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Study of the Rotation Curve of a Low-Mass Disc Galaxy

Suparna Sau

*Centre of Excellence in Astronomical Studies, and
Department of Basic Science and Humanities
Institute of Engineering and Management,
University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata
India*

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1969-7990>
suparna.sau@uem.edu.in
suparnasau2025@gmail.com

Chitrita Dasgupta

*Department of Basic Science and Humanities
Institute of Engineering and Management,
University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata
India*

chitrita.dasgupta@uem.edu.in

Arkabrata Gupta

*Centre of Excellence in Astronomical Studies, and
Department of Basic Science and Humanities
Institute of Engineering and Management,
University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata
India*

ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8624-828X>
arkabrata.gupta@uem.edu.in

Rajiv Ganguly

*Centre of Excellence in Astronomical Studies, and
Department of Basic Science and Humanities
Institute of Engineering and Management,
University of Engineering and Management, Kolkata
India*

rajiv.ganguly@uem.edu.in

Abstract—In this work, we have performed a parametric fit of the rotation curve of a low-mass spiral disc galaxy, NGC2403. We have implemented the Marcov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) procedure to fit the observational data with our model. Then, we have summarized the properties of each of the parameters and their contributions to the rotation curve. Finally, we computed the mass of the galaxy.

Index Terms—Marcov Chain Monte Carlo Simulation, Low-mass disc galaxy, Rotation curve

I. INTRODUCTION

The study of galactic rotation curves has played a significant role in shaping our understanding of the dynamics of galaxies as well as the distribution of mass in the Universe. Since the pioneering work of Rubin [1], who demonstrated that the outer regions of spiral galaxies exhibit nearly flat rotation curves, it has become evident that luminous matter alone cannot account for the observed kinematics. This discrepancy between the dynamical and visible mass distributions has provided some of the strongest evidence for the existence of dark matter [2].

Rotation curves serve as an essential diagnostic tool for studying the contributions of different mass components in galaxies, including stars, gas, and the surrounding dark matter halo. Various theoretical models have been developed to characterize dark matter distributions. Cosmological simulations typically predict cuspy halo profiles, exemplified by the Navarro–Frenk–White (NFW) model [3], while observational

studies of low-surface-brightness and dwarf galaxies often favor cored alternatives, such as the Burkert profile [4]. Distinguishing between these models is essential for constraining the nature of dark matter and testing alternative theories of gravity.

Despite their importance, fitting rotation curves remains challenging due to several factors. Observational uncertainties such as distance errors, inclination corrections, and limited spatial resolution can significantly affect the derived velocities. From a theoretical perspective, degeneracies often arise between baryonic and dark matter contributions, making it difficult to obtain unique mass decompositions [5]. In addition, robust statistical techniques are required to explore the parameter space and quantify uncertainties. Recent approaches have employed Bayesian inference and Markov Chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) methods to overcome these limitations [6]–[8].

Large galaxy samples with high-quality data, such as the Spitzer Photometry and Accurate Rotation Curves (SPARC) database [9], have enabled systematic studies of mass modeling across a wide range of galaxy types. These datasets provide an unprecedented opportunity to test theoretical predictions of dark matter halo structures and their scaling relations.

In this work, we perform detailed modeling of the rotation curve of a low-mass galaxy NGC 2403, making use of rotational velocity data from SPARC observations [9]. In order to constrain the parameters of our model, we have adopted a Bayesian inference framework. Traditional least-

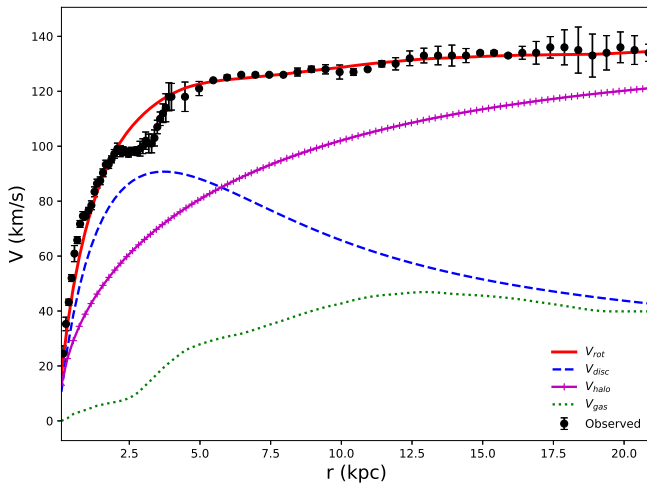


Fig. 7. Viable model predicted velocities: Total rotational velocity (Red solid line), halo velocity (magenta dashed line), disc velocity (blue line), gas velocity (green data points). The observed data points for total rotational velocity are plotted as black circular points.

$1.63 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$, which is consistent with the baryonic mass calculated by Verheijen & de Blok [20] ($1.3 \times 10^{10} M_{\odot}$).

V. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

This study investigates the velocity distribution of the low-mass spiral galaxy NGC 2403 using observational data from the SPARC database. The total rotational velocity of the galaxy is modeled as the combined contribution of gas, stellar disc, and a dark matter halo, where the halo is described by the NFW profile.

To constrain the model parameters, a Bayesian inference framework was adopted, with posterior distributions sampled using the MCMC ensemble sampler implemented in *emcee*. Four principal free parameters were considered: the central surface density of the disc (Σ_0), the radius of the scale of the disc (h_r), the characteristic halo mass (M_0), and the halo scale length (a). The contribution of each parameter in shaping the rotation curve was systematically explored, revealing how variations in baryonic and dark-matter distributions influence the kinematics of the galaxy. The posterior distributions show good convergence, and the values of the best-fitting parameters successfully reproduce the observed flat rotation curve. The decomposition of the model highlights that the stellar disc dominates the inner regions of the galaxy, while the dark matter halo dominates the dynamics at larger radii. We have got the following conclusions from the present work.

- The stellar disc sets the amplitude of the rotation curve in the central region ($r < 5$ kpc), whereas the dark-matter halo dominates beyond $r > 10$ kpc.
- The observed flatness of the outer rotation curve requires the presence of a significant and extensive dark matter halo.
- The four free parameters— Σ_0 , h_r , M_0 , and a —have distinct physical effects, controlling respectively the disc's

mass concentration, radial extent, halo mass, and halo concentration.

- The excellent agreement between the modeled and observed velocities and mass confirms that a disc + gas + NFW halo model provides a reliable description of the dynamical structure of NGC 2403.

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