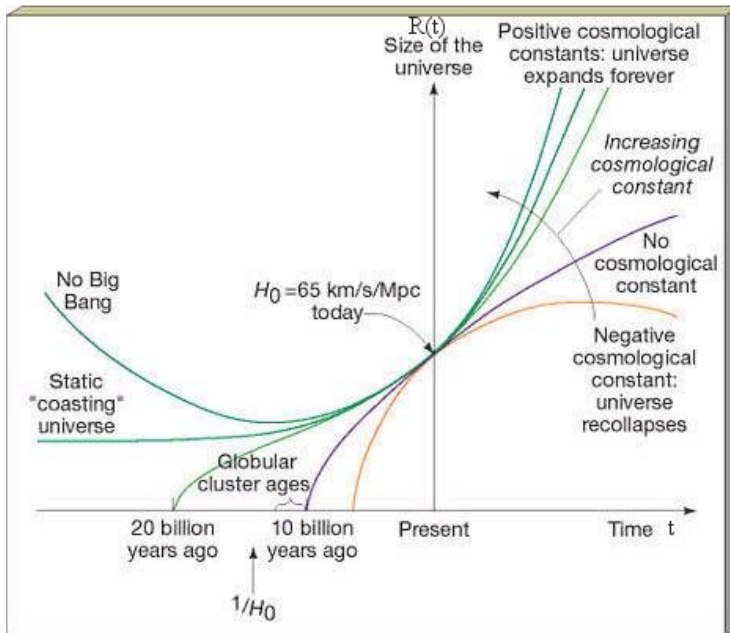




COLLOQUIUM



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Cosmological constant problem and quantum instability of deSitter space

Abstract

We discuss the cosmological constant problem: why should the present cosmological constant be so small but not exactly zero. In the early Universe the cosmological constant must have been large in order to account for the inflationary era. In addition naïve quantum field theory calculations indicate that the present cosmological constant should be many orders of magnitude larger than the observed value. We discuss to what extent the cosmological constant may be “screened” by quantum mechanical effects at low energies (infrared) and high energies (ultraviolet).

3-4 p.m., Friday, March 7th
McLane Hall 162

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