

# Dark Interactions 2024

Vancouver, Oct. 16-18



Contribution ID: 66

Type: **not specified**

## Early Dark Energy During Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

*Wednesday, 16 October 2024 16:10 (20 minutes)*

An early dark energy (EDE) component during big bang nucleosynthesis (BBN) affects some observables like the deuterium abundance ( $D/H$ ), helium fraction ( $Y_p$ ), and the effective relativistic degrees of freedom ( $N_{\text{eff}}$ ). Thus, we propose a model of EDE present during the BBN epoch where the EDE remains constant until a critical time, after which it transitions into either coupled radiation, dark radiation, or kination. By comparing this model's outcomes with observed elemental abundances and  $N_{\text{eff}}$  from Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) data, we constrain the EDE parameters and explore their relationship to BBN inputs like the baryon-to-photon ratio, neutron lifetime, and number of neutrino species. We also explore whether an EDE scenario can resolve the recent tension in primordial helium measurements from EMPRESS.

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**Session Classification:** Dark Sectors

**Track Classification:** Contributed Talks