

The Cosmic Microwave Background

Subsections

- [2.1 Prologue: Black Bodies](#)
 - [2.1.1 Blackbody Radiation](#)
 - [2.1.2 Effect of Redshift](#)
 - [2.1.3 The temperature of space](#)
- [2.2 The Discovery of the CMB](#)
 - [2.2.1 A temperature with a very restricted meaning](#)
 - [2.2.2 Ylem and after](#)
 - [2.2.3 The horn](#)
- [2.3 The Early History of the Universe](#)
 - [2.3.1 The primordial heat bath](#)
 - [2.3.2 The Big Freeze](#)
 - [2.3.3 Nucleosynthesis](#)
 - [2.3.4 The origin of the Cosmic Microwave Background](#)
- [2.4 The CMB and the history of the Universe](#)
 - [2.4.1 The spectrum of the CMB](#)
 - [2.4.2 How far away is the CMB?](#)
 - [2.4.3 What can we learn from the CMB spectrum?](#)
- [2.5 The CMB and the geometry of the Universe](#)
 - [2.5.1 How accurate is the Cosmological Principle?](#)
 - [2.5.2 Topology](#)
 - [2.5.3 Inflation](#)
- [2.6 The formation of structure in the Universe](#)
 - [2.6.1 Gravitational Runaway](#)
 - [2.6.2 Fluctuations in the Cosmic Microwave Background](#)
 - [2.6.3 Observing CMB fluctuations: the Race for the Acoustic Peaks](#)
 - [2.6.4 Structure then and now](#)
 - [2.6.5 *MAP* and *Planck*: towards Precision Cosmology](#)
- [2.7 Epilogue: 21st century CMB science](#)
- [2.8 Further Reading](#)