

Exam Report

Module Code/Title: PHYS3010 Stellar Evolution

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Feedback comments:

I would say that the exam was a success overall, with an average of 57.3%, and an overall module average of 58.8%. Hence the course work was also in line as far as marks go with the final exam. The distribution is also remarkably – by chance – Gaussian. The breakdown of the various parts was A questions 56.4%, B1 56.0%, B2 61.2% and B3 57.3%, thus the difficulty level was roughly the same across the exam. Almost all the students chose to perform B1, which was expected because the topic (supernovae and stellar remnants) came at the very end of the course, hence was fresher in their minds. The split between B2 and B3 was roughly equal.

About the oral presentation: I was very impressed by the performance of the students this year. Most of them chose very recent (<2 years) articles and the quality of their presentation was higher than last year. The main aspect for them to keep in mind as far as improving is to extract the big picture out of the paper they read. Comments from the survey indicated that they appreciated this form of assessment and the feedback they received on it.