



Contribution ID: 70

Type: **Invited Speaker / Conférencier invité**

Future Directions in Cosmology

Friday 20 June 2014 09:15 (30 minutes)

The coming years promise a deluge of data concerning the properties and evolution of the universe. These data will include large galaxy surveys, providing 3D maps of the universe extending well past halfway to the horizon, and precise measurements of the polarization of the cosmic microwave background, providing both a search for gravitational waves from the early universe and a precise map of the gravitational potential through its characteristic deflection of photon trajectories. Through these studies, the next few years should see precise measurements of the properties of dark energy, new probes of the nature of dark matter, and measurements of neutrino masses at a precision comparable to the minimum mass inferred from neutrino oscillation experiments.

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Session Classification: (F1-3) Future of Cosmic Frontier: Cosmolgy - PPD-DTP-DPIM / Avenir de la frontière cosmique: cosmologie - PPD-DPT-DPIM

Track Classification: Theoretical Physics / Physique théorique (DTP-DPT)