The impact of the LMC's passage through the Milky Way halo



Julio Chanamé



The impact of the LMC's passage through the Milky Way halo



Numerical simulations

Nico Garavito-Camargo et al. (2019)



Julio Chanamé

Observations + measurements Manuel Cavieres et al. (2024)







Accretion history of the Milky Way

OCTOBER 31, 2018

Astronomers discover the giant that shaped the early days of our Milky Way

by University of Groningen



Artistic rendering of Enceladus being devoured by a Milky Way-like galaxy. Credit: René van der Woude, Mixr.nl



Accretion history of the Milky Way





The infalling Clouds



Credit: Ekta Patel

The infalling Clouds



Credit: Ekta Patel



< 30081: Stereo Captures Eruption and CME

Chandra and the Bullet Cluster

Released Thursday, October 17, 2013



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Direct Proof of Dark Matter

This composite image shows the galaxy of the 1E o657-56, also known as the collect cluster." This cluster were commed after the collision of two large clusters of galaxies, the most energetic event known in the universe since the Big Bang.

Hot gas detected by Chandra in X-rays is seen as two pink clumps in the image and contains most of the "normal," or baryonic, matter in the two clusters. The bullet-shaped clump on the right is the hot gas from one cluster, which passed through the hot gas from the other larger cluster during the collision. An optical image from Magellan and the Hubble Space Telescope shows the galaxies in orange and white. The blue areas in this image show where astronomers find most of the mass in the clusters. The concentration of mass is determined using the effect of so-called gravitational lensing, where light from the distant objects is distorted by intervening matter. Most of the matter in the clusters (blue) is clearly separate from the normal matter (pink), giving direct evidence that nearly all of the matter in the clusters is dark.

The animation below shows an artist's representation of the huge collision in the bullet cluster. Hot gas, containing most of the normal matter in the cluster, is shown in red and dark matter is in blue. During the collision the hot gas in each cluster is slowed and distorted by a drag force, similar to air resistance. In contrast, the dark matter is not slowed by the impact, because it does not interact directly with itself or the gas except through gravity, and separates from the normal matter.

Left: X-ray: NASA/CIC/CIA/M Markevitch et al., Optical: NASA/STScl, Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al., Lensing Map. NASA/STScl, ESO/WFJ; Magellan/U.Arizona/D.Clowe et al., Below: NASA/CXC/M Weiss



The infalling Clouds



Credit: Ekta Patel





Watkins, van der Marel, & Bennet (2024)



Watkins, van der Marel, & Bennet (2024)

• Reflex motion of MW disk wrt. halo (Gómez et al. 2015)





Fig. 2 | Measured velocity of the MW disk with respect to halo stars located at Galactocentric distances *r* > 40 kpc (red and blue curves), **the combined sample (silver curve) and satellites (orange curve).** We find that the three distinct samples of halo tracers (K giant stars, BHB stars and satellites) return consistent values within statistical uncertainties.

Petersen & Peñarrubia (2021)

- Reflex motion of MW disk wrt. halo (Gómez et al. 2015)
- Equilibrium assumption bias MW mass measurems. (Erkal et al. 2020)

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• Stellar and dark matter wake (Garavito-Camargo et al. 2019)

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Hunting for the Dark Matter Wake Induced by the Large Magellanic Cloud

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The Magellanic dark matter wake

Dynamical friction Wake



The Magellanic dark matter wake



Credits: Nico Garavito-Camargo

The Magellanic dark matter wake

Observed Density of Stars in the Milky Way's Halo

Excess Halo Stars (opposite direction from wake)

Milky Way (360° projection)

LMC "Wake"

Projected Motion Path

LMC (Large Magellanic Cloud)

Observational evidence for the wake

Pisces Plume/overdensity (Belokurov et al. 2019)



Observational evidence for the wake



Going very deep into the halo... has its complications



Going very deep into the halo... has its complications



Going very deep into the halo... has its complications









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Astrophysics > Astrophysics of Galaxies

Besla, Maren Hempel, Katherina Vivas, Facundo Gómez

[Submitted on 30 Sep 2024]

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The distant Milky Way halo from the Southern hemisphere:

Characterization of the LMC-induced dynamical-friction wake

Manuel Cavieres, Julio Chanamé, Camila Navarrete, Yasna Ordenes-Briceño, Nicolás Garavito-Camargo, Gurtina



n/R. Hahn/CTIO/NOIRLab/NSF

56 hours









Manuel Cavieres, Julio Chanamé, Camila Navarrete, Yasna Ordenes-Briceño, Nicolás Garavito-Camargo, Gurtina Besla, Maren Hempel, Katherina Vivas, Facundo Gómez 0.200





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The impact of the LMC's passage through the Milky Way halo

- The mass of the LMC is a significant fraction of that of the MW
- It cannot be ignored the MW has already responded to its infall
- We have detected a clear overdensity in the distant stellar halo at the predicted location/distance of the LMC wake.
- The measured density contrast suggests an even more massive LMC, or maybe a different orbit, than tried in current models of the wake.
- There may be contamination from unidentified sources.
- The MW-LMC interaction provides a near-field "Bullet cluster"-like experiment to pin down with precision the properties of the Local Group, and maybe even help distinguish between dark matter models.
- Upcoming all-sky kinematics of very faint halo stars should constrain all this phenomena with greater detail (Rubin/LSST).