

# Cosmological large-scale structure

## Lecture 4

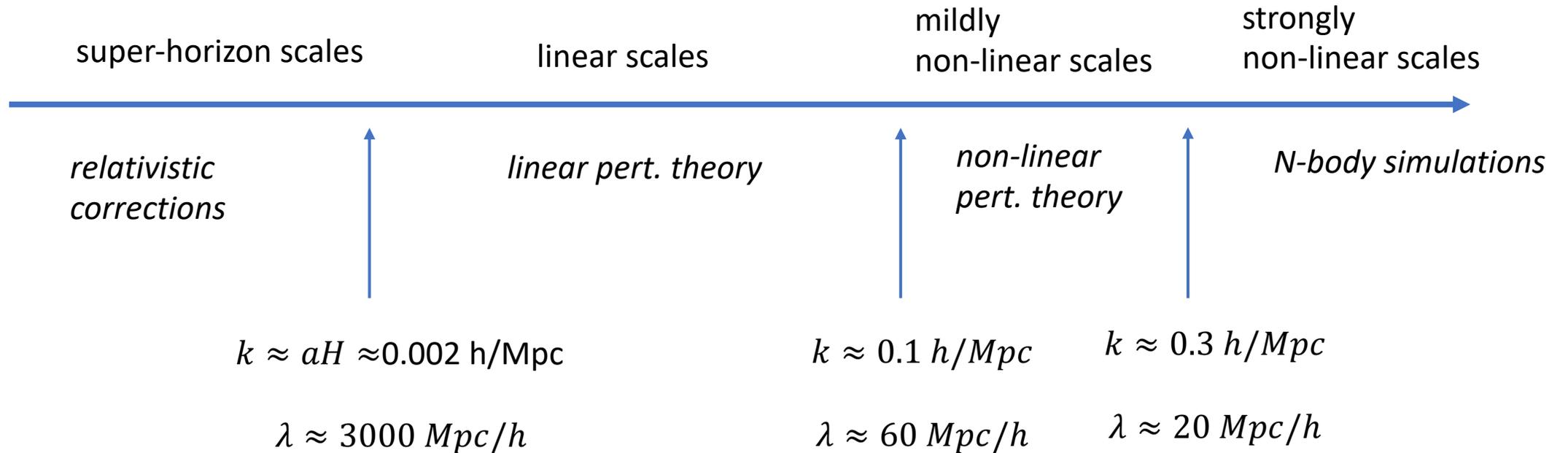
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WS2024

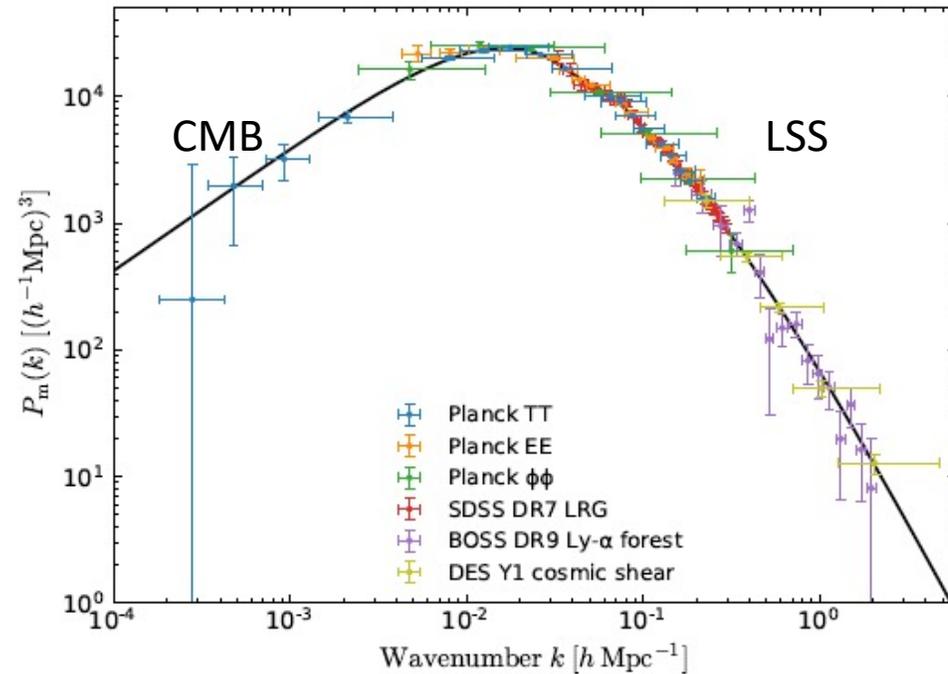
# The structure of the large scale structure

**large scales**

**small scales**



# Recap: The observed power spectrum



ESA and the  
Planck collaboration

Large scales  
 $\sim 1000 \text{ Mpc}$

Small scales  
 $\sim 10 \text{ Mpc}$

# Recap

theoretical power spectrum

$$P(k)_{today} = Ak^{n_s} T^2(k; cosmology)$$

bias

$$P_g = b^2 P_m$$

RSD

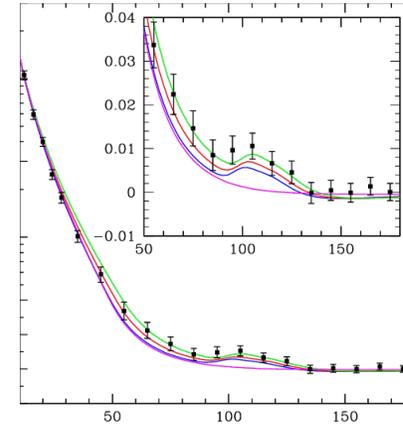
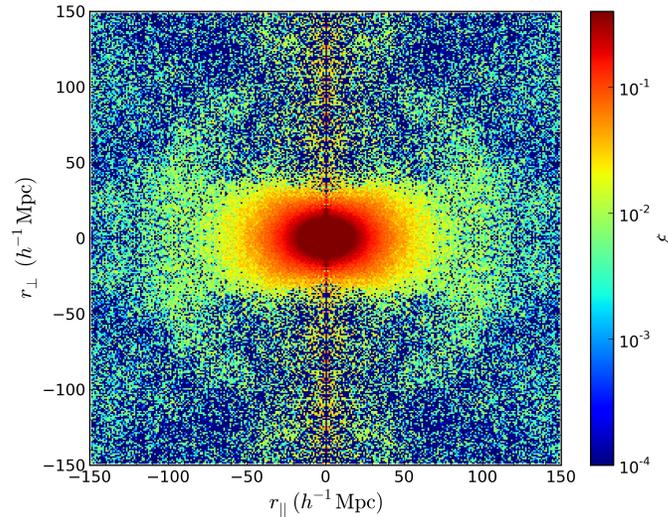
$$\delta_{g,s} = \delta_{g,r} (1 + \beta \mu^2)$$

(almost) final form

$$P_g(k, \mu, z) = b^2 G^2 P_m(k, z = 0) (1 + \beta \mu^2)^2 e^{-k^2 \mu^2 \sigma_v^2}$$

# Recap

correlation function  
across/along LOS



Alcock-Paczynski effect

$$k = (k_{\parallel}^2 + k_{\perp}^2)^{1/2} = \alpha k_r,$$
$$\mu = \frac{k_{\parallel}}{(k_{\parallel}^2 + k_{\perp}^2)^{1/2}} = \frac{H \mu_r}{H_r \alpha},$$

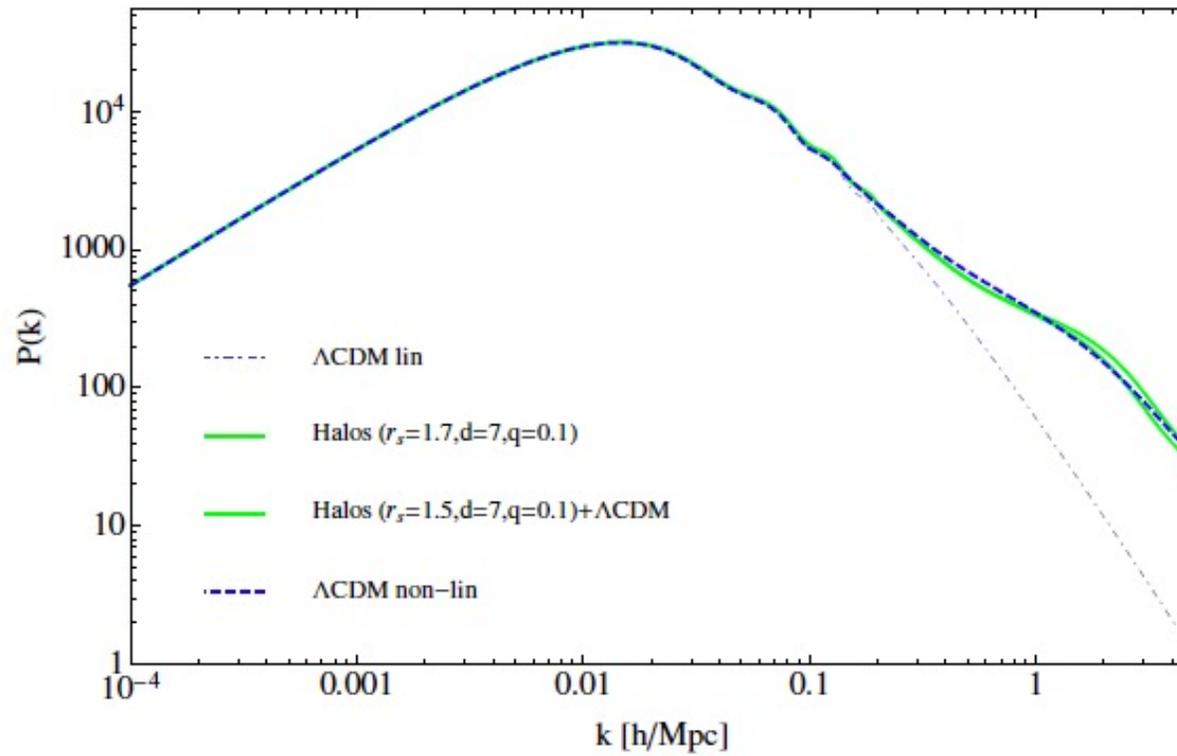
Final form linear spectrum

$$P_g(k, \mu, z) = b^2 G^2 P_m(\alpha k_r) \left(1 + \beta \mu_r^2 \frac{h^2}{\alpha^2}\right)^2 e^{-k^2 \mu^2 \sigma_v^2}$$

# Recap

$$P_{NL} = P_{LIN} + P_h$$

what we expect from  
non-linear corrections



## Roadmap for today

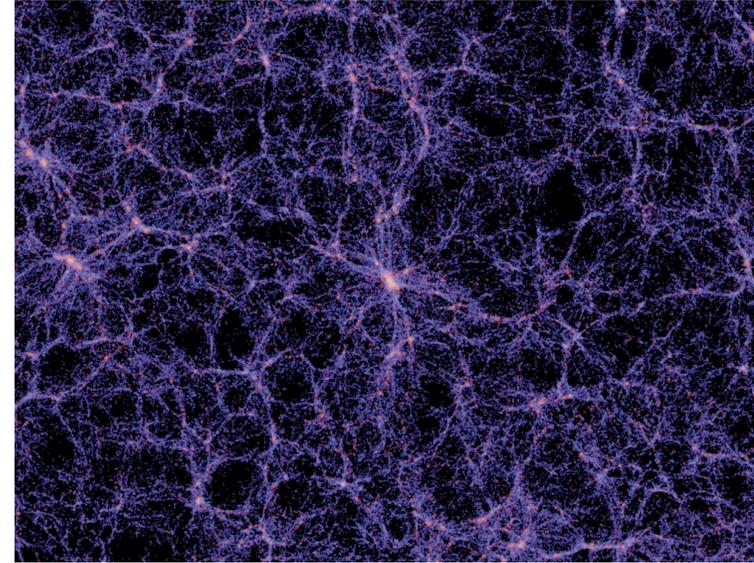
- Simplified non-linearity
- Zel'dovich approximation
- Spherical collapse
- Abundance of virialized halos

# Zel'dovich approximation



Water surface

(Photo by [Chris Lawton](#) on [Unsplash](#))



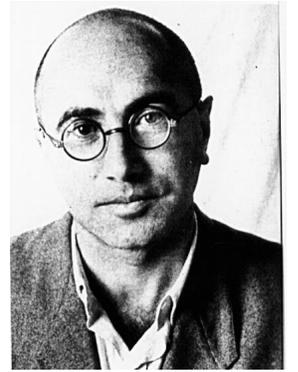
Millennium simulation

caustics form where many trajectories (of light rays or particles) converge

# Zel'dovich approximation

## Lagrangian approach

Main idea: follow the trajectories of particles until they develop a singularity (caustic)



Minsk 8 March 1914 –  
Moscow 2 December 1987

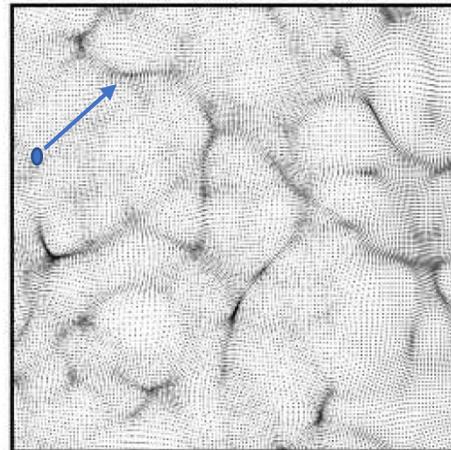
position of a particle at instant  $t$

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + g(t)\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

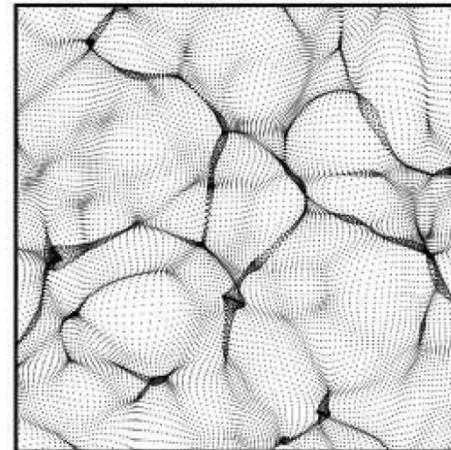
initial position of a particle

Ansatz: displacement is separable into time and space

$\sigma = 0.5$



$\sigma = 1.$



this simply means particle move towards concentrations along straight lines!

# Zel'dovich approximation

Main idea: follow the trajectories of particles until they develop a singularity (caustic)

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + g(t)\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

conservation of particle number

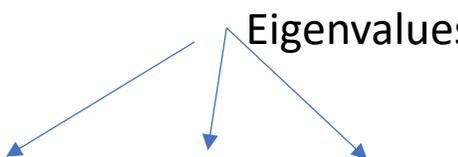
$$\rho(x, t)d^3x = \rho_0(t)d^3x_0$$

mapping through the Jacobian

$$\rho(x, t) = \rho_0(t) \left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_0} \right|^{-1}$$

**diagonal** deformation tensor

$$d_{ij} \equiv -\frac{\partial s_i}{\partial x_{0,j}}$$

$$\left| \frac{\partial \mathbf{x}}{\partial \mathbf{x}_0} \right| = \left| I + g(t) \frac{\partial \mathbf{s}(\mathbf{x}_0)}{\partial \mathbf{x}_0} \right| = |\delta_{ij} - g(t)d_{ij}| = (1 - g\lambda_1)(1 - g\lambda_2)(1 - g\lambda_3)$$


## Zel'dovich approximation

$$\rho(x, t) = \frac{\rho_0(t)}{(1 - g\lambda_1)(1 - g\lambda_2)(1 - g\lambda_3)}$$

expand for small  $g\lambda$

$$\rho(x, t) \approx \rho_0(t)(1 + g(t)(\lambda_1 + \lambda_2 + \lambda_3) = \rho_0(t)(1 + g(t)\text{Tr}(d_{ij}))$$

therefore...

$$\delta(t) \equiv \frac{\rho(x, t) - \rho_0(t)}{\rho_0(t)} = -g(t) \frac{\partial s_i}{\partial x_{0,i}} = -g(t) \nabla_{x_0} \mathbf{s}(x_0)$$

...this should reproduce the linear growth:

$$\delta(t) = G(t)\delta_0,$$

# Zel'dovich approximation

$$\delta(t) \equiv \frac{\rho(x, t) - \rho_0(t)}{\rho_0(t)} = -g(t) \frac{\partial s_i}{\partial x_{0,i}} = -g(t) \nabla_{x_0} \mathbf{s}(x_0)$$
$$\delta(t) = G(t) \delta_0,$$

then...

$$g(t) = G(t)$$

...and

$$-\nabla_{x_0} \mathbf{s}(x_0) = \delta_0$$

Poisson eq.

$$\nabla^2 \Psi = 4\pi \rho_m \delta = \frac{3}{2} a^2 H^2 \Omega_m G(t) \delta_0 \quad \rightarrow \quad \delta_0 = \frac{2}{3a^2 H^2 \Omega_m G} \nabla^2 \Psi$$

we find that the initial displacement  $\mathbf{s}$  is the gradient of the potential

$$\mathbf{s}(x_0) = -\frac{2}{3a^2 H^2 \Omega_m G} \nabla \Psi$$

# Zel'dovich approximation

$$\mathbf{x}(t) = \mathbf{x}_0 + g(t)\mathbf{s}(\mathbf{x}_0)$$

$$g(t) = G(t)$$

$$\mathbf{s}(x_0) = -\frac{2}{3a^2 H^2 \Omega_m G} \nabla \Psi$$

In this way, one can run a very cheap  $N$ -body simulation: first, take the *linear* power spectrum at some early epoch for the model you want to simulate; second, convert the power spectrum for  $\delta$  into a power spectrum for  $\Psi$  using Poisson equation in Fourier space; third, create a real space realization of this spectrum by superimposing sinusoidal oscillations with amplitude given by the spectrum and random phases; fourth, put particles on a regular grid; fifth, evaluate the displacement field by evaluating at every grid point (4.1.12); finally, move the particles out of their initial grid point by using (4.1.1).

until you reach a singularity!

$$\rho(x, t) = \frac{\rho_0(t)}{(1 - g\lambda_1)(1 - g\lambda_2)(1 - g\lambda_3)}$$

growing!

# Pancakes and filaments

$$\rho(x, t) = \frac{\rho_0(t)}{(1 - g\lambda_1)(1 - g\lambda_2)(1 - g\lambda_3)}$$

$$d_{ij} \equiv -\frac{\partial s_i}{\partial x_{0,j}} = \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \lambda_2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & \lambda_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

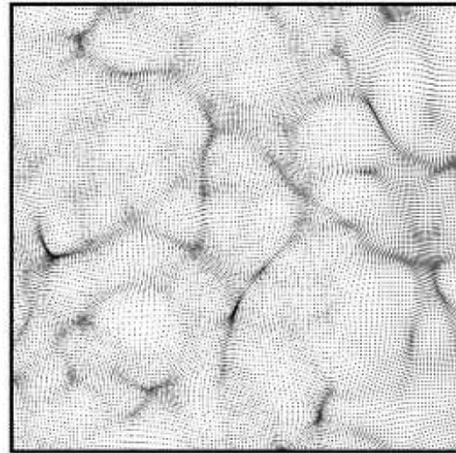
take the largest eigenvalue:  
particles will move preferentially in the direction of  
the associated eigenvector  
the caustic will therefore form on a plane orthogonal to this direction  
(pancakes)

What happens next?  
We can expect particle stick to this plane,  
then move to the edges (filaments) and  
then to the vertices (clusters)

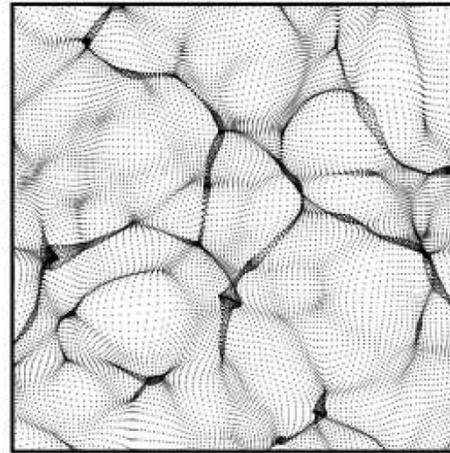
# Pancakes and filaments

particles form  
pancakes, filaments and  
finally clusters

$\sigma=0.5$



$\sigma=1.$



However

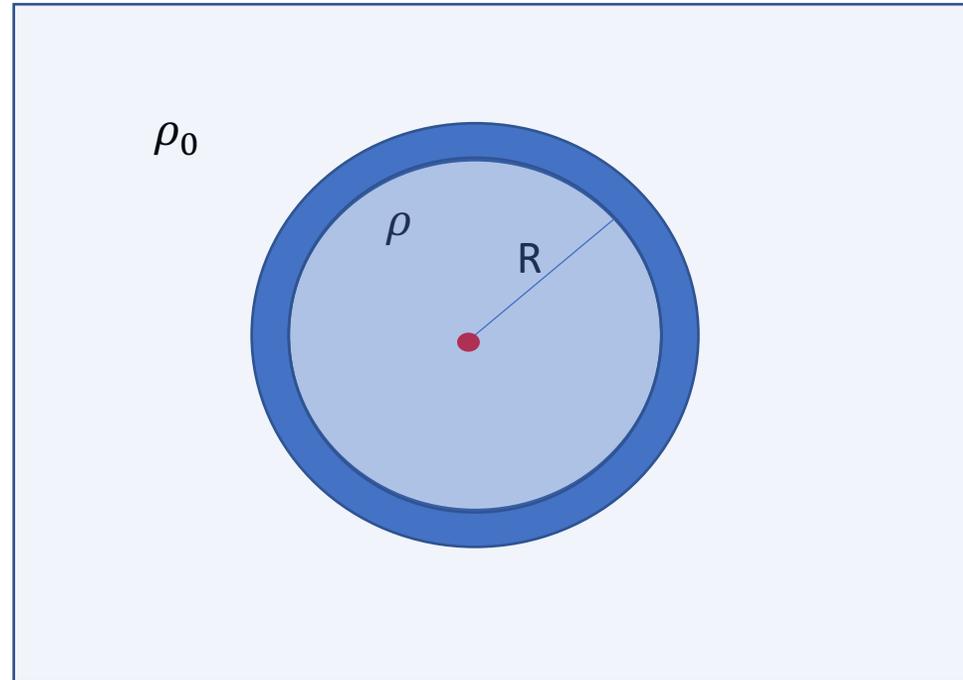
pancakes form around  $z=30$  in N-body simulations: so we can use the ZA  
only until then

ZA describes the initial stages (pancakes)

Spherical collapse the final one (halo formation)

# Spherical collapse

Top-hat distribution  
 $\rho > \rho_0$



Equation for the shell

$$\frac{d^2R}{dt^2} = -\frac{GM(R)}{R^2} = -\frac{4}{3}\pi G\rho R,$$

Question: if initially the shell expands, what will happen?

# Spherical collapse

$$\frac{d^2R}{dt^2} = -\frac{GM(R)}{R^2} = -\frac{4}{3}\pi G\rho R,$$

Constant mass in every shell

$$M(R) = 4\pi\rho R^3/3$$

Density of a pressureless  
component

$$\rho_0 = (3M(R_0)/4\pi)(R_0a(t))^{-3},$$

Evolution of density contrast

$$\delta = \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 = \left(\frac{a(t)R_0}{R}\right)^3 - 1$$

## Spherical collapse

$$\frac{d^2R}{dt^2} = -\frac{GM(R)}{R^2} = -\frac{4}{3}\pi G\rho R,$$

$$\delta = \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 = \left(\frac{a(t)R_0}{R}\right)^3 - 1$$

Replace  $R$  with  $\delta$ :  
non-linear equation  
for  $\delta$

$$\delta'' + \left(1 + \frac{\mathcal{H}'}{\mathcal{H}}\right)\delta' - \frac{3}{2}\Omega_m\delta = \frac{4}{3}\frac{\delta'^2}{1+\delta} + \frac{3}{2}\Omega_m\delta^2.$$

# Spherical collapse

$$\frac{d^2R}{dt^2} = -\frac{GM(R)}{R^2} = -\frac{4}{3}\pi G\rho R,$$

Cycloid equation

$$\left(\frac{dR}{dt}\right)^2 = \frac{2GM}{R} - C,$$

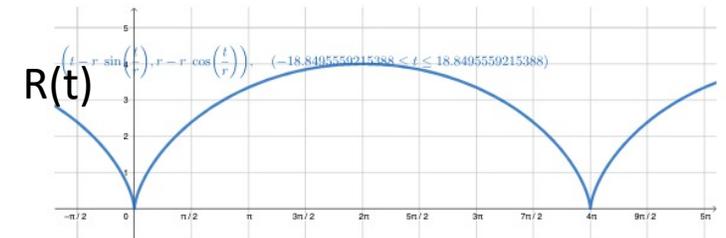
Multiply by  $2dR/dt$

Parametric solution

$$R = GM(1 - \cos \tau)/C$$

$$t = GM(\tau - \sin \tau)/C^{3/2}$$

Expansion and collapse



## Spherical collapse

$$R = GM(1 - \cos \tau)/C \quad t = GM(\tau - \sin \tau)/C^{3/2}$$

$$\delta = \frac{\rho}{\rho_0} - 1 = \left( \frac{a(t)R_0}{R} \right)^3 - 1$$

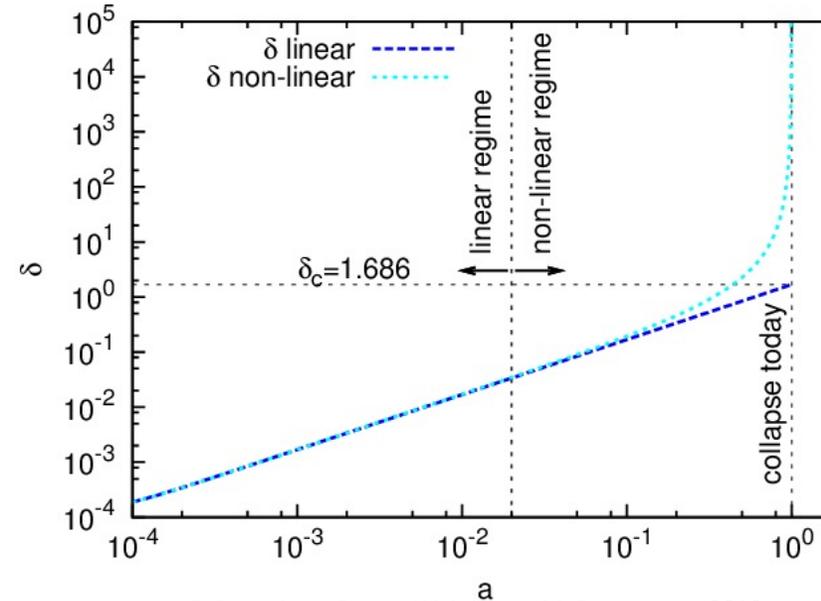
In EdS ( $\Omega_m = 1$ )  $a(t) = a_0(t/t_0)^{2/3}$

We obtain 
$$\delta = \frac{9}{2} \frac{(\tau - \sin \tau)^2}{(1 - \cos \tau)^3} - 1,$$

Linear part 
$$\delta_L = \frac{3}{5} \left[ \frac{3}{4} (\tau - \sin \tau) \right]^{2/3},$$

# Spherical collapse

$$\delta = \frac{9 (\tau - \sin \tau)^2}{2 (1 - \cos \tau)^3} - 1,$$
$$\delta_L = \frac{3}{5} \left[ \frac{3}{4} (\tau - \sin \tau) \right]^{2/3},$$

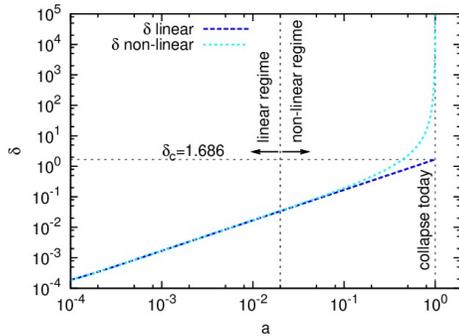


[F. Pace, Jean-Claude Waizmann, M. Bartelmann 2010](#)

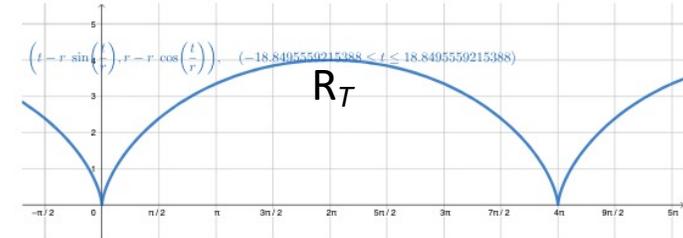
$$\delta_L = \delta_{\text{coll}} = (3/5)(3\pi/2)^{2/3} \approx 1.686,$$

# Virialization

$$\delta_L = \delta_{\text{coll}} \approx 1.686,$$



$R(t)$



However, we assumed exact spherical symmetry and  $M(R)=\text{const}$  in the shell, valid up to shell crossing

In practice, the collapse will start deviating from spherical symmetry

We can find that at

$$R_V = R_T/2.$$

The system virializes

$$U_T = U_V + K_V = U_V/2.$$

which means all components of velocity should be equal:  
no longer radial symmetry!

## Quiz time

1. Do we really observe pancakes and filaments?
2. What happens if the initial distribution is non-Gaussian?
3. What is the density contrast at virialization?
4. We assumed that the shell mass is constant. Is this realistic?
5. How can the spherical collapse model be generalized/improved?

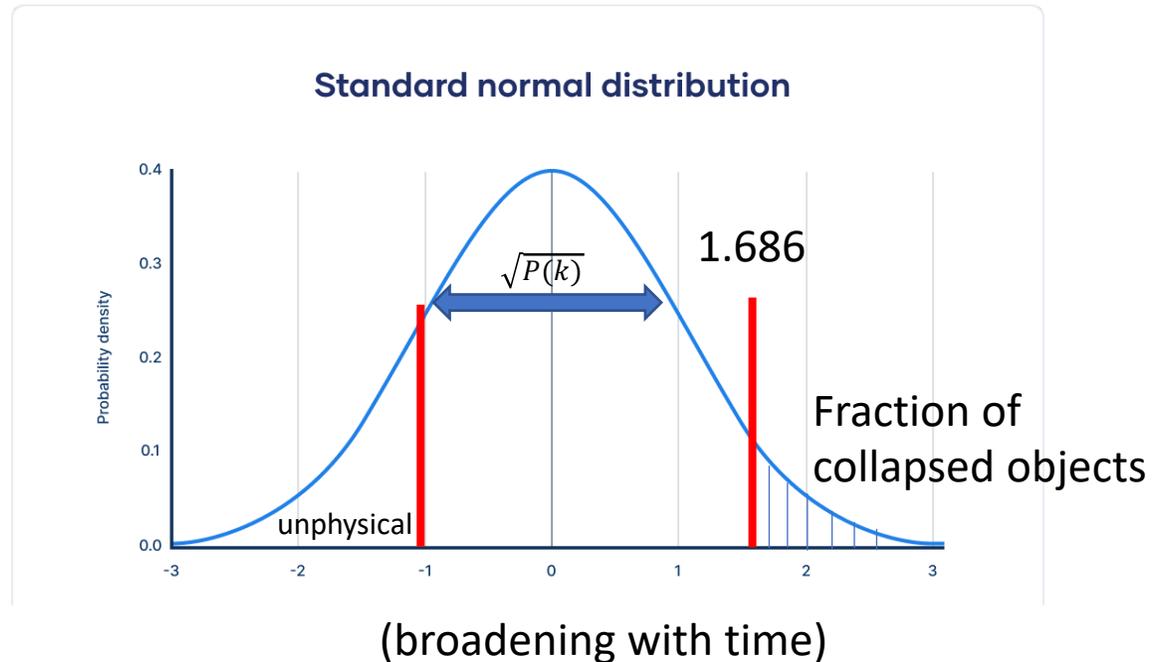
# Spherical collapse: why is it useful?

Because it tells us at which value of the **linear** evolution objects becomes strongly non-linear, i.e. collapse and form structures

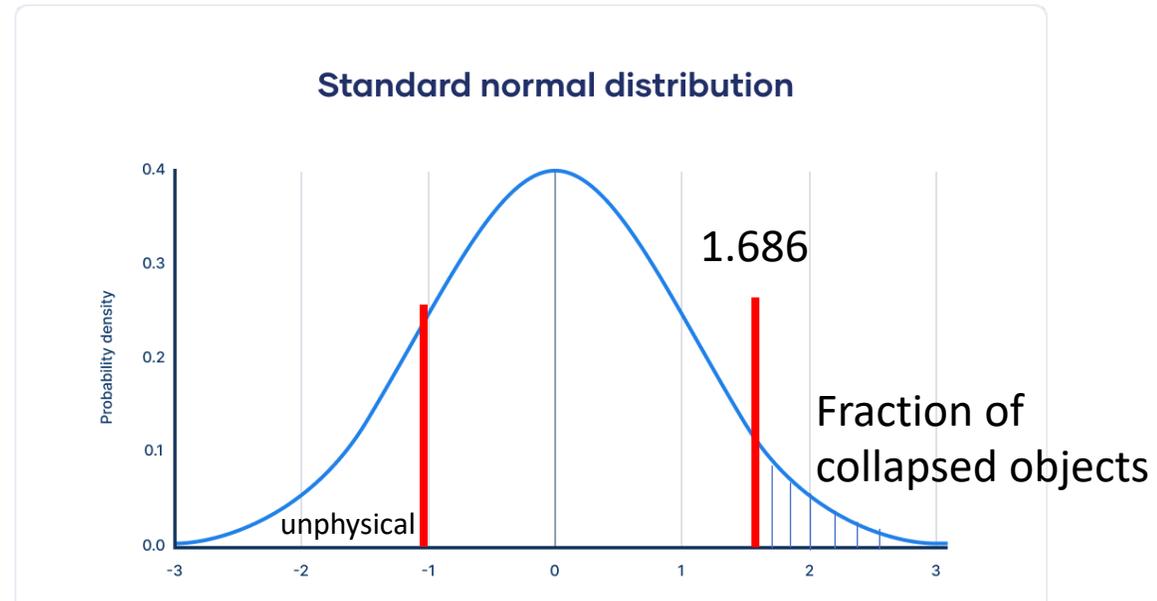
$$\delta_L = \delta_{\text{col}} \approx 1.686,$$

That is, we can use linear theory to predict a non-linear event!

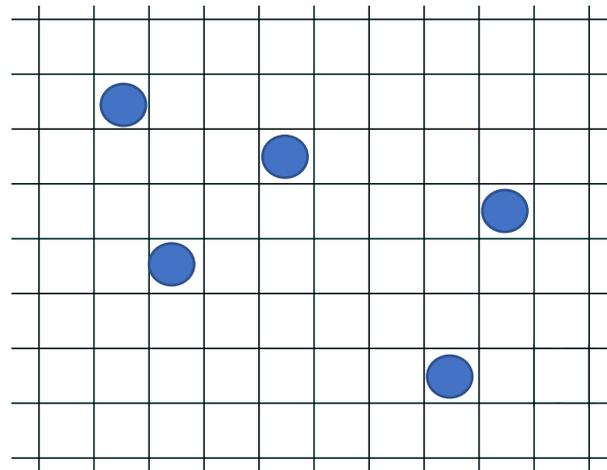
We discussed how  $\delta$  evolves in time and what is its variance  $\xi(r)$  or  $P(k)$ ...  
*But what is its full distribution?*



# Spherical collapse: why is it useful?



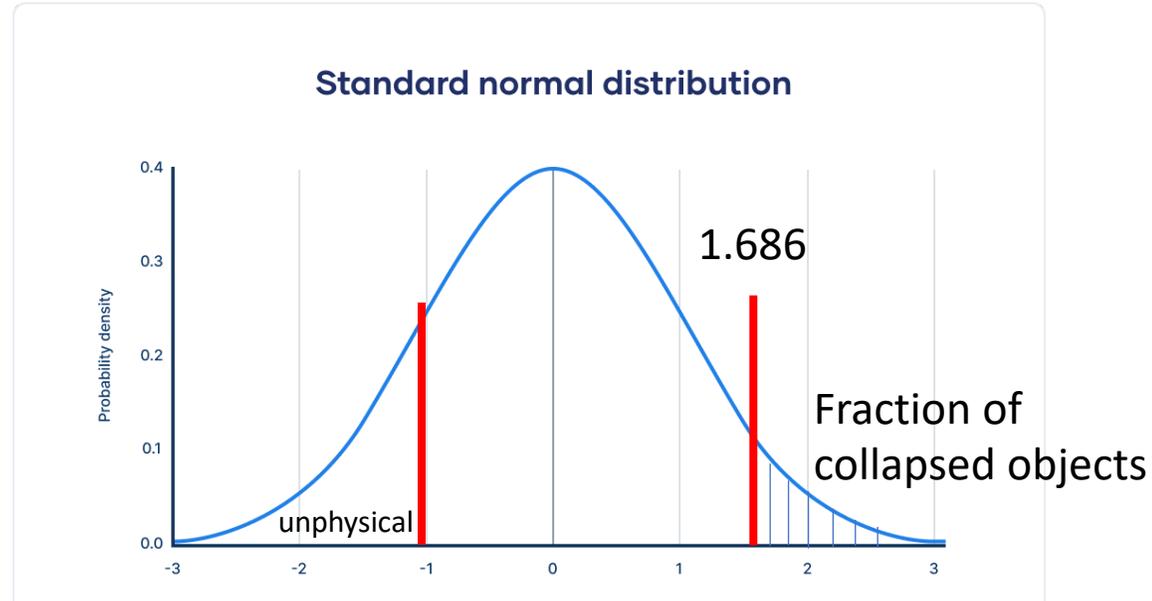
We can therefore estimate at any given time what fraction of cells of size  $R$  (containing mass  $M$ ) contains a virialized object!



Variance of the counts in cells of mass  $M$

$$\sigma_M^2(z).$$

# Spherical collapse: why is it useful?



Fraction of collapsed object of mass  $M$  (inside  $R$ ) at time  $z$

$$p(M, z)|_{\delta > \delta_{\text{coll}}} = \frac{1}{\sigma_M(z)\sqrt{2\pi}} \int_{\delta_{\text{coll}}}^{\infty} \exp\left(-\frac{\delta_M^2}{2\sigma_M^2(z)}\right) d\delta_M = \frac{1}{2} \text{erfc}\left(\frac{\delta_{\text{coll}}}{\sqrt{2}\sigma_M(z)}\right),$$

Finally (see script) we get

the number density of virialized halos  
in the mass range  $dM$

$$dn = \frac{N}{V} = \frac{dp}{V_M} = \frac{\rho}{M} \left| \frac{\partial p(M, z)|_{\delta > \delta_{\text{coll}}}}{\partial M} \right| dM = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\rho}{M^2} \frac{\delta_{\text{coll}}}{\sigma_M} \left| \frac{d \ln \sigma_M}{d \ln M} \right| e^{-\delta_{\text{coll}}^2 / (2\sigma_M^2)} dM.$$

# Spherical collapse: why is it not SO useful?

number density of virialized halos  
in the mass range  $dM$

$$dn = \frac{N}{V} = \frac{dp}{V_M} = \frac{\rho}{M} \left| \frac{\partial p(M, z)|_{\delta > \delta_{\text{coll}}}}{\partial M} \right| dM = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\pi}} \frac{\rho}{M^2} \frac{\delta_{\text{coll}}}{\sigma_M} \left| \frac{d \ln \sigma_M}{d \ln M} \right| e^{-\delta_{\text{coll}}^2 / (2\sigma_M^2)} dM.$$

Because:

- It assumes isolated **radial** collapse
- It is analytical only for **EdS**
- It does not predict the **correlation** of the halos

Next: higher-order perturbation theory