

PHYS6005, Cosmology: Examination report

The results of the exam do not present any anomaly, this is quite well highlighted by the marks distribution. I am, therefore, quite happy about with them. The slightly high average, 69%, is probably due to the fact that in this module there are many third year students (those spending their year abroad) that are selected among top students. Indeed the correlation between average mark and mark for the module did not show any anomaly. Forty five students attended the exam and only two failed. I have a few remarks about the results of the exam.

- The exam, as in last two years, is split in two parts corresponding to the two parts of the syllabus. Students had necessarily to choose one problem in Section B covering the first part and one problem in Section C covering the second part. This automatically adds some difficulty since students are forced to study the entire programme. Considering this point, the results look even more encouraging.
- Section A had a slight higher average than other sections by construction: I usually device it easier to make students more comfortable at the beginning in order to prevent that they can panic just at the beginning getting stuck.
- One regret I have is that the B2 problem was not selected by any student. It was certainly much more difficult than B1 and on a subject never previously touched in previous examination papers, somehow confirming that good students are able to select easier problems.
- On the other hand C2 was more difficult than C1 (but not as B2) and still there were a few students who choose it and did actually quite well.
- This year for the first time I did not mark problem sheets but they were still assigned and model answers made available after one week. I was a bit worried about it, since I thought this could affect negatively their preparation but it seems it did not and this is positive since I think that students probably solved problem sheets anyway even if they did not contribute to the overall mark.
- On the other hand I marked a test that was a Section A exam simulation assigned in week 9. This was stimulated by the fact that many students, having eliminated marked problem sheets, asked me to give them the opportunity not to arrive to the exam without any kind of training. The

test very likely contributed to the final positive result and therefore I intend to implement the test next year as well.

Best regards,
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