

Abstract Submitted
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Nuclear Recoil Calibration at TUNL¹ FRANOIS DE BRIENNE²,
Universite de Montreal — The Super Cryogenic Dark Matter Search (SuperCDMS)
uses millikelvin cryogenic germanium and silicon detectors to obtain exceptional
sensitivity to low-energy dark matter-nucleus interactions. When a particle inter-
acts with the detector, phonons and electron-hole pairs are produced and detected.
The proportion of energy deposited as phonons versus as electron-hole pairs changes
with the energy of the event and with the type of scattering, either nuclear recoil
or electron recoil. The detector sensitivity to ionization can also be modulated
through the Neganov-Trofimov-Luke effect by using a voltage bias across the detec-
tor. Ionization Measurement with Phonons At Cryogenic Temperatures (IMPACT)
uses a small silicon SuperCDMS HV-style detector to measure the ionization yield
of nuclear recoils. To do so, we used a beam of 55.7keV neutrons at TUNL and
measured the scattering of this beam through the detector into 29 liquid scintillator
cells placed at various angles to the beam. By comparing the scattering angle to the
signal measured in the detector at various detector biases, the ionization yield can
be determined. This calibration allows us to measure ionization yield for nuclear
recoil energy $< 1\text{keV}$, for which no present results exist.

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