



Contribution ID: 285 Contribution code: S03-GC-002

Type: **Invited talk (virtual)**

The Hubble Tension

Tuesday, 30 August 2022 16:30 (30 minutes)

Over the past several years, a foremost development in cosmology has been the rise of the so-called Hubble tension. This refers to the disagreement between the measurements of the expansion rate of the universe - the Hubble constant (H_0). Direct measurements of H_0 using the astronomical “distance ladder” find H_0 of about 67 km/s/Mpc, while the analysis of the cosmic microwave background anisotropies finds 74 km/s/Mpc, with both measurement errors small enough to make the discrepancy highly statistically significant. I will explain the ingredients that go into the two measurements, and the difficulty of explaining the tension with unaccounted-for systematic errors.

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Session Classification: S03 Gravitation and Cosmology

Track Classification: Scientific Sections: S03 Gravitation and Cosmology