

Probing Inflation and Reionization with Large-Scale CMB Polarization

Vinícius Miranda

Department of Physics and Astronomy University of Pennsylvania



Vinicius Miranda, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

Part I - The Epoch Of Reionization



First stars: source of ionizing radiation

Difficult to model: radiative transfer + big volume

One of the least understood aspects of cosmology



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How Can We Probe The EOR?



Better than Cosmic VarianceMeasure more than total optical depthAtmosphere limits redshift rangeLimitations: Cosmic Variance



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Hypothesis: The Instantaneous Reionization Model





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Beyond IRM: Principal Components Analysis





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PCA: Completeness

5 PCs are complete!

Complete in polarization

error < cosmic variance







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PCA Results On The EOR





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PCA Results On The EOR

What the polarization spectrum look like?

Presence of high redshift sources does **NOT** imply unreasonable tau





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PCA: Completeness

Forward Modeling Only

Can models with metal-free stars be the source of the high redshift signal?









Chen He V. Miranda Wayne Hu

Adam Lidz



Vinicius Miranda, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

Source Of High Redshift Ionization: Pop-III?





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Source Of High Redshift Ionization: Pop-III?





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Source Of High Redshift Ionization: Pop-III?





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Make Results Useful to Everyone: PCA Fast Likelihood





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Make Results Useful to Everyone: PCA Fast Likelihood

$$\mathcal{L}_{PC}(\text{data} \mid \mathbf{m}) = \sum_{i=1}^{N} w_i K_f(\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{m}_i)$$

Good: fast (no CAMB)

Bad: needed ~10x more chain points than normal convergence





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What Our Results Means for 21-cm, neutrinos, CMB-S4...

$$\tau_{\rm PC}(z=15, z_{\rm max})=0.033$$

- CMB-S4: neutrino mass constraints with lensing
- Optical Depth is one of the highest sources of error
- 21-cm claims they can measure tau better than CV
- This claim will fail if our result is not due to systematics



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Part II - Inflationary Features



Georges Obied



Cora Dvorkin



Chen He





Wayne Hu

V. Miranda



Vinicius Miranda, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

The Generalized Slow-Roll Approximation

$$\ln \Delta_{\mathcal{R}}^2 = I_0(k) + \ln[1 + I_1^2(k)]$$





Cora Dvorkin

Wayne Hu

Single kernel encompasses power spectrum observables

 $I_j(k) \propto \int d\ln s W_j(ks) \mathbf{G'}(\ln s)$



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Kernel Expansion: Non-Parametric Spline Basis



$$G'(\ln s) = (1 - n_s) + \sum_i B_i (\ln s) w_i$$

<u>SB</u>: more efficient than PCAs for localized features



V. Miranda C. Dvorkin W. Hu



Vinicius Miranda, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

WMAP/Planck I~20 Features on Temperature Spectrum





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Features Affect Inferences On The Hubble Constant

Features in inflation impact H0 predictions (especially if Imax < 1000)





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WMAP/Planck I~20 Features On TE Spectrum



Also impacts TE -> what about reionization?



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Near Future: Combined Analysis (Stay Tuned)





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Conclusions



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