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Searching for Baryons

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The current precision cosmological measurements, in agreement with big bang nucleosynthesis studies, tell us that approximately 95 percent of the Universe is 'dark' and only 5 percent of the Universe is 'visible' which comprises of baryons.

However, observations reveal only a small fraction of this baryon budget. A key cosmological question arises as to 'where are these missing baryons?'. Simulations and past observations suggest that some of these are in the diffuse cosmic web. Recently, they have been observed, and speculated, to be hiding in the outskirts of massive halos, from Milky Way type galaxies to clusters. Upcoming surveys have the potential to unravel the mystery of the missing baryons.

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