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Axions and the transparency of the Universe

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The propagation of high energy photons across the Universe is hindered by various radiation fields with which they interact. In this talk we will explain how the presence of an axion like particle can change this propagation and make the Universe more transparent. This results in high energy photons making it across cosmic gulfs we would normally not expect them to be able to traverse. We will review the observational situation and the uncertainties inherent in our lack of knowledge of the intergalactic radiation fields and indeed the magnetic field of the Milky Way.

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