

Fundamental physics in the cosmos: The early, the large and the dark Universe



Contribution ID: 63

Type: **not specified**

Thermalizing sterile neutrino dark matter

Wednesday 27 September 2017 14:17 (17 minutes)

Sterile neutrinos produced through resonant or non-resonant oscillations are a well motivated dark matter candidate, but recent constraints from observations have ruled out most of the parameter space. Based on general considerations we find a thermalization mechanism which can increase the yield after resonant and non-resonant production. At the same time, it alleviates the growing tensions with structure formation and X-ray observations and even revives simple non-resonant production as a viable way to produce sterile neutrino dark matter. We investigate the parameters required for the realization of the thermalization mechanism in a representative model and find that a simple estimate based on energy- and entropy conservation describes the mechanism well.

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Session Classification: Parallel Session: Cosmology & Astroparticle Physics - Neutrinos

Track Classification: Cosmology & Astroparticle Physics