

BIG BANG NUCLEOSYNTHESIS

BIG BANG KERNESYNTSE



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MASTER'S THESIS IN COSMOLOGY

FEBRUARY 2024

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Colophon

Big Bang Nucleosynthesis

— *Big Bang Kernesyntese*

Master's thesis by Hans. Written under supervision by Asc.Prof. Thomas Tram, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Aarhus University.

Typeset by the author with L^AT_EX and the memoir document class, using Linux Libertine and Linux Biolinum 11.0/13.6pt.

Printed at Aarhus University

Abstract (English)

Nucleosyntehesis is wack

Resumé (Dansk)

Kernesyntese er spøjs

List of Corrections

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Preface

This thesis concludes my Master's degree in/at

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Introduction

This thesis is about nucleosynthesis

BBN physics and cosmology

This will be about the physics of BBN.

1.1 cosmology

citation test Kippenhahn, Weigert, and Weiss [6]

1.1.1 Electron/positron density and pressure

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1.1.2 Nuclear reactions

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BBN code

2.1 History of BBN codes

The concept of Big Bang nucleosynthesis is almost as old as the Big Bang theory itself, with the with it first being proposed in the paper by Alpher, Bethe, and Gamow [1]. This early model used neutron capture and subsequent beta decay as the mechanism for BBN, though its greatest problem was the inability to explain the unusually high abundance of oxygen and carbon in the present universe. And so, it was in large part supplanted by the new theory of stellar nucleosynthesis, as the main explanation for the origin of elements.

During the next decades it became clear that stars could not be the only explanation for the present element abundances, and with the discovery of the CMB in 1965, new attention was brought to the early universe. Only a year later Peebles showed how simple BBN physics could be used to explain the high helium abundance, unaccounted for by stellar nucleosynthesis [2].

In the following years Wagoner created and refined the first proper BBN code, described in a series of defining papers[3][4][5]. With the legacy of this code still heavily influencing the way BBN calculations are performed today.

By the late 80s the Wagoner code was severely outdated. With multiple inefficiencies due to among other things, the fact that it was originally designed to run on punch cards. This inspired Lawrence Kawano to create the now ubiquitous NUC123, colloquially know as the Kawano code. Which set the gold Standard for all future BBN codes.

In current day and age, there exists multiple publicly available BBN codes, and a countless number of private codes. The most well know of these are PArthENoPE spiritual successor to NUC123, AlterBBN, and PRIMAT.

2.2 Structure of BBN codes

The objective of any BBN code is to solve the system of differential equations described in chapter 1.

2.2.1 Wagoner

2.2.2 Kawano

2.2.3 Modern codes

PArthENoPE, AlterBBN, PRIMAT

2.2.4 AlterBBN

AlterBBN is written in c and based on Kawano's NUC123. It maintains the same basic structure and integration method, though it uses natural units for everything but the reaction network. However, they define energy in GeV rather than MeV. What separates AlterBBN for other codes is that as the name implies, it allows the use of alternate cosmological models and parameters. Therefore, this code is especially well suited for testing the effects these alterations have on final abundances. Wot

Comparison with AlterBBN

Comparison with AlterBBN

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