ELEMENTARY PARTICLE PHYSICS Current Topics in Particle Physics Laurea Magistrale in Fisica, curriculum Fisica Nucleare e Subnucleare Lecture 11

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December 10, 2017

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Specific bibliography is given in each lecture

Lecture Contents - 1 part

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- 3. Hard interactions of quarks and gluons: Introduction to LHC Physics
- 4. Collider phenomenolgy
- 5. The machine LHC
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- 9. Top Physics: quark top mass, single top production
- 10. Dark matter
 - Indirect searches
 - Direct searches

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Dark matter. Direct Detection

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Our dark halo

The Sun is moving through the Milky Way's dark matter halo. So we expect a "WIMP wind" coming towards us on the Earth!

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Direct detection of WIMPs

Billions of WIMPs may be passing through the Earth each second, but they very rarely interact.



Figure : Schematic

Direct detection experiments operate underground and search for WIMPs via their scattering with atomic nuclei in the detector.

- WIMP velocity $\sim 10^{-3}$ c \Rightarrow non-realtivistic
- Expected recoil energies $\sim 10 \text{ keV}$
- Expected < 1event/kg/year





WIMP-nuceus interaction

• WIMP-nucleus elastic collision



M : mass of nucleus

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WIMP-nucleus interaction

• Energy-momentum conservation



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$$\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}mv'^2 + \frac{q^2}{2M}$$
$$mv'\cos\theta' = mv - q\cos\theta$$
$$mv'\sin\theta' = q\sin\theta$$

 \bullet Eliminate θ' and v'

$$q = 2\mu v \cos \theta \qquad \mu = \frac{mM}{m + M} \text{Reduced mass}$$
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WIMP-nuceus interaction

$$q = 2\mu v \cos \theta$$

• Magnitude of recoil momentum varies in the range:

$$0 \leq q \leq q_{\max} \equiv 2\mu v$$
 $E_{\max} \equiv \frac{2\mu^2 v^2}{M}$

• Minimum WIMP speed required to produce a recoil energy E:

$$v_m = \frac{q}{2\mu} = \sqrt{\frac{ME}{2\mu^2}}$$

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The expected event rate

• The strongly simplified expected event rate :

 $R \propto N\Phi_\chi\sigma$

- $\bullet~N=$ number of target nuclei in the detector,
- $\Phi_{\chi} =$ flux of WIMPs,
- $\sigma = \text{WIMP-nucleus cross section}$

 $\Phi_{\chi} = n < v >$

• n : WIMP number density $n = \frac{\rho}{m}$, ρ local DM mass density • < v>:average WIMP velocity with respect to the detector

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• Let's estimate the expected flux of WIMPs on Earth assuming:

$$\rho = 0.3 \ GeV/cm^3, < v > = 220 \ km/s, \ m = 100 \ GeV$$

$$\Phi_{\chi} = \frac{\rho}{m} \times \langle v \rangle = 6.6 \cdot 10^4 cm^{-2} s^{-1}$$

• The **flux is large enough** that even though WIMPs are weakly interacting, we would have a small but blue **potentially measurable rate** in direct detection experiments.

The expected event rate

• Strongly semplified **event rate per unit detector mass**, assuming¹ :

$$\sigma = 10^{-38} cm^2, M = 100 GeV$$

 $R = \frac{N}{NM} \Phi_{\chi} \sigma \sim 0.12 \text{ events/kg/yr}$

- M = number of nuclei in the detector
- NM = detector mass
- More realistic and proper calculation of the event rate are necessary.

¹1 $kg = 15.6 \cdot 10^{26}$ GeV, Xenon atom weight $2.1810 \cdot 10^{-22}g$. $\langle \Box \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \langle \Box \rangle \langle \Xi \rangle \rangle$ S. Gentile (Sapienza) ELEMENTARY PARTICLE PHYSIC December 10, 2017 16 / 48

- To find the differential event rate, we need the following ingredients:
 - WIMP-nucleus scattering cross section which describes the interaction of a WIMP with the nucleus. (particle physics input)
 - Local DM density and velocity distribution in the detector reference frame (astrophysics input).

• The differential event rate per unit detector mass is determined from differential cross section²

$\frac{d\sigma}{dE}$

- Multiply the number N of the nuclei in the detector. Divide by the detector mass MN.
- Multiply the flux of WIMPs with velcity \vec{v} in the velocity space elment d^3v :

$$nvf(\vec{v})d^3v, \qquad n = \frac{\rho}{m}$$

• $f(\vec{v})$ WIMP velocity distribution in the detector reference frame.

The differential event rate per unit detector mass 3 :

$$\frac{dR}{dE} \; = \; \frac{\rho}{m} \frac{1}{M} \int_{v > v_m} d^3 v \frac{d\sigma}{dE} v f(\vec{v})$$

Recap: Many **unknowns** enter in event rate:

- R, expected event rate
- E, recoil energy of detector nucleus
- $\frac{\rho}{m}$ DM number (ρ =DM density, m = DM mass)
- $\bullet~v$, DM speed
- v_m , minimum DM speed required to produce a recoil energy E
- $f(\vec{v})$, DM velocity distribution in the detector reference frame.
- σ , DM-nucleus scattering cross section

³The divided by M

Particle physics input: cross section

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The WIMP-nucleus differential cross section encodes how DM interacts with ordinary matter:

- WIMP-quark interaction:strongly depends on the DM model, and is calculated in terms of an effective Lagrangian which describes the interaction of the WIMP candidate with quarks and gluons.
- WIMP-nucleon cross section:calculated using hadronic matrix elements which describe the nucleon content in quarks and gluons \implies subject to large uncertainties.
- Total WIMP-nucleus cross section: calculated by adding the spin and scalar components of nucleons.

- The standard theoretical framework assumed for **direct detection experiments** is inspired by models of **supersymmetric DM**.
- It assumes interactions mediated by heavy particles (i.e. *contact interactions*), and includes only the **leading-order interactions** in the non-relativistic limit.

• Differential **WIMP-nucleus scattering cross section** for standard contact interactions:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE} = \frac{\sigma_0}{E_{\text{max}}} F^2(E) = \frac{M}{2\mu^2 v^2} \sigma_0 F^2(E)$$

- σ_0 : total scattering section with point-like nucleus.
- $F^2(E)$: nuclear form factor (normalized to 1); takes into account the finite size of the nucleus and encode the dependence e on momentum transfer ($q = \sqrt{2ME}$).

• When momentum transfer is small, the DM doesn't probe the size of the nucleus and coherently scatters off the entire nucleus:

$$F^2(E) \to 1$$

• As momentum transfer increases, the DM becomes sensitive to the spatial structure of the nucleus:

$$F^2(E) < 1$$

• The effect is strong for heavy target nuclei. \implies Event rate suppression.

Two relevant contributions to the cross section:

- Spin-independent (SI): coherent interaction of the WIMP with all nucleons; no dependence on nuclear spin.
- **Spin-dependent (SD)**: the WIMP interacts with the spin of the nucleus.

Considering both spin-independent and spin-dependent WIMP-nucleus interactions in the non-relativistic limit:

$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE} = \frac{M}{2\mu^2 v^2} \big[\sigma_0^{SI} F_{SI}^2 + \sigma_0^{SD} F_{SD}^2 \big]$$

- The SI contribution to the cross section can arise from scalar couplings of DM to quarks, which occurs through the operator $(\bar{\chi}\chi)(\bar{q}q)$
- For a WIMP with scalar interactions, the SI **WIMP-nucleus** cross section is:

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \frac{4\mu^2}{\pi} [Z f_p + (A - Z) f_n]^2$$

• where f_p , f_n are couplings of the WIMP with point- like protons and neutrons, respectively.Z and A-Z are the number of protons and neutrons in the nucleus. • To compare data from different direct detection experiments which have different target nuclei, it is convenient to consider the **WIMP-proton cross section**:

$$\sigma_{SI}~=~rac{4\mu_p^2}{\pi}{(f_p)}^2$$

 $\mu_p :$ WIMP proton reduced mass, $\frac{mM}{m+M}$ Reduced mass; M: mass of nucleus.

• Then we have:

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \sigma_{SI} \left[Z + (A - Z) \left(\frac{f_n}{f_p} \right) \right]^2 \left(\frac{\mu}{\mu_p} \right)^2$$

Spin-independent interaction

• For most WIMP candidates one can assume $f_n \simeq f_p$ and the SI scattering cross section of WIMPs with protons and neutrons are roughly comparable. For identical couplings, $f_n = f_p$, and

$$\sigma_0^{SI} = \sigma_{SI} A^2 \left(\frac{\mu}{\mu_p}\right)^2$$

- The SI cross section increases rapidly with nuclear mass $A^2 \implies$ heavy target are favored.
- The A^2 dependence comes from the fact that the contributions to the total SI cross section of a nucleus is a coherent sum over the individual protons and neutrons.

Spin-independent interaction

• The SI form factor is essentially a Fourier transform of the mass distribution of nucleus: the mass distribution of the nucleus:

$$F(\boldsymbol{q}) = \int d^3x \rho(\boldsymbol{x}) e^{i \boldsymbol{q} \cdot \boldsymbol{x}}$$

• An accurate approximation⁴

$$F(q) = 3e^{-q^2 s^2/2} \frac{\sin(qr) - qr\cos(qr)}{(qr)^3}$$

s= 1 fm skin ticness, a solid sphere, approximating spin-independent interaction with the whole nucleus (single outer shell nucleon for spin dependent) effective nuclear radius $r \approx A^{1/3}$

⁴J.D.Lewin, P.F. Smith For a complete review: Review of mathematics, numerical factors, and corrections for dark matter experiments based on elastic nuclear recoil Astroparticle Physics 6 (1996), 87 Form factor, protected

Spin-independent interaction



Figure : Nuclear form factor

•Uncertainties in the determination of the nuclear form factor will affect the theoretical prediction for event rate.

Spin-dependent interaction

- SD scattering is due to the interaction of a WIMP with the spin of the nucleus. It can arise from axial vector couplings of DM to quarks⁵ It happens only in detector nuclei with an odd number of protons and/or neutrons.
- Unlike the SI case, the two SD couplings may be quite different, and we cannot simplify the cross section as we did for the SI case.
- No A^2 enhancement of SD cross section as SI case.
- The SD is not as significant as SI scattering in direct detection experiments.
- The SD form factor depends on the spin structure of a nucleus

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I will consider **only SI interactions** in my lecture.

⁵ which occurs through the operator $(\bar{\chi}\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_{5}\chi)(\bar{q}\gamma_{\mu}\gamma_{5}q)$.

$$\frac{dR}{dE} = \frac{\rho}{m} \frac{1}{M} \int_{v > v_m} d^3 v \frac{d\sigma}{dE} v f(\vec{v})$$
$$\frac{d\sigma}{dE} = \frac{M}{2\mu^2 v^2} \sigma_0 F^2(E)$$
$$\frac{dR}{dE} = \rho \underbrace{\frac{\sigma_0 F^2(E)}{2m\mu^2}}_{\text{particle physics}} \underbrace{\int_{v > v_m} d^3 v \frac{\vec{v}}{v}}_{\text{astrophysics}}$$

- astrophysics
- particle physics

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• Let's define **halo integral** as:

$$\eta(v_m) \equiv \int_{v>v_m} d^3 v {ec v\over v}$$

• The event rate can be written as 6

$$\frac{dR}{dE} = \frac{\rho\sigma_0 F^2(E)}{2m\mu^2} \underbrace{\eta(v_m)}_{\text{astrophysics}}$$

For SI case :
$$\frac{dR}{dE} = \frac{\rho A^2 \sigma_{SI} F^2(E)}{2m\mu_p^2} \underbrace{\eta(v_m)}_{\text{astrophysics}}$$

 ${}^{6}\sigma_{0}^{SI} = \sigma_{SI}A^{2} \left(\frac{\mu}{\mu_{p}}\right)^{2}$ S. Gentile (Sapienza)

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Astrophysics input input: DM distribution

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• The dark matter halo in the local neighborhood is most likely dominated by a smooth component with an **average density**:

 $\rho_{\chi} \approx 0.3 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}$

• The simplest model for this smooth component is often taken to be the SHM, Standard Halo Model an isothermal sphere with an isotropic, Maxwellian velocity distribution and rms velocity dispersion σ_v .⁷

⁷Freese, Lisanti and Savage, Colloquium: Annual modulation of dark matter Rev. Mod. Phys. 85 (2013) 1561 ??

Standard Halo Model

$$f_{\text{gal}}(\vec{v}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N_{\text{esc}}} \left(\frac{3}{2\pi\sigma_v^2}\right)^{3/2}, \left[e^{-3\vec{v}^2/2\sigma_v^2} - e^{-3\vec{v}^2/2\sigma_v^2}\right] & \text{for } |\vec{v}| < v_{\text{esc}} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$N_{\text{esc}} = \text{erf}(z) - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} z e^{-z^2}$$
$$z \equiv v_{\text{esc}}/v_0 \text{ is a normalization factor}$$
$$v_0 = \sqrt{2/3}\sigma_v$$

- $v_0 \approx 235 \text{ km/s}$ is the most probable speed.
- The Maxwellian distribution is truncated at the escape velocity v_{esc} to account for the fact that WIMPs with sufficiently high velocities escape the Galaxy's potential well and, thus, the high-velocity tail of the distribution is depleted.

The Dark Matter velocity distribution depends on the halo model.

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DM velocity distribution

To compute the event rate, we need the WIMP velocity, \vec{v} , distribution in the **detector reference frame**. Need to transform from the galactic frame to the detector frame.



 $f_{
m det}(ec{m{v}},t) \;=\; f_{
m det}ig(ec{m{v}}\;+\;ec{m{v}}_e(t)ig) \;=\; f_{
m gal}ig(ec{m{v}}\;+\;ec{m{v}}_s(t)\;+\;ec{m{v}}_e(t)ig)$

- $\vec{v}_e(t)$, Earth's velocity wrt the Sun
- $\vec{\boldsymbol{v}}_s(t)$, Sun's velocity wrt the Galaxy

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Sun's orbit around the Galaxy

Galactic coordinate system:



Origin at the position of the Sun.

x-axis points towards the Galactic Center.

y-axis points towards the direction of the Galactic rotation. z-axis points to the North Galactic pole

$$\vec{v}_s(t) = (0, 220, 0) + (10, 13, 7) \text{km/s}$$

Earth's orbit around the Sun



Sun's ecliptic longitude $\lambda(t)$ changes from 0 to 360 degrees as the Earth orbits the Sun.

Earth?s orbit around the Sun

• In the approximation of circular orbit, we have

$$\lambda(t) = \frac{2\pi}{1yr}(t - 0.218)$$

- t is the time during the year running from 0 to 1 year, with t=0 on January first
- 0.218 is the fraction of year before the spring equinox (March 21).
- The position vector of the Earth is:

$$\vec{\boldsymbol{r}}_{\boldsymbol{e}}(t) = -\left[\cos\lambda(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{1} + \sin\lambda(t)\hat{\boldsymbol{e}}_{2}\right]AU$$

• 1 AU is the average distance between the Earth and the Sun.

• Earth's velocity around the Sun is time dependent:

$$\vec{v}_e(t) = v_e \left[\sin \lambda(t) \hat{e}_1 - \cos \lambda(t) \hat{e}_2 \right]$$

- $v_e = 29.8 \text{ km/s}$
- Orthogonal vectors spanning the plane of the plane of the Earth's orbit:

$$\hat{e}_1 = (-0.0670, 0.4927, -0.8676)$$

 $\hat{e}_2 = (-0.9931, 0.1170, -0.01032)$

DM velocity distribution

- Comparison of two different model in the lab frame(on the earth)after accounting the motion of Solar System relative to Galactic center:
 - SHM, Standard Halo Model an isothermal sphere with an isotropic, Maxwellian velocity distribution and rms velocity dispersion σ_v .
 - Tidal stream, the material in the stream has not had the time to spatially mix, the stream has a small velocity dispersion in comparison: $f_{\rm str}(\vec{v}) = \delta^3(\vec{v})$



The recoil spectrum falls off exponentially in the galactic rest framefor the SHM (neglecting form factors), due to the exponential drop-off with velocity ⁸ Even when form factors and the motion of the Earth through the halo are accounted for, the spectrum sstill approximately exponential in the laboratory frame:

 $\frac{\mathrm{dR}}{\mathrm{dE}} \sim e^{-E/E_0}$ $E_0 \sim \mathcal{O}(10 keV)$ For typical WIMP and target mass

•Large contribution to the rate is at low energies.

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$$f_{\rm gal}(\vec{v}) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{N_{\rm esc}} \left(\frac{3}{2\pi\sigma_v^2}\right)^{3/2}, \left[e^{-3\vec{v}^2/2\sigma_v^2} - e^{-3\vec{v}^2/2\sigma_v^2}\right] & \text{for } |\vec{v}| < v_{\rm esc} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$
$$N_{\rm esc} = \operatorname{erf}(z) - \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} z e^{-z^2}$$
$$z \equiv v_{\rm esc}/v_0 \text{ is a normalization factor}$$
$$v_0 = \sqrt{2/3}\sigma_v$$



Figure : Event rate

- Spectrumis featureless: exponentially falling off.
- Spectrum is shifted to low energies for low WIMP masses.To detect light WIMPs, need low energy threshold (and light target nuclei).
- Expect different rates for different targets.
- Rate depends on A² ⇒ heavier targets are favored in direct detection experiments.



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Nuclear form factor is less important for light WIMPs

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- We discussed the different ingredients which enter in the expected event rate in direct detection experiments.
 - particle physics input: cross section. SI cross section scales as A^2
 - **astrophysics input**: local DM density and velocity distribution. Maxwell distribution in the Standard Halo Model.
- Recoil spectrum exponentially falling off and featureless.
- Direct detection experiment need to achieve low energy threshold.