

# Dark matter searches using levitated optomechanics

*Thursday 22 September 2022 14:40 (20 minutes)*

Levitated optomechanics provides a novel platform to test fundamental physics. One such application provides a unique directional dark matter direct detection technique to explore alternative parameter space to that being investigated by large scale experiments deployed underground. We detail our experiment, capable of resolving collisions in all three dimensions, utilising nanoparticles ( $10^{-18}$  kg) for composite dark matter searches in the 10 MeV – 10 GeV mass range. We detail the theoretical calculations, experimental apparatus, data analysis framework and statistical inference that we aim to use to obtain results competitive with world-leading dark matter constraints. We present sensitivity projections for our experiment, informed by an initial characterisation of relevant backgrounds. We also discuss planned future work to explore alternative dark matter models using this experiment and complimentary approaches.

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**Session Classification:** Session 2 (early pm)