

We revisit the question of what mechanism is responsible for the spins of halos of dark matter. The answer to this question is of high importance for modeling galaxy intrinsic alignment, which can potentially contaminate current and future lensing data. In particular, we show that when the dark matter halos pass nearly by each other in dense environments-- namely halo assemblies-- they swing and spin each other via exerting mutual tidal torques. We show that this has a significant contribution to the spin of dark matter halos comparable to that of calculated by the so-called tidal torque theory (TTT). We use the results of state-of-the-art simulation of Illustris to check the prediction of this theory against the simulation data.