

Ionization yield of 7 keV nuclear recoils in liquid argon

Sunday, 8 September 2013 19:30 (0 minutes)

The response of liquid argon, and other low-background detector materials, to low-energy nuclear recoils is important for determining the sensitivity of these materials to light WIMPS and coherent neutrino-nucleus scattering. Using a small prototype dual-phase argon proportional scintillation counter at LLNL we have probed the response of liquid argon to sub-keV electronic recoils using ^{37}Ar as an homogeneous internal calibration source. With this same detector we have measured the ionization yield of 7 keV nuclear recoils. This measurement was made using a near-threshold collimated Fe-filtered $^7\text{Li}(p,n)$ source that provides a monoenergetic source of 70 keV neutrons.

Summary

In this poster we discuss the design and low-energy sensitivity of our dual-phase argon detector, the design and characterization of the monoenergetic neutron source, and measurement of the ionization yield of 7 keV nuclear recoils in liquid argon.

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