

Contents

Introduction	1
1 Basics of Cosmology: The Background	5
1.1 The Expanding Universe	5
1.2 The Friedmann Equations	6
1.3 Cosmic Distances	10
1.3.1 Proper Distance	11
1.3.2 Comoving Distance	11
1.3.3 Luminosity Distance	12
1.3.4 Angular Diameter Distance	14
1.4 The Epochs	15
1.4.1 The Radiation Domination Era (RDE)	16
1.4.2 The Matter Domination Era (MDE)	17
1.4.3 The Dark Energy Domination Era (DEDE)	17
2 Basics of Cosmology: Perturbation Theory	19
2.1 The Perturbed Metric	19
2.1.1 Gauge-Invariant Perturbations	20
2.1.2 The Gauge Fixing	22
2.2 The Perturbed Energy-Momentum Tensor	22
2.3 The Perturbed Einstein Tensor	24
2.4 The Perturbed Einstein Equations	25
2.5 The Perturbed Energy-Momentum Conservation	27
2.6 The Perturbed Equations In Fourier Space	29
2.7 Single Perfect Fluid	30
2.7.1 Super-Horizon Scales	31
2.7.2 Sub-Horizon Scales	32
2.7.3 Perturbations During RDE	33
2.7.4 Perturbations During MDE	33
2.8 Multiple Fluids	34
2.8.1 Two Fluids: Matter And Radiation	36
2.9 Interacting Fluids	38
2.9.1 Photons	39
2.9.2 Baryons	44
2.9.3 Cold Dark Matter	49
2.9.4 Neutrinos	51

3	History Of The Universe	54
3.1	Inflation	54
3.2	Reheating	65
3.3	Initial Conditions	66
3.4	Thermal History	67
3.4.1	Big Bang Nucleosynthesis	69
3.4.2	Matter-Radiation Equality	72
3.4.3	Recombination	73
3.4.4	Photon Decoupling	74
3.4.5	Drag Epoch	76
3.5	Transition from MDE to DEDE	78
4	From Theory To Observations	80
4.1	Random Fields	80
4.1.1	Gaussian Random Fields	85
4.2	Matter Power Spectrum	86
4.3	Correlation Function Estimators	88
4.4	Velocity Field And Redshift Space Distortions	94
4.5	Geometrical Distortions	98
5	Algorithms Insights	101
5.1	Calculations Of Pairwise Distances	101
5.2	Kernel Density Estimation	103
5.3	Bayesian Statistical Inference	104
5.4	Metropolis-Hastings	104
5.5	Neural Networks	105
5.6	Density-Estimation Likelihood-Free Inference	107
6	The Correlation Function For The NYU-VAGC	110
6.1	NYU Value-Added Galaxy Catalog	110
6.2	Kernel Density Estimation For Random Mask	110
6.3	From Redshift To Comoving Distances	112
6.4	Weight Scheme	115
6.5	The NYU-VAGC Two-Point Correlation Function	115
6.6	The Covariance Matrix For The NYU-VAGC	117
7	Cosmological Inference	121
7.1	Models For $\xi(r)$	121
7.1.1	Purely Cosmological Model	122
7.1.2	Geometrical Model With Shift Parameter	122
7.1.3	Geometrical Model With Nuisance Parameters	123
7.1.4	Geometrical Model Considering Non-Linearities	123
7.1.5	Geometrical Model With Redshift Space Distortions	125
7.1.6	Empirical Model	126
7.2	Results I	127
7.3	Results II	134
7.4	Discussion	135

8	Comparing Dark Energy models with Hubble versus Growth Rate data	140
8.1	Introduction	140
8.2	Basic equations	141
8.3	Models	143
8.4	Data	147
8.5	Methodology	147
8.6	Results and Discussion	152
8.7	Conclusions	157
9	Cosmological constraints from galaxy multi-tracers in the nearby Universe	160
9.1	Introduction	160
9.2	Data	162
9.3	Measurements	162
9.4	Methodology	165
9.5	Results and discussions	166
10	Does jackknife scale really matter for accurate large-scale structure covariances?	169
10.1	Introduction	170
10.2	Observed galaxy sample: BOSS CMASS DR12	172
10.3	Measurements	173
	10.3.1 Two-point correlation functions	173
	10.3.2 Jackknife configurations and covariances	173
10.4	Models	174
	10.4.1 Log-normal mock galaxy catalogues and light-cones	174
	10.4.2 Analytic models	175
10.5	Shift parameter estimation	176
10.6	Results	178
10.7	Discussion and summary	185
	Conclusions	187
	Bibliography	189