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THE MASS POWER SPECTRUM AT SUB-GALACTIC SCALES AS A CONSTRAINT TO DARK MATTER PROPERTIES

A. X. Gonzalez-Morales,[1] O. Valenzuela,[2] and L. Aguilar[3]

RESUMEN

Exploramos posibles cotas a la amplitud del espectro de potencias de la materia oscura, a escalas sub-galácticas, con la finalidad de poner a prueba propiedades de las partículas candidatas a formar la materia oscura. Presentamos estudios preliminares, en términos de la sensibilidad de la dinámica del Sistema Solar y de la presencia de binarias abiertas en galaxias dSph.

ABSTRACT

We explore the possible constraints to the dark matter (DM) mass power spectrum amplitude at sub-galactic scales, with the aim to test the properties of DM particle candidates. We present preliminary results discussing the sensitivity of Solar System dynamics and dSph's wide binaries abundance to the small scale DM distribution. We also discuss possible future avenues.

Key Words: dark matter — galaxies: halos

1. INTRODUCTION

The LCDM cosmological scenario is consistent with the large scale Universe, however one of the main ingredients, the Dark Matter, has not yet been detected. One of the principle uncertainties is the distribution of the DM at the scales where the detectors works (Green 2010). Specifically models based on WIMP DM predict a large abundance sub-structure at sub-galactic scales, this has been considered as a potential problem for the LCDM scenario because is not obvious that the substructure has an observational counterpart (Klypin et al. 1999, see however Xu et al. 2010). The sub-structure abundance is related with the spectrum of primordial fluctuations, the nature of the dark matter and the dynamical evolution of the smallest fluctuations. The LCDM model fix the fluctuation spectrum and the dynamical evolution is studied trough N-body simulations, so the properties of this spectrum at sub-galactic scales can constitute a test for the nature of the DM particle: it has been shown that the mass and self-annihilation of the neutralinos set the cut off at approximately $10^{-4} - 10^{-6}\ M_{\odot}$ (Green et al. 2004), while the characteristics of the Axion DM could set the cut off down to the $10^{-15}\ M_{\odot}$ (Johnson & Kamionkowski 2008), for instance. Other DM candidates like the Warm Dark Matter are also consistent with the large scale but they predict a PS cut off at approximately dwarf galaxies mass (Colín et al. 2000). Once an specific DM particle is assumed, the survival of the smallest structures its by itself a topic of discussion, being the extrapolation from N-body simulations at larger scales and the semi-analytic models the tools we have to estimate the amount of substructure that should be present today (Diemand et al. 2005; Angulo & White 2010).

In § 2 we explore a complementary strategy that allow us to set upper limits to the the existence of the dark small structure –microhalos and streams– in the Galactic halo. Since the orbital elements of planets are known with outstanding accuracy (Pitjeva 2005) and the increasing precision in the measurement of the earth-moon distance (Murphy et al. 2008), the Solar System might be sensitive to dynamical perturbations triggered by dark matter substructure, subject to its abundance and internal properties. Extensions of this method can be applied to the stability of the Kuiper belt and for wide binary stars abundance (González-Morales 2011, in preparation).

2. SOLAR SYSTEM CONSTRAINTS

We model the interaction between an specific planetary orbit and a population of microhalos (or streams). Our first approximation is to consider spherical rigid microhalos and calculate the impulsive energy injection to the orbit (Binney & Tremaine 2008). Our second approach is to consider microhalos that has been disrupted by tidal

[1]Instituto de Ciencias Nucleares, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apdo. Postal 70-543, México, 04510 D. F., Mexico (alma.gonzalez@nucleares.unam.mx).

[2]Instituto de Astronomía, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apdo. Postal 70-264, México, 04510 D. F. Mexico.

[3]Observatorio Astronómico Nacional, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Apdo. Postal 877, 22800 Ensenada, B. C., Mexico.