

The Λ CDM Model of Universal Density Reduction

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Revision date: November 10, 2022

Abstract: The gaseous Universe is treated as an unbound thermodynamic system. A time-variant scalar energy field is found: Pressure. Its differential loss on expansion creates a repulsive force: Entropic pressure. Gas internal kinetic energy is converted into entropic energy (63%) and isoentropic work against gravity (37%) at a constant 63:37 ratio. A three-term expression of the gas's Hubble parameter is derived and found to be exclusively dependent on its mass density. At last scattering, the model gives a Hubble constant that is 125% of the value found from the Λ CDM model. After partition of Universal mass into the cosmic web of galaxies and the intergalactic medium (IGM), expansion came mostly from the still-gaseous IGM, presently comprising about 85% of total Universal mass and 90% of its volume. The onset of star formation within the cosmic web increased the IGM's kinetic energy through the action of starlight, giving free electrons as an additional repository. Many of these free electrons are suprathemal. Suprathemal energy from both electrons and protons comprises about half of the IGM's total kinetic energy, and is expressed in the Λ CDM model as a time-invariant scalar term: Ω_A . Entropic pressure derives from laws which exist independently of general relativity.

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INTRODUCTION

Astronomers measure what we can see, but only a small amount of Universal mass is capable of producing light. About 85% of baryons, the mass from which stars form, lie in the intergalactic medium, or IGM. The IGM comprises about 90% of Universal volume. Although largely invisible, I believe its preponderance in both mass and volume gives the IGM a front and central role in Universal expansion.

Just after last scattering,² the entire Universe was an ideal gas. It had a low and uniform density, and was made of elastic atoms. Its internal pressure, being unbound, had a time gradient which caused it to become less dense. Today, most of the universe is the IGM. It's much less dense than it was, but mostly retains its primordial composition, still behaves like a gas, and is ionized. The IGM is the engine of Universal expansion. Expansion has been driven by its temporal pressure gradient for a long time, maybe all time. The model using its behavior is called the "GCDM" model, for gas-cold-dark-matter. The main concepts of the GCDM model are as follows:

- 1) The first and second laws of thermodynamics are combined with gas laws and Newton's laws to produce a balanced energy budget which includes *entropic energy gain*.
- 2) A sphere of gas is modeled around every atom. Gas expansion works against gravity. The excess is *radial kinetic energy*, outward from the center. The instant radial kinetic energy is the differential entropic energy gain.
- 3) Density reduction in what is now the IGM released energy which was 63% entropic.
- 4) The cosmic web of galaxies supplies the IGM with photons which are absorbed and converted to kinetic energy.
- 5) Free electrons in the IGM are the principal reservoir of its kinetic energy, and of these, suprathermal electrons are the primary source of "dark energy".

Nearly all of the Universe today is IGM plasma, which can be treated as a monatomic gas. Its density reduction can be locally viewed as adiabatic, unbound gas expansion. As the gas expands, it loses internal kinetic energy. Kinetic energy in the IGM is comprised of *thermal energy* which obeys the gas laws, and *suprathermal energy* which doesn't. Their combined energies expend into isentropic work and entropic energy gain. Work is performed against the change in gravitational potential energy as the Universe gets less dense. The IGM has a very low density, and loss to gravity in a thermal Universe is only 37% of total loss. The majority is entropic energy gain. This gain creates a physical force, *entropic pressure* E'_k , which has been historically neglected in accepted treatments of Universal development. A minor portion of this neglect can be traced back to the physicist Albert Einstein. His theory of general relativity comprises much of cosmology today and is isentropically derived. The issue of cosmic entropic increase is thus contentious and has long gone unsolved, but not for lack of trying. Literature treatments of cosmic entropy, mostly within the context of general relativity, are numerous. Many of them derive from one original paper ([Verlinde 2011](#)).³ Other than Verlinde, few appear to be extensively cited. Purely isentropic treatment of the Universe and its constituent domains is common in the literature and the classroom, evolving into an ad hoc term in the Λ CDM model: Ω_Λ . The Ω_Λ term embodies a widely-accepted belief in the existence of a time-invariant, repulsive scalar "dark energy field", commonly referred to using the Greek letter Λ . Einstein invented Λ , but later in his life, had a well-documented change of heart ([O'Raifeartaigh 2018](#)). Einstein may have felt intuitively that Λ was wrong, but there's no extant evidence to suggest that he quantified his position. This paper supports Einstein's latter-day misgivings. Herein a Λ field is described, but it's only scalar in three dimensions. It isn't constant with time as Einstein initially envisioned.

² The time of last scattering is that moment when free electrons entirely disappeared from the Universe and could no longer couple with, or scatter, light from what is now the cosmic microwave background. This time is also called "recombination". Semantics aside, recombination was a longer process than last scattering. The latter term is more precise.

³ Verlinde's paper defines an end state for an endless Universe, which is convenient for the practicing cosmologist.

I earlier described Universal expansion as arising from E'_k (Johnson 2021).⁴ Entropic pressure E'_k is a thermodynamic concept which derives only from those laws. Thermodynamic laws aren't found within general relativity. General relativity can't be used to derive E'_k . General relativity is better seen as a set of rules that describe how E'_k unfolds. After last scattering, simpler Newtonian laws are adequate for this purpose, and less obfuscatory.

At present, most of the differential kinetic energy loss in the IGM partitions to E'_k , and of this, suprathreshold E'_k gives Λ . There's also thermal E'_k which doesn't contribute to Λ . Entropic pressure E'_k behaves much like a scalar field in the Universe as a whole, but is found locally as tensors if anisotropy is present. The in toto E'_k value *at scale* stems from unaccreted, elastic atomic mass, and isn't an intrinsic property of empty space like e.g. the Higgs field (Higgs 1966).

Events at scale

We will often refer to events at scale, which today means any comoving sphere of mass/energy with an observed radius >100 megaparsecs (Mpc) or about three hundred million light-years (ly), the distance at which the Universe becomes homogenous and isotropic when viewed through a telescope. The term "comoving" means the sphere is expanding and defines a reference frame for the items in the sphere. The contained mass/energy in a comoving sphere is constant. Mass may fuse and release energy, but the total is always the same. The 100 Mpc distance represents a huge increase of volume compared to our everyday life, but for the entire Universe, it's just the opposite: A huge decrease, from infinite to finite. A 100 Mpc comoving sphere, being both homogenous and isotropic, is the smallest effective proxy for the properties of today's Universe as a whole.

The *proper distance* of a star at the sphere's surface is how far away it is today, after all the time its light took to get to us. A cube of proper distance has a *proper volume*. Proper distance and volume are used for expressions herein.

ADIABATIC FREE EXPANSION: THE CORE PREMISE OF THE Λ CDM MODEL

Reversible and Free Expansion in a Classic Engineering Setting

In a classic setting, an amount of gas is held in a *sealed* vessel, which means the gas is trapped inside a physical *boundary*: The walls of the vessel. The boundary of a sealed gas can change, like in a piston. All bound gases are sealed. However, not all boundaries are seals. There's imaginary boundaries, which don't really exist. They're used for constant amounts of gas. An unsealed gas is unbound, despite any imaginary boundary we may apply. The math terms, bound and boundary, are common to textbooks over the range of disciplines we use in this paper, so we'll describe gas behavior in sealed vessels this way.

There are two kinds of gas expansion: reversible and free. Reversible expansion is isentropic by definition: $\Delta S = 0$, where S is the entropy of the gas ($\text{kg}\cdot\text{m}^2/\text{s}^2\cdot\text{K}$ or J/K). A classic, perfectly reversible expansion must also be adiabatic, which means there is no heat transferred into or out of the vessel. When a bound gas expands both adiabatically and isentropically, its pressure P ($\text{kg}/\text{m}\cdot\text{s}^2$), thermal energy U_i (J), and temperature T (K) decrease. Energy $-AU_i$ is lost, leaves the vessel, and converted into work $\Delta(PV)$ as the boundary moves. This PV work from e.g. a piston can be stored and reused.

An adiabatic bound gas can also undergo free, Joule expansion, which is entropic ($\Delta S > 0$). No work is performed. As the bound volume V (m^3) increases, U_i does not decrease and only P drops. Adiabatic, freely expanding bound gases do convert energy, it's just not through loss of U_i . It's referred to as *entropic energy* TS and its *gain* TdS , or more generally $d(TS)$, measures the bound gas's reduced ability to convert U_i into a storable form. Inside an adiabatic bound vessel, the total energy $[U_i - PdV + TdS]$ of a freely expanding gas remains constant.

⁴ A earlier draft of the present paper is also available online (Johnson 2022).

The Two Laws of Thermodynamics

The first and second laws of thermodynamics are held inviolate by engineers and can be expressed at scale. The first law of thermodynamics, in its broadest definition, says that energy is neither created nor destroyed:

$$dE/dt = 0 \quad (1)$$

Where E is the sum of mass and energy in an at-scale sphere. We note here that the terms E and dE do double duty in this paper. They have the meaning given by (1) in our discussion of the fluid and acceleration equations (20)-(22). They also refer to adiabatic thermal loss from work: $E = -\Delta U_i$, and when isentropic, $dE = -PdV$. There is conflation of these two meanings in derivation of the fluid equation.

The second law of thermodynamics is more subtle in meaning than the first law, and has had several descriptions over the years. The broadest of these says that entropy at scale is always increasing over time:

$$dS/dt > 0 \quad (2)$$

This links time and entropy. If one assumes an isentropic process then (2) requires that no time shall elapse. Equation (2) can't be compared directly to (1) because they have different units of measurement. To make direct comparison possible, I will restate (2) in terms of energy:

$$d(TS)/dt > 0 \quad (3)$$

Note that (3) only applies to an unbound *system*. "System" usually means e.g. a bound vessel's contents. In this paper it also refers to constant amounts of gas that aren't bound. It's possible to have $d(TS)/dV < 0$ and $d(S)/dV > 0$ in a bound system, for example if heat transfer to or from its surroundings is neglected. However, for both the system and surroundings combined, (3) is generally true. At scale, (3) is always true. There is no scenario at scale where the entropy of the system is increasing and its entropic energy isn't. The converse applies: If $d(TS)/dV > 0$ at scale then $d(S)/dV > 0$ as well. Equation (3) has consequences: The Universe just before star formation was much colder than present estimates suggest.

Free Expansion in a Classic Setting

We conduct three different "thought experiments" in which gravity is unimportant. These will help us better understand the nature of free expansion within the GCDM model, where gravity plays a central role.

Bound, Equilibrium Free Expansion

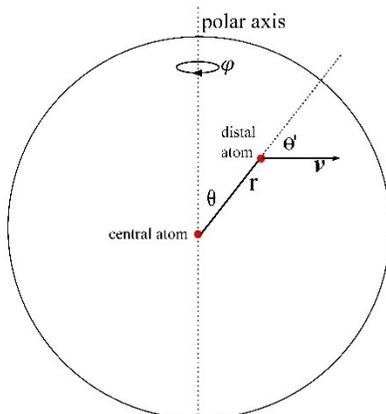


Figure 1.

Take a spherical helium balloon, of radius $r_1 = 10$ cm, at a temperature $T = 300$ K and pressure $P = 1$ atmosphere, and place it in the center of a perfectly rigid, insulated, spherical vacuum chamber of radius $r_2 = 50$ cm.

Gravitational effects are infinitesimal. The insulation and rigidity of the chamber means any gas expansion from r_1 to r_2 will be adiabatic. The gas in the balloon is monatomic, and its *internal kinetic energy* U_i is 100% thermal. For a monatomic gas, this is given by:

$$U_i = \frac{3}{2}nRT = \frac{3MRT}{2\mathcal{K}} \quad (4)$$

Where R is the gas constant (8.314 J/mole-K), \mathcal{K} is the atomic weight of the gas (kg/mole), n is the number of moles of gas, and M is the *thermodynamic mass* of the gas (kg). Other forms of mass are important at scale and

discussed later. The energy U_i in the balloon can also be expressed as the *instant* sum of its atoms' individual kinetic energies:

$$U_i = \sum_{r=0}^{r_2} \sum_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sum_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m [(v \sin\{\theta'\})^2 + (v \cos\{\theta'\})^2] \right\} \quad (5)$$

“Instant” means time stands still. The tensor \mathbf{v} is the atom's instant kinetic energy, m is the mass of the helium atom (6.6×10^{-27} kg), r is the distance from the center, θ is the conic angle of latitude, φ is the angle of longitude, and θ' is the conic angle of \mathbf{v} 's deviance from radial. These are shown in two dimensions in figure 1. If you spin figure 1 around its polar axis you get φ ; this is omitted in the graphic for simplicity. The void between r_1 and r_2 makes no contribution to U_i as long as the balloon is intact. The balloon is an *idle* sphere, having a constant radius r_1 . We pop the balloon. The thermal energy U_i is temporarily and partly transformed into *radial kinetic energy* E_k :

$$E_k = \sum_{r=0}^{r_2} \sum_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sum_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \sum_{\theta'=0}^{\pi/2} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m [(v \cos\{\theta'\})^2] \right\} - \sum_{r=0}^{r_2} \sum_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sum_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \sum_{\theta'=\pi/2}^{\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m [(v \cos\{\theta'\})^2] \right\} \quad (6)$$

Which is the instant difference in energy between the outward and inward components of the atoms' tensors. Implementation of (6) isn't as sequential as (5). We have to determine if the atom is moving in or out before assigning it. Another definition for U_i can now be given:

$$U_i = \sum_{r=0}^{r_2} \sum_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sum_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \frac{1}{2} m [(v \sin\{\theta'\})^2] + 2 \sum_{r=0}^{r_2} \sum_{\theta=0}^{\pi} \sum_{\varphi=0}^{2\pi} \sum_{\theta'=\pi/2}^{\pi} \left\{ \frac{1}{2} m [(v \cos\{\theta'\})^2] \right\} \quad (7)$$

For an idle sphere, the inward and outward radial scalars of \mathbf{v} in (6) are equal, so we can just double the inward scalar and replace the radial term in (5). This gives (7), which yields the same result as (5) for an idle sphere but can also be used to get U_i for an expanding sphere. The *instant kinetic energy* U_k in the sphere is:

$$U_k = U_i + E_k \quad (8)$$

When idle, $U_i = U_k$. When expanding, U_k stays the same and E_k diminishes U_i .

In the special condition of uniform comoving density ρ , E_k is given as:

$$E_k = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} E'_k \quad (9)$$

Where V_1 and V_2 are the before and after volumes of the gas. The term E'_k is the entropic pressure:

$$E'_k = \frac{d(TS)}{dV} \quad (10)$$

At last scattering, the Universe's ρ was uniform throughout its volume, so (9) and (10) apply. In the present bound example, uniform ρ only occurs at the instant the balloon is popped, giving $E'_k = P$ at V_1 . Since ρ is not uniform after the balloon is popped, (9) and (10) don't describe the later behavior of the atoms in this example. However, (8) remains accurate, and since loss to gravity is negligible, $E_k = d(TS) = -d(U_i)$ for the one-meter sphere as a whole during expansion. It lasts for maybe a second; the precise amount of time is unimportant. During the initial phase of expansion, U_i drops to a minimum value U_i' . As the expanding atoms bounce off the wall, they give negative E_k which exceeds positive E_k until $U_i' \rightarrow U_i$ and equilibrium is reestablished. The $d(TS) < 0$ arising from this negative E_k is an artifact of the boundary, and the entropy gain over time dS/dt in the sphere remains positive throughout nonequilibrium. When equilibrium is reestablished, the terms of (6) again cancel, and $U_i = U_k$ is unchanged for the enlarged idle sphere. The total gain E_S from volume increase is:

$$E_S = T(S_2 - S_1) = nRT \ln \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1} \right) \quad (11)$$

Bound, Nonequilibrium Free Expansion

Now take that same balloon, put it in the center of a large vacuum chamber ($r_2 = 10^8$ m) and pop it. A helium atom at $T = 300$ K has a root mean square speed $v_{rms} = 1368$ m/s. Those atoms will take about 20 hours to reach the wall of the chamber if their tensor of movement is perfectly radial. As they expand, they stop colliding with each other at any meaningful rate. After that happens, we can say that atomic movement is in a nonequilibrium “unbound free expansion” regime which is best considered at a time period when the atoms have stopped colliding, but haven’t hit the wall yet. During the regime, almost all of the kinetic energy is radial: $U_i \approx 0$ and $U_k \approx E_k$. The radial component of each outward atom’s speed, or *radial velocity* v_r , is proportional to its distance from the center:

$$v_r/r = H = 1/t \quad (12)$$

Where t is the elapsed time. The atomic Hubble parameter H is simply expressed by (12). Once the atoms stop colliding, E_k remains unchanged until they start to hit the wall. Eventually the atoms bounce off the wall, the regime slowly comes to an end as $E_k \rightarrow 0$, thermal equilibrium is reestablished, and U_i rises back to its starting value. A classic Joule expansion has a similar U_i profile: Helium gas at 300 K is allowed to pass unimpeded through a connecting tube from a small pressurized chamber into a much larger vacuum chamber. The gas cools while it passes through the tube as U_i partitions into E_k , which in the tube is linear kinetic energy, not radial. The thermal energy U_i , when applied to the gas inside the tube, is well defined since the instant temperature is constant along short lengths of the tube and can be measured in situ.⁵ The enlarged vessel’s boundary again eventually yields thermal equilibrium, with U_i unchanged from its starting value.⁶

Unbound, Nonequilibrium Free Expansion

What if there’s no boundary? There’s no equilibrium to be reached, so for a freely expanding gas, more and more of U_i is permanently converted to gain as time passes. One can approach Universal conditions by looking only at the moving central core of a large popped sphere with $r_{inner} = 10^{-6} r_{outer}$, or some similar small fraction of the total. That inner sphere would be nearly homogenous ($dp/dr \approx 0$), and as such, has a uniform instant value of U_i which obeys (9) and (10). The core’s atoms would eventually follow (12). Until then, their H would be more complex and perhaps similar to the Universe at its cosmic redshift $z = 1089$,⁷ the time of last scattering. That is, if the universe happens to be 100% helium, and denser. With proper parameters, this sort of treatment could be accurate at scales large enough to include gravity.

GCDM VERSUS Λ CDM: COMPARISON

Einsteinian Energy vs. Newtonian Mass; Euclidean Space and Time.

The behavior of common mass in e.g. a rock closely follows the laws of gravity and motion discovered by Isaac Newton. Einstein’s laws of general relativity, a refinement of Newton’s laws, considers Newtonian mass as a form of energy through the well-known equation $E = mc^2$, a special case of the general expression:

$$E_m^2 = m^2c^4 + (m'v)^2c^2 \quad (13)$$

Where E_m is the total or *Einsteinian* energy of the mass. The *rest mass* m is when it stands still relative to its neighbors, and is exactly Newtonian. This m could mean a helium atom as before, or a larger mass. The term c is

⁵ For turbulent flow. This description is adequate for our purposes. Fluid mechanics is a complex subject, outside the scope of the paper.

⁶ The Joule-Thompson effect for helium is negligible at this temperature.

⁷ The cosmic redshift z is given by (34). The term z also means the z axis of a grid but this is only used twice and the contexts should be clear.

The Λ CDM Model

the speed of light (3×10^8 m/s), and m' is the *relativistic mass*, an increase m'/m at a relative speed v' .⁸ When $v' \ll c$, (13) simplifies to Einsteinian rest mass energy plus Newtonian kinetic energy:

$$E_m = mc^2 + \frac{1}{2}mv'^2 \quad (14)$$

The Λ CDM model discards $\frac{1}{2}mv'^2$ as insignificant (21). The GCDM model discards mc^2 as unchanged between thermodynamic states (44). The Einsteinian energy of rest mass plays only a supporting role in the GCDM model, as a source of kinetic energy in the IGM arising from nuclear fusion in the cosmic web.

Newtonian laws operate in *Euclidean* or *flat* spacetime, a continuous array of infinitely large three-dimensional Cartesian grids x,y,z over linear time t . General relativity combines space and time into a single curved non-Euclidean description. However, at scale the Universe is well approximated by flat space and linear time if $v' \ll c$. Flat space means that an instant at-scale cube's mass has the same proper volume everywhere in the Universe. The mass doesn't shrink or expand even if you transpose it out to infinite distance. There's also flat time in flat space, which means that Newton's G is constant: $dG/dt = 0$. Curved time in flat space is still linear but makes G into a variable: $dG/dt \neq 0$. Positive time curvature increases G : $dG/dt > 0$.

A flat Universe is always analytically Cartesian in instant space at scale, with constant G forever past and future.

GCDM

The GCDM model unifies U_i with H . Its energy budget is expressed with rest mass, unlike the Λ CDM model, which turns all mass into energy. At last scatter, the Universe was homogenous and isotropic at scales eight or more orders of magnitude below 100 Mpc, as evenly dispersed atoms. These atoms collided elastically. They repelled each other on contact and their aggregate kinetic energy was repulsive, like any other gas. Gravitational anisotropy was locally significant only on a micron scale if even that. There was significant relativistic mass present from what is now the cosmic microwave background (CMB), but its effects were uniform and didn't affect the Euclidean nature of that instant spacetime. Newtonian laws combined with gas laws can provide an accurate description of baryon movement at scale back then. The arising thermal model is then slightly modified to include suprathreshold energy which better describes the more recent Universe. General effects arising from density variance are only marginally relevant in the instant IGM today. It remains flat, with minor changes inside and proximity to accreted mass at its edge. *Special* effects, however, are more important. They are just detectable in the model at around $z = 10$ and became prominent after $z = 0.306$. The model indicates that today, particles moving at near-relativistic speeds comprise about half of the kinetic energy in the IGM.

Λ CDM

The Λ CDM model combines three formulas to describe H and its change over time dH/dt :

- 1) The Friedmann equation which gives a relation between H and Einsteinian density ϵ .
- 2) The fluid equation which describes comoving ϵ vs. V .
- 3) The equation of state which divides ϵ into three different constituents.

The Λ CDM model is a benchmark, giving the most accurate empirical fit to date. It converges with the GCDM model at $z = 0$. The Λ CDM's "dark energy" term Ω_Λ is restated in the GCDM model as $\Omega_{\mathcal{R}_s}$ (71). Unlike Ω_Λ whose source Λ is baffling, $\Omega_{\mathcal{R}_s}$ has a known origin: electron and baryon kinetic energies in the IGM. The models have different theoretical foundations and their predictions diverge. Dissection of their foundations clarifies their differences. Two texts, Ryden (2017) and Liddle (2015), were consulted for this dissection.

⁸ $m' = m(1 - v'^2/c^2)^{-\frac{1}{2}}$

The Friedmann Equation

We start with the Friedmann equation (15), given in both its Einsteinian and Newtonian forms. The debate over the curvature of the Universe is largely settled now, and most of us believe it to be flat at scale and above in both time and space. The Friedmann equation can then be simply expressed:

$$H^2 = \frac{8\pi G\epsilon}{3c^2} \approx \frac{8\pi G\rho}{3} \quad (15)$$

Where $H = v_r/r$ is the time-dependent Hubble parameter, G is Newton's constant, $6.6743 \times 10^{-11} \text{ m}^3/\text{kg}\cdot\text{s}^2$, ρ is the comoving rest mass density (kg/m^3) and ϵ is the comoving Einsteinian energy density (J/m^3). For mass at rest, $\epsilon = \rho c^2$. The Newtonian expression of (15) doesn't include mass from CMB energy, hence the “ \approx ”. Equation (15) describes what happens when a sphere of rocks are all hurtling away from each other as the sphere expands. The rocks lose E_k as they work against their mutual gravitational attraction. Both models share a calculated value, the *critical density*, given by (16):

$$\epsilon_{crit} = \frac{3H^2 c^2}{8\pi G} = \rho_{crit} c^2 \quad (16)$$

The Λ CDM model uses $\rho(z) = \rho_{crit}$ which does include CMB energy. It's a resultant value of the comoving equilibrium arising from perpetual dominance of gas gain over total work in a flat Universe. The Λ CDM model uses $\epsilon(z) = \epsilon_{crit}$. It's a Euclidean fulcrum between positively curved spacetime, where the hurtling rocks slow down too much and end up collapsing, vs. negatively curved spacetime, where the rocks possess $E_k \gg 0$ forever.⁹ At the fulcrum, the rocks' E_k is exactly spent by work, and $H \rightarrow 0$ asymptotically at infinite time.

The term ϵ is almost completely comprised by rest mass. Skipping ahead a bit, we use (35) to arrive at ϵ . At last scatter, when $z = 1089$, relativistic mass from the CMB was important: about 24% of ϵ . However, by $z = 10$, it was only 0.3%. That was thirteen billion years ago. Today at $z = 0$, the Λ CDM model gives CMB energy as only 0.03% of ϵ . Mass density ρ is thus a 99.7-99.97% accurate estimate of ϵ/c^2 for 95+% of the Universe's history. Equation (15) can be practically expressed with Newtonian ρ . Furthermore, the Universe is 85% gas by weight. The reader should be able to comprehend how it can thus be seen as mostly an unbound gas with repulsive U_i , expanding in flat space. In the Λ CDM model, $H \equiv E_k$ is fed by U_i via (43). This U_i term is negligible as mass equivalence and doesn't comprise ϵ . In (15)'s Einsteinian form, U_i is excised from ϵ as trivially attractive. Instead, Λ was invented.

The Fluid and Acceleration Equations

If all the energy in the Universe was bodies of accreted mass, its expansion would be easy to describe with (15) and (16). However, as Einstein pointed out, CMB light has energy which also imparts mass density. CMB energy density drops off faster than that of accreted mass. To reconcile these differing rates of density drop, the fluid equation (20) was devised. Its derivation starts with (17), the engineer's preferred expression of the first law of thermodynamics. This is not the same as (1). Engineers work with bound systems, and (17) describes the behavior of gas in e.g. a vessel:

$$dE = TdS - PdV \quad (17)$$

Where dE is the differential change of thermal energy U_i inside the vessel. Also in this vessel,

$$dQ = TdS \quad (18)$$

⁹ These curved Universes continue to underpin current cosmology, for example the value of H at last scatter. The debate about a flat Universe is far from over.

Where dQ is the differential heat flow (J) to or from the vessel. A restriction is placed on (18), $dQ = 0$. So far, so good: The system is adiabatic,¹⁰ like the Universe. If $dQ = 0$ in (18), then $dS = 0$ as well. This precept is used to set dS in (17) to 0. Such a precept is questionable, since a vessel is required for heat to flow in (18). A vessel isn't required for (17), but if dS in (17) is differentiated over time, a term TdS/dt arises which at scale cannot be set to zero since that is inconsistent with (2). This issue is skirted by removal of TdS prior to differentiation. The outcome is:

$$-PdV/dt = dE/dt \quad (19)$$

From (1), dE/dt should at scale be zero. Ignoring (2) leads to inconsistency with (1). Equation (19) is nonetheless used to derive the fluid equation (20):

$$\frac{d\epsilon}{dt} + 3H(\epsilon + P) = 0 \quad (20)$$

Equation (20) inverts P into an attractive force. Pressure becomes a proxy for mass density ρ , or ϵ if you prefer. Gas pressure is now attractive, and trivially small.

The Newtonian expression of (20) is:

$$\frac{d\rho}{dt} + 3H(\rho + P/c^2) = 0 \quad (21)$$

Equation (21) better shows why gas pressure is thought to be insignificant. The kinetic energy of any one atom is, from (14), dwarfed by its rest mass term. The fluid equation, however, isn't accurate. It has a problem in its derivation: Application of a bound expression to unbound conditions. This has consequences:

- 1) It's inconsistent with both the first and second laws of thermodynamics (1) and (2).
- 2) Gas pressure P is inverted from repulsive to attractive.
- 3) Gas thermal energy U_i is excised as trivial.
- 4) CMB entropic energy gain is unaccounted. This will be discussed shortly and isn't especially important to our discussion. It doesn't affect H after last scatter and is only needed to balance the budget (44).

The Friedmann equation (15) is differentiated and combined with (20) to give the acceleration equation:

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = - \left[\frac{4\pi G}{c^2} (\epsilon + P) \right] \quad (22)$$

In (22), the expression dH/dt is governed only by G 's constant value. Entropic pressure E'_k , which comprises part of P , is insignificant and even if significant would be an attractive term.

The acceleration equation (22) is inaccurate. It derives from the fluid equation (20) which is inconsistent with both laws of thermodynamics (1) and (2). These laws cannot be simply ignored, and general relativity's isoentropic premise is inconsistent with (2). The attempt by the fluid equation to adhere to general relativity as the sole source of Universal behavior improperly conflates E between bound (17) and unbound (1) systems. Setting $dS = 0$ in (18) is conditionally allowed in a perfectly adiabatic bound system. However, transfer of $dS = 0$ from (18) to (17) is inconsistent with (2) at scale. This results in (19) which is again conditionally allowed when bound, but inconsistent with (1) at scale, so (19) is inaccurate. Equation (19)'s inaccuracy is then incorporated into (20), followed by (22).

The Jeans resonance model of star formation ([Owen and Villumsen 1997](#)) is relevant to our discussion here. At last scatter, both (22) and the Jeans model operated concurrently within any given volume. The Jeans model treats P as

¹⁰ A truly adiabatic vessel has yet to be devised. High-field magnet users aren't happy; they have to settle for the best they can get.

repulsive, an offset against gravitational collapse. This is inconsistent with (22). The Λ CDM model treats P as repulsive, which is consistent with the Jeans model's treatment of P .

The Equation of State

The Λ CDM equation of state describes the relation between pressure P and density ϵ . It treats P as attractive, and has three terms: baryonic¹¹, relativistic, and Λ :

$$P = w_b \epsilon_b + w_{rel} \epsilon_{rel} + w_\Lambda \epsilon_\Lambda \quad (23)$$

The ϵ terms are the Einsteinian energy densities of baryons (ϵ_b), photons (ϵ_{rel}), and Λ (ϵ_Λ). The w terms are dimensionless numbers: $w_b \ll 1$, $w_{rel} = 1/3$, and $w_\Lambda = -1$. Equation (23) is combined with (22) to complete the Λ CDM model (35).

Baryonic Mass

The mass of baryonic, everyday matter is nonrelativistic, which means it moves much slower than light: $v' \ll c$. Its Einsteinian energy content is given by (14). Baryons comprise stars, cars, and helium balloons. Baryonic mass is considered attractive in the Λ CDM model. This might disturb a vendor watching his balloons implode. It's repulsive in the GCDM model; the balloon vendor feels better. At last scatter, baryon mass was 100% elastically colliding atoms, i.e. a repulsive atomic gas: Helium and monatomic hydrogen.¹² Presently, the repulsive : attractive ratio of baryon mass in the Universe is about 5:1.

The Λ CDM term $w_b \epsilon_b$ is expressed as:

$$w_b \epsilon_b \approx \left(\frac{kT}{\mu c^2} \right) \epsilon_b \approx \left(\frac{kT}{\mu c^2} \right) (\rho_b c^2) = \frac{kT \rho_b}{\mu} \quad (24)$$

Where μ is the mean atomic mass (kg), ρ_b is the mean baryon density (kg/m³), and k is Boltzmann's constant, 1.38×10^{-23} (m²kg)/(s²K). Without ado, (24) gives 1.088×10^{-11} Pa at $z = 1089$, the same value obtained from the GCDM model's equation of state (30). They are, for slow neutral atoms, equivalent expressions. Equation (24), however, treats baryon rest mass as part of the internal energy density ϵ . The baryons in the IGM are considered a perfect fluid or "dust" with almost all of ϵ contained in their rest mass. Thermal energy U_i is relegated to the status of a rounding error (shown in (24) as \approx), and $-AU_i = E$ is unaddressed. In the GCDM model, E is the source of repulsion, and the Einsteinian energy density of rest mass is irrelevant (44).

Relativistic Mass

Relativistic mass, expressed as $w_{rel} \epsilon_{rel}$ in the Λ CDM model, is attractive in both models and arises from photon and neutrino energy (36)-(37).¹³ We digress briefly into photon energy. An expanding sphere of CMB light has an r^{-4} dependence of energy density (Ryden 2017). Volume increases as r^3 , so there appears to be a $1/r$ loss of CMB energy upon expansion. During the "dark age" from last scattering until reionization began (Miralda-Escude 2003; Natatajan and Yoshida 2014), there was no coupling of the CMB with free electrons or stripped protons because there weren't any. There was no mechanism through which that lost energy could perform work. It vanished and the energy budget became unbalanced. We get inconsistency with (1). I see no escape from this conundrum except

¹¹ Cosmologists include electrons when they refer to baryonic matter.

¹² This does discount any formation of helium hydride HeH, a highly unstable diatomic species. He-H collisions were effectively 100% elastic for the temperature and density found at last scattering. Monatomic hydrogen scatters elastically even though it's thermodynamically unstable with respect to its diatomic form. A catalyst is required for H₂ formation, for example, an aggregate mass, or a lithium atom.

¹³ Neutrinos are believed to have been relativistic at last scattering but became nonrelativistic in the dark age. This affects their temporal mass density dependence, which is untreated in the present paper.

to apply (3): CMB light yields entropic energy gain $E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}}$ through wavelength stretch $\Delta\lambda$. Any one CMB photon's wavelength increases with time and their combined lost energy is the entropic gain at scale:

$$E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}} = E_{CMB_1} - E_{CMB_2} = \sum_{\lambda_1 \approx 0}^{\infty} n_{\lambda} hc \left(\frac{1}{\lambda_1} - \frac{1}{\lambda_2} \right) \quad (25)$$

where E_{CMB_1} and E_{CMB_2} are the before and after CMB energies, h is Planck's constant (6.6×10^{-34} J/Hz), λ_1 and λ_2 are the before and after wavelengths of the stretched photon (m), and n_{λ} is the number of photons at a wavelength λ . The distribution n_{λ} vs. λ for any z in the dark age is given by the Boltzmann curve at last scatter, $T = 2971$ K. The ratio λ_2/λ_1 between two CMB states is akin to the *scale factor* a (33).

The above analysis of the CMB defines an individual photon's entropy S_{λ} as equal to Planck's constant:¹⁴

$$S_{\lambda} = h \quad (26)$$

Its entropic energy $E_{S_{\lambda}}$ is the photon energy:

$$E_{S_{\lambda}} = hf = \frac{hc}{\lambda} \quad (27)$$

Where f is the frequency of the photon (Hz). Entropy is expressed as J/Hz rather than the more conventional J/K.

Photon energy is 100% entropic. This makes sense, given that entropy gain is linked to volume increase (11). The rate of volume increase of radial light dV_{λ}/dt in an unbound model sphere is:

$$\frac{dV_{\lambda}}{dt} = \frac{4\pi c^3}{3} \quad (28)$$

which far outpaces other energy in the sphere.

Current treatment of CMB energy is isentropic, also begins with (17), and concludes that radiation expands more slowly than baryonic matter (Liddle 2015). A balanced budget may give a different result, if $E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}}$ is included in an *ab initio* derivation. In the observable Universe, $E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}}$ may affect E_k and H at $z \approx 1089$, as free electrons were still present at $z > 1089$, and photons were more strongly coupled to baryon movement.

Dark Energy

The remaining term, $w_{\Lambda}\epsilon_{\Lambda}$, describes repulsion. In the Λ CDM model, Einstein's time-invariant Λ is used to account for the behavior of distant stars (Perlmutter et al. 1999). The term $w_{\Lambda} = -1$ arises because (22) treats P as attractive, so $w_{\Lambda}\epsilon_{\Lambda}$ has to have negative pressure. In the GCDM model the behavior described by $w_{\Lambda}\epsilon_{\Lambda}$ arises from suprathermal electrons, whose pressure P is repulsive. These electrons do create a scalar field, but unlike Λ its value changes with time. A time-invariant Λ field has a constant ϵ . This creates more and more energy at comoving scale, which is inconsistent with (1). If (1) is obeyed, Λ must change with time.¹⁵

CONSTRUCTION OF THE GCDM MODEL

Parameters

The GCDM model follows a balanced energy budget. Energy is conserved through inclusion of E_k and E_{λ_s} in the budget. We construct the model with a finite element method using the radius r of a sphere as the finite variable. A

¹⁴ An alternate treatment of photon entropy is given by Kirwan (Kirwan 2003).

¹⁵ This author is firmly wedded to x, y, z , and t . There's no room here for extra dimensions as a Λ source.

spreadsheet is used for the calculations. This is less satisfactory than an analytic derivation, but it does give solace in that the equilibrium expressions (29), (30), (48), and (49) are exact, as they describe changes in U_i which has a precise instant value (7). It is only in the partition of $-\Delta U_i$ between gain (43) and work (42) where error accrues. We must find a time period when the Universe was 100% gaseous and as homogenous as possible. That happened at $z = 1089$, the time of last scattering. Baryonic matter was all neutral, elastic atoms. We use the BBN estimate for baryons (Weinberg, 1988) as a mixture of about 75% hydrogen (H_1) : 25% helium (He) by weight, giving a mean

Table 1. Values at $z = 0$.

H_0	$2.1938 \times 10^{-18} \text{ sec}^{-1}$
ρ_{crit}	$8.6075 \times 10^{-27} \text{ kg/m}^3$
baryons Ω_b	0.04898
cold dark matter Ω_c	0.26014
relativistic energy Ω_{rad}	0.000091
dark energy Ω_Λ	0.6908
T_{CMB}	2.6720 K

Notes. H_0 and the Ω values were calculated from table 6 of (Planck Collaboration, 2020), except for Ω_b , which is $1 - (\Omega_c + \Omega_{rad})$. The critical density $\rho_{crit} = 3H_0^2/8\pi G$.

atomic weight $\mathcal{K} = 1.24 \times 10^{-3} \text{ kg/mol}$. Hydrogen was monatomic and nonrecombinant to diatomic form, absent catalysis through aggregation. The isotropy in the CMB appears to indicate that the Universe at $z = 1089$ had a constant density, only minimally perturbed by the observed nascent Jeans resonance wiggles in the power spectra (Planck 2020). There is a metric not fully understood by this author, η_{slip} , found from the wiggles. It describes the accord between Einsteinian and Newtonian physics in a presumptively homogenous and isotropic Universe, and may be conversely used to estimate variation in mass density. At $z = 1089$, if $\eta_{slip} = 1$, then there was no variance, and this atomic Universe

would have been homogenous and isotropic. The value of η_{slip} was found to be 1.004 ± 0.007 . How exactly this translates to spatial density variation is unclear to me, but the text in Planck proclaims agreement between Einstein's and Newton's models for the presumed uniform gravitational potential. We proceed as follows: There was no accreted matter at $z = 1089$, and gas density variations from e.g. Jeans resonance were either averaged out or insignificant relative to the volumes used in the Λ CDM model, on the order of a sphere with $r \approx 10^{17}$ meters, or $V \approx 140$ cubic parsecs. The wiggles tell us the atoms were dense enough to support the Jeans resonance, which is sonic pressure transmission vs. gravitational free fall. Since these atoms could transmit sound, they behaved like a gas back then so we can safely assume they had all the same properties we associate with gases today. The baryon density $\rho_{b(z=1089)}$ was $(\Omega_b \rho_{crit})(1+z)^3 = 5.46 \times 10^{-19} \text{ kg/m}^3$. This is very low and we can say the gas behaved ideally in a thermodynamic sense. The critical density ρ_{crit} and the Ω values are given in Table 1 and are derived from table 6 of Planck. The CMB had decoupled right around then so the baryon temperature T at $z = 1089$ will be set to the extrapolated value $(T_{CMB, z=0})(1+z) = (2.726 \text{ K})(1090) = 2971 \text{ K}$.

The Dark Model at $z = 1089$

The *dark model*, described immediately below, is constructed using equilibrium monatomic gas thermodynamic expressions, found in many introductory engineering textbooks and Wikipedia. Its z range, $1089 \rightarrow 10$, includes the entire dark age of the universe, hence the name. Its expression (57) is valid at $z = 1089$ as there was no high-energy light to perturb the model.

The *light model*, discussed later, has a range $z = 10 \rightarrow 0$. Equation (57) is still used but one of its terms is adjusted to include suprathreshold energy from cosmic and β rays. The β energy dominates and comes from impact of light upon electrons. One additional adjustment is made, to ρ_{crit} . This is constant (60), and precise in result.

Adiabatic Energy Release

Consider a comoving sphere of initial radius r_i around a single atom of H_1 , at 2971 K and $\rho = 5.46 \times 10^{-19} \text{ kg/m}^3$. There are similar spheres around all the other atoms. Nonequilibrium conditions besides expansion, e.g. turbulence, Jeans resonance, etc. will be set aside so that the underlying transformation of conserved energy is clearly described. There are two competing forces acting on the sphere: Repulsive entropic push, and attractive gravity pull. We are

The Λ CDM Model

using a finite element method, so we define an *increment*: $\frac{(r_2-r_1)}{r_1} = \frac{\Delta r_i}{r}$, which must be kept below 10^{-4} for most purposes to minimize the partition error. I will use 10^{-9} , as low as the spreadsheet will tolerate. When the gas in the sphere expands, it must do so adiabatically, and there's no void outside the sphere into which free expansion can occur. Under classic bound conditions, the comoving sphere would then have to lose U_i through work. We postulate that those rules apply in a cosmic setting as well. For monatomic gases this is:

$$U_{i_1} - U_{i_2} = -\Delta U_i = E = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) P_1 V_1 \left(\left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^{\frac{2}{3}} - 1 \right) \quad (29)$$

Where the numeric subscripts refer to the before and after U_i and V values. Volumes V_1 and V_2 are readily found ($4\pi r^3/3$). The starting pressure P_1 is found from the equation of state for ideal gases:

$$P = \frac{\rho RT}{\mathcal{K}} = \frac{MRT}{\mathcal{K}V} = \frac{3MRT}{4\mathcal{K}\pi r^3} \quad (30)$$

If work against gravity is negligible, there is no alternative to free expansion within the sphere that I can find, so the released energy E from (29) is 100% entropic E_k . From (11), the finite differential E_k gives the entropic energy gain E_S :

$$E_S = E_k = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} E'_k = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} \frac{d(TS)}{dV} = \int_{V_1}^{V_2} \left(T \frac{dS}{dV} + S \frac{dT}{dV} \right) \approx (S_2 - S_1) \left(T_2 + \frac{1}{2}(T_1 - T_2) \right) \quad (31)$$

Where the subscripts refer to the before and after values on a T-S diagram. Volume increase is strictly local to the sphere. At scale, it all just gets less dense.

An exception to the low-increment rule is that any size increment gives zero error in the calculation of $-\Delta U_i$. You can get the temperature at any dark redshift just from the increment. For example, if $z = 1089$ and $T = 2971$ K, $\frac{\Delta r_i}{r} = 14.7$ gives $z = 68.4$ and $T = 12$ K. At $z = 43.6$, $T = 5$ K, and at $z = 34$, $T = 3$ K.¹⁶

Gravitational Attraction

The sphere has to get quite large before gravity begins to play any kind of role. To find out just how large, we now look at the gravitational potential energy U of the sphere:

$$U = \frac{-3GM'^2}{5r} \quad (32)$$

The potential energy U must take into account the *total mass* M' , not just the thermodynamic mass M of the baryons. In addition to baryon mass there's cold dark matter (CDM) which is about five times as abundant as baryon mass. Its only interaction with baryons, electrons, or light, is through gravity. CDM does move relative to accreted baryons like stars, but all that occurs within the cosmic web, and at scale, does not affect H . A consistent description of CDM's composition and origin remains to be found ([Bertone and Hooper 2018](#)). There's widespread belief that CDM's mass density evolution over time is inverse third-order in r , like baryons. We use this convention. Due to $\eta_{slip} \approx 1$, its density at $z = 1089$ can be kept constant with respect to baryon density. Both follow $1/r^3$, as expressed by the scale factor a :

$$a = \frac{r}{r_0} = \frac{1}{(1+z)} \quad (33)$$

¹⁶ Calculated temperatures ≤ 12 K sidestep the issue of energy dissipation from exothermic diatomic hydrogen formation inside the "snowballs" that should form in this extreme cold through Van der Waals aggregation at a sonic antinode. These snowballs could get big enough to be gravitationally bound, acting as seeds for further accretion at higher temperatures. This unexplored hypothesis lies outside the scope of the present paper.

The Λ CDM Model

where r_0 is the comoving radius of a sphere today, and z is the cosmic redshift used throughout this paper:

$$z = \frac{\lambda_{ob} - \lambda_{em}}{\lambda_{em}} \quad (34)$$

Where λ_{ob} is the observed wavelength of light of known laboratory value, λ_{em} . There's also relativistic mass from the CMB, whose comoving density follows $1/r^4$. This is addressed by the minimum flat-universe Λ CDM model:

$$H_A^2(a) = H_0^2[\Omega_{rel}a^{-4} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3} + \Omega_\Lambda] \quad (35)$$

Where H_A is the Λ CDM Hubble parameter, H_0 is today's Hubble constant ($z = 0$), and the Ω values are energy density ratios at $z = 0$. These are listed in Table 1. The Ω values are dimensionless and always add up to one at any given z . They share a common denominator ϵ_{crit} , and have identical values when expressed as mass density ratios using the common denominator ρ_{crit} . To get the relative density, and therefore mass M' for a given volume, we divide them by each other; the denominators cancel. This gives an *Einsteinian mass multiplier* η_E :

$$\eta_E = \frac{\Omega_{rel}a^{-4} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \quad (36)$$

which we use to get the total Einstein mass:

$$M'_E = M\eta_E = M \left(\frac{\Omega_{rel}a^{-4} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \right) \quad (37)$$

In an Einsteinian Universe, $M'_E = 6.313M$ at $z = 0$ and increases to $M'_E = 8.336M$ at $z = 1089$. The reader may be curious as to why Ω_Λ wasn't included in the calculation of M'_E . It's a repulsive energy term generated by the Λ CDM model and unrelated to the gravitational effect of mass.

In a Newtonian Universe, the mass equivalent of Ω_{rel} doesn't exist. This gives a *Newtonian mass multiplier* η_N :

$$\eta_N = \frac{\Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \quad (38)$$

which we use to get the total Newton mass:

$$M'_N = M\eta_N = M \left(\frac{\Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \right) \quad (39)$$

Which is $M'_N = 6.3111M$ for all z .

Throughout this paper, we assume that the Λ CDM model is an empirically perfect description of H vs. z . Neither η_N nor η_E matches H_A at $z = 1089$. The Einstein mass M'_E overshoots and the Newton mass M'_N undershoots. I will add a third multiplier, the *J mass multiplier* η_J , whose relativistic contribution Ω_{rel} is treated as an inverse j power:

$$\eta_J = \frac{\Omega_{rel}a^{-j} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \quad (40)$$

giving the total J mass:

$$M'_J = M\eta_J = M \left(\frac{\Omega_{rel}a^{-j} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}}{\Omega_b a^{-3}} \right) \quad (41)$$

Unlike η_E and η_N which derive from known theory, η_J is ad hoc. We proceed using a single term M' which may be any of M'_E , M'_N , or M'_J , depending on context. The energy lost to gravity upon expansion of the sphere is:

$$U_r = U_1 - U_2 = \frac{-3GM^2}{5} \left(\frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right) \quad (42)$$

Where U_1 and U_2 are the before and after gravitational potential energies, respectively.

We've seen that atoms can freely expand without colliding. Less obvious to the engineer reader is the fact that they can also perform work against gravity without colliding. How is this possible? Well, the Friedmann equation (15) does the same thing, but with stars instead of atoms. Any volume of space containing evenly dispersed atoms, however dilute, has a uniform gravitational potential energy at scale. This is expressed within general relativity as a stress tensor having net value only in time (t) and not space (x,y,z).¹⁷ When the atoms all move away from the central atom of a comoving sphere, they are climbing out of a gravity well caused by the reduced density resulting from their movement, and E_k diminishes accordingly. It is this loss of radial kinetic energy to gravity, not PV work, which is responsible for the "isentropic" portion of $-AU_i$.

Energy Release and Gravity Combined: The Adiabatic Sphere

Combining (29) and (42) gives a finite differential E_k value which includes loss to gravity:

$$E_k = E + U_r = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) P_1 V_1 \left(\left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^{-\frac{2}{3}} - 1 \right) - \frac{3GM^2}{5} \left(\frac{1}{r_1} - \frac{1}{r_2} \right) \quad (43)$$

An expression of conserved Einsteinian energy upon expansion is given by (44):

$$E_1 - E_2 = \left[\begin{array}{l} (M_b c^2 + M_e c^2 + M_c c^2 + E_{CMB_1} + U_{i_1} + U_1) - \\ (M_b c^2 + M_e c^2 + M_c c^2 + E_{CMB_2} + E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}} + U_{i_2} + U_2 + E_k) \end{array} \right] = E + U_r - E_k = 0 \quad (44)$$

Where E_1 and E_2 are the total Einsteinian energies of the before and after sphere. The CMB gain $E_{S_{\Delta\lambda}}$ is decoupled from E_k at $z < 1089$ and separately expressed. Energy for nonrelativistic mass is given by (14). This is accurate: Relativistic mass increase $[(m'/m) - 1]$ for an atom of H_1 at 2971 K is only around 10^{-9} . Furthermore, the baryon rest mass M_b , electron mass M_e , and CDM mass M_c are unchanged so their rest mass energies Mc^2 cancel. It is only their Newtonian mass which is relevant for (43).

At any instant, as the radius r increases isotemporally, the mass density ρ remains constant and the subsumed mass in the sphere increases as r^3 . The loss and gain terms in (43) shift toward loss. When r reaches the *adiabatic radius* or *endpoint* r_e , they cancel, giving an *adiabatic sphere*: $E_k = 0$. The adiabatic sphere is a principal construct of the Λ CDM model. Energy is conserved within any one such sphere, indeed all of them, as they expand over time. The comoving imaginary boundary of a sphere with $r = r_e$ is the *adiabatic surface*. This isn't adiabatic in the classical sense. Energy can flow freely in both directions across the boundary, but any such net transfer between many spheres would always be zero. The term "adiabatic" is apt and so repurposed. In today's Universe, the adiabatic surface around a central atom isn't always spherical due to anisotropic stress from accreted baryons, e.g. stars. This happens near the cosmic web. Density variation also occurs locally in the IGM. These are inconsequential at scale. The cosmic web's mass in this context is addressed later (59)-(60). At $z = 1089$, there's no anisotropy, let alone a web, so it's all spheres. The endpoint r_e is found from (43) by convergence of r around $-U_r/E = 1$. If we use the Einsteinian m_E , we get $r_e = 9.69 \times 10^{16}$ meters, about 20 ly in diameter. If we use the Newtonian m_N , a bigger sphere results: $r_e = 1.28 \times 10^{17}$ m. Either way we get an adiabatic sphere about 20 ly across.

¹⁷ Entropic pressure E'_k also behaves like a time-only stress tensor, but is repulsive. General relativity doesn't provide for it. It's not inconceivable that E'_k could act superluminally, driving inflation in the early Universe.

For an adiabatic sphere, the postulate connecting classic to cosmic behavior in (29) is most clearly seen. The thermal loss in the sphere just balances gravity, like a piston's expansion just holding up a weight. The postulate holds for lesser, *medium* spheres, as differential work and E_k combined.

Spheres larger than adiabatic result in gravitational contraction. Although quite interesting, treatment of these *large spheres* as a description of gravitational collapse lies outside the scope of the present paper.

The Expanding Adiabatic Sphere and Λ CDM Equation, $H_G = K v_i / r_e$

One might suppose that because $E_k = 0$ at r_e , the adiabatic sphere isn't comoving: $d(r_e)/dt = v = 0$. That's not true. It is, just very slowly: $v > 0$.¹⁸ The adiabatic sphere contains medium spheres: For $r < r_e$, $E_k > 0$. To find v , we have to figure out how fast these are expanding (45)-(54), and add up their combined radial speeds (55).

The finite differential E_k gives the *increment radial velocity* v'_s :

$$v'_s = \sqrt{\frac{2E_k}{M}} \quad (45)$$

This is best visualized as each and every atom in the sphere moving away from the center at v'_s . The true picture is messier (6). Note that v'_s is increment-dependent: A larger $\frac{\Delta r_i}{r}$ gives more v'_s . This state of affairs can be sorted by following v'_s as a function of r . The *cutoff radius* $r_c = 0.003r_e$ is important. Below r_c , loss to gravity is negligible and all these *small spheres* have the same E_k/M value to within 5 ppm (Figure 2):

$$\frac{E_k}{M} = \frac{E}{M} = \frac{dE}{dM} = \frac{dV}{dM} \frac{dE}{dV} = \left(\frac{RT}{\mathcal{K}P}\right) \frac{dE}{dV} = \frac{RT}{\mathcal{K}} \left(\frac{dE}{P dV}\right) = \frac{RT}{\mathcal{K}} \quad (46)$$

For an adiabatic system with an imaginary boundary, $dE = -PdV$ at the instant isoentropic limit. The minus sign is omitted. Combining (45) and (46) gives the *initial radial velocity* v_i :

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2E_k}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2E}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2RT}{\mathcal{K}}} \quad (47)$$

We can compare this with E and see if energy is conserved (50). We expand a small sphere ($r = r_l = 1 \times 10^{12}$ m) by $\frac{\Delta r_i}{r} = 10^{-9}$, giving P_2 and T_2 . The pressure drop of an adiabatically expanding bound monatomic gas is given by:

$$P_2 = P_1 \left(\frac{V_2}{V_1}\right)^{-\frac{5}{3}} \quad (48)$$

And the temperature drop by:

$$T_2 = T_1 \left(\frac{P_2}{P_1}\right)^{2/5} \quad (49)$$

We examine the partition error:

$$\frac{\frac{1}{2}M \left[\left(v_{i(T_1)} \right)^2 - \left(v_{i(T_2)} \right)^2 \right] - E}{E} \quad (50)$$

Development in (46) gets dV/dM from the ideal gas law (30) and not from the thermal energy (4). By use of (50) we find that v_i is better expressed by rearranging (4):

¹⁸ There's another sphere, the *static sphere*, where $v = 0$ and $E_k < 0$. It's nonconservative.

$$\frac{U_i}{M} = \frac{3RT}{2\mathcal{K}} \quad (51)$$

Which gives:

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2U_i}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{3RT}{\mathcal{K}}} = \sqrt{\frac{3(8.3145)(2971)}{(0.00123988)}} = 7731 \text{ m/s} \quad (52)$$

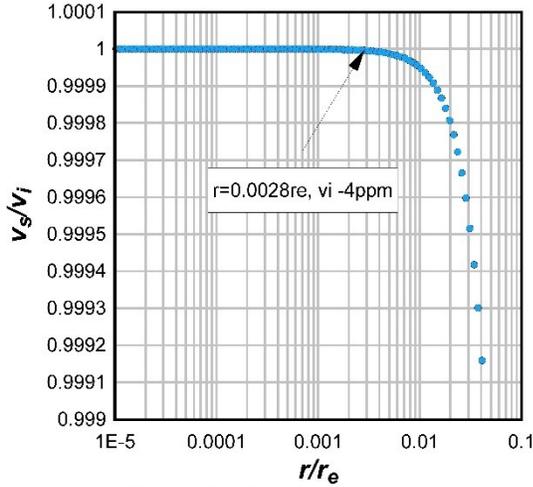


Figure 2. Small sphere cutoff

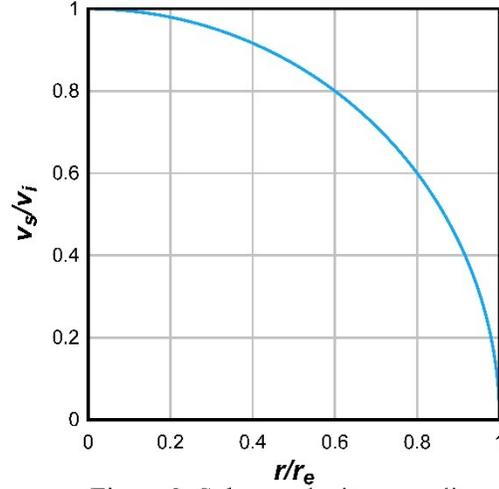


Figure 3. Sphere velocity vs. radius

By use of (52) instead of (47), the partition error (50) is at its minimum (2×10^{-8}). Note that v_i is the fastest rate at which any sphere can expand. Small spheres are all expanding this fast, so an increment should not affect v_i . Again using (52), the partition error of v_i for our small sphere is:

$$\frac{(v_{i(T_2)} + v'_s) - v_{i(T_1)}}{v_{i(T_1)}} = 4.5 \times 10^{-5} \quad (53)$$

Which is about as good as we are going to get with an increment, and sphere, this large. Now that we have a proper value of v_i , I will suggest an expression for the *sphere radial velocity*, v_s :

$$v_s = \frac{v'_s}{v'_{s0}} v_i \quad (54)$$

Where v'_{s0} is the constant value of v'_s at $r < r_c$. Equation (54) gives a zero value at the endpoint, and gives v_i at low r . My guess is v_s/v'_s remains constant. The radial velocity v of the adiabatic sphere is the sum of the radial speeds of the contained medium shells, plus the small core:

$$v = (v_i) \left(\frac{r_c}{r_e} \right) + \sum_{r_c}^{r_e} \left(\frac{r}{r_e} v_s \right) \quad (55)$$

At our chosen T , ρ , and \mathcal{K} , for all $r < r_c$, $v = 23.2$ m/s. That leaves the remaining 99.7% of v to be found. Numerical integration of the sigma portion of (55) (Figure 3)¹⁹ gives 6103 m/s. Adding 23.2 to this gives 6126 m/s, or 0.7925 v_i . If r_c/r_e is kept constant, the proportion of v_i not lost to gravity K , shows little change with any of M' , ρ ,

¹⁹Numerical integration of (55) used 997-998 steps of linearly increasing r/r_e , beginning at r_c/r_e and ending at $r/r_e = 0.999$ or 1. The integrals were calculated with the plotting program, Dplot, giving third-order correlation > 0.9999 in all cases. Replacement of the integral constant with $r_c/r_e = 0.003$ gave the reported $K = v/v_i$, 0.7925. All measured curves gave $0.79245 \leq K \leq 0.79258$. The step separation is many times larger than the incremental increase.

T , or \mathcal{K} ; K is constant to the 4th decimal place. About 63%, $(v/v_i)^2 = K^2$, of E is converted to entropic E_k . Only 37% is stored by gravity. The term K^2 is the *conversion ratio*. In the special case of atoms separated by $2r_e$, their adiabatic spheres are joined at a tangent point and they are moving apart at $2v$. A line of adiabatic spheres, connected at their tangent points, can be constructed in the instant Euclidean space. Anywhere along this line, for any two atoms separated by a distance r , their recession rate v_r is:

$$v_r = K \frac{r}{r_e} v_i \quad (56)$$

Rearrangement of (56) gives the fundamental equation:

$$H_G = K \frac{v_i}{r_e} \quad (57)$$

Where $H_G = v_r/r$ is the Hubble parameter of the Λ CDM model.

H_G vs. H_A at $z = 1089$. Newtonian, Einsteinian, and J Mass

We compare H_G (57) with H_A (35) at $z = 1089$, using the different mass multipliers m_N , m_E and m_J . We start with the Newtonian m_N (38). Equation (57) gives $H_G = 4.79 \times 10^{-14}/s$, or $21,817H_0$. This is 0.949 or 95% of the H_A value found from (35). When the Einsteinian m_E (36) is used, (57) gives $H_G = 6.32 \times 10^{-14} s^{-1}$. This is $28,817H_0$ or 125% of the H_A value found from (35). We have an undershoot and an overshoot of H_G/H_A . If we use m_J we can get an exact match. We modify the exponent j in (40) to $j = 3.745225$, which gives $H_G = H_A$. The exponential dependence j is 4 in the Einsteinian model for all z , and turns out to be ≈ 3.75 in the J model at $z = 1089$. Whether or not this has any physical interpretation is left to the reader.

I believe that at $z = 1089$, $H_{1089} = 28,800H_0$ is accurate, $j = 4$, and the Λ CDM $H_{1089} = 23,000H_0$ is an underestimate.

Sole Dependence of the Dark Model on Mass Density

For any given M' , deployment of (57) at varying T from 10 K to 50,000 K at $z = 1089$, or any other dark z value, gives the same H_G to five decimal places every time. The dark model is zero-order in temperature. It's also zero-order in \mathcal{K} . A universe made of xenon atoms (0.131 Kg/mole) at the same ρ and T returns 100% of our primordial mix. The mass density ρ is the only remaining independent variable in the dark model. This fact is hidden inside of (57) and not obvious from cursory inspection.

VARIANCE BETWEEN THE Λ CDM AND GCDM MODELS AT $Z < 1089$

Divergence between the models can be parsed into two ranges, associated with separate physical events.

- 1) The first event is the partitioning of mass into gravitationally bound and unbound domains, today known as the cosmic web of galaxies and the IGM respectively. This evolves over the range $z = 1089$ to 10.
- 2) The second event is the introduction of suprathemal energy. This is noticeable around $z = 5$, significant by $z = 3$, and dominant after $z = 0.3$. The v_i term in (57) is modified to fit the light model into the dark framework.

$z = 1089$ to 10: Partition of Mass and Repulsive Mass Density

The differences between the models arising from the partition of mass into gravitationally bound and unbound domains evolves over the range $z = 1089$ to 10, and is unchanged from $z = 10$ to 0. "Dark energy" interferes with accurate visualization of this process at low z values. We remove the Ω_A term in (35), giving:

$$(H'_A)^2 = (H_0)^2 [\Omega_{rad} a^{-4} + \Omega_b a^{-3} + \Omega_c a^{-3}] \quad (58)$$

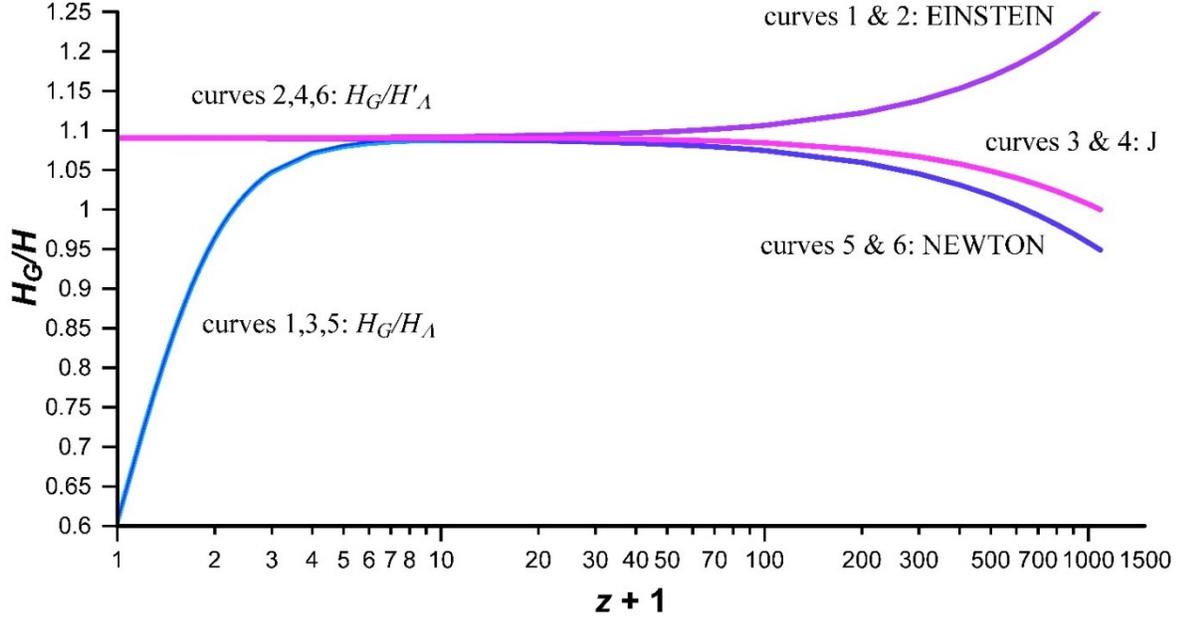


Figure 4. Hubble ratios at differing total mass

Where H'_Λ is the Λ CDM H parameter, without dark energy. Both H_G (57) and H'_Λ (58) are purely density-dependent functions and we can look at their evolution without interference from extraneous repulsive effects. Figure 4 is a plot of H_G/H_Λ and H_G/H'_Λ vs. $(z + 1)$ using data derived from each of the three mass multipliers m_N , m_E and m_J . There's a total of six curves, but it looks like just two or three due to overlap. There are two separate ranges of overlap: $z > 10$, where $H_G/H_\Lambda = H_G/H'_\Lambda$ for each of the three m 's, giving three sets of two curves, and $z < 10$, where the six curves converge to two sets, each set having the same H_G/H_Λ or H_G/H'_Λ . Maximum convergence between all six curves occurs at $z = 10$, where the values are within 0.2% of each other.

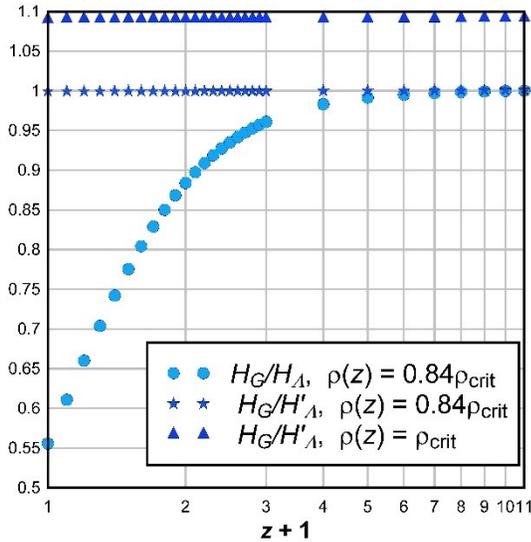


Figure 5. Hubble ratios at low redshift

gives a result of -0.05% of the Λ CDM H'_Λ values at $z = 0$, increasing to +0.1% at $z = 10$. Its variance is positive with z . The J mass M'_J gives the most uniform variance, $-0.045\% \pm 0.004\%$, not shown. The Newton mass M'_N gives negative variance, decreasing from -0.08% at $z = 0$ to -0.22% at $z = 10$, not shown.

We now focus on H_G/H'_Λ in the $z \leq 10$ range (Figure 5). Relativistic mass from the CMB had largely disappeared by then. The ratio H_G/H'_Λ converged to a constant value 1.09 and remains so all the way to $z = 0$. The transformation of H_G/H'_Λ from 1.09 to 1 is achieved through a single precise adjustment, to ρ_{crit} . We multiply ρ_{crit} by a best-fitting mass partition ratio:

$$\rho' / \rho_{crit} = 0.840 \quad (59)$$

giving the repulsive mass density:

$$\rho' = 0.84 \rho_{crit} \quad (60)$$

The two models H_G and H'_Λ now give nearly identical results from $z = 10$ to 0 for any of the three M' . The substitution $\rho' = 0.84\rho_{crit}$ is shown in Figure 5, using M'_E for total mass. It

There is a physical event which underlies $\rho_{crit} \rightarrow \rho'$, namely the partition of mass into the cosmic web of galaxies and the IGM. The repulsive mass density ρ' is defined as the IGM mass alone divided by the total volume, web included. There's a reason for this: It's the IGM that's fed by U_i . Web mass is inelastic and has Friedmann behavior (15). Since $\rho' = 0.84\rho_{crit}$, we can conclude there's five times as much mass in the IGM which separates the tendrils of the cosmic web as there is in the tendrils themselves. The IGM is estimated to occupy up to nine times as much volume as the web at $z = 0$. Any given tendril or node within the web isn't expanding as much as the IGM surrounding it. That is different from two tendrils separated by an intervening IGM volume; they are separating at a rate comparable to the IGM's rate of expansion. Density and distribution of mass within the cosmic web changes over time along with its structure, but any reduction in web density at $z \approx 0$ is far exceeded by the reduction in density of the IGM over the same time period. A scalar ρ' is an oversimplification of any local IGM variance which might better describe the development of partitioned domains, but ρ' gives an astonishingly good fit with H'_A at scale, and it tells us roughly when the mass partition into IGM and web was complete. Introduction of an *ad hoc* partition ratio does raise questions about its accuracy as a physical interpretation. For one thing, the cosmic web isn't included in ρ'/ρ_{crit} . Web E_k is better seen as following (15) and if its rest mass doesn't change this may result in a constant partition ratio. Other questions might arise, but the fit of ρ' with H'_A is good and we'll use these terms as dark baselines later.

Two new issues emerge:

- 1) How did ρ'/ρ_{crit} evolve during what is now the dark age? Was it complete by $z = 10$, or was it earlier than that? To the extent we get better at seeing very old stars and galaxies, when light production was scarce, that question is approachable through the dark model.
- 2) How did the volume fraction of gravitationally bound mass evolve? It was 0% at $z = 1089$ and now it's about 10%. Is this simply connected to 1)?

The variance of H_G/H_A due to added repulsive energy remains, as shown by the circles in Figure 5.

$z = 10$ to 0: The Light Model and Suprathermal Energy

None of the above expressions come any closer to explaining the source of the repulsive “dark energy” term Ω_Λ in the Λ CDM model. I found a candidate for most of this: suprathermal electrons in the IGM, whose kinetic energy arises from photoionization and Compton scattering, reliant in turn on photon flux. There are partial flux estimates available ([Yüksel et al. 2008](#); [Wandermann and Piran, 2010](#)) but the process of connecting these and other sources of suprathermal energy to produce a definitive light model is an undertaking of considerable magnitude. This paper is merely an introduction.

The dark model (57) has three terms: v_i , K , and r_e . If we want to express the light model within the dark framework, we need to increase v_i or K , decrease r_e , or some combination. We can express v_i (52) as a sum:

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2U_i}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_{it} + U_{is})}{M}} \quad (61)$$

where U_{it} and U_{is} are thermal and suprathermal kinetic energies in the adiabatic sphere. In the dark model, there's no U_{is} , so $U_{it} = U_i$ and (61) \equiv (52). In the light model, the total baryon kinetic energy is:

$$U_b = U_{bt} + U_{bs} \quad (62)$$

Where U_{bt} is the dark value of U_b , and U_{bs} is cosmic radiation. The total electron kinetic energy in the light model is:

$$U_{\beta} = U_{\beta_b} + U_{\beta_t} + U_{\beta_s} \quad (63)$$

Where U_{β_b} is the thermal energy of atomically bound electrons, $\leq 0.0005U_{b_t}$. The term U_{β_t} is the thermal energy of free electrons in equilibrium with U_b , and the term U_{β_s} is the suprathermal energy of the free electrons. Any one suprathermal particle's energy has a thermal component which fractionally decreases as the particle energy increases, and fractionally increases as the IGM gets hotter.

Inserting (62) and (63) into (61) gives:

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2U_i}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_{i_t} + U_{i_s})}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2[(U_{b_t} + U_{\beta_b} + U_{\beta_t}) + (U_{b_s} + U_{\beta_s})]}{M}} \quad (64)$$

We neglect U_{β_s} for now as its omission doesn't substantially affect the logic of the following expressions. Cosmic rays can be included in a more rigorous treatment later. This means $U_{b_t} = U_b$, so:

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2U_i}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_b + U_{\beta_b} + U_{\beta_t} + U_{\beta_s})}{M}} \quad (65)$$

We examine the thermal energies U_{β_b} (bound) and U_{β_t} (free). Thermal free electrons behave at very low densities as a monatomic gas. Treatment as such reduces the mean atomic weight \mathcal{K} from its dark value. The dark model is independent of both \mathcal{K} and T and dependent only on the mass density. The result of thermal ionization is thus an increase in both v_i and r_e without affecting H or K . If v_i is doubled, so is r_e , as is the case with pure hydrogen plasma which will serve as our example. In a thermal system with no ionized H_1 :

$$U_i = U_b + U_{\beta_b} = 1.0005U_b \quad (66)$$

so $U_i = U_b$ is reasonably accurate. When H_1 is 100% ionized at e.g. 4000 K, the number of gas particles is doubled, the atomic weight halved, and the energy equipartitioned: $U_{\beta_b} = 0$, $U_{\beta_t} = U_b$, $U'_i = 2U_b$, and $\mathcal{K}' = \mathcal{K}/2$, where U'_i and \mathcal{K}' are the thermal energy and the mean atomic weight of the 100% ionized plasma respectively. Making these plasma substitutions into (65) and (52) with no U_{β_s} gives:

$$v_i = \sqrt{\frac{2U'_i}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_b + U_{\beta_t})}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{2(2U_b)}{M}} \approx \sqrt{\frac{4U_b}{M}} = \sqrt{\frac{6RT}{\mathcal{K}'}} = \sqrt{\frac{6RT}{\mathcal{K}/2}} = \sqrt{\frac{12RT}{\mathcal{K}}} = 2\sqrt{\frac{3RT}{\mathcal{K}}} \quad (67)$$

The added $U_{\beta_t} = U_b$ gives twice the old value of v_i from (52); more generally, added U_{β_t} gives a linear increase in v_i and we can expect the same for r_e . This all means that for thermal plasmas, the dark model (57) is better expressed using the baryon kinetic energy alone:

$$H_G = K \frac{\left(\frac{U_b + U_{\beta_t}}{U_b}\right) v_i}{\left(\frac{U_b + U_{\beta_t}}{U_b}\right) r_e} = K \frac{v_i}{r_e} = K \sqrt{\frac{2U_b}{M}} \quad (68)$$

The denominator term associated with r_e in (68) is inserted to comply with the dark model's zero-order dependencies. Equation (68) gets more accurate with increasing ionization and is exact for completely stripped baryons. In (68), v_i remains close to (57): $U_b = 0.9995U_i$, so the effect of thermal ionization on H is at most a tiny reduction in its value.

We proceed by assuming that suprathermal energy U_{β_s} has no effect on either K or r_e . It may have some effect but we will say it doesn't. Kinetic energy may then be added to the adiabatic sphere without increasing its size. We keep r_e unchanged in (68) and modify v_i :

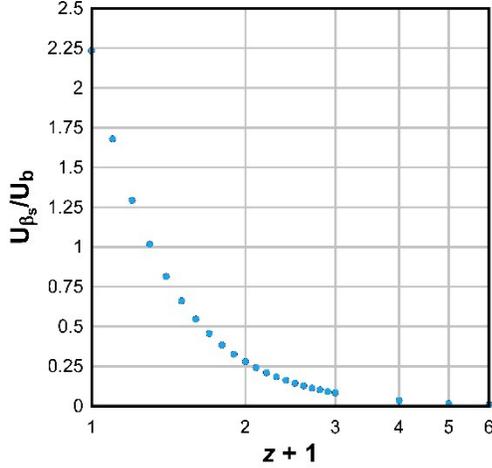


Figure 6. Suprathermal:thermal ratio

of U_{β_s}/U_b around $H_G/H_A = 1$ for $z = 5 \rightarrow 0$ is shown in Figure 6. At $z = 0$, $U_{\beta_s}/U_b = 2.234$ gives $H_G/H_A = 1$. This is close to the ratio $\Omega_\Lambda/(\Omega_b + \Omega_c)$ in the Λ CDM model, 2.235, and a simple restatement of the source of “dark energy” repulsion. At higher z , U_{β_s}/U_b drops steadily to 0.01 at $z = 5$, about 12.6 Gyr ago. The crossover to U_{β_s} dominance can be seen at about $z = 0.3$; regression²⁰ gives 0.306, about 3.6 Gyr ago.

$$v'_i = \sqrt{\frac{2(U_b + U_{\beta_s})}{M}} = v_i \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{U_{\beta_s}}{U_b}\right)} \quad (69)$$

Where v'_i is the initial radial velocity of the light adiabatic sphere. This gives:

$$H_G = K \frac{v'_i}{r_e} = K \frac{v_i \sqrt{\left(1 + \frac{U_{\beta_s}}{U_b}\right)}}{r_e} \quad (70)$$

Use of (68)-(69) to get (70) presupposes thermal plasma, a safe bet for a reionized Universe. We fit the light model to the Λ CDM model by convergence of U_{β_s}/U_b around $H_G/H_A = 1$. Since $\rho' = 0.84\rho_{crit}$ gives a best fit with H'_A over the range $z = 0$ to 10, we use ρ' and H'_A as dark baselines to calculate H_G/H_A . We use the same temperature, 4000 K, for all calculations. The convergence

Suprathermal Effects on r_e and K

Many electrons and cosmic rays in the IGM today are suprathermal and do not obey the gas laws (29), (30), (48), and (49) which underpin the dark model. The light model, however, fits well with Λ CDM at a constant r_e , leading us to conclude that suprathermal effects do not arise from highly relativistic particles. The dark model's r_e values follow the inverse square root of the density. A sphere four times as dense has its r_e decrease by about half, and so forth. Any large relativistic mass effect on r_e would be reflected in (69) and (70) giving deviance from the calculated Λ values. The conversion ratio K^2 may change with introduction of suprathermal energy. Again, however, (69) and (70) tend to indicate otherwise. Even if K and r_e do change, the light model still allows us to use known and conserved energy sources, in compliance with (1), to account for H . We can use H to estimate suprathermal energy production and persistence.

Expression Connecting the Models

At $z = 0$, the Λ CDM and light GCDM models are connected by their Ω terms:

$$\Omega_{\beta_s} = \frac{U_{\beta_s}}{(U_b + U_{\beta_s})} = \Omega_\Lambda = 0.6908 \quad (71)$$

Plasma kinetic energy in the IGM today is proposed as predominantly suprathermal, and (71) gives the same result as Table 1. If we include thermal electrons $U_{\beta_t} = U_b$ in the denominator of (71), we get $\Omega_{\beta_s} = 0.528$, still more than

²⁰ U_b/U_{β_s} vs z ; 3rd order correlation 0.999. $T = 4,000-50,000\text{K}$ gave the same results for all z . $T = 2971\text{K}$ gave slightly lower values: At $z = 0$, $U_{\beta_s}/U_b = 2.220$ @ 2971 K vs. 2.234 @ 4000 K.

half of all kinetic energy in the IGM. The GCDM Ω_{IGM} varies with time. The Λ CDM Ω_{Λ} is time-invariant. They give the same value only at $z = 0$.

CONCLUSION

This paper proposes a fundamental change in the way the Universe is viewed: As a thermodynamic system, first and foremost. Obedience to (1) and (2) is thus an essential prerequisite for an accurate model. The Λ CDM model excises (2) and the GCDM model includes it. At last scattering, gas expansion under the homogenous, unbound conditions then found yields an obedient quantitative description of Universal behavior. These two conditions remain abundant today. The Universe contains a repulsive scalar field, kinetic energy, arising from both primeval and contemporary sources. Entropic pressure accounts for most of the field's differential energy loss. The field's scalar value changes with time, and has both thermal and suprathreshold components. The suprathreshold component causes "dark energy" Λ . Entropic pressure is undefined by general relativity and has independent existence. These two sets of rules operate concurrently within their mutual constraints. Energy other than rest mass M and gravity U is entropic at scale. Photons have no rest mass and photon energy is 100% entropic.

DATA AVAILABILITY

An .XLSX workbook containing the model and its output is available from the author on request.

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