

1 LEVERAGING MULTI-MESSENGER ASTROPHYSICS FOR DARK MATTER SEARCHES

By

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Today

**ABSTRACT**

3 I did Dark Matter with HAWC and IceCube. I also used Graph Neural Networks

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<sup>6</sup> Today

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

8 I love my friends. Thanks to everyone that helped me figure this out. Amazing thanks to the people  
9 at LANL who supported me. Eames, etc Dinner Parties Jenny and her child Kaydince Kirsten, Pat,  
10 Andrea Family. You're so far but so critical to my formation. Unconditional love. Roommate

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

12

## LIST OF TABLES

13

Proof I know how to include

**LIST OF FIGURES**

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

16 Is the text not rendering right? Ah ok it knows im basically drafting the doc still

## CHAPTER 2

17

### DARK MATTER IN THE COSMOS

#### 18 2.1 Introduction

19 I'll attempt to explain the dark matter problem at an entry level with the following thought  
20 experiment. Let's say you're the teacher for an elementary school classroom. You take them on a  
21 field trip to your local science museum and among exhibits is one for mass and weight. The exhibit  
22 has a gigantic scale, and you come up with a fun problem for your classroom.

23 You say to your class, "What is the total weight of the classroom? Give your best estimation  
24 to me in 30 minutes, and then we'll check on the scale. If your guess is within 10% of the right  
25 answer, we will stop for ice cream on the way back"

26 The students are ecstatic to hear this, and they get to work. The solution is some variation of  
27 the following strategy. The students should give each other their weight or best guess if they don't  
28 know. Then, all they have to do is add each students' weight and get a grand total for the class.  
29 The measurement on the giant scale should show the true weight of the class. When comparing  
30 the measured weight, multiply the observation by 1.1 and 0.9 in order to get the +/- 10% tolerance  
31 respectively.

32 Two of your students, Sandra and Mario, return to you with a solution.

33 They say, "We weren't sure of everyone's weight. We used 65 lbs for the people we didn't know  
34 and added everyone who does know. There are 30 of us, and we got 2,000 lbs! That's a ton!"

35 You estimated 1,900 lbs assuming the average weight of a student in your class was 60 lbs. So  
36 you're pleased with Sandra's and Mario's answer. You instruct your students to all gather on the  
37 giant scale and read off the weight together. To all of your surprise, the scale reads *10,000 lbs!*  
38 10,000 is significantly more than a 10% error from 2,000. In fact, it is approximately 5 times more  
39 massive than either you or your students' estimates. You think to yourself and conclude there  
40 must be something wrong with the scale. You ask an employee to check the scale and verify it is  
41 calibrated well. They confirm that the scale is in working order. You weigh a couple of students  
42 individually to test that the scale is well calibrated. Sandra weighs 59 lbs, and Mario weighs 62 lbs,

43 typical weights for their age. You then weigh each student individually and see that their weights  
44 individually do not deviate greatly from 60 lbs. So, where does all the extra weight come from?

45 This thought experiment serves as an analogy to the Dark Matter problem. The important  
46 substitution to make however is to replace the students with stars and classroom with a galaxy, say  
47 the Milky Way. Individually the mass of stars is well measured and defined with the Sun as our  
48 nearest test case. However, when we set out to measure the mass of a collection of stars as large as  
49 galaxies, our well motivated estimation is wildly incorrect. There simply is not way to account for  
50 this discrepancy except without some unseen, or dark, contribution to mass and matter in galaxies.  
51 I set out in my thesis to narrow the possibilities of what this Dark Matter could be.

52 This chapter is organized like the following... **TODO: Text should look like ... Chaper x has**  
53 **blah blah blah.**

## 54 2.2 Dark Matter Basics

55 Presently, the most compelling Dark Matter (DM) model is  $\Lambda$  Cold Dark Matter, or  $\Lambda$ CDM.  
56 I present the evidence supporting  $\Lambda$ CDM in ??, yet discuss the conclusions of the  $\Lambda$ CDM model  
57 here. According to  $\Lambda$ CDM fit to observations on the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB), DM  
58 is 26.8% of the universe's current energy budget Baryonic matter, stuff like atoms, gas, and stars,  
59 contributes to 4.9% of the universe's current energy budget [1–3].

60 DM is dark; it doesn't interact readily with light at any wavelength. DM also doesn't interact  
61 noticeably with the other standard model forces (Strong and Weak) at a rate that is readily observed  
62 [3]. DM is cold, which is to say that the average velocity of DM is below relativistic speeds [1].  
63 'Hot' DM would not likely manifest the dense structures we observe like galaxies, and instead  
64 would produce much more diffuse galaxies than what is observed [1, 3]. DM is old; it played a  
65 critical role in the formation of the universe and the structures within it [1, 2].

66 Observations of DM has so far been only gravitational. The parameter space available to what  
67 DM could be therefore is very broad. Searches for DM are summarized by supposing a hypothesis  
68 that has not yet been ruled out, and performing measurements to test them. When the observations  
69 yield a null result, the parameter space is further constrained. I present some approaches for DM

70 searches in ??.

71 **2.3 Evidence for Dark Matter**

72 Dark Matter (DM) has been a looming problem in physics for almost 100 years. Anomalies  
73 have been observed in galactic dynamics as early as 1933 when Fritz Zwicky noticed unusually  
74 large velocity dispersions in the Coma cluster. Zwicky's measurement was the first recorded to  
75 use the Virial theorem to measure the mass fraction of visible and invisible matter in celestial  
76 bodies [4]. From Zwicky in [5], "*If this would be confirmed, we would get the surprising result*  
77 *that dark matter is present in much greater amount than luminous matter.*" Zwicky's and other's  
78 observation did not instigate a crisis in astrophysics because the measurements did not entirely  
79 conflict with their understanding of galaxies [4]. In 1978, Rubin, Ford, and Norbert measured  
80 rotation curves for ten spiral galaxies [6]. Rubin et. al.'s 1978 publication presented a major  
81 challenge to the conventional understanding of galaxies that could no longer be accredited to  
82 measurement uncertainties. Evidence has been mounting ever since for this exotic form of matter.  
83 The following subsections sample some of the compelling evidence supporting DM.

84 **2.3.1 First Clues: Stellar Velocities**

85 Zwicky's, and later Rubin's, measurement of the stellar velocities were built upon the Virial  
86 theorem, shown as

$$2T + V = 0. \quad (2.1)$$

87 Where  $T$  is the kinetic energy and  $V$  is the potential energy in a self-gravitating system. The  
88 potential was defined as the classical Newton's law of gravity from stars and gas contained in the  
89 observed galaxies

$$V = -\frac{1}{2} \sum_i \sum_{j \neq 1} \frac{m_i m_j}{r_{ij}}. \quad (2.2)$$

90 Zwicky et. al. measured just the velocities of stars apparent in optical wavelengths [5]. Rubin et.  
91 al. added by measuring the velocity of the hydrogen gas via the 21 cm emission line of Hydrogen  
92 [6]. The velocities of the stars and gas are used to infer the total mass of galaxies and galaxy  
93 clusters via ?. An inferred mass is also made from the luminosity of the selected sources. The

94 two inferences are compared to each other as a luminosity to mass ratio and typically yields [1]

$$\frac{M}{L} \sim 400 \frac{M_{\odot}}{L_{\odot}} \quad (2.3)$$

95  $M_{\odot}$  and  $L_{\odot}$  referring to stellar mass and stellar luminosity respectively. These ratios clearly indicate  
96 a discrepancy in apparent light and mass from stars and gas and their velocities.

97 Rubin et.al. [6] demonstrated that the discrepancy was unlikely to be an under-estimation of  
98 the mass of the stars and gas. The inferred 'dark' mass was up to 5 times more than the luminous  
99 mass. This dark mass also needed to extend well beyond the extent of the luminous matter.

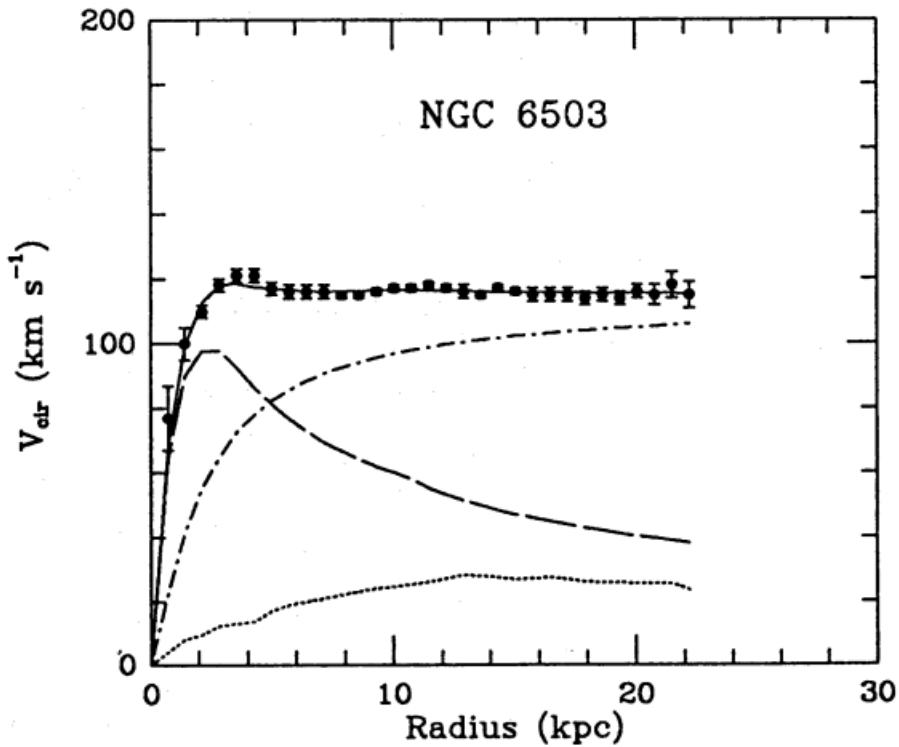


Figure 2.1 Rotation curve fit to NGC 6503 from [7]. Dashed line is the contribution from visible matter. Dotted curves are from gas. Dash-dot curves are from dark matter (DM). Solid line is the composite contribution from all matter and DM sources. Data are indicated with bold dots with error bars. Data agree strongly with matter + DM composite prediction

100 ???: features one of many observations made on the stellar velocities within galaxies. The  
101 measured roation curves mostly feature a flattening of velocities at higher radius which is not  
102 expected if the gravity was only coming from gas and luminous matter. The extension of the  
103 flat velocity region also indicates that the DM is distributed far from the center of the galaxy.

104 Modern velocity measurements include significantly larger objects, galactic clusters, and smaller  
105 objects, dwarf galaxies. Yet, measurements along this regime are leveraging the virial theorem with  
106 Newtonian potential energies. We know Netwonian gravity is not a comprehensive description of  
107 gravity. New observational techniques have been developed since 1978, and those are discussed in  
108 the following sections.

109 **2.3.2 Evidence for Dark Matter: Micro-lensing**

110 Modern evidence for dark matter comes from new avenues beyond stellar velocities. Gravita-  
111 tional micro-lensing from DM is a new channel from general relativity. The Cosmic Microwave  
112 Background shows that the universe had DM in it from a very early stage. Computational resources  
113 have expanded greatly in recent decades enabling universe models that again support the need for  
114 DM in the evolution of the universe.

115 General relativity predicts abberations in light caused by massive objects. In recent decades we  
116 have been able to measure the lensing effects from compact objects and DM haloes. ?? shows how  
117 different compact bodies change the final image of a far away galaxy resulting from gravitational  
118 lensing. Gravitational lensing developed our understanding of dark matter in two important ways.

119 First, micro-lensing observations, or the lack of them, of our Milky Way halo resulted in a  
120 conspicuous absence of massive astrophysical compact halo objects (MACHOs). The hypothesis  
121 was that 'dark matter' could be accounted for by sufficiently dim compact objects. Such objects  
122 include things like planets, brown dwarves, black holes, or neutron stars. Whenever these objects  
123 passed in front of a large luminous source, such as the Large Magelenic Clouds, a variation in light  
124 should be observed [4]. The MACHO and EROS collaborations performed this observation and  
125 did not find a substantial contribution to the DM Milky Way halo from MACHOs. They measured  
126 that MACHOs of mass range 0.15 to  $0.9 M_{\odot}$  contributes to an upper limit of 8% of the DM halo  
127 mass [9].

128 Gravitational lensing can also be applied towards galaxy clusters for DM searches. The obser-  
129 vation of two merging galactic clusters in 2006, shown in ??, provided a compelling arguement  
130 for particle DM outside the Standard Model. These clusters merged recently in astrophysical time

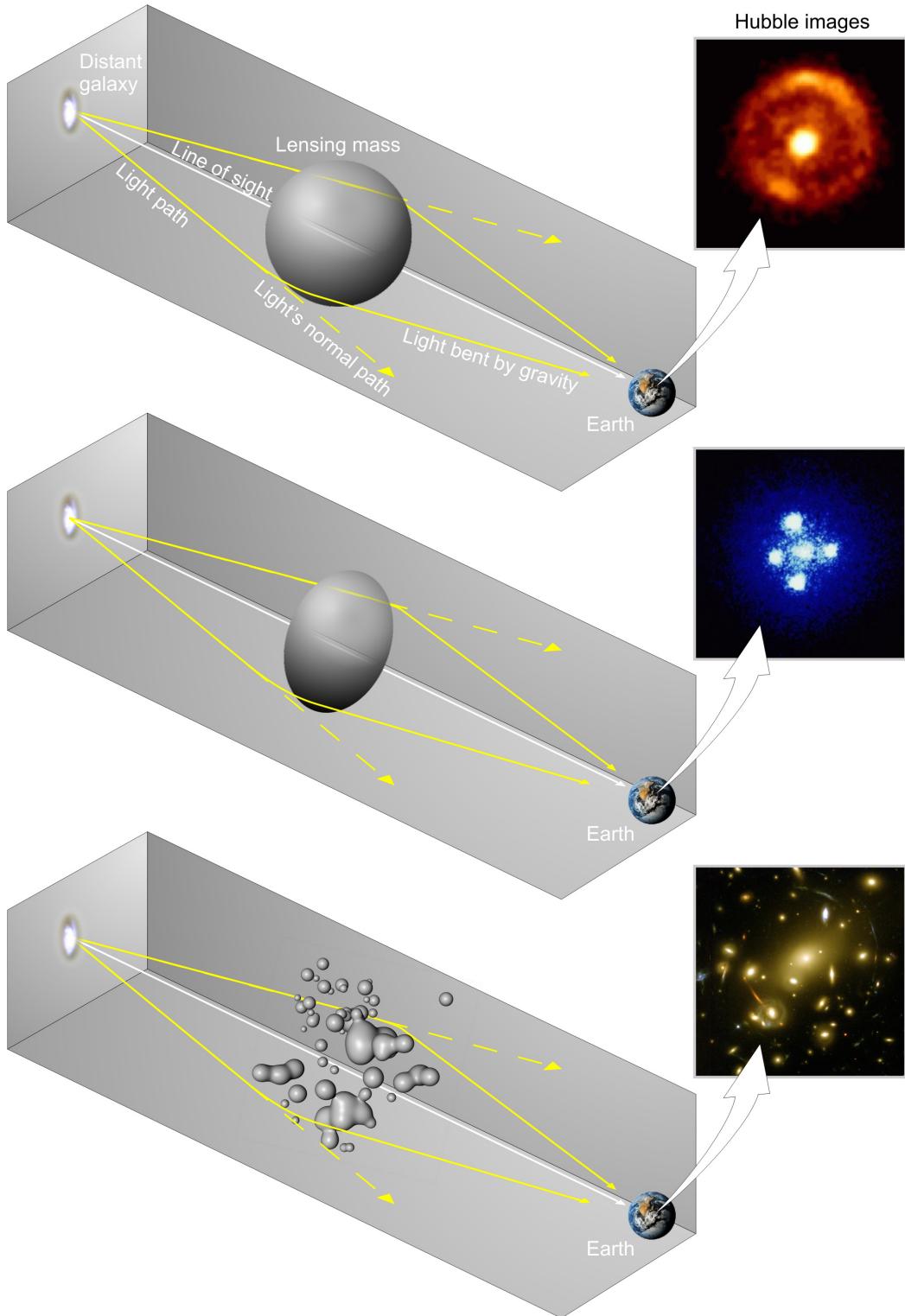


Figure 2.2 Light from distant galaxy is bent in different way depending on the distribution of mass between the galaxy and Earth. Yellow dashed lines indicate where the light would have gone if the matter was not present [8].

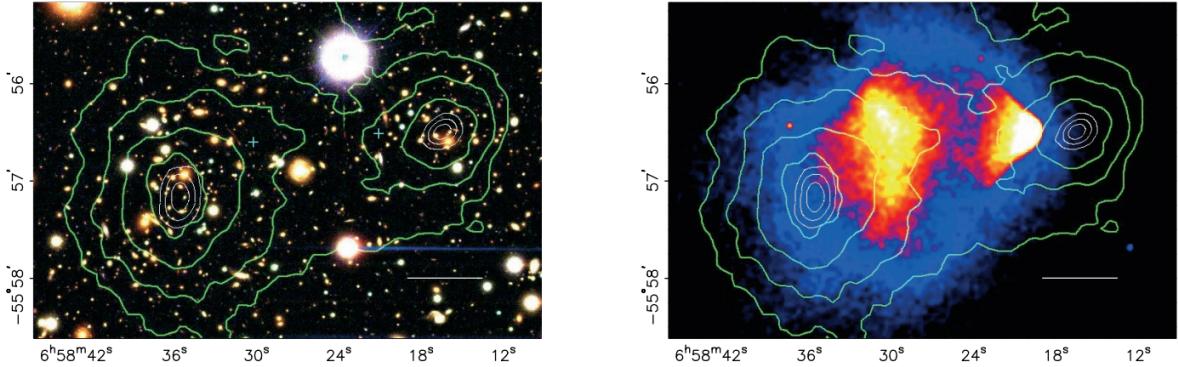


Figure 2.3 (left) Optical image of galactic cluster. (right) X-ray image of the cluster with redder meaning hotter and higher baryon density. (both) Green contours are reconstruction of gravity contours from micro-lensing. White rings are the best fit mass maxima at 68.3%, 95.5%, and 99.7% confidence. Maxima of the clusters are clearly separated from x-ray maxima. [10]

131 scales. They're recent merge separated the stars and galaxies are separated from the intergalactic  
 132 gas. For these clusters, the hot, intergalactic gas is responsible for most of the mass in the systems  
 133 [4]. The hot gas is observed from its x-rays emmision. Two observations of the clusters were made  
 134 independantly of each other. The first was the microlensing of light around the galaxies due to  
 135 their gravitational influences. When celestial bodies are large enough, the gravity they exert bends  
 136 space and time itself. This bending effects light and will deflect light in a smilar way to how lenses  
 137 will bend light. With a sufficient understanding of light sources behind a celestial body, we can  
 138 reconstruct the countours of the gravitational lenses. The gradient of the contours then indicates  
 139 how dense the matter is and where it is.

140 The x-ray emmision can then be observed from the clusters. Since these galaxies are mostly  
 141 gas and are merging, then the gas should be getting hotter. If they're merging, the x-ray emmisions  
 142 should be the strongest where the gas is mostly moving through each other. Hence, X-ray emmision  
 143 maps out where the gas is in the merging galaxy cluster.

144 The micro-lensing and x-ray observations were done on the Bullet cluster featured on ??.  
 145 The x-ray emmisions does not align with the gravitational countours from microlensing. The  
 146 incongruence in mass density and baryon density suggests that there is a lot of matter somewhere  
 147 that does not interact with light. Moreover, this dark matter is can not be baryonic [10]. The Bullet  
 148 Cluster measurement did not really tell us what DM is exactly, but it did give the clue that DM also

149 does not interact with itself very strongly. If DM did interact strongly with itself, then it would  
150 have been more aligned with the x-ray emmision [10]. There have been follow-up studies of galaxy  
151 clusters with similar results. The Bullet Cluster and others like it provide a strong case against  
152 something possibly amiss in our gravitational theories.

153 **2.3.3 Evidence for Dark Matter: Cosmic Microwave Background**

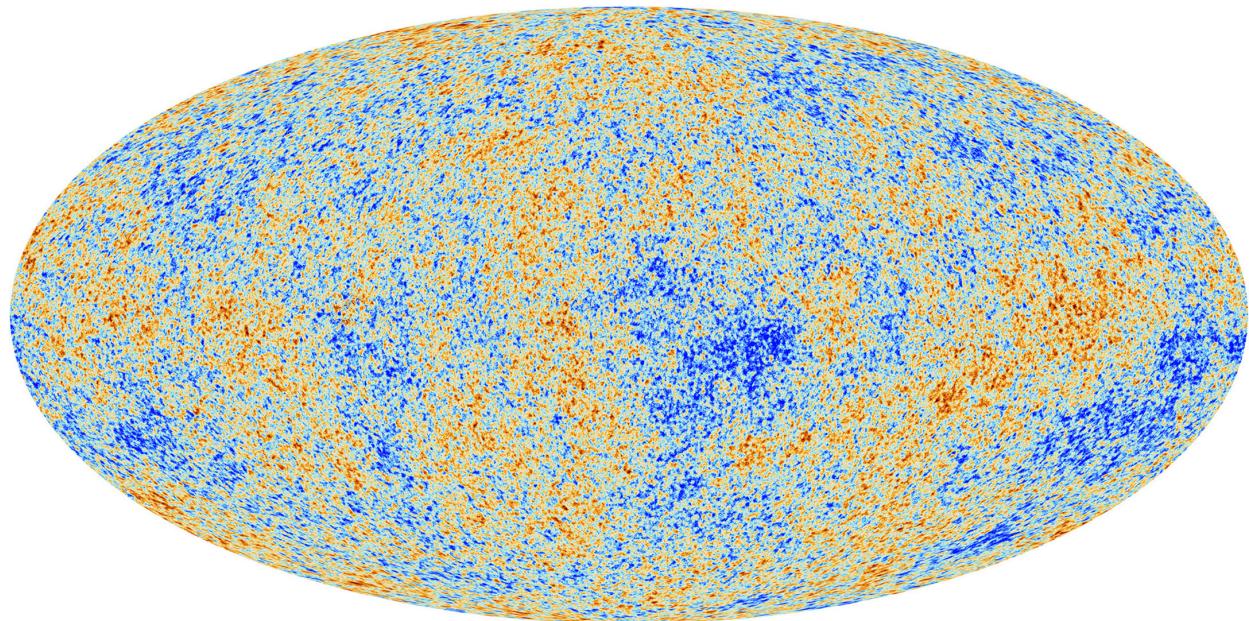


Figure 2.4 Plank CMB sky. Sky map features small variations in temperature in primordial light. These anisotropies can be used to make inferences about the universe's energy budget. [11]

154 The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) is the primordial light from the early universe  
155 when Hydrogen atoms formed from the free electron and proton soup in the early universe. The  
156 CMB is the earliest light we can observe; released when the universe was about 380,000 years  
157 old. Then we look at how the simulated universes look like compared to what we see. ?? is the  
158 most recent CMB image from the Plank observatory [11]. Redder regions indicate a slightly hotter  
159 region of the early universe and blue indicates colder.

160 To measure the DM, Dark Energy, and matter fractions of the universe from the CMB, the image  
161 is deconstructed into a power spectrum versus spherical multipole moments.  $\Lambda\text{CDM}$  provides the  
162 best fit to the power spectra of the CDM as shown in ???. The CMB power spectrum is very senstive  
163 to the fraction of each energy contribtion in the early universe. Low  $l$  modes are dominated by

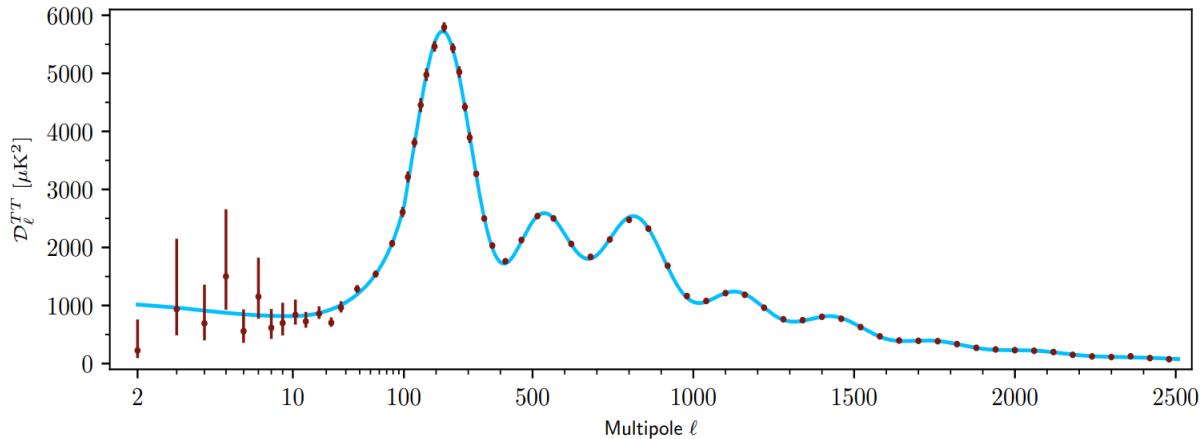


Figure 2.5 Observed Cosmic Microwave Background power spectrum as a function of multipole moment from Plank [11]. Blue line is best fit model from  $\Lambda$ CDM. Red points and lines are data and error respectively.

[\[scale=0.1\]\[figures/lambdaCDM/multipole/figure06all.pdf\]](#)  
[0023sympg](#)

Figure 2.6 All the modes

164 variations in gravitational potential. Intermediate  $l$  emerge from oscillations in photon-baryon fluid  
 165 from competing baryon pressures and gravity. High  $l$  is a damped region from the diffusion of  
 166 photons during electron-proton recombination. [1]

167 The harmonics would look very different for a universe with less dm (see fig bla) or a lot more  
 168 dm (see fig bla)

169 The observations fit well with the Lambda CDM model and we derive the primordial dm  
 170 concentration to be XX% and primordial DM to be XX%. **TODO: What are the shortcomings?** I  
 171 think the most obvious argument is simply that this is very old light, up to 13.6 billion years old.  
 172 It's not at all necessary that the universe shares the exact same DM, matter ratio. There is a poorness  
 173 in fit in the lower region of the graph and this is unexplained. The way we measure distance can be  
 174 really fucked sometimes so maybe that's a problem too.

175 Finally we have universe simulations like the millenium simulation and more **[FACT CHECK**  
 176 **THIS]****[NEEDS A SOURCE]**. These are computer simulations of the universe with different fractions  
 177 of DM and baryonic matters. Additionally hypotheses are tested like how hot the DM is and how  
 178 strongly it interacts with itself and with baryonic matter. These simulations are also done for smaller



Figure 2.7 TODO: Plank harmonics vs DM content CMB[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

179 scales like galactic formation and galaxy clustering. In all cases the simulations most resemble  
180 our universe for a Lambda CDM like universe.

181 The main issues with the simulations is mostly that we can't perfectly simulate the universe.  
182 They are often incomplete with how they treat baryonic matter and make big assumptions about  
183 dark matter. These simulations also have to contend with very real computational limitations. The  
184 resolution of some of the universe simulations are as large as XX's of solar masses. There's reason  
185 to believe that the resolution might really matter as well. [NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK  
186 THIS]

187 Overall this forms a compelling argument for dark matter. However, these observations really  
188 only confirm that DM is there. It takes another leap of theory to make observations of DM that  
189 are nongravitational. One of which is the emergence of the Weakly Interacting Massive Particle  
190 hypothesis of DM. This DM candidate theory is discussed further in the next section.

191 **2.4 Searching for Dark Matter**

192 We've explored any options for what dark matter could be now. The remainder of this thesis  
193 I will focus only on a particle dark matter hypothesis. I will not be discussin alternative gravita-  
194 tional theories such as Modified Newtonian Dynamics. I am also ignoring composite dark matter  
195 discussion like primordial black holes, dark atoms, or dark bound states of baryonic matter. For  
196 this thesis I focus on the hypothesis that DM is a weakly interacting and massive particle (WIMP).



Figure 2.8 TODO: Standard model. Square or Circle?[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

197 The current status of the standard model does not have a WIMP candidate. When looking at  
198 the standard model, we can immediately exclude any charged particle. This is because charged  
199 particles interact with light and so much DM would be immediately visible if is had the same  
200 charge as SM particles. Specifically this will rule out the following charged, fundamental particles:  
201  $e, \mu, \tau, W, u, d, s, c, t, b$  and their corresponding antiparticles. Recalling from earlier that DM must  
202 be long lived and stable over the age of the universe. This would exclude all SM particles with

203 decay half-lives at or shorter than the age of the universe. This constraint eliminates the  $Z$ , and  
204  $H$  bosons. Finally, the candidate DM needs to be somewhat massive. This follows from the DM  
205 needing to be cold or not relativistic through the universe. This eliminates the remaining SM  
206 particles:  $\nu_{e,\mu,\tau}, g, \gamma$ . This indicates the SM that is likely not the full story and hints to physics  
207 beyond the standard model (BSM).

208 **2.4.1 Shake it, Break it, Make it**



Figure 2.9 TODO: Shake it, break it, make it[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

209 The above figure demonstrates the different interaction modes possible with particle DM and the  
210 DM. The figure is a simplified Feynman diagram where the arrow of time represents the interaction  
211 modes of: **Shake it, Break it, Make it**.

212 **Shake it** refers to the direct detection of dark matter. Direct detection interactions start with a  
213 free DM particle and some SM particle. The DM and SM interact under some elastic or inelastic  
214 collision and recoil away from each other. The DM remains in the dark sector and imparts some

215 momentum onto the SM particle. The hope is that the momentum imparted onto the SM particle  
216 is sufficiently high enough to kick up with highly sensitive instruments. Because we cannot create  
217 the DM in the lab, we have to wait until it is incident on the detector. We do this by increasing  
218 the interaction volume of the detector with some inert chemical. We then leverage the hypothesis  
219 that the DM is everywhere around us and Earth's motion through the cosmos creates a sort of DM  
220 wind. Direct detectors are live now and taking data. Some active experiments include XENON  
221 **TODO: look up and name direct DM experiments.**



Figure 2.10 **TODO: windy dark matter.** Look at Jodi's DM lectures[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

222 **Make it** refers to the production of DM from SM initial states. The experiment starts with  
223 particles in the SM. These SM particles are accelerated to incredibly high energies and then collided  
224 with each other. In the confluence of energy DM emerges as a byproduct of the SM annihilation.  
225 Often it is the collider experiments that are able to generate energies high enough to probe DM.  
226 These experiments include the renown ATLAS and CMS collaborations at CERN where protons

227 are collided together at extreme energies. The DM searches however are complex. DM likely does  
228 not interact with the detectors and lives long enough to escape the detection apparatus of CERN's  
229 colliders. This means any DM search with production searches for an excess of events with missing  
230 energy in the events. The missing energy with no particle tracks implies a neutral particle carried the  
231 energy out of the detector. However, there are other neutral particles in the SM and so any analysis  
232 have to discriminate between SM signatures of missing energy and a potential DM candidate.



Figure 2.11 TODO: A particle event in CMS/ATLAS with Missing E[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

#### 233 2.4.2 Break it: Standard Model Signatures of Indirect Dark Matter Searches

234 **Break it** refers to the creation of SM particles from the dark sector, and it is the primary concern  
235 of this thesis. The interaction begins with dark matter or in the dark sector. The hypothesis is that  
236 this DM will either annihilate with itself or decay and produce a SM byproduct which we can detect.  
237 This method is often referred to as the Indirect detection of DM because we have no lab to directly  
238 control or manipulate the DM. Therefore most DM primary observations will be performed from

239 observations of known DM densities among the cosmos. The strength is that we have the entirety  
240 of the universe and it's lifespan to use as the detector or particle accelerator. Additionally, locations  
241 of dark matter are also well understood since it was astrophysical observations that presented the  
242 problem of DM in the first place.

243 However, anything can happen in the universe. So there are many difficult to deconvolve  
244 backgrounds when searching for a DM signal. Once prominent example is the galactic center.  
245 There's a lot of DM there since the Milky Way definitely has a lot of DM. But any signal coming  
246 from there is hard to parse apart from the extreme environment of our supermassive black hole,  
247 Sagitarius A\*. In fact, there has been known  $\gamma$ -ray excesses from the galactic center [NEEDS A  
248 SOURCE], yet the environment presents a difficult problem in sussing out what the fuck is actually  
249 going on. Despite the challenges, any DM model that yields evidence in the other observation  
250 two methods, **Shake it or Make it** must be corroborated with indirect observations of the known  
251 DM overdensities. Without corroborating Evidence, DM observation in the lab is hard pressed to  
252 demonstrate that it is the model contributing to the DM seen at the universal scale.

253 In the case of WIMP DM, signals are typically described in terms of primary SM particles  
254 produced from a DM decay or annihilation. These particles are then simulated to stable final states  
255 such as:  $\gamma$ ,  $\nu$ ,  $p$ , or  $e$  which can traverse galactic lengths to reach the earth.

256 The figure shows the quagmire of SM particles that emerges from SM initial states that are not  
257 stable. There's a lot of different things with different energies that can pop out.

258 For any neutral messenger, the DM flux from DM annihilating to some particle in the SM,  $\varphi$ ,  
259 from a region in the sky is

$$\text{INSERT DM annihilation flux equation HERE.} \quad (2.4)$$

260

261 **TODO: explain the equation** And for decay it is . . .

$$\text{INSERT DM decay flux equation HERE.} \quad (2.5)$$



Figure 2.12 TODO: particle cascade from DM[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

262

263     TODO: explain the equation

264     The integral over a line of sight is a simplification made because we mostly observe a 2d  
265     surface with our Astrophysics experiments. This also translates the equation into observables in  
266     our detector like solid angle. The spectral shape is mostly determined by the SM primary products.  
267     From HDMspectra, they look like the following figures for the bb, tau, and Z spectra.

268     Additionaly, when DM primarily goes into one of the neutral messengers (nu or gamma), the  
269     spectra will typically have a line feature. These messengers are very unlikely to be attenuated in  
270     any way from their primary state. These line spectra are usually considered smoking gun signals  
271     as their energy will be half the COM of the DM  $\rightarrow$  SM process. For DM in the GeV+ scale, there  
272     is no similar SM process and so seeing the signal would almost certainly be an indication of the  
273     presence of dark matter.

274     We forunately have the largest volume and lifetime ever for a particle physics experiment in the



Figure 2.13 TODO: HDMspectra: bb, tautau, WW[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

275 universe. This means we can do some pretty cool shit very efficiently. The drawn back are the  
276 backgrounds.

## 277 **2.5 Multi-Messenger Dark Matter**

278 Astrophysics entered a dope as fuck new phase in the past few decades that leverages our new  
279 knowlwedge of the SM and general relativity. Up until the 21st century, astrophysical observatations  
280 were done with photons. At first, observations were optical in nature. You can confirm this yourself  
281 by going outside at night. The moon and constellations are observabke to the naked eye. In darker  
282 places on Earth, celestial bodies like our Milky Way galaxy become visible. Novel observations  
283 of the universe have since only adjusted the sensitivity of the wavelength of light that's observed.  
284 Gems like the CMB, MEERkat, [NEEDS A SOURCE]and more have ultimately been observations  
285 of different wavelengths of light. Light can also be thought of as a particle in the SM is referred to  
286 as a photon, or a packet of light.

287 Come the 21st century and we've started to use more of the SM and general relativity. The



Figure 2.14 TODO: Line spectra, nu and gamma[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

288 experiments LIGO and VIRGO had an iconic discovery in 2015??[FACT CHECK THIS]with the  
289 first chirps of black hole mergers. This opened an entirely new method of observing the universe  
290 through gravitational waves. They literally use the bending of space-time to do astrophysics like  
291 holy shit. There's also been a surge of interest in the neutrino sector. We're now finally having  
292 some sensitivity to neutrinos that we're able to detect them from astrophysical sources. Neutrinos,  
293 like gravitational waves and light, travel mostly unimpeded from their source to our observatories.  
294 This makes pointing to the originating source of these messengers much easier than it is for  
295 cosmic rays that are almost always deflected from their source.

296 Being able to see the same objects under different regimes was demonstrated already with just  
297 photons. From the previous figure you can see different ways to look at the milky way galaxy. Each  
298 panel corresponds to a different wavelength of light which has different penetrations through gas  
299 and galactic dust. Some sources are more apparent in some panels, while others are not. Recently,  
300 the IceCube collaboration published a groundbreaking result of the milky way in neutrinos. This



Figure 2.15 TODO: multimessenger sectors from the NSF[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

301 new channel is very unique because we can really see through the galaxy. This new image also  
302 refines our understanding of how high energy particles are accelerated since the fit to IceCube data  
303 prefers one standard model process over the other.

304 Exposing our observations to more cosmic messengers greatly increases our sensitivity to rare  
305 processes. In the case of DM, from fig (SM ann), you can see there are many SM particles at the end  
306 of the particle cascade. Among the final states are gammas and neutrinos. The charged particles  
307 however would not likely make it to earth since they'll be deflected. This means observatories that  
308 can see the neutral messengers are especially good for DM searches and for combining data for a  
309 multi-messenger search.

310 **2.6 Search Targets for Dark Matter**

311 We of course have to know where to look. Thankfully, we have a good idea of where. Our  
312 first detection of DM relied on optical observations. Since then, we've developed new techniques



Figure 2.16 TODO: Milky way at different wavelengths[NEEDS A SOURCE][FACT CHECK THIS]

313 to find large DM dense regions. We first found out about DM through observing galactic rotation  
314 curves. This includes our nearest galaxy, the Milky Way. The Milky Way thus is the largest nearby  
315 DM dense region to look at. Additionally, the DM halo surrounding the Milky Way is somewhat  
316 clumpy [NEEDS A SOURCE]. There are regions in the DM halo of the Milky Way that have more  
317 DM than others and it's captured gas over time. In some cases these sub-haloes were dense enough  
318 to create stars. These apparent sub galaxies are known as dwarf spheroidal galaxies and are the  
319 main sources studied in this thesis.

### 320 **2.6.1 Dwarf Spheroidal Galaxies**

321 The way we look for dwarf spheroidal galaxies (dSph's) is through mostly Newtonian physics.  
322 We use either the virial theorem to determine the DM density of the dSph's or a Jeans analysis /ns.  
323 DSphs tend to be ideal sources to look at for DM searches. The reason is that these environments  
324 are fairly quiet. Unlike the galactic center, the most active components of dSph's are the stars within

325 them. There are few compact objects, like black holes, and much less gas that would contribute  
326 to a large backgrounds. The DM to mass ratio here is also massive. [NEEDS A SOURCE]. The  
327 signal to background ratio is really large and we expect a lot of signal from how much dark matter  
328 there is. All this together means that dSph's are among the best sources to look at for indirect DM  
329 searches.

330

## CHAPTER 3

### DETECTING HIGH ENERGY NEUTRAL MESSENGERS

331 **3.1 Cherenkov Radiation**

332 **3.2 HAWC**

333 **3.3 IceCube**

334 **3.4 Opportunities to Combine for Dark Matter**

## CHAPTER 4

335                   **HIGH ALTITUDE WATER CHERENKOV (HAWC) OBSERVATORY**

336   **4.1 The Detector**

337   **4.2 Events Reconstruction and Data Acquisition**

338   **4.2.1 G/H Discrimination**

339   **4.2.2 Angle**

340   **4.2.3 Energy**

341   **4.3 Remote Monitoring**

342   **4.3.1 ATHENA Database**

343   **4.3.2 HOMER**

344

## CHAPTER 5

### ICECUBE NEUTRINO OBSERVATORY

345 **5.1 The Detector**

346 **5.2 Events Reconstruction and Data Acquisition**

347 **5.2.1 Angle**

348 **5.2.2 Energy**

349 **5.3 Northern Test Site**

350 **5.3.1 PIgeon remote dark rate testing**

351 **5.3.2 Bulkhead Construction**

## CHAPTER 6

### COMPUTATIONAL TECHNIQUES IN PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS

353 **6.1 Neural Networks for Gamma/Hadron Separation**

354 **6.2 Parallel Computing for Dark Matter Analyses**

**CHAPTER 7****GLORY DUCK**

## **CHAPTER 8**

### **NU DUCK**

356

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