Optical Depth, Reionization of the Universe and Neutrino Masses with LiteBIRD

Stéphane Ilić (IJCLab)

on behalf of the Working Group



LiteBIRD France Day @ APC, 13/04/2024



The transition from the neutral intergalactic medium (IGM, H + He) left after the universe recombined at z~1100 to the fully ionized IGM observed today



What was its topology? Was it homogeneous or patchy?





Probability for a CMB photon to be scattered = $1 - \exp(-\tau)$

Impact on CMB temperature angular power spectrum:



Effect (almost) degenerate with a change in A_c

Impact on CMB temperature angular power spectrum:



After rescaling A_s by exp(-2 τ)

Impact on all CMB angular power spectra:





9



Impact on CMB angular power spectra:



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Goals:

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<u>Goals:</u>

• Assess sensitivity on optical depth expected from LiteBIRD

Current and future constraints on reionization







LiteBIRD Collaboration, 2023, PTEP

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- Forecast constraints beyond instantaneous reionization





$\chi_{\rm e}$ = ionization fraction as a function of the redshift





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 - 1 or 2 parameter(s): z_{re} , Δz , τ (pick 2 at most)



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- asymmetric
 - emulates 2 populations of sources :
 - 1. "gentle" : stars & DGs
 - 2. "abrupt" : QSOs finish
 - phenomenological description :

 Z_{start} , Z_{end} , $Z_{trans} \leftrightarrow Z_{re}$, ΔZ_{begin} , ΔZ_{end}



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model-independent

- $x_e(z)$ in redshift bins
- Principal Component Analysis
- Piecewise Cubic Hermite Interpolating Polynomials (PCHIP)
- FlexKnot (Milea & Bouchet 2018)

- ...



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+ physical models (sometimes in combination with other astro data)

Reionization & inflation

CMB polarization features from inflation versus reionization

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The angular power spectrum of the cosmic microwave background temperature anisotropy observed by WMAP has an anomalous dip at $\ell \sim 20$ and bump at $\ell \sim 40$. One explanation for this structure is the presence of features in the primordial curvature power spectrum, possibly caused by a step in the inflationary potential. The detection of these features is only marginally significant from temperature data alone. However, the inflationary feature hypothesis predicts a specific shape for the *E*-mode polarization power spectrum with a structure similar to that observed in temperature at $\ell \sim 20 - 40$. Measurement of the CMB polarization on few-degree scales can therefore be used as a consistency check of the hypothesis. The Planck satellite has the statistical sensitivity to confirm or rule out the model that best fits the temperature features with 3 σ significance, assuming all other parameters are known. With a cosmic variance limited experiment, this significance improves to 8 σ . For tests of inflationary models that can explain both the dip and bump in temperature, the primary source of uncertainty is confusion with polarization features created by a complex reionization history, which at most reduces the significance to 2.5 σ for Planck and 5 – 6 σ for an ideal experiment. Smoothing of the polarization spectrum by a large tensor component only slightly reduces the ability of polarization to test for inflationary features, as does requiring that polarization is consistent with the observed temperature spectrum given the expected low level of TEcorrelation on few-degree scales. If polarized foregrounds can be adequately subtracted, Planck will supply valuable evidence for or against features in the primordial power spectrum. A future highsensitivity polarization satellite would enable a decisive test of the feature hypothesis and provide complementary information about the shape of a possible step in the inflationary potential.



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Massive neutrinos suppress structure formation:

- alter matter power spectrum, decreasing power at small scales
- in CMB, affect (among other things) lensing at higher multipoles

→ impact of neutrinos hard to estimate without a good handle on the primordial power spectrum (A_s)

→ if A_s is incorrectly inferred due to inaccurate τ: interferes with accurate measure of neutrinos power suppression







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- Address prospects for determining neutrino mass ordering



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The team

• <u>Leads:</u> Matthieu Tristram & Massimiliano Lattanzi

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Plans and additional perspectives

- Fisher and MCMC-based forecasts, focusing on the benefits brought by LiteBIRD
- Explore large range of reionization histories, with careful treatment of potential prior effects
- Explore extended datasets:
 - ground-based CMB e.g SO, S4, TBD
 - · background measurements e.g. BAO
 - LSS measurements
 - astrophysical measurements
- Check dependency of neutrinos constraints on reionization history

Thank you very much for your attention!