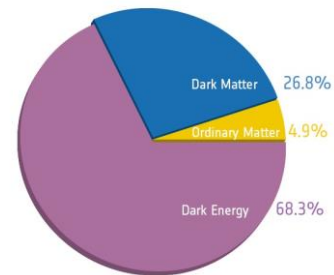


But, seriously now... (Part II)

In the last 67 years of space exploration, since the launch of Sputnik 1 on October 10th 1957, and after trillions of dollars of investment, the best of humanity's thinkers and scientists have discovered that **we only know what 5% of the universe is made of!** The rest is "Dark Matter" and "Dark Energy." In other words, we know S.F.A. –or sweet fuck all.

But, seriously now... What the hell is Dark Matter?

In the standard lambda-CDM model of cosmology, the mass-energy content of the universe is 5% ordinary matter, 26.8% **dark matter**, and 68.2% **dark energy**. Thus, dark matter constitutes 85% of the total mass, while dark energy and dark matter constitute 95% of the total mass-energy content. Dark matter is not known to interact with ordinary matter and radiation except through gravity, making it difficult to detect in the laboratory.



In astronomy, dark matter is a hypothetical form of matter that appears not to interact with light or any other electromagnetic field. Dark matter is implied by gravitational effects which cannot be explained by general relativity unless more matter is present than can be seen. Such effects occur in the context of formation and evolution of galaxies or of the observable universe's current structure.

The most prevalent notion among scientists is that Dark Matter is some as-yet-undiscovered subatomic particle, such as **WIMPs**, (or Weakly Interacting Massive Particles) or axions. It is also possible that dark matter is composed of primordial black holes. Another notion is what is called a **MACHO** (or MAssive Compact Halo Object) –a kind of astronomical body that might explain the apparent presence of dark matter in galaxy halos. A MACHO is a body that emits little or no radiation and drifts through interstellar space unassociated with any planetary system (and may or may not be composed of normal matter). Since MACHOs are not luminous, they are hard to detect. *

You would think that in the aftermath of the Civil Rights Movement, astrophysicists could have found a more appropriate label for these unknown entities than "dark matter" and "dark energy." How about Imperceptible Quantum? (No, ...that would spell I.Q.) Of course, since most of these scientists are white, they aren't Woke enough to use a less discriminatory term (...like maybe "Afro-American Matter"?).

Perhaps they could go back to using the ancients' esoteric term **astral aether**. According to ancient and medieval science, **aether** –also known as "quintessence"– is the material that fills the region of the universe beyond the terrestrial sphere. The concept of aether was used in several theories to explain several natural phenomena, such as the propagation of light and gravity. In the late 19th century, physicists postulated that aether permeated space, providing a medium through which light could travel in a **vacuum**** It appears that science hasn't advanced very much since the days of alchemy.

But, seriously now... MACHOs? ... WIMPs?... Apparently, none of these scientists when he was a kid had to go to school in Spanish Harlem, and to avoid acting like a **wimp** if he shared a schoolyard with a **macho** bully who could potentially beat you to a pulp and leave you all black and blue.

Hey! ... that's another good name for the aether: **Black and Blue matter!**

Written by © Pascual Delgado, June 5th 2024.

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dark_matter

** [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aether_\(classical_element\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aether_(classical_element))