Cosmic Probes of Dark Matter with the Vera C. Rubin Observatory



Keith Bechtol Steve Kahn Symposium 3 March 2023







LSST will map the small-scale distribution of dark matter...

(e.g., halo abundance, mass profiles, spatial distribution)

Reviewed by Bullock & Boylan-Kolchin 2017



Cored Density Profiles

Fewer Substructures

...to measure the microphysics of dark matter

(e.g., mass, interaction cross section, boson/fermion, lifetime, production mechanism)

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Schive et al. 2014

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Motivation for a "Dark Matter Telescope"

Development of the collision-less Cold Dark Matter paradigm

Physics beyond the Standard Model



Vera Rubin designed an observing program that collected spectra of 67 H II regions from 3 to 24 kpc from the nucleus of M31, yielding the first rotation measurements at such large distances from a galaxy center

Rubin works with the cascaded image tube spectrograph developed by Kent Ford that improved the quantum efficiency of photographic plates by factor 10



Galaxy rotation curves show that galaxies are embedded within **extended "halos" of invisible mass**



FIG. 16.—The adopted rotation curve, a composite of optical (Rubin and Ford 1970) data and 21-cm major axis measurements. The surface density and cumulative mass curves are for a highly flattened model.



"Science progresses best when observations force us to alter our preconceptions"

- Vera Rubin

https://rubinobs.org/explore/why-vera-rubin





Vera Rubin challenged preconceptions in galaxy formation, cosmology, and particle physics ... of who could be a scientist ...

https://rubinobs.org/explore/why-vera-rubin





Cosmic Microwave Background





Detailed mapping between luminous galaxies and their invisible dark matter halos across 13 billions years of cosmic history and 7 orders of magnitude in dark matter halo mass





Scales measured w/ LSST

Slide adapted from Ethan Nadler



- ✓ Interacts through gravity; rarely, if at all, via strong, weak, or electromagnetic forces
- ✓ Nearly collision-less
- ✓ Spin unknown fermion or boson ??
- ✓ Multiple particles / additional states in same sector ??
- \checkmark Stable on timescales comparable to age of the Universe
- ✓ Mostly non-relativistic, i.e., "cold"
- \checkmark Average cosmic density ~5 times larger than density of baryons
- \checkmark Initially distributed with nearly scale-free density perturbation spectrum
- ✓ 10⁻²¹ eV (de Broglie wavelength) < mass < 10³ M_o (CMB, BBN, LSS)

Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)

DM Production in Colliders

DM Scattering in Laboratory

SM

SM

Weakly Interacting Massive Particle (WIMP)

Adapted from Mariangela Lisanti

DM Production in Colliders

DM Scattering in Laboratory

Dark Sectors

Adapted from Mariangela Lisanti

Self-Interacting DM

Dissipative DM

Dark Sectors

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Self-Interacting DM

Dissipative DM

Neutrino absolute mass scale: a case study of using galaxy surveys to do particle physics

Minimum mass threshold implied by oscillation data: $\Sigma m_{\nu} > 58 \text{ meV}$

$$\sigma(\Sigma m_{\nu}) = 20 \text{ meV}$$
 (LSST + CMB-S4)

Mishra-Sharma et al. arXiv:1803.07561

Possible to disfavor inverted hierarchy, and can help distinguish between Dirac / Majorana nature in combination with neutrino-less double beta-decay experiments

Threshold of Galaxy Formation

What is the minimum halo mass for galaxy formation?

What is the galaxy-halo connection at the extreme faint end of the galaxy luminosity function?

Galaxy-Halo Connection

Abundance Matching (simplified):

most massive galaxies by stellar mass tend to occupy the most massive dark matter halos

Segue 1 M☆ = ~300 M_O Credit: Marla Geha

Segue 1 $M_{red} = \sim 300 \text{ M}_{O}$ Credit: Marla Geha Ultra-faint galaxies are discovered as arcminute-scale statistical over-densities of individually resolved stars

> Segue 1 $M_{red} = \sim 300 \text{ M}_{O}$ Credit: Marla Geha

Ultra-faint galaxies are the most numerous, ancient, chemically pristine, and **dark-matter dominated galaxies**

A **galaxy** is a gravitationally bound collection of stars whose properties cannot be explained by a combination of baryons and Newton's laws of gravity.

Willman & Strader 2012

"Galaxy" Defined

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Willman & Strader 2012

Satellite Search of 3/4 of the Sky using DES Y3 + Pan-STARRS PS1

Deep optical imaging over nearly the entire high-Galactic-latitude sky

Baryons are Essential Model Component

Suite of zoom-in N-body simulations for sufficient statistics on low-mass halos. Train on hydrodynamical simulations (FIRE) to account for baryonic effects, including halo disruption by Milky Way disk.

See Nadler et al. 2019 (arXiv:1809.05542) for details

Consistency with CDM considering observational and baryonic effects

Even with the doubling of known Milky Way satellites since 2015, the majority of Milky Way satellites remain hidden because they either contain **too few bright stars** or are **too low surface brightness**

Nadler et al. 2020 arXiv:1912.03303

 220 ± 50 total within MW viral radius; ~150 undiscovered; 41 \pm 7 satellites within LMC viral radius at time of infall on MW

Halos hosting the least luminous galaxies

Galaxy Occupation Fraction

Faint-end Luminosity Function

 $M_{min} < 3.2 \times 10^8 \,\mathrm{M_{\odot}} (95\% \,\mathrm{CL})$ $V_{peak} < 21 \,\mathrm{km \, s^{-1}} (95\% \,\mathrm{CL})$

Detected MW satellites likely occupy halos of mass $M_{peak} \sim 10^8 M_{\odot}$ (95% CL)

Most conservative (unrealistic, observationally disfavored) scenario assumes confirmed satellites strictly occupy most massive MW subhalos

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More realistic modeling of baryonic disruption, scatter in stellar mass - halo mass relation, and observational selection effects implies that observed ultra-faint galaxies reside in lower mass dark matter halos

Quantifying Modeling Uncertainties

Scenario with no-scatter abundance matching and no baryonic tidal disruption gives *conservative* upper bound on minimum halo mass (but poor quality fit to data)

Gains in sensitivity to minimum halo mass largely from modeling of the observational selection function and galaxy-halo connection

Beyond CDM: Dark Matter Microphysics

Application of Milky Way satellite population constraints to example dark matter models

> Nadler et al. 2020 arXiv:2008.00022

LSST will extend the census of ultra-faint galaxies throughout the Local Volume

arXiv:2106.08868

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Consistency with CDM to nearly the threshold of galaxy formation

Multiple methods achieving sensitivity to ~10⁸ M_☉ halos

Constraints from: Viel et al. 2005, Viel et al. 2006, Seljak et al. 2006, Polisensky et al. 2011, Kennedy et al. 2014, Birrer et al. 2017, Irsic et al. 2017, Jethwa et al. 2017, Murgia et al. 2018, Vegetti et al. 2018, Ritondale et al. 2019, Gilman et al. 2019a,b, Hseuh et al. 2019, Palanque-Delabrouille et al. 2020 Enzi et al. 2020, Nadler et al. 2019,2021a,b

Searching for Completely Dark Halos

Increased sensitivity to dark mark microphysics

Minimizing uncertainties associated with baryonic physics

Complementarity of multiple techniques

Stellar Streams are dynamical tracers of the mass distribution around the Milky Way

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Malhan et al. 2022 arXiv:2202.07660 Atlas of 41 stellar streams

Low-mass dark matter subhalos perturb passing stellar streams, producing enhanced density variations along stream length and proper motion / radial velocity anomalies

Figure: Peter Ferguson Simulations: Denis Erkal Low-mass dark matter subhalos perturb passing stellar streams, producing enhanced density variations along stream length and proper motion / radial velocity anomalies

LSST will discover more distant streams and allow detailed characterization of known streams

Current sensitivity ~108 M_{\odot} halos; LSST anticipated to reach 107 to 106 M_{\odot} halos

Halo abundance

LSST will advance two strong lensing methods sensitive to low-mass dark matter halos

Flux Ratio Anomalies

Nierenberg et al. 2020 arXiv:1908.06344

Image positions and relative magnifications of quad quasars

narrow-line emission to avoid microlensing

Gravitational Imaging

Vegetti et al. 2010 arXiv:1002.4708

Astrometric anomalies of multiply-imaged arcs

LSST will help build requisite samples of ~100 suitable lenses for highresolution follow-up observations to constrain mass of main deflector and characterize source images \rightarrow statistical studies of dark halos

LSST will help identify requisite samples of ~100 suitable lenses for high-resolution follow-up to constrain mass of main deflector and characterize source images, allowing statistical studies of dark halos

High redshift sources offer sensitivity to isolated line-of-sight dark matter halos

Current leading angular resolution comes from global VLBI

Ongoing work to combine optical and radio surveys (e.g. LSST + VLASS) to enlarge current sample of ~40 known radio-load lenses

Spingola et al. 2018 arXiv:1807.05566 Gravitational imaging with milli-arcsecond resolution could be sensitive to isolated line-of-sight dark halos

McKean et al. 2015 arXiv:1502.03362

ELTs aim for comparable angular resolution and sensitivity

Impact of Rubin Observatory

Physics beyond the Standard Model

Near-term benchmarks and longer-term goals

Building an open and interdisciplinary community

Wave-like Dark Matter: Example Sensitivity

Particle Dark Matter: Example Sensitivity

Primordial Black Holes: Sensitivity

Primordial Black Holes: Example Discovery

Interdisciplinary approach is essential to making the most of Rubin Observatory as a dark matter experiment

- Support theory to develop rich phenomenology of the dark sector
 - Particle theory + numerical simulations + galaxy-halo connection
 - Broad range of physical scales and environments, including baryonic effects
 - Tight collaboration between theory modeling and observation
- Build the **community** (e.g., LSST DESC)
 - Open data, open software
 - Range of collaboration participation/membership levels
- Joint analysis with other datasets
 - High angular resolution and sensitivity
 - Complementarity w/ Euclid and Roman

Rubin Observatory / LSST is poised for a precision test of the collision-less Cold Dark Matter paradigm by accessing the population completely dark halos below the mass threshold of galaxy formation

Thank you to Steve Kahn for your vision and leadership to make Rubin Observatory a reality

Extras