The orbital stability of planets in the first-order mean-motion resonances

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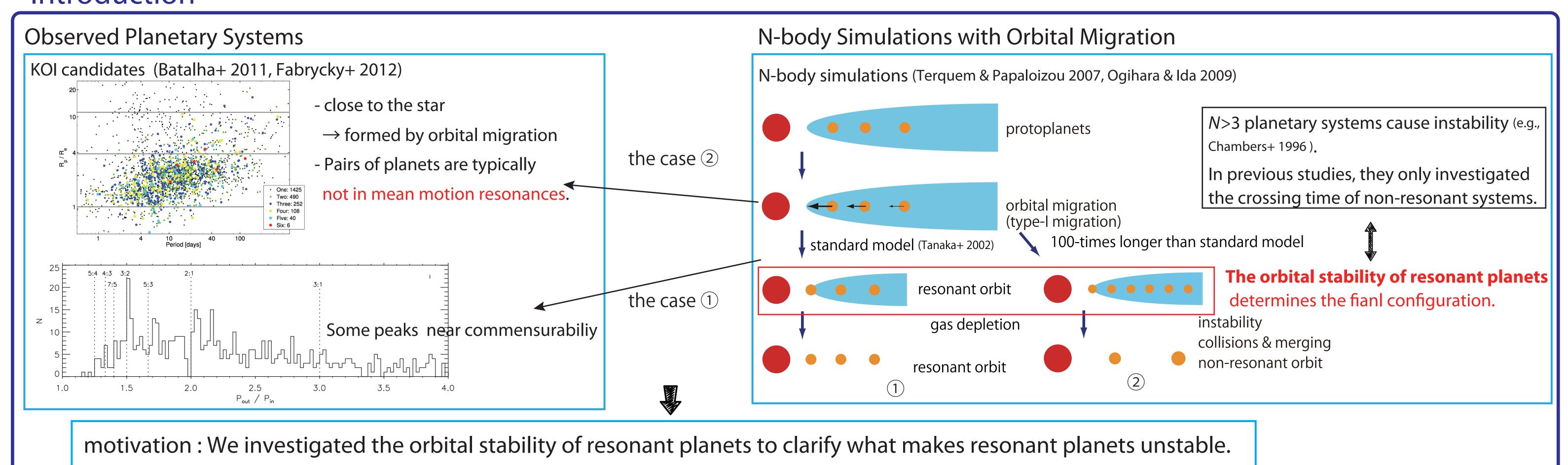
Matsumoto, Nagasawa & Ida (2012)

Abstract

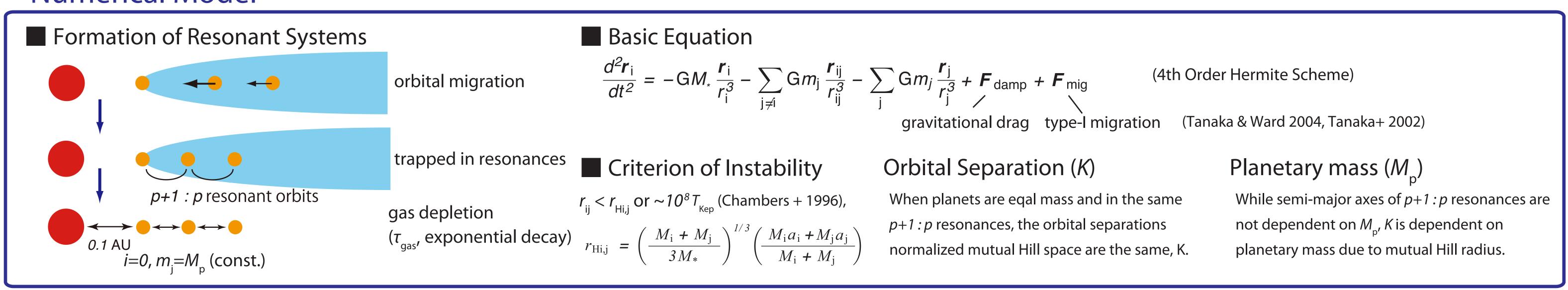
Kepler Mission suggests that period ratios of pairs of planets show some peaks at commensurable ratios (e.g., Fabrycky et al., 2012). Some N-body simulations considering planetary migration suggest protoplanets are captured in mean-motion resonant orbits. These resonant systems are stable in the calculations. However in some cases, resonant systems cause orbital instability and finally non-resonant systems are formed.

So, we investigated the orbital stability of first-order resonant systems to clarify what makes resonant systems unstable. We found in resonant systems, when the number of planets is more than the critical number, the crossing time decreases rapidly, while in non-resonant system, the crossing time decreases continuously. We also investigated the parameter dependence of the critical number.

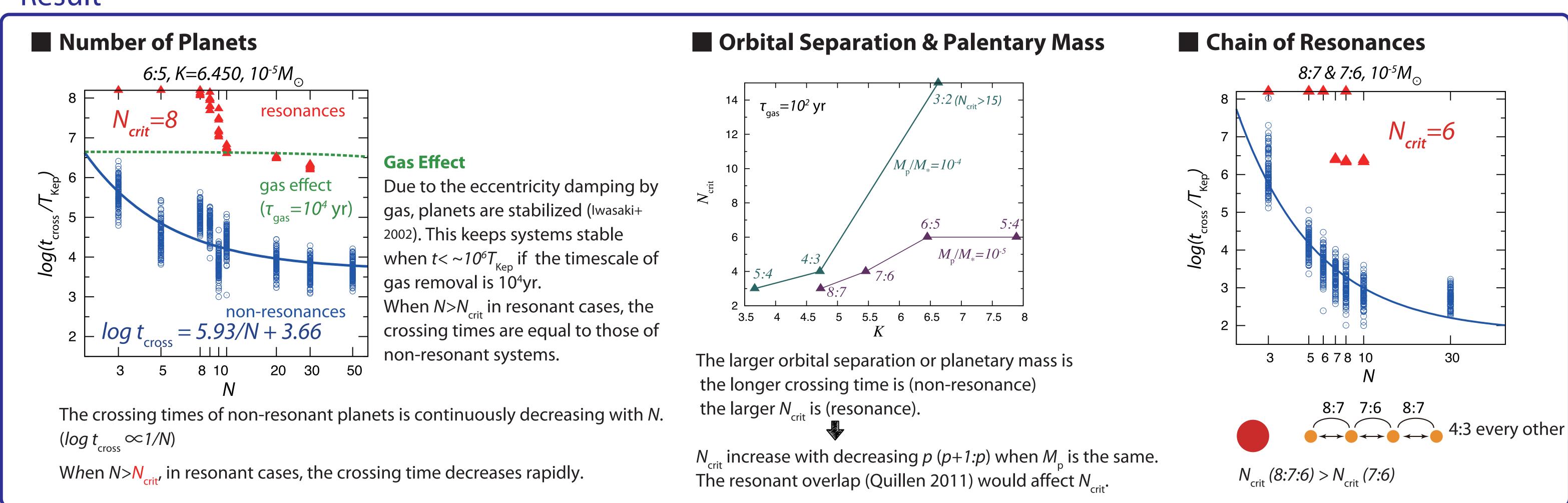
Introduction



Numerical Model



Result

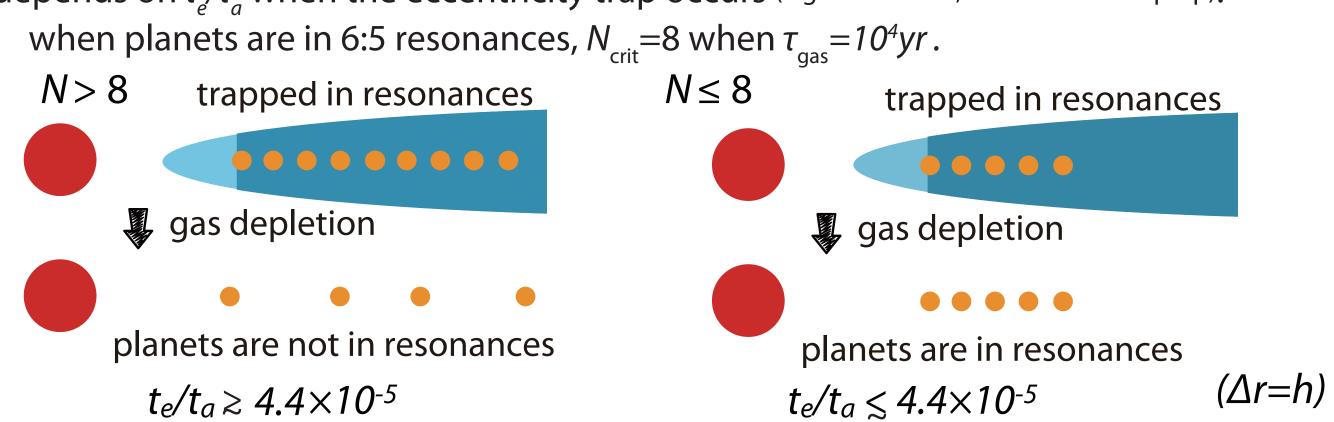


Discussion

the number of planets determines whether planets are finally in resonances or not.

planets also stop migration at the inner edge and the positive migration torque points (Morbidelli+ 2008, the positive torque points (e.g., dead zone inner edge, gap by a gas planet, ...) Matsumoto+ in prep $N_{\rm trap}$ is determined by the torque balance

and depends on t_a/t_a when the eccentricity trap occurs (Ogihara+ 2010, Matsumoto+ in prep).



Summary

Although most of observed planets are not in resonant orbits, the orbital distribution of planets has some peaks in or near resonant orbits.

We investigated the stability time of planets trapped in mean-motion resonances due to orbital migration by N-body simulations.

- the stability time of resonant systems is longer than that of non-resonant system.
- when $N > N_{crit}$, the planets in resonances become unstable.
- N_{crit} increases with increasing K or increasing M_{p} .
- N_{crit} of planets in the chain of resonances are larger than N_{crit} of planets in the same resonances.

Observed systems outside of commensurant orbits would contain the planets over the critical number and these planets cause orbital instability after the gas depletion.