Cosmological Evidences of Dark Matter through the CMB

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1 Introduction

Many astronomical and cosmological observations suggest that, by using the General Theory of Relativity, there is an invisible form of matter that exerts a gravitational pull on baryonic matter. In order to explain such observations, scientists have proposed the existence of Dark Matter, a new form of matter that does not interact electromagnetically and, therefore, it appears invisible to us. The fundamental nature of Dark Matter is not well understood yet, and whether Dark Matter is truly a new form of matter or the consequence of new laws of gravity is still matter of debate.

One of the most compelling evidence for the existence of Dark Matter is given by the analysis of the Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB).

The Cosmic Microwave Background is the electromagnetic radiation coming from the hot plasma of the early stages of the Universe. As the Universe was expanding, it cooled down to a temperature low enough to form stable hydrogen $e^- + p^+ \rightarrow H + \gamma$ (Recombination). As the number density of the free electrons dropped with the expansion, the Thomson scattering $e^- + \gamma \rightarrow e^- + \gamma$ became inefficient and the photons have since streamed freely through the universe in all directions and they are today observed as the Cosmic Microwave Background [1].

The Cosmic Microwave Background appears to us as the best measured Planck spectrum that we know with fluctuations of order 10^{-5} around the average temperature $T_{CMB} = 2.725$ K. The fluctuations are extremely important because they contain the crucial information about the primordial plasma and its content. In fact, during the early stages of the Universe, the photons were interacting with baryonic matter, which in turn was interacting gravitationally with dark matter. Thus, the observations of the CMB fluctuations are linked to the energy-matter content of our Universe and dark matter.

The aim of this paper is to give a short and concise overview of the physics of the CMB and the cosmological evidence of Dark Matter through the analysis of the CMB fluctuations within the ΛCDM model assumptions. We are interested in providing few but fundamental tools to understand the importance of the CMB for Dark Matter.

We first give an historical overview of the discovery and measurements of the CMB, then we discuss the main assumptions of the ΛCDM model and the link between the content of our universe and the cosmological model. Afterwards, the phenomenology of the hot plasma is explained with a simplified treatment in order to understand the power spectrum of the CMB. We conclude with the discussion of the CMB temperature power spectrum and the role of dark matter.
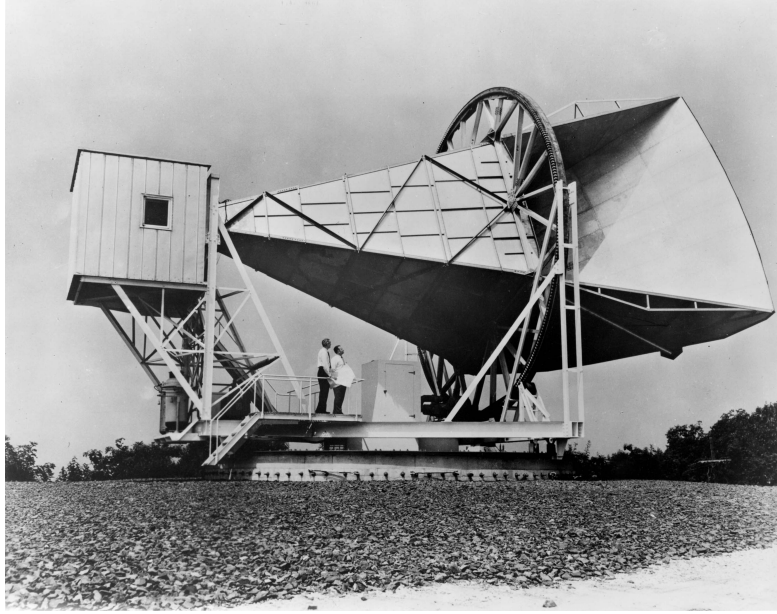
Figure 1: The 15 meter Holmdel horn antenna at Bell Telephone Laboratories in Holmdel, New Jersey. (By NASA - Great Images in NASA Description, Public Domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=6463768)

2 From the Discovery of the CMB to the Planck mission

In the 1960s Penzias and Wilson measured an isotropic and constant with time strong signal coming from the sky by using a horn-reflector radio antenna (Figure(1)). They tried everything they could do to reduce the "noise" in their system, but the signal remained.

In 1965 Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson published the paper: *A measurement of excess antenna temperature at 4080 Mc/s*, where they reported the measurements of an isotropic, unpolarized, and free from seasonal variations excess noise temperature [7]. The explanation of that signal was given by Robert Dicke and his research group at Princeton University: such signal as the relic of an early, hot, dense, and opaque state of the universe[1] [4] .

The discovery of the CMB created a big excitement and a new era of cosmology began. Measuring the CMB spectrum and its deviation from the black body spectrum was the new challange. First of all, the photons of the CMB can be absorbed by the Earth's atmosphere, because the energy per CMB photon (approximately $\sim 6 \times 10^{-4}$ eV) is comparable to the energy of vibration or rotation for a small molecule (of water for instance). In fact, microwaves with wavelengths shorter than $\lambda \sim 3$ cm are strongly absorbed by water molecules [2]. This problem could be overcomed by observing the CMB in different bands and from locations where the atmospheric humidity is low, at high altitudes and at low temperatures. However, the best way to meseaure the CMB spectrum is to use satellites.

The first sattellite that was launched to observe the CMB was COBE. It did provide a convincing first detection of the CMB anisotropy, and it played a crucial role in determining the viability of the different cosmological models at that time.

After that, WMAP and PLanck space missions increased the accuracy of the measurements Figure (3).

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[1]The existence of the cosmic background radiation had actually been predicted by the physicist George Gamow and his colleagues in 1948

The COBE, WMAP and Planck missions measured the CMB anisotropies with increasing accuracy. COBE, the first CMB satellite, measured fluctuations to scales of $7°$. WMAP was able to measure resolutions down to $0.3°$ in five different frequency bands, with Planck measuring all the way down to just 5 arcminutes $(0.07°)$ in nine different frequency bands in total.

Nevertheless the satellites improved their accuracy, many other sources of noise were encountered such as the light coming from the center of our galaxy, other stars and other objects in the universe, in addition to the relative motion of the satellite with respect to the CMB (Figure (4)).

Finally, observations and statistical analysis showed that the CMB spectrum is close to a black body spectrum up to fluctuations of order of 10^{-5} K (Figure (2)).

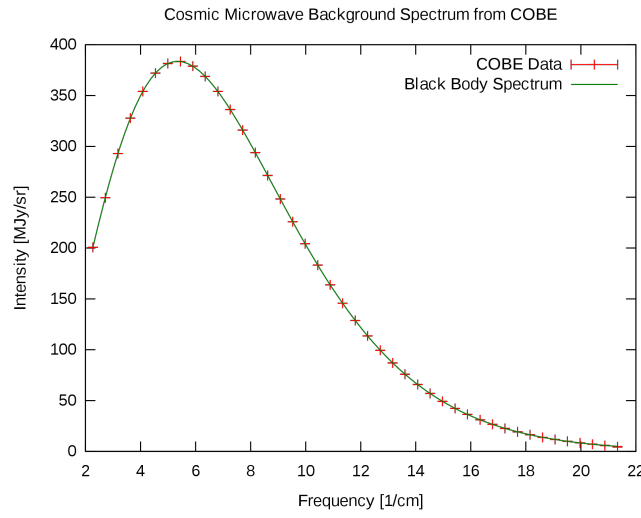**Cosmic Microwave Background Spectrum**

Figure 2:

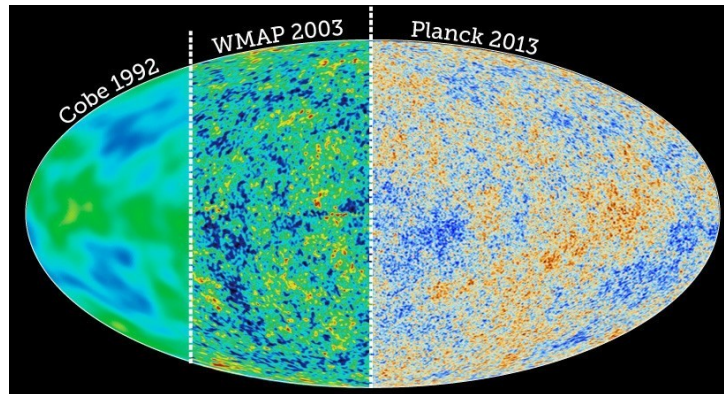**The Cosmic Microwave Background anisotropies measured by COBE, WMAP and Planck**

Figure 3: (NASA/COBE/DMR; NASA/WMAP SCIENCE TEAM; ESA AND THE PLANCK COLLABORATION)
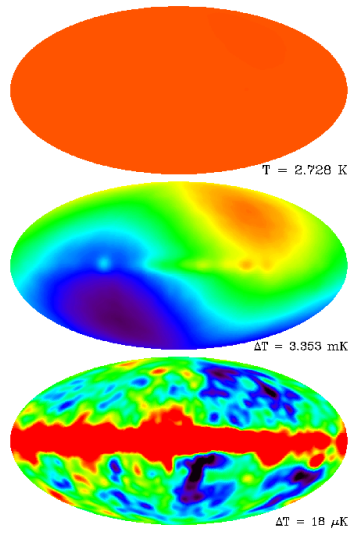
The CMB sky measured by COBE

Figure 4: The microwave sky as seen by the COBE DMR (differential microwave radiometer) instrument. The top panel shows the microwave sky as seen on a linear tem- perature scale including zero. No anisotropies are visible in this image, because the CMB monopole at 2.725K dominates. In the middle panel, the monopole component has been subtracted. Apart from some slight contamination from the galaxy near the equator (corre- sponding to the plane of our Galaxy), one sees only a nearly perfect dipole pattern, owing to our peculiar motion with respect to the rest frame defined by the CMB. In the bottom panel, both the monopole and dipole components have been removed. Except for the galactic contamination around the equator, one sees the cosmic microwave background anisotropy along with some noise. (Credit: NASA/COBE Science Team)

3   Content of the Universe

It is often said that our Universe is made up of 68.8% of Dark Energy, and 26.8% by Dark Matter and 4.9% of ordinary matter, but what do we really mean by that?

In this section we explain the meaning of these parameters and what is Universe made up of. The assumptions and the theoretical framework that we are going to explain will be then used to analyze the observations of the CMB.

We assume that the observable properties of the Universe are isotropic and there is not a preferred direction. Therefore, the Universe is assumed to be homogenous and isotropic at enough large scales > 100 Mpc, at least up to the observable universe.

Another important assumption is that there exists a class of observers at rest with respect to the Cosmic Microwave Background [3]. Let us clarify this concept. The CMB appears as an homogeneous map at temperature $T = 2.7$ K as shown in the first panel of Figure(4). After subtracting the average temperature of the CMB from its spectrum, a moving observer with respect with the CMB will see a dipole pattern, where the blue-shifted photons come from the direction the observer is moving toward to and the red-shifted photons from the opposite direction. Since Earth is not at rest with respect to the CMB, the satellite COBE measured the dipole pattern showed in the second panel in Figure (4).

In addition we assume that space-time is described by a metric theory of gravity, and we treat space-time as a 4-dimensional manifold characterized by the metric tensor $g_{\mu\nu}$. The most general metric $g_{\mu\nu}$ satisfying homogeneity and isotropy assumptions is the Friedmann – Lemaître – Robertson – Walker (FLRW) metric written here in terms of the invariant geodesic distance $ds^2 = g_{\mu\nu}dx^\mu dx^\nu$:

$$ds^2 = -c^2 dt^2 + a^2(t)\left(\frac{1}{1 - k\,r^2}dr^2 + r^2 d\Omega^2\right) \tag{1}$$

where k is the space curvature and it determines the geometry of the spatial dimensions, elliptical, Euclidean or hyperbolic for $k > 0$, $k = 0$ or $k < 0$. The space curvature determines in which kind of three dimensional space we live in and how angles are measured.

The scale factor $a(t)$ determines how the distances scale with the evolution of the Universe. The propagation condition of light is $ds^2 = 0$, which implies that the light with frequency ν and the wavelength λ is red- or blueshifted by the same amount as space expands or shrinks:

$$\frac{\nu_{emitted}}{\nu_{observed}} = \frac{\lambda_{emitted}}{\lambda_{observed}} = 1 + \frac{\lambda_{emitted} - \lambda_{observed}}{\lambda_{observed}} = 1 + z = \frac{a(t_{emitted})}{a(t_{observed})} \tag{2}$$

Notice that the FLRW metric has $g_{0i} = 0$ due to the isotropy and the two parameters $a(t)$ and k are the only allowed to preserve our assumptions, all the others parameter that we can introduce can be absorbed in these two.

If we assume the correctnes of the General Theory of Relativity, we can use the Einstein's field equations

$$R_{\mu\nu} - \frac{1}{2}R\,g_{\mu\nu} + \Lambda g_{\mu\nu} = \frac{8\pi G}{c^4}\,T_{\mu\nu} \tag{3}$$

in order to understand how spacetime evolves by using the FLRW metric. The Einstein's field equations relate how the geometry of spacetime (left hand side) changes with the presence of masses and energy (right hand side).

The most general fluid consistent with the assumption of homogeneity and isotropy is a perfect fluid, one in which an observer comoving with the fluid would see the universe around it as isotropic [5]. Therefore, the energy-momentum tensor $T_{\mu\nu}$ can be written as

$$T^{\mu\nu} = (p + \rho c^2)u^\mu u^\nu + pg^{\mu\nu} \tag{4}$$

where ρ and p are, respectively, the mass density and the pressure of the fluid.

Solving (3)and using the above definition (4) (which is a rather long and tedious derivation),

gives us the Friedmann equation:

$$H^2 = \left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi G}{3}\rho - \frac{k\,c^2}{a^2} + \frac{\Lambda\,c^2}{3}$$

$$\frac{\ddot{a}}{a} = -\frac{4\pi G}{3}\left(\rho + 3\frac{p}{c^2}\right) + \frac{\Lambda\,c^2}{3} \tag{5}$$

where $\dot{}$ represents the time derivative.

The first Friedmann equation tells us how the Hubble parameter $H(t)$, i.e. the expansion rate, evolves according to what is contained in our Universe. The second Friedmann equation tells how the Universe accelerates.

In order to solve the system we need another equation: the equation of state $p = w\rho$ that relates the the pressure and the mass density.

By using the conservation of energy momentum tensor $\nabla_\mu T^{\mu 0} = 0$ yields:

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\left(\rho c^2 a^3\right) + p\frac{\mathrm{d}}{\mathrm{d}t}\left(a^3\right) = 0 \tag{6}$$

Solving this for dust (a name for non-relativistic matter) $\rho_m c^2 << p_m$ and for radiation $\rho_r c^2 = p_r/3$ gives

$$\rho_m = \rho_{m0} a^{-3} \qquad\qquad \rho_r = \rho_{r0} a^{-4}$$

where ρ_{m0} and ρ_{r0} are the matter density and radiation density evaluated today $t = t_0$, $a(t_0) = a_0 = 1$. The above result is somehow intuitive because the normal non-relativistic matter is "diluted" as the the spatial distances a^3 increase with the expansion of the Universe, i.e. the number of particles per unit volume decreases with the expansion. The energy density of radiation $u = \rho_r c^2$ decreases with the power of four because photons experience not only the dilution due to the spatial expansion but their frequencies, accordingly their energies, decreased by the streching of spacetime.

We now rewrite the first Friedmann equation as

$$H^2 = H_0^2\left[\frac{8\pi G}{3H_0^2}\rho_{m0}a^{-3} + \frac{8\pi G}{3H_0^2}\rho_{r0}a^{-4} + \frac{-k\,c^2}{H_0^2}a^{-2} + \frac{\Lambda\,c^2}{3H_0^2}\right]$$

where we defined $H_0 = H(t_0)$. The above equation tells us that in the limit of $a \to 0$ the expansion rate and the evolution of the early Universe was determined by radiation. In the other limit the future of the Universe is determined by the cosmological constant Λ. We have not specified the nature of the cosmological constant, up to now it has been trated as a possible parameter that can be added to the Einstein's field equations(3).

If we define the density parameters as:

$$\Omega_{\Lambda 0} = \frac{\Lambda c^2}{3H_0^2} \qquad \Omega_{k0} = -\frac{kc^2}{H_0^2} \qquad \Omega_{m0} = \frac{8\pi G}{3H_0^2}\rho_{m0} \qquad \Omega_{r0} = \frac{8\pi G}{3H_0^2}\rho_{r0} \tag{7}$$

and evaluating the Friedmann equation (5) today $a(t_0) = a_0 = 1$ we obtain the cosmic sum rule

$$\Omega_{\Lambda 0} + \Omega_{m0} + \Omega_{k0} + \Omega_{r0} = 1 \tag{8}$$

So the experimental measurements of these parameters must add up to one. We will see in the next sections how the CMB power spectrum puts constraints on these parameters and tell use that there is a form of matter that we cannot wee.

6

4 Phenomenology of the Fluctuations

The Cosmic Microwave Background fluctuations were produced when radiation and matter were interacting in the early stage of the Universe. Before the release of the CMB at $z > 1100$ the electromagnetic radiation is firmly coupled (both energetically and kinetically) to the baryons. The behavior of such a system can be solved by using the equations of relativistic hydrodynamics and the Einstein's field equations (3) with small perturbations of density $\delta\rho$, pressure δp and gravitational potential $\delta\Phi$. Perturbations of different scales propagate as sound waves through the plasma until they are frozen at the time of recombination and they appear to us as temperature fluctuations $\Theta = \delta T/T$ in the CMB map. For a photon gas we know that the temperature fluctuations are related to the number density n, energy density $u = \rho c^2$ and pressure p as follow:

$$n \propto T^3 \to \frac{\delta n}{n_0} = 3\Theta \qquad\qquad u \propto T^4 \qquad p = \frac{u}{3} \to \frac{\delta u}{u_0} = 4\Theta = \frac{\delta p}{p_0}$$

Solving the full general-relativistic description of the photon-matter fluid requires a long and complicated treatment [BAUMANN], so we use instead an analogy with the most favourite model of a physicist: the harmonic oscillator[2].

All kinds of perturbations are proportional to the temperature fluctuations Θ, so we can associate the fluctuations to the displacement x of spring-mass system from its equilibrium. Let us build the analogy. The fluctuations of the primordial fluid can be characterized by a typical scale $\lambda = 2\pi/k$ of oscillation/propagation that could depends on the local gravitational pull, pressure or other properties. It is important to stress that k is not a wavevector, but it acts as it was. In fact, the k parameter will represent the strength of the spring. If k is small, the spring is loose and it oscillates over large scales λ, analogously the oscillations of the fluctuations will have a large wavelength.

In addition, fluctuations are damped due to the expasion of the Universe and due to collisions, and ultimately they feel a constant gravitational pull from the overall fluid. By analogy with the mass-spring system we analyze the fluctuations at different scales by solving the well known equation:

$$m\ddot{x} = -kx - \eta\dot{x} - mg \qquad \to \qquad \ddot{x} + 2\gamma\dot{x} + \omega_k^2 x + g = 0 \tag{9}$$

where k is linked to the scale of oscillations $\omega_k^2 = k/m$, η to the damping ($2\gamma = \eta/m$), g to the constant gravitational pull of the overall system and m the inertia of the perturbation. The general solution of the differential equation is

$$x = x_0 e^{i\omega t} - \frac{g\,m}{k} \qquad\qquad \omega = i\gamma \pm \sqrt{\omega_k^2 - \gamma^2} \tag{10}$$

We will discuss the overall behavior of the photon-baryon fluid at different scales λ by studying the solutions of the harmonic oscillator for different k.

4.1 Sachs-Wolfe effect

In the harmonic oscillator model for very small k the mass experiences only the gravitational pull of the overdensities $x \approx -gm/k$ and it does not oscillate.

In the photon-baryon fluid, perturbation modes of very large scales (large λ, very small k) do not have the time to complete an entire oscillation before recombination and they are influenced only by the gravitational potential of the overdensities. As a consequence of the Einstein's equivalence principle, photons that escape from a gravitational field are redshifted. If we consider the fluctuations of the CMB on large scales, the photons that tries to escape from the gravitational

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[2]As in every analogy in physics, the phenomena are not the same. A mass on a spring is not the same as a relativistic fluid perturbation in an expanding 4-dimensional manifold, but the analogy is very helpful for the understanding and the equations are not that different (in first approximation)

well created by matter are redshifted according to the so-called Sachs-Wolfe effect. The theoretical result from the relativistic derivation gives a temperature fluctuation $\Theta = -\delta\Phi/(3c^2)$. The Sachse Wolfe effect takes into account an additional effect that cannot be explained with the simple harmonic oscillator model and it arises from the time dilation due to the expansion of the Universe.

4.2   Acoustic Oscillations and Damping

Let us consider again the harmonic oscillator model in the case of $\omega_k > \gamma$, small scales where k is big "enough". The respective solutions are of the form of the damped harmonic oscillator with a shift of $-gm/k$

$$x = x_0 e^{-\gamma t} e^{\pm i \sqrt{\omega_k^2 - \gamma^2}\, t} - \frac{gm}{k}$$

Before recombination, the perturbations of the photon-baryon fluid behaves analogously to the damped harmonic oscillator.

During matter dominated era, overdensities of dark matter creates gravitational well where the photon baryon-fluid falls in. As a consequence the gravitational potential compresses the baryon-photon fluid and the pressure starts to rise. Since dark matter and baryonic matter are pressureless, the system accretes until the photon pressure causes the fluid to expand outward.

The process of compression and expansion gives rise to sound waves and it goes on until recombination. Only the fluctuations that are caught at the extrema of their oscillations will become peaks in the CMB power spectrum. Modes caught at the extrema form a harmonic series based on the distance sound can travel by recombination. The first peak represents the mode that compressed once inside potential wells before recombination, the second the mode that compressed and then rarefied, the third the mode that compressed then rarefied then compressed, etc. exactly as a spring! The radiation pressure acts as a spring, whereas the inertia of the fluid as the mass of the ball.

The temperature fluctuations are damped due to collisions between the baryons and the photons that dissipate energy, and the expansion of the universe.

The physical scale of the damping depends on the baryon density through the mean free path
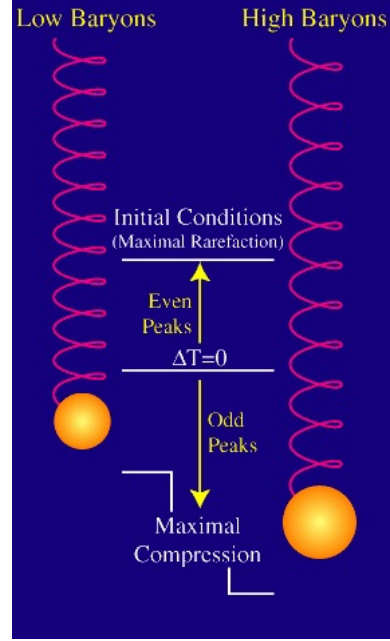
5   Comments on the results and plots of the CMB spectrum

The four density parameters Ω encode the energy-matter content of the Universe and they determine the evolution of space-time through the Friedmann equations. In section 4 we have outlined how we expect matter to behave at large and small scales. We want now to link the information contained in the fluctuations of the CMB photons to the density parameters.

The behavior of the primordial plasma is imprinted in the CMB photons, in fact, we observe the density fluctuations as anisotropies in the sky map tempearature. In order to relate the fluctuations at different scales and the deviations from the average temperature 2.7 K on the CMB map, it is necessary to decompose the temperature deviation $T(\theta, \phi)$ into a set of orthonormal
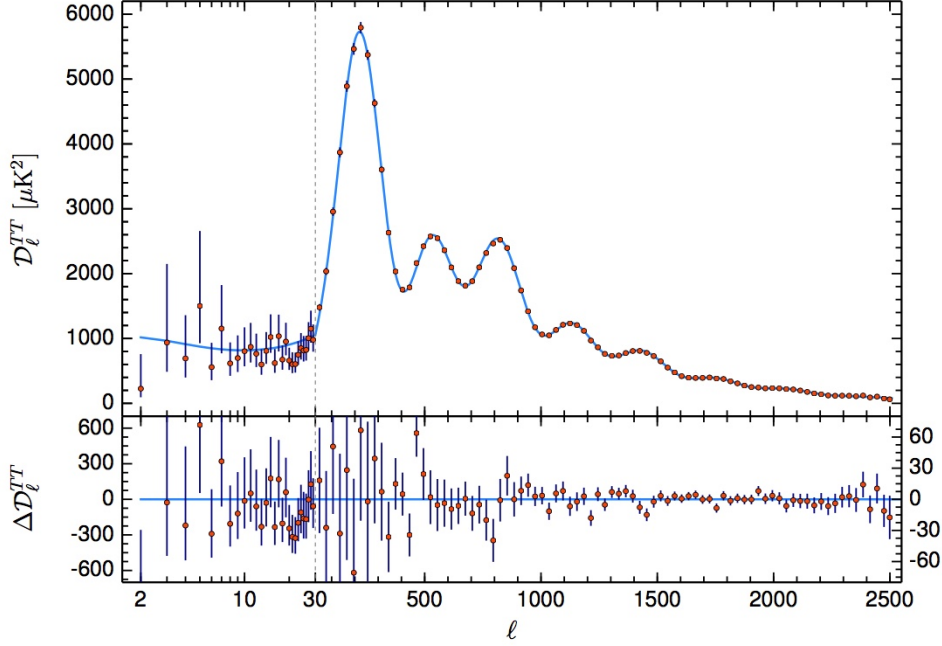
Figure 5: Planck 2018 temperature power spectrum. $\mathcal{D}_l^{TT} = l(l+1)C_l$ (arXiv:1807.06209v1)

functions on the sky. The spherical harmonics $Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)$ are suitable for this.

So if $T(\theta, \phi)$ is the temperature at position (θ, ϕ) on the sky map, we can write:

$$T(\theta, \phi) = \sum_{l,m} a_{lm} Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \tag{11}$$

Due to the orthonormality of the spherical harmonics, we obtain the coeaficients:

$$a_{lm} = \int_0^{2\pi} \mathrm{d}\phi \int_0^{\pi} \mathrm{d}\theta \, \sin(\theta) \, T(\theta, \phi) \, Y_l^m(\theta, \phi) \tag{12}$$

We define the power spectrum of the temperature map as

$$C_l = \frac{1}{2l+1} \sum_{m=-l}^{l} |a_{lm}|^2 \tag{13}$$

Since $l \sim 1/\theta$, for small l we are considering big scales of the sky map, viceversa for big l. As we consider increasing l we are looking at fluctuations in the primordial plasma that have a decreasing scale and thus wavelength.

The measured temperature power spectrum is shown in Figure(5) For large scales, small $l < 30$, the power spectrum is constant and oscillations do not take place. Therefore, the Sachs-Wolfe effect is dominant on large scales where the oscillations have too large wavelength to complete an entire oscillations before recombination and they experience mainly the gravitational redshift.

For large l the acoustic oscillations are dominant. The first peak is at $l \approx 200$ approximately 1° on the sky, it represents how the tiny variations in the fluid density gave rise to a sound wave which collapsed exactly at the time of recombination. The position of the peak tells us at which scale the first total compression of the primordial plasma happened. The second peak is linked to the maximal rarefaction of the plasma, so the position of the second peak tells us how the

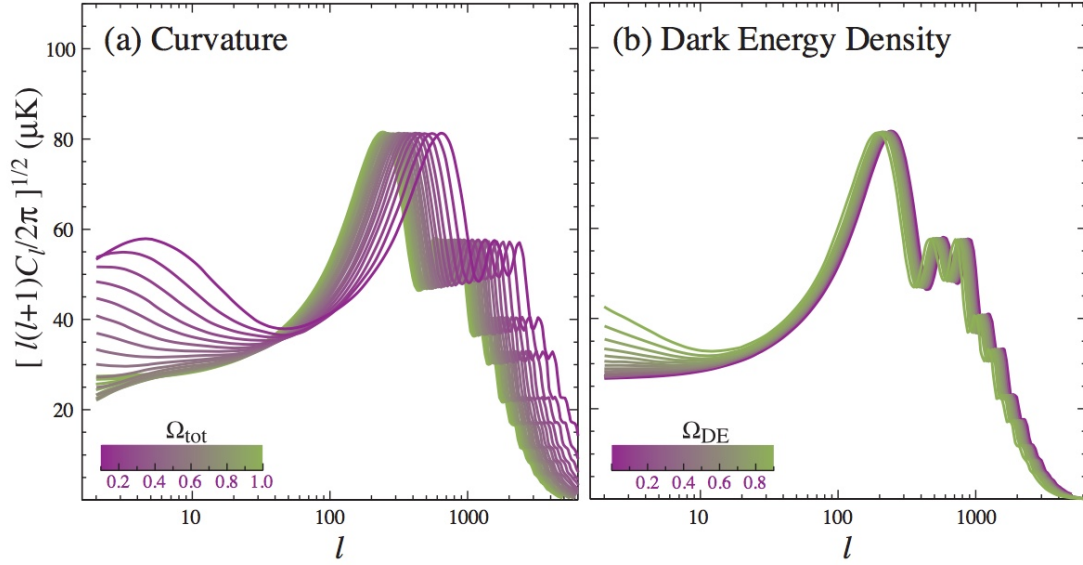The damping effect is evident for $l > 10^3$.

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Figure 6:

5.1 Dark Energy and Curvature

Position of peaks mainly sensitive to curvature Shapes fixed by the physical density of matter and baryons Missing or "dark energy" plays a small roll in the position of peaks As advertised, the position of that first peak in the power spectrum of the anisotropies, and indeed all of the peaks, depend sensitively on the spatial curvature of the universe. As the curvature of the universe decreases (and in fact becomes negative in the yellow curve below)

the peaks move to smaller angles (higher multipole l) while preserving their shape. Cosmologists fraction of the critical density in matter Omegam so that as 1-Omegamincreases from zero, the universe becomes increasingly negatively curved if there is no other forms of "missing energy" that we've missed in our accounting.

Caveats:

In the blue curve, we assume that there is indeed a form of "missing" or dark energy in a cosmological constant that makes the universe flat despite a sub-critical density of matter. We see that the positions mainly care about the curvature of the universe but there is a small shift to larger angular scales (lower multipoles) through the introduction of a cosmological constant. This is because the cosmological constant produces a small change in the distance light can travel since recombination, a fact that is related to its well known effect on the age of the universe.

Note that in the above figure we assume that the physical density of the matter (Omegamh2) is fixed. This is different from saying its fraction of the critical density (Omegam) is fixed since the Hubble constant (h), or expansion rate today, enters into the definition of the critical density. Given our current uncertainties about the physical density of the matter, the distance that sound can travel by recombination is currently uncertain, a fact related to the matter's effect on the age of the universe at recombination. Likewise we have assumed that the physical density of the baryons (Omegabh2) is fixed. Baryons lower the speed of sound in the medium and hence also affect the distance sound can travel. Luckily both of these quantities dramatically change the shape of the peaks as we shall see. They will be measured once the higher peaks are detected and will no longer confuse the measurement of the curvature. As it turns out, the sound horizon is not a standard ruler but rather a standardizeable ruler.

5.2 Dark Matter and Baryons

Baryons (or ordinary matter) load down the photon-baryon plasma and add inertial (and gravitational) mass to the oscillating system.

Their effect on the acoustic peaks is easy to understand. Remember what happens when you add mass to a spring and let it fall in the gravitational field of the Earth. With more mass loading the spring, it falls further before pulled back by the spring. On the other hand, it rebounds to the same position it started from.

Since the odd numbered (first, third, fifth...) acoustic peaks are associated with how far the plasma "falls" into gravitational potential wells (how much the plasma compresses), they are enhanced by an increase in the amount of baryons in the universe. The even numbered peaks (second, fourth, sixth) are associated with how far the plasma "rebounds" (how much the plasma rarefies). Thus with the addition of baryons the odd peaks are enhanced over the even peaks. For example, baryons make the first acoustic peak much larger than the second. The more baryons the more the second peak is relatively suppressed.

image   Power spectrum shows baryons enhance every other peak. Second peak is suppressed compared with the first and third Additional effects on the peak position and damping yield consistency checks When we do the full calculation of the power spectrum, the basic physics of a mass on the spring appears as advertised. The odd numbered acoustic peaks in the power spectrum are enhanced in amplitude over the even numbered ones as we increase the baryon density of the universe.
Note: Cosmologists label the baryon density in terms of its fraction of the critical density Wb-times the Hubble constant squared (in units of 100 km/s/Mpc) to get something proportional to the physical density of the baryons.]

There are two other related effects due to the baryons: since adding mass to a spring slows the oscillation down, adding baryons to the plasma decrease the frequency of the oscillations pushing the position of the peaks to slightly higher multipoles l.

Baryons also affect the way the sound waves damp and hence how the power spectrum falls off at high multipole moment lor small angular scales as we will see later.

The many ways that baryons show up in the power spectrum imply that the power spectrum has many independent checks on the baryon density of the universe. The baryon density is a quantity that the CMB can measure to exquisite precision.

dark matter   Second peak is observed to be substantially lower than first peak Dark baryons of at least the big-bang nucleosynthesis density required Although we cannot yet claim that the second peak is as precisely measured as the first, we can say that (assuming it exists!) it is definitely of lower amplitude than the first:
The current data indicate that the baryon density is around Omegabh2=0.02 This value is interesting since it is also the baryon density inferred from the abundance of deuterium at high redshift in quasar absorption lines and the theory of big-bang nucleosynthesis. We now have an additional and independent line of evidence that there are missing baryons in the universe - i.e. that most the baryons are not in stars. Once the second and higher peaks are definitively measured, CMB constraints on the baryon density will sharpen considerably (ultimately to a few percent accuracy). Needless to say it will be interesting to see how these comparisons shape up as the data improve.

dark   Raising the dark matter density reduces the overall amplitude of the peaks. Lowering the dark matter density eliminates the baryon loading effect so that a high third peak is an indication of dark matter. With three peaks, its effects are distinct from the baryons Measuring the dark matter density resolves the main ambiguity in the curvature measurement As advertised the acoustic peaks in the power spectrum are sensitive to the dark matter density in the universe.
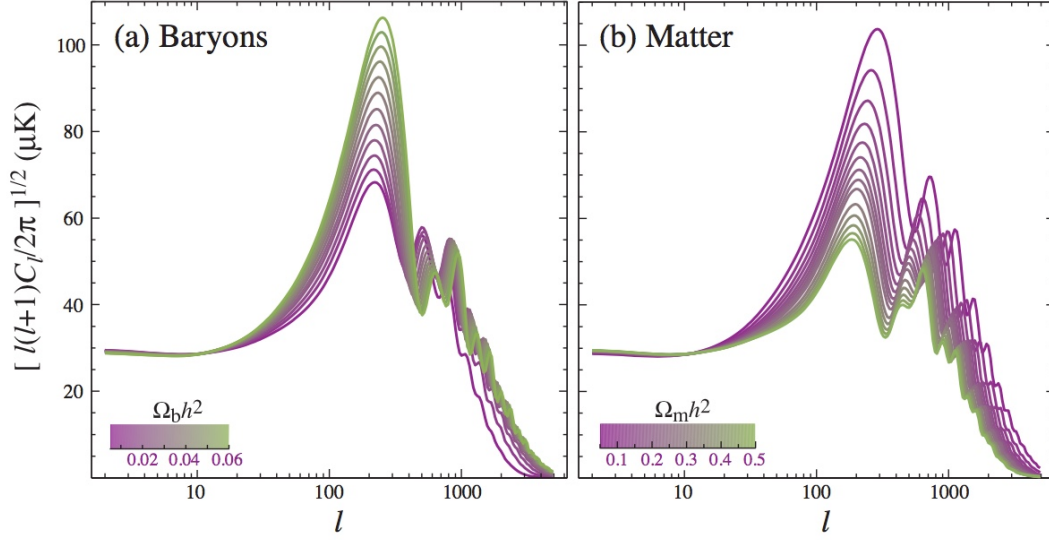
Figure 7: aa

(Formally, the matter to radiation ratio but the radiation density is fixed in the standard model.) As we raise the physical density of the dark matter, Wmh2, the driving effect goes away at a given peak such that its amplitude decreases. Although this effect changes the heights of all the peaks, it is only separable from the baryonic effects with at least three peaks. Note that decreasing the matter density also affects the baryon loading since the dark matter potential wells go away leaving nothing for the baryons to fall into. Having a third peak that is boosted to a height comparable to or exceeding the second peak is an indication that dark matter dominated the matter density in the plasma before recombination. Note that the self-gravity of the photons and baryons still plays a role in the first and second peaks so that the third peak is the cleanest test of this behavior.

Notice also that the location of the peaks, and that of the first peak in particular, changes as we change the dark matter density. The matter to radiation ratio also controls the age of the universe at recombination and hence how far sound can travel relative to how far light travels after recombination. This is the leading order ambiguity in the measurement of the spatial curvature of the universe. We see here that that ambiguity will be resolved when at least three peaks are precisely measured.

6   Conclusion

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