First results from the DEAP-3600 dark matter search with argon at SNOLAB

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(DEAP-3600 Collaboration)

This paper reports on the first DM search from DEAP-3600 with an argon (Ar) detector. The experiment was performed 2 km underground at SNOLAB (Sudbury, Canada) utilizing a large target mass, with the Ar target contained in a spherical acrylic vessel of 3600 kg capacity. The Ar is viewed by an array of PMTs, which would register scintillation light produced by rare nuclear recoil signals induced by dark matter particle scattering. An analysis of 4.44 live days (fiducial exposure of 9.87 tonne·scintillation light from the target medium. This is the first DM search result from an Ar detector, of any technology, exceeding a 1 tonne target mass, and the first such result from a single phase detector, of any target species, at this scale. We emphasize the importance of exceeding the tonne scale: thus far only one technology, liquid Xe TPCs, has achieved 1 tonne fiducial mass while a credible direct detection discovery of DM will require observation in multiple target species. Further, while the WIMP...
mass reach of collider experiments is limited by beam energy, direct detection experiments are limited only by total exposure, and so a large enough underground detector with sufficiently low backgrounds can access high WIMP mass regions not accessible to colliders. The DEAP-3600 single-phase design offers excellent scalability to kilotonne-scale LAr detectors \[4, 5\].

In this paper we report the best background rejection using pulse-shape discrimination (PSD) in argon at low energy threshold, most relevant for WIMP searches. The PSD uses the substantial difference in LAr scintillation timing between NR and electronic recoils (ER) to reject the dominant $\beta/\gamma$ backgrounds \[2, 3\] at the $10^{-7}$ level, 4 orders of magnitude beyond that achieved in LXe. This capability will enable a large underground detector using argon to reject the electron backgrounds from solar neutrinos and reach the neutrino floor defined by coherent scattering of atmospheric neutrinos. Employing this PSD, this paper reports a background-free DM search in 9.87 tonne-day exposure, resulting in the best limit on the WIMP-nucleon cross section measured with argon, second only to Xe TPCs. The WIMP-nucleon cross section measured with argon, $9.87 \text{ tonne-day}$ exposure, resulting in the best limit on the WIMP-nucleon cross section measured with argon, second only to Xe TPCs.

The detector is comprised of an atmospheric LAr target contained in a transparent acrylic vessel (AV) cryostat capable of storing 3600 kg of argon. The AV is viewed by 255 Hamamatsu R9512-HQE photomultiplier tubes (PMTs) operated near room temperature to detect scintillation light from the target. The PMTs are coupled to the AV by 50 cm-long acrylic light guides (LGs). The inner AV surface was coated in-situ with a 3 µm layer of wavelength shifter, 1,1,4,4-tetraphenyl-1,3-butadiene (TPB) to convert 128 nm Ar scintillation light into blue light, which is efficiently transmitted through acrylic. The AV neck is wrapped with optical fibers read out by PMTs, to veto light emission in the AV neck region. The detector is housed in a stainless steel spherical shell immersed in an 8 m diameter ultrapure water tank. All detector materials were selected to achieve the background target of $<0.6$ events in a 3 tonne-year exposure \[5\]. To avoid $^{222}\text{Rn}/^{210}\text{Pb}$ contamination of the bulk acrylic and the AV-TPB interface, the inner 0.5 mm surface layer of the inner AV was removed in-situ after construction. The Rn exposure was then strictly limited, with the AV and the access glovebox purged with Rn-scrubbed N$_2$, evacuated and baked before filling. Argon was delivered as cryogenic liquid, stored underground, purified to sub-ppb impurity levels, scrubbed of Rn \[6\] and liquified in the AV.

PMT signals are decoupled from the high voltage by a set of custom analog signal-conditioning boards, digitized with CAEN V1720 digitizers and handled by the MIDAS DAQ system \[7\].

The PMT charge response functions are calibrated daily with a system of 22 optical fibres injecting 435 nm light from a pulsed LED. A detailed model for the PMT charge response is used to calculate the mean single photoelectron (SPE) charge, $\langle Q_{SPE}\rangle$ \[5, 8\]. The combined 3% statistical and systematic uncertainty on $\langle Q_{SPE}\rangle$ is assessed by fitting the measured charge vs. occupancy in calibration data with a simple Poisson model, which allows for the effect of the pedestal biasing the SPE charge fit in the range where the pedestal dominates (below 1 pC, approximately 0.1 PE), as $(1-\Delta)\langle Q_{SPE}\rangle$. The difference between the fitted value of $\Delta$ and the value predicted by the analytic charge response model in \[5\] is taken to be the systematic uncertainty arising from the SPE model shape. A full PMT signal simulation is implemented in a detailed Monte Carlo model of the detector, using the GEANT4-based RAT \[9\]. The simulation uses in-situ measured time vs. charge distributions for noise sources, including late, double, and after-pulsing (AP) for each PMT \[5, 8, 10\]. The charge of each identified pulse is divided by the PMT-specific mean SPE charge to extract the number of photoelectrons (PEs). $F_{\text{prompt}}$ is then defined for each event as the ratio of prompt to total charge,

$$F_{\text{prompt}} = \frac{\sum_{\{t_i \in (-28 \text{ ns}, 150 \text{ ns})\}} Q_i}{\sum_{\{t_i \in (-28 \text{ ns}, 10 \text{ µs})\}} Q_i},$$

where $Q_i$ is the pulse charge in PE and $t_i$ is the pulse time relative to the event time. The relative timing of each channel is calibrated with a fast laser source; the resulting overall time resolution is 1.0 ns. $F_{\text{prompt}}$ is a powerful PSD variable because it is sensitive to the ratio of excited singlet to triplet states in LAr, with lifetimes of 6 and 1300 ns \[11\], respectively. This ratio is significantly different for ER and NRs.

The detector trigger was designed to accept all low-energy events above threshold, all high-$F_{\text{prompt}}$ NRs and to cope with approximately 1 Bq/kg $^{39}\text{Ar}$ activity of LAr \[12\]. The PMTs signal is continuously integrated in windows 177 ns and 3100 ns wide, from which the prompt energy ($E_{\text{trigger}}$) and ratio of prompt and wide energies ($F_{\text{trigger}}$) are calculated. All NR-like triggers with $E_{\text{trigger}} > 40$ PE, but only 1% of $^{39}\text{Ar}$-decay-like triggers, are digitized; summary information is recorded for all events. For NR-like events above the analysis PE threshold, the trigger efficiency in the experiment live time is measured to be $(100 \pm 0.0 \pm 0.1)\%$, by running in a very low threshold mode. This efficiency is measured after low-level cuts to remove pile-up (Table S1 in Supplemental Material \[6\]). For ER-like events the measured trigger efficiency is $<100\%$ below 120 PE because of their lower prompt charge.

Stability of the LAr triplet lifetime, $\tau_3$, was verified with a fit accounting for dark noise, TPB fluorescence \[13\], and PMT AP. From this fit $\tau_3 = 1399 \pm 20$ (PMT syst.) $\pm 8$ (fit syst.) $\pm 6$ (TPB syst.) $\pm 7$ (AP syst.) ns, where errors are evaluated by performing the fit separately on individual PMTs, varying the fit range, and
varying the TPB fluorescence decay time and times of the AP distributions within uncertainties. This result is consistent with the literature value of 1300±60 ns [11] and is stable throughout the analyzed dataset. See Fig. S1 in Supplemental Material [1] for stability over a longer period.

The dominant scintillation event source is $^{39}$Ar β decay, resulting in low-$F_{\text{prompt}}$ ERs. In order to define an $F_{\text{prompt}}$ cut constraining the leakage of $^{39}$Ar events into the NR band, the $F_{\text{prompt}}$ distribution of ERs and its energy dependence were fitted with an 11-parameter empirical model of $F_{\text{prompt}}$ vs. PE, based on a widened Gamma distribution, $PSD(n, f) = \Gamma(f; \bar{f}(n), b(n)) \otimes \text{Gauss}(f; \sigma(n))$, where $b(n) = a_0 + \frac{a_1}{n} + \frac{a_2}{n^2}$, $\sigma(n) = a_3 + \frac{a_4}{n} + \frac{a_5}{n^2}$ and $\bar{f}(n)$ is parametrized as $a_6 + \frac{a_7}{n-6} + \frac{a_8}{(n-6)^2}$. The 2-dimensional fit of the model to the data (80–260 PE) has $\chi^2_{\text{ndf}}$ of 5581/(5236-11). Each PE bin in the fit range contributes approximately equally to the overall $\chi^2$ value. As an example, a 1-dimensional slice at 80 PE is shown in Fig. 1(a). The PSD leakage measured in the 120–240 PE window with a 90% NR acceptance is shown in Fig. 1(b). The extrapolated leakage is approximately 10 times lower than projected in the DEAP-3600 design [3]. As further reduction in the PSD leakage is expected from SPE counting [14], the original goal of a 120 PE analysis threshold in 3 years livetime from PSD will likely be surpassed.

The energy calibration uses internal backgrounds and external radioactive sources. The internal calibration uses β’s from $^{39}$Ar decay, with an endpoint of 565 keV, which are uniformly distributed in the detector, as WIMP-induced NRs would be. The external calibration uses a $^{24}$Na source, which produces 1.27 MeV γ’s and a 30-50 keV photo-absorption feature near the AV surface. The simulated spectra of $^{39}$Ar and $^{22}$Na are fit to the data to find the energy response function relating $T_{\text{eff}}$ [keV\text{ee}] (electron-equivalent energy) to detected PE,

$$N_{\text{PE}}(T_{\text{eff}}) = c_0 + c_1 T_{\text{eff}} + c_2 T^2_{\text{eff}},$$

where $c_0=1.2\pm0.2$ PE, $c_1=7.68\pm0.16$ PE keV\text{ee}$^{-1}$ and $c_2=-(0.51\pm2.0)\times10^{-3}$ PE keV\text{ee}$^{-2}$. The offset $c_0$ is fixed to values returned by analysis of mean pretrigger window charge for each run. The internal and external sources are fit separately, because of different spatial distributions. The $^{39}$Ar fit result based on the DM search data constitutes the nominal calibration, while the $^{39}$Ar, $^{22}$Na fit parameter differences, determined from a pair of runs taken just after the 2nd fill (see next page), are combined with the statistical uncertainties and used as systematic uncertainties from position and model dependence on $c_{1,2}$.

The final response function is shown in Fig. 2 together with the $^{39}$Ar data spanning from below to above the analysis energy window (see Fig. S2 in Supplemental Material [1] for the $^{22}$Na fit). The energy response function linear terms, $c_1$, for $^{39}$Ar and $^{22}$Na agree within errors. As a cross-check, the response function is extrapolated to compare with high-energy γ lines, see Fig. 2.

The light yield (LY) at 80 PE is 7.80±0.21 (fit syst.)±0.22 (SPE syst.) PE/keV\text{ee}, where the latter uncertainty is from SPE calibration.

A Gaussian energy resolution function is used to smear the spectra in the fit, with variance $\sigma^2 = c_0 + p_1 (P_{\text{E}} - c_0)$. The extrapolated resolution at 80 PE from best fit values for $^{39}$Ar and $^{22}$Na is 20±1% and 21±1%, respectively. A lower bound on the energy resolution at 80 PE is 12% ($p_1 = 1.185$), determined from counting statistics widened by the measured in-situ SPE charge resolution. Due to the steeply falling WIMP-induced spectrum, broader resolutions imply stronger limits at low WIMP masses. Thus using this lower bound is conservative.

The NR acceptance of the $F_{\text{prompt}}$ cut is determined from a simulation of $^{40}$Ar recoils distributed uniformly in LAr. The simulation assumes the quenching factor measured by SCENE [15] at zero electric field, and the triplet/singlet ratio energy dependence required to reproduce the reported median $f_0$ values. The simulation then applies the full response of the detection and analysis chain, which includes all noise components known to affect shape and width of the $F_{\text{prompt}}$ distribution. PMT AP is the dominant effect contributing to shifting $F_{\text{prompt}}$ relative to the intrinsic value [10], with an average AP probability of (7.6±1.9)% [3], approximately
FIG. 2: Measured, trigger-efficiency-corrected $^{39}$Ar $\beta$ spectrum from a subset of the data and the fit function (red) based on simulation, with $\chi^2_{\text{red}} = 1.02$. The inset shows the global energy response function, Eq. (2), from the $^{39}$Ar fit, and, as a cross-check, $\gamma$ lines from $^{40}$K and $^{208}$Tl compared with the extrapolated function; $^{208}$Tl diverges from the function because of PMT and DAQ non-linearity.

5\times larger than in SCENE. We note this 7.6\% produces a proportional 5\% shift in the median $F_{\text{prompt}}$. Comparison of external neutron AmBe source data with a simplified detector simulation shows qualitative agreement and serves as a validation of the model, see Fig. S3 in Supplemental Material[]. AmBe data is not used directly to model the WIMP-induced NR acceptance as 59\% of AmBe events in the 120-240 PE window contain multiple elastic neutron scatters.

![Fit](image1)

FIG. 3: Measured, trigger-efficiency-corrected $^{39}$Ar $\beta$ spectrum from a subset of the data and the fit function (red) based on simulation, with $\chi^2_{\text{red}} = 1.02$. The inset shows the global energy response function, Eq. (2), from the $^{39}$Ar fit, and, as a cross-check, $\gamma$ lines from $^{40}$K and $^{208}$Tl compared with the extrapolated function; $^{208}$Tl diverges from the function because of PMT and DAQ non-linearity.

Acceptance for WIMP-induced NR events, see Fig. 3(a), is determined using a combination of $^{39}$Ar events (uniformly distributed in the LAr volume) and simulation of $F_{\text{prompt}}$ for NRs. The sample of $^{39}$Ar single-recoils is obtained first by applying low-level cuts to remove events (1) from DAQ calibration, (2) from pile-up or (3) highly asymmetric (>$40\%$ of charge in a single PMT) e.g. Cherenkov events in LGs and PMTs. The approach of measuring acceptance for NRs using ERs is used since none of the cut variables depend on the pulse
time information, only $F_{\text{prompt}}$ does, which is handled separately. See Table S1 in Supplemental Material [6] for a detailed breakdown of the impact of run selection and cuts. The $F_{\text{prompt}}$ simulation for NRs is validated by comparison with the AmBe data.

Quality cuts are applied to $^{39}$Ar events within the energy window in order to determine the ER acceptance: the event time cut requires that the scintillation peak is positioned early in the waveform (which ensures reliable $F_{\text{prompt}}$ evaluation), cuts on the fraction of charge in the brightest PMT and on the neck veto remove high-charge AP triggering the detector as well as light emission in the AV neck (e.g. Cherenkov). We have identified a class of background events originating in the neck region and are characterizing it for future larger-exposure searches.

The fiducial acceptance is determined relative to the events remaining after the quality cuts. Fiducialization in this analysis employs low-level PE ratio cuts. These are that the fraction of scintillation-induced (AP corrected) PE [10, 14] in the PMT which detects the most light be <7%, and that the fraction of charge in the top 2 rows of PMTs in the detector be <5%. These variables are strongly correlated with the radial and vertical event positions, respectively, and so effectively reject events at the surface of the detector and in the neck. The volume, after cuts on these variables (Table S1 in Supplemental Material [6]), corresponds roughly to a sphere of radius $\sim$773 mm, truncated at the LAr level at $z$$\approx$590 mm. The fiducial mass, 2223±74 kg, is determined from the full LAr mass and measured acceptance of the fiducialization cuts. The expected activity of $^{39}$Ar contained in this fiducial mass is 2245±198 Bq [12], consistent with the fiducial rate observed in DEAP-3600, 2239±8 Hz.

Position reconstruction algorithms have been tested on the data and will be used to further reduce backgrounds in longer exposure runs. However, in this analysis they were used only as a cross-check (see Fig. S4 in Supplemental Material [6]).

The main background sources are $\alpha$ activity, neutrons, and leakage from $^{39}$Ar and other ERs. As external backgrounds contribution to this early analysis is negligible, we have not yet determined their distributions. $^{222}$Rn, $^{218}$Po and $^{214}$Po $\alpha$ decays are identified in the LAr bulk as well-defined high-energy peaks or based on time delayed coincidence with $\alpha$-$\alpha$ ($^{222}$Rn-$^{218}$Po and $^{220}$Rn-$^{216}$Po) or $\beta$-$\beta$ ($^{214}$Bi-$^{214}$Po) tags, resulting in activities: (1.8±0.2)×10$^{-1}$ μBq/kg of $^{222}$Rn, (2.0±0.2)×10$^{-1}$ μBq/kg of $^{214}$Po, and (2.6±1.5)×10$^{-3}$ μBq/kg of $^{220}$Rn. For comparison, approximate values from other experiments are: 66 μHz/kg of $^{222}$Rn and 10 μHz/kg of $^{220}$Rn in LUX [17], 6.57 μBq/kg of $^{222}$Rn and 0.41 μBq/kg of $^{220}$Rn in PandaX-II [15], and 10 μBq/kg of $^{222}$Rn in XENON1T [19]. The activity of $^{214}$Po in the bulk is consistent with the earlier part of the chain, indicating that it is mostly mixed within the LAr volume (see Fig. S5 in Supplemental Material [6]). Out-of-equilibrium $^{210}$Po $\alpha$ decays are identified by degraded energies characteristic of $\alpha$’s coming from below the TPB layer. The activity of $^{210}$Po is determined with a fit of simulated spectra to the data: 0.22±0.04 mBq/m$^2$ on the AV surface and <3.3 mBq in the AV bulk, see Fig. S6 in Supplemental Material [6].

The dominant source of neutron events is expected to be from ($\alpha$, n) reactions and spontaneous fission in the PMTs. The PMT borosilicate glass contribution is constrained with measurements of the 2614 keV and 1764 keV γ-rays from the $^{232}$Th and $^{238}$U decay chains, respectively. Activities of both decay chains seen in-situ agree within a factor of two with a simulation based on the screening results. Neutron backgrounds can also be measured by searching for NRs followed by capture γ’s. The efficiency of this technique was calibrated using neutrons from an AmBe source deployed near the PMTs. No neutron candidates were seen in 4.44 d (80–10000 PE window, no fiducial cuts), which is consistent with the assay-based expectation. Systematic uncertainties con-

![FIG. 4: (a) The acceptance with systematic error bands in the 80–240 PE window. The acceptance is calculated individually for each run and then weighted by livetime, with uncertainties taken as maximum and minimum variations about the weighted mean. Uncertainties on trigger acceptance measurement and $F_{\text{prompt}}$ cut acceptance are discussed in the text. (b) $F_{\text{prompt}}$ vs. PE for events passing cuts, with the WIMP search ROI (red).](image)
dominated by uncertainties in Eq. (2): the second largest contribution is associated with the NR quenching factor, i.e. the reduction in NR scintillation yield relative to ER \( [\text{keV}_{\text{r}}] = L_{\text{eff, 83mKr}}[\text{keV}_{\text{ee}}] \), when referring to energies of NR, keV, the unit of the full energy of the recoil, can be used. We used measurements from SCENE, which reports two different NR-energy-dependent quenching factors, differing due to non-unitary recombination at null field: \( L_{\text{eff, 83mKr}} \) (the ratio of LY measurements for NRs to \( 83m\text{Kr} \) ER calibration) and \( L \) (the Lindhard-Birks quenching factor describing the suppression of scintillation photons and extracted electrons). We adjusted the Lindhard-Birks quenching factors fit to \( L \) to account for the relative recombination rates of NR and \( 83m\text{Kr} \) ER at null field, according to the NEST model \[29\], fitting Thomas-Inel and Doke-Birks recombination parameters to SCENE’s \( L_{\text{eff, 83mKr}} \) values. The fit uncertainties were inflated to account for differences between the SCENE and DEAP-3600 detectors and the different recombination rates of the \( 83m\text{Kr} \) ER and the \( 22\text{Na} \) low-energy feature used for our energy calibration. These factors, along with uncertainty in the SCENE value of Birks’ constant and the difference between \( L \) and \( L_{\text{eff, 83mKr}} \) were included in the overall quenching factor uncertainty.

No events are observed in the ROI, see Fig. 1(b). Figure 5 shows the resulting upper limit on the spin-independent WIMP-nucleon scattering cross section as a function of WIMP mass, based on the standard DM halo model \[21\]. A 90% C.L. upper limit is derived employing the Highland-Cousins method \[22\] (a counting only technique which incorporates systematic uncertainties). For a more conservative limit, the predicted background from \( 39\text{Ar} \) leakage was not subtracted. We note that this analysis was not blind.

FIG. 5: Spin-independent WIMP-nucleon cross section 90% C.L. exclusion from 4.44 live days of DEAP-3600 data. Also shown are current results from other searches \[23\]–\[28\], and the full sensitivity of XENON1T and DEAP-3600 (a 3 tonne-year background-free exposure with a 15 keV_{ee} threshold).

DEAP-3600 achieved 7.8 PE/keV_{ee} LY at the end of the detector fill without recirculation, and demonstrated better-than-expected PSD (permitting a 37 keV_{r} energy threshold), with promising \( \alpha \) and neutron background levels. Analysis of the first 4.44 d of data results in the best limit at low energies on discrimination of \( \beta \)-decay backgrounds using PSD in LAr at 90% N C.L. in the energy window 15-31 keV_{ee} (52-105 keV_{r}). This measurement has lower threshold than DEAP-1 \[3\] and higher statistics than DarkSide-50 \[29\]. After NR selection cuts no events are observed, resulting in the best spin-independent WIMP-nucleon cross section limit measured in LAr \[26\] of \( 1.2 \times 10^{-7} \) cm² for a 100 GeV/c² WIMP (90% C.L.).

Data collection has been ongoing since Nov. 2016 and forms the basis for a more sensitive DM search currently in progress.

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\[5\] During the review process of this paper, new results from DarkSide-50 \[23\] were announced. DEAP-3600 remains the most sensitive non-Xe search in 45–80 GeV/c² mass range.
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FIG. S1: Stability of late light timing measured during the detector fill. The ‘long lifetime’ is determined with a simple ‘exponential + linear’ fit to the summed waveforms from 500 ns to 3000 ns. Such a fit overestimates the triplet lifetime by including effects such as PMT AP and TPB fluorescence in addition to the LAr triplet lifetime. Shown as well is the ‘triplet lifetime’ extracted from the same pulse shapes with a more elaborate fit that accounts for these effects. At low LAr mass, the averaged pulse shapes include a contribution from gaseous Ar scintillation, which also leads to an increase in the fit lifetimes. The triplet lifetime measurements are shown for a period when a sizable amount of LAr was in the detector. The error bars shown are primarily systematic, as the statistical uncertainties from the fits are smaller than the marker size. LAr was not recirculated or repurified during the fill. The grey shaded area represents the dataset used for the dark matter search presented here. The fit time constant is stable within that period to <1%.

FIG. S2: (a) Spectrum collected after the 2nd detector fill with an external $^{22}$Na source overlayed with the fit function (red) based on simulation. The inset shows the global energy reponse function from the $^{39}$Ar fit, $N_{PE}(T_{eff}) = c_0 + c_1 T_{eff} + c_2 T_{eff}^2$, with $c_0=1.2\pm0.2$ PE, $c_1=7.68\pm0.16$ PE keV$^{-1}$ and $c_2=-(5.1\pm2.0)\times10^{-3}$ PE keV$^{-2}$. As a cross-check, on the inset $\gamma$ lines from $^{40}$K and $^{208}$Tl are compared with the extrapolated function. $^{208}$Tl diverges from the function because of PMT and DAQ non-linearity. (b) $^{39}$Ar data and fit from Fig. 2 zoomed in to the low energy window, with 1-$\sigma$ confidence band shown (dashed).
FIG. S3: The F_{prompt} distribution for 140<PE<240 in AmBe calibration data, compared to summed simulated contributions for AmBe neutrons, and 4.4 MeV γ’s and the $^{39}$Ar F_{prompt} model normalized to the peak of the distribution. Also plotted is the simulation of single scatter nuclear recoils, our proxy for WIMP-induced events, with a flat energy spectrum (see legend). Error bars shown on the simulated distributions are statistical, not systematic. The simulation includes neutrons and 4.4 MeV γ’s from the AmBe source and considers scattering- or capture-induced γ’s only for neutrons that entered the LAr.

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</tbody>
</table>

TABLE S1: Run selection criteria and cuts with their effects on livetime, integrated acceptance, the fiducial fraction, and the number of events left in the ROI. The acceptance is calculated individually for each run and then weighted by livetime to provide an overall acceptance with the uncertainties taken as maximum and minimum variations about this weighted mean from each run. The fiducial acceptance is determined relative to the events remaining after the quality cuts, which are considered a clean sample of $^{39}$Ar β’s uniformly distributed in LAr. The total number of triggers before any cuts was $1.38 \times 10^9$, with $6.47 \times 10^7$ in the 80-240 PE window.
FIG. S4: A maximum likelihood fitter relies on the full Monte Carlo of the detector, including its optical properties, and minimizes the difference between the observed pattern of PMT charges and the one expected based on a distribution constructed from simulation, under the assumption that the illumination of the detector is symmetric around the axis of the event position vector. Residual position bias is corrected for using the uniformly distributed population of $^{39}$Ar $\beta$’s. To study the reconstruction of events from the inner AV surface, as expected for $\alpha$ backgrounds, we apply the $^{39}$Ar-derived calibration to $^{22}$Na events, which are strongly peaked near the surface. Reconstructed radii of (left) $^{39}$Ar uniformly distributed in the detector and (right) tagged events from an external $^{22}$Na calibration source after correcting for radial bias in data (blue), $^{22}$Na Monte Carlo (cyan), distribution of random coincidences of the source tag with $^{39}$Ar decays (green) and the sum of both $^{39}$Ar and $^{22}$Na distributions (red). Residuals are displayed in the bottom row, showing qualitative agreement.

FIG. S5: Peaks from tagged alphas in $^{222}$Rn and $^{220}$Rn chains in the detector data overlayed with Monte Carlo distributions.
FIG. S6: The $^{210}$Po peak in the data overlayed with simulated distributions of contamination present on the acrylic surface (dashed, purple), contamination uniformly distributed in a surface layer of 80 microns depth (dotted, green), and a fit combining both distributions (solid, red). The fit assumes no additional backgrounds in the wide range; therefore the result for the bulk contamination is considered an upper limit.