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HOW COSMOLOGICAL MODELS SHOULD GUIDE SETI SEARCH STRATEGIES

Abstract

The beginning of the 21st Century is likely to be celebrated by future historians of science as both the dawn of a new era of precision observational cosmology and a historical inflection point notable for a recrudescence of out-of-the-box cosmological theorizing. Both phenomena—the development of new capabilities in the area of precision observational cosmology and the emergence of novel cosmological paradigms—have important implications for SETI research. This paper will explore the implications for SETI research of (1) new cosmological models inspired by string theory (and its successor M-theory) as well as (2) renewed theoretical interest on the part of a growing minority of cosmologists in John Wheeler’s cosmological extrapolations from the Copenhagen interpretation of quantum physics.