#### PARTICLE CLUSTERING IN PERIODICALLY FORCED PLANETARY RINGS

Stuart J. Robbins<sup>1</sup> Glen R. Stewart<sup>1</sup> Larry W. Exposito<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>University of Colorado, Boulder

## BACKGROUND AND GOAL

- Analytic models of rings predict a variety of structure, but the models are limited.
- N-body simulations have their own assumptions, but allow one to calculate many parameters and view structure that develops given those assumptions and parameters.
- Esposito et al. (2012) predicted with an analytic model that structure in the rings follows a predator-prey situation between mass aggregates and mean-square velocity.
- $\sim$  We want to test that model with N-body simulations.

### METHOD (IDEALIZED FORCING)

- REBOUND N-body code. (Rein & Liu, 2011)
- \*Adjusted integrator to add forcing to  $a_x$ : +=  $q \cdot \sin(\delta \cdot t) \cdot \sin(2\pi x/L_x)$ 
  - q sets the magnitude of the forcing
  - $\delta$  sets the forcing so it is not at resonance with the orbital period
  - second sin() sets forcing at 0 at cell boundaries to simplify ghost cells
- Calculate every I/40<sup>th</sup> orbit: Viscosity, mean-squared velocity, mass aggregates.
- Esposito et al. (2012) observed predator-prey behavior after 4 forced orbits; we ran 6.

\*Does **not** track azimuthal forcing. **Does** conserve angular momentum.

### Parameter Space

- Location: Outer edge B ring,  $a_0 = 117.56$  Mm
- $L_x = L_y = 10 \cdot \lambda_{crit}$  (cell sizes 340 1360 m)
- N = 37,000 1,169,000 (largest haven't finished yet; N = 493,00 have)
- Four simulations run for every parameter set: 192 simulations,
  ≈ 15,300 CPU hours (1.74 yrs). (Robbins et al. (2010) used 27,000 CPU hrs)

$$\begin{array}{c} \underline{T} \\ 1.0 \\ 1.5 \\ 2.0 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \underline{\rho} \\ 0.225 \\ 0.450 \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \underline{q^*} \\ 0 \\ x \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \underline{\delta} \\ 0.7 \\ 20x \\ 50x \\ 100x \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \underline{\delta} \\ 0.7 \\ 1.3 \end{array}$$

\*Multiples of the RMS particle acceleration at steady-state (orbit 6.000). q = 0 is unforced.

## Mass Aggregates

- First variable is mean-square velocity.
- Second variable is mean aggregate mass (second moment of mass distribution):  $\sum_{m=1}^{number of clumps} \left( \sum_{m=1}^{particles in clump} m \right)^{2}$



- But: Need a method to identify clumps.
  - needs to be a quantitative method
  - needs to be a hard cluster code (particles uniquely belong to one cluster)
  - needs to have a minimum number of adjustable parameters
  - already have a DBSCAN (Ester et al., 1996) implementation for craters (Robbins et al., 2014), adapted to use for rings particles!

#### Mass Aggregates: How DBSCAN Works (2 inputs)







## Mass Aggregates: EXAMPLES ( $\tau$ =1.0, $\rho$ =0.45)



## Mass Aggregates: EXAMPLES ( $\tau$ =1.5, $\rho$ =0.225)





#### Results: Parameter Space Navigation



#### Results: Parameter Space Navigation



# Results: $\tau = 1.0, \rho = 0.45, \text{UNFORCED}$ (still see variability)



# Results: $\tau = 1.0$ , $\rho = 0.45$ , UNFORCED (still see variability)



#### RESULTS: $\tau = 1.0, \rho = 0.45, \text{UNFORCED}$ (Still see Variability) Unforced



#### Results: NAVIGATIONAL CHART



# RESULTS (similar behavior to Lewis & Stewart Enke Gap simulations): T=1.0, $\rho=0.45$ , $q=100\times$ , $\delta=0.7$



# Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\tau = 1.0, \rho = 0.45, q = 100 \times, \delta = 0.7$



## Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\tau = 1.0, \rho = 0.45, q = 100 \times, \delta = 1.3$



# Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\tau = 1.0, \rho = 0.45, q = 100x$



#### Results: Navigational Chart



## Results (viscous over-stability?): $\tau = 1.5, \rho = 0.225, q = 100 \times, \delta = 0.7$



## Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\tau = 1.5$ , $\rho = 0.225$ , q = 100x, $\delta = 0.7$



## Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\tau = 1.5, \rho = 0.225, q = 100 \times, \delta = 1.3$



## Results (Cluster Code "clumps" Parameters): $\mathbf{T}=1.5$ , $\rho=0.225$ , $\mathbf{Q}=100 \times$



## Summary of Progress

- N-body simulations to test predator-prey analytic model.
- Lots of simulations for large parameter space; several per parameter set.
- Several simulations do not show predator-prey characteristics (cycling in phase space and phase lags).
- But, some simulations do.



Gravity-dominated clumps give a new fixed point