# Cosmic voids as cosmological laboratories

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#### The "void" team













## Introduction & goals

## Dark-energy problem

- Era of high-precision Cosmology
- The Universe is not only **expanding**, but it is also **accelerating**
- The standard model postulates a **flat-ACDM** Universe
- Cosmic acceleration is explained by a new component: **dark energy**
- **Cosmological constant** in Einstein equations?
- Review General Relativity?
- **Dominant** component: 70% energy budget
- One of the major challenges of modern Cosmology





### Dark-energy experiments

- > Hubble diagram using distant **SNe Ia** as standard candles
- > The study of **CMB anisotropies**
- **BAO scale** as a standard ruler
- > Cosmic voids
  - Standard ruler (stacking shape, spherical)
  - Lensing
  - Abundance of voids (size function)
  - Void-galaxy cross-correlations



#### What are cosmic voids?

- Galaxies trace the **large-scale structure** of the Universe through the process of **gravitational instability**
- They form groups, clusters, filaments and walls
- Complementarily, they leave on their way vast underdense regions: cosmic voids
- Their statistical properties depend on:
  - **tracers** (galaxies, DM-haloes, DM-particles)
  - void finder (watershed, spherical)
- Consensus on basic properties:
  - **density**: 10-20% of the mean
  - sizes: tens of Mpc



https://www.sdss.org/science/

### Cosmological relevance

- Largest observable structures: they encode key information about the geometry and expansion history of the Universe
- (Quasi) **linear dynamics:** simple theoretical description
- Ideal for testing Modified Gravity theories: unscreened environments
- **Modern spectroscopic surveys** (BOSS, eBOSS, DESI, HETDEX, Euclid): rich sample of voids









## **Cosmic voids**

#### Spherical void finder

Padilla et al. 2005; Ruiz et al. 2015

**Bases: integrated density contrast** of underdense regions, assuming **spherical symmetry** with respect to underdense locations of space







Correa et al. 2021 Millennium XXL simulation (Angulo et al. 2012)

#### Steps:

- 1. Voronoi tessellation
- 2. Selection of candidates
- 3. Growth of spheres
- 4. Random walk
- 5. Overlap filtering

#### **Catalogue of voids**

- Underdense spheres
- Non-overlapping
- Well defined radius and centre  $\Delta(R_{
  m v})=-0.9$
- Isotropic outflow

## Void size function (VSF)

- **Void size function:** comoving number density of voids as a function of their size
- Characterises the **abundance** of voids
- Analogous to the DM halo mass function
- Excursion set theory + spherical evolution (expansion + collapse)
- Models:
  - Linear (Sheth & van de Weygaert 2004) Ο
  - **SvdW** (Sheth & van de Weygaert 2004) Ο
  - Vdn (Jennings et al. 2013) Ο

cosmological information!

Jennings et al. 2013



#### Distortions: RSD & AP effects

RSD (Kaiser 1987)





dynamical effect

$$1 + z_{\text{obs}} = (1 + z_{\text{cos}})(1 + z_{\text{pec}})$$
$$s = r + v_{\parallel} \frac{(1 + z)}{H(z)}$$



#### geometrical effect

 $D_{\mathrm{M}}(z), H(z) \left[\Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, h
ight]$  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \left[h^{-1}\mathrm{Mpc}
ight]$ 



Figure credit: Brian C. Thomas

## Void-galaxy cross-correlation function

- Void-galaxy correlation function: excess probability of finding void-galaxy pairs with respect to a homogeneous distribution
- Characterises the **density-fluctuation field** around voids
- **Real space:** 1D profile ξ(r), **spherical symmetry**
- **Redshift-space:** 2D map  $\xi(\sigma, \pi)$ , **cylindrical symmetry**
- Modelling
  - **density profile:** empirical parametric models
  - velocity profile: linear perturbation theory
  - **AP:** cosmological scale transformations
  - RSD:
    - Linear model (Cai et al. 2016)
    - Gaussian streaming model (Paz et al. 2013)



dynamical

## **Projected correlations**

Correa et al. 2019



 $\xi(\theta,\zeta) \longrightarrow \xi_{\text{DOS}}(\theta)$ 



- ★ Fiducial-free test: correlations are directly measured in terms of void-centric angles and redshifts without assuming a distance scale
  - The combination of working on **observable space** and considering two **perpendicular projections** allows us to effectively **break** any possible **degeneracy** between the parameters due to **RSD** and **AP**

## Projected correlations: covariance

Correa et al. 2019

 $egin{array}{lll} \xi[m imes m] \longrightarrow C[m^2 imes m^2] \ \xi[2m] \longrightarrow C[m imes m] \end{array}$ 



- Notably reduced dimension
- Inversion numerically more stable

- Propagation of errors substantially reduced
- Less number of mocks needed

#### Projected correlations: performance





## **Redshift-space effects in voids**

- arXiv [2007.12064] Redshift-space effects in voids and their impact on cosmological tests. Part I: the void size function
- arXiv [2107.01314] Redshift-space effects in voids and their impact on cosmological tests. Part II: the void-galaxy cross-correlation function
- arXiv [2205.13604] Cosmology with cosmic voids

## An important drawback 🕂

- Tests fail with observational data: model unable to reproduce the measurements and biased cosmological constraints
- **1** Void community had the same problem
- Our standard picture of distortions around voids is incomplete
- AP + RSD also affect the previous step: the void identification process, affecting intrinsic and global void properties: number, size and spatial distribution
- Additional distortion patterns in observations



we identify voids here!!



#### real-space identification redshift-space identification



- 1) Void number conservation: above the shot-noise level
  - 2) Expansion (t-RSD): classical RSD induced by tracer dynamics



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- 3) Off-centring (v-RSD): new type of RSD induced by the global void dynamics





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- 4) AP volume effect: fiducial cosmology (expansion or contraction)
- 5) Independence of the effects
- 6) Intrinsic ellipticity (e-RSD)

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 $\star$ 

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 $R_{\rm v}^{\rm zs} = q_{\rm AP} \; q_{\rm RSD} \; R_{\rm v}^{\rm rs}$  $q_{\rm RSD} = 1 - \frac{1}{6}\beta(z)\Delta_{\rm id} > 1$  $q_{\rm AP} = \sqrt[3]{(q_{\rm AP}^\perp)^2 q_{\rm AP}^\parallel}$  $q_{\rm AP}^{\perp} = \frac{D_{\rm M}^{\rm fid}(z)}{D_{\rm M}^{\rm rs}(z)} \qquad q_{\rm AP}^{\parallel} = \frac{H^{\rm rs}(z)}{H^{\rm fid}(z)}$  $s_{\mathrm{v}} = r_{\mathrm{v}} + V_{\mathrm{v}\parallel} \frac{(1+z)}{H(z)}$ 

This formulation must be incorporated into models for the **void size function** and the **void-galaxy correlation function** 

 $\{\Omega_m, \Omega_\Lambda, h, \beta = f/b\}$ 



#### Statistical evidence

20 30 40 50 60

 $r_{\perp}$  [h<sup>-1</sup>Mpc]

10 20 30 40 50 60

 $r_{\perp}$  [h<sup>-1</sup>Mpc]

 $R_{\rm v}^{\rm zs} = q_{\rm RSD} R_{\rm v}^{\rm rs}$ 





 $r_{\perp}$  [h<sup>-1</sup>Mpc]

10 20 30 40 50 60

void in real-space



void in

#### Impact on the cosmological statistics



## Conclusions

### Conclusions

- In this era of high-precision cosmological measurements, cosmic voids are **promising cosmological probes** for testing the **dark-energy** problem and **alternative gravity theories**
- Our standard picture of distortions around voids is incomplete. Traditionally, we have focused only on the spatial distribution of galaxies. The truth is that the AP+RSD effects also affect intrinsic void properties, such as their number distribution, their size and their spatial distribution. This generates additional distortion patterns on observations, which lead to biased cosmological constraints if they are not treated properly.
- Redshift-space effects in voids
  - 1) Void number conservation
  - 2) **AP** volume effect
  - 3) Expansion effect (t-RSD)
  - 4) Off-centring effect (v-RSD)
  - 5) Void ellipticity (e-RSD)
  - 6) Independence of the effects



#### Conclusions

- A new cosmological test based on the void-galaxy cross-correlation function
- 1) **Projected correlation functions**
- 2) Fiducial-cosmology-free test
- 3) **Covariance** matrices associated with the method
- Redshift-space effects are detected with high signal in modern surveys



#### Thank you for your attention!



#### Main references [arXiv]:

- [1811.12251] (New test)
- [2007.12064] (z-space effects I)
- [2107.01314] (z-space effects II)
- [2205.13604] (BOSS preliminary analysis)

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#### Future perspectives

- Modelling the v-RSD and e-RSD effects: improve our test based on the projected correlation functions by modelling the off-centring and ellipticity effects, not previously considered in the literature.
- Popcorn void finder: (Paz et al.) extension of the spherical void finder that in order to capture more realistic information about the shape of voids.







(c) Ellipsoid (d) Overlapping Sphere Clump

• **Bias relation in voids:** a proper bias relation constitutes the necessary link between both developments before the abundance of voids can be established as a reliable cosmological test.

**VSF theory:** excursion set + spherical evolution



**VSF observations:** t-RSD + AP effects

• **Cosmology with voids from BOSS data:** develop two robust and unbiased cosmological tests based on the void size function and the void-galaxy cross-correlation function to be applied on BOSS data.

## Extra slides I: data set

### Millennium XXL simulation

Angulo et al. 2012

- Calibration of tests and models
- Extension of *Millennium* (Springel et al. 2005)
- Great **resolution** and **volume**:
  - 6720<sup>3</sup> dark matter particles
  - Mass per particle: 8.46x10<sup>9</sup>  $h^{-1}M_{sun}$
  - Periodic box: *3000 h<sup>-1</sup>Mpc*
- Standard cosmology flat-ACDM
  - $\circ$  *h* = 0.73
  - $\Omega_m = 0.25, \ \Omega_{\Lambda} = 0.75$
  - **z**<sub>box</sub> = 0.51, **0.99** and 1.50
- **Dark matter haloes**: lower mass cut:  $5x10^{11} h^{-1} M_{sun}$ (~140x10<sup>6</sup> haloes)



## BOSS spectroscopic survey

Dawson et al. 2013

- Part of a six-year program of the **SDSS-III** designed for three scientific themes:
  - dark energy and cosmological parameters
  - structure, dynamics and chemical evolution of the Milky Way
  - architecture of planetary systems
- 1.5 million luminous red galaxies (LRGs)
- Main scientific project: detect the BAO characteristic scale, use it as a physically calibrated ruler to determine the cosmic distance scale with high precision, achieving tight constraints on the eq. of state of dark energy
- Ideal for similar tests with cosmic voids

- CMASS and LOWZ samples of the Data Release 12 (DR12).
- They contain **864,464** and **333,082 galaxies** in the northern and southern hemispheres
- Mean redshift: 0.48
- **MultiDark Patchy mocks:** that reproduce the DR12 galaxy clustering catalogue with high fidelity on all relevant scales



## Extra slides II: a new cosmological test using cosmic voids

 [1811.12251] Non-fiducial cosmological test from geometrical and dynamical distortions around voids

#### Novel aspects

- 1. Fiducial-free test
- 2. Scale-mixing effect
- 3. Perpendicular projections of the void-galaxy correlation function
- 4. Covariance matrices

Calibration and evaluation: MXXL simulation



Millennium XXL simulation (Angulo et al. 2013)

## Fiducial-free test





- Surveys provide angles (POS) and redshifts (LOS)
- We treat correlations directly in terms of angular and redshift separations between void-galaxy pairs  $\xi(\theta,\zeta)$
- It is not necessary to assume a fiducial cosmology
- The **AP effect** is taken into account naturally
- Coordinate systems:
  - $\circ$  observable space  $( heta,\zeta)$
  - real space
  - redshift space

 $\left | egin{array}{c} \sigma = D_{
m M}(z) heta \ \pi = rac{c}{H(z)} \zeta \end{array} 
ight |$  $egin{array}{l} (r_{\perp},r_{\parallel}) \ (\sigma,\pi) \end{array}$  $ig| egin{array}{c} r_{\parallel} = \pi_{
m tc} - v_{\parallel} rac{(1+z)}{H(z)} \end{array}$ 



distant observer approximation

#### Scale-mixing effect

- Correlations can not be estimated **punctually**
- We must define a **binning scheme**
- Several scales are mixed in the measuring process
- Compare measurements with theoretical predictions of models



#### **Projected correlations**

plane-of-sky correlation function

 $\xi(\theta,\zeta) \longrightarrow \xi_{\text{pos}}(\theta)$ 



★ The combination of working on observable space and considering two perpendicular projections allows us to break effectively any possible degeneracy between the parameters

#### Model

- 1. AP effect
- 2. Scale-mixing effect

$$\{\Omega_m, \beta\} \cup \{\sigma_v, \xi_0, r_0, \alpha\}$$

3. RSD:

Gaussian streaming model (Paz et al. 2013)

$$1 + \xi(\sigma, \pi) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} [1 + \xi(r)] \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\hat{\pi}}\sigma_v} \exp\left[-\frac{(v_{\parallel} - v(r)\frac{r_{\parallel}}{r})^2}{2\sigma_v^2}\right] \mathrm{d}v_{\parallel}$$

4. Real-space density profile:

Double power law (Correa et al. 2019)

$$\xi(r) = -\xi_0 \left[ \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-3} + \left( \frac{r}{r_0} \right)^{-\alpha} \right]$$

#### 5. Real-space velocity profile:

From linear perturbation theory (Paz et al. 2013)

$$v(r) = -\frac{1}{3} \frac{H(z)}{(1+z)} \beta(z) r \Delta(r) \qquad \beta(z) = \frac{f(z)}{b} \checkmark \text{GR vs MoG}$$



#### **Covariance matrices**





- Notably reduced dimension
- Inversion numerically more stable

- Propagation of errors substantially reduced
- Less number of mocks needed

#### Test mechanism



#### Void samples from the MXXL



#### Performance

- ★ test robust with redshifts and PRs
- ★ no degeneracies among the parameters



★ tighter constraints at higher redshifts

#### Performance



#### Summary of the test

- 1. Statistic: void-galaxy cross-correlation function
  - 1.1. Variant: perpendicular projections with respect to the line of sight
- 2. Fiducial free: it is not necessary to assume a fiducial cosmology
- 3. Model
  - **3.1. Density field:** own parametric model
  - 3.2. Velocity field: analytical model from linear perturbation theory
  - 3.3. RSD: Gaussian streaming model (Paz et al. 2013)
  - **3.4. AP effect:** cosmological coordinate transformation
  - **3.5. Scale mixing:** geometrical model that takes into the projection range

#### 4. Cosmological constraints

- 4.1. Likelihood analysis: MCMC exploration
- **4.2. Covariance matrices:** smaller, more stable inversion, reduction of noise, reduction of mocks needed
- **4.3.** Calibration: with the *Millennium XXL simulation* (Angulo et al. 2012). At *z*=0.5, 1.0 and 1.5

## Extra slides III: more about the VSF

#### Void evolution

Sheth & van de Weygaert 2004

#### Bases

- Voids related to the small (under)density fluctuations in the early Universe
- Isolated expansion A

#### Characteristics

- 1. Expansion
- 2. Evacuation
- 3. Spherical geometry
- 4. Formation of a wall
- 5. Reverse top-hat density profile
- 6. Super-Hubble velocity
- 7. Suppression of growth structure
- 8. Shell crossing

#### Environment

- void-in-void mode: voids embedded in underdense environments, expanding
- void-in-cloud mode: voids surrounded by an overdense shell which will eventually collapse



#### Scorpio simulation (Sgró et al. 2010)

#### VSF modelling

• Linear: completely analogous to **Press-Schechter**, but with **two barrirers**, one underdense (expansion, void-in-void) and one overdense (collapse, void-in-cloud)

 $\Delta_{\rm v} = -0.8 \qquad 1.06 \le \Delta_c \le 1.686$ 

- SvdW (Sheth & van de Weygaert 2004): assumes conservation of number density through transition from linear to non-linear regime (shell crossing)
- Vdn (Jennings et al. 2013): assumes conservation of comoving volume fraction contained in voids (allows mergers)

$$\frac{dn_{\rm v}}{d\ln R_{\rm v}} = \frac{f_{\ln\sigma}(\sigma)}{V(R_{\rm v})} \frac{d\ln\sigma^{-1}}{d\ln R_{\rm v}}$$
$$f_{\ln\sigma}(\sigma) = 2\sum_{j=1}^{\infty} \exp\left[-\frac{(j\pi x)^2}{2}\right] j\pi x^2 \sin(j\pi \mathcal{D})$$
$$\mathcal{D} := |\Delta_{\rm v}|/(\Delta_c + |\Delta_{\rm v}|) \quad x := \mathcal{D}\sigma/|\Delta_{\rm v}| \qquad \sigma^2(\mathcal{R}) = \int \frac{k^2}{2\pi^2} P_m(k) |W(k,\mathcal{R})|^2 dk$$



## Extra slides IV: redshift-space effects: the void size function

arXiv [2007.12064] Redshift-space effects in voids and their impact on cosmological tests. Part I: the void size function

#### Standard picture of distortions



#### Reconstruction technique

Nadathur et al. 2019

Recover the real-space position of galaxies using the Zeldovich approximation

- Recover statistical properties of voids
- ✓ Unbiased constraints
- **Computational expensive:** iterative process
- **Redundant:** removes RSD, then adds RSD
- Hidden physics: key information about the structural and dynamical nature of voids



#### Bijective mapping: void number conservation



#### Physical description



Lambas et al. 2016;



#### Void dynamics

- Voids typically move with a velocity of 290 km/s
- Voids typically displace an amount of 0.17 Rv



#### Off-centring effect (v-RSD)



#### Off-centring effect (v-RSD)





#### Independence of the effects (t-RSD and v-RSD)



#### Statistical evidence



#### Impact on the void size function



 $R_{\rm v}^{\rm zs} = q_{\rm AP} \; q_{\rm RSD} \; R_{\rm v}^{\rm rs}$ 

#### Impact on the void size function (cont.)



## Extra slides V: redshift-space effects: the void-galaxy correlation function

- arXiv [2107.01314] Redshift-space effects in voids and their impact on cosmological tests. Part II: the void-galaxy cross-correlation function
- arXiv [2205.13604] Cosmology with cosmic voids

#### Void samples

#### volume correction



Millennium XXL Simulation data

#### Impact on the correlation function



#### Contribution due to off-centring (v-RSD)



$$s_{\mathrm{v}} = r_{\mathrm{v}} + V_{\mathrm{v}\parallel} \frac{(1+z)}{H(z)}$$

## Void ellipticity (e-RSD)





the intrinsic **ellipticity** of voids plays a very significant role

200

100

#### Void ellipticity (e-RSD)



#### BOSS DR12 analysis



#### **BOSS DR12** analysis

