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Abstract for an Invited Paper for the APR05 Meeting of the American Physical Society

CMB measurements and early universe cosmology

HIRANYA PEIRIS, University of Chicago

I will summarize the current constraints on inflation from CMB measurements and complementary probes of cosmology. I will discuss the importance of a measurement of primordial tensor modes, which fixes the energy scale of inflation; this is arguably the single most interesting cosmological parameter that is not currently fixed by observations. Finally, I will consider the exciting prospect of potentially observing modifications to the power spectrum of cosmological perturbations that might be introduced by new physics at the shortest length scales, using future ultra-high-precision CMB data.