Studying the expansion of the Universe with quasar spectra

Andreu Font-Ribera

University College London (UCL) Institut de Fisica d'Altes Energies (IFAE, Barcelona)



The distribution of matter in the Universe tells us about:

- Accelerated expansion of the Universe / dark energy
- Tests of general relativity on cosmological scales
- Initial conditions of the Universe / inflation
- Physical properties of dark matter
- Mass and number of neutrino species

However, most of the matter in the Universe is in the form of dark matter and we need indirect tracers to study it



Redshift Surveys





Redshift Surveys





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Outline



- Introduction to Baryon Acoustic Oscillations
- Past: Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS, 2009-2014)
 - Going to high-z: BAO with the Lyman- α forest
- Present: extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (eBOSS, 2014-2019)
 - BAO and the H_0 tension
- Future: Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI, 2020-2025)



We can relate redshift to distance if we have a cosmological model



We can learn about the Dark Energy if we can measure distances!





To study the expansion we want to measure the distance to different redshifts

Standard candle (Supernovae)

known luminosity + measure flux

distance





Studying the Expansion





Standard candle (Supernovae)

known luminosity + measure flux

distance



Standard ruler (BAO)

known size + measure apparent size t distance



Before recombination (z >1100), photons and ionized matter were tightly coupled

Primordial density fluctuations generated sound waves in the plasma

These waves froze out at recombination, leaving an imprint at a characteristic scale

Image credit: Daniel Eisenstein

lonized Neutral

Sound horizon at recombination (from Planck): $r_d = 147.6 \pm 0.3 \text{ Mpc}$

$$r_d = \int_{z_d}^{\infty} \frac{c_s(z)}{H(z)} dz \qquad c_s(z) = 3^{-1/2} c \left[1 + \frac{3}{4} \rho_b(z) / \rho_\gamma(z) \right]^{-1/2}$$



Oscillations clearly seen in the CMB temperature power spectrum





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Sound horizon at recombination (from Planck): $r_d = 147.6 \pm 0.3 \text{ Mpc}$

We measure BAO peak in the transverse direction in BOSS : $\Delta \theta_{BAO}$

We measure BAO peak along the line of sight in BOSS : Δv_{BAO}

$$\Delta \theta_{BAO} = \frac{r_d}{1+z} \frac{1}{D_A(z)} \qquad \Delta v_{BAO} = \frac{r_d}{1+z} \frac{H(z)}{1+z}$$

We learn about the expansion!



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BOSS (2009-2014)



Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (BOSS)

SDSS Telescope (2.5m) Apache Point Observatory (Cloudcroft, New Mexico)



1000 spectra at a time 10.000 sq. deg. (1/4 sky)

DR12 $+30^{\circ}$ Dec (degrees) $+20^{\circ}$ +10-10° 220° 180° 240° 200° 160° 140° 120'RA (degrees) $+20^{\circ}$ Dec (degrees) $+10^{\circ}$ 0° completeness -10° 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0 60° 20° -20° 40° 0° -40° -60° RA (degrees) 1.3M galaxies (0.2 < z < 0.7)160k quasar (2.1 < z < 3.5)







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BOSS (2009-2014)











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The Lyman- α forest





Figure from William C. Keel





BOSS Ly α data analysis: from raw data to cosmological fluctuations



$$\delta_F(\mathbf{x}) = \frac{F(\mathbf{x}) - \bar{F}}{\bar{F}}$$

Flux fluctuations in pixels trace the density along the line of sight to the quasar





BOSS Lyman-α BAO



Two independent ways of measuring the BAO scale







Marginal tension (2.3- σ) with Planck+LCDM prediction







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Extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (eBOSS)

- One of the surveys in SDSS-IV
- Same instrument than BOSS
- Fill gap in 1 < z < 2
- Prototype for DESI
- DRI4 already public
- Final DRI6 public end of 2019



eBOSS Lyα DR14





Results from 2 first years of eBOSS (DRI4) are public

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20% more quasars than BOSS

New in eBOSS analyses: use also the LyB region!





eBOSS Lya DR14



Results from 2 first years of eBOSS (DRI4) already public

Errorbars 20% smaller than BOSS DRI2



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How fast is the Universe currently expanding?

One of the key cosmological parameters has been historically controversial



BAO and the H₀ tension



Systematics on either side? Problems with flat ΛCDM ?

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Inverse distance ladder (anchor SN with BAO at z=0.5)



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BAO + LCDM constraint Ω_m and $H_0 r_s$ (sound horizon, size of ruler) BBN prior on Ω_b can break degeneracy and measure H_0 from BAO



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BAO and the H₀ tension



They all assume we understand early universe physics (to compute r_d)

ENERGY



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- 5000 fibers in robotic actuators
- I0 fiber cable bundles -
- 3.2 deg. field of view optics
- 10 spectrographs

Readout & Control

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Increase BOSS dataset by an order of magnitude

Scheduled to start in 2020

Mayall 4m Telescope Kitt Peak (Tucson, AZ)













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Tsinghua University, March 26th 2020





Focal plane and ring completed



All spectrographs verified and at Kitt Peak



All 10 petals populated with positioners

DESI timeline:

- Corrector installed August 2018
- Commissioning ongoing
- Survey Validation Spring 2020
- Science starts in the Fall!





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z=4 z=2 z=1.5 z=1.5 z=0.7	r=2.	r=5.0 Gp r=4.0 Gpc/h r=3.0 Gpc/h 0 Gpc/h	Two _ hc/h	 Surveys Dark Time Dominat Bands c Bright Time ~4 night BGS/MV 	ed by EL optimized f : s/lunation WS share	Gs for ELG the observation
z=0.5 z=0.2	r=1.0 Gpc/f r=0.5 Gpc/h	٦		time wit	h the prior	ity to BGS
Galaxy type	Redshift	Bands	Targets	Exposures	Good z 's	Baseline
	range	used	$per deg^2$	$per deg^2$	$per deg^2$	sample
LRG	0.4 - 1.0	g,r,z,W1	480	610	430	6.0 M
ELG	0.6 - 1.6	$_{g,r,z}$	2400	1870	1220	17.1 M
QSO (tracers)	< 2.1	$g,\!r,\!z,\!W1,\!W2$	170	170	120	$1.7 \mathrm{M}$
QSO (Ly- α)	> 2.1	$g,\!r,\!z,\!W1,\!W2$	90	250	50	0.7 M
Total in dark time			3140	2900	1820	$(25.5 \mathrm{M})$
BGS	0.05-0.4	r	800	740	710	9.9 M
BGS-Faint	0.05 - 0.4	r	600	460	430	6.0 M
MWS	0.0	g,r (Gaia μ)	800 +	720	720	10.1 M
Total in bright time			2200+	1920	1860	26.0 M

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DESI projections (Font-Ribera++ 2014b)









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- Baryon Acoustic Oscillations can shed light on dark energy
- BOSS measured BAO at 1% accuracy using galaxies
 - 2% measurement at z~2.3 using quasars and Ly- α forest
- In 2020, DESI will start collecting a x10 larger dataset
- Not only dark energy: neutrino masses, inflationary models...