Probing Dark Matter in our Galaxy with the CTA Large Size Telescopes

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The extreme Universe viewed in very-highenergy gamma rays 2021

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cherenkov telescope array



The compelling evidence for Dark Matter



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The Dark Matter theory jungle



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Appeal of the WIMP paradigm "Weakly interacting massive particle" (WIMP) miracle:



Non-relativistic GeV to TeV particle with weak-scale cross section gives relic abundance matching observed cosmic DM density

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$$_{\chi} h^2 \simeq 0.12 \rho_{crit} \left(\frac{80}{g^*}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{m_{\chi}}{25 T_F}\right) \left(\frac{2.2 \times 10^{-26} \text{cm}^3 \text{s}^{-1}}{\langle \sigma v \rangle}\right)$$



Indirect searches for WIMP Dark Matter



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 10^{2}



Appeal of indirect dark matter searches



Indirect WIMP searches:

Probing the same mass budgets which provide DM gravitational evidence

Probing the same interaction (annihilation) explaining DM thermal relic abundance

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Indirect searches

 $W^{+}, Z, \gamma, g, H, q^{+}, l^{+}$

? New physics

 $W^-, Z, \gamma, g, H, q^-, l^-$

Produce DM particles in the lab: **Collider searches**



Where to search? Different Dark matter targets



log (y-ray intensity from DM annihilation), MH et al., 1806.08639

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Local galaxies

Galactic center

Dark clumps $?/? | \land? \checkmark?$



So far no detection after 20+ years (M. Doro, M. Sánchez-Conde, MH, 2111.01198) Dark Matter searches with Imaging Air Cherenkov Telescopes:



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Why the Galactic Centre?



Why the Galactic Centre?



- Flux expected orders of magnitude larger than from dSph galaxies
- Even comparably promising in most pessimistic case

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Galactic Centre Challenges I: the DM uncertainty

 Possible flattening of the inner DM profile due to supernova feedback

 (e.g., Pontzen & Governato, 2012)

Little data constraints on the innermost DM profile slope
 (e.g., Benito et al. 2019, 2020)

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Figure by A. Genina (Kashiwa DM 2021)





Galactic Centre Challenges II: the backgrounds

MAGIC, 2006.00623



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Galactic center active region with diverse known y-ray emitters



Galactic Centre Challenges III: low elevation in the North

Picture credit: D. López

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Galactic Center rises only 32° above horizon at CTA-North site



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Galactic Centre Challenges III: low elevation in the North 58° - 70° distance from zenith: large zenith angle observation (LZA)



Vertical observations

Large Zenith angle observations

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Sketch: R. López/T. Inada

 $l' \simeq l/\cos\theta_{\rm zd}$ $A_{\rm eff} \propto 1/\cos^2\theta_{\rm zd}$ Increased γ-ray detection area: larger statistics at TeV energies

Increased energy threshold







Less threshold constraints: Search for DM line emission

- Sharp peak at DM mass
- $\chi\chi \rightarrow \gamma\gamma$ channel loop-suppressed by α^2 (Some TeV DM models) expected with Sommerfeld enhanced σv)
- Line-like features also by three-body annihilations (virtual internal bremsstrahlung)



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LST performance (low zenith)



4 LSTs: Differential sensitivity factor 2 to 3 better than MAGIC/VERITAS/H.E.S.S. + lowered energy threshold

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Galactic Centre DM searches with CTA South

Galactic Center survey Key Science project with CTA: 525h + 300h in 1st decade

Detailed sensitivity study published last year (2007.16129)

ournal of Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics

Sensitivity of the Cherenkov Telescope Array to a dark matter signal from the Galactic centre



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Galactic Centre DM searches with CTA South





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DM detection potential with 4-LST array (300h)

3x better integral sensitivity and high-zd threshold = low-zd threshold of current IACTs



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DM detection potential with LST-1 + MAGIC



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- Improved gamma-hadron separation, angular and energy resolutions
- Any-of-two trigger: increased effective area
- MAGIC+LST1 Hardware trigger to improve threshold



DM detection potential LST1+MAGIC array (300h)

Assume 50% better sensitivity at high-zd threshold of current IACTs



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Caution! No proper sensitivity calculation, only rule-of-thumb extrapolation



Outlook: Other searches and candidates

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What to reach with dSph galaxies or clusters CTA Key Science Projects: 300h allocated for best dSph target at that time



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300h allocated for Perseus galaxy cluster

Use dSph observations to confirm DM origin of a signal detected at Galactic Center:

ſ	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
actic halo	175 h	175 h	175 h								
t dSph	100 h	100 h	1 00 h								
				in case of detection at GC, large σv							
t dSph				150 h	150 h	150 h	150 h	1 50 h	150 h	150 h	
actic halo				1 00 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	
				in case of detection at GC, small σv							
actic halo				1 00 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	
				in case of no detection at GC							
t Target				1 00 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	100 h	

CTA observation strategy (1709.07997)

Refined analyses ongoing



Astrophysical signatures from Axion-like particles (ALPs)

Conversion/oscillation in the presence of magnetic fields



ALPs: a dark matter candidate (Preskill et al., 1983; Abbott and Sikivie, 1983; Arias et al., 2012, 1201.5902):

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$$\mathcal{L}_{a\gamma} = -\frac{1}{4} g_{a\gamma} F_{\mu\nu} \tilde{F}^{\mu\nu} a = g_{a\gamma} \mathbf{E} \cdot \mathbf{B} a$$

Moritz Hütten

 $\int m_a$

neV

 10^{-12}

 $g_{a\gamma} < -$



ALP searches towards NGC 1275 (Perseus) with CTA

Assume 300h observations with CTA North, among them 10h in flaring state Sensitivity driven by flaring state



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Conclusions

Rich prospects for Dark matter searches with CTA and CTA-LST

Galactic Centre: 300h+ large-zenith angle observations with 4 LSTs from the North could probe the canonic thermal relic cross section for DM masses around a few TeV.

300h+ half as sensitive, but close to canonic cross section for $\chi \chi \rightarrow W^+ W^-$ annihilations and DM masses around a few TeV.

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Galactic Centre: Combined observations of LST-1 and MAGIC with



Conclusions

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Galactic Centre: 300h+ large-zenith angle observations with 4 LSTs from the North could probe the canonic thermal relic cross section for DM masses around a few TeV.

Galactic Centre: Combined observations of LST-1 and MAGIC with 300h+ half as sensitive, but close to canonic cross section for $\chi\chi \rightarrow W^+W^-$ annihilations and DM masses around a few TeV.

Thank you for your attention



CTA sensitivity to Line DM signal from Galactic Centre





Refined analysis ongoing (separate publication)

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