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## Sound waves before recombination

- Outline
  - Is sound carried by radiation or by matter?
  - Sound speed
  - Calculation of the angular scale for a universe dominated by radiation
  - Precise calculation of the angular scale

### ■ Physical conditions at recombination

#### ■ At recombination, which has the greater mass density, pressureless matter or radiation?

$\Omega_{m0} = 0.26$  pressureless matter, mostly dark matter, matter that does not interact with light

$\Omega_{b0} = 0.043$  baryons, ordinary matter

$\Omega_{r0} = 1.2 \times 10^{-5}$  radiation

$$\rho_b = \rho_{b0} a^{-3}$$

$$\rho_r = \rho_{r0} a^{-4}$$

$$\rho_m / \rho_r = \rho_{m0} / \rho_{r0} a$$

At  $a_{\text{eq}} = 0.00028$  ( $z = 3600$ ), the mass-energy density of baryonic matter and radiation are equal.

Q: At recombination ( $a=0.0009$ ), which has greater mass density, pressureless matter or radiation?

We will discuss sound waves, which has to do with radiation and matter.

Q: Does dark matter participate in the sound waves?

Q: At recombination, are electrons pressureless? The energy of a CBR photon is  $2.3 \times 10^{-4}$  eV.

#### ■ Which has greater number density, baryonic matter or radiation?

At the present time, the mass of baryonic matter is 938MeV.

The mass of a photon is

$$2.73 \text{ K} / (11\,600 \text{ K/eV}) = 2.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV}.$$

The number density

$$n_r / n_b = 0.00028 \times 938 \text{ MeV} / 2.3 \times 10^{-4} \text{ eV} = 1.1 \times 10^9.$$

More precisely, because photons have different energies, I need to integrate the Planck number spectrum.

$$n_r = 0.41 \times 10^9 \text{ photon } m^{-3} (T/2.725 \text{ K})^3$$

$$n_b = 0.25 \text{ nucleon } m^{-3} (\Omega_{b0}/.043) (H_0/72 \text{ km/s/Mpc})^2$$

$$n_r/n_b = 1.64 \times 10^9.$$

The number of photons and baryons do not change. As the universe expands, the number of baryons in a coexpanding box does not change. The number of baryons entering must equal the number exiting, because of homogeneity. Same argument is true for photons.

How can you say  $n_r/n_b = 1.64 \times 10^9$  in a dramatic way?

### ■ Is sound carried by photons or by matter?

The composition of the gas is ordinary matter and photons.

### ■ Does matter or radiation provide more pressure?

Pressure  $P = n p_x v_x$ , where  $n$  is number density,  $p$  and  $v$  are momentum and speed.

For matter,

$$P = n m v_x^2 = \frac{1}{3} n m v^2.$$

For radiation,

$$P = \frac{1}{3} n_r E \text{ (from earlier class).}$$

Equipartition: In thermal equilibrium, the average energy of each particle is the same. (More precisely, the energy of each degree of freedom is  $\frac{1}{2} k T$ . In QM, degrees of freedom may be frozen with 0 energy.)

For matter

$$P_m = \frac{2}{3} n_m \frac{3}{2} k T = n_m k T.$$

For radiation:  $P_r \approx \frac{1}{3} n_r \frac{1}{2} k T$ . More accurately,

$$P_r = 0.90 n_r k T.$$

There are  $10^9$  photons for every baryon. Therefore the pressure of radiation is  $10^9$  times the pressure of matter.

■

## Sound speed is $\left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho}\right)^{1/2}$

The temperature at recombination is 3000K

There are many photons for every baryon or electron.

$$n_r/n_b = 1.64 \times 10^9$$

At  $a_{\text{eq}} = 0.00028$  ( $z = 3600$ ), the mass-energy density of baryonic matter and radiation are equal.

The speed of sound

$$v_s = \left(\frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho}\right)^{1/2}$$

where the derivative is for adiabatic changes.

Proof: Newton's 2nd law  $F = ma$  determines the movement of a sound wave, The force is due to an excess pressure. The mass is due to an excess density. Consider a slab of gas between  $x$  and  $x + dx$ . Because of the presence of the disturbance,  $x$  moves to  $x + \chi(t, x)$ . The  $ma$  term becomes

$$(\rho_0 dx) \frac{\partial^2 \chi}{\partial t^2}.$$

The force comes from the difference in pressure. The force term is

$$-\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} dx.$$

I need to relate pressure to mass density:

$$P = -\frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho} \rho_0 \frac{\partial \chi}{\partial x}$$

Collect all; cancel  $\rho_0$  and  $dx$ :

$$\frac{\partial^2 \chi}{\partial t^2} = \frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho} \frac{\partial^2 \chi}{\partial x^2}$$

The speed of sound is

$$v_s = \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial \rho} \right)^{1/2}$$

The derivative is taken with no heat flow, if the wavelength is large compared to the mean-free path.

### ■ Sound speed for a perfect gas

For adiabatic changes

$$P = \text{const } \rho^\gamma.$$

For a monatomic gas,  $\gamma = \frac{5}{3}$ .

Take derivative to get

$$\begin{aligned} v_s^2 &= \gamma P / \rho \\ &= \gamma P V / (\rho V) \\ &= \gamma k T / m \end{aligned}$$

Equipartition  $\Rightarrow \frac{3}{2} k T = \frac{1}{2} m v_{\text{avg}}^2$  Therefore

$$v_s = \left( \frac{\gamma}{3} \right)^{1/2} v_{\text{avg}}$$

The sound speed is approximately the average speed of the gas particles.

### ■ Values

## Calculating the sound speed

Consider a box of gas with a fixed number of particles. The box expands or shrinks because of the sound wave.

$$1. \quad dU = dQ - P dV = -P dV$$

Because there is no heat flow,  $dQ = 0$ .

$$dU = -P dV.$$

Recall  $u = a_B T^4$  and  $P = \frac{1}{3} a_B T^4$

$$d(uV) = V du + u dV = -P dV$$

$$du = -(u + P) dV / V$$

$$4 T^3 dT = -(T^4 + \frac{1}{3} T^4) dV / V$$

$$3 dT / T = -dV / V$$

$$2. dP = \frac{4}{3} a_B T^3 dT.$$

$$3. d\rho = d\rho_b + d\rho_r$$

$d\rho_b = -\rho_b dV/V$ , since mass of the baryons in the box ( $\rho_b V$ ) is unchanged.

$$d\rho_b = 3\rho_b dT/T$$

$$d\rho_r = 4a_B T^3 dT$$

4. Gather all:

$$v_s^2 = \frac{dP}{d\rho} = \left( \frac{4}{3} a_B T^3 dT \right) (3\rho_b dT/T + 4a_B T^3 dT)^{-1}$$

$$= \left( 3 + \frac{9}{4} \frac{\rho_b}{\rho_r} \right)^{-1}$$

$$v_s = [3(1+R)]^{-1/2},$$

where

$$R = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\rho_b}{\rho_r}$$

Q: If  $R \ll 1$ , how fast do sound waves travel?

Q: Why do baryons slow the speed of sound? Recall  $v_s = \left( \frac{dP}{d\rho} \right)^{1/2}$ .

Number density of photons:

$$\text{Integrate} [x^2 / (e^x - 1), \{x, 0, \infty\}]$$

$$2 \text{ Zeta}[3]$$

Energy density:

$$\text{Integrate} [x^3 / (e^x - 1), \{x, 0, \infty\}]$$

$$\frac{\pi^4}{15}$$

Average energy:

$$\% / \% // \mathbf{N}$$

$$2.70118$$

$\frac{1}{3} \langle E \rangle$  is

$$\% / 3$$

$$0.900393$$

## Calculating the horizon

How far does a sound wave travel from the big bang ( $t=0$ ) to the time of recombination?

Let

$a_L$  be the expansion parameter at last scattering (recombination)

$a_E$  be the expansion parameter at epoch when  $\rho_r = \rho_b$ .

The distance of the horizon is

$$d = \int v_s dt.$$

$v_s dt$  is how far the sound wave moves. As the wave is moving, the ending point is moving too. Calculation is wrong.

Better posed: What is the comoving coordinate  $r$  of a sound wave that travels from the big bang ( $t=0$ ) to the epoch of recombination?

$$\begin{aligned} v_s dt &= a dr \\ r &= \int_0^t v_s a^{-1} dt. \end{aligned}$$

Given  $r$ , how do you get the distance of the horizon?  $d = a_L r$

$$d = a_L \int_0^t v_s a^{-1} dt.$$

The sound speed  $v_s = [3(1+R)]^{-1/2}$  depends on  $R = \frac{3}{4} \frac{\rho_b}{\rho_r} = \frac{3}{4} \left(\frac{a}{a_E}\right)$ .

■ **To gain understanding, consider this simplified case where matter is negligible:  $R \ll 1$ .**

Then

$$d = a_L v_s \int_0^t a^{-1} dt$$

Use Friedman's equation

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{da}{H_0 dt}\right)^2 &= (\Omega_{k0} + \Omega_{m0} a^{-1} + \Omega_{r0} a^{-2} + \Omega_{v0} a^2) \rightarrow \Omega_{r0} a^{-2} \\ d &= a_L v_s \int_0^t a^{-1} dt \\ &= H_0^{-1} a_L v_s \Omega_{r0}^{-1/2} \int_0^t da \\ &= H_0^{-1} a_L^2 v_s \Omega_{r0}^{-1/2} \end{aligned}$$

Apply F's eqn at  $a_L$

$$H(a_L) = H_0 \Omega_{r0}^{1/2} a_L^{-2}$$

to get the transparent result

$$d = H^{-1}(a_L) v_s$$

Q: Interpret the formula for  $d$ .

A dense region produces a sound wave that goes in all directions to cover a length  $2d$ .

The angle subtended is

$$\begin{aligned} \theta &= \frac{2d}{r a_L} \\ &= 2 H^{-1}(a_L) v_s / [a_L r(a_L)] \end{aligned}$$

Q: Interpret the formula for  $\theta$ .

■ **Results for best cosmological values**

$$d = a_L \int_0^t a^{-1} v_s(a) dt$$

Change  $dt = H^{-1} a^{-1} da$ , and integrate to get (Weinberg 2008, Cosmology, p. 145)

$$d = 2 H_0^{-1} a_L^{-3/2} (3 R_L \Omega_{m0})^{-1/2} \ln \left\{ \left[ (1 + R_L)^{1/2} + (R_E + R_L)^{1/2} \right] / (1 + \sqrt{R_E}) \right\}$$

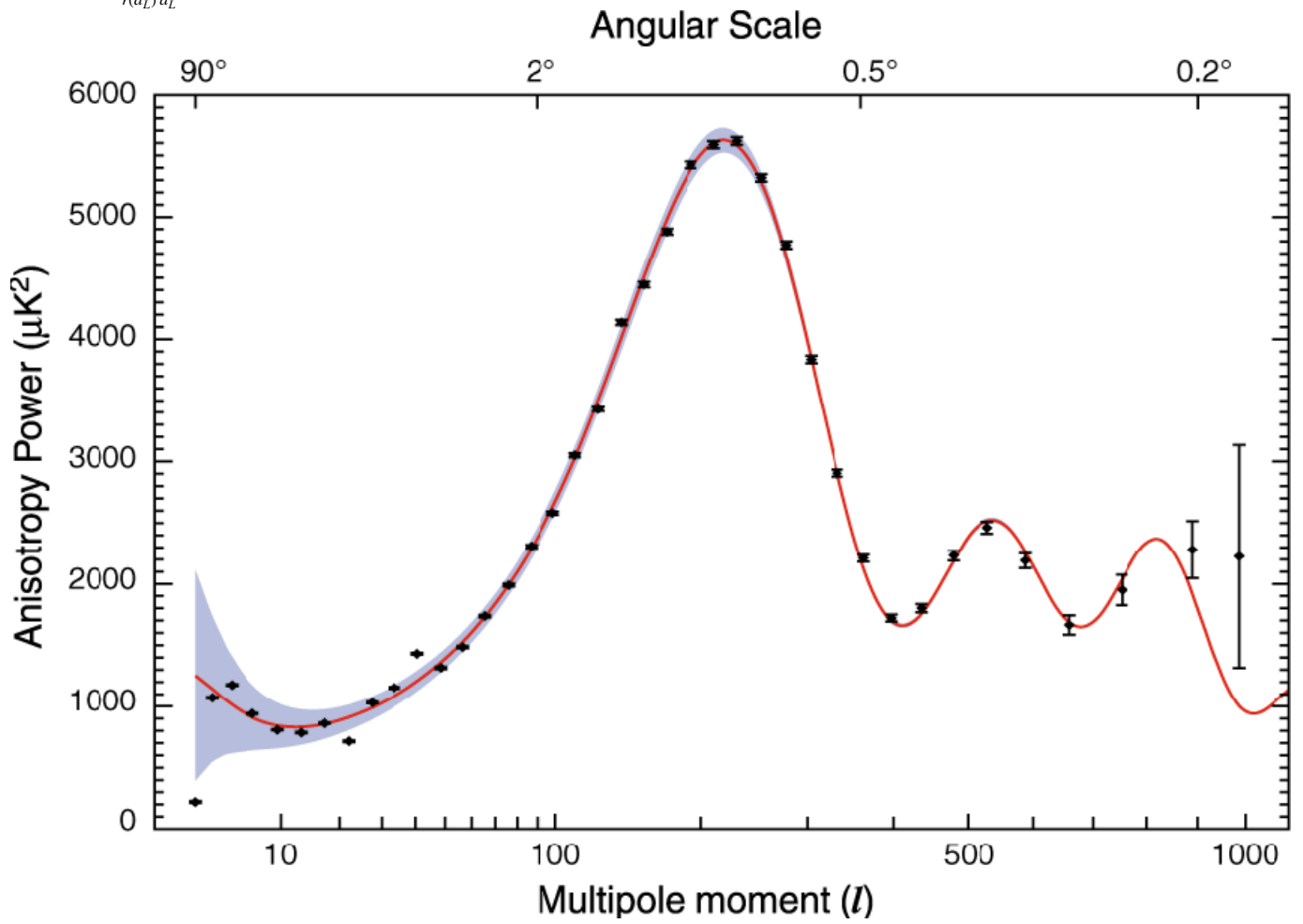
For  $\Omega_{m0} = 0.26$ ,  $\Omega_{v0} = 0.74$ ,  $\Omega_{b0} = 0.043$ ,

$$R_L = 0.62$$

$$R_E = 0.21$$

$$d = 1.16 H_0^{-1} a_L^{3/2}$$

$$\theta = \frac{2d}{r(a_L)a_L} = 1/48 = 1.2^\circ$$



■ Plot