The orbits and dynamics of long-period sub-stellar

companions

Tim Pearce

Mark Wyatt & Grant Kennedy

Institute of Astronomy, Cambridge

Many long-period sub-stellar companions have been detected by direct imaging



















Possible orbits are typically explored using MCMC

Possible orbits are typically explored using MCMC



Uniform z, z

Possible orbits are typically explored using MCMC



Interpreting MCMC distributions of orbital elements is difficult

Alternative method: plot orbital elements as functions of z and \dot{z}



Alternative method: plot orbital elements as functions of z and \dot{z}



We find analytic solutions for the allowed ranges of orbital elements (e.g. a general companion's minimum eccentricity)



Question 2: How would a long-period companion interact with other bodies in the system?







Planet mass \gg disc mass



Planet mass ~ disc mass



Application to HD 107146



ALMA 1.25mm data: Ricci et al. 2015



Application to HD 107146



ALMA 1.25mm data: Ricci et al. 2015





Summary

I study the orbits and dynamics of long-period sub-stellar companions. I am particularly interested in

1) How to constrain the orbits of long-period companions

- alternative techniques complimentary to MCMC

- how to remove biases in orbit interpretation

2) How eccentric companions interact with debris

- how does a general system evolve
- can debris structures reveal unseen perturbers
- can we model specific systems