

Exploring dark matter microphysics with galaxy surveys

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We use present cosmological observations and forecasts of future experiments to illustrate the power of large-scale structure (LSS) surveys in probing dark matter (DM) microphysics and unveiling potential deviations from the standard Λ CDM scenario. To quantify this statement, we focus on an extension of Λ CDM with DM–neutrino scattering, which leaves a distinctive imprint on the angular and matter power spectra. After finding that future CMB experiments (such as COrE+) will not significantly improve the constraints set by the *Planck* satellite, we show that the next generation of galaxy clustering surveys (such as DESI) could play a leading role in constraining alternative cosmologies and even have the potential to make a discovery. Typically we find that DESI would be an order of magnitude more sensitive to DM interactions than *Planck*, thus probing effects that until now have only been accessible via N -body simulations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Dark matter (DM) is required to explain the galactic rotation curves, lensing and virial motions of galaxy clusters, observed matter power spectrum and cosmic microwave background (CMB) acoustic peaks. The current paradigm is that DM can be well-approximated by a collisionless fluid, consisting of weakly-interacting massive particles (WIMPs) and leading to a characteristic matter power spectrum ($P(k) \propto k^{-3}$). However, direct evidence for WIMPs remains elusive and it is now legitimate to question the validity of the standard picture.

There is a plethora of DM models in the literature that exhibit small deviations from Λ CDM fluctuations (e.g. Refs. [1–24]), many of which predict additional damping and/or oscillations in the $P(k)$. While CMB experiments such as *Planck* allow one to constrain the cosmological parameters with unprecedented precision [25, 26], extracting the $P(k)$ from *Planck* or the next-generation of CMB probes (such as COrE+ [27] or PIXIE [28]) will be limited by the large uncertainties involved in foreground modelling, which hinder any angular power spectrum analysis at large ℓ ¹. Therefore, to unravel the nature of DM, a direct probe of the $P(k)$ is needed. Here we show that the next generation of large-scale structure (LSS) surveys could provide us with key information on the particle properties of DM, due to their extremely high precision.

Galaxy clustering surveys [29–35] have already observed the imprint of Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAOs), a standard ruler to measure the Hubble expansion rate, $H(z)$, and the angular diameter distance, $D_A(z)$. Recently, the Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic

Survey (BOSS) collaboration [36] reported a separate extraction of $H(z)$ and $D_A(z)$ to a precision of 1% [29]. Here we show that by exploiting all of the information contained in the shape of the full $P(k)$ (rather than solely the BAO geometrical signature [37–39]), one can test the validity of the Λ CDM model at scales below a Mpc.

For concreteness, we focus on one specific scenario, in which DM scatters elastically with the active neutrinos (hereafter, ν CDM) [1–14]. Such a DM candidate erases small-scale perturbations through collisional damping [1, 3] and suppresses neutrino free-streaming in the early universe. This leaves a unique signature in the angular and matter power spectra and provides us with a framework to quantify the potential of future LSS surveys to constrain DM microphysics. We exploit both the current publicly available galaxy power spectrum data (in particular, from the *WiggleZ* survey [35]) and the expected full-shape power spectrum measurements from the forthcoming Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) [40].

The structure of the paper is as follows. In Sec. II, we describe the ν CDM scenario. In Sec. III, we compute up-to-date constraints using both CMB data from *Planck* and full-shape LSS data from the *WiggleZ* survey. In Sec. IV, we perform a forecast of the sensitivity of planned experiments such as COrE+ and DESI to the ν CDM framework (and any model that generates small deviations from Λ CDM). Finally, we draw our main conclusions in Sec. V.

II. DARK MATTER–NEUTRINO INTERACTIONS

In the ν CDM scenario, DM remains in kinetic contact with the neutrino sector long after the chemical freeze-out (see Refs. [1–14] for previous related work). Small-scale DM perturbations are then erased as a result of ongoing elastic scattering through “collisional damping” [1, 3], rather than slowly clustering under gravity.

¹ An additional difficulty is that the C_ℓ are the result of the convolution of the $P(k)$ with a window (Bessel) function that accounts for the angular scale, thus preventing one from detecting small features in the $P(k)$.

At the same time, neutrinos cannot free-stream as efficiently as in Λ CDM and behave more like a relativistic perfect fluid. The main consequences are: (i) an enhancement of the CMB acoustic peaks and (ii) a reduction of small-scale power in the matter power spectrum [5–7].

DM–neutrino interactions do not affect the background equations but they do modify the evolution of the DM and neutrino fluctuations. They can be implemented by a modification of the Euler equations. In the conformal Newtonian gauge²,

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{\theta}_{\text{DM}} &= k^2\psi - \mathcal{H}\theta_{\text{DM}} - S^{-1}\dot{\mu}(\theta_{\text{DM}} - \theta_\nu) \\ \dot{\theta}_\nu &= k^2\psi + k^2\left(\frac{1}{4}\delta_\nu - \sigma_\nu\right) - \dot{\mu}(\theta_\nu - \theta_{\text{DM}}) \\ \dot{\sigma}_\nu &= \frac{4}{15}\theta_\nu - \frac{3}{10}kF_{\nu 3} - \frac{9}{10}\dot{\mu}\sigma_\nu \\ \dot{F}_{\nu\ell} &= \frac{k}{2\ell+1}\left[\ell F_{\nu(\ell-1)} - (\ell+1)F_{\nu(\ell+1)}\right] - \dot{\mu}F_{\nu\ell}, \ell \geq 3\end{aligned}\quad (1)$$

where δ , θ and σ are the density, velocity and shear perturbations respectively, $F_{\nu\ell}$ refer to higher ($\ell > 2$) neutrino moments, ψ is the gravitational potential, \mathcal{H} is the conformal Hubble parameter and $S \equiv (3/4)\rho_{\text{DM}}/\rho_\nu$.

The key quantity in Eq. (1) is $\dot{\mu} \equiv a\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu}n_{\text{DM}}$, which can be written in terms of the dimensionless quantity u defined as

$$u \equiv \left[\frac{\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu}}{\sigma_{\text{Th}}}\right] \left[\frac{m_{\text{DM}}}{100 \text{ GeV}}\right]^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

This variable u describes the ratio of the DM–neutrino elastic scattering cross section, $\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu}$, to the DM mass, m_{DM} , normalised to the Thomson cross section, σ_{Th} (see Ref. [2]). In our analyses, we will consider both s-wave ($\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,0} = \text{constant}$) and p-wave ($\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,2} \propto T^2$) cross sections. For p-wave cross sections, we can write $u(a) = ua^{-2}$, where u is the present-day value and a is the cosmological scale factor, normalised to unity today. The larger the value of u , the greater the suppression in the linear matter power spectrum with respect to Λ CDM, for a given wavenumber k , as shown in Fig. 1 (and can also be seen in Refs. [5–7]).

DM interactions leave a further imprint in the galaxy power spectrum through damped acoustic oscillations, which, in general, show up at smaller scales than those illustrated in Fig. 1. They were first pointed out in the context of DM–photon interactions (in the weak-coupling regime) in Ref. [2] and were later observed in interactions with baryons [18], neutrinos [5, 6] and dark radiation [22–24]. They arise because the DM fluid acquires a non-zero pressure as a result of interactions with the thermal bath and are therefore similar to the photon–baryon fluid before recombination. Although they cannot be observed using current data, they provide a characteristic signature for future experiments.

² In analogy to the perturbation equations governing baryon–photon interactions, see e.g. Ref. [41].

Parameter	Prior
$\Omega_{\text{b}}h^2$	0.005 \rightarrow 0.1
$\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$	0.01 \rightarrow 0.99
100 h	50 \rightarrow 100
$10^9 A_{\text{s}}$	1 \rightarrow 4
n_{s}	0.5 \rightarrow 1.5
τ_{reio}	0.01 \rightarrow 0.1
$\log(u)$ (s-wave)	−6 \rightarrow 0
$\log(u)$ (p-wave)	−18 \rightarrow −11

TABLE I. Flat priors for the cosmological parameters considered here. $\Omega_{\text{b}}h^2$ is the baryon density, $\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2$ is the DM density, h is the reduced Hubble parameter, A_{s} is the primordial spectrum amplitude, n_{s} is the scalar spectral index, τ_{reio} is the optical depth and u is defined in Eq. (2).

III. CURRENT CONSTRAINTS

To assess how powerful the constraints from future LSS surveys can be, we first derive the limits set by current CMB and galaxy clustering surveys. These will then serve as a benchmark for our forecasts in Sec. IV.

To perform this analysis, the modifications shown in Eq. (1) are implemented in the Boltzmann code CLASS [42] (see also Ref. [7]) and the posterior likelihoods are obtained using the Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) code MONTE PYTHON [43]. The prior ranges for these parameters are listed in Tab. I. Since u can vary by many orders of magnitude, we select a logarithmic prior distribution for this parameter, in contrast to the linear priors used in Refs. [5–7].

For simplicity, we assume massless neutrinos³ and fix the effective number of neutrino species, N_{eff} , to the standard value of 3.046 [44]. We have verified that allowing N_{eff} to vary has an impact on the value of the Hubble parameter, H_0 , but does not change the sensitivity to the u parameter.

The current CMB constraints (using *Planck* 2013 + WMAP polarisation data [25]) are shown in Tab. II. The corresponding upper limits on the DM–neutrino scattering cross section (at 95% CL) are

$$\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,0}^{(\text{Planck})} \lesssim 6 \times 10^{-31} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2, \quad (3)$$

if s-wave and

$$\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,2}^{(\text{Planck})} \lesssim 2 \times 10^{-40} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2, \quad (4)$$

if p-wave. These results are consistent with those quoted by the authors of Refs. [5, 6], with the caveat that they did not perform a full MCMC analysis.

³ This is in contrast to *Planck*, whose analysis assumes two massless and one massive neutrino with $m_\nu = 0.06 \text{ eV}$ [25]. Such a small neutrino mass only affects the CMB through a slight shift in the angular diameter distance, which can be exactly compensated by a decrease in 100 h of ~ 0.6 [25].

Parameter	s-wave ($u = \text{const.}$)		p-wave ($u \propto T^2$)	
	<i>Planck</i> 2013	CORe+	<i>Planck</i> 2013	CORe+
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.0221 ± 0.0003	0.02223 ± 0.00004	0.0221 ± 0.0003	0.02222 ± 0.00004
$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2$	0.120 ± 0.003	0.1199 ± 0.0005	0.119 ± 0.003	0.1197 ± 0.0005
$100 h$	70.0 ± 1.2	67.3 ± 0.2	68.0 ± 1.2	67.3 ± 0.2
$10^9 A_s$	2.20 ± 0.06	2.207 ± 0.010	2.19 ± 0.06	2.207 ± 0.010
n_s	0.961 ± 0.008	0.9656 ± 0.0017	0.961 ± 0.008	0.9639 ± 0.0019
τ_{reio}	0.090 ± 0.015	0.0792 ± 0.0002	0.090 ± 0.013	0.0790 ± 0.0002
$\log_{10}(u)$	< -4.04 (95% CL)	-4.33 (95% CL)	< -13.6 (95% CL)	< -14.6 (95% CL)

TABLE II. Marginalised posteriors for s-wave (left) and p-wave (right) DM–neutrino scattering cross sections set by the *Planck* 2013 data (+ WMAP polarisation) (see Sec. III) and the CORe+ forecast (see Sec. IV). Unless otherwise indicated, the errors represent the 68% CL.

We now repeat the previous analysis adding LSS data on the full shape of the matter power spectrum. Concretely, we use the galaxy clustering information from the *WiggleZ* Dark Energy Survey [35]. The *WiggleZ* sample consists of $\sim 238,000$ galaxies and covers a region of 1 Gpc^3 in redshift space. Our calculations have shown that comparable results can be obtained from the BOSS DR11 measurements [29]. Following a similar analysis to Ref. [45], we construct the likelihood function as follows:

$$-2 \log[L(\vartheta_\alpha)] = \chi^2(\vartheta_\alpha) = \sum_{ij} \Delta_i C_{ij}^{-1} \Delta_j, \quad (5)$$

where the covariance matrix reads

$$C_{ij} = \langle \hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_i) \hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_j) \rangle - \langle \hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_i) \rangle \langle \hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_j) \rangle, \quad (6)$$

and

$$\Delta_i \equiv \left[\hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_i) - P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha) \right]. \quad (7)$$

In Eq. (7), $\hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_i)$ is the measured galaxy power spectrum and $P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha)$ is the theoretical expectation for the set of model parameters ϑ_α , listed in Tab. I. In turn, $P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha)$ is a convolution of the computed galaxy power spectrum with the survey window functions, $W(k_i, k_n)$, and is given by

$$P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha) = \sum_n \frac{W(k_i, k_n) P_{\text{halo}}(k_n/a_{\text{scl}}, \vartheta_\alpha)}{a_{\text{scl}}^3}. \quad (8)$$

In this equation, a_{scl} represents the scaling, which takes into account that the observed galaxy redshift has to be translated into a distance using a fiducial model. In this case, we use the same values as in Ref. [46]: $\Omega_b = 0.049$, $\Omega_m = 0.297$, $h = 0.7$, $n_s = 1$ and $\sigma_8 = 0.8$. The scaling factor is given by Ref. [45, 47]:

$$a_{\text{scl}}^3 = \frac{D_A(z)^2 H(z)}{D_{A,\text{fid}}(z)^2 H_{\text{fid}}(z)}. \quad (9)$$

The theoretical galaxy power spectrum $P_{\text{halo}}(k, \vartheta_\alpha)$ is related to the matter power spectrum $P^m(k, \vartheta_\alpha)$ through the relation

$$P_{\text{halo}}(k, \vartheta_\alpha) = b^2 P^m(k, \vartheta_\alpha), \quad (10)$$

where b is the bias, which is assumed to be constant. We analytically marginalise over b as in Ref. [48]:

$$b^2 = \frac{\sum_{ij} P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha) C_{ij}^{-1} \hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k_j)}{\sum_{ij} P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha) C_{ij}^{-1} P_{\text{halo},w}(k_j, \vartheta_\alpha)}. \quad (11)$$

In Fig. 1, we show the measured galaxy power spectrum, $\hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k)$, from *WiggleZ* in the four redshift bins ($0.1 < z < 0.3$, $0.3 < z < 0.5$, $0.5 < z < 0.7$ and $0.7 < z < 0.9$) exploited in our analyses [35]. We also depict the convolved power spectrum, $P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha)$, as defined in Eq. (8), for the Λ CDM fiducial model of Ref. [46] and for two values of the u parameter ($u = 10^{-4}$ and $u = 10^{-5}$, both in the s-wave scenario). The characteristic damping of the $P(k)$ due to the interacting DM–neutrino fluid is clearly visible and allows us to tighten the constraints with respect to the previous CMB-only analysis.

In Tab. III, we present the posteriors obtained using the combination of *WiggleZ* and CMB data. We perform two separate analyses, including data for which: (i) $k < k_{\text{max}} = 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ (purely linear regime) and (ii) $k < k_{\text{max}} = 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ (weakly non-linear regime).

In terms of the DM–neutrino scattering cross section (at 95% CL) with $k_{\text{max}} = 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ ($k_{\text{max}} = 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,0}^{(\text{WiggleZ})} &\lesssim 4 \times 10^{-31} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2; \\ &(\lesssim 2 \times 10^{-31} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2), \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

for the s-wave cross section. As we shall see in the next section, these bounds are competitive with those resulting from our forecasts for the future CMB mission CORe+.

Meanwhile, for the p-wave cross section, we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,2}^{(\text{WiggleZ})} &\lesssim 1 \times 10^{-40} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2; \\ &(\lesssim 8 \times 10^{-41} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2). \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

Therefore, including data in the weakly non-linear regime ($k < 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$) only strengthens the constraints by a factor of 2 (s-wave) and 1.25 (p-wave) with respect to those in the purely linear regime ($k < 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$).

Parameter	s-wave ($u = \text{const.}$)		p-wave ($u \propto T^2$)	
	$k_{\text{max}} = 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$	$k_{\text{max}} = 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$	$k_{\text{max}} = 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$	$k_{\text{max}} = 0.2 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$
$\Omega_b h^2$	0.0220 ± 0.0003	0.0219 ± 0.0003	0.0219 ± 0.0003	0.0218 ± 0.0003
$\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2$	0.122 ± 0.002	0.123 ± 0.003	0.122 ± 0.002	0.123 ± 0.002
$100 h$	70.0 ± 1.1	66.6 ± 1.0	66.9 ± 1.1	66.7 ± 1.0
$10^9 A_s$	2.19 ± 0.05	2.19 ± 0.05	2.19 ± 0.05	2.19 ± 0.05
n_s	0.956 ± 0.007	0.956 ± 0.006	0.956 ± 0.007	0.955 ± 0.007
τ_{reio}	0.086 ± 0.013	0.086 ± 0.013	0.085 ± 0.013	0.085 ± 0.013
$\log_{10}(u)$	< -4.18 (95% CL)	-4.57 (95% CL)	< -13.7 (95% CL)	< -13.9 (95% CL)

TABLE III. Marginalised posteriors for s-wave (left) and p-wave (right) DM–neutrino scattering cross sections set by the combination of *WiggleZ* full-shape galaxy power spectrum measurements and *Planck* 2013 (+ WMAP polarisation) data. Unless otherwise indicated, the errors represent the 68% CL.

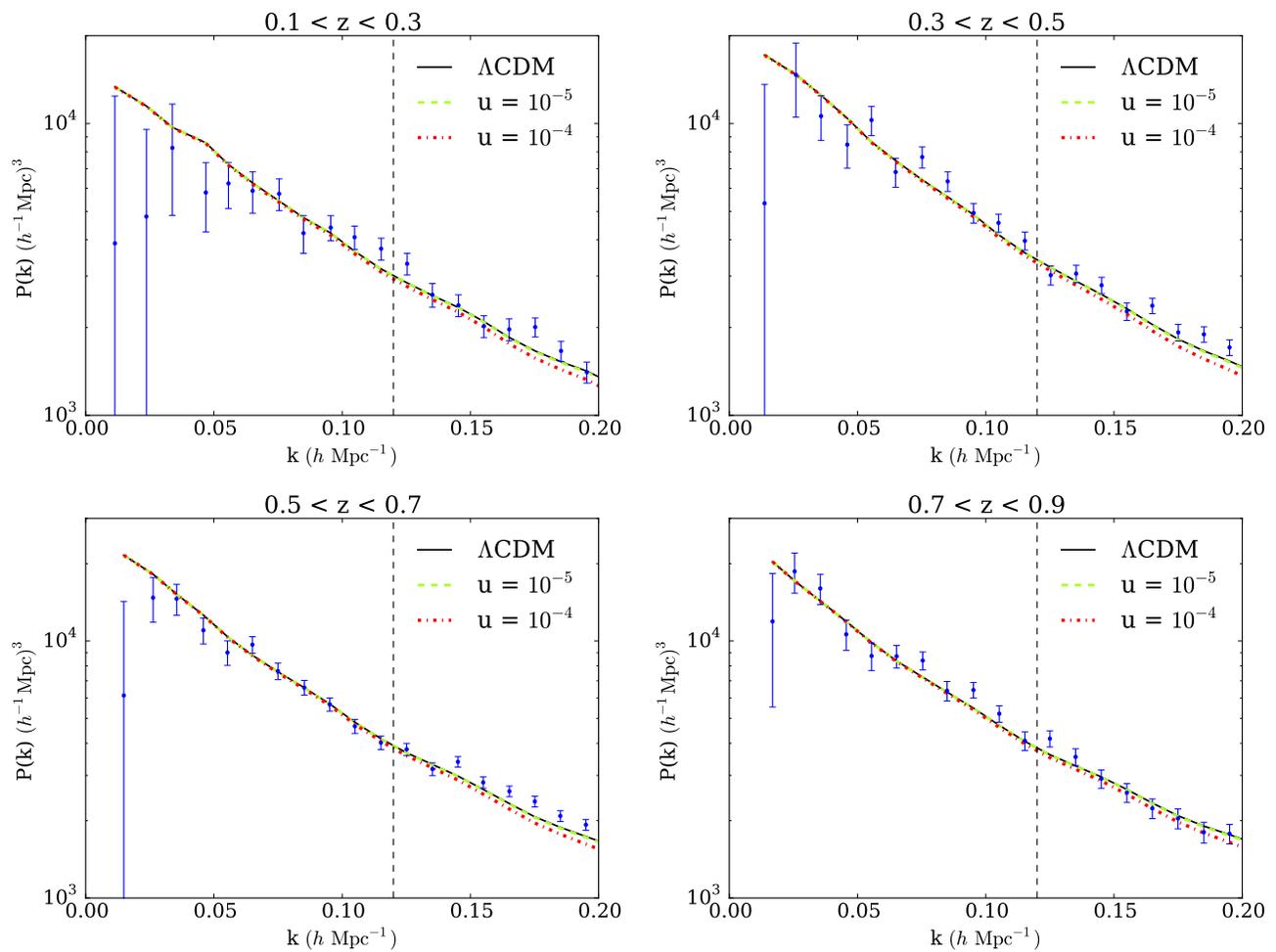


FIG. 1. The data points show the galaxy power spectrum, $\hat{P}_{\text{halo}}(k)$, in the four redshift bins ($0.1 < z < 0.3$, $0.3 < z < 0.5$, $0.5 < z < 0.7$ and $0.7 < z < 0.9$) measured by the *WiggleZ* survey [35]. We also depict the convolved power spectrum, $P_{\text{halo},w}(k_i, \vartheta_\alpha)$, as defined in Eq. (8), for the ΛCDM fiducial model of Ref. [46] (solid black) and for two values of the u parameter: $u = 10^{-4}$ (dotted red) and $u = 10^{-5}$ (dashed green) in the s-wave scenario. The vertical dashed line denotes the separation between the linear ($k \lesssim 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$) and non-linear ($k \gtrsim 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$) regimes.

We note that, in the s-wave scenario, the bounds are as much as ~ 3.5 times tighter than those using only CMB measurements, showing the benefits of utilising the full shape of the $P(k)$. The improvement is not as significant for the p-wave case because the suppression appears at larger scales (see e.g. Ref. [23]).

IV. FORECASTS FOR FUTURE EXPERIMENTS

The CMB and LSS analyses in Sec. III allowed us to obtain current constraints on the DM–neutrino elastic scattering cross section. We will now assess the power of future experiments in (i) *constraining* DM microphysics and (ii) *detecting* small deviations from the Λ CDM matter power spectrum in the weakly non-linear regime. These two analyses require slightly different methodologies. In the first case, we construct a mock catalogue based on the Λ CDM cosmology and compute the strongest possible upper limit on the u parameter using the expected sensitivity of future experiments. In the second case, the mock data assumes small but non-negligible DM–neutrino interactions in order to assess our ability to detect them and more generally, reconstruct possible deviations from Λ CDM. In both cases, we use projected sensitivities.

As in the previous section, we first consider CMB observables only and then include data from LSS surveys. We focus on two planned experiments: (i) COrE+ [27], a CMB space mission currently proposed for the 2015-2025 ESA call, and (ii) DESI [40], a multiplexed fibre-fed spectrograph to detect galaxies and quasars up to redshift $z \simeq 2$, that is expected to run in the 2018-2022 timeframe.

A. COrE+

We first produce full mock CMB data sets (temperature and E -polarisation, plus lensing). We then compute the fiducial angular power spectra, C_ℓ , using the best-fit cosmology reported by the *Planck* 2015 final mission, including the TT, TE and EE spectra [26]. To these C_ℓ , we add a noise component N_ℓ consistent with each COrE+ channel specification and given by

$$N_\ell^{IJ} = \delta_{IJ} \sigma^I \sigma^J \exp \left[\ell(\ell+1) \frac{\theta^2}{8 \ln 2} \right], \quad (14)$$

where $\sigma^{I,J}$ correspond to the temperature or polarisation errors (i.e. $I, J \in \{T, E\}$). The expected temperature and polarisation sensitivities are given in Tab. IV.

Following Ref. [49], the effective χ^2 is given by

$$\chi_{\text{eff}}^2(\vartheta_\alpha) = \sum_\ell (2\ell+1) f_{\text{sky}} \left(\frac{D}{|\bar{C}|} + \ln \frac{|\bar{C}|}{|\hat{C}|} - 3 \right), \quad (15)$$

Channel (GHz)	θ (arcmin)	ΔT ($\mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}$)	ΔP ($\mu\text{K}\cdot\text{arcmin}$)
105	10.0	2.68	4.63
135	7.8	2.63	4.55
165	6.4	2.67	4.61
195	5.4	2.63	4.54

TABLE IV. COrE+ 4-year sensitivity. θ is the Full Width at Half Maximum (FWHM) of the beam, ΔT and ΔP are the temperature and polarisation sensitivities respectively [27].

where D is a certain function of the noised power spectra (see Eq. (3.4) in Ref. [49]) and $|\bar{C}|$ and $|\hat{C}|$ represent the determinants of the theoretical and observed covariance matrices respectively. Finally, f_{sky} represents the observed fraction of the sky (in practice, it weights the correlations between multipoles when the map does not cover the full sky). For this analysis, we use $f_{\text{sky}} = 0.7$ [27].

The third step in our analysis is to compute a Gaussian likelihood around our fiducial spectra, using CLASS, tuned to obtain a 0.01% precision on the C_ℓ (as in Ref. [49], according to Eq. (15) and with a noise given by Eq. (14)). Then, assuming a 4-year sensitivity and using MONTE PYTHON to sample the parameter space with the priors given in Tab. I, we can predict the sensitivity of COrE+ to the Λ CDM parameters. Note that we only consider the TT, TE and EE observables. For simplicity, we neglect tensor modes (i.e. BT, BE and BB) as they have currently not been observed [50].

The results are presented in Tab. II. We infer that the future sensitivity of COrE+ to a DM–neutrino coupling would be (at 95% CL)

$$\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,0}^{(\text{COrE+})} \lesssim 3 \times 10^{-31} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2, \quad (16)$$

if s-wave and

$$\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,2}^{(\text{COrE+})} \lesssim 2 \times 10^{-41} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2, \quad (17)$$

if p-wave.

While we find that the standard cosmological parameters will be measured to much higher precision than with *Planck*, there is only a modest gain in sensitivity to the DM–neutrino cross section. Furthermore, these limits are slightly worse than those obtained after combining *Planck* with current LSS data in the weakly non-linear regime. From these results, we expect detection with COrE+ to be possible for $u \simeq 10^{-4}$.

To assess the power of COrE+ to detect and reconstruct the ν CDM cosmology or similar deviations to Λ CDM, we also produce mock data sets with $u = 10^{-4}$ and $u = 10^{-5}$ as fiducial models (for s-wave interactions). We then attempt to reconstruct these models by means of the usual MCMC method. The $u = 10^{-5}$ case is presented in Fig. 2 (and similarly for p-wave with $u = 10^{-14}$). With COrE+–like CMB data, one may reconstruct a universe with $u = 10^{-4}$ with a 40% 1σ error.

However, the $u = 10^{-5}$ case would provide us with CMB information entirely consistent with $u = 0$, in agreement with Eq. (16). Therefore, $u \gtrsim 5 \times 10^{-5}$ is the best sensitivity that one could achieve with CMB experiments in the near future.

B. DESI

The DESI survey [40] is expected to provide a wealth of information on the matter distribution (i.e. the $P(k)$) in the Universe at relatively small scales and up to redshift $z \sim 2$. To forecast the ability of DESI to discover new physics, we first compute the expected errors from the DESI instrument, following a Fisher matrix approach, which is the usual method used to forecast galaxy survey experiments^{4,5}.

The Fisher matrix is defined as the expectation value of the second derivative of the likelihood surface around its maximum. As long as the posterior distribution for the parameters is well approximated by a multivariate Gaussian function, its elements are given by [51–53]

$$F_{\alpha\beta} = \frac{1}{2} \text{Tr} \left[C^{-1} \frac{\partial C}{\partial \vartheta_\alpha} C^{-1} \frac{\partial C}{\partial \vartheta_\beta} \right], \quad (18)$$

where $C = S + N$ is the total covariance, which consists of signal S and noise N terms. Once more, we take a fiducial cosmology defined by the parameters that best fit the *Planck* 2015 TT, TE, EE + lowP data [54] in the presence of DM–neutrino interactions with $u = 10^{-5}$ in the s-wave scenario and $u = 10^{-14}$ in the p-wave scenario⁶.

Assuming a Gaussian likelihood for the DESI band powers, the Fisher matrix can be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} F_{\alpha\beta}^{\text{LSS}} &= \int_{\vec{k}_{\min}}^{\vec{k}_{\max}} \frac{\partial \ln P_{\text{gg}}(\vec{k})}{\partial \vartheta_\alpha} \frac{\partial \ln P_{\text{gg}}(\vec{k})}{\partial \vartheta_\beta} V_{\text{eff}}(\vec{k}) \frac{d\vec{k}}{2(2\pi)^3} \quad (19) \\ &= \int_{-1}^1 \int_{k_{\min}}^{k_{\max}} \frac{\partial \ln P_{\text{gg}}(k, \mu)}{\partial \vartheta_\alpha} \frac{\partial \ln P_{\text{gg}}(k, \mu)}{\partial \vartheta_\beta} V_{\text{eff}}(k, \mu) \\ &\quad \frac{2\pi k^2 dk d\mu}{2(2\pi)^3}, \end{aligned}$$

where V_{eff} is the effective volume of the survey and given by

$$V_{\text{eff}}(k, \mu) = \left[\frac{nP(k, \mu)}{nP(k, \mu) + 1} \right]^2 V_{\text{survey}}, \quad (20)$$

where μ is the cosine of the angle between the vector mode (\vec{k}) and the vector along the line of sight, and n is the galaxy number density (which is assumed to be constant throughout each of the redshift bins).

⁴ <http://desi.lbl.gov/>

⁵ <http://sci.esa.int/euclid/>

⁶ See Ref. [55] for more details on the Fisher matrix formalism for galaxy redshift surveys such as DESI.

To perform the analysis, we divide the data in redshift bins of width $\Delta z = 0.1$ and cut the small-scale data at $k = 0.25 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ to avoid the highly non-linear regime. The lowest wavenumber (i.e. the largest scale), k_{\min} , is chosen to be greater than $2\pi/\Delta V^{1/3}$, where ΔV represents the volume of the redshift shell. We note that using data in the non-linear regime would require numerical simulations of this model. This has been performed for specific cases in Refs. [10, 13]. As we will discuss later, constraints using this method are competitive with our DESI forecast.

The real-space linear DM power spectrum, P_{DM} , is related to the linear redshift-space galaxy power spectrum, P_{gg} , by

$$P_{\text{gg}}(k) = P_{\text{DM}}(k) (b + \beta \mu^2)^2, \quad (21)$$

where b is the bias relating galaxy to DM overdensities in real space (as in Eq. (10)) and β is the linear growth factor.

DESI is expected to cover 14,000 deg² of the sky in the redshift range $0.15 < z < 1.85$. We use the values of the bias given in Ref. [56] for the three types of DESI tracers, namely $b_{\text{ELG}}(z)D(z) = 0.84$ for the Emission Line Galaxies (ELGs), $b_{\text{LRG}}(z)D(z) = 1.7$ for the Luminous Red Galaxies (LRGs) and $b_{\text{QSO}}(z)D(z) = 1.2$ for the high redshift quasars (QSOs). Here, $D(z)$ is the normalised growth factor and both the bias and the growth factor are assumed to vary in each redshift bin accordingly to these expressions. To combine the Fisher matrices from the three DESI tracers, we use the multi-tracer technique of Ref. [57].

For the s-wave scenario, we obtain a 1σ error on the u parameter of

$$\delta u^{(\text{DESI})} \simeq 3.7 \times 10^{-6}, \quad (22)$$

for the fiducial value of $u = 10^{-5}$. For p-wave, we obtain:

$$\delta u^{(\text{DESI})} \simeq 4.4 \times 10^{-15}, \quad (23)$$

for the fiducial value of $u = 10^{-14}$. Crucially, DESI will ensure a $\sim 2.5\sigma$ detection of DM–neutrino interactions if the strength of such a coupling is $u \simeq 10^{-5}$ (or a $\sim 2\sigma$ detection for $u \simeq 10^{-14}$ if p-wave).

Our results are summarised in Fig. 2, where the DESI 68% and 95% CL allowed regions in the $(\Omega_{\text{DM}} h^2, u)$ plane are shown (assuming the *Planck* 2015 fiducial cosmology plus an interaction strength of $u = 10^{-5}$ if s-wave and $u = 10^{-14}$ if p-wave), along with the current constraints and the COrE+ reconstruction. One can clearly see the improvement in the extraction of a DM–neutrino coupling that will be provided by the next-generation LSS surveys. This analysis indicates that planned galaxy clustering surveys will provide an extremely powerful tool (competitive or even better than future CMB experiments) to test the fundamental properties of DM.

Since the main impact of νCDM is the damping of structure on small scales, one of the largest effects will

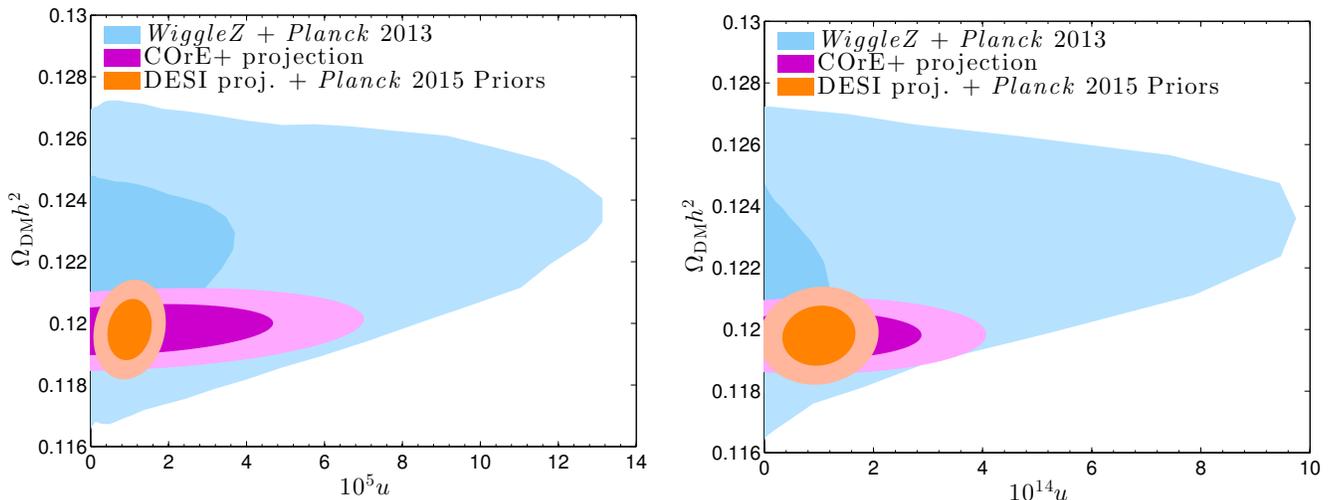


FIG. 2. The 68% and 95% CL allowed regions in the $(\Omega_{\text{DM}}h^2, u)$ plane for the s-wave (left) and p-wave (right) scenarios. Blue: current constraints from the combination of *WiggleZ* and *Planck* 2013 data, with $k_{\text{max}} = 0.12 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$; Magenta: projected sensitivity of the upcoming CORe+ CMB experiment, assuming $u = 10^{-5}$ (or $u = 10^{-14}$ if p-wave); Orange: projected sensitivity of the DESI galaxy survey, again assuming $u = 10^{-5}$ (or $u = 10^{-14}$ if p-wave), with $k_{\text{max}} = 0.25 h \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

be a reduction in the number of satellites around galaxies such as the Milky Way. Until now, the only way to study interactions at these scales has been via N -body simulations, which show that for DM–radiation couplings greater than $u \simeq 10^{-5}$, the number of satellites in the Milky Way would be much smaller than observed [10, 13]. Therefore, with the sensitivity of $u \simeq 3.7 \times 10^{-6}$ expected from DESI, we would have a handle on alternative scenarios to Λ CDM that modify our cosmic neighbourhood, independently of the assumptions that go into computationally expensive simulations.

V. CONCLUSION

Cosmology provides a promising tool to measure the particle properties of dark matter (DM). A DM coupling to visible or dark radiation (including neutrinos, axions, dark photons or any other light uncharged particle) can lead to strong departures from the standard Λ CDM cosmology and produce visible signatures for CMB experiments and LSS surveys. In the specific case of DM–neutrino scattering, one expects an enhancement of the CMB acoustic peaks due to the fact that DM is strongly coupled to neutrinos and vice versa, which delays the neutrino free-streaming epoch and alters DM clustering with respect to the standard Λ CDM picture. However, the largest impact is imprinted as a damping in the matter power spectrum, surveyed by large-scale structure (LSS) galaxy surveys.

In this study, we have looked for the optimal method to measure such small departures from the Λ CDM scenario. As cosmological measurements may constitute the only tool available to detect such effects, it is crucial to study the potential sensitivity of future experiments. We have

shown that i) with current CMB measurements, one can probe s-wave and p-wave DM–neutrino cross sections of $\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,0} \lesssim 6 \times 10^{-31} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2$ and $\sigma_{\text{DM}-\nu,2} \lesssim 2 \times 10^{-40} (m_{\text{DM}}/\text{GeV}) \text{ cm}^2$, respectively (at 95% CL) and ii) by simulating a next-generation CMB experiment (i.e. a CORe+-like mission) by means of a Markov Chain Monte Carlo analysis, one can only weakly improve on the current sensitivity.

The prospects for both constraints and detection are far better for future galaxy surveys, such as the DESI or Euclid experiments. Already, current LSS data, combined with *Planck* CMB measurements, provide competitive constraints to those forecasted for a future CMB experiment such as CORe+. Future data from the LSS DESI experiment alone could improve the current sensitivity limit by an order of magnitude, and provide an accurate (percent-level) measurement of the scattering cross section for values above that limit. Therefore, we have shown that galaxy clustering surveys are an excellent probe to detect new physics beyond Λ CDM. Remarkably, future LSS experiments will be sensitive to effects that until now have only been accessible via N -body simulations.

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