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NEWS CREATION SCIENCE UPDATE

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THURSDAY, APRIL 09, 2020

A recent study has ruled out a possible candidate for dark matter, the mysterious invisible “stuff” said to comprise 85% of the matter in our universe.^{1,2} The Big Bang model needs dark matter for a number of reasons. So, this is bad news for the Big Bang model.

Most secular cosmologists believe in dark matter. Some biblical creationists also think dark matter exists,³ but others (including me) are more skeptical.⁴ Scientists, both creationist and secular, who are skeptical of dark matter tend to think that what is being construed as evidence for dark matter is really due to an incomplete understanding of how gravity behaves over very large distances.⁵ Creationists who think dark matter is real point out that dark matter was not invented simply to “fix” problems with the Big Bang—astronomers were discussing the possibility of dark matter at about the same time, and even before, the Big Bang model was first proposed.

Although this is true, dark matter has nevertheless become extremely important to secular scientists. Big Bang cosmologists now invoke dark matter in their theories of galaxy formation.⁶ Furthermore, Big Bang cosmology *demand*s that this dark matter be composed of exotic, never-before-detected particles. This is because, in order for the Big Bang to produce the observed abundances of helium and hydrogen, Big Bang

cosmologists must assume a particular value for an adjustable parameter in their model. Once this is done, the Big Bang model can only generate enough “normal” matter (atoms) to account for about 15% of the matter thought to exist. This means that, by their reckoning, the dark matter can’t be made of atoms. But they have ruled out other forms of non-atomic matter (neutrinos, free electrons, etc.) for other reasons. This means that some exotic, new form of matter is the only remaining option.⁷

But the search for this exotic matter is not going very well. In the most recent disappointment, astronomers had speculated that an X-ray “glow” around distant clusters of galaxies was caused by the decay of a particular dark matter candidate called a *sterile neutrino*. If this were the case, then this X-ray glow should surround our own galaxy, since they think the Milky Way has its own dark matter halo. Yet this X-ray glow is absent from the Milky Way.^{1,2} Astroparticle physicist Ben Safdi (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) said, “It seems to be the final nail in the coffin of the dark matter interpretation [of the X-ray glow].”²

Big Bang theorists are becoming increasingly desperate to find this “missing” dark matter. Recently, some speculated that dark matter perhaps pre-dated the Big Bang somehow!⁸

Given the continuing woes besetting the Big Bang model, it is a wonder that so many, including so many evangelical Christians, seem to accept this model, despite its enormous scientific problems and its clear contradiction with Scripture.^{9,10}

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