

1 The Friedmann equation for a flat universe

$$\left(\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\right)^2 = H_0^2 \left[\frac{\Omega_m}{a^3} + \Omega_\Lambda \right] \quad (1)$$

where Ω_m, Ω_Λ are the present-day matter density and the density of dark energy (cosmological constant). Formal intergration yields

$$H_0 t = \int_0^a \frac{\sqrt{a} da}{\sqrt{\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda a^3}}. \quad (2)$$

By changing the variable to $\chi^2 = a^3 + c$ where $c = \sqrt{\Omega_m/\Omega_\Lambda}$, i.e., $2\chi d\chi = 3a^2 da$, we obtain

$$\int_0^a \frac{\sqrt{a} da}{\sqrt{\Omega_m + \Omega_\Lambda a^3}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} \int_{\sqrt{c}}^{\sqrt{a^3+c}} \frac{\sqrt{a}}{\chi} \frac{2\chi}{3a^2} d\chi = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} \int_{\sqrt{c}}^{\sqrt{a^3+c}} \frac{2}{3} a^{-3/2} d\chi \quad (3)$$

From $a^3 = \chi^2 - c$, the integrand $a^{-3/2}$ is simply $1/\sqrt{\chi^2 - c}$. Then the above integral becomes

$$\frac{2}{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} \int_{\sqrt{c}}^{\sqrt{a^3+c}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{\chi^2 - c}} d\chi. \quad (4)$$

Recall the integral of $1/\sqrt{x^2 - 1}$ is some combination of hyperbolic functions. Indeed,

$$\frac{d}{dx} \cosh^{-1} x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}}. \quad (5)$$

With slight rescaling of $\sqrt{c}x = \chi$, the integration (4) is now explicitly done to be

$$\frac{2}{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} \int_1^{\sqrt{a^3/c+1}} \frac{1}{\sqrt{x^2 - 1}} dx = \frac{2}{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}} \left[\cosh^{-1} x \right]_1^{\sqrt{a^3/c+1}} \quad (6)$$

Equation (2) then reads

$$\frac{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}}{2} H_0 t = \cosh^{-1} \sqrt{a^3/c + 1}, \quad (7)$$

which can be inverted to be

$$a^3/c + 1 = \cosh^2 \frac{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}}{2} H_0 t. \quad (8)$$

Using $\cosh^2 x - \sinh^2 x = 1$, we finally obtain

$$a = \left(\frac{\Omega_m}{\Omega_\Lambda} \right)^{1/3} \sinh^{2/3} \frac{3\sqrt{\Omega_\Lambda}}{2} H_0 t, \quad (9)$$

which has asymptotic behaviors of $a \propto t^{2/3}$ for small a and $a \propto \exp(H_0 t)$ for large a .