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In this PhD thesis, I describe work done in the CosmoGrid and AMUSE projects.

CosmoGrid is a Λ CDM *N*-body simulation containing 8.5 billion dark matter particles within a volume of only (30 Mpc)³, resulting in very high mass resolution. In order to run such a large simulation, we investigate a method of combining multiple supercomputers via a fast network; combining them into one large machine for the final calculation.

We compare the results of CosmoGrid to previous Λ CDM simulations, and use the finalised CosmoGrid data to investigate how an aligned group of galaxies in a void region might have formed.

Combining CosmoGrid with the Astrophysical Multipurpose Software Environment (AMUSE), we investigate a method to embed simulated star clusters in a large-scale environment such as a dark matter halo. Finally, we use this method to run self-consistent simulations of open star clusters embedded in a forming Milky Way-like galaxy.

