

Does A Periodicity Exist in the Redshift Distribution of Quasars' Lyman-alpha Absorption Lines?

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We have investigated the redshift distribution of the Ly- α absorption lines in a quite reasonable homogeneous sample compiled by Murdoch et al. (1986). (1) First, after corrected the different wavelength coverages of each quasar' spectrum, we find a significant peak at $Z \sim 2.9$ in the histogram of redshift distribution of Ly- α absorption lines (Fig.1). Using the Power-Spectrum Analysis, we find a periodic component at the length of period of 0.2 for the argument $X = \ln(1+Z)$. The significance of confidence is not very high, about 83%, but the length of periods is just the same as we found before in the distribution of emission line redshifts of quasars (Fang, Chu, et al. 1982) (2). Moreover, the ratio $R = 1+Z_{em}/1+Z_{ab}$ for Ly- α absorption lines also shows several peaks in its distribution, which is in good agreement with the prediction if the periodicity exists in both emission line and absorption line redshifts (3). In summary, we find some evidence of existence of very large scale inhomogeneous structure in the space distribution of primordial hydrogen clouds.

References

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