

Problems Class III

Dr. James Mullaney

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Equations and constants

The Friedmann Equation:

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2}\epsilon - \frac{\kappa c^2}{R_0^2} \frac{1}{a^2}$$

The Fluid Equation:

$$\dot{\epsilon} + 3\frac{\dot{a}}{a}(\epsilon + P) = 0$$

Cosmological parameter values in The Benchmark Model:

$$\Omega_{M,0} = 0.31, \quad \Omega_{D,0} = 0.69, \quad \Omega_{R,0} = 9 \times 10^{-5}, \quad H_0 = 67.7 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$$

Parsec in SI units: $1 \text{ pc} = 3.09 \times 10^{16} \text{ m}$

Prologue

This was Problems Class 3 in 2019. I've since changed the Problems Class 3 to cover more topics, but the exercises in this homework are still useful to get you more familiar with manipulating the Friedmann Equation and deriving its alternative form. I therefore recommend you attempt these questions as an unassessed homework. Answers can be found in the same folder.

Questions

1. Derive the expression for ϵ_m , the evolving matter energy density, in terms of scale factor, $a(t)$, the current critical energy density, $\epsilon_{c,0}$, and the current matter parameter, $\Omega_{m,0}$.
2. Write the expressions for the evolving radiation energy and dark energy densities, ϵ_p and ϵ_D , in the same respective terms.
3. Derive the expression for $\frac{-\kappa c^2}{R_0^2}$ in terms of the Hubble constant, H_0 , and the current energy parameter, Ω_0 .
4. Putting the answers from all the above questions together, obtain the expression for \dot{a} in terms of the Hubble constant, H_0 , the various energy parameters, $\Omega_{i,0}$, and the scale factor, $a(t)$.
5. And if we have time: by differentiating the answer you obtained in question 4 with respect to time, obtain the expression for the current acceleration of the Universe. Is the Universe currently accelerating, decelerating, or neither?