

962-85-5

Jeffrey R. Weeks* (weeks@northnet.org), 15 Farmer St., Canton, NY 13617. *Measuring the universe.*

How old is the universe? How big is it? Is it flat or curved? This elementary talk will survey humanity's understanding of the geometry of space from ancient times to the present, with an emphasis on current measurements of the microwave background radiation which are already revealing the curvature of space and might eventually reveal its overall size and shape as well. But even as these measurements answer old questions about the geometry of the universe, they raise new questions about the matter and energy it contains. (Received April 21, 2000)