

Introduction to Cosmology 2nd Ryden Solution Manual

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2

Fundamental observations

In the second edition of *Introduction to Cosmology*, Section 2.1 contains a more physically realistic analysis of Olbers' paradox. Instead of treating stars as point light sources, as I did in the first edition, I acknowledge that they are spheres of finite size, and use a mean free path analysis to find the resulting surface brightness of the night sky in an infinite Euclidean universe.

In Section 2.2, I clarify the difference between the Copernican principle and the cosmological principle, which I failed to make clear in the first edition.

Section 2.3 contains a bit more historical background on Hubble's law, placing it in the context of the work by Lemaitre and others. My default value of the Hubble constant, taken to be $H_0 = 70 \pm 7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ in the first edition, is $H_0 = 68 \pm 2 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ in the second edition. (Note that although this value of H_0 is consistent with the WMAP 9-year results and the Planck 2015 results, it is lower than values found by direct measurements in the local universe. For instance, Riess et al. (2016) find $H_0 = 73.24 \pm 1.74 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. In the textbook, I do not bring up this tension; you may want to use it as a topic of discussion with your students.)

In Section 2.4, I clarify the discussion of the different neutrino mass states, placing upper and lower limits on the sum of the neutrino masses. (These limits reappear in Chapter 11, during the discussion of the difference between hot dark matter and cold dark matter.)

Exercises

2.1 Assume you see a perfect blackbody at a temperature of $T = 310 \text{ K}$.

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Guillaume Favre



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