

Friday, September 25, 2020, 11:15 h, for 50 registered attendees at
WHGA/001*

and via zoom <https://psich.zoom.us/j/93303443557>

* register by email markus.mueller@psi.ch

PSI Colloquium

Prof. Ruth Durrer,
University of Geneva, Switzerland

Testing General Relativity with Cosmological Observations

Abstract

General Relativity (GR) is immensely successful. With the late discovery of gravitational waves from black hole and neutron star mergers, it has passed all the tests with flying colors. But so far, all observations have mainly tested the vacuum equations of GR. The most important non-vacuum case, cosmology, is in agreement with GR only after the introduction of two otherwise unknown components, 'Dark Matter' and 'Dark Energy' which amount to about 96% of the total energy budget of the present Universe. This let people in the field question the validity of GR for cosmology. Might it be that GR is flawed on large, cosmological scales? Or in the presence of matter in general?

But how can we test Einstein's equation in the presence of matter. Can't we simply move any modification of the Einstein tensor to the right hand side and call it a 'dark matter/energy' component?

In my talk I shall discuss possible ways (partially) out of this dilemma. How to test both, the left and the right hand side of Einstein's equations with cosmological observations.

NO COFFEE before the Colloquium

CONTACT

Markus Müller
Tel. +41 56 310 4430

Paul Scherrer Institut
Forschungsstrasse 111
5232 Villigen PSI
Switzerland