Cosmology, data, and statistics

Wednesday 25 March 2020 08:00 (30 minutes)

Cosmology has advanced from "2.5 facts" in 1963 to a very data-rich field today. This has led to the determination of the baryon density, the dark matter density, and the dark energy density. But more facts lead to a greater reliance on advanced statistical techniques, which are usually useful but occasionally misleading. It is important to consider "look elsewhere effects", and to remember that even the true model will not fit all the data. In this talk I will discuss the most secure benchmarks in the current observational landscape.

Presenter: WRIGHT, Edward (UCLA)

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