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# **Insights into galaxy formation from dwarf galaxies**

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### **Planck CMB map: the IC's for structure formation**



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#### The six parameters of the minimal ΛCDM model

#### Planck+WP

Parameter	Best fit	68% limits
$\Omega_{\rm b} h^2$	0.022032	$0.02205 \pm 0.00028$
$\Omega_{\rm c} h^2$	0.12038	$0.1199 \pm 0.0027$
100θ <sub>MC</sub>	1.04119	$1.04131 \pm 0.00063$
τ	0.0925	$0.089^{+0.012}_{-0.014}$
$n_{\rm s}$	0.9619	$0.9603 \pm 0.0073$
$\ln(10^{10}A_{\rm s})$	3.0980	$3.089^{+0.024}_{-0.027}$

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Given the known cosmology and initial conditions, N-body codes can simulate the evolution of the abundance, internal structure and clustering of dark halos at high precision



#### **Small-scale structure and dwarf galazies**

Lovell et al 2012.



A "Milky Way" halo in CDM and WDM (a 2keV sterile v)

### Lyman $\alpha$ forest power spectra support $\Lambda$ CDM ICs



# Viel, Becker, Bolton & Haehnelt 2013

High-resolution Keck and Magellan spectra match  $\Lambda$ CDM up to z = 5.4

This places a  $2\sigma$  lower limit on the mass of a thermal relic  $m_{WDM} > 3.3 \text{ keV}$ 

This shows the DM to to be effectively cold for the formation of all but the faintest dwarfs

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Planck+WP

A 80 $\sigma$  measurement of the cosmic baryon density in g/cc!

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# The six parameters of the minimal ACDM model

Planck+WP



From abundance matching in  $\Lambda$ CDM (assuming no scatter)...



The <u>maximum</u> fraction of halo mass in central galaxy stars is 3.5%, and is attained for halos similar in mass to the Milky Way's halo This fraction drops very rapidly to higher and to lower masses

Star-formation efficiency is <u>very</u> low in dwarfs

• A large <u>scatter</u> in  $M_*/M_{halo}$  should be expected

#### Simulating the galaxy population in the Planck cosmology



Plausible models for the efficiency of cooling/condensation, star formation, stellar and AGN feedback reproduce abundances down to  $\rm M_{*}$  < 0.001  $\rm M_{MW}$ 

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Plausible models for the efficiency of cooling/condensation, star formation, stellar and AGN feedback reproduce abundances down to  $M_* < 0.001 M_{MW}$  for both passive and actively star-forming galaxies

#### Simulating the galaxy population in the Planck cosmology





Current simulations reproduce quite well the counts of satellites around isolated bright galaxies with log  $M_{*,cen} > 10.2$  down to log  $M_{*,sat} \sim 8.0$ 

#### Are dwarfs the "building blocks" of the Milky Way?



~7%, 1.3% and 0.3% of Milky Way stars are added by accretion of satellites with log ( $M_* / M_{\odot}$ ) < 9.0, 8.0 and 7.0, respectively

#### Are dwarfs the "building blocks" of the Milky Way?



~5%, 1% and 0.2% of Milky Way stars are added by accretion of satellites with log ( $M_* / M_{\odot}$ ) < 9.0, 8.0 and 7.0, respectively

- The abundances, spatial distributions and star-forming/passive fractions of dwarfs are plausibly reproduced by  $\Lambda$ CDM simulations
- The "missing satellite" problem may be solved by any of a number of astrophysical effects, given our current ability to calculate them
- Details of formation history are likely to introduce a large scatter into the stellar mass halo mass relation of dwarfs
- Dwarfs have contributed a very small fraction of the Milky Way's current complement of stars -- they are <u>not</u> its building blocks!

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- Satellite colours are **not** well reproduced in most current models

Is dwarf structure consistent with  $\Lambda CDM$ ?

#### Too big to fail? -- a central density problem



The estimated mass densities within  $r_{1/2}$  for the 9 brightest MW dSph's (excluding Sag.) are lower than those predicted for the most massive subhalos in a DM-only simulation of a  $\Lambda$ CDM halo with  $M_{vir} = 10^{12} M_{\odot}$ 

#### A core or a cusp in Sculptor?

#### Strigari et al 2014



The counts and dispersion profiles of the MR and MP populations in Sculptor *can* be well fit as equilibria within a single NFW potential. For such models,  $C_{MP} < C_{MR}$  [in M(  $r_{1/2}$ ) = C  $r_{1/2} \sigma_{1.0.s.}^2 / G$  ]. The required NFW parameters are as expected for  $\Lambda$ CDM subhalos Models *still* not general (spherical, static, no rotation, f(E,J) = g(E)h(J)..)





**M 33** 













#### 1 Kpc

#### Adams et al 2012



# NGC 2976



Could this be due to overly simple modelling of the dynamics? (i.e. lack of symmetry, non-circular motion, dispersion structure.)



..or could it be due to the dynamical effects of the star formation process?

Repeated, strong and dense starbursts can turn cusps into cores



.. or could it reflect more complex DM physics changing the abundance and/or inner structure of low-mass halos?

### **Evidence from star-formation histories**



### Quantifying "burstiness" statistically in $z \sim 0$ dwarfs

#### Kauffmann 2014



Only 30% of objects are consistent with continuous SFH's ~85% of current star formation is in bursts and ~7% in continuous SFH's The peak-to-trough variation in SFR is typically about a factor of 20

- Many Local Group dwarfs, dSph's, dIrr's and dE's, show evidence for multiple stellar populations.
- Their formation appears bursty, has large scatter among a given type, and appears qualitatively similar between types
- Many **but not all** dwarfs have a substantial population formed at high redshift (e.g. age > 10 Gyr)
- There is no obvious imprint of the reionisation epoch on the population as a whole
- Current star formation in the low-redshift population of "field" dwarfs is strongly bursting, with amplitudes similar to those thought to be needed to drive cusp → core conversion

Ghostly streams from the Galaxy's halo D. Lynden-Bell and R. M. Lynden-Bell 1995







s from the Galaxy's halo and R. M. Lynden-Bell 1995







- 15/27 M31 satellites in the PanDAS area lie in a thin disk like structure.
- 13/15 of these "rotate" around M31 in the same sense



- Find isolated bright SDSS galaxies that have diametrically opposed satellite pairs
- Compare numbers in which the two values  $\Delta v = v_{host} v_{sat}$  have the same/opposite sign
- Opposite signs appear to be preferred
- Pair axis aligns with larger scale structure



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- The degree of correlation seen around the MW, M31 and now apparently around nearby SDSS galaxies seems surprisingly large

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Dwarf galaxy studies in the Local Group and beyond provide interesting insights into galaxy formation physics in the  $\Lambda$ CDM paradigm, and may eventually test/extend the paradigm itself.