

Gravitational waves from cosmological phase transitions

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Cosmology is to some extent a search for 'relics' of earlier phases of the Universe. A famous example of this is the cosmic microwave background. Another observational signature which would allow us to probe even earlier epochs of the Universe is a background of gravitational waves. In my talk I discuss the characteristics of the gravitational wave background we might expect from a first order phase transition in the early Universe and I outline the prospects of its observation.

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