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Chapter 3 • Density fluctuations in the early Universe

§3.1 • Fluctuations from inflation



Evolution of radiation



- Density of matter decreases as $1/volume = 1/a^3$
- Density of photons decreases the same way, but photons are also redshifted
- Since photon energy is proportional to frequency:

$$E = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \implies E \propto \frac{1}{a}$$

• Thus, energy density of photons compared to today ($\rho_{\rm r,0}$) goes down as $1/a^3 \times 1/a = 1/a^4$



What dominates the energy density?



Evolution of temperature



Temperature and energy increase towards the Big Bang as 1/a

The hot Big Bang

- Lemaitre proposed Big Bang theory in 1927 ("primieval atom")
- A hot early Universe was predicted in 1948 by George Gamow (with Alpher and Herman)
 - The idea: the universe started off very hot and cools as it expands
 - They predicted "relic radiation" with temperature of about 5K (close!)
 - Work not fully recognized until 1960s
- The **evolution of temperature** determines what happens
- In early Universe, temperature/energy was too high for electrons and nuclei to be bound as **atoms**
- In very early Universe, temperature/energy too high for protons and neutrons to remain bound as **nuclei**
- No direct observations to constrain theories



Lemaitre



Gamow

History of the Universe



Curvature and the fate of the Universe

Case 1: Closed Universe



The flatness problem



e.g., Planck:

 $|\Omega_{k,0}| < 0.01$

Question: doesn't it seem random that the Universe is flat, i.e., that $\Omega_{m,0} + \Omega_{\Lambda,0} \approx 1$ so that $\Omega_{k,0} \approx 0$?

The flatness problem

- The curvature term evolves as $\Omega_{\rm k} \propto 1/a(t)^2 H(t)^2$
- This scales with time between $\Omega_{\rm k} \propto t$ and $\Omega_{\rm k} \propto t^{2/3}$
 - If the Universe is slightly open in the beginning, that accelerates the expansion compared to flat, leading to lower density / even more open-ness
 - If the Universe is slightly closed in the beginning, that slows down the expansion compared to flat, leading to higher density / even more closed-ness
- If the Universe is close to $\Omega_{\rm k}=0$ today, it must have been even much closer in the early Universe
- At end of the Planck epoch (10⁻⁴³ s), $|\Omega_k| < 10^{-60}$!
- This is a "fine-tuning" problem: why would $\Omega_{\rm m}+\Omega_{\Lambda}~{\rm take~on~a~value~so~close~to~one?}$
- Why do we care?
 - If $\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda$ had been much above 1, would have recollapsed very early **before making galaxies**
 - If $\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda$ had been much below 1, would have expanded so rapidly that structures would not have formed

$$\Omega_{\text{tot}} \equiv \Omega_{\text{m}} + \Omega_{\Lambda} + \Omega_{\text{k}} = 1$$
$$\Omega_{\text{k}}(t) = -\frac{Kc^2}{a(t)^2 H(t)^2}$$



Inflation

- Theory of cosmic inflation was first proposed by Alan Guth in 1982
- Inflation is a **very rapid expansion** of Universe at $t = 10^{-37}$ -10⁻³² s after the Big Bang
- Universe expanded by a **factor of 10**⁴⁰ **10**¹⁰⁰ during this time!
- Looks a lot like **exponential expansion** due to dark energy, $a(t) \propto e^{Ht}$, just faster
- Super-light-speed expansion does not violate relativity because spacetime itself expands (same argument as for later Hubble expansion)



The flatness problem

- Take any reasonably curved surface and expand it by a very large factor: it will look flat
- Inflation naturally predicts a flat Universe...
- ...if the initial value of Ω_k was within some relatively generous range





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Astronomy Magazine



- Horizon is the distance that is causally connected (from which we can have received information)
- In a Universe without inflation, $R_{\rm h} \approx ct$ (the actual horizon is a little different due to the expansion history)
- At recombination, $t \approx 10^{13}$ s, the horizon would be

 $R_{\rm h} \approx ct \approx 10^5 \text{ pc} = 100 \text{ kpc}$

- How big would this patch be today? It has grown with the scale factor since z = 1100, so 1100 times larger
- But that's only about 100 Mpc! The distance to the CMB surface of last scattering is about 14 Gpc



- How can they be so exactly the same? How can the temperature of the Cosmic Microwave Background be so homogeneous (1 part in 100,000)?
- This is called the horizon problem

 $R_{\rm h}$

 $R_{\rm h}$

Inflation solves the horizon problem

• Before inflation:

 $R_{\rm h} \approx ct = c \times 10^{-37} \text{ s} \approx 10^{-27} \text{ cm}$

- Inflation blows up causally connected regions by a huge factor to at least 10¹³ cm (but possibly much more)
- Universe expands by 10^{22} by the time of recombination (380,000 years), so causally connected region is then about 10^{35} cm = 10^7 Gpc or more
- The causally connected region then keeps growing as light travels, and is much greater than the observable Universe
- Thus, inflation solves the horizon problem



Quantum fluctuations

- Nature is fundamentally uncertain, which is called the "Heisenberg uncertainty principle"
- This principle implies that density can never be totally smooth
- The tiny fluctuations get amplified when the Universe rapidly expands during inflation
- The fluctuations are the origin of all structure in the Universe, such as galaxies!





Overdensity field



§3.2 • Describing fluctuations with power spectra and correlation functions

Correlation function



$$1 + \xi(r) = \frac{n_{\text{pair}}(r \pm dr)}{n_{\text{random}}(r \pm dr)}$$

Images by Frank van den Bosch

Power spectrum







Sierpinski Carpet





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§3.3 • The linear evolution of fluctuations



Figure by Frank van den Bosch

Evolution of collisionless underdensities





Figure by Frank van den Bosch

The Jeans Mass

- Gravity tries to collapse gas
- Pressure resists collapse
- Gravity wins if cloud is larger than Jeans length, or has mass larger than Jeans mass

$$\lambda_{\rm J} = \sqrt{\frac{5\pi}{3} \frac{k_{\rm B}T}{G m_{\rm p} \rho}} = 8.0 \times 10^7 \,\mathrm{cm} \left(\frac{T}{K}\right)^{1/2} \left(\frac{\rho}{\mathrm{g/cm^3}}\right)^{-1/2}$$

$$M_{\rm J} = \frac{4\pi}{3} \left(\frac{\lambda_{\rm J}}{2}\right)^3 \rho \implies$$

$$M_{\rm J} = \frac{\pi^{5/2}}{6} \left(\frac{5k_{\rm B}T}{3Gm_{\rm p}}\right)^{3/2} \rho^{-1/2} = 2.7 \times 10^{23} \text{ g} \left(\frac{T}{K}\right)^{3/2} \left(\frac{\rho}{\text{g/cm}^3}\right)^{-1/2}$$

 $k_{\rm B} = 1.38 \times 10^{-16} \frac{\text{erg}}{K}$ Bo $m_{\rm p} = 1.67 \times 10^{-24} \text{ g}$ Pr

Boltzmann constant

Proton mass



Sir James Hopwood Jeans





Figure by Frank van den Bosch

§3.4 • The power spectrum at recombination

The peak of the power spectrum



First detection of BAO feature



Current observational constraints on P(k)


The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

- Discovered in the 1960's
- Present density is 411 photons/cm³
- Emitted at $z \approx 1100$
- Virtually perfect blackbody



The Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

- COBE WMAP Planck
- The differences in temperature are roughly 1/100,000 K
- These fluctuations tell us a lot about the early Universe

Planck CMB Map



0.3 mK below mean (2.7252 K)

0.3 mK above mean (2.7258 K)

ESA / Planck

What do we see when we look at the CMB?



Images by Frank van den Bosch

Multipoles



Image by Ville Heikkilä

Power spectrum of fluctuations



- First peak corresponds to about 1 degree
- LCDM cosmology matches the data extremely well (green line)
- Predictions are computed numerically

Parameters (flat Λ CDM)

$\Omega_{\mathrm{m,0}}$	Matter density in units of crit. dens. today	CMB, rotation curves, Supernovae, lensing	measured by CMB
$\Omega_{\mathrm{b},0}$	Baryon density in units of crit. dens. today	CMB, Big Bang nucleosynthesis, baryons in clusters	fixed or derived
H_0	Hubble expansion rate today	CMB, low-z redshift-distance diagram	
τ	How many CMB photons are absorbed on the way to us	CMB	
$A_{\rm s}$	Strength of quantum fluctuations	CMB	
n _s	Dependence of quantum fluctuations on scale	CMB	
$\Omega_{\Lambda,0}$	Cosmological constant dens. in units of crit. dens. today	$\Omega_{\Lambda,0} = 1 - \Omega_{m,0}$	
$\Omega_{\mathrm{k},0}$	Curvature density in units of crit. dens. today	Flat $\implies \Omega_k = 0$	
t_0	Age of Universe	Derived	
Z _{rec}	Redshift of recombination	Derived	











CMB with different amounts of baryons



CMB with different amounts of baryons



CMB with different amounts of baryons



Curvature of the Universe



- We understand the physics of the CMB patches very well, so we know what size they should be
- If the Universe was strongly curved, the apparent size of the patches would change
 - Larger if positively curved, because lines converge
 - Smaller if negatively curved, because lines diverge
- All CMB measurements are compatible with k = 0 (flat)









CMB with different H0



CMB with different H0



CMB with different H0



§3.5 • The initial density field

























Reading

- CFN §2.4, §7.1-7.2, §7.3.1, §7.4.1-7.4.2
- MvdBW §4.1-4.1.6, §4.4.2, §4.4.4, §4.5