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Sterile neutrinos and low reheating temperature

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It is commonly assumed that the cosmological and astrophysical bounds on the mixings of sterile with active neutrinos are much more stringent than those obtained from laboratory measurements. We point out that in scenarios with a very low reheating temperature $T_{RH} \ll 100$ MeV at the end of (the last episode of) inflation or entropy creation, the abundance of sterile neutrinos becomes largely suppressed with respect to that obtained within the standard framework. Thus, in this case cosmological bounds become much less stringent than usually assumed, allowing sterile neutrinos to be “visible” in future experiments.

Author: Dr PALOMARES RUIZ, Sergio (IST Lisbon)

Presenter: Dr PALOMARES RUIZ, Sergio (IST Lisbon)

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