Implications of Galactic dark matter substructure on detection efforts

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The Via Lactea collaboration (P. Madau, J. Diemand, M. Zemp, B. Moore, J. Stadel, D. Potter, V. Rashkov)

The Future of AstroComputing Conference, San Diego Supercomputing Center

There's evidence for dark matter on many scales...



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How can we learn more about dark matter?

Fermi

Gamma-ray Space Telescope

More Astronomical Observations

Direct Detection Experiments





LHC might produce WIMPs!



Indirect Detection



Atmospheric Cerenkov Telescopes



GHALO

Stadel et al. (2009) 2.1 billion particles, 1,000 M_{\odot}



The Via Lactea Project

Summary of Numerical Results: Substructure

Velocity Space Substructure

When viewed in **phasespace-density**, many additional unbound substructures become apparent: dark matter tidal streams from disrupted subhalos.

Direct counterparts to the stellar streams from disrupted satellites (e.g. SDSS Field of Streams).

In the future will there be a Missing Streams Problem?



Direct Detection aims to detect the weak signals (ionization, scintillations, vibrations) from dark matter particles scattering off target nuclei.

In order to reduce background from cosmic rays, these experiment are located deep underground, shielded by 1000's of meters of rock.













The scattering event rate (events/recoil energy) is given by:

$$\frac{dR}{dE_R} = N_T M_N \frac{\rho_\chi \sigma_n}{2m_\chi \mu_{ne}^2} \frac{(f_p Z + f_n (A - Z))^2}{f_n^2} F^2[E_R] \int_{\beta_{min}}^\infty \frac{f(v)}{v} dv$$

This depends on the local DM density ρ_{χ} and the velocity distribution function f(v).

A typical assumption is ρ_{χ} =0.3 GeV/cm³ and f(v) a Maxwellian with v_p = 220 km/s truncated at an escape speed of 500-600 km/s.



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Velocity Space Substructure



See also: Hansen et al. (2005), Vogelsberger et al. (2009)

Velocity Space Substructure Halo restframe Earth restframe (Summer) best-fit M-B 4 spherical shell З 100 sample spheres 16th-84th percentil 2 extrema 1 0 6 $10^3 \, [(\rm km/s)^{-1}]$ $\beta_{\min} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{2m_N E_R}} \left(\frac{m_N E_R}{\mu} + \delta\right)$ 5 f(v) is not Maxwellian! 3 Substructures can be important if β_{\min} is large. 2 \times > Inelastic DM (δ >0) f(v)Light DM (M,<10GeV)</p> > Directionally sensitive experiments often require high E_{recoil} , large β_{min} . 4 З 2 Ω 200 400 600 800 200 400 600 800 0 v [km/s] v [km/s] Kuhlen et al. (2010)

See also: Hansen et al. (2005), Vogelsberger et al. (2009)

Substructure Relevance for Direct Detection



At v_{min} =500 km/s the hotspot is more than 10° away from the direction of Earth's motion in ~80% of all cases!

Indirect Detection: Dark Matter Annihilation

The goal of **Indirect Detection** is to measure the products (gamma rays, positrons, neutrinos) of the annihilation of dark matter particles in regions of high dark matter density.





Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope

VERITAS







Substructure Boost Factor



The Future – What's missing?

- Cosmic variance we have 2 halos (Aquarius has 6 at lower resolution).
- Higher resolution centers of subhalos barely resolved; needed for comparisons with dwarf galaxy kinematics.
- More detail in the phase-space structure at 8 kpc.
- >Baryonic physics! But how? At what resolution?
- Different DM physics: "warm" DM, interacting DM, ...

Conclusions

- The number of subhalos resolved in the to-date largest simulations (Via Lactea II, GHALO, Aquarius) is ever increasing: >300,000 at latest count.
- The simulations indicate copious DM velocity substructure from subhalos and tidal streams. Corresponding stellar streams are being discovered: will there be a Missing Streams Problem?
- Velocity substructure in the DM distribution function might noticeably affect DM direct detection experiments, especially for DM models or experimental setups that are sensitive to high velocity DM particles: e.g. inelastic DM, light DM, directionally sensitive experiments.
- Individual subhalos are a tantalizing possible source for a DM annihilation signal.
- The annihilation boost factor from substructure depends on radius: at the GC or at the Sun it's not likely to be important, but integrated over the whole Galaxy it could be large.