

2015 Annual Report: Cosmology Section of the Astronomical Society

Of Southern Africa

1. The purpose of the Cosmology Section are:

- (i) To disseminate news of importance in the field of cosmology to members;
- (ii) To circulate scientific papers in the field of cosmology to members; and
- (iii) To do research and promote the study of cosmology as a science.

2. Membership

The number of members at the end of 2015 was 26.

3. Activities

A number of interesting events were reported on/discussed during the year. The possible impact of cosmic wind on the formation of galaxies was reported to members. Cosmology beyond the Standard Model of Particle Physics and Dark Matter in the early universe were discussed among members. The brightest ever supernova occurred and has been reported. Einstein's "spooky at a distance" created quite a number of discussions. A number of reports about the possibility of discovery of a particle more massive than the Higgs Boson has been received and circulated to members. Quasars, primordial galaxies and very massive stars at the end of the epoch of recombination were circulated and discussed.

4. On-line courses

Mr. Maciej Solstynski was instrumental in bringing on-line courses to the attention of members. The director completed a course presented by the University of Edinburgh on the significance of the discovery of the Higgs Boson.

Frikkie de Bruyn

Director: Cosmology Section of the Astronomical Society of Southern Africa.