# **Cosmological Structure Formation** in the Continuous Limit





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with O. Hahn, T, Abel, D. Powell, R. Kaehler, S. Hilbert.

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Angulo, Hahn & Abell 2013

### Exponential growth of computing power over 40 years

10 trillion particle N-body simulations are expected by 2020



1e8 times more particles than Davis et al (1985). Challenges in the raw execution time, scalability, memory requirements and data handling.



#### Large-scale N-body simulations aim to predict:

BAO & Galaxy Clustering Abundance of Clusters Weak Gravitational Lensing Redshift-Space Distortions

- → The nonlinear state of mass
- → The velocity field
- → Abundance and properties of collapsed DM structures
- → The places of galaxy formation



Springle+ 2008

Stadel+ 2009

Gao+ 2012

Zoom-In N-body simulations aim to predict:

Direct Detection Indirect Detection Astrophysical Probes

- → Halo density and velocity profiles
- → Substructure mass function
- → Substructure spatial distribution

## The density profile of Dark Matter halos



5 Springel et al 2008

# Simulating structure formation in the Universe

Most of the mass in the Universe is in the form of an unknown elementary particle: the Cold Dark Matter



#### **Properties of CDM**

→ Almost no extent in the velocity direction

- → Interacts mainly gravitationally
- → Tiny primordial fluctuations

...but simulating trillions of micro-physical CDM particles is impossible

CDM forms a "sheet": A continuous 3D surface embedded in a 6D space

### **The Vlassov-Poisson Equation**

$$0 = \frac{\mathrm{d}f}{\mathrm{d}t} = \frac{\partial f}{\partial t} + \frac{\mathbf{v}}{a^2} \cdot \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{v}} - \frac{\partial f}{\partial \mathbf{x}} \frac{\partial \Phi}{\partial \mathbf{x}}$$
$$\nabla^2 \Phi = \frac{4\pi G}{a} \int f \mathrm{d}^3 v_{\mathrm{d}}$$

#### **CDM Sheet Properties**

- → phase-space is conserved along characteristics
- → It can never tear
- → It can never intersect



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#### Standard approach to solving the VP equation:

# Montecarlo Sampling and coarse graining the CDM distribution function



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# Tree Algorithms

Multipole decomposition



### Particle-Mesh Poisson equation



# The evolution of the fine and coarse grained distribution functions are **NOT** equivalent.

### **Collisionless Relaxation**

Phase Mixing Chaotic Mixing Violent Relaxation Landau Damping

### **Softening Length**

It prevents forces to diverge, which would lead to large-angle scattering events



# Two examples where the monte-carlo approach to collisionless dynamics (aka N-body) fails:

**Two fluids with distinct primordial power spectra** 



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#### Two competing requirements

- ii) Need a large smoothing to reduce noise/biases.
- ii) Need a small smoothing to resolve nonlinear structure

How robust are the "well established" predictions of N-body simulations (e.g. NFW profile) for CDM and WDM?



An alternative approach:

## Discretization of the DM fluid using phase-space element methods

A tessellation of a finite number of mesh-generating points in Lagrangian space allows to continuously map the deformation of the dark matter sheet



(Abel+ 2012, Shandarin+ 2012, Kaehler+ 2013, Hahn+ 2013, Angulo+ 2013, Hahn & Angulo 2014)

#### **Two representations of the same N-body data**



Adaptive-kernel smoothing

Full rendering of tetrahedra

Kaehler et al (2012)

# The cosmic velocity fields

Hahn, Angulo, Abel 2014







# **Noiseless gravitational simulations**

Angulo, Chen, Abel & Hilbert 2014



# WDM structure formation without fragments

Angulo, Hahn, Abel 2013b

New sheet-based simulation code with reduced collisionality



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# **Structure Formation in WDM**

Angulo, Hahn, Abel 2013b

No bottom-up formation

Genuine 1D and 2D structures

Halos have no progenitors beyond some time

Very rapid mass growth during formation



# WDM structures at different masses...



Angulo, Hahn & Abel 2013

Hahn & Angulo 2015



Hahn & Angulo 2015



Numerical simulations solve for this nonlinear mapping



Hahn & Angulo 2015



$$P_k = \{ \pi(\mathbf{q}) \mid \pi(\mathbf{q}) = \sum_{\alpha,\beta,\gamma=0}^k a_{\alpha\beta\gamma} q_0^{\alpha} q_1^{\beta} q_2^{\gamma} \},\$$

# **Uniform cube orbiting on a static Plummer potential**

Piecewise Largrangian maps do not always conserve energy



# **Adaptive refinement of Lagrangian Elements**



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iv. high-res N-body



#### **No Refinement**



## Two sine waves under self gravtiy



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20 Mpc/h box 64^3 particles 512^3 PM





# The hexahalo Project Angulo et al (in preparation)

#### A zoom in simulation of the formation of a MW size halo in WDM With adaptively refined hexahedra



200,000 1.5e7 Msun flow tracers 700,000,000 final (600 Msun) flow tracers 100,000,000,000 (2 Msun) mass carriers 1024^3 + 4093^3 PM force mesh a = 0.13631347

#### Final results are converged with respect to refinement threshold, Mass deposit level and initial resolution







Cosmological simulations in the highly nonlinear regime with Lagrangian Phase-space elements are possible.

They promise to increase the reliability and scope of computational cosmology.

First application to the collapse of the First WDM halo shows a density profile steeper than a NFW.

# **Adaptive refinement of Lagrangian Elements**

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\eta}{\delta} &= \frac{1}{2^{\ell}} \frac{\left| -\frac{1}{2}f_{i-2} + f_{i-1} - f_{i+1} + \frac{1}{2}f_{i+2} \right|}{\left| -\frac{1}{2}f_{i-2} + f_{i-1} \right| + \left| -f_{i+1} + \frac{1}{2}f_{i+2} \right| + \epsilon F} \\ F &= \left| \frac{1}{2}f_{i-2} \right| + \left| f_{i-1} \right| + \left| f_{i+1} \right| + \left| \frac{1}{2}f_{i+2} \right|, \end{aligned} \qquad \Theta = \left( \frac{\eta_0^2 + \eta_1^2 + \eta_2^2}{\delta_0^2 + \delta_1^2 + \delta_2^2} \right)^{1/2} \end{aligned}$$



- a. element is flagged for refinement
- b. positions and velocities are determined at mid-points
- c. new elements are created using the mid-point values

# **Density profiles of a hexahalo**



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## The abundance of collapsed structures



Despali et al 2015

## The nonlinear evolution of the mass clustering



Angulo et al 2008