

# Analytics of the Cosmic Web

## A systematic attempt

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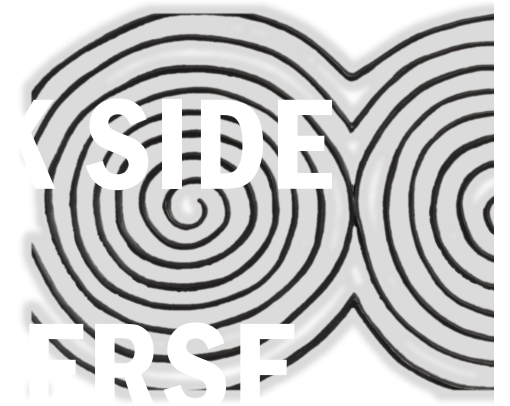


**VNiVERSIDAD  
D SALAMANCA**

@KITP - Jan 2023

Organizing DSU2023 in Kigali, Rwanda.  
Hope to see you there!

<https://eaifr.ictp.it/events/dsu-2023/>



WEBPAGE: <https://eaifr.org/events/dsu-2023/>

Organisers:

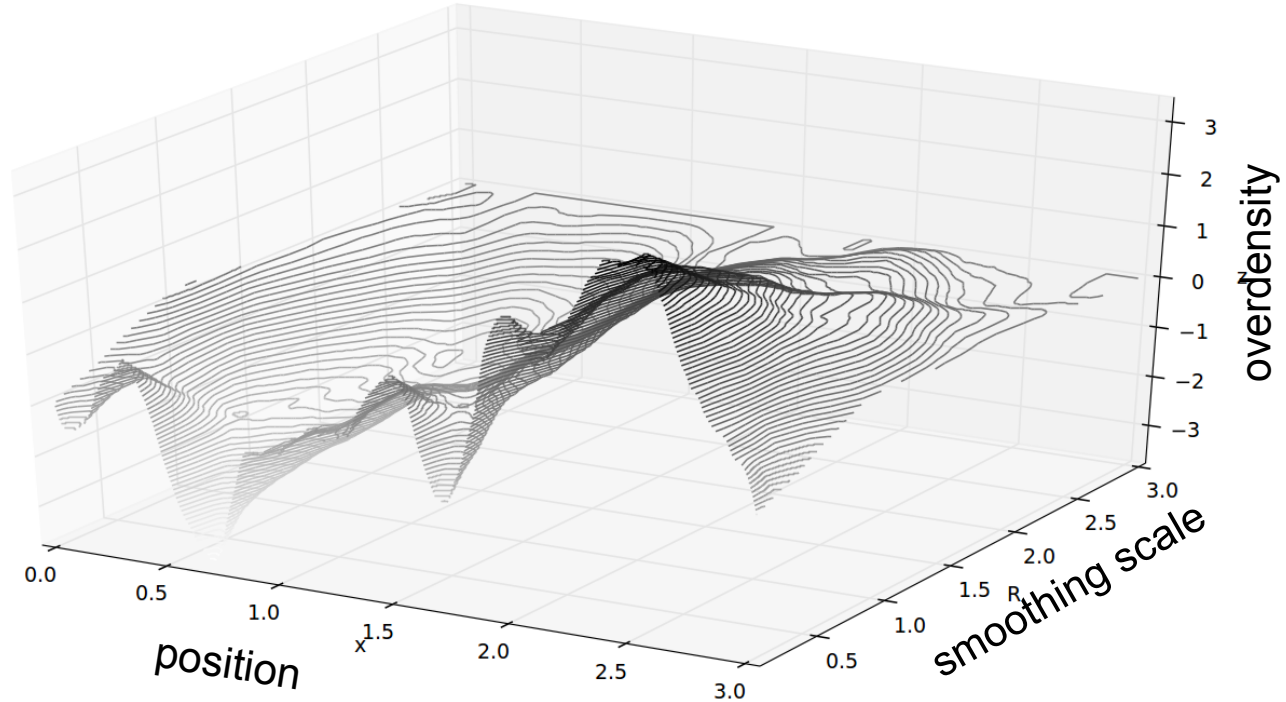
- Paolo Creminelli, ICTP, Trieste
- Joern Kersten, Uni Bergen
- Roy Maartens, UWC, South Africa
- Shoaib Munir, ICTP-EAIFR
- Marcello Musso, Uni Salamanca
- Riccardo Sturani, ICTP-SAIFR
- Filippo Vermizzi, IPhT, Saclay
- Gabrijela Zaharijas, Uni Nova Gorica



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# Finding proto-halos

- Find protohalo patches in the IC
- After smoothing, 4-dimensional landscape in  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $R$
- Look for peaks of critical height
- Peak constraint fixes position  $\mathbf{x}$
- Threshold on the peak height fixes the smoothing scale  $R$
- Which filter?



**Press & Schechter 74,  
BBKS86, BCEK91, ....**

**1. “My filter is better than yours”  
Or: getting the place right**

# Matter vs energy peaks

- Geometrical radius:  $R^3 = 3V/4\pi$

- $\frac{\dot{R}^2}{2} - \frac{GM}{R} - \frac{\Lambda}{6}R^2 \simeq -\frac{5}{3} \frac{GM}{R_{\text{in}}} \delta_{R,\text{in}}$

- Mass:  $M = \frac{4\pi}{3} \bar{\rho} (1 + \delta_R) R^3$

vs

- Inertial radius:  $\frac{R_I^2}{5} \equiv \int_V \frac{d^3r}{3M} \rho |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{\text{cm}}|^2$

- $\frac{\dot{R}_I^2}{2} - \frac{GM_I}{R} - \frac{\Lambda}{6}R_I^2 \simeq -\frac{5}{3} \frac{GM_I}{R_{I,\text{in}}} \epsilon_{\text{in}}$

- Inertial mass:  $M_I = \frac{4\pi}{3} \bar{\rho} (1 + \epsilon_R) R_I^3$

- Governed by **matter** overdensity

$$\delta_R \equiv \frac{1}{V} \int_V d^3r \delta(\mathbf{r})$$

- Governed by **energy** overdensity

$$\epsilon_R \equiv 5 \int_V \frac{d^3r}{MR_I^2} \rho \mathbf{r} \cdot (\nabla \phi - \nabla \phi_{\text{cm}})$$

# Matter vs energy peaks

- Characteristic time  $\sim (1/\delta_R)^{3/2}$
- Halos of mass  $M$  are peaks of  $\delta_R(\mathbf{x})$
- In Fourier space:

$$\delta_R = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \delta(\mathbf{k}) \frac{3j_1(kR)}{kR}$$

VS

- Characteristic time  $\sim (1/\epsilon_R)^{3/2}$
- Halos of mass  $M$  are peaks of  $\epsilon(\mathbf{x})$
- In Fourier space:

$$\epsilon_R = \int \frac{d^3k}{(2\pi)^3} \delta(\mathbf{k}) \frac{15j_2(kR)}{(kR)^2}$$

(extra power of  $1/k$ )

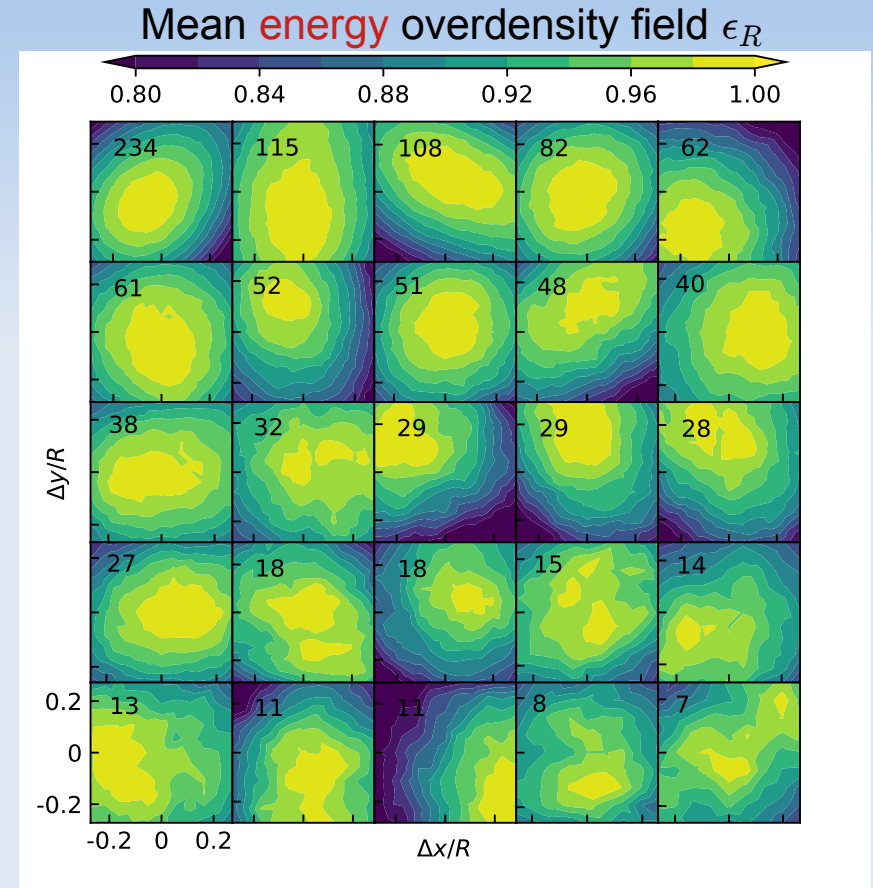
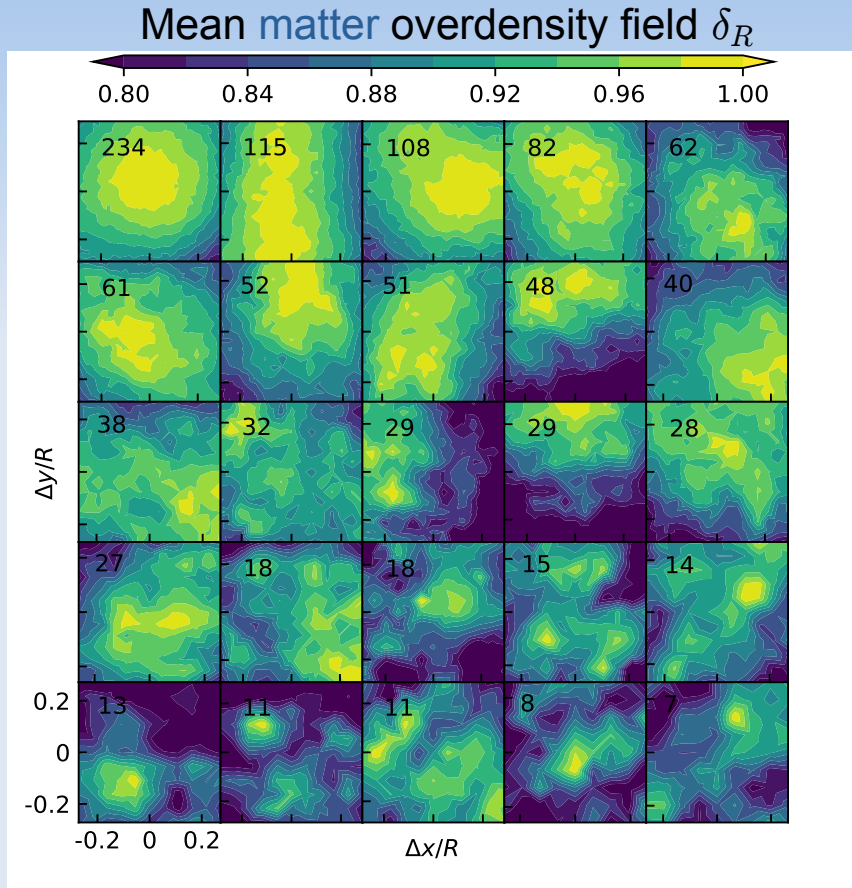
# What is the advantage?

- $R$  is very sensitive to the halo boundary (it actually is...)
- No dynamical meaning in  $\nabla\delta_R = 0$
- More small-scale power.  
 $\langle(\nabla^2\delta_R)^2\rangle$  diverges in  $\Lambda$ CDM.
- Usually resort to Gaussian filter.  
Blurred physical interpretation

vs

- $R_I$  is density weighted, less sensitive to halo boundary at late times
- $\nabla\epsilon_R \sim$  dipole moment.  
 $\nabla\epsilon_R = 0$  implies radial infall
- Less small-scale power.  
 $\langle(\nabla^2\epsilon_R)^2\rangle$  remains finite.
- No need to “tweak” the filter.  
Clearly rooted in the EoM

# Testing the energy peak ansatz



- Energy peaks are a better proxy for protohalo centers!



# Other filters?

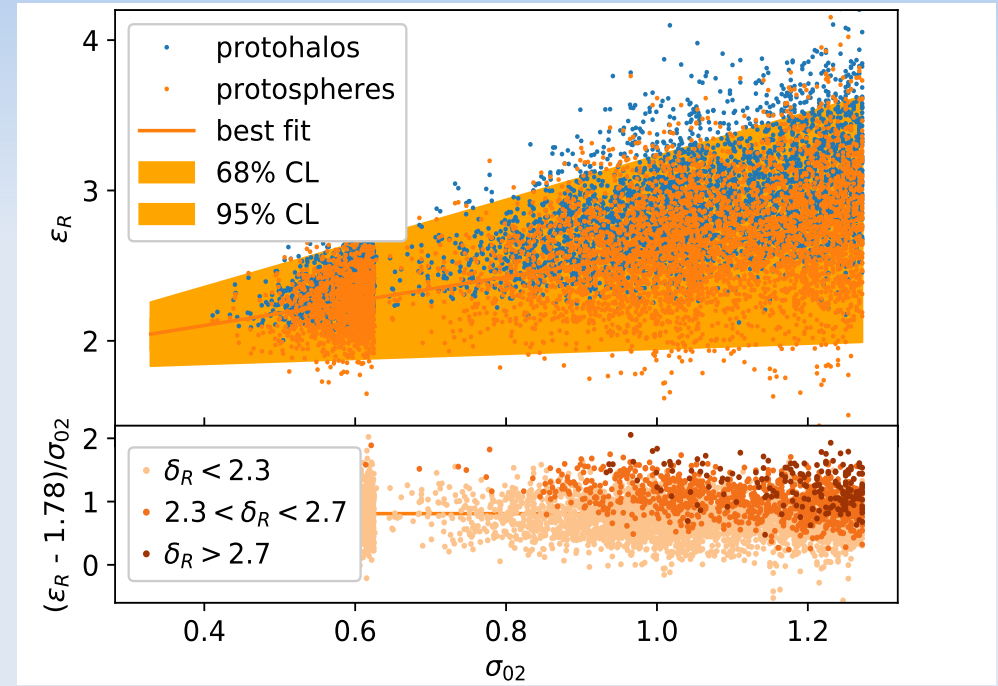
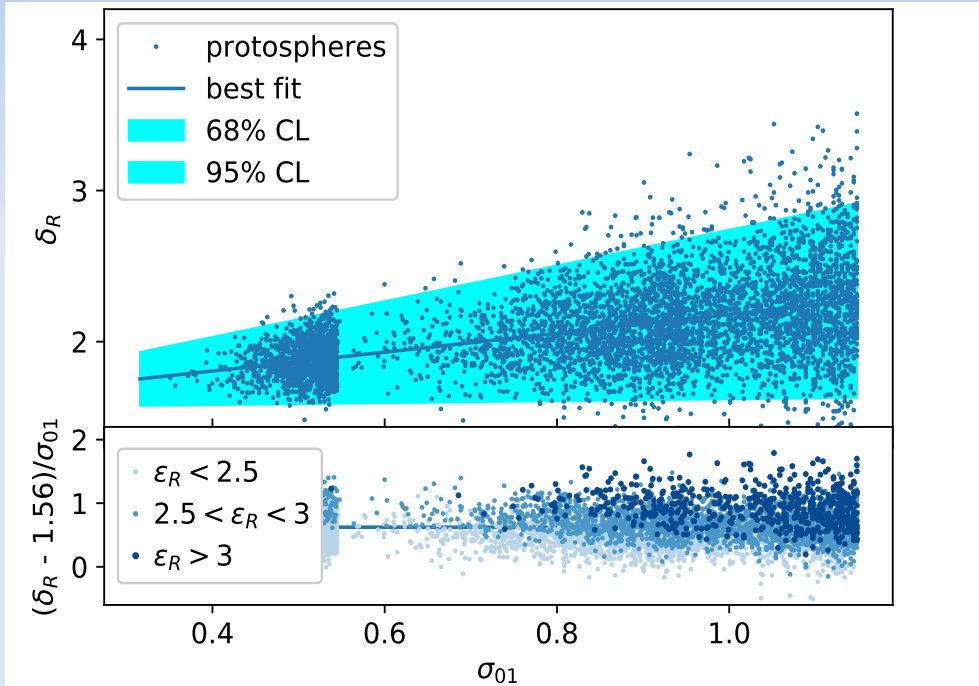
- There are other popular filter choices (Gaussian, sharp-k...)
- They have interesting mathematical properties that can make calculations easier
- However, they are not obviously connected to physical quantities
- They don't have a clear dynamical meaning (to me...)

## **2. The threshold**

**Or: getting the mass right**

# Peak height (= threshold)

- To predict a mass, the peak height must cross a threshold. However:



- The measured value of  $\delta_R$  is not really  $\delta_c = 1.686$
- But  $\epsilon_R$  is not a constant either...

# Peak height (= threshold)

At least two effects contribute to the scatter and must be modeled:

1) Anisotropy of the environment.

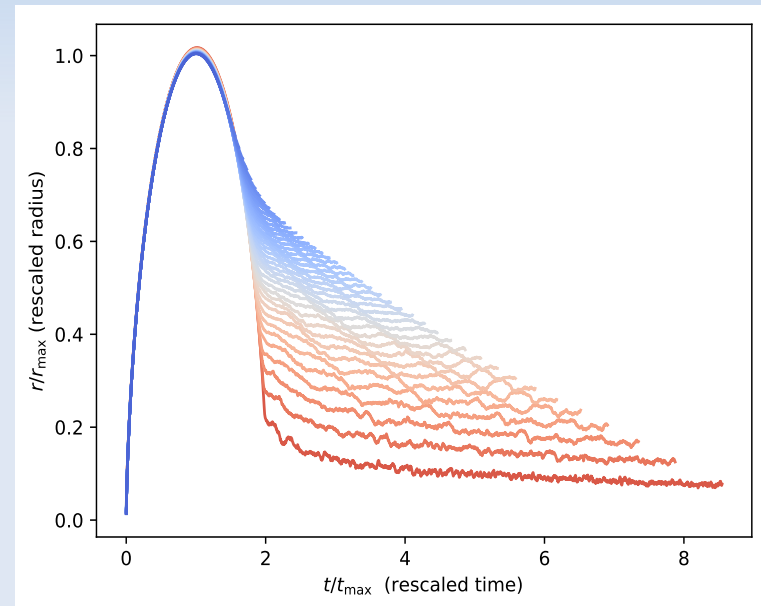
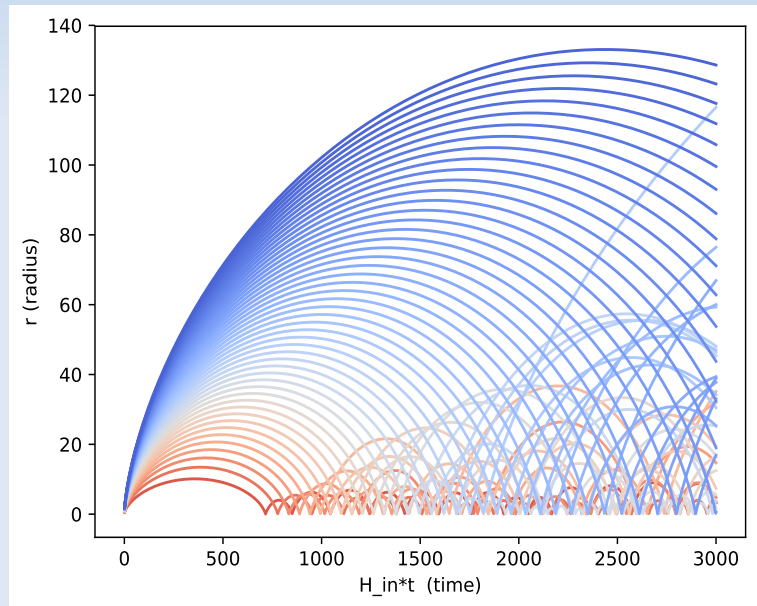
- Tidal shear slows down collapse. Need a higher initial overdensity to counter it.
- Follows from (neglected) anisotropic second order terms in the EoM

2) Different formation times.

- Early forming haloes come from higher initial overdensities
- But most halo finders are blind to formation times
- Effect also exists in spherical symmetry
- Need to model the multi-stream regime beyond shell crossing

# Spherical model of virialization

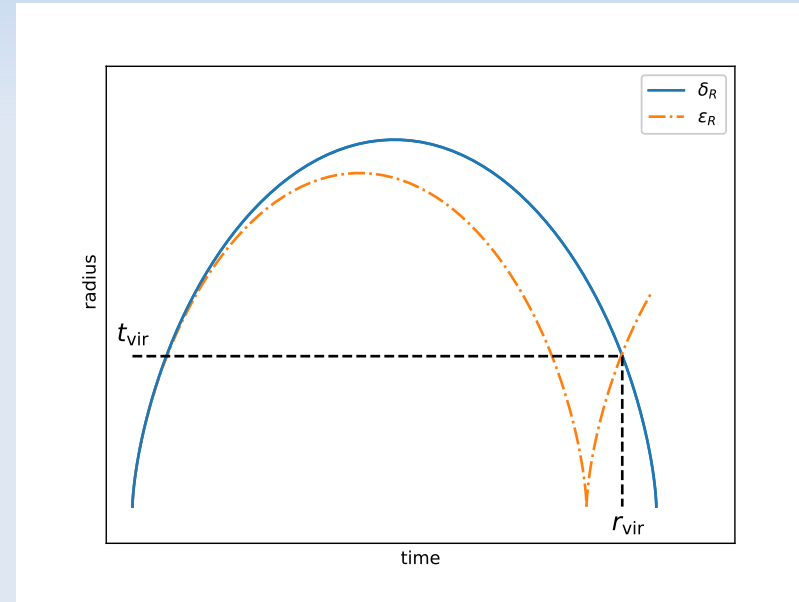
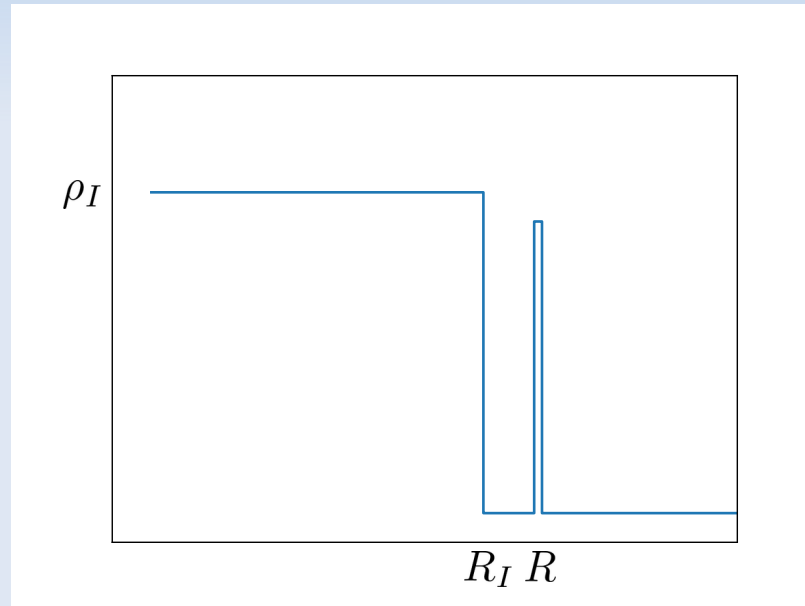
- Shells cross the center at different times, and then start crossing each other. Mass and energy within each shell are NOT conserved in multi-stream regime
- The radius of mass-conserving spheres freezes (null mean velocity)



- The virialization radius of each shell is NOT half of the turnaround radius

# Spherical model of virialization

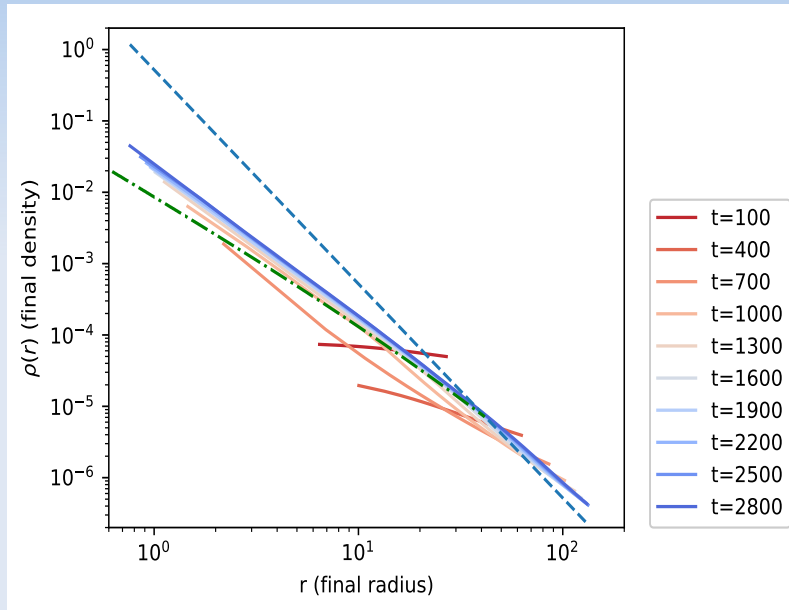
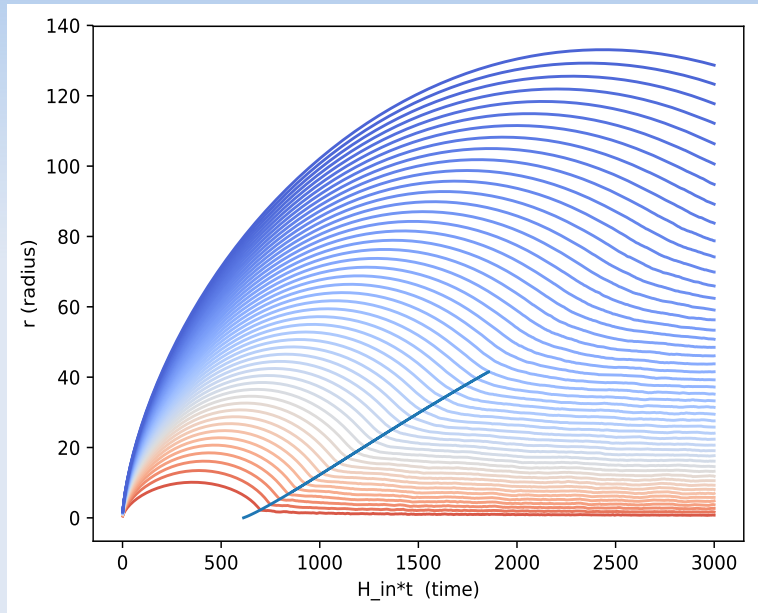
- Can we get some analytical insight from an equivalent configuration?
- Two spherical collapse solutions with overdensity  $\delta_R$  and  $\epsilon_R$ , intersecting after bounce



- Solve for  $r_{vir}$  and  $t_{vir}$ , and repeat for every  $R$ ...

# Spherical model of virialization

- ... and it seems to work quite well!



- Can also predict the final profile
- The threshold is actually a relation between  $\delta_R$  and  $\epsilon_R$

# **3. The Minimum Energy Principle**

**Or: getting the shape right**



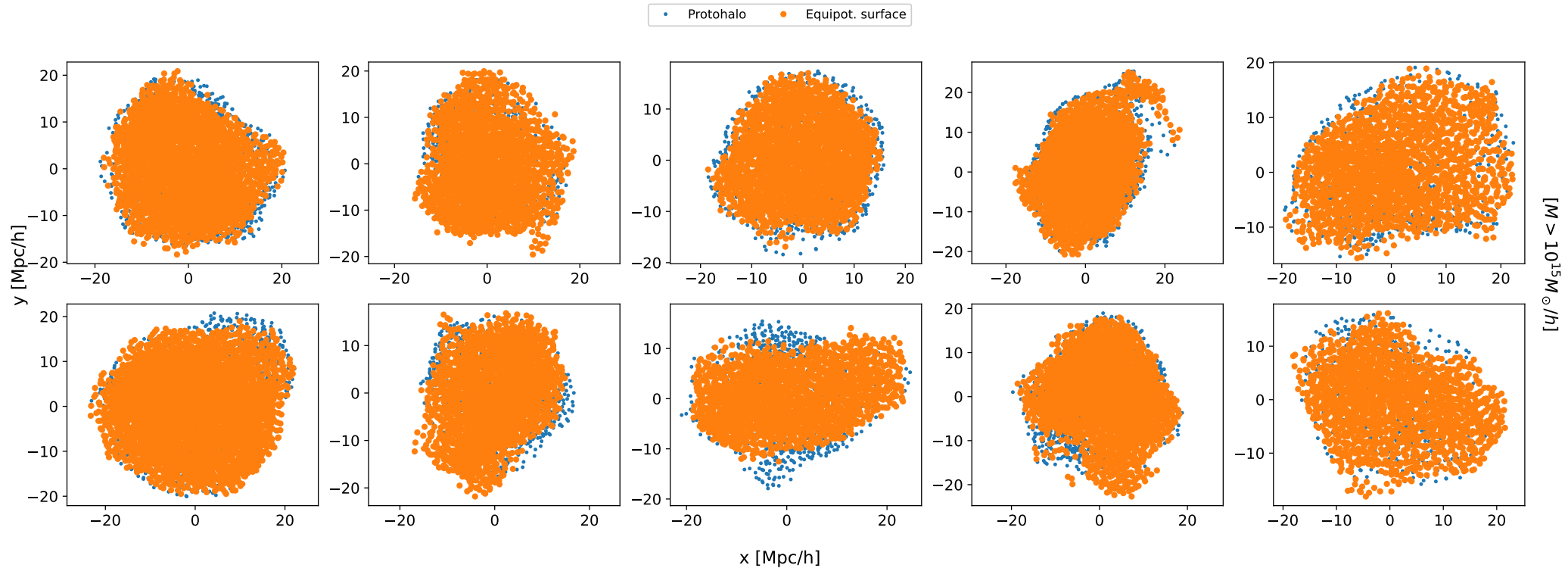
# Shape of maximal $\epsilon$

- Once a spherical peak is found, one can further increase  $\epsilon$  (decrease  $E$ ) by deforming the sphere at fixed volume.
- The inertial radius  $R_I$  of the deformed region collapses even faster
- The boundary of the region of maximal  $\epsilon$  (minimal  $E$ ) must be an isosurface of

$$\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{r}) \equiv (\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{\text{cm}}) \cdot \left[ \nabla\phi - \nabla\phi_{\text{cm}} - \frac{\epsilon}{3}(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_{\text{cm}}) \right]$$

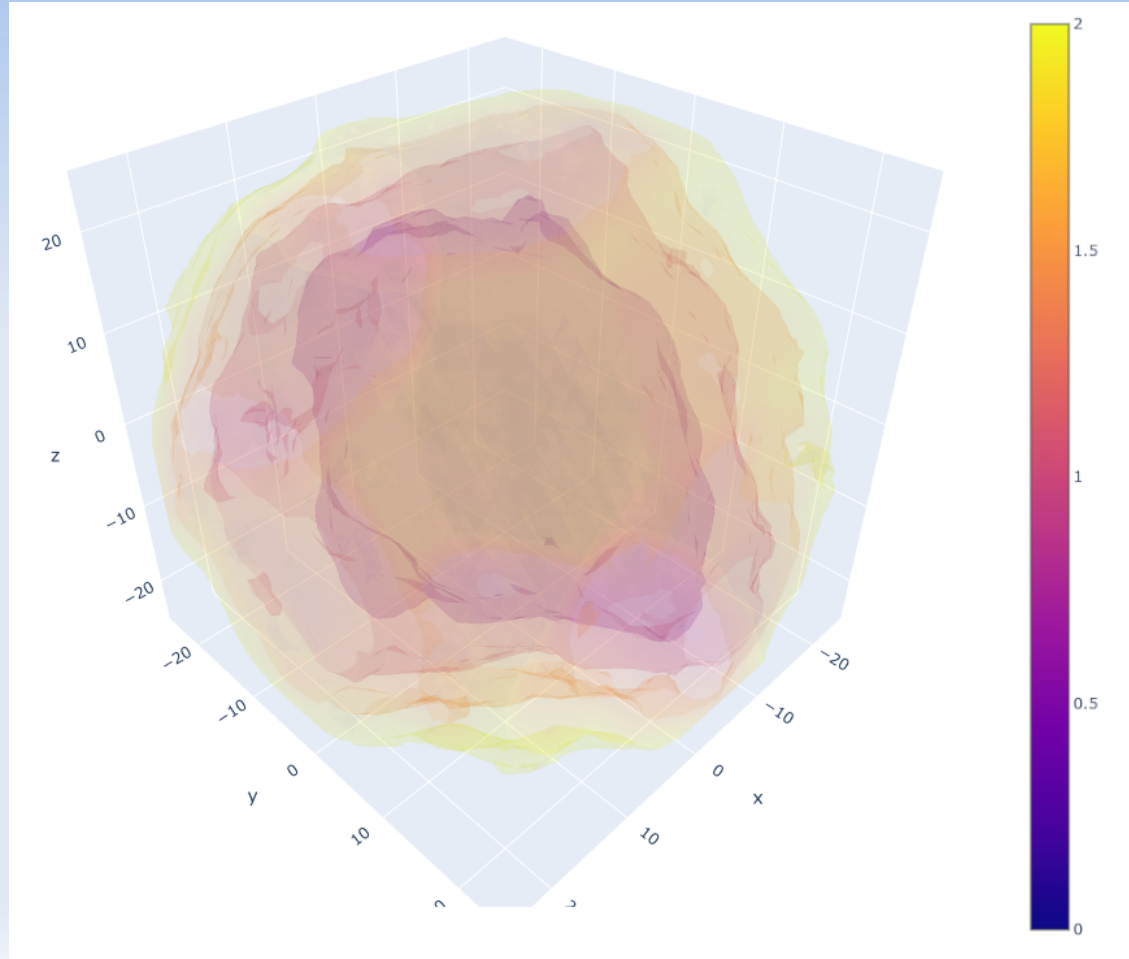
- Proxy for protohalo shape and boundary!
- Longest axis in the direction of maximum compression (orthogonal to the filament)
- Can predict initial torques

# Protohaloes vs equipotential surfaces



# Equipotential surfaces

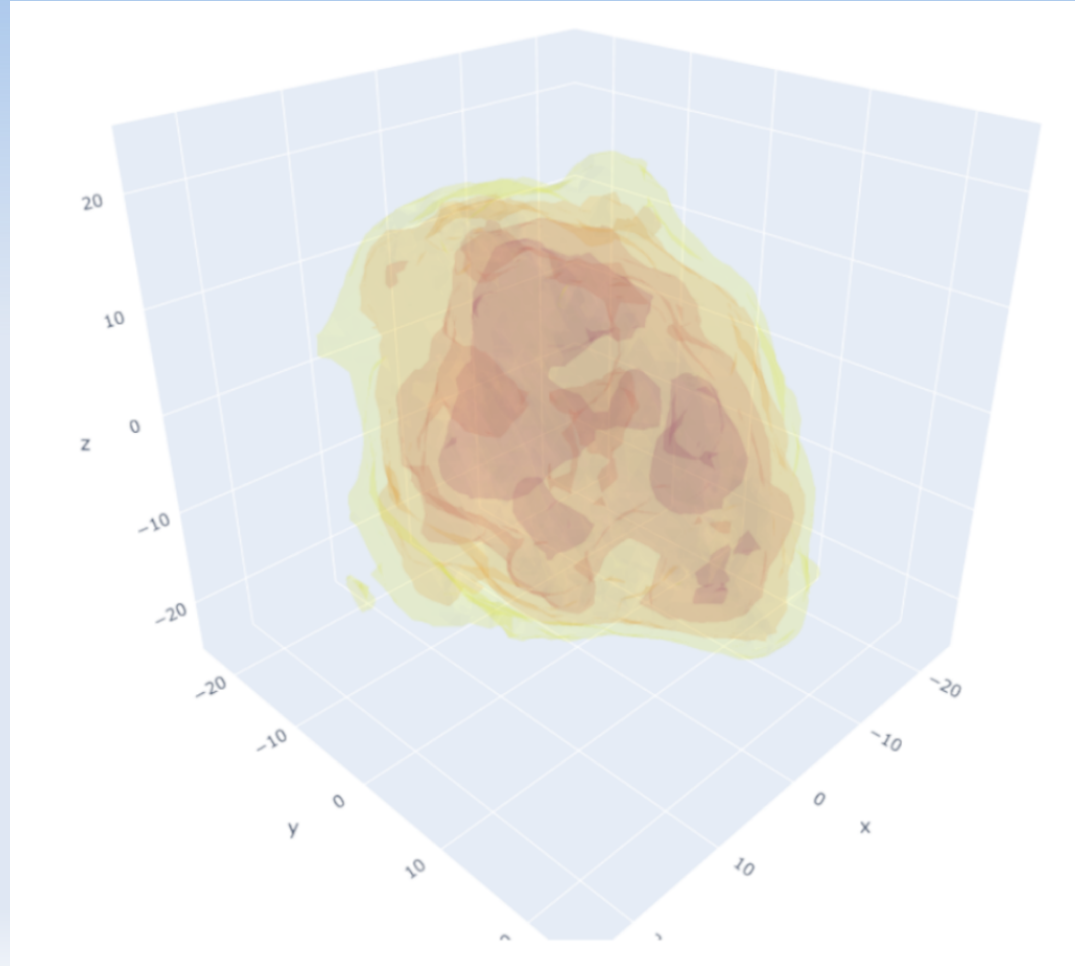
- Nested equipotential surfaces with different overdensity  $\epsilon$  and volume  $V$  describe the mass accretion history
- Excursion sets of peaks of arbitrary shape!



# Equipotential surfaces

- Zooming in, the surfaces of constant infall potential  $\mathcal{V}$  may fragment
- Natural prediction of a merger event
- The notion of critical event,  $\det(\nabla\nabla\epsilon) = 0$ , may be replaced by

$$\nabla\mathcal{V} = 0$$



# Conclusions

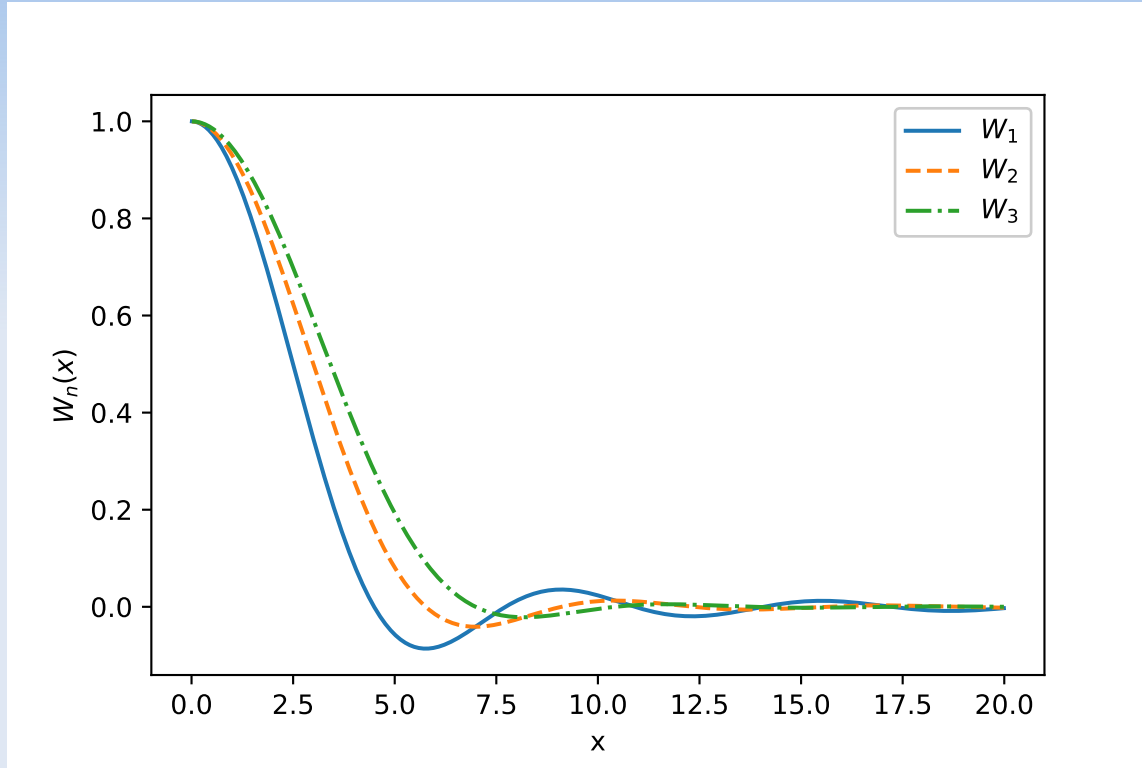
- Protohaloes are peaks of the initial **energy** overdensity field. Not densest but **most energetically bound** initial regions, having fastest collapse times.
- Peaks in  $\epsilon_R$  are **convergent matter flows**. Initial evolution matches perturbation theory. Final high mean density results **dynamically**, not put in “by hand”.
- Using  $\epsilon_R$  instead of  $\delta_R$  simply means changing the filter (to a more convergent one)
- Energy density peaks are better behaved, and **better proxies for protohalo centers**
- The threshold contains both anisotropic corrections AND scatter in formation times.
- A model of spherical virialization leads to a relation between  $\epsilon_R$  and  $\delta_R$
- **Protohalo shapes** and alignments are well described by **equipotential surfaces**

# Open questions and outlook

- Can we predict critical value  $\epsilon_c$ ? Must model virialization (in progress)
- Relation with halo finder? Ellipsoidal? FOF? Energy-based?
- Angular momentum? (in progress)
- How to improve even more? Account for non-conservation of energy?
- Final shear/shape alignments?
- (Assembly) bias? Voids? Skeleton/cosmic web?
- Primordial BHs?
- ...

Thank you!!

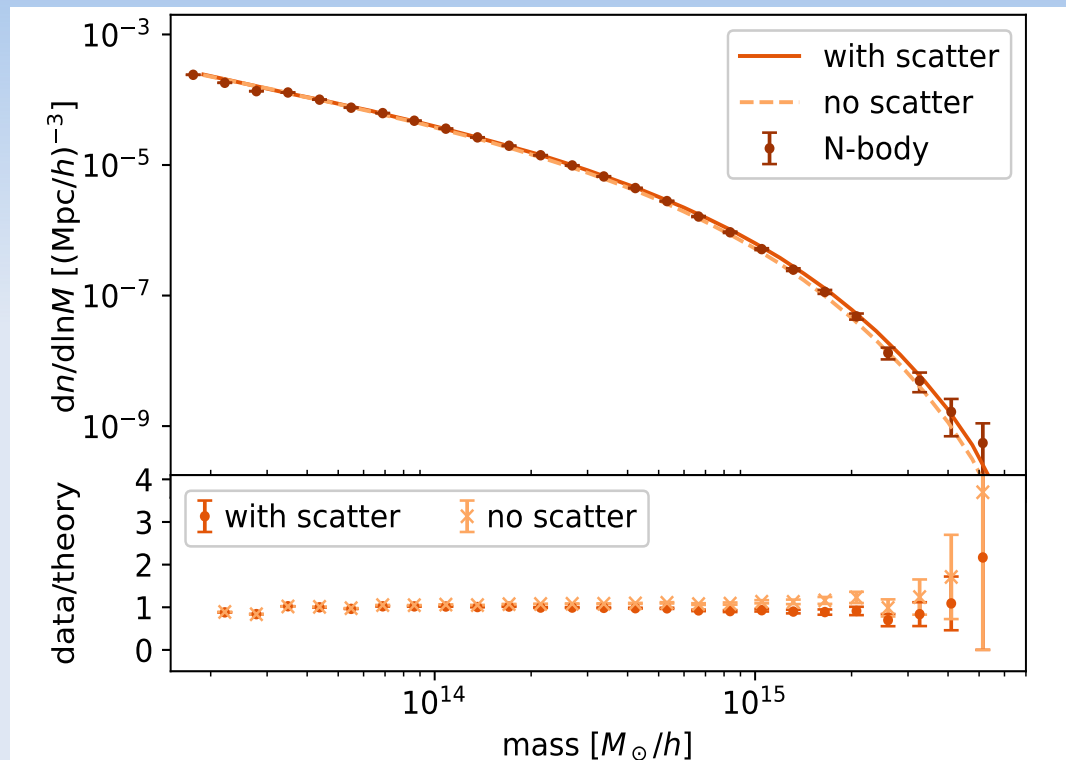
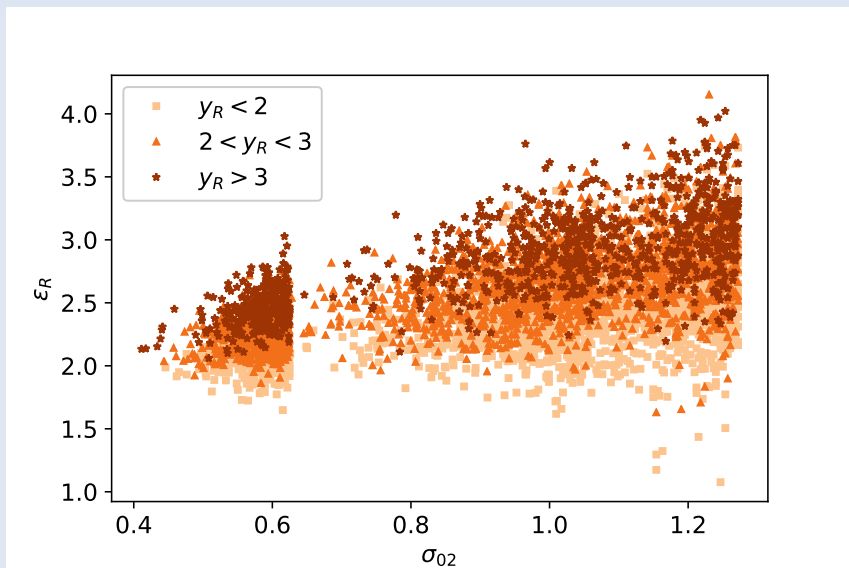
# The filters



- The  $W_1$  filter converges more slowly and has more pronounced wiggles

# Halo mass function

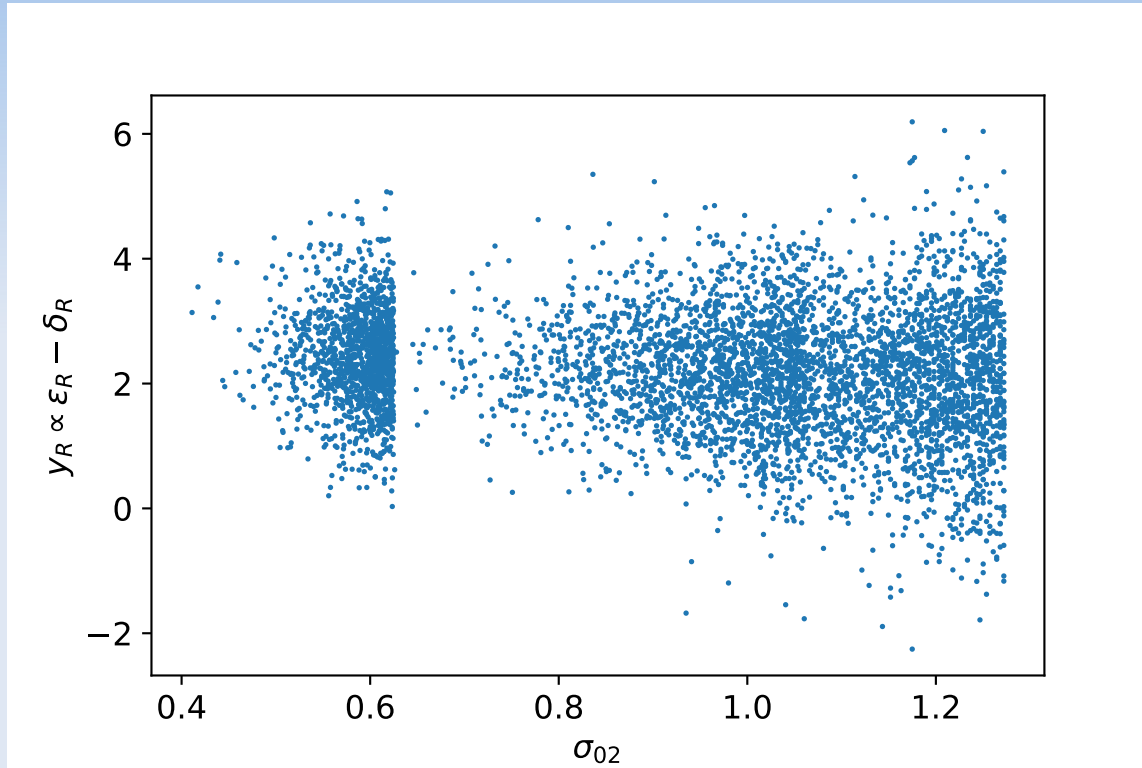
- Predicted, using a fit to  $\epsilon_R$



- Scatter can describe assembly bias.

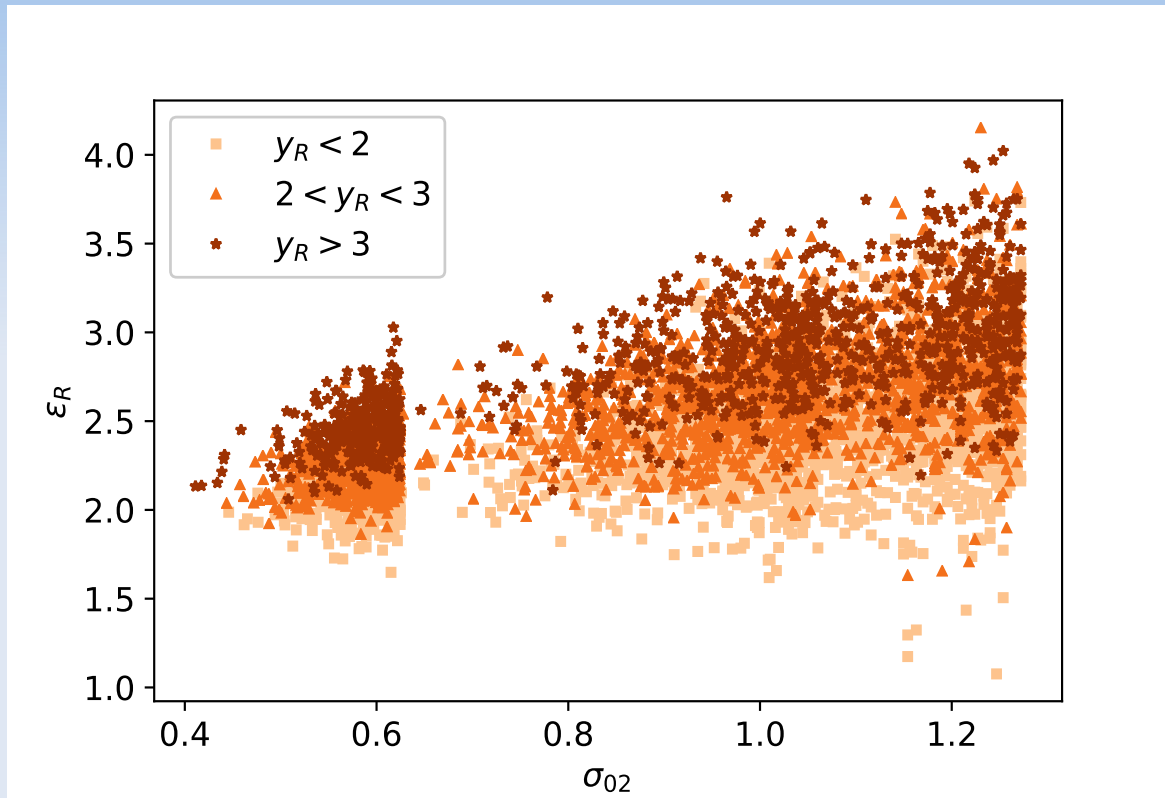


# Excursion set slopes



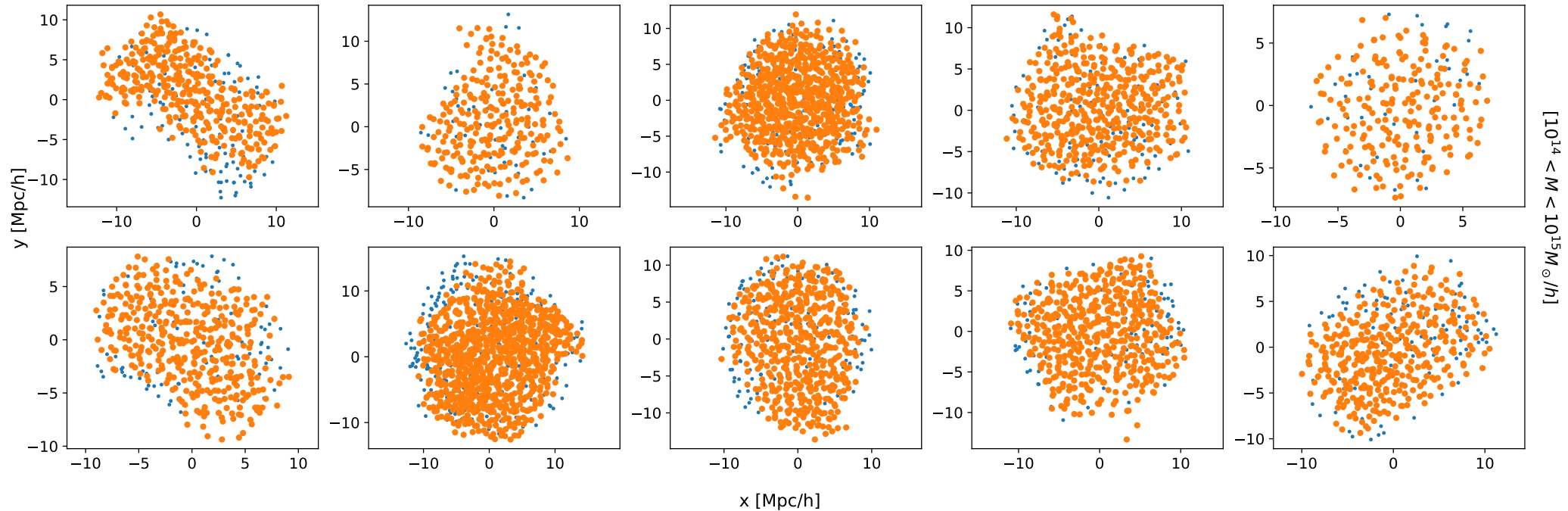
- The “slope of the excursion set”  $-d\epsilon_R/dR$  at the center is always positive. Consistent with the peak ansatz.

# Excursion set slopes

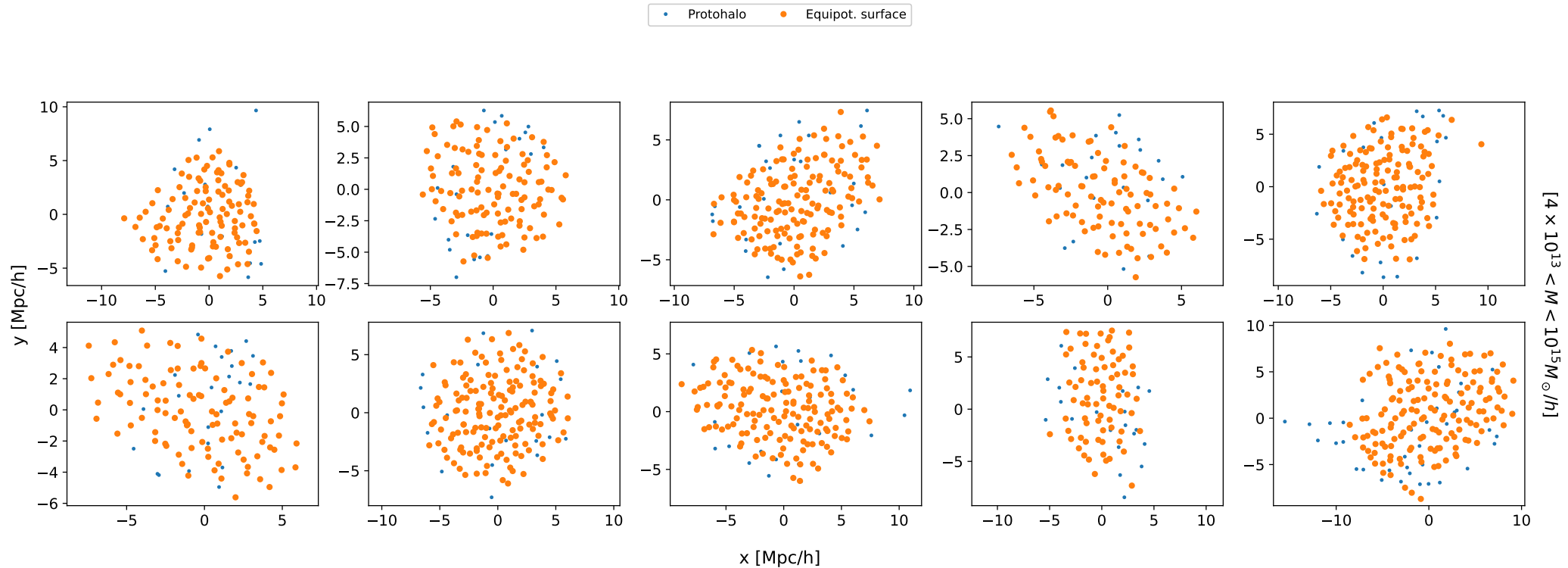


- Peak height and excursion set slope correlate.
- What is the slope for the final halo? Accretion rate?

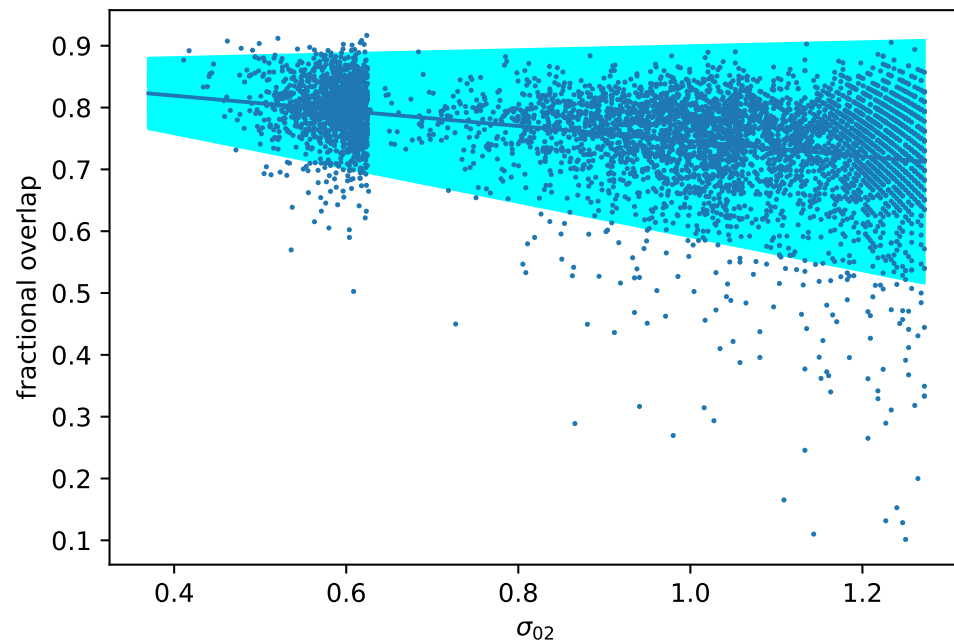
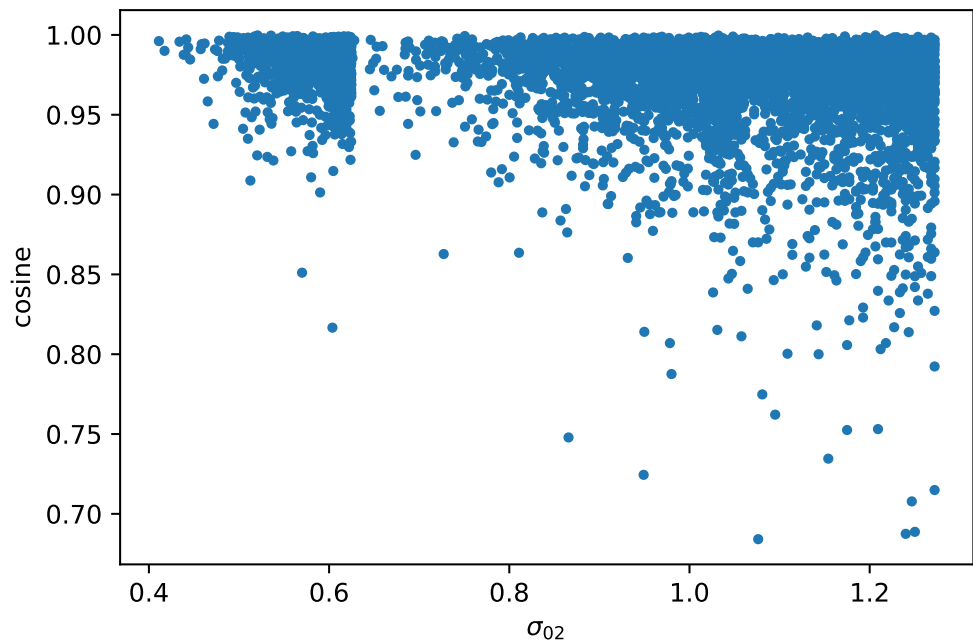
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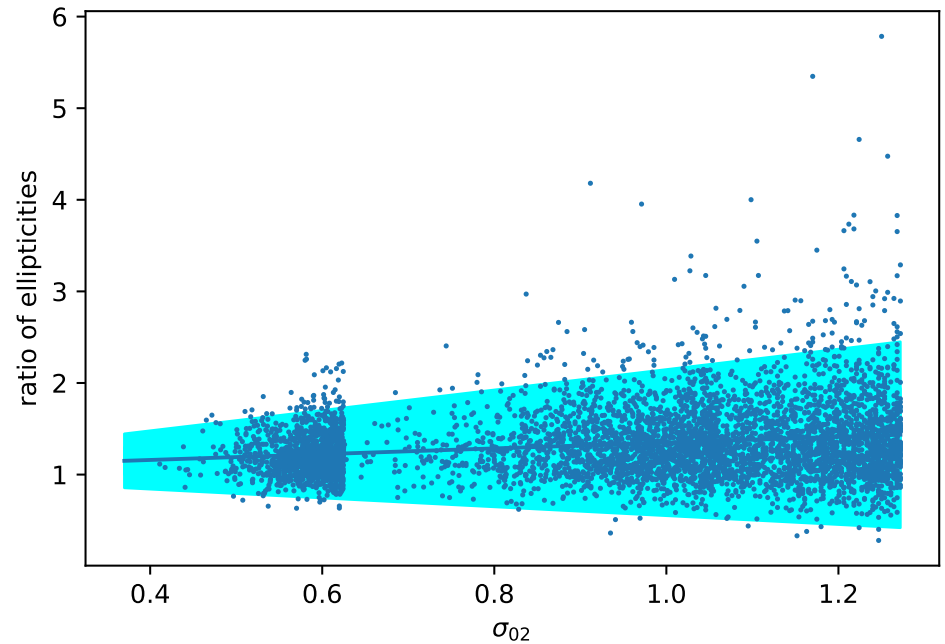
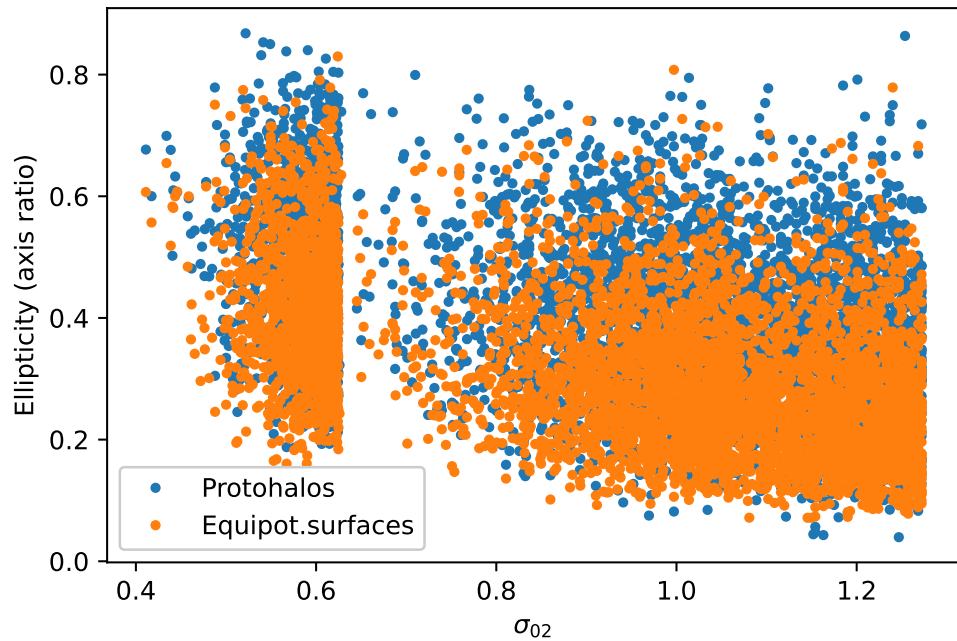
# Protohaloes vs equipotential surfaces



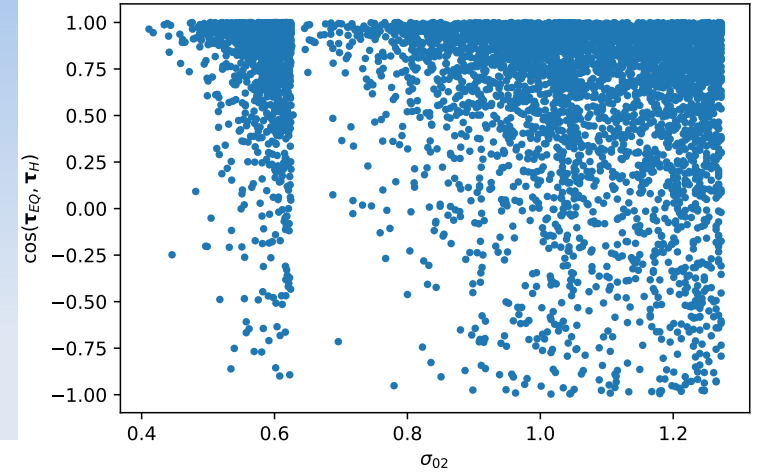
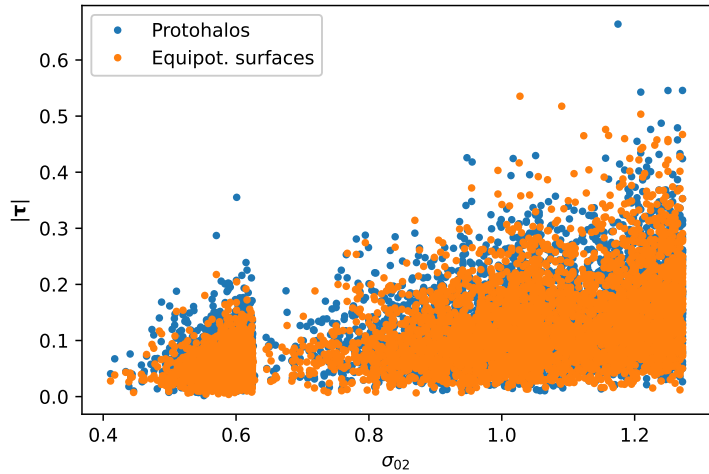
# Alignments



# Ellipticities

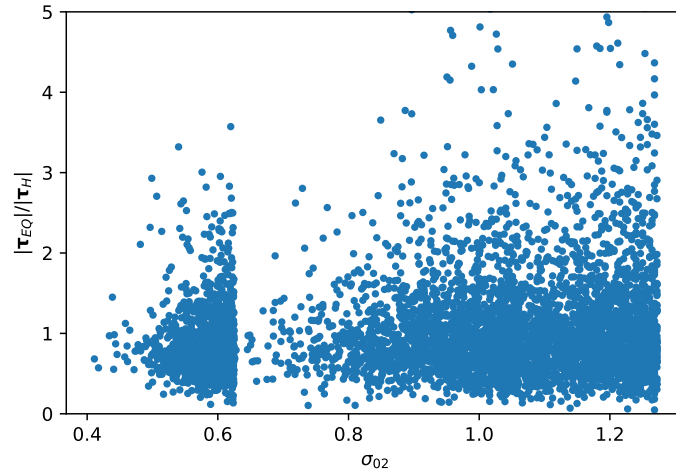


# Torques



$$\tau_i = -\frac{MR_I^2}{5} \epsilon_{ijk} \epsilon_{jk}$$

$\epsilon_{ij}$  = energy  
overdensity tensor.  
No approx here!



# It does not always work...

- At low mass, sometimes the prediction fails (here,  $< 40\%$  of protohalo particles identified correctly)

