Leah Crane Reaction Paper

I thought the presentation on a whole was very good and well organized. I really appreciated the organization and the repeated showing of the overview after each section. I thought that it gave the powerpoint a sense of direction and helped to understand why each section was important. I thought that the powerpoint itself wasn’t exactly visually appealing, but I didn’t think it looked bad either. The slides themselves, however, were good in the sense that they didn’t usually have too much text on them. There was plenty of usage of pictures, graphs, etc that helped to show concepts. However, I felt that the way the equations were displayed was visually displeasing. The white boxes stuck out from the colored background in a bad way, in my opinion.

As for the talk itself, I thought that the presenter overall did a good job of explaining the various concepts present. I thought the pace was not too slow and not too fast. However, I felt that sometimes there was too much reading off of notes. There were occasional pauses, but that didn’t detract too much from the presentation. However, I felt that though what was said was good, at times the style of speaking was monotonous for me, particularly during the longer explanations. The frequent usage of jokes was very good and helped to lessen the monotony though. Finally, I liked the speakers confidence throughout the talk.

As for the content, I thought the talk overall did a good job of managing scope and depth. I really enjoyed the sound analogy used to explain the Fourier Series transform of one of the tests. I thought that the fourier series explanation was necessary and was done well. I also thought that the choice to focus more on the origins and consequences large scale structures was a good one. The explanation of the different possible endings of the universe, though was something I knew about earlier, I didn’t realize that we were currently at the point where all three paths intersected, and that was cool to learn about.

However, there were some parts that I did not like as much. First, I thought that the redshift example was extremely trivial, and since the talk is directed for physics peers, I feel was unneeded. Having the equations for redshift was fine but having the example, even though the specific numbers were used much later, was not worth it. Contrasting this, I wish you had talked more about the supergalactic coordinates with the redshift survey of the Laniakea supercluster. Though you attempted to explain why the vertical axis had no galaxies, I didn’t really understand it too well. Since not every physics major has taken an astronomy class, I would have found it beneficial to briefly explain it. Also, I wished you talked more on the hot and cold dark matter and why each one was associated with a certain scale of structure rather than simply stating it. But I do understand that there is a time restraint to this talk, and that not everything can be talked about in depth.

Once again, I thought that the talk as a whole was well thought out and well delivered.