# **Gamma-ray cosmology** *an introduction*

2024.06.20, CTAO School, Bertinoro

Jonathan Biteau



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You said dark?





#### You said dark?





Crédit : ESA/Webb, NASA & CSA, A. Martel.

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## The de Chéseaux - Olbers paradox

see The Conversation article at this link

#### Why is the sky not covered by stars / galaxies ?

Riddle from Digges (1576) in his translation of Copernicus' *De revolutionibus* Formulation by de Chéseaux (1744), Olbers (1823):

 $\Phi_{\text{total}} = \int dr \, \Phi_{\text{star}} \times N_{\text{star}}(r; r+dr), \text{ with } \Phi_{\text{star}} \propto 1 / 4\pi r^2 \text{ and } N_{\text{star}}(r; r+dr) \propto 4\pi r^2 \, dr$  $\Phi_{\text{total}} \rightarrow \infty \text{ in a static unbounded universe (Descartes, Newton)}$ 



"Infinity of the sphere of stars" (Halley, 1721) at this link



Credit: Harrison '90

#### **Quoting Malcolm Longair:**

When I began research in radio astronomy as a research student in 1963, my supervisor Dr Peter Scheuer gave me a copy of Sir Hermann Bondi's classic text *Cosmology* to absorb and warned me that

There are only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  facts in cosmology.

#### Fact 1. The sky is dark at night

This is the well-known observation which leads to what is known as *Olbers' paradox* although the paradox was well known to earlier cosmologists. Sir Hermann in his text *Cosmology* gives a thought-provoking discussion of the meaning of the paradox (Bondi 1952). The fact that the sky is not as bright as the surface of the Sun provides us with some very general information about the Universe. Probably the most general way of expressing the significance of this observation is that the Universe must, in some sense, be far from equilibrium although in what way it is in disequilibrium cannot be deduced from this very simple observation.

Modern Cosmology - a Critical Assessment, M. S. Longair 1993 Fact 2. The galaxies are receding from each other as expected in a uniform expansion

This was Hubble's great discovery of 1929 and I will say much more about it in a moment. The  $2\frac{1}{2}$ th fact was as follows:

#### Fact $2\frac{1}{2}$ . The contents of the Universe have probably changed as the Universe grows older

The reason for the ambiguous status of this fact was that the evidence for the evolution of extragalactic radio sources as the Universe grows older was then a matter of considerable controversy, particularly with the proponents of Steady-State cosmology. I was plunged straight into this debate as soon as I began my research programme with Martin Ryle and Peter Scheuer. As we will see, this is no longer a controversial issue – there is no question at all

#### What remains once the foregrounds (nearby trees) have been removed?





# Part I - Baryons and light: where to find themfrom the cosmic web to the cosmic energy inventoryPart II - A cosmic history of light emissionfrom the first stars to the current spectrum of the universe

# **Part III - The gamma-ray probe** gamma-ray propagation on cosmological scales

Some useful references: Fukugita & Peebles '04, Madau & Dickinson '14, Pueschel & Biteau '21

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## **Distance to the Milky Way largest satellites?**



#### **Distance to the closest giant spiral galaxy?**







#### Active galaxies in the Local Sheet

#### The jetted AGN Centaurus A



#### Starburst galaxies in the Local Sheet





The starburst galaxy M 82 (Credit: Hubble space telescope + Hα from FOCAS)

The starburst galaxy NGC 253 (Credit: Chandra X-ray Center)









#### Our supercluster: Laniakea



#### **Relevant scales**



#### **Exercise 1. Volume filling factor of large-scale structures**

Assess the relative volume occupancy of clusters, filaments and sheets using w = 1 Mpc and l = 10 Mpc.

$\mathrm{VFF_c} = \left(rac{w}{l} ight)^3$
$\mathrm{VFF_{f}} = 3\left(rac{w}{l} ight)^{2}\left(1-rac{w}{l} ight)$
$\mathrm{VFF_s} = 3rac{w}{l}\left(1-rac{w}{l} ight)^2$
$\mathrm{VFF_v} = \left(1-rac{w}{l} ight)^3$

Structure type	Cubic cell $w/l=0.1$	Cosmic simulation results
Voids	72.9%	76%
Sheets	24.3%	18%
Filaments	2.7%	5%
Clusters	0.1%	0.5%

Credit: Oei+ '22



#### Credit: Fukujita et Peebles '04





Nobel in physics 2019 J. Peebles (cosmology)

$$u_c = \rho_c c^2 = \frac{3H^2}{8\pi G}c^2$$
$$u_c \approx 4.8 \,\text{GeV}\,\text{m}^{-3}$$



#### Credit: Fukujita et Peebles '04







Credit: Fukujita et Peebles '04



Credit: Hackstein+ 2018 (Cosmic V-web constrained sim. / CLUES) Jonathan Biteau



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Chart by Markus Pössel [www.haus-der-astronomie.de] - Published under CC BY-NC-SA 3.0 Data from M. Fukugita & P.J.E. Peebles, "The Cosmic Energy Inventory" (2004) [adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2004ApJ...616..643F] Chart style following Randall Munroe's xkcd.com/radiation Jonathan Biteau



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gamma-ray propagation on cosmological scales

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## **Cosmic timeline**









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#### Exercise 2. Cosmic energy density of photons produced by nucleosynthesis

- 1. Estimate the efficiency of conversion of matter into light,  $\epsilon_{o}$ , within stars similar to the Sun. Its bolometric luminosity is L<sub>o</sub>= 3.8 × 10<sup>26</sup> W.
- 2. Discuss the efficiency of this light production compared with that of the pp chain: 4p + 2e<sup>-</sup> $\rightarrow$  <sup>4</sup>He<sup>2+</sup> + 2  $v_{e}$ ,

which releases 26.1 MeV of energy in the form of photons (and 0.6 MeV in the form of neutrino kinetic energy).

3. From the light-to-matter conversion efficiency in the sun and the star formation rate density, calculate the energy density in the field of photons emitted by all the stars in the universe.


### Power source of cosmic emissions: star formation

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star light ->  $13 \times 10^3 \text{ eV} / \text{m}^3$ 



M87 Event Horizon appx. 40 billion km diameter (24.8 billion miles / 277.5 AU)

$$M_{\bullet} = (6.5 \pm 0.2_{\text{stat}} \pm 0.7_{\text{sys}}) \times 10^9 M_{\odot} \text{ (EHT Collab. '19)}$$

ratio of radiated power

to rate of mass-energy

deposition in the disc,

measured by an

Eaccr

observer at infinity:

= 5.7-30.8%

see Thorne, '74

Nobel in physics 2019

K. Thorne (GW)



#### Exercise 3. Cosmic energy density of photons from accretion

- 1. What is the fraction of mass energy that can be converted to radiation for a black hole accreting at the rate M for a radiative efficiency  $5.7\% < \epsilon_{accr} < 30.8\%$ ?
- 2. Estimate the energy density of photons from matter accreted by massive black holes.



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accretion light ->  $1.5 \times 10^3 \text{ eV}/\text{m}^3$ 

#### **Brightness of the sky**

The energy density u of an isotropic field of relativistic particles is linked to its **bolometric intensity** I, i.e. integrated over all frequencies, also known as the **surface brightness**, in W m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup> or eV s<sup>-1</sup> m<sup>-2</sup> sr<sup>-1</sup>:

$$I = \frac{c}{4\pi}u$$

We can also define the **specific intensity** *I*, of an isotropic relativistic particle field, i.e. its intensity per unit frequency:

$$I_{\nu} = \frac{\mathrm{d}I}{\mathrm{d}\nu}$$

We often plot  $vI_v$  as a function of ln(v) or  $log_{10}(v)$ , the integral of which gives the bolometric intensity:

$$\int \nu I_{\nu} d \ln \nu = \int \nu I_{\nu} \frac{d\nu}{\nu}$$
$$= \int I_{\nu} d\nu$$
$$= I$$
$$= \frac{c}{4\pi} u$$

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# CIB, COB: cosmic infrared and optical backgrounds CIB discovered in 1996. Emitted since reionization ( $t \ge 0.5$ Gyr) by all stars and galaxies $\begin{bmatrix} 10^{-12} \\ 10^2 \\ 1 \\ 10^2 \\ 10^{-2} \\ 10^{-4} \\$

Shaw in astronomy 2018

J. L. Puget (CIB)



CRB, CXB: cosmic radio and X-ray backgrounds

CXB discovered in 1962.

Radiation of the electrons accelerated in the winds of starforming and active galaxies











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#### Synthesis models of all galaxies



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#### Zodiacal light, integrated star light, diffuse galactic light (cirrus)<sup>1</sup>



#### Integrated galaxy light (galaxy counts)



Crédit : ESA/Webb, NASA & CSA, A. Martel.

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#### Cosmic propagation of TeV gamma rays and EeV cosmic rays



### **Y**-ray propagation from sources down to Earth



### **Y**-ray propagation from sources down to Earth





TeV gamma-ray suppression 
$$\Phi_{
m obs}(E,z) = \Phi_{
m int}(E) imes e^{- au(E,z)}$$

where the **optical depth**  $\tau$  is the integral of the interaction rate (inverse mean free path  $\Gamma$ ) over light travel time (light travel distance *L*):

$$\tau(E,z) = \int_0^z dz' \, \frac{\partial L}{\partial z'} \Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{-1}(E(1+z'),z')$$

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Light travel distance given by ACDM model 
$$\frac{\partial L}{\partial z} = \frac{c}{H_0} \frac{1}{1+z} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega_{\Lambda} + \Omega_m (1+z)^3}}$$

**Mean free path** given by <u>EBL photon density</u> and <u>Breit-Wheeler cross section</u> ( $\gamma\gamma \rightarrow e^+e^-$ )

$$\Gamma_{\gamma\gamma}^{-1}(E',z) = \int_0^{+\infty} \mathrm{d}\epsilon \,\frac{\partial n}{\partial \epsilon} \int_{-1}^1 \mathrm{d}\mu \,\frac{1-\mu}{2} \sigma_{\gamma\gamma} \Big[E',\epsilon,\mu\Big]$$

integrated over comoving EBL photon energy  $\epsilon$  and photon-gamma angle heta, with  $\mu = 1 - \cos heta'$ 









# How do I account for it?



#### GammaPy tutorial at this link







#### New y-ray reconstruction of the COB and CIB



#### New y-ray reconstruction of the COB and CIB



### **Y**-ray propagation from sources down to Earth



#### **Discovery of extreme TeV blazars in 2006**

Hard TeV photon spectrum when corrected for absorption Intrinsic emission expected to be faint in the GeV band

#### **Reprocessed emission?**

None in 2010 within point spread function

#### $\Rightarrow$ minimum *B*-field needed to spread out the signal





#### Status and expectations

Current-generation (GeV+TeV - TeV extension): B > 10-100 fG 5 $\sigma$  CTA-discovery potential up to 300 fG





Credit: CTA Consortium 2021

Jonathan Biteau

# **Alternative cooling**

#### Plasma instabilities faster than inverse Compton? Energy-loss? Diffusion?



### **Y**-ray propagation from sources down to Earth



#### **Open questions: fundamental physics**

#### Dark matter: what is that? Theories beyond QFT and GR: is there anything to observe?

• Top-down processes (heavy axion-like particles /\*or WIMPs\*/): decay /\*or self annihilation\*/ into photons

- Mixing with light axion-like particles (ALP): CTAO starts probing ALP dark-matter parameter space (CTA 2021)
- ·LIV linearly modified dispersion relation (CPT-odd): Planck scale ~excluded by spectra & Δt!



#### probed by gamma-ray propagation

#### Conclusion: **Y**-ray cosmology with CTAO


# Backup

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## III. Multi-messenger emissions on cosmic scales

#### 2. The spectrum of the universe



#### **Power source #1: Star formation**



#### **Power source #1: Star formation**



#### **Power source #2: Supermassive black-hole accretion**



#### **Power source #3: Supermassive black-hole ejection**



#### In some galaxies: star-formation + black-hole activity!



#### **II. Cosmic-scale engines behind astrophysical emissions** *3. Ejection*



Image Credit: The EHT Multi-wavelength Science Working Group; the EHT Collaboration; ALMA (ESONAOJ/NRAO); the EVN; the EAVN Collaboration; VLBA (NRAO); the Hubble Space Telescope; the Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory; the Chandra X-ray Observatory; the Nuclear Spectroscopic Telescope Array; the Fermi-LAT Collaboration; the H.E.S S collaboration; the MAGIC collaboration; the VERITAS collaboration; NASA and ESA. Composition by J. C. Algaba

### **II. Cosmic-scale engines behind astrophysical emissions** *3. Ejection*



Mass-energy from accretion injected into jet kinetic energy ~ 0.5% See Merloni & Heinz, '08 Jet kinetic energy to radiation  $\sim 10\%$ for active galactic nuclei, gamma-ray bursts, microquasars Galaxy cluster (see next course)

#### **II. Cosmic-scale engines behind astrophysical emissions** 2. Ejection

#### Exercise 4. Cosmic energy density of photons from jets

1. Estimate the energy density of photons from jets emitted in the vicinity of massive black holes.

### The models and the gamma-ray technique



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### The models and the gamma-ray technique

#### Models of the COB + CIB (= extragalactic background light, EBL)



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### Multi-wavelength and multi-messenger constraints



How to:



## **Missing baryons**



