The Extragalactic Background Light



Marco Ajello [Clemson University] 1st CTA Science Symposium



The Extragalactic Background Light



- ->constraints on galaxy evolution, star formation activity, dust extinction processes
- ->understanding cosmic structure formation and evolution



The Extragalactic Background Light



Light emitted by stars and AGN

 10^{-1}

10²

10

10⁰

E I(E) [nW m⁻²s⁻¹

 10^{0}

z = 0.0 z = 0.2 z = 0.5z = 1.0

z = 2.0

z = 3.0

z = 4.0

10⁰

- ->constraints on galaxy evolution, star formation activity, dust extinction processes
- ->understanding cosmic structure formation and evolution



• Zodiacal light and our Galaxy are a hindrance for EBL direct measurement





EBL Measurements







Reality Check



 Build up of the EBL largely undetermined
Build up fundamental to determine galaxy/stellar evolution processes



This work



- Perform a time-resolved analysis,
- Analysis optimized on simulations Analysis improved over the Ackermann+12 results

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First 'Detection' of the EBL attenuation

Ackermann et al. 2012



From 'Detection' to 'Characterization'





EBL measurements over 11 billion years





The Cosmic Gamma-ray Horizon





The Cosmic Gamma-ray Horizon



"The measurement of the EBL using gamma rays is only sensitive to the average EBL"



Indirect EBL measurement

$$\tau_{\gamma\gamma}(E_{\gamma}, z_s) = c \int_0^{z_s} \left| \frac{dt}{dz} \right| dz \int_{-1}^1 (1-\mu) \frac{d\mu}{2} \int_{2m_e^2 c^4/\epsilon_{\gamma}(1-\mu)}^\infty \sigma(\epsilon_{\text{EBL}}, \epsilon_{\gamma}, \mu) n_{\text{EBL}}(\epsilon, z) d\epsilon_{\text{EBL}}$$

$$n_{\mathrm{EBL}}(\epsilon, z) = (1+z)^3 \int_z^\infty \frac{j(\epsilon, z)}{\epsilon} \left| \frac{dt}{dz'} \right| dz'$$

- We cannot invert 3-4 integrals, so we need to find another way
- Two methods, both fitted via MCMC to LAT τ data
- Method 1-empirical: model j(e,z) has sum of log-normal distributions that can evolve independently
- Method 2-theoretical: use stellar population models (Finke et al. 2010) and optimize the parameters of the Cosmic Star Formation History



The EBL with Redshift



UV background in agreement with quasar proximity measurements by e.g. Kulkarni & Fall 1993, Scott+00 etc



The EBL with Redshift



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Cosmic Luminosity Density





Star Formation History





Cosmic Luminosity Density





Re-ionization





Bouwens+2018 (in prep); Oesch+2017

Hubble Frontier Fields



Hubble Frontier Fields



Inconsistencies between the analyses attributed to details of the • mass modeling of the lens (Atek+18, Bouwens+17, Livermore+17, Ishigaki+17)



End of re-ionization



Hubble Frontier Fields

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• Analysis of 38 detected TeV blazars reported in Biteau & Williams 2015 (Desai, Helgason, Ajello, ApJL, 2019)





The newest EBL measurement

- Analysis of 38 detected TeV blazars (Desai, Helgason, Ajello, ApJL, 2019)
- It allows us to characterize the EBL up to the mid-IR





Hubble-Lemaître Law

- Hubble and Lemaitre first to show the Universe is expanding
- Hubble constant (1941): H₀=500 km/s/Mpc







Hubble Constant (2019)





Hubble Constant with the EBL





Hubble Constant from EBL





Hubble Constant (2019)





What will CTA do for the EBL ?



- Fantastic determination of the optical depth up to at least z=1.6
- Extend the EBL measurements to the far-IR peak



What will CTA do for the EBL ?



- Fantastic determination of the optical depth up to at least z=1.6
- Measure the far-IR EBL (dust) and its evolution
- Measure the Hubble constant with negligible statistical error



What will CTA do for the EBL ?



- Fantastic determination of the optical depth up to at least z=1.6
- Measure the far-IR EBL (dust) and its evolution
- Measure the Hubble constant with negligible statistical error
- Constrain interesting galaxy-related parameters



GRB190114c and GRB180720B





Outlook



- *Fermi*-LAT has already detected more than 3000 blazars (!)
 - Assuming we can obtain redshifts for many of those and that the LAT will take data for ~20 years:
 - We expect that the S/N of the current EBL measurement will double
 - This will provide the best constraints on the evolving EBL and the UV background
- The Cherenkov Telescope Array will
 - improve our knowledge of the IR EBL and its evolution
 - provide stronger constraints on H_0
- Some of the most interesting EBL advancements may come from GRBs



• EBL is a powerful tool for galaxy evolution, star formation and cosmology





Hubble constant





Indirect EBL Measurement

- 2 Photons convert into an electron-positron pair if :
 - $E\gamma x E_{EBL} \ge 2(m_e c^2)^2$





Intrinsic spectrum is attenuated

$$\frac{\mathrm{d}N_{\mathrm{obs}}}{\mathrm{d}E} = \frac{\mathrm{d}N_{\mathrm{int}}}{\mathrm{d}E} \times e^{-\tau_{\gamma}(E,z)}$$

Optical Depth

$$\tau_{\gamma} = \int_{0} \mathrm{d}\ell(z) \int_{-1} \mathrm{d}\mu \frac{1-\mu}{2} \int_{\epsilon'_{\mathrm{thr}}} \mathrm{d}\epsilon' \frac{\mathrm{d}n_{\mathrm{bkg}}}{\mathrm{d}\epsilon} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma}(E',\epsilon',\mu)$$



"Spectroscopy" of the EBL

• 2 Photons convert into an electron-positron pair if :

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- E\gamma x E_{EBL} \ge 2(m_e c^2)^2
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γ-ray (z=0)	E=10 GeV	E=100 GeV	E=1TeV
EBL photon	26 eV	2.6 eV	0.26 eV

γ-ray (z=1)	E=10 <i>G</i> eV	E=100 GeV	E=1TeV
EBL photon	52 eV	5.2 eV	0.52 eV



GRB 080916C

• A high fluence, highest redshift GRB detected by the LAT





Re-ionization



Hubble Frontier Fields

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Dust attenuation







Monte Carlo Simulations



Ackermann et al. 2012, Science, 338, 1190



A new measurement of the EBL

2012

- 46 months of P7 data
- 1-500 GeV
- 150 BL Lacs
- z~0 to z=1.6



- 108 months of P8 data
- 1-1000 GeV
- 739 blazars + 1 GRB
- z~0 to z~3.1/4.35

