

**CAASTRO**  
ARC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE  
FOR ALL-SKY ASTROPHYSICS

# *Probing Dark Energy with cosmic voids*

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# Motivation

- **How can we distinguish between different models of Dark Energy?**

- Universe expansion probes the *quantity* of Dark Energy
- Cosmic structures = more information to probe the *nature* of Dark Energy

e.g. clustering, RSD of galaxies,... What about cosmic voids?

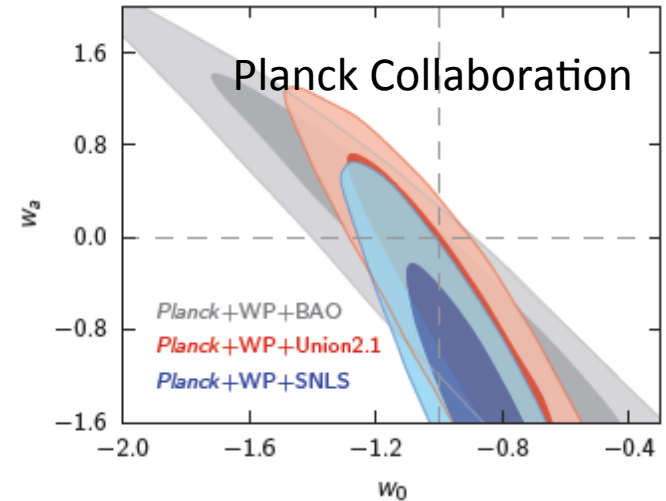
- **Additional information washed out by averaging over all environments?**

e.g. underdense Vs. overdense regions of the Universe (see BAO, RSD...)

- **Screening mechanisms: suppress grav. forces in underdense regions**

e.g.  $f(R)$  gravity,...

**Cosmic void properties = lots of potential but too few accurate predictions**



*Constraints from measurements of the initial density perturbations & background expansion of the Universe*



# Questions

How to predict the evolution of void density profiles for non-standard cosmologies?

Is the growth rate probed in underdense regions the same as the growth rate in average regions of the Universe?

Can we model accurately RSD around voids?

# Outline

**1- Predicting the imprint of non-standard cosmologies using Monte Carlo random walks**

e.g. How to predict the evolution of void density profiles in non-standard cosmologies ?

**2- Consistency of growth rate measurements in different environments, with 6dFGS**

e.g. Is the growth rate in underdense environments the same as the growth rate in average regions of the Universe?

**3- Probing Quintessence Dark Energy with RSD around voids**

e.g. Can we model accurately RSD around voids?

# 1-Predicting the imprint of non-standard cosmologies using Monte Carlo random walks

I. Achitouv, *Phys. Rev. D* 94, 103524 (2016), arXiv:1609.01284

# Predicting void density profiles with random walks

- Evolution of the smoothed linear density field:

$$\frac{\partial \Delta(R, \mathbf{x} = 0)}{\partial R} = \int \frac{d^3 k}{2\pi^3} \tilde{\delta}_k \frac{\partial \tilde{W}(k, R)}{\partial R}$$

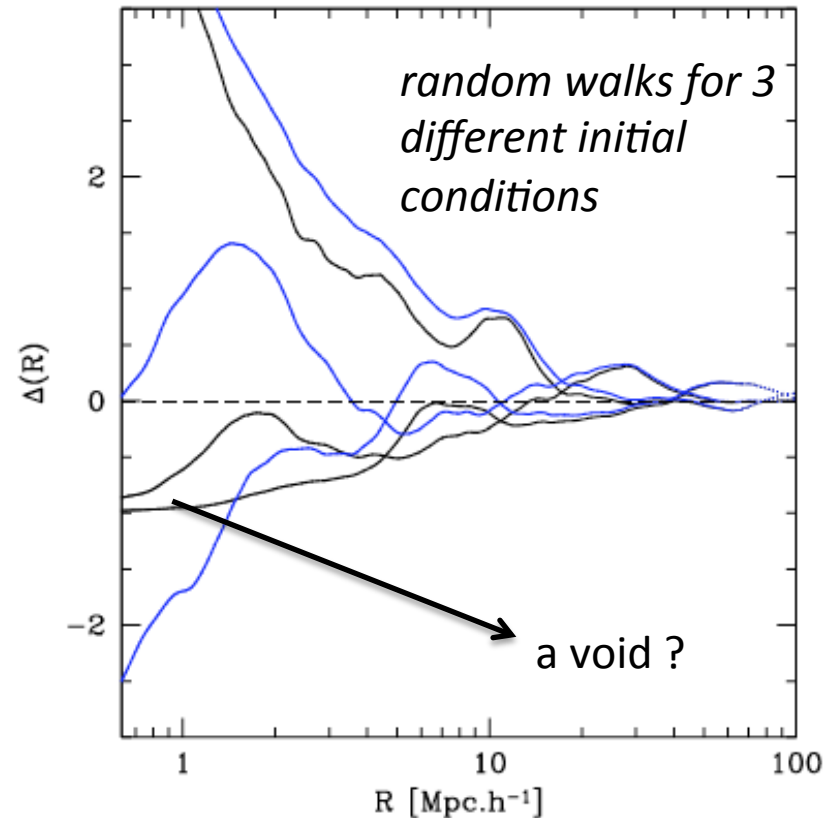
$$\langle \delta(k') \delta(k) \rangle = P_{\text{lin}}(k)$$

- Today, the 1-point distribution of matter is well described by a log-normal PDF:

$$\Delta_{\text{LN}+1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 + \sigma_{\text{NL}}^2(R)}} \exp\left(\frac{\Delta}{\sigma_{\text{Lin}}(R)} \sqrt{\ln(1 + \sigma_{\text{NL}}^2(R))}\right)$$

Smoothed, non-linear Pk

Smoothed, linear Pk

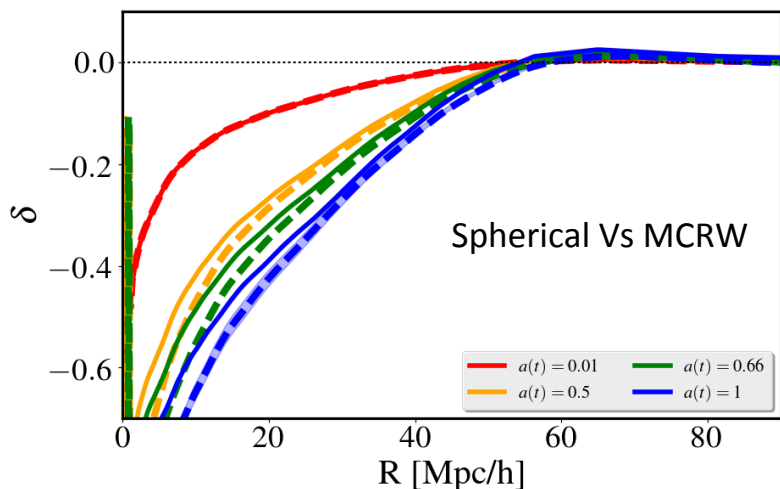


# What can we do now?

- Generate an estimate of non-standard gravity on density fluctuation statistics

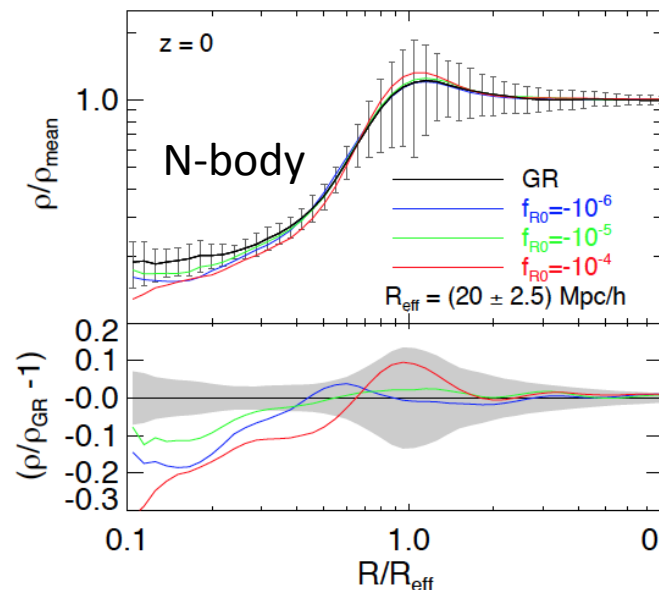
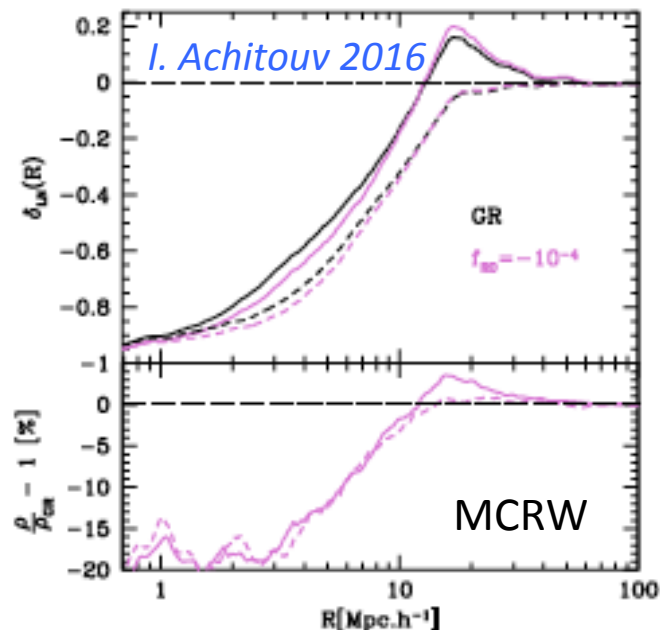
e.g. quick estimate of how void profiles change for MG theories

- Follow evolution of the profile as function of  $z$



V. Demchenko, Y. Cai, I. Achitouv in prep

- Other application: overdense patches of matter, void abundance, rare statistics...?



*I. Achitouv, M. Baldi, E. Pushwein & J. Weller 2015*

## 2- Consistency of growth rate measurements in different environments with 6dFGS

I. Aчитouv, C. Blake, P. Carter, J. Koda & F. Beutler, Phys. Rev. D 95, 083502 (2017) , arXiv: 1606.03092



# Linear perturbation theory :

- Evolution of the linear density fluctuations:

$$\frac{\partial^2 \delta}{\partial t^2} + 2 \frac{\dot{a}}{a} \frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} = 4\pi G \rho_b \delta.$$

- Linear growth rate for a  $\Lambda$ CDM universe:

$$f(\Omega_m) \equiv \frac{1}{H} \frac{\dot{D}}{D} = \frac{d \ln D}{d \ln a} \approx \Omega_m^{0.6}.$$

Sensitive to the background expansion

Depends on gravitational forces

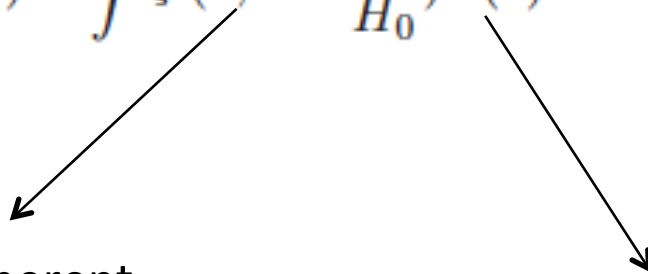
- Peculiar velocities of galaxies are sourced by the gravitational potential

$$\vec{\nabla} \cdot \mathbf{v} = -a \frac{\partial \delta}{\partial t} = -a \delta \frac{\dot{D}}{D} = -a \delta H f(\Omega_m).$$

# Probing the linear growth rate with RSD:

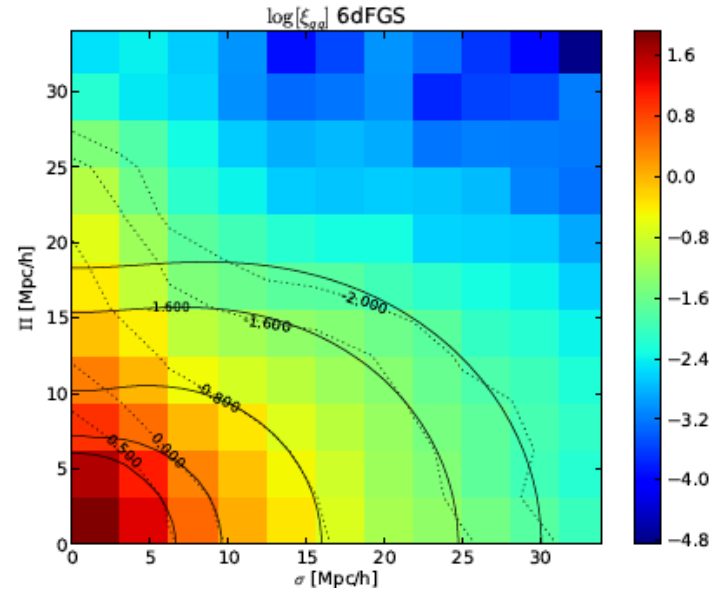
- Redshift space distortions:  
Asymmetry in the correlation function due to peculiar velocities of galaxies.

$$\xi_{gg}(\sigma, \pi) = \int \xi^l(\sigma, \pi - \frac{v}{H_0}) P(v) dv$$



Large scales: coherent infall/outflow due to density fluctuation (Kaiser effect) **sensitive to the growth rate**

Small scales: random motion of galaxies within group (FoG)



Galaxy autocorrelation function in 6dFGS

# Probing the linear growth rate with cosmic voids:

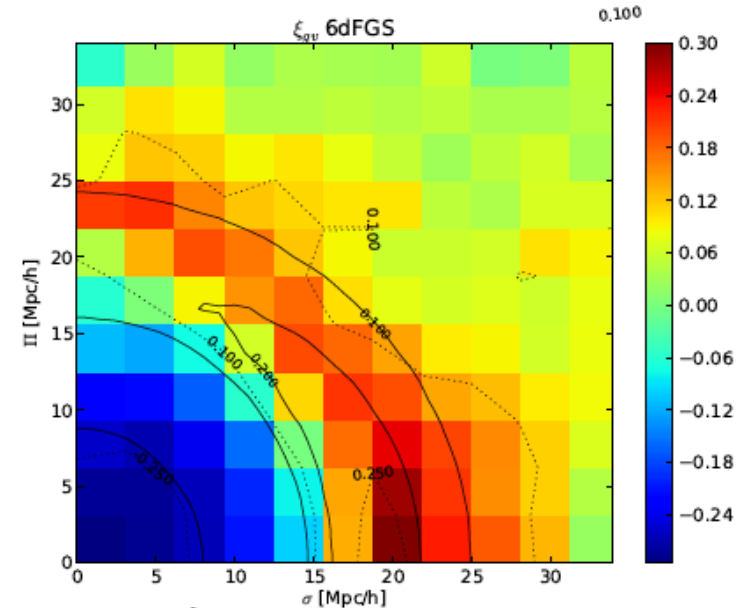
- The galaxy-void correlation function in RS: outflow motion of the galaxies **sensitive to the growth rate**

$$v_p(r) = -\frac{1}{3}H_0 r \Delta(r) f,$$

$$\Delta(r) = \frac{3}{r^3} \int_0^r \xi_{v-DM}(y) y^2 dy.$$

- Small scales virial motion of galaxies  $P(v)dv$

$$P(v)dv = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma_v} \exp\left[-\frac{v^2}{2\sigma_v^2}\right] dv,$$

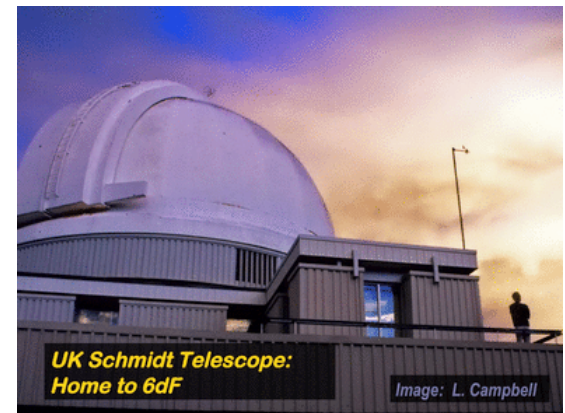
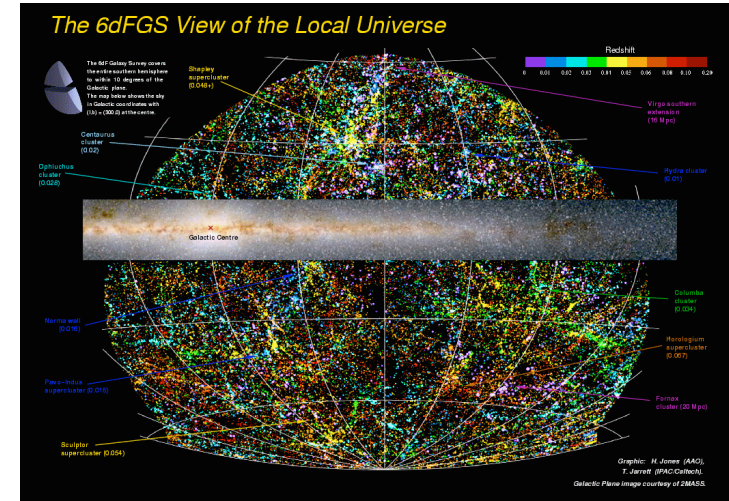


Galaxy- Void correlation function in 6dFGS

# 6dF Galaxy Survey:

<http://www.6dfgs.net/>

- Low redshift survey ( $z \sim 0.1$ ).
  - Sensitive to the late-time accelerated expansion of the universe (DE)
- Mapped nearly half the sky (southern hemisphere).
  - Large volume that can probe large voids
- Catalogue of  $\sim 100,000$  galaxies and measurement of  $\sim 8,000$  peculiar velocities.



# Consistency of the growth rate

## Assumptions:

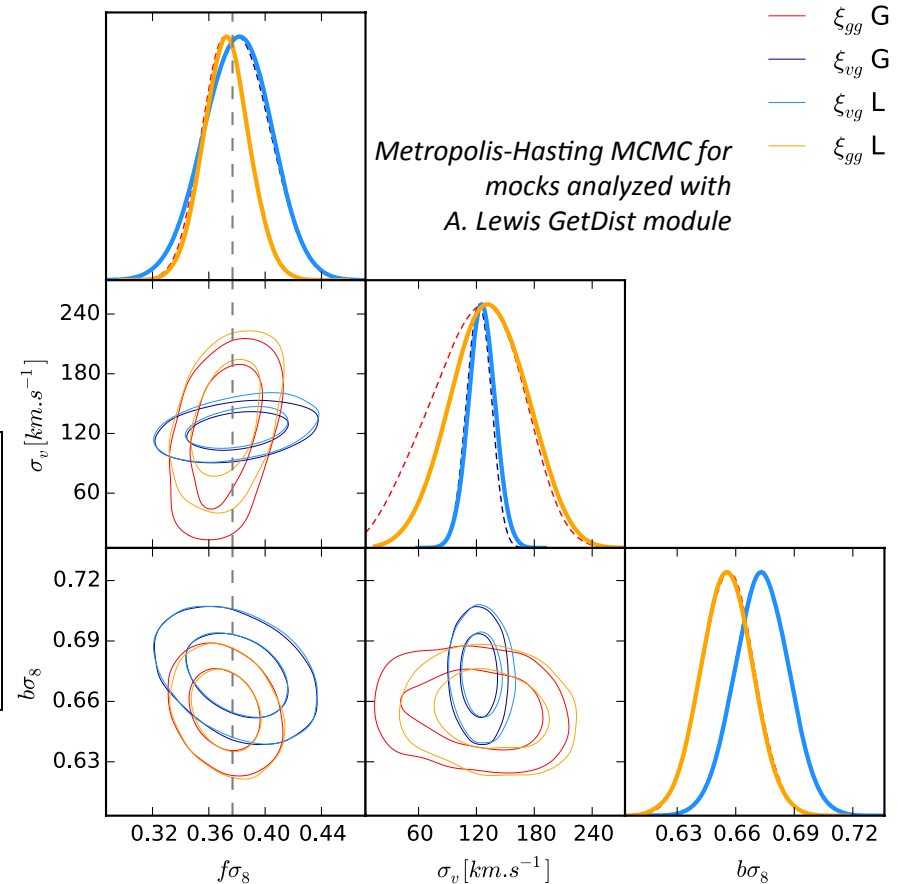
- $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology
- Linear bias
- Constant velocity dispersion (nuisance parameter)
- We consider voids of size  $17.5\text{Mpc}\cdot\text{h}^{-1}$

We found for 6dFGS a consistency with  $\Lambda$ CDM:

$$f\sigma_8 = 0.36 \pm 0.06 \text{ for gal-gal RSD}$$

$$f\sigma_8 = 0.39 \pm 0.11 \text{ for the gal-void RSD}$$

## Test on mocks:



# Derivation of the growth rate using RSD around voids

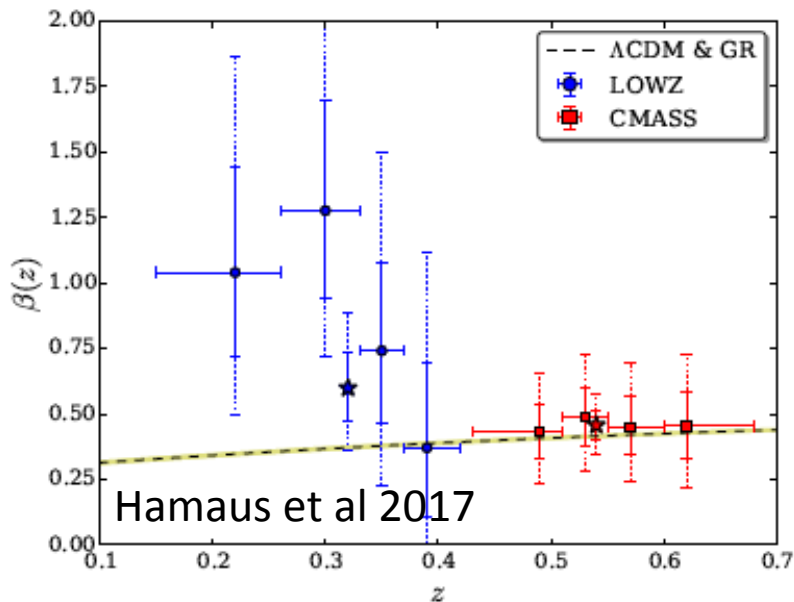


Figure 9. Growth rate constraints as a function of redshift from LOWZ (blue circles) and CMASS (red squares). Stars represent the joint constraint from voids of all redshifts in each sample. Vertical solid lines indicate  $1\sigma$ , dotted lines  $2\sigma$  confidence intervals. Horizontal lines delineate redshift bins. The dashed line with yellow shading shows  $\beta = \Omega_m(z)/b$ , with  $\Omega_m(z=0) = 0.308 \pm 0.012$  [70],  $\gamma = 0.55$  [45], and  $b = 1.85$  [52], assuming a flat  $\Lambda$ CDM cosmology and GR.

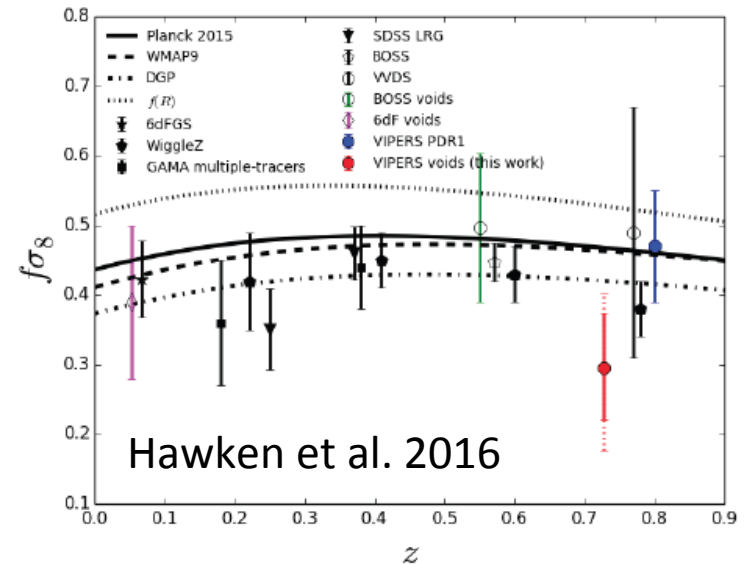


Fig. 12: Comparison to other estimates of the growth rate (Beutler et al. 2012; Blake et al. 2011, 2013; Samushia et al. 2012, 2014; Guzzo et al. 2008). Of particular interest are the measurement using conventional galaxy clustering techniques on VIPERS PDR1 (blue filled circle: de la Torre et al. 2013); the measurement using voids in BOSS (green open circle: Hamaus et al. 2016); and the measurement using voids in 6dF (magenta diamond: Aчитouv & Blake 2016).

# 3- Probing Quintessence Dark Energy with RSD around voids: an improved model

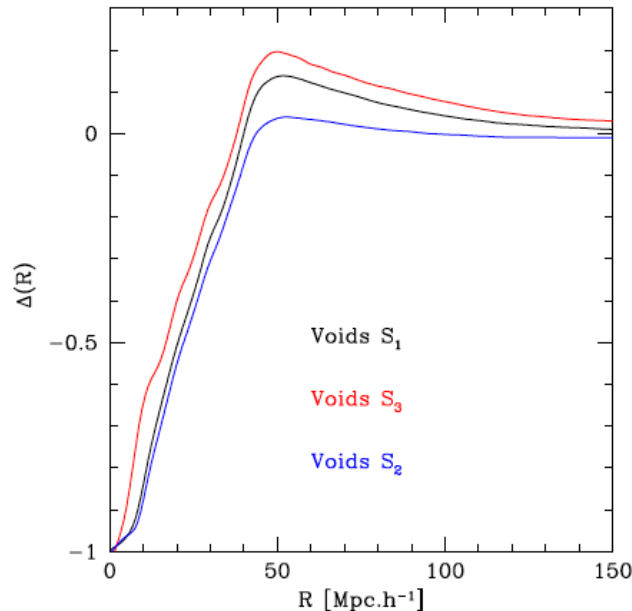
I. Aчитouv, submitted to  
PRD, arXiv:1707.08121

# Improving velocity profile model around voids

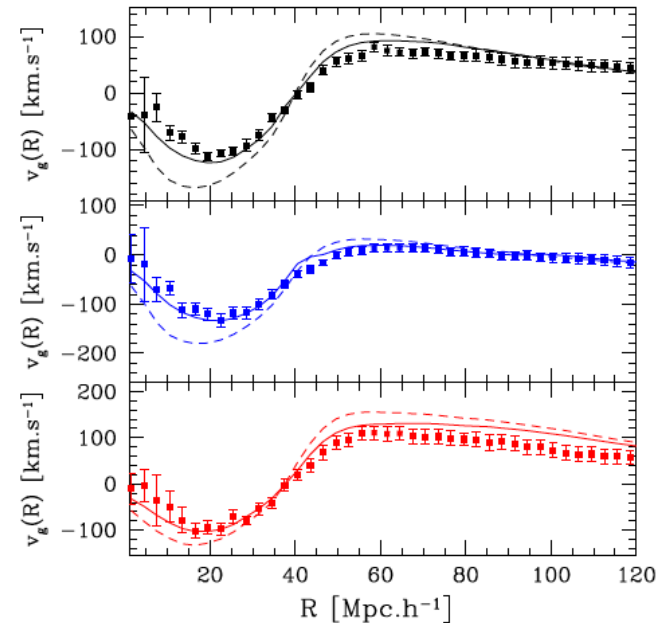
N-body simulations from [www.deus-consortium.org/](http://www.deus-consortium.org/)

- Previous works found systematic errors in the derivation of the growth rate using RSD around cosmic voids e.g. [Hamaus et al. 2017](#)

Void cumulative profiles in Dark Matter density field



Velocity profiles around voids measured in the mocks



Linear approximation:

$$v_g(R) = -fH_0 \frac{R}{3} \Delta(R)$$

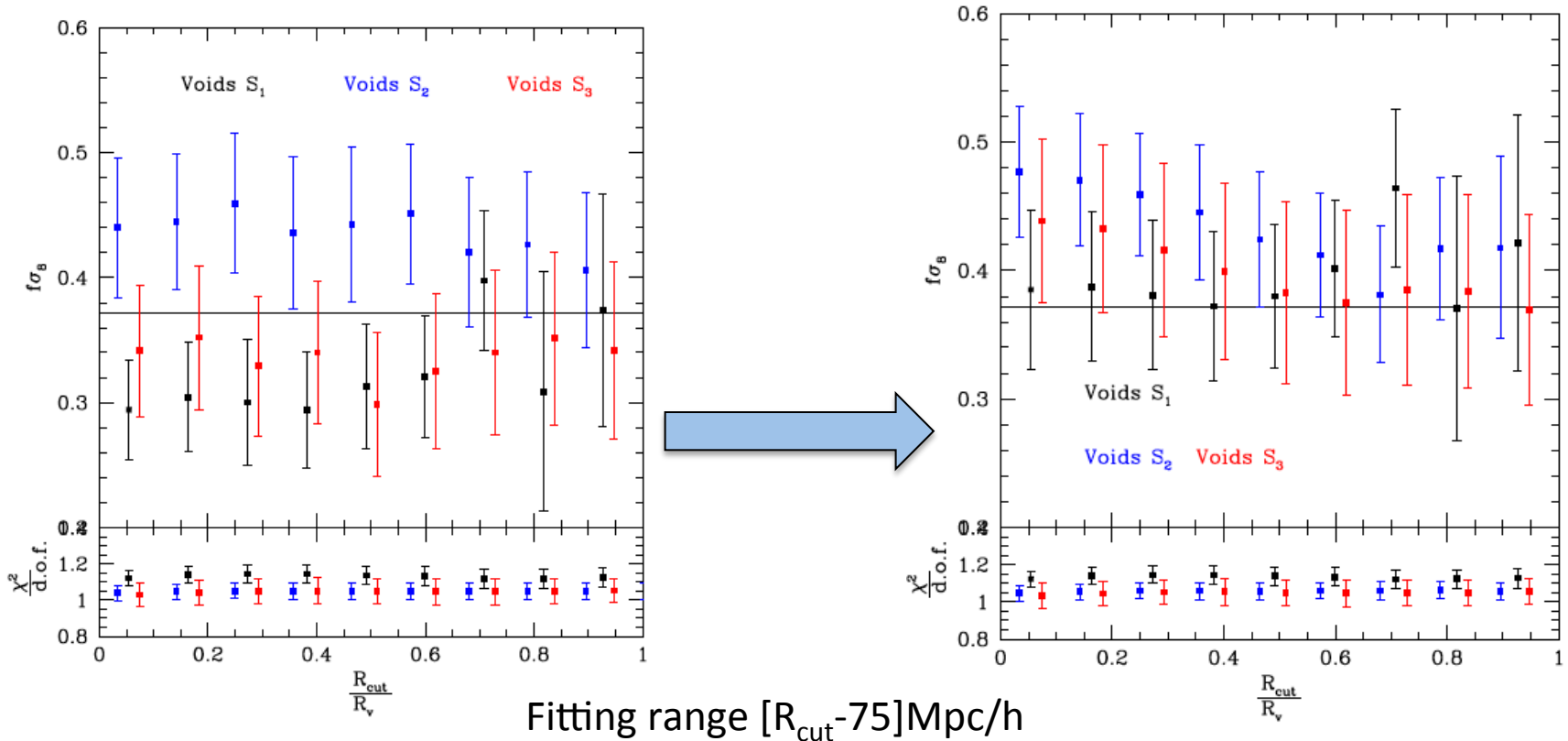
Semi-empirical correction:

$$v_g(R) = -fH_0 \frac{R}{3} \Delta(R) + \varepsilon \frac{3}{7} f_2 H_0 \frac{R}{6} \Delta^{(2)}$$



# Reducing systematics in the growth rate derivation

- Theory breaks down for  $\delta \rightarrow -1$  leading to a fitting range  $R_{\text{cut}} = \text{sqrt}[\pi^2 + \sigma^2]$  [Cai et al. 2016](#)



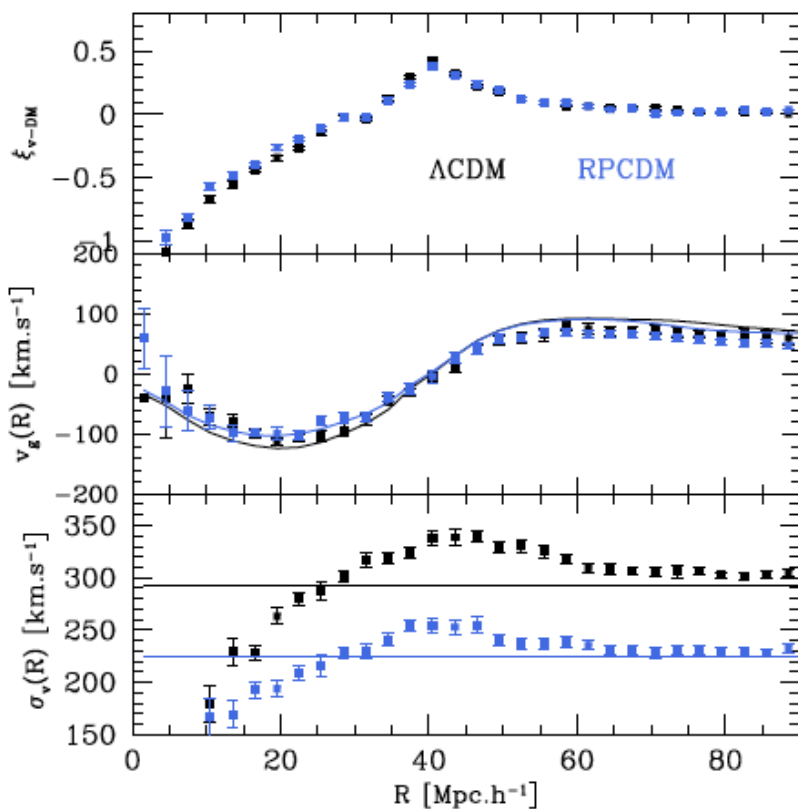
Linear approximation of  $vg(R)$   
+ constant velocity dispersion

Semi-empirical correction of  $vg(R)$   
+ *exact* velocity dispersion

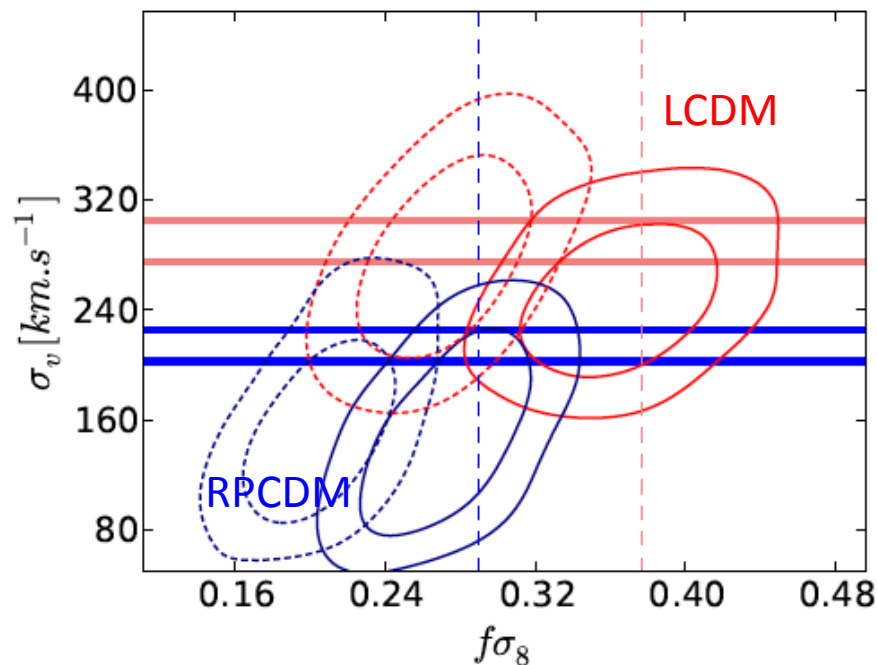
# Probing Dark Energy with RSD around voids

N-body simulations from [www.deus-consortium.org/](http://www.deus-consortium.org/)

- Velocity dispersion carries DE imprint
- Linear approximation of  $v_g(R)$  = systematic offset of the growth rate



Real-space characteristic of void profiles for quintessence DE Vs.  $\Lambda$ CDM



Inferred values from mocks in redshift space using linear Vs. correction for  $v_g$

# Conclusions

Cosmological parameters inferred from statistical properties of cosmic voids are relatively new, but could potentially play a central role to reveal departures from GR.

- Accurate theoretical predictions of void properties
  - > Further work needed, e.g.  $dN_v/dR, \dots$
- Used 6dFGS to infer constraints on the growth rate that are currently still in good agreement with  $\Lambda$ CDM
  - > TAIPAN SURVEY see WP: da Cunha *et al.* (2017)
- Probing growth rate with RSD around voids is new, and systematic errors have to be addressed as statistical errors will shrink
  - > Still ongoing, see other surveys e.g. SDSS (Hamaus *et al.* 2016 & 2017), VIPERS (Hawken *et al.* 2016)

# Monte Carlo Random Walks

- Initial density fluctuation PDF

$$P(\Delta, \sigma_{\text{Lin}}) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{\text{Lin}}^2(R)}} \exp\left(-\frac{\Delta^2}{2\sigma_{\text{Lin}}^2(R)}\right)$$

- Non-linear density fluctuation PDF

$$P(\Delta_{\text{LN}}, \sigma_{\text{NL}}^2(R)) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma_{\text{eff}}^2}} \times \exp\left[-\frac{(\ln(1 + \Delta_{\text{LN}}) + \sigma_{\text{eff}}^2/2)^2}{2\sigma_{\text{eff}}^2}\right] \frac{1}{1 + \Delta_{\text{LN}}}$$

