

Gravitational Lensing

Looking for Invisible Matter in the Universe

More than 90 percent of the matter in the universe is invisible, hence the term *dark matter*. But the question of what exactly dark matter *is* remains outstanding in the field of astronomy.

How do you search for objects that cannot be seen?

We look for how the invisible object's gravity affects light from distant stars. Dark objects can act as lenses magnifying the starlight, and in this way reveal their presence.

Charles Alcock will describe how this magnification comes about and how we may exploit it to search for otherwise invisible objects.

Charles Alcock

*Head, Institute of
Geophysical and Planetary
Physics, Lawrence
Livermore National
Laboratory*

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Tuesday 4:00 pm

Room 141, Loomis Laboratory of Physics
1110 West Green Street, Urbana

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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