



Contribution ID: 124

Type: **Oral**

Searching for Dark Matter in M31 with HAWC

Friday 11 August 2017 14:15 (15 minutes)

There is overwhelming evidence that non-baryonic dark matter constitutes $\sim 85\%$ of the mass in the Universe. Many promising dark matter candidates, like Weakly Interacting Massive Particles (WIMPs), are predicted to produce Standard Model particles like gamma rays via annihilation or decay. These gamma-rays would be observed by ground-based arrays like the High Altitude Water Cherenkov (HAWC) Observatory. With its wide field of view and constant monitoring, HAWC is well-suited to search for dark matter in extended targets like M31. We will present results from our search for a signal from dark matter annihilation or decay in M31 using 760 days of data from HAWC. A detection of dark matter through cosmic messengers would not only confirm the existence of dark matter through a non-gravitational force, but also indicate the existence of physics beyond the Standard Model.

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Session Classification: Dark matter

Track Classification: Dark matter (direct detection, indirect detection, theory, etc.)