

Absorption Measurements of Cold Halo Gas: FIRST's Sensitivity

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Given the sensitivities presently estimated for the FIRST instruments, in particular the high resolution spectrometer HIFI, I will discuss FIRST's ability to detect cold halo gas by absorption against extragalactic background sources in the important fine structure lines of abundant species accessible to FIRST. I compare this to the limits reachable by observations with other instruments and in other wavelength bands.