

Dark Radiation Isocurvature from Cosmological Phase Transitions

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Cosmological first-order phase transitions are typically associated with physics beyond the Standard Model, and thus of great theoretical and observational interest. In this talk, I will show that a broad class of non-thermal first-order phase transitions could generate distinct large-scale isocurvature in dark radiation that can be observable in the CMB. We derive constraints on ΔN_{eff} from phase transitions based on CMB+BAO data, which can be much stronger than those from adiabatic initial conditions. I will also demonstrate that since perturbations of dark radiation have a non-Gaussian origin, searches for non-Gaussianity in the CMB could also place a stringent bound on ΔN_{eff} .

Primary author(s) : BUCKELY, Matthew (Rutgers University); WEIKERT, Mitchell (Rutgers University); FERNANDEZ, Nicolas (Rutgers University); DU, Peizhi (University of Science and Technology of China)

Presenter(s) : DU, Peizhi (University of Science and Technology of China)

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