Particle-Astrophysics Experiments at SLAC: Fall 2016 Graduate Student Orientation

Tom Shutt

SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory Kavli Insitute for Particle Astrophysics & Cosmology Stanford University









Physical theories of dark energy

Fate of the Universe?



What is Dark Energy?

- a Cosmological Constant?
- a Quantum Field?
- Or does General Relativity need to be modified?



Study Dark Energy with Multiple Methods

Complementary techniques, including:

- The mass function and clustering of Galaxy Clusters
- The power spectrum of Weak Gravitational Lensing shear
- The statistical distance scale in the galaxy distribution, the Baryon Acoustic Oscillations
- The distance-brightness relation of Type Ia Supernovae



Dark Energy Survey



570-megapixel imaging device

in 3rd Year of 5 Yr Survey

Dark Energy Survey



dark matter maps

Year 3 of 5 Yr Survey





dwarf galaxy candidates

Large Synoptic Survey Telescope



Construction now underway!



Cosmology Measurements



Spectroscopic Survey

Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument



Passed 2nd of 3 Critical reviews

Complements LSST - fewer objects (20M) / better redshift

Dark matter searches

Scattering experiment WIMP

density, speed dark matter halo

k---1 light year--->

1016 WIMPs/year

10⁻¹⁶ light years

detector

Cross section: WIMP scatters once in a light year of lead

Rate ~ few events / year



limited by nuclear scatter background? reach to 10⁻⁴⁹ cm² neutrino floor depends on rejecting *pp* solar

Akerib/Shutt (SLAC): Dark Matter with LUX and LZ



LUX: world-leading search experiment, 4850 ft underground at SURF, South Dakota





LUX top PMT array

LUX ZEPLIN

- Funded. In design phase. Expected turn on in 2019.
- Largest dark matter experiment.
- 300 times more sensitive than LUX.

 As-yet unmeasured Astrophysical neutrinos should be limiting background to dark matter signal





LZ at SLAC

- SLAC group has major role in LZ
 - Central Xe detector
 - LXe purification systems
 - Removal of Kr from Xe to 10^{-14} g/g
 - Data processing and simulations
 - Control systems
- System Test Platform
 - Design and testing of LZ detector components
 - Fundamental studies, advanced electronics development, blue-sky detector R&D
- Graduate opportunities in all these areas
- LZ dark matter data starting in 2019.

SLAC LZ System Test Platform



Purification Tower

Internal dangers: radioactive krypton



Krypton:

160

- 10-y T_{1/2} beta decay
- can't self-shield
- ~100 ppb in purchased Xe
 20 ppt ~ 122 PMTs
- noble gas: non-reactive





Charcoal chromatography removal system @ Case - processed 400 kg LUX xenon from 150 ppb to 4 ppt - cold-trap leak-valve analytics - C. Hall / UMd.

Conceptual Design for SuperCDMS SNOLAB





Detector Tower payload

uper

CDM





Tower Assembly Stand



SQUID Modulation Curve



CDMS Tower Test Stand in Cleanroom



CDMS Tower in ³He Fridge



Fermi Gamma Ray Space Telescope

Constructed at SLAC

Advanced reconstruction analysis: "Pass 8"



DES & Fermi: Dwarf Galaxies





Fermi Highlights and Discoveries



Particle-Astro Experiments at SLAC

- SLAC history of particle physics experimentation & experiment development
- Large scale facilities & technical support
 - Complements campus
- Dark Energy Survey
 - Profs. Allen, Burke, Roodman, Weschler,
- Large Synoptic Survey Telescope
 - Profs. Kahn, Roodman, Burchat, Allen, Schindler, Weschler
- Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument
 - Profs. Weschler, Roodman
- SuperCDMS
 - Prof. Cabrera, Dr. Partridge (SLAC Sr. Scientist)
- Fermi-LAT
 - Dr. Madejski (SLAC Sr. Scientist)
- LUX / LZ
 - Profs. Akerib, Shutt

Three tours today

• 2-3 SuperCDMS

• 3-4 Visualization Lab

• 4-5 IR2 - LZ and LSST