Stellar Halos in Illustris + the Milky Way and the Gaia Sausage

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Science in our own Backyard with WFIRST Caltech, Pasadena, CA

Credit: V. Belokurov (Cambridge, UK and CCA, New York, US) based on the image by ESO/Juan Carlos Muñoz



Credit: A.Helmi, 2011

Illustris -1

- Cosmological hydrodynamical simulation
- Box size: (106.5 Mpc)³
- $M_{baryon} = 1.3 \times 10^6 M_{sun}$
- $M_{DM} = 6.3 \times 10^6 M_{sun}$



What Causes Diversity in Stellar Halos?



The Milky Way and the Gaia Sausage

Motions of 7,000,000 Gaia stars

Gaia DR2 has provided 6D data (3D positions and velocities) for stars within 10kpc of our sun.



Extreme range of radial motion

Credit: V. Belokurov and Gaia/ESA

The Milky Way and the Gaia Sausage



Credit:D. Erkal (Surrey UK)

A Sample of Gaia Sausage Analogs in Illustris



Four Diverse Gaia Sausage Analogs



Face on

Elias et al. 2019, In Prep

Diversity in Gaia Sausage Debris

Elias et al. 2019, In Prep



Majority of Stellar Debris Deposited in Outer Stellar Halo



Elias et al. 2019, In Prep

Stellar Halos and WFIRST





Credit: NASA / Goddard Space Flight Center WFIRST Project -Mark Melton, NASA/GSFC

X~100!!

WFIRST will be able to resolve hundreds of stellar halos and capture their faint outskirts, probing the amount of diversity in stellar halos with a statistically large sample for the first time

Future work with TNG 50 could resolve discrepancies in surface brightnesses

MW

Summary

- Large amount of **diversity** in stellar halos.
- Stellar halos surrounding **galaxies like our Milky Way are built early** by a few massive mergers.
- Gaia Sausage analogs in Illustris have diverse range of metallicities, orbits, and circularities.
- The debris from the Gaia Sausage may **extend far** into the outskirts of the halo and dominate the stellar halo in that region.
- WFIRST can aid the comparison to diversity in simulations by imaging hundreds of stellar halos to deeper surface brightness levels



Surface Brightness Profile

Metallicity Profile