Binary Stars – Lecture 3



Elliptical Motion





Kepler's Laws

- Bound Orbits are ellipses
- Equal areas swept in equal times

$P^2 \propto a^3$ $\mathbf{j} = \mathbf{0} \quad \dot{E} = \mathbf{0}$



Interacting Binary Stars

- What does *interacting* mean?
 - Gravitational? Material?
- In general interaction occurs when



• Which stars and when?







Which stars interact?

- Stars reach radii around 1000 e.g. Betelgeuse
- For $M_1 = M_2 = 1 \, {
 m M}_{\odot}$
- And $a = 1000 \,\mathrm{R}_{\odot} \approx 5 \,\mathrm{AU}$
- Kepler $\left(\frac{P}{2\pi}\right)^2 = \frac{a^3}{GM}$
 - $P \sim 7 \, {\rm years}$
 - Anything closer interacts strongly!
 - Stellar winds as well... (later!)







Gravitational interaction

- Gravitational field due to a single star
- Companion will feel pull
- Leads to *distortion* known as *tides*
- Familiar ocean tides in Earth-Moon binary system
- Energy Dissipation
- Time lag : Tidal Torque;
 - angular momentum exchange



Tidal System





Tidal Energy Minimum (Orbit)

- Energy minimum when
- Equivalent to
- i.e. circular orbits

- Example system:
- Sol's planets!
- Most close binaries





Tidal Energy Minimum (Spin)

- Energy minimum when
- Equivalent to
- i.e. synchronous rotation

- Example system:
- Earth-Moon
- *Moon* is synchronous
- *Earth* is not (but getting there)



Darwin Instability

- Conservation of angular momentum
- But what if there is not enough angular momentum?
- Momentum from orbit transferred to the star
- Orbit can become unstable...
- Many close planets, contact binaries!
- Why do they not merge immediately?
 - Timescales! Not mentioned yet...



Darwin Instability Seen!



Tidal Timescales

- Equilibrium tides vs Dynamical tides
- Simple Bulge model
- (part of) Hut's more sophisticated model
 (other models Zahn, Tassoul, Eggleton etc.)
- Dissipation mechanisms



Equilibrium Tide

- Without dissipation bulges would line up with M1-M2 axis i.e. instantaneous reaction to the force
- Reality: dissipation exists! (timescale)
- Assume an equilibrium situation with constant angle between the tidal bulges and M1-M2 axis



Equilibrium Tide 2

• Simple bulge model gives $\delta M \sim M_2 \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^3$

• Hence Torque
$$\Gamma = -\frac{GM_2^2}{R} \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^6 \sin \alpha$$

• Assume
$$\alpha \sim \Omega - \omega$$

• More accurately $\alpha = \frac{(\Omega - \omega)}{\tau_{diss}} \frac{R^3}{GM}$

• Hence
$$\Gamma = -\frac{\Omega - \omega}{\tau_{\rm diss}} q^2 M R^2 \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^6$$

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Tidal Timescales

• e.g. from Zahn 197*x*

$$\tau_{\rm sync}^{-1} = \frac{-\Gamma}{I\Omega} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm diss}} \frac{\Omega - \omega}{\Omega} q^2 \frac{MR^2}{I} \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^6$$
$$\tau_{\rm circ}^{-1} = \frac{\dot{e}}{e} = \frac{1}{\tau_{\rm diss}} \left(9 - \frac{11}{2}\frac{\Omega}{\omega}\right) q(1+q) \left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^8$$

- As $R \rightarrow a$ tides become important
- Valid only for small e
- Sync is faster than circ
- e.g. Moon *e=0.05*





General formulae

• Hut 1981 (Astronomy and Astrophysics 99, 126)

$$\frac{da}{dt} = -6\frac{k}{T}q(1+q)\left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^8 \frac{a}{(1-e^2)^{15/2}} \left\{ f_1\left(e^2\right) - \left(1-e^2\right)^{3/2} f_2\left(e^2\right)\frac{\Omega}{\omega} \right\}$$

$$\frac{de}{dt} = -27\frac{k}{T}q(1+q)\left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^8 \frac{e}{(1-e^2)^{13/2}} \left\{ f_3\left(e^2\right) - \frac{11}{18}\left(1-e^2\right)^{3/2} f_4\left(e^2\right) \right\}$$

$$\frac{d\Omega}{dt} = 3\frac{k}{T}\frac{q^2MR^2}{I}\left(\frac{R}{a}\right)^6\frac{\omega}{(1-e^2)^6}\left\{f_2\left(e^2\right) - \left(1-e^2\right)^{3/2}f_5\left(e^2\right)\frac{\Omega}{\omega}\right\}$$

 f_1 to f_5 are polynomials in e^2 T = tidal timescale



More sophisticated approach?

- e.g. Zahn, also Eggleton (1998 and his book)
- Expand stellar potential in Legendre polynomials to some order (usually 4)
- Calculate deformed structure
- Hence energy dissipation rate
- Very complicated. Too difficult for me!
- But you can try Eggleton, Kiseleva & Hut 1998 (Astrophysical Journal 499, 853)



Dissipation

- Energy is dissipated how?
- Microscopic diffusion inefficient:

 $\nu = 10 - 1000 \,\mathrm{cm}^3 \,\mathrm{s}^{-1}$

- Turbulent viscosity is faster
- Convection is very efficient

$$au_{
m diss} = rac{ au_{
m conv}}{6\lambda} ~~\lambda \sim 0.02 lpha_{
m MLT}^{rac{4}{3}}$$

(Zahn 1989) + corrections if $au_{
m diss} \sim P$





 $\tau \sim \frac{R^2}{\nu}$

Dynamical Tides

- Pulsation modes excited by companion star
- Dissipative waves e.g.

Mode type	Restoring force
Acoustic	Gas pressure
Gravity	Buoyancy
Inertial	Coriolis

- Adiabatic standing waves in radiative envelope
- Couple core to tidal potential
- Dissipation at the surface: surface torque



Witte & Savonije 1999

M.G. Witte & G.J. Savonije: Evolution of eccentric orbits



e.g. Goldreich & Nicholson 1989



FIG. 1.—Numerical solution of the linearized equations of motion for the dynamical tide in a nonrotating 5 M_{\odot} main-sequence star. The core-envelope boundary is denoted by r_c . The stellar radius is 1.88×10^{11} cm; the tidal frequency $\sigma = 2 \times 10^{-5}$ s⁻¹. Only the homogeneous solution is shown; that is, U = 0. The radial displacement and pressure perturbations are denoted by ξ_r , and δp . The dashed curves indicate the WKBJ amplitudes obtained from equation (21) and are fitted to the numerical solution at large r (after Fig. 7 of Nicholson 1978).



evs P (unevolved binaries)



Data from Giuricin, G.; Mardirossian, F.; Mezzetti Astronomy and Astrophysics 134, 365



evs R/a (unevolved binaries)



Astronomy and Astrophysics 134, 365







Tides Overview

- Tides synchronise, then circularise
- Rate
- Close binaries should be sync. and circular
- Assuming $\Omega = \omega$ and e = 0

we continue our analysis by moving to close, circular binaries and interaction by exchange of *angular momentum and mass*

