

## PHYS644 Problem Set 9

Maxwell A. Fine: SN 261274202

maxwell.fine@mail.mcgill.ca

November 15, 2025

### Problem 1: A more practical expression for the power spectrum

#### Problem 1A:

Let's start by recalling the definition of the forward Fourier transform in this notation.

$$\tilde{\delta}_{obs}(k) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} \delta_{obs}(\mathbf{r}) \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (1)$$

The inverse transform is:

$$\delta(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{1}{8\pi^3} \int d^3\tilde{k} \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}) \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (2)$$

With our value of  $\delta_{obs}(\mathbf{r}) = \gamma(\mathbf{r})\delta(\mathbf{r})$ . We can write the inverse Fourier<sup>1</sup> transform of  $\delta(\mathbf{r})$ , and then plug into the forward one.

Step 1:

$$\delta_{obs}(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\gamma(\mathbf{r})}{8\pi^3} \int d^3\tilde{k}' \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \exp(i\mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (3)$$

Now we put this entire expression into the forward transform for  $\delta(\mathbf{r})$ .

$$\tilde{\delta}_{obs}(k) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} \frac{\gamma(\mathbf{r})}{8\pi^3} \int d^3\tilde{k}' \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \exp(i\mathbf{k}' \cdot \mathbf{r}) \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (4)$$

Now we want to combine the exponential terms, and recognize the Fourier transform of  $\gamma(\mathbf{r})$ . The Forward transform is  $\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k}) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} \gamma(\mathbf{r}) \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r})$ .

$$\tilde{\delta}_{obs}(k) = \int d^3\mathbf{r} \frac{\gamma(\mathbf{r})}{8\pi^3} \int d^3\tilde{k}' \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \exp(-i(\mathbf{k}' - \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (5)$$

In our case  $\mathbf{k}' = \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}'$ .

$$\tilde{\delta}_{obs}(k) = \int \frac{\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')}{8\pi^3} d^3\tilde{k}' \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \quad (6)$$

I think this is a convolution?

#### Problem 1B:

We want to compute:

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{obs}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = \langle \tilde{\delta}_{obs}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\delta}_{obs}^*(\mathbf{k}) \rangle \quad (7)$$

This is the definition, and the \* is the complex conjugate because we are dealing with complex valued stuff. We know from Problem 1A what  $\tilde{\delta}_{obs}$  is, so we can write:

---

<sup>1</sup>Fourier is a persons name and should be capitalized.

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = \int \frac{\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_1)}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}_1) \int \frac{\tilde{\gamma}^*(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_2)}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' \tilde{\delta}^*(\mathbf{k}_2) \quad (8)$$

From Eqn 1 in the handout / the definition of the power spectrum we know

$$\langle \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}_1) \tilde{\delta}^*(\mathbf{k}_2) \rangle = (2\pi)^3 \delta^D(\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2) P(\mathbf{k}_1) \quad (9)$$

Why do we write the Dirac with a top exponent? This is horrible, I might switch to a subscript. Anyway, we can use this to replace our  $\delta(k)$ 's in the integral form.

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = \int \frac{\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_1)}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' \int \tilde{\gamma}^*(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_2) d^3 k' \delta^D(\mathbf{k}_1 - \mathbf{k}_2) P(\mathbf{k}_1) \quad (10)$$

One of the factors also cancels!, Now we can use the Dirac function to reduce one of the integrals.

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = \int \frac{|\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}_1)|^2}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' P(\mathbf{k}_1) \quad (11)$$

And  $k_1 = k'$

$$\boxed{\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = \int \frac{|\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')|^2}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' P(\mathbf{k}')} \quad (12)$$

### Problem 1C:

Oki, so the first half of this is easy, we say  $\gamma \approx$  a Dirac function, for the second half we will have to look up Parseval's theorem.

We can pull the  $P$  factor out of the integral.

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = P(\mathbf{k}) \int \frac{|\tilde{\gamma}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{k}')|^2}{8\pi^3} d^3 k' \quad (13)$$

Now our hope lies in Parseval. Parseval's theorem says:

$$\int d^3 r |f(\mathbf{r})|^2 = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} |\tilde{f}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \quad (14)$$

We can change the  $\gamma$  from Fourier space - the tilde to normal space with an  $r$ , and inside the survey space it is equal to 1.

$$\int d^3 r |\gamma(\mathbf{r})|^2 = V \quad (15)$$

So we can say:

$$\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle = P(\mathbf{k})V \quad (16)$$

Or matching the form on the handout

$$\boxed{P(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{\langle |\tilde{\delta}_{\text{obs}}(\mathbf{k})|^2 \rangle}{V}} \quad (17)$$

## Problem 2: Definition of $\sigma_8$

### Problem 2A:

Lets start with:

$$y = \int d^3r w_R(\mathbf{r}) \delta(\mathbf{r}) \quad (18)$$

Lets take the backwards Fourier transform  $\delta(\mathbf{r})$ , and plug it in.

$$y = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}) \int d^3r w_R(\mathbf{r}) \exp(i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (19)$$

We recognize the Fourier transform of  $w_R$ !

$$y = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k) \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}) \quad (20)$$

Now we compute the variance! We can use the powerspectrum trick again from problem 1. Since this is a real valued thing, the complex conjugate is equal to the original.

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \left\langle \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k) \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}) \int \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k') \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \right\rangle \quad (21)$$

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \int \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k) \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k') \langle \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{\delta}(\mathbf{k}') \rangle \quad (22)$$

Now we insert the powerspectrum trick from the handout.

$$\langle y^2 \rangle = \int \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k) \frac{d^3k'}{(2\pi)^3} \tilde{w}_R(k') (2\pi)^3 \delta^D(k - k') P(k) \quad (23)$$

$$\sigma_R^2 = \langle y^2 \rangle = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} |\tilde{w}_R(\mathbf{k})|^2 P(k) \quad (24)$$

### Problem 2B:

$$w_R(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{3}{4\pi R^3} \Theta(1 - \frac{r}{R}) \quad (25)$$

$$\tilde{w}_R(k) = \int d^3r w_R(\mathbf{r}) \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (26)$$

We are in 3D, so can can (attempt) some of the integrals in 3D spherical, this takes us to:

$$\tilde{w}_R(k) = \int d^3r \exp(-i\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \quad (27)$$

Our  $d^3r = r^2 dr d\Omega$ , we can  $\mathbf{k} \cdot \mathbf{r} = kr \cos \theta$  as

$$\tilde{w}_R(k) = \frac{3}{4\pi R^3} \int_{r < R} d\Omega dr \exp(-ikr \cos \theta) \quad (28)$$

From an integral table:

$$\int d\Omega \exp(-ik \cos \theta) = 2\pi \int_{-1}^1 du \exp(-ikru) = \frac{4\pi \sin(kr)}{kr} \quad (29)$$

Now we are left with the  $r^2 dr$  integral

$$\tilde{w}_R(k) = \frac{3}{R^3} \int_0^R r^2 \frac{\sin(kr)}{kr} dr = \frac{3}{kR^3} \int_0^R r \sin(kr) dr \quad (30)$$

and integral table gives us  $\int r \sin(kr) dr = -\frac{r \cos(kr)}{k} + \frac{\sin(kr)}{k^2}$ .

Using this we can say:

$$w_R(\mathbf{k}) = \frac{3}{k^3 R^3} \frac{\sin(kR) - kR \cos(kR)}{kR} \quad (31)$$

But we are only halfway there, we need to now invoke the power spectrum trick used in the other problems.

$$\sigma_r^2 = \langle y^2 \rangle = \int \frac{d^3 k}{(2\pi)^3} |\tilde{w}_R(k)|^2 P(k). \quad (32)$$

Due to isotropy,  $d^3 k = 4\pi k^2 dk$  and we can now say:

$$\sigma_r^2 = \frac{1}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty k^2 \left[ \frac{3(\sin(kR) - kR \cos(kR))}{(kR)^3} \right]^2 P(k) dk. \quad (33)$$

Taking the square root yields

$$\sigma_R = \left( \frac{4\pi}{(2\pi)^3} \int_0^\infty \left[ \frac{3(\sin(kR) - kR \cos(kR))}{(kR)^3} \right]^2 P(k) k^2 dk \right)^{1/2}, \quad (34)$$

I think I have used the correct convention for the forward transform throughout, but no guarantees.