

Scientific Prospects and Technical Innovations in the CDEX-50 Experiment

Shin-Ted Lin (Sichuan University, China)
On behalf of the CDEX collaboration

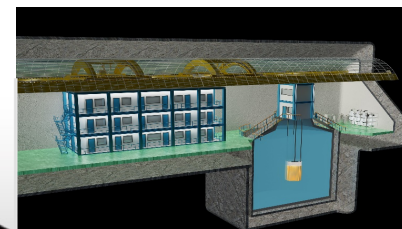


@ The XIX International Conference on Topics in
Astroparticle and Underground Physics (TAUP2025)
August 26th , 2025

TAUP 2025

XICHANG
SICHUAN, CHINA

2025.8.24 - 8.30



Outline

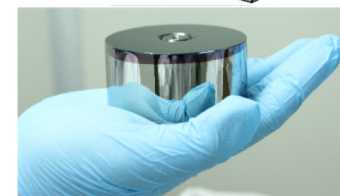
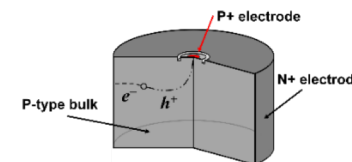
- ✓ CDEX collaboration/program
- ✓ Recent results from CDEX-1 & CDEX-10 @CJPL-I
- ✓ Advancing key Ge technologies: R&D and Background Reduction
- ✓ Current status of CDEX-50 Experiment@CJPL-II
- ✓ Summary & prospects

China Dark matter Experiment

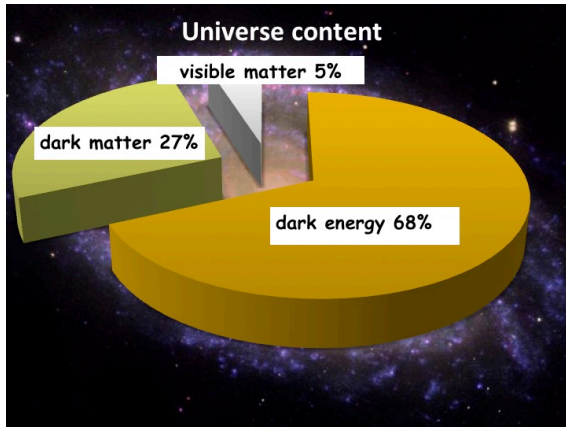


- ✓ Established in 2009, 11 institutes, ~100 members.
- ✓ DM and $0\nu\beta\beta$ experiment based on Ge detectors at CJPL.
- ✓ Many DM & Neutrino physics results published in last 10 years.

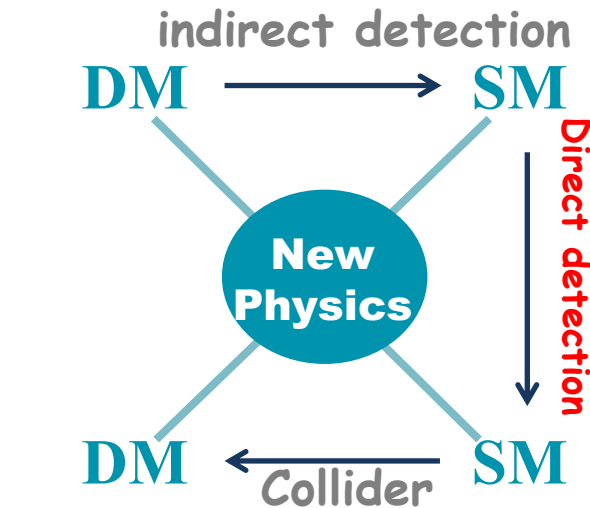
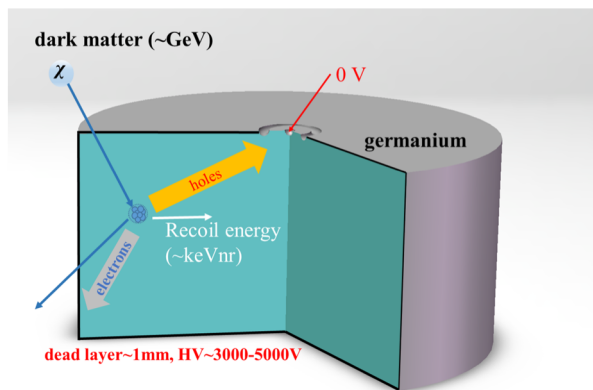
<http://cdex.ep.tsinghua.edu.cn/>



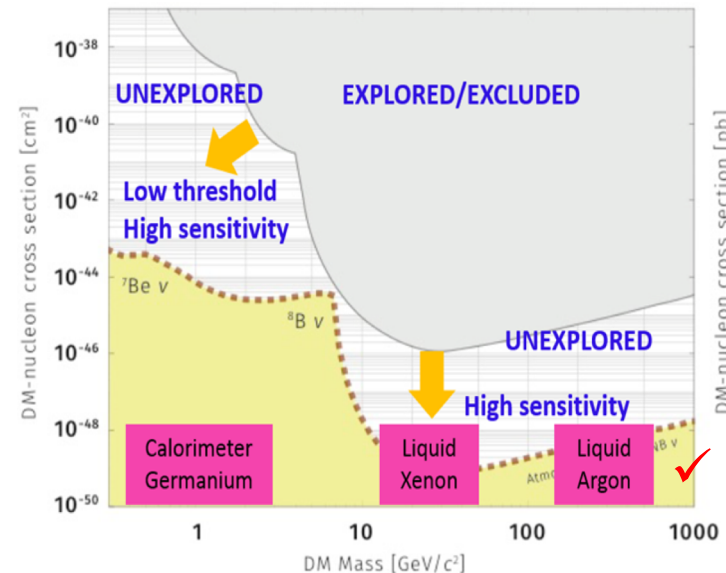
Direct detection in dark matter searches



We know only 5% of what the universe made of?



A picture for IF DM is a particle, unitarity invariant, ...



- ✓ ~27% of the Universe consists of dark matter
- ✓ **WIMP**(χ) , **ALP** are the most popular dark matter candidates, and $\chi - N$ elastic scattering is intensively studied in recent years.

✓ Current wisdom in PP:

$$[\sigma_{\chi N} \text{ VS } m_{\chi}]$$

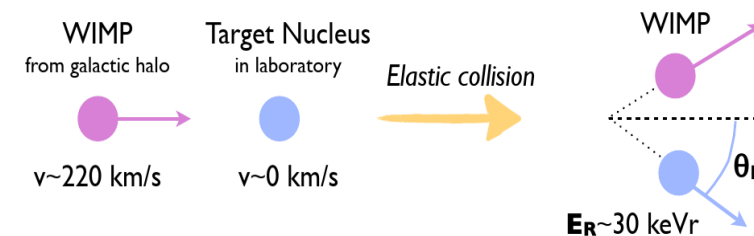
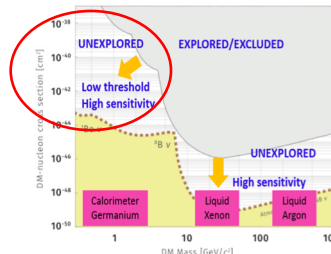
✓ Toward the unexplored lower mass region...

Conventional WIMPs and other alternatives

Astrophysics Particle physics

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = N_T \frac{\rho_\chi}{m_\chi} \int d^3\vec{v} v f_v(\vec{v} + \vec{v}_E) \frac{d\sigma}{dE_R}$$

Detector response

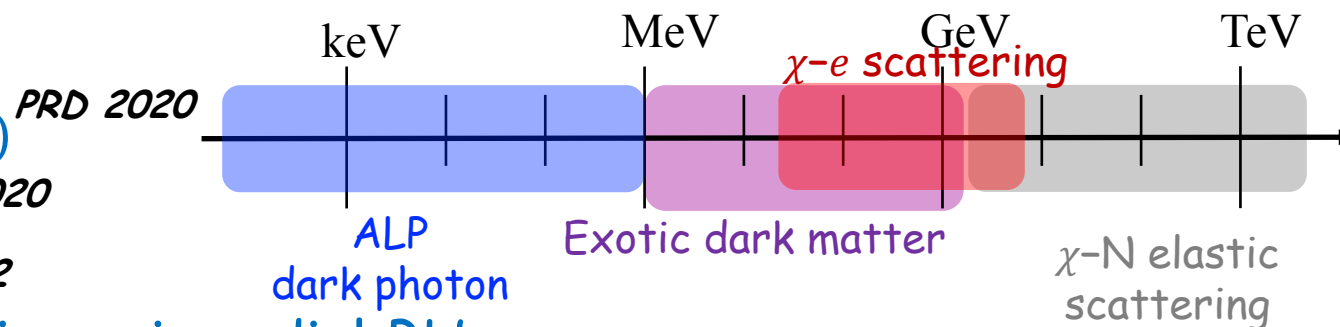
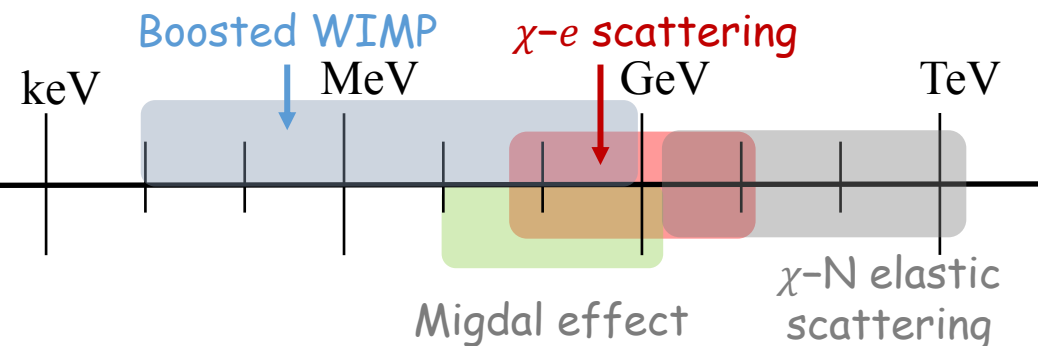


WIMP search

- Annual modulation *PRL 2019*
- Boosted WIMP: down to $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ keV})$ *PRD 2022*
- Migdal effect (bremsstrahlung) *PRL 2019*
- $\chi - e$ scattering down to $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ MeV})$ *PRL 2022*
- DM from EFT *Science china 2021*

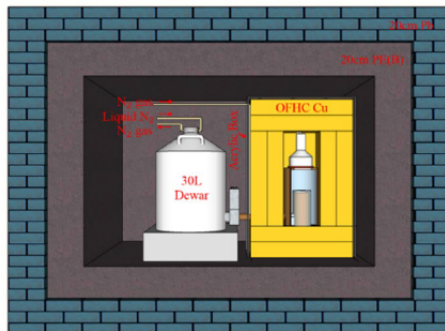
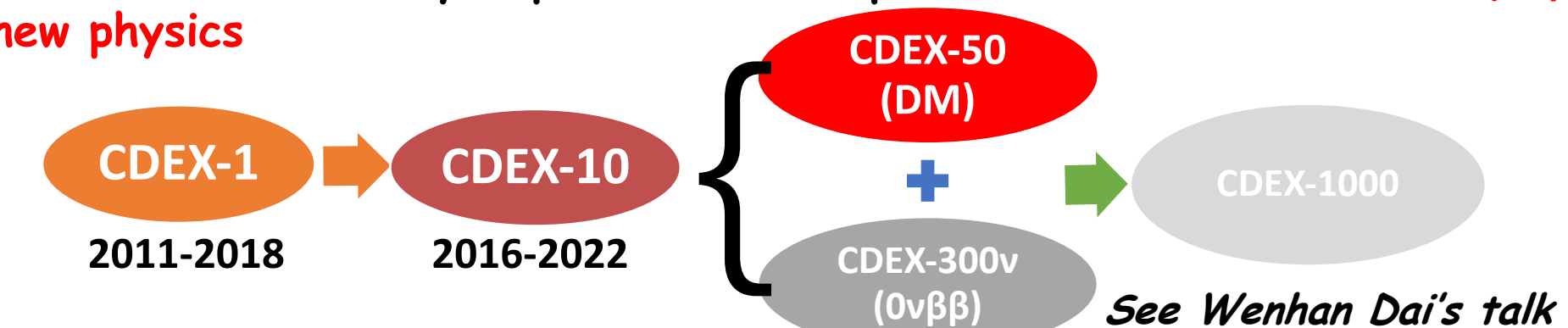
New physics beyond the WIMPs

- Axion like particle: down to $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ eV})$ *PRD 2020*
- Dark photon: down to $\mathcal{O}(100 \text{ eV})$ *PRL 2020*
- Exotic DM: down to $\mathcal{O}(1 \text{ MeV})$ *PRL 2022*
- Boosted keV-MeV DM from evaporating primordial BH. *PRD 2023*

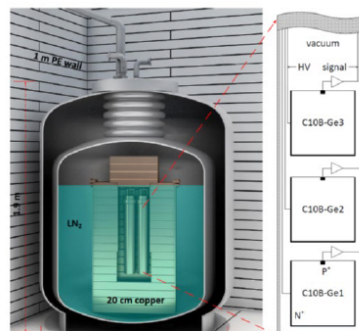


CDEX Roadmap

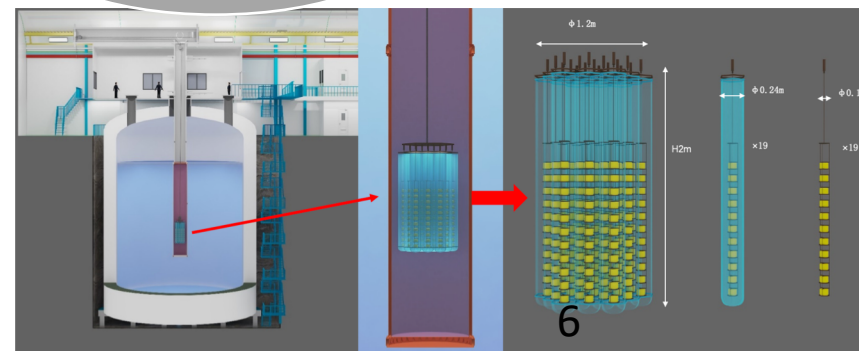
- ✓ CDEX-1 (2011-2018): Development of **PPC Ge detector**, BKG understanding
- ✓ CDEX-10 (2016-2022): Performances of **Ge detector**(detector fabrication-homemade) **immersed in LN₂**
- ✓ CDEX-50dm (2021-202x): An **array** of 50 kg Ge detectors in **cryogenic liquid** for **DM** searches [**Energy region of interest: $O(100\text{ eV})$**]
- ✓ CDEX-300v (2021-202x): An array of **enriched** 300 kg Ge detectors in cryogenic liquid with an optimal low-radioactivity experimental setup for **Searches of neutrino($0\nu\beta\beta$) and diversified new physics**



CDEX-1A&B: 1kg PPC Ge×2

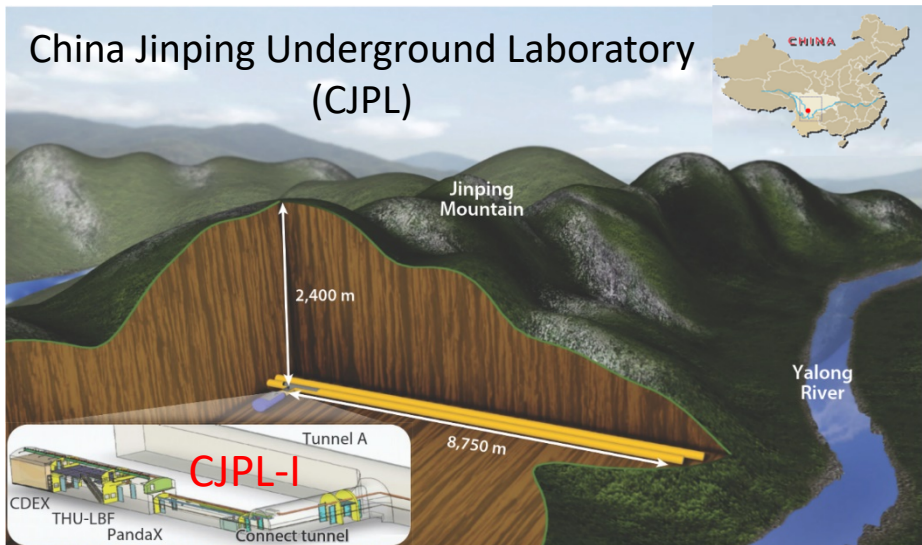


CDEX-10: ~10kg PPC Ge array

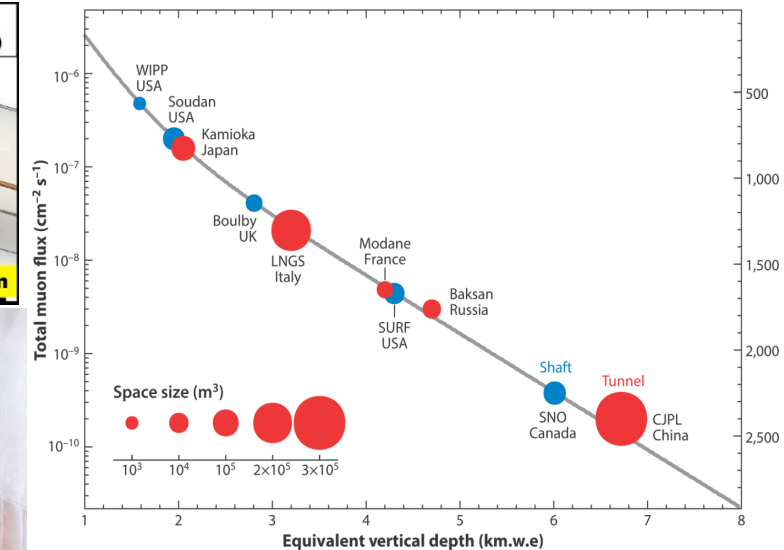
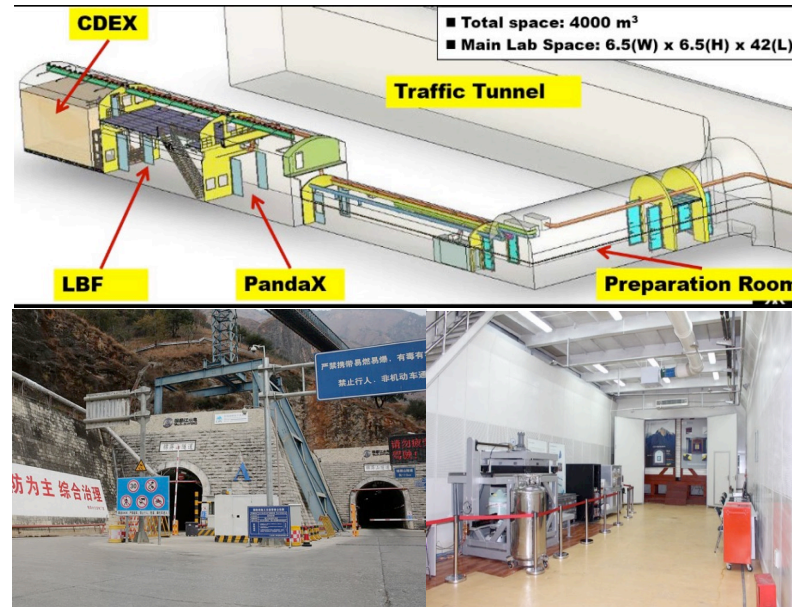


China Jinping Underground Laboratory(CJPL)

- ✓ World's deepest underground lab, CJPL
- ✓ Near Xichang city, Sichuan Province, Southwest China
- ✓ Two DM exp. (CDEX, PandaX)+LBF(radio-assay)+Neutrino exp. operated now

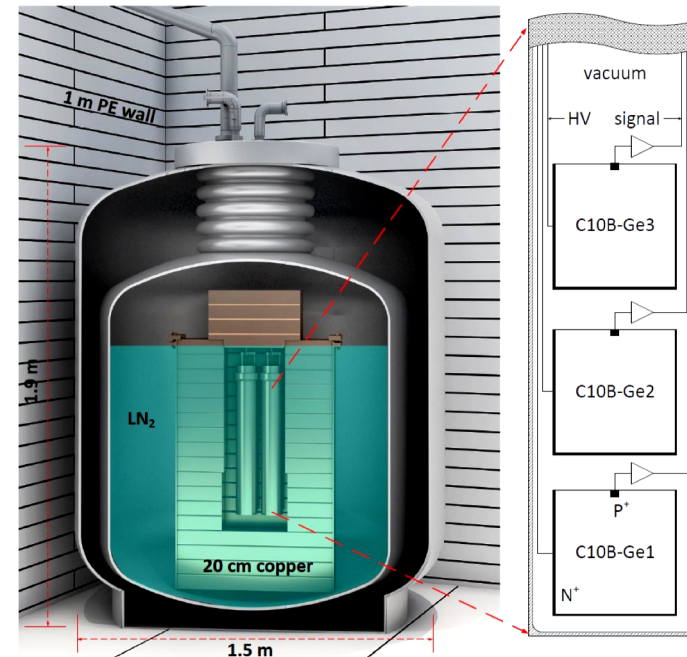
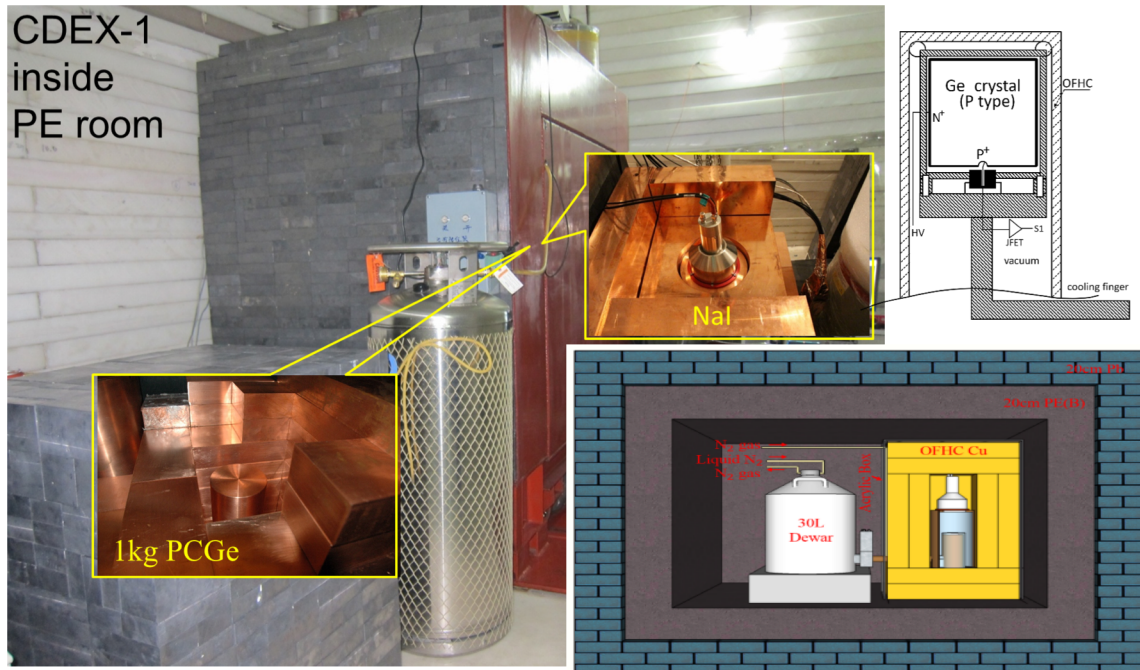


Cheng et al., Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2017. 67:231



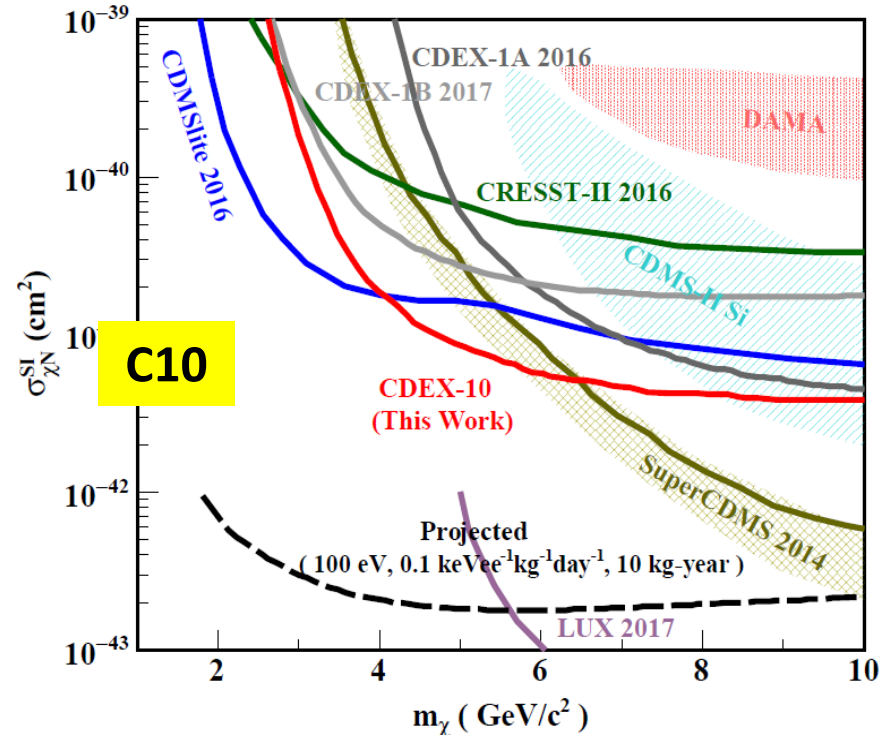
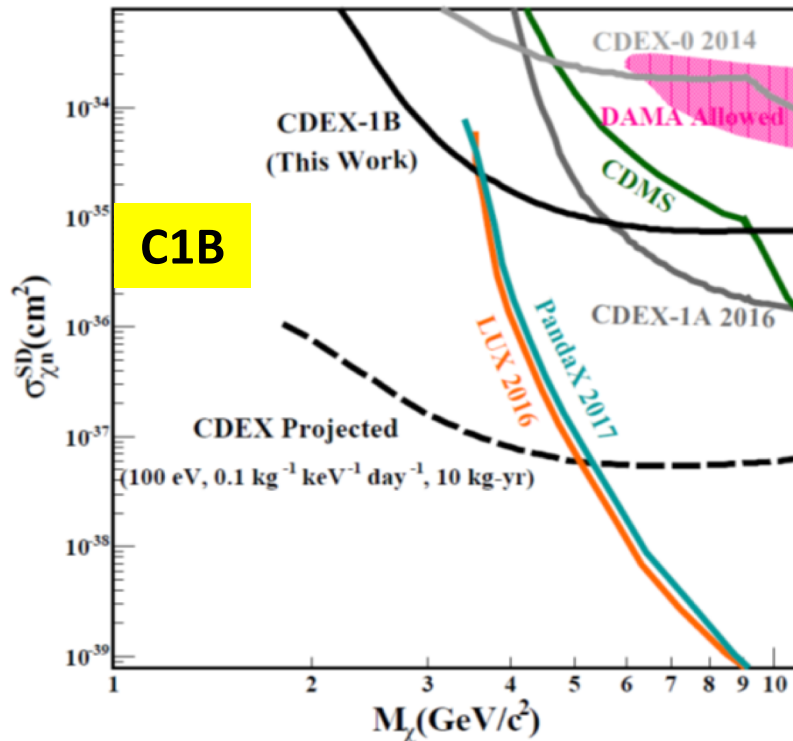
CDEX-1, CDEX-10 Experiments

- ✓ 2 sub-stages: **CDEX-1A** (2011)→ **CDEX-1B** (Electronics upgraded, 2013);
- ✓ Singular element ~1kg PPC Ge detector;
- ✓ NaI, **enclosed the cryostat of Ge**, served as anti-Compton detector.
- ✓ Located in PE room at CJPL-I.
- ✓ Array detectors: 3 strings with 3 detectors each, ~10 kg total;
- ✓ An array immersed directly **in LN₂**;
- ✓ Prototype system for future hundred-kg to ton scale experiment
 - **Light/radio-purer LN₂** replacing **heavy shield i.e. Pb/Cu**;
 - **Arraying technology to scalable capability**;

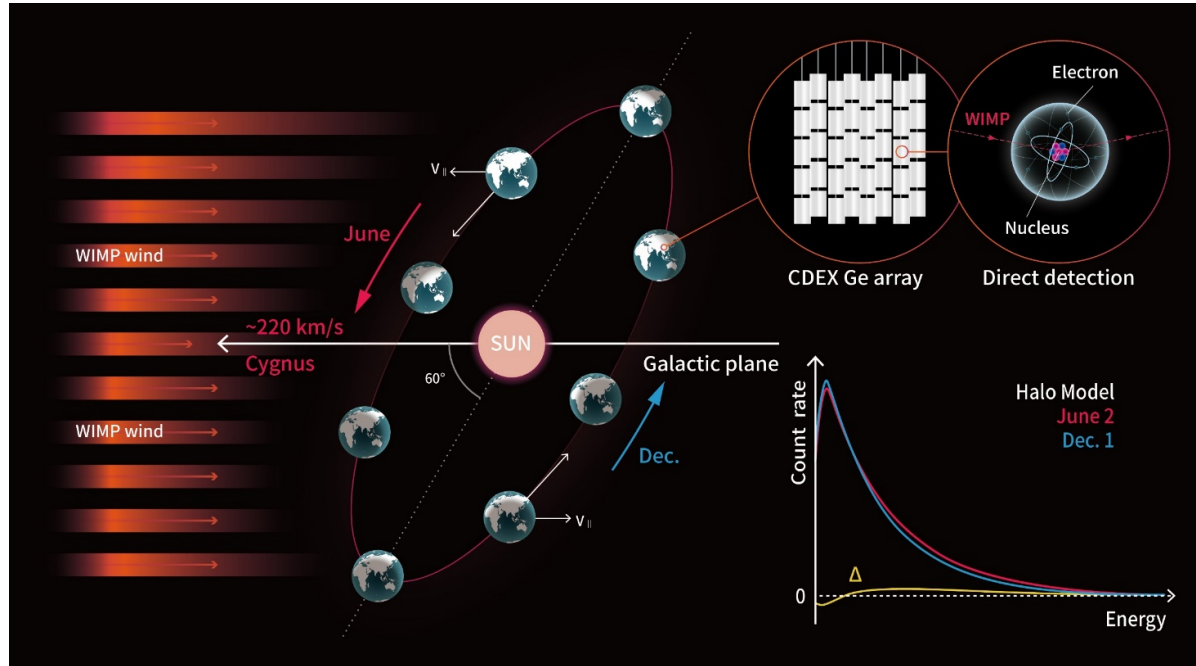


$\chi - N$ elastic scattering results from CDEX-1B & 10

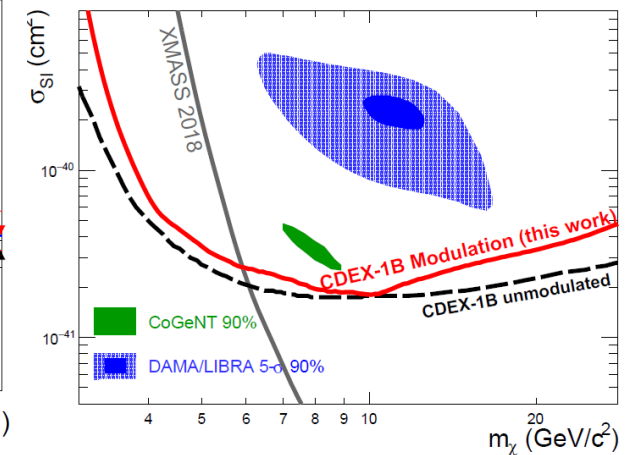
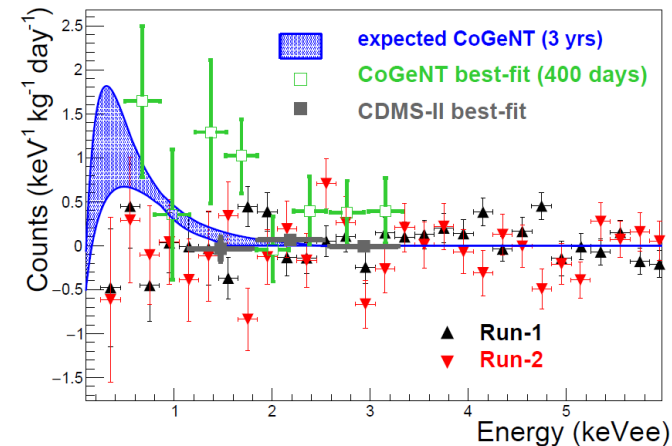
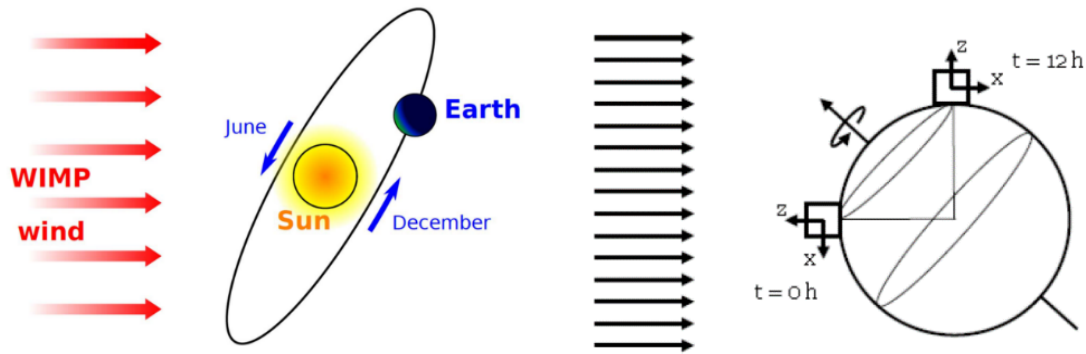
- ❑ CDEX-1B: ➤ Threshold of 160 eV is achieved.
 - ✓ First extended the mass to $2 \text{ GeV}/c^2$ in Ge-based experiments.
 - ✓ The most sensitive results on SD $\chi - N$ elastic scattering below 4 GeV
- ❑ CDEX-10: ➤ No event exceeds the expected background level near the threshold.
 - ✓ The leading bounds on SI $\chi - N$ elastic scattering at 4-5 GeV



Annual Modulation WIMPs Searches from CDEX-1B



- ✓ Long-time stability with low background & low energy threshold.
- ✓ Explore the new AM detection channel below the mass of 6 GeV/c^2



Light WIMP searches with Migdal Effect

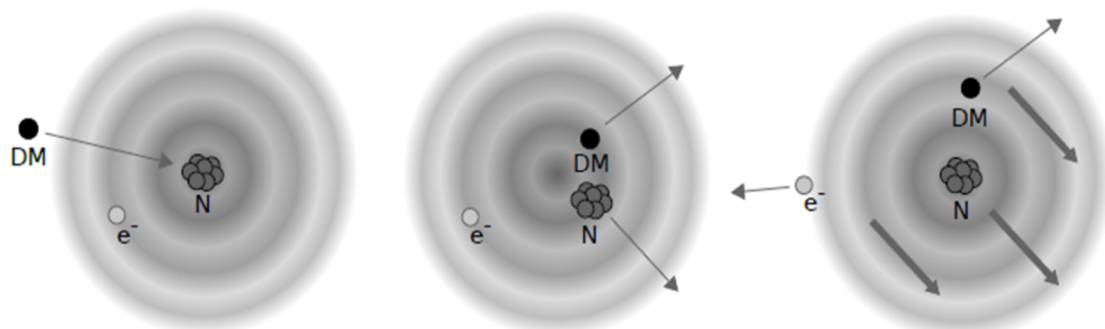


CDEX

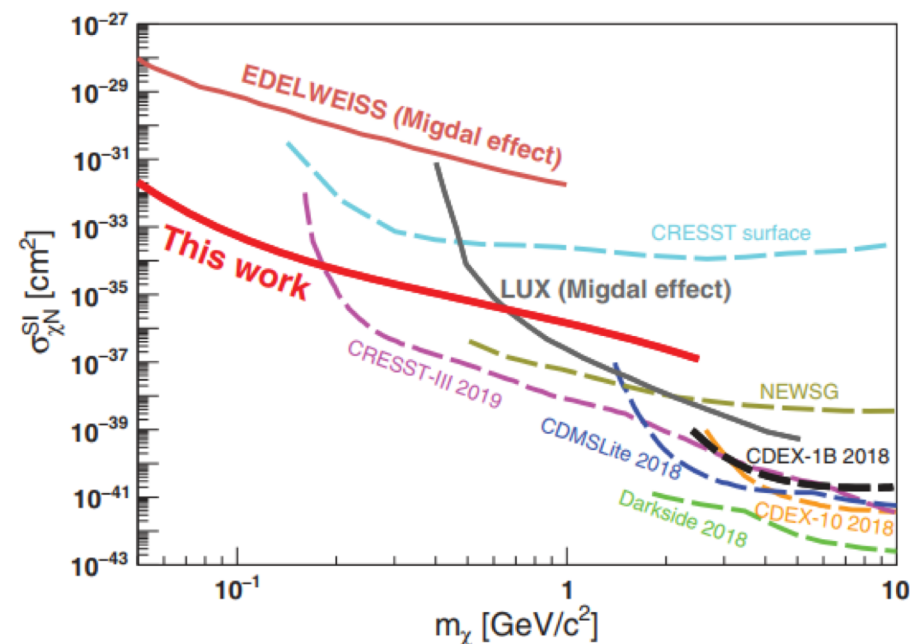
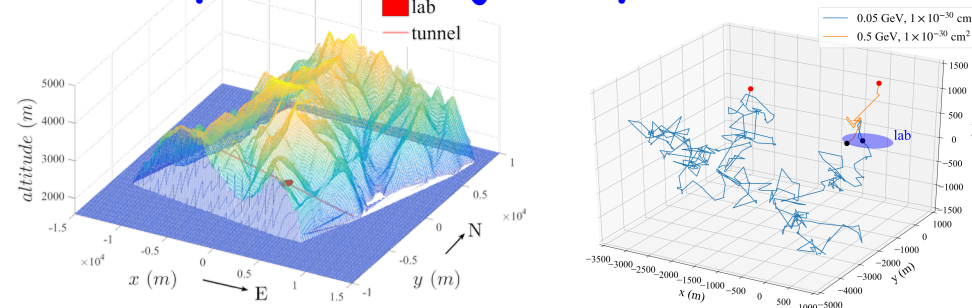
✓ Migdal effect (ME):

- Elastic scattering: $\chi + N \rightarrow \nu + N(E_R)$
- Migdal effect: $\chi + A \rightarrow \chi + N(E_R) + e^-(E_{EM})$

✓ The electrons has finite probability that they do not follow the motion of the nuclei such that the electrons of the target atom will be excited or ionized, i.e., high-energy electrons are ejected via inelastic $\chi - N$ scattering process.



ME with Earth's effects are integrated into the particle-trajectory simulation



Best results at **50-180 MeV** region for light WIMPs searches.

Solar Axion & ALP results



CDEX

✓ Background assumption:

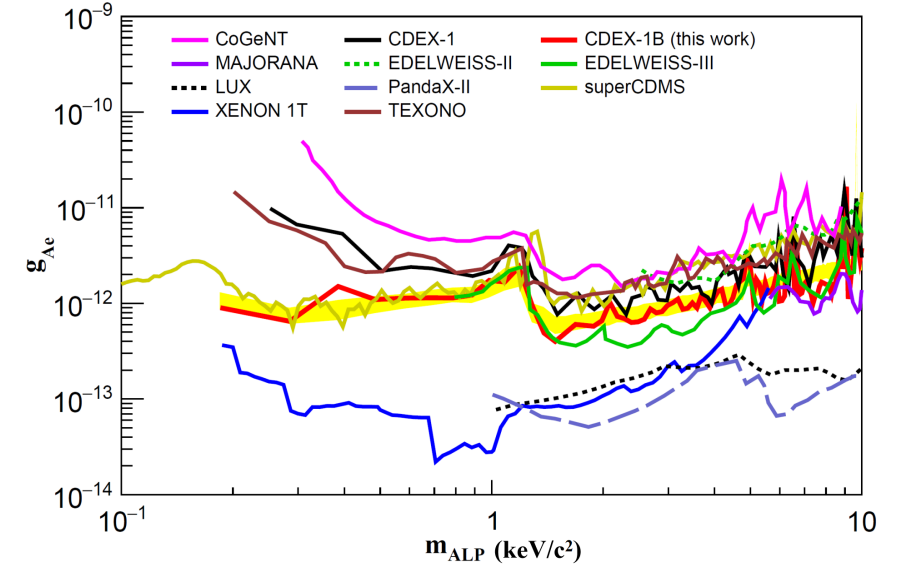
- Continuous background + X-rays

✓ Profile likelihood method

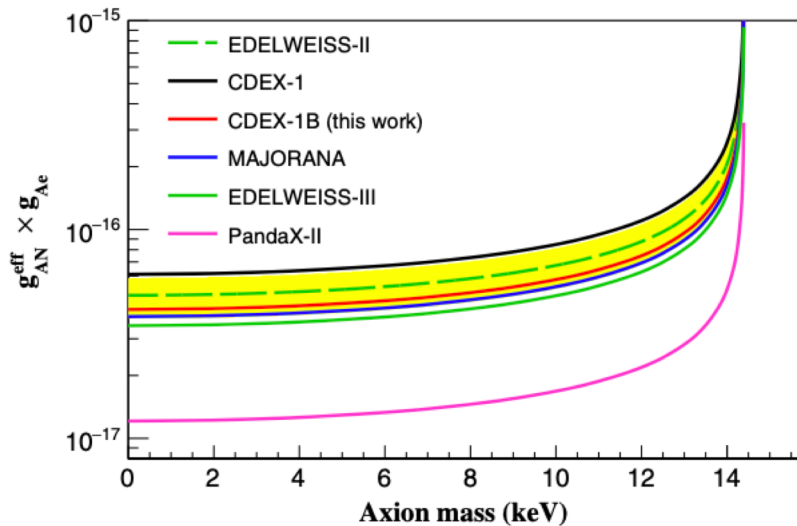
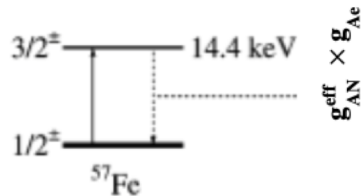
✓ Excellent energy resolution of Ge is suited for the monochromatic DM axion and **Fe-57** axions

✓ Competitive g_{Ae} constraints exist for m_a : **100eV ~ 1keV**

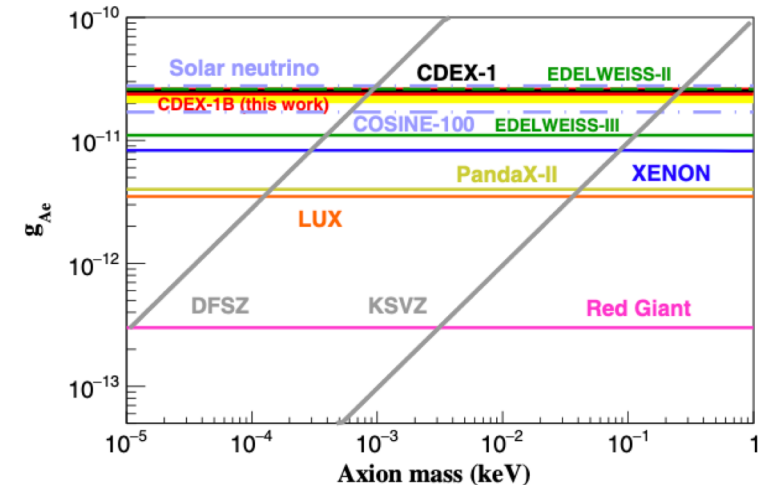
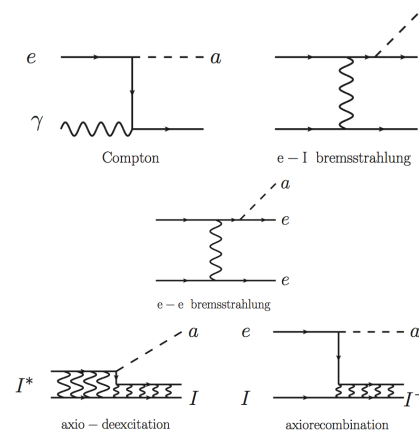
ALP dark matter



Fe-57 solar axion



CBRD Solar axion



Solar dark photon & DPDM results



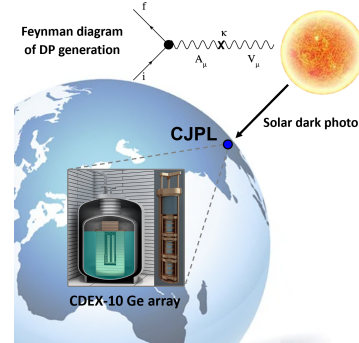
CDEX

✓ Solar is the most significant dark photon source.

✓ Detection method: $V + A \rightarrow A^+ + e^-$

✓ The expected event rates:

$$\frac{dR}{dE} = V \frac{E}{|\vec{q}|} \left(\frac{d\phi_T}{dE} \Gamma_T + \frac{d\phi_L}{dE} \Gamma_L \right)$$

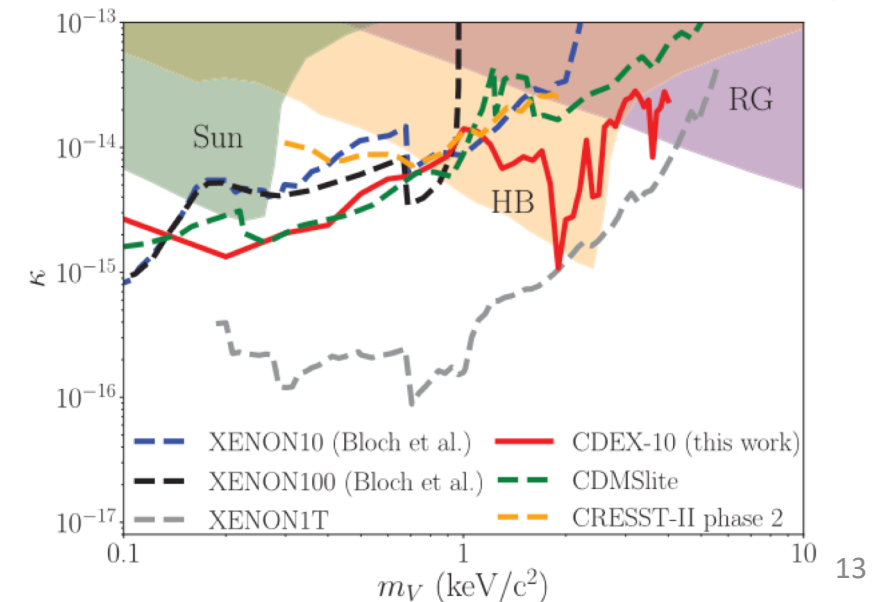
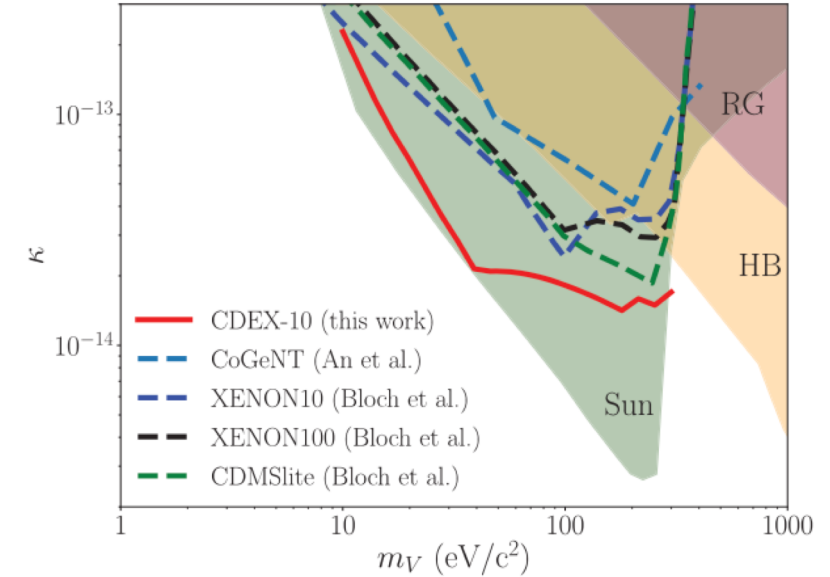


• depending on dark photon flux $\phi_{T,L}$, the dark photon absorption rates $\Gamma_{T,L}(m_V, \kappa)$ in Ge

✓ C10-B1 experiment

- Threshold: 160eVee
- Background level 2.5 cpkkd @ 2~4 keV
- Exposure: 205.4 kg day

✓ The most stringent limits on κ with mass of 10 to 300 eV/c^2 for solar dark photon



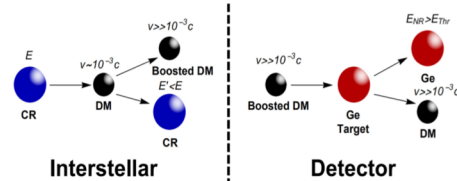
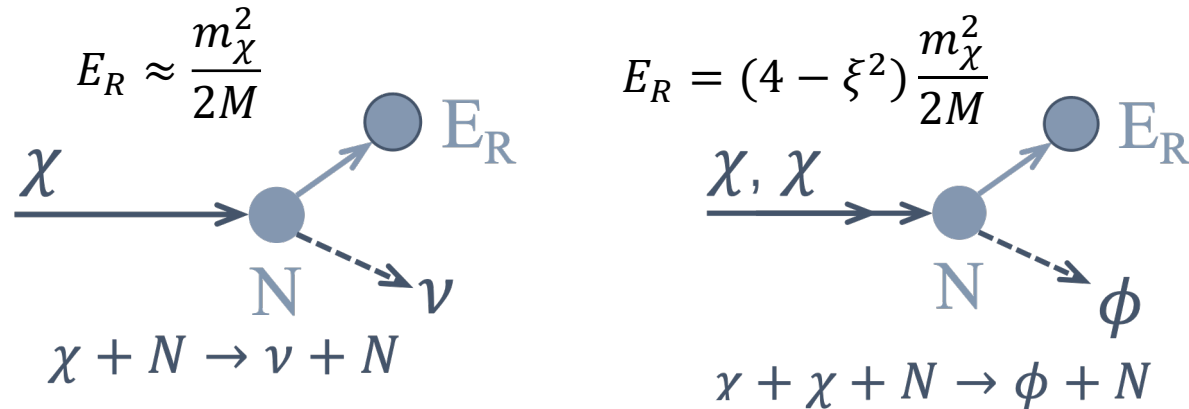
Exotic DM results



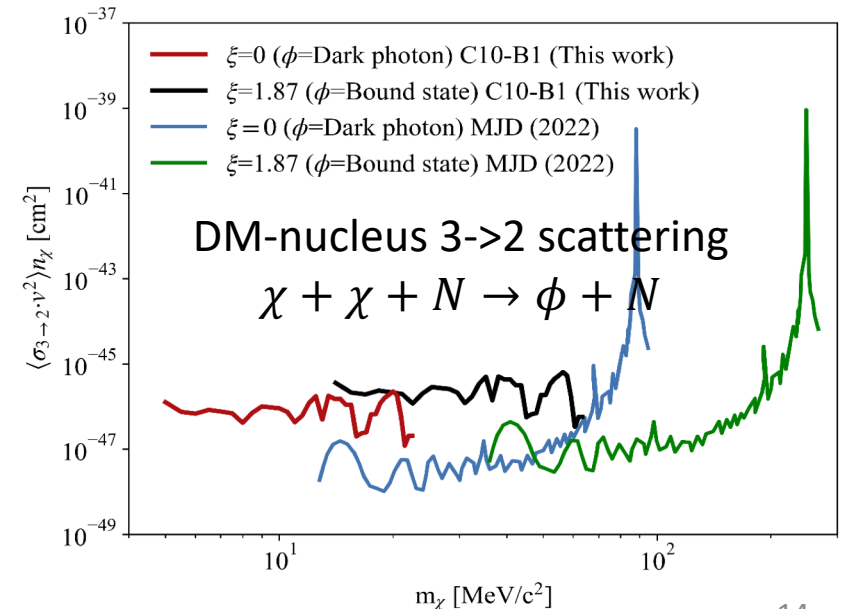
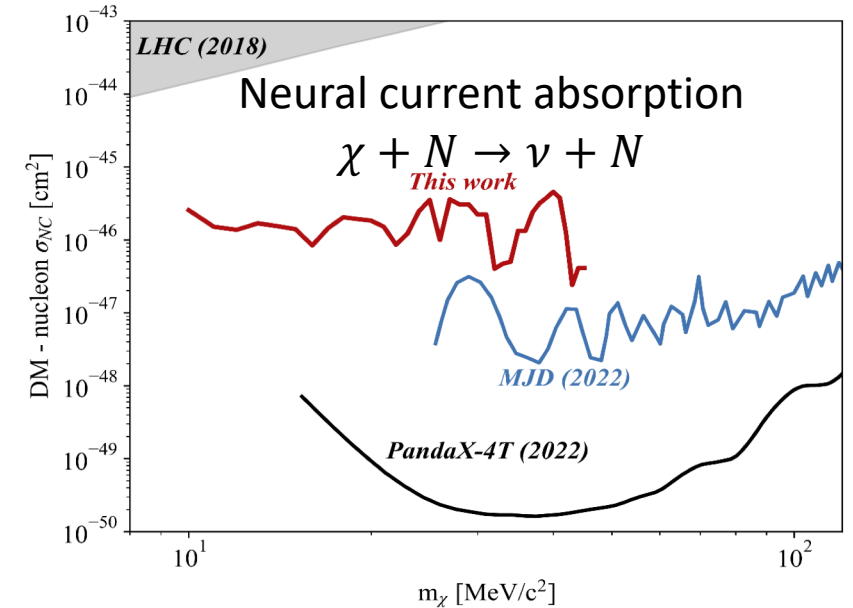
- ✓ New low mass $\mathcal{O}(\text{MeV}/c^2)$ dark matter (χ) may interact with nucleon (N):

Neutral current fermionic DM absorption: $\chi + N \rightarrow \nu + N$ [1]

DM-nucleus 3- \rightarrow 2 scattering: $\chi + \chi + N \rightarrow \phi + N$ [2]



- ✓ **C10-B1 (205.4 kg-day exposure)** with flat background assumption.
- ✓ New experimental limits on lowest mass range is placed for these two channels based on the low energy threshold of 160 eV.



$\chi - e$ scattering

- ✓ Light χ can potentially pass most of the energy onto electrons, depositing observable energy via $\chi - e$ scattering
- ✓ A **DM-electron scattering paradigm** proves to be successful extend m_χ to $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ MeV})$
- ✓ The total rate can be written as

$$R_{i \rightarrow f} = \frac{2\pi \bar{\sigma}_e}{V \mu_{\chi e}^2 m_\chi \rho_T} \rho_\chi.$$

$$\sum_{i,f} \int \frac{d^3q}{(2\pi)^3} \left(\frac{f_e}{f_e^0} \right)^2 F_{\text{DM}}^2 g(\mathbf{q}, \omega) |f_{i \rightarrow f}(\mathbf{q})|^2,$$

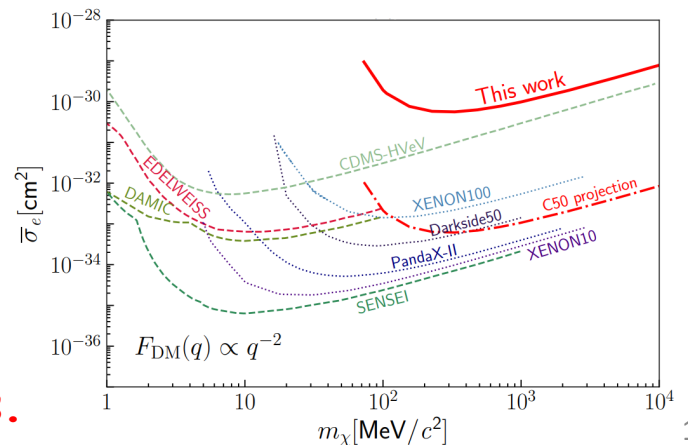
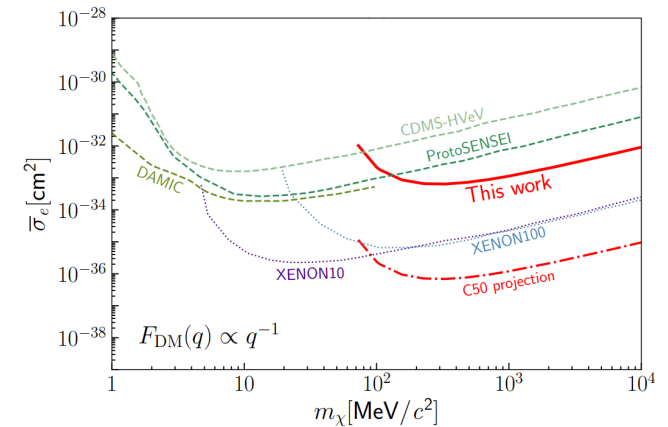
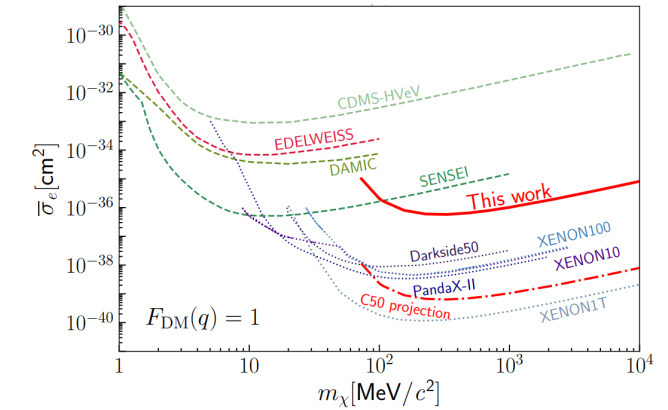
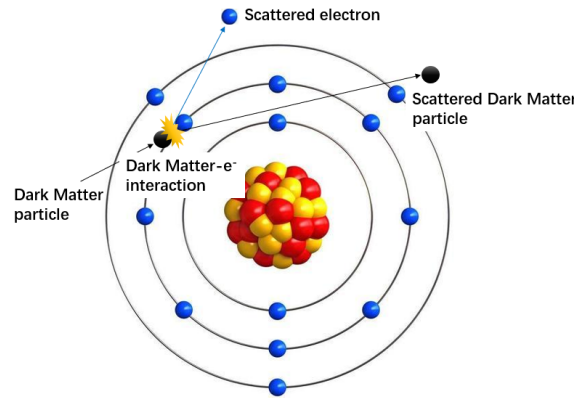
dark matter form factor

Crystal form factor

1: heavy mediator

q_0/q : electric dipole coupling

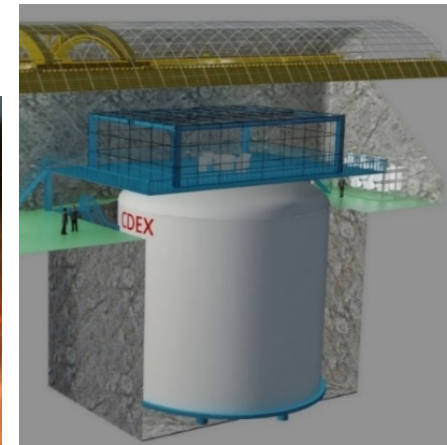
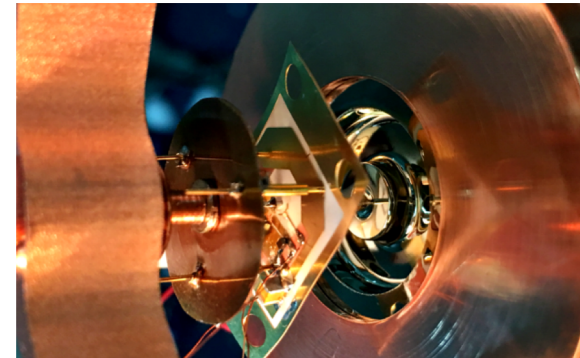
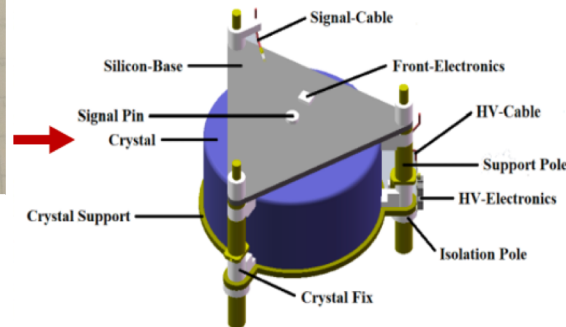
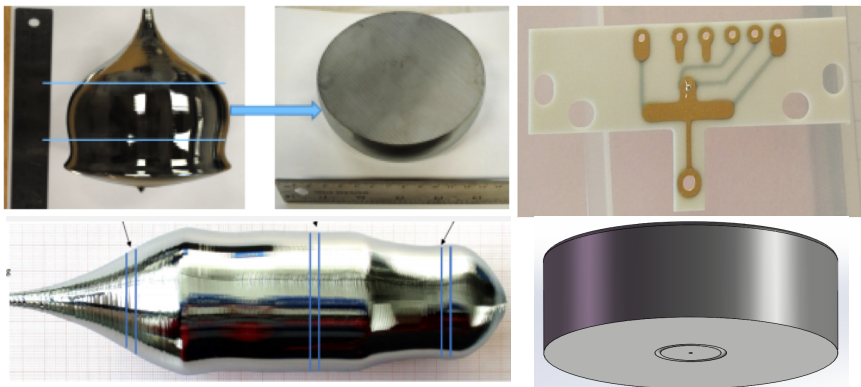
$(q_0/q)^2$: ultralight mediator



➤ **Ge crystal: incorporated by the effects of Semiconductor & Atoms.**

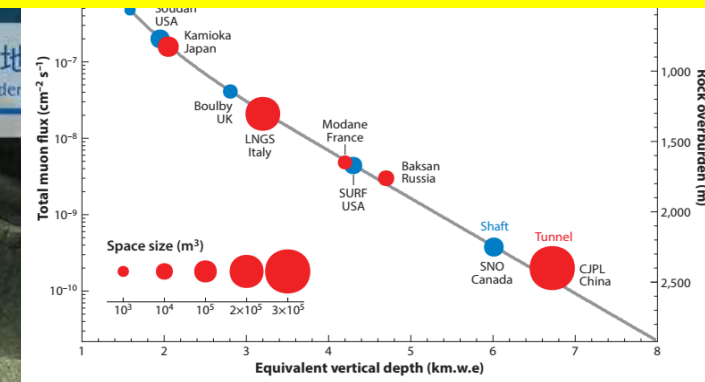
R&D on Key Ge Technologies to the CDEX's goals

- **Ge detector fabrication** : Various types, P-type planar/coaxial, P-type point-contact/BEGe/ICPC successfully fabricated. Two batches of commercial enriched Ge detector arrived in CJPL, 22 det. in total.
- **Ge crystal growth** : Developing technology ; 200kg ^{76}Ge (>86%) arrived, half from Russia and half from China, where the shield tunneling technique has been employed for surface transportation.
- **ULB-VFE(Very Front End) ASIC + Bare Ge immersed in LN_2 cryostat** : ENC ~ 10 e-; silicon substrate (U/TH < $60 \mu\text{Bq/kg}$)
- **Low counting facilities in underground**: U/Th analysis by ICP-MS, blank sensitivity $\sim 10^{-13}\text{g/g}$; Electro-form Copper technology is built.
- **R&D on LAr/SAr/(LN with scintillating) detectors**



CJPL-II: National Key Scientific and Technological Infrastructure

Annu. Rev. Nucl. Part. Sci. 2017.67:231-251



Cryogenic System for CDEX50, CDEX-300v

Nature, Jan. 22, 2024

nature

Explore content ▾ About the journal ▾ Publish with us ▾ Subscribe

nature > news > article

NEWS | 22 January 2024

China's new dark-matter lab is biggest and deepest yet

The laboratory is scaling up its equipment to hunt for dark matter.

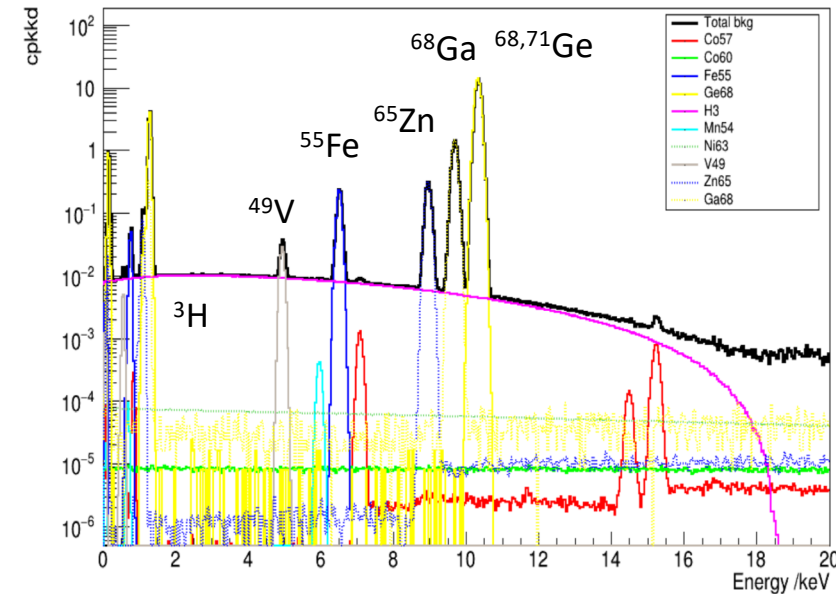
CJPL with normal scale

CDEX-50 Experiment

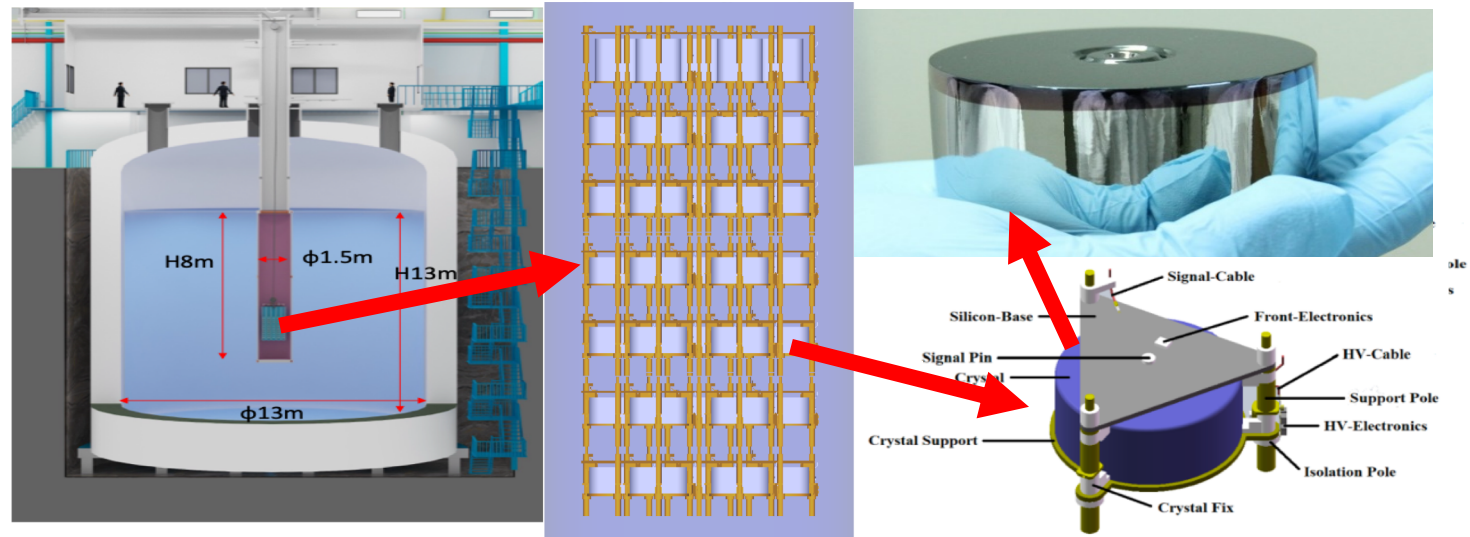
✓ Technical Indicators

- Background: $<0.01 \text{ cts}/(\text{keV} \cdot \text{kg} \cdot \text{day})$ during 2-4 keV;
- Energy analysis threshold : 160 eV;
- Exposure volume : 50 kg·year;
- ^3H cosmogenic radionuclides in crystal's dominate background

Simulated Background Spectra

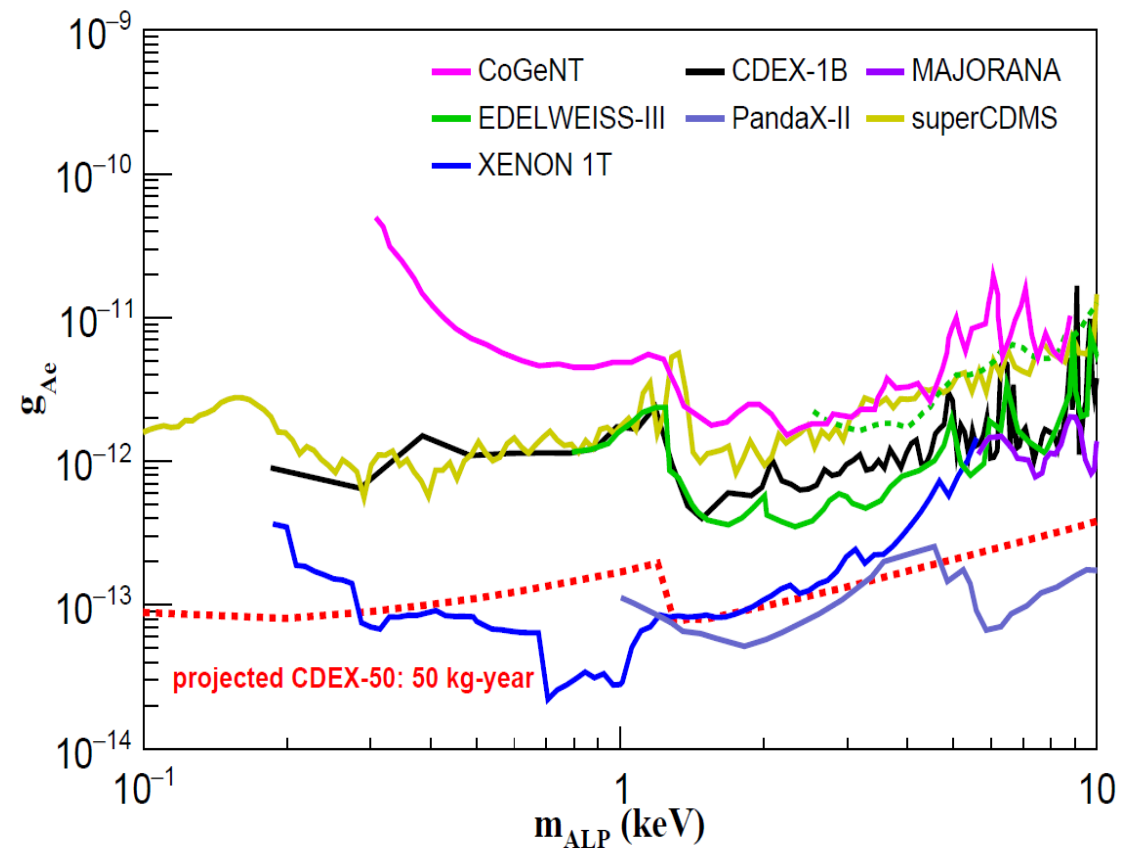
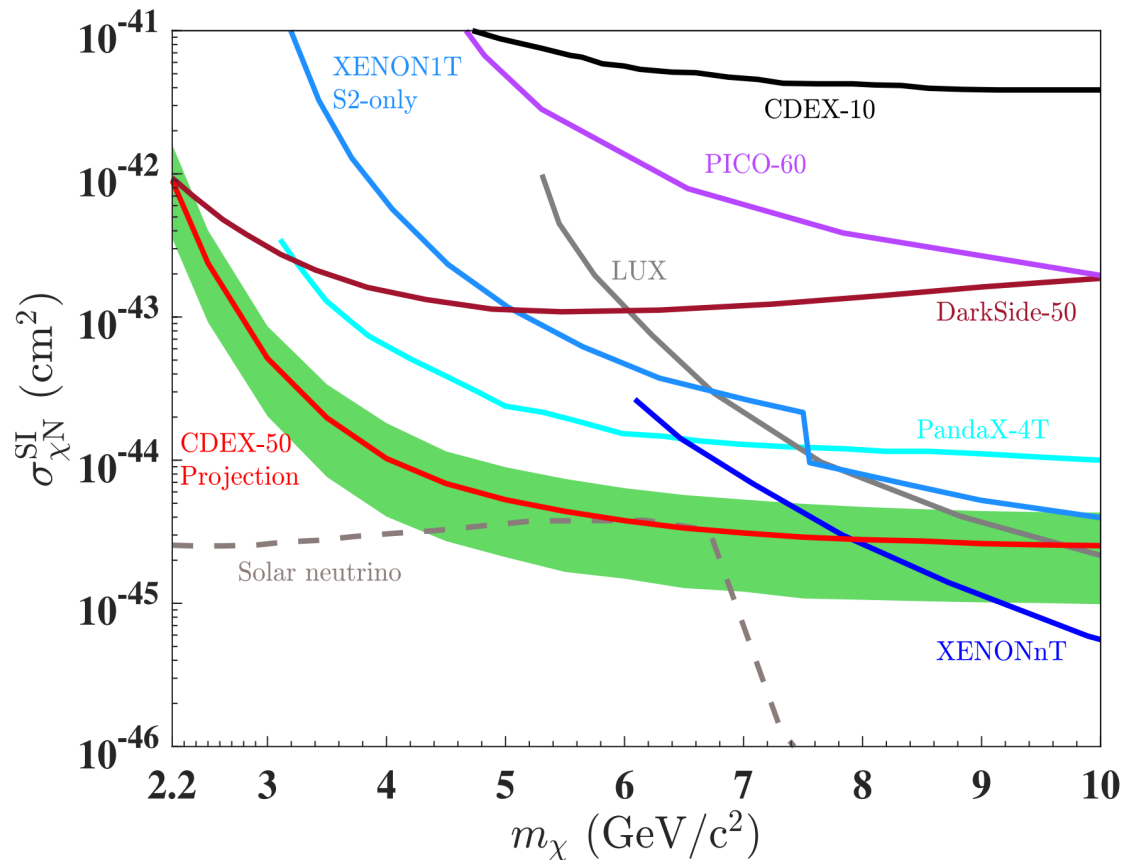


- ✓ Experimental setup:
Array of 50 kg natural germanium detectors in liquid nitrogen

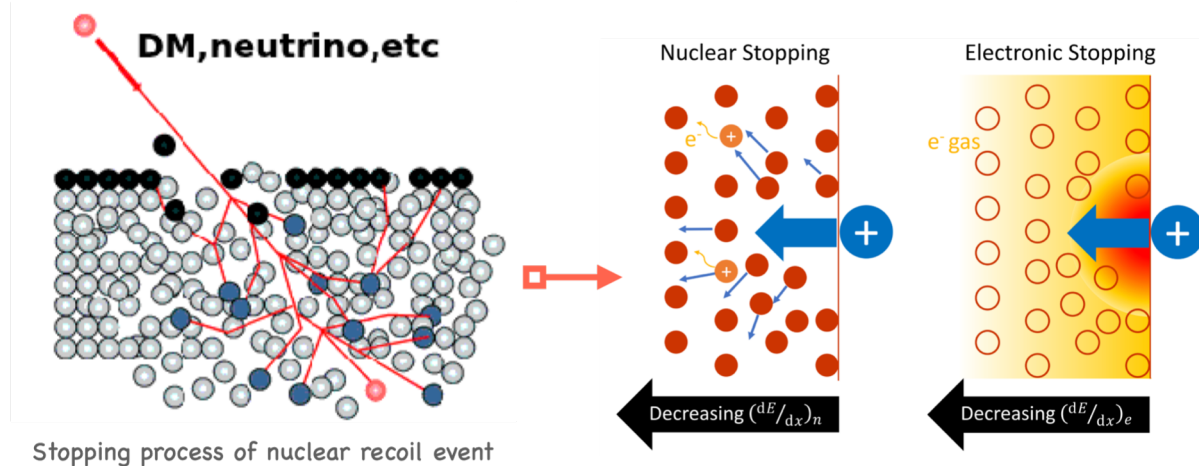


Projected sensitivities of CDEX-50 experiment

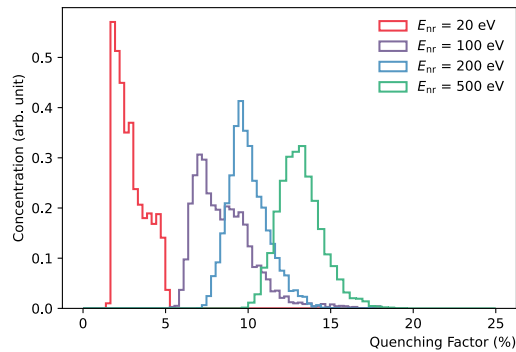
- ✓ The sensitivities of CDEX-50: 10^{-44} cm^2 level @ 4-8 GeV WIMP mass.
- ✓ Exploration of multi physics channels as well as the annual modulation effect



Modeling Detector Response: A Molecular Dynamics Simulation Approach to the Quenching Factor

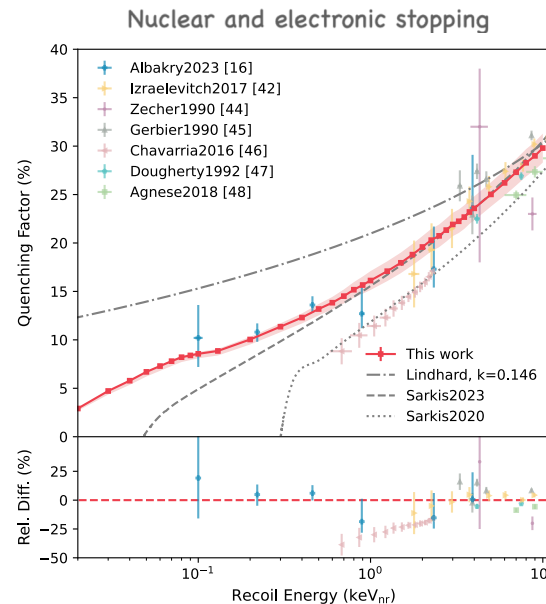


Stopping process of nuclear recoil event



QF distribution: recoil energy @ $\mathcal{O}(10 \text{ eV}_{nr})$

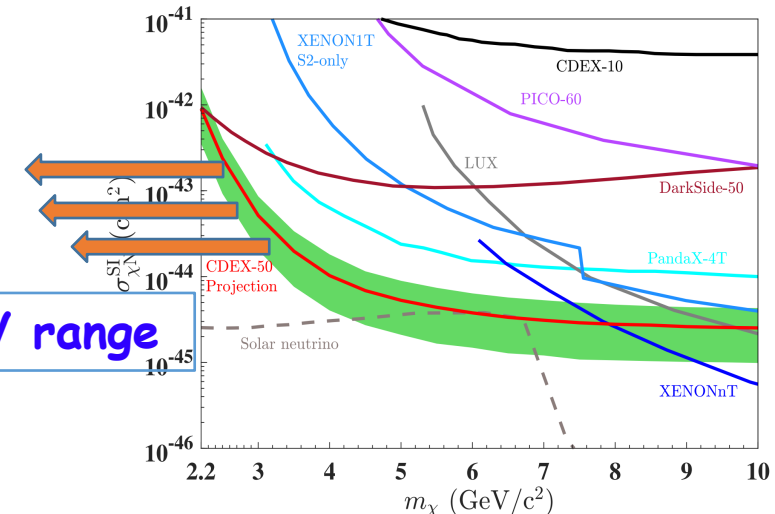
- A good agreement with experimental data is achieved in Si detectors.



sub-GeV range

See Chang-Hao Fang's talk

- Unlike Lindhard's QF models, which yield a deterministic recoil energy function, our molecular dynamics approach accounts for **probabilistic variations** in monoenergetic reionization energy.
- Extending the search for WIMPs into the **GeV to sub-GeV** range with germanium ionization detectors



Outlook & Prospects

- DM search: **Missing Mass Density & GR Problem** is the most intriguing & important one in basic science.
- Compelling evidence of Dark Matter existence inspires the searches of DM/**New Physics** in particle physics. **WIMPs, Axions, Dark Photons...** are popular/motivated candidates. **Other alternatives** could be new favorite?
- CDEX has involved and made a diverse & significant contributions to the Ge technology/science community: **Mass production of ^{76}Ge isotope material and Ge detectors; ASIC-PreAMP-Ge detectors; Large underground space at the deepest CJPL; Underground Ge crystal growth and detector fabrication for cosmogenic background reduction.**
- The new **Facilities AND Communities** add to the world's arsenal on exciting dark matter & neutrino experiments requiring deep locations.

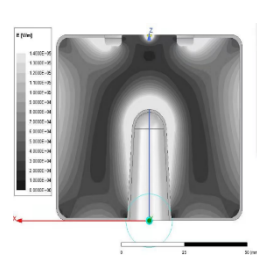
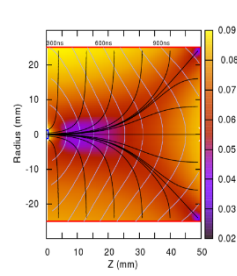
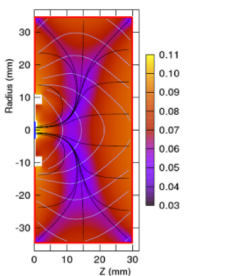
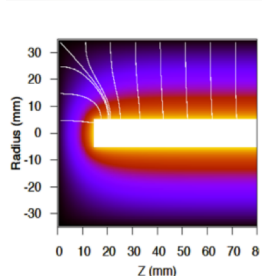
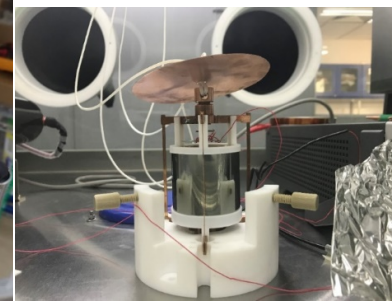
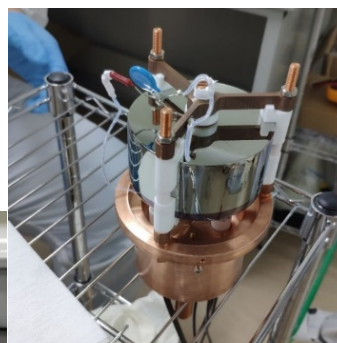
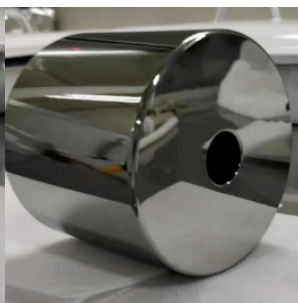
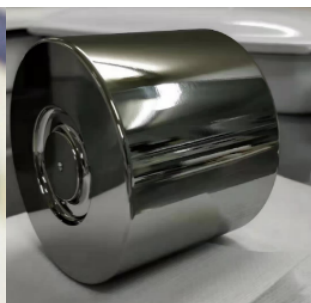
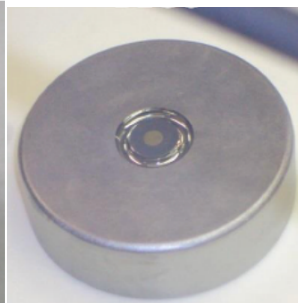
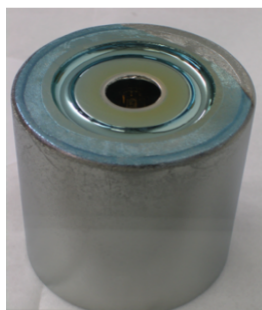


Thank you for your time and participation.

Backup Slides

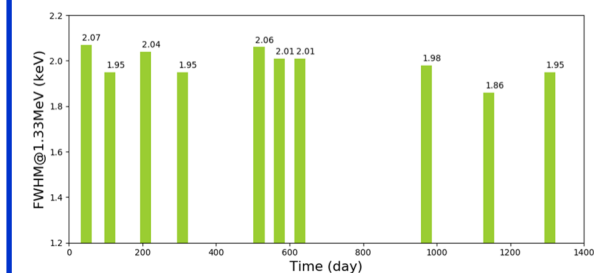
HPGe Technology---Ge Detector Fabrication

- ✓ Home-made different types of Ge detectors by CDEX group;
- ✓ Detector performances are same with commercial products with long-term stability.



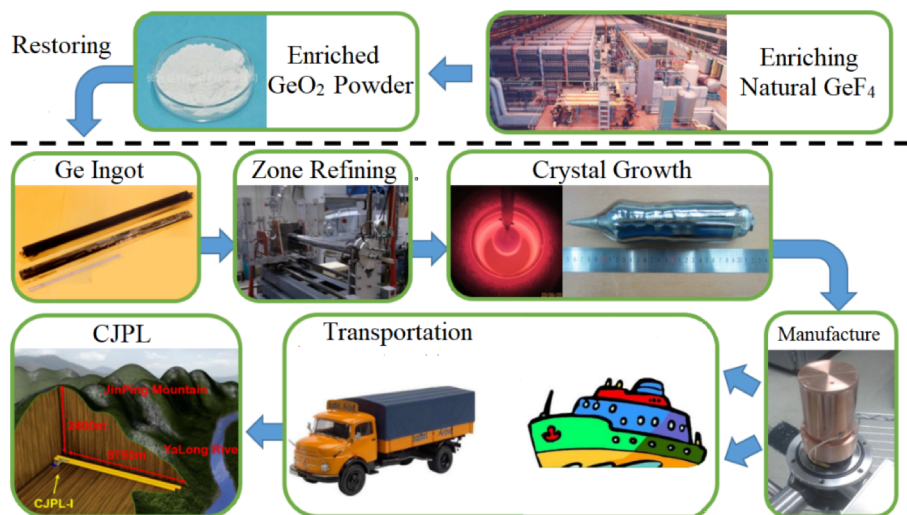
Key technical Steps:

- ✓ Commercial Ge crystal;
- ✓ **Structure machining;**
- ✓ **Li-drift and B-implanted;**
- ✓ **Home-made ASIC PreAmp;**
- ✓ **Underground EF-Cu;**
- ✓ **Underground assemble;**
- ✓ **Underground testing...**

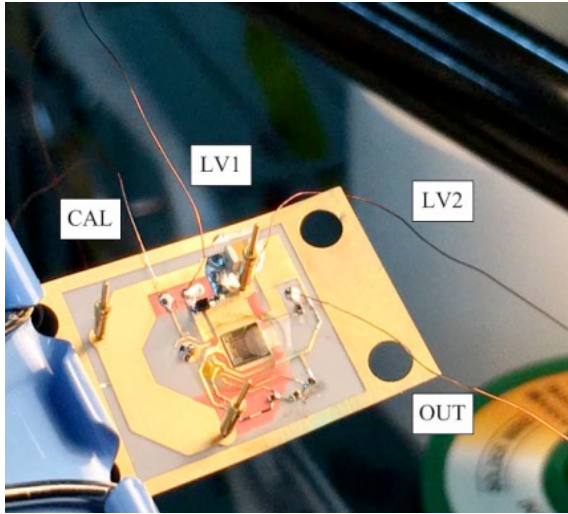


Enriched ^{76}Ge Material Supply

- 200kg ^{76}Ge (>86%) stored at CJPL, half from Russia and half from China.
- CDEX has the largest amount of $^{76}\text{GeO}_2$ powder in hand now in the world.
- The mass production power (Hundreds of kg each year) of enriched ^{76}Ge material has been setup in China and it is **a crucial contribution** to the International ^{76}Ge $0\nu\beta\beta$ **experiment** community.



HPGe Technology-ASIC PreAMP + LN₂ Cryostat

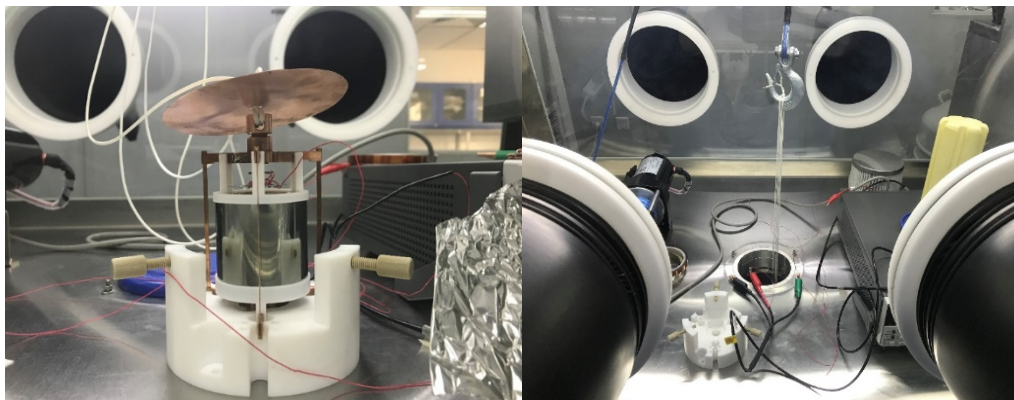
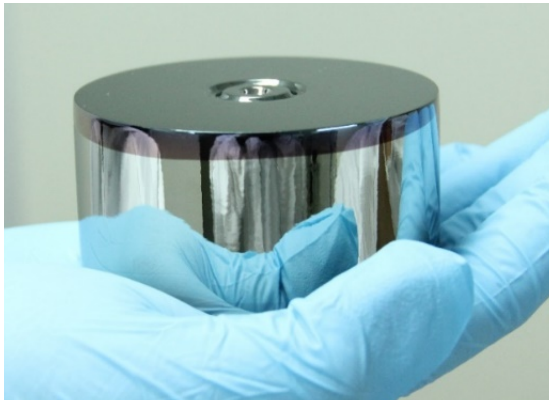
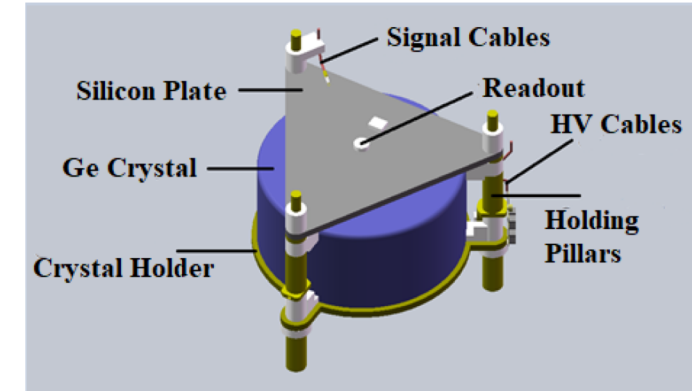


ASIC PreAMP

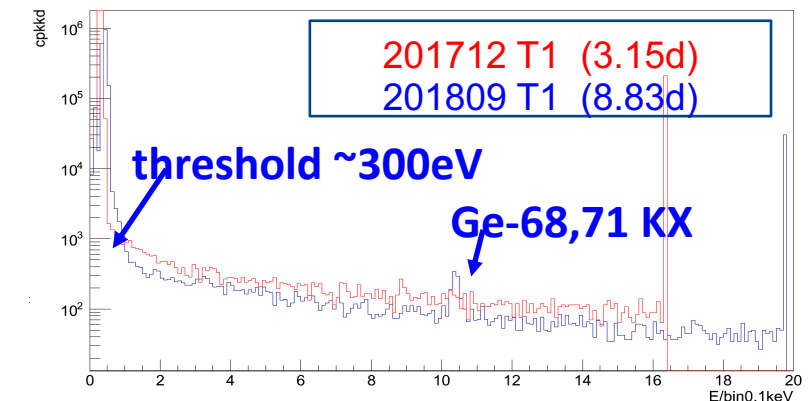
□ The first Ge+ASIC+LN₂ detector in the world:

500g Ge & home-made CMOS ASIC preamp immersed into LN₂

□ Works with expected performance



Fabricated and Tested in CJPL-I



Background spectrum @CJPL 26