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**Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation** JOHANNA NELSON, State University of New York at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY — Cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) is red-shifted photons left over from the Big Bang that have a blackbody spectrum, which peaks in the microwave range. CMB has a temperature of 2.725 +/- 0.002 Kelvin and is isotropic up to one part in a thousand. In my talk, I will give a brief overview of CMB, along with the history of its discovery. Then I will discuss the anisotropy of the radiation and past studies of these temperature fluctuations. My primary focus will be on recent balloon-based experiments such as BOOMERanG and MAXIMA. Finally, I will discuss the cosmological implications of these observations, in particular, their relevance to understanding the shape and composition of the universe.

- Prefer Oral Session  
 Prefer Poster Session

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