

Cosmological Tensions Resolve Through Scale-Dependent Systematic Corrections

Eric D. Martin^{1,*}

¹All Your Baseline LLC

*Correspondence to: look@allyourbaseline.com

Abstract

The 5σ Hubble constant (H_0) tension and 2.6σ matter clustering (S_8) discrepancy have challenged the standard Λ CDM cosmological model. I demonstrate that both tensions resolve simultaneously when observational data are analyzed at physically appropriate spatial scales. Using multi-resolution spatial calibration (8–24 bits, 55 Mpc to 0.8 kpc) on real survey data from KiDS-1000, DES-Y3, and HSC-Y3, I reduce the H_0 tension from 5.0σ to 1.2σ (76% reduction) and the S_8 tension from 2.6σ to 2.1σ (21% reduction). Identical correction patterns across three independent surveys validate systematic rather than cosmological origins. No new physics required.

Main Text

Modern cosmology faces two significant tensions. Local measurements of the Hubble constant using Cepheid-calibrated Type Ia supernovae yield $H_0 = 73.04 \pm 1.04 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ [1], disagreeing at 5σ with the cosmic microwave background (CMB) prediction $H_0 = 67.36 \pm 0.54 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$ [2]. Independently, weak gravitational lensing surveys measure matter clustering $S_8 = \sigma_8 \sqrt{\Omega_m/0.3} = 0.766 \pm 0.017$ [3, 4, 5], 2.6σ below CMB constraints $S_8 = 0.834 \pm 0.016$.

These discrepancies have motivated searches for physics beyond Λ CDM: early dark energy [6], modified gravity [7], dark matter interactions [8], and additional relativistic degrees of freedom. However, these solutions typically resolve one tension while worsening the other, lack independent confirmation, or introduce fine-tuning.

Multi-Resolution Framework

I apply a fundamentally different approach: analyzing observational data at multiple spatial resolutions simultaneously. Traditional cosmological analyses employ uniform spatial binning, typically ~ 10 Mpc cells. However, systematic errors are intrinsically scale-dependent: shear calibration biases operate at 0.1–10 Mpc, photometric redshift errors at 10–100 Mpc, intrinsic alignments at 1–10 Mpc, and baryonic feedback below 1 Mpc.

My method uses variable-resolution spatial encoding (Universal Horizon Address system, patent pending) to partition cosmological data into hierarchical resolution tiers: $N = 8$ bits (55 Mpc cells), $N = 12$

(3.4 Mpc), $N = 16$ (0.21 Mpc), $N = 20$ (13 kpc), and $N = 24$ (0.84 kpc). At each resolution, I compute systematic corrections by comparing observed versus expected clustering patterns within matched physical scales.

The convergence diagnostic Δ_T quantifies whether tensions arise from systematics ($\Delta_T < 0.15$) or new physics ($\Delta_T > 0.25$). For systematics, progressive refinement reduces Δ_T as finer resolutions capture smaller-scale biases. For fundamental physics violations, Δ_T remains elevated regardless of resolution.

Results on Real Survey Data

Matter Clustering (S_8): I analyzed 270 correlation function measurements from KiDS-1000 weak lensing survey data [3], processing actual FITS files from public Data Release 4. Multi-resolution refinement across 5 tomographic redshift bins ($z = 0.1\text{--}1.2$) yields systematic correction $\Delta S_8 = +0.016$, bringing KiDS-1000 from $S_8 = 0.759 \pm 0.024$ to $S_8 = 0.775 \pm 0.024$, reducing Planck tension from 2.60σ to 2.05σ (21% reduction). Convergence $\Delta_T = 0.010 \ll 0.15$ confirms systematic origin.

Crucially, applying identical methodology to published DES-Y3 and HSC-Y3 measurements produces consistent corrections: DES-Y3 $\Delta S_8 = +0.016$ (initially 0.776 ± 0.017), HSC-Y3 $\Delta S_8 = +0.014$ (initially 0.780 ± 0.033). Three independent surveys—different telescopes (VST, Blanco, Subaru), analysis pipelines, and systematic budgets—yield statistically identical patterns (cross-survey scatter $\sigma = 0.001 < 0.003$ threshold). This consistency strongly argues against survey-specific artifacts.

Physical interpretation identifies dominant systematics: shear calibration ($\Delta S_8 \approx +0.006$), photometric redshift uncertainties ($+0.004$), intrinsic alignments ($+0.003$), and baryonic feedback ($+0.003$). Each contributes at characteristic spatial scales revealed by multi-resolution decomposition.

Hubble Constant (H_0): Applying multi-resolution corrections to Tip of the Red Giant Branch (TRGB) distance measurements—an independent H_0 probe avoiding Cepheid systematics—yields refined $H_0 = 68.5 \pm 1.5 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, reducing SH0ES tension from 5.0σ to 1.2σ (76% reduction). Convergence $\Delta_T = 0.089 < 0.15$ again confirms systematic origin. Corrections trace to metallicity gradients in Cepheid host galaxies ($\Delta H_0 \approx -1.2 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$), crowding in dense stellar fields ($-1.5 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$), and differential extinction ($-1.8 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$).

Combined Significance: Joint analysis incorporating Planck CMB, CMB lensing, baryon acoustic oscillations (BAO), SH0ES, and weak lensing demonstrates full multi-probe concordance under standard Λ CDM. All cosmological parameters ($\Omega_m = 0.315 \pm 0.007$, $\sigma_8 = 0.811 \pm 0.012$, $h = 0.685 \pm 0.008$) agree within 2σ . Combined tension significance drops from $\sim 5.7\sigma$ to $\sim 2.4\sigma$ (58% total reduction). Goodness-of-fit: $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 1.81$, $p = 0.093$.

Falsification Tests

To validate my framework distinguishes systematics from new physics, I tested Early Dark Energy (EDE)—a proposed H_0 solution adding energy injection at recombination. Multi-resolution analysis yields $\Delta_T = 1.82 \gg 0.25$ with no convergence, correctly identifying EDE as fundamental physics rather than systematic error. This demonstrates the method’s discriminatory power.

Implications

First, Λ CDM remains the correct cosmological model without requiring dark energy modifications, gravitational theory extensions, or additional dark sector components. Current tensions reflect underestimated systematic errors in observations, not failures of fundamental physics.

Second, systematic uncertainties in contemporary surveys are larger and more scale-dependent than previously recognized. Standard uniform-resolution analyses obscure this structure. Next-generation billion-galaxy surveys (LSST/Rubin, Euclid, Roman) must implement scale-matched systematic corrections to achieve sub-percent cosmological constraints.

Third, the convergence of independent probes under multi-resolution treatment provides the strongest evidence to date that cosmological tensions have systematic rather than fundamental origins. Cross-survey consistency across instruments and analysis pipelines cannot be explained by survey-specific artifacts.

Methods Summary

Data: KiDS-1000 (270 correlation functions, 5 tomographic bins, public FITS files), DES-Y3 (published ξ_{\pm} values), HSC-Y3 (published ξ_{\pm} values), SH0ES Cepheid sample, TRGB distances, Planck 2018 CMB, BOSS/eBOSS BAO.

Spatial Encoding: Universal Horizon Address (UHA) system with variable resolution $N = 8\text{--}24$ bits per dimension. Horizon normalized to $R_H \approx 14,000$ Mpc at $a \approx 1$. Cell size $\Delta r = R_H/2^N$ per axis.

Systematic Correction: At each resolution tier, compute spatial distribution of cosmological observables. Extract systematic bias via comparison to theoretical expectations at matched scales. Convergence diagnostic Δ_T quantifies agreement between independent measurement methods.

Statistical Analysis: Full covariance matrices from survey releases. Monte Carlo error propagation (10,000 realizations). Joint MCMC fits with emcee (50 walkers, 10,000 steps, $\hat{R} < 1.01$ convergence).

Code Availability: Analysis pipeline publicly available at <https://github.com/abba-01/multiresolution-> with cryptographic verification (SHA-256 pipeline hash). Independent replication possible using public survey data. UHA encoding accessible via authenticated API (<https://got.gitgap.org/v1>) to protect intellectual property (patent pending).

References and Notes

References

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Competing interests: Author declares patent pending on UHA encoding system.

Data availability: Analysis code at <https://github.com/abba-01/multiresolution-cosmology>. Survey data from KiDS DR4, DES-Y3, HSC-Y3 public releases. Results reproducible with provided pipeline hash.