# Project: Galactic rotation curve and the NFW dark matter halo model

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The NFW profile is one of dark matter halos' most commonly used model profiles named after Julio Navarro, Carlos Frenk, and Simon White [1]. The profile is given as a function of the distance from the center r, and has two free parameters: the density parameter  $\rho_0$ , and the scale radius  $R_s$ .

$$\rho_{\rm NRF}(r) = \frac{\rho_0}{\frac{r}{R_s} (1 + \frac{r}{R_s})^2},\tag{1}$$

### 1 Misson-1: general analysis

- Find the approximate expressions for  $\rho_{\text{NRF}}$  near center  $(r \ll R_s)$  and far field  $(R \gg r_s)$  limits.
- Find the mass M(r) inside r.
- Find the galactic rotation curve v(r) using the Kepler's law taking the NRF model.

### 2 Mission-2: Milky way galaxy

For our galaxy, or Milky Way galaxy,  $R_s = 16$  kpc,  $\rho_0 = 1.4 \times 10^7 M_{\odot}/\text{kpc}^3$  where  $M_{\odot} \approx 2.0 \times 10^{30}$  kg is the solar mass.

- Assume the 'size' of the galaxy is  $(26.8 \pm 1.1)$  kpc. Find the total mass M.
- Draw the galactic rotation curve, v(r)[km/sec] vs r[kpc]. What's the velocity and the density of dark matter at the location of solar system  $r \simeq 8.1 \text{ kpc}$ ?

## 3 Mission-3: fitting real data

The data on the next page is showing the rotation velocities v as the function of the distances from the centers of various galaxies,  $R_{\rm kpc}$ , obtained by V. C. Rubin and her company in 1980 [2].

- Choose 5 sets of galaxy data in the table and analyze.
- Fit each data using the NFW profile and find the fitting parameters  $(\rho_0, R_S)$ .

### 4 Reference

- J. F. Navarro, C. S. Frenk and S. D. M. White, "The Structure of cold dark matter halos," Astrophys. J. 462, 563 (1996), [astro-ph/9508025].
- V. C. Rubin, W. K. Ford, jr., N. Thonnard, Astrophysical Journal, Part 1, vol. 238, (1980) http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/1980ApJ...238..471R

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Velocities in Plane of Galaxy (km s<sup>-1</sup>)

Figure 1: Rotation velocity data [2]