8.286 Lecture 5  
September 19, 2013

COSMOLOGICAL REDSHIFT  
and the  
DYNAMICS OF  
HOMOGENEOUS EXPANSION

As to your first query, it seems to me that if the matter of our sun and planets  
and all the matter of the universe were evenly scattered throughout all the  
heavens, and every particle had an innate gravity toward all the rest, and the  
whole space throughout which this matter was scattered was but finite, the  
matter on the outside of this space would, by its gravity, tend toward all the  
matter on the inside and, by consequence, fall down into the middle of the  
whole space and there compose one great spherical mass. But if the matter was  
evenly disposed throughout an infinite space, it could never convene into one  
mass; but some of it would convene into one mass and some into another, so as  
to make an infinite number of great masses, scattered at great distances from  
one to another throughout all that infinite space. And thus might the sun and  
fixed stars be formed, supposing the matter were of a lucid nature.

— December 10, 1692

Isaac Newton to Richard Bentley, Letter 1  
Newton on the Infinite Universe

But how the matter should divide itself into two sorts, and that part of it which  
is to compose a shining body should fall down into one mass and make a sun  
and the rest which is fit to compose an opaque body should coalesce, not into  
one great body, like the shining matter, but into many little ones; or if the sun  
at first were an opaque body like the planets or the planets lucid bodies like  
the sun, how he alone should be changed into a shining body whilst all they  
continue opaque, or all they be changed into opaque ones whilst he remains  
unchanged, I do not think explicable by mere natural causes, but am forced to  
ascrbe it to the counsel and contrivance of a voluntary Agent.

— December 10, 1692

But you argue, in the next paragraph of your letter, that every particle of  
matter in an infinite space has an infinite quantity of matter on all sides, and,  
by consequence, an infinite attraction every way, and therefore must rest in  
equilibrio, because all infinites are equal. Yet you suspect a paralogism in this  
argument; and I conceive the paralogism lies in the position, that all infinites  
are equal. The generality of mankind consider infinites no other ways than  
individually; and in this sense they say all infinites are equal; though they would  
speak more truly if they should say, they are neither equal nor unequal, nor have  
any certain difference or proportion one to another. In this sense, therefore,  
no conclusions can be drawn from them about the equality, proportions, or  
differences of things; and they that attempt to do it usually fall into paralogisms.

— January 17, 1693

Web references:  
http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk/view/texts/normalized/THEM00254  
http://books.google.com/books?id=8DkCAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA201

— 1 —
So, when men argue against the infinite divisibility of magnitude, by saying, that if an inch may be divided into an infinite number of parts, the sum of those parts will be an inch; and if a foot may be divided into an infinite number of parts, the sum of those parts must be a foot; and therefore, since all infinites are equal, those sums must be equal, that is, an inch equal to a foot. The falseness of the conclusion shews an error in the premises; and the error lies in the position, that all infinites are equal.

— January 17, 1693

Web references: http://www.newtonproject.sussex.ac.uk/view/texts/normalized/THEM00255
http://books.google.com/books?id=8DkCAAAAQAAJ&pg=PA201
\[ g' = 0 \]

\[ g' = \frac{GM}{b^2} \bar{\epsilon}_{QP} \]