Cosmological surveys

Lecture 1

Will Percival







The standard "model" for cosmology



The problem of Λ

 Λ CDM fits all (believable?) current data well It's the simplest (mathematical) model available But ... we cannot explain Λ with physics

• why so small?

$$\rho_{\Lambda}|_{\rm obs} = \frac{\Lambda}{8\pi G} \sim (10^{-3} \,\text{eV})^4$$
$$\rho_{\Lambda}|_{\rm theory} \sim (M_{\rm new \ physics})^4 \sim (1 \,\text{TeV})^4 >> \rho_{\Lambda}|_{\rm obs}$$

• why so fine tuned?

 $\rho_{\Lambda} \lesssim \rho_m : \text{crucial for structure formation}$ but $\rho_{\Lambda} \propto a^0$ while $\rho_m \propto a^{-3}$

Many alternative explanations

- modify gravity on large-scales or at low densities?
- more general scalar field model?
- link with Dark Matter?
- back-reaction from structure growth?

Goal of this lecture





Distances and SNela

Thermonuclear explosions of White Dwarf stars

White Dwarf accretes mass from or merges with a companion star, growing to a critical mass ~1.4M_{sun} (Chandrasekhar)

A violent explosion is triggered at or near the center, and the star is completely incinerated within seconds. In the core, light elements are burned in fusion reactions to produce ~0.6M_{sun} Nickel.

The radioactive decay of Nickel and Cobalt makes it shine for a couple of months

Standardizable Candles

After correction, σ ~0.16 mag (~8% distance error) Overall, now ~3% in distance



Industrial Astronomy



SN Hubble Diagram (circa 1999)





Nobel Prize 2011

"for the discovery of the accelerating expansion of the Universe through observations of distant supernovae"



Goal of this lecture



Galaxy surveys

Cosmology from surveys





Spectra gives recession velocities and redshifts



Galaxy survey "history"

1500000



- 1996 LCRS 23000
- 2003 2dFGRS 250000
- 2005 SDSS-I/II 800000
- 2012 SDSS-III



Fractional error in the amplitude of the fluctuation spectrum

1970	x100
1990	x2
1995	±0.4
1998	±0.2
1999	±0.1
2002	±0.05
2003	±0.03
2009	±0.01
2012	±0.002

Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey

- Duration: Fall 2009 Summer 2014
- Telescope: 2.5m Sloan
- Upgrade to SDSS-II spectrograph
 - 1000 smaller fibers
 - higher throughput
- Spectra:
 - $-3600^{\circ} \text{A} < \lambda < 10, 000^{\circ} \text{A}$ New spectrograph
 - $-R = \lambda/\Delta\lambda = 1300 3000$
 - (S/N) at mag. limit
 - 22 per pix. (averaged over 7000-8500Å)
 - 10 per pix. (averaged over 4000-5500Å)
- Area: 10,000 deg2
- Targets:
 - -1.5×10^{6} massive galaxies, z < 0.7, i < 19.9
 - 1.5×10⁵ quasars, z>2.2, g<22.0
 - 75,000 ancillary science targets, many categories

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey telescope

A collaborative effort ... BOSS

Lauren Anderson¹, Eric Aubourg², Stephen Bailey³, Dmitry Bizyaev⁴, Michael Blanton⁵, Adam S. Bolton⁶, J. Brinkmann⁴, Joel R. Brownstein⁶, Angela Burden⁷, Antonio J. Cuesta⁸, Luiz N. A. da Costa^{9,10}, Kyle S. Dawson⁶, Roland de Putter^{11,12}, Daniel J. Eisenstein¹³, James E. Gunn¹⁴, Hong Guo¹⁵, Jean-Christophe Hamilton², Paul Harding¹⁵, Shirley Ho^{3,14}, Klaus Honscheid¹⁶, Eyal Kazin¹⁷, D. Kirkby¹⁸, Jean-Paul Kneib¹⁹, Antione Labatie²⁰, Craig Loomis²¹, Robert H. Lupton¹⁴, Elena Malanushenko⁴, Viktor Malanushenko⁴, Rachel Mandelbaum^{14,21}, Marc Manera⁷, Claudia Maraston⁷, Cameron K. McBride¹³, Kushal T. Mehta²², Olga Mena¹¹, Francesco Montesano²³, Demetri Muna⁵, Robert C. Nichol⁷, Sebastián E. Nuza²⁴, Matthew D. Olmstead⁶, Daniel Oravetz⁴, Nikhil Padmanabhan⁸, Nathalie Palanque-Delabrouille²⁵, Kaike Pan⁴, John Parejko⁸, Isabelle Pâris²⁶, Will J. Percival⁷, Patrick Petitjean²⁶, Francisco Prada^{27,28,29}, Beth Reid^{3,30}, Natalie A. Roe³, Ashley J. Ross⁷, Nicholas P. Ross³, Lado Samushia^{7,31}, Ariel G. Sánchez²³, David J. Schlegel^{*3}, Donald P. Schneider^{32,33}, Claudia G. Scóccola^{34,35}, Hee-Jong Seo³⁶, Erin S. Sheldon³⁷, Audrey Simmons⁴, Ramin A. Skibba²², Michael A. Strauss²¹, Molly E. C. Swanson¹³, Daniel Thomas⁷, Jeremy L. Tinker⁵, Rita Tojeiro⁷, Mariana Vargas Magaña², Licia Verde³⁸, Christian Wagner¹², David A. Wake³⁹, Benjamin A. Weaver⁵, David H. Weinberg⁴⁰, Martin White^{3,41,42}, Xiaoying Xu²², Christophe Yèche²⁵, Idit Zehavi¹⁵, Gong-Bo Zhao^{7,43}

BOSS DR9 galaxies

BOSS DR10 galaxies

BOSS DR11 galaxies

What does "clustering" mean?

Over-density fields

"probability of seeing structure", can be recast in terms of the overdensity

$$\delta = \frac{\rho - \rho_0}{\rho_0}$$

The correlation function is simply the real-space 2-pt statistic of the field

 $\xi(r) = \left< \delta(\mathbf{x}) \delta(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{r}) \right>$

Its Fourier analogue, the power spectrum is defined by

 $P(k) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{k}) \delta(\mathbf{k}) \rangle$

By analogy, one should think of "throwing down" Fourier modes rather than "sticks"

Real-space correlation function

Power spectrum

Statistically complete knowledge?

Gaussian random field: knowledge of either the correlation function or power spectrum is sufficient – they are statistically complete ... but ...

Modeling the angular galaxy mask

Target density fluctuations

Redshift failures & close pairs

Spectra where we failed to get an accurate redshift are spatially correlated Close pairs obviously correlated with density

Correct both by upweighting the nearest target with good classification

Ross et al. 2012; arXiv:1208.1491

Measured 2-point functions

The matter power spectrum

Comparison of CMB and LSS power spectra

Why do we see structure in the Universe?
Why is there structure?

Inflation (a period of rapid growth of the early Universe driven by a scalar field) was postulated to solve some serious problems with "standard" cosmology:

 why do causally disconnected regions appear to have the same properties? - they were connected in the past

 why is the energy density of the Universe close to critical density? - driven there by inflation

•what are the seeds of present-day structure? -Quantum fluctuations in the matter density are increased to significant levels



 $P(k) = k^n$ $(n \approx 1)$

Matter P(k) depends on inflation



Evolution of the power spectrum after inflation



The effect of massive neutrinos

The existence of massive neutrinos can also introduce a suppression of T(k) on small scales relative to their Jeans length. Partly degenerate with the suppression caused by radiation epoch. Position depends on neutrino-mass equality scale.



Cosmological density -> neutrino mass

Standard model of particle physics links together photon and neutrino species densities

Based on current photon density (from CMB), we expect a cosmological neutrino background with a density 112 cm⁻² per species

This leads to an expected cosmological density

$$f_{\nu} = \frac{\Omega_{\nu}}{\Omega_m} = \frac{\sum m_{\nu}}{93\Omega_m h^2 \,\mathrm{eV}}$$

Thus a measurement of the cosmological density directly gives a measurement of the summed neutrino mass

Linear vs Non-linear behaviour



Baryon Acoustic Oscillations







plots by Dan Eisenstein



plots by Dan Eisenstein



astro-ph/0012153 & astro-ph/02022153

plots by Dan Eisenstein





Baryon Acoustic Oscillations (BAO)



Acoustic Oscillations in the matter distribution



descriptions describe the same physics



Reconstruction

Non-linear movement on BAO scales



A simple reconstruction algorithm

"Smoothing" dominated by large-scale flows

Smooth field and move galaxies by predicted (linear) motion

Breaks coherence between large-scale and small-scale motion

Does not recover the linear field, but does reduce the non-linear smoothing

See Padmanabhan et al. (2008; arXiv: 0812.2905) for a perturbation theory derivation of this



Eisenstein et al. 2006: arXiv:0604362

Reconstruction on SDSS-III mocks



The improvement from reconstruction



The improvement DR9 - DR11



Anderson et al. 2013; arXiv:1312.4877

Galaxy clustering as a standard ruler

The evolution of the scale factor

If we observed the comoving power spectrum directly, we would not constrain evolution

However, we measure galaxy redshifts and angles and infer distances

$$d_{\rm comov}(a) = \int_{t(a)}^{t_0} \frac{c \, dt'}{a(t')} = \int_a^1 \frac{c \, da'}{a'^2 H(a')}$$

The power spectrum as a standard ruler





BAO as a standard ruler

Changes in cosmological model alter measured BAO scale (Δd_{comov}) by:

Radial direction $\frac{c}{H(z)}\Delta$

(evolution of Universe)

Angular direction

$$(1+z)D_A\Delta\theta$$

(line of sight)

If we are considering radial and angular directions using randomly orientated galaxy pairs, we constrain (to 1st order)

$$D_V = \left[(1+z)^2 D_A^2(z) \frac{cz}{H(z)} \right]^{1/3}$$

BAO position (in a redshift slice) therefore constrains some multiple of $\frac{r_s}{D_V}$



Fitting BAO along and across line-of-sight











Results



Goal of this lecture



How did we get here?

Supernovae tell us we live in a lambda dominated Universe

BAO tell us we live in a low matter density Universe

A more direct way of measuring the matter density?
Evolution of the power spectrum after inflation



Jeans length

The transfer function depends on the composition of the matter (CDM, baryons, neutrinos, etc.)

An important scale is the Jeans Length which is the scale of fluctuation where pressure support equals gravitational collapse,

$$\lambda_J = \frac{c_s}{\sqrt{G\rho}}$$

where c_s is the sound speed of the material, and ρ is its density.

"F=ma" for perturbation growth \vdots $\delta = (gravity - pressure)\delta$ depends on Jeans scale

Transfer function evolution

In radiation dominated Universe, pressure support means that small perturbations cannot collapse. Jeans scale changes with time, leading to smooth turn-over of matter power spectrum. Projected cut-off dependent on matter density times the Hubble parameter Ω_mh .



The power spectrum turn-over



Amplitude of effect depends on matter density – how long before matter-radiation equality

The shape of the power spectrum



Analysis of the SDSS DR2 main galaxies



Analysis of the final 2dFGRS sample



power spectrum shape constraints



the problem is scale-dependent bias



Percival et al. 2007, astro-ph/0608636

the problem is scale-dependent bias



By subdividing 2dFGRS into red and blue galaxies, Sanchez & Cole also concluded that differences with SDSS were caused by scale-dependent galaxy bias



Sanchez & Cole 2007, arXiv:0708.1517

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