A COMMON SURFACE-DENSITY SCALE FOR THE MILKY WAY AND ANDROMEDA DWARF SATELLITES AS A CONSTRAINT ON DARK MATTER MODELS

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ABSTRACT

In an attempt to place an explicit constraint on dark matter models, we define and estimate the mean surface density of a dark halo within the radius of the maximum circular velocity, which is derivable for various galaxies with any dark matter density profiles. We find that this surface density is generally constant across a wide range of maximum circular velocities of $\sim$10–400 km s$^{-1}$, irrespective of the different density distributions in each of the galaxies. This common surface density at high halo-mass scales is found to be naturally reproduced by both cold and warm dark matter (CDM and WDM, respectively) models, even without employing any fitting procedures. However, the common surface density at dwarf-galaxy scales, which we have derived from the Milky Way and Andromeda dwarf satellites, is reproduced only in a massive range of WDM particle masses, whereas CDM provides reasonable agreement with the observed constancy. This is due to the striking difference between mass–concentration relations for CDM and WDM halos at low halo-mass scales. In order to explain the universal surface density of dwarf-galaxy scales in WDM models, we suggest that WDM particles need to be heavier than 3 keV.

Key words: dark matter – galaxies: dwarf – galaxies: kinematics and dynamics – Local Group

1. INTRODUCTION

Cold dark matter (CDM) theory has serious issues on galactic and sub-galactic mass scales, even though it has been successful in interpreting a multitude of observational phenomena at cosmological scales. These include the so-called missing satellite, core/cusp discrepancy, and too-big-to-fail (TBTF) problems. One of the possible mechanisms to resolve these problems within the CDM paradigm is to rely on the effects of baryonic processes such as the photoionization of neutral gas with UV background and the impact of gas outflow mainly due to supernova feedback on dark halo structures.

More radically, a possible solution that is well motivated from particle physics is to replace CDM with warm dark matter (WDM). The main difference between CDM and WDM is that while CDM particles have negligible thermal velocities, WDM ones have significant thermal velocities during the era of structure formation and thus these particles have a free-streaming length, giving rise to a cutoff matter power spectrum at larger wave numbers corresponding to small spatial scales. The possible WDM candidates are the sterile neutrino (see, e.g., Kusenko 2009 for a review) or the gravitino (e.g., Moroi et al. 1993). These candidates would have a mass in a few keV, leading to the suppression of structures on dwarf-galaxy mass scales. Therefore, since the cutoff wavelength depends on the particle mass, investigating the nature of dark halo structures at low-mass scales leads to useful limits on the WDM particle mass, $m_{\text{WDM}}$.

One of the powerful tools for constraining the WDM particle mass is Ly$\alpha$ forest observations (e.g., Narayanan et al. 2000; Viel et al. 2008, 2013). These observations allow us to study a matter power spectrum down to small scales and over a large redshift range. Viel et al. (2013) have observed the flux power spectrum of Ly$\alpha$ using the high-resolution spectra and have compared it to predicted ones from high-resolution $N$-body and hydrodynamical simulations, assuming that WDM masses are 1, 2, and 4 keV. They concluded that in order to reproduce the observed power spectrum, WDM particles are required to have a lower limit of $m_{\text{WDM}} \geq 3.3$ keV ($2\sigma$ confidence level).

Dwarf spheroidal (dSph) galaxies also provide useful tests to distinguish between CDM and WDM or set constraints on particle mass of WDM. First, based on the difference of dark matter concentration between CDM and WDM subhalos, reproducing the maximum circular velocity of the Milky Way (MW) satellites can distinguish dark matter scenarios. This test is linked to the TBTF problem in CDM. Lovell et al. (2012) performed $N$-body simulations with WDM and presented that the TBTF problem does not exist within the frameworks of WDM. Also, Polisensky & Ricotti (2014) showed that a WDM particle mass less than 4 keV can mitigate the TBTF problem in high-resolution simulations. The second test is the method to resolve the missing satellite problem. Based on the difference of the abundance of subhalos within a host CDM and WDM dark halo, Lovell et al. (2014) found a conservative lower limit of $m_{\text{WDM}} > 1.1$ keV in each $N$-body simulation. However, these tests largely rely on the mass of the MW halo, where the estimates of the MW halo mass is still very uncertain with mass ranging from $\sim 0.8 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$ to $\sim 2 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$ (e.g., Sakamoto et al. 2003; Deason et al. 2012; Boylan-Kolchin et al. 2013; Kafle et al. 2014; Pfiff et al. 2014). For the case of the TBTF problem, CDM models can resolve the issue if the mass of the MW halo is less than $\sim 1.5 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$ (Wang et al. 2012). For the abundance of subhalos, if the MW halo mass is heavier than $1.8 \times 10^{12} M_\odot$, only masses of WDM particles greater than 2 keV are accepted (Kennedy et al. 2014). Because of the dependence on the assumed MW halo mass and the uncertainty in it, the two tests above using the dwarf satellites are not yet sufficient to confine CDM or WDM scenarios.

In this Letter, as yet another test on this issue from dwarf-galaxy scales, we revisit and consider the dark matter surface
density, which appears nearly constant and independent of galaxy luminosity discovered by previous studies (e.g., Donato et al. 2009; Gentile et al. 2009; Salucci et al. 2012; Kormendy & Freeman 2014; Burkert 2015). We propose that the re-definition and adoption of this surface density estimated within a radius of maximum circular velocity directly allow us to obtain the limits on particle masses of WDM. This work is in part based on the kinematical analysis of the MW and Andromeda (M31) dSphs, for which more detailed descriptions will be presented elsewhere (K. Hayashi & M. Chiba 2015, in preparation).

2. DARK MATTER SURFACE DENSITY WITHIN A RADIUS OF MAXIMUM CIRCULAR VELOCITY

Recently, analyzing the data of velocity dispersions, rotation curves of H I gas, and weak lensing for samples of dSph, dwarf irregular, spiral, and elliptical galaxies, Donato et al. (2009) and Gentile et al. (2009) fitted these data based on cored dark matter density profiles, such as the Burkert and pseudo-isothermal profiles, and found that the product of the central core density and core radius, \( \rho_0 r_0 \), which is proportional to the central dark matter surface density, is constant for all these galaxies.

While these works offer us important suggestions on the universality of the dark halo structure, we note that this definition of \( \rho_0 r_0 \) cannot be applied directly to a system with a cusped density profile. Both \( \rho_0 \) and \( r_0 \) in such a case may be defined in a specific way depending on an assumed density profile, so there exists some ambiguities when we compare surface densities between different systems and also with predictions from CDM or WDM.

To adequately compare dark matter distributions independent of their density profiles, we introduce a mean surface density of a dark halo within a radius of maximum circular velocity,

\[
\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} = \frac{M(r_{\text{max}})}{\pi r_{\text{max}}^2},
\]

where

\[
M(r_{\text{max}}) = \int_0^{r_{\text{max}}} 4\pi \rho_{\text{dm}}(r'^2) r'^2 \, dr'.
\]

\( \rho_{\text{dm}}(r) \) indicates any dark matter density profiles, and \( r_{\text{max}} \) is a radius at maximum circular velocity, \( V_{\text{max}} \), of assumed dark halo profiles, \( \rho_{\text{dm}} \). The surface density defined in Equation (1) is exactly proportional to the central dark matter surface density, \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \propto \rho_0 r^2 \), where \( \rho_0 \) and \( r = \) the central density and scale length of arbitrary dark halo profiles, respectively.

We note that \( r_{\text{max}} \) is a better-defined scale than a core radius, \( r_0 \), because the latter is uncertain for a cuspy density profile: \( r_0 \) may be defined as a half-mass radius or some fraction of it in such a case, but it then suffers from the ambiguity of what outer boundary the halo is tidally limited, e.g., the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) profile having a diverging total mass.

Using this definition (1), we evaluate \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) within \( r_{\text{max}} \) taken from the literature based on the H I gas rotation curve of late- and early-type spirals with pseudo-isothermal dark halos (de Blok et al. 2008; Spano et al. 2008), dwarf irregulars with Burkert dark halos (Gentile et al. 2005, 2007), and the galaxy–galaxy weak lensing from spiral and elliptical galaxies with Burkert profiles (analyzed by Donato et al. 2009; data from Hoekstra et al. 2005). For smaller, dwarf-galaxy scales, we analyze the stellar kinematics in the seven MW (Carina, Fornax, Sculptor, Sextans, Draco, Leo I, and Leo II) and five M31 (And I, And II, And III, And V, and And VII) dSphs and construct axisymmetric mass models for these dark-matter-dominated dwarf galaxies (K. Hayashi & M. Chiba 2015, in preparation, which considers more generalized models than our previous work, Hayashi & Chiba 2012). For all samples, except for dSphs, we use the dark halo parameters (central density and core radius) estimated by the above original papers.

For dSphs, we employ the axisymmetric Jeans equations as in Hayashi & Chiba (2012), but we consider the effect of an additional velocity anisotropy of tracer stars, \( \beta_r = 1 - \frac{\sigma_r^2}{\sigma_v^2} \), to determine the global shape of a dark halo, where \( \sigma_r \) and \( \sigma_v \) are velocity dispersions of stars in cylindrical coordinates (see K. Hayashi & M. Chiba 2015, in preparation, for more details). Together with \( \beta_r \), we adopt an inner slope of the dark halo density profile as a free parameter as well as the parameterization of central density and scale length of a dark halo, apply our models to the two-dimensional line-of-sight velocity dispersion map for the above dSphs, and obtain the best-fit dark halo parameters. We have found that while most of the dSphs have cored or shallower cusped dark halos, the Draco, Leo I, And III, and And V dSphs show a steep inner density slope; not all of the dSphs have cored density profiles in their dark halos, as already suggested in Hayashi & Chiba (2012).

The symbols with error bars in Figure 1 show the estimated \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) of the above data sample as a function of \( V_{\text{max}} \). It is found that even though dark halos in each galaxy sample are assumed to have different mass profiles (cusp or core) and are estimated by independent methods, the dark matter surface density within
$r_{\text{max}}$ is sufficiently constant across a wide range of galaxy masses.

We discuss probable systematic uncertainties for the disk and dSph galaxies, respectively. For the disk galaxies, we investigate the impact of the uncertainties in the adopted stellar mass-to-light ratio, $M_*/L_*$, on $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$, de Blok et al. (2008) assumed the three $M_*/L_*$ and fitted dark halo parameters for each assumption. Adopting these parameters, we confirm that these uncertainties in $M_*/L_*$ do not largely affect the estimation of $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$, varying it by a factor of three at maximum. For dSphs, we consider the influences of baryonic components and the velocity anisotropy of stars on the estimation of $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$. Since the fraction of the stellar mass in the total mass of the dSphs is so small, ranging from $10^{-3}$ to $10^{-5}$, that the estimated values of $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$ may not at least change beyond a factor of 10, even if these small effects of baryonic components are taken into account. In our models, we assume a constant velocity anisotropy of their member stars and find that this anisotropy is almost independent of other model parameters, such as a central density and scale length as well as an inner slope of a dark halo (K. Hayashi & M. Chiba 2015, in preparation).

Therefore, the observational evidence for the constancy of $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$ is robust.

3. COMPARISON WITH DARK MATTER MODELS

The use of the dark matter surface density defined by using $V_{\text{max}}$ and $r_{\text{max}}$ allows us to compare the results from the data sample with those from cosmological N-body simulations within the $\Lambda$-dominated CDM and WDM models. We calculate $\Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}}$ from the outcomes of the N-body simulations as follows:

First, we adopt the NFW dark matter density profile:

$$\rho(r) = \frac{\rho_s}{(r/r_s)(1 + r/r_s)^2},$$

which can reproduce CDM (e.g., Navarro et al. 1996, 1997) and WDM (e.g., Schneider et al. 2012; Lovell et al. 2014) dark halos within a wide halo mass range.

Second, we calculate the scale density, $\rho_s$, and virial radius, $r_{\text{vir}}$, for a NFW dark halo at the present time ($z = 0$) from cosmological context:

$$\rho_s = \frac{\rho_{\text{crit}} \Delta_m}{3 \ln (1 + c) - c/(1 + c)},$$

$$r_{\text{vir}} = \left(\frac{3H_o^2}{4\pi G \rho_{\text{crit}} \Delta_m}\right)^{1/3},$$

where $\Delta_m = 97$ is a so-called virial overdensity at $z = 0$ (Prada et al. 2012), $c$ is a concentration parameter defined as $c = v_{\text{vir}}/v_s$, $\rho_{\text{crit}} = 3H_o^2/8\pi G$ is a critical density of the current universe, and $H_o$ denotes the Hubble constant at $z = 0$.

Third, using the mass–concentration relation (MCR) for a dark halo, we obtain the scale radius, $r_s$. For CDM models, we adopt two different MCRs at $z = 0$ based on N-body simulations with slightly different cosmological parameters:

$$c_W = 10.5 \left(\frac{M_*/10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}{10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}\right)^{-0.08} \times \left[1 + 0.15 \left(\frac{M_*/10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}{10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}\right)^{0.5}\right] \text{(for WMAP7)},$$

$$c_p = 10.7 \left(\frac{M_*/10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}{10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}\right)^{-0.11} \times \left[1 + 0.4 \left(\frac{M_*/2.4 \times 10^{10} h^{-1} M_\odot}{10^{12} h^{-1} M_\odot}\right)\right] \text{(for Planck)},$$

where $h$ is a dimensionless Hubble constant. The MCR with cosmological parameters of WMAP7 is derived by Prada et al. (2012), while another one is found by Klypin et al. (2014). For WDM models, we adopt the method to derive MCR using the power spectra developed by Schneider (2014, hereafter S14). In order to evaluate the power spectrum of WDM models, the transfer function formula of the WDM universe by Viel et al. (2005) is adopted:

$$T_{\text{WDM}}(k) = \left[1 + (ak)^{2\mu}\right]^{-5/\mu},$$

with $\mu = 1.12$ and

$$\alpha = 0.049 \left[\frac{m_{\text{WDM}}}{\text{keV}}\right]^{-1.11} \left[\frac{\Omega_{\text{WDM}}}{0.25}\right]^{0.11} \times \left[\frac{h}{0.7}\right]^{2.2} h^{-1}\text{Mpc},$$

where $k$ is a wavenumber and $\Omega_{\text{WDM}}$ denotes a cosmological density parameter for WDM. Then, the linear power spectrum in the case of WDM is derived by

$$P_{\text{WDM}}(k) = T_{\text{WDM}}^2(k)P_{\text{CDM}}(k).$$

Using the above power spectrum and MCR’s fitting function described by Equation (24) in Klypin et al. (2014), MCRs in the case of 2 and 3 keV particle masses of WDM are derived by comparing with the N-body simulations (see S14 for more details). Figure 2 displays the MCRs derived from CDM models with Planck data and WDM models with 2 and 3 keV particle masses at redshift 0. While CDM models predict that a
concentration parameter monotonically increases with decreasing halo mass, WDM halos have a clear turnover at a low-mass halo.

Finally, using the dark matter density profiles obtained by the above procedure, we compute \( V_{\text{max}} \) and \( r_{\text{max}} \) and then calculate \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) for CDM (WMAP and Planck) and WDM (particle masses of 2 and 3 keV) models. The solid and dashed lines in Figure 1 are predicted \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) versus \( V_{\text{max}} \) for four cases of the dark matter models. We emphasize that, surprisingly, these theoretical lines can well reproduce the data at high-mass scales, even though we do not perform any fitting to the data; actually, the data points (including low-mass scales) appear slightly above the theoretical line giving the highest \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) (CDM with Planck parameters), which may suggest there are still some uncertainties in structural parameters for dark halos or even cosmology, but the following results for the limit of WDM remain unaffected. For all mass ranges, CDM scenarios give a reasonable match to the data, where the results based on WMAP and Planck data are not so different at low-mass scales. This is only due to the slight effect of the difference of particle masses of 2 and 3 keV.

Figure 3. Same as Figure 1, but for dSphs only. Black and gray shaded regions are 3\( \sigma \) and 5\( \sigma \) error areas, respectively, for each sample.

4. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

In this Letter, we define and estimate a mean surface density of a dark halo within a radius of maximum circular velocity, \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \), and apply it to dark halos in various galaxies. This physical value reflects the central dark matter surface density, thus not strongly affected by the influence of external disturbances. We find that even though dark halo parameters in each galaxy sample are derived based on the assumption of different dark halo density profiles and determined by several independent methods, this surface density is universal across a wide luminosity range of galaxies, irrespective of dark matter distribution in each of the galaxies.

Furthermore, this constancy is found to be useful for constraining dark matter models, especially the particle mass of WDM, because \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) is directly derivable from the theoretical predictions based on \( N \)-body simulations. Our results show that at larger values of \( V_{\text{max}} \) corresponding to high halo-mass scales, this constancy for real galaxies can be successfully reproduced in both CDM and WDM models, even though we do not perform any fitting to the data. However, \( \Sigma_{V_{\text{max}}} \) derived from WDM largely deviates from the observational constancy at dwarf-galaxy mass scales, while that of CDM is in good agreement with it. This is because there is a prominent difference between MCR for CDM and WDM at low halo-mass scales. In order to be in agreement with this constancy, we have found that WDM particles need to be heavier than 3 keV.

This Letter proposes an astrophysical test on the nature of dark matter. The key dark halo mass range to distinguish dark matter models in this test is the lowest halo-mass scale, such as those of classical and ultra-faint dwarf galaxies. Wide-field spectroscopic studies of these galaxies over large areas with the planned Prime Focus Spectrograph to be mounted on the Subaru Telescope and high-precision spectroscopy for plenty of much fainter stars with the Thirty Meter Telescope will provide a better determination of dark halo properties of the MW and M31 dSphs, and thus allow us to increase our knowledge about the basic properties of dark matter.

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