Geometry of Space

PI: Dr. Karl Gebhardt

Research Educator: Dr. Shyamal Mitra

What does the Universe look like?

- The main goal of our stream is to investigate the large-scale structure of the universe.
- On a small scale we can study the properties and distribution of star clusters.
- On a larger scale we can study the distribution of galaxies and clusters of galaxies.
- We can also look at the distribution of AGNs (Active Galactic Nucleus) and Quasars.

Clustering Hierarchy in the Universe

- Solar System: Sun, Planets, Minor Planets, Asteroids, Comets
- Double Stars
- Star Clusters: Stellar Associations, Open Clusters, Globular Clusters
- Milky Way Galaxy: Stars, Gas, Dust, Dark Matter
- Local Group of Galaxies: Milky Way, M31, LMC, SMC
- Clusters of Galaxies: Virgo Cluster, Coma Cluster
- Superclusters: Local Supercluster, Southern Supercluster
- Third Order Clustering: clusters of clusters of clusters of galaxies

Solar System



Jupiter



Saturn



Double Star - Albireo



NGC 4755 Jewel Box



NGC 1866 Young Globular Cluster



Crab Nebula (Supernova Remnant)



Planetary Nebula



Milky Way Galaxy



Whirlpool Galaxy



Barred Spiral (NGC 1300)



Starburst Galaxy M82



Pinwheel Galaxy



Clusters of Galaxies



Abell 1703 Cluster of Galaxies



Rings of Relativity



Clusters of Clusters of Galaxies



Large Scale Structure of the Universe



Sources of Data

- We use existing sources of data
- Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS)
- Gaia
- NASA Extragalactic Database (NED)
- SIMBAD Astronomical Database

Tools Used

- All our programming is in Python
- Python packages used
 - Jupyter Notebooks
 - MatPlotLib
 - NumPy
 - SciPy
 - Pandas
 - Plotly
- SQL for Database Query

Time Commitment

- Goal is to publish one or two papers
- Must be committed to spend at least two semesters (Spring 2022 and Fall 2022)
- Take this as an independent study course
- There are no exams
- But there is reading of original research papers and writing of reports
- We will have a small cohort of students who will work together on the research projects