

ASTR 5460, Fall 2013: Homework 1

Michael S. Brotherton, Instructor

Assigned Thursday 29 Aug 2013, due Thursday 12 Sep 2013

Please read the website courtesy of John Huchra giving some history regarding the Hubble Constant: <http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/huchra/hubble/>. Also read the original paper by Hubble (1929). Your assignment, in addition to this reading, is to plot your own Hubble diagram and measure a Hubble constant based on modern data and fitting procedures. I don't care how you do this as long as you make a good effort and your write-up to accompany your plot explains what you did, how, and why, displaying your technical skills, scientific judgment, and writing capability. The goal is not to get the right answer, but to develop some independent research skills looking up astronomical values and exercising your own judgment. It will also let me gauge your current skill set and style. Put a professional effort into this, but don't shoot for perfection. I suggest that NASA ADS, NED, LaTeX, and SuperMongo may be useful. I'll provide suggestions (and be very encouraged to visit to talk with me individually for places to start), but I won't tell you how to do this. There is no one way to do good science and no textbook to tell you the steps. Good luck!