

# Is there a Tatooine?

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Tobin, Kratter et al, Nature 2016

## From 18th century problems to exotic exoplanets

- The observational exoplanet revolution
- How do we model the gravitational interactions of systems containing more than two massive bodies?
- How can we use celestial mechanics to gain new insight into the mysteries of planet formation?



Pierre-Simon Laplace (1749–1827). Posthumous portrait by Jean-Baptiste Paulin Guérin, 1838.

## Our Solar System



## Kepler Space Telescope



## **Exoplanet Detection: Transits**



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## The Exoplanet Revolution | Movie by Alex Parker

## How do we extract meaning from all of this data?



An end-to-end model for planet formation is still out of reach. We can make progress by trying to model orbital evolution and dynamics



### The two-body problem

There exists an analytic orbital solution for any two massive bodies.

Given the positions and velocities at any instant in time, we know the future (and past) behavior







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## Next step up: the restricted three body problem



- Three bodies, but we only count the mass of two. The third is a so-called "test particle"
- Like the two body problem, we can make some statements about how the objects orbit each other with a few simple equation
- Classic example is the Sun, Jupiter and an asteroid, moon, or comet

## The circular restricted 3-body problem

$$\begin{bmatrix} \ddot{x} \\ \ddot{y} \\ \ddot{z} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} x + 2\dot{y} - \frac{1-\mu}{r_1^3}[x+\mu] - \frac{\mu}{r_2^3}[x-(1-\mu)] \\ y - 2\dot{x} - \frac{1-\mu}{r_1^3}y - \frac{\mu}{r_2^3}y \\ -\frac{1-\mu}{r_1^3}z - \frac{\mu}{r_2^3}z \end{bmatrix}$$

$$r_1 = \sqrt{(x+\mu)^2 + y^2 + z^2} \quad r_2 = \sqrt{(x-(1-\mu))^2 + y^2 + z^2}$$
$$C_J = n^2(x^2 + y^2) + 2\left(\frac{\mu_1}{r_1} + \frac{\mu_2}{r_2}\right) - \left(\dot{x}^2 + \dot{y}^2 + \dot{z}^2\right)$$



Credit: Zarmeen Shahzad

Many stars are in pairs (or triples!)

Planets are found at a range of distances and masses in these systems

## A modern example, planets in binaries



Satellite-Type

Planetary-Type ''Tatooines''











#### Stability is an issue even in systems with only 1 sun



• Minimum planet spacing depends on distance from the sun and planet mass.

- More massive, or more tightly packed planets exert stronger gravitational tugs on each other, readily causing instabilities
- When they are closer to the star, its gravity dominates more, making the planet tugs less important

Chaos vs Stability?



Chaos vs Stability?







Why study planets in binaries?

We learn about the stars and planets!

## The Planet Clock!

- Planets form in the disks of gas and dust out of which stars are born
- These disks only survive for a few Myr
- Tatooine systems tell us that at least some binary stars must assume their current system position within ~Myr
- This lets us rule out many previous theories of binary formation!



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Started at KITP workshop in 2007!

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#### Type la supernovae / dark energy





Confirmed BH



GW signal



Exoplanet characterization





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Confirmed BH

#### GR confirmation



GW signal



Exoplanet characterization





Exoplanet characterization



Confirmed BH



## Formation Extremes

- Planets around binaries are subject to extra kicks and tugs
- The properties of the natal disk can be highly constrained
- Serve as excellent mode to falsify planet formation models

A triple star system containing a super-Jupiter on a nearly unstable orbit



## Kepler 47: a (stable) Tatooine type system



Credit: R. Smullen

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## Circumbinary planets are easier to find in "habitable zone"



In theory, this bodes well for finding Tatooines.

So far, all of the circumbinary planets are massive gas giants.

Kepler 47 b,c (*Orosz et al. 2012*)

## Local Example: Pluto not a Planet ... a Mini Circumbinary Multi-Planet System!



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PEPSSI

SWAP

REX

Alice
Ralph

## New Horizons Mission

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## New Horizons Mission



## We can discern the properties of the system using dynamical stability





## Observing "Rocks" vs "Stars"



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## We can conclude that Pluto's moons are icy!

- Our dynamical estimates of the masses and albedos have been validated by New Horizons
- This shows the strength of this method for systems we can't go visit



## KEPLER 444: 5 SUB-EARTH PLANETS IN A TRIPLE STAR SYSTEM



Another extreme system that constraints planet formation

## PLANET FORMATION MUST BE VERY EFFICIENT IN SOME SYSTEMS



#### MUCH TO LEARN YOU STILL HAVE... MY OLD FADAWAN... THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING. YOUN

BRIGHTDROPS. COm



BRIGHTDROPS. COM

## Thank you



## Thank you

