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Gravitational Wave Gastronomy

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The symmetry breaking of grand unified gauge groups in the early universe often leaves behind relic topological defects such as cosmic strings, domain walls, or monopoles. For some symmetry breaking chains that produce domain walls, the accompanied presence of strings can lead to the destruction of the domain wall network, alleviating tension with present-day cosmology and to unique gravitational wave signatures. In this talk, I will discuss these gravitational wave signals which arise when a domain wall network is "eaten" by cosmic strings that nucleate as holes on the wall or when a string network is "eaten" by domain walls that attach to the strings.

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