

Contents

- 1 Introduction 1**
 - 1.1 Precision Cosmology 1
 - 1.2 Cosmic Inflation 2
 - 1.3 Non-Gaussianity 2
 - 1.4 The Intrinsic Bispectrum of the CMB 3
 - 1.5 Summary of the Thesis 4
 - 1.6 Further Research 5
 - References 6
- 2 The Standard Model of Cosmology 9**
 - 2.1 Introduction 9
 - 2.1.1 Summary of the Chapter 9
 - 2.2 The Cosmological Principle 10
 - 2.2.1 Validity of the Cosmological Principle 11
 - 2.3 The Expansion of the Universe 12
 - 2.3.1 The Metric 14
 - 2.3.2 Light in an Expanding Universe 16
 - 2.3.3 Comoving Distance 18
 - 2.3.4 The Hubble Time 20
 - 2.3.5 The Hubble Radius 20
 - 2.4 The Background Evolution 22
 - 2.4.1 Friedmann Equation 24
 - 2.4.2 Acceleration Equation 25
 - 2.4.3 Continuity Equation 25
 - 2.4.4 Expansion History 26
 - 2.5 The Cosmic Microwave Background 28
 - 2.5.1 Compton Scattering 29
 - 2.5.2 Recombination and Decoupling 32

2.6	Cosmic Inflation.	37
2.6.1	The Accelerated Expansion	38
2.6.2	Single Field Model.	40
2.6.3	Primordial Fluctuations	43
2.6.4	Non-Gaussianity.	45
	References	48
3	Perturbation Theory.	53
3.1	Introduction	53
3.1.1	Summary of the Chapter	54
3.1.2	Literature Review	55
3.2	General Formalism	56
3.2.1	Perturbing Functions.	57
3.2.2	Perturbing Equations.	58
3.3	The Perturbed Metric	59
3.3.1	Scalar-Vector-Tensor Decomposition.	60
3.3.2	The Decomposition Theorem	61
3.3.3	Gauge Choice	62
3.4	Statistical Description of the Perturbations	64
3.4.1	Random Fields.	64
3.4.2	Statistical Homogeneity and Isotropy	70
3.4.3	Gaussian Random Fields	71
3.5	Transfer Functions	72
3.5.1	Fourier Formalism	73
3.5.2	Mode Coupling	74
3.5.3	Transfer Functions	76
3.6	The Einstein Equations	79
3.6.1	The Metric	79
3.6.2	The Energy-Momentum Tensor	80
3.6.3	The Einstein Equations at Second Order	83
3.7	Spectra and Bispectra	86
3.7.1	The Two-Point Function	86
3.7.2	The Three-Point Function	89
	References	94
4	The Boltzmann Equation	101
4.1	Introduction	101
4.1.1	Summary of the Chapter	102
4.1.2	Literature Review	103
4.2	The Local Inertial Frame	104
4.2.1	Tetrad Formalism	104
4.2.2	Tetrads in Newtonian Gauge	107
4.2.3	The Four-Momentum	107
4.2.4	The Energy Momentum Tensor	109

4.3	The Distribution Function	115
4.3.1	The Photon Distribution Function	115
4.3.2	The Electron Distribution Function	120
4.4	The Liouville Term	121
4.4.1	The Free Streaming Term	122
4.4.2	The Redshift Term	123
4.4.3	The Lensing Term	126
4.4.4	The Momentum-Integrated Liouville Term	126
4.5	The Collision Term	128
4.5.1	General Form of the Collision Term	129
4.5.2	Energy Transfer as an Expansion Parameter	130
4.5.3	Contributions to the Collision Term	132
4.5.4	Polarisation	135
4.6	The Final Form of the Boltzmann Equation	137
4.6.1	Purely Second-Order Structure	138
4.6.2	Quadratic Sources	139
4.6.3	A Compact Form of the Boltzmann Equation	142
	References	144
5	Evolution of the Second-Order Perturbations	147
5.1	Introduction	147
5.1.1	Summary of the Chapter	147
5.2	The Code, SONG	148
5.3	The Differential System	149
5.3.1	The Evolved Equations	150
5.3.2	Sampling Strategies	156
5.3.3	The Differential Solver	160
5.3.4	Perturbed Recombination	163
5.4	The Initial Conditions	164
5.4.1	Initial Conditions for the Matter Perturbations	165
5.4.2	Initial Non-Gaussianity	172
5.4.3	Initial Conditions for the Metric Perturbations	173
5.5	The Line of Sight Sources	175
5.5.1	The Line of Sight Formalism	176
5.5.2	The Source Function	182
5.5.3	Treating the Redshift Contribution	186
5.5.4	A Note on Integration by Parts	187
5.6	Robustness of SONG's Transfer Functions	188
5.6.1	Initial Conditions	188
5.6.2	Constraint Equations	189
5.6.3	Einstein-De Sitter Limit	190
5.6.4	Squeezed Limit	193
5.6.5	Green Functions	193
	References	194

6	The Intrinsic Bispectrum of the CMB	197
6.1	Introduction	197
6.1.1	Summary of the Chapter	198
6.1.2	Cosmological Parameters	199
6.2	From the Sources to the Bispectrum	199
6.2.1	The Intrinsic Bispectrum Formula	201
6.2.2	Numerical Estimation	209
6.2.3	Linearly Propagated Bispectrum	214
6.3	From the Bispectrum to f_{NL}	217
6.3.1	The Temperature Bispectrum	218
6.3.2	The Estimator	219
6.4	Results	223
6.4.1	Scalar Modes	223
6.4.2	Non-scalar Modes	226
6.5	Robustness of SONG's Bispectra	227
6.5.1	Convergence Tests	227
6.5.2	Squeezed Limit	228
6.5.3	Local Limit	229
	References	230
7	Conclusions	235
7.1	The Intrinsic Bispectrum	235
7.2	Current and Future Research	236
	References	238
	Appendix A: Projection on the Sphere	241
	Appendix B: Geometry of the Wavemodes	257
	Index	261

The Intrinsic Bispectrum of the Cosmic Microwave
Background

Pettinari, G.W.

2016, XXIII, 263 p., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-21881-6