

Final Technical Report DE-SC0013718

We have developed and applied methods of large-scale structure from galaxy redshift surveys to the study of dark energy. This program supported my group’s development of the baryon acoustic method and our participation in the Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument (DESI) survey. In addition to my leadership role in the DESI collaboration, my group at Harvard focused on several topics addressing key needs of the DESI science program. 1) We continued our design, validation, and documentation of DESI target selection of the luminous red galaxy and emission-line galaxy samples. 2) We applied simulations from our novel and extremely fast N-body code to make DESI catalogs. With these, we will search for possible systematic shifts in the acoustic scale due to clustering bias with an unprecedented volume of simulations. 3) We extended our method for the fast construction of covariance matrices for correlation functions. 4) We developed new large-scale structure methods, including density-field reconstruction and three-point function analysis.

This report focuses on activities in the three years of the most recent renewal of this grant (April 2018 to June 2021). We have been active on many fronts:

DESI: PI Eisenstein served as co-Spokesperson of the DESI collaboration from 2014 through August 2020. In this role, he led the collaboration through the critical construction and commissioning periods. He contributed to numerous aspects of collaboration management and led the development of several key collaboration policies. He also managed the Working Group leadership, guided the development of the Science Readiness Plan, and represented the collaboration in numerous project reviews.

In the last year, he focused on the observational program, taking numerous observing shifts and providing user feedback to the operations group. In April 2021, he became active with the focal plane group, helping to track the performance of the fiber positioners and searching each morning for failing positioners. Group members Tanveer Karim and Claire Lamman also took observing shifts and have been active in the DESI Outreach group.

For the period of the grant, Eisenstein and his group have been active in the design of DESI target selection and survey strategy. He has been substantially involved in three different target classes: luminous red galaxies, emission-line galaxies, and bright galaxy. For LRGs, he created an early draft of the selection algorithm; for bright galaxies, he developed the star-galaxy separation algorithm based on comparison of Gaia photometry with that of the Legacy Survey. For all 3 target classes, he was active in the assessment of performance in the survey validation period.

Eisenstein and Harvard graduate students Jae Hyeon Lee and Tanveer Karim studied emission-line galaxies (ELGs). Lee conducted an observing program with the 6.5-meter MMT to gather spectroscopy of prototype ELG selection. Karim finalized the analysis of this sample; the paper describing this work has been published.

Eisenstein and Harvard graduate student Claire Lamman tested the DESI fiber selection algorithms, trying to determine the fiber assignment rates as a function of target density. These studies informed discussion of survey design as regards sample completeness and the need for filler samples.

Over the course of this 6-year grant, DESI has gone from the early stages of construction to full survey operations, with spectacular on-sky performance. While this is the result of many people’s combined effort, PI Eisenstein and his group are very happy to have been able to contribute to this success.

Cosmological Simulations: During the course of this grant, we have developed our novel cosmological N-body code, Abacus, and utilized it to produce a wide range of cosmological simulations. Most recently, we were able to use the Summit supercomputer at OLCF to produce a mammoth set

of simulations, AbacusSummit, designed to meet and exceed the cosmological N-body simulation requirements adopted by DESI.

AbacusSummit comprises nearly 60 trillion particles covering 97 different cosmologies, using 300K Summit node-hours provided by the ALCC program. Most simulations are 330 billion particles in 2 Gpc/h boxes with particle mass of $2e9$ Msun/h and force softening of 7 proper kpc/h. This is by a large margin the largest suite of high force-accuracy cosmological N-body simulations ever published. We produced an extensive set of data products: halo catalogs at a variety of redshifts, particle subsamples, light cones, merger trees, and initial condition summaries. The resulting data total 2 petabytes and is now available publically on the OLCF Constellation archive, and much of it is spinning at NERSC for use by DESI and other NERSC-based cosmology collaborations. An abridged set of the outputs, more suited to downloads of smaller subsets, is also available via a web portal at NERSC. Just after the completion of this grant, we released the 6 papers that document AbacusSummit.

Our code Abacus has been under development for over a decade, with intensive work during the period of this grant. To our knowledge, Abacus is the fastest high-accuracy cosmological N-body code in the world. Eisenstein works with Harvard graduate students Nina Maksimova, and Boryana Hadzhiyska, as well as post-doc Sownak Bose, undergraduate Thomas Satterwaithe, and recent Harvard graduate Lehman Garrison (now at Flatiron), in this effort.

Getting the code ready for AbacusSummit was a large undertaking. We had to complete the parallel implementation of Abacus and rewrite the on-the-fly halo-finding algorithm. We also improved the output products, adding light cones and more halo statistics. We found a number of additional speed optimizations. The code ended up faster than we hoped when we proposed, such that we could exceed the 35 trillion particles that we proposed and the 14T particles that DESI requires.

In a paper led by Lehman Garrison, we studied how one might warp the halo positions from one simulation to match that of a nearby cosmology. The intended application is to be able to produce multiple epochs of blinded mock challenges from a single set of N-body simulations, i.e., that one could shift the cosmology just a bit, so that groups analyzing the outputs couldn't guess the right answer even if they know the cosmology of the original simulation. We present an initial method that can match the two-point functions of the halos.

Eisenstein and Garrison with Sorbonne professor Michael Joyce have used Abacus to study the small-scale accuracy of N-body simulations using scale-free simulations. Although N-body is supposed to simulate the gravitational clustering of collisionless dark matter, it is difficult to prove the accuracy of the method as there is no analytic solution in the non-linear small-scale limit. Scale-free simulations offer a numerical approach to demonstrate convergence to the continuum limit. Here, one uses a power-law initial power spectrum and a power-law expansion history, so that there is no scale in the problem save those imposed by the numerical technique, e.g., particle mass, box size, force softening, time stepping. By using the simulation results at different output epochs and comparing rescaled statistics, one can demonstrate convergence. We have advanced drafts of two papers, one on the matter clustering and a second on the clustering of halo, as well as several other analyses in progress. We have shown that Abacus does achieve a converged answer at key scales.

Covariance matrices: Eisenstein worked with Harvard special student Oliver Philcox on various extensions of our work on rapid computation of the covariance matrix of correlation functions. These methods are based on direct Monte-Carlo integration of the covariance matrix in the actual survey geometry, using a clustering model of a Gaussian random field and Poissonian shot noise.

The results match extremely well to mock catalog based covariances on large scales, yet require orders of magnitude less computation. We published several papers and released a code repository called RascalC. The method is now based on random particle samples of the survey geometry, allowing it to run on the same input data sets used for clustering analyses in modern surveys. It uses jackknife samples of the data to set tuning parameters (currently just one parameter to rescale the shot noise contributions). We also extended it to provide auto and cross-correlations between two-point functions and three-point functions and between the two-point correlation functions of multiple tracers (e.g., to study DESI LRG and ELG samples together).

Philcox and Eisenstein also investigated an alternative method to compute power spectra using pair counts instead of fourier transforms. While pair counts can be slower in some applications (primarily the small wavenumber limit), the method has some advantages: it is unbiased by the survey geometry, and it automatically removes shot noise. And because it is based on pair counts, we can use RascalC to compute covariances between these power spectra and the correlation functions.

We believe that these covariance matrix techniques will be of considerable use to DESI and other spectroscopic surveys.

Cosmological analysis methods: Eisenstein and Harvard graduate student Sihan (Sandy) Yuan published their paper on curious approximations to the covariances of the small-scale correlation functions, in which the inverse matrix features only a small number of non-zero off-diagonal terms. For example, we show that simple convolutional transformations of the correlation function leave the result nearly uncorrelated between scales.

Eisenstein and Yuan, with Alexie Leauthaud (Santa Cruz) also investigated the mismatch between the measured level of weak lensing around CMASS galaxies in the SDSS Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey and the level predicted by models of the two-point projected clustering. We found that our extended models of the halo occupation distribution, including an assembly bias term, were unable to explain this observational tension, despite a search over the full cosmology grid of the AbacusCosmos simulation suite. Essentially, having measured the host halo masses with weak lensing, we continue to find that these halos must be more clustered than is predicted by the N-body simulations.

Faced with this ongoing tension, Eisenstein has been collaborating with Sownak Bose, Boryana Hadzhiyska, Lars Hernquist, and David Spergel to investigate the halo occupation models in the state-of-the-art hydrodynamic galaxy formation simulation IllustrisTNG. While such simulations are surely not perfect, they are an example of how realistic treatments of gas physics and stellar feedback could set the properties of galaxies. In Bose et al., we match the simulated galaxies to halos in a matching dark-matter-only simulation and study the occupation of the halos as a function of mass and several other second parameters. We find non-negligible second parameter dependencies.

In Hadzhiyska et al., we show that the clustering of galaxies from the full-physics IllustrisTNG simulation does not match to the clustering that results from shuffling the galaxy occupations around halos of equal mass in the dark matter simulation. The clustering is larger, even at scales of 10 Mpc, and the result persists whether we use friends-of-friends or Rockstar halo catalogs. Note that this is in the same sense as the observed weak lensing tension. We believe this result is quite important: it means that the galaxies in the IllustrisTNG simulation do not follow the ansatz of the base halo occupation model, namely that halo mass predicts the galaxy occupation, and moreover that the breakdown of the model happens in a way that substantially changes the galaxy clustering. We show that using certain second parameters can restore the clustering agreement, but the usual choices of halo formation time or concentration do not. We expect that this result will force a

substantial alteration to how galaxies are modeled in cosmological surveys.

Eisenstein and Tohoku graduate student Ryuichiro Hada published their new density-field reconstruction method, based on an iterative solution to recover the initial large-scale density field. Notably, this method handles redshift-space distortions much more cleanly than the original method; we anticipate that this will be useful for the DESI application. We are currently studying the covariance matrix of the correlation function that results from the reconstruction.

Eisenstein and Boston University graduate student Duan Yutong published our paper studying systematics in the measurement of the acoustic scale induced by variations in HOD mock catalogs in the Abacus simulations. We generally found excellent stability of the acoustic peak, with the largest trends correlating with changes in the intermediate-scale quadrupole.

Eisenstein and Harvard post-doc Michelle Ntampaka published a paper investigating how convolutional neural nets could be used to estimate cosmological parameters from three-dimensional galaxy maps. In particular, we constructed a hybrid network in which the measured power spectrum was input in addition to the pixelized map. This allows the net to learn all it can from the conventional two-point statistic, while it looks for higher-point patterns in the map. We trained the net using a wide variety of cosmologies and halo occupations, then showed that it could recover cosmological parameters on previously unseen examples. This was an initial foray into the method and proof of principle; we plan to extend this work with the new Summit simulations.

Eisenstein and Harvard graduate student Tanveer Karim have been preparing for the study of the lensing of the cosmic microwave background by DESI emission-line galaxies (ELG). The ELG sample will be our largest spectroscopic sample at redshift above 1, where the lensing of the CMB is strongest. Eventually we expect that this lensing will calibrate the galaxy-mass cross-correlation function and thereby allow estimation of the matter power spectrum amplitude from the galaxy auto-correlations. This in turn is important for the study of neutrino masses and the effects of dark energy on the growth of structure. Thus far, we are preparing for an analysis using the photometric ELG sample.

Eisenstein and Harvard graduate student Claire Lamman are studying the contamination of the redshift-space distortion measurement of luminous red galaxies by intrinsic alignment of their major axes. LRGs are known to have a small trend to point toward their neighbors, and since DESI preferentially selects higher surface brightness galaxies whose major axes are along the line-of-sight, there will be an unintended enhancement of neighbors in the line-of-sight direction. We have successfully measured the intrinsic alignment in the DESI LRG sample and are now working to determine the impact on the clustering quadrupole.

To conclude, we have achieved important progress on numerous fronts: contributing to the maturation of the DESI project, providing the world's largest suite of cosmological N-body simulations, and developing numerous new methods for the quantification of cosmological large-scale structure. Numerous students and post-doctoral fellows have been involved in this work, and we have published our results in numerous journal papers and made our N-body simulations public through the OLCF Constellation archive.

This research program will continue under a different grant number.

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