

The Cosmic Microwave Background: A Treasure Trove of Physical Effects and Information

Dr. George Jones¹

The universe originated 13.8 billion years ago with a Big Bang, and has been expanding ever since. How do we “know” this? One line of evidence involves the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB), which is radiation that started streaming to us 370,000 years after the Big Bang.

In this talk I will explain the origin of the CMB and how its features can be used to extract information about the universe. I also will relate this to the scientific method. This talk will include some mathematics, but I will endeavour to explain most things in non-mathematical terms.

¹Department of Physics, University of Northern British Columbia, Prince George, B.C., V2N 4Z9, Canada.