Dr. Erik Ling, Rutgers University Title: Spacetime Extensions of the Big Bang

Abstract: In this talk we show that a large class of k = -1 inflationary FLRW spacetimes dubbed 'Milne-like' admit continuous spacetime extensions through the big bang. For these spacetimes, the big bang appears as a coordinate singularity where the spacetime can be extended beyond it. This is analogous to how the r = 2m event horizon in Schwarzschild is a coordinate singularity. The geometry of the big bang coordinate singularity for Milne-like spacetimes is that of a lightcone in a spacetime conformal to Minkowski space (or de Sitter space). We discuss how the mathematics of these Milne-like spacetimes may provide connections to certain problems in cosmology.