Martian moons from an accretion disc

Based on Rosenblatt and Charnoz 2012



Roche limit

Synchronous orbit

Orbit evolution post formation





Cold debris disc – 'strong tidal limit'

As a disc initially inside the Roche limit extends across it, objects form and grow by mutual accretion





Cold debris disc – 'strong tidal limit'

- Tidal decay of orbit trumps resonance with disc, net torque reigns moonlets in
- Simulations found that moonlets cannot migrate far enough out (3 – 4 Mars radii)
- Everything falls after 200 Myr, incompatible with Martian surface age ~I Gyr



Rosenblatt and Charnoz 2012

Hot debris disc – 'weak tidal limit'

Moon embryos form by runaway growth similar to planet formation



Hot debris disc – 'weak tidal limit'

