The Dynamics of Close Interactions Between Stars and a Massive Black Hole

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Outline

- Close interactions with a MBH
  - Tidal disruption (MBH feeding, tidal disruption flares, detonation)
  - Tidal capture, heating (MBH feeding, "squeezars")
  - Gravitational waves from inspiraling remnants (EMRIs)
  - Captured stars around SgrA* (S-cluster, Eisenhauer et al 2005)
  - Hyper-velocity stars (HVSs in Galactic halo, Brown et al 2005, 2006)
  - Stellar capture by massive accretion disk

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  - The relaxation bottle-neck (many assumptions / approximations)

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  - Binary interactions (3-body exchanges)
- Loss-cone dynamics
  - The relaxation bottle-neck (many assumptions / approximations)
- Efficient relaxation
  - Resonant relaxation
  - Massive perturbers

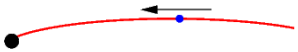
Strong star-MBH interactions

Direct infall

Absorption / Annihilation

Feeding, Tidal disruption, detonation, flares

Γ_{infall}



Alexander & Livio 2001; Alexander & Hopman 2003; Alexander & Morris 2003; Alexander & Livio 2004

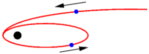
Strong star-MBH interactions

Direct infall — *Absorption / Annihilation*

Γ_{infall}

Inspiral — *Meta-stable decay vs collisional ionization*

Gravity waves, Tidal capture ("Squeezars") $\Gamma_{\mathrm{inspiral}} \sim 10^{-2}\Gamma_{\mathrm{infall}}$



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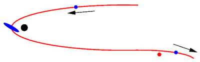
Tidal scattering — *Deep inelastic scattering*

"Weird" stars

$\Gamma_{\mathrm{scatter}}(<r) \sim \Gamma_{\mathrm{infall}}\left[(r/q)^{\delta} - 1\right] \sim \mathcal{O}(\Gamma_{\mathrm{infall}})$



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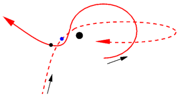
3-body exchange — *Charge exchange*

Orbital capture, Hyper-velocity stars

$$\Sigma \simeq \underbrace{\left[1 + A\frac{2M_{\star}(m+M_{\bullet})}{mM_{\bullet}V^2}\right]}_{\text{Grav. focusing}} \underbrace{B\left(\frac{M_{\bullet}+M_{\star}}{m+M_{\bullet}+M_{\star}}\right)^2 \pi a^2}_{\text{Capture radius}} \underbrace{\left[\left(\frac{M_{\star}}{M_{\bullet}}\right)^{7/4}\left(\frac{m+M_{\bullet}}{m+M_{\star}}\right)^{1/4}\right]}_{\text{Phase space volume}}$$



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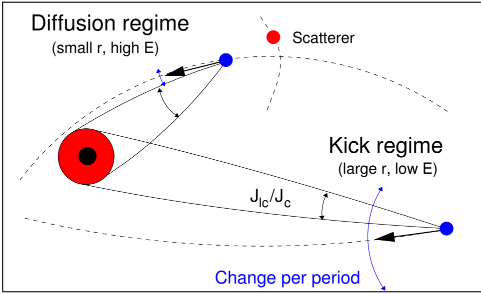
Loss-cone replenishment

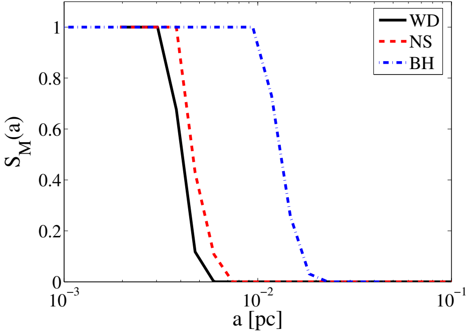
- Incoherent 2-body relaxation of J $\quad t_J \sim J/\dot{J} \sim (J/J_c)^2 t_{relax}$



Hills 1975
Frank & Rees 1977
Lightman & Shapiro 1977
Cohn & Kulsrud 1978
Shapiro & Marchant 1978

- Slow diffusion into the loss-cone $\quad \Gamma \sim n_\star / \log(J_c/J_{lc}) t_{relax}$
- Is faster relaxation possible?
  - ▷ Non-spherical potentials — Magorrian & Tremaine 1999
  - ▷ Chaotic orbits — Norman & Silk 1983; Gerhard & Binney 1985; Merritt & Poon 2004

A critical energy / distance for inspiral

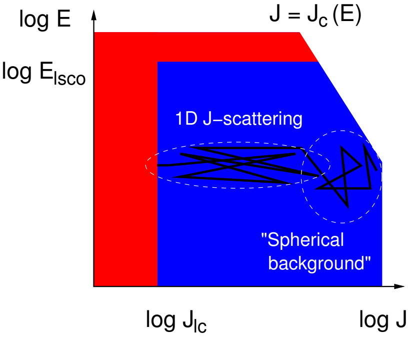


Hopman & Alexander 2005, 2006

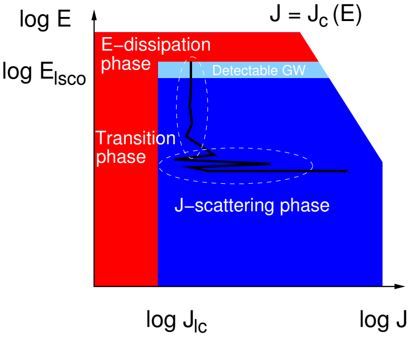
Implications:

1. Inspiral very inefficient compared to direct infall.
2. Mass segregation very important for EMRI GW rates.
3. Stellar BHs dominate EMRIs ($\gtrsim 10^{-7}\,\mathrm{yr}^{-1}$ per galaxy).

Infall and inspiral in the diffusion limit

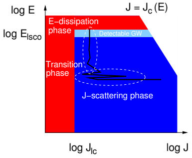


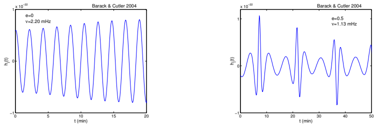
Direct infall

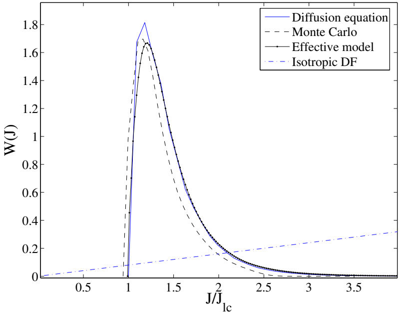


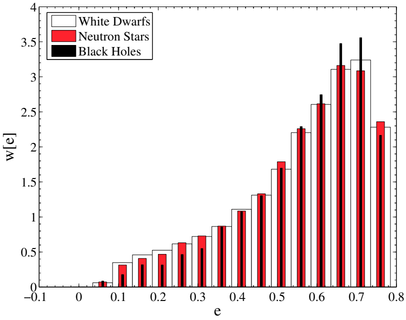
GW inspiral

Eccentricity distribution of GW EMRI sources



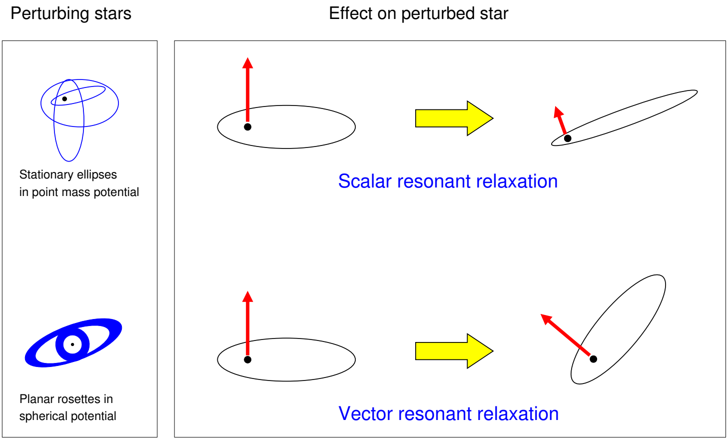






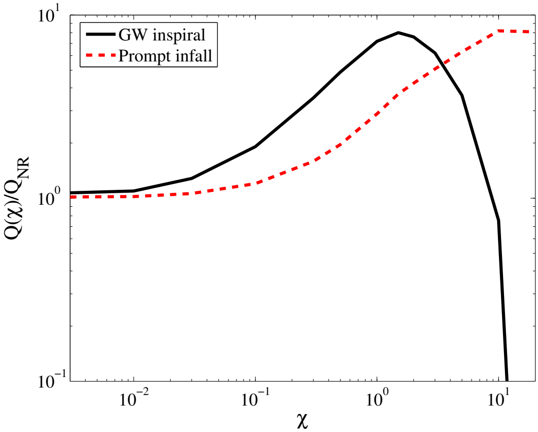
Hopman & Alexander 2005

Resonant relaxation



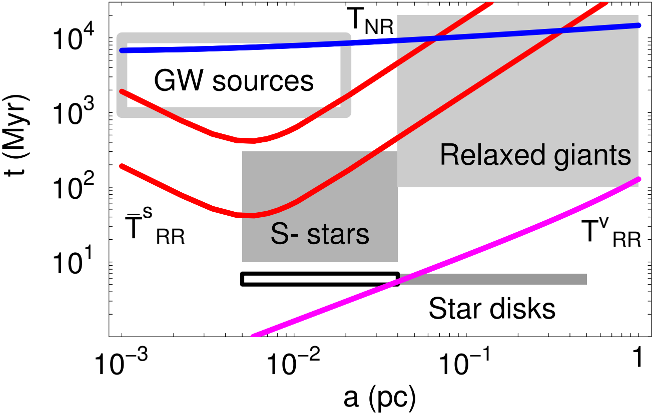
Rauch & Tremaine 1996

Uncertain RR efficiency (χ): effect on GW EMRI rates



Hopman & Alexander 2006

Resonant relaxation near the Galactic black hole



Hopman & Alexander 2006

Accelerated relaxation by massive perturbers

Large-angle deflection: $v^2 \sim 2GM/r_c$

Deflection rate: $\Gamma \sim nvr_c^2 \sim nM^2/v^3$

(Zhao, Haehnelt & Rees 2002)

Obs. MPs in central 100 pc

$\sim 10^8$ stars of $1\,M_\odot$

$\sim 10^2$ MPs of $10^{3-5}\,M_\odot$

Example:

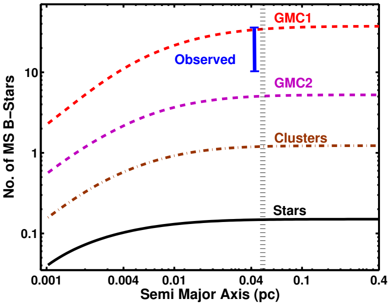
$(nM^2)_{GMC} \sim 3\times10^3\,(nM^2)_\star$

Implications:

1. Massive perturbers accelerate relaxation in the Galactic Center and plausibly in late-type galaxies generally.

2. MPs accelerate close interactions only when loss-cone is large and refilling by stellar relaxation is inefficient: 3-body exchanges, binary MBH coalescence.

Massive perturbers in the Galaxy



Perets, Hopman & Alexander 2006

Results:

- Efficient exchange capture of young stars near SgrA*

  (Gould & Quillen 2003)

- Steady supply of high-v stars

  $\triangleright$ Tens of $v > 500$ km/s, 3-5 $M_\odot$ stars, tens of kpc from GC

  (Brown et al 2006)

- Rapid binary MBH mergers

  $\triangleright$ $2 \times 10^6\, M_\odot + 2 \times 10^6\, M_\odot$ merger in Galactic Center in $\sim 10^9$ yr

Summary

- Classification of close interaction dynamics
  - Infall
  - Inspiral
  - Scattering
  - Exchange
- Inspiral: interplay of scattering and dissipation
  - Gravitational waves from high-e EMRIs
  - Mass segregation important ($\times$10 enhancement)
- Efficient relaxation mechanisms
  - Resonant relaxation near MBH
  - Massive perturbers far from MBH