

## 15.8: Recent Data on the Universe

**Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe or WMAP** is a new satellite, which is providing solid data in support of cosmological research. WMAP has helped to significantly refine the age of the Universe to 13.7 billion years old  $\pm 1\%$  (137 million years).

WMAP has also provided data in regard to the matter in the Universe:

- Dark Matter: 73%
- Cold Dark Matter: 23%
- Atoms (& Molecules): 4%

This infers that the matter we are used to – and what we are composed of – only makes up 4% of the Universe. This brings us back to the problem: where is the Dark Matter?

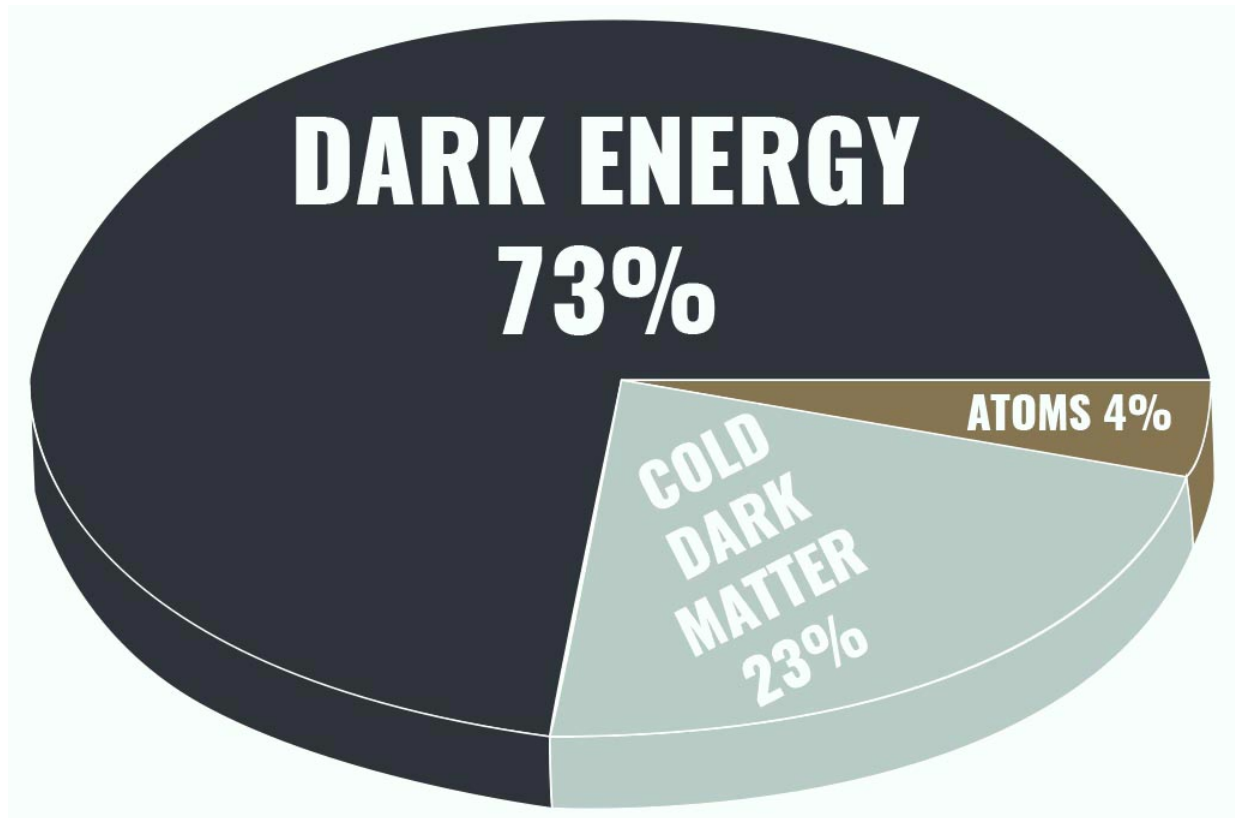


Image courtesy of Florida State College at Jacksonville.

This page titled [15.8: Recent Data on the Universe](#) is shared under a [CC BY 4.0](#) license and was authored, remixed, and/or curated by [Lumen Learning](#) via [source content](#) that was edited to the style and standards of the LibreTexts platform.