

Astrophysics V Observational Cosmology

Sheet 13: Assignments

Prof. Jean-Paul Kneib

Teaching assistants: Dr. Rafaela Gsponer, Dr. Antoine Rocher,
Mathilde Guitton, Shengyu He, Ashutosh Mishra & Aurélien Verdier

Laboratoire d'astrophysique <http://lastro.epfl.ch>
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Spring Semester 2025

Exercise 1 : Friedmann Equations

a) From the Friedmann Equations

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{R}(t) &= -\frac{4\pi G}{3} \left(\rho + \frac{3p}{c^2} \right) R(t) + \frac{1}{3} \Lambda c^2 R(t) \\ \dot{R}^2(t) + k c^2 &= \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho R^2(t) + \frac{1}{3} \Lambda c^2 R^2(t) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

find the following expression for the density ρ and the pressure p :

$$\begin{cases} \frac{8\pi G}{c^2} p = -\frac{k c^2}{R^2} - \frac{\dot{R}^2}{R^2} - 2\frac{\ddot{R}}{R} + \Lambda c^2 \\ \frac{8\pi G}{3} \rho = \frac{k c^2}{R^2} + \frac{\dot{R}^2}{R^2} - \frac{1}{3} \Lambda c^2 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

b) Using the set of Equations 2, show that the density can be related to the pressure by :

$$\frac{d}{dt} (\rho c^2 R^3) = -p \frac{dR^3}{dt} \quad (3)$$

c) From Equation 3 show that for matter and radiation respectively, the density evolves as $\rho_M(t) \propto R(t)^{-3}$ and $\rho_{\text{rad}}(t) \propto R(t)^{-4}$.

d) From c) recover the thermal law for radiation, i.e. that

$$R \cdot T = \text{constant} \quad (4)$$