Gamma-ray dark matter searches





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Work at the University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia Member of the Fermi LAT since 2008

Member of the CTA since 2014



Dark matter is an essential building block of the Standard Model of Cosmology

large scale structures



Milky Way-sized galaxies



10s kpc



Dark matter is an essential building block of the Standard Model of Cosmology



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'Astrophysical' dark matter search:

Serach for:

- non gravitational signatures of DM (new forces, interactions with SM) -'indirect' DM detection
- Or **use gravity** to determine its properties (mass, self-interaction...)



100s Mpc

dwarf galaxies



<~ *kpc*

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- Why indirect searches?
 - direct detection and collider searches are cleaner environments with 'controlled' backgrounds
- Essential:
 - to search for DM **remotely**/in places where it was **discovered**
 - In some cases, direct link to early universe physics
 - ideally: detect it in the Lab AND astrophysical objects

--> multiple handles on its properties.



Astrophysical experiments:

• plus:

multipurpose experiments (rich scientific program, beyond DM)

- minus:
 - different exp priorities,
 - not optimized for DM searches
 - 'backgrounds' are astrophysics not a 'controlled'/lab system

(most of) the astro-signal we measure DOES NOT look like the one expected from DM.



The 'big' picture Detection?

• given the complexity of astrophysical phenomena and experimental challenges it happens relatively often to stumble upon curious **signal hints**.



Detection strategies:

A) look for **smoking guns**:

- 'zero' astro backgrounds, but need luck -- expected signals (for vanilla DM) low
- B) or, learn astrophysics :) and try again

Outline

1. DM model space that CAN be tested with gamma-rays

- 2. Experiments & data analysis techniques
- 3. Wish list, targets
- 4. Astro backgrounds
- 5. Examples:
 - WIMPs
 - ALPs
 - (PBHs)

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The challenge

ASYMMETRI

NEUTRALINOS

- Is it a particle?
- How does it couple to the Standard Model?

EXTRA DIMENSIONAL DARK MATTER

1,

- Why stable?
- Composite or elementary?
- 'Maverick' or dark 'sector'?
- Why so abundant? ($\Omega_{DM} \sim few \times \Omega_b$)

Particle dark matter models



A theorist's 'landscape'



Particle dark matter models

Landscape in terms of (astrophysical) signatures



Particle dark matter models

Landscape in terms of (astrophysical) signatures



Credit: M. Meyer

Models

Landscape in terms of (astrophysical) signatures



Models

Landscape in terms of (astrophysical) signatures

Macroscopic objects?



Models

Landscape in terms of (astrophysical) signatures

Macroscopic objects?



90 orders of magnitude...



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Search strategy & tools









ν

e±,

 \boldsymbol{p}^{\pm}

D-





→ or ground based:
i) Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes
WHIPPLE 10m (1968-2013) - the beginning of γ ray astronomy
H.E.S.S. (2002 -), MAGIC (2004 -), VERITAS (2007 -)

ii) Air shower arrays ('buckets of water')

MILAGRO (2001-2008)

HAWC (2010 -)





Fermi LAT

Launched 11 June 2008 - 13 years!

Data public within 24h and actively used by the community



Fermi LAT

Launched 11 June 2008 - 13 years all!

Data public within 24h and actively used by the community



Fermi LAT

anticipated as a 'dark matter discovery Particle Dark Matter

ii) Large field of view:



iii) Limited charged CR contamination (anti-coincidence detector)

Gamma rays - the full picture



Gamma rays - the full picture



Gamma rays - the full picture





31

data



Typical: 'Template based' likelihood fitting







 ΔBk - perturbations in different background templates, k



Traditionally 'ON/OFF' technique



Backgrounds measured, not modelled

$$\mathcal{L}(M_{\rm DM}, \langle \sigma v \rangle) = \prod_{ijk} \mathcal{L}_{ij} \left(\mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\rm S}, \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\rm B}, \kappa_{\mathbf{k}} \mid \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\rm ON}, \mathbf{N}_{\mathbf{k}}^{\rm OFF} \right)$$
$$= \prod_{ijk} \frac{\left(N_{ijk}^{\rm S} + \kappa_{ijk} N_{ijk}^{\rm B} \right)^{N_{ijk}^{\rm ON}}}{N_{ijk}^{\rm ON}!} e^{-(N_{ijk}^{\rm S} + \kappa_{ijk} N_{ijk}^{\rm B})} \times \frac{\left(N_{ijk}^{\rm B} \right)^{N_{ijk}^{\rm OFF}}}{N_{ijk}^{\rm OFF}!} e^{-N_{ijk}^{\rm B}}$$


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The signal



 \sim

how likely the interaction (annihilations, decays, conversions)

how many photons produced PER interaction

How many DM particles/objects are there along the L.O.S.



The signal



Where to look









Credit: J. Coronado-Blazquez







Credit: J. Coronado-Blazquez



Together with analysis of individual targets, target **assembles** can be used in various statistics frameworks:

- cumulative extragalactic signal
- angular anisotropies

— cross-correlations between gamma ray maps and DM tracer maps (weak lensing, galaxy catalogues..)



[TNG100 simulation]

DM density distribution **poorly constrained on small scales**!

Critical because signal is usually DOMINATED by small scales (e.g. center of our Galaxy) or by annihilation in small halos (which are the most concentrated)



[TNG100 simulation]



10

1

N-body simulations: issues 01

Imited resolution-> small distances and small masses unresolved.



Annalisa's talk

N-body simulations: issues 02

- baryonic feedback baryons can dominate gravitational potential iat small scales
- Challenge simulations need to cover a large span of scales



[[]TNG simulation]

A number of simulations recover realistic disk Galaxies (great progress!), but still a number of open issues

Observations:



Observations:



Observations:

different approach is to **measure** motion of stellar objects to determine the $\leq \operatorname{gravittition}_{\mathbf{q}} + \operatorname{potential}_{f} of DM.$ For example:

 $\pi 2m_V^2 dwarf sphere dial Galaxies: Assuming virialization, each population$ traces the gravitational potential, and we can use the spherical Jeansequation to link the measured velocity dispersion and the dSphgravitational potential





The signal: Dark matter distribution

Observations:

However, similarly to the N-body simulations:

- **small (sub)halos** have few or NO stars and
- in the very **centers of halos** gravitational potential is usually dominated by baryons, or hard to determine. $M(r < R) = v^{2}$



The signal: Dark matter distribution

Observations:

However, similarly to the N-body simulations:

- **small (sub)halos** have few or NO stars and
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Uncertainty on total mass (total J-factor) are dominant when targets are observed 'from outside'

The signal: Dark matter distribution

Observations:

However, similarly to the N-body simulations:

- **small (sub)halos** have few or NO stars and
- in the very centers of halos gravitational potential is usually dominated by baryons, or hard to determine.
- Considerable uncertainties remain!



Uncertainty on density distribution dominant when we observe central regions from within, or with high res instruments

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Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



90% of the LAT photons!

cosmic rays+interstellar medium

→gamma rays parameters: distribution of sources, magnetic fields, gas, injection spectra...

Daniele's talk







Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



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→**Challenges:** distribution of sources, magnetic fields, gas, CR injection spectra... poorly known

— source distribution from tracers (SNRs, PSRs - poorly constrained themselves)

gas densities from atomic transition lines - 3D reconstructions

- IC: ISRF hugely unknown
- Galactic magnetic fields...

 $\frac{\partial \psi(\overset{v}{r}, p, t)}{\partial t} = q(\overset{l}{r}, p) \text{ sources (SNR, nuclear reactions...)}$ $\frac{\partial \psi(\overset{v}{r}, p, t)}{\partial t} = q(\overset{l}{r}, p) \text{ sources (SNR, nuclear reactions...)}$ $\frac{\partial (iffusion + \overset{l}{\nabla} \cdot [D_{xx} \overset{l}{\nabla} \psi - \overset{l}{V} \psi] \text{ convection}$ $\frac{\partial (iffusive reacceleration + \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \left[p^2 D_{pp} \frac{\partial}{\partial p} \frac{\psi}{p^2} \right]}{\frac{\partial (p^2 - 1)^2}{2}}$ $\frac{\partial (p^2 - 1)^2}{\partial p} \left[\frac{\partial (p^2 - 1)^2}{\partial p} (p^2 - \frac{\partial}{p} ($

Sophisticated numerical solvers: GALPROP, DRAGON.

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



90% of the LAT photons!

Sophisticated numerical solvers: GALPROP, DRAGON/HERMES...

Include 3D gas and ISRF distributions, time dependent CR source distribution +



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cosmic rays+interstellar medium

→ Challenges for DM search

Diffuse emission **'bulgy'** morphology degenerate with DM.



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→ Challenges for DM search

Diffuse emission **'bulgy'** morphology degenerate with DM.



Residuals are not 'flat', many small scale structures remain



Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



90% of the LAT photons!

cosmic rays+interstellar medium

→ Challenges for DM search

Diffuse emission **'bulgy'** morphology degenerate with DM.



+ **Fermi bubbles** are 'right on the spot' and highly uncertain



Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



E = 10 GeV



90% of the LAT photons!

cosmic rays+interstellar medium

→**Challenges**: distribution of sources, magnetic fields, gas, injection spectra...

Diffuse emission **'bulgy'** morphology degenerate with DM.

PL spectrum also significantly degenerate with Galactic DM signal



Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission





https://fermi.gsfc.nasa.gov/ssc/data/access/lat/8yr_ catalog/

galactic: PSRs, PWNs, SNR, Nova, Globular clusters...



Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission





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Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission





Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission





guaranteed contribution: faint (not individually resolved) extragalactic sources

[Ackermann+, ApJ799, 2015)]

The TeV sky

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



Ground based telescopes performed survey observations of extended regions:



Cumulative diffuse emission detected along the plane

[H.E.S.S. Galactic Plane Survey]

The TeV sky

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



Ground based telescopes performed survey observations of extended regions:



Diffuse emission in the Galactic center ridge region detected by HESS.

It follows the gas distribution, indication of pion component. Hard spectrum - a PeVatron source!



[Aharonian, 2016]
The TeV sky

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



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still not much is known about the diffuse emission at TeV energies in the Galactic plane...

Morphology energy dependent - crucial information

[Aharonian, 2016]

The TeV sky

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources





Hundreds of sources Significant portion of galactic sources is extended (PWNs, SNRs etc) 75° 60° 1rk 421 45° PKS 1510-089 Mrk 501 30° Cen A 15° 0° Crat -15 XS 0506+056 -30° GRB 1901140 PKS 2155-304 -45 GRB 180720B -60° NGC 253 -75° PWN, TeV halo V AGN 🔺 GRB ٠ Glob. cluster . 3FHL sources Blazar Unidentified Starburst, Superbubble ٠ . SNR, Shell Pulsar, Binary ٠ •

[TeVCat, mid 2019]

The TeV sky

Diffuse emission from our Galaxy



Point sources



Isotropic emission



New source classes - pulsar halos SNR (hadronic/leptonic) TeV Halo PWN (confined e⁺e⁻ [Sudoh+, 2019]

New powerful ways to probe electron population in our galaxy and the CR diffusion properties!

Also a new classes of extended sources, formidable background for close by DM halos

Main challenges:

- complex astrophysical backgrounds
- DM distribution often poorly constrained
- instrumental limitations

Virial radius

astro: unassociated sources DM distribution: dN/dM, c

Astro background: diffuse emission DM distribution: ρ (r)

Home

Milky Way-like halo

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 - WIMPs an example of DM detection in a crowded region of the GC
 - ALPs an example of smoking gun signature
 - PBHs an example of gamma rays excluding a significant portion of parameter space.

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A 'darling' example of the school

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WIMPs - all ID messengers

All ID constraints







DM search in the inner Galaxy

general approach

apply *template fitting* procedure to the inner ~<20 deg with addition of the FBs



DM search in the inner Galaxy

general approach

apply *template fitting* procedure to the inner ~<20 deg with addition of the FBs

Devil is in details... -90 180 90 0 -180 uniform-brightness template for At least two philosophies: the Fermi Bubbles — start from a set of 'physical' astro models and estimate systematics from the range of results **T** data — allow as much as possible $\mathcal{L}(\boldsymbol{\mu}|\boldsymbol{n}) = \prod_{i,j} \frac{\mu_{ij}^{n_{ij}}}{n_{ij}!} \exp(-\mu_{ij}).$ freedom to a given astro model, within chosen priors (swordfish) $\mu_{ij}(A^{\chi}, A_i^X) = A^{\chi} \mu_{ij}^{\chi} + \sum A_i^X \mu_{ij}^X.$

point sources from the catalog

X

DM search in the inner Galaxy

general approach

apply *template fitting* procedure to the inner ~<20 deg with addition of the FBs









- GALPROP model parameters variations
- Alternative gas maps (softer GCE spectrum < 1GeV)
- Include additional sources of CR electrons near the GC (Gaggero+2015, Carlson+2015; GCE reduced)
- data driven template of the Fermi Bubbles

📥 SLext



Could it be dark matter?

Right on the spot where WIMP DM is supposed to be!



Thermal cross section & <~100 GeV & at the Galactic center Spatial distribution close to the predicted NFW profiles. Or...

Spectral twins: Pulsar/DM Annihilation (30 GeV bb channel)



The origin of the GCE — current status

Evidence that the signal is due to pulsar is strengthening:

- statistical properties of photo counts suggest that GCE is of a 'point source' origin

(Bartels+, PRL (2016), Lee+, PRL (2016))



(Credit: Lee+ 2014)

— evidence of **GCE tracing stellar densities** (Bartels+, 1711.04778; Macias+, Nature Astronomy (2018))





— **Machine learning techniques** could also be usec (Caron+, JCAP(2017))

Multi-target - M31

M31 - 'sister' galaxy of the MW

The extended gamma-ray emission observed recently from M31 bulge region

- Main facts
 - Emission confined to inner regions (R<5kpc)
 - Not correlated with interstellar gas and star formation sites
 - Galactic disk not detected



[Ackermann+, ApJ (2017)]

Multi-target - M31

Origin of the M31 emission?

MSPs could explain it, though they slightly (factor of ~2) under predict it (Eckner+, ApJ (2017))



stellar mass M_* [M_{\odot}] [Eckner+, ApJ (2017), 1711.05127 Bartels+, 1711.04778]

Additional source components?

Multi-target - M31

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```
Multi-target - dSPhs
```



Multi-target - dSPhs

dSphs - unclear if at present they exclude the DM interpretation of the GCE





traditionally, **uniform priors for both logrs and logps** adopted But, such uniform priors **ignore theoretical and numerical simulation results** that predict the frequency distributions of subhalo parameters.

Multi-messenger - antiprotons

Antiprotons - one of the most sensitive probes of new physics

PAMELA, AMS-02, DAMPE... measured CR fluxes with exquisite precision and reaching <~ TeV energies. Challenge the 'Standard model' of CR propagation in the Galaxy



Multi-messenger - antiprotons

Antiprotons - one of the most sensitive probes of new physics

- p spectra measured exquisitely well

- anti-p produced as secondaries, with the proton spectra as the source term

Simultaneous fit to p and He spectra (constrain propagation parameters) + DM component



[Cuoco+, PRL 118(2016), Gielsen+, JCAP1509 (2015), ...]

However, uncertainty in solar modulation, pp x-section, ...

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WIMPs - frontiers

Heavy DM ?

multi-TeV DM IS vanilla WIMP —> important part of the parameter space

weak force as a long-range force:

- Sommerfeld enhancement

- Bound state formation enhancement

Galactic center with CTA

Cherenkov telescopes are

'pointing', but...

Extended survey: additional 300 hours (relevant for cored DM profiles!)





Galactic center with CTA

CTA analysis techniques

ON/OFF analysis unfeasible for GC (no good OFF region)

 10^{3}

 $E \, [\text{GeV}]$

 10^{4}

 10^{8}

 10^{7}

10

 10°

 10^{3}

 10^{2}

 $E^{\Delta N}_{\Delta E}$ [counts]



[Archaryya+, 2020]

Galactic center with CTA

Likelihood analysis for sensitivity includes:

- systematic uncertainties
- astro backgrounds

—> CTA expected to probe thermal annihilation cross section between 100s of GeV and tens of TeV



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Smoking guns

Spectral features



Targets with no gamma emitters (except DM)



ALP INDUCED GAMMA-RAY BURSTS FROM CORE-COLLAPSE SUPERNOVAE

ALPs would be **produced in a core-collapse SN** explosion

Could convert into gamma-rays in Galactic magnetic field

ALP INDUCED GAMMA-RAY BURSTS FROM CORE-COLLAPSE SUPERNOVAE

ALPs produced in short burst (~10 s)

Arrive simultaneously with neutrinos (time tag!)

Spectrum peaks around 60 MeV

Smoking gun signature

SN in Fermi field of view could strengthen limits by more than an order of magnitude [**MM** et al. PRL 2017] ALPs would be **produced in a core-collapse SN** explosion

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Also, many more core collapse SNe will be discovered in close-by galaxies with on-going surveys and the Rubin observatory! [Meyer+, PRL, 2020]


[credit M. Meyer]

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PBHs

Black holes are called primordial when they are **formed by density perturbations** during the early stage of the expansion of the Universe.

Their initial mass scales with the time t elapsed since their creation after the Big Bang.

 $M(t) \approx 10^{15} \text{ g} \times (t/10^{-23} \text{ s})$

Due to the Hawking-Bekenstein radiation PBHs evaporate in a time

$$\tau \approx 400 \text{ s} \times (M/10^{10} \text{ g})^3$$

PBHs in the last stages of their lifetime at the current epoch were created at a time close to the Big Bang, with an initial mass of order **10¹⁵g**.

PBHs

Gamma-ray emission from PBHs could contribute to the background via the cumulative emission over cosmic at 100 MeV at present days (constraints by EGRE Lance

fraction f of DM

In addition to this observable, the theory with a flash of very-high-energy gamma r



rate

$$\frac{dM}{dt} \simeq -5 \times 10^{25} f(M) \left(\frac{g}{M}\right)^2 g/s$$
spectrum

$$\frac{dN}{dt \, dE} = \frac{27}{2\pi} \frac{G^2 M^2 E^2}{e^{E/T} + 1}$$



Summary

Life is hard But field is mature and growing + astrophysics is exciting :) — a range of well thought strategies that can be applied to variety of systems

Future:

- Advances from astro theory (Pulsar halos? Galactic PeVatrons?)
- New analysis techniques (Christoph's talk!)
- New Experiments (CTA + MeV gap + Vera Rubin Observatory +...)

Summary

Life is hard But field is mature and growing + astrophysics is exciting :) — a range of well thought strategies that can be applied to variety of systems





"The hardest thing of all is to find a black cat in a dark room, especially if there is no cat."

- Confucius