

# 1. The Accelerating Universe and the Cosmic Event Horizon

OBSERVATIONS HAVE INDICATED THAT not only is our universe expanding, but that this expansion is *accelerating*. This can be explained by invoking a new kind of substance which has negative pressure. One such example is the cosmological constant, which has pressure  $P = -\epsilon$  (which implies equation of state parameter  $w = P/\epsilon = -1$ ).

- 1a) Show that the energy density of a substance with  $w = -1$  remains constant even as the scale factor of the universe,  $a(t)$ , changes.

**comment:** The constancy of  $\epsilon$  over cosmic expansion motivates the name “cosmological constant”. It is tempting to associate the cosmological constant (called  $\Lambda$ ) with the “vacuum energy density” of spacetime itself – that is, to argue that an empty region of space possesses a kind of constant quantum “ground state energy”. Unfortunately, simple calculations of this vacuum energy density give estimates that are many many orders of magnitude bigger than the  $\epsilon_\Lambda$  inferred from cosmic expansion

$$\epsilon = \epsilon_0 a^{-3(1+w)}$$

$$\text{if } w = -1: \epsilon = \epsilon_0 a^{-3(1-1)} = \epsilon_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \epsilon = \epsilon_0$$

$$\text{so } \frac{d\epsilon}{da} = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{energy density } \epsilon \text{ is const. } \checkmark$$

1b) Show<sup>1</sup> that a substance with  $w < -1/3$  leads to cosmic acceleration,  $\ddot{a} > 0$ .



<sup>1</sup> For this problem, use the (first) Friedmann equation

$$\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon(t) - \frac{kc}{R_0^2 a(t)^2}$$

and the fluid equation

$$\frac{d\epsilon}{da} = -\frac{3}{a} \epsilon(1+w) \quad (1)$$

To derive an acceleration equation (sometimes called the Second Friedmann equation)

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon(1+3w) \quad (2)$$

$$\dot{a}^2 = \frac{8\pi G a^2}{3c^2} \epsilon(t) - \frac{kc}{R_0^2}$$

$$\hookrightarrow 2\dot{a}\ddot{a} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2} \cdot \frac{d}{dt}(a^2 \epsilon(t))$$

$$= 2a\epsilon \frac{da}{dt} + a^2 \frac{d\epsilon}{dt}$$

$$\frac{2\dot{a}\ddot{a}}{\dot{a}} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2} \left( \frac{2a\epsilon \frac{da}{dt}}{\dot{a}} + \frac{a^2 \frac{d\epsilon}{dt}}{\dot{a}} \right)$$

$$2\ddot{a} = \frac{8\pi G}{3c^2} \left( 2a\epsilon + a^2 \cdot \frac{\frac{d\epsilon}{dt}}{\frac{da}{dt}} \right)$$

$$= \frac{2\epsilon}{da}$$

$$\ddot{a} = \frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} (2a\epsilon - 3a\epsilon(1+w))$$

$$\ddot{a} = \frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \cdot a \underbrace{\varepsilon(2 - 3(1+\omega))}_{2-3-3\omega}$$

$$= -1 - 3\omega$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \varepsilon(1+3\omega)$$

↪ showing that  $\ddot{a} > 0$  implies that  $\omega < -\frac{1}{3}$

$$\ddot{a} > 0 \Rightarrow -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \varepsilon(1+3\omega) > 0$$

$$\hookrightarrow 1+3\omega < 0$$

$$3\omega < -1$$

$$\boxed{\omega < -\frac{1}{3}} \quad \checkmark$$

c)  $\omega = -1$

flat universe  $\Rightarrow \Omega_0 = 1$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}^2}{a^2} = H_0^2 \left[ \underbrace{\frac{\Omega_{0,r}}{a^3} + \frac{\Omega_{0,n}}{a^4}}_{\text{eliminate b/c we only care about } \Lambda} + \Omega_{0,\Lambda} + \cancel{\frac{(1-\Omega_0)}{a^2}} \right]$$

eliminate b/c we only care about  $\Lambda$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\ddot{a}^2}{a^2} = H_0^2 \Omega_{0,\Lambda} \rightarrow \frac{\dot{a}}{a} = H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_{0,\Lambda}} \rightarrow \frac{da}{a} = H_0 \Omega_{0,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}} dt$$

$$\int_a^{a(t_0)} \frac{da}{a} = H_0 \Omega_{0,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}} \int_t^{t_0} dt \Rightarrow \ln(a(t_0)) - \ln(a) = H_0 \Omega_{0,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t_0 - t)$$

$$\Rightarrow \ln(a(t)) = H_0 \Omega_{0,\Lambda}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t - t_0)$$

$$\rightarrow a(t) = e^{\overset{\sim 1}{H_0 \Omega_{0,m}} (t-t_0)} = e^{H_0 (t-t_0)}$$

2)  $\Omega_{m,0} > \Omega_{\Lambda,0}$   
 $1+z = \frac{1}{a(t_e)}$

$$\cdot \Omega_m = \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{a^3}$$

$$\cdot \Omega_{\Lambda} = \Omega_{0,\Lambda}$$

$$\Omega_m = \Omega_{\Lambda}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{a^3} = \Omega_{0,\Lambda}$$

$$a^3 = \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{\Omega_{0,\Lambda}}$$

$$a = \left( \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{\Omega_{0,\Lambda}} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$z = \frac{1}{a(t_0)} - 1$$

$$= \left( \frac{\Omega_{0,\Lambda}}{\Omega_{0,m}} \right)^{1/3} - 1$$

$$z_m \gtrsim 0.33$$

c) 2nd Friedmann Eq:  $\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \sum \epsilon(1+3w)$  sum of  $\epsilon_m$  and  $\epsilon_\Lambda$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \sum \epsilon(1+3w)$$

$$\uparrow \quad \epsilon = \epsilon_0 = \epsilon_{c,0} \Omega_0 = \frac{3c^2 H_0^2}{8\pi G} \Omega_0$$

$$= -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \cdot \frac{3c^2 H_0^2}{8\pi G} \Omega_0 (1-3)$$

$$= H_0^2 \Omega_0$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \underbrace{\sum \epsilon(1+3w)}_{(\epsilon_m + \epsilon_\Lambda(-2))}$$

$$\cdot \epsilon_m = \frac{\epsilon_{m,0}}{a^3}$$

$$\cdot \epsilon_\Lambda = \epsilon_{\Lambda,0}$$

$\uparrow$   
0

$$\Rightarrow 0 = \epsilon_m - 2\epsilon_\Lambda$$

$$0 = \frac{\epsilon_{m,0}}{a^3} - 2\epsilon_{\Lambda,0}$$

$$2\epsilon_{\Lambda,0} = \frac{\epsilon_{m,0}}{a^3}$$

$$2\epsilon_{\Lambda,0} \Omega_{0,\Lambda} = \epsilon_{\Lambda,0} \Omega_{0,m} / a^3$$

$$a^3 = \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{2\Omega_{0,\Lambda}} \Rightarrow a = \left( \frac{\Omega_{0,m}}{2\Omega_{0,\Lambda}} \right)^{1/3}$$

$$1+z = \frac{1}{a} \Rightarrow z = \left( \frac{2\Omega_{0,\Lambda}}{\Omega_{0,m}} \right)^{1/3} - 1$$

$$z_{\text{matter}} \gtrsim 0.67$$

f)  $a(t) = e^{H_0(t-t_0)}$

FLW Metric:

$$\underline{ds^2} = -c^2 dt^2 + a^2(t) dr^2$$

:0

$$c^2 dt^2 = a^2 dr^2$$

$$cdt = -a dr$$

$$c \int_{t_0}^{\infty} e^{\underbrace{H_0(t_0-t)}} dt = - \int_{r_H}^0 dr$$

$= e^{H_0 t_0} e^{-H_0 t}$

$$\Rightarrow c e^{H_0 t_0} \left( 0 + \frac{1}{H_0} e^{-H_0 t_0} \right) = r_H$$

$$0 + \frac{c}{H_0} = r_H$$

$$r_H = \frac{c}{H_0}$$

g)  $r = (1-\delta)r_H$  ,  $\delta \ll 1$

$$a(t_0) = a(t_e) , \quad a(t_{\text{obs}}) = a(t)$$

$$c \int_{t_e}^{t_{\text{obs}}} e^{H_0(t_0-t)} dt = - \int_{(1-\delta)r_H}^0 dr$$

$$c e^{H_0 t_0} \int_{t_0}^{t_{obs}} e^{-H_0 t} dt = (1-\delta) r_H$$

$$c e^{H_0 t_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{H_0} e^{-H_0 t} \right]_{\substack{t_0 \\ \uparrow \\ = t_0}}^{\substack{t_{obs} \\ \nwarrow \\ = t}} = (1-\delta) r_H$$

$$\Rightarrow c e^{H_0 t_0} \left[ -\frac{1}{H_0} e^{-H_0 t} + \frac{1}{H_0} e^{-H_0 t_0} \right] = (1-\delta) r_H$$

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{c}{H_0} - \frac{c}{H_0} \cdot \frac{e^{H_0 t_0}}{e^{H_0 t}} &= (1-\delta) r_H \\ = \frac{c}{H_0} \left( 1 - \frac{1}{a(t)} \right) &= (1-\delta) r_H = (1-\delta) \frac{c}{H_0} \end{aligned}$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{a} = 1 - \delta$$

$$1 - \frac{1}{1+z} = 1 - \delta$$

$$\delta = \frac{1}{1+z}$$

$$\Rightarrow z+1 = \frac{1}{\delta}$$

$$\boxed{z = \frac{1}{\delta} - 1}$$

$$1+z = \frac{a(t_0)}{a(t)}$$

$$\frac{a(t)}{a(t_0)}$$

$$a(t) = a(t_0)(1+z)$$

$$\frac{1}{a(t)} = \frac{1}{1+z}$$

$$1+z = \frac{a(t)}{a(t_0)}$$

$$1+z = a$$

$$\frac{1}{a} = \frac{1}{1+z}$$

## 2. Phantom Energy and the Big Rip

2)  $\frac{d\varepsilon}{da} = -\frac{3}{a} \varepsilon(1+w)$

if  $\varepsilon$  increases,  $\frac{d\varepsilon}{da} > 0$

$\hookrightarrow -\frac{3}{a} \varepsilon(1+w) > 0$

$1+w < 0$

$\Rightarrow \boxed{w < -1}$  it is @  $w < -1$  in which  $\varepsilon$  increases as universe expands

b)  $\cdot$  flat  $\Rightarrow \Omega_0 = 1$

$\cdot \Omega_{w,0} + \Omega_{m,0}$

$\cdot w = -5/3$

$\cdot \Omega_0 = \sum_i \Omega_{i,0}$

$\cdot \frac{H^2}{H_0^2} = \sum_i \frac{\Omega_{i,0}}{a^{3(1+w_i)}} + \frac{1-\Omega_0}{a^2}$

$\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} = H_0^2 \left[ \overset{\text{ignore}}{\cancel{\frac{\Omega_{m,0}}{a^3}}} + \underbrace{\frac{\Omega_{0,w}}{a^{3(1+w)}}}_{= a^{3(-5/3)} = a^{-2}} + \cancel{\frac{(1-\Omega_0)}{a^2}} \right]$

$\frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^2} = H_0^2 a^2 \Omega_{0,w} \rightarrow \frac{\dot{a}^2}{a^4} = H_0^2 \Omega_{0,w}$

$\frac{\dot{a}}{a^2} = H_0 \Omega_{0,w}^{1/2} \Rightarrow \int_a^{a(t_0)} \frac{da}{a^2} = H_0 \Omega_{0,w}^{1/2} \int_t^{t_0} dt$

$-\frac{1}{a} \Big|_a^{a(t_0)} = H_0 \Omega_{0,w}^{1/2} (t_0 - t)$

$-\frac{1}{1} + \frac{1}{a(t)} = H_0 \Omega_{0,w}^{1/2} (t_0 - t)$



$$\frac{1}{a(t)} = H_0 \Omega_{0,\omega}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t_0 - t) + 1$$

$$a(t) = \left[ H_0 \Omega_{0,\omega}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t_0 - t) + 1 \right]^{-1}$$

c) Blows up when  $\left[ H_0 \Omega_{0,\omega}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t_0 - t) + 1 \right] = 0$

$$H_0 \Omega_{0,\omega}^{\frac{1}{2}} (t_0 - t_{\text{rip}}) = -1$$

$$t_0 - t_{\text{rip}} = \frac{-1}{H_0 \Omega_{0,\omega}^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{\text{rip}} = t_0 + \frac{1}{H_0 \Omega_{\omega,0}^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

d) if  $\Omega_{m,0} \sim 0.3$ , then  $\Omega_{\omega,0} \sim 0.7$  if the rest of the energy density is phantom energy

$$\Delta t = t_{\text{rip}} - t_0 = \frac{1}{H_0 \Omega_{\omega,0}^{\frac{1}{2}}}$$

$$H_0 = 70 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{s Mpc}} \times \frac{1000 \text{ yr}}{1 \text{ km}} \times \frac{1 \text{ Mpc}}{3.086 \times 10^{22} \text{ m}} = 2.268 \times 10^{-18} \text{ s}^{-1}$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta t = 5.26 \times 10^{17} \text{ s} \sim 1.67 \times 10^{10} \text{ yrs.}$$

time until big rip

e)  $v = \sqrt{GM/r}$ ,  $T = \frac{2\pi r}{v} \Rightarrow \frac{T}{2\pi} = \frac{r}{v}$

$$m \ddot{a} r = \frac{GMm}{r^2} \rightarrow \ddot{a} = \frac{GM}{r^2} = \frac{v^2}{r^2} = \frac{4\pi^2}{T^2}$$

$$\frac{GM}{r} = v^2$$

2nd Friedmann Eq.  $\omega = -1/3$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon (1+3\omega)$$

$$= -\frac{4\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon (-4) = \frac{16\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon = \frac{16\pi G}{3c^2} \epsilon_0 a^2$$

$$\epsilon_0 = \epsilon_{c,0} \Omega_0 = \frac{3c^2 H_0^2}{8\pi G} \Omega_0$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{16\pi G}{3c^2} \cdot \frac{3c^2 H_0^2}{8\pi G} \Omega_0 a^2 = 2 H_0^2 \underbrace{\Omega_0}_{=1} a^2$$

$$= 2 H_0^2 a^2 = \frac{4\pi^2}{T^2}$$

$$a H_0 \sqrt{2} = \frac{2\pi}{T} \rightarrow a = \frac{1}{H_0} \cdot \frac{2\pi}{T\sqrt{2}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{a} = H_0 \cdot \frac{T\sqrt{2}}{2\pi}$$

relating  $\frac{1}{a}$  term to part b:

$$\frac{1}{a} = H_0 \Omega_0^{1/2} (t_0 - t) + 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \Omega^{1/2} t_0 - \Omega^{1/2} t + \frac{1}{H_0} = \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T$$

↑ abbreviate  $\Omega_{0,0}$  as  $\Omega$  for my sake

$$\rightarrow t_0 = t - \frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2} H_0} + \frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T$$

Substitute into eq. from part c:

$$t_{\text{rip}} = t - \cancel{\frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2} H_0}} + \frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T + \cancel{\frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2} H_0}}$$

$$\Rightarrow t_{\text{rip}} = t + \frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T$$

$$t = t_{\text{rip}} - \underbrace{\frac{1}{\Omega^{1/2}} \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T}$$

Near the big rip, phantom energy dominates and  $\Omega_{\text{pho}} \sim 1$

$$\Rightarrow \boxed{t = t_{\text{rip}} - \frac{\sqrt{2}}{2\pi} T} \quad \checkmark$$