
TMP-TC2: Cosmology

Problem Set 10

25 & 27 June 2024

1. MOND

Assume that Newton's second law is modified as

$$m a_0 f\left(\frac{a}{a_0}\right) = F,$$

where the function $f(x)$ has the following properties :

$$f(x) \sim \begin{cases} x, & \text{for } x \gg 1 \\ x^2, & \text{for } x \ll 1. \end{cases}$$

1. Show that such a modification of Newtonian dynamics would explain the rotation curves of the galaxies.
2. Estimate the value of a_0 keeping in mind that for the Milky Way the circular velocity at large radii is approximately 200 km/sec and the enclosed mass is roughly $10^{11} M_\odot$.

2. Baryon Asymmetry of the Universe

At temperatures $T \gg m_p$ the universe had an excess of protons of the order of

$$\frac{n_p - n_{\bar{p}}}{n_p + n_{\bar{p}}} = 10^{-10}$$

This number changes due to annihilation and pair creation of protons and anti-protons until decoupling happens. Estimate the decoupling temperature and give a comment on the existence of anti-protons today.

3. Magnetic Monopole Problem

Domain walls are not the only type of objects that can be created during phase transitions. In this problem, we will focus on the so-called magnetic monopoles.

During the phase transition, there were many causally disconnected regions. Each such region can obtain a different vacuum expectation value (in the case of a degenerate vacuum). Let us assume that there was one magnetic monopole created per causally disconnected region of radius $r_H \sim \frac{M_{\text{Pl}}}{T_{\text{GUT}}^2}$, with $T_{\text{GUT}} \sim 10^{16}\text{GeV}$ the temperature at which the monopole of mass $m_M \sim 10^{17}\text{GeV}$ was created.

Assuming that the monopole was not destroyed and also no more monopoles were created until now, what would be the contribution to the energy density today? Why is this a problem?