Particle Physics on the Plains 2018



Contribution ID: 10

Type: not specified

Multistep Single-Field Strong Phase Transitions from New TeV Scale Fermions

Saturday 13 October 2018 11:15 (20 minutes)

In spite of the vast literature on the subject of strongly first order Electroweak Phase Transitions (SFOEWPT), which can provide the necessary conditions for generating the Baryon Asymmetry in the Universe, fermioninduced SFOEWPTs still remain a rather uncharted territory. In this talk, we consider a simple fermionic extension of the Standard Model (SM) involving one $SU(2)_L$ doublet and two singlet Vector-Like Leptons (VLLs), strongly coupled to the Higgs scalar and with masses close to the TeV scale. We show how such a simple scenario can give rise to a non-trivial thermal history of the Universe, involving strongly first order multistep phase transitions occurring at temperatures close to the electroweak (EW) scale. Finally, we investigate the distinct Gravitational Wave (GW) signatures of these phase transitions at future GW detectors, such as eLISA, and briefly discuss how the VLLs can be searched for at the LHC.

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Presenter: ANGELESCU, Andrei (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) **Session Classification:** Higgs Physics II