

# Modelling the formation of the GD-1 stellar stream inside a host with a fermionic dark matter core-halo distribution.

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## ABSTRACT

**Context.** Stellar streams are a consequence of the tidal forces produced by a host galaxy on its satellites (i.e. globular clusters and dwarf spheroidals). As the self-gravity of stellar streams is almost negligible, they constitute excellent probes of the gravitational potential of the host galaxy. For this reason, some Milky Way stellar streams have been used to put constraints on the dark matter (DM) total mass and shape, under empirical DM distributions (i.e. NFW, logarithmic, etc). Within the set of non-empirical DM distributions, there exists a DM model deduced from first principles by means of the maximization of the coarse-grained entropy for self-gravitating fermions, the MEPP, after Maximum Entropy Production Principle. MEPP profiles have a rich variety of behaviours, being a large subfamily characterized by a dense core of mass  $\approx 4.1 \times 10^6 M_\odot$  (that can mimick a black hole regarding the orbits of the S-stars at Sagittario A\*) and an extended halo with the plasticity of a Burkert profile.

**Aims.** In this work we attempt to model the GD-1 stellar stream using a spherical MEPP distribution which, at the same time, is in sintony with previous fits to the S-stars.

**Methods.** For that purpose we used a genetic algorithm in order to fit both the stream orbit's initial conditions and the fermionic halo. We modelled the barionic potential with a bulge and two disks (thin and thick) with fixed parameters according to the recent literature. The stream observable is 6D phase-space data from the Gaia DR2 survey.

**Results.** We were able to find good fits for a 1D continuous subfamily of models parametrized by the fermion mass going from  $56 \text{ keV}/c^2$  to  $360 \text{ keV}/c^2$ , respectively corresponding to core radii going from  $10^3$  to  $10$  Schwarzschild radii. For smaller and larger values of the fermion mass, there is no solution that simultaneously fits the GD-1 stream and the S-stars. The solutions have a virial radius of  $28 \text{ kpc}$  and a virial mass of  $1.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ , the latter being at  $2\sigma$  from previous Milky Way DM halo mass estimates using the Sagittarius stream. We do not assume the velocity of the local standard of rest ( $v_{\text{lsr}}$ ) and the result gives  $v_{\text{lsr}} \approx 244 \text{ km/s}$ , in agreement with recent independent estimates.

**Key words.** Galaxy: kinematics and dynamics – Galaxy: stellar streams – dark matter

## 1. Introduction

When a galaxy hosts a satellite, i.e. dwarf galaxy or globular cluster, the gravitational interaction between them modifies both subsystems. The host galaxy strips stars from the satellite at a rate that depends on their density profiles and on the orbit, while the host density profile suffers a reorganization of its matter in the vecinity of the satellite's orbit, developing a wake due to the dynamical friction. This ensemble of stars tidally stripped from the satellite constitute a stellar stream (also named tidal stream) and examples of them have been detected in the Milky Way (MW) and in Andromeda, with different observational techniques.

At present stellar streams constitute one of the main MW observables related to the dynamics, together with other baryonic observables like the rotation curve, the radial surface density profile of the disk and the vertical density profile of the disk at the solar radius. Tidal streams probe the acceleration field produced by the Galaxy (Johnston et al. 1999; Zhao et al. 1999; Law et al. 2009; Lux et al. 2013; Johnston & Carlberg 2016;

Ibata et al. 2016; Ibata et al. 2017; Thomas et al. 2017; Reino et al. 2021) as well as its formation history according to Helmi et al. (1999); Helmi (2020); Ramos et al. (2022); Cunningham et al. (2023) among others. A stellar stream could be the closest realization of a galactic orbit that can be observed in nature. Nevertheless, the larger the progenitor, the more discrepancy between its orbit and the stream phase-space configuration. In fact, the taxonomy of streams is very rich (Amorisco 2015) because of the different gravitational configurations that can take place, going from almost unidimensional streams whose progenitor is a small globular cluster to a wide shell produced by the partially radial sinking into the MW centre of a large progenitor. Besides, it is theoretically possible to have accreted streams, whose progenitor is a globular cluster orbiting a MW's satellite galaxy, giving place to stellar cocoons around the stream tracks as studied by Carlberg (2018); Malhan et al. (2019, 2021); Gialluca et al. (2021); Qian et al. (2022).

Stream data together with other baryonic measurements can help in making claims about unknown aspects of the gravitational field: model either a dark matter (DM) halo component or a modified Newtonian dynamics (MOND) theory. For example, within the DM paradigm, a given candidate to the DM particle

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corresponds to certain family of halo and subhalo phase-space distributions, which in turn, are responsible for the satellite orbit and the phase-space density distribution of the stream. Besides, DM space densities might have different shapes (e.g. spherical, axisymmetric, triaxial) depending on the number of conserved components of the angular momentum, which also influences the stream properties as discussed in [Vera-Ciro & Helmi \(2013\)](#); [Price-Whelan et al. \(2016\)](#); [Mestre et al. \(2020\)](#). In particular, [Malhan & Ibata \(2019\)](#) have constrained the MW dark matter halo shape using Gaia DR2 data of the the GD-1 stream, assuming a triaxial generalization of the NFW profile and obtaining a flattening halo parameter of  $q = 0.82^{+0.25}_{-0.13}$ , thus compatible with a situation of spherical symmetry. Moreover, [Palau & Miralda-Escudé \(2023\)](#) has measured the oblateness in an axisymmetric generalization of the NFW profile using three stellar streams: NGC 3201, M68 and Palomar 5.

*Por favor Charly agrega desde aca...* In the recent literature many types of DM candidates have been analyzed, like axions, bosons and fermions. In this work we will work with the relativistic fermionic King model defined in [Chavanis \(2020\)](#), as implemented in the RAR model ([Argüelles et al. 2018](#)). *...hasta aca.*

In this paper we will model the formation of the GD-1 stellar stream inside a MW with a relativistic fermionic King dark matter core-halo distribution. In Sec. 2 we explain the work methodology. In Sec. 3 we present the results and in Sec. 4 we give the conclusions.

## 2. Methodology

In this section we explain the observables and methods used in this research. The exact pipeline applied in order to obtain the results and plots of this paper can be found at the following GitHub repository: [https://github.com/martinmestre/stream-fit/blob/main/pipeline\\_paper/](https://github.com/martinmestre/stream-fit/blob/main/pipeline_paper/).

### 2.1. Observables and assumed measurements

The main observables used in this project are materialized by the polynomial fits performed by [Ibata et al. \(2020\)](#) on the GD-1 stream using astrometry (Gaia DR2), photometry and high-precision spectroscopy datasets together with the analysis of the STREAMFINDER algorithm. Those polinomials are the following:

$$\phi_2 = 0.008367\phi_1^3 - 0.05332\phi_1^2 - 0.07739\phi_1 - 0.02007, \quad (1)$$

$$D = -4.302\phi_1^5 - 11.54\phi_1^4 - 7.161\phi_1^3 + 5.985\phi_1^2 + 8.595\phi_1 + 10.36, \quad (2)$$

$$\tilde{\mu}_\alpha = 3.794\phi_1^3 + 9.467\phi_1^2 + 1.615\phi_1 - 7.844, \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_\delta = -1.225\phi_1^3 + 8.313\phi_1^2 + 18.68\phi_1 - 3.95, \quad (4)$$

$$v_h = 90.68\phi_1^3 + 204.5\phi_1^2 - 254.2\phi_1 - 261.5, \quad (5)$$

(6)

with  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  in radians,  $D$  in kpc,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha = \mu_\alpha \cos \delta$  and  $\mu_\delta$  in mas/yr and  $v_h$  in km/s. These quantities correspond respectively to longitude and latitude in GD-1 celestial frame of reference ([Koposov et al. 2010](#)), heliocentric distance, proper motion in right ascension and declination, and heliocentric radial velocity. The domain of this polinomials is limited to  $-90 < \phi_1 [^\circ] < 10$ . To have our observable data points we sample the domain with 100 points ( $\phi_1^{(i)}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, 100$ ) and evaluate the polinomials there in order to have a complete set of observables ( $\phi_1^{(i)}$ ,  $\phi_2^{(i)}$ ,  $D^{(i)}$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha^{(i)}$ ,  $\mu_\delta^{(i)}$ ,  $v_h^{(i)}$ ). In one of the experiments we will consider

an observable of a different nature and related to the density concentration at the origin, of size  $\lesssim 1$  milliparsec, characteristic of the fermionic halo distribution. By convention, the core radius is defined as the radius when the circular velocity reaches its first maximum. The constraint for the mass of the core of the distribution is assumed to be  $m_{\text{core}} = 3.5 \times 10^6 M_\odot$  in agreement with [Becerra-Vergara et al. \(2020, 2021\)](#); [Argüelles et al. \(2022\)](#).

The assumed measurements used in this paper are the galactocentric distance of the sun  $R_\odot = 8.122$  kpc ([GRAVITY Collaboration et al. 2018](#)) and the sun's peculiar velocity  $v_{\odot p} = (11.1, 12.24, 7.25)$  km/s ([Schönrich et al. 2010](#)).

### 2.2. The relativistic fermionic King DM model

Our DM model consists of the relativistic fermionic King model (here denoted just “fermionic”) which is a spherical and isotropic distribution of fermions at finite temperature in hydrostatic equilibrium subject to the law of General Relativity (GR), i.e. T.O.V equations, as defined in [Argüelles et al. \(2018\)](#) with the particularity that we have made a few change of variables in order to make the numerical computation more robust. The system of equations thus obtained is as follows:

$$\frac{dv}{d\zeta} = \frac{1}{2} \left[ e^z + e^{2\zeta} \frac{P(r)}{\rho_{\text{rel}} c^2} \right] [1 - e^z]^{-1}, \quad (7)$$

$$\frac{dz}{d\zeta} = -1 + e^{(2\zeta - z)} \frac{\rho(r)}{\rho_{\text{rel}}}, \quad (8)$$

where

$$\zeta = \ln(r/R), \quad (9)$$

$$z = \ln \psi, \quad \psi = \frac{M_{\text{DM}}(r) R}{M}, \quad (10)$$

$$\rho(r) = \frac{4\rho_{\text{rel}}}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_1^\infty \epsilon^2 [\epsilon^2 - 1]^{1/2} f(r, \epsilon) d\epsilon, \quad (11)$$

$$P(r) = \frac{4\rho_{\text{rel}} c^2}{3\sqrt{\pi}} \int_1^\infty [\epsilon^2 - 1]^{3/2} f(r, \epsilon) d\epsilon, \quad (12)$$

$$R^2 = \frac{c^2}{8\pi G \rho_{\text{rel}}}, \quad (13)$$

$$M = 4\pi R^3 \rho_{\text{rel}}, \quad (14)$$

$$\rho_{\text{rel}} = \frac{G\pi^{3/2} m^4 c^3}{h^3}, \quad (15)$$

where  $G$  is the Gravitational constant,  $c$  is the speed of light,  $h$  is the Planck constant,  $m$  is the fermion mass,  $M_{\text{DM}}(r)$  is DM mass enclosed up to radius  $r$ ,  $\rho(r)$  is the density,  $P(r)$  is the pressure and  $v(r)$  is the metric exponent, i.e. we use the convention  $g_{00} = e^{v(r)}$ . The phase-space function ( $f$ ) is given by a Fermi-Dirac distribution with energy cutoff:

$$f(r, \epsilon) = \begin{cases} \frac{1 - e^{[\epsilon - \epsilon_c(r)]/\beta(r)}}{1 + e^{[\epsilon - \alpha(r)]/\beta(r)}} & \epsilon \leq \epsilon_c(r) \\ 0 & \epsilon > \epsilon_c(r), \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

where  $\alpha(r)$  is the chemical potential (including rest mass),  $\epsilon_c(r)$  is the cutoff energy (including rest mass) and  $\beta(r)$  is the temperature variable.

The above equations should be complemented with two thermodynamic equilibrium conditions given in [Tolman \(1930\)](#) and [Klein \(1949\)](#) together with the condition of energy conservation along the geodesic given in [Merafina & Ruffini \(1989\)](#):

$$\frac{1}{\alpha} \frac{d\alpha}{dr} = \frac{1}{\beta} \frac{d\beta}{dr} = \frac{1}{\epsilon_c} \frac{d\epsilon_c}{dr} = -\frac{1}{2} \frac{dv}{dr}. \quad (17)$$

It is not possible to integrate these equations from  $r = 0$  because the right hand the change of variables  $\zeta(r)$  is divergent at the origin. Nevertheless, it is possible to reach the following approximations for the initial conditions at a value  $r_{\min} \gtrsim 0$ :

$$v(r_{\min}) \approx \frac{1}{6} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{\text{rel}}} \left[ \frac{r_{\min}}{R} \right]^2 \equiv \tau, \quad (18)$$

$$\psi(r_{\min}) \approx \frac{1}{3} \frac{\rho_0}{\rho_{\text{rel}}} \left[ \frac{r_{\min}}{R} \right]^2 = 2\tau, \quad (19)$$

which implies

$$\frac{r_{\min}}{R} = \sqrt{6\tau \frac{\rho_{\text{rel}}}{\rho_0}}, \quad (20)$$

where  $\rho_0 \equiv \rho(0)$ . It can be seen that the right hand side of Eq. 7 does not depend on the metric so we can add a constant  $v_0$  to the solution in order to satisfy a condition of continuity with the Schwarzschild metric at the border of the fermion distribution, obtaining:

$$v_0 = 2 \ln \left( \frac{\beta_b}{\beta_0} \sqrt{1 - \psi_b} \right),$$

where  $\psi_b$  and  $\beta_b$  are quantities evaluated at the border.

The system of equations thus obtained has four free parameters:  $m$ ,  $\alpha_0 = \alpha(0)$ ,  $\beta_0 = \beta(0)$ , and  $\epsilon_{c0} = \epsilon_c(0)$  but in practice we will use the following related quantities as parameters:  $m$ ,  $\beta_0$ ,  $\theta_0 = (\alpha_0 - 1)/\beta_0$ , and  $W_0 = (\epsilon_{c0} - 1)/\beta_0$ .

Equations 7-17 are solved using a PYTHON (Van Rossum & Drake Jr 1995) script<sup>1</sup> that makes use of the NumPy (Virtanen et al. 2020) and SciPy (Harris et al. 2020) libraries. We tried all the solvers available in the latter package but the only one that could properly integrate these equations was the LSODA algorithm. We used relative and absolute tolerance parameters respectively given by  $\text{rtol} = 5 \times 10^{-14}$  and  $\text{atol} = 0$ .

### 2.3. Milky Way and stream models

We model our Galaxy with a combination of the fermionic dark halo recently described, whose parameters will be determined in this work, plus a barionic component fixed and identical to the one in Model I of Poulidas et al. (2017). Here we name this full Galaxy model as Fermionic-MW.

Appart from our model, for some intermediary tasks, we will make use of the Galactic model fitted by Malhan & Ibata (2019) which consists in the MWPotential2014 model with an axisymmetric NFW profile. This fitted model corresponds to a circular velocity at the position of the sun of  $v_c(R_\odot) = 244 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  and a  $z$ -flattening of the DM density distribution of  $q_\rho = 0.82^{+0.25}_{-0.13}$ . Here we name this Galaxy model as NFW-MW.

As GD-1 is a dynamically cold stream, with its stars keeping a large degree of correlation, its almost one-dimensional distribution in phase-space can be well approximated with the orbit of its progenitor. Another facts in this direction, are that there has not been any observation of the tidal arms feature nor of the progenitor's position (Malhan & Ibata 2019; de Boer et al. 2018; Malhan et al. 2018; Price-Whelan & Bonaca 2018).

In the code, the orbit model is computed starting from initial conditions in spherical equatorial coordinates, ICRS frame:

<sup>1</sup> model\_def.py

$\alpha$  (RA),  $\delta$  (declination),  $D$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha$ ,  $\mu_\delta$ ,  $v_h$ . The code uses the Astropy ecosystem (Astropy Collaboration et al. 2022, 2018, 2013) in order to transform the initial condition to galactocentric coordinates assuming a Galactocentric reference frame with the sun at the position  $\mathbf{x}_\odot = (-R_\odot, 0, 0)$  and a sun's velocity given by the sum of the circular velocity at the position of the sun and the sun's peculiar velocity:  $\mathbf{v}_\odot = (11.1, v_c(R_\odot) + 12.24, 7.25)$ . The circular velocity is dependent on the model and the position and given by

$$\begin{aligned} v_c^2(R_\odot) &= R_\odot \|\nabla \Phi(\mathbf{x})\|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_\odot} \\ &= R_\odot \|\nabla \Phi_B(\mathbf{x})\|_{\mathbf{x}=\mathbf{x}_\odot} + G \frac{M_{\text{DM}}(R_\odot)}{R_\odot}, \end{aligned} \quad (21)$$

where  $\Phi$  is the total potential,  $\Phi_B$  is the potential generated by the three barionic components and  $M_{\text{DM}}(r)$  was defined in Eq. (10). We have used the spherical symmetry property of the DM distribution in order to relate the acceleration with the enclosed mass.

A second step is to integrate the orbit forwards and backwards in time during a time interval of  $\Delta t = 0.2$  Gyr, starting in both cases from a given initial condition for the progenitor. In the next sections we will explain how this initial condition was chosen for some simulations and fitted for others. The integrator used is a Runge-Kutta of order eight (DOP853 called from SciPy's solve\_ivp function) with relative and absolute tolerance parameters respectively given by  $\text{rtol} = 5 \times 10^{-14}$  and  $\text{atol} = 0.5 \times 10^{-14}$ .

After having the stream's orbit integrated, we transform the orbit to both the ICRS and the GD-1 frame of coordinates. For the latter we used the GD1Koposov10 class defined in the Gala package (Price-Whelan 2017; Price-Whelan et al. 2020) which uses the transformation matrix defined by Koposov et al. (2010). After these two transformation we obtain the orbit expressed in the observable variables ( $\phi_1$ ,  $\phi_2$ ,  $D$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha$ ,  $\mu_\delta$ ,  $v_h$ ) used in Eqs. (1)-(6). Finally, we build interpolators of these variables as a function of  $\phi_1$  that will be used, together with the observed data defined in Sec. 2.1, to evaluate the following  $\chi^2$  stream function:

$$\chi_{\text{stream}}^2 = \chi_{\phi_2}^2 + \chi_D^2 + \chi_{\tilde{\mu}_\alpha}^2 + \chi_{\mu_\delta}^2 + \chi_{v_h}^2, \quad (22)$$

$$\chi_\eta^2 = \frac{1}{\sigma_\eta^2} \sum_{i=1}^{100} (\eta^{(i)} - \eta(\phi_1^{(i)}))^2, \quad (23)$$

where  $\eta$  represents each of the four corresponding independent variables ( $\phi_2$ ,  $D$ ,  $v_h$ ,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha$ ,  $\mu_\delta$ ) and  $\sigma_\eta$  is the average dispersion of the stream data points taken by ocular inspection from Figs. 1,3,4 of Ibata et al. (2020):  $\sigma_{\phi_2} = 0.5^\circ$ ,  $\sigma_D = 1.5$  kpc,  $\sigma_{v_h} = 10$  km/s and  $\sigma_{\tilde{\mu}_\alpha} = \sigma_\delta = 2$  mas/yr. Thus  $\chi_{\text{stream}}^2$  measures the departure of the model from the stream observations. For some fits we will also consider the departure of the model from a dark mass constraint in the core of the distribution:

$$\chi_{\text{core}}^2 = \frac{(m_c - m_{\text{core}})^2}{\sigma_m^2}, \quad (24)$$

where  $m_{\text{core}}$  was defined in Sec. 2.1,  $m_c$  is the core mass of the model, and  $\sigma_m$  was fixed in 1% of  $m_{\text{core}}$ , so sometimes we will use the following compound function:

$$\chi_{\text{full}}^2 = \chi_{\text{stream}}^2 + \chi_{\text{core}}^2. \quad (25)$$

Note that in order to compute the estimated core mass of each model,  $m$  in Eq.(24), we must find the first local maximum of the expression for the circular velocity in GR:

$$v_{\text{DM}}(r) = c \sqrt{\frac{r}{2} \frac{dv(r)}{dr}}. \quad (26)$$



## 2.4. Optimization algorithms

Our objective consists in fitting our MW model by minimizing the  $\chi^2$  function given by Eqs. (22,25). In order to do so we use two optimization algorithms for different purposes that will be explained in Sec. 3. One of them is *SciPy*'s `optimize.differential_evolution` algorithm. This genetic architecture was used with metaparameters given by `strategy="best2bin"`, `maxiter=200`, `popsiz=200`, `tol=5 \times 10^{-8}` and `atol=0`, unless otherwise stated. This method can be run in parallel with shared memory, so a convergence test was made in a cluster's node with 64 logical processors, varying the values of the metaparameters (e.g. halving and doubling the values of `maxiter` and `popsiz`, setting `strategy="best1bin"` and combinations).

The other algorithm is an implementation of the Mesh Adaptive Direct Search algorithm called NOMAD (Audet et al. 2021). The *JULIA* (Bezanson et al. 2017) wrapper of this algorithm, *NOMAD.jl*, is used through the package *Optimization.jl*. We used default values of all the metaparameters except for `maxiters=700`.

## 3. Results

### 3.1. Fitting the Fermionic-MW model

In this section we will fit both the Fermionic-MW model parameters and the initial condition (IC) of the progenitor orbit through a series of steps. Initially, we searched for a (transitory) good enough IC of the progenitor orbit for our Fermionic-MW. For that, we fitted the initial conditions in the (fixed) NFW-MW model defined in Sec. 2.3 by using the  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  function defined in Eq. (22) and the genetic algorithm specified in Sec. 2.4. The genetic algorithm needs to be provided with bounds for the variables so we used boxes with a centre close to the middle point of the observable data, i.e.  $\eta^{(51)}$  that corresponds to  $\alpha = 149.24^\circ$ ,  $\delta = 36.61^\circ$ ,  $D = 7.69$  kpc,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha = -5.70$  mas/yr,  $\mu_\delta = -12.48$  mas/yr and  $v_h = -18.81$  km/s, and with generous sides of length equal to their absolute values (except for  $\alpha$  where we used a side of length  $\alpha/5$ ).

It should be said that the NFW-MW model was fitted by Malhan & Ibata (2019) with a set of Gaia DR2 data different from the polynomials used here. Any point along the stream is equally good as an IC. The genetic algorithm converged to a solution given approximately by  $\alpha = 149.17^\circ$ ,  $\delta = 36.51^\circ$ ,  $D = 7.95$  kpc,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha = -6.94$  mas/yr,  $\mu_\delta = -12.49$  mas/yr and  $v_h = -18.33$  km/s with a value of  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}} \approx 17.52$ . The orbit that corresponds to this IC is displayed in the observable space in Fig. 1 (top:  $\phi_2$ , middle:  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha$ , bottom:  $\mu_\delta$ ) and Fig. 2 (top:  $D$ , bottom:  $v_h$ ) with a dotted (green) line. The solid (black) line shows the corresponding observable  $\eta$  data while the shaded (grey) area demarkates the corresponding  $1\sigma_\eta$  regions.

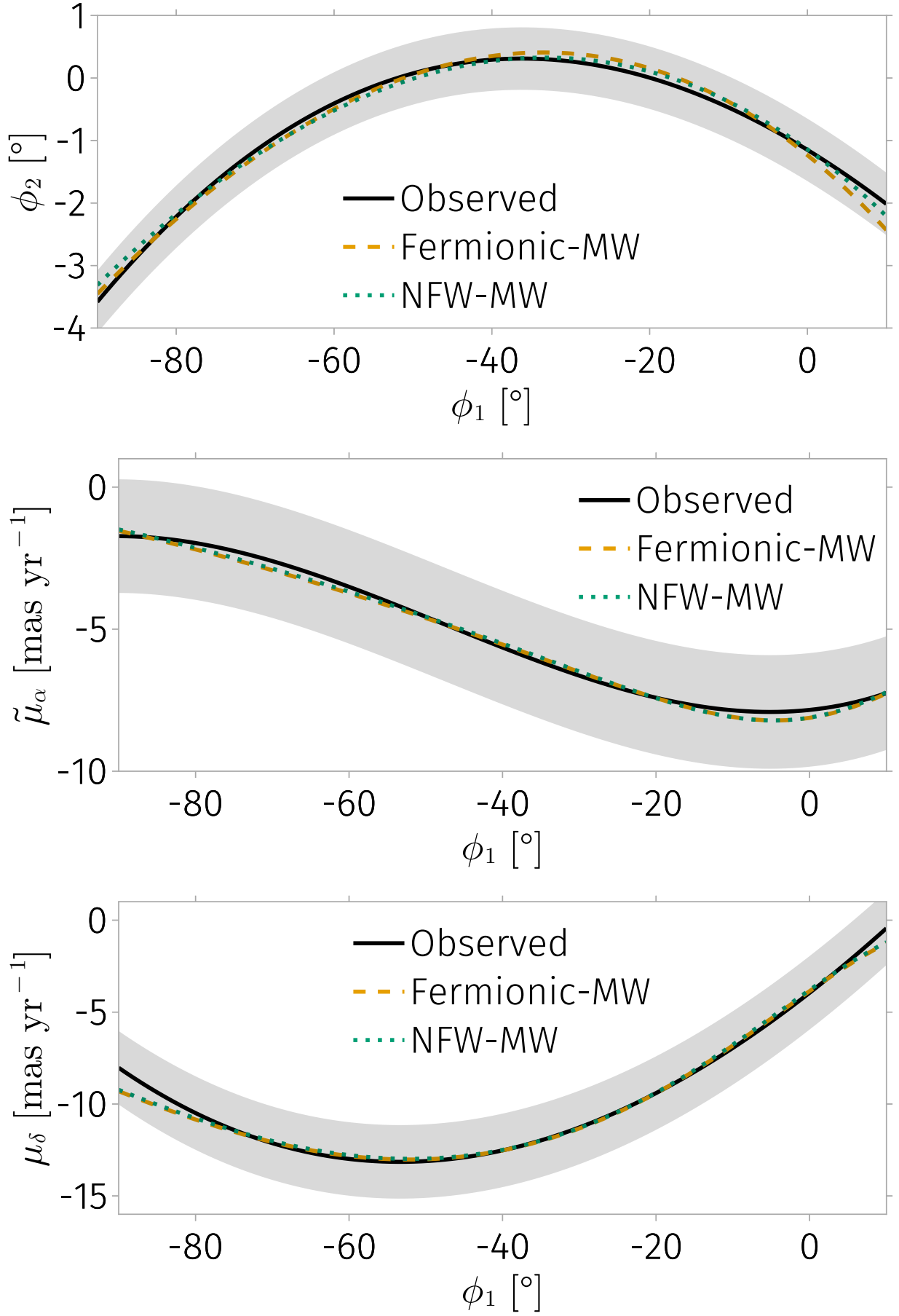
From previous works (Argüelles et al. 2018; Argüelles et al. 2019; Krut et al. 2023) we know that the fermionic DM model parameters can be approximately grouped in two sets with different functionality. One group is formed by  $\epsilon$  and  $\beta_0$  that control the core of the distribution in the sense that for given values of  $m_{\text{core}}$  (Sec. 2.1) and  $\epsilon$ , it is possible to find a value of  $\beta_0$  in agreement; with a very small influence of the other two parameters:  $\theta_0$  and  $W_0$ . This implies a partial degeneracy between  $\epsilon$  and  $\beta_0$ . The other group is formed by  $\theta_0$  and  $W_0$ , which have small effect on the core region but determine the distribution behaviour in the halo region. Additionally, there is also an approximate degeneracy between these two variables in the sense that it is the

parameter  $\omega_0 = W_0 - \theta_0$  which mainly controls the halo profile, as will be further shown in this paper.

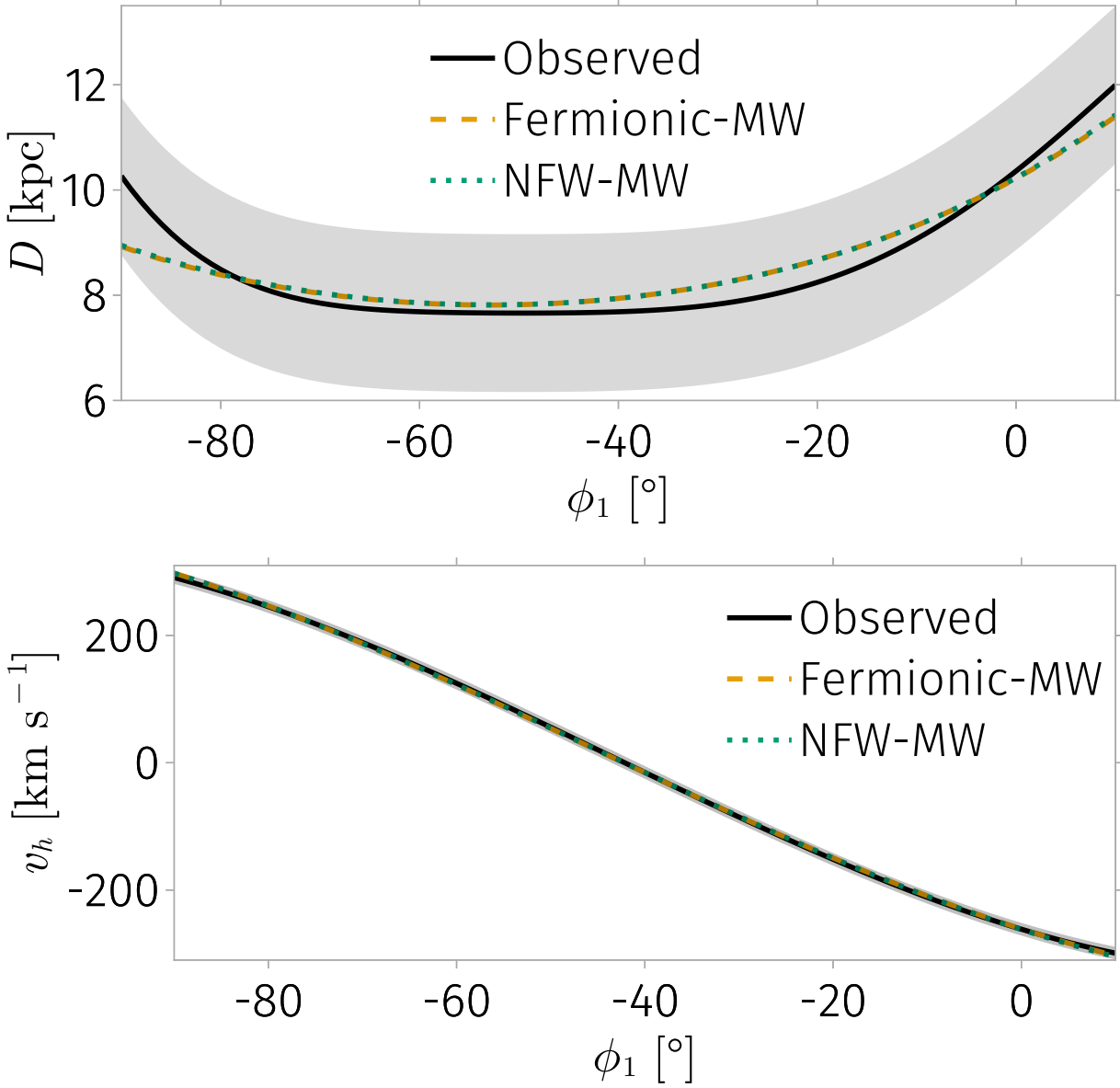
As a starting point for the parameter fit, we took the result from Becerra-Vergara et al. (2020) who found that for  $(\epsilon, \beta_0, \theta_0, W_0) = (56, 1.1977 \times 10^{-5}, 37.765, 66.3407)$  their MW model (DM+barions) satisfies both the geodesic motion of S2 and G2 at Sagittarius A\*, i.e.  $m_{\text{core}} = 3.5 \times 10^5 M_\odot$ , and the rotation curve from Sofue (2013). As a first step, we fixed values for  $\epsilon = 56$  and fixed the IC that was recently fitted for the NFW-MW model, in order to perform a genetic minimization of the  $\chi^2_{\text{full}}$  function in the window:  $(\theta_0, \omega_0, \beta_0) \in [35, 40] \times [25, 30] \times [10^{-5}, 1.5 \times 10^{-5}]$ . Using metaparameter values `maxiter=popsiz=400`, the algorithm converged to  $(\theta_0, \omega_0, \beta_0) \approx (36.0665, 27.3471, 1.25713 \times 10^{-5})$  with a value of  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}} \approx 21.9585$  and  $\chi^2_{\text{core}} \approx 1.117$ . Although the stream fit is good (as will later be shown), the associated value of the core mass was  $m_c \approx 3.537 \times 10^6 M_\odot$  which implies that there is room for improvement. We took this result to shrink the window to  $(\theta_0, \omega_0, \beta_0) \in [35, 37] \times [26, 28] \times [1.2 \times 10^{-5}, 1.3 \times 10^{-5}]$  and re-run the genetic algorithm, converging to  $(\theta_0, \omega_0, \beta_0) \approx (36.0661, 27.3468, 1.25769 \times 10^{-5})$  with a value of  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}} \approx 21.9585$  and  $\chi^2_{\text{core}} \approx 1.344 \times 10^{-5}$  which corresponds to a much precise value of the core mass,  $m_c \approx 3.5001 \times 10^6 M_\odot$ . It can be noticed the great sensitivity of the core mass dependence on the model parameters because a change in the fifth significant digit of the parameters propagates to a change of in the third significant digit of  $m_c$ . Nevertheless, both solutions above are astrophysically equivalent because Becerra-Vergara et al. (2021) has proved that core masses in the range  $[3.5, 3.55] \times 10^6 M_\odot$  give good fits of the S-stars.

The last step consisted in fixing the Fermionic-MW parameters while floating the ICs of the orbit with the genetic scheme, with metaparameter values `maxiter=popsiz=400`, which gave us very similar to the FMW-MW case:  $\alpha = 149.21^\circ$ ,  $\delta = 36.69^\circ$ ,  $D = 7.95$  kpc,  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha = -6.94$  mas/yr,  $\mu_\delta = -12.45$  mas/yr and  $v_h = -19.15$  km/s, with an improved value of  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}} \approx 19.32$ . The corresponding orbit is displayed in the observable space in Figs. 1-2 with a dashed (amber) line where it can be noticed that both the Fermionic-MW and NFW-MW models fit the GD-1 stream very well. We have not performed any statistically rigorous comparison between both models to determine which one is more consistent with the data. In fact, here we used a fixed NFW-MW model that was fitted by Malhan & Ibata (2019) with another set of Gaia DR2 observations, as has previously been stated.

We would like to give a glimpse of the behaviour of the  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  function so we have evaluated it for fixed values of  $(\epsilon, \beta_0) = (56, 1.258 \times 10^{-5})$  in a bidimensional grid spanning the box  $(\theta_0, \omega_0) \in [34, 38] \times [25, 30]$ . Fig. 3 shows a contourplot of this grid coloured by the value of their corresponding  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  and the black point corresponds to our fitted solution. It can be noticed that the minimum values of the function are located along a thin and finite valley, implying that the solution of the fitting problem is locally degenerate along a straight line in the  $(\theta_0, \omega_0)$ -plane. In spite of this, it was possible to fit the Fermionic-MW model with a quality as good as in the NFW-MW model. As an additional check, we have fitted a line to those points that satisfy  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}} < 50$  obtaining  $h(x) \approx 0.7989 + 0.7361x$ , subtracted this line to  $\omega_0$  and made a plot of  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  function for  $(\epsilon, \beta_0) = (56, 1.258 \times 10^{-5})$  in the window  $(\theta_0, \omega_0 - h(\theta_0)) \in [35, 37] \times [-0.011, 0.011]$ . The result can be seen in the contour



**Fig. 1.** Stream fits in astrometric observable space: sky position (top:  $\phi_2$ ) and proper motions (middle:  $\tilde{\mu}_\alpha$ , bottom:  $\mu_\delta$ ).



**Fig. 2.** Stream fits in observable space: photometric distance (top:  $D$ ) and spectroscopic heliocentric velocity (bottom:  $v_h$ ).

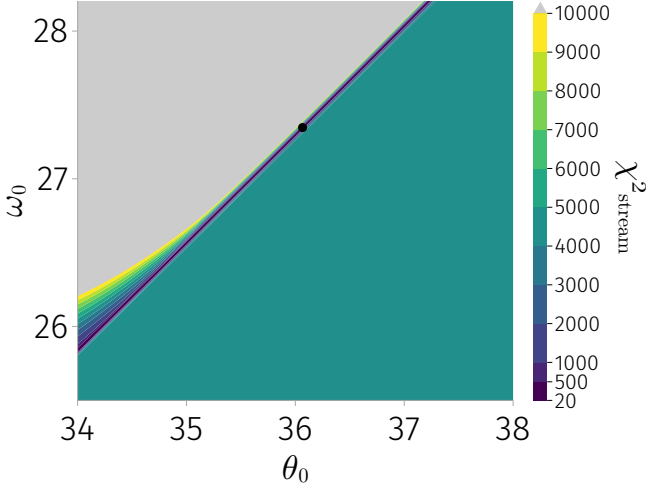
plot of Fig. 4. It is noticeable that the variance along  $\omega_0 - h(\theta_0)$  is two orders of magnitude smaller than the variance along  $\theta_0$ .

### 3.2. Rotation curves and virial quantities

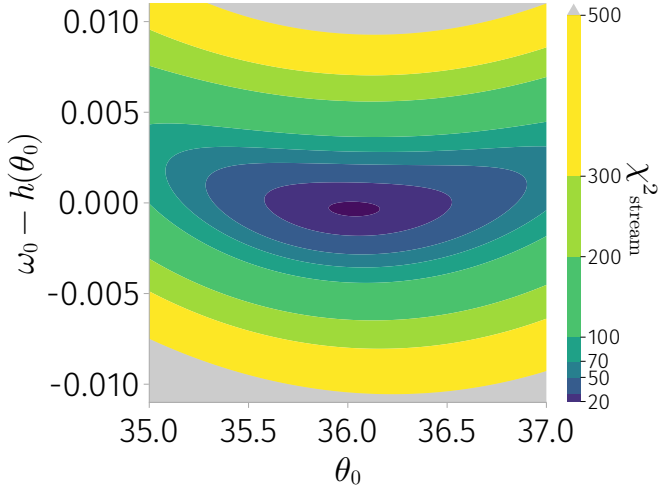
As a way to compare our stream results with a more classical MW observable, we have computed the rotation curves for both models and plot them together with three independent rotation curve observations in Fig. 5. For the MW models we have used the same line styles and colours that were used in previous figures: dotted (green) for the NFW-MW and dashed (amber) for the Fermionic-MW. The rotation curve data is given according to the following marker styles: squares (magenta) for Sofue (2013), circles (blue) for Eilers et al. (2019) and rhombus (light-blue) for Sofue (2020). Note that for building this rotation observables Sofue (2013) assumes a value of  $(R_\odot, v_c(R_\odot)) = (8 \text{ kpc}, 200 \text{ km/s})$  and Sofue (2020) assumes a value of  $(R_\odot, v_c(R_\odot)) = (8 \text{ kpc}, 238 \text{ km/s})$ , while Eilers et al. (2019) assumes  $R_\odot = 8.122 \text{ kpc}$

and a Galactocentric sun velocity  $v_\odot = (11.1, 245.8, 7.8) \text{ km/s}$ , in order to estimate a value of  $v_c(R_\odot) = 229 \pm 0.2 \text{ km/s}$ .

According to GD-1 observables, the present Galactocentric distance projected onto the plane  $z = 0$ , belongs to the interval  $11.5 \lesssim D_g \lesssim 16.4 \text{ (kpc)}$ , displayed as a vertical shaded (grey) band in Fig. 5. Although the GD-1 stream orbit location corresponds to  $z \in [2.6, 9.7] \text{ kpc}$  and thus explores the non-sphericity of the full MW models (due to baryons/NFW axisymmetry), the fact that both models approximately agree in their circular velocity values in the GD-1 region gives support to the idea of using stellar streams as Galactic accelerometers (Ibata et al. 2016; Nibauer et al. 2022; Craig et al. 2023). It is interesting to note a coincidence between both models in their values of circular velocity at the position of the sun as they both give a value of  $v_c(R_\odot) \approx 244 \text{ km/s}$ . Besides, this value is in perfect agreement with the independent estimate found by Bovy (2020), which are  $v_c(R_\odot) = 244 \pm 8 \text{ km/s}$  for  $R_\odot \approx 8.275 \text{ kpc}$ , or  $v_c(R_\odot) = 242 \pm 8 \text{ km/s}$  for the adopted value of  $R_\odot$  in the present paper. Our solution has an average slope



**Fig. 3.**  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  function for  $(\epsilon, \beta_0) = (56, 1.258 \times 10^{-5})$  in the window  $(\theta_0, \omega_0) \in [34, 38] \times [25.5, 28.2]$ . The black point corresponds to our fitted solution. It can be noticed that the minimum values of the function are located along a thin and finite valley.



**Fig. 4.**  $\chi^2_{\text{stream}}$  function for  $(\epsilon, \beta_0) = (56, 1.258 \times 10^{-5})$  in the window  $(\theta_0, \omega_0 - h(\theta_0)) \in [35, 37] \times [-0.011, 0.011]$ .

$s \approx -3.44 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-1}$ , fitted for Galactocentric distances between 5 and 40 kpc, which is a bit larger in magnitude than the value of  $s = -2.18 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-1}$  measured by Jiao et al. (2023).

Our dark matter solution has a finite (virial) radius of  $r_{\text{DM, vir}} = 27.4 \text{ kpc}$  and a virial mass of  $m_{\text{DM, vir}} = 1.4 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . The total baryon mass of our model is approximately  $m_b = 0.9 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ , implying that the total virial mass amounts to  $m_{\text{vir}} = 2.3 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . The value of the MW total mass at 50 kpc reported in Table 3 of Gibbons et al. (2014) is  $2.9 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  with  $(\sigma, 2\sigma) = (0.4, 0.9) \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ , so our solution is contained in the  $2\sigma$  region. It should be noted that as our solution's mass gets constant for radius larger  $r_{\text{DM, vir}}$  while the model studied by Gibbons et al. (2014) reaches larger estimated masses according to their Table 3. Nevertheless, their estimations at large radii have relatively high error bounds, e.g.  $2\sigma = 3 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  for  $M(200\text{kpc}) = 5.6 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ . We would like to point out that there are recent model-dependent MW mass estimations performed by by Jiao et al. (2023) and Ou et al. (2023) which give even smaller

values of the MW virial mass of approximately  $1.99 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$  and  $2.13 \times 10^{11} M_{\odot}$ , respectively

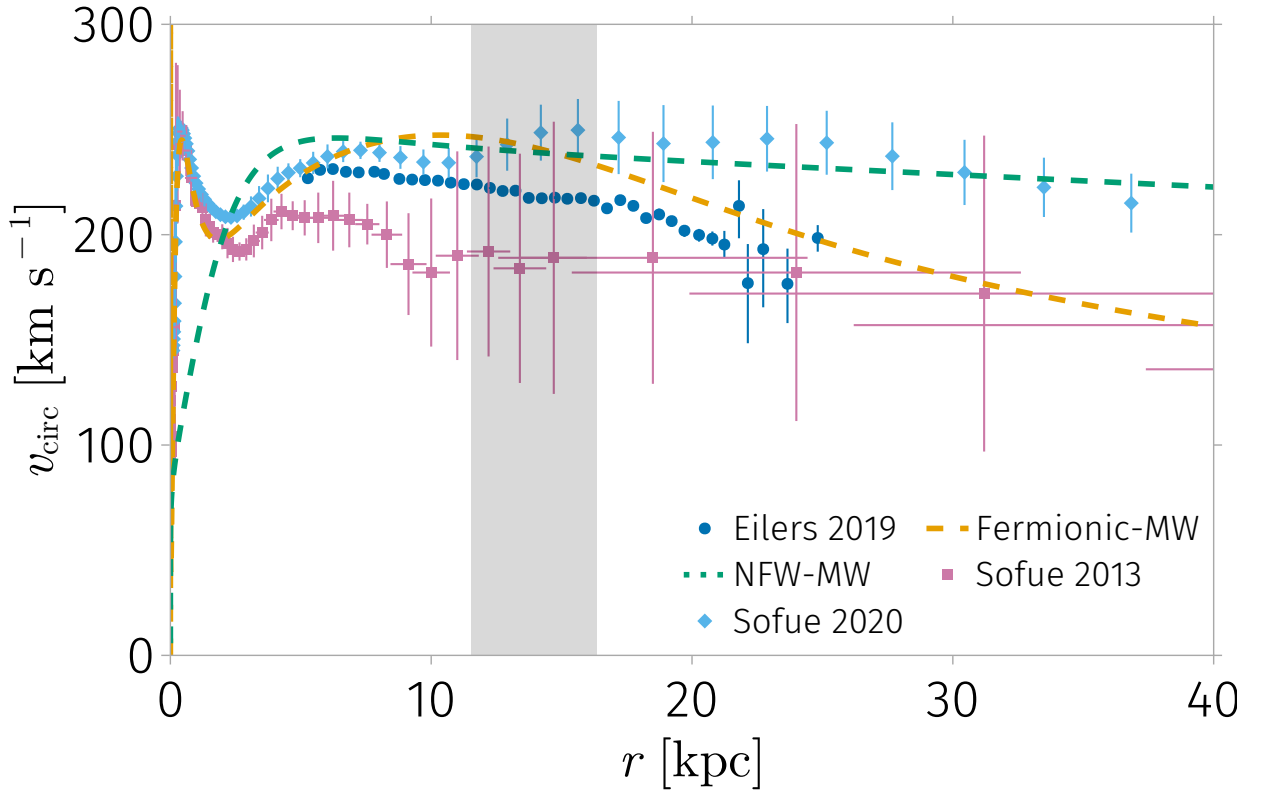
Our fitted fermionic DM model has a density at the solar neighbourhood of  $\rho_{\text{DM}, \odot} = 1.46 \times 10^7 M_{\odot} \text{ kpc}^{-3} = 0.55 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}/c^2$  which belongs to the  $2\sigma$  region of the estimation made by Salucci, P. et al. (2010).

### 3.3. Varying the fermion mass to reach more compact cores

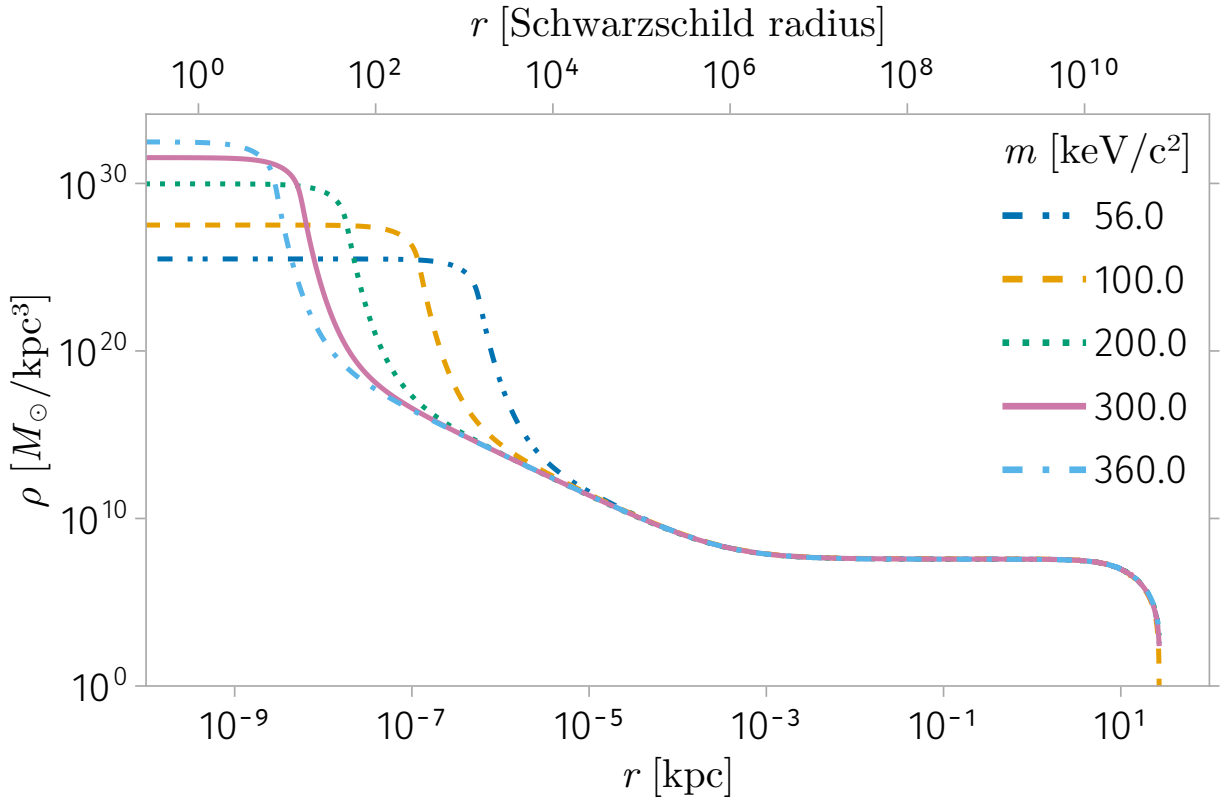
As already mentioned, we have found a solution that is in agreement with both GD-1 data and the geodesic motion of S2 and G2 at Sagittarius A\*. But it is also true that any fermionic solution with a core mass  $m_c \approx m_{\text{core}}$  and more compact than our solution for  $m = 56 \text{ keV}$ , will also satisfy the S-stars constraint. It is interesting to find out how much compactness can be reached while keeping simultaneously the S-stars and GD-1 constraints in the light of the new observations of the Event Horizon Telescope Collaboration (2022) which suggest a compactness of the order of magnitude of 5 Schwarzschild radii. A precise ray tracing study about simulated images of the central cores of fermionic distributions is on progress, trying to put strict constraints on the minimum compactness needed so as to be in agreement with the EHT observations. In order to extend our solutions to other values of the fermion mass ( $m$ ), we used the second optimization algorithm described in Sec. 2.4 for  $\epsilon = 100, 200, 300, 360 \text{ keV}$ . For each fermion mass we divided a given macroscopic orthohedron in parameter space in  $20^3 = 8000$  smaller orthohedrons. Each subregion was optimized in a parallel distributed scheme, searching for those parameters that minimize  $\chi^2_{\text{full}}$  with the NOMAD algorithm. Afterwards, we selected the global minimum by comparing the results of each distributed process. The result is that for all the fermion masses it is possible to find values of the other parameters in such a way that the GD-1 stream is fitted with the same quality as the initial ( $m = 56$ ) case. In fact, as will be shown in Fig. 6, all the solutions have the same density profile in the halo region, while their difference is limited to the compactness of the core.

## 4. Conclusions

We have fitted the GD-1 stream with an orbit in a MW potential built by a relativistic fermionic King DM distribution plus a set of fixed baryon distributions previously fitted by Pouliasis et al. The general procedure was to fix the value of the fermion mass while floating the other three fermionic parameters in order to fit simultaneously two astrophysical constraints: the stream observables and a DM core mass of  $3.5 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$ , where the latter comes from previous fits of the S-star cluster at the centre of the Galaxy. This allowed us to reproduce with high accuracy, for fermion masses ranging from 56 to 360 keV, the polynomials fitted by Ibata et al. (2020) that correspond to sky position, proper motion, photometric distance and radial velocity measurements. Note that the core radius does not include all the core mass because it is defined as the radius in which the circular velocity reaches its first maximum corresponding to a distance in which the core density is still falling. We have fitted the stream track with a spherical fermionic DM distribution similarly to the fit performed by Malhan & Ibata (2019) with a triaxial generalization of the NFW distribution, obtaining agreement in both rotation curves at Galactocentric distances corresponding to the stream observables, i.e.  $11.5 \leq D_g \leq 16.4 \text{ (kpc)}$ . The slope of our Fermionic-MW model's rotation curve between 5 and 40 kpc is  $s \approx -3.44 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ kpc}^{-1}$ .



**Fig. 5.** Rotation curve of MW models and observations: NFW-MW model in dotted (green), Fermionic-MW in dashed (amber), Sofue (2013) with squares (magenta), Eilers et al. (2019) with circles (blue) for Eilers et al. (2019) and Sofue (2020) with rhombus (light-blue). The region where the GD-1 stream is located at zero redshift is displayed with a vertical grey band.



**Fig. 6.** Fermionic dark matter density profiles. The Schwarzschild radius was computed assuming a black hole mass of  $m_{\text{bh}} = 4.075 \times 10^6 M_{\odot}$ .



We have found a circular velocity at the sun's position of  $v_c(R_\odot) \approx 244 \text{ km s}^{-1}$  equal to the value obtained by Malhan & Ibata (2019). Our fermionic DM solution has a finite radius of  $r_{\text{DM,vir}} = 27.4 \text{ kpc}$  and virial mass of  $m_{\text{DM,vir}} = 1.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ , implying a total (DM+baryons) virial mass of the galaxy of  $m_{\text{vir}} = 2.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot$ , which is at a distance of  $2\sigma$  from the value reported in Table 3 of Gibbons et al. (2014) for a radius of 50 kpc. The value obtained for the DM density at the solar neighbourhood is around  $\rho_{\text{DM},\odot} = 1.46 \times 10^7 M_\odot \text{ kpc}^{-3} = 0.55 \text{ GeV cm}^{-3}/c^2$  which belongs to the  $2\sigma$  region of a previous estimate (Salucci, P. et al. 2010). Finally, we have shown that it is possible to find a unidimensional family of solutions parametrized by the fermion mass, which have the same halo that fits the GD-1 stream but they differ in the compactness of the central core. For the limiting case studied here ( $m = 360 \text{ keV}$ ) we obtain a core radius of  $r_c \approx 5$  Schwarzschild radii where the transformation to this distance unit was done assuming a black hole mass of  $m_{\text{bh}} = 4.075 \times 10^6$ .

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