# PHOTOSENSOR TESTING IN XEBRA FOR DARWIN

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# DARWIN

Project of a next generation liquid
 xenon based dark matter detector

 Detects xenon scintillation light from the interaction

• Therefore needs photosensors











### PHOTOSENSORS REQUIREMENTS



Low radioactivity



Vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) sensitivity and high photon detection efficiency



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Stable performance at cryogenic temperature and over time



Low dark count rate

Time resolution



Low power consumption

DARWIN

## CURRENT SOLUTION IN XENON



# DIRTY & EXPENSIVE



**Cons** of PMTs

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Neutron rate induced by the detector's materials

Material	Unit	$^{238}\mathrm{U}$	$^{226}$ Ra	$^{232}\mathrm{Th}$	$^{228}\mathrm{Th}$	$^{60}\mathrm{Co}$
Titanium	$\mathrm{mBq/kg}$	< 1.6	< 0.09	0.28	0.25	< 0.02
$\mathbf{PTFE}$	m mBq/kg	< 1.2	0.07	$<\!0.07$	0.06	0.027
Copper	m mBq/kg	< 1.0	< 0.035	< 0.033	< 0.026	< 0.019
PMT	$\mathrm{mBq/unit}$	8.0	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.84
Electronics	$\mathrm{mBq/unit}$	1.10	0.34	0.16	0.16	< 0.008

Activity from the detector's materials

 $\rightarrow$  3 to 30 times dirtier per unit than all other materials per kilo !

~ 5000 € per PMT Would need 1700 units for DARWIN

# OTHER AVAILABLE SOLUTIONS



#### HEIKA CHIP

Digital SiPMs made of an array of single photon avalanche diodes (SPADs) read out individually



Lower power consumption Better spatial resolution However, less filling because of readout electronics Each SPAD can individually be turned off





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 $\Box$ 



XeBRA testing

### PMT COMPARISON

- First ever test of this chip in cryogenic conditions with high voltage applied
- $_{\circ}$  Shine a LED through the PTFE
- $_{\circ}$  Compare PMT and DSiPM
  - Quantum efficiency
  - Time resolution

- Single photon detection
- High # of photons saturation



# THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

Let's fill this column !

	3" PMT	DSiPM
Dark count rate	8x10 <sup>-3</sup> Hz	?
Quantum efficiency	35%	?
Gain	Up to 10 <sup>7</sup> e <sup>-</sup>	?
High # of photons detection	Yes	?



# BACKUP

Pros and **cons** of PMTs

RELIABILITY

o 27 out of 494 PMTs in nT are either turned off or ignored during analysis → more than 5%
o Due to vacuum leaks, low PMT
o gain or electric noise

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Example of a recent bad behavior of a PMT when usual HV is applied

**Pros** and cons of PMTs

## LOW DARK COUNT RATE & TESTED

## Dark count rate (DCR) of $\sim 8.10^{-3} \text{ Hz/mm}^2$



Section of LZ array

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Top array of XENONnT

Bottom array of PandaX

 $\rightarrow$  All R11410 Hamamatsu PMTs

### LOW RADIOACTIVITY HAMAMATSU PMTS

- Photocathode and base of the PMTs
   with low radioactive material
- Is 20 to 50% less radioactive than
   R14110

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Material used show 3 times more leaks



## MULTI PIXEL PHOTON COUNTER

- A type of silicon photomultiplier (SiPM)
- Avalanche photodiodes connected in parallel
- Is less radioactive

- $_{\circ}$  More stable over time
- Already used in other experiments
- But has 2 orders of magnitude higher dark count rates at LXe temperature



### ABALONE

- Photon to photoelectron (photocathode)
   back to photon (scintillator) detected by
   SiPM
- Tested in gaseous xenon successfully
- $_{\odot}$  Less material  $\rightarrow$  low radioactivity
- Ten times lower DCR than traditional PMTs
- $_{\circ}$  High high voltage needed (25kV)
- Not tested enough yet

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<image>







Each SPAD can individually be turned off if DCR is too high SPADs are OR-ed to a macro pixel



HEiKA chip

5 SPADs activated but only 4 macro pixels

Event reconstructed as 4 photons hit



Activated SPADs

Reconstructed event



#### QUANTA GENERATION IN XENON TPC



