

SCSU Physics Department Colloquium



Galactic Gadabouts: The Milky Way's Satellites, Streams and Clusters

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ABSTRACT. In recent years, the main predictions of Big Bang inflationary cosmology have been confirmed by observations of distant objects, making the currently accepted model of structure formation (LCDM - lambda cold dark matter) a success story. In this model, the early universe is dominated by collisionless dark matter, and objects like our Milky Way are assembled via the hierarchical merging and accretion of smaller systems. However, observations of our Galaxy and its satellite system pose challenges to this standard model. I will describe these observations which are possible only in our Galaxy and perhaps its neighbor Andromeda, and discuss the problems raised for the current cosmological view of the universe.

Friday, April 3rd, 1:30-2:30pm

Jennings Hall, Room 113

Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome!

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