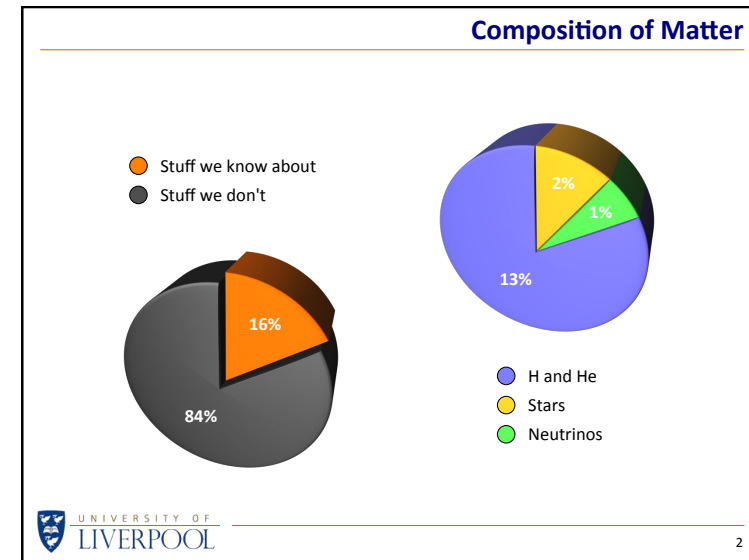


# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?



### Dark Matter

Why is it dark?	matter and light
What is the evidence?	galaxies in clusters stars in galaxies gravitational lensing
What is it?	MACHOs WIMPs
Does it matter?	cosmic evolution

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### Why Is It Dark?

**Simple answer**  
It's dark because it doesn't shine (emit light)

**More useful answer**  
It does not behave the same way as 'ordinary' matter, which

- interacts through the electromagnetic force
- emits and absorbs electromagnetic waves (light)
- can be detected through its interaction with light

Dark matter does none of these

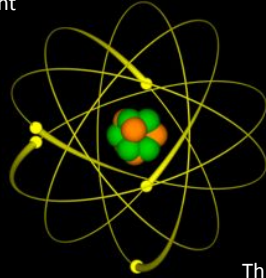
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# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## 'Ordinary' Matter

Everything we see around us is made from atoms that emit or absorb light



This how we visualise atoms with electrons buzzing around a nucleus like bees



## What Is the Evidence? #1

### Galaxies in Clusters

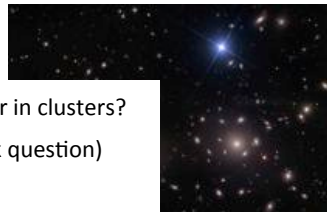
What holds galaxies together in clusters?

Gravity (no, it wasn't a trick question)

Gravity depends on mass

Mass can be estimated from luminosity:

- Measure the galaxy brightness
- If we understand stars, then...
  - we know the number of stars (roughly)
  - we know the mass of all the stars (roughly)
  - we know the mass of the galaxy (roughly)



## What Is the Evidence? #1

### Galaxies in Clusters

Do this for all the galaxies in the cluster

We now have an estimate of the mass

... and hence the gravity

As early as the 1930s it was realised that the gravity calculated in this way is **not enough** to keep the cluster together – the galaxies should have drifted apart long ago.

Something is wrong!



# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## What Is the Evidence? #1

### Galaxies in Clusters

Using the luminosity to find the mass seems to underestimate the mass by a huge factor.



It's as if there is some additional mass, that is not luminous, that is providing the extra gravity that is needed to keep the cluster intact, binding the galaxies together.

Let's call this ... "Dark Matter" ... that sounds pretty cool.

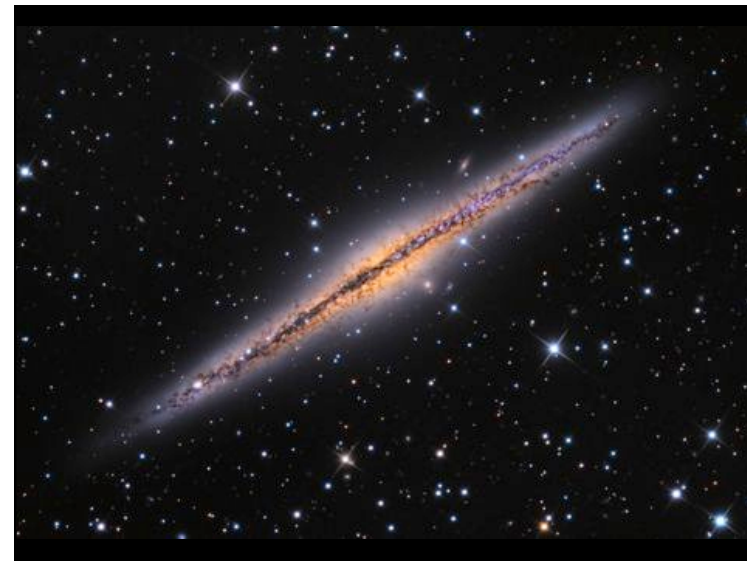
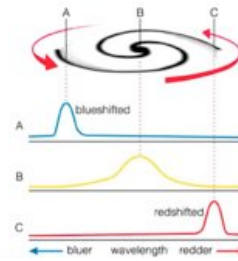
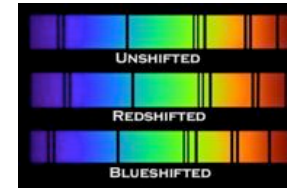
## What Is the Evidence? #2

### Stars in Galaxies

All galaxies rotate

How fast are the stars moving?

Use the Doppler effect



# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## What Is the Evidence? #2



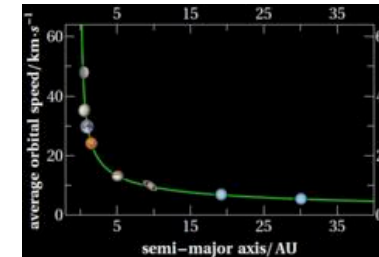
## What Is the Evidence? #2

### Stars in Galaxies

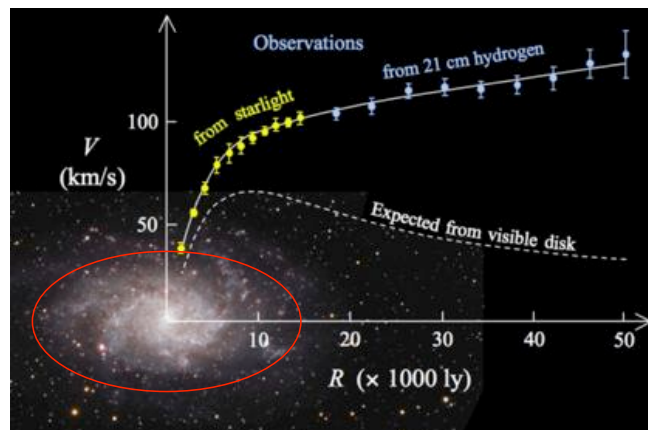
What do we expect to see for the orbital velocity?

How should it vary for stars further from the centre?

If all the mass keeping an object in orbit is *inside* the orbit...



## What Is the Evidence? #2



## What Is the Evidence? #2

### Stars in Galaxies

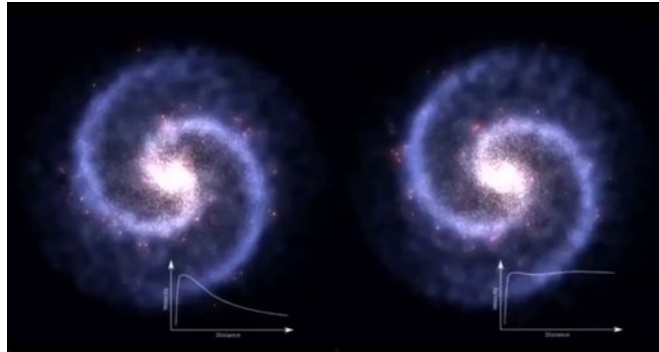
It's as if there is some additional mass, that is not luminous, that is providing the extra gravity that is needed to keep the stars (or gas) orbiting at high velocities, even a long way outside the visible "edge" of the galaxy.

"Dark Matter" again?



# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## What Is the Evidence? #2



Without dark matter

With dark matter

## What Is the Evidence? #3

### Gravitational Lensing

This body of evidence is quite unlike the previous two

We can calculate mass from its gravitational effect,

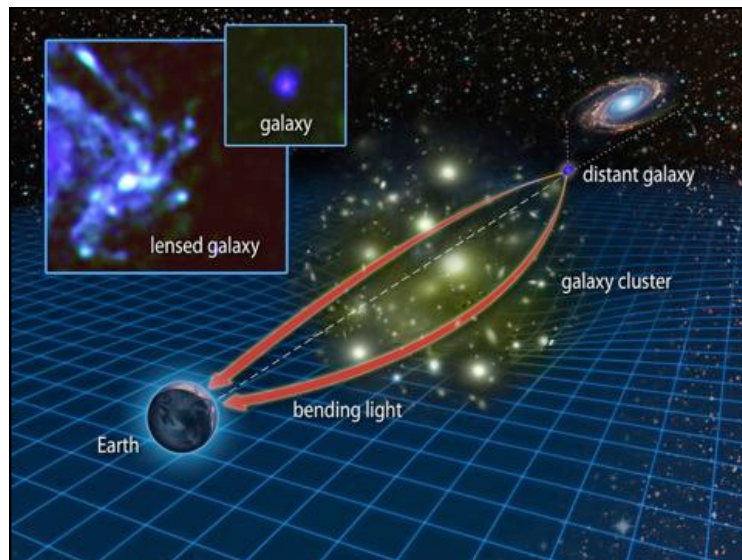
... not on galaxies in a cluster, or stars in a galaxy

... but on light itself

But dark matter does not interact with light, right?

It does not emit or absorb light, that is true

However, dark matter has mass  $\Rightarrow$  gravity  $\Rightarrow$  bend light

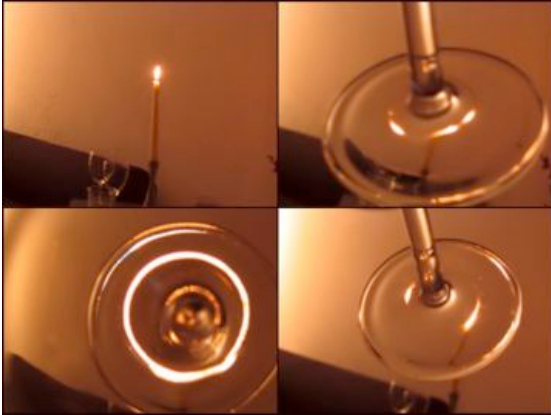


## Gravitational Lensing



# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## Gravitational Lensing



## What Is the Evidence? #3

### Gravitational Lensing

The (distorted) images  $\Rightarrow$  the mass distribution in the 'lens'

We find this is more than we can see in the lens

It's as if there is some additional mass, that is not luminous, that is providing the extra gravity that is needed to bend the light and produce the distorted images.

"Dark Matter" again?

## What Is It?

OK, I'm convinced.

There's a lot of evidence that there is something dark out there.  
But... what *is* it?

There are two main candidates for the composition of DM...

### MACHOs

Massive Astrophysical Compact Halo Objects

### WIMPs

Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## Galaxy Halo



## MACHOs

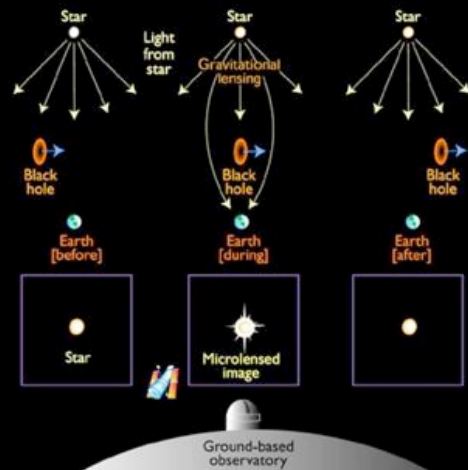
### MACHOs

Massive Astrophysical Compact Halo Objects

Bodies composed of 'normal' matter that emits no light  
Black holes, neutron stars, white dwarf stars

How can they be detected? Gravitational microlensing

## Gravitational Microlensing by Black Hole



## MACHOs

### MACHOs

Massive Astrophysical Compact Halo Objects

Bodies composed of 'normal' matter that emits no light  
Black holes, neutron stars, white dwarf stars

How can they be detected? Gravitational microlensing

At most, MACHOs account for a few % of Dark Matter

# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## WIMPs

### WIMPs

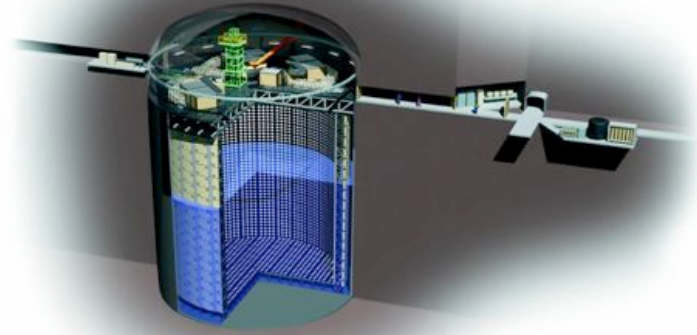
Weakly Interacting Massive Particles

Interact through gravity, but not electromagnetism  
Similar to neutrinos, but much much heavier and slower

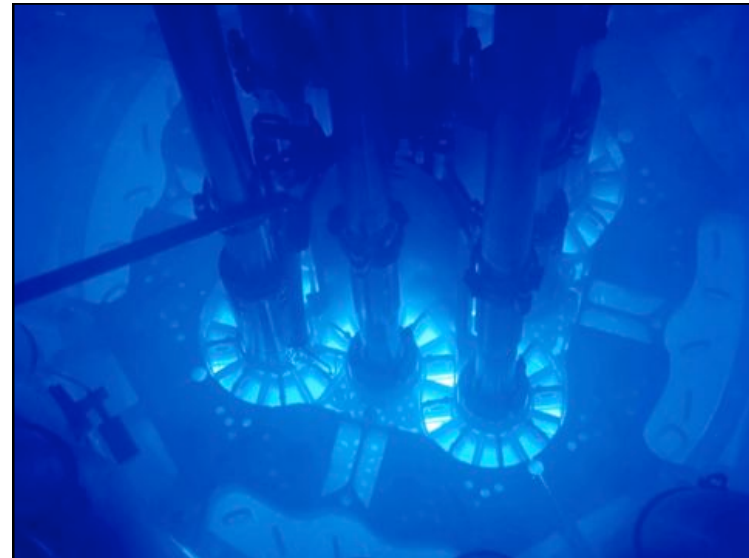
Born in the Big Bang (that's the subject of another talk)  
Annihilation of DM and anti-DM particles now very rare

WIMPs could be captured by the Sun  
... and annihilate with each other to make neutrinos

## Super-Kamiokande

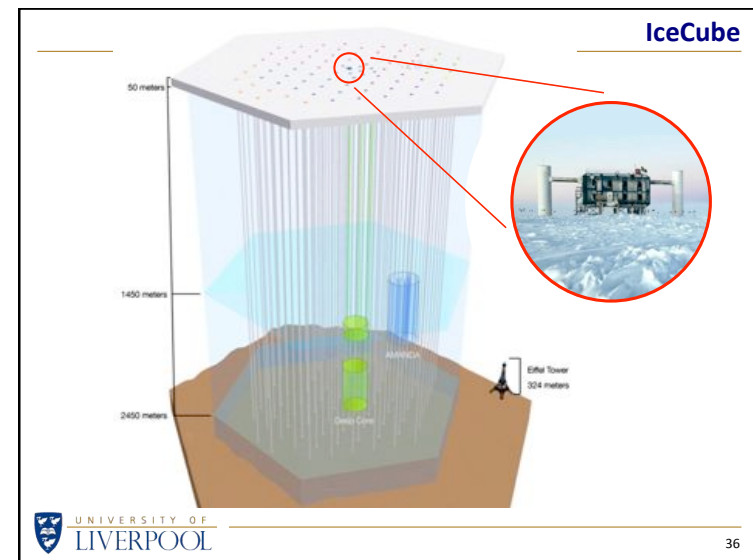
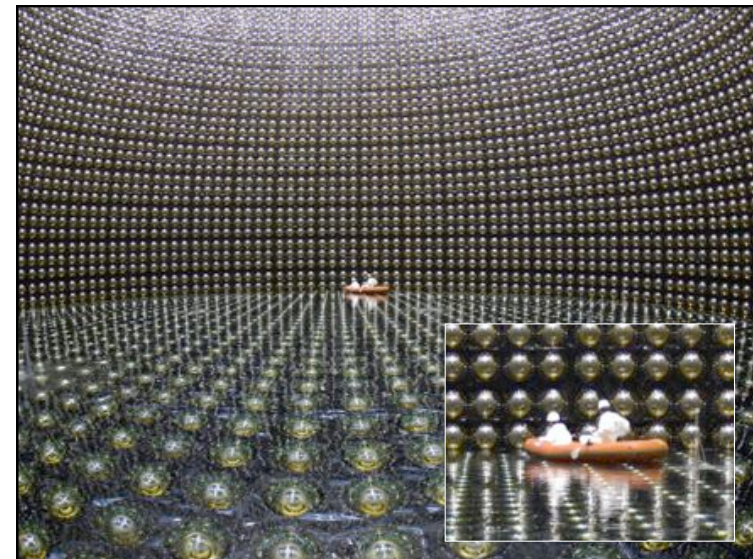
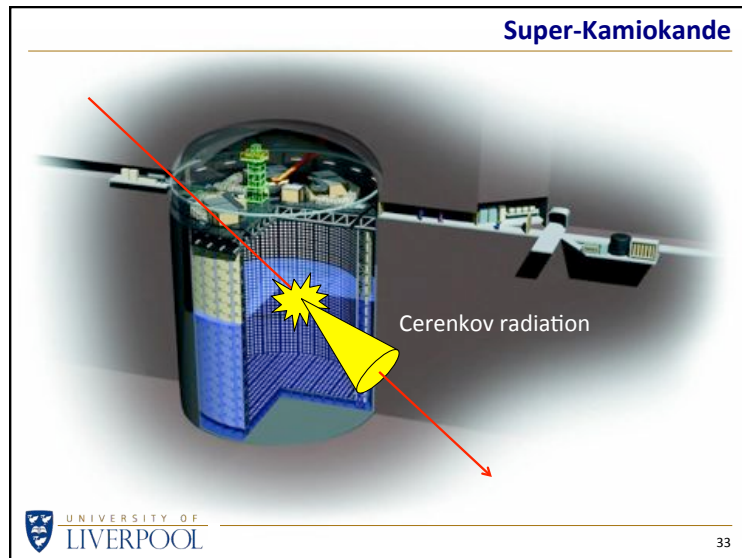


## Cerenkov Radiation





# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?



# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## Gamma Rays

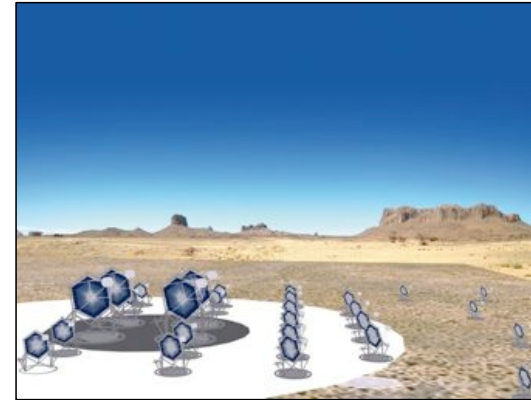
### WIMPs

As well as being concentrated (locally) in the Sun ...  
there might be a lot of them at the centre of the Milky Way

DM annihilation would produce very energetic gamma rays

There are experiments planned to search for these

## Cerenkov Telescope Array



## WIMP Detection

There are many other attempts to detect DM directly...

CDMS	CRESST
DAMA	DEAP
DRIFT	EDELWEISS
LUX	PICASSO
SIMPLE	WARP



Many of these experiments have observed "events" ...  
... but many are contradictory or not yet confirmed

# Dark Matter – Why Is It Dark? Does It Matter?

## Alternatives

There is another possibility ...

- We have misunderstood how gravity works
- Hence we only *seem* to need dark matter

Maybe gravity works differently on the scale of

- The Universe
- The Galaxy
- The Solar System and smaller

There is a theory called Modified Newtonian Dynamics (MOND)

However, it generates more problems of its own



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## Does It Matter?

What are the consequences?

Simulations  $\Rightarrow$  galaxy distributions similar to observations

Without dark matter, matter doesn't "clump" enough



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