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Open Cold Dark Matter Models

Andrew R. Liddle¹, David H. Lyth², David Roberts² and Pedro T. P. Viana¹

¹*Astronomy Centre, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9QH, U. K.*

²*School of Physics and Materials, University of Lancaster, Lancaster LA1 4YB, U. K.*

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ABSTRACT

Motivated by recent developments in inflationary cosmology indicating the possibility of obtaining genuinely open universes in some models, we compare the predictions of Cold Dark Matter (CDM) models in open universes with a variety of observational information. We allow arbitrary variation of the density parameter Ω_0 and the Hubble parameter h , and take full account of the baryon content assuming standard nucleosynthesis. We normalize the power spectrum using the recent analysis of the two year *COBE DMR* data by Górski et al. (1995). We then consider a variety of observations, namely the galaxy correlation function, bulk flows, the abundance of galaxy clusters and the abundance of damped Lyman alpha systems. For the last two of these, we provide a new treatment appropriate to open universes. We find that if one allows an arbitrary h , then a good fit is available for any Ω_0 greater than 0.35, though for Ω_0 close to one the required h is alarmingly low. Models with $\Omega_0 < 0.35$ seem unable to fit observations while keeping the universe over 10 Gyrs old; this limit is somewhat higher than that appearing in the literature thus far. If one assumes a value of $h > 0.6$, as favoured by recent measurements, concordance with the data is only possible for the narrow range $0.35 < \Omega_0 < 0.55$.

Key words: cosmology: theory – dark matter.

1 INTRODUCTION

Even before the announcement of the detection of microwave background anisotropies by the *DMR* experiment on the *COBE* satellite (Smoot et al. 1992), it was realized that structure formation models based on cold dark matter (CDM) and a flat spectrum of primordial perturbations fared considerably better against the data if the matter density was reduced by a factor of around three. Most studies of this possibility invoked a cosmological constant to restore spatial flatness (Efstathiou, Sutherland & Maddox 1990; Kofman, Gnedin & Bahcall 1993), with little attention being directed to the possibility that the cosmological constant may be redundant and the low density model implemented in a genuinely open universe. This produces the same shape of perturbation spectrum on scales well below the curvature radius, but a different normalization and redshift dependence.

The reluctance to study such models (though general arguments in favour of an open universe were developed, eg Coles & Ellis 1994) arose from a widespread belief that inflation, the most plausible candidate for generating the initial density perturbations, could give rise to an open universe only in exceptionally fine tuned circumstances. However, open universe inflation models have received renewed interest recently, and in particular attention has been drawn

(Sasaki et al. 1993a, 1993b; Tanaka & Sasaki 1994; Bucher, Goldhaber & Turok 1994; Yamamoto, Sasaki & Tanaka 1994; Sasaki, Tanaka & Yamamoto 1994; Yamamoto, Sasaki & Tanaka 1995; Bucher & Turok 1995) to the bubble nucleation model (Coleman & de Luccia 1980; Gott 1982; Guth & Weinberg 1983; Gott & Statler 1984; Linde 1995; Amendola, Baccigalupi & Occhionero 1995). In contrast with the situation for ordinary models of inflation (Lyth & Stewart 1990a; Ratra & Peebles 1994b), this model predicts the present value of the density parameter in terms of the scalar field potential, without any reference to initial conditions. The price that one pays for this is a non-generic scalar field potential, which will be even more difficult than usual to realize in the context of a sensible particle physics model.

In order to compare structure formation models based on open universe inflation models with observational data, it is crucial to be able to normalize the amplitude of the power spectrum to the *COBE* observations of cosmic microwave background (cmb) fluctuations (Bennett et al. 1994), which are by far the most accurate available. Anisotropy calculations in an open universe present many technical difficulties and progress to the result has consequently been slow. However, an accurate normalization is now available through the work of Górski et al. (1995, henceforth GR5B), superseding earlier versions by Ratra & Peebles (1994a) and by Kamionkowski et al. (1994).

The viability of the open CDM model has recently been investigated by Ratra & Peebles (1994a). This paper predated the improved normalizations of inflationary open models to *COBE* supplied first by Kamionkowski et al. (1994) and then more accurately again by GR SB. Each of those collaborations provided only a brief account of the observational status against observations other than those of the microwave background. It is our aim in this paper to make a more extensive comparison of the model with observations.

2 THE OPEN UNIVERSE POWER SPECTRUM

The model is defined by giving the spectrum $\mathcal{P}(k)$ of the density contrast δ . Our approach towards constraining the model is to utilize linear perturbation theory, applied across as wide a range of scales as possible. By considering the formation of objects such as quasars and damped Lyman alpha systems at moderate redshift, it is possible to impose constraints on the spectrum at scales down to one megaparsec or less, while *COBE* probes scales of several thousands of megaparsecs, up to and even above the curvature scale. Between these extremes, a variety of different constraints can be applied.

All of the observations except the cmb anisotropy probe scales which are small compared with the Hubble distance, so we can use the Newtonian description of density perturbations to describe them. At any epoch well after matter domination sets in, the power spectrum of the density contrast is

$$\mathcal{P}(k) = \delta_H^2 T^2(k) \frac{g(\Omega)}{g(\Omega_0)} \left(\frac{k}{aH} \right)^4. \quad (1)$$

Here a is the scale factor of the universe, $H = \dot{a}/a$ is the Hubble parameter (dots signifying time derivatives), k is the comoving wavenumber and we are defining $\mathcal{P}(k)$ as the power per unit logarithmic interval of k . The transfer function $T(k)$ specifies the scale dependent effect of the evolution of the density perturbation between horizon entry and matter domination, and is normalized to unity on large scales. The factor $g(\Omega)$ is introduced to allow for the growth law for perturbations in an open universe. It gives the total suppression of growth in an open universe relative to a flat universe, and is accurately given* by the fitting function (Carroll et al. 1992)

$$g(\Omega) = \frac{5}{2} \Omega \left[1 + \frac{\Omega}{2} + \Omega^{4/7} \right]^{-1}. \quad (2)$$

Finally, the quantity δ_H specifies the overall normalization of the *present-day* spectrum. Its independence of k indicates the assumption of an inflationary model leading to a scale-invariant spectrum; in typical inflationary models one would expect some deviation from this (Liddle & Lyth 1993) which we do not consider. The value of δ_H , when fixed by the *COBE* observations as discussed below, depends on Ω_0 , but it has only an extremely weak dependence on H_0 which can

* Numerical tests indicate this fitting function is accurate to within one per cent for Ω_0 of interest.

be comfortably ignored (throughout, a subscript 0 denotes the present day).

Many observations do not allow one to impose constraints on the power spectrum itself, but instead place constraints on the dispersion of the density contrast $\sigma(R)$ smoothed on a comoving scale R . We shall always use a top-hat filter $W(kR)$ defined by

$$W(kR) = 3 \left(\frac{\sin(kR)}{(kR)^3} - \frac{\cos(kR)}{(kR)^2} \right), \quad (3)$$

to perform the smoothing. The dispersion of the smoothed density contrast is easily calculated from a theoretical power spectrum as

$$\sigma^2(R) = \int_0^\infty \mathcal{P}(k) W^2(kR) \frac{dk}{k}, \quad (4)$$

The prediction for the abundance of objects of various types has a very simple interpretation as a constraint on $\sigma(R)$, which cannot be easily represented as a power spectrum constraint.

Before proceeding to a full account of the data and their interpretation, let us be more specific regarding our assumptions. The parameters which we shall consider as freely variable are the total present density Ω_0 and the present Hubble parameter h (in units of $100 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$). An important contribution to be taken into account is the baryonic component of the density, Ω_B , which we take to be fixed by nucleosynthesis as $\Omega_B h^2 = 0.0125$ (Walker et al. 1991)[†]. In the presence of baryons, the usual scaling law of the transfer function with $\Omega_0 h$ (which is exact only for zero baryon density) can be replaced by an empirical scaling law with $\Omega_0 h \exp(-\Omega_B - \Omega_B/\Omega_0)$. This law was discovered by Sugiyama (1994), and generalizes a scaling law advertised by Peacock & Dodds (1994) to the case where $\Omega_0 < 1$. Although Sugiyama's calculations were made for the case of a flat universe with a cosmological constant, the difference between that and the present case only sets in long after the universe is matter dominated and so the shape is the same in our case. The different overall normalization of the spectrum between the two cases is of course included in the *COBE* normalization we shall carry out.

We use the transfer function from Bardeen et al. (1986)

$$T_{\text{CDM}}(q) = \frac{\ln(1 + 2.34q)}{2.34q} \times [1 + 3.89q + (14.1q)^2 + (5.46q)^3 + (6.71q)^4]^{-1/4}, \quad (5)$$

with $q = k/\Gamma$, where the so-called 'shape parameter' Γ is defined as

$$\Gamma = \Omega_0 h \exp(-\Omega_B - \Omega_B/\Omega_0), \quad (6)$$

in accordance with Sugiyama (1994) as discussed above.

Although h is in principle freely variable, it is determined at some level of accuracy by the requirement of a reasonable fit to the galaxy correlation function (see further discussion below), which demands that Γ should lie in the

[†] We note that the more recent analysis of Copi, Schramm & Turner (1995) suggests that the traditional upper limit from Walker et al. (1991) may be relaxed somewhat, though not sufficiently to impact on our results.

range [0.23, 0.30] at 95 per cent confidence level assuming a scale-invariant power spectrum (Peacock & Dodds 1994). Note though that as Ω_0 tends to one, the required value of h to achieve this begins to get uncomfortably small.

Particularly for high h , one is in danger of a conflict between measured ages of stellar populations and the age of the universe. In an open universe the age is given by

$$t_0 = \frac{1}{\Omega_0 H_0} \left[\frac{\Omega_0}{1 - \Omega_0} - \frac{\Omega_0^2}{2(1 - \Omega_0)^{3/2}} \cosh^{-1} \left(\frac{2 - \Omega_0}{\Omega_0} \right) \right]. \quad (7)$$

If one fixes H_0 , then older ages are achieved by lowering Ω_0 . However, we have written it this way to emphasize an alternative view, which is that the galaxy correlation function more or less fixes (ignoring for now the baryonic corrections) the combination $\Omega_0 H_0$. Then the quantity in square brackets in the above formula is actually an *increasing* function of Ω_0 , peaking at $2/3$ when $\Omega_0 = 1$. Consequently, at fixed Γ , the desire for a large age favours a larger value of Ω_0 . To make this concrete, then fixing $\Gamma = 0.25$ taking the baryons into account gives the sample values $\Omega_0 = 0.2 \Rightarrow h = 1.3 \Rightarrow \text{Age} = 6 \text{ Gyrs}$; $\Omega_0 = 0.3 \Rightarrow h = 0.89 \Rightarrow \text{Age} = 9 \text{ Gyrs}$; $\Omega_0 = 0.4 \Rightarrow h = 0.69 \Rightarrow \text{Age} = 11 \text{ Gyrs}$; $\Omega_0 = 1.0 \Rightarrow h = 0.32 \Rightarrow \text{Age} = 20 \text{ Gyrs}$. In each case the 15 per cent or so uncertainty in Γ contributes a similar uncertainty to the age.

We shall adopt the extremely conservative view that the age should exceed 10 Gyrs.

3 NORMALIZATION TO COBE

The most crucial piece of data is the overall normalization of the density perturbation spectra, which we choose to match the microwave anisotropies at large angular scales measured by the *DMR* experiment on the *COBE* satellite (Bennett et al. 1994; Górski et al. 1994). In the language of the usual spherical harmonic decomposition, *COBE* measures the multipoles with $l \lesssim 30$, and for a given Ω_0 the distance subtended at the surface of last scattering is comparable with the curvature if $l \lesssim 2\sqrt{1 - \Omega_0}/\Omega_0$. With the possible exception of the super-curvature modes defined below, this criterion gives an *upper bound* on the range of l for which curvature can be significant. It may however be a considerable overestimate, because for $\Omega_0 < 1$ the dominant contribution to the cmb anisotropy can come from distances far closer than the surface of last scattering. In any case it allows curvature to affect only $l \lesssim 6$ even for Ω_0 as low as 0.3, which means that at most the lowest few multipoles of *COBE* are likely to be sensitive to curvature.

To investigate the effect of curvature quantitatively, one must first ask how the Newtonian expression (1) should be continued to larger scales. As discussed in detail in Lyth & Woszczyna (1995), a number of issues have to be addressed.

First, in order to define the density contrast one has to specify a slicing of space-time into spatial hypersurfaces. We make the usual choice that the hypersurfaces are orthogonal to comoving observers, corresponding to what is called the ‘gauge invariant’ density perturbation. In the era well after matter domination (which is the only one that concerns us) this is the same as the ‘synchronous gauge’ density perturbation (Lyth & Stewart 1990b).

Second there is the definition of the spectrum. In discussing the stochastic properties of a given perturbation f , one assumes that it is a typical realization of a *random field* (an ensemble of functions together with a probability distribution for them). In both flat and curved space, the spectrum is defined with reference to an expansion in terms of eigenfunctions of the Laplacian, being the ensemble average of the modulus squared of the coefficient. Following Lyth & Stewart (1990a), we denote the eigenvalue of the Laplacian by $-(k/a)^2$, and normalize the spectrum $\mathcal{P}_f(k)$ of a generic perturbation f so that it gives the power per unit logarithmic interval of k . (By ‘power’ we mean the ensemble mean square contribution to f^2 , which is independent of position.) We are taking the random field to be gaussian, which means that each coefficient has an independent gaussian probability distribution, whose variance is essentially defined by the spectrum. (To make this statement precise one needs to take account of the fact that k is a continuous, not a discrete, variable.)

Third, there is the range of k over which the spectrum is nonzero. If k^{-1} is measured in units of the curvature scale $H_0^{-1}/\sqrt{1 - \Omega_0}$, then it is known that the most general square integrable *function* can be constructed using only the eigenfunctions with $k^2 > 1$. For this reason, cosmologists have always assumed that the same is true for the most general gaussian random field. That is, they have assumed that such a field can always be generated by keeping only the sub-curvature modes (those with $0 < k^{-2} < 1$) as distinct from the super-curvature modes (those with $k^{-2} > 1$). It has recently pointed out (Lyth & Woszczyna 1995) that this is not so; rather, mathematicians have known for half a century that in order to construct the most general gaussian random field the spectrum (and therefore the eigenfunction expansion) needs to run over the full range $k^2 > 0$. However, if the perturbation is generated as a vacuum fluctuation during inflation then it does appear to be the case that its spectrum contains only sub-curvature modes (though there is not complete agreement (Yamamoto et al. 1995; Bucher & Turok 1995)). As a working hypothesis it is therefore reasonable to assume that only sub-curvature modes contribute.†

In most of the cosmology literature a different normalization of the spectrum is adopted, which is denoted by P_f rather than by \mathcal{P}_f . In flat space, P_f is normalized so that $k^3 P_f/(2\pi^2)$ is the power per unit logarithmic interval of k . Because super-curvature modes were never considered, this definition is customarily generalized to make $q^3 P_f/(2\pi^2)$ the power per unit logarithmic interval of q , where $q^2 = k^2 - 1$. (The motivation for considering q^2 instead of k^2 is that its range is $q^2 > 0$.) This leads to the relation

$$P_f(q) = \frac{2\pi^2}{q(q^2 + 1)} \mathcal{P}_f(k(q)). \quad (8)$$

These preliminaries having been addressed, we are

† In any case a *smooth* continuation of the spectrum into the super-curvature regime would probably not have a significant effect on the cmb anisotropy (Lyth & Woszczyna 1995). One can and should see whether a delta function contribution at $k^2 = 0$ (the open universe Grishchuk-Zel’dovich effect) would be compatible with the data, but in this paper we assume that this is not the case.

ready to ask what is the correct continuation to large scales of the flat space expression (1). A natural choice is to keep equation (1) as it stands, either retaining or dropping the super-curvature modes. If super-curvature modes are dropped there are other natural choices, based on the alternatively defined spectrum P that we have just discussed. One can take $P \propto q$ (the usual choice until recently) or $P \propto k$; these choices multiply equation (1) by $(q/k)^2$ and q/k respectively. Another choice (Kamionkowski & Spergel 1994), relating to the density contrast smoothed over a sphere of variable radius, makes $P \propto q^3$ for $q \lesssim 1$ going smoothly over to $P \propto q$ for $q \gtrsim 1$.

A further possibility is that instead of focusing on the density contrast δ , one can focus on the primordial curvature perturbation \mathcal{R} , given by (Bardeen 1980; Lyth & Stewart 1990a)

$$\mathcal{R} = \frac{5}{2} \left(\frac{3+k^2}{a^2 H^2} \right) \delta. \quad (9)$$

On small scales equation (1) corresponds to a scale-independent spectrum $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$. However, if $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$ is taken to be scale independent also on large scales, equation (1) is multiplied by a factor $[(3+k^2)/k^2]^2$. At $k^2 = 2$ this is a factor $\simeq 5$, corresponding to a factor $\sqrt{5}$ in the *rms* perturbation, so it is more significant than the ambiguity associated with the definition of the spectrum, and the use of q^2 versus k^2 . Thus the crucial decision is whether to regard the density perturbation or the curvature as the fundamental quantity.

The usual assumption that the perturbation originates as a vacuum fluctuation of the inflaton field decides in favour of the curvature, because the inflaton field perturbation $\delta\phi$ is related to the curvature by $\mathcal{R} = (H/\dot{\phi})\delta\phi$ which is scale independent (Lyth & Stewart 1990a; Liddle & Lyth 1993). Making the arbitrary assumption of the conformal vacuum as the initial state in calculating the inflaton perturbation, the spectrum of $\delta\phi$ and therefore of \mathcal{R} is flat (Lyth & Stewart 1990a; Ratra & Peebles 1994a; Ratra & Peebles 1994b). Recently it has been pointed out that in the bubble nucleation model the quantum fluctuation of the inflaton field, and hence the spectrum, is calculable without recourse to an arbitrary assumption concerning the initial vacuum state. According to Bucher et al. (1994) and Bucher & Turok (1995), $\mathcal{P}_{\mathcal{R}}$ varies like $\coth(\pi q)$. At $k^2 = 2$ ($q^2 = 1$) this factor is 1.06, and even at $q^2 = 0.03$ it is only 2. Whether one adopts the conformal vacuum hypothesis or the bubble nucleation scenario, the spectrum extends only over $q^2 > 0$ and so the difference between them is insignificant (Yamamoto et al. 1995; Bucher & Turok 1995).

The upshot of the above discussion is that the criterion of some smooth continuation suggests a moderate amount of ambiguity in the large scale power spectrum, which is however practically eliminated if the perturbation originates as a quantum fluctuation of the inflaton field. According to Sugiyama & Silk (1994), even the moderate ambiguity suggested by smoothness is not very significant, because it affects only the low cmb multipoles which are poorly determined because of cosmic variance. However, in this paper we adopt for definiteness the hypothesis of a flat curvature spectrum, which is the prediction of inflation.

Given the spectrum one can calculate the expected values for the multipoles measured by *COBE*, and compare with observations to determine the best fit normalization.

The calculation is substantially more complex than that for spatially flat models, which is almost analytic, and in the literature it has been developed in several stages. In this paper we use the most recent and sophisticated determination, given by GRSB. They take the curvature perturbation spectrum to be flat, and fit the full spectrum of anisotropies including the Doppler peak using a method based on Fourier analysis on the cut sky for which *COBE* data is available. This normalization is more sophisticated than that of Kamionkowski et al. (1994), who normalized to the ten degree variance (Bennett et al. 1994) with a correction incorporated for the beam profile and nonorthogonality of the monopole and dipole subtraction (Wright et al. 1994). They also arbitrarily increased the error bar to 30 per cent.

The outcome of the GRSB analysis is that essentially all values of Ω_0 are capable of providing an acceptable fit to the *COBE* data for a suitable choice of normalization. They do not explicitly state the normalization of the power spectrum they get for each Ω_0 . However, they do give values of $\sigma(8h^{-1}\text{Mpc})$ for specific choices of h , directly calculated from their Boltzmann code. We use these to calculate the large scale normalization of the power spectrum ($\delta_H(\Omega_0)$ in equation (1)), which is *independent* of h . This can then be used to calculate $\sigma(R)$ using equation (4) for any value of h by using the appropriate transfer function.

We find that the normalization can be accurately represented, to within two per cent for $0.1 < \Omega_0 < 1$, by the fitting function

$$\delta_H^2(\Omega_0) = (4.13 + 8.20\Omega_0 - 8.11\Omega_0^2) \times 10^{-10}, \quad (10)$$

where we use the GRSB analysis which includes the quadrupole (almost no change arises if the quadrupole is dropped from the analysis).

The normalization from GRSB has an error bar of eight per cent (more or less independently of Ω_0), as compared to the thirty per cent used by Kamionkowski et al. (1994). Although this tighter error bar is certainly more constraining, this normalization is quite a bit higher than used by Kamionkowski et al. An increase in the normalization generally acts in favour of the lower density models when it comes to comparing with the observations. As the *COBE* normalization has a considerably smaller error bar than other observations, on occasion we shall take this normalization as fixed, ignoring its error bar.

4 SMALLER SCALE CONSTRAINTS

A wide range of observations provide a variety of constraints on the power spectrum on scales of order 1 to 100 Mpc. These include the distribution of galaxies and clusters, the peculiar motions of galaxies and the abundances of various objects including clusters, quasars and damped Lyman alpha systems. Our approach is to use only the most powerful ones, as described elsewhere for the case $\Omega_0 = 1$ (Liddle & Lyth 1995; Liddle et al. 1995). When the spatial geometry is changed, all constraints need to be recalculated for a variety of reasons, amongst which the primary ones are a suppressed rate of perturbation growth at low redshift and an amended relation between scale and mass.

4.1 The galaxy correlation function

One of the most highly advertised problems with the standard Cold Dark Matter scenario is its failure to correctly reproduce the shape of the galaxy correlation function on scales of tens of megaparsecs, on the reasonable assumption of a scale independent bias parameter for galaxies of a given type. For CDM models, this is quantified via the shape parameter Γ which we have already introduced, and from a detailed analysis of a compilation of data sets Peacock & Dodds (1994) obtain the very stringent constraint $\Gamma = 0.264_{-0.033}^{+0.040}$ at the 95 per cent confidence limit assuming a scale-invariant power spectrum[§]. Provided one is willing to tolerate a sufficiently small h (around 0.35) the shape parameter can be fit in a spatially flat universe.

In addition to providing a constraint on the shape parameter, the galaxy distribution data also in principle constrain the normalization of the spectrum through redshift space distortions and non-linear effects. By choosing a scale in the middle of the data the best-fit amplitude can be found independently of Γ ; assuming $\Omega_0 = 1$ and $b_I = 1$, where b_I is the bias parameter for IRAS selected galaxies, we find the constraint $\sigma(15.35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}) = 0.395_{-0.028}^{+0.029}$. For general Ω_0 , Peacock & Dodds provide a best-fit bias parameter, and by fitting for this and processing through the redshift distortion factor for general Ω_0 one obtains the formal result with 1-sigma error (almost entirely due to the uncertainty in the bias) of

$$\sigma(15.35h^{-1}\text{Mpc}) = (0.395 \pm 24\%)f(\Omega_0), \quad (11)$$

where the fitting function $f(\Omega_0)$ is given by

$$f(\Omega_0) = 1.62 + 0.81\Omega_0 - 2.60\Omega_0^2 + 1.31\Omega_0^3. \quad (12)$$

However, the literature contains a widespread range of estimates of the bias parameter (see for example the compilation in Dekel (1994)), suggesting a true uncertainty larger than that advertised by Peacock & Dodds. As this result is anyway less constraining than other data, we choose not to impose this constraint.

A chi-squared analysis of the sixteen data points in Table 1 of Peacock & Dodds (1994) taking Γ and the normalization as fitting parameters has 14 degrees of freedom. Unfortunately the minimum chi-square is somewhat low (about 12). It is perfectly reasonable that this has occurred by chance, though it could also have an origin in weak correlations of neighbouring data or through non-normal errors. This prevents us incorporating their full data set into a chi-squared analysis along with other data, because such an analysis allows other data points to receive a high chi-square in compensation because their data set has so many more points. We have tried to evade this by only incorporating the shape parameter into a chi-squared test on all the data.

[§] Peacock & Dodds give a fitting function which includes a fit to different spectral indices n . We have refit assuming n is fixed at unity, which results in the modest numerical difference between the result quoted here and that given by their equation (53). One-sigma errors are adequately represented by halving these error bars.

4.2 Bulk flows and POTENT

For a given present-day amplitude of density perturbations, the predicted peculiar velocities depend quite strongly on the value of Ω_0 , becoming much smaller in the low density case. The best measurements of the bulk flow available are those found via the POTENT technique of velocity field reconstruction (Bertschinger & Dekel 1989). For the Mark III data set (Dekel 1994), the velocity has been evaluated in spheres about our position for a range of radii. However, these separate determinations are not independent as the rms bulk flow is sensitive to long wavelengths to a much greater extent than the density contrast. We therefore concentrate on a single measurement, which is the bulk flow smoothed on a scale $40h^{-1}$ Mpc. The method used to generate this requires an additional gaussian smoothing on $12h^{-1}$ Mpc in order to generate the original continuous velocity field used as a starting point. The theoretical prediction for the rms bulk flow is therefore given by

$$\sigma_v^2(R) = H_0^2 \Omega_0^{1.2} \int_0^\infty W^2(kR) \exp(-(12h^{-1}k)^2) \frac{\mathcal{P}_0}{k^2} \frac{dk}{k}, \quad (13)$$

where $W(kR)$ is the top-hat window given by equation (3) and the factor $\Omega_0^{1.2}$ is an extremely accurate fitting function to the Ω_0 -dependent velocity suppression.

The Mark III POTENT analysis gives the bulk flow in a $40h^{-1}$ Mpc sphere as (Dekel 1994)

$$v_{\text{obs}}(40h^{-1}\text{Mpc}) = 373 \pm 50 \text{ km s}^{-1}, \quad (14)$$

and this provides the best estimate of $\sigma_v(40h^{-1}\text{Mpc})$. The error given in expression (14) arises from different ways of dealing with sampling-gradient bias and can thus be thought of as reflecting the systematic uncertainty in the POTENT analysis. Additionally there is an intrinsic uncertainty in the POTENT calculation due to random distance errors, which at the 1-sigma level is $\simeq 15$ per cent (Dekel 1994). The observational error is dominated by cosmic variance; since the mean square bulk flow is the sum of the squares of the three velocity components, each of which is gaussian distributed, it follows a χ^2 distribution with three degrees of freedom. This enables a calculation of the cosmic variance error in using the bulk flow as an estimator of the normalization of the dispersion of the density contrast, that error being 89 per cent upwards and 24 per cent downwards at the 68 per cent confidence level which notionally corresponds to 1-sigma. At the 95 per cent confidence level the error bars are +273 per cent and -43 per cent. We can improve on this by modelling the observational errors and convolving with the theoretical distribution. Assuming the error in expression (14) corresponds to something like 95 per cent confidence level (though as it is the smallest error this assumption is insignificant), then the convolution of the three types of error results in the total error in using the Mark III POTENT bulk flow calculation as an estimator of the normalization of the dispersion of the density contrast. The increase in the error range as compared to cosmic variance alone is not large, the total error range being +98 per cent and -25 per cent at the 68 per cent confidence level, and +295 per cent and -47 per cent at the 95 per cent confidence level. Only the lower limits are useful for us.

We note that a constraint on the value of Ω_0 can be extracted from non-linear effects on the peculiar velocity

data, yielding $\Omega_0 \gtrsim 0.3$ at least at the 2-sigma confidence level (Dekel 1994) which serves to reinforce our conclusions.

The scale at which the bulk flow data applies is of order one per cent of the Hubble distance, so one might wonder if general relativistic effects might be detectable. The formulae that we have given remain valid in that case, provided that the density perturbation is defined on hypersurfaces orthogonal to comoving observers, and that the peculiar velocity is defined with respect to worldlines having zero shear (Bruni & Lyth 1994). It is noted in GRSB that with a different choice, the theoretically calculated bulk flow is different by several per cent, which is not totally insignificant. This suggests that a careful analysis of the observations using general relativity would be worthwhile, using a specific set of worldlines to defined the peculiar velocity. In any event, as long as Newtonian physics is used to analyse the data there is certainly no point in going beyond that framework in the theoretical calculation.

4.3 Object abundances

In the case of a flat universe the standard analytical technique to calculate object abundances relies on the use of the Press–Schechter theory (Press & Schechter 1974), which has been found through N -body simulations to provide a good approximation (Lacey & Cole 1994). This kind of comparison between analytical techniques and N -body simulations has not been performed with the same extent for an open universe. However, the derivation of the Press–Schechter theory relies solely on statistical arguments; there is nothing in it which explicitly relies on the background cosmology. It should therefore be also applicable in an open universe. We shall use it to obtain constraints on the abundances of galaxy clusters and damped Lyman alpha systems.

Using the Press–Schechter theory, the fraction of the matter in the universe which is in collapsed objects above a given mass at a redshift z is given simply by

$$\frac{\Omega(> M(R), z)}{\Omega(z)} = \operatorname{erfc} \left(\frac{\delta_c}{\sqrt{2} \sigma(R, z)} \right), \quad (15)$$

where δ_c is the threshold value fixed by comparison with N -body simulations, $\sigma(R, z)$ the dispersion smoothed on scale R at redshift z and ‘erfc’ is the complementary error function. The appropriate value for δ_c in this expression depends on the type of collapse one wants to consider, and on the type of filter one uses to carry out the smoothing. In a flat universe the spherical collapse of a top-hat perturbation is associated with $\delta_c = 1.7$. Non-spherical collapse along all three axes of symmetry is associated with higher values for δ_c , whilst non-spherical collapse along the first and second collapsing axis is associated with smaller values (e.g. Monaco 1994). As the value of δ_c is determined by the timescale of collapse of a given type of perturbation, one might expect it to be quite sensitive to the background cosmology being considered. However, this does not seem to be the case when one moves from a flat to an open universe. Lilje (1992), Lacey & Cole (1993) and Colafrancesco & Vittorio (1994) found that at least for any type of collapse where $\delta_c \leq 1.7$ in a flat universe, the value of δ_c varies at most by 5 per cent when one goes from a flat universe to one with $\Omega_0 = 0.1$. This applies at the present epoch, therefore implying that the same change in background cosmology will give rise to an even

smaller variation in δ_c at higher redshifts, as presently open universes approach flatness with increasing redshift.

The abundance of galaxy clusters is used to constrain the present-day power spectrum. In order to constrain shorter scales, which are well into the non-linear regime today, a successful technique is to study objects at high redshift, when those scales were still in the linear regime. By using linear theory to scale those constraints to the present, one can compare directly with the present-day predicted linear power spectrum. The most useful objects on which data are available are the damped Lyman alpha systems (Lanzetta, Wolfe & Turnshek 1995; Storrie-Lombardi et al. 1995). These offer a tighter constraint than the quasar abundance, the latter being weakened by unknown efficiency factors such as the required number of generations of quasars, and by the uncertainty in the required host galaxy mass.

We wish to take into account the growth of density perturbations between a redshift say around four and the present. As Ω_0 is decreased, the amount of growth between these epochs becomes highly suppressed, which is one of the main reasons why the present normalization of the primordial spectrum is lower than in the flat case. On the other hand, this effect helps with high redshift object formation since for a given present-day normalization, the perturbations at high redshift are substantially higher than were the universe flat.

In a critical density matter-dominated universe, $\sigma(M, z)$ simply grows proportional to $(1+z)^{-1}$. In an open universe, there is a suppression g in growth relative to this given by equation (2). This equation can be applied at any epoch, using the redshift dependence of Ω which in a matter dominated universe is given by

$$\Omega(z) = \Omega_0 \frac{1+z}{1+\Omega_0 z}. \quad (16)$$

One therefore needs to apply the growth factor for a critical density universe, correcting for the suppression both at the redshift of the observation and at the present, to get a constraint on the present-day power spectrum from

$$\sigma(M, z=0) = \sigma(M, z) (1+z) \frac{g(\Omega_0)}{g(\Omega(z))}. \quad (17)$$

4.3.1 Cluster abundance

A large galaxy cluster has a typical mass of about $10^{15} M_\odot$, which corresponds to a linear scale of around $8h^{-1}$ Mpc. Such clusters are relatively rare, indicating that this scale is still in the quasi-linear regime. One is then able to use the Press–Schechter theory to calculate $\sigma_8 \equiv \sigma(8h^{-1} \text{Mpc})$. To our knowledge the first to attempt this was Evrard (1989), followed by Henry & Arnaud (1991). Both these analyses were only valid for a flat CDM universe, and though using different observations they reached essentially the same result. Then White, Efstathiou & Frenk (1993a) again obtained a result similar to the previous two, and extended the analysis to a flat CDM universe with non-zero cosmological constant. Our analysis is similar to theirs extended to an open universe, the main difference being that we attempt to take into account that clusters with equal mass which virialize at different redshifts have distinct properties, like velocity dispersion and X-ray temperature, at the present.

A variety of different observations are available concerning the abundance of clusters. To use the Press–Schechter theory, it is vital to have good mass estimates as well as an estimate of the number density. Galaxy cluster catalogues assembled through optical selection from photographic plates, even disregarding the subjective nature of such selection, suffer from possible errors in cluster identification due to foreground and background contamination in the galaxy counts. Furthermore, the velocity dispersion, the optical observable most directly related to the cluster mass, is prone to serious projection effects and possible velocity biases. On the other hand, cluster identification through X -ray emission is free from foreground and background contamination, as X -rays are only produced in deep potential wells, and the X -ray observable most directly associated with the cluster mass, the mean X -ray temperature, is only very weakly affected by projection effects. Accordingly, we choose to use X -ray instead of optical data.

The observed number density of clusters per unit temperature, $n(k_B T)$, at $z = 0$ was calculated by Henry & Arnaud (1991). They found that clusters with a mean X -ray temperature of 7 keV have a present number density

$$n(7 \text{ keV}, 0) = 2.0_{-1.0}^{+2.0} \times 10^{-7} h^3 \text{ Mpc}^{-3} \text{ keV}^{-1}. \quad (18)$$

The comoving number density of clusters with virial mass M_v per unit mass at a redshift z is obtained by differentiating equation (15) with respect to the mass and multiplying it by ρ_b/M_v , where ρ_b is the comoving background density (a constant during matter domination), thus giving

$$n(M_v, z) = -\sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\rho_b}{M_v} \frac{\delta_c}{\Delta^2(z)} \frac{d\Delta(z)}{dM_v} \exp\left[-\frac{\delta_c^2}{2\Delta^2(z)}\right], \quad (19)$$

where $\Delta \equiv \sigma(r_L)$ with r_L the comoving linear scale associated with M_v , $r_L^3 = 3M_v/4\pi\rho_b$. Traditionally the cluster abundance is used to constrain the dispersion at $8h^{-1}$ Mpc, and the quantity Δ is specified by an analytic approximation to the power spectrum in the vicinity of this scale. Generally, one can write

$$\Delta(z) = \sigma_8(z) \left(\frac{r_L}{8h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}}\right)^{-\gamma(r_L)}. \quad (20)$$

For the CDM spectra we adopt the form

$$\gamma(r_L) = (0.3\Gamma + 0.2) \left[2.88 + \log\left(\frac{r_L}{8h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}}\right)\right]. \quad (21)$$

This is a more sophisticated analytic approximation than the power-law approximation used by White et al. (1993a); the open universe calculation requires accuracy over a wider range of scales (note also that their Γ has a slightly different definition). This approximation is accurate to within 1 per cent for r_L within a factor of 4 of $8h^{-1}$ Mpc for the Γ values we are primarily interested in.

Note that in any CDM model, $\gamma(r_L)$ is redshift independent since the growth of perturbations is independent of scale. Using expression (20) to calculate the derivative in equation (19) we therefore get

$$n(M_v, z) = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\rho_b}{M_v^2} \frac{2.88(0.3\Gamma + 0.2)\delta_c}{3\Delta(z)} \exp\left[-\frac{\delta_c^2}{2\Delta^2(z)}\right]. \quad (22)$$

As large clusters are relatively rare, it is reasonable to assume that shear did not play an important part during

their collapse, which to a good approximation can then be considered to have occurred spherically (Bernardeau 1994). Nevertheless, we shall include an assumed 1-sigma dispersion of ± 0.1 in the value of δ_c . Bearing in mind that varying the background cosmology has a negligible effect on the value of δ_c we then use $\delta_c = 1.7 \pm 0.1$ when needed for all our models at all z .

For the type of models we are considering, Hanani (1993) has shown that

$$M_v \propto \Omega_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \chi^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1+z_c)^{-\frac{3}{2}} (k_B T)^{\frac{3}{2}}, \quad (23)$$

where

$$\chi = 1 + (\Omega_0^{-0.8} - 1)(1 + \Omega_0^{0.5} z_m)^{-\Omega_0^{-0.4}}. \quad (24)$$

Here z_c and z_m are the redshifts of cluster virialization and turnaround respectively; they are related by the expression $(1+z_m) \simeq 2^{2/3}(1+z_c)$. The scalings in equation (23) have been found through hydrodynamical N -body simulations to hold remarkably well in a $\Omega_0 = 1.0$ CDM model (Navarro, Frenk & White 1995).

In order to normalize equation (23) we use results from the hydrodynamical N -body simulations for a $\Omega_0 = 1.0$ CDM model performed by White et al. (1993b). From a catalogue of 12 simulated clusters with a wide range of X -ray temperatures they estimated that a cluster with a present mean X -ray temperature of 7.5 keV corresponds to a mass within one Abell radius ($1.5 h^{-1}$ Mpc) of the cluster centre of $M_A = (1.10 \pm 0.22) \times 10^{15} h^{-1} M_\odot$. The error arises from the dispersion in the catalogue and is supposed to represent the 1-sigma significance level. To be conservative we shall increase this dispersion to 30 per cent. White et al. (1993b) also found that the simulated clusters had a density profile in their outer regions approximately described by $\rho_c(r) \propto r^{-2.4 \pm 0.1}$. This same result was obtained by Metzler & Evrard (1994) and Navarro et al. (1995). Bearing in mind that the cluster virial radius in a $\Omega_0 = 1.0$ universe encloses a density 178 times the background density, it is then straightforward to calculate the cluster virial mass from M_A . We therefore have $M_v = (1.23_{-0.45}^{+0.55}) \times 10^{15} h^{-1} M_\odot$ for a cluster with a present mean X -ray temperature of 7.5 keV in a $\Omega_0 = 1.0$ universe. Assuming that such a cluster virialized at a redshift of $z_c \simeq 0.05 \pm 0.05$ (e.g. Metzler & Evrard 1994; Navarro et al. 1995), we can now normalize equation (23)

$$M_v = (1.32_{-0.54}^{+0.73}) \times 10^{15} \times \Omega_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \chi^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1+z_c)^{-\frac{3}{2}} \left(\frac{k_B T}{7.5 \text{ keV}}\right)^{\frac{3}{2}} h^{-1} M_\odot. \quad (25)$$

This result is in very close agreement with the one obtained by Evrard (1990) from his own hydrodynamical N -body simulations. Hence the virial mass M_v for a cluster with a present mean X -ray temperature of 7 keV is given by

$$M_v = (1.2_{-0.5}^{+0.7}) \times 10^{15} \Omega_0^{-\frac{1}{2}} \chi^{-\frac{1}{2}} (1+z_c)^{-\frac{3}{2}} h^{-1} M_\odot. \quad (26)$$

As one can see from equation (23), the relation between the cluster virial mass and its mean X -ray temperature depends on the redshift of cluster virialization. One therefore expects that at the present there will be some dispersion in the virial masses of clusters with the same mean X -ray temperature. This dispersion increases with decreasing Ω_0 , as due to the slower growth of density perturbations in lower

Ω_0 models cluster formation at a given scale proceeds over a greater redshift interval.

According to Press–Schechter theory the comoving number density of clusters with virial mass M_v per unit mass which virialize at some redshift z and survive until the present is given by (Sasaki 1994)

$$N(M_v, z) = \left[-\frac{\delta_c^2}{\Delta^2(z)} \frac{n(M_v, z)}{\sigma_8(z)} \frac{d\sigma_8(z)}{dz} \right] \frac{\sigma_8(z)}{\sigma_8(z=0)}, \quad (27)$$

where $\sigma_8(z)$ and $d\sigma_8(z)/dz$ are calculated using equation (17). In equation (27) the expression within the square brackets gives the formation rate of clusters with virial mass M_v at redshift z , whereas the fraction outside gives the probability of these clusters surviving until the present. If one now assumes that at each redshift z the cluster virial mass M_v in equation (27) is determined by expression (26) with $z_c = z$, then equation (27) gives the comoving number density of clusters per unit mass which virialize at each redshift z and survive up to the present such that they have a mean X -ray temperature of 7 keV at the present. Through the chain rule we can then determine the comoving number density of clusters per unit temperature which virialize at each redshift z and survive up to the present such that they have a mean X -ray temperature of 7 keV at the present,

$$N(k_B T, z) = N(M_v, z) \frac{dM_v}{d(k_B T)}. \quad (28)$$

Using expression (23) we get

$$N(k_B T, z) = \frac{3}{2} \frac{M_v}{k_B T} N(M_v, z), \quad (29)$$

where $k_B T = (7 \text{ keV})(1+z)^{-1}$. We therefore have

$$N(k_B T, z) = -\frac{3}{2} \frac{M_v}{k_B T} \frac{\delta_c^2}{\Delta^2(z)} \frac{n(M_v, z)}{\sigma_8(z=0)} \frac{d\sigma_8(z)}{dz}. \quad (30)$$

Numerically integrating this expression from $z = 0$ to $z = \infty$ then gives the present comoving number density of clusters per unit temperature with a mean X -ray temperature of 7 keV as a function of Ω_0 and of the present value of σ_8 . Comparing with the observational value given by equation (18) we thus get $\sigma_8(\Omega_0)$. We find to a good approximation that

$$\sigma_8 = (0.59^{+36\%}_{-27\%}) \Omega_0^{-C(\Omega_0)}, \quad (31)$$

where $C(\Omega_0) = 0.29 + 0.43\Omega_0 - 0.34\Omega_0^2$ is a fitting function representing the changing power-law index of the Ω_0 dependence. The errors in equation (31) represent 1-sigma significance levels and arise from the dispersions in the observational value of Γ , in the assumed value for δ_c , and in expressions (18) and (26).

4.3.2 Damped Lyman alpha systems

Many types of model with $\Omega_0 = 1$, such as Mixed Dark Matter models, are strongly constrained by data on damped Lyman alpha systems (Kauffmann & Charlot 1994; Ma & Bertschinger 1994). However, the constraint becomes weaker as Ω_0 is reduced as we will now see.

Instead of the widely quoted data of Lanzetta et al. (1995), we use the recent data of Storrie-Lombardi et al.

(1995) which revises downwards[¶] the estimated abundances at a redshift of around 3 and provides a new estimate at redshift 4. The strongest constraint comes from the redshift 4 point, and so we shall concentrate on it. However, the constraint is not significantly weakened if the redshift 3 point is used instead, and in any case we shall see this data is not very constraining for open CDM models.

At redshift $z = 4$, the contribution of the damped Lyman alpha systems to the density in *baryons* is estimated as

$$\Omega_{\text{DLAS}} = (0.0011 \pm 0.0002) h^{-1} \sqrt{\frac{1 + \Omega_0 z}{1 + z}}. \quad (32)$$

Remembering that we are taking the dark matter to be cold, it is a reasonable hypothesis that the total density of these systems is bigger by a factor Ω_0/Ω_B , where $\Omega_B = 0.0125 h^{-2}$ is the average baryon density given by nucleosynthesis. If M is the typical mass of the systems, this implies that the fraction $f(> M, z)$ of the total mass which resides in bound objects of mass at least M at redshift $z = 4.0$ satisfies

$$f(> M, z = 4.0) > (0.088 \pm 0.024) h \sqrt{\frac{1 + \Omega_0 z}{1 + z}}, \quad (33)$$

where a twenty per cent uncertainty in the baryon fraction has been added in quadrature to the observational uncertainty.

Since we want a lower bound on the density perturbation we take the lower end of the error bar. Bearing in mind that there is no evidence that damped Lyman alpha systems at high redshifts are completely collapsed objects, as we only observe their baryonic component which is able to collapse faster through radiative cooling (e.g. Katz et al. 1994), we conservatively assume that these systems are more akin to collapsing protospheroids (see also Lanzetta et al. 1995). In order to reflect this choice we will use $\delta_c = 1.5$ in the Press–Schechter calculation, which some numerical studies (e.g. Monaco 1994) have shown is associated with the timescale of gravitational collapse of a perturbation along its first two collapsing axes, i.e. ‘filament’ formation. Also, in order to be compatible with lower redshift observations, the collapsing protospheroids have to be massive enough to eventually give rise to rotationally supported disks (Lanzetta et al. 1995). Therefore we take the minimum mass of damped Lyman alpha systems to be $10^{10} M_\odot$, which corresponds to a circular velocity of about 100 km s^{-1} . We shall illustrate this constraint in Figure 2. Although formally it is only a 1-sigma lower limit, it is almost unchanged by going to 2-sigma.

5 DISCUSSION

We plot the data we have discussed in two separate ways. The first is direct contouring of the observations in the Ω_0 – h plane, in Figures 1 and 2. For these Figures we have fixed the normalization of the spectrum by the *COBE* measurement, taking advantage of its small error bar. It turns out that the constraints based on the abundances of clusters and

[¶] Note that this still ignores the effect of gravitational lensing, which it is claimed can reduce the estimated abundance by a further 50 per cent (Bartelmann & Loeb 1995).

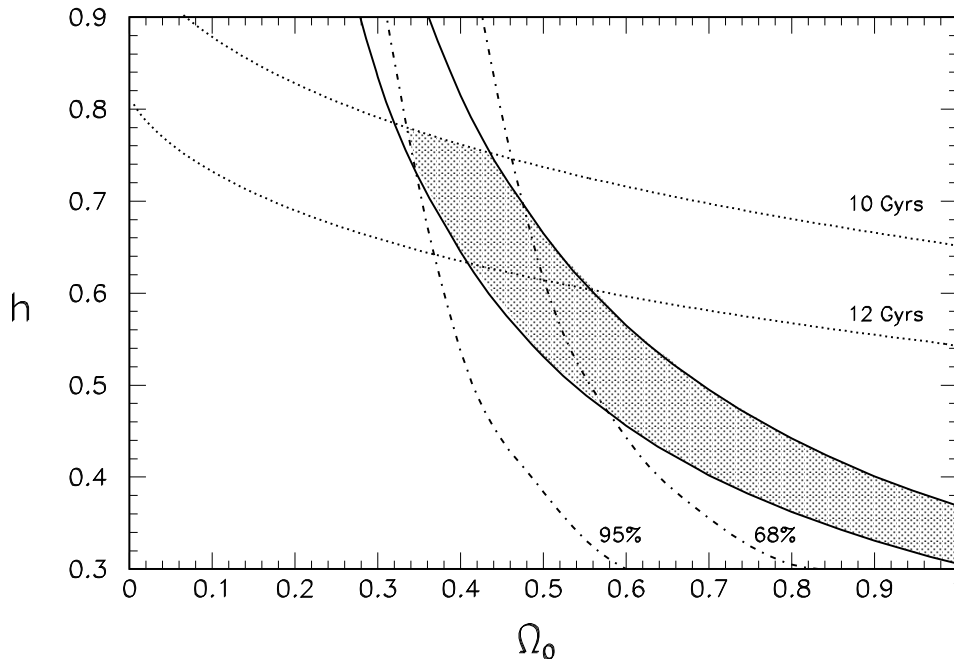


Figure 1. The most important constraints plotted in the Ω_0 - h plane, assuming baryon density as given by standard nucleosynthesis. All models are normalized to the *COBE* data as given by GRSB. The solid lines are limits on the shape parameter at 95 per cent confidence level. The dot-dashed lines are *lower* limits from POTENT at 68 per cent and at 95 per cent confidence as labelled, in each case with the allowed region to the right of the line (since they come from confidence intervals, formally they are actually 84 per cent and 97.5 per cent as lower limits, the upper limits not being shown here). Finally, the labelled dotted lines are contours of constant age as indicated. The shaded region shows the parameter space not excluded at greater than 95 per cent on any single piece of data.

of damped Lyman-alpha systems are not very strong (both in the spatially flat case and for general Ω_0). It is somewhat surprising that the cluster point is not constraining; the implication of earlier work (White et al. 1993a) is that a very high normalization would be required in low density universes, a feature associated with cosmological constant models rather than open universes. However, we have found from our improved open universe treatment that the normalization required at low Ω_0 remains compatible with other constraints.

For clarity, we have chosen to plot only the most constraining data in Figure 1. The constraints from object abundances are shown in Figure 2, with the preferred region from Figure 1 transposed for comparison.

The second type of plot, Figure 3, shows chi-squared contours of the data. The only difference in input data is that we treat the *COBE* data with its error bar, so that at each point in parameter space the chi-squared statistic is that for the optimal normalization. The chi-squared plot has the advantage of producing a simple summary of the constraints, but the drawback that one cannot tell which of the data are predominant in contributing to the constraints. By incorporating all the data, it indicates a narrowing of the allowed region at low Ω_0

Along with *COBE*, the most important constraints are

the shape parameter and the bulk velocities, with the age constraint providing a cut-off at low Ω_0 . This still leaves a rather substantial allowed parameter region.

Most of the recent literature on structure formation models has concentrated attention either on retaining $\Omega_0 = 1$ and making other modifications such as introducing a hot dark matter component, or on reducing Ω_0 all the way down to 0.2 or 0.3. We notice that the best fits with the new *COBE* normalization favour rather higher values, the lowest permitted being about $\Omega_0 = 0.35$. Further, good fits are available for the whole continuum of Ω_0 values above this, for a suitable choice of Hubble parameter. Without inputting extra information on the preferred values of h , the observational data make no particular preference towards any value of Ω_0 .

A variety of recent measurements of the Hubble parameter have favoured higher values (eg Schmidt et al. 1994; Freedman et al. 1994). While we feel that the situation has yet to be completely closed, it is interesting to examine the reduction in parameter space implied by choosing $h > 0.6$. This still allows a fit to all the data (even allowing an age over 12 Gyrs), but such a constraint requires that Ω_0 falls in a narrow band between 0.35 and 0.55.

In conclusion, we have made a thorough investigation of linear theory constraints on Cold Dark Matter models in genuinely open universes. We have also placed these models

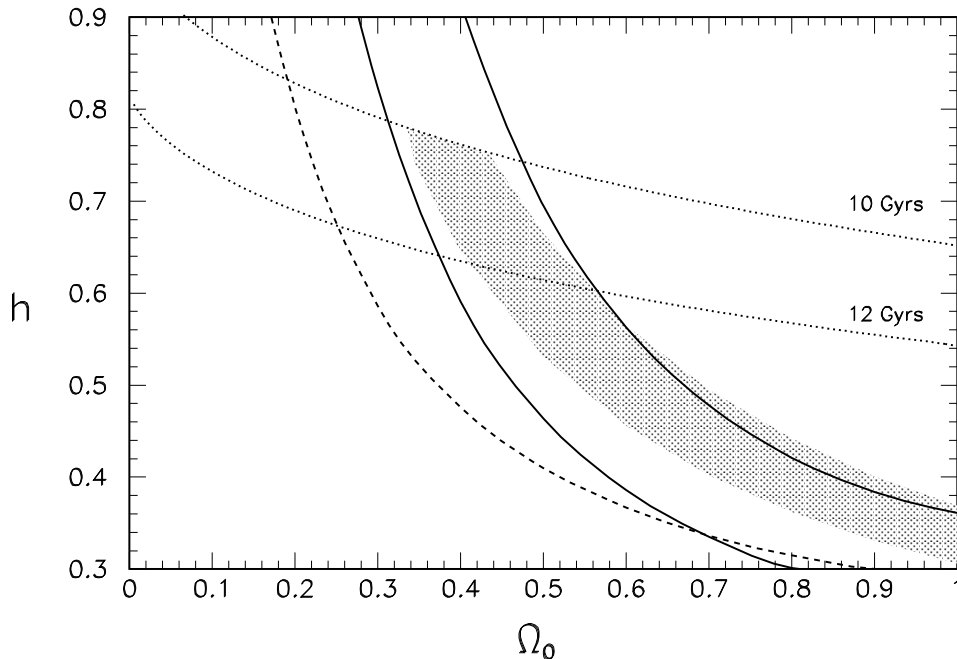


Figure 2. As Figure 1, but illustrating the constraints we have derived but which do not prove constraining. The solid lines are 1-sigma limits from the cluster abundance. The limit from damped Lyman alpha system formation is shown as a dashed line (allowed region to the upper right). For comparison, the shaded region is transposed from Figure 1. Contours of constant age are again indicated.

in their inflationary cosmology context. The normalization to *COBE* provided by GRSB allows a much more precise comparison to observations than has been made previously. We have included a treatment of the abundances of both clusters and damped Lyman alpha systems; although these have proved constraining for various types of model such as Mixed Dark Matter models, they are easy to satisfy here. On the whole, the new constraints we have computed support the allowed parameter space from earlier considerations rather than reduce it. We conclude that there is a substantial parameter space still viable for these models.

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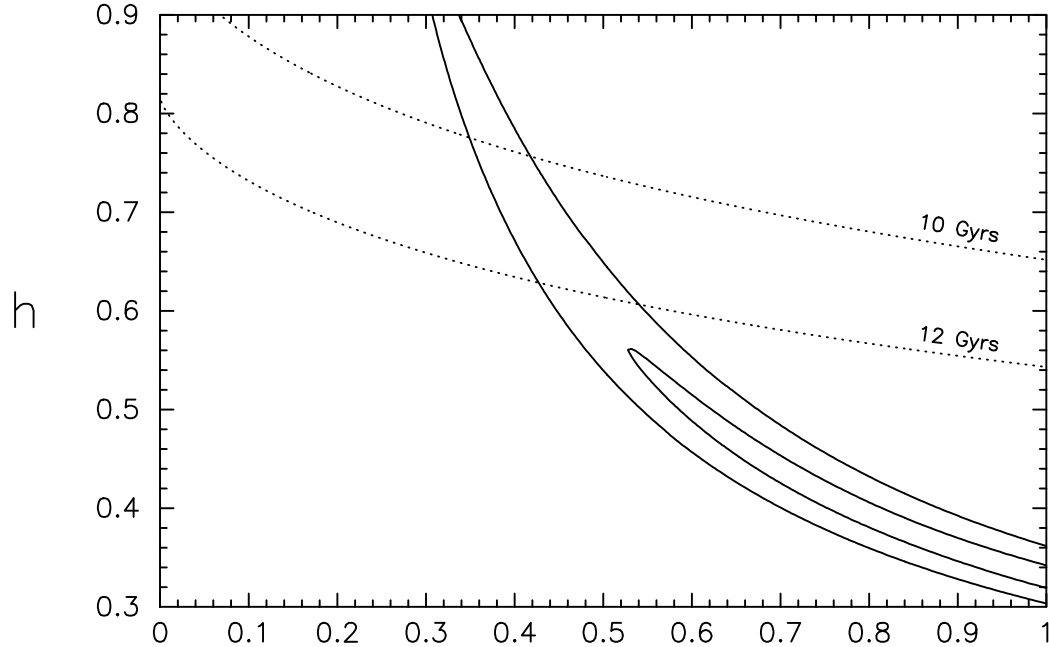


Figure 3. A chi-squared plot in the Ω_0 - h plane. This plot includes all the data we have discussed. In contrast to Figure 1, the *COBE* data is included with its error bar. The main compromise is the condensation of the Peacock & Dodds data set down to just the shape parameter; otherwise its slightly low chi-squared is excessively generous to the other data as discussed. The inner contour corresponds to 68 per cent confidence, the outer one to 95 per cent confidence. Age contours are also shown, but are not included in the chi-squared. The chi-squared plot supports the picture formed from Figure 1, with the drawback of concealing which data are primarily responsible for the trends.

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