## **Class Notes**

Speaker: James Bullock, Ph.D

http://ocw.uci.edu/lectures/physics\_20b\_cosmology\_lec\_1\_introducton\_to\_cosmology.html (26:05 - 44:26) Page 1

Questions/Main Ideas	Notes
	Ovrview Scientific Cosmology
When and how did our universe	<ul> <li>Time &amp; space created 14 billion yrs ago – Big Bang</li> </ul>
began?	- Strted hot/small expnding/cooling ever since
	- The smaller the volume w/ same #of particles $\Rightarrow$ temp $\uparrow$
	- So hot in begning, nothing complex existed only protons, neutrons
	and electrons. EX. Hot room
	- Over time galaxies emerged (due to gravity) & stars, then planets
What is our Cosmos made of?	Composition of the Cosmos
	- 5% nrml matter - frm the Periodic Table
	- 25% drk matter -
	<ul> <li>70% drk enrgy – mking univrs expnd quickly</li> </ul>
How long ago was the earth and	Time
sun formed?	- Earth/Sun frmed 5 billion yrs ago
	- Dinosaurs – 150 million yrs ago
How long ago did semi-modern	- Semi-modern human – 2 million yrs ago
human beings appear?	- EX. If 14 billion yrs = 1 year
	All human history = 13 secds
	Shakespeare alive 1 secd ago
	Looking back in time finite speed, galaxy is BIG
Where does most information	- Astronomers get most info frm LIGHT
about astronomy come from?	<ul> <li>Light trvls @ 300,000 km/sec (86,000 mls/sec)</li> </ul>
	EX. @ this speed, an object goes round earth 8x in 1 sec.
How fast does light travel?	- EX. Light = messenger
	Light takes 8 mins to gt to earth frm the sun
How many times can an object go	We see moon as it was one second ago
around the earth at this speed?	- EX. If God turned all lights off, then back on:
	• 8 mins - sun
How long does it take for light to	<ul> <li>10 min – Venus (light frm sun to V. bck 2 earth)</li> </ul>
travel from the sun to the earth?	<ul> <li>~1 hr – Jupiter (light frm sun to J. bck 2 earth)</li> </ul>
	• 25 yrs – a star anthr sun
How long does it take for light to	<ul> <li>1000's of years – Milky Way comes into view</li> </ul>
travel from the moon to the earth?	<ul> <li>2.5 million yrs – Andromeda galaxy, closest galaxy to us</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>We see things as they were in the past</li> </ul>

## Summary:

Time and space were created 14 billion years ago. It all started small and hot and it continues to expand and cool. The universe is composed of normal matter, dark matter, and dark energy. Humans have been in the universe for an extremely short amount of time. Astronomers learn about the universe mainly through light. Light travels at 300,000 km/sec. When we look at the stars, we look at the way they were years and years ago. **Class Notes** 

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http://ocw.uci.edu/lectures/physics\_20b\_cosmology\_lec\_1\_introducton\_to\_cosmology.html (26:05 - 44:26) Page 2

Light-year: a measure of <u>distance</u> DEF: distance light travls in a yr. 10 trilion km (9.53 x 10 <sup>2</sup> km) Nearest bright star: 8 light yrs away
Nearest star: 4 lght yrs away Nearest galaxy: 2.5 million lght yrs away
Galaxies that are far away look very different than galaxies that are closer. Far away galaxies are older (b/c light take time to travel) → galaxies evolve and change ovr time - Galaxies are becoming bigger and more ordered

Summary:

A light year is a measurement of distance. It measures how far light travels in one year. Galaxies are changing with time. They are becoming bigger and more ordered.