

Treecodes for Proto-Planetary Disks  
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N-Body Shop

# Outline

- Motivation
- Gravity
- Multipole Expansions
- Tree Algorithms
- Time integration
- SPH

# N-body: what is N?

- Continuous distribution represented by particles
- Particles are a sample of (mass) distribution
  - $f(x, v, t)$
  - Explicit conservation of mass
- Even for particulate matter (dust, dark matter)
  - $N(\text{simulation}) \ll N(\text{physical})$

# Why I am a Tree Hugger

- Dynamic Range
  - Molecular cloud core size:  $\sim .1\text{pc}$
  - Hill radius of Earth:  $\sim .01\text{ AU}$
  - $1\text{e}19$  grid cells!
- Geometry
  - Spherical: Cloud core
  - Planar: Proto-planetary Disk
  - Spherical again: planets
  - Binary stars ...

# Gravity

- Poisson's equation:  $\nabla^2\Phi = 4\pi G\rho$ .
- Elliptical PDE: solution depends on all boundaries
- Linear: if eigenfunctions can be found then solution can be constructed by expressing density in terms of these functions:
  - E.g., Fourier Transforms, Spherical harmonics
- But these can't be (easily) constructed for arbitrary points in space.

# Multipole Expansions

- Poisson Equation:  $\nabla^2\Phi = 4\pi G\rho.$

- Integral Form:  $\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -G \int \frac{\rho(\mathbf{x}')}{|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}|} d^3\mathbf{x}'$

- Using N-bodies:  $\rho(\mathbf{r}) = \sum_{i \in V} \delta(\mathbf{r}_i - \mathbf{r})m_i$

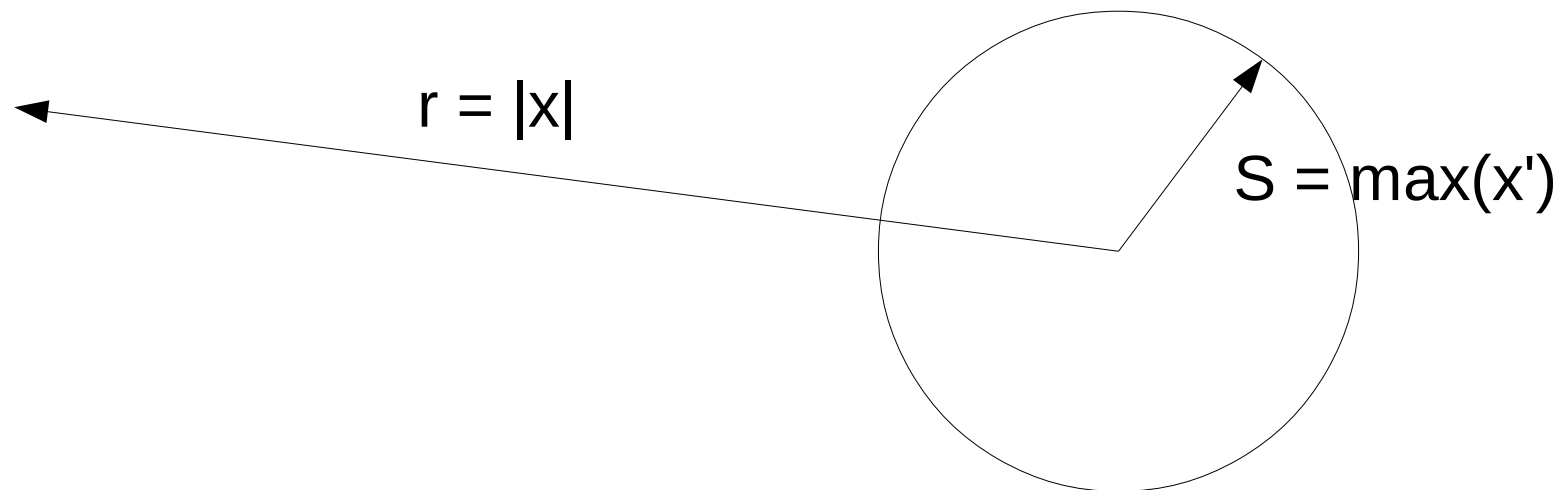
- (but note softening/smoothing issue)

- We naively have:  $\Phi(\mathbf{x}_i) = -G \sum_j^N \frac{m_j}{|\mathbf{x}_j - \mathbf{x}_i|}$

- Expensive!

# Multipole Expansions

- For  $x \gg |x'|$ , 
$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -G \sum_{lm} C_{lm} \frac{Y_l^m(\theta, \phi)}{r^{l+1}}$$
- Terms scale as 
$$\max(\mathbf{x}')^l / r^{l+1}$$
- Hence “theta” =  $s/r$  is a measure of accuracy



# Multipole Moments

- In Cartesian coordinates:

- $$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -G \int d^3x' \left[ \frac{\rho(x')}{|x|} + \frac{x' \rho(x') \cdot x}{|x|^3} + \frac{(3x'_i x'_j - |x'|^2 \delta_{ij}) \rho(x') x_i x_j}{2|x|^5} + \dots \right]$$

- More complicated, but quicker

- For large  $x$ , forces due to all particles in  $x'$  evaluated with a few operations.

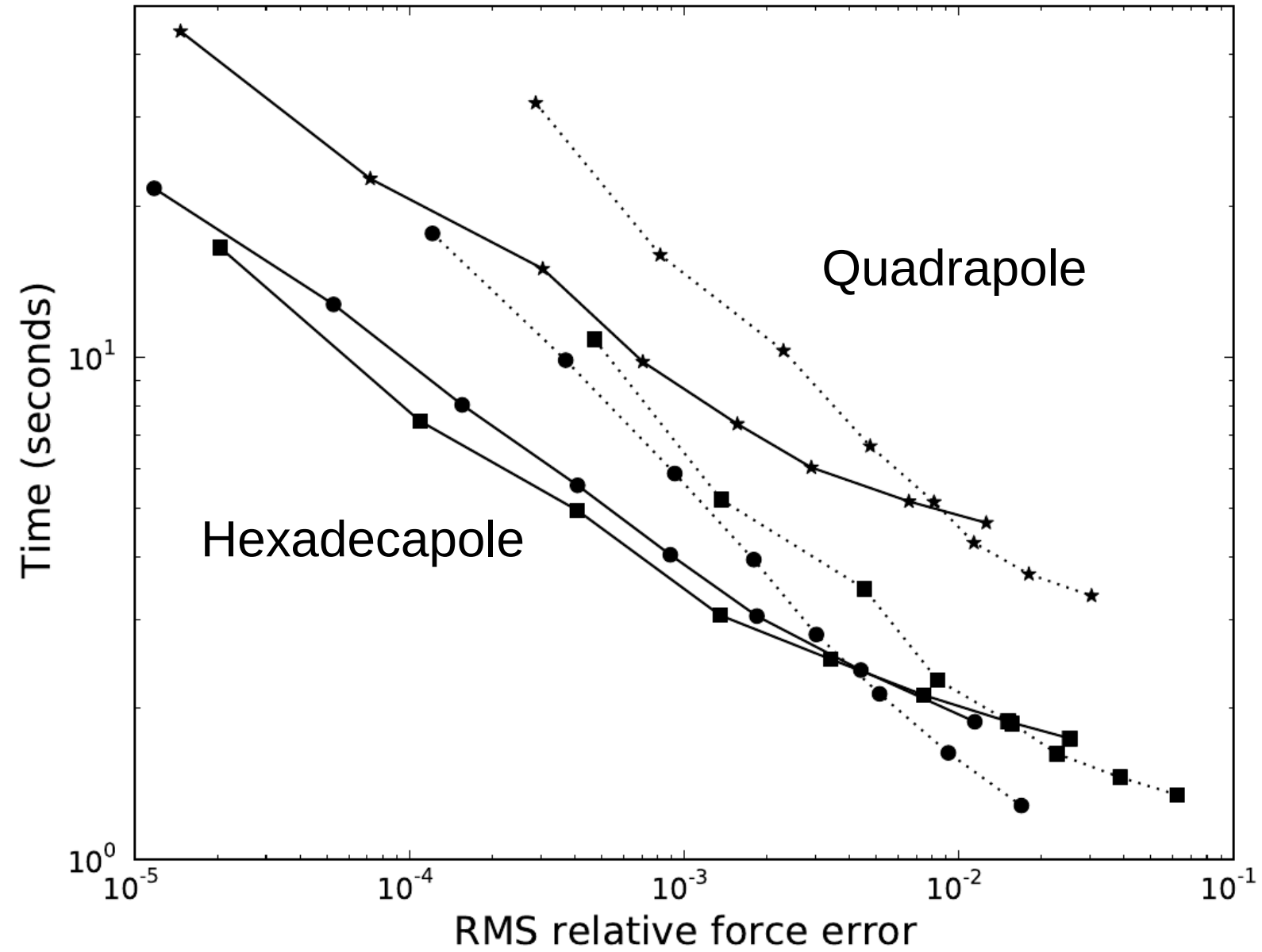
- Local expansions are also possible (FMM):

$$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -G \sum_{lm} L_{lm} Y_{lm}(\theta, \phi) r^l$$

See Greengard 1988 thesis



# Multipole Accuracy Comparison

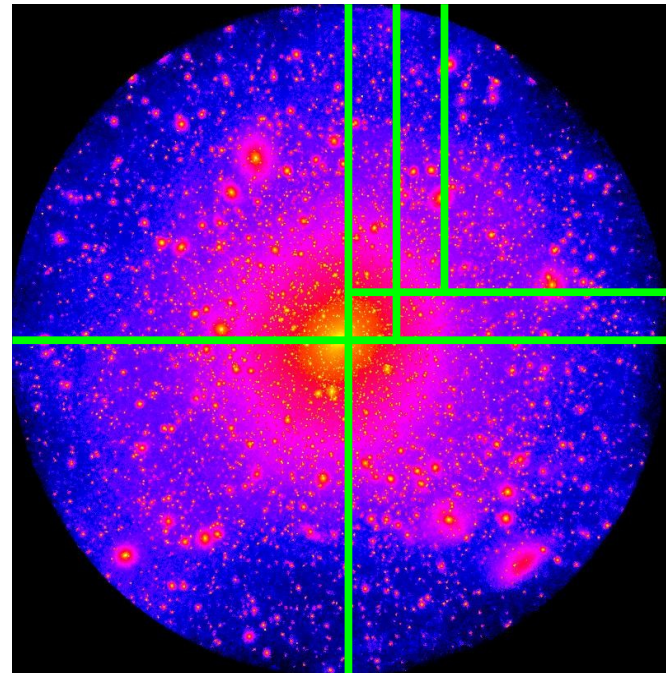
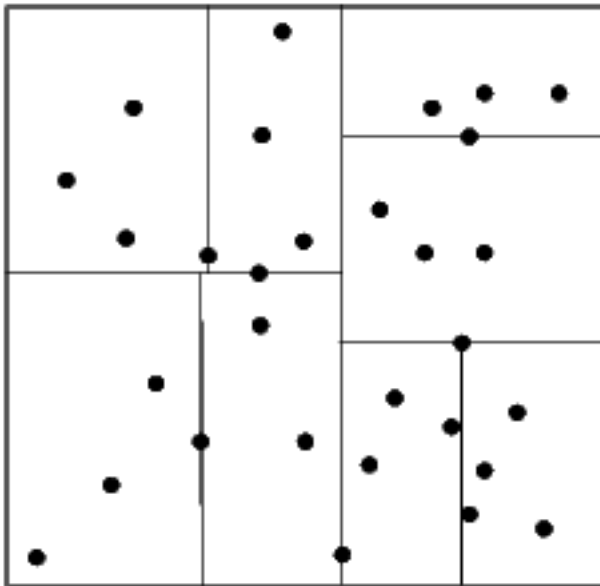


# Trees: divide et impera

- “... most important nonlinear structures in computer algorithms.” (Knuth ACP)
- A root node + disjoint set of subtrees
- Leaf: a node with no subtrees
- Many representations:
  - Node + child pointers
  - Node + parent pointers
  - heap
- Divide and conquer a common paradigm:
  - e.g. Quicksort.

# Spatial Trees

- Orthogonal Recursive Bisection
  - Split the median particle: a balanced tree (k-d tree)
  - Guaranteed maximum depth

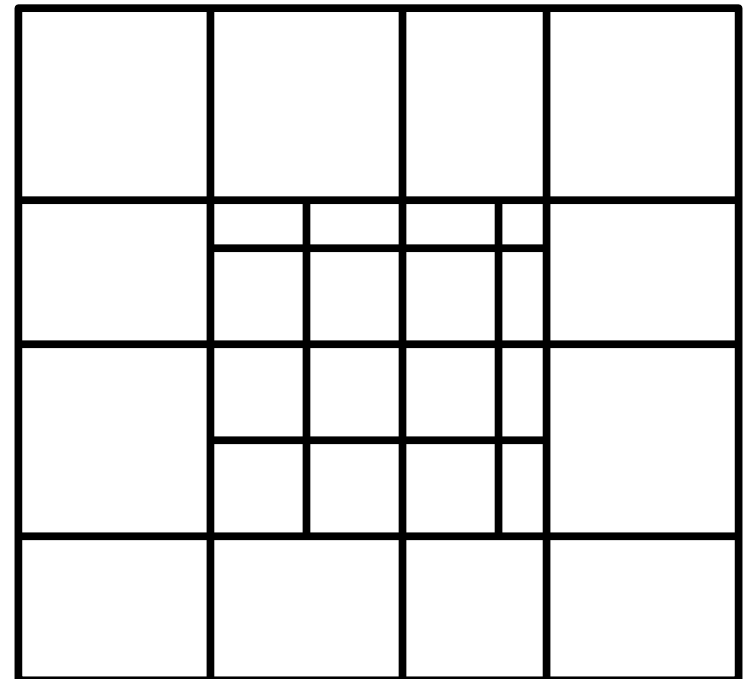


# Balanced Tree Representation

- Array of nodes: nodes[N]
- Index of first child of node  $n = 2*n$
- Index of second child of node  $n = 2*n + 1$
- Index of parent of node  $n = n >> 1$
- No pointers or recursion needed for traversal

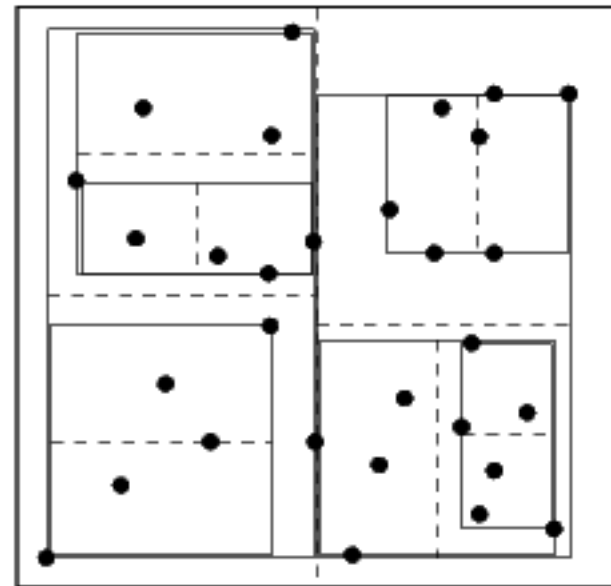
# Oct Tree (or Barnes-Hut)

- See Barnes & Hut, 1986, Nature
- Split cubical node into 8 equal cubes
- Nodes are small and nearly spherical
  - Small multipole moments
- Not balanced



# Spatial Binary Tree

- Bisect longest dimension of bounding box
- Split to bisect space
- Not balanced
- More adaptable to disks



# Gravity Algorithm

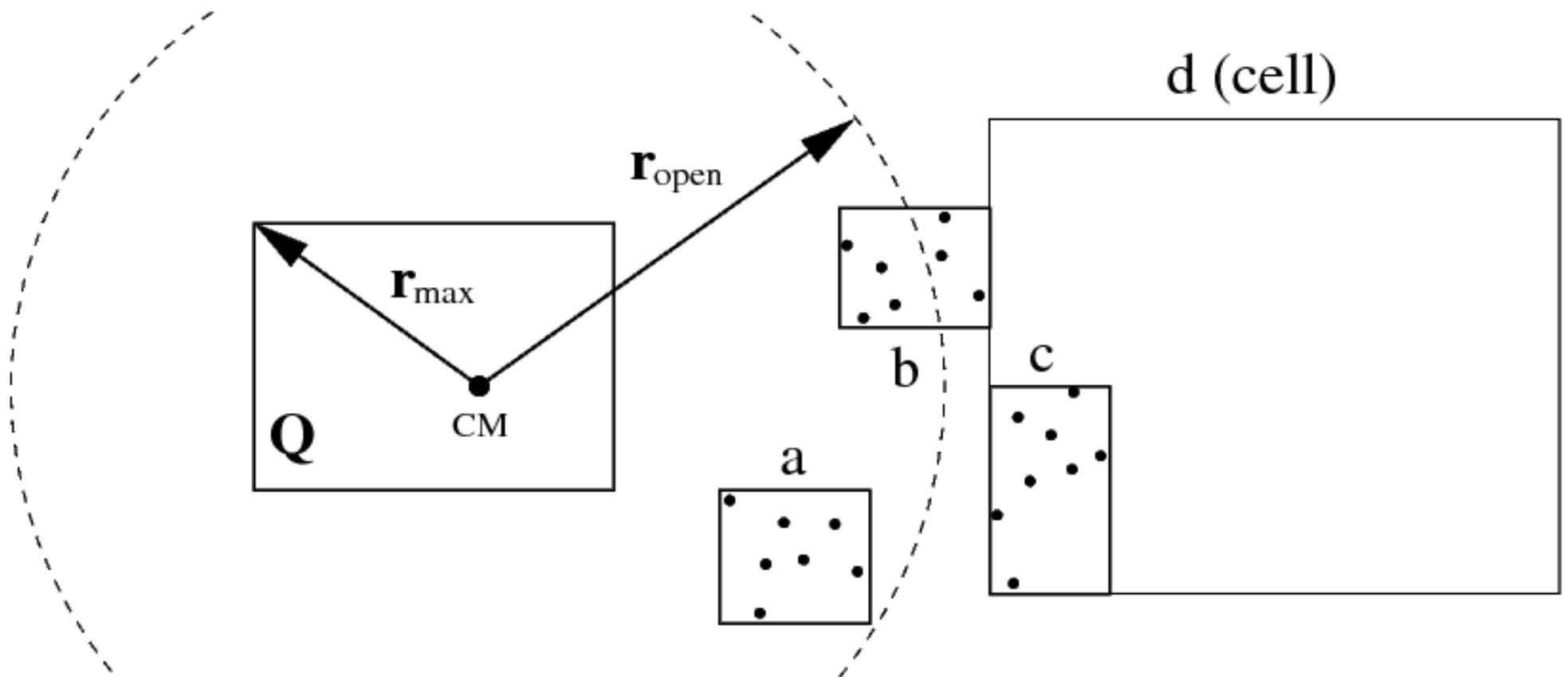
- Hierarchically divide space into cells
- The force on a particle is its interaction with a cell
- If the multipole expansion is valid then the interaction is the multipole expansion
- If not, the interaction is the sum of the interactions with the cells children.
- If cell is a leaf (or “bucket”) interact with the contained particles.





# The opening criterion

- An open radius is only calculated once for each cell:  $r_{\text{open}} \sim r_{\text{max}}/\theta$



# Efficient Walking

- Walk a high level node
  - Determine all cells with acceptable expansions
  - These cells are also acceptable for all children
  - The other cells need to be checked when the node's children are walked.
- Go through check list with child nodes
- Construct final interaction list at bucket level.

# Neighbor finding walk (SPH)

- Use a priority queue (heap or loser tree) to track distance to k-th nearest neighbor
- Start at bucket containing particle.
- Search parent cell for uncles that overlap search ball
- Descend each child of uncle which overlaps search ball
- Replace particles in priority queue with found particles.

# Inverse Neighbor Finding

- Which particles consider me a neighbor?
- Search for particles with a smoothing length that encloses me.
- Cells have bounding boxes of all smoothing radii of the particles they contain
- Walk similar to neighbor finding.
- Useful when  $N_{\text{active}} \ll N_{\text{total}}$

# Periodic Boundaries

- For shells in an infinite Universe:
  - $F(r) \sim GM(r)/(r^2) \sim \text{constant}$  at each radius
  - Sum will not converge!
- TreePM
  - Calculate long distance forces using Mesh and FFT
- Ewald Summation
  - Split the sum into 2 converging parts.

# TreePM (Gadget)

- FFT is fast (+)
- FFT has lots of communication (-)
- Available fast libraries: FFTW (+)
- Inaccuracies at the FFT grid scale (-)
  - Transition between grid and tree
- Tree walk is only local (+)

# Ewald Summation

- Split Green's function:

- $$\frac{1}{r} = \frac{\operatorname{erfc}(\alpha r)}{r} + \frac{\operatorname{erf}(\alpha r)}{r}$$

- Modified Green's function:

- $$g(\mathbf{r}) = \frac{\pi}{\alpha^2 L^3} - \sum_{\mathbf{l}} \frac{\operatorname{erfc}(\alpha |\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{l}L|)}{|\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{l}L|} - \sum_{\mathbf{h} \neq \mathbf{0}} \frac{1}{h^2 \pi L} \exp\left(-\frac{\pi^2 h^2}{\alpha^2 L^2}\right) \cos\left(\frac{2\pi}{L} \mathbf{h} \cdot \mathbf{r}\right)$$

- Store differences between this and  $1/r$  in large array.
- Perform lookup for each force calculation.

# Ewald Reduced Cell Multipole

- Perform walk over fundamental cube an a number of replicas (e.g. 26 neighbors)
- Calculate forces due to Ewald sum of multipole moments of root cell of fundamental cube.
- Spatial sum modified to avoid double counting.
- Algebraically complex
- Sum is somewhat expensive (-)
- Efficient in parallel (+)



# Force Calculation Overview

- Build Tree (top down)
- Calculate multipole moments and opening radius (bottom up)
- Walk nodes then buckets, constructing interaction lists
- Calculate force on particles in a bucket using interaction lists

# Time stepping

- An N-body system is Hamiltonian
  - Invariant under time translation
  - Phase space density preserved
- Preserve these properties in a numerical integration by ***Exactly*** integrating an ***Approximate*** Hamiltonian
- Operator Splitting: 1<sup>st</sup> applying part of a Hamiltonian, then applying the 2<sup>nd</sup> part is equivalent to an approximate Hamiltonian

# Symplectic Integrators for Planetary Systems

- Split into Kepler and Interaction Hamiltonian
- Integrate Kepler (advance mean anomaly)
- Integrate interaction (planets fixed in space, but velocities are changed)
- Mixed Variable Symplectic integrator (Wisdom & Holman, 1993)

# Time Stepping

- Consider  $H = H_D + H_K$
- Where  $H_D = \frac{p^2}{2}$ ;  $H_K = \Phi(\mathbf{x})$
- Hamilton's equations give:

$$x(t) = x(t_0) + p(t - t_0); \quad p = p_0$$

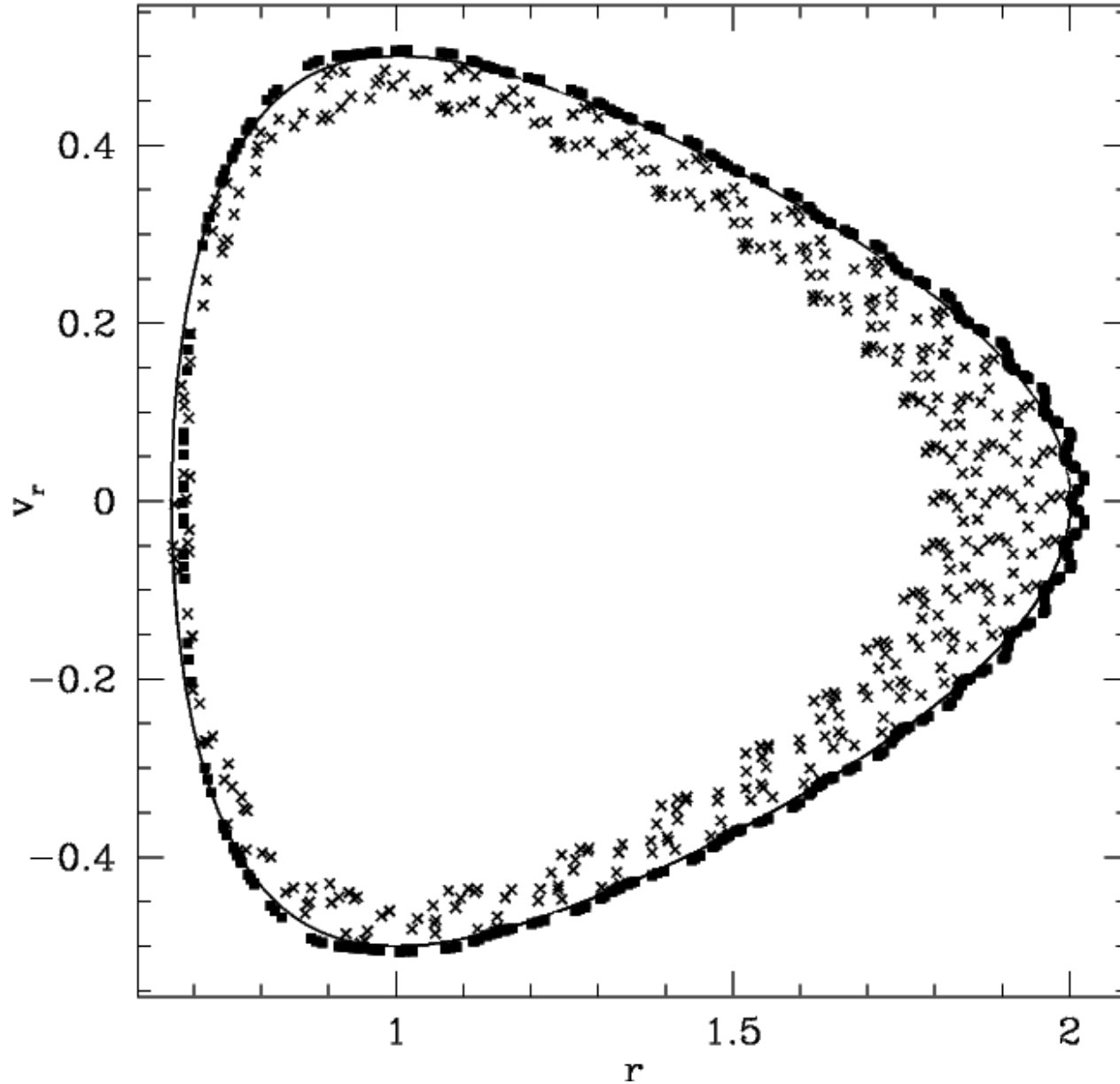
$$x(t) = x_0; \quad p(t) = p(t_0) - \nabla\Phi(\mathbf{x}_0)(t - t_0)$$

- This is Leap Frog!
- Obeys a Hamiltonian:  $H_{num} = H_D + H_K + H_{err}$

# Leap Frog

- Advance positions by  $1/2$  timestep using old velocities (Drift)
- Advance velocities full timestep using forces from particle positions at  $1/2$  step (Kick)
- Advance positions by  $1/2$  timestep using new velocities (Drift)
- $2^{\text{nd}}$  order in time
- Can also do Kick-Drift-Kick
- If forces are velocity dependent: need predicted velocity for the Kick

# Leapfrog vs. Runge Kutta



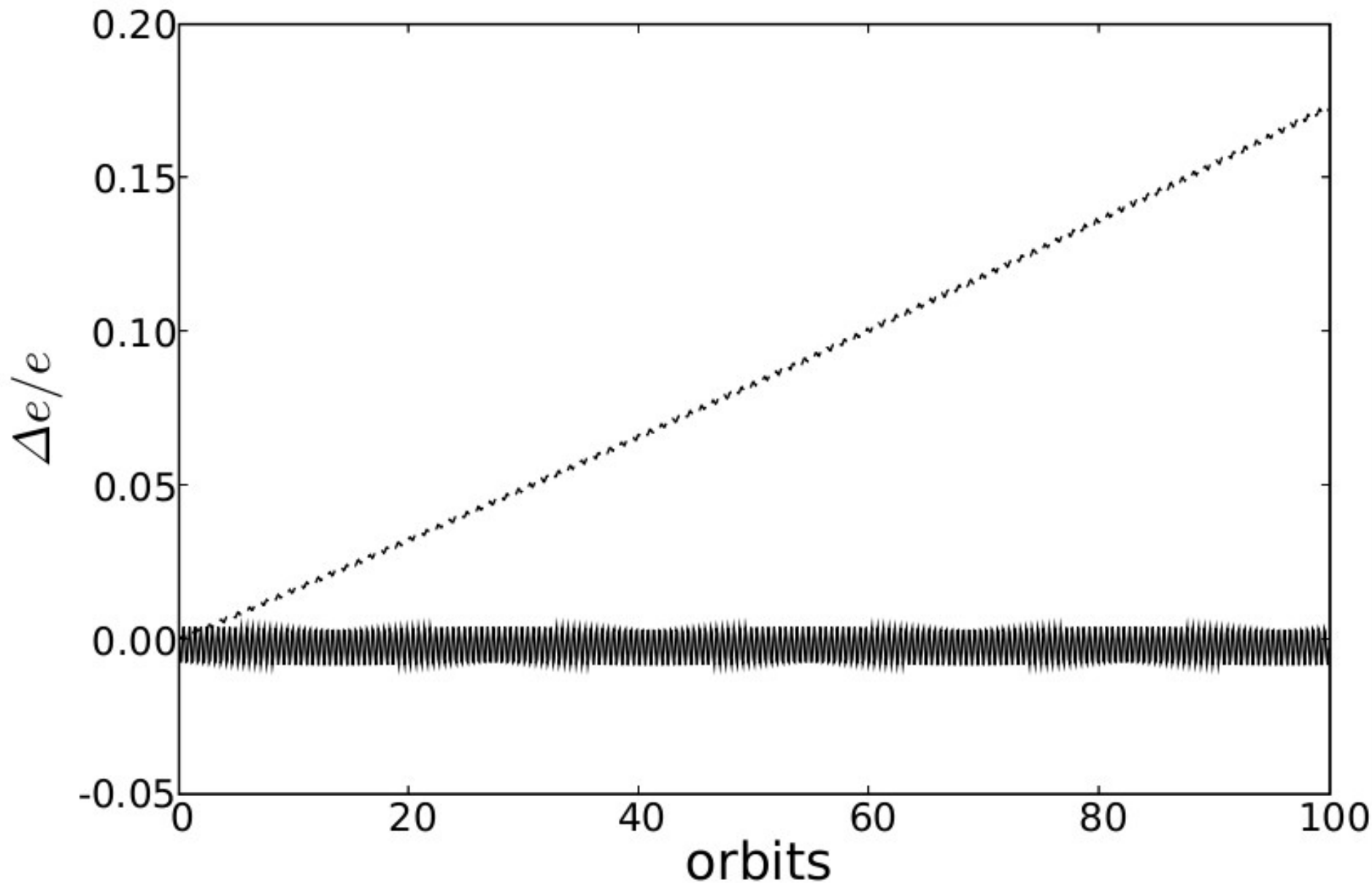
# Planetismal Dynamics Example

- Local patch approximation: Wisdom & Tremaine 1988

- Hill's equations: 
$$\begin{aligned}\ddot{x} - 2\Omega\dot{y} - 3\Omega^2x &= -\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial x} \\ \ddot{y} + 2\Omega\dot{x} &= -\frac{\partial\Phi}{\partial y}.\end{aligned}$$

- Hamiltonian, despite v dependent forces
- Split into separately integrable parts (Quinn et al 2012)

# Hill's Equations, Symplectic vs. not



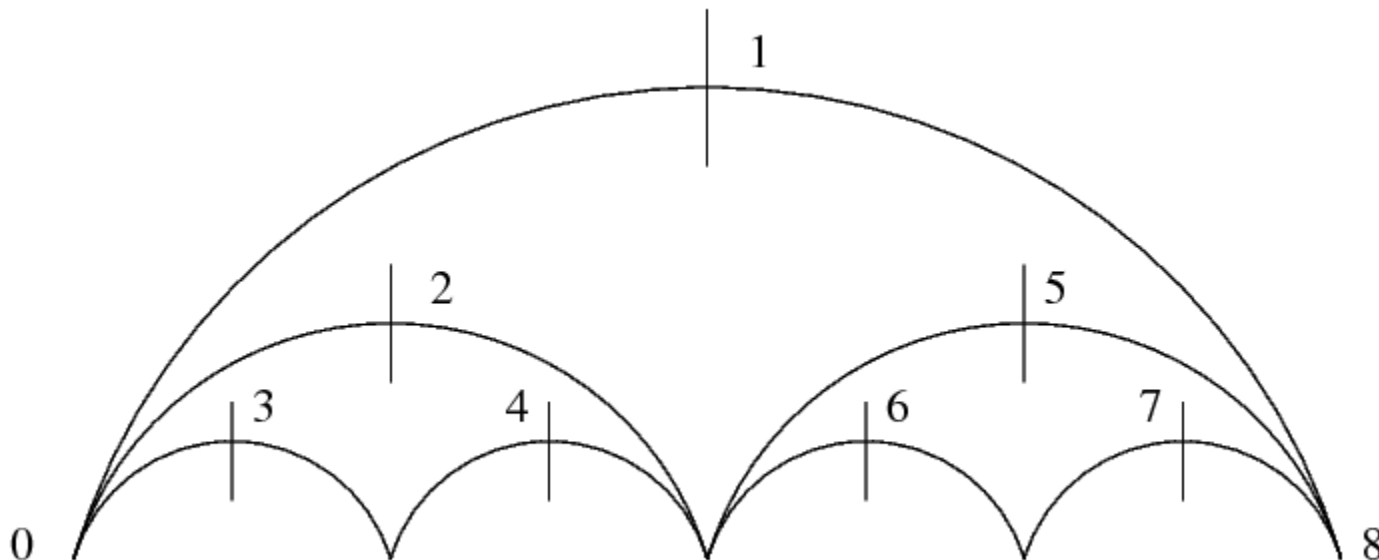


# Hierarchical Timestepping

- Large dynamic range in density implies large range in timescales:

- $t_{dyn} \sim \frac{1}{\sqrt{G\rho}}$

- Timesteps organized in power of 2 “rungs”



# Symplectic Variable Timesteps?

- At a minimum, must be reversible
- Because of timestep decision, reversibility is expensive or impossible.
  - Trial timesteps and implicit step choices
  - Force splitting schemes
- At least minimize time asymmetries:
  - Make timestep choice where the acceleration is calculated.  
=> KDK scheme
  - KDK more efficient and better momentum conservation.

# Timestep Criteria

- EpsAccStep:  $dt \sim \sqrt{\text{softening}/\text{acceleration}}$
- DensityStep:  $dt \sim \sqrt{1/\text{density}}$
- GravStep:  $dt \sim \sqrt{r_{ij}^3/(m_i + m_j)}$
- Courant: smoothing/sound speed
- Diffusion:  $dt \sim dx^2/D$
- See M. Zemp et al 2007 for an “optimal criterion” for gravity

# Gravitational Softening

- Recall: we are solving the BE, and particles sample  $f(\mathbf{z})$ .

- $$\Phi(\mathbf{x}) = -GM \int d^6 z' \frac{f(\mathbf{z}')}{|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|}.$$

- The standard sum is a Monte-Carlo integral.
- The  $1/|\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{x}'|$  term is not well suited to this.
- Introduce softening to minimize force error
- Truelove criterion: resolve Jeans' length
  - Pressure supports against gravitational collapse
- Does not effect two body relaxation time!
- Ultimately a computational cost decision

# Resolving Jeans Mass

- Jeans Length

$$\lambda_J^2 = \frac{\pi v_s^2}{G \rho_0}.$$

- Jeans Mass

$$M_J = \frac{4\pi}{3} \rho_0 \left(\frac{1}{2} \lambda_J\right)^3 = \frac{1}{6} \pi \rho_0 \left(\frac{\pi v_s^2}{G \rho_0}\right)^{3/2}$$

- Need to resolve this, or not doing hydro!
- Note non-convergence of isothermal gas.

# SPH advantages

- Naturally partners with a particle gravity code
- Arbitrary geometry
- Perfect advection
- Galilean invariant
- No intrinsic dissipation
- Fast (depending on neighbor finding)
- Easy to implement
- Flexibility with Equations of State

# Basic principles of SPH

- Model the fluid as a collection of elements represented by particles
- Move particles using Lagrangian forms of the fluid equations
- Assign thermodynamic properties to the particles.
- Some properties determined by local averages
- Use an interpolation method to get these averages from local particles.

# Interpolation

- The interpolant of any function  $f(r)$  is:

$$\langle f(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \int W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'; h) f(\mathbf{r}') d\mathbf{r}'$$

- $h$  is the smoothing length and determines the extent of the averaging volume.
- $W$  is the smoothing kernel which satisfies:

$$\int W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}'; h) d\mathbf{r} = 1$$

$$\lim_{h \rightarrow 0} W(\mathbf{r}; h) = \delta(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}')$$



# Interpolation for finite points

- In general:

$$\langle f(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N \frac{f(\mathbf{r}_j)}{\langle n(\mathbf{r}_j) \rangle} W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j; h).$$

$$\langle \rho(\mathbf{r}) \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j; h)$$

# Calculating Gradients

- Integration by parts can move the derivative:

- $$\langle \nabla f \rangle = \sum_{j=1}^N m_j \frac{f(\mathbf{r}_j)}{\rho_j} \nabla W(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}_j; h)$$

- Better accuracy is obtained with gradients of density weighted quantities:

$$\rho \nabla f = \nabla(\rho f) - f \nabla \rho$$

# The Weighting Function

- Requirements:
  - Continuous 2<sup>nd</sup> derivatives
  - Compact
  - Symmetric
- Cubic Spline satisfies these requirements
- Symmetrize explicitly
- Maintain uniform particle distribution

# Finding the Neighbors

- Fixed “h”: range search
  - “Ball search”: recursively descend tree using “bounds-intersect-ball” test
- Variable “h”: kth nearest neighbor search
  - Search tree using a shrinking ball.
  - Start with nodes close to the particle considered.

# (Classical) SPH equations

- Density:  $\rho_i = \sum_{j=1}^n m_j W_{ij}.$

- Momentum

- $\frac{d\vec{v}_i}{dt} = - \sum_{j=1}^n m_j \left( \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} + \frac{P_j}{\rho_j^2} + \Pi_{ij} \right) \nabla_i W_{ij},$

- Energy

$$\frac{d u_i}{dt} = \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} \sum_{j=1}^n m_j \vec{v}_{ij} \cdot \nabla_i W_{ij}$$

- Alternatively: Entropy Equation (comparable performance)

# Artificial Viscosity

- Momentum diffusion necessary to stabilize all numerical hydro formulations.

$$\Pi_{ij} = \begin{cases} \frac{-\alpha \frac{1}{2} (c_i + c_j) \mu_{ij} + \beta \mu_{ij}^2}{\frac{1}{2} (\rho_i + \rho_j)} & \text{for } \vec{v}_{ij} \cdot \vec{r}_{ij} < 0, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

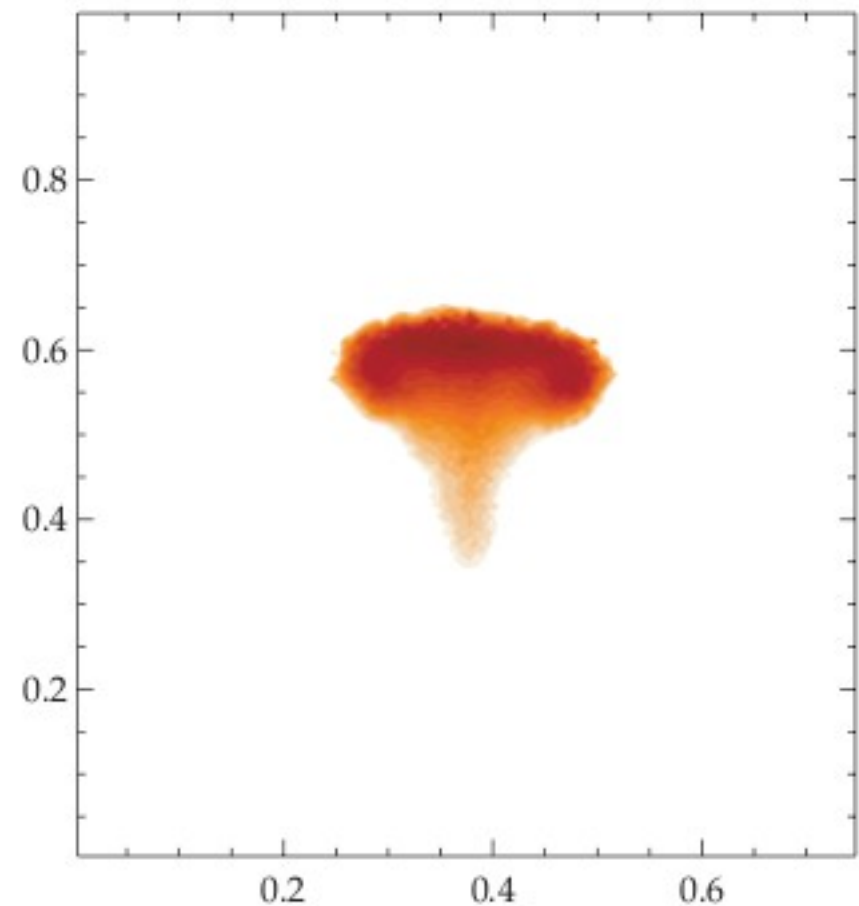
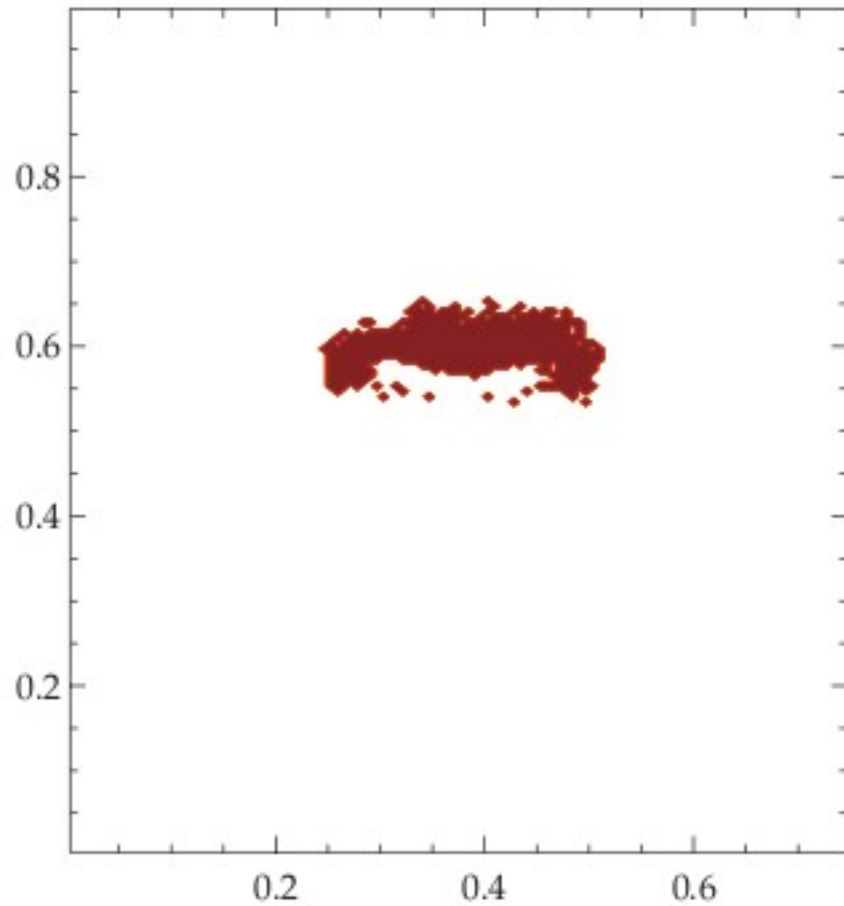
$$\text{where } \mu_{ij} = \frac{h(\vec{v}_{ij} \cdot \vec{r}_{ij})}{r_{ij}^2 + 0.01(h_i + h_j)^2}$$

# Artificial Viscosity & Diffusion

- All hydro codes introduce diffusion for stability
- SPH only has diffusion if explicitly added
- High Reynold numbers flows have turbulence below the resolution which can be modeled by diffusion (Smagorinsky 1963)

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d u_i}{d t} &= \frac{P_i}{\rho_i^2} \sum_j m_j (\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j) \cdot \nabla_i W_{ij} \\ &\quad - \sum_j m_j Q_{ij} (u_i - u_j) \frac{(\mathbf{r}_b - \mathbf{r}_a)}{|\mathbf{r}_b - \mathbf{r}_a|^2} \cdot \nabla_i W_{ij}, \\ Q_{ij} &= C \frac{|\mathbf{v}_i - \mathbf{v}_j| (h_i + h_j)}{\rho_i + \rho_j}. \end{aligned}$$

# Bubble comparison



Wadsley et al 2008



# Metal Diffusion

- Turbulence should also diffuse metals.
- For a scalar, A:

$$\tilde{S}_{ij}|_p = \frac{1}{\rho_p} \sum_q m_q (v_j|_q - v_j|_p) \nabla_{p,i} W_{pq},$$

$$S_{ij}|_p = \frac{1}{2} (\tilde{S}_{ij}|_p + \tilde{S}_{ji}|_p) - \delta_{ij} \frac{1}{3} \text{Trace } \tilde{\mathbf{S}}|_p,$$

$$D_p = C |S_{ij}|_p h_p^2,$$

$$\frac{dA_p}{dt} |_{\text{Diff}} = - \sum_q m_q \frac{(D_p + D_q)(A_p - A_q)(\mathbf{r}_{pq} \cdot \nabla_p W_{pq})}{\frac{1}{2}(\rho_p + \rho_q) \mathbf{r}_{pq}^2},$$

# Cooling

- Cooling timescales can be short compared to a dynamical time
- Implicit (stiff) solver for thermal energy, assume work and density are constant.
- Chemical reaction networks have similar properties: use same solver for chemistry/thermal energy concurrently.  
(CHEMEQ2, Mott, D.R. & Oran, E.S., 2001)

# SPH disadvantages

- Low order
  - No Riemann solver to handle shocks, etc.
  - $\text{Grad } 1 \neq 0$  !?!
- Poor particle distribution => large errors
- Kernel choices matter
  - E.g. Clumping instability
- Robust
  - Keeps going even if the results are garbage

# Summary

- Continuous media can be represented by collections of particles.
  - Advantages
    - Lagrangian, adaptable
  - Disadvantages
    - Low order, noise
- Trees are useful for organizing the resulting unstructured data.
  - Naturally adaptable
  - Usually have good worst case performance

# Timestep Overview

- Adjust timesteps
- “Kick” velocities
- “Drift” Particles
- Domain Decompose
- Build tree, calculate Moments
- Calculate gravity forces
- Calculate SPH forces (predicted  $v$  &  $u$  needed)
- “Kick” velocities

# Old Comparison

Cost vs. RMS error

