

The stage: collisional stellar clusters



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

The physics of dense clusters



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

WANTED: Million-star cluster dynamics method

How to follow the evolution of systems containing 10⁶ to 10⁸ stars over millions to billions of years, when collisional effects are important?

- Direct approach: N-body
 - Newtonian gravity without approximation. "Just" solve Newton $\vec{\tau}$ $12\vec{v}$ equations for *N* particles

$$\frac{d^2 X_i}{dt} = -G \sum_{j \neq i} m_j \frac{X_i - X_j}{\left| \vec{X}_i - \vec{X}_j \right|^3}$$

- No spatial symmetry or dynamical equilibrium assumed
 Very time consuming $T_{\rm CPU}/t_{\rm rlx} \propto N^3 \Rightarrow N < 10^6$
- Continuum approaches: Fokker-Planck & Gas codes
 - Follow evolution of DF or "fluid" of stars
 - Very fast
 - Very approximate (difficulties with mass spectrum, stellar evolution, collisions...)
- The best of both worlds?

The Hénon Monte Carlo scheme...

Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

The Monte Carlo stellar dynamics method

Hénon 71a,b, 73, 75; Stodołkiewicz 82, 85, 86; Giersz 98, 01 Joshi et al. 00, 01; Fregeau et al. 03; Gürkan et al. 04; Freitag & Benz 01, 02

- Follow evolution of orbits not evolution on orbits
- Uses 3 assumptions: $dn_* = f(\vec{X}, \vec{V}) d^3 X d^3 V = 8\pi^2 F(\underline{E}, J) R^2 dR V_t dV_t dV_r$

 - Dynamical equilibrium
 - **Diffusive 2-body relaxation** (Chandrasekhar; Fokker-Planck) ٠
- Represents the cluster with particles
 - 1 particle = 1 spherical shell (given orbital and stellar prop.)
 - 1 particle = many stars (possibly) \Rightarrow No limit on N₁
 - $\delta t \leq f_{\delta t} \cdot \min(T_{\text{rlx}}, T_{\text{coll}}, \ldots)$ Local time steps
- Allows rich physics
 - Cluster (+central object) self-gravity; V-anisotropy; Any M-spectrum
 - 2-body relaxation; Stellar collisions (use SPH data); Stellar evolution ٠
 - "Loss-cone processes": Tidal disruptions; Plunges; GW-captures
- Fast $T_{\rm CPU}/t_{\rm rlx} \propto N \ln N \Rightarrow N \approx 10^4 - 10^7$

 $E = \frac{1}{2}\vec{V}^2 + \Phi(R) \quad \boldsymbol{J} = \boldsymbol{R} \cdot \boldsymbol{V}_{\mathrm{t}}$

How does the MC code work?

Initialization

- Realization of cluster with N particles according to DF F(E)
 E_i, J_i, R_i
- Attribution of masses M_i according to IMF
- Main loop (modifies 2 or all particles per step)
 - 1) Selection of pair of neighboring particles $P_{
 m selec} \propto \delta t(R)^{-1}$
 - 2) Test for collisions: rand() < P_{coll} ; modify $M_{1,2}$ & $V_{1,2}$ if needed Similarly: Test for binary interaction; Test for interaction with central BH
 - 3) Relaxation simulated by "Super-encounter"
 - 4) New orbital parameters $E_{1,2} \& J_{1,2}$ computed
 - 5) For each particle, new position R_i picked at random on (E_i, J_i) -orbit Cluster's potential updated $\frac{dP}{dR}(R) \propto \frac{1}{V_{rad}(R)}$

Go back to 1

And add many complications!...

 $heta_{
m SE} = rac{\pi}{2} \sqrt{rac{\delta t}{t_{
m ell}}}$

Selection of particle position in MC code



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu



Gravothermal collapse of single-mass Plummer model

Comparison with direct *N*-body (Baumgardt)

Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu



Gravothermal expansion and collapse of single-mass Dehnen models

Comparison with Quinlan 96 (FP code)

Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Core collapse driven by mass segregation (Plummer, Salpeter IMF 0.2-10 M_{sun})

Comparison with direct N-body (Baumgardt)



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Core collapse driven by mass segregation (Plummer, Salpeter IMF 0.2-100 M_{sun})

Comparison with direct *N*-body (Baumgardt)... Some issues!



Full collapse in less than 200 dynamical times (*N*-body)!

Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Application: Collisional runaway

Gürkan, Freitag & Rasio 2004; Freitag, Rasio & Baumgardt 2005; Freitag, Gürkan & Rasio 2005



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Application: Dynamical role of binaries

- Some particles represent binaries
- **Binary interactions through** "recipes" or explicit 3/4-body integrations
- Complication: evolution of binary stars...
- See also hybrid MC-Gas code by Giersz & Spurzem



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Application: Simulation of SgrA*-type nucleus

Overall structure evolutionFreitag 2003
Freitag & Kalogera, in progressSegregation of stellar BHs to the center



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Simulation of SgrA*-type nucleus

Formation of extreme-mass ratio binaries GW sources for LISA



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

The future of MC cluster dynamics codes

Non-spherical geometries

- Thin disks (Nyffenegger & Benz for planetesimal disks, in progress)
- Hybrid N-body MC approach
 - "Collisionless" N-body to compute orbits
 - MC to introduce collisional effects in well controlled fashion

Implemented by Spitzer for spherical systems. Already suggested by Hénon for non-spherical case! Similar to SCF+FP relaxation by Sigurdsson et al.

- Specialized implementations
 - Dynamics of cusp stars around MBH
 - Fixed potential
 - Individual time steps to resolve "loss-cone" processes (tidal interactions, captures and orbit evolution by GW emission...)
- Better understanding of the algorithm? :-]

Back to the future...

From Hénon 1971, Ap&SS 13, 284:

4. Possible Extensions

It would be interesting to try to extend the Monte Carlo method to other cases than the spherical symmetry, and in particular to the case of axial symmetry. However, before one can apply the method as presented here, the characteristics of the motion of a star in the mean field must be known; more specifically, in order to be able to select at random a new position of the star, one must know precisely which part of space is visited by the orbit, and what fraction of time the star spends in each volume element. Mathematically, this means that one must know explicitly all the isolating integrals of the motion. In the case of axial symmetry, therefore, serious difficulties would arise from the ill-defined nature of the third integral (Hénon and Heiles, 1964).

This problem can be eliminated by sacrificing the first half of the Monte Carlo method: that is, one integrates numerically the motion of the stars in the mean field, with a time step small compared to t_c . The second half of the method could be preserved: one would still compute the effect of encounters by selecting at random one field star. The computing time would be proportional to nN. The value of N would have to be specified, since both time scales t_c and t_r would appear in the computation.

Hénon-type Monte Carlo on the web

"MODEST" page

- Start at http://www.manybody.org/modest/
- Goto "Working Groups", select "WG3; Stellar Dynamics"
- Look for "Monte Carlo" in "Methods"



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

The End

Thank you.

General motivations

- Massive black holes are present at the center of dense stellar clusters
 - SMBH in galactic nuclei (certainly!)
 - IMBH in smaller nuclei (maybe...)
- How do these (I)MBHs (or their seeds) form?
 - Gaseous processes?
 - Stellar dynamical processes?
- How do they grow?
 - Gaseous processes?
 - Stellar dynamical processes?
- How do they reveal themselves?
 - Direct gas accretion
 - Structure of cluster (velocity, photometric profiles; peculiar stars...)
 - Accretion of stellar gas
 - Stellar winds, Stellar collisions, Tidal disruptions
 - Emission of GWs by "captured" stars

How fast is core collapse?

MC runs with various cluster structures



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Runaway merger trees



Marc Freitag, Northwestern University m-freitag@northwestern.edu

Cluster structure during runaway

