Cosmic Galaxy-IGM H\textsc{i} Relation at $z \sim$ 2–3 Probed in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA 1.6 Deg$^2$ Field

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Abstract

We present spatial correlations of galaxies and IGM neutral hydrogen H\textsc{i} in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA 1.62 deg$^2$ field. Our data consist of 13,415 photo-z galaxies at $z \sim$ 2–3 with $K_s < 23.4$ and the Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest absorption lines in the background quasar spectra selected from SDSS data with no signature of damped Ly\textsc{\alpha} system contamination. We estimate a galaxy overdensity $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ in an impact parameter of 2.5 (proper) Mpc, and calculate the Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest fluctuations $\delta_{(F)}$ whose negative values correspond to the strong Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest absorption lines. We identify weak evidence of an anti-correlation between $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and $\delta_{(F)}$ with a Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient of $-0.39$, suggesting that the galaxy overdensities and the Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest absorption lines positively correlate in space at the $\sim90\%$ confidence level. This positive correlation indicates that high-$z$ galaxies exist around an excess of H\textsc{i} gas in the Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest. We find four cosmic volumes, dubbed $A_{\text{obs}}, B_{\text{obs}}, C_{\text{obs}}$, and $D_{\text{obs}}$, that have extremely large (small) values of $\delta_{\text{gal}} \sim 0.8 (-1)$ and $\delta_{(F)} \sim 0.1 (-0.4)$, three of which, $B_{\text{obs}} - D_{\text{obs}}$, significantly depart from the $\delta_{\text{gal}} - \delta_{(F)}$ correlation, and break the correlation signal. We perform cosmological hydrodynamical simulations and compare with our observational results. Our simulations reproduce the $\delta_{\text{gal}} - \delta_{(F)}$ correlation, agreeing with the observational results. Moreover, our simulations have model counterparts of $A_{\text{obs}} - D_{\text{obs}}$, and suggest that the observations pinpoint, by chance, a galaxy overdensity like a proto-cluster, gas filaments lying on the quasar sightline, a large void, and orthogonal low-density filaments. Our simulations indicate that the significant departures of $B_{\text{obs}} - D_{\text{obs}}$ are produced by the filamentary large-scale structures and the observation sightline effects.

Key words: galaxies: formation – intergalactic medium – large-scale structure of universe – quasars: absorption lines

1. Introduction

The link between baryons and the cosmic web is a clue to understanding both the galaxy formation and the baryonic processes in large-scale structures (LSSs). The processes between galaxies and the intergalactic medium (IGM) are the inflow, which represents gas accretion on to galaxies, and the outflow driven by supernovae and active galactic nuclei. Neutral hydrogen H\textsc{i} in the IGM is probed with the Ly\textsc{\alpha} forest absorption lines in spectra of background quasars (e.g., Faucher-Giguère et al. 2008; Becker et al. 2013; Prochaska et al. 2013) and bright star-forming galaxies (e.g., Steidel et al. 2010; Thomas et al. 2014; Mawatari et al. 2016).

The detailed properties of galaxy-IGM H\textsc{i} relations (hereafter galaxy-H\textsc{i} relation) have been studied by spectroscopic observations of the Keck Baryonic Structure Survey (KBSS: Rakic et al. 2012; Rudie et al. 2012; Turner et al. 2014), Very Large Telescope LBG Redshift Survey (VLRS: Crighton et al. 2011; Tummuangpak et al. 2014), and other programs (e.g., Adelberger et al. 2003, 2005). These spectroscopic observations target H\textsc{i} gas of the circumgalactic medium (CGM) around Lyman break galaxies (LBGs) that are high-$z$ star-forming galaxies identified with a bright UV and blue continuum.

These LBG spectroscopy for the galaxy-H\textsc{i} studies alone do not answer to the following two questions. One is the relation between IGM H\textsc{i} and galaxies that are not selected as LBGs. Because LBGs are identified in their dust-poor star-forming phase, dust-rich and old-stellar population galaxies are missing in the past studies. In fact, the average star-formation duty cycle (DC) of LBGs is estimated to be $\sim30\%–60\%$ (Lee et al. 2009; Harikane et al. 2016). A large fraction of galaxies are not investigated in the studies of the galaxy-H\textsc{i} relation. The other question is what the galaxy-H\textsc{i} relation in a large scale is. To date, the previous studies have investigated LBG-H\textsc{i} relations around sightlines of background quasars within $\sim1$ deg$^2$ corresponding to $\sim70 \times 70$ comoving Mpc$^2$ at $z \sim 2–3$ (Adelberger et al. 2003; Rudie et al. 2012; Tummuanpak et al. 2014). There has been no study on the galaxy-H\textsc{i} relation on a large scale ($\sim1$ deg$^2$) at $z \sim 2–3$. Only at $z \leq 1$, Tejos et al. (2014) conduct spectroscopic surveys to investigate galaxy-H\textsc{i} relations on a large scale ($\sim1$ deg$^2$). Tejos et al. (2014) present the clustering analysis of spectroscopic galaxies and H\textsc{i} absorption line systems. At $z \sim 2–3$, Cai et al. (2016) have studied the galaxy-H\textsc{i} relation focusing on extremely massive overdensities with $\sim6,000$ SDSS quasar spectra by the MAPping the Most Massive Overdensity.
Through Hydrogen (MAMMOTH) survey, but the galaxy-H I relations have not been systematically explored.

We investigate spatial correlations of $K_r$-band selected galaxies with no DC dependence and IGM H I at $z \sim 2$–3 in a large 1.62 deg$^2$ area of the COSMOS/UltraVISTA field, in conjunction with the comparisons with our models of the cosmological hydrodynamical simulations. We probe one large field contiguousy covering LSSs. Our study of the galaxy-H I spatial correlation is complementary to the on-going programs of the MAMMOTH and the Ly$\alpha$ forest tomography survey of the COSMOS Ly$\alpha$ Mapping And Tomography Observations (CLAMATO; Lee et al. 2014, 2016), which aims to illustrate the distribution of IGM H I gas in LSSs. In contrast, our study focuses on a spatial relation between galaxies and IGM H I gas.

This paper is organized as follows. We describe the details of our sample galaxies and background quasars in Section 2. In Section 3, our data analysis is presented. We investigate the galaxy-H I relation based on the observational data in Section 4. We introduce our simulations to examine the galaxy-H I relation of our observational results in Section 5. In Section 6, we compare observation and simulation results and interpret our observational findings. Finally, we summarize our results in Section 7.

Throughout this paper, we adopt AB magnitudes (Oke & Gunn 1983). We use a cosmological parameter set of $(\Omega_m, \Omega_{\Lambda}, \Omega_b, \sigma_8, h, \Delta) = (0.26, 0.74, 0.045, 0.85, 0.95, 0.72)$, which is consistent with the nine-year WMAP result (Hinshaw et al. 2013). We denote pkpc and pMpc (ckpc and cMpc) to indicate distances in proper (comoving) units.

2. Data

2.1. Photometric Galaxy Samples

We investigate galaxy overdensities in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA field. Our photometric galaxy sample is taken from the COSMOS/UltraVISTA catalog, which is a $K_r$-band selected galaxy catalog (Muzzin et al. 2013a) made in the 1.62 deg$^2$ area of UltraVISTA DR1 imaging region (McCracken et al. 2012) in the COSMOS field (Scoville et al. 2007).

The COSMOS/ UltraVISTA catalog consists of point-spread function matched photometry of 30 photometric bands. These photometric bands cover the wavelength range of 0.15–24 $\mu$m that includes the GALEX FUV and NUV (Martin et al. 2005), Subaru/ SurimeCam (Taniguchi et al. 2007), CFHT/MegaCam (Capak et al. 2007), UltraVISTA (McCracken et al. 2012), and Spitzer IRAC+MIPS data (Sanders et al. 2007). Photometric redshifts for all galaxies are computed with the EAZY code (Brammer et al. 2008). The catalog contains ~150,000 galaxies at $z \approx 0$–5. Stellar masses are determined by SED fitting by the FAST code (Kriek et al. 2009) with stellar population synthesis models.

We use the criteria of Chiang et al. (2014) to select $z \sim 2$–3 photo-z galaxies from the catalog. We apply a 90% completeness limit of $K_r < 23.4$ mag that corresponds to a stellar mass limit of $\log_{10}(M_*/M_\odot) > 9.7$ at $z \sim 2.5$. Note that this stellar mass limit of $z = 2.5$ differs only by 3% at the edges of our redshift window, $z = 2$ and 3. This stellar mass limit is as large as $\sim 0.1 M_\odot$ at $z \sim 2.5$, where $M_\odot$ is the characteristic stellar mass of a Schechter function parameter (Schechter 1976) for the stellar mass functions (SMFs) taken from Muzzin et al. (2013b). We remove objects (~4%) whose photometric redshifts show broad and/or multi-modal redshift probability distributions indicating poorly determined redshifts. Here, the photo-z galaxies that we use have the redshift distribution function for which the 80% probability distribution extends no larger than $\Delta z = 0.2$ from the best estimate redshift. Finally, our photometric samples consist of 13,415 photo-z galaxies at $z \sim 2$–3 with $K_r < 23.4$.

2.2. Background Quasar Samples

We search for the Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines found in background quasar spectra in the COSMOS/ UltraVISTA field. Our background quasar spectra are primarily taken from the BOSS Data Release 9 (DR9) Ly$\alpha$ Forest Catalog (Lee et al. 2013, hereafter L13). L13 has reproduced quasar continua by the technique of mean-flux regulated principal component analysis (MF-PCA) continuum fitting (Lee et al. 2012).

Because L13 does not include all quasars identified by the SDSS-III surveys (Eisenstein et al. 2011), our background quasar spectra are also taken from the BOSS Data Release 12 (BOSS DR12) and the SDSS-III Data Release 12 (SDSS DR12) ( Alam et al. 2015). The BOSS DR9 and DR12 spectra are covered in the wavelength range of 3600–10400 Å. The SDSS DR12 spectra are obtained in the wavelength range of 3800–9200 Å, which is slightly narrower than the BOSS wavelength range. Both the BOSS and the SDSS spectra have the spectral resolution of $R \equiv \lambda/\Delta \lambda \approx 2000$. Because L13 compile spectra of quasars with a redshift range of $z_{\text{qso}} > 2.15$, we search for background quasars at $z_{\text{qso}} > 2.15$ from the BOSS and the SDSS data. We find a total of 26 background quasars in the COSMOS/ UltraVISTA field. We remove four background quasars that are located at the edge of the COSMOS/ UltraVISTA field, because the cylinder volumes of these background quasars are cut by the COSMOS/ UltraVISTA-field border by >50%.

To identify the Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines, we adopt the Ly$\alpha$ forest wavelength range of 1041–1185 Å in the quasar rest frame. With the speed of light $c$, this wavelength range is defined as

$$\lambda_{\text{Ly}\alpha}\left(1 + \frac{5000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}{c}\right) < \lambda < \lambda_{\text{Ly}\alpha}\left(1 - \frac{8000 \text{ km s}^{-1}}{c}\right),$$

where $\lambda_{\text{Ly}\beta}$ and $\lambda_{\text{Ly}\alpha}$ are the rest-frame wavelengths of the hydrogen Ly$\beta$ (1025.72 Å) and Ly$\alpha$ (1215.67 Å) lines, respectively. Here, we include the velocity offsets of 5000 and 8000 km s$^{-1}$, avoiding the Ly$\beta$ forest contamination and the quasar proximity effect, respectively.

In the observed spectra, the Ly$\alpha$ forest wavelength range shifts by a factor of $(1 + z_{\text{qso}})$. We search for background quasars whose Ly$\alpha$ forest wavelength ranges cover Ly$\alpha$ absorption lines. Because we investigate Ly$\alpha$ absorption lines at $2 \leq z_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \leq 3$ of the COSMOS/ UltraVISTA field, Ly$\alpha$ absorption wavelength range is 3647 Å $\leq \lambda_{\text{Ly}\alpha}(1 + z_{\text{Ly}\alpha}) \leq 4862$ Å in the observed frame that requires $2.08 \leq z_{\text{qso}} \leq 3.67$. Limiting $z_{\text{qso}} > 2.15$ given by the L13 spectra, we select 21 background quasars at $2.15 < z_{\text{qso}} < 3.67$ further removing 1 spectrum at $z_{\text{qso}} > 3.67$.

Then, we investigate qualities of background quasar spectra. We define $S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha}$ as the median signal-to-noise ratio (S/N) per pixel over the Ly$\alpha$ forest wavelength range (1041–1185 Å). Because we find that the absorption signals are not reasonably obtained in seven background quasar spectra with $S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} < 2$.
by visual inspection, we remove these seven quasar spectra in our analysis.

We discard four broad absorption line (BAL) quasar spectra referring to the SDSS database. In addition, we check background quasar spectra by visual inspection, and remove one spectra with large flux fluctuations originated from unknown systematics.

Finally, we use nine background quasar spectra in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA field. Figure 1 shows the distribution of the background quasars in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA field. The mean \( S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \) in our quasar samples is \( S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \sim 5 \).

3. Galaxy Overdensity and H I Absorption

3.1. Galaxy Overdensity

We estimate galaxy overdensities around the quasar sightlines where the Ly\( \alpha \) forest absorption lines are observed. The galaxy overdensities are calculated with the COSMOS/UltraVISTA catalog (Section 2.1). The galaxy overdensity \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) is defined as

\[
\delta_{\text{gal}} = \frac{n_{\text{gal}}(z)}{\bar{n}_{\text{gal}}(z)} - 1,
\]

where \( n_{\text{gal}} \) (\( \bar{n}_{\text{gal}} \)) is the galaxy (average) number density in a cylinder at the redshift \( z \) of the cylinder center. The redshift range of \( n_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \bar{n}_{\text{gal}} \) are defined by the redshift range of the cylinder length. The base area of the cylinder is defined by a radius of \( r = 5' \) corresponding to an impact parameter of \( \sim 2.5 \) pMpc at \( z \sim 2.5 \). The length of the cylinder along a line of sight is given by an average photometric redshift uncertainty that corresponds to 25 pMpc. The estimated average photometric redshift uncertainty is \( \sigma_z = 0.025(1+z) \) for galaxies with \( K_s < 23.4 \) mag at \( 2 \leq z \leq 3 \) (Scoville et al. 2013). The error of \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) is estimated with the combination of the photo-z uncertainties and the Poisson errors.

3.2. Ly\( \alpha \) Forest Absorption Lines

To investigate the Ly\( \alpha \) forest absorption lines, we do not use spectra in the wavelength range where damped Ly\( \alpha \) systems (DLAs) contaminate the spectra. Here, we search for DLAs in our spectra, performing DLA catalog matching and visual inspection. As explained in Section 2.2, our spectra are taken from the three data sets of L13, BOSS DR12, and SDSS DR12. For the data set of L13, DLAs are already removed based on the DLA catalog of Noterdaeme et al. (2012) who identify DLAs in the BOSS spectra by Voigt-profile fitting. For the data set of BOSS DR12, we find no DLAs in the Ly\( \alpha \) forest wavelength range in the Noterdaeme et al.’s DLA catalog. For the data set of SDSS DR12, we perform visual inspection, and identify no DLAs.

Quasar host galaxies cause intrinsic strong metal absorption lines of SIV \( \lambda 1062.7 \), CIII \( \lambda 1175.7 \), NII \( \lambda 1084.0 \), and NI \( \lambda 1134.4 \) in the Ly\( \alpha \) forest wavelength range. We mask out the sufficient wavelength width \( \pm 5 \) Å around these metal absorption lines.

The study of L13 has reproduced quasar continua by the MF-PCA continuum fitting technique (Lee et al. 2012). The MF-PCA continuum fitting technique is essentially composed of two steps: (1) an initial PCA fit to the redward of the Ly\( \alpha \) emission line to reproduce the Ly\( \alpha \) forest continuum and (2) tuning the Ly\( \alpha \) forest continuum amplitude extrapolated to the blueward of the Ly\( \alpha \) emission line with the cosmic Ly\( \alpha \) forest mean transmission of Faucher-Giguère et al. (2008). We obtain quasar continua of the BOSS DR12 and the SDSS DR12 spectra by the MF-PCA technique with the code used in L13. We include estimated median r.m.s. continuum fitting errors that are \( 7 \), 5.5, 4.5, 4\% for spectra with \( S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} = (2–4, 4–6, 6–10, 10–15) \) at \( z \sim 2.5–3 \) (Lee et al. 2012). We calculate the Ly\( \alpha \) forest transmission \( F(z) \) at each pixel:

\[
F(z) = f(z)/C(z),
\]

where \( f(z) \) and \( C(z) \) are the observed flux and the quasar continuum in the Ly\( \alpha \) forest wavelength range, respectively.

We investigate the Ly\( \alpha \) forest absorption lines in the cylinders used by the galaxy overdensity calculation (Section 3.1). We carry out binning for our spectra with the redshift range of \( dz = 0.025(1+z) \) that corresponds to the length of the cylinder and obtain an average Ly\( \alpha \) forest transmission \( \langle F \rangle_{dz} \) and its error \( \sigma_{\langle F \rangle_{dz}} \). Here, \( \langle \sigma_{\langle F \rangle_{dz}} \rangle \) is estimated with pixel noises in the spectra and continuum fitting errors. The absorption of the Ly\( \alpha \) forest is defined as \( DA \equiv 1 - \langle F \rangle_{dz} \). We refer to the signal-to-noise ratio of the DA detection \( S/N_{DA} \) as \( DA/s_{\langle F \rangle_{dz}} \). We calculate the \( S/N_{DA} \) in the Ly\( \alpha \) forest wavelength range, and determine \( z_{\text{sh}} \) where \( z_{\text{sh}} \) is the redshift of the highest \( S/N_{DA} \). We put the first cylinder centered at \( z_{\text{sh}} \) in each spectrum. We place additional cylinders that lie next to each other around the first cylinder.

To obtain statistically reliable results, we make use of the cylinders whose \( S/N_{DA} \) is the highest in each sideline. However, there is a possibility that this procedure for the cylinder placement would bias the results. Here, we change the central redshift of the first cylinder from \( z_{\text{sh}} \) to the following two redshifts, (I) and (II). The two redshifts provide cylinders that cover (I) the lowest and (II) the highest wavelength ranges of the Ly\( \alpha \) forest. Taking these different central redshifts of the cylinders, we find that our statistical results of Section 4 change only by 4%–5%.

Each quasar sightline has two to four cylinders usable for our analysis. In total, there are 26 cylinders. The number of cylinders is determined by the wavelength range where the following two ranges of (i) and (ii) overlap. The two ranges are (i) the Ly\( \alpha \) forest wavelength range, \( 1041(1+z_{\text{sh}}) \) Å ≤ \( \lambda \) ≤ 1185 Å.
Figure 2. Lyα forest fluctuation δ(F) as a function of the galaxy overdensity δ_gal. The circles with the error bars represent the galaxy-H I properties of the cylinders. The best-fit linear model of Equation (6) is represented by a solid line, with the shaded region indicating the 1σ uncertainty range that is calculated by the perturbation method.

We estimate the errors of ρ_{obs} by the perturbation method (Curran 2015). We generate 1000 data sets of 16 cylinders for which data values include random perturbations following the Gaussian distribution whose sigma is defined by the observational errors of the 16 cylinders. We obtain 1000 Spearman’s ρ values for the 1000 data sets. We define the error of ρ_{obs} as the range of 68% distribution for the 1000 Spearman’s ρ values. The estimated error of ρ_{obs} is 0.2 at the 1σ level. The 1σ-error range of ρ_{obs} is thus ρ_{obs} = -0.6 -- (0.2). This range of ρ_{obs} corresponds to the confidence level range of ~80%–100%. In other words, the ρ_{obs} error changes the results of the ~90% confidence level only by ±~10%.

We then apply chi-square fitting to the relation of δ_gal - δ(F), and obtain the best-fit linear model,

δ(F) = -0.17±0.06 - 0.14±0.06 x δ_gal

(6)

which is shown with the solid line in Figure 2. Figure 2 and Equation (6) suggest weak evidence of an anti-correlation between δ_gal and δ(F). The suggestive anti-correlation between δ_gal and δ(F) indicates that high-z galaxies exist around an excess of H I gas in the Lyα forest.

There is a possibility that the spatial correlation in the same sightlines would bias the results. To evaluate this possible bias, we choose one cylinder for each sightline that does not have any spatial correlations with the other cylinders, and conduct the same analysis. We find an anti-correlation at the ~80% confidence level that falls in the 1σ error range of the results with all of the cylinders. We thus conclude that the results do not change by the bias of the correlation that is not as large as the one of statistical uncertainties.

Strong Lyα absorption lines can be made by the CGM of galaxies that lie near the quasar sightlines. Rudie et al. (2012) have studied velocities and spatial locations of H I gas surrounding star-forming galaxies at z ~ 2 – 3, and found that the H I column density rapidly increases with decreasing an impact parameter within 200 pkpc. We investigate the Lyα absorption lines associated with the CGM. In each cylinder used in Section 3.2, we calculate revised δ_gal values for which galaxy numbers are estimated in hollow cylinders whose inner radius is 0’4, corresponding to an impact parameter of 200 pkpc. We find that there are only 0–1 galaxies in a 0’4 radius cylinder. The white circles in Figure 3 represent the hollow cylinder results that are very similar to the black circles in Figure 2. Figure 3 indicates no significant differences in the δ_gal-δ(F) distributions and the ρ_{obs} value, and suggests that the CGM of galaxies is not the major source of the small δ(F) values.

5. Simulations

We perform cosmological hydrodynamical simulations with the RAMSES code (Teyssier 2002) to investigate the spatial correlations of galaxies and IGM H I of our observational results (Section 4). The initial conditions are generated with the COSMIC package (Bertschinger 1995) and are evolved using Zel’dovich approximation. We include both dark matter and baryon using N-body plus Eulerian hydrodynamics on a uniform grid. The simulations are performed in a box size of 80h^{-1} cMpc length with 512^3 cells and a spatial resolution of 156h^{-1} ckpc. We use 512^2 dark matter particles with a mass resolution of 3.16 × 10^8 M_☉. The mean gas mass per cell is 5.4 × 10^7 M_☉.
We include the ultraviolet background model of Haardt & Madau (1996) at the reionization redshift \( z_{\text{reion}} = 8.5 \). We investigate the gas temperature value at the mean gas density in the simulations and find \( T = 1.4 \times 10^4 \) K, which is consistent with observational measurements at \( z \approx 2-3 \) (Becker et al. 2011). We assume the photoionization equilibrium. We apply the optically thin limit, and do not produce any DLAs. Note that our simulations do not include feedback effects on the Ly\( \alpha \) forest. Because the feedback mostly affects high-density absorbers with \( N_{\text{HI}} > 10^{16} \) cm\(^{-2} \) (Theuns et al. 2001), the lack of the feedback effects does not significantly change the large-scale correlation of galaxy overdensities and Ly\( \alpha \) forest absorption lines.

Dark matter halos in the simulations are identified by the Hopkins Overabundance Profile algorithm (Eisenstein & Hut 1998). We use dark matter halos containing more than 1000 dark matter particles. We have compared the halo mass functions at \( z \sim 2.5 \) in our simulations with the halo mass function of the high-resolution \( N \)-body simulations (Reed et al. 2007), and found a good agreement within \( \sim 30\% \) in abundance. Our simulations resolve dark matter halos with a mass of \( \log_{10}(M_h/M_\odot) > 11 \).

5.1. Mock Galaxy Catalog

We create mock galaxy catalogs from the simulations using the abundance matching technique (e.g., Peacock & Smith 2000; Vale & Ostriker 2004; Moster et al. 2010; Behroozi et al. 2013), which explains observational results of stellar mass functions. We make simulated galaxies, populating each halo with one galaxy. We assume the stellar-to-halo mass ratio (SHMR) with a functional form of

\[
M_*/M_h = f_0 \left( \frac{M_*/M_\odot}{} \right)^{1 - \alpha - \beta},
\]

where \( f_0, M_1, \alpha, \) and \( \beta \) are free parameters. We produce SMFs at \( z \sim 2.5 \) with many sets of these parameters. We compare these SMFs with observed SMFs (Muzzin et al. 2013b; Tomczak et al. 2014), and find the best-fit parameter set reproducing the observed SMFs. The best-fit parameter set is \( (M_1, \alpha, \beta, f_0) = (1.2 \times 10^{12} M_\odot, 1.0, -0.3, 0.04) \). The SHMR with these best-fit parameters is consistent with the one estimated by Behroozi et al. (2013) within the 1\( \sigma \) error levels. We use the simulated galaxies whose stellar mass is \( \log_{10}(M_*/M_\odot) > 9.7 \) that is the same stellar mass limit in the COSMOS/UltraVISTA catalog (Section 2.1). The stellar mass limit corresponds to the minimum halo mass of \( M_h > 4.4 \times 10^{11} M_\odot \). The simulated galaxies consist of 2221 galaxies at \( z = 2.4-2.5 \), which agree with the number of galaxies at \( z = 2.4-2.5 \) in our COSMOS/UltraVISTA photometric samples.

5.2. Ly\( \alpha \) Forest Catalog

In the simulation boxes, we make mock spectra along the random sightlines parallel to a principal axis defined as the redshift direction. The Ly\( \alpha \) transmitted flux is computed with the fluctuating Gunn-Peterson approximation (FGPA; e.g., Weinberg et al. 1998, 2003; Meiksin 2009; Becker et al. 2015), because the FGPA method is simple and fast in computing. We ignore the gas velocities and the effect of redshift-space distortion on the Ly\( \alpha \) forest, testing whether this method gives reliable results. The FGPA is a good approximation for absorbers with densities around and below the cosmic mean (Rakic et al. 2012).

We choose two typical sightlines, and conduct full optical depth calculations with gas velocities and redshift-space distortions (e.g., Lukić et al. 2015; Meiksin et al. 2015). We then compare the results of these two sightlines with those given by our original method. We find that the difference is only \( < 6\% \), which is not as large as the one of statistical uncertainties.

The FGPA gives the Ly\( \alpha \) optical depth as

\[
\tau = \frac{c \sigma_{\alpha} n_{\text{HI}}(z)}{\nu_{\alpha} H(z)} x_{\text{HI}} \Delta_b \propto \Delta_b^{-0.72(\gamma - 1)} ,
\]

where \( \sigma_{\alpha} \) is the Ly\( \alpha \) cross-section, \( n_{\text{HI}}(z) \) is the cosmic mean density of hydrogen atoms at redshift \( z \), \( \nu_{\alpha} \) is the Ly\( \alpha \) resonance frequency, \( H(z) \) denotes the Hubble constant at redshift \( z \), \( x_{\text{HI}} \) is the fraction of neutral hydrogen, \( \Delta_b \) is the baryonic density in units of the mean density, and \( \gamma \) is the power-law slope of the temperature–density relation in the IGM (Hui & Gnedin 1997). The \( \gamma \) value is set as \( \gamma = 1.5 \), which is consistent with observations of the Ly\( \alpha \) forest transmissions (Becker et al. 2011; Boera et al. 2014). We investigate the fidelity of our simulated Ly\( \alpha \) forest model. We compare the one-dimensional power spectrum of the transmitted flux in our simulations with the SDSS and the BOSS measurements (McDonald et al. 2006; Palanque-Delabrouille et al. 2013), and we find a good agreement. We scale the mean Ly\( \alpha \) transmitted flux to the cosmic Ly\( \alpha \) forest mean transmission of Faucher-Giguère et al. (2008; Equation (5) of this paper). This scaling method is widely used in the literature (e.g., White et al. 2010; Lukić et al. 2015). We rebin the simulated spectra, and produce the SDSS and the BOSS pixel width of 69 km s\(^{-1} \). We add Gaussian noises to the simulated spectra, accomplishing the \( S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \approx 5 \), which corresponds to the typical \( S/N_{\text{Ly}\alpha} \) in our quasar samples (Section 2.2).

5.3. Simulated Galaxy-IGM \textit{H} I Correlation

In Figure 4, the red dots represent a cylinder of \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{[F]} \) in our simulations. We make 1000 sets of the 16 cylinders selected from the simulations, mocking our observed 16 cylinders. The red circles in Figure 4 denote one example set of the 16 mock cylinders. We fit a linear model to each of these
1000 sets of the 16 mock cylinders, and obtain Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) values for the 1000 sets. We find that a 1σ distribution of \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) corresponds to the range of \(-0.35\) to \(-0.60\), which indicates the existence of the anti-correlation between \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) in the simulations. This \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) distribution corresponds to the \( \sim 90\% \pm 10\% \) confidence level that is the same as our conclusions for the observational data (Section 4).

To test the convergence of our simulations, we perform simulations that have a box size of 80 \( h^{-1} \) cMpc length with 256\(^3\) cells. We detail these results in Appendix A.

We test whether the noise distribution makes significant changes from our conclusions. We use the same \( S/N_{\text{Ly}α} \) probability distribution as that of our observational spectra of the 16 cylinders. We add noise to our 16 simulation spectra, following the \( S/N_{\text{Ly}α} \) probability distribution. We calculate Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) values for 16 simulation spectra with the noise. Conducting this test for \( \sim 10 \) times, we find that the \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) values are not different from our original result beyond the statistical errors.

We estimate how the correlation changes when the full redshift range of the observations is considered. From \( z = 2.5 \) (3) to \( z = 2 \) (2.5), the structure growth increases only by \( \sim 14\% \). The galaxy clustering and \( \text{Ly}α \) forest clustering are expected to grow accordingly by \( \sim 10\% \). In Figure 4, this redshift evolution shifts \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) (\( \delta_{\text{F}} \)) values of the simulation data points rightward (downward) only by \( \sim 10\% \), which is not as large as that of the statistical uncertainties.

6. Discussion

6.1. Comparison between the Observation and the Simulation Results

Sections 4 and 5.3 present the observation and the simulation results. Both observation and simulation results indicate weak evidence of the anti-correlation between \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) (Figure 4). Moreover, the Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient \( \rho_{\text{obs}} = -0.39 \) from the observations (Section 4) falls in the \( \rho_{\text{sim}} \) range of \(-0.35\) to \(-0.60\), indicating that simulations well reproduce observational results.

6.2. Four Cylinders with an Extreme Value

In Figure 4, we find four cylinders with the labels of \( A_{\text{obs}} \), \( B_{\text{obs}} \), \( C_{\text{obs}} \), and \( D_{\text{obs}} \) that have the largest (smallest) values of \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) or \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) among the observational data points. Note that, in Figure 4, \( A_{\text{obs}} \) falls on the best-fit linear model within the errors, and that the other three cylinders, \( B_{\text{obs}} \), \( C_{\text{obs}} \), and \( D_{\text{obs}} \), show significant departures from the best-fit linear model by 0.1–0.2 in \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) at the 2–3σ significance levels. These three cylinders weaken the anti-correlation signal found in Section 4. If we exclude these three cylinders, we obtain \( \rho_{\text{obs}} = -0.57 \), which corresponds to the \( \sim 96\% \) confidence level.

We present background quasar spectra of the four cylinders in Figure 5. The full width of the abscissa axis in the four panels of Figure 5 corresponds to the full redshift range of the cylinder. The black points in Figure 5 present the positions of galaxies with the best estimate of photometric redshifts and the impact parameter \( b \) in reference to quasar sightlines. We note that the photometric redshift uncertainty is comparable to the full redshift range of the cylinder.

We investigate the physical origin of the extreme \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and/or \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values in the four cylinders from our observations. We use the simulations performed in Section 5, and search for cylinders in the simulations whose \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) or \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values are similar to the four cylinders from our observations. With the simulation data, we create the sky map (Figure 6), and identify four mock cylinders that show \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) or \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values most similar to \( A_{\text{obs}} \), \( B_{\text{obs}} \), \( C_{\text{obs}} \), and \( D_{\text{obs}} \). We refer to these mock cylinders as the \( A_{\text{sim}} \), \( B_{\text{sim}} \), \( C_{\text{sim}} \), and \( D_{\text{sim}} \). The maps of \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) around the sightlines of \( A_{\text{sim}} \)–\( D_{\text{sim}} \) are shown in Figures 7 and 8, respectively. In Figure 4, we overplot the \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) or \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values of \( A_{\text{sim}} \)–\( D_{\text{sim}} \). Below, we describe properties and comparisons of \( A_{\text{obs}} \)–\( D_{\text{obs}} \) and \( A_{\text{sim}} \)–\( D_{\text{sim}} \).

Cylinder A: \( A_{\text{obs}} \) has the largest \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and one of the smallest \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values. The top panel of Figure 5 indicates that \( A_{\text{obs}} \) has the largest number of galaxies and one of the strongest \( \text{Ly}α \) forest absorption lines among the four cylinders of \( A_{\text{obs}} \)–\( D_{\text{obs}} \). Interestingly, \( A_{\text{obs}} \) coincides with one of the proto-cluster candidates reported by Chiang et al. (2014). The large \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and the small \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values of \( A_{\text{obs}} \) suggest that a large galaxy overdensity is associated with the large amount of H1 gas (Cucciati et al. 2014; Chiang et al. 2015; Cai et al. 2016; Lee et al. 2016). Our simulation results in Figure 7 show that the sightline of \( A_{\text{sim}} \) penetrates gas filaments of LSSs and a galaxy overdensity like a proto-cluster at \( z \approx 2.46 \) (label “a”) is present. Moreover, the top panel of Figure 8 indicates that \( A_{\text{sim}} \) would include a Coherently Strong \( \text{Ly}α \) Absorption system (CoSLA) that traces massive overdensities on the scale of \( \sim 15 \) \( h^{-1} \) cMpc (Cai et al. 2016).

Because there exist high-quality spectra of \( A_{\text{obs}} \) taken with VLT/X-shooter (Vernet et al. 2011), we show the characteristic of the \( A_{\text{obs}} \) sightline based on the X-shooter spectrum in Appendix B.

Cylinder B: \( B_{\text{obs}} \) has the moderate \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and the smallest \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values. The second top panel of Figure 5 shows that \( B_{\text{obs}} \) has the strong \( \text{Ly}α \) forest absorption lines over the entire redshift range of the cylinder. In our simulations, Figure 7 presents that the sightline of \( B_{\text{sim}} \) goes through gas filaments at \( z \approx 2.43 \) (label “b”). Our simulations indicate that the sightline of \( B_{\text{obs}} \)

\[ \text{In our simulations, there exist sets of cylinders that show significant (>95%) confidence levels after we remove extreme cylinders, which agrees with our observational results.} \]
Figure 5. Observed background quasar spectra of the four cylinders that have extreme values of $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and/or $\delta_{\text{F}}$ (Section 6.2). The solid lines depict transmission per pixel as a function of redshift for the Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines (left-hand axis). The dashed lines represent the noise per pixel. The black points denote redshifts and impact parameters (right-hand axis) of our photo-$z$ galaxies in the cylinders. Note that the photometric redshift uncertainty is comparable to the full redshift range of the cylinder.

would penetrate gas filaments with the moderate number of galaxies.

**Cylinder C:** $C_{\text{obs}}$ has the smallest $\delta_{\text{gal}}$. Note that $C_{\text{obs}}$ has $\delta_{\text{gal}} = -1$ corresponding to no galaxy in the cylinder. The second bottom panel of Figure 5 indicates that $C_{\text{obs}}$ does not have galaxies but it has moderately strong Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines. In our simulations, we identify $C_{\text{sim}}$, which has $\delta_{\text{gal}} - \delta_{\text{F}}$ values most similar to those of $C_{\text{obs}}$. Our simulation results in Figure 7 show that the sightline of $C_{\text{sim}}$ penetrates a large void of LSSs at $z \sim 2.43$ (label “c1”) and goes across gas filaments at $z \sim 2.45$ (label “c2”). Our simulations suggest that $C_{\text{obs}}$ would penetrate a large void, and go across gas filaments. Note that $C_{\text{sim}}$ has $\delta_{\text{gal}} \sim -0.5$, which is larger than the $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ value of $C_{\text{obs}}$. Our simulations find no cylinders with $\delta_{\text{gal}} = -1$ and $\delta_{\text{F}} \sim -0.2$ that $C_{\text{obs}}$ has. This is the difference between $C_{\text{obs}}$ and $C_{\text{sim}}$. This difference is probably made, because (1) photometric redshifts of galaxies in $C_{\text{obs}}$ have catastrophically large errors, (2) there exist faint galaxies whose luminosities are just below the observational limit of $K_s = 23.4$ mag, or (3) a void of galaxies similar to $C_{\text{obs}}$ is missing in the limited box size of the simulations.

**Cylinder D:** The cylinder with the largest $\delta_{\text{F}}$ is $D_{\text{obs}}$. The bottom panel of Figure 5 presents that $D_{\text{obs}}$ has the moderately weak Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines. In our simulations, Figure 7 shows that the sightline of $D_{\text{sim}}$ crosses the low-density filaments. Our simulation results suggest that $D_{\text{obs}}$ would go through the orthogonal low-density filaments.

With the results of Figures 5 and 8, we count the numbers of galaxies with photo-$z$ errors in each cylinder. We find (29, 6, 7) galaxies in $(A_{\text{obs}}, B_{\text{obs}}, D_{\text{obs}})$, while there are (32, 15, 10) galaxies in $(A_{\text{sim}}, B_{\text{sim}}, D_{\text{sim}})$. These numbers agree within the $\sim 1$–$2\sigma$ levels. However, the number of galaxies in $C_{\text{obs}}$ is 0, which is significantly smaller than that of $C_{\text{sim}}$ (see above for the difference of $C_{\text{obs}}$ and $C_{\text{sim}}$).

Note that there exist other counterparts of $A_{\text{obs}}$–$D_{\text{obs}}$ in our simulations. We detail these counterparts in Appendix C.

We investigate properties of other sightlines that do not have extreme values of $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and $\delta_{\text{F}}$. We find that these sightlines penetrate neither dense structures, filaments in parallel, nor large voids.

6.3. Summary of the Simulation Comparisons

In Section 6.2, we discuss the physical origins of four cylinders $(A_{\text{obs}}, B_{\text{obs}}, C_{\text{obs}}, D_{\text{obs}})$ that have extremely large (small) values of $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and $\delta_{\text{F}}$. We use the simulations performed in Section 5, and identify four cylinders $(A_{\text{sim}}, B_{\text{sim}}, C_{\text{sim}}, D_{\text{sim}})$, whose $\delta_{\text{gal}} - \delta_{\text{F}}$ values are close to $(A_{\text{obs}}, B_{\text{obs}}, C_{\text{obs}}, D_{\text{obs}})$. The comparisons between $A_{\text{obs}}$–$D_{\text{obs}}$ and $A_{\text{sim}}$–$D_{\text{sim}}$ suggest that sightlines in the observation would penetrate (1) a galaxy overdensity like a proto-cluster in $A_{\text{obs}}$, (2) gas filaments in $B_{\text{obs}}$, (3) a large void in $C_{\text{obs}}$, and (4) orthogonal low-density filaments in $D_{\text{obs}}$. In this way, our simulations provide the possible physical pictures of these four cylinders based on the structure formation models.

The similarity between our observation and simulation results (Figure 4) supports the standard picture of the galaxy formation scenario in the filamentary LSSs (Mo et al. 2010) on which our simulations are based.
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simulations suggest that the significant departures from the anti-correlation are produced by the filamentary LSSs and the observation sightlines. These chance alignment effects reduce the anti-correlation signal.

7. Summary

We investigate spatial correlations of galaxies and IGM H I with the 13,415 photo-z galaxies and the Lyα forest absorption lines of the background quasars with no signature of damped Lyα system contamination in the 1.62 deg² COSMOS/UltraVISTA field. The results of our study are summarized below.

1. We estimate the Lyα forest fluctuation δ(F) and the galaxy overdensity δ_gal within the impact parameter of 2.5 pMpc from the quasar sightlines at z ~ 2–3. We identify an indication of anti-correlation between δ_gal and δ(F) values (Figure 2). The Spearman’s ρ value of −0.39 indicates that there is weak evidence of an anti-correlation between δ_gal and δ(F) at a ~90% confidence level. This anti-correlation suggests that high-z galaxies are found in the excess regions of H I gas in the Lyα forest.

2. We perform cosmological hydrodynamical simulations with the RAMSES code, and identify an anti-correlation between δ_gal and δ(F) values in our simulation model that is similar to the one found in our observational data. We estimate the Spearman’s ρ for the δ_gal and δ(F) values in our simulation results that suggest the anti-correlation agrees with the observational results.

3. In our observational data, we identify four cosmic volumes that have very large or small values of δ_gal and δ(F) that are dubbed A_{obs}, B_{obs}, C_{obs}, and D_{obs} (Figure 4). Three out of these four cylinders, B_{obs}, C_{obs}, and D_{obs} present significant departures from the anti-correlation of δ_gal and δ(F), and weaken the signal of the anti-correlation.

4. In our simulations, we identify model counterparts of A_{obs}, B_{obs}, C_{obs}, and D_{obs} in the δ_gal and δ(F) plane (Figure 4), which are referred to as A_{sim}, B_{sim}, C_{sim}, and D_{sim}, respectively. The comparisons of A_{obs}–D_{obs} with A_{sim}–D_{sim} indicate that the observations pinpoint (1) a galaxy overdensity like a proto-cluster in A_{obs}, (2) gas filaments lying on the quasar sightline by chance in B_{obs} (3) a large void in C_{obs}, and (4) orthogonal low-density filaments in D_{obs}. Our simulations suggest that the three cylinders, B_{obs}, C_{obs}, and D_{obs} significantly departing from the anti-correlation, are produced by the filamentary LSSs and the observation sightlines. The chance alignment effects reduce the anti-correlation signal of δ_gal and δ(F).

The large-scale correlation of δ_gal–δ(F) found in Section 4 is relatively weak. This is because the correlation is based on the relatively large cylinder, whose redshift range is limited in photo-z accuracy (see Figure 1 of Cai et al. 2016). The small-scale galaxy-H I relations can be studied with galaxies with spectroscopic redshifts. Here, the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment (HETDEX) survey (Hill & HETDEX Consortium 2016) will carry out the wide-field observations, and provide 0.8 million galaxies in ~400 deg². The HETDEX survey will reveal the galaxy-H I relations in the large cosmological volumes including a number of proto-cluster candidates, gas filaments, and voids of LSSs. The galaxy-IGM relation study with HETDEX will be complementary to the

As noted in Section 6.2, the three cylinders, B_{obs}, C_{obs}, and D_{obs} depart from the anti-correlation of δ_gal and δ(F) in Figure 4. Because the simulation counterparts of these three cylinders penetrate gas filaments, a large void, and orthogonal low-density filaments by chance, the comparisons with our

Figure 7. Maps of δ(F) around the sightlines of A_{sim}, B_{sim}, C_{sim}, and D_{sim} (Section 6.2). The black points are projected positions of the mock galaxies in the cylinders. The background color scale represents a δ(F) value per pixel. The black vertical lines represent the lower and upper edges of each cylinder. The red arrows indicate a galaxy overdensity in A_{sim}(label “a”), two edges of gas filaments in B_{sim} and C_{sim} (labels “b” and “c2”), and a galaxy void with gas filaments in C_{sim}(label “c1”).

Figure 8. Same as Figure 5, but for the background quasar spectra in the simulations. Each panel corresponds to a cylinder that has extreme values of δ_gal and/or δ(F) in the simulations (Section 6.2). The black points denote redshifts and impact parameters (right-hand axis) of our photo-z galaxies in the cylinders. The gray points present photo-z galaxies without photometric redshift uncertainties.
programs of the MAMMOTH (Cai et al. 2016) and the CLAMATO (Lee et al. 2014, 2016).

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Based on data products from observations made with ESO Telescopes at the La Silla Paranal Observatory under ESO programme ID 179.A-2005 and on data products produced by TERAPIX and the Cambridge Astronomy Survey Unit on behalf of the UltraVISTA consortium.

The COSMOS/ UltraVISTA $K_s$-band selected galaxy catalog used in this work is compiled by Muzzin et al. (2013a). The catalog contains PSF-matched photometry in 30 photometric bands covering the wavelength range of 0.15 $\mu$m $\rightarrow$ 24 $\mu$m and includes the available GALEX (Martin et al. 2005), CFHT/Subaru (Capak et al. 2007), UltraVISTA (McCracken et al. 2012), S-COSMOS (Sanders et al. 2007), and zCOSMOS (Lilly et al. 2009) data sets.

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Appendix A
Convergence Test

We perform simulations that have a box size of 80 $h^{-1}$ cMpc length with 256$^3$ cells. Figure 9 presents $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and $\delta_{\text{m}}$ values in the cylinders. The green (red) dots represent a cylinder of $\delta_{\text{gal}}$ and $\delta_{\text{m}}$ in our simulations with 256$^3$(512$^3$) cells. In the same manner as our simulations with 512$^3$ cells (Section 5.3), we calculate a Spearman’s rank correlation coefficient of the 256$^3$ cell simulations $\rho_{256}$ using 16 cylinders that are randomly chosen from the 256$^3$-cell simulation results. We obtain $\rho_{256} \sim -0.4$, which corresponds to the $\sim 90\%$ confidence level. We find that results are very similar to those of our simulations with 512$^3$ cells.

Appendix B
Detailed Properties of the $A_{\text{abs}}$ Sightline

In this appendix, we show the supplementary VLT/X-shooter observations for the background quasar of $A_{\text{abs}}$. The X-shooter observations were carried out in the service mode on 2010 December 31 (Program ID: 086.A-0974, PI: S. Lilly). We use the reduced X-shooter spectra that are publicly available on the European Southern Observatory (ESO) Science Archive Facility. We select the spectra of the UVB and VIS arms, which cover the wavelength ranges of 3000–5595 A and 5595–10240 A, respectively. The spectral resolutions of the UVB and VIS arms are medium high, $R \sim 4000$ and $R \sim 7400$, respectively. The observational details are summarized in Table 1.

Figure 10 shows the X-shooter spectrum of the background quasar of $A_{\text{abs}}$ in the same wavelength range as Figure 5. Although the spectral resolution of the X-shooter spectrum is significantly higher than that of the BOSS spectrum (Figure 5), we confirm that the sightline of $A_{\text{abs}}$ has Ly$\alpha$ forest absorption lines with no signature of DLAs. The only exception is the absorbers at $z \sim 2.203$, where saturated Ly$\alpha$ absorption lines are detected. The top left panel of Figure 11 presents a zoom-in X-shooter spectrum around the saturated Ly$\alpha$ absorption lines. Note that their Ly$\beta$ absorption lines are also covered by the X-shooter spectrum. However, as shown in the bottom left panel of Figure 11, the Ly$\beta$ absorption lines are also saturated. Moreover, the Ly$\beta$ absorption lines are contaminated by foreground Ly$\alpha$ absorbers at $z \sim 1.70$, which makes it difficult to precisely measure HI column densities of the HI absorption lines.

As shown in the right panel of Figure 11, we identify metal absorption lines of C II, Si IV, C IV and Mg II at $z \sim 2.203$ in the X-shooter spectrum. There are three metal absorptions dubbed Systems 1, 2 and 3 that are labeled in Figure 11. We fit Voigt profiles to these metal lines with VPFIT to measure column densities. The best-fit profiles for the metal lines are presented in the right panel of Figure 11. Table 2 summarizes the measured column densities.
To estimate HI column densities of Systems 1–3, we first make photoionization models with the input observational measurements of C II, Si IV, C IV, and Mg II with those predicted from photoionization models. We perform multi-phase photoionization calculations with version 13.04 of the CLOUDY software (Ferland et al. 2013). We conduct the CLOUDY modeling for high-ionization phase clouds (C IV, Si IV) and low-ionization phase clouds (Mg II, C II; e.g.,

| Source            | R.A.  | Decl.  | Integration Time | Dates of Observations | S/N^a [pix] |
|-------------------|-------|--------|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| COSMOS-QSO-199^b  | 09 58 58.72 | +02 01 38.6 | UVB: 2700^c        | 31 Dec 2010             | 27          |
| COSMOS-QSO-199^b  | 09 58 58.72 | +02 01 38.6 | VIS: 2700^b        | 31 Dec 2010             | 20          |

Notes.
^a Median S/N per pixel for the combined spectra.
^b The background quasar of $A_{obs}$ [VV2006] J095858.7+020138 at $z = 2.448$.
^c Three individual exposures of 900 s.

| Ion    | C II | Si IV | C IV | Mg II |
|--------|------|-------|------|-------|
| System 1 | $13.19 \pm 0.70$ | $13.14 \pm 0.57$ | $13.86 \pm 0.19$ | $12.31 \pm 0.68$ |
| log $N$ (cm$^{-2}$) | | | | |
| System 2 | $13.92 \pm 0.17$ | $13.58 \pm 0.24$ | $14.29 \pm 0.12$ | $13.31 \pm 0.21$ |
| log $N$ (cm$^{-2}$) | | | | |
| System 3 | $14.03 \pm 0.16$ | $13.54 \pm 0.35$ | $13.59 \pm 0.35$ | $13.29 \pm 0.13$ |
| log $N$ (cm$^{-2}$) | | | | |

To estimate HI column densities of Systems 1–3, we first make photoionization models with the input observational measurements of C II, Si IV, C IV, and Mg II with those predicted from photoionization models. We perform multi-phase photoionization calculations with version 13.04 of the CLOUDY software (Ferland et al. 2013). We conduct the CLOUDY modeling for high-ionization phase clouds (C IV, Si IV) and low-ionization phase clouds (Mg II, C II; e.g.,
Misawa et al. (2008). We model these clouds in each phase, assuming a gas slab exposed by a uniform ultraviolet background (Haardt & Madau 2012) with a range of ionization parameters \( U \equiv \Phi / n H \) (\(-4.2 < \log U < -0.6\)), where \( n H \) and \( \Phi \) are the hydrogen volume density and the ionizing photon flux incident on the gas cloud, respectively. The solar relative abundances of Asplund et al. (2009) are assumed. We then search for the best-fit model that minimizes \( \chi^2 \) between the measured metal column densities and the photoionization model predictions. We find that the best-fit models for Systems 1, 2, and 3 have H I column densities of \( \log N_{\text{HI}} \) (cm\(^{-2}\)) \(~16.0, 19.0, \) and 16.5, respectively. We then fit Voigt profiles to the spectrum in the wavelength ranges of the Ly\( \alpha \) absorption lines (top left panel of Figure 11) and Ly\( \beta \) absorption lines (bottom left panel of Figure 11) by using the column densities of the CLOUDY model results. Because the spectrum in the Ly\( \beta \) wavelength range is contaminated by the foreground Ly\( \alpha \) absorbers at \( z \sim 1.70 \), we conduct simultaneous fitting to the spectrum in these two wavelength ranges with the \( z \sim 2.203 \) Ly\( \alpha \) and Ly\( \beta \) absorbers, and \( z \sim 1.70 \) contaminations, together with the other Ly\( \alpha \) absorbers. We obtain a self-consistent model that is shown with the red and blue curves in the left panels of Figure 11.

Based on the CLOUDY model results, we find that System 2 is classified as a Lyman limit system (LLS), which is an optically thick clouds with an H I column density of \( 17.2 \leq \log N_{\text{HI}} \) (cm\(^{-2}\)) \( \leq 20.3 \). Note that the presence of this LLS does not change our conclusions. We confirm that the weak anti-correlation between \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) is found at the \(~80\%) confidence level, even if the LLS is masked out in the BOSS spectrum. Our CLOUDY model indicates that System 2 has a metallicity \( Z/Z_0 \approx 0.02 \) and an ionization parameter \( \log U \approx -3.0 \) that are comparable with those of typical LLSs at \( z \sim 2 \) (Fumagalli et al. 2016, 2013).

Because Systems 1 and 3 have H I column densities of \( \log N_{\text{HI}} \) (cm\(^{-2}\)) \( \sim 16.0 \) and 16.5, Systems 1 and 3 are classified as Ly\( \alpha \) forest absorbers based on the moderately low column densities. However, the CLOUDY models imply that their metallicities are \( Z/Z_0 \approx 0.3 \) (System 1) and 1.0 (System 3), which are two orders of magnitude higher than the median IGM metallicity (Simcoe 2011). These results would suggest that Systems 1 and 3 are gas clumps in the CGM and/or the intra-cluster medium of the proto-cluster candidate discussed in Section 6.2.

Appendix C

Counterparts for Each Extreme Cylinder

In addition to \( A_{\text{sim}}-D_{\text{sim}} \), there exist counterparts of \( A_{\text{obs}}-D_{\text{obs}} \) in our simulations. We find additional two counterparts for each extreme cylinder, \( B_{\text{obs}}, C_{\text{obs}}, \) or \( D_{\text{obs}} \), in different volumes of the simulations, which are referred to as (B1\(_{\text{sim}}, B_{\text{sim}}\), \( (C_{\text{sim}}, C_{\text{sim}}\)), or \( (D_{\text{sim}}, D_{\text{sim}}\)). Moreover, we identify one additional counterpart of \( A_{\text{obs}} \), \( A_{\text{sim}} \). We cannot find another counterpart of \( A_{\text{obs}} \) because the large \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values of \( A_{\text{obs}} \) are very rare in the simulation box. Figure 4 presents the \( \delta_{\text{gal}} \) and \( \delta_{\text{F}} \) values of these additional counterparts with the blue crosses. These \( \delta_{\text{gal}}-\delta_{\text{F}} \) values are comparable with those of \( A_{\text{sim}}-D_{\text{sim}} \) at the \( \sim 1\sigma \) error levels. Figure 12 shows that these sightlines penetrate large overdensities, gas filaments parallel with (orthogonal to) the sightline, or large voids.

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