

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY COLLOQUIUM

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"Is the Universe lop-sided?"

Abstract

Since the standard cosmological model is such a good fit to the cosmic microwave background anisotropy data, a great deal of attention has focused on any signs of "physics beyond the standard model". For example, there are a number of "anomalies" seen in the CMB at large angular scales. One particular example is that there appears to be more power on one side of the sky compared to the other. How are we meant to assess whether such anomalies are statistically significant, particularly when there's just one sky? If it has a physics explanation then what might that be? And can we find out more about such anomalies using future observations?

Wednesday, April 3, 2019 3:30 p.m. Elliott Building Room 167