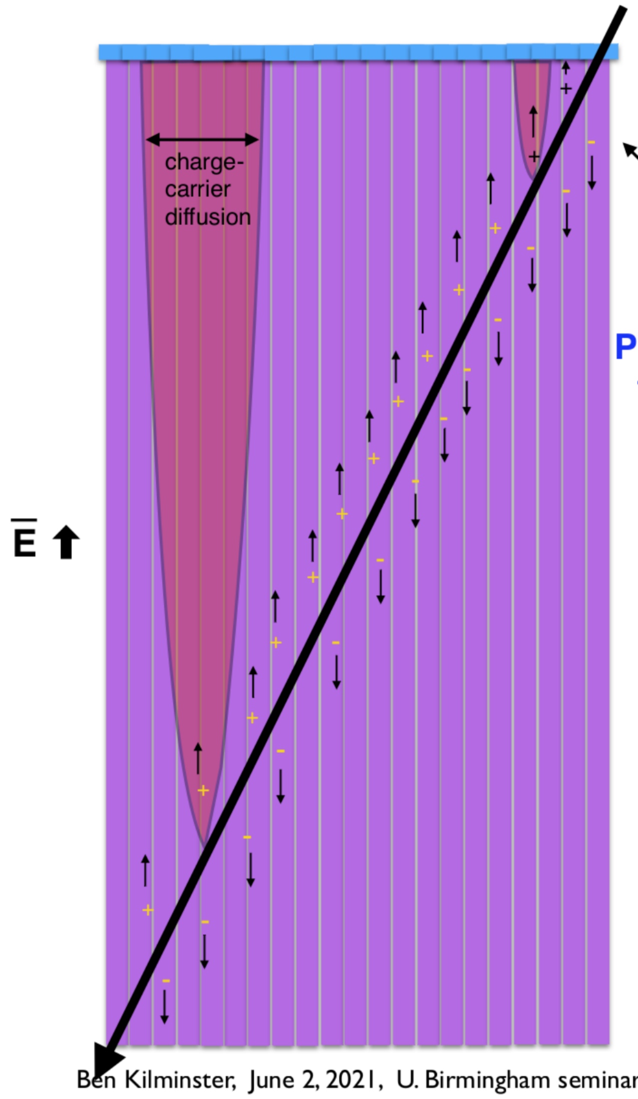




E resolution 53 eV at 5.9 keV

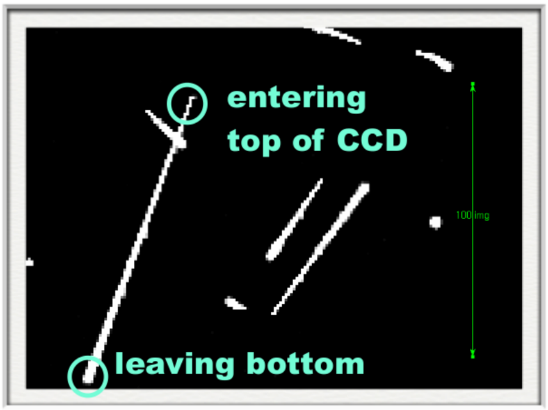
Linear response, good resolution

Cluster size vs. depth

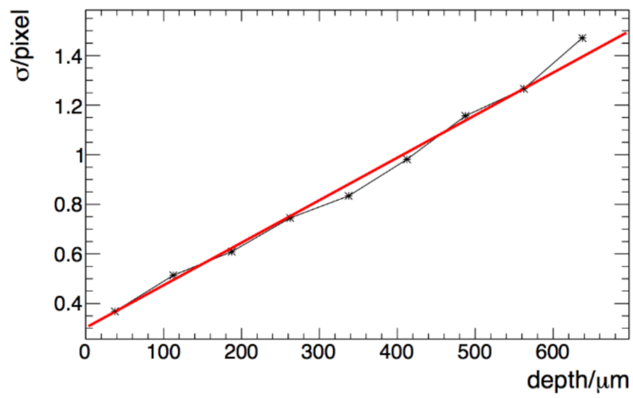


Muon

Pixels to scale
15 x 675 um



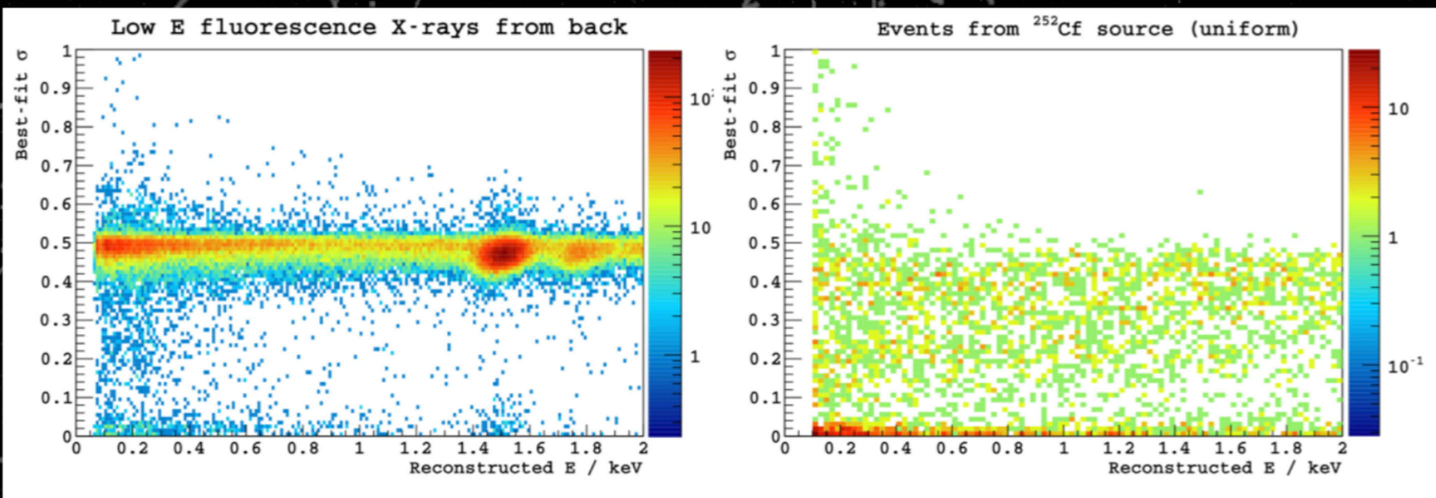
Calibration of cluster size σ vs. interaction depth



Useful for removing surface events

X-rays vs neutrons

Size of pixel clusters vs. Energy

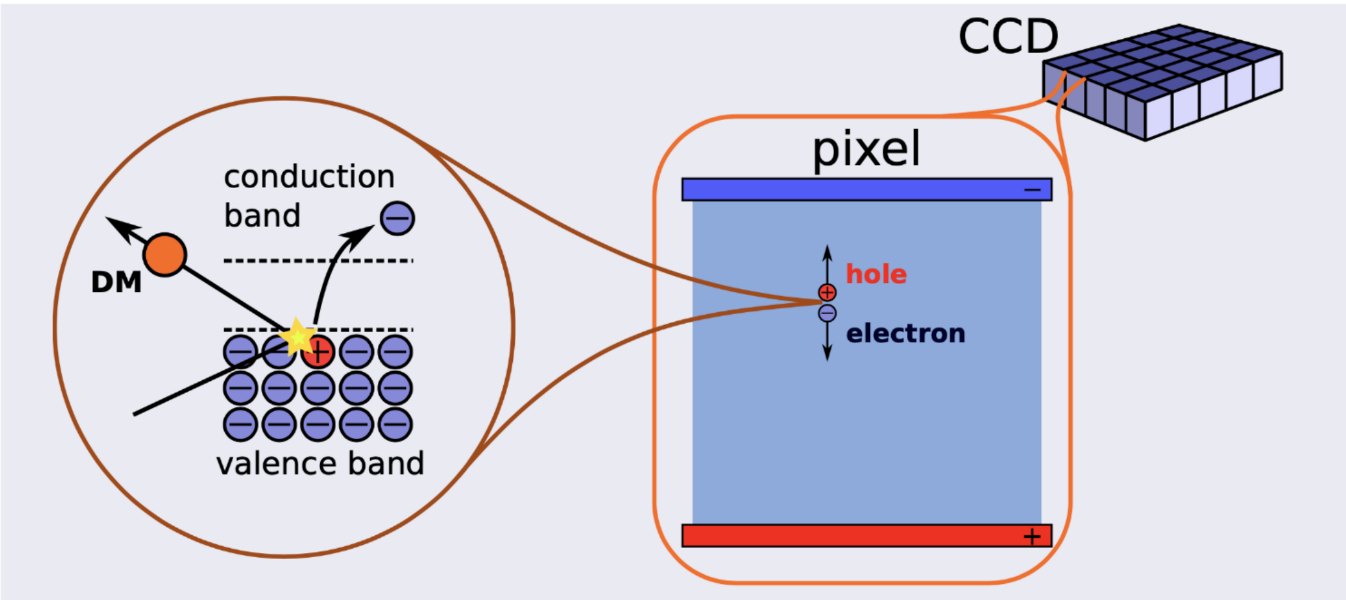


X-rays
bkg-like

Neutrons
"DM-like"
(No dependence on depth)

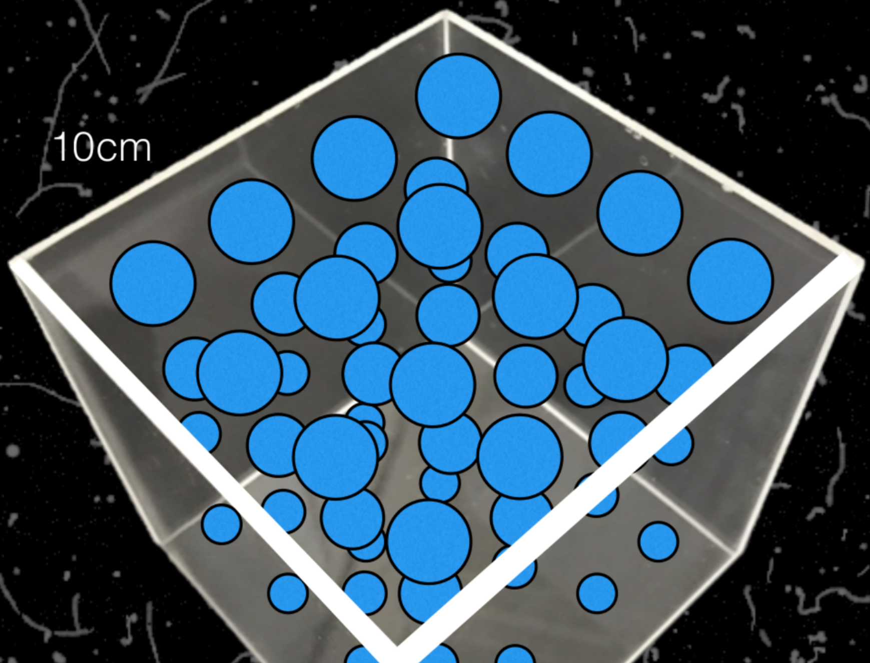
Cluster size → Determines depth used to reject backgrounds

Detecting DM in a CCD

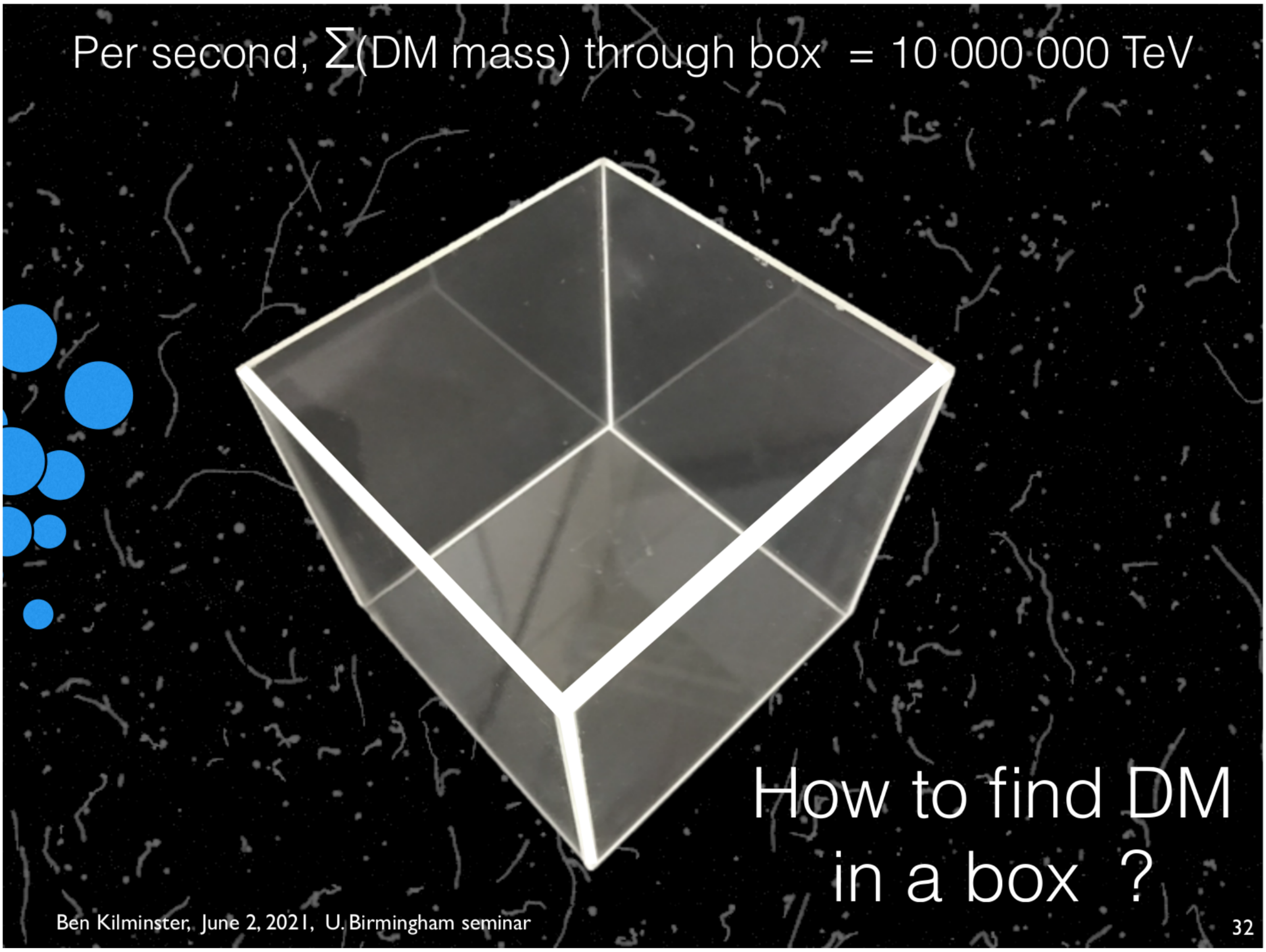


Minimum energy ~ 1 eV to move charge from valence to conduction band

Finding DM



At any moment, there is 300 GeV of DM mass in a $10x10x10\ cm^3$ box


Per second, Σ(DM mass) through box = 10 000 000 TeV
How to find DM
in a box ?
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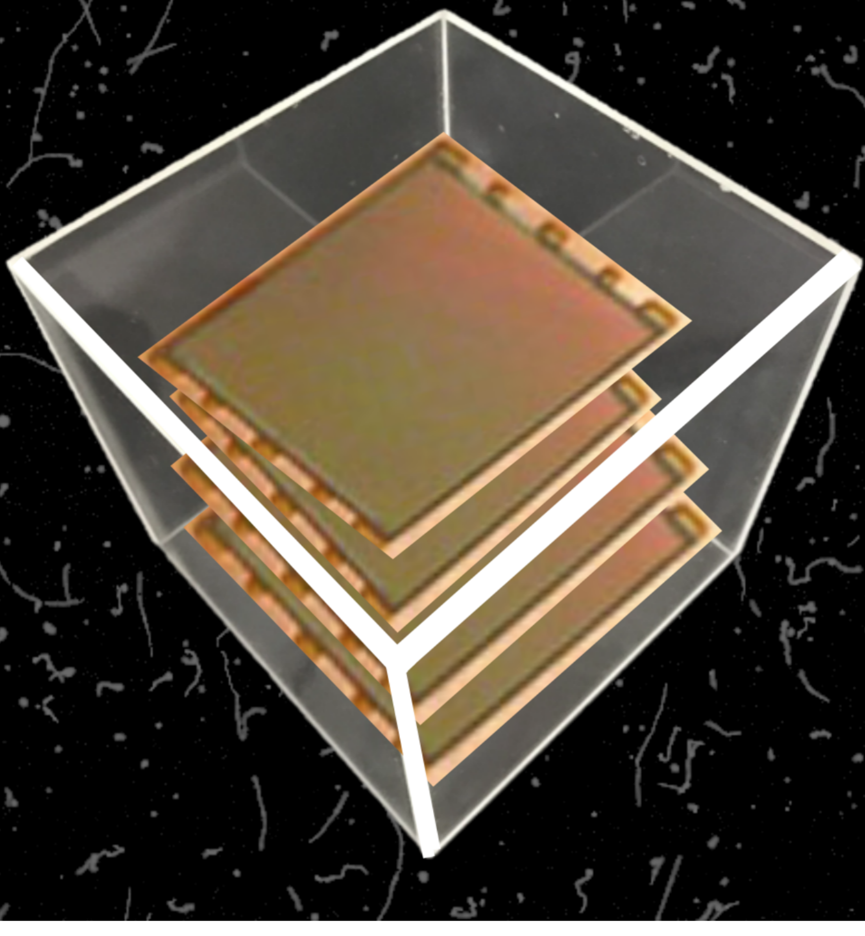
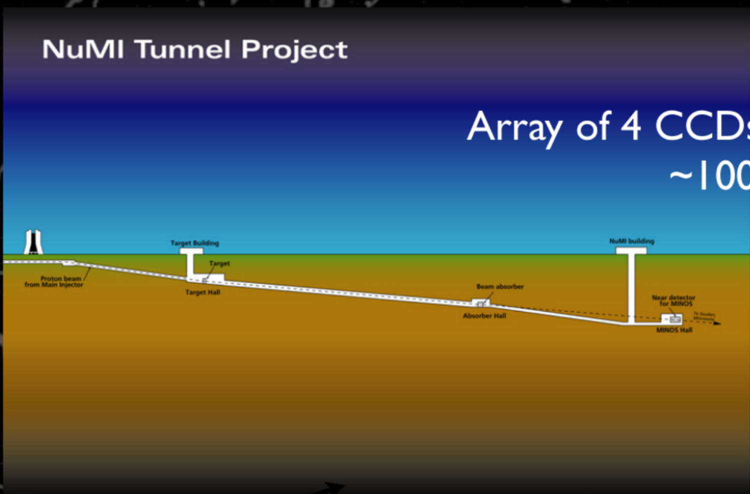
Put CCDs in a box



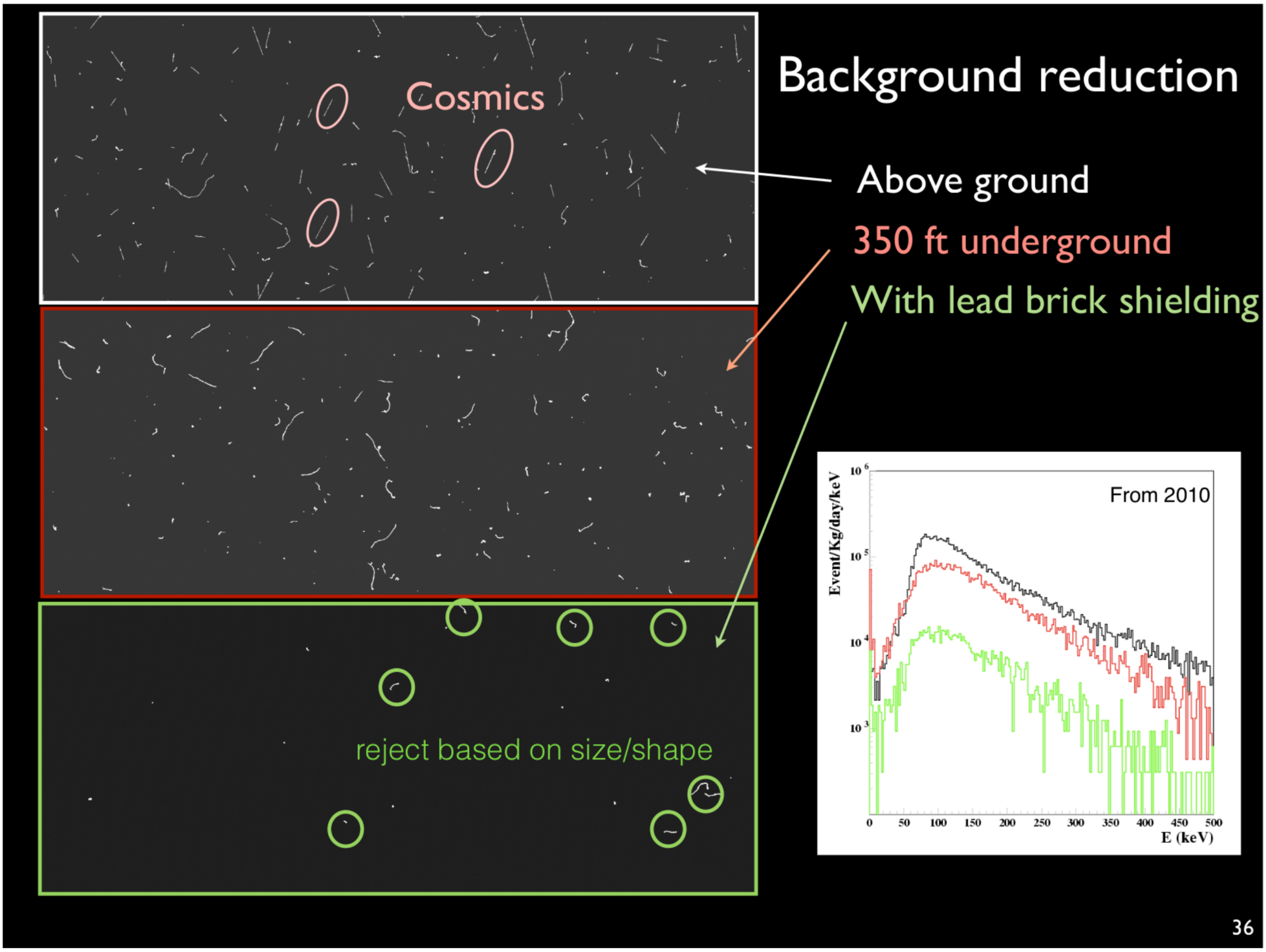
DAMIC experiment generations

- 2010-2011 : DAMIC first run at Fermilab
  - Best DM limits for WIMPs below 4 GeV
- 2015- now : DAMIC @ SNOLAB
  - Hidden photon DM search
    - 2017 : First eV-scale results
    - 2019 : Result reported today
  - WIMP search
    - 2016 : First result
    - 2020 : New result today
- 2023 : DAMIC-M @Modane
  - Single e-h pair resolution (achieved)
  - Test of prototype CCDs in 2021 (LBC)

DAMIC @ Fermilab : First underground run



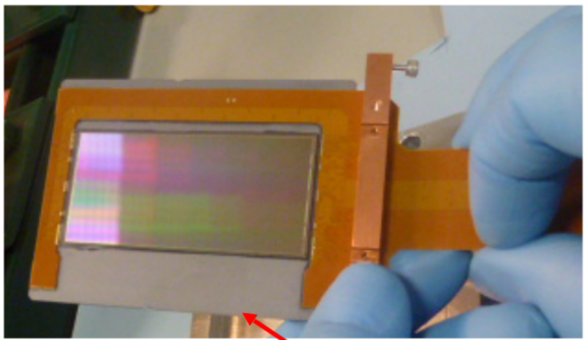
Array of 4 CCDs in underground cavern
~100 meter depth



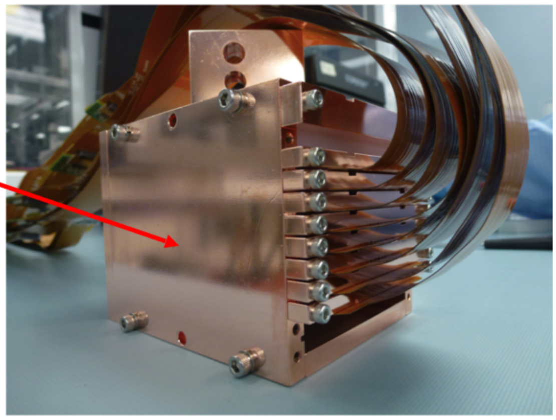
Background reduction
Cosmics
Above ground
350 ft underground
With lead brick shielding
reject based on size/shape
From 2010
Event/Kg/day/keV
E (keV)
36

DAMIC @ SNOLAB

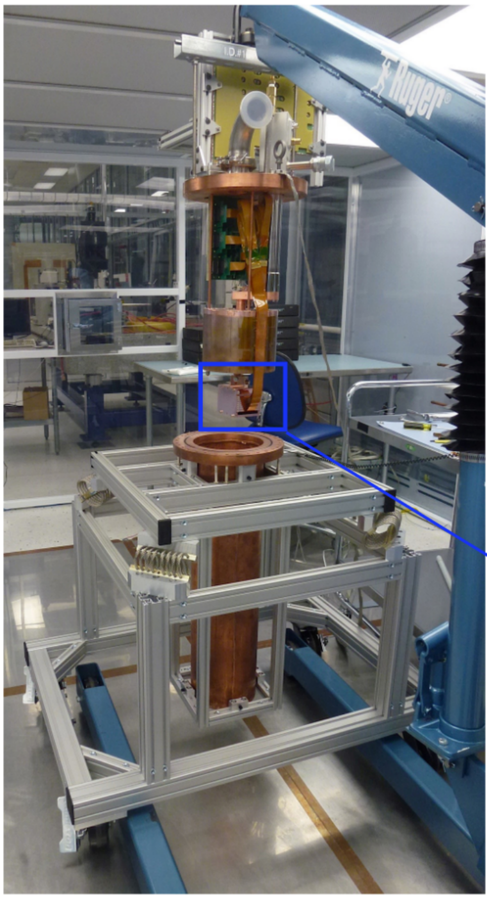
1” Spanish galleon lead



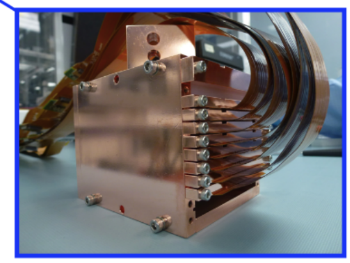
Si support



DAMIC @ SNOLAB

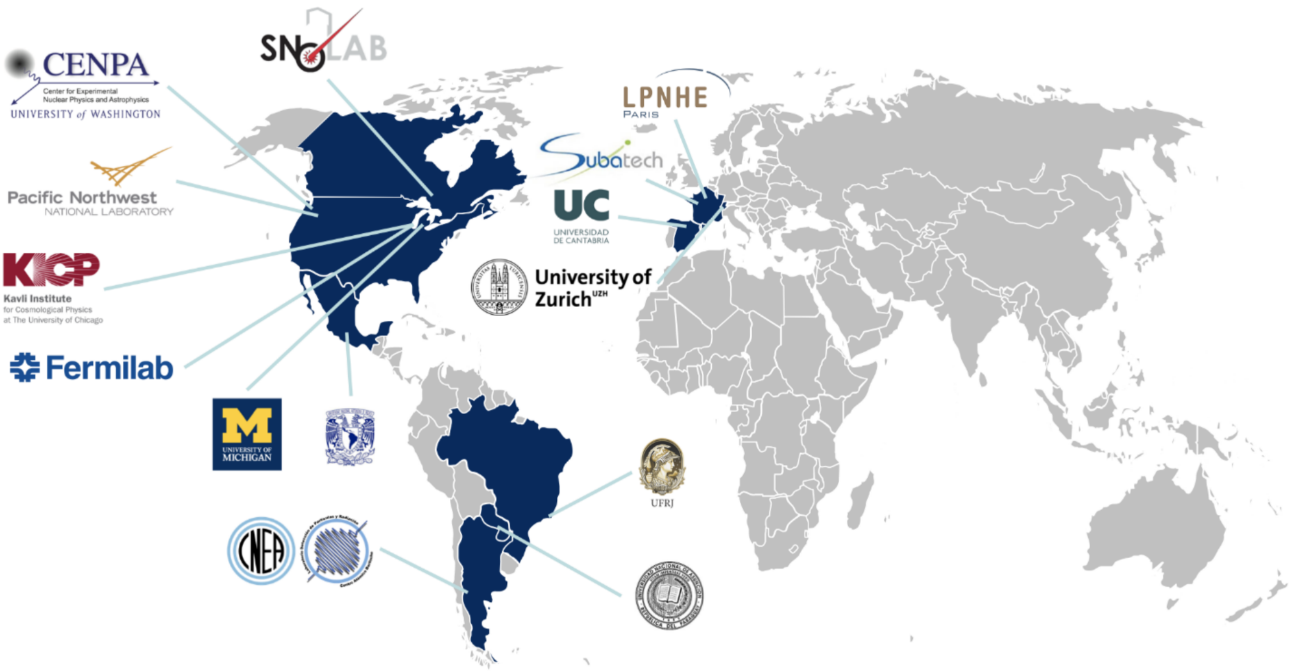


In SNOLAB 6010m water equivalent depth : suppresses cosmics



Operated 7 CCDs = 40 g

DAMIC@SNOLAB Collaboration

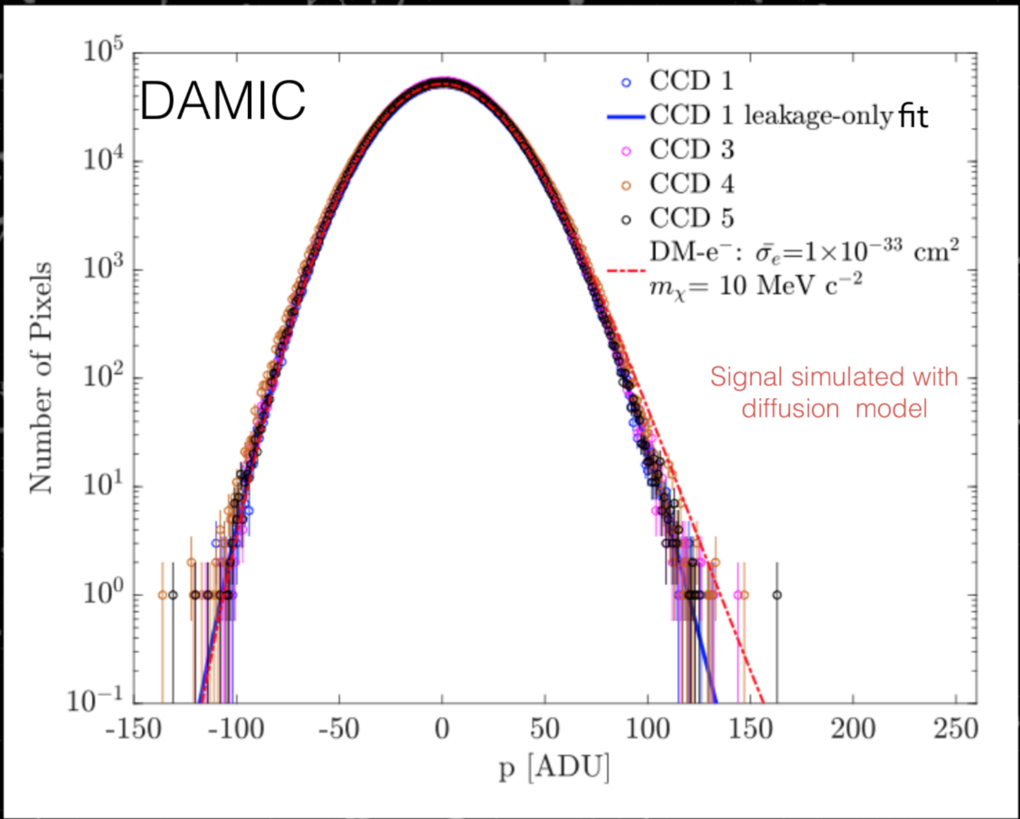


Ben Kilminster, June 2, 2021, U. Birmingham seminar

Hidden DM results

Recoils and absorption of DM on electrons

- Background is electronics readout noise + leakage current



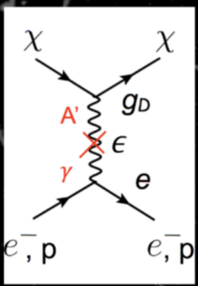
Charge resolution
σ ~ 2e-

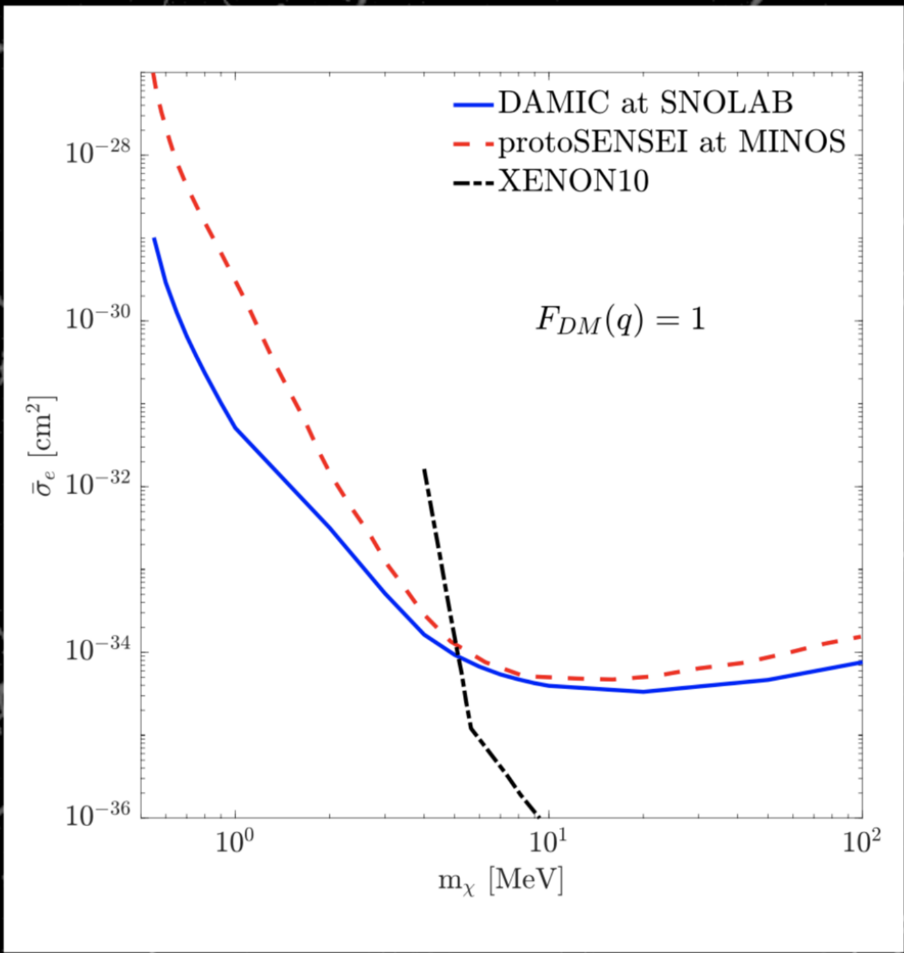
Leakage current :
1E-3 e-/pixel/day
(4 e- /mm^2/day)
(8.2 E –22 A / cm^2)

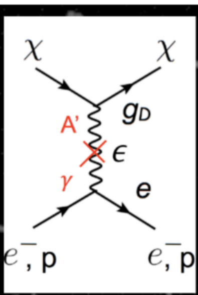
1907.12628
Phys. Rev. Lett. 123, 181802 (2019)

Results MeV-scale DM

MeV-scale DM recoils off electrons

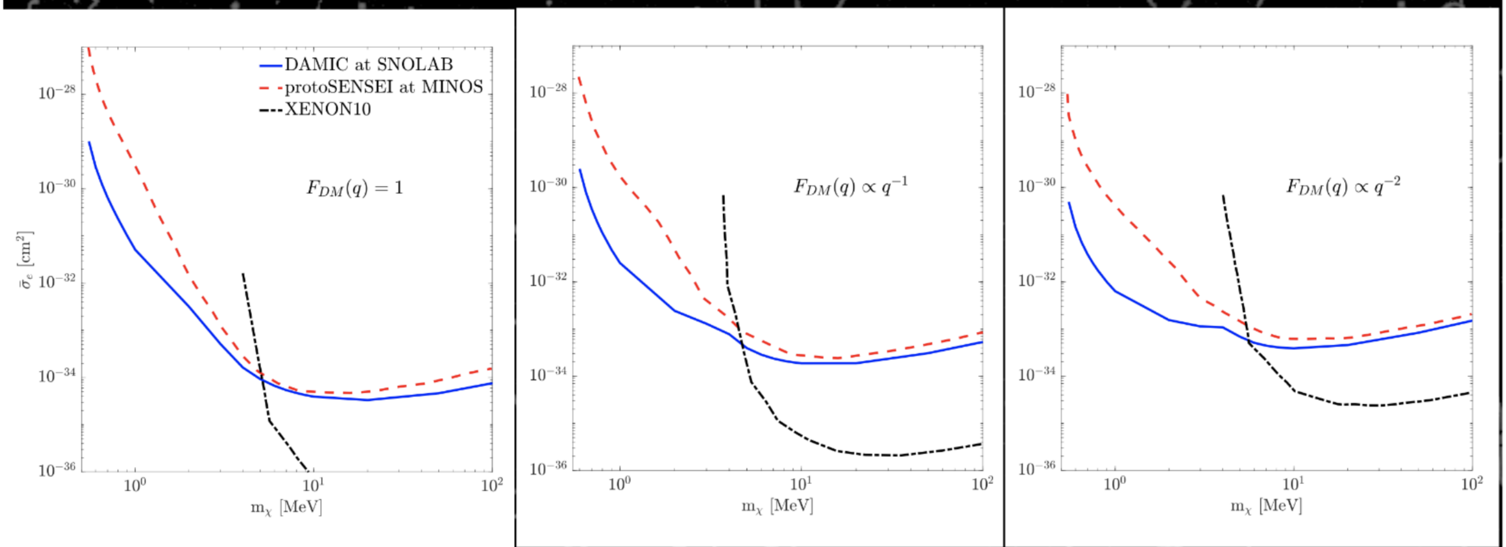






Results MeV-scale DM

- MeV-scale DM recoils off electrons

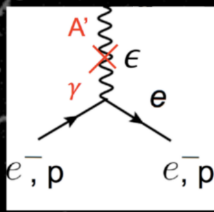


Results vary on dependence of q of the dark matter interaction form factor

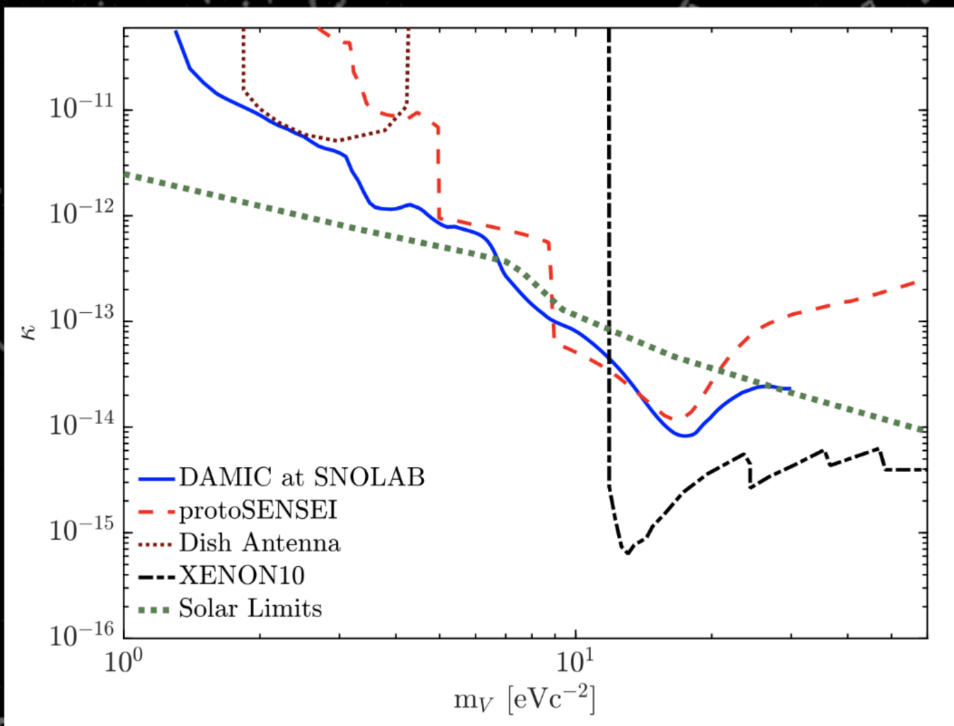
$$\frac{dR}{dE_e} \propto \bar{\sigma}_e \int \frac{dq}{q^2}\, \eta(m_\chi, q, E_e)|F_{DM}(q)|^2 |f_c(q, E_e)|^2$$

Results eV-scale DM

- Electrons absorb the eV-scale DM and are excited to conduction band



Y-axis is kinetic mixing parameter between γ and A'



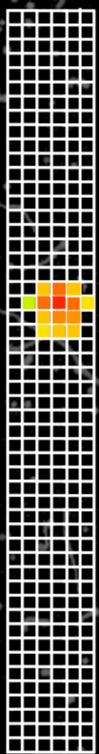
WIMP results

(Pretty) New !

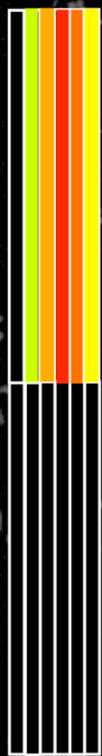
Pixel readout

σ_{noise} ~ 1.6 e- per readout

WIMP signal



100 pixels grouped before readout



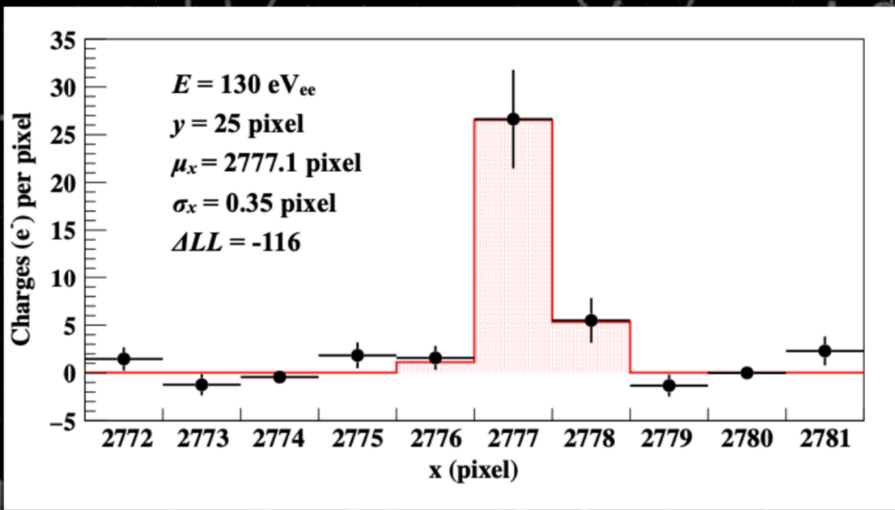
Tradeoff:

- Improved signal/noise
- Poor y-position resolution

Cluster finding

Log likelihood algorithm scans across CCD
→ Fits position, energy, RMS size of cluster

Example of cluster

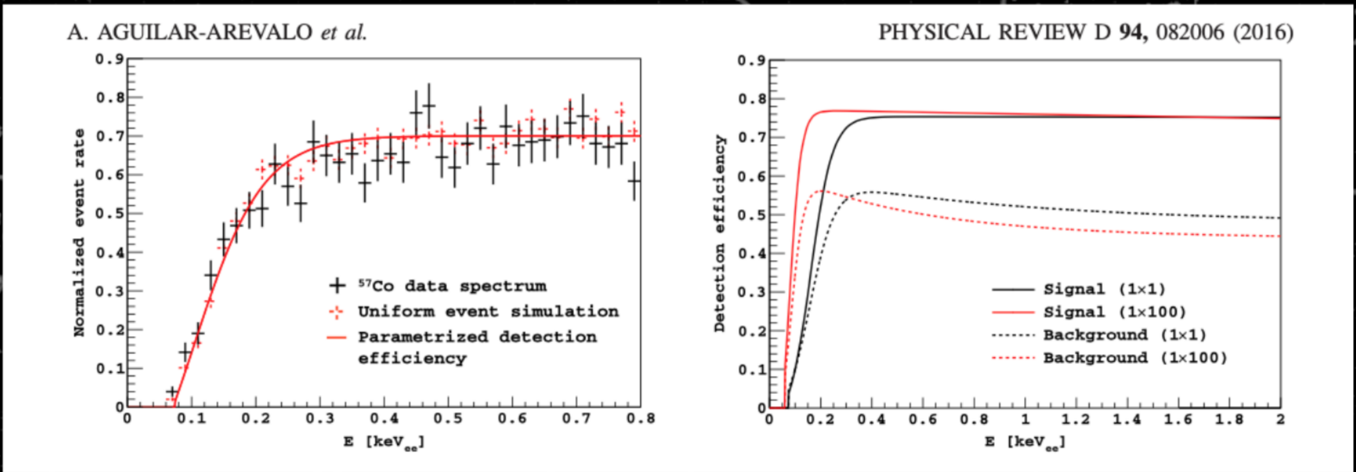


Size of cluster σ_x → Determines depth of interaction, z

$$\sigma_x^2 = -A \ln|1 - bz|$$

A, b : from cosmic ray tracks

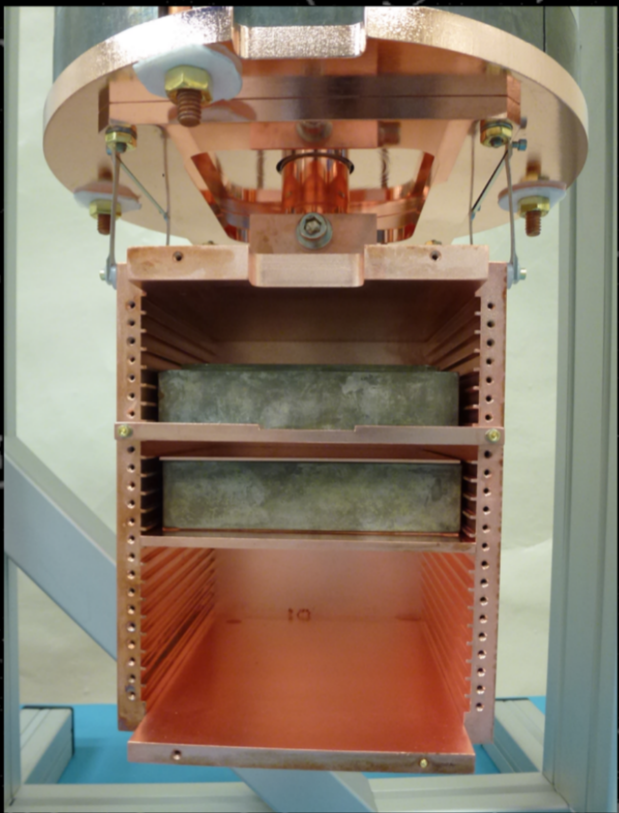
Efficiency

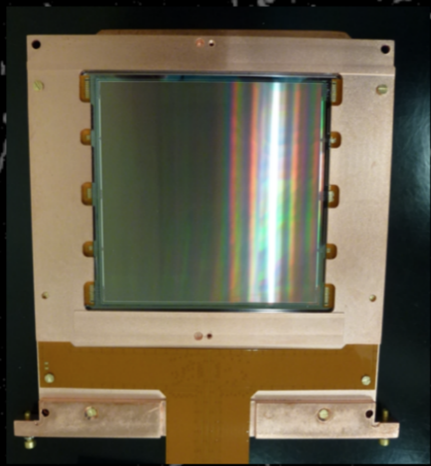


- Efficiency model validated with data
- Reading out 100 pixels improves detection efficiency (by reducing noise)

arXiv:1607.07410

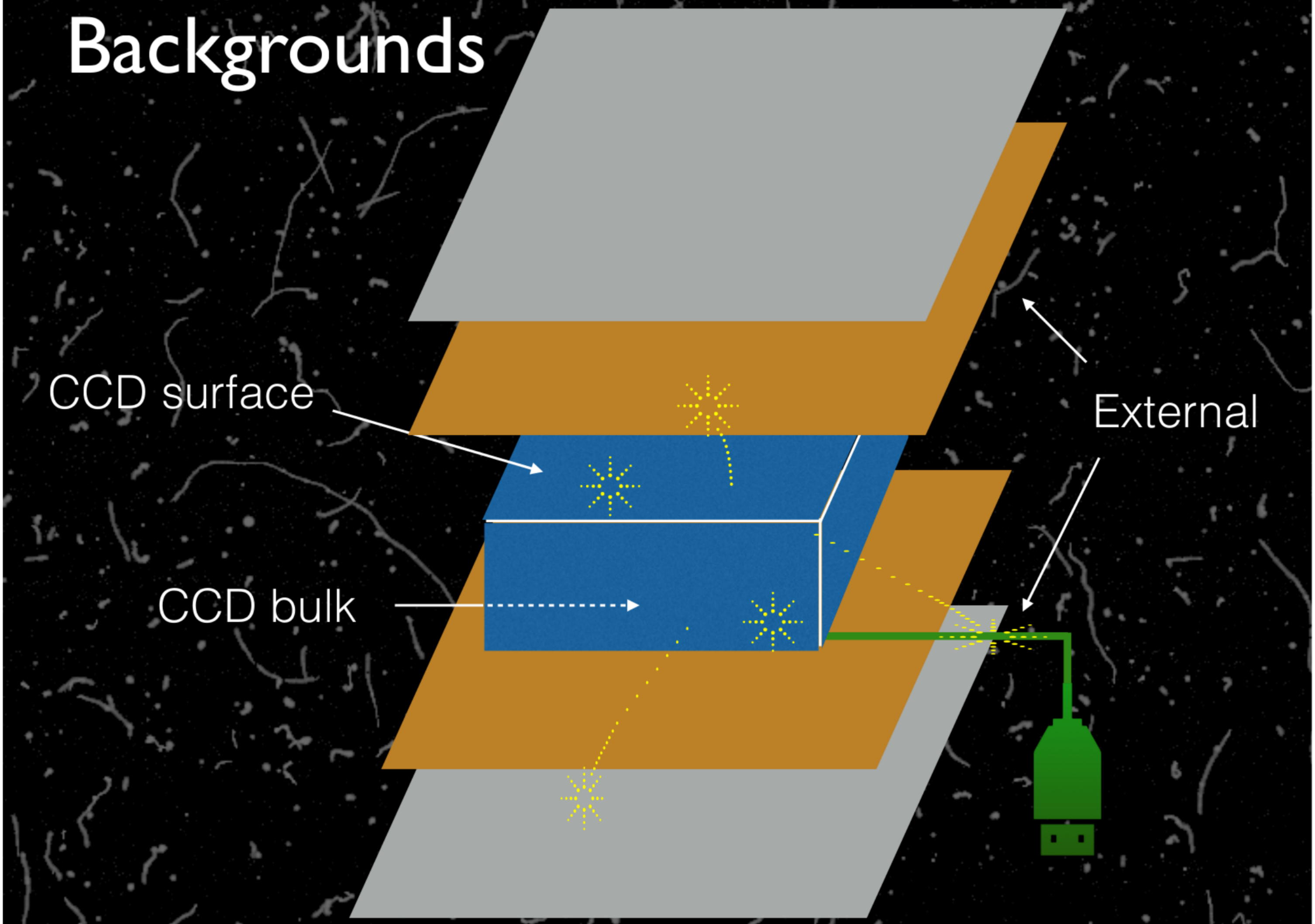
Backgrounds





- GEANT4 simulation of detector with 23 isotopes decaying
  - Most isotopes constrained by radioactive screening of materials
  - Some constrained using in situ measurements

Backgrounds



Backgrounds

Copper shielding, cables

Radon exposure to Silicon surfaces in processing

Cosmogenic activation after silicon ingot produced

Cosmogenic spallation of ^{40}Ar in air (intrinsic in surface-gathered silicon)

Dominant Backgrounds	Where ?	Events in CCD ($keV^{-1}kg^{-1}d^{-1}$)
^{60}Co, ^{210}Pb ^{238}U, ^{232}Th	External (Copper, cables)	**4.4 ± 0.5**
^{210}Pb	CCD Surface	**3.8 ± 0.4**
^{3}H & ^{22}Na	CCD Bulk	**2.9 ± 0.7**
^{32}Si & ^{32}P	CCD Bulk	**0.17 ± 0.03**
Noise	Electronics	**< 0.1**

All can be reduced !

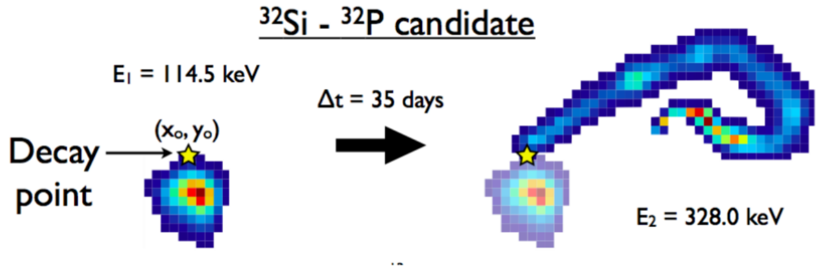
Reducing backgrounds for DAMIC-M

Dominant Backgrounds	**How to reduce**
^{60}Co, ^{210}Pb ^{238}U, ^{232}Th	Electro-forming copper underground
^{210}Pb	Cleaner CCD processing/ fabrication
^{3}H & ^{22}Na	Shielding silicon Underground storage & processing
^{32}Si & ^{32}P	**Silicon vertex tagging***

* Not what you expect !

Silicon vertex tagging in DAMIC

Intrinsic ^{32}Si rejected by tagging
$^{32}Si \rightarrow {}^{32}P \rightarrow {}^{32}S$ sequence ($\tau_{1/2}$ ~14 days)



- Search for sequences of βs starting in the same pixel of the CCD in different images

$$^{32}\mathrm{Si} = 80^{+110}_{-65}\,\mathrm{kg}^{-1}\,\mathrm{d}^{-1}\ (95\%\ \mathrm{CI})$$

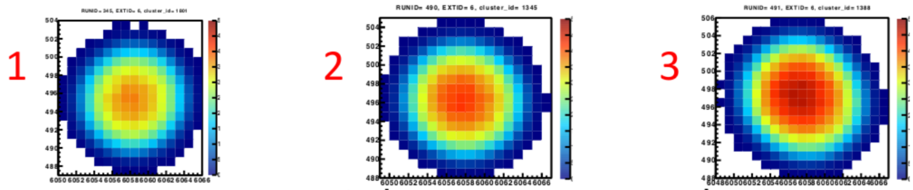
2015 *JINST* **10** P08014 1506.02562

- DAMIC unique spatial resolution and excellent duty cycle allows to reject this background (also other β-β sequences e.g. ^{210}Pb)
- New paper being reviewed with reduced uncertainties

CCDs have unique spatial resolution

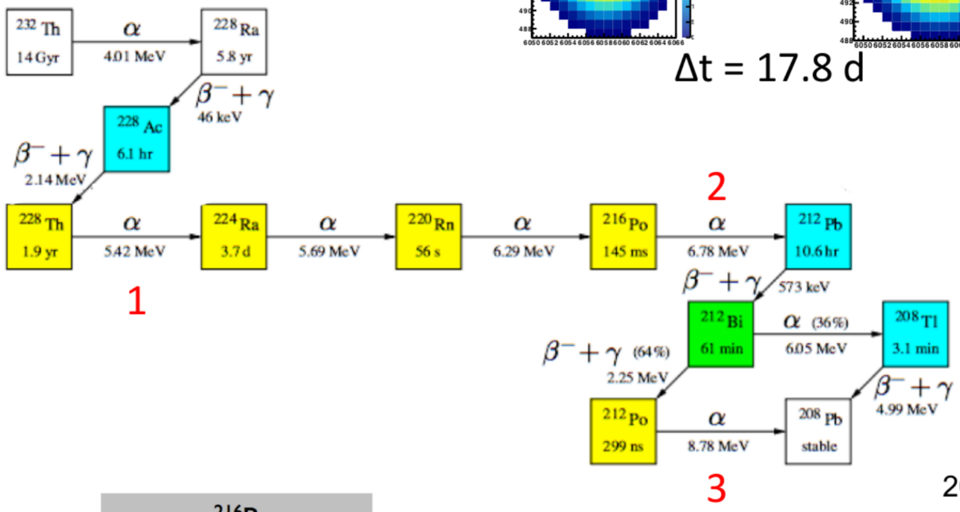
Three α at the same pixel location!

E = 5.4 MeV   E = 6.8 MeV   E = 8.8 MeV



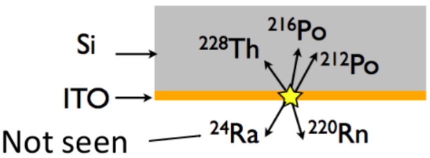
Δt = 17.8 d   Δt = 5.5 h

Corresponds to decay chain of Thorium



arXiv:1506.02562

2015 *JINST* **10** P08014

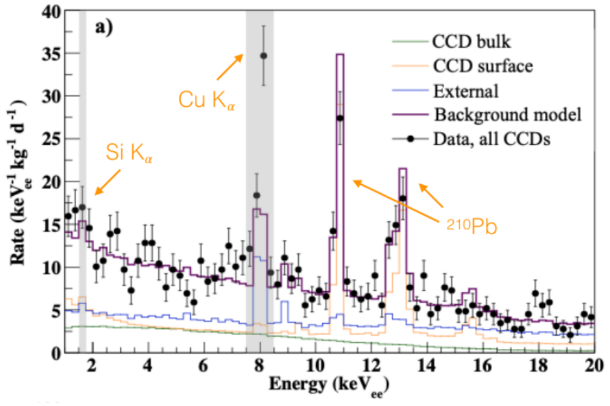


We set in situ limits on contamination:
^{238}U < 5 kg^{-1} d^{-1} = 4 ppt
^{232}Th < 15 kg^{-1} d^{-1} = 43 ppt

Simulation of backgrounds

Backgrounds grouped :

- External : detector materials
- In CCD bulk
- On CCD surfaces



Some energy regions excluded in fits due to poor modeling

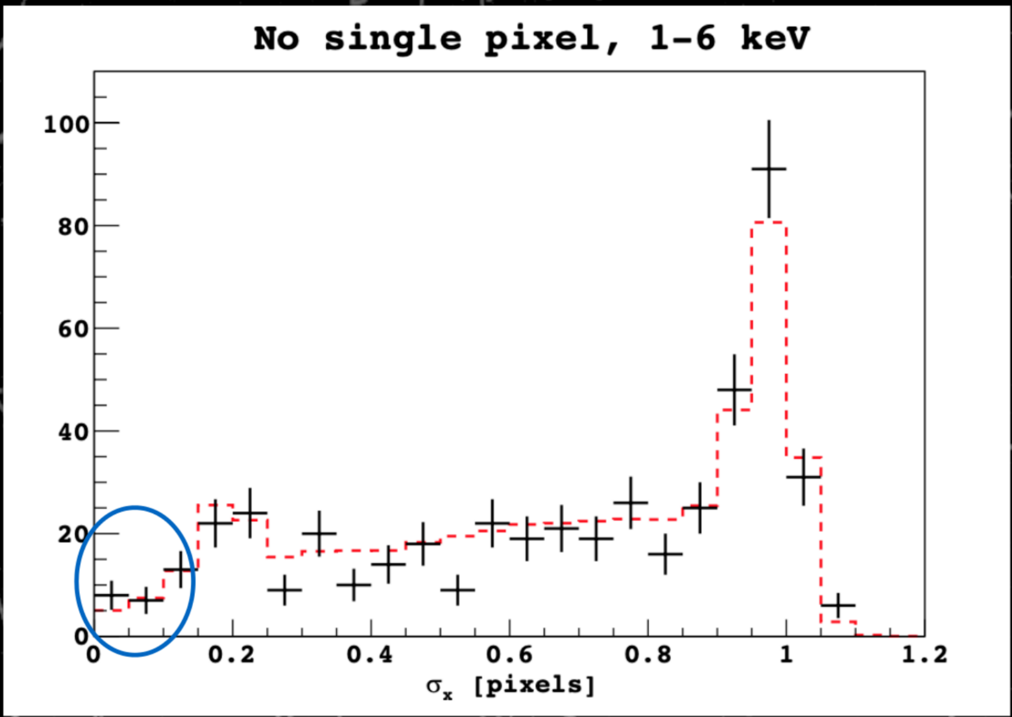
Model :

- GEANT simulation compared to data
- 2D model : energy vs. cluster size
  Cluster size constrains depth

A priori uses fast clustering algorithm - not perfect

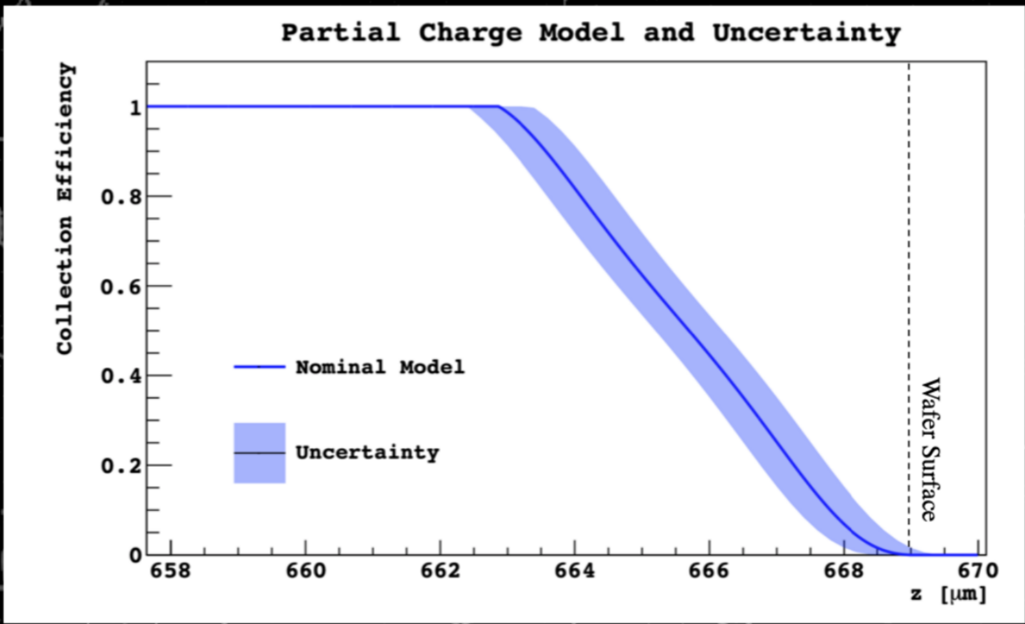
Using log-likelihood clustering

Clustering used in analysis

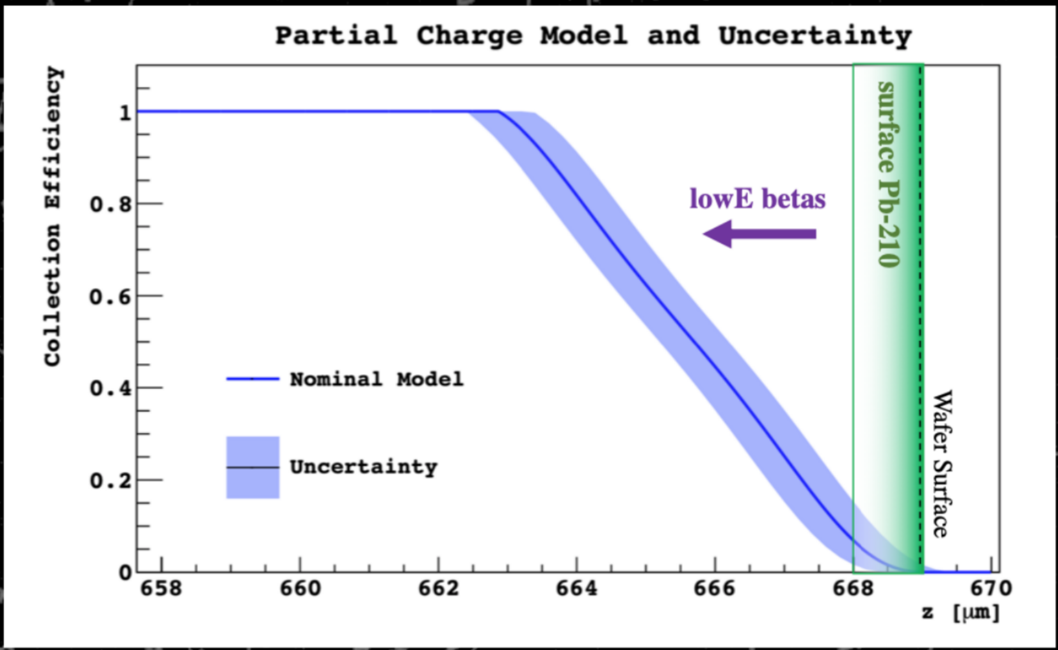


Good agreement at low σ_x

Partial charge collection region



Partial charge collection region

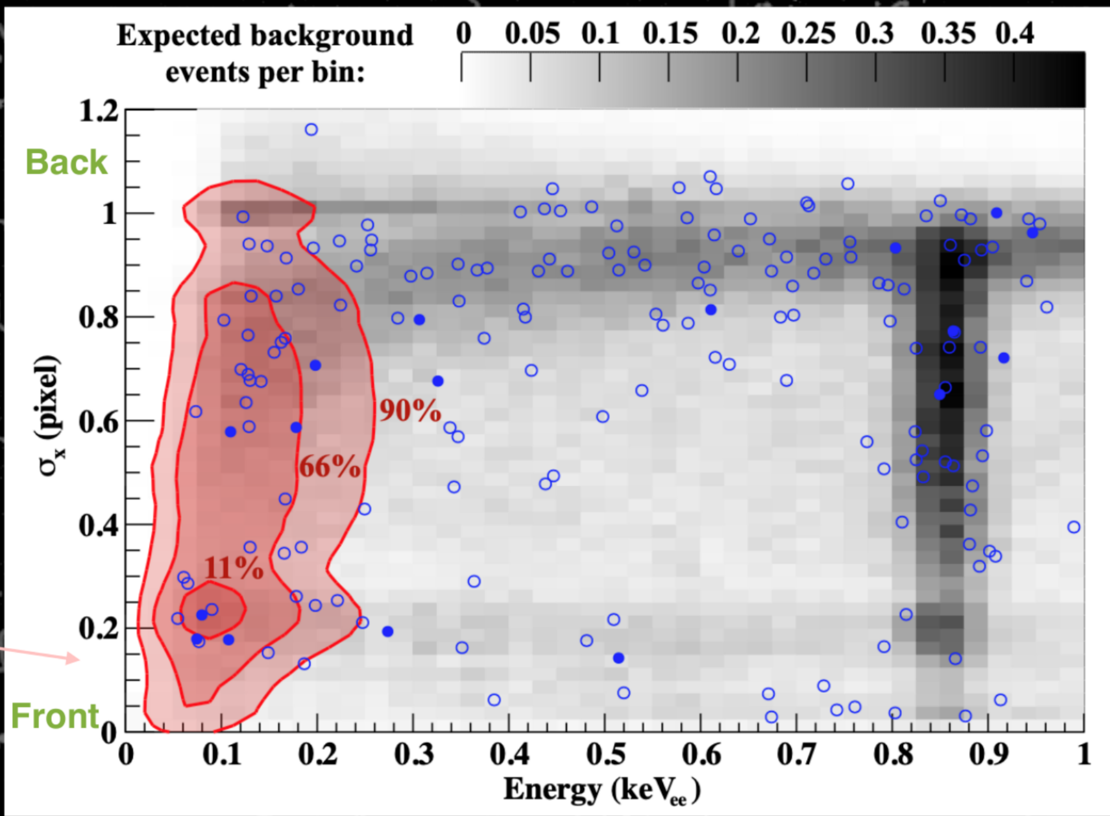


Results

Results of background + signal fit

Fit of cluster size vs. energy

3.4 σ excess

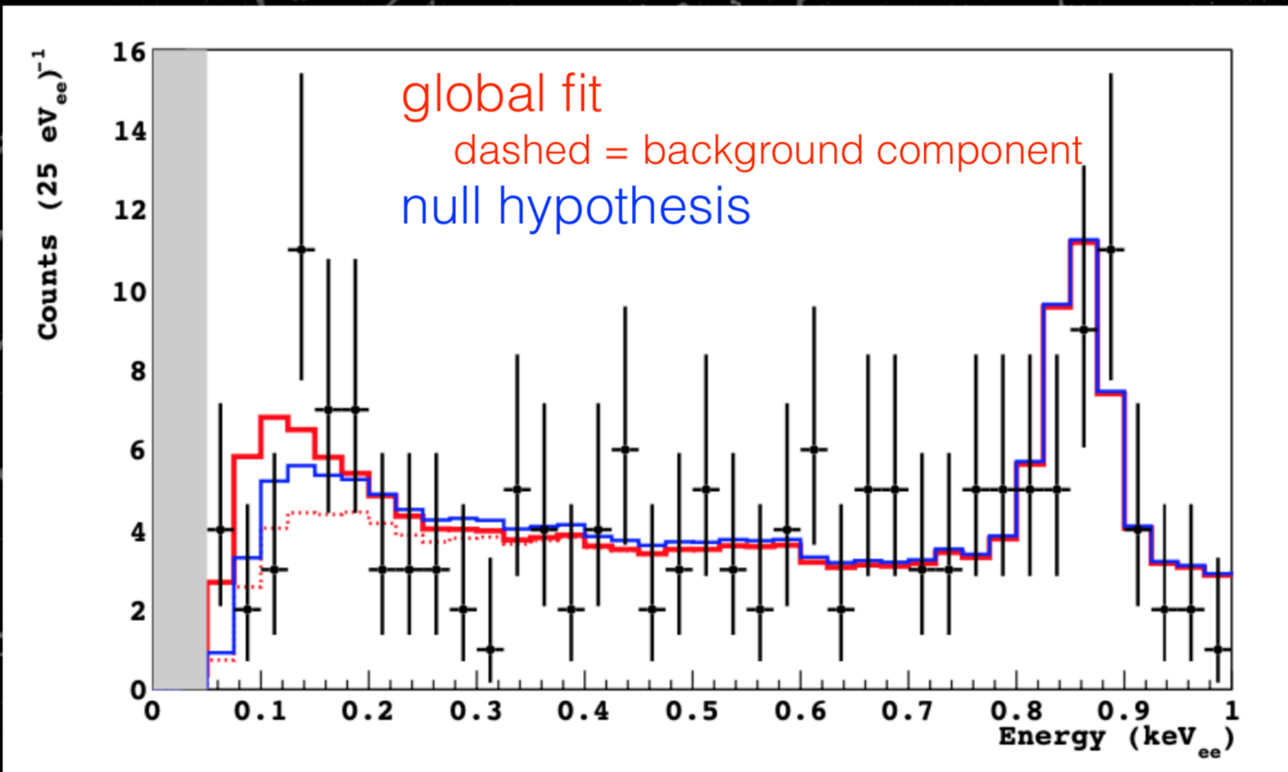


Possible explanations of excess

1. Energy threshold effect
2. Under-predicted background component
3. Unknown background component
4. Due to partial charge collection
5. An actual DM signal (WIMP or other)

Energy projection

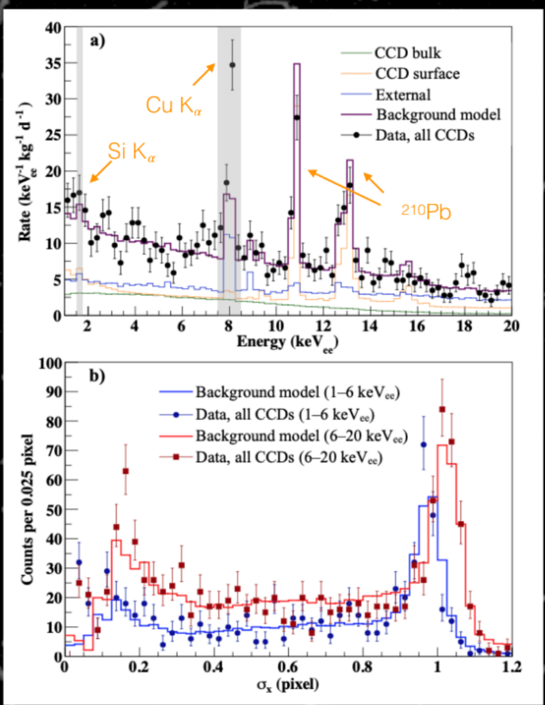
summed over all σ_x

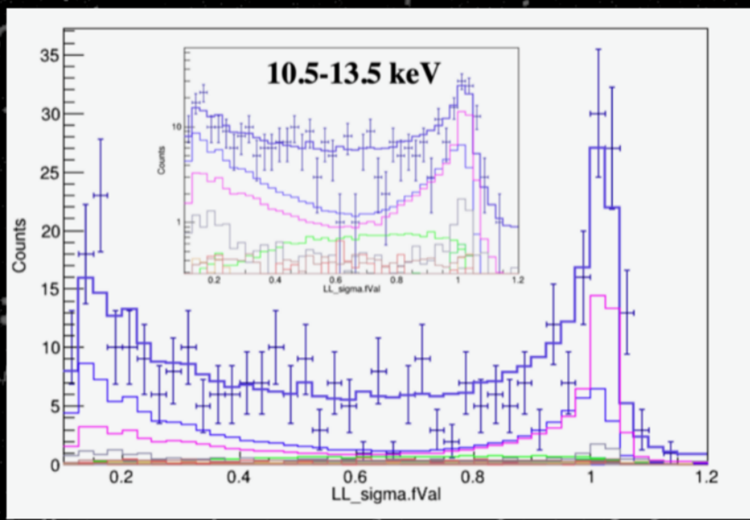


Does not appear to be energy-threshold effect

^{210}Pb peaks

- Modeling of ^{210}Pb on surfaces ?

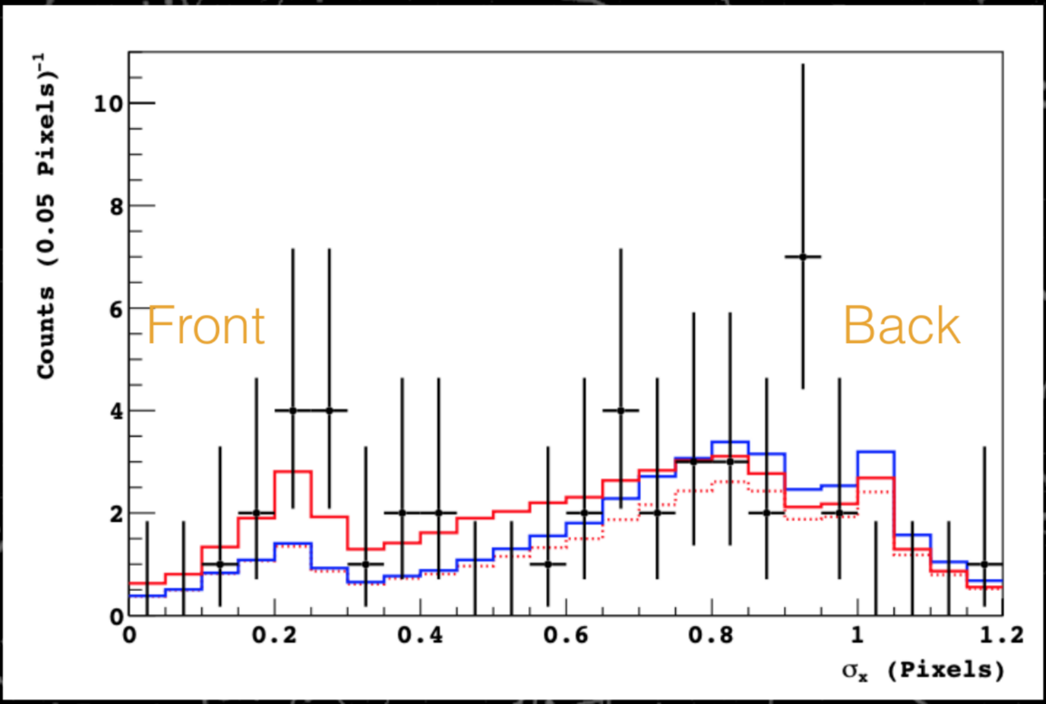




Appears well modeled

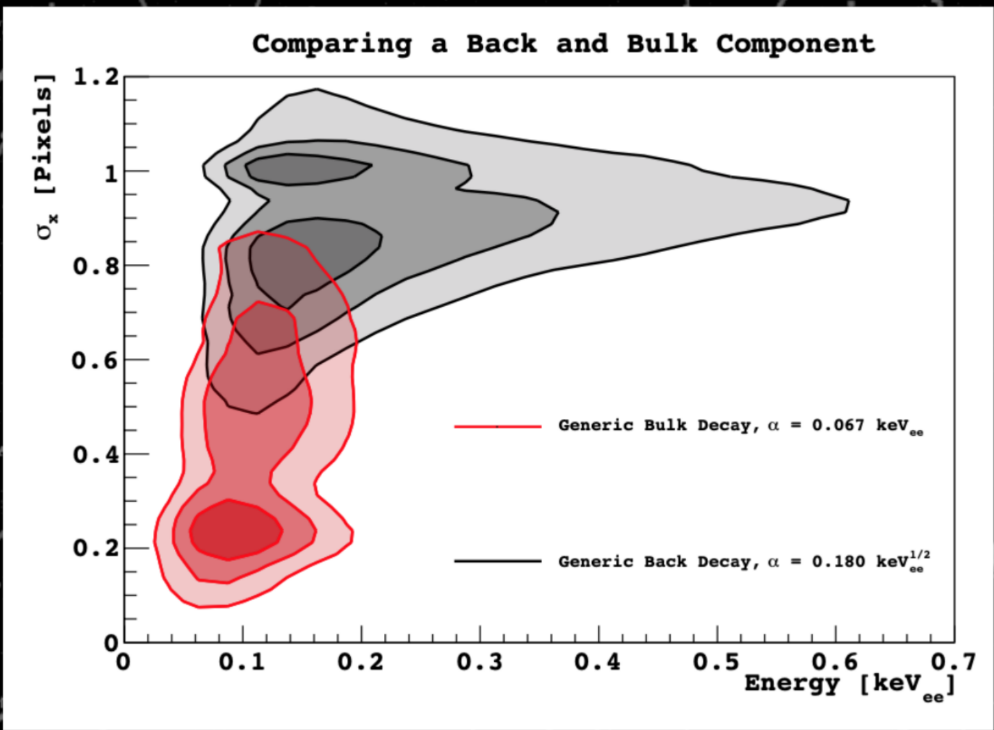
Cluster size projection

for 50 < E < 250 eV



Excess is spread out - not just one part of CCD

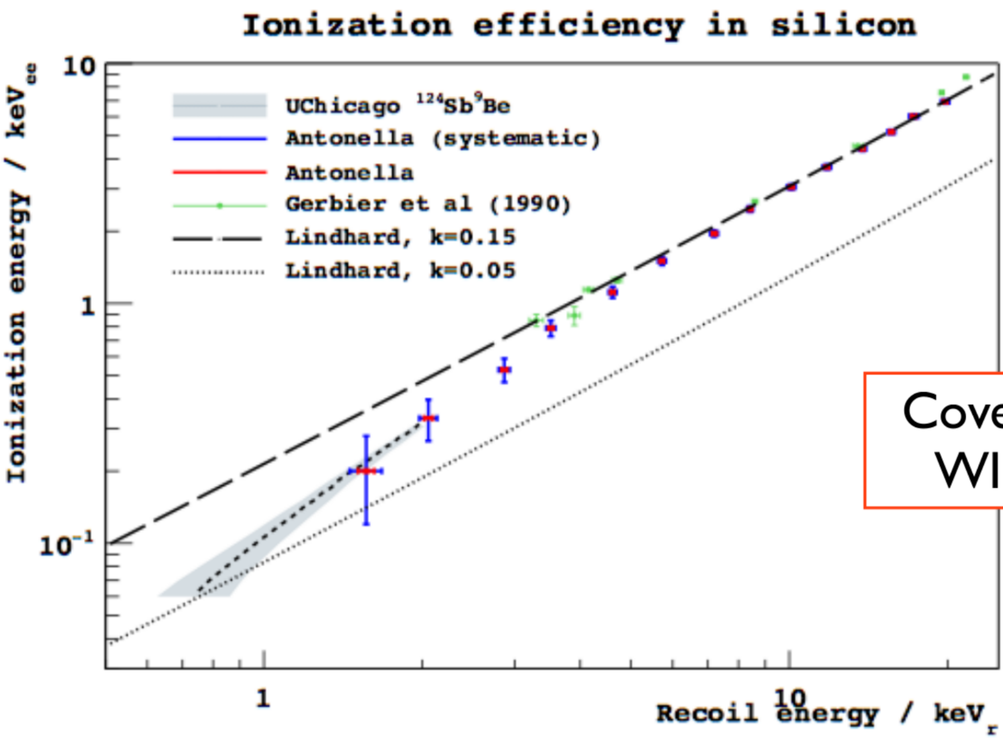
Problem with Partial Charge Collection (PCC) model?



Model of PCC on backside with systematic uncertainties

Cannot explain excess

Nuclear recoil calibrations



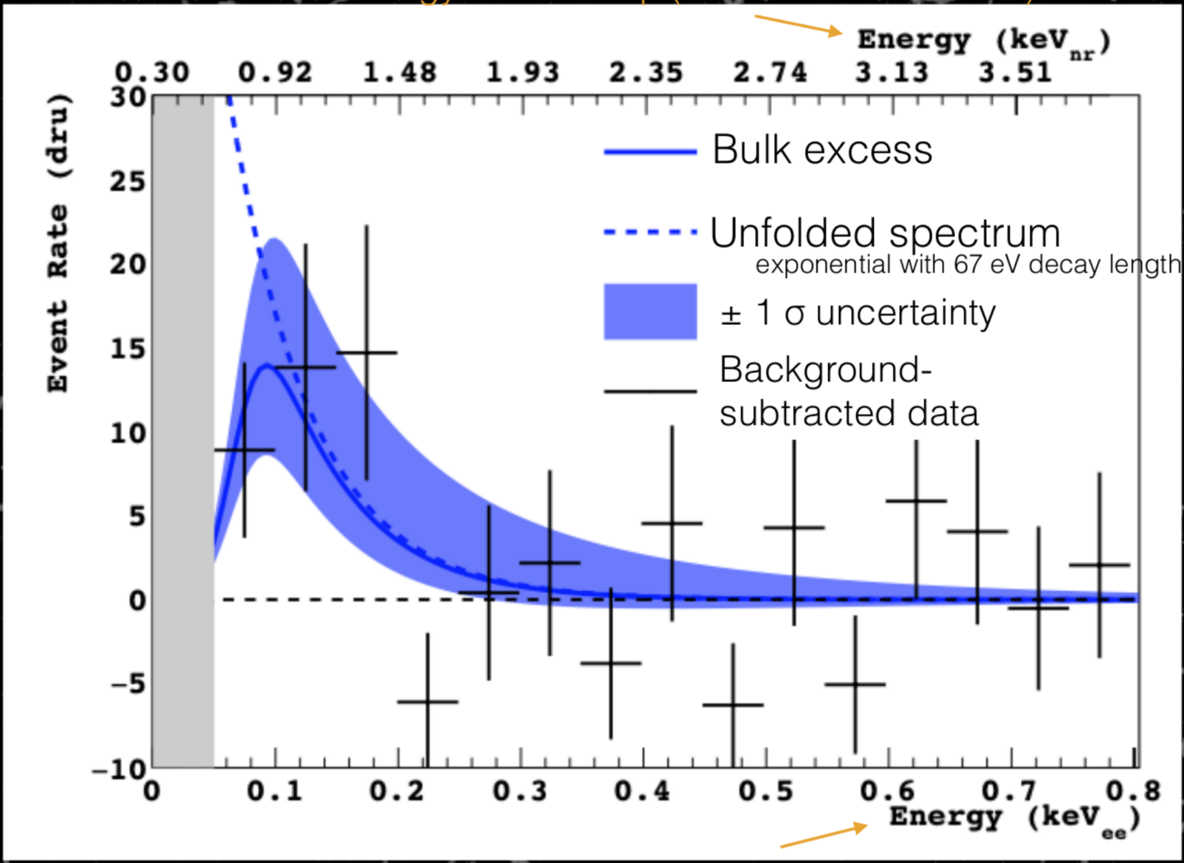
Antonella : 1702.00873
U.Chicago : 1608.00957

Cover entire DAMIC WIMP search ROI

- **Two independent experiments using different techniques**
- **Greatly improved statistical uncertainties at low energies**
- **Both find departure from Lindhard calculation**
  - **Ionization energy yield lower than expected**

Signal excess energy distribution

Nuclear recoil energy scale on top (calibrated to neutrons)

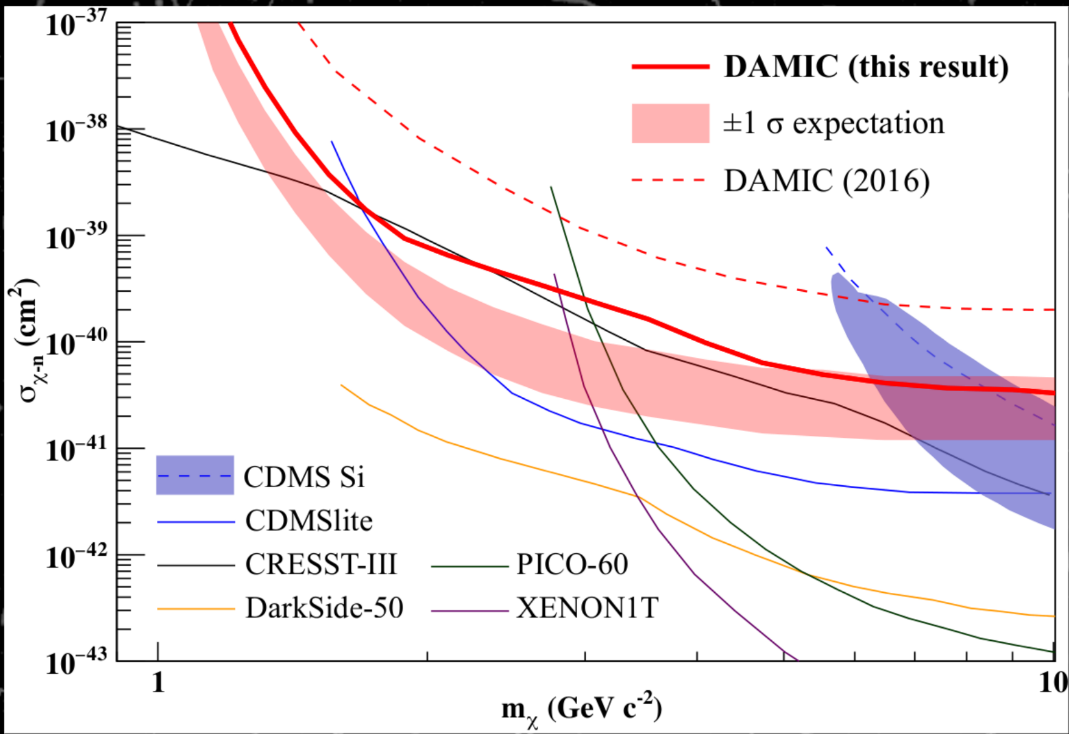


Ionization energy scale (calibrated to X-rays)

Possible explanations of excess

1. Energy threshold effect
2. Under-predicted background component
3. Due to partial charge collection
4. Unknown background component
5. An actual DM signal (WIMP or other)

DAMIC 2020 limits



Observed limit is, of course, worse than expected

The next generation : DAMIC-M

- DAMIC-M
  - Factor of 10 improvement in energy threshold and resolution
  - 500 grams (10 times bigger)
  - Redesigned to achieve 50 times reduction in background 5 dru → 0.1 dru
    - Mitigation techniques mentioned previously
  - Moving from SNOLAB to Modane (LSM) in France - 2 hours from Geneva
  - Approved, funded, prototyping underway

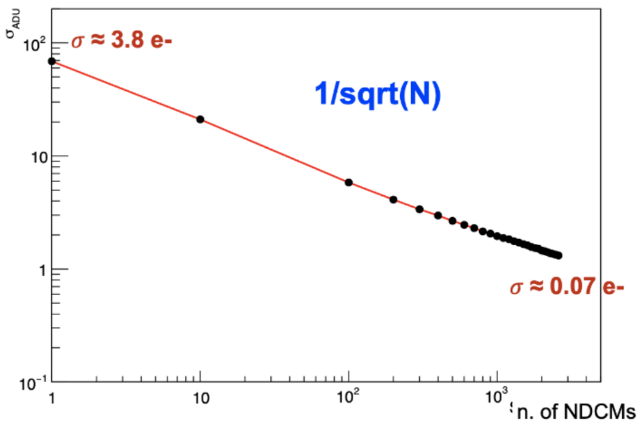
- Sensitive to nuclear recoils, electron recoils, γ absorption from A'

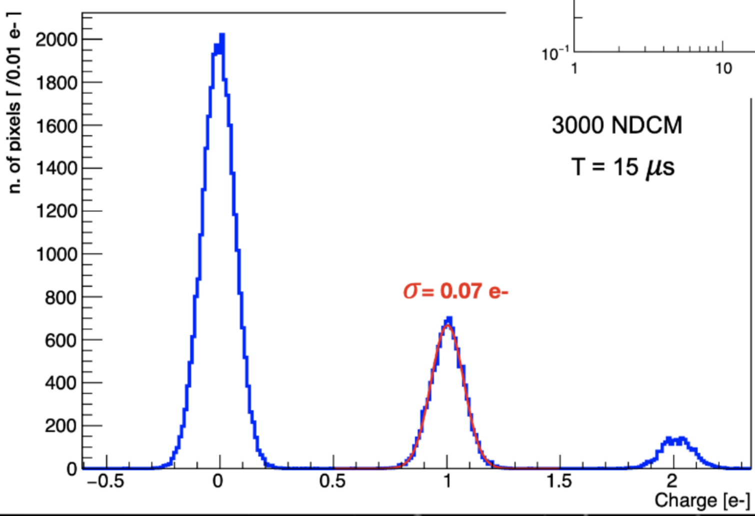
Achieving a factor of 10 reduction in noise threshold

Goal is to achieve an energy threshold for detecting DM signals as low as ~1 eV

Achieved energy resolution : 0.07 e- !

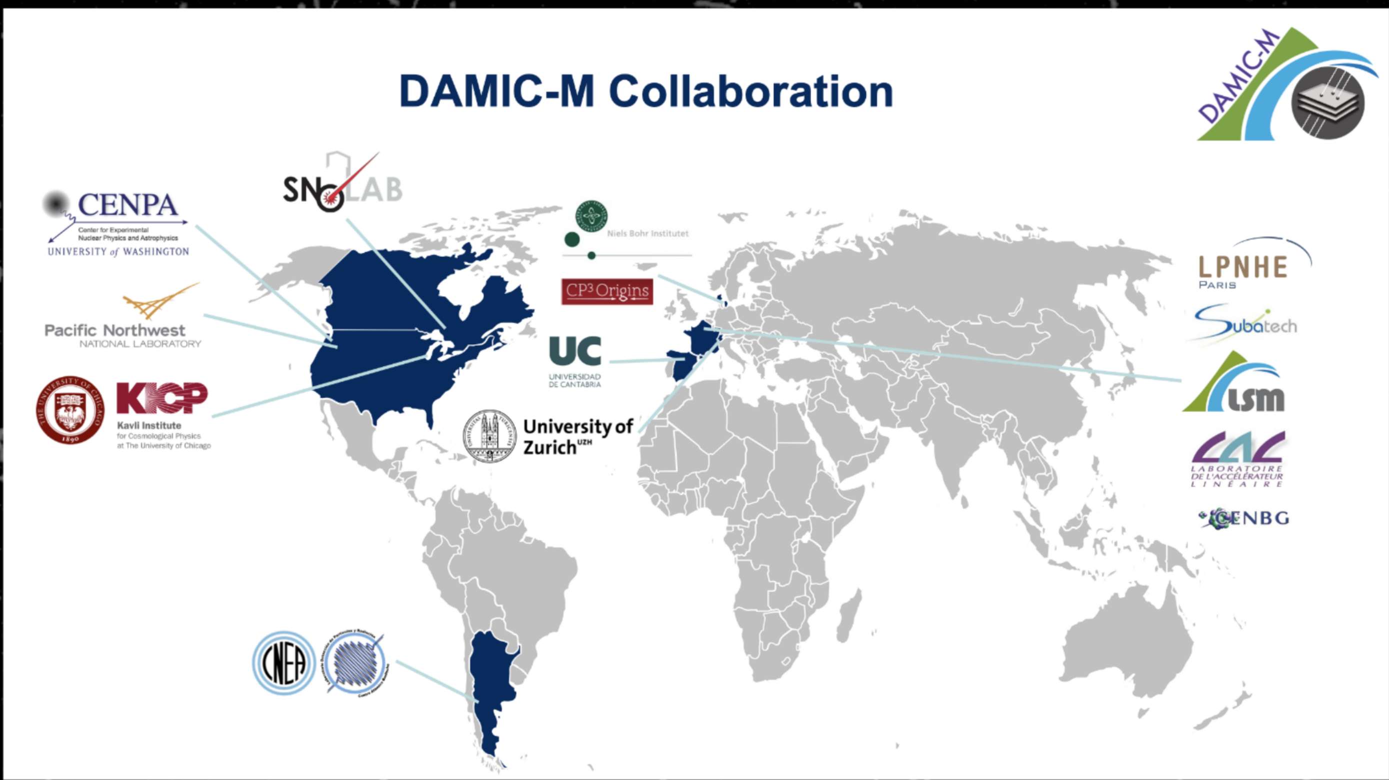
- Reduce noise by √N by repeatedly reading out pixels (skipper CCD)





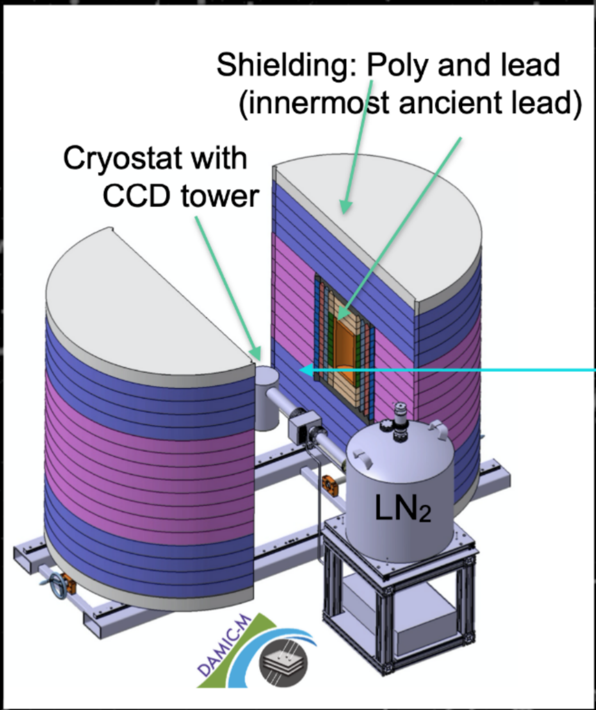
Skipper CCD allows identification of single electrons of produced ionization!

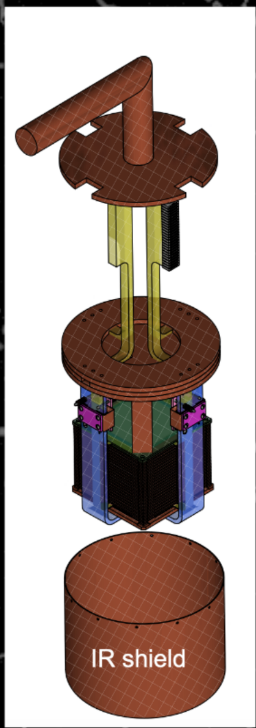
DAMIC-M Collaboration



DAMIC-M

- R&D and prototyping ongoing

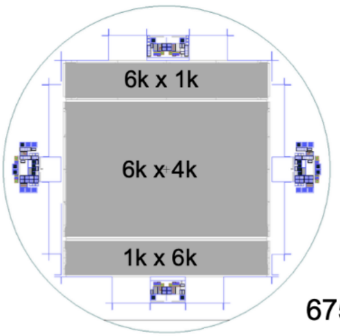




Electro-formed copper at PNNL

DAMIC-M CCDs

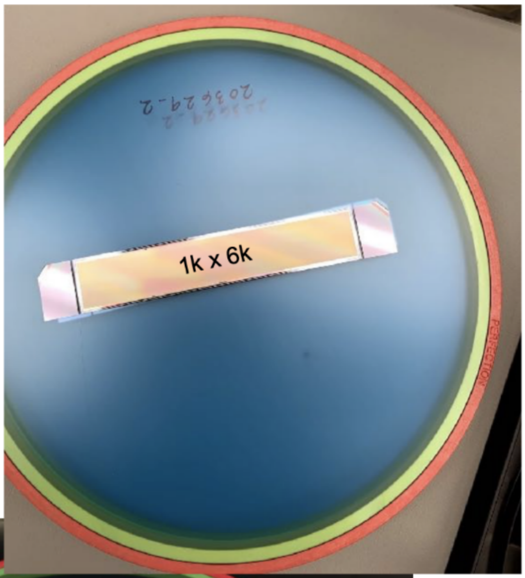
design by S. Holland (LBNL), fabricated by Teledyne/DALSA



DAMIC-M prototype skipper CCDs

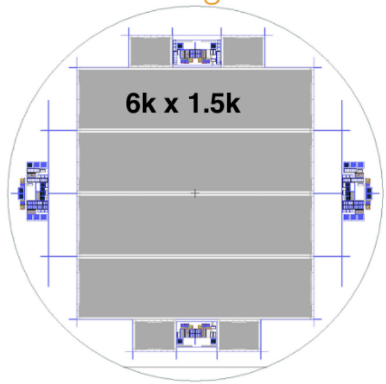
Three CCDs per wafer to test different skipper readout amplifier design.

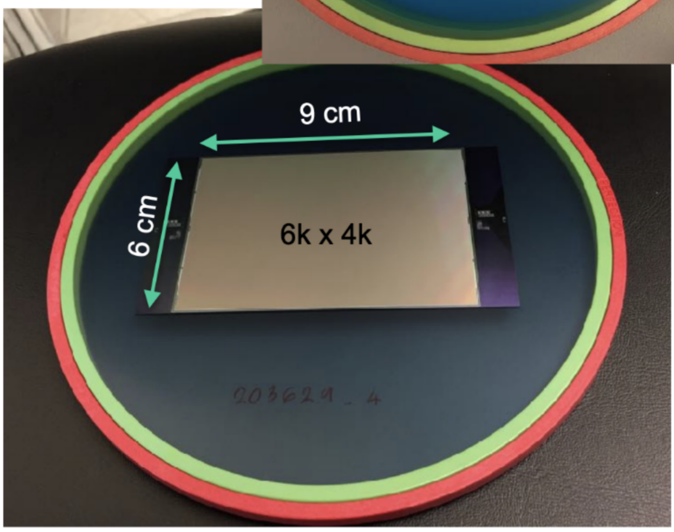
675 μm thick



DAMIC-M production skipper CCD design

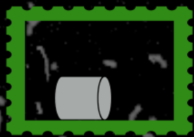
Yield better dividing CCD in 4





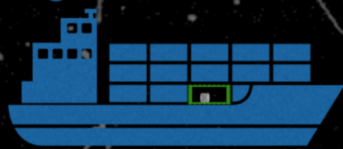
Recent progress with DAMIC-M CCDs

1) Silicon crystal produced (Denmark)

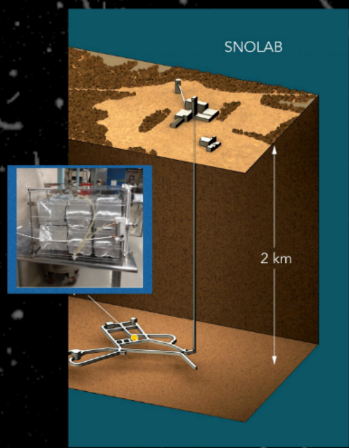


2) Wafers cut (U.K.)

3) Wafers shipped across ocean



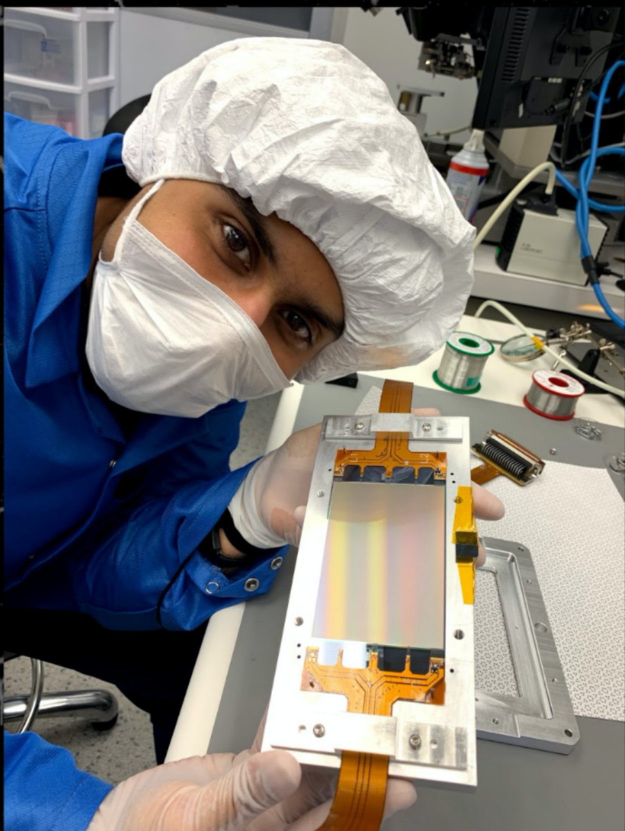
4) Wafers stored (Canada)



Total equivalent surface exposure 14.3 days !
Cosmogenic activation minimized !

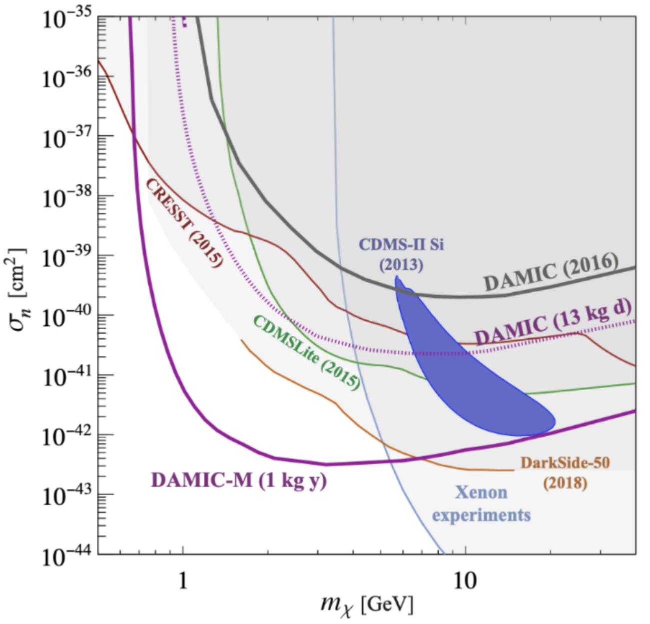
CCD packaging

Progress packaging different size CCDs

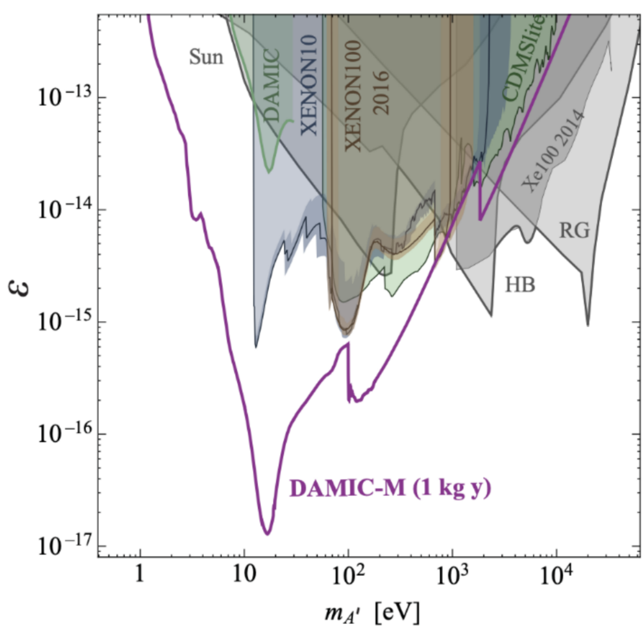


DAMIC-M reach

WIMP nuclear recoil search



Hidden photon search



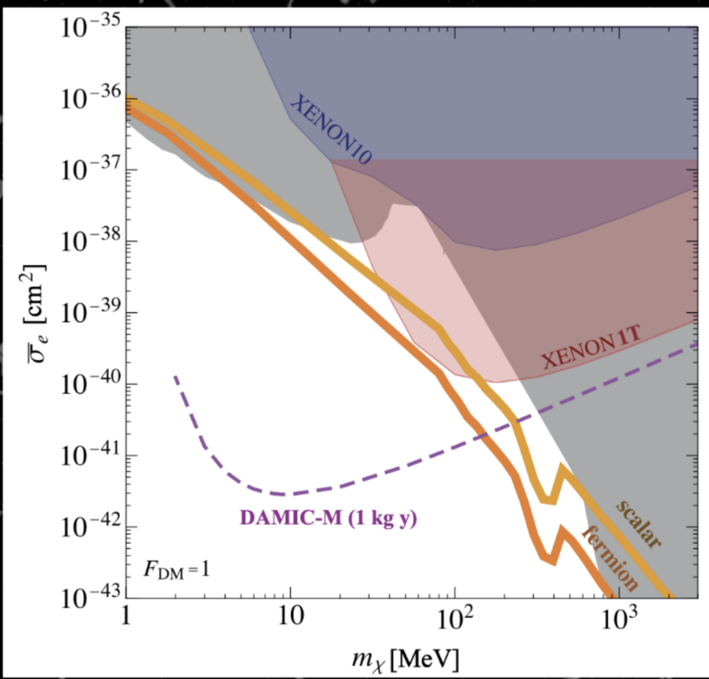
DAMIC-M reach for nuclear recoils of WIMP

As a function of kinetic mixing parameter (A' with γ) assuming A' constitutes all dark matter

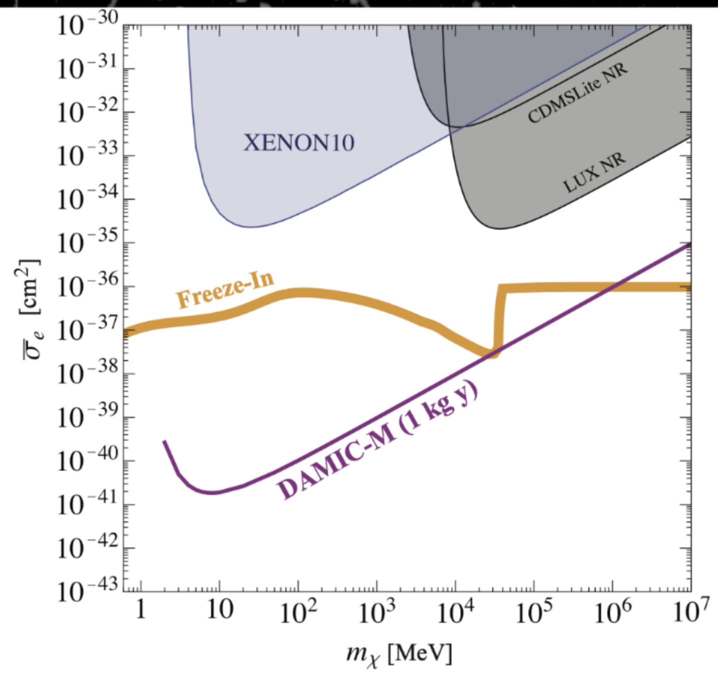
DAMIC-M reach

DM-electron cross-sections

(heavy mediator >> keV)



(light mediator << keV)

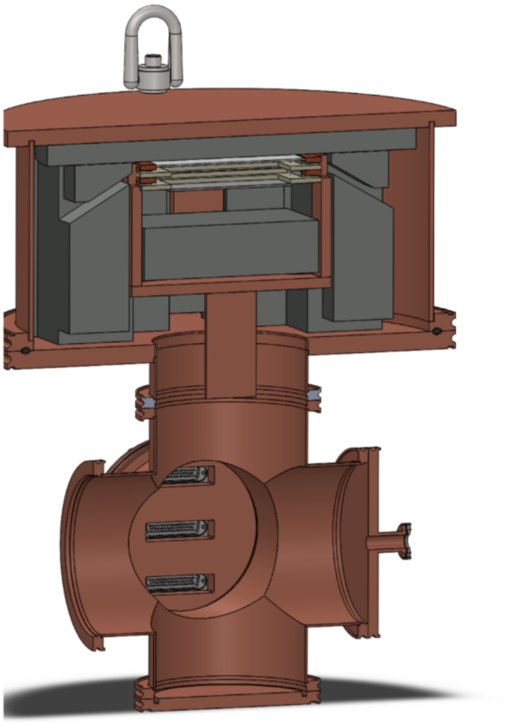


Weakly-coupled χ does not reach thermal equilibrium, and "freezes in"

Orange are theoretical predictions

Now: First phase of DAMIC-M

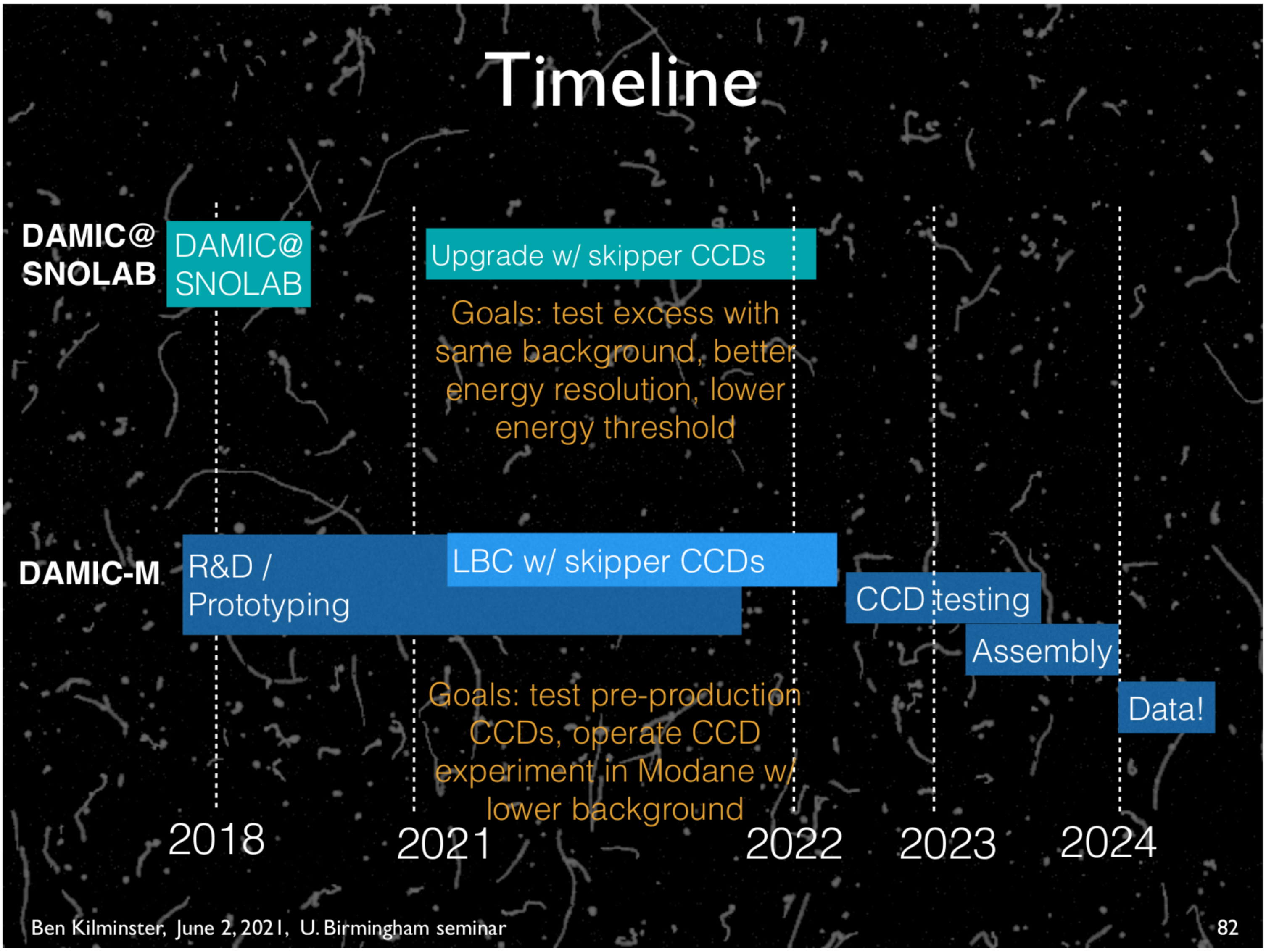
Low Background Chamber



- A low-background chamber (background level ≈ dru) is in preparation
- Main objectives:
  - characterization of DAMIC-M CCDs in low-bkg environment: dark current; ^{32}Si rate; ^{210}Pb surface bkg; CCD packaging
  - first science results with a few CCDs
- **Installation in 2021**

What's coming soon ? 2021-2022

- DAMIC@SNOLAB
  - Upgrading to use skipper CCDs and probe excess
  - Expect to observe 15 events of excess with 6 months of data taking
- LBC
  - First stage of DAMIC-M
  - 5X lower background
  - Test of pre-production skipper CCDs


Timeline
DAMIC@ SNOLAB
DAMIC@ SNOLAB
Upgrade w/ skipper CCDs
Goals: test excess with same background, better energy resolution, lower energy threshold
DAMIC-M
R&D / Prototyping
LBC w/ skipper CCDs
CCD testing
Assembly
Data!
Goals: test pre-production CCDs, operate CCD experiment in Modane w/ lower background
2018
2021
2022
2023
2024
Ben Kilminster, June 2, 2021, U. Birmingham seminar
82

DAMIC experiment generations

- 2010-2011 : DAMIC first run at Fermilab
  - 4 grams of detector mass
  - 2e- noise → Energy threshold 35 eV
  - Best DM limits for WIMPs below 4 GeV
- 2015- now : DAMIC @ SNOLAB
  - 40 grams
  - Background 5 events / keV / kg / day
  - Hidden photon DM search
    - 2017 : First eV-scale results
    - 2019 : Result reported today
  - WIMP search
    - 2016 : First result
    - 2020 : New result today
- 2023 : DAMIC @ Modane (LSM)
  - 500 grams
  - 0.2e- noise → Energy threshold 3 eV
  - Background 0.1 events / keV / kg / day
  - Test of prototype CCDs in 2021 (LBC)

Summary

- DAMIC@SNOLAB results
  - Pioneered direct-detection searches of hidden photon DM
  - New WIMP search has 3.4σ excess, still sets strong limits
- DAMIC-M is a new experiment at Modane (LSM)
  - 2 hours from CERN !
  - Will be sensitive to low-mass WIMPs (~1 GeV)
  - Sensitive to predicted cross-sections for several hidden photon DM candidates over 10 orders of magnitude in mass
  - Status
    - 2019-2021 : R&D & prototyping
    - 2021 : Low-background chamber (LBC)
    - 2022 : construction
    - end 2023 : Ready for data taking
- Future looks bright - or perhaps if we're lucky - dark !