

# Why there is no Newtonian backreaction

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# Conventional Framework for Cosmological Dynamics

- Homogeneous background with scale factor  $a(t)$ 
  - $a'' = -(4\pi/3) G \rho_b a$  ( $' = d/dt$ ) Friedmann eq
- Structure (in e.g. N-body calc.) obeys
  - $\mathbf{x}'' + 2 (a'/a) \mathbf{x}' + \nabla\phi / a^2 = 0$  where
    - $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{r} / a(t)$  are "conformal" coords, and
    - $\nabla^2\phi = 4\pi G (\rho - \rho_b) a^2$
- No feedback (or "backreaction") of  $\delta\rho$  on evolution of  $a(t)$
- G.F.R. Ellis (1984...): is this legitimate?
  - explored by Buchert & Ehlers '97 plus many others

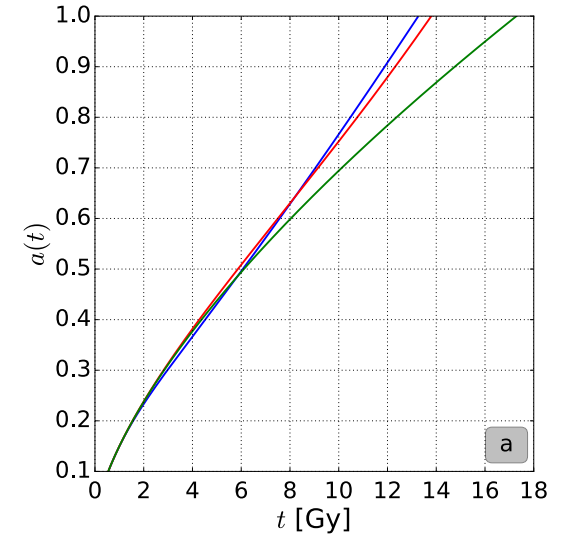
# Racz et al 2017: Modified N-body calculations

- They assume the conventional structure equations:

- $\mathbf{x}'' + 2 (a'/a) \mathbf{x}' + \nabla\phi / a^2 = 0$

- $\nabla^2\phi = 4\pi G (\rho - \rho_b) a^2$

- but evolve  $a(t)$  according to  $a \rightarrow a + a'\delta t$



- with  $a'$  obtained by averaging local expansion:  $\langle a'/a \rangle$  invoking "separate universe" approximation
- "Strong backreaction" based on Newtonian physics
- Big effect:  $a(t)$  very similar to  $\Lambda$ CDM concordance model
- "concordance cosmology without dark energy"

# Racz et al. world view

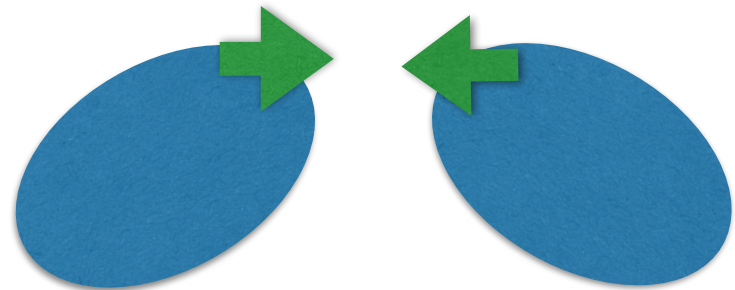
- *"N-body simulations integrate Newtonian dynamics with a changing GR metric that is calculated from averaged quantities"*
- *"changing GR metric"*: FRW metric: expansion factor  $a(t)$ 
  - $a(t)$  comes from strong-field GR physics
    - so we don't really understand it except in highly idealised (e.g. homogeneous) situations
    - hence legitimate to propose alternative ansatz?
  - $a(t)$  - the "expansion of space" - affects the small-scale dynamics of structure

Is it legitimate to modify the Friedmann equation?

- Does emergence of structure really "backreact" on  $a(t)$ ?
- Can address this in Newtonian gravity. Relevant as:
  - Accurate description of the local universe ( $v \ll c$ )
    - aside from effects from BHs
  - this is where we observe e.g.  $H_0 = 70 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$ !
    - not  $H_0 \sim 35 \text{ km/s/Mpc}$  expected w/o dark energy,  $\Omega_k$
  - At  $z = 0.1$  relativistic corrections  $\sim 0.01$
- If backreaction is important at  $> 1\%$  level Newtonian analysis should show it

# Why we might expect backreaction - tidal torques

- Neighbouring structures exert torques on each other
  - happens as structures reach  $\delta \sim 1$
  - a non-linear (2nd order) effect
  - purely Newtonian
  - explains spin of galaxies
- can this affect expansion?
  - it does in the local group
  - do internal degrees of freedom couple to (i.e. exchange energy with) universal expansion



# Inhomogeneous Newtonian cosmology

- Lay down particles on a uniform grid in a big uniformly expanding sphere ( $\mathbf{v} = H\mathbf{r}$ )
- Perturb the particles off the grid  $\mathbf{r} \rightarrow \mathbf{r} + \delta\mathbf{r}$ 
  - plus related velocity perturbations to generate "growing mode" of structure
- $\mathbf{g}(\mathbf{r})$  can be decomposed into:
  - homogenous field sourced by mean density  $\rho$
  - inhomogeneous field sourced by  $\delta\rho$  (little dipoles)
- equations of motions  $\mathbf{r}'' = \mathbf{g}$  can be re-scaled
  - gives the equations that are solved in N-body codes

# Newtonian gravity in re-scaled coordinates

N-particles of mass  $m$ : 
$$\ddot{\mathbf{r}}_i = Gm \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i}{|\mathbf{r}_j - \mathbf{r}_i|^3}.$$

With  $\mathbf{r} = a(t) \mathbf{x}$  for arbitrary  $a(t)$

$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i + 2\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i = \frac{Gm}{a^3} \sum_{j \neq i} \frac{\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i}{|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i|^3} - \frac{\ddot{a}}{a}\mathbf{x}_i.$$

initial conditions:  $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{r}/a$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = ((H - \dot{a}/a)\mathbf{r} + \delta\dot{\mathbf{r}})/a$

Defining  $n(\mathbf{x}) \equiv \sum_i \delta(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i)$  and  $\delta n \equiv n - \bar{n}$

$$\begin{aligned} \ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i + 2\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i - \frac{Gm}{a^3} \int d^3x \delta n(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|^3} \\ = - \left( \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} + \frac{4\pi Gm\bar{n}}{3a^3} \right) \mathbf{x}_i. \end{aligned}$$

Exactly equivalent to the usual equations in  $\mathbf{r}$ -coords



Newtonian cosmology: 
$$\ddot{\mathbf{x}}_i + 2\frac{\dot{a}}{a}\dot{\mathbf{x}}_i - \frac{Gm}{a^3} \int d^3x \delta n(\mathbf{x}) \frac{\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}_i|^3}$$

with ICs

$\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{r}/a$  and  $\dot{\mathbf{x}} = ((H - \dot{a}/a)\mathbf{r} + \delta\dot{\mathbf{r}})/a$

$$= - \left( \frac{\ddot{a}}{a} + \frac{4\pi Gm\bar{n}}{3a^3} \right) \mathbf{x}_i.$$

- 3N equations for N particles
  - there is no extra equation of motion for a(t)
- But we may choose a(t) to obey Friedmann equation
  - an "auxiliary relation"
- Gives conventional expansion + structure equations
  - a(t) suffers no backreaction from structure emergence
  - a(t) is just a "book-keeping" factor - no physical effect

# Part 1: summary/conclusions

- A different perspective on the conventional equations for structure growth (Dmietriev & Zel'dovich '63)
  - fully non-linear & exact (but Newtonian) description
- $a(t)$  is arbitrary, but extra terms appear in equations of motion if  $a(t)$  does not obey Friedmann's equation
  - physical quantities invariant under choice of  $a(t)$
- No coupling of expansion to internal structure via tidal torques
  - can also be understood from scaling with radius/mass

# Relation to Buchert & Ehlers '97 "kinematic BR"

- Matter modelled as pressure-free Newtonian fluid
  - unrealistic, but maybe a useful "toy model"
- Consider a specific volume  $V = a^3$  containing mass  $M$
- Raychaudhuri equation (expansion  $\theta$ , vorticity  $\omega$ , shear  $\sigma$ )
  - $a''/a + (4\pi/3) GM/a^3 = Q$ 
    - with  $Q = 2(\langle\theta^2\rangle - \langle\theta\rangle^2)/3 + 2\langle\omega^2 - \sigma^2\rangle$
    - 2nd order - no linear effect!
- Naively a big effect (individual terms in  $Q \sim G\rho$ )
  - but...

# Buchert & Ehlers '97

- "Generalised Friedmann equation":  $a''/a + GM/a^3 = Q$ 
  - $Q = 2(\langle \theta^2 \rangle - \langle \theta \rangle^2)/3 + 2\langle \omega^2 - \sigma^2 \rangle$
  - $Q=0$  is "*conspiracy assumption*"
- But "*Q is a divergence*":  $Q = V^{-1} \int d\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{u}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla)\mathbf{u})$ 
  - so no global effect for periodic BCs - "*by construction*"
- No surprise that  $a''/a \neq -GM/a^3$  for an individual region
  - fluctuations affect acceleration  $a''$  and  $M$
  - but local, not "backreaction of  $\delta\rho$  on global expansion"
- If  $\langle Q \rangle_{V \rightarrow \infty} \neq 0$  would imply a conflict - this is not the case

# Do B&E claim Newtonian backreaction?

- $Q = 0$  requires "conspiracy" - but *"the average motion may be approximately given by the Friedmann equation on a scale which is larger than the largest existing inhomogeneities"*
- Later works: E.g. Buchert & Rasanen 2011 review
  - *"..linear theory ... effect vanishes by construction ... in Newtonian ... true also in non-perturbative regime"*
  - *"When we impose periodic BCs ....  $Q$  is strictly zero"*
  - *but "If backreaction is substantial then current Newtonian simulations (and analytic studies) are inapplicable".*
- *"To get Newtonian cosmology unique there is no other way, relevant for cosmology, than introducing a background and packing the deviations on a torus, that's our result."*

How large is  $Q = (3 a''/a + 4\pi GM/a^3)$ ?

- $Q = Q_1 + Q_2 = V^{-1} \int d\mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{u}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u}) - (3/2V^2) (\int d\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{u})^2$ 
  - $\mathbf{u}$  is peculiar velocity wrt global H
- If structure is a stat. homog. and isotropic random process
  - $\langle \mathbf{u}(\nabla \cdot \mathbf{u}) - (\mathbf{u} \cdot \nabla) \mathbf{u} \rangle_{\text{ensemble}} = 0$  (Monin and Iaglom, 1975)
  - so  $Q_1$  is pure fluctuation
  - $|Q_1| \sim \langle u^2 \rangle / r^2$  independent of coherence length  $\lambda$
- Second term is systematic:  $Q_2 \sim \langle u^2 \rangle \lambda^2 / r^4$
- Both are very small ( $\ll H^2$ ) for large  $V$

# Is there relativistic backreaction?

- Buchert etc: "*GR backreaction*" is non-zero - and large
- But local universe should be accurately Newtonian
  - errors  $\sim v^2/c^2 \rightarrow \sim 1\%$  accuracy within  $z = 0.1$
  - and that's where we measure  $H_0$
  - so very hard to believe there are  $\gg 1\%$  effects
- Q: Are there even very small effects on expansion history coming from non-relativistic effects?

# Is there *relativistic* backreaction?

- Averaging of Einstein equations:  $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{T}$
- FRW: metric  $\mathbf{g}$   $\rightarrow$   $\mathbf{G}$  and  $\mathbf{T} = \text{diag}(\rho, P, P, P)$  are diagonal
  - $\mathbf{G} = \mathbf{T}$  and  $\mathbf{v} \cdot \mathbf{T} = 0 \rightarrow$  Friedmann equations
- with inhomogeneity  $\langle \mathbf{G} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{T} \rangle$ ?
  - "*averaging problem*" widely discussed in BR literature
- what about internal pressure  $P$  of clusters?
  - or internal pressure in stars, other compact objects
- Do those give Friedmann equations with non-zero  $P$ ?
  - and hence deviation from Newtonian expansion law?

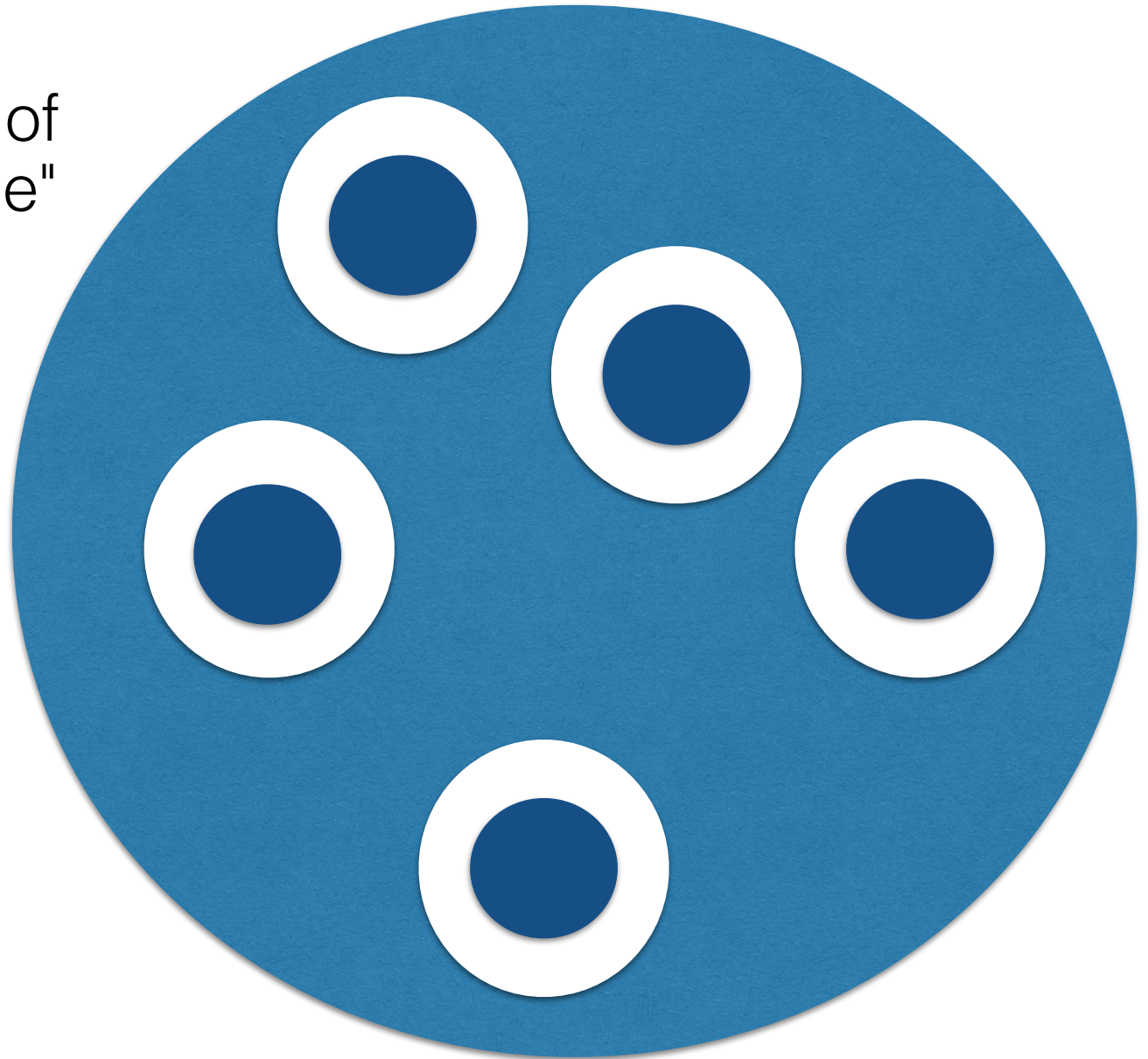


Averaging of Einstein equations:  $\langle \mathbf{G} \rangle = \langle \mathbf{T} \rangle$ ?

- Consider e.g. stars with internal pressure  $P$ 
  - does that give Friedmann equations with non-zero  $P$ ?
- No. Stars have Schwarzschild exterior with mass  $m$ 
  - space integral of the stress pseudo-tensor
    - includes rest mass, motions,  $P$ , binding energy
    - but is independent of time
- Conservation of stars implies  $\rho \sim a^{-3}$ 
  - which demands  $P = 0$  in the Friedmann equations

# Relativistic BR from large-scale structure?

- Einstein-Straus '45
  - "What is the effect of expansion of space"
- -> Swiss-cheese
- Fully non-linear
- Interesting pert<sup>n</sup> to e.g. proper mass
- but background expansion is exactly unperturbed
- small effects on  $D(z)$



# Backreaction from inter-galactic pressure

- Stars & DM ejected from galaxies by merging SMBHs
  - intergalactic pressure  $P = n m \sigma_v^2$
  - and  $P$  in the background of GWs emitted
- Homogeneous (in conformal coords) pressure is a flux of energy with non-zero divergence in real space
  - 1st law ... PdV work .... :  $\rho' = - (\rho + P/c^2) V' / V$ 
    - but a very small effect
- relies on pressure being extended throughout space
  - no effect from internal pressure in bound systems that are surrounded by empty space

# Summary

- A different perspective on the DZ equations. There is no dynamical equation for  $a(t)$ .  $a(t)$  is arbitrary. But there is no freedom to modify F-equation w/o changing structure eqs. Conventional system of equations is exact.
- Clarification of "generalised Friedmann equation". Periodic BCs is not the issue.  $|Q_1| \sim \langle v^2 \rangle / r^2$  and  $\langle Q_1 \rangle = 0$  (Monin and Iaglom).  $\langle Q_2 \rangle \sim \langle v^2 \rangle \lambda^2 / r^4$ . Both are v. small and tend to zero for large  $r$ .
- Discussion of relativistic backreaction. Averaging of stress-energy for systems with internal pressure does not introduce non-zero  $P$  in Friedmann equations. Exact non-linear solutions show no backreaction. Intergalactic  $P$  does backreact, but  $P$  is weak and positive.