Stars, Galaxies & the Universe Announcements

- Reading Quiz #13- in class Wednesday (bonus points today)
- HW #11 due on Friday (12-3) by 5 pm!
- Final Exam will be cumulative; Thursday 16 Dec @7:30 am in VAN LR 1; 150 points – 50 questions @3 pts each! We will have a review session sometime during Finals Week.

- Tuesday (12-14) evening @ 7 pm?

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Stars, Galaxies & the Universe Lecture Outline

Cosmology (Ch. 26)

- (1) What is cosmology?
- (2) Age of the Universe & Fate(s) of the Universe
- (3) The Early Universe ("Big Bang")

(4) The Fate of the Universe: (WEDNESDAY)- Dark Matter, Dark Energy

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Big Bang Principles:

- The universe was once in a hot, dense state from which it began to expand (Hubble's law/redshifts for distant objects indicate the universe is expanding).
- 2. The Big Bang occurred **everywhere**, not in any one place or in any one direction.
- 3. Two things to keep in mind:
- under extreme density, temperature, interactions between light, matter, particles happen QUICKLY!
- after ~1 second, the universe changed very slowly; we can not unable shall the physics dufing the first 90-43 second (Planck tinffe)







The first microsecond (10^{-6} sec) :
• T ~ 10^{13} K – a million times hotter than the Sun's core
• radiation associated with this extreme T were very high energy GAMMA RAYS
• so hot and dense, neutrinos interacted with matter
• particles and anti-particles produced, then destroyed
Proton E=mc ² at work!
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After the first second:

- the resulting photons could no longer make particles
- neutrinos stopped interacting with matter the d e n s e as it expanded. universe became much l e s s
- For the next 300 seconds:
- Temperatures were right for nuclear reactions to take place

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• much of the Hydrogen (25%) formed into Helium – "primordial" Helium abundance

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Shortcomings of the Big Bang Model

- So far, we have considered the evidence which supports the Big Bang theory.
- Prior to 1980, cosmologists had identified three major questions which the theory was unable to answer:
 - 1. Where does structure come from?
 - 2. Why is the large-scale Universe so smooth (horizon problem)?
 - 3. Why is the density of matter almost critical ?
- In 1981, physicist Alan Guth realized that the Grand Unified Theories could hold the answers to these questions.
- When the strong force froze out of the GUT force...
 - it should have released enough energy to expand the Universe 10^{30} times in less than 10^{-36} sec

we call this dramatic expansion inflation
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