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Impact of the nature of the dark matter on structure formation

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I will discuss the key difference between warm dark matter and cold dark matter on the formation of Milky Way-like galaxies, demonstrating that a generic aspect of WDM is the formation of stars in filaments that connect to the forming galaxy. Such dense filaments also appear as Lyman Limit systems (LLSs) in the spectra of background QSOs, and the correlation function of LLSs could potentially constrain WDM models. Finally I will show that the dynamics of the even denser HI absorbers- so-called Damped Lyman-alpha systems (DLAs) - is also affected by the nature of the dark matter.

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