Term Paper Rubric

Your term paper should be around 10 pages in length and will be worth 80 points. You will select one of the approved scientific papers listed on the Class Website as the focus of your project.

For your project, you will explain the content of the scientific paper, confirm some of the published results, and explain the importance of these results to cosmology.

Grading Breakdown:

85% Content
10% Formatting and Figures
5% Spelling and Grammar

Formatting:

Your project should be formatted the same as a scientific paper:

Title
Author
Abstract
Introduction
Data
Method
Results
Discussion
Conclusion
References
Appendix

Abstract: Summary of the contents and brief presentation of the results

Introduction: Introduce any necessary background information

Data: Introduce the data that will be used

Method: How the results were obtained

Results: What you obtained

Discussion: Importance of the results

Conclusion: Brief Summary of your project

References: Citations (Cite the scientific paper you picked and any other relevant sources you used such as Ryden's book)

Appendix: Extraneous figures/tables

The main goals of the project are to demonstrate your understanding of a cosmology topic within a published paper and to become familiar with scientific papers and how they are written. We would prefer that you manually confirm some results within each paper by recreating some of the figures or tables and explaining their importance. This would most easily be accomplished through some sort of programming/plotting language (Python, MATLAB, Excel, LoggerPro, etc...).

IMPORTANT NOTE: We understand that programming is not a prerequisite skill for the class; therefore if you demonstrate to one of the TAs that you are unable to reproduce results due to lack of programming experience, we will discuss alternative methods for showing your understanding of the material; however, you must consult the one of the TAs if this is the case for you, otherwise you will lose points.

We will briefly spend time in class going over each paper individually and what is expected for each topic (i.e. some examples of what results could be confirmed).