Measurement of the dark matter velocity anisotropy in galaxy clusters

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Galaxy clusters





Baryons and dark matter in clusters

Hydrostatic equilibrium of baryonic gas

$$\frac{k_B T}{\mu m_H} \left(\frac{d \ln T}{d \ln r} + \frac{d \ln n_e}{d \ln r} \right) = -\frac{G M(r)}{r}$$

• Jeans equation of collisionless dark matter $\sigma_r^2 \left(\frac{d \ln \sigma_r^2}{d \ln r} + \frac{d \ln \rho}{d \ln r} + 2\beta \right) = -\frac{GM(r)}{r}$



Velocity anisotropy

$$\beta = 1 - \frac{\sigma_t^2}{\sigma_r^2}$$

- Zero for isotropic velocity dispersion e.g. collisional gas
- Non-zero for dark matter according to numerical simulations



β: A bloody nuisance

- Decisive parameter for collisionless systems - stars, galaxies, dark matter
- So far not probed by data
- MUST be tested if we want to eventually understand DM structures



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Specific energies

Gas and dark matter must have same specific potential energy

Simplest assumption is they also have the same specific kinetic energy

$$\sigma_{\rm DM}^2 = \kappa \frac{3k_B T}{\mu m_H}$$

Hansen & Piffaretti, 2007





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Cluster sample

- I6 clusters at low and intermediate redshift
- Radial gas density and temperature profiles obtained in earlier work (Kaastra et al. 2004, Morandi et al. 2007)
- Selected to appear close to round and have smooth density and temperature profiles









• ApJ 690:358-366,2009 - arXiv:0808.2049







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Implications

- Collective behaviour of dark matter fundamentally different from that of a gas
- Dark matter collisionless on timescales of Gigayears
- Agreement between simulations and observations both on static and dynamic properties of halos
- Constraint on self-interaction:

$$\sigma/m \lesssim 1\,{\rm cm}^2\,{\rm g}^{-1}$$

DM determines gas properties?

DM-slope correlated with β

Gas fraction

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Summary

- Dark matter velocity anisotropy is nonzero in the outer regions of galaxy clusters
- Measurement stable to deviations from K=I
- Implies dark matter is effectively collisionless
- "Temperature relation" K=I may yield further insights in cluster modeling

