Annual modulation results from three-year exposure of ANAIS-112



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-ANNUAL MODULATION in direct dark matter searches

-ANAIS-112 EXPERIMENT



-ANAIS-112 UPDATED ANNUAL MODULATION RESULTS FOR THREE YEARS -SYSTEMATICS -SENSITIVITY PROSPECTS

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Analysis of signatures of DM particle interactions are key for a positive result





Experiments have to be shielded against all possible backgrounds and profit from active bckg rejection techniques

Requirement of very sensitive & radiopure particle detectors

DM particles interact (although weakly) with ordinary matter with unknown coupling $S(E_R, t) = \frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{\rho M_{det}}{2m_W m_{WN}^2} \int_{0}^{v_{max}} \frac{f(v)}{v}$

 $\sigma_{WN} dv^3$





Amplitude



Relative velocity Earth —halo changes along the year

 $S(E_R, t) = \frac{dR}{dE_R} = \frac{1}{7}$ v_{max} f(v) ρM_{det} $\sigma_{WN} \, dv^3$ $\overline{2m_Wm_{WN}^2}$ v_{min}

Annual modulation in dark matter interaction rate

MILKYWAY GALAXY (2008 CONCEPT)



 $S_k(t) = S_{0,k} + S_{m,k} \cos\omega(t - t_0)$

P. Belli's talk this conference





DAMA/LIBRA observes a model independent annual modulation compatible with DM in standard halo

Other very sensitive experiments do not see any hint -> Strong tension even assuming more general halo/interaction models, BUT MODEL – DEPENDENT



MODEL INDEPENDENT confirmation or refutation is mandatory \rightarrow using same target



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arXiv:2104.07634

850 m rock overburden 2450 m.w.e.

Annual modulation with Nal Scintillators



 Confirmation of DAMA-LIBRA modulation signal -> same target and technique / different experimental approach / different environmental conditions affecting systematics

 At Canfranc Underground Laboratory, @ SPAIN (under 2450 m.w.e.) taking data since August 2017

 3x3 matrix of 12.5 kg cylindrical modules = 112.5 kg of active mass grown @ Alpha Spectra, Inc.

• HE PMTs coupled at LSC clean room

DATA ANALYSIS: ROI BLINDED



Relevant experimental features









- Mylar windows built-in, allowing for low energy calibration
- ¹⁰⁹Cd sources on flexibles wires in Radon-free calibration system for simultaneous calibration of the nine modules

Excellent light collection in all the nine modules ~ 15 p.e./keV $(12.7-15.8 \text{ p.e./keV}) \rightarrow 7/9 \text{ modules between } 14.0 \text{ and } 15.0 \text{ p.e./keV}$ Larger and more homogeneous than that of DAMA/LIBRA modules Under continuous monitoring along data taking

Relevant experimental features



- 10 cm archaeological lead
- 20 cm low activity lead
- Tight box preventing Radon entrance
- 16 plastic scintillators acting as muon veto system
 40 cm polyethylene / water



ANAIS-112 DAQ

Individual PMT signals digitized and fully processed (14 bits / 2 GS/s)
Trigger at p.e. level for each PMT + Logical AND coincidence in 200ns window
Robust / Low noise / tested with previous prototypes MATACQ MATACQ MATACQ MATACQ MATACQ MATACQ



Calibrating the ROI with high accuracy





Combination of periodical external calibration using ¹⁰⁹Cd (88.0, 22.6 and 11.9 keV) every two weeks and ⁴⁰K and ²²Na internal contamination background lines (3.2 and 0.9 keV) every 1.5 months
 ROI calibrated with 22.6, 11.9, 3.2 and 0.9 keV





Events @ROI from ⁴⁰K and ²²Na selected by the coincidence with a HE gamma in a second module

Demonstration of triggering below 1 keV







- M1 (single hit) events in the ROI (1-6 keV) BLINDED from beginning
- M2 in the ROI and Cd calibration events used for fine-tuning analysis and determination of efficiencies along the first year
- Unblinding 10% (30 days randomly chosen) of the first year for background assessment

ANAIS general performance: J. Amaré et al., EPJC79 (2019) 228 EVENTS SELECTION CRITERIA from the first year analysis are kept for subsequent analysis UPDATING EFFICIENCIES









- Single hit events
- Events arriving more than 1 second after a muon interacting in the veto system
- Our trigger rate is dominated by events non-compatible with bulk scintillation
- Time behavior compatible with Nal scintillation constant: biparametric cut

$$P_{1} = \frac{\int_{100 ns}^{600 ns} A(t) dt}{\int_{0}^{600 ns} A(t) dt} \qquad \mu_{p} =$$

$$\mu_p = \frac{\sum A_p t_p}{\sum A_p}$$

• Light sharing between the 2 PMTs compatible with bulk scintillation, number of p.e. >4 at each PMT



- AAIS

General performance: J. Amaré et al., EPJC79 (2019) 228 Robust estimate of the efficiencies using ¹⁰⁹Cd / ²²Na and ⁴⁰K events BEFORE UNBLINDING / updated for the three years analysis



Raw data Nal scintillation time behaviour/biparametric cut Npeaks >4 at both PMTs More than 1 s after a muon Single Hits



General performance: J. Amaré et al., EPJC79 (2019) 228

- Robust estimate of the efficiencies using ¹⁰⁹Cd / ²²Na and ⁴⁰K events BEFORE UNBLINDING / updated for the three years analysis
 Choice of analysis threshold → 1 keV
 - Working on machine learning techniques to improve rejection



Efficiency and calibration stability checks using ⁴⁰K and ²²Na populations





Robust background model



Comparison after unblinding three years data Background model was established before unblinding

Our model predicts time evolution of the background detector by detector and reproduce satisfactorily the time evolution outside the ROI





- ROI background dominated by $^{210}{\rm Pb},\,^{40}{\rm K}$ and cosmogenic isotopes, as $^{3}{\rm H}$ -> higher than DAMA/LIBRA
- Good agreement in all energy regions, but underestimate in 1-2 keV energy region / Work in progress



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Editors' Suggestion Featured in Physics

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313.95 kg x y (95% live time for the first three years operation)

Improved background modelling

- Checking of systematics and consistency of the results
 - Simulation of MC pseudo-experiments to analyze bias and checking sensitivity

First results analysis was published in 2019: Phys. Rev. Lett. 123 (2019) 031301

https://link.aps.org/doi/10.1103/PhysRevD.103.102005 https://arxiv.org/abs/2103.01175

> MODEL INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS Minimizing:

$$\chi^2 = \sum_i \frac{(n_i - \mu_i)^2}{\sigma_i^2}$$

$$\mu_i = [R_0 \phi_{bkg}(t_i) + S_m \cos(\omega(t_i - t_0))] M \Delta E \Delta t$$

 n_i , σ_i are number of events (and Poisson uncertainty) in 10d bins corrected by live time and efficiency **18**



Three independent background modelling procedures

1. Exponentially decaying background -> τ , f, R₀ free param.

 $\phi_{bkg}(t_i) = 1 + f e^{-t_i/\tau}$

2.Probability distribution function derived from background model corrected by a factor f and a constant term, R₀, both free





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 $\mu_i = [R_0 \phi_{bkg}(t_i) + S_m cos(\omega(t_i - t_0))] M \Delta E \Delta t$



ANAIS-112 vs DAMA/LIBRA



Three independent background modelling procedures

1. Exponentially decaying background -> τ , f, R₀ free param.

 $\phi_{bkg}(t_i) = 1 + f e^{-t_i/\tau}$

2.Probability distribution function derived from background model corrected by a factor f and a constant term, R₀, both free

 $\phi_{bkg}(t_i) = 1 + f \phi_{bkg}^{MC}(t_i)$

3. Probability distribution function for every detector to account for possible systematic effects related with the different backgrounds and efficiencies of the different modules

 $\mu_{i,d} = [R_{0,d}(1+f_d \phi_{bkg,d}^{MC}(t_i)) + S_m cos(\omega(t_i-t_0))]M_d \Delta E \Delta t,$



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 Data support the absence of modulation in both energy regions and three background models / All of them provide compatible results

Energy region	Model	χ ² /NDF null hyp	nuisance params	<i>S_m</i> cpd/kg/keV	p-value mod	p-value null
[1-6] keV	1	132 / 107	3	-0.0045 ± 0.0044	0.051	0.051
	2	143.1 / 108	2	-0.0036 ± 0.0044	0.012	0.013
	3	1076 / 972	18	-0.0034 ± 0.0042	0.011	0.011
[2-6] keV	1	115.7 / 107	3	-0.0008 ± 0.0039	0.25	0.27
	2	120.8 / 108	2	0.0004 ± 0.0039	0.17	0.19
	3	1018 / 972	18	0.0003 ± 0.0037	0.14	0.15

• Results of the third approach for bckg modelling show slightly lower $\sigma(Sm)$, as expected, is taken for the comparison with DAMA/LIBRA





Best fits are incompatible with DAMA/LIBRA result at 3.3 and 2.6 or in [1-6] and [2-6] keV energy regions
Sensitivity is at 2.5 and 2.7 or in [1-6] and [2-6] keV energy regions



Sensitivity prospects: I. Coarasa et al., EPJC79 (2019) 233

• Full agreement with our "a priori" sensitivity estimates



• We should be well at 35 from DAMA/LIBRA result within the scheduled 5 years of data taking

Statistical significance of our result is determined by the standard deviation of the modulation amplitude distribution, $\sigma(Sm)$

We quote our sensitivity to DAMA/LIBRA result as the ratio $S_m^{DAMA} / \sigma(Sm)$ We project our sensitivity with our updated background, efficiency estimates and its errors and live time distribution 26

ANAIS-112 three year results — annual modulation analysis **Consistency Checks**

• Time binning -> checked bin sizes from 5 to 30 days Negligible effect

• Toy MC to check possible bias

• 1-2 years / 2-3 years **Compatible results**

Phase-free analysis **Frequency** analysis



[1-6] keV

od/kg/keV)

-0.002



Corollary

Is this a "MODEL INDEPENDENT" testing of DAMA/LIBRA result? Using same target material the comparison between DAMA/LIBRA and ANAIS results is DIRECT However, response of both detectors to the energy depositions from dark matter particles could be different -> improve knowledge on RESPONSE FUNCTION, specially for nuclear recoils



Scintillation produced by nuclear recoils is quenched with respect to electron recoils (used for calibration)

Today still too many uncertainties in the QF values and dependences for Nal

We have measured QF for different crystals in similar conditions, work is in progress, but results will appear soon

We are also working in direct calibrations with neutrons "onsite"

Summary and Outlook



• ANAIS-112 is taking data using 112.5 kg of sodium iodide at LSC and is running smoothly

- Careful low energy calibration (from external gamma sources and bulk emissions)
- Excellent light collection of ~15 phe/keV and triggering below 1 keV_{ee} in all modules
- 1 keV_{ee} analysis threshold
- Good background understanding (but in 1-2 keV energy region), ROI bkg dominated by crystal activity (²¹⁰Pb, ⁴⁰K, ²²Na, ³H)
- 3 years of data blind analysed for model independent annual modulation
 - •We confirm our sensitivity projections to DAMA/LIBRA result -> 3σ at reach in 2022
 - •Null hypothesis is well supported and best fits are incompatible at 3.3 σ (1-6 keV energy region) and 2.7 σ (2-6 keV energy region) with DAMA/LIBRA results \rightarrow sensitivity: 2.5 2.7 σ
- We are analysing quenching factor on Nal crystals to discard systematic uncertainties in the comparison
- Plan to make ANAIS **data public** after use to allow independent analysis