Astronomically large particle colliders

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Clowe et al. 2006, ApJ 848, 109, Bradac et al. 2008, ApJ 648, 109, Jee et al. 2012, ApJ 747, 96 Clowe et al. 2013, ApJ 758, 128 Merten et al. 2011, MNRAS 417, 333

DM-DM interactions unprobed by terrestrial expts



...but naturally predicted by lots of particle physics models:

e.g.

. . .

Supersymmetric neutralino (Steigman & Turner 1985) Kaluza-Klein photon (Griest 1988) Gravitino (Jungman+ 1996) SIDM (Spergel & Steinhardt 2000) SuperWIMP (Feng 2003) Axion (Baker 2007) Dark photons (Pospelov 2008) Glueball/Glueballino (Boddy+ 2014) Mirror dark matter (Foot 2014)

Phenomenological benefits of SIDM

Momentum transfer/mass loss from the centre of relaxed systems

 core formation (cusp/core) removal of small substructure (missing satellites) reduced circular velocity (too big to fail)

Potentially solves all of CDM's "small-scale crises"!



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Upper limits from individual collisions are limited by uncertainty in pre-collision dynamics







Calibrating DM-star offset with hydro simulations

Kahlhoefer+ 2014, Robertson+ 2016 (assuming a low mass force mediator particle)



The curious case of Abell 3827



Mass offset from stars

Massey et al. 2015 MNRAS 449, 3393

1.6±0.5 kpc

CDM+astrophysics doesn't produce large offsets

Schaller et al. (2015) MNRAS 453, 58









Superpressure Balloon-borne Imaging Telescope

Astronomical particle colliders

Weak lensing, X-ray & optical analysis of 72 minor mergers

- 7.6σ detection of dark mass
- DM and stars aligned within 5.8±8.2 kpc (68% CL)
- Tightest constraints on $\sigma_{DM} < 0.47 \text{ cm}^2/\text{g}$ (95% CL)
- Extendable to 10,000s with e.g. eROSITA & Euclid

other satellite missions are available from your usual retailer;

Strong lensing & optical analysis of 1 infalling galaxy
✓ 1.6±0.5 kpc offset from DM to stars (68% CL)
✓ Consistent with prediction of SIDM; never created by CDM
✓ Lower limit on σ_{DM}>1.7x10⁻⁴cm²/g ???
✗ Empirically, these systems are rare