Reconciling Dwarf Galaxies with LCDM Cosmology

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The Carnegie Observatories



dwarf galaxies: the most significant challenges to the Cold Dark Matter (CDM) model



(nearly) self-similar structure formation in CDM

1000s of subhalos

Abell 2744

1000s of galaxies



12 bright satellites $(L_V > 10^5 L_{\odot})$



'missing satellites' problem: CDM predicts too many dark-matter subhalos compared with observed satellite galaxies

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'too big to fail' problem: CDM predicts dark-matter subhalos that are much denser than observed satellite galaxies

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'core-cusp' problem: CDM predicts dark-matter halos with steeper inner density profiles than observed galaxies

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dwarf galaxies: significant challenges to the Cold Dark Matter (CDM) model

'missing satellites' problem

CDM predicts too many dark matter subhalos compared with observed satellite galaxies

—> Can a CDM-based model produce satellites with observed distribution of stellar masses?

'too big to fail' problem

CDM predicts dark-matter subhalos that are **too dense** compared with observed satellite galaxies

—> Can a CDM-based model produce satellites with observed distribution of stellar velocity dispersions?

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dwarf galaxies: significant challenges to the Cold Dark Matter (CDM) model

possible solutions

- 1. dark matter is not 'standard' CDM examples: warm dark matter, self-interacting dark matter
- 2. standard CDM + baryonic physics



The Local Group



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The Latte Project: the Milky Way on FIRE

simulating a Milky Way-mass galaxy with a realistic population of satellite dwarf galaxies in LCDM





model for gas and star formation

- High resolution to capture structure of multi-phase inter-stellar medium
 - \odot m_{gas} = 7070 M_{sun}
 - hgas = 1 pc (min), 25 pc (typical)
 - h_{dm} = 20 pc
 - \circ t_{step,min} = 180 yr



- Cooling from atoms, molecules, and 9 metals down to 10 K
- Star formation only in self-gravitating clouds



model for stellar feedback

- Heating:
 - Supernovae: core-collapse (II) and Ia
 - Stellar Winds: massive O-stars & AGB stars
 - Photoionization (HII regions) + photoelectric heating
- Explicit Momentum Flux:
 - Radiation Pressure

$$\dot{P}_{\rm rad} \sim \frac{L}{c} \left(1 + \tau_{\rm IR}\right)$$

- Supernovae
 - $\dot{P}_{\rm SNe} \sim \dot{E}_{\rm SNe} \, v_{\rm ejecta}^{-1}$
- Stellar Winds $\dot{P}_{\rm W} \sim \dot{M} v_{\rm wind}$

stellar scale



galaxy scale



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Latte simulations run on the Stampede supercomputer supported by NSF XSEDE



each MW-mass simulation is massively parallel: 2048 cores CPU time: 720k hours wall time: 15 days

Eedback In Realistic Environments

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cosmological zoom-in simulation to achieve high resolution



dark matter-only simulation



dark matter with effects of baryons







host galaxies at z = 0 $M_{star} = 7 \times 10^{10} M_{sun}$



successful formation of 'thin' and 'thick' stellar disk similar to Milky Way



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population of satellite dwarf galaxies







stellar masses of satellite galaxies



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What causes the lack of (massive) satellite dwarf galaxies?



- Stellar feedback drives significant gas outflows/inflows that dynamically heat dark matter, reducing the inner density (cores)
- 2. Stellar disk of Milky Way-mass host galaxy destroys satellites (via tidal shocking, etc)



inclusion of baryons —> stellar disk destroys dark-matter subhalos

dark matter in dark-matter-only dark matter in baryonic simulation





dark-matter subhalo mass function



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dwarf galaxies have bursty star formation



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dwarf galaxies have bursty star formation





see also, e.g., Read & Gilmore 2005, Pontzen & Governato 2012, Di Cintio et al 2014, Chan et al 2015, etc



stellar feedback drives gas outflows/inflows that produce dark-matter cores



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The Latte Project: the Milky Way on FIRE





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MW-mass progenitor at z = 6

300 kpc (physical)

MW-mass progenitor at z = 2.5

300 kpc (physical)

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