



The completed SDSS-IV extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey: BAO and RSD measurements from anisotropic clustering analysis of the quasar sample in configuration space between redshift 0.8 and 2.2

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ABSTRACT

We measure the anisotropic clustering of the quasar sample from Data Release 16 (DR16) of the Sloan Digital Sky Survey IV extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (eBOSS). A sample of 343 708 spectroscopically confirmed quasars between redshift $0.8 < z < 2.2$ are used as tracers of the underlying dark matter field. In comparison with DR14 sample, the final sample doubles the number of objects as well as the survey area. In this paper, we present the analysis in configuration space by measuring the two-point correlation function and decomposing it using the Legendre polynomials. For the full-shape analysis of the Legendre multipole moments, we measure the baryon acoustic oscillation (BAO) distance and the growth rate of the cosmic structure. At an effective redshift of $z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48$, we measure the comoving angular diameter distance $D_M(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.66 \pm 0.88$, the Hubble distance $D_H(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.11 \pm 0.52$, and the product of the linear growth rate and the rms linear mass fluctuation on scales of $8 h^{-1}$ Mpc, $f\sigma_8(z_{\text{eff}}) = 0.439 \pm 0.048$. The accuracy of these measurements is confirmed using an extensive set of mock simulations developed for the quasar sample. The uncertainties on the distance and growth rate measurements have been reduced substantially (~ 45 and ~ 30 per cent) with respect to the DR14 results. We also perform a BAO-only analysis to cross check the robustness of the methodology of the full-shape analysis. Combining our analysis with the Fourier-space analysis, we arrive at $D_M^c(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.21 \pm 0.79$, $D_H^c(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.23 \pm 0.47$, and $f\sigma_8^c(z_{\text{eff}}) = 0.462 \pm 0.045$.

Key words: methods: data analysis – quasars: general – cosmology: observations – cosmology: large-scale structure of Universe – cosmology: dark energy – cosmology: distance scale.

1 INTRODUCTION

In the current standard cosmological model, a component known as dark energy is believed to drive the accelerated expansion of the Universe. While various observations indicate that dark energy is consistent with a cosmological constant, Λ (Riess et al. 1998; Planck Collaboration VI 2020), there is no satisfying explanation to the nature of this component so far. Addressing this fundamental question requires accurate measurements of the expansion history of the Universe and the cosmic structure growth rate. Observations of the large-scale structure (LSS) of the Universe are a powerful tool to obtain these measurements.

In the early Universe, photons, electrons, and baryons were tightly coupled via Compton scattering and Coulomb interaction. Around

overdensity regions, the radiation pressure sourced spherical waves, which propagated outwards, dragging the matter with it. Later on, as the Universe cooled down, neutral atoms formed, and the photons streamed freely away while leaving the signature of the waves in the matter distribution frozen at a characteristic scale of ~ 150 Mpc. This feature, known as the baryon acoustic oscillation (BAO; Peebles & Yu 1970; Sunyaev & Zeldovich 1970; Bond & Efstathiou 1984; Hu & Sugiyama 1996), is mapped on to the late time galaxy distribution in both Fourier and configuration space (Cole et al. 2005; Eisenstein et al. 2005). BAO measurements at different redshifts can be used as a standard ruler to measure the expansion history of the Universe.

In galaxy redshift surveys, the distances to individual objects are inferred from their measured redshifts, which also contain a component due to their peculiar velocities. This extra component is responsible for the angular dependence of the clustering amplitude (with respect to the line-of-sight direction), and gives rise to a

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phenomenon known as redshift-space distortions (RSD; Jackson 1972; Kaiser 1987). As the peculiar velocities of the galaxies are sourced by the gravitational attraction of the surrounding matter, the strength of the anisotropic clustering is tightly related to the matter density fluctuation, which in turn can be used as a probe of the growth of structure (Guzzo et al. 2008). Besides constraining the properties of dark energy, measurements of structure growth can be used to test alternative models of gravity on large scales (Jennings et al. 2012; Barreira, Sánchez & Schmidt 2016; Hernández-Aguayo et al. 2019).

The Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS; York et al. 2000) has provided many spectroscopic samples of galaxies and quasars for mapping the distribution of LSS at different redshifts. The extended Baryon Oscillation Spectroscopic Survey (eBOSS) program (Dawson et al. 2016), which is a successor of BOSS (Dawson et al. 2013), was performed during the fourth phase, SDSS-IV (Blanton et al. 2017). There are four main tracers in the eBOSS program: luminous red galaxies (LRGs), emission line galaxies (ELGs), quasars which can be used as direct tracers of the matter field (QSOs), and another higher redshift quasar sample for studies of the Ly α forest. Together, they cover a wide redshift range. The first BAO detection using quasars as tracers at $0.8 < z < 2.2$ was from the eBOSS Data Release 14 (DR14) sample (Ata et al. 2017). This quasar sample bridges the gap between lower redshift SDSS galaxy measurements (Kazin et al. 2014; Alam et al. 2017) and those from the Ly α forest (Bautista et al. 2017; du Mas des Bourboux et al. 2017). In the DR14 full-shape analysis (Gil-Marín et al. 2018; Hou et al. 2018; Zarrouk et al. 2018), it was demonstrated that quasars can be used as robust tracers of the underlying matter field, extending growth rate measurements to redshift $z \sim 1.5$.

The eBOSS program concluded observations on 2019 March 1. This work is one of a series of papers presenting an analysis of the final eBOSS data release 16 (DR16) quasar sample, which approximately doubles the number of quasars of the previous DR14 release. The DR16 quasar catalogue is presented in Lyke et al. (2020). The clustering catalogue used for this analysis is described in Ross et al. (2020). The quasar mock challenge used to assess modelling systematics is described in Smith et al. (2020). N -body simulations for assessing systematic errors are presented in Rossi et al. (2020) for LRG, Alam et al. (2020) and Avila et al. (2020) for ELG. The approximate mocks used to estimate the covariance matrix and assess the observational systematics are presented in Zhao et al. (2020a). A complementary quasar clustering analysis in Fourier space is performed by Neveux et al. (2020). The BAO and RSD analyses of the QSO sample from this work and the one from Neveux et al. (2020), LRG sample (Bautista et al. 2020; Gil-Marín et al. 2020), ELG sample (de Mattia et al. 2020; Tamone et al. 2020), together with the BAO analyses of Ly α forest (du Mas des Bourboux et al. 2020) will enter (eBOSS Collaboration 2020) for the cosmological implications from eBOSS.¹

This paper is arranged as follows: Section 2 provides an introduction to the eBOSS survey and focuses on the quasar sample. Section 3 describes the methodology used to infer the cosmological constraints. Section 4 describes the modelling of the full-shape analysis for the two-point statistics. Section 5 describes the BAO-only modelling.

¹ A summary of all SDSS BAO and RSD measurements with accompanying legacy figures can be found here: <https://www.sdss.org/science/final-bao-and-rsd-measurements/>. The full cosmological interpretation of these measurements can be found here: <https://www.sdss.org/science/cosmology-results-from-eboss/>.

Table 1. Summary of statistics for the eBOSS DR16 QSOs clustering catalogue. The quasars used for the clustering analysis are obtained with a cut in redshift $0.8 < z < 2.2$, completeness $C_{\text{eBOSS}} > 0.5$, and sector success rate $C_z > 0.5$.

| | NGC | SGC | Total |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| N_{qso} | 218 209 | 125 499 | 343 708 |
| N_{cp} | 6878 | 4832 | 11 710 |
| Effective volume (Gpc ³) | 0.39 | 0.21 | 0.60 |
| Area (weighted, deg ²) | 2860 | 1839 | 4699 |

Section 6 discusses the model validation and our estimation on various systematics. Section 7 provides the constraints obtained with the final sample from the full-shape analysis, BAO-only analysis, and the combination of the configuration with the Fourier-space analysis. Section 8 discusses the robustness of our analysis. Our conclusions are summarized in Section 9.

2 DATA

2.1 Overview of the eBOSS survey

The eBOSS program, which began in 2014 July, was performed using the Sloan Foundation Telescope at Apache Point Observatory (Gunn et al. 2006), and inherited the double-armed spectrographs from BOSS (Smee et al. 2013). These spectrographs are fed by a total of 1000 optical fibres (500 each), where the diameter of each fibre subtends an angle of $62''$ on the sky. This paper focuses on the quasar sample that covers the redshift range of $0.8 < z < 2.2$. Table 1 summarizes the statistics for the sample, including the number of quasars used for the clustering analysis (N_{qso}), number of quasars suffered from the fibre collision (N_{cp}), the effective volume (equation 5 of Tegmark 1997), and the weighted area of the north galactic cap (NGC) and south galactic cap (SGC). Fig. 1 shows the footprint of the final DR16 QSO sample for the NGC and SGC. In DR16, a mean completeness of $C_{\text{comp}} \sim 0.98$ for both galactic caps is achieved. The final data release doubles the total number of objects, as well as the survey area, compared to DR14 released 2 yr ago.

The details of the catalogue are described in the companion paper (Ross et al. 2020). Here, we briefly summarize the target selection and the spectroscopic observations, which are the two steps needed to construct the quasar catalogue. The quasar target selection is documented in Myers et al. (2015). We used the optical imaging data from SDSS-I/II/III, together with a mid-infrared cut from the Wide Field Infrared Survey Explorer (WISE; Wright et al. 2010).

In the DR14 analysis, we corrected for the trends in the g -band depth and Galactic extinction. In our final analysis, we also correct for the sky background and seeing. The weight w_{sys} is introduced to mitigate the imaging systematics (for details, see section 5.5 in Ross et al. 2020). The impact of these additional corrections on our final results is discussed in Section 8.

After the target selection, the quasar candidates are observed spectroscopically. This introduces two new sources of systematics, which need to be corrected. First, the minimum angular projected distance between two neighbouring quasar targets in each observation is limited by the ferrules (a small bracelet) that supports the fibres, which have a projected size of $62''$. When two objects fall within such angular separation, they are denoted as ‘collided objects’ and corrected using the close pair (fibre collision) weight, w_{cp} , where objects are up-weighted according to the colliding fraction of each group. Secondly, the redshift efficiency varies between different

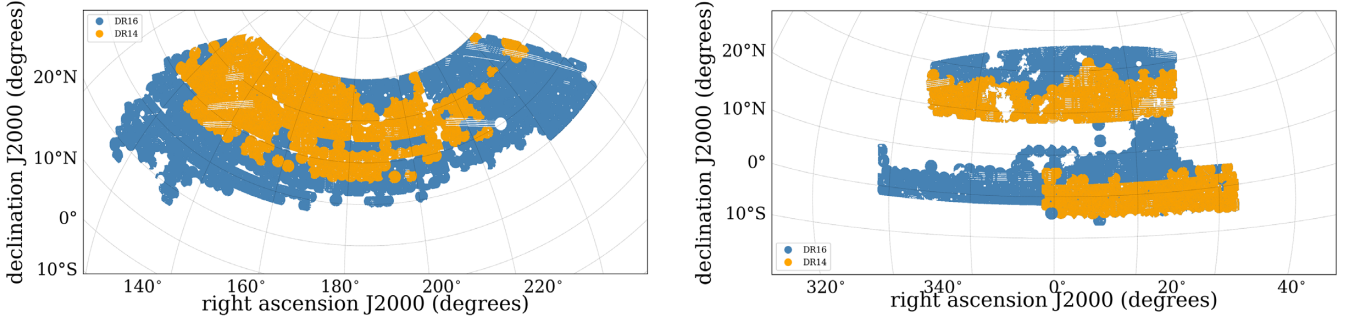


Figure 1. Footprint of the eBOSS QSOs, split into the NGC (left) and SGC (right). The DR14 sample is shown in orange, while the DR16 sample is shown in blue (and also includes the entire orange region).

fibres, showing a dependence on the fibre ID number. Fibres falling near the edge of the spectrograph have lower efficiencies, and this is accounted for with the spectroscopic weight, w_{noz} . Section 8 investigates how different definitions of the spectroscopic weight affect our results. The imaging weights, w_{sys} , are iteratively corrected for the spectroscopic weights. These weights are then combined to correct for the observing and targeting systematics. The final weight that is applied to each object is defined as

$$w_{\text{tot}} = w_{\text{FKP}} w_{\text{sys}} w_{\text{cp}} w_{\text{noz}}, \quad (1)$$

where the FKP weight (Feldman, Kaiser & Peacock 1994) is applied to minimize the variance of the measurement,

$$w_{\text{FKP}} = (1 + P_0 n(z))^{-1}, \quad (2)$$

with $P_0 = 6000 h^{-3} \text{Mpc}^3$ and $n(z)$ is the volume number density in each redshift bin. Finally, instead of downsampling the random catalogue, the completeness in each sector is used as a weight.

The redshift estimation is based on the REDVSBUE algorithm² that is detailed in Lyke et al. (2020). The final clustering catalogue is composed of redshift sources from three classes. (i) **Legacy**: These are quasars with reliable redshifts obtained during SDSS I/II/III. Within this category, the objects that were observed before BOSS were obtained from combining the fifth edition of the SDSS QSO catalogue (based on SDSS DR7) (Schneider et al. 2010) with a catalogue of known stellar spectra from SDSS-I/II. (ii) **SEQUELS**: At the end of the BOSS program, Sloan Extended Quasar, ELG, and LRG Survey (SEQUELS) was designed as a pilot survey for eBOSS. SEQUELS used a less constrained quasar selection algorithm than that which was adopted for eBOSS, and a subsample of the SEQUELS objects that pass the eBOSS target selection entered the final eBOSS catalogues. These objects are treated the same as eBOSS objects. (iii) **eBOSS**: This is the main source of QSOs for the program. During DR14, over 75 per cent of the new redshifts were observed during the eBOSS program. In the final data release, this number has increased to ~ 80 per cent.

2.2 Two-point correlation function

The two-point correlation function, $\xi(\mathbf{s}) = \langle \delta(\mathbf{x})\delta(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{s}) \rangle$, characterizes the probability excess in observing galaxies pairs as a function of their separation, \mathbf{s} , with respect to a homogeneous distribution. Assuming rotational symmetry along the line-of-sight direction, the correlation function is reduced to the 2D function $\xi(\mathbf{s}) \equiv \xi(\mu, s)$, with $\mu = \cos(\theta)$, where θ is the angle between the separation

vector, \mathbf{s} , and the line-of-sight direction. Fig. 2 shows the 2D correlation function $\xi(s_{\perp}, s_{\parallel})$, which reveals a BAO ring at the scale $s \sim 100 h^{-1} \text{Mpc}$. On smaller scales, the correlation function appears to be compressed, due to RSDs. Analysing the full 2D correlation function $\xi(\mathbf{s}, \mu)$ is difficult, due to the low signal-to-noise ratio and a large size of the covariance matrix.

Fortunately, the information in the 2D correlation function can be compressed into a set of 1D projections by choosing different angular-dependent weighting schemes. One of the typical choices is decomposing the correlation function into Legendre polynomials $L_{\ell}(\mu)$

$$\xi(s, \mu) = \sum_{\ell} \xi_{\ell}(s) L_{\ell}(\mu). \quad (3)$$

Using the orthogonality of the Legendre polynomials $\int_0^1 L_{\ell}(\mu) L_{\ell'}(\mu) d\mu = \delta_{\ell, \ell'}$, one arrives at

$$\xi_{\ell}(s) \equiv \frac{2\ell + 1}{2} \int_{-1}^1 \xi(\mu, s) L_{\ell}(\mu) d\mu. \quad (4)$$

Due to the symmetry w.r.t μ , only the even multipoles are non-zero and the $\ell = 0, 2, 4$ terms are referred to as the monopole, quadrupole, and hexadecapole, respectively. During the DR14 analysis, we compared the difference between using multipole moments and the clustering wedges and found that the multipoles yield a better constraint for a shot-noise dominated sample (Hou et al. 2018). We therefore do not repeat the same analysis here.

The right-hand panel in Fig. 2 shows the correlation function multipole measurements from the final DR16 data with the best-fitting model, which compresses the information from the left-hand panel. In order to highlight the BAO feature, in Fig. 3 the component of the best-fitting model with no BAO has been subtracted. The bottom panel displays the result for the quadrupole. In order to highlight the (lack of) difference between α_{\perp} and α_{\parallel} , we have subtracted the quadrupole of a model that has the same parameters as the best fit, but with $\epsilon = (\alpha_{\parallel}/\alpha_{\perp} - 1) = 0$. If α_{\perp} and α_{\parallel} differ, $\epsilon \neq 0$, a feature is observed in fig. 3 from Alam et al. (2017). Here, we see that the BAO transverse and along the line of sight are consistent with each other with respect to our fiducial model.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Inference of cosmological parameters

In order to infer the best-fitting cosmological parameters from a theoretical model, we aim to maximize the likelihood function. Given Bayes's theorem, the posterior distribution of a set of parameters $\{\lambda\}$ is proportional to the product of the likelihood function and the

²<https://github.com/londumas/redvsblue>

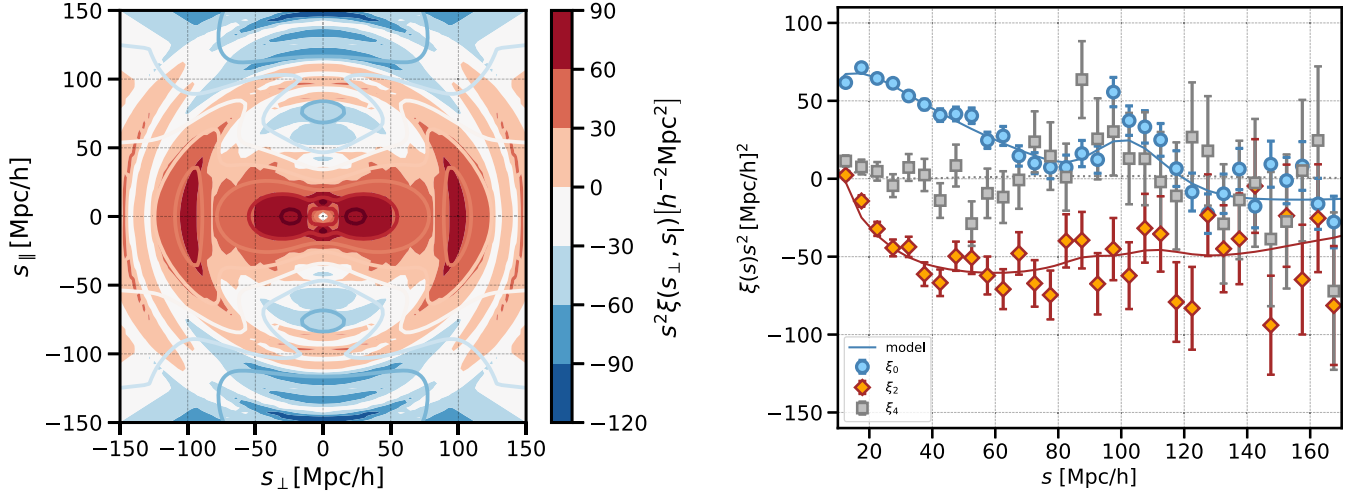


Figure 2. Left: The 2D correlation function $\xi(s_{\perp}, s_{\parallel})$ measured from the DR16 quasar sample. The solid contour is from the theory prediction. Right: The measured correlation function for monopole ($\ell = 0$, blue), quadrupole ($\ell = 2$, red), and hexadecapole ($\ell = 4$, grey), with the best-fitting full-shape model shown by the solid lines.

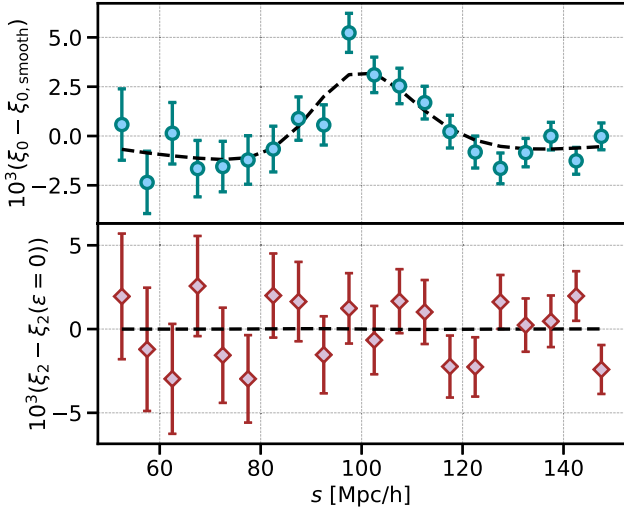


Figure 3. Comparison between our measured correlation function and the best-fitting BAO model. In the top panel, we show the monopole, where we have subtracted the smooth component of the model from both the model and the data. In the bottom panel, we display the quadrupole and subtract the quadrupole of a model that has the same parameters as the best fit, but with $\epsilon = 0$.

prior $\mathcal{P}(\lambda|\xi) \propto \mathcal{L}(\xi|\lambda)\mathcal{P}(\lambda)$. In our case, the data vector ξ stands for the two-point correlation function. The likelihood for the Gaussian-distributed data is

$$\mathcal{L}(\xi|\lambda) \propto \exp \left[-\frac{1}{2} (\xi - \xi_{\text{model}}(\lambda))^T \Psi (\xi - \xi_{\text{model}}(\lambda)) \right], \quad (5)$$

where ξ_{model} is the theoretical model for the two-point correlation function (see Section 4), and the precision matrix is the inverse of the true covariance matrix, $\Psi \simeq \mathbf{C}_{\text{true}}^{-1}$, which follows the inverse Wishart distribution. We will discuss the estimation of the covariance matrix in Section 3.2. The two-point correlation function for the data vector and the model is expressed in the spatial coordinates. In order to transform the observed redshift into distance, a fiducial cosmology is required. A difference between the true and fiducial cosmological parameters results in a rescaling of cosmological

distances (Padmanabhan & White 2008; Kazin, Sánchez & Blanton 2012)

$$\begin{aligned} s_{\perp} &= \frac{D_{\text{M}}(z_{\text{m}})}{D'_{\text{M}}(z_{\text{m}})} s'_{\perp} = q_{\perp} s'_{\perp}, \\ s_{\parallel} &= \frac{D_{\text{H}}(z_{\text{m}})}{D'_{\text{H}}(z_{\text{m}})} s'_{\parallel} = q_{\parallel} s'_{\parallel}, \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

where D_{M} is the comoving angular diameter distance (see Appendix D) and $D_{\text{H}} = c/H$ is the Hubble distance defined as the ratio of the speed of light in vacuum, c , and the Hubble parameter, H . s_{\perp} and s_{\parallel} are distances perpendicular and parallel to the line of sight, the prime ' denotes the distance inferred from the fiducial cosmology, and $q_{\perp, \parallel}$ are the geometric distortion parameters.

The BAO scale is tightly related to the comoving sound horizon at the drag epoch, r_{drag} , which depends on the ratio of the baryon to radiation density. The geometric distortion parameters need further to be rescaled by the ratio of the sound horizon

$$\alpha_{\perp} = q_{\perp} \frac{r'_{\text{drag}}}{r_{\text{drag}}} \quad \text{and} \quad \alpha_{\parallel} = q_{\parallel} \frac{r'_{\text{drag}}}{r_{\text{drag}}}, \quad (7)$$

where α_{\perp} and α_{\parallel} are commonly referred to as the Alcock–Paczynski (AP) parameters (Alcock & Paczynski 1979). This method of compressing the cosmological information is only an approximation, which we test in Section 7.2.

The rescaling of the 2D correlation function $\xi(s, \mu) \rightarrow \xi(s', \mu')$ can be expressed as

$$s = s' \sqrt{\alpha_{\parallel}^2 (\mu')^2 + \alpha_{\perp}^2 (1 - \mu'^2)} \mu = \frac{\alpha_{\parallel} \mu'}{\sqrt{\alpha_{\parallel}^2 (\mu')^2 + \alpha_{\perp}^2 (1 - \mu'^2)}}. \quad (8)$$

3.2 Estimation of the Covariance matrices

3.2.1 Covariance matrices from the EZmocks

We use the effective Zel'dovich mock catalogues to estimate the covariance matrices (EZmocks; Chuang et al. 2015). A detailed description of the methodology for eBOSS QSO mock catalogue is presented in Zhao et al. (2020a). We briefly summarize the steps in the following. The initial displacement field in the EZMOCKS is constructed using the Zel'dovich approximation. The probability

density function (PDF) of the tracers is linked to the dark matter field using an effective bias model, then further calibrated with respect to the real data. Afterwards, galaxies are assigned to the dark matter particles. The EZMOCKS cubic boxes for quasars were generated at seven different redshift snapshots using the same initial condition, each box is of side length $5 h^{-1}$ Gpc. The boxes at different redshift slices are transformed into sky coordinates, trimmed by the angular geometry, selected by the radial distribution, and then trivially combined in redshifts. The light-cone mocks constructed out of this way intrinsically captures the redshift uncertainty. The mock catalogues are tuned independently for the NGC and SGC. The EZMOCKS were constructed using a flat Λ CDM cosmology, with matter density parameter $\Omega_m = 0.307$, baryon density $\Omega_b h^2 = 0.022$, a dimensionless Hubble parameter $h = 0.678$, and no contribution from massive neutrinos. The power spectrum of these mocks is characterized by a scalar spectral index $n_s = 0.96$, normalized to a value of $\sigma_8(z=0) = 0.8225$.

When using the mocks to estimate the covariance matrix, the limited number of mocks will add extra noise to the covariance matrix. This extra noise can lead to a *biased* estimation of the inverse of the covariance matrix. Consequently, the precision matrix needs to be corrected following Anderson (2003) and Hartlap, Simon & Schneider (2007)

$$C_{\text{debiased}}^{-1} = \frac{N_m - N_b - 2}{N_m - 1} \langle \hat{C}_*^{-1} \rangle \quad \text{for } N_b < N_m - 2, \quad (9)$$

where N_b represents the number of bins in the data vector and N_m is the number of synthetic mocks. Although the bias can be easily corrected by this factor, it does not however correct for the error in the covariance. The uncertainty in the covariance can lead to additional variance in the inferred parameters. In Dodelson & Schneider (2013), it was shown that if the precision matrix is contaminated by the error $\Psi = \Psi_{\text{true}} + \Delta\Psi$, it leads to an additional term in the covariance when expanding the covariance to second order. When the best-fitting parameters are estimated from a set of independent mock catalogues, the actual scattering of the best-fitting parameters is inflated at the second order given by $B \cdot (N_b - N_p)$, with N_p being the number of parameters and B is given by

$$B = \frac{N_m - N_b - 2}{(N_m - N_b - 1)(N_m - N_b - 4)}. \quad (10)$$

When inferring the parameters from the data, the error is derived by integrating the likelihood function, and the noise in the covariance leads to a modified variance estimator that involves additional parameter,

$$A = \frac{2}{(N_m - N_b - 1)(N_m - N_b - 4)}. \quad (11)$$

Therefore, the final parameter matrix needs to be rescaled following Percival et al. (2014)

$$M = \frac{1 + B(N_b - N_p)}{1 + A + B(N_p + 1)}, \quad (12)$$

where such a correction is suitable under the assumption of a Gaussian likelihood.

3.2.2 Covariance matrices from the Gaussian analytical approximation

For the mock challenge (see Section 6), a problem that we face is that the number of simulation doesn't fulfil $N_s \gg N_b$, where N_s is the number of simulations. Consequently, the noise in the covariance

matrix will propagate into the parameter estimation and the error bar can be overestimated. A more general problem associated with the brute force method is that for a large survey with high number density, it can be computationally very expensive to run the simulations. Therefore, alternative methods such as an analytical expression of the covariance can be very helpful. We follow the prescription of Grieb et al. (2016) to estimate the covariance for the OUTERIM mocks. A description of the implementation of the analytical method with Gaussian approximation can be found in Appendix B.

4 MODELLING THE FULL-SHAPE OF THE TWO-POINT CORRELATION FUNCTION

The modelling of the two-point statistics requires three main ingredients: (1) the non-linear evolution of the density field, (2) the LSS bias that establishes the relation between the luminous tracers and the underlying matter field, and (3) the modelling of the RSDs. In the following, we will first describe the power spectrum modelling in redshift space, $P^s(\mathbf{k})$, and the recipe we use for the LSS bias expansion. To calculate $P^s(\mathbf{k})$, we need to input the non-linear matter power spectrum $P_{\delta\delta}$ (Section 4.2), the matter-velocity divergence cross power spectrum, $P_{\delta\theta}$, and the auto velocity divergence power spectrum, $P_{\theta\theta}$ (Section 4.3).

4.1 Bias and redshift-space distortions

The model is constructed in the Fourier space and Fourier transformed to obtain the two-point correlation function. The full model in redshift space can be expressed as

$$P^s(k, \mu) = F_{\text{FOG}}(k, \mu) \exp[-(k\mu\sigma_{\text{zerf}})^2] P_{\text{novir}}(k, \mu), \quad (13)$$

where the first term $F_{\text{FOG}}(k, \mu)$ denotes the finger-of-god (FoG) factor, which arises from the moment generating function for the line-of-sight velocity difference and characterizes the random motion of galaxies on small scales. This is given by

$$F_{\text{FOG}}(\mu, k) \equiv \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \mu^2 k^2 a_{\text{vir}}^2}} \exp\left(\frac{-\mu^2 k^2 \sigma_v^2}{1 + \mu^2 k^2 a_{\text{vir}}^2}\right), \quad (14)$$

where a_{vir} is a free parameter that represents the kurtosis of the small-scale velocity distribution. The 1D linear velocity dispersion is given by $\sigma_v^2 = \frac{1}{3} \int P_{\theta\theta}^{\text{lin}}(k)/k^2 d^3k$. In linear theory, we have $P_{\delta\delta}^{\text{lin}} = P_{\theta\theta}^{\text{lin}}$. Such an FoG treatment, which takes into account the non-linear corrections, can also be found in Sánchez et al. (2017b), Grieb et al. (2017), and Hou et al. (2018). We do not explicitly express the f dependence, as done in the previous paper. Instead, since f and σ_8 are degenerate, we fit the combination of these two parameters. The second term in equation (13), $\exp[-(k\mu\sigma_{\text{zerf}})^2]$, describes the redshift uncertainty of quasars. As tested in Hou et al. (2018), this parameter yields a less biased estimation of the cosmological parameters in the presence of the redshift uncertainty. The final term, $P_{\text{novir}}(k, \mu)$, can be further decomposed into three terms, and this large-scale RSD modelling treatment can be found in Scoccimarro (2004) and Taruya, Nishimichi & Saito (2010)

$$P_{\text{novir}}(k, \mu) = P_{\text{novir}}^{(1)}(k, \mu) + (k\mu f) P_{\text{novir}}^{(2)}(k, \mu) + (k\mu f)^2 P_{\text{novir}}^{(3)}(k, \mu), \quad (15)$$

where the first term, $P_{\text{novir}}^{(1)}$, is the non-linear version of the Kaiser formula (Kaiser 1987), which is given by

$$P_{\text{novir}}^{(1)}(k, \mu) = P_{\text{gg}} + 2f\mu^2 P_{\text{g}\theta} + f^2\mu^4 P_{\theta\theta}, \quad (16)$$

where the velocity divergence is defined as $\theta \equiv \nabla \cdot \mathbf{v}(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$. The two higher-order terms $P_{\text{novir}}^{(2)}$ and $P_{\text{novir}}^{(3)}$ depend on the cross bispectrum

at tree level and the cross-spectrum,

$$P_{\text{novir}}^{(2)}(k, \mu) = \int d^3p \frac{P_z}{p^2} [B_\sigma(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}, -\mathbf{k}) - B_\sigma(\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{k}, -\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p})], \quad (17)$$

and

$$P_{\text{novir}}^{(3)}(k, \mu) = \int d^3p \frac{P_z (k_z - p_z)}{p^2 (\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p})^2} (b_1 + f \mu_p^2) (b_1 + f \mu_{k-p}^2) P_{\delta\theta}(\mathbf{p}) P_{\delta\theta}(\mathbf{k} - \mathbf{p}), \quad (18)$$

where the cross bispectrum is defined as

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\langle \theta(\mathbf{k}_1) \left\{ \delta_g(\mathbf{k}_2) + f \frac{k_{2z}^2}{k_2^2} \theta(\mathbf{k}_2) \right\} \left\{ \delta_g(\mathbf{k}_3) + f \frac{k_{3z}^2}{k_3^2} \theta(\mathbf{k}_3) \right\} \right\rangle \\ &= (2\pi)^3 \delta_D(\mathbf{k}_1 + \mathbf{k}_2 + \mathbf{k}_3) B_\sigma(\mathbf{k}_1, \mathbf{k}_2, \mathbf{k}_3). \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

The LSS bias represents the statistical relation between the distribution of the luminous tracers and the underlying matter field. Down to the quasi-linear scales, this statistical relation can be described as a perturbative bias expansion, which encompasses complicated galaxy formation processes dominated by local gravitational effects. The perturbative expansion of the galaxy density fluctuation, δ_g , in terms of the matter fluctuation, δ , can be generalized as a series of operators with associated coefficients. One efficient way of expressing the operators is in terms of Galileons. If we consider all scalar invariants of the tensor $\nabla_{ij} \Phi(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$ for the gravitational potential, and $\nabla_{ij} \Phi_v(\mathbf{x}, \tau)$ for the velocity potential, only three invariants exist in three dimensions (see Chan, Scoccimarro & Sheth 2012; Eggemeier, Scoccimarro & Smith 2019). The first two terms are

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{G}_1(\Phi) &\equiv \nabla^2 \Phi \equiv \delta, \\ \mathcal{G}_2(\Phi) &\equiv (\nabla_{ij} \Phi)^2 - (\nabla^2 \Phi)^2, \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

and similar relations also exist for the velocity potential. The second line in equation (20) can be associated with the tidal field. At linear order, the gravitational potential Φ and velocity potential Φ_v are equal. At higher order, these two potential terms are not equal, and an additional operator emerges from the second Galileon operator $\mathcal{G}_2^{(3)}$ at the third order:

$$\Delta_3 \mathcal{G}_2 = \mathcal{G}_2(\Phi) - \mathcal{G}_2(\Phi_v) = \mathcal{G}_2^{(3)}(\Phi) - \mathcal{G}_2^{(3)}(\Phi_v). \quad (21)$$

Combining these ingredients, we arrive at the bias expansion following Chan et al. (2012), which is given by

$$\delta_g = b_1 \delta + \frac{b_2}{2} \delta^2 + \gamma_2 \mathcal{G}_2 + \gamma_3^- \Delta_3 \mathcal{G}_2 + \dots, \quad (22)$$

where b_1 and b_2 are the bias parameter at linear and second order. We use the local Lagrangian relation to fix $\gamma_2 = -2/7(b_1 - 1)$ and we leave γ_3^- as a free parameter. We have ignored the higher-derivative bias in our bias expansion. The effect of this is expected to be suppressed on the scales much larger than the Lagrangian radius of the hosting haloes (a few Mpc). The shape of the two-point correlation function of QSOs may potentially be affected by the radiation field or large-scale outflows during its formation (Desjacques, Jeong & Schmidt 2018). It therefore remains interesting to potentially include the higher-derivative bias in the future.

4.2 Matter power spectrum

The matter power spectrum is calculated using RESPRESSO (Rapid and Efficient SPectrum calculation based on RESponSe functiOn;

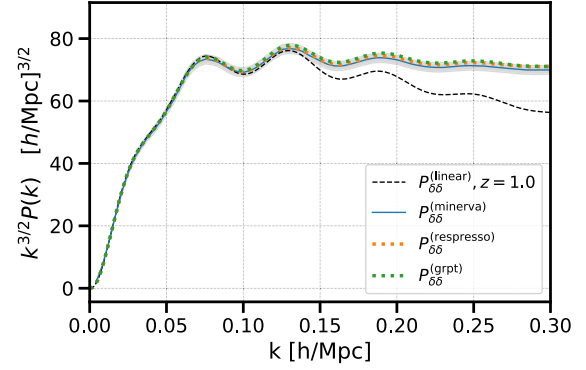


Figure 4. Comparison of matter power spectrum between RESPRESSO (dotted-orange), gRPT (dotted-green), and MINERVA N -body simulation (blue, with 2 per cent error indicated by the grey band) at $z = 1.0$.

Nishimichi, Bernardeau & Taruya 2017). The idea of RESPRESSO is based on the response function at the power spectrum level. The response function characterizes the variation of the non-linear power spectrum, $\delta P(k, z)$, at redshift z for a given small perturbation of the initial power spectrum, $\delta P_{\text{ini}}(q, z)$. The response function is defined as

$$K(k, q; z) = q \frac{\delta P(k; z)}{\delta P_{\text{ini}}(q; z)}. \quad (23)$$

Based on the numerical measurements of the response function of the power spectrum, Nishimichi et al. (2017) proposed the following phenomenological model,

$$\begin{aligned} K_{\text{model}}(k, q) &= \left[\left(1 + \beta_{k,q} + \frac{1}{2} \beta_{k,q}^2 \right) K_{\text{tree}}^{\text{SPT}}(k, q) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + (1 + \beta_{k,q}) K_{1\text{-loop}}^{\text{SPT}}(k, q) \right. \\ &\quad \left. + K_{2\text{-loop}}^{\text{SPT}}(k, q) \right] D(\beta_{k,q}), \end{aligned} \quad (24)$$

where the explicit expression for the response function, K^{SPT} , using the standard perturbation theory (SPT) up to 2-loop order, can be found in the original paper. The damping factor is given by

$$D(x) = \begin{cases} \exp(-x), & \text{if } K_{\text{model}}(k, q) > 0 \\ \frac{1}{1+x}, & \text{if } K_{\text{model}}(k, q) < 0 \end{cases}, \quad (25)$$

with $\beta_{k,q} = \alpha_k + \alpha_q$, and,

$$\alpha_k = \frac{1}{2} k^2 \int \frac{dk}{6\pi^2} P_{\text{lin}}(k), \quad (26)$$

where the 1D integral is the variance of the linear displacement field. The model is designed to recover the SPT prediction in the low limit of the wavenumber associated with the initial linear power spectrum, and also keep the feature from the regularized perturbation calculation (Taruya et al. 2012). Finally, a (multistep) reconstruction at the power spectrum level is performed.³ Fig. 4 compares the matter power spectrum calculated using RESPRESSO and Galilean-invariant RPT (gRPT; Crocce et al., in preparation) at redshift $z = 1.0$. Both of them agree very well with the measurement from a GADGET-based N -Body simulation (Springel 2005) MINERVA (Grieb et al. 2016), within 2 per cent. A comparison using RESPRESSO with the empirical fitting function (discussed in the next section) and gRPT in inferring the parameter constraints can be found in Table 7.

³We modify the RESPRESSO python package into a FORTRAN version.

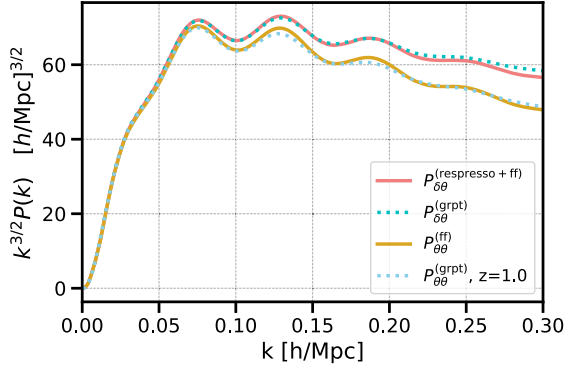


Figure 5. Comparison of the cross matter–velocity divergence power spectrum, $P_{\delta\theta}$, and the auto velocity divergence power spectrum, $P_{\theta\theta}$, at $z = 1.0$. Power spectra calculated using the fitting formulae are shown by the solid red and brown curves for $P_{\delta\theta}$ (with input from RESPRESSO for the auto matter power spectrum) and $P_{\theta\theta}$, respectively. Power spectra calculated using gRPT are indicated by the dotted blue curves.

4.3 Auto- and cross-velocity power spectra

RESPRESSO provides the prediction for the auto matter power spectrum. However, the full modelling of the power spectrum for the RSD effects on large scales requires the input of the cross spectrum for the matter and velocity divergence, $P_{\delta\theta}$, as well as the auto power for the velocity divergence field, $P_{\theta\theta}$. An alternative approach to the perturbative calculation is to model the velocity power spectra using empirical relations measured from N -body simulations. Bel et al. (2019) performed a study based on a set of Dark Energy and Massive Neutrinos Universe (DEMNUi) N -body simulations (Carbone, Petkova & Dolag 2016), in the presence of massive neutrinos. The velocity field was reconstructed from the cold dark matter particles using a Delaunay tessellation. Fitting formulae for the velocity power spectra are proposed as

$$P_{\delta\theta}(k) = \{P_{\delta\delta}(k)P_{\theta\theta}^{\text{lin}}(k)\}^{\frac{1}{2}} e^{-\frac{k}{k_\delta} - bk^6}, \quad (27)$$

and

$$P_{\theta\theta}(k) = P_{\theta\theta}^{\text{lin}}(k) e^{-k(a_1 + a_2 k + a_3 k^2)}, \quad (28)$$

where $P_{\theta\theta}^{\text{lin}}$ is the linear auto velocity divergence power spectra, which is equal to the linear matter power. In our case, the input of the matter power spectra $P_{\delta\delta}$ can be either calculated from RESPRESSO or from HALOFIT. The amplitude of $P_{\delta\theta}$ and $P_{\theta\theta}$ is strongly influenced by the amplitude of the matter fluctuation. The free parameters that enter equations (27) and (28) are given by

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= -0.817 + 3.198\sigma_{8,m}, \\ a_2 &= 0.877 - 4.191\sigma_{8,m}, \\ a_3 &= -1.199 + 4.629\sigma_{8,m}, \\ 1/k_\delta &= -0.017 + 1.496\sigma_{8,m}^2, \\ b &= 0.091 + 0.702\sigma_{8,m}^2, \\ 1/k_\theta &= -0.048 + 1.917\sigma_{8,m}^2, \end{aligned} \quad (29)$$

where $\sigma_{8,m}$ is the total matter fluctuation, including cold dark matter as well as massive neutrinos. Bel et al. (2019) showed that these fitting functions can provide an accuracy of ~ 3 per cent in $P_{\delta\theta}(k < 0.7 \text{ hMpc}^{-1})$ and $P_{\theta\theta}(k < 0.65 \text{ hMpc}^{-1})$ at redshifts down to $z = 0$.

Fig. 5 shows the power spectra that involve the velocity. The velocity power spectra are suppressed in comparison to the amplitude of the matter power in Fig. 4 due to the non-linear correction. At

redshift $z = 1.0$, we observe a good agreement between the empirical fitting formula and the perturbative calculation by gRPT, for both $P_{\delta\theta}$ and $P_{\theta\theta}$. For the cross matter–velocity power spectrum $P_{\delta\theta}$, we have input RESPRESSO as the non-linear matter power spectrum $P_{\delta\delta}$ (red). The auto velocity divergence power spectrum $P_{\theta\theta}$ depends only on the linear matter power spectrum and uses the direct input from CAMB (Lewis, Challinor & Lasenby 2000).

5 BAO-ONLY MODELLING

In addition to the full-shape analysis, we also present BAO-only measurements of the geometric parameters α_\perp and α_\parallel as an additional consistency check. These measurements attempt to isolate the BAO information such that none of the constraining power comes from information in the broad-band amplitude of the correlation function. We follow the same methodology as in Ross et al. (2017), which was itself based on Xu et al. (2013) and Anderson et al. (2014). The BAO feature is isolated in Fourier space and damped as a function of μ in order to approximate the effects of non-linear structure formation and RSDs

$$P_{\text{BAO}}(k, \mu) = (P_{\text{lin}} - P_{\text{nw}}) e^{-k^2 \cdot \sigma_s(\mu)^2} + P_{\text{nw}}. \quad (30)$$

The linear power spectrum, P_{lin} , is calculated using CAMB (Lewis et al. 2000), while the ‘no-wiggle’ power spectrum is obtained from the fitting formulae of Eisenstein & Hu (1998). In the exponential term of equation (30), σ_s captures the non-linear damping of the BAO feature, which is anisotropic, and given by

$$\sigma_s^2 = (1 - \mu^2) \Sigma_\perp^2 / 2 + \mu^2 \Sigma_\parallel^2 / 2. \quad (31)$$

The damping parameters are set fixed to $\Sigma_\perp = 3 \text{ h}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ and $\Sigma_\parallel = 8 \text{ h}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ in order to match those adopted by the Fourier-space analysis of Neveux et al. (2020) for the Fourier-space analysis.

The effect of RSDs on the power spectrum is modelled using

$$P(k, \mu) = \left(\frac{1 + \mu^2 \beta}{1 + k^2 \mu^2 \Sigma_s^2 / 2} \right)^2 P_{\text{BAO}}(k). \quad (32)$$

Broad-band polynomial terms are included in the model as they allow considerable freedom in fitting the broad-band, but the inclusion of the factor above allows the fiducial model to be in reasonable agreement before their inclusion. The factor β is fixed to be 0.4. For a physical redshift-space distortion model, this is the ratio between the growth rate and the linear bias, $\beta = f/b_1$. Here, it controls the overall amplitude of the quadrupole, which is allowed to vary in the BAO fits through the B_0 and B_2 terms defined below. The term Σ_s is included to model the effect of redshift smearing and redshift errors, and we set it fixed to a value $\Sigma_s = 4 \text{ h}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, again matching the choice adopted by Neveux et al. (2020).

The correlation function BAO template, ξ_{temp} , is then the Fourier transform of equation (32). As a generalization of equation (4), we have

$$\xi_{\text{temp}}(s)_F = \int_0^1 d\mu F(\mu) \xi_{\text{temp}}(s, \mu), \quad (33)$$

where F is a weighting function over μ defined for particular case. For example, $F(\mu)$ can be Legendre polynomials for $\xi_\ell = 0, 2$, or $F(\mu) = 3\mu^2$ for $\xi_{\mu 2}$ (see below).

We fit for the monopole $\ell = 0$ and quadrupole $\ell = 2$, which are given by

$$\xi_0^{\text{mod}}(s) = B_0 \xi_0^{\text{temp}}(s) + A_0(s), \quad (34)$$

and

$$\xi_2^{\text{mod}}(s) = \frac{5}{2} \left(B_2 \xi_{\mu 2}^{\text{temp}}(s) - B_0 \xi_0^{\text{temp}}(s) \right) + A_2(s), \quad (35)$$

where the polynomial $A_x(s) = \alpha_{x,1}/s^2 + \alpha_{x,2}/s + \alpha_{x,3}$ removes information from the broad-band shapes of the ξ_ℓ , B_x adjusts the amplitude of the BAO feature. In order to obtain the likelihood for α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} , we find the minimum χ^2 over a grid of values in the range $0.8 < \alpha_{\parallel} < 1.2$ and $0.8 < \alpha_{\perp} < 1.2$.

We also obtain BAO results only fitting to ξ_0 . In this case, we use the same model and nuisance parameters for ξ_0 , but we assume spherical symmetry, so we simply have

$$\xi_0^{\text{temp}}(s, \alpha_{\text{iso}}) = \xi_0^{\text{temp}}(s \alpha_{\text{iso}}). \quad (36)$$

The parameter α_{iso} is defined as $\alpha_{\text{iso}} = \alpha_{\perp}^{2/3} \alpha_{\parallel}^{1/3}$, which is the best constrained combination of the BAO information. We obtain the likelihood for α_{iso} by finding the $\chi_{\text{min}}^2(\alpha_{\text{iso}})$ on a grid in the range $0.8 < \alpha_{\text{iso}} < 1.2$. We test the BAO template on both the OUTERIM (blind and non-blind) mocks and the EZMOCKS.

A comparison between our BAO analysis in configuration space on the EZMOCKS and a Fourier-space BAO analysis can be found in the companion paper (Neveux et al. 2020).

6 ASSESSING THE SYSTEMATIC UNCERTAINTY

In this section, we describe how we assess the systematic uncertainties in our measurements. We split the systematic uncertainties into modelling and observational systematics.

To assess the modelling systematics, we perform an N -body mock challenge (Smith et al. 2020), using the OUTERIM simulation (Heitmann et al. 2019). The OUTERIM simulation was run in a cubic box of side length $L_b = 3 h^{-1}$ Gpc, with 10, 240³ dark matter particles and a force resolution of $6 h^{-1}$ kpc, corresponding to a mass resolution of $m_p = 1.85 \times 10^9 \times M_{\odot}$. The cosmology for the OUTERIM simulation is consistent with WMAP7 cosmology (Komatsu et al. 2011), with $h_0 = 0.71$, $\Omega_b h^2 = 0.02258$, $\Omega_{\text{cdm}} h^2 = 0.1109$, $\sigma_8 = 0.8$, $n_s = 0.963$, and zero neutrino mass. The mocks are constructed from a cubic box using a single snapshot at $z = 1.433$, and are populated with quasars using halo occupation distribution (HOD) models. The goal of the mock challenge is two-fold: first, it serves to provide an estimate of the systematics in the modelling of the two-point statistics. Secondly, it is used to assess the impact of the assumption of the fiducial cosmology.⁴ In the first stage of the mock challenge (Section 6.1), we test our model on a ‘non-blind’ set of mocks, where we know precisely the underlying cosmology. In order to test the full analysis pipeline, in the second stage, we test our methodology on a set of ‘blind’ mocks that have been rescaled to different cosmologies. The true cosmological parameters of these mocks are unknown during the analysis (Section 6.2). The mock challenge is described in detail in the companion paper (Smith et al. 2020).

The observational systematics are quantified using a set of approximate EZMOCKS (Section 6.3). In the following sections, we summarize the tests we performed and our main conclusions.

⁴Fiducial cosmology here refer to both the set of cosmological parameters for the coordinates transformation and the ones for the generation of the template for the two-point correlation function. We do not distinguish the terminology because we always keep the same set of cosmological parameters for both.

6.1 Modelling systematics: non-blind mock challenge

The mock catalogues for the non-blind part of the mock challenge are created using 20 different HOD models, and we generate 100 random realizations of each. To test the flexibility of our model, we use a wide range of HOD models, including some more extreme models that are not motivated by quasar physics. We do not explicitly include effects such as assembly bias or star formation rate, but their impacts are partially degenerate with the wide range of HOD models. We validate our model using mocks with and without different observational effects. For each mock, we create a version with no redshift smearing, with Gaussian redshift smearing, and with a double-Gaussian smearing (see equation 4 in Smith et al. 2020) that matches the redshift distribution seen in the data. We also create an additional catalogue with catastrophic redshift failure objects, using the estimated catastrophic redshift failure rate from the data, of 1.5 per cent.

Covariance matrices are calculated analytically using the method described in Section 3.2.2. This requires the power spectrum, which we directly calculate from each mock, and the effective volume, which is estimated using equation (B4). We fit our model to the correlation function multipoles calculated from each mock, on comoving scales in the range $s = [20, 160] h^{-1}$ Mpc, with bin separation $\Delta s = 8 h^{-1}$ Mpc. The fitting parameters of our model can be found in Table 4. The takeaway message from these non-blind mock analyses are (1) we are able to recover α_{\parallel} and α_{\perp} within an accuracy of 1 per cent, and 3 per cent for $f\sigma_8$. (2) When adding the effect of 1.5 per cent catastrophic redshift failures to the mocks, we observe a -3 per cent shift in $f\sigma_8$. The redshift of an object is completely randomized by a catastrophic redshift failure, removing some of the structure growth information, which results in the shift in $f\sigma_8$. (3) The exact choice of the HOD formalism does not have a strong impact on the geometrical parameters or the growth rate. The impact of the extreme HODs is mostly absorbed by the nuisance parameters that model the effect of the effect RSD through the redshift randomization and the satellite fraction. The systematic error is quantified from the mocks by taking the root-mean-square (rms) of the difference to the true cosmology. Using the mocks with realistic redshift smearing and catastrophic redshift failures, we arrive at modelling systematics of $\delta\alpha_{\perp} = 0.003$, $\delta\alpha_{\parallel} = 0.004$, and $\delta f\sigma_8 = 0.008$.

6.2 Fiducial cosmology systematics: blind mock challenge

To test the full analysis pipeline, we go one step further by testing our model ‘blindly’. Since the OUTERIM simulation is in a known cosmology, we use the method of Mead & Peacock (2014) to rescale the halo positions and velocities, in order to mimic a simulation of a different cosmology. The method has two aims: (1) rescale the units of the simulation to match the halo mass function of the new cosmology, and (2) use the displacement field to adjust positions and velocities to match the linear clustering. We produced in total eight different cosmologies, with three HOD configurations for each. The choice of the cosmological parameters, as well as the validation of the rescaling method, can be found in the companion paper (Smith et al. 2020), which justifies the parameter range being tested. We find that the inferred parameters are sensitive to the choice of the fiducial cosmology. For our final results, we decide to add the effect of an incorrect fiducial cosmology as additional source of systematic error. To calculate a systematic error due to the fiducial cosmology, we calculate the rms of the set of 24 blind mocks, which are then added in quadrature to the modelling systematic error calculated from

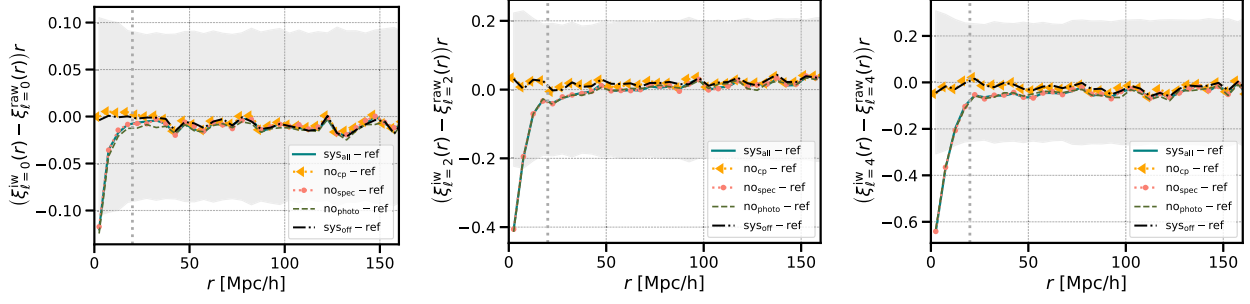


Figure 6. Difference between the correlation function monopole (left), quadrupole (centre), and hexadecapole (right) from the EZMOCKS with different systematics, with respect to a reference correlation function with no systematics. The black dash-dotted curves denote the difference in the case without the systematic effects compared to the reference case (also show the impact on the radial integral constraint effects). The difference in the mocks including all the systematics is given in the green solid curve. The cases without including the spectroscopic effect and photometric effect are shown in the red dotted curve, the grey band indicates the standard deviation of the 1000 mocks, while the vertical dotted line denotes the scale at $s = 20 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

the non-blind mocks. Although the technique of Mead & Peacock (2014) is also applicable to more general cases, e.g. dynamical dark energy models, we restrict our blind analysis to standard ΛCDM cosmologies. Our estimate of the systematic error budget is not affected by this choice. The range of cosmological parameter values explored, e.g. varying $\Omega_m h^2$ by ~ 20 per cent, the spectral index n_s by ~ 10 per cent, and the baryon density parameter Ω_b by ~ 35 per cent, represent models with a wide range of power spectrum shapes, expansion and growth of structure histories, corresponding to different values of D_M , D_H , and $f\sigma_8$, which are the quantities that are most relevant for our analysis. The rms we find with the blind mocks challenge is $\delta\alpha_\perp = 0.007$, $\delta\alpha_\parallel = 0.011$, and $\delta f\sigma_8 = 0.010$.

6.3 Observational systematics: EZMOCKS

We utilize the EZMOCKS introduced in Section 3.2.1 to quantify the observational systematics. We consider the impact of the following observational effects: spectroscopic redshift failures, close pairs, and the photometric calibration. The construction of the EZMOCKS, which include observational effects, are summarized in Appendix C. The code for post-processing the systematic effects on the mocks is integrated into the clustering analysis toolkit.⁵ Fig. 6 compares the impact of the different systematics on the correlation function multipoles. It can be seen that the largest effect on small scales is due to fibre collisions (orange curve). For the monopole, the impact is visible from scales $s \lesssim 25 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. For higher order multipoles, this effect is already visible at scales starting from $s \lesssim 50 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

There are several methods that can be utilized to correct the small-scale clustering measurements for the effect of fibre collisions. This includes an angular up-weighting (e.g. Hawkins et al. 2003), modelling the effect of fibre collisions on the correlation function (Hahn et al. 2017), or an inverse pair weighting scheme (e.g. Bianchi & Percival 2017). To assess the systematics due to the fibre collision, it is required that the radial distribution of the ‘unobserved’ objects is similar to the one of the total objects. It is not necessary that the collided objects which are identified within the same group are physically associated. Therefore, it is not critical whether EZMOCKS predicts as accurate small-scale clustering as the N -body simulations. Fig. 7 shows the radial distribution of the unobserved objects and the total objects in one of the EZMOCKS realizations (left-hand panel), as well as their ratio as a function of redshift (right-hand panel). The

similarity of the radial distribution between the unobserved and the total objects in the post-processed mocks making it viable to use these mocks for assessing the systematics.

To correct for the effect of fibre collisions, the method we use is based on Hahn et al. (2017), which models the effect of fibre collisions on the correlation function. This method produces similar results to recent pair weighting schemes (see Section 8). The effect of fibre collisions is treated as a top-hat function in configuration space. Since our model is built in Fourier space, it is more convenient to modify the power spectrum directly by convolving it with the Fourier transform of the top-hat function. We have implemented this method both in configuration and Fourier space and have verified that the difference between the two is very small.

The projected correlation function measured from the EZMOCKS on small scales is shown in the left-hand panel of Fig. 8. For the full mock with no fibre collisions (w_p^{true}), the clustering amplitude is approximately zero. This is because pairs of physically associated quasars at these separations are very rare, and most of the pairs are due to random alignments on the sky. w_p^{NN} indicates the clustering measured from the mocks with fibre collisions that have been corrected with a nearest neighbour (NN) weight. The negative clustering amplitude indicates an ‘anticorrelation’ due to the fibre collision, but w_p^{NN} does not reach -1 , since a fraction of closely separated pairs can still be observed, due to the overlapping regimes and the Legacy objects.

The right-hand panel of Fig. 8 shows the ratio of the two projected correlation functions. This function is sloped between $0.5 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc} \lesssim r_p \lesssim 1.0 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, making a top-hat function a poor fit. This is because the fibre collision scale corresponds to a physical scale that depends on redshift, varying from $D_{\text{fc}}(z_{\text{min}}) = 0.58 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ to $D_{\text{fc}}(z_{\text{max}}) = 1.13 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

Starting from equation (23) in Hahn et al. (2017), the correction can be written in terms of the configuration space multipoles,

$$\Delta\xi_\ell = -f_s(2\ell + 1) \int_0^1 W_{\text{fc}}(s\sqrt{1-\mu^2}) (\xi(s, \mu) + 1) \mathcal{L}_\ell(\mu) d\mu. \quad (37)$$

We use two different functional forms for $W_{\text{fc}}(x)$. The first function we use is the original top-hat function, where the step is at the scale $r_p = D_{\text{fc}}(z_{\text{eff}}) = 0.91 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. It is natural to introduce a cut in the line-of-sight direction, with $\mu_c = \sqrt{1 - r_p^2/s^2}$, and therefore

⁵https://github.com/julianbautista/eboss_clustering

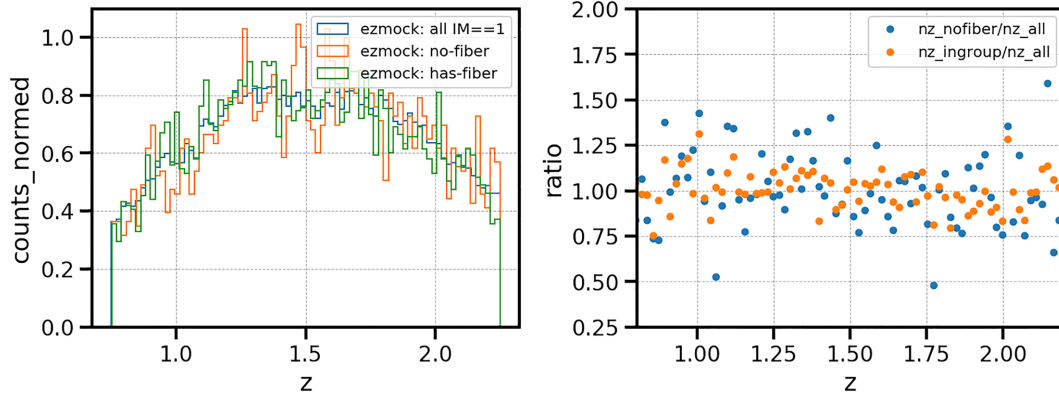


Figure 7. Left-hand panel: distribution of the $n(z)$ in one realization of the EZMOCKS. The blue histogram is the distribution of the total objects. The green histogram is the distribution for those objects that are assigned with a fibre, and the orange one corresponds to those who do not receive a fibre assignment. Right-hand panel: blue dots denote the ratio of $n(z)$ between the objects assigned (orange) or not assigned (blue) with a fibre and the total objects. The average difference between the total and ‘unobserved’ objects in the radial distribution is less than 1 per cent.

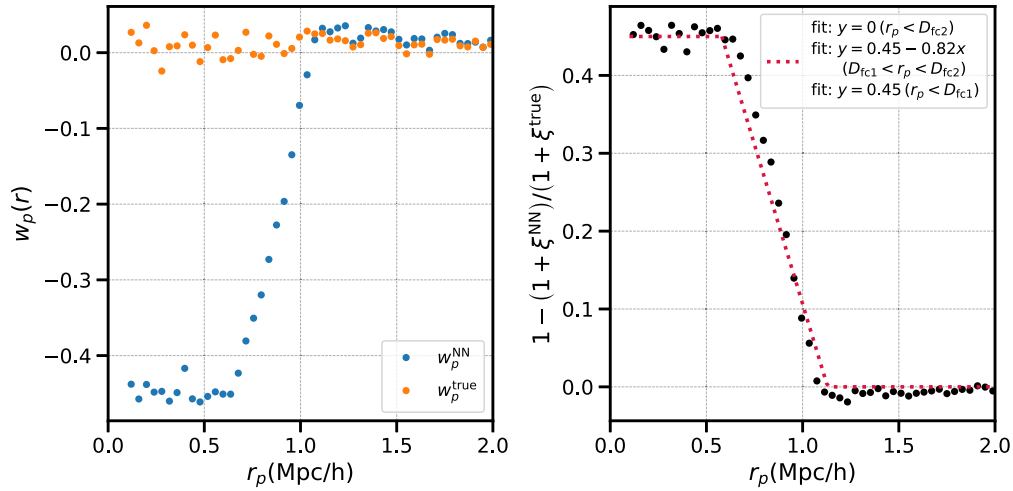


Figure 8. Left-hand panel: projected correlation function measured from the EZMOCKS with no fibre collisions (w_p^{true} , orange), and with fibre collisions and an NN weighting (w_p^{NN} , blue). Right-hand panel: the ratio $1 - (1 + \xi^{\text{NN}})/(1 + \xi^{\text{true}})$ (black dots), with a best-fitting model (dotted red curve). The turnover scales are $D_{\text{fc1}} = 0.58 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ and $D_{\text{fc2}} = 1.13 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$.

equation (37) can be simplified to

$$\Delta \xi_\ell = -f_s(2\ell + 1) \left[\int_{\mu_c}^1 (1 + \xi(s, \mu)) \mathcal{L}_\ell(\mu) d\mu \right]. \quad (38)$$

We also use a functional form for $W_{\text{fc}}(x)$ that is motivated by Fig. 8, which we define as

$$W_{\text{fc}}(r_p) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{for } r_p \leq D_{\text{fc1}} \\ t_p - k_p r_p & \text{for } D_{\text{fc2}} \geq r_p > D_{\text{fc1}} \\ 0 & \text{for } r_p > D_{\text{fc2}}. \end{cases} \quad (39)$$

The slope k_p and intercept t_p are determined by the two characteristic scales, D_{fc1} and D_{fc2} as well as the fraction of non-overlapping area, f_s , which we leave as a free fitting parameter.

The systematics obtained from fitting the 1000 EZMOCKS are summarized in Table 2. We show the systematic shifts in the measurements of α_\perp , α_\parallel , and $f\sigma_8$, with respect to the expected values in the cosmology of the mocks. We divide them into two groups: in the first group, we examine the effect associated with the radial integral constraint (RIC; de Mattia & Ruhlmann-Kleider 2019). We used a set of mocks w_{baseline} , which are only downsampled by completeness and the redshifts for the random catalogue are drawn

from a single global file. Then we added the RIC effect by drawing the redshifts for the random catalogues from each individual data mock $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric}}$. In the next line, we correct this effect follow de Mattia & Ruhlmann-Kleider (2019) and denote it as $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric-corr}}$. In the second group, we examine the effects associated with the observational effects. $w_{\text{no-sys}}$ are mocks without applying any systematics. Since fibre collisions have the largest impact on the correlation function among the observational systematics (Fig. 6), we show in Table 2 the results where all systematics are applied, including and excluding fibre collisions (w_{all} and w_{nocp} , respectively). We show results using the top-hat, $w_{\text{all}}^{\text{fc(top-hat)}}$, or trapezoidal function, $w_{\text{all}}^{\text{fc(trapezoid)}}$, to apply a correction. When applying the trapezoidal correction, we initially left f_s as a free parameter, but found a best-fitting value of $f_s = 0.45$ which coincides very well with the predicted value from Fig 8. Hereafter, we keep this parameter fixed. Uncertainties are the standard error of the mean from the 1000 EZMOCKS.

To estimate the final observational systematics, we add the RIC effect (Δ^{ric}) and the observational effects (Δ^{obs}) in quadrature. We quote the final systematics as the larger value between the systematic bias and two times the standard error of the mean for the mocks,

Table 2. Observational systematics measured from the EZMOCKS, showing the offsets in the measured values of α_\perp , α_\parallel , and $f\sigma_8$ to the fiducial values, with different systematics applied. The offset is inferred from the fits to the mean of the 1000 correlation function multipoles. The first group shows the effect associated with the RIC (de Mattia & Ruhlmann-Kleider 2019). Mocks w_{baseline} are only downsampled by completeness and the redshifts for the random catalogue are drawn from a single global file. $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric}}$ are the same, but redshifts in the random catalogues are drawn from the data mocks. The RIC effects are corrected in the model for $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric-corr}}$. The second group shows the effects related to the observational effects. $w_{\text{no-sys}}$ are mocks without including observational systematics. w_{nocp} includes all systematics except for fibre collisions, while w_{all} includes all systematics. The next rows show the result after applying the correction of Hahn et al. (2017), using a top-hat function and a trapezoidal function. Uncertainties are taken from the standard error of the mean of the 1000 EZMOCKS.

| Systematics | $\Delta\alpha_\perp$ | $\Delta\alpha_\parallel$ | $\Delta f\sigma_8$ |
|---|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| w_{baseline} | 0.002 ± 0.001 | -0.003 ± 0.001 | -0.009 ± 0.001 |
| $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric}}$ | 0.006 ± 0.001 | -0.005 ± 0.001 | -0.013 ± 0.001 |
| $w_{\text{baseline}}^{\text{ric-corr}}$ | 0.003 ± 0.001 | -0.004 ± 0.001 | -0.012 ± 0.001 |
| Δ^{ric} | 0.001 ± 0.001 | -0.001 ± 0.001 | -0.003 ± 0.001 |
| $w_{\text{no-sys}}$ | 0.009 ± 0.001 | 0.002 ± 0.002 | -0.006 ± 0.001 |
| w_{nocp} | 0.008 ± 0.001 | 0.002 ± 0.002 | -0.006 ± 0.001 |
| w_{all} | 0.017 ± 0.001 | -0.008 ± 0.002 | 0.008 ± 0.002 |
| $w_{\text{all}}^{\text{fc(top-hat)}}$ | 0.011 ± 0.001 | 0.002 ± 0.002 | -0.003 ± 0.002 |
| $w_{\text{all}}^{\text{fc(trapezoid)}}$ | 0.010 ± 0.001 | -0.001 ± 0.002 | -0.004 ± 0.002 |
| Δ^{obs} | 0.001 ± 0.001 | -0.003 ± 0.002 | 0.002 ± 0.002 |
| Total | 0.003 | 0.005 | 0.004 |

$\delta_{\text{sys}} = \max\{\Delta_{\text{sys}}, 2\sigma_{\text{stat}}\}$, and we arrive at $\delta\alpha_\perp = 0.003$, $\delta\alpha_\parallel = 0.005$, and $\delta f\sigma_8 = 0.004$.

7 CONSTRAINTS ON THE GEOMETRICAL PARAMETERS AND GROWTH RATE

In this section, we explore the BAO and RSD constraints in terms of comoving angular diameter distance, Hubble distance, and the growth rate of cosmic structure. We estimate the effective redshift using the definition:

$$z_{\text{eff}} = \frac{\sum_{i,j} w_i w_j (z_i + z_j)}{\sum_{i,j} 2w_i w_j}, \quad (40)$$

where we sum over pairs with a separation distance between $20 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc} \leq ds \leq 160 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, the weights w_i are defined as in equation (1). The exact definition of the pair separation distance has marginal impact on the effective redshift. A comparison using different definition of effective redshift can be found in Section A1.

7.1 Results in the configuration space: full-shape analysis

For the full-shape analysis, the final parameter inference is performed using RESPRESSO + fitting function, combined with an RSD model, which is described in Section 4. Fibre collisions are corrected using the method described in Section 6.3, which is based on Hahn et al. (2017) but the effect of fibre collisions is modelled by a trapezoidal function. We iteratively find that the parameter $f_s = 0.4$, which is in good agreement with the measurements of the projected correlation function (see Section 8). We perform the analysis on the multipoles $\xi_\ell(s) = 0, 2, 4$ within the range $20 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc} \leq s \leq 160 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, and with bin separation $\Delta s = 5 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. The 1000 EZMOCKS, including photometric and spectroscopic systematics, are used to estimate the covariance matrix. Fig. 9 shows the posterior distribution of the AP parameters as well as $f\sigma_8$ for the NGC (orange),

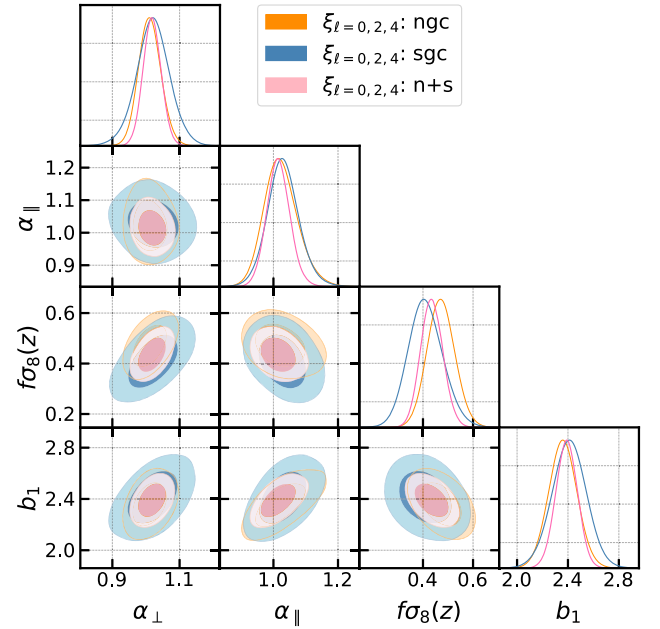


Figure 9. Posterior distribution for AP parameters, $f\sigma_8$ and linear bias b_1 for NGC (orange), SGC (blue), and combined (pink).

SGC (blue), and the combination of both (pink). Fig. 10 compares the statistical error on the data to the distribution from the EZMOCKS (combined NGS+SGC) for the AP parameters and $f\sigma_8$, where the error inferred from the data sits at the lower tail of the mocks. One reason is that the BAO signal in the data is higher than that in the average of the mocks, which effectively leads to a strong SNR and reduces the statistical error. A similar distribution is also observed in the eBOSS LRG sample (Bautista et al. 2020). Table 5 lists our measured values in terms of the AP parameters and $f\sigma_8$.

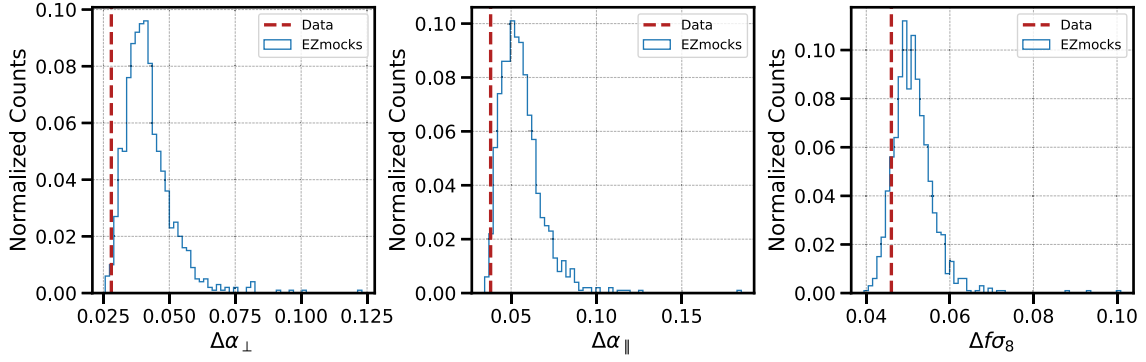


Figure 10. Distribution of the statistical error for $\Delta\alpha_{\perp}$, $\Delta\alpha_{\parallel}$, and $\Delta f\sigma_8$ on the EZMOCKS with all observational effects included (blue histogram) and the statistical error of the DR16 QSO data (red dashed line).

Table 3. Systematics for full-shape and BAO-only fit to the mocks. On the OUTERIM HOD mocks, we took the set with realistic redshift smearing and catastrophic redshift failure for the non-blind mocks. For the blind mocks, we use 24 boxes. The rms is calculated from the EZMOCKS sets with all observational systematics included for the full-shape analysis.

| Full-shape rms | OUTERIM | | EZMOCKS all-syst |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|---------------------|
| | non-blind | blind | |
| $\delta D_M/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.070 | 0.210 | 0.104 |
| $\delta D_H/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.057 | 0.145 | 0.057 |
| $\delta f\sigma_8$ | 0.008 | 0.011 | 0.004 |
| BAO-only rms | OUTERIM | | |
| | non-blind | blind | |
| $\delta D_M/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.133 | 0.161 | |
| $\delta D_H/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.091 | 0.113 | |

Table 4. A summary of the parameter space λ . A flat prior is applied to all parameters with uniform distribution inside the limits and zero otherwise. In all cases, the distortion parameters q_{\perp} , q_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ are all free. We vary also the three bias parameters b_1 , b_2 , γ_3^- and a_{vir} for the RSD effect at small scale. σ_{zerr} and f_s are left optional depending on the feature of the problem we study.

| Parameter | Description | Prior limits |
|------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|
| b_1 | Linear bias | [0.25, 6] |
| b_2 | Second order bias | [-2, 3] |
| γ_3^- | non local bias | [-2, 2] |
| a_{vir} | FoG kurtosis | [0.2, 10] |
| σ_{zerr} | Redshift error | [0, 6] |
| f_s | fibre collision | [0.2, 0.7] |
| q_{\perp} | Distortion \perp L.O.S | [0.5, 1.5] |
| q_{\parallel} | Distortion \parallel L.O.S | [0.5, 1.5] |
| $f\sigma_8$ | growth parameter | [0, 1] |

Table 5. Table summarizes the values on the final DR16 data for the α_{\perp} , α_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ in configuration space, Fourier space and the combined results.

| Full-shape | α_{\perp} | α_{\parallel} | $f\sigma_8$ |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ξ_{ℓ} | 1.019 ± 0.028 | 1.017 ± 0.038 | 0.439 ± 0.046 |
| P_{ℓ} | 1.020 ± 0.029 | 1.049 ± 0.038 | 0.476 ± 0.045 |
| combined | 1.004 ± 0.026 | 1.027 ± 0.035 | 0.462 ± 0.043 |
| BAO-only | α_{\perp} | α_{\parallel} | α_{iso} |
| ξ_{ℓ} | 1.024 ± 0.026 | 1.026 ± 0.042 | 1.026 ± 0.016 |

The error bars are derived statistically from the Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC) chain with the correction factor $\sqrt{M} = 1.036$ (see equation 12).

We adopt the same fiducial cosmology as for DR14 analysis, $\{\Omega_m, \Omega_b h^2, h, n_s, \sigma_8\} = \{0.31, 0.022, 0.676, 0.97, 0.8\}$, where the total matter density parameter also includes a contribution from massive neutrinos $\sum_i m_{\nu}^i = 0.06 \text{ eV}$, corresponding to $\Omega_{\nu} h^2 = 0.0064$. We obtain the fiducial distances, $H(z = 1.48) = 157.40 \text{ km s}^{-1} \text{ Mpc}^{-1}$, $D_M(z = 1.48) = 4446.82 \text{ Mpc}$, and $r_{\text{drag}} = 147.8 \text{ Mpc}$. This corresponds to the rms of the mass contained in a sphere of radius 12 Mpc, $\sigma_{12} = 0.79$, as suggested in Sanchez (2020). Finally, using equations (6) and (7), we arrive at the comoving angular diameter distance, Hubble distance, and $f\sigma_8$:

$$D_M(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.66 \pm 0.84 \pm 0.25, \quad (41)$$

$$D_H(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.11 \pm 0.49 \pm 0.17, \quad (42)$$

$$f\sigma_8(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.439 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.014, \quad (43)$$

where the first error denotes the statistical uncertainty including correction factor $\sqrt{M} = 1.036$. The second error denotes the systematic uncertainty inferred from the OUTERIM mock challenge (including both the blind and non-blind tests) as well as the observational systematics from the EZMOCKS. The three of them are summed in quadrature. The individual systematic uncertainties are listed in Table 3. The systematic errors are quoted as the larger value between the systematic bias and the 2σ of the standard deviation of the mean of the mocks.

Fig. 11 shows the redshift evolution of the distance measurements (left-hand panel) and growth rate measurement (right-hand panel). Our final results from the DR16 quasar sample in the configuration space are shown by the yellow points with error bars. We compare this to the Λ CDM model inferred from the *Planck* CMB temperature and polarization measurements. We also show previous results from the SDSS main galaxy sample (MGS) for the distance measurement (Ross et al. 2015a) and growth rate measurement (Howlett et al. 2015), the constraints from BOSS DR12 LRG sample (Alam et al. 2017), and the combined constraints from eBOSS DR14 Ly α measurements (Blomqvist et al. 2019; de Sainte Agathe et al. 2019). With the final QSO sample, statistically we gain ~ 45 per cent in the distance measurement, and ~ 30 per cent in the growth rate measurement compared to our DR14 QSO analysis.

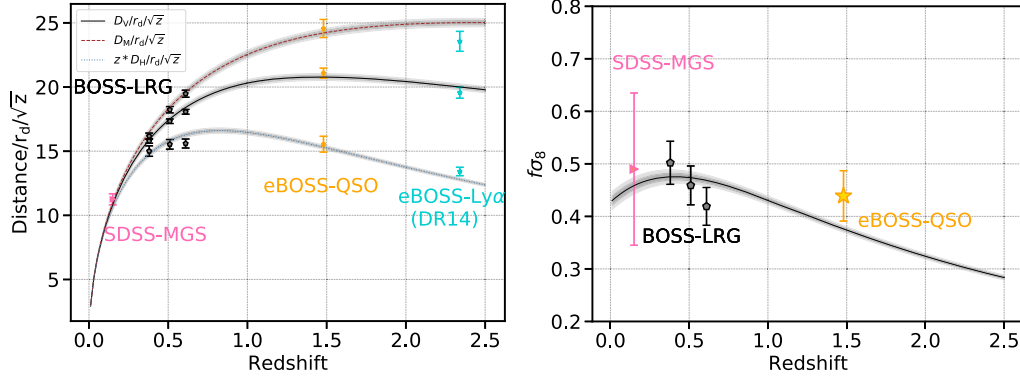


Figure 11. Redshift evolution of the distance parameter and the cosmic growth rate. The Λ CDM model, with input from the *Planck* 2018 MCMC chains, is shown by the curves (as indicated in the legend). The grey points are from the BOSS DR12 LRG sample (Alam et al. 2017), the blue points are from the combined eBOSS DR14 Ly α auto- and cross-correlation function (Blomqvist et al. 2019; de Sainte Agathe et al. 2019), the pink points are from an early SDSS MGS sample (Ross et al. 2015a for the distance measurement and Howlett et al. 2015 for the growth rate measurement). The orange points show the final results from the eBOSS DR16 quasar analysis, in configuration space.

We present the parameter covariance matrix including the statistical error, theoretical modelling systematics, and observational systematics in the D_M/r_{drag} , D_H/r_{drag} , and $f\sigma_8$ basis as

$$C_\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & D_H/r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_8 \\ 7.709 \times 10^{-1} & -5.656 \times 10^{-2} & 1.750 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 2.640 \times 10^{-1} & -6.204 \times 10^{-3} \\ - & - & 2.308 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (44)$$

The results expressed in various alternative basis can be found in the Appendix D.

7.2 Results in the configuration space: BAO-only analysis

We apply the model described in Section 5 to the measured eBOSS quasar monopole and quadrupole, $\xi_{\ell=0,2}(s)$, in the range $50 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc} < s < 150 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$, with bin size $\Delta s = 5 h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$. The constraints on the basis of AP parameters can be found in Table 5. The error bars given here are only derived statistically from the MCMC chain with the correction factor $\sqrt{M} = 1.010$ (see equation 12).

The χ^2 value of our fit to α_\perp and α_\parallel is $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 34.1/30$, while for the fit to α_{iso} we have $\chi^2/\text{dof} = 16.5/15$. The best-fitting models are presented in Fig. 3. The top panel shows the monopole, where we fit α_\perp and α_\parallel . However, the model where we fit α_{iso} looks almost identical.

We show the likelihood in Fig. 12, in terms of $\Delta\chi^2$, for our fit to α_{iso} . Our BAO measurement is shown by the solid curve, while the dashed curve is the result for a fit to a template that does not include the BAO. This highlights the significance of the BAO feature in the eBOSS DR16 quasar data, as we find that the BAO model is preferred by a significance greater than 6σ .

We convert the BAO α_\perp and α_\parallel results to constraints on the comoving angular diameter and Hubble distance:

$$D_M(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.82 \pm 0.82 \pm 0.21, \quad (45)$$

$$D_H(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.22 \pm 0.56 \pm 0.14. \quad (46)$$

The first error denotes the statistical uncertainty including the correction factor $\sqrt{M} = 1.010$, while the second error denotes the

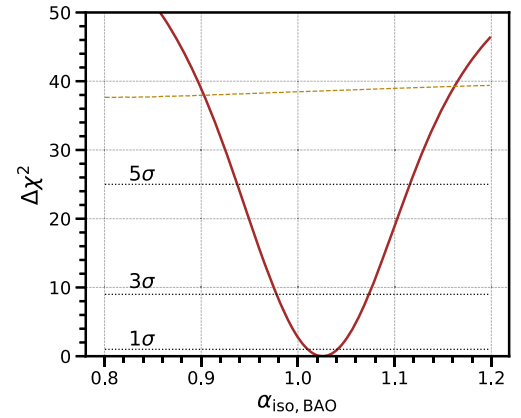


Figure 12. The likelihood of the BAO parameter α_{iso} from the fit to the correlation function monopole, in terms of $\Delta\chi^2$ (solid curve). The dashed curve indicates the likelihood for a model with no BAO feature. The no BAO model has a χ^2 greater than 37 over the full range of α_{iso} values. This implies that the clustering of the eBOSS DR16 quasar sample has a BAO feature at greater than 6σ significance.

systematic uncertainty, which is inferred from the mock challenge based on Table 3. We have not explicitly performed the tests on the observational systematics for the BAO-only fit, but the results are expected to be very similar to the ones reported in the Fourier-space analysis at sub-per-cent level (Neveux et al. 2020).

Fig. 13 compares the posterior distribution of the AP parameters for full-shape and BAO-only analysis. The BAO-only measurements are in good agreement (within 0.5σ) with the full-shape measurements presented in the previous subsection. The degeneracy direction of α_\perp – α_\parallel for the BAO-only fit (blue contour) is precisely predicted in Ross, Percival & Manera (2015b). The full-shape measurement is expected to obtain improved results on $D_M(z)$ and $D_H(z)$ through the broad-band modelling of the AP effect. For our results, this manifests as a 14 per cent improvement in the statistical uncertainty on $D_H(z)$.

It has been shown that the BAO-only analysis is robust to the assumption of fiducial cosmology (Carter et al. 2020). Since the

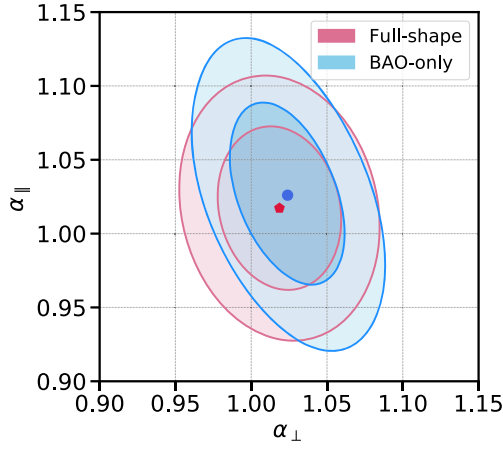


Figure 13. Comparison of full-shape (red contour) and BAO only (blue contour) fits in configuration space.

full-shape analysis is potentially sensitive to the shape of the model template, we have performed a detailed analysis using the set of OUTERRIM mocks in blind cosmologies (Smith et al. 2020) and thus believe the full-shape results, with the inclusion of our systematic uncertainties, are robust to these concerns. The good agreement between the full-shape and BAO-only results further strengthen our confidence. Our BAO results are used, after being combined with those of Neveux et al. 2020, for the cosmological tests in eBOSS Collaboration (2020) that only use BAO information.

7.3 Combination of the configuration space and Fourier-space results

We use the method described in Sánchez et al. (2017a) to combine the results. The aim is to compress the information obtained from m different of methods into a single set of measurement. Under the Gaussian assumption, such a measurement should always be possible and we should be able to write down the equation

$$\mathbf{D}_c = \Psi_c^{-1} \sum_{i=1}^m \left(\sum_{j=1}^m \Psi_{ji} \right) \mathbf{D}_i, \quad (47)$$

where the compressed precision matrix is,

$$\Psi_c^{-1} \equiv \left(\sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^m \Psi_{ij} \right)^{-1}. \quad (48)$$

In the case, the two methods are completely independent from each other, the big precision matrix, Ψ_c , reduces to be block diagonal. The statistical error of the data is directly calculated from the MCMC chain. We use the 1000 EZMOCKS including the systematic effects to estimate the correlation $C_{m_i(\lambda_n) \otimes m_j(\lambda_l)}$ between the cosmological parameters $\lambda = \{\lambda_1, \lambda_2, \dots, \lambda_n\}$ among different methods $m = \{m_1, m_2, \dots, m_i\}$ as well as the correlation coefficients between cosmological parameters of the same method $C_{m_i(\lambda_n) \otimes \lambda_l}$. The estimation of the correlation between the parameters of the same method is different from the original proposal, and we discuss the difference in Section 8.

The diagonal elements from the real data are rescaled using equation (9) for both configuration and Fourier space. The covariance matrix of the EZMOCKS is estimated from the scattering of the best-fitting parameters, which is then normalized using the error inferred

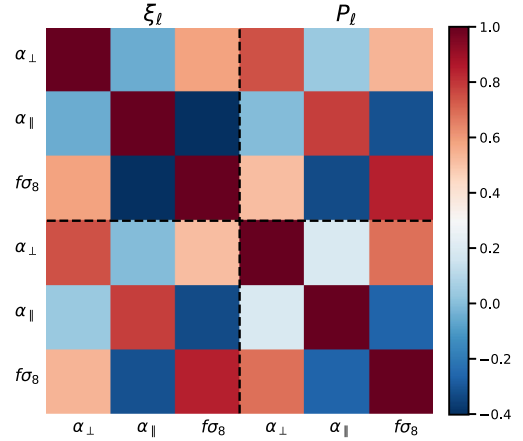


Figure 14. Correlation coefficients for the configuration multipoles and the power spectrum.

from the data. Fig. 14 shows the correlation coefficients between two methods, with the diagonal terms of the off-diagonal blocks being 0.743, 0.783, 0.844.

Fig. 15 shows the posterior for α_{\perp} , α_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ in configuration space (green), Fourier space (orange), and the combined results using the method described in Sánchez et al. (2017a). The black solid ellipses represent the combined constraints at the 68 and 95 confidence limits. As summarized in Table 5, by combining the configuration and Fourier-space results, we find an improvement in the statistical uncertainty of ~ 7 per cent σ in α_{\perp} , ~ 3 per cent σ in α_{\parallel} , and ~ 5 per cent σ in $f\sigma_8$.

To quantify the combined systematic error, we use the non-blind mocks that include the effects of redshift smearing and catastrophic redshifts and the blind mocks with various implementations of HODs (see Section 6.2). We combine the configuration and power spectrum multipoles for each of the boxes, and calculate the correlation coefficients using the 100 realizations for each box. The systematic error is derived from the rms of the difference with respect to the true cosmology. The combined statistics on the OUTERRIM mocks is summarized in Table 6. The observational systematics inferred from the EZMOCKS are directly added to the diagonal terms of the data covariance matrix. Finally, we arrive at the combined result in terms of comoving angular diameter distance, Hubble parameter, and $f\sigma_8$,

$$D_M^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.21 \pm 0.79, \quad (49)$$

$$D_H^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.23 \pm 0.47, \quad (50)$$

$$f\sigma_8^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.462 \pm 0.045, \quad (51)$$

where the errors include both the statistical and systematic uncertainties. The final covariance matrix for the combined data reads

$$\mathbf{C}_{\lambda}^c = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & D_H/r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_8 \\ 6.227 \times 10^{-1} & 1.424 \times 10^{-2} & 2.257 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 2.195 \times 10^{-1} & -7.315 \times 10^{-3} \\ - & - & 2.020 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (52)$$

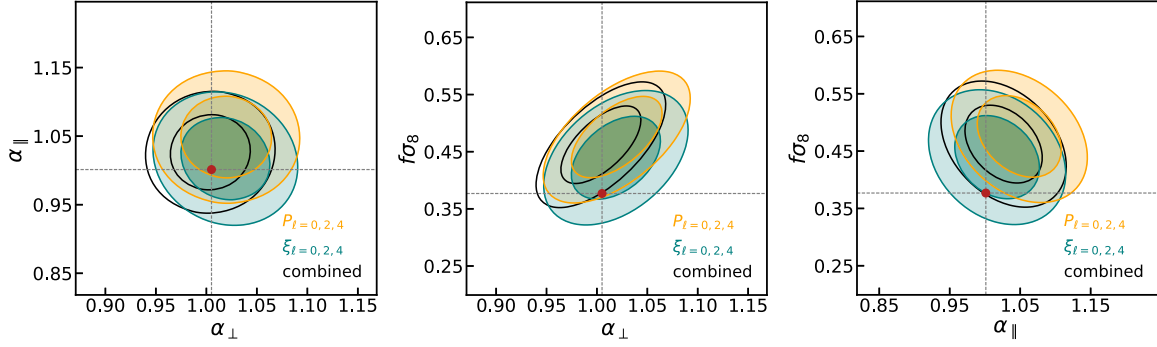


Figure 15. Posterior for α_{\perp} , α_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ configuration space, Fourier space, and the combined results using the method described in Sánchez et al. (2017a). The filled contours are derived from the MCMC chains in configuration space (green), and Fourier space (orange). The black solid ellipses are the combined constraints at the 68, 95 confidence limits. The red points denote the values that are inferred from the *Planck* constraints (Planck Collaboration VI 2020).

Table 6. Table summarizes the combined systematics for configuration and the Fourier-space results, calculated from the non-blind and blind OUTERIM mocks. We use the 20 sets of non-blind OUTERIM mocks, and the 24 sets of blind mocks, in eight different cosmologies.

| Combined | Non-blind | Blind |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| $\delta D_M/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.079 | 0.129 |
| $\delta D_H/r_{\text{drag}}$ | 0.053 | 0.094 |
| $\delta f\sigma_8$ | 0.009 | 0.008 |

8 ROBUSTNESS TESTS ON THE DATA ANALYSIS

In this section, we describe the various systematic tests we perform on the data to check the robustness of our inferred cosmological constraints. We consider alternative definitions of the systematic weights, model for the two-point correlation function, definition on the effective redshift, and the impact of the fibre collision correction. The final results are summarized in Table 7, which shows how the final measurements of α_{\perp} , α_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ shift with different choices for the systematic corrections.

8.1 List of tests performed on the data

8.1.1 Redshift efficiency weights

The redshift detection efficiency depends, for example, on the efficiency of the spectrograph, observational conditions, position of the objects with respect to the focal plane, and the intrinsic properties of the objects. To account for the inhomogeneity in the redshift detection efficiency, we identify the trends in $n_{\text{good}}/n_{\text{total}}$ as a function of the fibre number ID and the spectral SNR, where n_{good} stands for the number of good objects and n_{total} is for the total objects. An inverse weighting is assigned to each object to correct for the trend. As discussed in Section 2.1, the efficiency in detecting the redshift of the objects is not uniform across different fibres (see fig. 4 in the companion paper Ross et al. 2020). The detection efficiency is lower near the edge of the CCDs, as well as near the locations of the CCD amplifiers. While the trend as a function of the spectral SNR is weak for the quasar sample, we include the correction to remove any dependence. Both effects are accounted for in the final redshift failure weighting. In Ata et al. (2017), the correction was performed by up-weighting objects by the success rate of the sectors. In Table 7, we show the impact of weighting based on the

success rate of each sector (denoted as ‘ $w_{\text{noz, ssr}}$ ’). In addition, we also show a weighting scheme that only corrects for the trend in fibre ID number, without considering the spectral SNR (denoted as ‘ $w_{\text{noz, id}}$ ’).

8.1.2 Photometric weights

In DR14 QSO analysis (Gil-Marín et al. 2018; Hou et al. 2018; Zarrouk et al. 2018), the trend in $n_{\text{data}}/n_{\text{random}}$ was calibrated against the extinction corrected g -band depth and the extinction coefficients $E(B - V)$. In fact, the QSO data also show trends in the sky background and seeing, in the i -band (see fig. 9 of Ross et al. 2020). In the final data catalogue, we correct for all of these trends. In Table 7, we show the impact of using photometric weights that omit the trends in the i -band, which we denote as ‘ $w_{\text{photo, no-i}}$ ’.

8.1.3 Close pair correction

The finite radius of the fibre leads to objects in close pairs being missed. Our fibre collision correction, which models the impact on the two-point correlation function, is described in Section 6.3. An alternative treatment of this effect can be found in Bianchi & Percival (2017) and Mohammad et al. (2018), where correlation function measurements are corrected using pairwise inverse probability (PIP) weights. The idea is to up-weight the pair counts based on the probability that each pair can be observed. This probability is inferred by running the fibre assignment algorithm many times (on the corresponding eBOSS input target catalogue) to find how often each pair can be observed. The detailed description of catalogue with PIP weights that we use can be found in Mohammad et al. (2020). Table 7 shows the impact of using the PIP weighting, which is denoted as ‘ $w_{\text{cp, pip}}$ ’.

8.1.4 Impact on the combination of NGC and SGC

We compare two methods for combining the data from the NGC and SGC. In the first method, which is done in our final analysis, the pair counts from the north and south caps are combined. In the second method, the north and south caps are fitted separately, and the posterior distributions are combined. Given that the north and south caps are statistically independent, the second method would correspond to applying fits simultaneously to both caps, but leaving all the fitting parameters free at the same time (including

Table 7. Table compares the impact on potential systematics, which includes alternative weighting schemes for redshift efficiency weights ($w_{\text{noz}, \{\text{id}, \text{ssr}\}}$), photometric ($w_{\text{photo}, \text{no-i}}$), and fibre collision weight ($w_{\text{cp}, \text{pip}}$). The table also includes the definition of the effective redshift (5th row), the correction on the fibre collision effect (6th row), the difference using the gRPT model (7th row), the impact on the combination of the caps (8th row), and alternative estimation of the correlation coefficients when combining the data (9th row).

| | $\Delta\alpha_{\perp}$ | $\Delta\alpha_{\parallel}$ | $\Delta f\sigma_8$ |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| $w_{\text{noz}, \text{id}}$ | 0.000 ± 0.026 | 0.001 ± 0.037 | 0.000 ± 0.043 |
| $w_{\text{noz}, \text{ssr}}$ | 0.002 ± 0.026 | -0.002 ± 0.036 | 0.004 ± 0.046 |
| $w_{\text{photo}, \text{no-i}}$ | -0.002 ± 0.027 | -0.001 ± 0.036 | -0.002 ± 0.042 |
| $w_{\text{cp}, \text{pip}}$ | -0.007 ± 0.026 | 0.012 ± 0.034 | -0.019 ± 0.043 |
| fibre collision | | | |
| $f_s = 0$ | 0.003 ± 0.027 | -0.004 ± 0.036 | 0.007 ± 0.044 |
| $z_{\text{eff}} = 1.52$ | 0.000 ± 0.028 | -0.001 ± 0.036 | 0.001 ± 0.044 |
| model | | | |
| gRPT | 0.002 ± 0.027 | -0.001 ± 0.037 | 0.002 ± 0.044 |
| NGC+SGC | | | |
| independent | 0.002 ± 0.028 | 0.013 ± 0.037 | -0.005 ± 0.043 |
| correlation coeff. | 0.003 ± 0.026 | 0.007 ± 0.035 | -0.002 ± 0.043 |

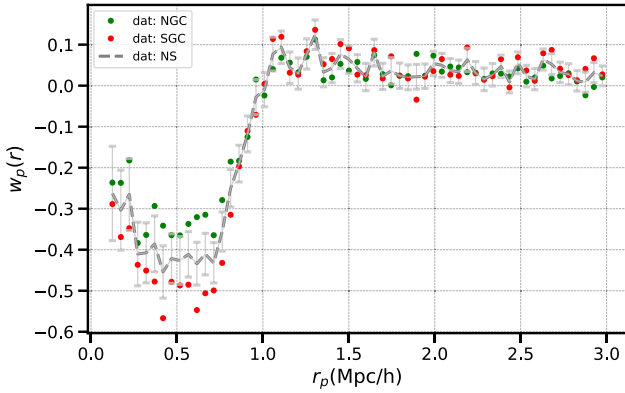


Figure 16. Projected correlation function on the data for north cap (green), south cap (red), and the combined pair counts (grey). The error bars are derived from the EZMOCKS.

the AP parameters, $f\sigma_8$, bias parameters, etc). To determine the correction factor of the fibre collision, f_s (see Section 6.3), for the north and south caps, we measure the projected correlation function. To increase the signal-to-noise ratio, we integrate over the full depth of the QSO sample along the radial direction. Fig. 16 shows the projected correlation function for the NGC, the SGC, and the combination. When fitting the NGC and SGC separately, we find $f_s|_{\text{NGC}} = 0.36$ and $f_s|_{\text{SGC}} = 0.45$, which is consistent with Neveux et al. (2020). In Table 7, we show the effect on our results of combining independent fits to the NGC and SGC. The shifts are small compared to the total systematic uncertainty.

8.1.5 Alternative estimation of the correlation coefficients

As discussed in Section 7.3, to estimate the correlation between cosmological parameters measured using different methods, our only option is to use the 1000 EZMOCKS (the set that includes the systematic effects). To estimate the correlation between cosmological parameters within the same method, we have two options: use either the EZMOCKS or use a covariance matrix that is inferred directly from the data. The latter option is justified if, on average, the error

inferred from a single realization matches that from the ensemble of the mocks.

Fitting the 1000 EZMOCKS in configuration space, we find a good agreement between the mean of the standard deviation and the scatter of the best-fitting values for the 1000 realizations. For presenting the results, we select the first option of estimating the correlation coefficients using the mocks. Although the correlation coefficients are cosmology dependent, the estimation from an ensemble of mocks is expected to be more robust and less sensitive to statistical fluctuations. To further confirm the combining method, we performed test on the 1000 EZMOCKS for the first option, we arrive at the mean of the standard deviation of the 1000 realizations: $\text{std}(\alpha_{\perp}) = 0.038$, $\text{std}(\alpha_{\parallel}) = 0.052$, and $\text{std}(f\sigma_8) = 0.049$, which is in good agreement with the scatter in the best-fitting parameters for the 1000 realizations (include the correction factor given by equation 22 in Percival et al. 2014): $\delta\alpha_{\perp} = 0.039$, $\delta\alpha_{\parallel} = 0.052$, $\delta f\sigma_8 = 0.049$. The effect of choosing the second option of using the data to infer the correlation coefficients is shown in Table 7.

8.2 Summary of the robustness test

Table 7 shows how the measurements of α_{\perp} , α_{\parallel} , and $f\sigma_8$ are shifted, for alternative choices of weighting schemes, compared to the one used in the final data catalogue. In the spectroscopic weighting, the effect of correcting for the trend in the spectral SNR has a marginal impact on the parameter constraints. In addition, the difference when using the ‘SSR’ weights applied to the DR14 data is at the sub-percent level compared to the statistical error. Similarly, the correction in the photometric weights by including the sky background and seeing in the *i*-band also induces changes at a sub-percent level, and therefore this does not influence the conclusions drawn from the DR14 release. The close pair correction using the PIP algorithm has a larger impact on α_{\parallel} and $f\sigma_8$, where the latter one accounts for 44 per cent of the statistical error. Given the statistical properties of the two close-pair treatment schemes, this difference is statistically not significant; nevertheless, it would be worth exploring for future denser samples. The table also lists miscellaneous tests including the impact of setting $f_s = 0$ in our modelling of the fibre collision effect, a different definition of the effective redshift (see Section A1), constraints derived using

the gRPT model, a different method to combine the NGC with SGC, and an alternative estimation of the correlation coefficients. These tests all show a much smaller variation compared to the statistical uncertainty, which demonstrates the robustness of our analysis.

9 CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, we presented the full-shape and BAO-only analysis of the eBOSS DR16 QSO clustering sample. We measured the two-point correlation function of the quasar sample, which we decomposed into Legendre multipoles, $\xi_\ell(s)$, with $\ell = 0, 2, 4$. In our full-shape analysis, we incorporated a new recipe to describe the correlation function. The matter power spectrum is calculated using RESPRESSO (Nishimichi et al. 2017), whose original python code was implemented in FORTRAN. The power spectra that involve the velocities were computed using the fitting formulae provided by Bel et al. (2019).

In the final data release, we doubled the number of objects and the survey area compared to the DR14 sample, leading to a 6σ detection of the BAO signal in configuration space (consistent with the Fourier-space analysis of Neveux et al. 2020). Compared to the DR14 analysis, the final sample represents a reduction of ~ 45 per cent in the statistical uncertainties of our distance measurements, and ~ 30 per cent for the growth rate measurement. We obtained the comoving angular diameter distance $D_M(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.66 \pm 0.88$, the Hubble distance $D_H(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.11 \pm 0.52$, and the cosmic structure growth rate $f\sigma_8(z_{\text{eff}}) = 0.439 \pm 0.048$. Our analysis in the configuration space combined with the analysis in the Fourier space (Neveux et al. 2020) allowed us to obtain a tighter constraints in the cosmological distance and growth rate parameters: $D_M^c(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.21 \pm 0.79$, $D_H^c(z_{\text{eff}})/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.23 \pm 0.47$, and $f\sigma_8^c(z_{\text{eff}}) = 0.462 \pm 0.045$.

The measurements of the AP parameters are found to be within 1σ to the best-fitting Λ CDM model to the combination of *Planck* and previous BAO measurements (Planck Collaboration VI 2020). The growth rate measurement $f\sigma_8$ in configuration space is found to agree at the 1.4σ level with the same Λ CDM prediction. Meanwhile, when combined with the results in the Fourier space, the inferred growth rate $f\sigma_8$ is $\sim 2\sigma$ higher than the Λ CDM model with the best fit from the *Planck* measurements. The tendency of higher $f\sigma_8$ was observed in DR14 analysis (Gil-Marín et al. 2018; Hou et al. 2018; Zarrouk et al. 2018).

We performed extensive tests to quantify potential systematics and focused on testing observational effects as well as the modelling of the two-point correlation function. We tested observational systematics using fast mocks including various angular effects (such as fibre collision, photometric, and redshift failure effects). We corrected for the largest angular systematics (fibre collision) using a modified form following Hahn et al. (2017). We also corrected for the RICs as described in de Mattia & Ruhlmann-Kleider (2019). Based on these tests, the residual observational systematics on the inferred parameters are shown to be at sub-percent level. Based on a set of HOD mocks built on N -body simulation (Smith et al. 2020), we examined the modelling of the two-point correlation function. In these mocks, we checked the impact of various HODs and also included different redshift uncertainty distribution, as well as catastrophic redshift failure objects (potentially important for future surveys). Our model can account for these effects, and we can recover 1 per cent accuracy for the distance measurement and 3 per cent for the growth rate measurement. A larger systematics turned out to be the impact of the fiducial cosmology and is the dominant source of

our systematic error budget that accounts for up to 30 per cent of the statistical error.

As a consistency check for our constraints on the data, we also performed a BAO-only analysis, which was proven to be more robust to the assumption of the fiducial cosmology (Carter et al. 2020). We found good agreement between the full-shape and BAO-only analyses, which demonstrates the robustness of the methodology given the current statistical precision. In the line with our findings from DR14 (Gil-Marín et al. 2018; Hou et al. 2018; Zarrouk et al. 2018), we demonstrate that quasars are robust tracers of the underlying matter field.

Our work has several points in common with those of our companion papers. The configuration-space BAO-only analyses of Tamone et al. (2020) and Bautista et al. (2020) are based on a similar method as the one used here. Regarding the modelling of the full-shape of two-point statistics, the predictions of RESPRESSO used here were also tested in the analysis of the LRG sample (Bautista et al. 2020). All analyses use a consistent definition of the total systematic error budget. The differences in the statistical uncertainties of the results inferred from each sample are mainly due to their different volumes and number densities.

The distance and growth of structure measurements inferred from all samples are summarized in Table 3 by eBOSS Collaboration (2020). A comparison of these measurements with the predictions of the best-fitting Λ CDM model to *Planck* CMB data shows good agreement. The largest deviations in the distance measurements are given by the LRG BAO measurements, which are $\sim 1.7\sigma$ lower. Regarding $f\sigma_8$, the consensus QSO measurement is $\sim 1.9\sigma$ higher, while the ELG analysis is lower by $\sim 1.4\sigma$. However, these measurements cover a wide range of the redshift and showed no clear deviation from the Λ CDM paradigm.

The different eBOSS samples overlap in redshifts and can be studied using the multitracers technique (Seljak 2009). Wang et al. (2020) and Zhao et al. (2020b) show that the combination of the eBOSS tracers can further help to tighten the constraints on cosmological parameters.

The cosmological implications of our results and those of our companion papers will be explored in eBOSS Collaboration (2020).

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DATA AVAILABILITY

The correlation functions, covariance matrices, and resulting likelihoods for cosmological parameters are (will be made) available (after acceptance) via the SDSS Science Archive Server (<https://sas.sdss.org/>), with the exact address tbd.

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APPENDIX A: CONSISTENCY CHECK ON THE POTENTIAL SYSTEMATICS

A1 Impact of the effective redshift definition

We define the effective redshift, z_{eff} , of the quasars using equation (40), which matches the definition used for the other eBOSS tracers. The main motivation for this definition is that, in practice, the correlation function is measured in terms of weighted pairs. Taylor expanding the correlation function about z_{eff} gives

$$\xi(z) = \xi(z_{\text{eff}}) + \left. \frac{d\xi}{dz} \right|_{z=z_{\text{eff}}} (z_{\text{eff}} - z) + O[(z_{\text{eff}} - z)^2], \quad (\text{A1})$$

and we effectively measure the correlation function

$$\hat{\xi} = \frac{\sum_{i,j} \xi(z) |_{z=(z_i+z_j)/2} w_i w_j}{\sum_{i,j} w_i w_j}, \quad \text{for } \Delta s_{i,j} \in [s_{\min}, s_{\max}]. \quad (\text{A2})$$

The first order term in equation (A1) vanishes if we define the effective redshift as in equation (40). However, there is some ambiguity in the definition of the effective redshift. First, objects at higher redshifts are more likely to receive a larger weight, and the effect of this should in principle also be taken into account. Secondly, there is also potential ambiguity in the range of pair separations, $\Delta s_{i,j}$, that are summed over. In Table A1, we list the value of z_{eff} obtained using different definitions. We find that the range of pair separations has only a marginal impact, while the pair-defined z_{eff} differ by ~ 3 per cent compared to the definition we used for the DR14 analysis. Nevertheless, we compare the inferred cosmological parameters obtained using either of the effective redshift definitions, and the difference is small compared to the statistical error (see Table 7).

Table A1. Effective redshift, z_{eff} , of the NGC, SGC, and combined NGC+SGC, for different definitions of z_{eff} . The first row uses the definition of z_{eff} used in the DR14 analysis. The second and third rows show the definition used in our DR16 analysis, with different ranges of pair separations.

| z_{eff} | NGC | SGC | NS |
|---|-------|-------|-------|
| $\frac{\sum_i (w_i * z_i)}{\sum_i w_i}$ | 1.512 | 1.520 | 1.515 |
| $\frac{\sum_{i,j} (w_i w_j * (z_i + z_j)/2)}{\sum_{i,j} w_i w_j}$ $s \in [25, 120] \ h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ | 1.474 | 1.491 | 1.480 |
| $\frac{\sum_{i,j} (w_i w_j * (z_i + z_j)/2)}{\sum_{i,j} w_i w_j}$ $s \in [20, 160] \ h^{-1} \text{ Mpc}$ | 1.474 | 1.491 | 1.480 |

APPENDIX B: ANALYTICAL COVARIANCE MATRIX ESTIMATION WITH GAUSSIAN APPROXIMATION

Following the prescription in Grieb et al. (2016), the covariance of the Legendre multipoles in configuration space can be expressed as

$$C_{\ell_1 \ell_2}^{\xi}(s_i, s_j) = \frac{i^{\ell_1 + \ell_2}}{2\pi^2} \int_0^\infty k^2 \sigma_{\ell_1 \ell_2}^2(k) \bar{j}_{\ell_1}(ks_i) \bar{j}_{\ell_2}(ks_j) dk, \quad (\text{B1})$$

where the \bar{j}_ℓ is the bin-averaged spherical Bessel function over a volume $V_{s_i} = 4\pi (s_{i,\text{max}}^3 - s_{i,\text{min}}^3) / 3$ around a bin s_i

$$\bar{j}_\ell(ks_i) \equiv \frac{4\pi}{V_{s_i}} \int_{s_i - \Delta s/2}^{s_i + \Delta s/2} s^2 j_\ell(ks) ds. \quad (\text{B2})$$

The per-mode covariance in equation (B1) is given by

$$\sigma_{\ell_1 \ell_2}^2(k) \equiv \frac{(2\ell_1 + 1)(2\ell_2 + 1)}{V_{\text{eff}}} \int_{-1}^1 \left[P(k, \mu) + \frac{1}{n} \right]^2 \mathcal{L}_{\ell_1}(\mu) \mathcal{L}_{\ell_2}(\mu) d\mu. \quad (\text{B3})$$

In the case of cubic simulation box, the volume is estimated by $V_{\text{eff}} = L^3$. For a survey with selection function and varying radial number density, the volume V_{eff} can be defined as the integral of the amplitude squared of the survey window function, $Q(\mathbf{k})$, in Fourier space

$$V_{\text{eff}}^{-1} \equiv \int \frac{d^3 \mathbf{k}}{(2\pi)^3} |Q(\mathbf{k})|^2 = \frac{\int d^3 \mathbf{x} \bar{n}^4(\mathbf{x}) w^4(\mathbf{x})}{[\int d^3 \mathbf{x} \bar{n}^2(\mathbf{x}) w^2(\mathbf{x})]^2}. \quad (\text{B4})$$

The window function is designed to maximize the signal-to-noise ratio by weighting the density fluctuation field. For the non-blind mock analysis, the weight $w(\mathbf{x})$ is simply taken to be the FKP weight defined by equation (2), with $P_0 = 6000 \ h^{-3} \text{ Mpc}^3$. Here, we have neglected the effects from super-survey modes, such as the beat-coupling and the local average effect. The first effect is induced by the survey window that mixes the small- and large-scale modes. The second effect is caused by the zero-mode-modulated average density that is estimated from a limited survey. These two effects cancel each other and leave only up to ~ 10 per cent excess in the original variance (de Putter et al. 2012). In the fitting scales we consider in this paper, the analytical Gaussian covariance should remain a quite good approximation. This was also observed in Lippich et al. (2019) from comparing to a set of fast mocks. Currently, the downside of the method is that it does not include the survey geometry or the window function, therefore we only use it when the analysing the OUTERIM N -body mocks.

APPENDIX C: POST-PROCESSING THE EZMOCKS

We start with mocks that include the angular selection function. In the first step, contamination from the data is added to the mocks, which includes stars, objects with redshift failures, wrong objects classes, objects that have no chances to receive good redshifts (e.g. due to unplugged fibres, etc.) and the not tiled objects. For the photometric correction, a fit is applied to the minimize the trend in the ratio $n_{\text{QSO}}/n_{\text{random}}$ in the extinction corrected g -band depth and the stellar density. The sample of quasars used in the data analysis includes a special Legacy group (see last paragraph in Section 2.1). These objects do not receive any spectroscopic or collision correction and are separately assigned with the tag $\text{IMATCH} = 2$ to distinguish from the CORE sample. The fibre collision effect is added to the EZMOCKS using the FIBERCOLLISION module from NBODYKIT (Hand et al. 2018). After identifying the close pairs, the objects that fall in the same collision groups are up-weighted by the ratio $n_{\text{hasfibre}}/n_{\text{total}}$. The redshift failure corrections are applied using the same definition

as for the real data (see discussion in Section 8), and the mock objects inherit the property from the data objects through closest angular-matching.

APPENDIX D: RESULTS EXPRESSED IN ALTERNATIVE BASIS

In this appendix, we consider the results given in different alternative basis. First, we list the results expressed on the basis of comoving angular diameter D_M/r_{drag} ,⁶ Hubble parameter, $H r_{\text{drag}}$, and $f\sigma_8$. Secondly, we list the results expressed on the basis of comoving angular diameter D_M/r_{drag} , Hubble distance, D_H/r_{drag} , and $f\sigma_{12}$.

D1 $D_M/r_{\text{drag}}-Hr_{\text{drag}}-f\sigma_8$ basis

D1.1 BAO-only fits

We convert the BAO α_\perp and α_\parallel results to constraints on the comoving angular diameter and Hubble parameter with

$$D_M(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.82 \pm 0.80 \pm 0.21, \quad (\text{D1})$$

$$H(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) r_{\text{drag}} = (2.267 \pm 0.093 \pm 0.025) \times 10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}. \quad (\text{D2})$$

The first error denotes the statistical uncertainty, which is rescaled by $\sqrt{M} = 1.010$, the second error denotes the uncertainty inferred from the OUTERRIM mock challenge (without the observational uncertainties).

D1.2 Full-shape analysis in configuration space

$$D_M(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.66 \pm 0.84 \pm 0.25, \quad (\text{D3})$$

$$H(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) r_{\text{drag}} = (2.289 \pm 0.085 \pm 0.029) \times 10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}, \quad (\text{D4})$$

$$f\sigma_8(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.439 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.014, \quad (\text{D5})$$

where the first error denotes the statistical uncertainty, which is rescaled by $\sqrt{M} = 1.036$, the second error denotes the systematics uncertainty inferred from the OUTERRIM mock challenge as well as the observational systematics inferred from the EZMOCKS by adding them in quadrature. The covariance matrix is given by

$$\mathbf{C}_\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & H r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_8 \\ 7.709 \times 10^{-1} & 9.780 \times 10^1 & 1.750 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 8.007 \times 10^5 & 1.085 \times 10^1 \\ - & - & 2.308 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{D6})$$

D1.3 Combined full-shape analysis

$$D_M^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.21 \pm 0.79, \quad (\text{D7})$$

$$H^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) r_{\text{drag}} = (2.255 \pm 0.079) \times 10^4 \text{ km s}^{-1}, \quad (\text{D8})$$

$$f\sigma_8^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.459 \pm 0.045, \quad (\text{D9})$$

where the errors include the statistical and systematic uncertainties (inferred from OUTERRIM mock challenge and EZMOCKS). The covariance matrix for the combined data is given by

$$\mathbf{C}_\lambda^c = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & H r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_8 \\ 6.222 \times 10^{-1} & -4.374 \times 10^1 & 2.223 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 6.216 \times 10^5 & 1.191 \times 10^1 \\ - & - & 2.010 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{D10})$$

D2 $D_M/r_{\text{drag}}-D_H/r_{\text{drag}}-f\sigma_{12}$ basis

Sanchez (2020) showed that the constraints on $f\sigma_8(z)$ depend on the particular value of h assumed in the full-shape analysis, and that more correct constraints on this combination should be marginalized over the uncertainties on h . Then, using the growth rate measurements expressed in terms of $f\sigma_8(z)$ to constrain cosmological parameters leads to both a potential systematic bias and an underestimation of the uncertainties. This problem is solved if the growth rate measurements are expressed instead in terms of the combination $f\sigma_{12}$, where σ_{12} represents the rms of the mass contained in a sphere of radius 12 Mpc. As the BAO-only measurements are not affected by this choice, we list here only the results for the full-shape analysis in the configuration-space and combined cases.

D2.1 Full-shape analysis in configuration space

$$D_M(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.66 \pm 0.84 \pm 0.25, \quad (\text{D11})$$

$$D_H(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.11 \pm 0.49 \pm 0.17, \quad (\text{D12})$$

$$f\sigma_{12}(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.435 \pm 0.046 \pm 0.012. \quad (\text{D13})$$

Using the same convention as above: the first error denotes the statistical uncertainty, which is rescaled by $\sqrt{M} = 1.036$, the second error denotes the systematic uncertainty by adding the error inferred from OUTERRIM mock challenge as well as the one from the EZMOCKS in quadrature. The blind mock challenge test shows that the relative error on the growth rate measurement improves from 2.8 to 2.5 per cent when presenting the results in the $f\sigma_{12}$ basis. Finally, the covariance matrix is given by

$$\mathbf{C}_\lambda = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & D_H/r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_{12} \\ 7.709 \times 10^{-1} & -5.656 \times 10^{-2} & 1.733 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 2.640 \times 10^{-1} & -6.145 \times 10^{-3} \\ - & - & 2.227 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{D14})$$

D2.2 Combined full-shape analysis

$$D_M^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 30.21 \pm 0.79, \quad (\text{D15})$$

$$D_H^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48)/r_{\text{drag}} = 13.23 \pm 0.47 \quad (\text{D16})$$

⁶The comoving angular diameter is defined as $D_M = \int_0^z \frac{cdz'}{H(z')}$.

$$f\sigma_{12}^c(z_{\text{eff}} = 1.48) = 0.458 \pm 0.044, \quad (\text{D17})$$

where the errors include both the statistical and systematic uncertainties. For the combined results, there is also a slight improvement in the relative error from 2 to 1.8 per cent on the growth rate parameter based on the blind mock challenge results. The final covariance matrix for the combined data reads as the following

$$\mathbf{C}_\lambda^c = \begin{pmatrix} D_M/r_{\text{drag}} & D_H/r_{\text{drag}} & f\sigma_{12} \\ 6.227 \times 10^{-1} & 1.424 \times 10^{-2} & 2.235 \times 10^{-2} \\ - & 2.195 \times 10^{-1} & -7.246 \times 10^{-3} \\ - & - & 1.958 \times 10^{-3} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (\text{D18})$$

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