

# Today

- Non-spherical potential
- Virial theorem
- Time scales- collisionless systems

For more detail on some of this material see MIT class notes 8-902 on web page called Notes on Jeans eq and Density-Potential pairs

and the van der Kruit notes

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## Summary of Dynamical Equations

- **gravitational pot'l**  $\Phi(\mathbf{r}) = -G \int \rho(\mathbf{r}') / |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'| d^3r'$
- **Gravitational force**  $\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) = -\nabla\Phi(\mathbf{r})$
- **Poissons Eq**  $\nabla^2\Phi(\mathbf{r}) = 4\pi G\rho$ ;  
– if there are no sources **Laplace Eq**  $\nabla^2\Phi(\mathbf{r}) = 0$
- **Gauss's theorem** :  $\int \nabla\Phi(\mathbf{r}) \cdot d\mathbf{s} = 4\pi GM$
- **Potential energy**  $U = 1/2 \int \rho(\mathbf{r})\Phi(\mathbf{r}) d^3r$ - equivalent  $U = -\int \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{r}) d\mathbf{r}$
  
- In words Gauss's theorem says that the integral of the normal component of  $\nabla\Phi$  over and closed surface equals  $4\pi G$  times the mass enclosed

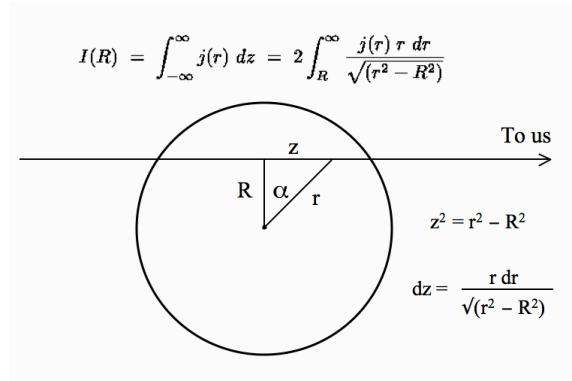
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# Projection Effects- Deriving Mass Distribution from Surface Brightness

from M. Whittle

[http://people.virginia.edu/~dmw8f/astr5630/Topic07/Lecture\\_7.html](http://people.virginia.edu/~dmw8f/astr5630/Topic07/Lecture_7.html)

- Observed luminosity density  $I(R)$  = integral over true density distribution  $j(r)$  (in some wavelength band)
- Same sort of projection for velocity field but weighted by the density distribution of tracers
- Density distribution solution is an Abel integral (see appendix B.2 in B&T)
  - the velocity solution is also an Abel integral
- There are only a few useful  $I(R)$  &  $j(r)$  pairs that can both be expressed algebraically
  - e.g.  $I(R) = I(0) / [1 + (R/r_0)^2]$  with  $j(r) = I(0) / 2r_0[1 + (r/r_0)^2]^{3/2}$



$$I(R) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} j(r) dz = 2 \int_R^{\infty} \frac{j(r) r dr}{\sqrt{(r^2 - R^2)}}$$

$$z^2 = r^2 - R^2$$

$$dz = \frac{r dr}{\sqrt{(r^2 - R^2)}}$$

$$j(r) = \frac{-1}{\pi} \int_r^{\infty} \frac{dI}{dR} \frac{dR}{\sqrt{(R^2 - r^2)}}$$

## So Far Spherical Systems

- But spiral galaxies have a significant fraction of the mass (?; at least the baryons) in a flattened system.
- Remember Oort constants

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- Next presentation

Galaxy Disks are Submaximal [2011ApJ...739L..47B](#)

Bershady et al

John Hornstein

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Mid-term; grades 80-89 "B"

>90 "A"; no B+/A- at this stage

# Potentials are Separable

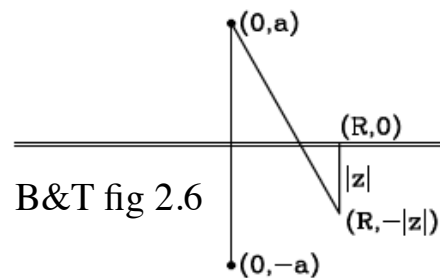
- We make the fundamental assumption that the potential of a system can be decomposed into separable parts-
- This is because Poisson's equation is linear :
- differences between any two  $\phi-\rho$  pairs is also a  $\phi-\rho$  pair, and differentials of  $\phi-\rho$  or are also  $\phi-\rho$  pairs
- e.g.  $\phi_{\text{total}} = \phi_{\text{bulge}} + \phi_{\text{disk}} + \phi_{\text{halo}}$

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## Kuzmin Disk B&T sec 2.3 S&G Prob 3.4;

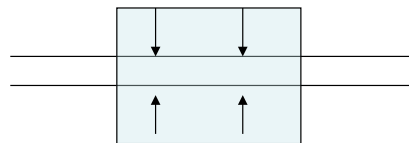
- This ansatz is for a flattened system and separates out the radial and z directions
- Assume  $\phi_K(z,R) = GM/[\text{sqrt}(R^2+(a+z)^2)]$  ; axisymmetric (**cylindrical**)  
R is in the x,y plane
- Analytically, outside the plane,  $\phi_K$  has the form of the potential of a point mass displaced by a distance 'a' along the z axis  
- e.q.  $R(z) = \begin{cases} (0, a); & z < 0 \\ (0, -a); & z > 0 \end{cases}$
- Thus  $\nabla^2\Phi=0$  everywhere except along  $z=0$ - Poisson's eq
- Applying Gauss's thm  $\int \nabla\Phi d^2s = 4\pi GM$  and get  $\Sigma(R) = aM/[2\pi(R^2+a^2)^{3/2}]$

this is in infinitely thin disk... not too bad an approx



B&T fig 2.6

Use of Gauss's thm (divergence) the sum of all sources minus the sum of all sinks gives the net flow out of a region.



$$\int \nabla\Phi d^2s = 4\pi GM = 2\pi G\Sigma$$

$$\text{as } z \rightarrow 0 ; \Sigma = (1/2\pi)G d^3\Phi/dr^3$$

## Isothermal Sheet MBW pg 498

- simple model for the vertical structure of disk galaxies
- Allows an estimate the disk mass from a measurement of the vertical velocity dispersion,  $\sigma_z$ , and the radial scale length,  $R_d$ , if one knows the vertical scale height of the tracer population
- The relevant Poisson eq is  $d^2\phi_z/d(z/z_d)^2 = 1/2 \exp(-\phi_z)$ ;
- $\phi_z = \phi/\sigma_z^2$  and  $z_d = \sigma_z / \sqrt{8\pi G\rho(R,0)}$
- $\sigma_z^2(R) = (z/z_d)GM_d R_d \exp(-R/R_d)$
- where  $z_d$  is the vertical scale height of the disk and  $R_d$  is the radial scale length
- can solve for the density distribution the disk
  
- *Why do we want to do this??- Estimates of the mass for face on galaxies where radial velocity data are impossible.*

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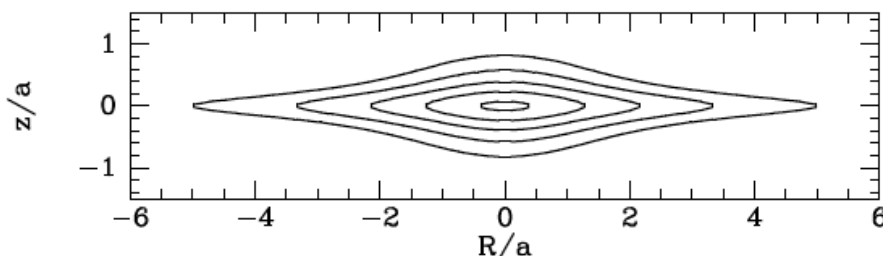
## Flattened +Spherical Systems-B&T eqs

- Add the Kuzmin to the Plummer potential
- When  $b/a \sim 0.2$ ,   
 **qualitatively similar to the light distributions of disk galaxies,**

$$\Phi_M(R, z) = -\frac{GM}{\sqrt{R^2 + (a + \sqrt{z^2 + b^2})^2}} \quad (2.69a)$$

When  $a = 0$ ,  $\Phi_M$  reduces to Plummer's spherical potential (2.44a), and when  $b = 0$ ,  $\Phi_M$  reduces to Kuzmin's potential of a razor-thin disk (2.68a). Thus, depending on the choice of the two parameters  $a$  and  $b$ ,  $\Phi_M$  can represent the potential of anything from an infinitesimally thin disk to a spherical system. If we calculate  $\nabla^2\Phi_M$ , we find that the mass distribution with which it is associated is (Miyamoto & Nagai 1975)

$$\rho_M(R, z) = \left(\frac{b^2 M}{4\pi}\right) \frac{aR^2 + (a + 3\sqrt{z^2 + b^2})(a + \sqrt{z^2 + b^2})^2}{[R^2 + (a + \sqrt{z^2 + b^2})^2]^{5/2} (z^2 + b^2)^{3/2}} \quad (2.69b)$$



Contours of equal density in the (R; z) plane for  $b/a=0.2$

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## Potential of an Exponential Disk B&T sec 2.6

- As discussed for the Milky Way the light profile of the stars in most spirals has an exponential scale LENGTH  $\Sigma(R)=\Sigma_0\exp(-R/R_d)$  (this is surface brightness NOT surface mass density)- see next page for formula's

Mass of exponential disk

$$M(R)=\int \Sigma(R)Rdr = 2\pi\Sigma_0R_d^2[1-\exp(-R/R_d)(1+R/R_d)]$$

when R gets large  $M\sim 2\pi\Sigma_0R_d^2$

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## Potential of an Exponential Disk B&T sec 2.6

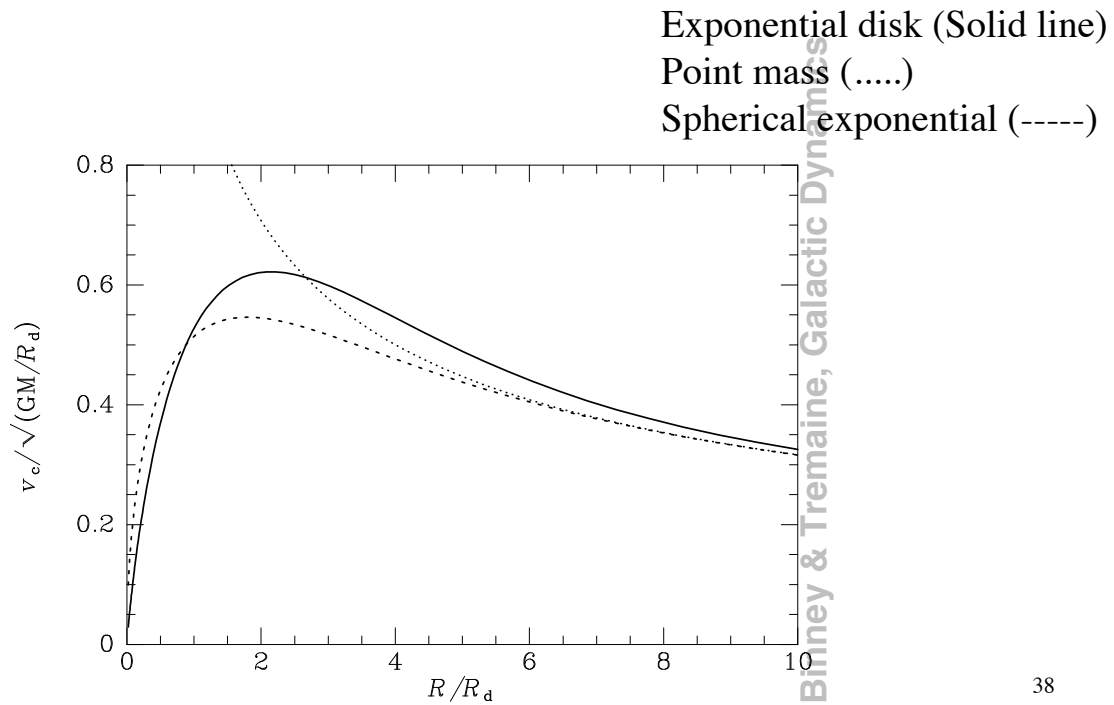
The **circular velocity** peaks at  $R\sim 2.16 R_d$  approaches Keplerian for a point mass at large R (eq. 11.30 in MWB) and **depends only on  $\Sigma_0$  and  $R_d$**

As long as the vertical scale length is much less than the radial scale the vertical distribution has a small effect - e.g. separable effects !

**IF** the disk is made only of stars (no DM) and and if they all have the same mass to light ratio  $\Gamma$  ,  $R_d$  is the scale length of the stars , then the observables  $I_0, R_d, v_{\text{circ}}(r)$  have all the info to calculate the mass!

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## Circular Velocity for 3 Potentials



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## Explaining Disks

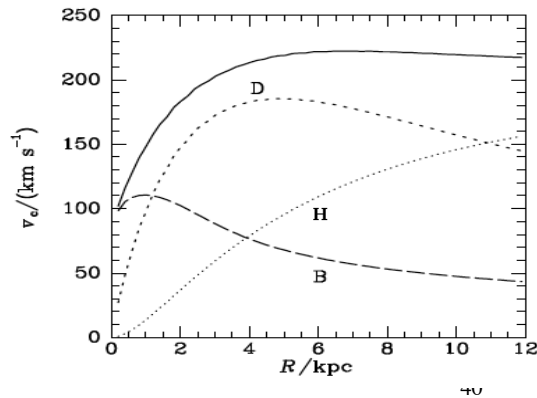
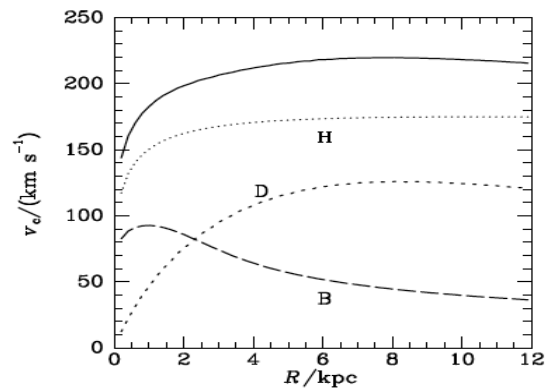
- Remember the most important properties of disk dominated galaxies (MBW pg 495)
  - Brighter disks are on average
    - larger, redder, rotate faster, smaller gas fraction
  - flat rotation curves
  - surface brightness profiles close to exponential
  - lower metallicity in outer regions
- traditional to model them as an infinitely thin exponential disk with a surface density distribution  $\Sigma(R) = \Sigma_0 \exp(-R/R_d)$ 
  - This gives a potential (MBW pg 496) which is a bit messy

$$\phi(R, z) = -2\pi G \Sigma_0^2 R_D \int [J_0(kR) \exp(-k|z|)] / [1 + (kR_D)^2]^{3/2} dk$$

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## Modeling Spirals

- As indicated earlier to fit the observed density and velocity distributions in the MW one needs a 3 component mass distribution
- Traditionally this is parameterized as the sum of
  - disk  $\Sigma(R) = \Sigma_0 [\exp(-R/a)]$
  - spheroid (bulge) using  $I(R) = I_0 R_s^2 / [R + R_s]^2$  or similar forms
  - dark matter halo  $\rho(r) = \rho(0) / [1 + (r/a)^2]$
- See B&T sec 2.7 for more complex forms- 2 solutions in B&T- notice extreme difference in importance of halo (H) (table 2.3)



## Virial Theorem S&G pg 120, MBW pg 234

call the 'virial'  $Q$

- S+G pg 120-121, MBW 5.4.4
- $\frac{1}{2} \frac{d^2 I}{dt^2} = 2KE + W$  (no ext<sup>l</sup> forces)  
 $I =$  moment of inertia  $= \sum m_i r_i^2$  (sum over  $i=1, N$  particles)
- A rather different derivation (H Rix)
- Consider (for simplicity) the 1-D Jeans eq in steady state (more later)
- $\partial/\partial x [\rho v^2] + \rho \partial\phi/\partial x = 0$
- Integrate over velocities and then over positions...
- $-2E_{kin} = E_{pot}$  (static)
- or restating in terms of forces
- if  $T =$  total KE of system of  $N$  particles  $\langle \rangle =$  time average

$$Q = \frac{1}{2} \frac{dI}{dt} = m \sum r \cdot \frac{dr}{dt} = \sum p \cdot r$$

$$dQ/dt = \sum F \cdot r + 2T$$

$$2\langle T \rangle = -\sum (F_k \cdot r_k);$$

summation over all particles  $k=1, N$

## Virial Theorem - Simple Cases

- Circular orbit:

$$mV^2/r = GmM/r^2$$

Multiply both sides by  $r$ ,  $mV^2 = GmM/r$

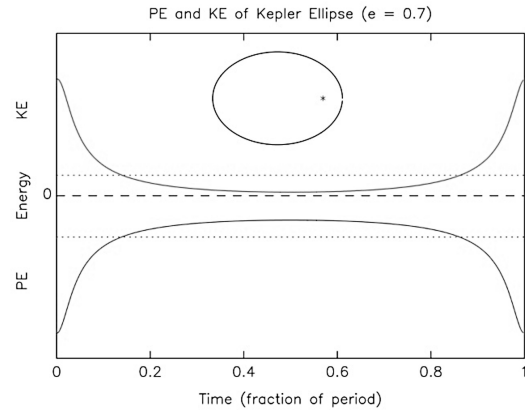
$$mV^2 = 2KE; \quad GmM/r = -W \quad \text{so } 2KE + W = 0$$

- Time averaged Keplerian orbit  
define  $U = KE/|W|$ ; as shown in figure it clearly changes over the orbit; but take averages:

$$-W = \langle GmM/r \rangle = GmM \langle 1/r \rangle \\ = GmM(1/a)$$

$$KE = \langle 1/2 mV^2 \rangle = GmM \langle 1/r - 1/2a \rangle \\ = 1/2 GmM(1/a)$$

So again  $2KE + W = 0$



Red: kinetic energy (positive) starting at perigee

Blue: potential energy (negative)

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## Virial Theorem

- Another derivation following Bothun  
[http://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/Bothun2/Bothun4\\_1\\_1.html](http://ned.ipac.caltech.edu/level5/Bothun2/Bothun4_1_1.html)
- Moment of inertia,  $I$ , of a system of  $N$  particles
- $I = \sum m_i r_i^2$  sum over  $i=1, N$  (express  $r_i^2$  as  $(x_i^2 + y_i^2 + z_i^2)$ )
- take the first and second time derivatives ; let  $d^2x/dt^2$  be symbolized by  $x, y, z$
- $\frac{1}{2} d^2I/dt^2 = \sum m_i (dx_i/dt)^2 + (dy_i/dt)^2 + (dz_i/dt)^2 + \sum m_i (x_i x + y_i y + z_i z)$

$$mV^2 \quad (2 KE) + \text{Potential energy } (W) \quad [ \sim r \cdot (ma) ]$$

after a few dynamical times, if unperturbed a system will come into Virial equilibrium—time averaged inertia will not change so  $2\langle T \rangle + W = 0$

For self gravitating systems  $W = -GM^2/2R_H$ ;  $R_H$  is the harmonic radius- the sum of the distribution of particles appropriately weighted  $[ 1/R_H = 1/N \sum 1/r_i ]$

The virial mass estimator is  $M = 2\sigma^2 R_H / G$ ; for many mass distributions  $R_H \sim 1.25 R_{\text{eff}}$  where  $R_{\text{eff}}$  is the half light radius,  $\sigma$  is the 3-d velocity dispersion

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## Virial Thm MBW sec 5.4.4

- If  $I$  is the moment of inertia
- $\frac{1}{2}d^2I/dt^2 = 2KE + W + \Sigma$ 
  - where  $\Sigma$  is the work done by external pressure
  - KE is the kinetic energy of the system
  - $W$  is the potential energy (only if the mass outside some surface  $S$  can be ignored)
- For a static system ( $d^2I/dt^2 = 0$ )  $2KE + W + \Sigma = 0$
- **For a full-up derivation see van der Kruit notes**

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## Using the Virial Theorem- (from J. Huchra)

- It is hard to use for distant galaxies because individual test particles (stars) are too faint
- However it is commonly used to clusters of galaxies

Assume the system is spherical. The observables are (1) the l.o.s. time average velocity:

$$\langle v_{R,i}^2 \rangle_{\Omega} = 1/3 v_i^2$$

projected radial  $v$     averaged over solid angle

i.e. we only see the radial component of motion &

$$v_i \sim \sqrt{3} v_r$$

Ditto for position, we see projected radii  $R$ ,

$$R = \theta d, \quad d = \text{distance}, \quad \theta = \text{angular separation}$$

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So taking the average projection,

$$\left\langle \frac{1}{|R_i - R_j|} \right\rangle_{\Omega} = \frac{1}{|r_i - r_j|} \left\langle \frac{1}{\sin \theta_{ij}} \right\rangle_{\Omega}$$

and

$$\left\langle \frac{1}{\sin \theta_{ij}} \right\rangle_{\Omega} = \frac{\int (\sin \theta)^{-1} d\Omega}{d\Omega} = \frac{\int_0^{\pi} d\theta}{\int_{\pi}^0 \sin \theta d\theta} = \pi/2$$

Remember we only see 2 of the 3 dimensions with R

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Thus after taking into account all the projection effects, and if we assume masses are the same so that  $M_{\text{sys}} = \sum m_i = N m_i$  we have

$$M_{\text{VT}} = \frac{3\pi}{2G} N \frac{\sum v_i^2}{\sum_{i < j} (1/R_{ij})}$$

this is the Virial Theorem Mass Estimator

$$\sum v_i^2 = \text{Velocity dispersion}$$

$$\left[ \sum_{i < j} (1/R_{ij}) \right]^{-1} = \text{Harmonic Radius}$$

## Time Scales for Collisions (S&G 3.2)

- N particles of radius  $r_p$ ; Cross section for a direction collision  $\sigma_d = \pi r_p^2$
- **Definition of mean free path:  $\lambda = 1/n\sigma_d$**

where n is the number density of particles (particles per unit volume),  
 $n = N/(4\pi\ell^3/3)$

The characteristic time between collisions (Dim analysis) is

$t_{\text{collision}} = \lambda/v \sim [(\ell/r_p)^2 t_{\text{cross}}/N]$  where v is the velocity of the particle.

for a body of size  $\ell$ ,  $t_{\text{cross}} = \ell/v =$  crossing time

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## Time Scales for Collisions (MBW sec 5.4.1)

So lets consider a galaxy with  $\ell \sim 10\text{kpc}$ ,  $N = 10^{10}$  stars and  $v \sim 200\text{km/sec}$

- if  $r_p = R_{\text{sun}}$ ,  $t_{\text{collision}} \sim 10^{21}$  yrs Therefore direct collisions among stars are completely negligible in galaxies.
- For indirect collisions the argument is more complex (see S+G sec 3.2.2, MBW pg 231-its a long derivation-see next few pages) but the answer is the same - **it takes a very long time for star interactions to exchange energy (relaxation).**
- $t_{\text{relax}} \sim N t_{\text{cross}} / 10 \ln N$
- It's only in the centers of the densest globular clusters and galactic nuclei that this is important

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## How Often Do Stars Encounter Each Other (S&G 3.2.1)

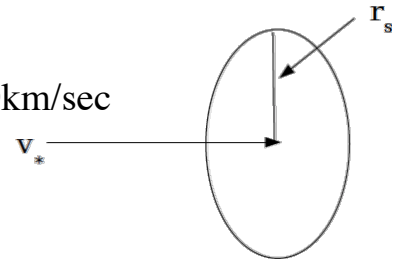
Definition of a 'strong' encounter,  $GmM/r > 1/2mv^2$   
 potential energy exceeds KE of incoming particle

So a critical radius is  $r < r_s = 2GM/v^2$  eq 3.48

Putting in some typical numbers  $m \sim 1/2M_\odot$   $v = 30\text{km/sec}$

$r_s = 1\text{AU}$

So how often do stars get that close?



consider a cylinder  $\text{Vol} = \pi r_s^2 vt$ ; if have  $n$  stars per unit volume than on average the encounter occurs when

$$n\pi r_s^2 vt = 1, t_s = v^3 / 4\pi n G^2 M^2$$

Putting in typical numbers  $= 4 \times 10^{12} (v/10\text{km/sec})^3 (M/M_\odot)^{-2} (n/\text{pc}^3)^{-1} \text{yr}$  - a very long time (universe is only  $10^{10}$  yrs old) eq 3.55

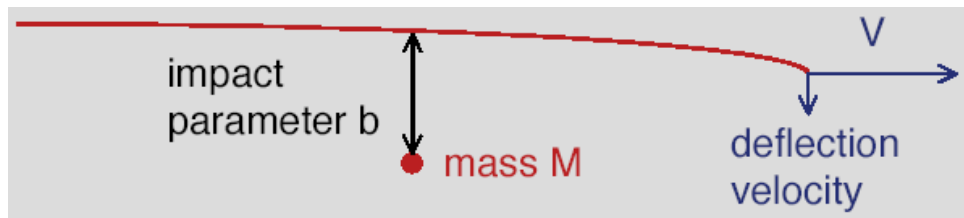
- galaxies are essentially collisionless

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## What About Collective Effects ? sec 3.2.2

For a weak encounter  $b \gg r_s$

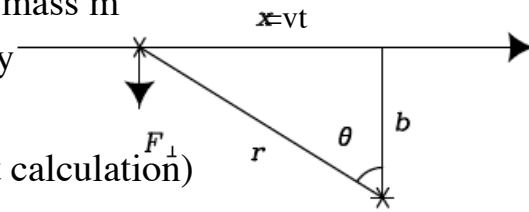
Need to sum over individual interactions- effects are also small



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## Relaxation Times

- Star passes by a system of N stars of mass m
- assume that the perturber is stationary during the encounter and that  $\delta v/v \ll 1$   
(B&T pg 33-sec 1.2.1. sec 3.1 for exact calculation)



- So  $\delta v$  is perpendicular to  $v$ 
  - assume star passes on a straight line trajectory
- The force perpendicular to the motion is

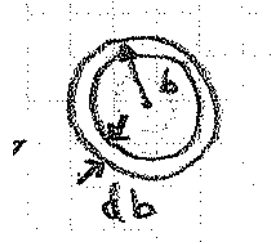
$$F_p = Gm^2 \cos\theta / (b^2 + x^2) = Gbm^2 / (b^2 + x^2)^{3/2} = (Gm^2/b^2)(1 + (vt/b)^2)^{-3/2} = m(dv/dt)$$

so  $\delta v = 1/m \int F_p dt = (Gm^2/b^2) \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} dt (1 + (vt/b)^2)^{-3/2} = 2GM/bv$

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## Relaxation Times

- In words,  $\delta v$  is roughly equal to the acceleration at closest approach,  
 $Gm/b^2$ , times the duration of this acceleration  $2b/v$ .



The surface density of stars is  $\sim N/\pi R^2$

N is the number of stars and R is the galaxy radius

let  $\delta n$  be the number of interactions a star encounters with impact parameter

between  $b$  and  $b + \delta b$  crossing the galaxy once

$$\delta n \sim (N/\pi R^2) 2\pi b \delta b = \sim (2N/R^2) b \delta b$$

each encounter produces a  $\delta v$  but are randomly oriented to the stars initial velocity  $v$  and thus their mean is zero (vector) HOWEVER

the mean square is NOT ZERO and is

$$\Sigma \delta v^2 \sim \delta v^2 \delta n = (2Gm/bv)^2 (2N/R^2) b \delta b$$

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## Relaxation...continued (MBW pg

- now integrating this over all impact parameters from  $b_{\min}$  to  $b_{\max}$
- one gets  $\delta v^2 \sim 8\pi n(Gm)^2/v \ln \Lambda$  ; where  $r$  is the galaxy radius eq (3.54)  
 $\ln \Lambda$  is the Coulomb logarithm =  $\ln(b_{\max}/b_{\min})$  (S&G 3.55)
- For gravitationally bound systems the typical speed of a star is roughly  $v^2 \sim GNm/r$   
 (from  $KE=PE$ ) and thus  $\delta v^2/v^2 \sim 8 \ln \Lambda/N$
- For each 'crossing' of a galaxy one gets the same  $\delta v$  so the number of crossing for a star to change its velocity by order of its own velocity is  $n_{\text{relax}} \sim N/8 \ln \Lambda$

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## Relaxation...continued

So how long is this??

- Using eq 3.55

$$t_{\text{relax}} = V^3 / [8\pi n(Gm)^2 \ln \Lambda] \sim [2 \times 10^9 \text{ yr} / \ln \Lambda] (V/10 \text{ km/sec})^3 (m/M_{\odot})^{-2} (n/10^3 \text{ pc}^{-3})^{-1}$$

**Notice that this has the same form and value as eq 3.49 (the strong interaction case) with the exception of the  $2 \ln \Lambda$  term**

- $\Lambda \sim N/2$  (3.56)
- $t_{\text{relax}} \sim (0.1N/\ln N)t_{\text{cross}}$  ; if we use  $N \sim 10^{11}$  ;  $t_{\text{relax}}$  is much much longer than  $t_{\text{cross}}$
- Over much of a typical galaxy the dynamics over timescales  $t < t_{\text{relax}}$  is that of a **collisionless system in which the constituent particles move under the influence of the gravitational field generated by a smooth mass distribution, rather than a collection of mass points**
- However there are *parts* of the galaxy which 'relax' much faster

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# Relaxation

- Values for some representative systems

	$\langle m \rangle$	N	r(pc)	$t_{\text{relax}}(\text{yr})$	age(yrs)
Pleiades	1	120	4	$1.7 \times 10^7$	$< 10^7$
Hyades	1	100	5	$2.2 \times 10^7$	$4 \times 10^8$
Glob cluster	0.6	$10^6$	5	$2.9 \times 10^9$	$10^9 - 10^{10}$
E galaxy	0.6	$10^{11}$	$3 \times 10^4$	$4 \times 10^{17}$	$10^{10}$
Cluster of gals	$10^{11}$	$10^3$	$10^7$	$10^9$	$10^9 - 10^{10}$

**Scaling laws**  $t_{\text{relax}} \sim t_{\text{cross}} \sim R/v \sim R^{3/2} / (Nm)^{1/2} \sim \sigma^{-1/2}$

- Numerical experiments (Michele Trenti and Roeland van der Marel 2013 astro-ph 1302.2152) show that even globular clusters never reach energy **equipartition** (!) to quote 'Gravitational encounters within stellar systems in virial equilibrium, such as globular clusters, drive evolution over the two-body relaxation timescale. The evolution is toward a thermal velocity distribution, in which stars of different mass have the same energy). This thermalization also induces mass segregation. As the system evolves toward energy equipartition, high mass stars lose energy, decrease their velocity dispersion and tend to sink toward the central regions. The opposite happens for low mass stars, which gain kinetic energy, tend to migrate toward the outer parts of the system, and preferentially escape the system in the presence of a tidal field'

## So Why Are Stars in Rough Equilibrium?

- Another process, '**violent relaxation**' (MBW sec 5.5), is crucial.
- This is due to rapid change in the gravitational potential (e.g., collapsing protogalaxy)
- Stellar dynamics describes in a statistical way the collective motions of stars subject to their mutual gravity-The essential difference from celestial mechanics is that each star contributes more or less equally to the total gravitational field, whereas in celestial mechanics the pull of a massive body dominates any satellite orbits
- The long range of gravity and the slow "relaxation" of stellar systems **prevents** the use of the methods of statistical physics as stellar dynamical orbits tend to be much more irregular and chaotic than celestial mechanical orbits-....woops.
- to quote from MBW pg 248
- Triaxial systems with realistic density distributions are therefore difficult to treat analytically, and one in general relies on numerical techniques to study their dynamical structure