

MACRO: Sonifying the cosmic signals

Listening to the cosmos. Can blind people do it better?

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ABSTRACT

The discoveries of the Gravitational Wave signals, by LIGO and Virgo, whose frequencies span the acoustic bandwidth, was metaphorically baptised as a first listening of the sound of the Universe. This discovery associated to the multi-messenger detection of other cosmic signals, start transforming space to an environmental “place” (topos) moving from the sublime to the socially determined, “beautiful”. Furthermore, these last years there is the mounting realisation that this multi-messenger apprehension of the Universe should be accompanied by a multi-sensorial effort of perception, using the sonic in the effort of separation of noise over background next to the visual. And the above do not concern only the effort to understand the Universe as cosmos, but also the effort to understand the human environment and the anthropogenic noise of our social environment as equally potent versions of cosmos as order. The gravitational wave detectors through their extreme sensibility, are the locus of correlation of these different versions of cosmos.