

Gravitational self-interactions of a degenerate quantum scalar field

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Axions (and axion-like particles) produced by the vacuum realignment mechanism in the early universe form a highly degenerate Bose gas and are a cold dark matter candidate. Dark matter axions thermalize as a result of their gravitational self-interactions when the photon temperature reaches approximately 500 eV. When thermalizing, the axion fluid undergoes Bose-Einstein condensation, a quantum process. A formalism is introduced to help calculate the outcome of this process.

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