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MOND virial theorem applied to a galaxy cluster

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Large values for the mass-to-light ratio (Υ) in self-gravitating systems is one of the most important evidences of dark matter. We propose a expression for the mass-to-light ratio in spherical systems using MOND. Results for the COMA cluster reveal that a modification of the gravity, as proposed by MOND, can reduce significantly this value.

Keywords: MOND, COMA cluster, Dark Matter

I. INTRODUCTION

The standard model for cosmology states that 95% of all content of the universe belongs to a dark sector, not yet detected, composed by a unknown form of energy called dark energy and some kind of non-baryonic matter or dark matter, while baryogenesis implies that only 5% of the universe is made up of atoms. In general terms, dark matter is the unknown fraction that appears in agglomerated matter, like galaxies and clusters of galaxies, having a effective null pressure and suffering consequently the clustering process. Dark energy is a smooth component of the matter content of the Universe which must have negative pressure, inducing the accelerated expansion of the Universe. A review of the observational evidences and theoretical explanations for dark matter and dark energy can be found in references [1–3].

The first evidence on the existence of dark matter came from the analysis of the dynamics of the Coma cluster of galaxies, in the thirties [4]. Using the virial theorem and the hypothesis that the Coma cluster is in dynamical equilibrium, it was found that there should have much more matter than it could be deduced using the usual mass-to-light ratio for galaxies. Later, the study of the rotation curve of spiral galaxies has shown that even at the level of galaxies the major part of matter does not emit any kind of radiation. In galaxies, the mass-to-light ratio using the rotation curves can be as high as 30, in solar unities, while this number is of the order of 180 for the Coma cluster [5].

In general, the existence of dark matter is proposed in order to explain anomalies observed in the dynamics of self-gravitating systems, like galaxies and clusters of galaxies. An alternative to dark matter is to admit that the fundamental laws of physics are not the usual ones from a certain scale on. This can be achieved, for example, by changing the gravitational potential. Another possibility, at newtonian level, is to modify the Newton's dynamic laws. One interesting proposal in this sense is the MOND theory [6], which is based on a changing of the Newton's second law, such that it takes the form

$$m\mu\left(\frac{a}{a_0}\right)\vec{a} = \vec{F} \quad , \quad (1)$$

where $\mu(x)$ is a function such that $\mu(x) \approx 1$ for $x \gg 1$ and

$\mu(x) \approx x$ for $x \ll 1$. Hence, a_0 defines a critical acceleration below which the usual Newton's second law is not valid anymore. This phenomenological proposal has been very successful in explaining the rotation curve of the spiral galaxies, a_0 taking a universal value around $a_0 \sim 10^{-8} \text{ cm.s}^{-2}$ [7]. Some interpolation formula between the "newtonian" regime and the "MOND" regime for $\mu(x)$ have been proposed in the literature [8].

One of the main criticism with respect to the MOND theory is that it is non-relativistic, and it can not be deduced from a Lagrangian. More recently, a relativistic version of the theory has been proposed, involving, beside the usual geometric and matter sector, a vector field and a scalar field [9]. But, it remains some controversy if MOND can successfully explain the lensing effect in clusters of galaxies [10].

The proposal of the present work is to go back to the dynamics of cluster of galaxies, in the realm of the MOND theory. There has been some studies in this sense using X-ray data [11]. The purpose of the present work is more modest: to generalise the virial theorem using a suitable interpolation expression for $\mu(x)$ and from it to deduce the mass-to-light ratio. To be specific, we work with a given set of observational data concerning the Coma cluster. It will be shown that, even if a closed expression for the generalised virial formula is not possible, we can obtain the mass-to-light ratio that is compatible with ordinary estimations without dark matter: values as low 10 can be easily obtained. Taking into account the rotation curve of the spiral galaxies leads to a prediction for the mass/luminosity ratio of the order of 70. The paper is organised as it follows. In next section, we present the general expressions for virial theorem. In section 3 the observational data for the Coma cluster are discussed and a estimation for the mass-to-light ratio is obtained. In the last section we present our conclusions.

II. METHOD

The general form of the MOND theory is given by

$$m\mu(x)\vec{a} = -G\frac{Mm}{r^2}\hat{r} \quad , \quad (2)$$

where μ is a function, to be specified, which has the following properties: $\mu(x) \sim 1$, for $x \gg 1$, and $\mu(x) \sim x$ for $x \ll 1$. Since $x = a/a_0$, where a_0 is a constant with dimension of acceleration, the MOND theory implies the introduction of a new fundamental constant: a critical acceleration a_0 which specifies when the newtonian mechanics is valid. Expression (2) describes the motion of a point mass m under the

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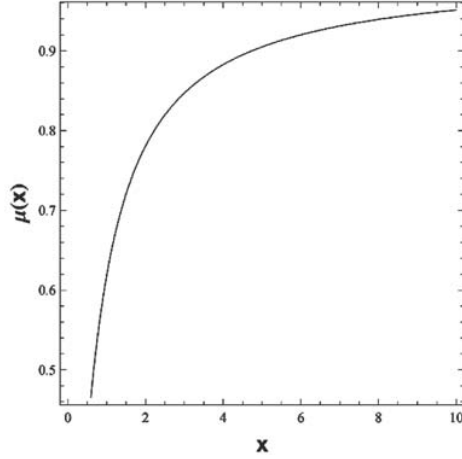


FIG. 1: Behaviour of the function $\mu(x)$. The newtonian limit is reached when $\mu \rightarrow 1$.

influence of the gravitational field of a spherical large mass distribution with total mass M . The function $\mu(x)$ is arbitrary, excepted by the fact it must obey the asymptotic regimes described before. We will adopt the following form for this function:

$$\mu(x) = \left\{ 1 + (2x)^{-2} \right\}^{\frac{1}{2}} - \frac{1}{2x} = \frac{1}{2x} \left\{ \sqrt{1 + (2x)^2} - 1 \right\} \quad (3)$$

with

$$\vec{x} = \frac{\vec{a}}{a_0} \quad (4)$$

For technical reasons, it is convenient to rewrite equation (2) as

$$\vec{x} = -G \frac{M}{\mu(x)r^2 a_0} \hat{r} \quad (5)$$

Some simple manipulations lead to the expression

$$\vec{a}_M = -\frac{GM}{r^2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{r^2 a_0}{GM}} \hat{r} \quad (6)$$

With the identification $\sqrt{GM/a_0} = r_c$, where r_c is a "critical distance" beyond which the MOND regime becomes effective, equation (6) becomes

$$\vec{a}_M = -\frac{GM}{r^2} \sqrt{1 + \frac{r^2}{r_c^2}} \hat{r} \quad (7)$$

It must be stressed that the MOND critical parameter is the acceleration scale a_0 . However, with the formal definition of a distance scale, the MOND theory is recast as a (formal) modification of the gravitational potential. The new form of the gravitational potential is dictated by the choice of the function $\mu(x)$. We will use this approach from here on, but

the results does not depend on it: it is just a question of description of the dynamics. Using such approach the potential corresponding to the function $\mu(x)$ chosen is

$$\Phi_M(r) = -GM \left\{ \frac{\sqrt{1 + \left(\frac{r}{r_c}\right)^2}}{r} - \frac{\sinh^{-1}\left(\frac{r}{r_c}\right)}{r_c} \right\} \quad (8)$$

The potential has the usual newtonian form in the limit $r \ll r_c$, while it becomes logarithmic when $r \gg r_c$, what corresponds to the full MOND regime.

The first indirect detection of dark matter came from the application of the virial theorem, which is valid in the Newtonian dynamics, to the Coma cluster [4]. This theorem establishes that in a self-gravitating system, in dynamical equilibrium, the potential energy is minus two times the kinetic energy. Measuring the kinetic energy, what can be done through a spectroscopic analysis of the light coming from a distant system like a cluster of galaxies, the potential energy, and hence the mass of the system, can be deduced. But, such simple relation between the potential and kinetic energy can only be possible in the case of a newtonian theory. For a different gravitational potential (or a different dynamic law), the virial theorem in its usual form is not valid. The general relation for the virial theorem assumes the form

$$K = \frac{1}{2} \sum_i \left\langle \frac{\partial \Phi(r)}{\partial r} r \right\rangle m_i \quad (9)$$

where it was computed the contribution from all i -components of the system with mass m_i . Introducing (8) in the above relation the kinetic energy of a self-gravitating system orbiting in the full MOND regime can be obtained as

$$K = \frac{GM(r)}{2r} \sqrt{1 + \frac{r^2}{r_c^2}} m, \quad (10)$$

where m is the mass of a tiny shell at radius r , and $M(r)$ is the mass enclosed by this shell.

If we know the kinetic energy of a spherical system it is possible to evaluate the mass-to-light ratio Υ under the assumption that Υ is independent of radius. The kinetic energy can be associated with the surface luminosity I and the line-of-sight velocity dispersion σ by

$$K = \Upsilon J, \quad (11)$$

where J is a integral defined as [12]

$$J = 3\pi \int_0^\infty I(R) \sigma^2(R) R dR. \quad (12)$$

Moreover, a symmetric mass distribution should be described by some kind of density profile. The mean density may be associated with the observational data and can be written as [12]

$$\rho(r) = -\frac{\Upsilon}{\pi} \int_r^\infty \frac{dI}{dR} \frac{dR}{\sqrt{R^2 - r^2}}. \quad (13)$$

The above definition enable us to calculate the expression for the mass-to-light ratio with MOND. Inserting (13) twice in

the MOND expression for the kinetic energy (10) and combining this result with (11) it is possible to determine the mass-to-light ratio using only the velocity dispersion and the surface luminosity data:

$$\Upsilon_M = -\frac{2J}{\tilde{J}}. \quad (14)$$

In above relation J is the integral define before and \tilde{J} is defined as

$$\tilde{J} = -16G \int_0^\infty t(r)p(r)r\sqrt{1+\frac{r^2}{r_c^2}} dr, \quad (15)$$

where $t(r)$ and $p(r)$ are also auxiliar integral expressions that depend on I and σ

$$t(r) = \int_0^\infty \frac{dI}{dR} \frac{dR}{\sqrt{R^2 - r^2}} \quad p(r) = \int_0^r t(r')r'^2 dr'. \quad (16)$$

In order to calculate Υ for a self-gravitating system we need the surface luminosity profile $I(R)$ and the dispersion velocity profile $\sigma(R)$. Note that the velocity dispersion appears only in term J . Hence, J represents the kinematic contribution from the virial theorem. We apply this result for the COMA cluster data in next section.

III. COMA CLUSTER DATA ANALYSIS

The mass-to-light ratio of the COMA cluster was estimated, using the Newtonian theory, as $\Upsilon_N \approx 180$ [5]. It seems reasonable to interpret this large value for the mass-to-light ratio as a strong evidence in favour of dark matter. If MOND theory provide a succesfully description for the dynamics of this cluster we hope to find for Υ a value at least one order of magnitude less than 180. However, before any tentative to reconstruct a analysis in the COMA cluster using MOND theory, we need to assume some properties about the cluster:

1. We adopt a spherical symmetry. Although COMA have a elongated form, we are interested in the radial structure of the cluster.
2. Any dark component of the system traces the luminous matter. With this assumption we consider a single component model for the cluster. This condition can be relaxed, however we will not consider this possibility.
3. The cluster is in a stage of dynamical equilibrium and all the mechanics of the cluster is well known and not yet relativistic.

The above assumptions don't reflect actual gravitational systems, however will allow us to obtain in a simple way the cluster mass-to-light ratio. For a MOND description of orbits in non trivial symmetries see [13].

The COMA cluster has been so widely studied over the years and for this reason there are a lot of available observational data in the literature. In order to obtain the velocity

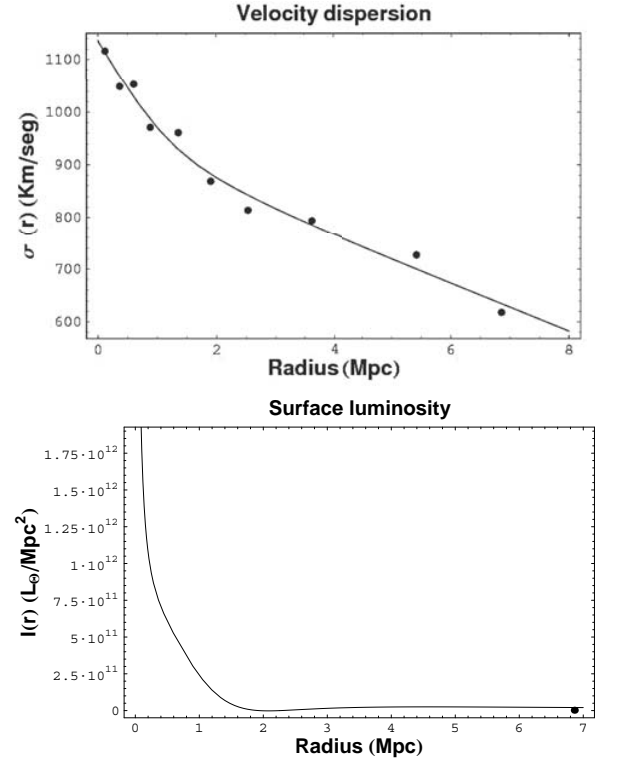


FIG. 2: Best fit for the velocity dispersion and surface luminosity profiles.

dispersion and the surface luminosity profile we take all the cluster members and binning them radially. We use the velocity dispersion data described in reference [5]. Each bin contains aproximately 20 members of the cluster. The equivalent data for each bin and the best fit for the velocity dispersion and the surface luminosity are showed in figure 1. We do not adopt, *a priori*, any dynamical model for fitting the data. The best fit curves showed in figure 2 correspond to the curve that minimize the quantity χ^2 that is proportional to the difference between the fitting value and the observational data in each bin. Inserting the surface luminosity profile obtained from the best fit, as we can see in figure 1, in the auxiliar expressions (16) we can compute the integral \tilde{J} , Eq. (15). With the velocity dispersion profile we can evaluate the kinetic term J in integral (12). The mass-to-light ratio depends on the value of the critical radius r_c . Table 1 shows results for Υ_M for various values of r_c .

IV. FINAL REMARKS

The nature and origin of the dark matter is still one of the greatest challenges in cosmology and astrophysics. Its influence in the dynamics of galaxies and clusters and its distribution in these systems has been studied over the years and we don't have yet a satisfactory description for this unknown component. In this contribution we apply the MOND

theory in order to obtain a relation for the mass-to-light ratio in self-gravitating systems. Only with surface luminosity and dispersion velocity data from COMA cluster the value of mass-to-light ratio was reduced using the MOND theory when compared with the Newtonian one. The exact value of Υ_M depends on the critical radii r_c . Table 1 shows several results of our analysis. For suitable values of r_c we found lowers mass-to-light ratios in contrast with the previous Newtonian result $\Upsilon_N \approx 180$ [5]. The Newtonian limit of our relations ($r_c \rightarrow \infty$) indicates $\Upsilon_N = 208.4$ for the COMA cluster. We can admit that the estimation of the mass-to-light ratio as considered above is highly uncertain, however MOND correct the huge Newtonian mass-to-light ratio down to values compatible with baryonic matter alone. In particular, using the critical acceleration $a_0 \sim 10^{-10} \text{ m/s}^2$, a value that leads to a good fit of the rotation curve of spiral galaxies in the MOND theory [7], a mass-to-light ratio of order of 70 is obtained, a third of the Newtonian value. In the analysis presented here, we have not taken into account the gas in the intergalactic medium of the cluster, which is typically responsible for 20% of the total mass of a cluster [14]. Even so, it agrees with the evaluation made in reference [15] where X-ray data are taken into account. Note, however, that our results disagree with the simplified estimations made in [6] where just some general properties of the MOND theory have been used, leading to a very low mass/luminosity ratio, typically of order of a few tenths. Even if the necessity of dark matter remains, the dark matter problem is alleviated. Moreover, since there are many simplifications in the analysis done (the hypothesis of a continuous matter distri-

bution, the choice of a spherical symmetry for the cluster, etc.), the results obtained using the interpolation function (3) in the context of the MOND theory justify the investigation of a more realistic scenario, perhaps including a discrete distribution of the matter besides a continuous gas distribution. Of course, such more realistic analysis would imply the necessity of numerical simulations.

$r_c \text{ (Mpc)}$	Υ_M	$a_0 \text{ (m/s}^2\text{)}$
0.05	3.6	1.7×10^{-7}
0.1	7.2	7.0×10^{-7}
0.2	14.4	2.7×10^{-8}
0.3	21.6	1.5×10^{-8}
0.4	28.6	9.7×10^{-9}
0.5	35.5	6.8×10^{-9}
0.6	42.3	5.1×10^{-9}
0.7	48.9	4.0×10^{-9}
0.8	55.3	3.1×10^{-9}
0.9	61.6	2.6×10^{-9}

TABLE I: Critical acceleration parameter (a_0) and mass-to-light ratio in MOND theory (Υ_M). We include the corresponding values for the critical radii r_c , an auxiliary quantity derived from a_0 . The Newtonian analysis ($r_c \rightarrow \infty$) reveals for COMA cluster a value for the mass-to-light ratio $\Upsilon_N = 208.4$.

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