

Cosmological collider physics beyond the inflationary Hubble scale

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The cosmological collider physics program aims at probing particle physics at energies as high as the inflationary Hubble scale, $H \leq 10^{13}$ GeV, using precision measurements from CMB, large scale structure surveys, and 21-cm cosmology. Heavy particles produced during inflation can impart unique correlations in the density fluctuations across the sky, leading to non-gaussianity (NG) in the cosmological observables. This presents a unique opportunity for the “direct detection” of particles with masses as large as H . However, the strength of this signal drops exponentially due to a Boltzmann-like factor as masses exceed H . In this talk, I will discuss a mechanism that overcomes this suppression and broadens the scope of cosmological collider physics, focusing on the case of a massive complex scalar field. The mechanism allows us to harness large kinetic energy of the inflaton to produce particles with masses as large as $\sim 60H$. I will show that NG with $f_{\text{NL}} \sim \mathcal{O}(0.01 - 10)$ can be obtained, and delineate a procedure to infer the mass of the heavy field from the signal.

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No

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