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Lessons on massive black hole binaries from pulsar timing arrays

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Pulsar timing arrays (PTAs) are dramatically improving their sensitivity. Current upper limits start to be in tension with vanilla models of gravitational wave driven, circular supermassive black hole binaries (SMBHBs), although nothing can be safely ruled out yet. I will discuss how we can use current and future PTA limits to investigate the nature of SMBHBs and learn about their overall cosmic population and the dynamics bringing them to the final gravitational wave driven merger.

Author: Dr SESANA, Alberto (University of Birmingham)

Presenter: Dr SESANA, Alberto (University of Birmingham)

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