Challenges of BAO peak measurement using photometric data

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Measuring the BAO in configuration space

- Fast codes like corrfunc
- → number counts DD, DR, RR as a function of separation

Estimator for correlation function:
ξ_{LS} = (DD - 2*DR + RR)/RR
(Landy-Szalay estimator)





Anisotropic correlation function

anisotropic $\xi(s,\mu)$

projected angular seperation σ [h^{-1} Mpc]



isotropic $\xi(s)$

projected angular seperation σ [h^{-1} Mpc]

Redshift distance relation

- Ideally: perfect correlation between redshift and distance
- In practice:
 - Redshift space distortions due to peculiar motions
 - Uncertainty of redshift measurements
 - Relatively small for spectroscopic redshifts
 - But huge for photometric redshifts (!)

Photometric redshifts washes out clustering features



Photometric redshifts washes out clustering features



Photometric redshifts washes out clustering features



Simulations

• 100 Cubic box dark matter only simulation with 1890 Mpc/h and a mass resolution of 5.5 10^{11} M $_{\odot}$

 Populated using an HOD model corresponding to the DESI LRG at z=0.7

Used for basic tests of our methods

DESI

- Dark Energy Spectroscopic Instrument survey
- Ongoing spectroscopic survey
- Running 5 years (1 done, 4 more to go)
- Photometric survey for target selection: DESI Legacy survey DR9 ... already available!

Footprint

- LRG DR9 North photometric
- LRG DR9 North spectroscopic
- LRG DR9 South photometric

LRG DR9 South spectroscopic



Target classes

- MWS: not for cosmology
- BGS: z < 0.5
- LRG: 0.4 < z < 1.1
- ELG: 0.6 < z < 1.5
- QSO: 0.8 < z 3.5

 Focus on LRG: balance between photometric redshift uncertainty and sample size



Photometric data from DESI

- Observational data from the DESI Legacy Imaging survey DR9
- Sridhar+ 2020 already did the Southern photometric footprint with DR8
- Original plan: update with DR9 and also include the Northern photometric footprint
- Improved LRG target selection

Why is it challenging?

- We can only use the lower µ-bins, signal gets washed out in the others.
- Systematic shift of the photometric BAO as a function of $\boldsymbol{\mu}.$
- Chan+2021 found a similar effect and also a possible solution, but there is more to it.
- Systematic shift of the BAO peak location when comparing spectroscopic and photometric data!





































































Old news: shifting BAO peak



All figures on this slide are from Chan+2021 (arXiv:2110.13332)

Solution: S \rightarrow S₁



photometric data $\sigma_0=0.02$



Fresh news: BAO peak offset

 One detail missed: the location of the photometric BAO is systematically offset from the spectroscopic BAO peak



New findings, new problems

Quantifying the offset

• Re-evaluating older papers (eg. Sridhar+ 2020)

• Cosmology dependence of the offset? \rightarrow What can we still learn from the BAO peak?

Testing for cosmological dependency of the offset



Challenge: cosmic variance and HOD effects

Summary and Conclusion

- Photometric BAO peak is shifting between different µ-bins as a function of s
- Location of the photometric BAO peak is stable between different $\mu\text{-bins}$ as a function of s $_{\perp}$
- Location of the photometric BAO peak is systematically offset from the spectroscopic (true) location
- A challenge for all future BAO peak studies using photometric data

ANY QUESTIONS?



Backup Slides

The fitting function

 $\xi_{\text{mod}}(s) = B + \left(\frac{s}{s_0}\right)^{-\gamma} + \frac{N}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \exp\left(-\frac{(s-s_m)^2}{2\sigma^2}\right)$



Other BAO peak measurements

