Revisiting the Distance Duality Relation using a non-parametric regression method

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Abstract. The interdependence of luminosity distance, $D_L$ and angular diameter distance, $D_A$ given by the distance duality relation (DDR) is very significant in observational cosmology. It is very closely tied with the temperature-redshift relation of Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation. Any deviation from $\eta(z) \equiv \frac{D_L}{D_A(1+z)^2} = 1$ indicates a possible emergence of new physics. Our aim in this work is to check the consistency of these relations using a non-parametric regression method namely, LOESS with SIMEX. This technique avoids dependency on the cosmological model and works with a minimal set of assumptions. Further, to analyze the efficiency of the methodology, we simulate a dataset of 200 points of $\eta(z)$ data based on a phenomenological model $\eta(z) = (1 + z)^{\epsilon}$. The error on the simulated data points is obtained by using the temperature of CMB radiation at various redshifts. For testing the distance duality relation, we use the JLA SNe Ia data for luminosity distances, while the angular diameter distances are obtained from radio galaxies datasets. Since the DDR is linked with CMB temperature-redshift relation, therefore we also use the CMB temperature data to reconstruct $\eta(z)$. It is important to note that with CMB data, we are able to study the evolution of DDR upto a very high redshift $z = 2.418$. In this analysis, we find no evidence of deviation from $\eta = 1$ within a 1$\sigma$ region in the entire redshift range used in this analysis ($0 < z \leq 2.418$).

Keywords: dark energy theory, galaxy clusters, supernova type Ia - standard candles

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1 Introduction

The relation between the luminosity distance $D_L$ and the angular diameter distance $D_A$ was derived by Etherington in 1933 [1]. This relation is known as the distance duality relation (DDR).

$$D_L = D_A(1+z)^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (1.1)

It is valid for all curved space-times and holds as long as (i) Photon number is conserved, (ii) Gravity is described by a metric theory and (iii) Photons travel along null geodesics [2]. We can define a parameter $\eta(z)$ as

$$\eta(z) = \frac{D_L}{(1+z)^2D_A} = 1$$  \hspace{1cm} (1.2)

Then, any deviation from the DDR will give us $\eta(z) \neq 1$.

The DDR is of fundamental significance in observational cosmology. It plays an important role in the observations linking galaxy clusters [3, 4] and gravitational lensing [5]. It also allows us to derive the proportionality between the temperature of CMB photons ($T_{\text{CMB}}$) and their redshifts [6].

$$T_{\text{CMB}}(z) = T_0(1+z)$$  \hspace{1cm} (1.3)

where $T_0$ is the average CMB temperature today. This relationship is not restricted to any particular metric theory and it holds in the general theory of relativity as long as photon number is conserved and photons follow null geodesics. Hence the violation of the CMB temperature-redshift relation is also related to the violation of DDR. Deviation from both of these relations points to a violation of one or more of the above mentioned conditions and therefore highlights the importance of checking the consistency of different datasets as well as the cosmological models. Many observational datasets have been used to check the consistency. For instance, radio galaxies & ultra compact radio sources [7], X-ray gas mass fraction of galaxy clusters [8–10], Cosmic Microwave Background [11–13], Gamma Ray Bursts [14], H 21 cm signal from disk galaxies [15] and Baryon Acoustic Oscillation (BAO) [16, 17] are among the observations used to check this important relation.
Many authors have also used DDR to constraint the cosmic opacity of the universe [18–21].

Several theoretical efforts have been made to study violations of DDR and the possible emergence of new physics. For instance, supernova dimming due to the cosmic dust affects the luminosity distance measurement [22–25] and photon-axion conversion in intergalactic magnetic fields violates photon conservation [19, 26] and hence could cause a deviation from $\eta = 1$. Similarly, though DDR should hold under the assumption of a metric theory, Piazza & Schucker (2016) try to understand the behaviour of DDR in a non-metric theory of gravity [27].

The violation of DDR can be studied broadly in two ways. First, we can analyze DDR in the framework of different cosmological models which can explain the present accelerated expansion of the universe [28]. Alternatively, we could study it in a model independent way. Since the present cosmological model of the universe is not known, a model independent methodology is probably a better approaches to analyze DDR. The model independent approach can further be subdivided into two different branches: parametric and non-parametric.

Several different forms of parametrization of $\eta(z)$ have been used in the literature [29–35]. This phenomenological approach has the disadvantage that the final result may depend upon the assumed form of $\eta(z)$. Therefore non-parametric methods seem to be a robust way to extract information from the data. Gaussian Process (GP), Genetic Algorithm (GA) and Smoothing Method (SM) techniques have been used to study the variation of $\eta(z)$ or to check the consistency of different datasets in a non-parametric way [36–40]. However, both GP and SM methods require an initial prior or cosmological guess model, which may lead to a biased result. On the other hand, errors may be underestimated in the GA method [40].

In this work, we use a robust, strong and computationally easy non-parametric regression technique called LOcally wEighted Scatterplot Smoothing (LOESS) to test the consistency of DDR [41, 42]. Without assuming any prior or cosmological model, LOESS recovers the global trend of data by studying the appropriate number of neighbouring data points around the focus point. Further, to take measurement errors of data into account, we use SIMulation and EXtrapolation method (SIMEX) [43–45]. In Cosmology, this technique has been used in detail by Montiel et al. for reconstruction of the cosmic expansion history [46]. Recently this methodology has also been used to reconstruct the Om diagnostic [47] and to constrain the transition redshift [48]. The paper is organized as follows. In section 2, we discuss the datasets (both real and simulated) used in this work. In section 3, we briefly summarize the LOESS and SIMEX techniques. We describe results in section 4. Finally we end with a discussion in section 5.

## 2 Datasets

### 2.1 Dataset A

In order to obtain the observed value of $\eta$, i.e. $\eta_{\text{obs}}$, we need datasets of luminosity distance and angular diameter distance. $D_L$ is taken from JLA dataset of 740 supernovae in the redshift interval $0.01 < z < 1.3$ [49]. SNe Ia Data is given in the form of distance modulus $\mu$ along with the uncertainty $\sigma_\mu$. By using the relation $\mu = 5 \log_{10} D_L + 25$, we get the luminosity distance $D_L$ and the corresponding variance $\sigma_{D_L}^2$. To determine the angular diameter distance $D_A$, we use the dimensionless coordinate distance of 20 FRIIb radio galaxies in the redshift range $0.056 < z < 1.8$ [50].
However, to calculate $\eta_{\text{obs}}$, we need both $D_L$ and $D_A$ at the same redshift. In an earlier work, a moderate redshift criterion, $\Delta z < 0.005$ (where $\Delta z = |z_{\text{galaxy}} - z_{\text{supernova}}|$) was adopted and the nearest SNe Ia was selected for each radio galaxy [29, 32]. But selecting only one SNe within the same redshift range usually gives rise to large statistical errors. The choice of $\Delta z$ has a crucial impact on the constraints on DDR. Cao & Liang (2011) used different redshift binning sizes which varied from $\Delta z = 0.002$ to 0.005 [51]. They highlighted how both the choice of $\Delta z$ and number of SNe in each redshift bin may play a very important role in the study of DDR.

In practice $\Delta z$ should not be smaller than 0.002. But this condition is more stringent and may increase the statistical error. Therefore, in order to increase the reliability and accuracy of the test, several groups have advocated the use of $\Delta z = 0.005$ [30, 32].

In literature, $\Delta z = 0.005$ has an acceptable optimal choice. In this work we use the inverse variance weighted average method [33]. This is the most suitable choice because it gives the appropriate weight to each SNe Ia lying in the region thereby significantly decreasing the statistical error.

The weighted mean value of the luminosity distances for all the Supernovae in the given region can be written as:

$$\bar{D}_L = \frac{\sum_i (D_L)_i}{\sum_i \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}}$$

(2.1)

$$\bar{\sigma}_L^2 = \frac{1}{\sum_i \frac{1}{\sigma_i^2}}$$

(2.2)

where $\bar{D}_L$ is the weighted mean luminosity distance at the corresponding redshift of the radio galaxy and $\bar{\sigma}_L$ is its uncertainty.

Finally, we are left with 12 points of $\eta_{\text{obs}}$ in Dataset A in the redshift range of $0.056 < z < 0.996$. The uncertainties in $\eta_{\text{obs}}$ are calculated using error propagation.

### 2.2 DDR and CMB temperature-redshift relation (Dataset B)

The distance duality relation and temperature-redshift relation are closely related and have similar physical consequences. This can be understood by using CMB to measure luminosity distance $D_L$. In general, the luminosity distance is inversely proportional to the square root of the observed flux $F$, and directly proportional to the square root of the luminosity $L$ of the source. It is interesting that unlike a supernova, galaxy or any other localized source, CMB is a continuous source and has a blackbody spectrum. Hence, for such sources, we have $L \propto A T_{\text{CMB}}^4$ and $F \propto T_0^4$, where $A$ is the area of emission. Now imagine that we are viewing a patch of CMB sky having an angular size $d\Omega$, then the viewing area can be defined in two ways. Firstly, by assuming the CMB sky to be isotropic i.e. by neglecting small anisotropies, then $dA = \frac{d\Omega}{4\pi} A$. Secondly, if we have $D_A$ to be the angular diameter distance then, $dA = D_A^2 d\Omega$. On simplifying these relations we obtain [13]

$$D_L = \left(\frac{T_{\text{CMB}}}{T_0}\right)^2 D_A$$

(2.3)

By using the above equation, one can easily rewrite $\eta(z)$ in term of temperature of CMB.

$$\left(\frac{T_{\text{CMB}}}{T_0(1+z)}\right)^2 \equiv \eta(z) = 1$$

(2.4)
The observed value of the parameter \( \eta_{\text{obs}} \) (Dataset B) can be obtained by using the CMB temperature at various redshifts (see table 1 in [52]). Dataset B contains 36 points in the redshift interval \( 0 \leq z \leq 2.418 \). 13 of the data points are obtained from multi frequency measurements of the Sunyaev - Zeldovich (SZ) effect and 18 measurements of \( T(z) \) are compiled by using the thermal SZ effect data from the Planck satellite. The rest of the data points are inferred from the damped Lyman alpha systems and the fine structure of neutral carbon atoms.

2.3 Generation of Mock datasets

In order to check whether this regression method is accurate enough for reconstructing the cosmological parameters, we use a simulated dataset based on a phenomenological model with realistic errors. The process of simulation can be described as follows: [53].

1. We assume a parametrization for \( \eta(z) \), \( \eta_{\text{fid}}(z) = (1 + z)^\epsilon \), where \( \epsilon \) is a constant. For this fiducial model, the best fit value of \( \epsilon \) turns out to be \(-0.0319\) on doing \( \chi^2 \) analysis with Dataset B.

2. The phenomenological approach is followed to find the redshift dependence on the error bars of the simulated data points. To achieve this, we use the real Dataset B to estimate the uncertainties. As shown in figure 1(a), most of the error bars on the CMB data points (Dataset B) are contained between the two straight lines, \( \sigma_+ = 0 \) (the horizontal axis) and \( \sigma_- = 0.03z + 0.006 \) (ignoring a few outliers). The midline \( \sigma_0 = 0.015z + 0.003 \), represents the average uncertainty associated with all future observations. The uncertainty associated with each simulated data point is obtained from the Gaussian distribution centered at the \( \sigma_0 \) with standard deviation \( \frac{\sigma_+(z) - \sigma_-(z)}{4} \).

3. Using this methodology, we generate a mock dataset based on realistic errors of the CMB temperature data. The simulated data points along with their uncertainties are shown in figure 1(b). The complete details of this procedure are given by Ma & Zhang (2010) [53].
3 Technique

3.1 Basics of LOESS

LOESS is a model independent non-parametric regression technique. In this technique we do not assume any prior nor do we assume anything about the cosmological model. It is local as we use the local neighbourhood of each focal point in turn to infer the global trend of data.

Our aim is to reconstruct the function which can explain the behaviour of the dataset using LOESS. The brief methodology to generate the reconstructed values is as follows: (for details see ref. [46]).

1. We choose a subset having \( n \) points out of the \( N \) data points in the neighbourhood of our focal point \( z_{i,0} \). The difference between the focal point \( z_{i,0} \) and the farthest point of the neighbourhood (\( \max|z_{i,0} - z_j| \) where \( j = 1, 2, \ldots n \)), is known as the span or bandwidth \( h \) of the subset.

2. We next consider a weight function \( w_{ij} \) such that it gives more weightage to the points closer to the focal point and less weight to points far from the focal point. It is in the form of a kernel function i.e. \( w_{ij} = F[(z_j - z_{i,0})/h] \).

3. We fit this subset of the data to a local polynomial \( f(a,b,c) \) of first or second order using the weight function \( w_{ij} \). We define a chi-square over this subset of data

\[
\chi_i^2 = \sum_{j=1}^{n} w_{ij}(\eta_{ij}^{\text{obs}} - f_j(a,b,c))^2 \tag{3.1}
\]

4. On minimizing this \( \chi_i^2 \), we obtain the best fit values as \( a_0, b_0 \) and \( c_0 \). Then the reconstructed value of \( \eta_{i}^{\text{obs}} \) at focal point \( z_{i,0} \) will be given by

\[
\hat{\eta}_i = f_i(a_0,b_0,c_0) \tag{3.2}
\]

Repeating this procedure for each point in a given dataset, we obtain the corresponding reconstructed value at that point. Thus, we see that to use LOESS, we need to fix the bandwidth or smoothing parameter, weight function and the degree of the local polynomial.

a) Bandwidth. For smoothing, we have to select the neighbouring points around the focus point. This is decided by the smoothing parameter, \( \alpha \). This relates the optimal number of neighbourhood points (\( n \)) to the total number of data points (\( N \)) i.e., \( n = \alpha N \) where \( \alpha \) ranges from 0 to 1.

The ideal way to select the optimum value of smoothing parameter is the “leave one out cross validation technique” [54].

The reconstructed value of \( \eta_{i}^{\text{obs}} \) is obtained by removing the \( i \)th observation for a given value of \( \alpha \). The reconstructed value of \( \eta^{\text{obs}} \) is denoted by \( \hat{\eta}_{-i} \) and this process is repeated for the whole dataset. The cross validation function (\( CV \)) is given by

\[
CV(\alpha) = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^{N} (\eta_{i}^{\text{obs}} - \hat{\eta}_{-i})^2 \tag{3.3}
\]

\( CV(\alpha) \) can be thought of as a kind of mean squared error for different values of the smoothing parameter \( \alpha \). We calculate \( CV(\alpha) \) for different values of \( \alpha \). The value of \( \alpha \) for which \( CV(\alpha) \) is minimum is chosen to be the optimal choice of \( \alpha \) and used as the smoothing parameter for the further calculations.
b) Weight function. The choice of weight function is governed by the guess that points close to each other may be more correlated than points which are far away. Using this conjecture, we need to give more weight to observations that are closer to the focal point $z_{i,0}$. Following this logic we choose a tricube weight function,

$$w_{ij} = \begin{cases} (1 - u_{ij}^3)^3 & \text{for } |u_{ij}| < 1 \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.4)$$

where $u_{ij}$ is defined as

$$u_{ij} = \frac{z_{i,0} - z_j}{h} \hspace{1cm} (3.5)$$

Here $h = \max |z_{i,0} - z_j|$ is the maximum distance between the point of interest and the $j^{th}$ element of its window. For other possible weight functions and their comparison see ref. [55].

c) Degree of polynomial. The whole idea of LOESS is to fit the small subset of data using polynomials of a low degree. A higher degree polynomial in practice may increase computational cost without giving any significant improvement in result. Therefore the polynomial fit for each subset of the data is usually of first or second degree i.e. linear or quadratic. In this work we fit neighbourhood subset of each focal point with a linear polynomial fit.

$$f_i(a, b) = a + bz_i \hspace{1cm} (3.6)$$

d) Confidence region around the reconstructed curve. To construct the 1$\sigma$ and 2$\sigma$ confidence regions around the nonparametric regression curve of $\hat{\eta}$, we assume that the errors are distributed normally [54, 56]. This can be obtained by using the limiting values: $\hat{\eta} \pm \sqrt{V(\eta)}$ and $\hat{\eta} \pm 2\sqrt{V(\eta)}$ respectively, where

$$V(\hat{\eta}) = \frac{1}{df_{\text{res}}} \sum_i d_i^2 \sum_j w_{ij}^2 \hspace{1cm} (3.7)$$

where $d_i = \eta_i - \hat{\eta}$ and $df_{\text{res}} = N - df_{\text{mod}}$. $df_{\text{mod}}$ is the number of effective degrees of freedom or the effective number of parameters used in this regression. We calculate it by using normalized smoothing matrix $S$. Then $df_{\text{mod}} = Tr(SS^T)$. The smoothing matrix $S$, which is a square $N \times N$ matrix of $w_{ij}$ elements, is directly calculated from the weight function. For more details see refs. [46, 54].

3.2 Basics of SIMEX

In cosmology most of the observed quantities come with some degree of noise or measurement errors. However, in the LOESS method we don’t use the observed measurement errors $\sigma_i$ while reconstructing the response parameter. The effect of observational errors can be accommodated in the LOESS method by using a statistical technique called SIMEX. This was first introduced by Cook & Stefanski (1994) and then widely used in many fields for the purpose of reducing bias and measurement error from the data [43, 44].

SIMEX is based on a two step resampling approach. Initially in the simulation step, some additional error is introduced by hand in the data with some controlling parameter $\xi$. Next by using regression analysis on this new dataset, we try to trace the effect of the measured error in our original dataset [45, 46].
1. For the simulation step, we introduce a fixed amount of measurement error in each observation data point and define a new variable as

$$\eta_i^{rec}(\xi_k) = \eta_i^{obs} + \sqrt{\xi_k} \sigma_i$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.8)

where $\sigma_i$ is the measurement error associated with the observed data $\eta_i^{obs}$. Here the parameter $\xi_k$ acts as the controlling parameter for the variance of the measurement error. It is a vector of length $K$ such that $\xi_k > 0$. We thus form a matrix of order $K \times N$. The elements of this matrix will be the values of $\eta_i^{rec}(\xi_k)$ where $i = 1, 2 \ldots N$ and $k = 1, 2 \ldots K$. We chose $\xi_k = 0.5, 0.6, 0.7 \ldots 2.0$ [46, 57].

2. We then reconstruct every data point given in each row of the matrix by applying the LOESS technique (as discussed in section 3.1). Then by selecting each column of the reconstructed values of $\eta^{rec}$, we can apply the simple regression technique to find the best fit value. We find that a quadratic polynomial is a better choice for this work.

Finally, we obtain a row having $N$ elements. Each $\hat{\eta}_i^{rec}(\xi_k)$ can be written as a function of $\xi_k$ i.e.

$$\hat{\eta}_i^{rec}(\xi_k) = k_1 + k_2 \xi_k + k_3 \xi_k^2$$  \hspace{1cm} (3.9)

If a normal distribution of the errors is assumed, then the error variance associated with the simulated data points $\hat{\eta}_i^{rec}$ will be $(1 + \xi_k)\sigma_i^2$. Substituting $\xi_k = -1$, we are left with error-free smoothed data points.

4 Results

A critical point of the LOESS technique is the fixing of the optimum value of the smoothing parameter ($\alpha$), i.e. the appropriate number of neighbourhood data points around the focus point. Figure 2 displays the LOESS curves for different values of $\alpha$ for Dataset B. It is clear that for small values of the smoothing parameter (for instance $\alpha = 0.1$), the LOESS curve isn’t smooth as it is very sensitive to random errors and fluctuations in the data. But as the span width increases, the smoothness of the curve increases. However, a high value of $\alpha$ leads to over-smoothing [46]. The best way to find out the proper choice for $\alpha$ is the leave one out cross validation technique. We have to pick that value of $\alpha$ for which $CV(\alpha)$ is minimum. In figure 3, we plot $CV$ versus $\alpha$ for all three datasets. It is seen that for Dataset A the $CV$ value decreases quickly at first and then shows no significant change after reaching the tail of the curve. Thus, any choice of $\alpha$ between 0.8 and 1, will be reasonable as the behaviour of $\hat{\eta}$ remains the same for the values of $\alpha \geq 0.8$ for the Dataset A. However, to avoid the over smoothing of the curve we will not choose $\alpha = 1$ [47]. Here we choose $\alpha = 0.9$ to be the optimal choice of smoothing parameter for Dataset A. On the other hand, we can see that for Dataset B and the simulated dataset, we obtain a minimum value of $CV$ at $\alpha = 0.8$ and $\alpha = 0.6$ respectively.

Figure 4 highlights the reconstruction of $\eta(z)$ along with the confidence regions by using LOESS + SIMEX methods for the Dataset A, B and the mock (simulated) dataset respectively. The main features of our results are as follows:

1. For the simulated dataset, reconstructed $\eta(z)$ (using LOESS and SIMEX) matches very well with the fiducial model. In addition, the 1$\sigma$ and 2$\sigma$ region accommodate all the data points and the fiducial line very well. This gives us confidence in the correctness and efficiency of the methodology.
2. Dataset A is formed by using the $D_A$ of radio galaxies. This data shows a very tight confidence band along the best fit line. It supports DDR within the 1σ level for the redshift range $z < 1$.

3. In Dataset B, we use the temperature of CMB radiation at various redshifts. The wide redshift range of this dataset makes it an important tool to study the behaviour of DDR even at very high redshift (upto $z = 2.418$). This is significant since this was not possible with earlier datasets such as galaxy clusters or BAO. On treating this dataset with a non-parametric regression technique, we find that the reconstructed curve nearly overlaps the $\eta = 1$ line in the entire redshift range within 1σ level. In other words, there seems to be no evidence of deviation from $\eta = 1$.

4. From these datasets, one can also infer that DDR is non-dynamical in nature as it stays close to 1 in the entire redshift range used in this analysis.
5 Discussion

The main objective of this work is to check the validity of the distance duality relation and its twin, the temperature redshift relation by using a non-parametric method. We use the LOESS and SIMEX techniques to study the variation of $\eta(z)$ with redshift. The main characteristic of this technique is that it does not require any prior or input from cosmological models. In order to check the efficiency of this methodology we simulate a data set containing 200 equidistant data points of $\eta(z)$ in the redshift range $0 < z \leq 2.418$ based on a fiducial model. In order to model the errors associated with this synthetic (simulated) dataset, we use the uncertainties associated with the CMB temperature data at various redshifts. By applying this methodology on the simulated dataset, we find an excellent agreement between the reconstructed and fiducial $\eta$ curves (see figure 4). This provides further supportive evidence in the favour of this non-parametric regression technique.

Non-parametric methods have been used extensively in the literature to constrain DDR. Nesseris & Bellido (2012) used a non-parametric technique, namely Genetic Algorithm (GA) with SNe Ia and BAO data and found that the reconstructed curve is compatible with $\eta = 1$ [40]. Gaussian Process (GP) is another non-parametric technique used very frequently in cosmology for studying the variation of observational parameters [58–60]. Zheng (2014) use the GP method with Union 2.1 SNe Ia and galaxy cluster data with elliptical and spherical $\beta$ profiles. Their analysis supports the elliptical morphology of galaxy clusters only [39]. Nair et al.(2015) used BAO, $H(z)$ & SNe Ia data to constrain DDR by the GP method and found no evidence of deviation from $\eta(z) = 1$ [38]. Recently Costa et al. (2015) used the GP technique and applied it to the two datasets based on galaxy cluster observations of angular diameter distance and gas mass fraction. They find that DDR is valid within the $1\sigma$ region for the spherical $\beta$ model [36]. Shafieloo et al.(2013) introduced a non-parametric smoothing method and crossing statistics to check whether any inconsistencies exist between the SNIa data and cluster data by assuming DDR to be valid [37].

All these techniques are quite effective but they need some a priori information (GP, NPS) to initiate. In addition, sometimes the lack of proper tools to estimate and propagate errors (GA) may lead to an underestimation of the error. In this work, we don’t assume any kind of prior information or any cosmological model and by combining LOESS with SIMEX, we believe that the errors are also taken into account and are not underestimated. Further, we think that this methodology provides an independent way to study the validity of DDR.

Earlier work on DDR either used galaxy clusters or BAO for angular diameter distances. Recently Ma & Corasaniti (2016) tested DDR with JLA SNe Ia along with $D_A$ estimates from BAO measurements of the WiggleZ Survey and BOSS DR12 [16]. Interestingly, some authors use Gravitational lensing (distance ratio) data for $D_A$ and find no violation in DDR [61, 62].

Finally, it is important to stress that no significant evidence of DDR violation is observed in the entire redshift range $0 < z \leq 2.418$ used in this analysis. Further the luminosity distance $D_L$ used for the calculation of $\eta_{\text{obs}}$ in Dataset A, is obtained under the assumption of cosmic concordance ($\Lambda$CDM) model. Our analysis with Dataset A also highlights that DDR is compatible at $1\sigma$ level in the $\Lambda$CDM framework. Since this technique is data dependent, it is obvious that we will get much better results as the quality and quantity of data improves in the near future.
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