

COSMOLOGICAL CONSTRAINTS FROM HUBBLE PARAMETER VERSUS REDSHIFT DATA

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ABSTRACT

We use the Simon et al. determination of the redshift dependence of the Hubble parameter to constrain cosmological parameters in three dark energy cosmological models. We consider the standard Λ CDM model, the XCDM parameterization of the dark energy equation of state, and a slowly rolling dark energy scalar field with an inverse power-law potential. The constraints are restrictive, consistent with those derived from Type Ia supernova redshift-magnitude data, and complement those from galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift data.

Subject headings: cosmological parameters — cosmology: observations

1. INTRODUCTION

Astrophysical and cosmological data gathered in the last decade strongly support a “standard” cosmological model dominated by dark energy. Type Ia supernova (SN Ia) redshift-apparent magnitude data show that the universe is now undergoing accelerated expansion (e.g., Clocchiatti et al. 2006; Astier et al. 2006; Jassal et al. 2006; Conley et al. 2006; Calvo & Maroto 2006; Carneiro et al. 2006). Cosmic microwave background (CMB) data indicate that the universe has negligible space curvature (e.g., Podariu et al. 2001b; Durrer et al. 2003; Mukherjee et al. 2003; Page et al. 2003; Spergel et al. 2006; Baccigalupi & Acquaviva 2006). Many observations indicate that nonrelativistic matter contributes about 30% of the critical density (Chen & Ratra 2003b and references therein). These observational facts—in the context of general relativity—indicate that we live in a spatially flat universe with about 70% of the total energy density of the universe today being dark energy, a substance with negative effective pressure responsible for the current accelerated expansion. For reviews see Peebles & Ratra (2003), Carroll (2004), Perivolaropoulos (2006), Padmanabhan (2006), and Uzan (2006), and for discussions of the validity of general relativity on cosmological scales see, for example, Diaz-Rivera et al. (2006), Stabenau & Jain (2006), Sereno & Peacock (2006), and Caldwell & Grin (2006).

There are many different dark energy models.¹ Here we consider three simple, widely used ones: standard Λ CDM, the XCDM parameterization of dark energy’s equation of state, and a slowly rolling dark energy scalar field with an inverse power-law potential (ϕ CDM). In all three cases we assume that the nonrelativistic matter density is dominated by cold dark matter (CDM). In the Λ CDM model dark energy is Einstein’s cosmological constant Λ and can be accounted for in the energy-momentum tensor as a homogeneous fluid with negative pressure $p_\Lambda = -\rho_\Lambda$, where ρ_Λ is the cosmological constant energy density (Peebles 1984). In the ϕ CDM scenario a scalar field ϕ plays the role of dark energy. Here we consider a slowly rolling scalar field with potential energy density $V(\phi) = \kappa m_p^2 \phi^{-\alpha}$, where m_p is Planck’s mass and κ and α are nonnegative constants (Peebles & Ratra 1988; Ratra & Peebles 1988). In the XCDM parameterization dark energy is assumed to be a

fluid with pressure $p_x = \omega_x \rho_x$, where ω_x is time-independent and negative but not necessarily equal to -1 as in the Λ CDM model. The XCDM parameterization can be used as an approximation of the ϕ CDM model in the radiation- and matter-dominated epochs, but at low redshifts, in the scalar field dominated epoch, a time-independent ω_x is an inaccurate approximation (e.g., Ratra 1991). In the ϕ CDM and XCDM cases we consider a spatially flat cosmological model, while spatial curvature is allowed to be nonzero in the Λ CDM case. We note that the ϕ CDM model at $\alpha = 0$ and the XCDM parameterization at $\omega_x = -1$ are equivalent to a spatially flat Λ CDM model with the same matter density.

Besides SN Ia and CMB anisotropy, there are many other cosmological tests. Having many tests is important since this allows for consistency checks, and combined together they provide tighter constraints on cosmological parameters. Tests under current discussion include the redshift-angular size test (e.g., Chen & Ratra 2003a; Podariu et al. 2003; Puetzfeld et al. 2005; Daly & Djorgovski 2005; Jackson & Jannetta 2006), the galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift test (Sasaki 1996; Pen 1997; Allen et al. 2004; Chen & Ratra 2004; Kravtsov et al. 2005; LaRoque et al. 2006), the strong gravitational lensing test (Fukugita et al. 1990; Turner 1990; Ratra & Quillen 1992; Chae et al. 2004; Kochanek 2004; Biesiada 2006), the baryonic acoustic oscillation test (e.g., Glazebrook & Blake 2005; Angulo et al. 2005; Wang 2006; Zhan 2006), and the structure formation test (e.g., Brax et al. 2005; Koivisto & Mota 2005; Maor 2006; Bertschinger 2006; Mainini & Bonometto 2006). For cosmological constraints from combinations of data sets see, for example, Wilson et al. (2006), Wang & Mukherjee (2006), Rahvar & Movahed (2006), Seljak et al. (2006), Xia et al. (2006), and Rapetti et al. (2006).

Here we use a measurement of the Hubble parameter as a function of redshift to derive constraints on cosmological parameters (Jimenez & Loeb 2002). (For related techniques see Shafieloo et al. 2006; Daly & Djorgovski 2005 and references therein.) In our analysis we use the Simon et al. (2005, hereafter SVJ05) estimate for the redshift, z , dependence of the Hubble parameter,

$$H(z) = -\frac{1}{1+z} \frac{dz}{dt}, \quad (1)$$

where t is time. This estimate is based on differential ages, dt/dz , of passively evolving galaxies determined from the Gemini Deep Deep Survey (Abraham et al. 2004) and archival data

¹ See Copeland et al. (2006) for a recent review. For specific models see, e.g., Capozziello et al. (2006), Guo et al. (2006), Cannata & Kamenshchik (2006), Grande et al. (2006), Szydlowski et al. (2006), Nojiri et al. (2006), Brax & Martin (2006), Calcagni & Liddle (2006), and Guendelman & Kaganovich (2006).

TABLE 1
SVJ05 HUBBLE PARAMETER
VERSUS REDSHIFT DATA

z	$H(z)^a$ ($\text{km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$)
0.09	69 ± 12
0.17	83 ± 8.3
0.27	70 ± 14
0.4	87 ± 17.4
0.88	117 ± 23.4
1.3	168 ± 13.4
1.43	177 ± 14.2
1.53	140 ± 14
1.75	202 ± 40.4

^a The 1σ uncertainty.

(Dunlop et al. 1996; Spinrad et al. 1997; Treu et al. 2001, 2002; Nolan et al. 2003).

SVJ05 use the estimated $H(z)$ to constrain the dark energy potential and its redshift dependence. These data have also been used to constrain parameters of holographic dark energy models (Yi & Zhang 2006). Here we use the SVJ05 $H(z)$ data to derive constraints on cosmological parameters of the Λ CDM, XCDM, and ϕ CDM models. In § 2 we outline our computation, in § 3 we present and discuss our results, and we conclude in § 4.

2. COMPUTATION

In the Λ CDM model Hubble's parameter is

$$H(z) = H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_\Lambda + (1 - \Omega_m - \Omega_\Lambda)(1+z)^2}, \quad (2)$$

where H_0 is the value of the Hubble constant today and Ω_m and Ω_Λ are the nonrelativistic matter and dark energy density parameters. For the XCDM parameterization in a spatially flat model,

$$H(z) = H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + (1 - \Omega_m)(1+z)^{3(1+\omega_x)}}. \quad (3)$$

In the ϕ CDM model in a spatially flat universe the Hubble parameter is

$$H(z) = H_0 \sqrt{\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_\phi(z)}, \quad (4)$$

where the redshift-dependent dark energy scalar field density parameter $\Omega_\phi(z) = [(\dot{\phi})^2 + \kappa m_p^2 \phi^{-\alpha}]/12$ and an overdot denotes a time derivative. $\Omega_\phi(z)$ has to be evaluated by solving numerically the coupled spatially homogeneous background equations of motion,

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = \frac{8\pi}{3m_p^2} [\Omega_m(1+z)^3 + \Omega_\phi(z)], \quad (5)$$

$$\ddot{\phi} + 3\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\dot{\phi} - \frac{\kappa\alpha}{2}m_p^2\phi^{-(\alpha+1)} = 0, \quad (6)$$

where $a(t)$ is the scale factor and $H = \dot{a}/a$.

To constrain cosmological parameters we use the $H(z)$ data from SVJ05. These data, for the redshift range $0.09 < z < 1.75$, are given in Table 1 and shown in Figure 1.

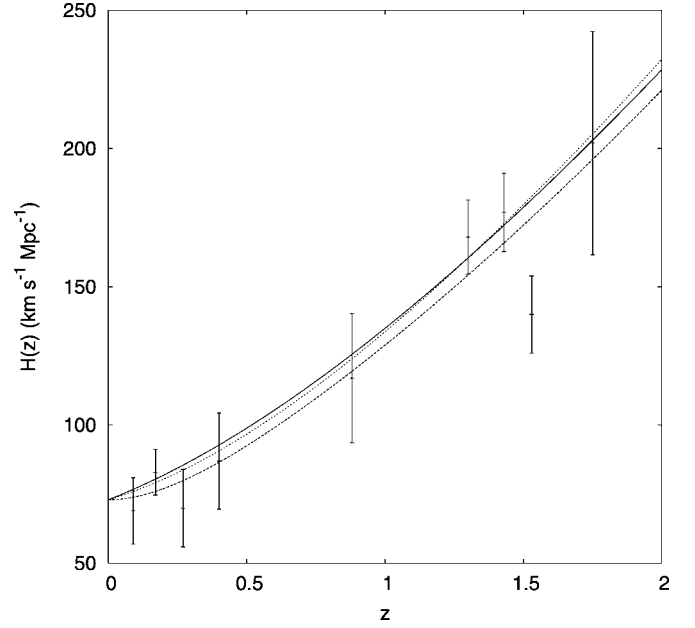


FIG. 1.—SVJ05 data points with error bars, and theoretical lines for different dark energy models. The solid line corresponds to the Λ CDM model with $\Omega_m = 0.34$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.68$, the dotted line corresponds to the spatially flat XCDM case with $\Omega_m = 0.35$ and $\omega_x = -1.24$, and the dashed line corresponds to the spatially flat ϕ CDM model with $\Omega_m = 0.32$ and $\alpha = 0.15$. These are best-fit models for the case when $H_0 = 73 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$.

We determine the best-fit values for the model parameters by minimizing

$$\chi^2(H_0, \Omega_m, p) = \sum_{i=1}^9 \frac{[H_{\text{mod}}(H_0, \Omega_m, p, z_i) - H_{\text{obs}}(z_i)]^2}{\sigma^2(z_i)}, \quad (7)$$

where H_{mod} is the predicted value for the Hubble constant in the assumed model, H_{obs} is the observed value, σ is the 1σ measurement uncertainty, and the summation is over the nine SVJ05 data points at redshifts z_i . The parameter p describes the dark energy; it is Ω_Λ for Λ CDM, ω_x for XCDM, and α for ϕ CDM.

$\chi^2(H_0, \Omega_m, p)$ is a function of three parameters. We marginalize the three-dimensional probability distribution function over H_0 to get a two-dimensional probability distribution function (likelihood) $L(\Omega_m, p) = \int dH_0 P(H_0) e^{-\chi^2(H_0, \Omega_m, p)/2}$. Here $P(H_0)$ is the prior distribution function for Hubble's constant. We consider two Gaussian priors, one with $H_0 = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ (1σ error, from the combination WMAP 3 yr estimate; Spergel et al. 2006), and the other with $H_0 = 68 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ (1σ error, from a median statistics analysis of 461 measurements of H_0 ; Gott et al. 2001; Chen et al. 2003). Using $L(\Omega_m, p)$, we define 1, 2, and 3 σ contours on the two-dimensional, (Ω_m, p) parameter space as sets of points with likelihood equal to $e^{-2.30/2}$, $e^{-6.17/2}$, and $e^{-11.8/2}$, respectively, of the maximum likelihood value.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Figures 2–4 show the $H(z)$ data constraints on the Λ CDM, XCDM, and ϕ CDM models. The contours correspond to 1, 2, and 3 σ confidence levels from inside to outside. Solid lines are derived using the $H_0 = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ prior, while dashed lines correspond to the $H_0 = 68 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{Mpc}^{-1}$ case.

Figure 2 for the Λ CDM model shows that the $H(z)$ con-

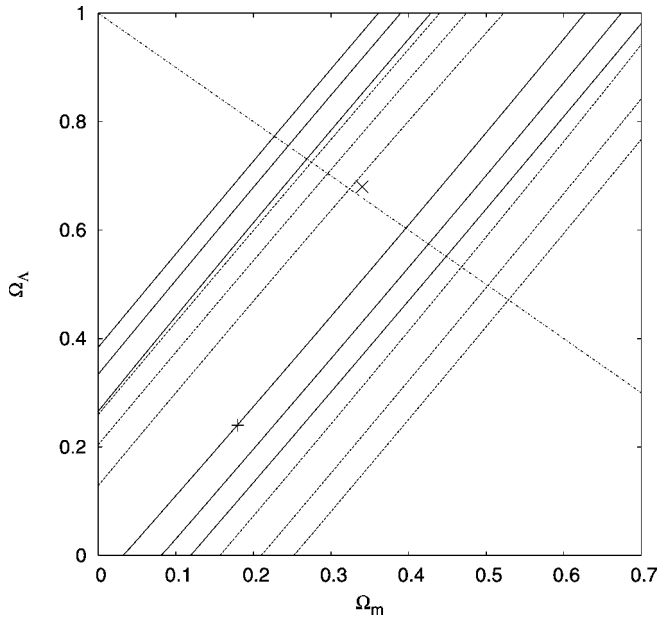


FIG. 2.—The 1, 2, and 3 σ confidence level contours for the Λ CDM model. Solid lines (cross indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.34$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.68$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.80$) correspond to $H_0 = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, while dashed lines (plus sign indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.18$ and $\Omega_\Lambda = 0.24$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.88$) correspond to $H_0 = 68 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The diagonal dot-dashed line indicates spatially flat Λ CDM models.

straints are most restrictive in a direction approximately orthogonal to lines of constant $0.6\Omega_\Lambda - \Omega_m$. In this direction the constraint is as restrictive as that from SN Ia redshift-apparent magnitude data (see, e.g., Clocchiatti et al. 2006, Fig. 21). In the orthogonal direction the $H(z)$ constraint is weaker than that derived using SN Ia data. The $H(z)$ constraints complement those derived using galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift data (see, e.g., Chen & Ratra 2004, Fig. 1).

Figure 3 for the XCDM parameterization shows that the $H(z)$ constraints are approximately as constraining as those determined from SN Ia redshift-apparent magnitude data (see, e.g., Astier et al. 2006, Fig. 6) and complement the constraints derived from galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift data (see, e.g., Chen & Ratra 2004 Fig. 2). At the 2 σ confidence level the data favor ω_x -values less than ~ -0.3 and Ω_m -values less than ~ 0.5 .

Figure 4 for the ϕ CDM model shows that the $H(z)$ data constrain Ω_m much more than α . The constraint on the matter density is approximately as tight as the one derived from galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift data (Chen & Ratra 2004, Fig. 3) and from SN Ia redshift-apparent magnitude data (Wilson et al. 2006, Fig. 1). At the 2 σ confidence level the data favor Ω_m -values less than ~ 0.5 .

The reduced χ^2 values for the best-fit models are ~ 1.8 – 1.9 for 7 degrees of freedom. This corresponds to a probability $\sim 7\%$ – 8% , a little low, but perhaps not unexpected since this is a first application of the $H(z)$ test.

Our parameter estimates depend on the prior distribution function assumed for H_0 . This indicates that the $H(z)$ data should be able to constrain H_0 . If we marginalize the three-dimensional Λ CDM model likelihood function $L(H_0, \Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda) = e^{-\chi^2(H_0, \Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda)/2}$ over Ω_m and Ω_Λ with uniform priors, we get a probability distribution function for the Hubble constant with best-fit value and 1 σ range of $H_0 = 61 \pm 8 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$.

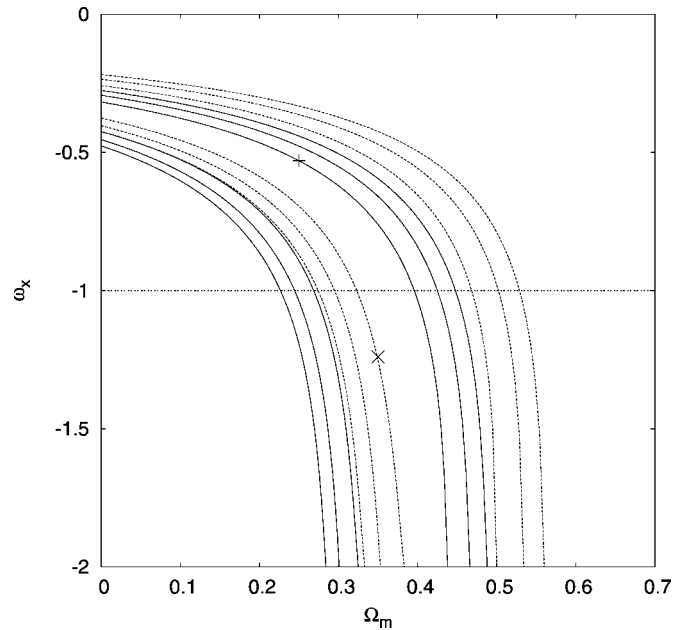


FIG. 3.—The 1, 2, and 3 σ confidence level contours for the spatially flat XCDM parameterization. Solid lines (cross indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.35$ and $\omega_x = -1.24$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.79$) correspond to $H_0 = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, while dashed lines (plus sign indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.25$ and $\omega_x = -0.53$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.89$) correspond to $H_0 = 68 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The horizontal dot-dashed line indicates spatially flat Λ CDM models.

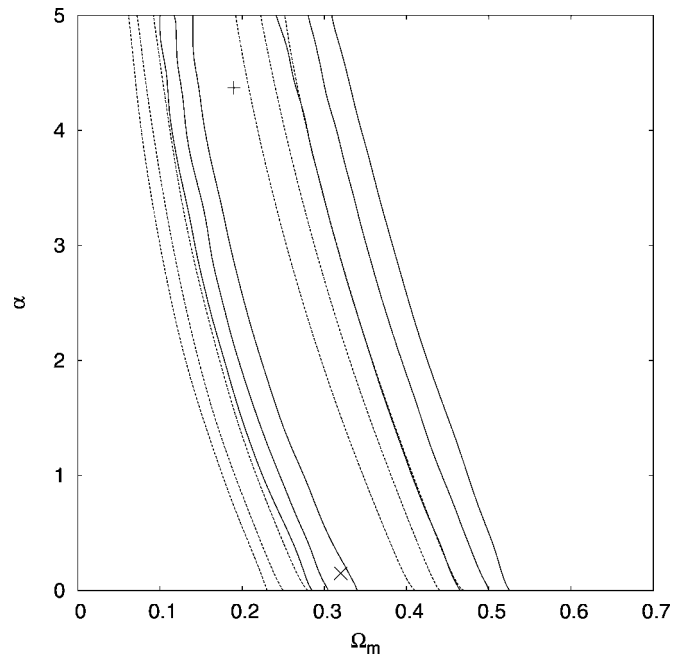


FIG. 4.—The 1, 2, and 3 σ confidence level contours for the spatially flat ϕ CDM model. Solid lines (cross indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.32$ and $\alpha = 0.15$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.8$) correspond to $H_0 = 73 \pm 3 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, while dashed lines (plus sign indicates the maximum likelihood at $\Omega_m = 0.19$ and $\alpha = 4.37$ with reduced $\chi^2 = 1.89$) correspond to $H_0 = 68 \pm 4 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$. The horizontal $\alpha = 0$ axis corresponds to spatially flat Λ CDM models.

4. CONCLUSION

We have used the SVJ05 Hubble parameter versus redshift data to constrain cosmological parameters of three dark energy models. The constraints are restrictive and consistent with those determined by using Type Ia supernova redshift-magnitude data. The $H(z)$ data constraints complement those determined from galaxy cluster gas mass fraction versus redshift data. In combination with improved SN Ia data (from, e.g., *JDEM/SNAP*;² Podariu et al. 2001a; Crots et al. 2005; Albert et al.

² See <http://snap.lbl.gov>.

2005 and references therein), more and better $H(z)$ data will tightly constrain cosmological parameters. A large amount of $H(z)$ data is expected to become available in the next few years (R. Jimenez 2006, private communication). These include data from the AGN and Galaxy Survey (AGES) and the Atacama Cosmology Telescope (ACT), and by 2009 an order of magnitude increase in $H(z)$ data is anticipated.

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