

The Physics of a Trillion Degrees

A microsecond after the Big Bang, all of space existed at a trillion degrees, one hundred thousand times hotter than the center of the sun. 13.8 billion years later, massive collaborations of thousands of scientists recreate these conditions of the early universe thousands of times a second in one of the most expensive and complicated science experiments ever attempted. In this talk I provide a general introduction to the physics explored in these Little Bangs, ephemeral fireballs that—during their lifetimes of less than a billionth of a trillionth of a second—are droplets of the hottest, most perfect fluid in the universe.