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# COSMOLOGY AS A NOBEL SCIENCE

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The attribution of the Nobel Prize for Physics to Roger Penrose in 2020 and to Jim Peebles in 2019 as a reward for their lifelong contributions to Cosmology, following those to Perlmutter, Schmidt and Riess in 2011, to Smoot and Mather in 2006, and to Penzias and Wilson in 1978, testifies the extraordinary progress achieved by this branch of physics in the past few decades. Today we have a successful cosmological model, based on General Relativity, which accounts for a wide range of observational evidence indicating that some 95% of the matter-energy content in the universe in the form of yet unknown components. The most stringent experimental data come from measurements of the cosmic microwave background (CMB), the relic radiation of the big bang released 13.8 billion years ago, which lead to percent-precision estimates of the model's parameters. The new generation of CMB projects aims at probing physical processes acting in the first tiny fraction of a second of the universe.



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