Indirect Dark Matter Searches with Cherenkov Telescopes



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Imaging Atmospheric Cherenkov Telescopes



Experiments: Cherenkov Telescopes



Cherenkov Telescopes

	Status	# Tel	Mirror (m ²)	F.o.V (°)	Energy threshold (GeV)
MAGIC	Data taking 08/2004	1	239	3.5	30-50
H.E.S.S.	Data taking 12/2003	4	108	5	100
CANGAROO III	Data taking 03/2004	4	57	4	~250
Veritas	Data taking 04/2007	4	100	4.5	100

- Good angular resolution (0.05-0.1°)
- Low duty cycle (~15%)
- Detect Crab Nebula in ~30 seconds (H.E.S.S.)









Galactic Targets



TeV binaries (~4)

To Earth





Galactic Centre

Extragalactic Targets



Active Galactic Nuclei (>20)

Starbust Galaxies (2 (new!)) Gamma-ray bursts (0) Galaxy Clusters (0)

Approaching source number 100 (2/3 galactic, 1/3 extra-galactic)

Indirect Dark Matter Searches









Anisotropies of Extragalactic γ-rays



Dwarf Galaxies





- DM dominated on all spatial scales (from measurements of surface birghtness and stellar velocity dispersion)
- Luminosity 10²-10⁸ L_{sun}

$$M_{DM} = 10^{5} - 10^{8} M_{sun}$$

Large observed mass-tolight ratios (M/L)

Distance ~some 10 kpc

- Diameter ~1 kpc (extended for IACTs)
- Many new objects discovered by SDSS (in the northern hemisphere)

LGS 3

Sagitt

Irregular

Aquarius Dwarf

Phoenix Dwarf

Ursa Minor and Draco (1/2)

Draco:

- 51' × 31'
- D=80 kpc, d=2 kpc
- M/L > 200
- 3M stars, flat rotation curve
- Smooth symmetrical profile

Ursa Minor:

- 30' × 19'
- D=66 kpc, d=0.6 kpc
- Mainly older stars
- Structured core (tidal disruption?)





Ursa Minor and Draco (2/2)



Wood et al. (2008) (Whipple/VERITAS)

- 14.3 h (17.2 h) of data for Draco (Ursa Minor), Limits at the level of 6-9% Crab
- Used composite neutralino spectrum (10% ττ, 90% bb)
- NFW DM profile, limits ~5 orders of magnitude above MSSM

Draco



- 7.8 h of data, limits at the level of 3% Crab (above 140 GeV)
- Cuspy and cored DM profiles (Sanchez-Conde et al. 2007)
- Flux upper limits are 3-9 orders of magnitude above mSUGRA benchmark models (Battaglia et al. 2004)

Willman 1



- The most DM-dominated among all dwarf galaxies ?
- D = 38.7 kpc
- Half-light radius extremely small (21 ± 7) pc
- Also least massive (5 10⁵ M_{sun})

BM	$\Phi^{model}(> 100 \text{ GeV})$	$\Phi^{u.l.} (> 100 \text{ GeV})$	$B^{u.l.}$			
I'	2.64×10^{-16}	9.87×10^{-12}	3.7×10^4			
J'	4.29×10^{-17}	5.69×10^{-12}	$1.3 imes 10^5$			
K'	2.32×10^{-15}	6.83×10^{-12}	$2.9 imes 10^3$			
F^*	2.09×10^{-16}	7.13×10^{-12}	$3.4 imes 10^4$			
K':565 GeV, 2.6 10 ⁻²⁶ cm ³ s ⁻¹						
Albert et al. (2008) (MAGIC)						

- 15.5 h of data, limits at the level of 1-1.5% Crab (above 100 GeV)
- NFW profile (Strigari et al. 2008)
- Flux upper limits are >3 orders of magnitude above mSUGRA benchmark models (Bringmann et al. 2008)

Canis Major

- A dwarf galaxy or warp/flare of galactic disc?
- Mass highly uncertain, lack of observational data, but close (8 kpc)





- 9.6 h of data, NFW profile and mass assumption (3 10⁸ M_{sun})
- Flux upper limits are 3 (1.5) orders of magnitude above MSSM (KK) models....

Sgr Dwarf Galaxy

- A well-measured dwarf galaxy
- D=24 kpc
- M/L ~ 25
- Compact core (3 pc FWHM) plus diffuse component with a size of 1.6 kpc



- 11 h of data, flux limit (>250 GeV) at the 2% Crab level
- Cusped NFW and cored profiles, assume that velocity dispersion is independent of position
- Still factor 10 uncertainty on DM profiles
- Flux upper limits are still a factor 10 above MSSM models...

Dwarf Galaxies: Summary

- There is at least a factor of 10 between limits and predictions
- On order of magnitude uncertainties on DM profile even for well-measured dwarf galaxies
- Need a better understanding of DM profiles
- The northern arrays (VERITAS, MAGIC-II) will observe SDSS dwarfs, but at current sensitivities it will be difficult to obtain deep exposures for more than a few targets

Prospects for Dark Matter Detection from the Milky Way Halo

Predictions (1/3)



- The highest resolution N-body simulations (Springel et al.) used particle masses of 1700 M and attained converged length scales of ~120 pc
- All substructures taken into account, no additional boost factores expected (well, maybe from baryons)

Only the density of the smooth halo component is shown.

Predictions (2/3)



- Line-of-sight integrals averaged over various observer positions
- Smoothed with a PSF of 10' (H.E.S.S.: 6')

Predictions (3/3)



- Less steep towards GC than NFW
- Overall flux level ~30 higher
- Boost factor due to substructure is ~3 (near GC)

Concise Assumptions...



• WIMP mass M = 0.5 - 1 TeV

...Diffuse Fluxes



- At 1° from the Galactic Centre, the predicted DM photon flux is a factor ~10 (~20) below the diffuse emission from the Galactic Plane (the electron flux)
- Flux falls by one order of magnitude when going from 1° to 8°

* Solid angle of $\Delta\Omega=2\pi(1-\cos(0.1^\circ))$

IF, IF, IF

- IF the N-body simulations are correct...
- IF their mapping on the Mily Way is correct
- IF nature is kind to us (annihilation crosssection, WIMP mass)...
- The flux is likely still too low to see a gradient within one field of view

Alternatively:

- Sum flux over entire FoV
- Use FoVs far away from the GC for normalization
- Exploit spectral features on top of an astrophysical (power-law?) background



IACT FoV

(not to scale!)

Gradient

Sensitivity (1/3)



- Ignore areas of diffuse emission: -0.8° < I < +0.8°
- Assumed observations at I=0°, varied b
- Applied Hillas analysis and H.E.S.S. Phase 1 effective areas to calculate detected photon rate

Sensitivity (2/3)



- ~100 events per hour
- Flux above 200 GeV is ~8% Crab
- Backgrounds:
 - Hadrons + Electrons: ~15 Hz (Hillas Analysis on data)
- A better analysis should reduce the background rate by a factor 2-3
 - Electrons: ~1.5 Hz (from the MC)

Sensitivity (3/3)



- 80 hours to get to the 3σ level ... With perfect background substractions
- After 5h ON + 5h OFF, the limit is comparable or better than limits obtained from the dwarf galaxies (assuming the astrophysical factor from the Aquarius simulations)
- Southern IACTs have sensitivity for DM photons from the halo at a boost factor of ~1 – if systematics can be brought under control

Summary

- Current IACTs are running for source #100
- Dust has settled over early DM claims (Galactic Centre, unidentified sources)
- Deep exposures (~100h) on dwarf galaxies (and in particular on northern SDSS sources) might exclude models with <σv>~10⁻²⁶ cm³s⁻¹ if DM distribution can be inferred with certainty.
- Prospects for DM Detection from the Galactic Halo are good (also for Fermi/GLAST)
- Low-threshold essential for next-generation instruments (Cherenkov Telescope Array, AGIS)



Electrons

