



Probing the Galactic Halo with WFIRST Proper Motions of Streams

Carl J. Grillmair 19 June, 2019





- Motions of distant streams will be critical for direct and independent estimates of $d\Phi/dR$ and the mass of the Galaxy.
 - Many streams in many quadrants should eventually give us a non-parametric view of the distribution of mass in the halo.
- The motions of streams can tell us about the present day evolution of the Galactic potential and put limits on different types of dark matter.
- Streams and substructures can tell us about the assembly history of the Galaxy.
- Dwarf galaxy streams should tell us more about the presence and distribution of dark matter in these galaxies.
- Nearby cold streams will be critical for cold dark matter subhalo and dark matter stream detection.











Bovy et al. 2016

GRACE Geoid





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pac Orphan Stream in RR Lyrae



Erkal et al. 2019

\Rightarrow LMC mass ~ 1.4 x 10¹¹ M_{\odot}

 \Rightarrow significant current halo distortion

 Possible limits to cross section of self-interacting dark matter (Carlberg 2019)





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Gaia-Enceladus/ The Sausage





>20% of halo is accounted for by the Sagittarius stream.

Other major events are becoming evident.

The halo is almost certainly just a junkyard.

Helmi et al. 2018, Belokurov et al. 2018





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Price-Whelan & Bonaca 2018

<10 μ asec/yr required proper motions may be possible for brightest giant branch stars with Gaia + 15 years of WFIRST scanning (Spergel 2016).



Mapping Dark Matter Streams

FORNIA



Bovy 2016

- Dark matter streams can also create gaps in cold stellar streams.
- Gap morphologies would be subtly different, reflecting a more diffuse potential.



Finding Streams with WFIRST



Signal to noise ratio is simply $N_{stream} / \sqrt{N_{foreground}}$

- For nearby cold streams, deep WFIRST photometry can increase N_{stream} by at least an order of magnitude. (LF + mass segregation)
- With proper motions better than ~1 mas/yr (26th mag) we can reduce N_{foreground} by an order of magnitude.
- For distant streams, 1 mas/yr proper motions can more than compensate for increase in $N_{foreground}$ at $\mu_{\alpha},\mu_{\delta} = 0$.



Pan-STARRs photometry to g = 21.7 Optimally Filtered for d = 7.5 kpc



M5 Trailing Tidal Tail



50° to 80° long, 1.5 star per square degree (~35 mag/arcsec²)





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Finding Distant Streams with WFIRST





~1 mas/yr proper motion uncertainties (at ~26th mag in HLS*) reduce field star contamination by ~20x, increasing SNR by factor of 4.

~300 micro arcsec/yr (~130 exposures over 15 years) would improve SNR by another factor of 5.

* 26th mag corresponds to ~1 magnitude below the main sequence turn off for a 13 Gyr-old stellar population at 200 kpc.