



ID de Contribution: 0

Type: Non spécifié

Improvement of the CRESST Phonon/Light Detectors

vendredi 6 juin 2008 11:05 (25 minutes)

The goal of the CRESST-Collaboration is to directly detect WIMPs by nuclear recoils in a low-temperature-calorimeter. The origin of detector events can be discriminated by comparing the phonon- and light signals generated in a scintillating CaWO_4 crystal. During production of the phonon sensor, the scintillation properties of the crystal are being degraded. In order to circumvent this, there are investigations whether it is feasible to produce the phonon sensor separate from the scintillator crystal and then glue the two parts together. A proof-of-principle experiment with a promising outcome performed in 2007 has led to a set of prototype detectors which are to be included in the 2008 run.

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