
HOLODECK:
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DARK MATTER REVEALED

MOST OF THE MATTER in the Universe consists of stuff we can't see. It is dubbed "dark matter" and we know it must be out there. Without dark matter rapidly spinning galaxies (such as those circled, left) would not have sufficient gravitational glue to hold their stars and gas clouds together. These elements would fly off into space instead, like rain drops on a spinning bicycle wheel. What might this ghostly, galaxy glue be made of? Nobody knows. But in 2006 astronomers got a new clue.

CREDIT: NASA / STSCI; MAGELLAN / U. ARIZONA / D. CLOWE ET AL.