# First Science Results from the LUX Dark Matter Experiment

Daniel McKinsey, LUX Co-Spokesperson, Yale University Richard Gaitskell, LUX Co-Spokesperson, Brown University on behalf of the LUX Collaboration http://luxdarkmatter.org



Sanford Underground Research Facility

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## **Composition of the Universe**

The Higgs particle has been discovered, the last piece of the Standard Model.

But as successful as it has been, the Standard Model describes only 5% of the universe. The remaining 95% is in the form of dark energy and dark matter, whose fundamental nature is almost completely unknown.



Image: X-ray: NASA/CXC/CfA/M.Markevitch et al.; Optical: NASA/STScI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.; Lensing Map: NASA/STScI; ESO WFI; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al.



www.quantumdiaries.org

## **Evidence for Dark Matter**



# The cosmic microwave background

Image: ESA and the Planck collaboration

#### Gravitational lensing



Colley, Turner, Tyson, and NASA

- 27% of the energy composition of the universe
- Properties:
  - Stable and electrically neutral
  - Non-baryonic
  - Non-relativistic

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- Estimated local density: 0.3±0.1GeV·cm<sup>-3</sup>
- Candidates: WIMPs, axions, dark photons,...

## Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs)

#### A new particle that only very weakly interacts with ordinary matter could form Cold Dark Matter

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- Formed in massive amounts in the Big Bang.
- Non-relativistic freeze-out. Decouples from ordinary matter.
- Would exist today at densities of about 1000/m<sup>3</sup>.

#### Supersymmetry provides a natural candidate – the neutralino.

- Lowest mass superposition of photino, zino, higgsino
- Mass range from the proton mass to thousands of times the proton mass.
- Wide range of cross-sections with ordinary matter, from 10<sup>-40</sup> to 10<sup>-50</sup> cm<sup>2</sup>.
- Charge neutral and stable!

#### Universal Extra Dimensions: predicts stable Kaluza-Klein (KK) particles

- Similar direct detection properties as neutralino
- Distinguishable from neutralinos at accelerators

#### WIMP Direct Detection

Look for anomalous nuclear recoils in a low-background detector.  $R = N \rho \sigma \langle v \rangle$ . From  $\langle v \rangle = 220$  km/s, get order of 10 keV deposited.

Requirements:

- Low radioactivity
- Low energy threshold
- •Gamma ray rejection
- Scalability
- Deep underground laboratory



## **Current WIMP Cross-section Limits**



LI

#### **Two-phase Xenon WIMP Detectors**



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#### The LUX Detector



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#### LUX Benefits from an Exceptional Lab and Exceptional Lab Support





#### The LUX Collaboration: ~100 researchers from 17 institutions



**Richard Gaitskell** Simon Fiorucci Monica Pangilinan Jeremy Chapman David Malling **James Verbus** Samuel Chung Chan **Dongqing Huang** 



Thomas Shutt	PI, Professor
Dan Akerib	PI, Professor
Karen Gibson	Postdoc
Tomasz Biesiadzinski	Postdoc
Wing H To	Postdoc
Adam Bradley	Graduate Studer
Patrick Phelps	Graduate Studer
Chang Lee	Graduate Studer
Kati Pech	Graduate Studer

PI, Professor

Postdoc

Research Associate

Graduate Student

Graduate Student Graduate Student

Graduate Student

Graduate Student

#### Imperial College

Imperial College London	Imperial College London
Henrique Araujo	PI, Reader
Tim Sumner	Professor
Alastair Currie	Postdoc
Adam Bailey	Graduate Student

#### Lawrence Berkeley + UC Berkeley Professor

Bob Jacobsen	PI, Professor
Murdock Gilchriese	Senior Scientist
Kevin Lesko	Senior Scientist
Carlos Hernandez Faham	Postdoc
Victor Gehman	Scientist
Mia Ihm	Graduate Student

#### Lawrence Livermore

Adam Bernstein	PI, Leader of Adv. Detectors Group
Dennis Carr	Mechanical Technician
Kareem Kazkaz	Staff Physicist
Peter Sorensen	Staff Physicist
John Bower	Engineer



CHENERA	
Isabel Lopes	PI, Professor
Jose Pinto da Cunha	Assistant Professor
Vladimir Solovov	Senior Researcher
Luiz de Viveiros	Postdoc
Alexander Lindote	Postdoc
Francisco Neves	Postdoc
Claudio Silva	Postdoc

#### SD School of Mines

PI, Professor Graduate Student Graduate Student

Project Engineer

Support Scientist

PI, Professor

PI, Professor

Graduate Student Graduate Student



Xinhua Bai

Doug Tiedt

Tyler Liebsch

**David Taylor** Mark Hanhardt



James White †	
Robert Webb	
Rachel Mannino	
Clement Sofka	

#### **UC Davis**

Mani Tripa

Bob Svob **Richard La** Britt Holbr John Thor Ray Gerha Aaron Mar Matthew S

**Richard O** 

Jeremy Me

James Mo

Nick Wals

Michael W

Sergey Uv

Brian Len

thi	PI, Professor
oda	Professor
ander	Professor
ook	Senior Engineer
nson	Senior Machinist
rd	Electronics Engineer
nalaysay	Postdoc
zydagis	Postdoc
tt	Postdoc
ock	Graduate Student
rad	Graduate Student
n	Graduate Student
oods	Graduate Student
arov	Graduate Student
ardo	Graduate Student

#### UC Santa Barbara PI, Professor Harry Nelson **Mike Witherell** Professor Dean White Engineer Susanne Kyre Engineer Carmen Carmona Postdoc Curt Nehrkorn Graduate Student

Scott Haselschwardt

Lea Reichhart

#### **University College London ≜IIC** Chamkaur Ghag

Graduate Student

PI, Lecturer Postdoc



#### University of Edinburgh

Alex Murphy PI, Reade Research Fellow Paolo Beltrame James Dobson Postdoc

PI. Professor

Graduate Student

Graduate Student

Graduate Student

#### University of Maryland

Carter Hall Attila Dobi **Richard Knoche** Jon Balajthy

#### 88 University of Rochester 0

Frank Wolfs	PI, Professor
Wojtek Skutski	Senior Scientist
Eryk Druszkiewicz	Graduate Student
Mongkol Moongweluwan	Graduate Student



Dongming Mei	PI, Professor
Chao Zhang	Postdoc
Angela Chiller	Graduate Student
Chris Chiller	Graduate Student
Dana Byram	*Now at SDSTA

Graduate Student



Ariana Hackenburg



	Elizabeth Boulton		Graduate Stude	nt
k Gaitsl	(Brown)	/ Dan I	McKinsey	(Yale)

#### In Memoriam – Dr. James White



A key innovator in xenon dark matter detector technology, a creator of LUX, and a dearly missed colleague

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## LUX – the Instrument





#### LUX Construction



## LUX – Supporting Systems



Xe storage and recovery



## LUX Timeline

LUX funded in 2008 by DOE and NSF

Above-ground laboratory completed at SURF in 2011 LUX assembled; above-ground commissioning runs completed

Underground laboratory completed at SURF in 2012. LUX moves underground in July to its new home in the Davis cavern.

Detector cooldown and gas phase testing completed early February 2013

Xenon condensation completed mid February 2013

Detector commissioning completed April 2013

Initial (3-month) WIMP search. First results presented today!

Full year-long WIMP search to begin in 2014. Result in 2015

#### LUX Has Exceptional Technical Performance

Low-energy electron recoil rate of 3e-3 events/keV/kg/day.

Kr/Xe ratio of 3.5 ppt.

Electron drift length longer than 130 cm.

Light detection efficiency of 14%.

Electron recoil discrimination of 99.6%, with drift field of 181 V/cm.



#### LUX installed in its water tank shield, a mile underground at SURF



#### Typical Event in LUX

1.5 keV gamma ray scattering event



## **XYZ Position Reconstruction**

Z coordinate is determined by the time between S1 and S2 (electron drift speed of 1.51 mm/microsecond)

Light Response Functions (LRFs) are found by iteratively fitting the distribution of S2 signal for each PMT.

XY position is determined by fitting the S2 hit pattern relative to the LRFs.

Reconstruction of XY from events near the anode grid resolves grid wires with 5 mm pitch.



## Kr-83m Calibration

- •Rb-83 produces Kr-83m when it decays; this krypton gas can then be flushed into the LUX gas system to calibrate the detector as a function of position.
- •Provides reliable, efficient, homogeneous calibration of both S1 and S2 signals, which then decays away in a few hours, restoring low-background operation..



Kr-83m source (Rb-83 coated on charcoal, within xenon gas plumbing)



#### Kr-83m Calibration

•Over 1 million Kr-83m events, spread uniformly through the detector.

Fiducial volume determination

Position-based S1 corrections



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#### **Tritiated Methane Calibration**

- •LUX uses tritiated methane, doped into the detector, to accurately calibrate the efficiency of background rejection.
- •This beta source (endpoint energy 18 keV) allows electron recoil S2/S1 band calibration with unprecedented accuracy
- •The tritiated methane is then fully removed by circulating the xenon through the getter
- •Parametrization of the electron recoil band from the high-statistics tritiated methane data is then used to characterize the background model.

#### Electron Recoil and Nuclear Recoil Bands

Tritium provides very high statistics electron recoil calibration (200 events/phe) Neutron calibration is consistent with NEST + simulations



## **Electron Recoil Discrimination**



Black circles show leakage from counting events from the dataset Red circles show projections of Gaussian fits below the nuclear recoil band mean

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## Light and Charge Yields in LUX

- Modeled Using Noble Element Simulation Technique (NEST).
- NEST based on canon of existing experimental data.
- Artificial cutoff in light and charge yields assumed below 3 keVnr, to be conservative.
- Includes predicted electric field quenching of light signal, to 77-82% of the zero field light yield



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## The center of LUX, measured at low energies, is the radioactively quietest place in the world.

#### Total Electron Recoil Event Rate <5 keVee



LUX Dark Matte

#### And it continues to get quieter - Xe Cosmogenic Activity cools (rate in 44 days)



:Kinsey (Yale)

When we ran it above ground the energy being deposited in the detector can be though of as:

Standing in the middle of the Super Bowl at the start of a game and listening to the noise generate by 75,000 people clapping for their team (twice a second)

Once we took LUX underground the energy deposited by backgrounds in the inner Fiducial Volume at the center of the detector becomes:

Listening to one person clapping from the stands every 1 minute

The WIMP signal is even lower energy: It is like listening for someone taking the occasional a breath

#### 4850ft Depth Reduces Muon Flux by 3 million

•At Sanford Lab LUX's first run we don't have to worry about signals from subterranean muons



#### LUX High Energy Gamma Background in 220 kg

•Full gamma Spectrum, excluding region ±2 cm from top/bottom grids



#### Background Summary for 118 kg Fiducial

•Average levels over period April-August WIMP Search Run

Background Component	Source	10 <sup>-3</sup> x evts/keVee/kg/day
Gamma-rays	Internal Components including PMTS (80%), Cryostat, Teflon	$1.8\pm0.2_{stat}\pm0.3_{sys}$
<sup>127</sup> Xe (36.4 day half-life)	Cosmogenic 0.87 -> 0.28 during run	0.5±0.02 <sub>stat</sub> ±0.1 <sub>sys</sub>
<sup>214</sup> Pb	222Rn	0.11-0.22 <sub>(90% CL)</sub>
<sup>85</sup> Kr	Reduced from 130 ppb to 3.5±1 ppt	0.13±0.07 <sub>sys</sub>
Predicted	Total	$2.6\pm0.2_{stat}\pm0.4_{sys}$
Observed	Total	3.1±0.2 <sub>stat</sub>

#### Full Background Model Fits ER Data Over Entire Range



#### 127Xe Electron Capture - Simulation

•x-ray line emission in center of detector following full escape of gamma associated with nuclear excited state



#### LUX WIMP Search Summary - How did you spend your summer?

#### •April 21 - August 8, 2013 - 110 calendar days

- •85.3 live days of WIMP Search
- 118.3+/-6.5 kg fiducial mass

#### Calibrations

- Frequent injected <sup>83m</sup>Kr calibration to correct for any S1 or S2 gain shifts
- AmBe&Cf calibrations+Sims to define NR band
- Injected Tritiated Methane defines full ER band at all relevant energies

#### Efficiency

•Efficiency for WIMP event detection was studied using data from calibration sets using multiple techniques and all were all shown to be consistent with one another

"The Sensitivity of a Dark Matter Experiment Scales as its Mass"

"The problems scale as its Surface Area"
## LUX WIMP Search Summary /2

- •Data Analysis and Blinding Discussion
  - The Xe Target inner fiducial volume is very simple, it sits inside a larger volume of Xe with only a "virtual" surface dividing them
    - Modeling of extrinsic and intrinsic background signals in large monolithic Xe volume has low systematics
  - No blinding was imposed for the first WIMP data analysis
    - We aimed to apply minimum set of cuts in order to reduce any tuning of event cuts/acceptance.
    - The cuts list is very short ...
  - Fiducial Volume was selected based on requirement to keep low energy events from grid and teflon surface out of WS data. Primarily alpha-decay events.
    - Low energy alpha-parent nuclear recoil events generate small S2 + S1 events. Studies position reconstruction resolution. Tested using data outside WIMP search S1 energy range. This ensured that position reconstruction for sets were similar, and definition of fiducial was not biased.
  - Use of Profile Likelihood Ratio (PLR) analysis means we don't have to draw acceptance boxes
    - This avoids potential bias in data analysis from selecting regions in S1,S2 signal-space
  - Inputs for Profile Likelihood Ratio analysis were developed using high statistics in situ calibrations, with some simulations to cross check

Cut	Explanation	Events Remaining
All Triggers	S2 Trigger >99% for S2 <sub>raw</sub> >200 phe	83,673,413
Detector Stability	Cut periods of excursion for Xe Gas Pressure, Xe Liquid Level, Grid Voltages	82,918,901
Single Scatter Events	Identification of S1 and S2. Single Scatter cut.	6,585,686
S1 energy	Accept 2-30 phe (energy ~ 0.9-5.3 keVee, ~3-18 keVnr)	26,824
S2 energy	Accept 200-3300 phe (>8 extracted electrons) Removes single electron / small S2 edge events	20,989
S2 Single Electron Quiet Cut	Cut if >100 phe outside S1+S2 identified +/-0.5 ms around trigger (0.8% drop in livetime)	19,796
Drift Time Cut away from grids	Cutting away from cathode and gate regions, 60 < drift time < 324 us	8731
Fiducial Volume radius and drift cut	Radius < 18 cm, 38 < drift time < 305 us, 118 kg fiducial	160

#### •~11.5 Hz of S2-like triggers

>99% efficiency for events S2area>200 phe

keVnr = keV nuclear recoil keVee = keV electron equivalent

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• <0.8% of run time lost to instabilities</p>

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Primary method of defining energy range of analysis

•Note S1 analysis threshold of S1area >=2 phe. Expected S1 for a 3 keVnr event is 1.94 phe.

This threshold is very low, and provides high sensitivity over full WIMP mass range

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Low energy efficiency is dominated by S1 acceptance

S2 area cut is looser constraint on WIMP energy range

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 The aftermath of large S2 events in the detector can lead to additional single electron events, for periods ~0.1-1 ms afterwards

Events that coincide with periods of non-quiescence can be cut by simply demanding <4 extracted electron events (<100 phe) of spurious signal occurs during +/-0.5 ms around the primary S1 and S2 event</p>

This cut causes < 0.8% dead time</p>

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•Events from residual radioactivity on cathode and gate grids lead to significant number of events in energy region of interest. Use a simple drift time cut to remove them.

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• Define a Fiducial Volume of 118 kg using combination of radius and drift time cut

 Low energy alpha-parent nuclear recoil events generate small S2 + S1 events. The radius and drift time cuts were set using population of events which had S1's outside of the WIMP signal search range, but with S2's of a comparable size to lower S1 events in same population. This ensured that position reconstruction for sets were similar, and definition of fiducial was not biased.

•Cuts also remove corner regions where ER event rates are proportionally very high

# S1 Efficiency For WIMP Detection

- S1 efficiency was studied in detail using
- AmBe NR calibration
- Tritiated-Methane calibration
- Full Monte Carlo sim of NR events (S1+S2 processed by same analysis chain)
- Overall efficiency is dominated by S1 efficiency, compared to S2 efficiency (see supporting slides)



Rick Gaitskell (Brown) / Dan McKinsey (Yale)

## WIMP Detection Efficiency - True Recoil Energy



True Recoil Energy equivalence based on LUX 2013 Neutron Calibration/NEST Model

## Simulated WIMP Signals for 85 days, 118 kg

•Pick a mass of 1000 GeV and cross section at the existing XENON100 90% CL Sensitivity 1.9x10<sup>-44</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> - Would expect 9 WIMPs in LUX Search



PDF assumes Standard Milky Way Halo parameters as described in Savage, Freese, Gondolo (2006) v<sub>0</sub>=220 km/s, v<sub>escape</sub> = 544 km/s, ρ<sub>0</sub> = 0.3 GeV/c<sup>2</sup>, v<sub>earth</sub> = 245 km/s

<sup>•</sup> Helm Form Factor.

## Simulated WIMP Signals for 85 days, 118 kg

•At a mass of 8.6 GeV and cross section favored CDMS II Si (2012) cross section 2.0x10-41 cm2 - Expect 1550 WIMPs in LUX Search



#### •The shift in the WIMP PDF downwards improves the effective ER event leakage fraction

• Electron Recoil and Nuclear Recoil Bands



•Event energies in keVee and keVnr





#### •S1area >= 2 phe analysis threshold. S1area <= 30 phe



•Total S2area >= 200 phe analysis threshold.



















## Spin Independent Sensitivity Plots



#### Spin Independent Sensitivity Plots



#### Low Mass WIMPs - Fully excluded by LUX



## Projected LUX 300 day WIMP Search Run



#### LUX Statistics

12,474 person-days on site at Sanford Lab so far ...

5.8 million feet travelled vertically

>1/2 million Wiki Page Reads (that is reading all of War and Peace every day for over a year)

We started to estimate the number of USPS employees that would have been employed to move the 2 million+ P2P email messages, if messages were still carried by conventional means ... but then we realized we had talks to write

# Conclusion

- •LUX has made a WIMP Search run of 86 live-days and released the analysis + PRL submission within 9 months of first cooling in Davis Lab
  - Backgrounds as expected, inner fiducial ER rate <2 events/day in region of interest</p>
  - Major advances in calibration techniques including <sup>83m</sup>Kr and Tritiated-CH<sub>4</sub> injected directly into Xe target
  - Very low energy threshold achieved 3 keVnr with no ambiguous/leakage events
  - •ER rejection shown to be 99.6+/-0.1% in energy range of interest
- Intermediate and High Mass WIMPs
  - Extended sensitivity over existing experiments by x3 at 35 GeV and x2 at 1000 GeV
- Low Mass WIMP Favored Hypotheses ruled out
  - LUX WIMP Sensitivity 20x better
  - LUX does not observe 6-10 GeV WIMPs favored by earlier experiments
- •Thanks to:
  - DOE and NSF
  - •Governor and State of South Dakota and Denny Sanford
  - Sanford Lab for all their support to get to this world-leading result

## LUX Results Paper

LUX Results Paper will be available at 10.15 am MT on http://sanfordlab.org http://luxdarkmatter.org

Will also be available on http://arXiv.org tonight. Paper has been submitted to PRL

#### Welcome to Club Sub Zepto (\*)

LUX is the first WIMP detector to reach below a zeptobarn cross section \* zeptobarn is 10<sup>-45</sup> cm<sup>2</sup> A barn is the size of barn door at nuclear scales!



#### •SUPPORTING MATERIAL

#### **NR Calibrations**



- Above plots show comparisons between simulation (blue), the NEST prediction (black), and data for the mean and width of the nuclear recoil band from AmBe calibrations
- The mean and width are different in the calibrations because the data contain ER contamination and neutron-X events, which are modeled well by the simulation
## Position of Low Energy Events in 85 day Exposure



## **Cosmogenic Isotopes Decaying**

•127Xe Decay vs Time

131mXe Decay vs Time



## AmBe S2 Calibration

