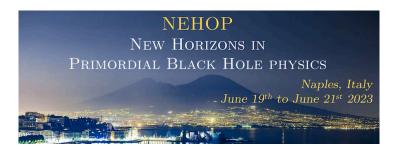
New Horizons in Primordial Black Hole physics (NEHOP)



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Axion-like particles from light primordial black holes

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 17:00 (20 minutes)

We consider a cosmological scenario in which the very early Universe experienced a transient epoch of matter domination due to the formation of a large population of primordial black holes (PBHs) with masses $M \leq 10^9$ g, that evaporate before Big Bang nucleosynthesis. In this context, Hawking radiation would be a nonthermal mechanism to produce a cosmic background of axion-like particles (ALPs). We assume the minimal scenario in which these ALPs couple only with photons. In the case of ultralight ALPs ($m_a \leq 10^{-9} \; {\rm eV}$) the cosmic magnetic fields might trigger ALP-photon conversions, while for masses m a \boxtimes 10 eV spontaneous ALP decay in photon pairs would be effective. We investigate the impact of these mechanisms on the cosmic X-ray background, on the excess in X-ray luminosity in Galaxy Clusters, and on the process of cosmic reionization. We outline possible developments of this scenario including BH rotation and superradiance.

Primary author: Mr MONTANINO, Daniele (Università del Salento & INFN)

Presenter: Mr MONTANINO, Daniele (Università del Salento & INFN)

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